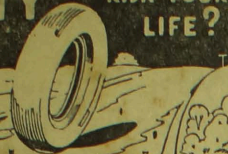


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The above statement was made by Mr. E. J. Cooray, Commissioner, Department of Co-operative Development, in the course of his evidence before the Public Accounts Committee in regard to the accounting procedure of his department and on the observations made by the Auditor-General thereon.

He stated that the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment was started as a war-time measure "almost overnight" and the normal accounting procedure which should have been followed was not followed. That was due to circumstances beyond the control of those people who were asked to organize this department at such short notice. In the meantime the C.W.E. has been handed over to a statutory board from 1st July, 1950. So the overdue reports and the present rather

unsatisfactory position as regards the accounting procedure referred to a state of affairs long before the handing over date.

"There is a whole section of this department which is being specially kept to wind up the affairs of the old C.W.E. to reconcile past accounts of a period when there were no proper records and no proper stock books. What really aggravates the position is that there are several ex-employees whose securities are being withheld on the ground that their responsibility for any shortages cannot be determined until the accounts are closed. The Attorney-General advised us that this state of affairs could not be continued, particularly as some of these individuals were proposing to take legal action. So we addressed the Ministry and the Attorney-General and the latter in turn addressed the Treasury," explained Mr. Cooray.

NEARLY EIGHT YEARS ARREARS

According to the report of the Attorney-General the former department was in arrears over a period of eight years approximately, with administrative action regarding discrepancies in stocks and responsibility for such discrepancies. What actually happened was that during the emergency period they never reconciled the actually veri-

fied balances with the book balance. They carried out a verification of stocks, but as the stock books had not been maintained properly no reconciliation was possible. Now they were trying to work backwards and find out what the balances should have been according to the books. It was some Rs. 11,000,000 odd on 1st July, 1950, when there was a complete verification by officers of the C.W.E., the Treasury and the Audit Department. That was the stock that was handed over to the C.W.E. Board, the new set-up. All the difficulties arose in the earlier years of the C.W.E. The last annual stock verification under Government was done on 30th September, 1949. The difficulties experienced in the preparation of the

stock figures have been explained in the communication addressed to the Auditor-General. It is the opinion of the Auditor-General, the Department and even the Treasury that it will be absolutely impossible to fix responsibility on any one. Some of the officers concerned are dead and their widows are suing the Crown for the refund of their securities. Sixty-eight securities are awaiting release. Now that the new Statutory Board has taken over the stock as valued by the Audit, the representative of the Department, the representative of the old C.W.E. are having a trading turnover of Rs. 100,000,000 the business is being carried on profitably and what was only an emergency war measure has now become a money spinner.

New Landmark in Sinhalese Movie Development

Sujatha Brings Credit to Nation

THE Sinhalese film "Sujatha" which began its run last week under the patronage of Sir John Kotelawala, is a film of which its young producers should be proud. It is a significant achievement.

Any Sinhalese or Ceylon Tamil should get maximum value plus for their money. The story hangs well together and the production reaches very high standards. The music and songs are about the best we have had in a long day. The make-up men and technicians have done extremely well, and the new actors and actresses have achieved success.

With regard to the singing, the only fault I can find is that it would have been better if the female background singers had been picked in Ceylon as was Mohideen Begg. But I have taken the trouble to inquire why this was done and find that the newcomers to film production found our local stars putting on a "hard

to get" line. So they were left behind. This is a pity, for those who sing for gramophone records get meagre payment compared to the fees paid out to Indian singers for this film. We must, however, compliment the background singer from South India for putting over the songs so well. The accent was something she could not possibly have concealed.

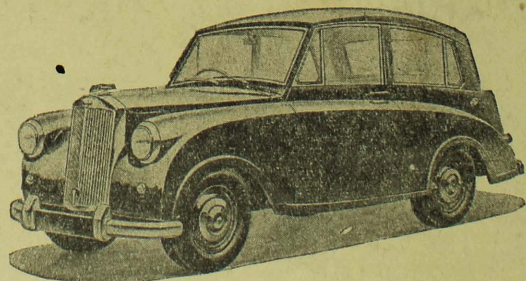
There is a feast of song and dance in this film and this is deftly woven into the main theme. There is skilful handling of the musical score throughout. It is fitting that Ananda Samarakone's services as a song-writer should have been obtained for this part of the production. These songs deserve to be specially recorded by a voice like that of Rukmani Devi, Latha, G. B. S. Rani or Chitra.

Messrs. Gunaratnam and Somasekaran have more than made the grade with this production. They deserve the highest encomiums for what they have achieved.

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And We Shall Absorb Them

By Stanley Morrison

IN a lecture last week on "The Language Problem" Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike is reported to have said that the Sinhalese would absorb the Burghers and that the Burghers would cease to exist as a community. This sounds a very aggressive statement and may have caused some offence. But this is one of the rare occasions on which I find myself in almost complete agreement with Mr. Bandaranaike, who is facing the position of the Burgher community realistically.

As things stand at present a large number of Burghers and some Eurasians have emigrated to Australia. More would have gone, but for the fact that last year Australia reduced the quota of Burgher emigrants because of the economic recession there. But as things are improving again Australia is almost certain to agree to take a fair influx of Burghers and Eurasians over the next few years. About 8,000 Burghers out of a community of 60,000 have already made their homes in Australia. A further 10,000 are known to be preparing to leave Ceylon within the next two or three years. If this rate of Burgher emigration continues, in ten years' time the Burgher community will have dwindled to a mere 20,000 in Ceylon. If within the course of the next decade the Burgher community in Ceylon numbers only 20,000, there would scarcely be any purpose in the Burghers living as a separate community. Not only would their numbers not justify it, but also it would soon become economically and socially impossible.

Consequently Mr. Bandaranaike will not have any serious obstacles to his plan for the Sinhalese to absorb the Burghers in the coming years. He has said that he could introduce Tamil and Sinhalese as the National Language in twenty-four minutes. Provided he does not intend to absorb the Burgher community in a similar brief period of time, the process of absorption should present no difficulties whatever. Even at present and in the post-war years more inter-marriages between Sinhalese and Tamils, on the one hand, and Burghers on the other, have taken place than ever before. It is likely that the process will be accelerated as more Burgher youngmen than women are emigrating to Australia.

Why are the Burghers leaving Ceylon? Most of them are doing so because they are not willing to allow their European outlook and culture to be submerged. Many of the younger ones look to Australia as a land of opportunity just as the Ceylonese regarded Malaya forty years ago. Only a very few who leave Ceylon are antagonistic to the Sinhalese or feel that they are too good to be ruled by the Sinhalese.

The majority are going abroad, therefore, with the main purpose of bettering their prospects in life. The older ones undoubtedly feel that their children would have a better future in Australia than in Ceylon with its growing population and limited natural resources.

I have no doubt that Mr. Bandaranaike and other cultured Sinhalese have nothing but friendliest feeling towards Burghers and Eurasians and that they in their heart of hearts regret that so many Burghers are leaving Ceylon. There is no doubt that when the Burghers in Ceylon have dwindled in numbers and finally disappeared as a community, their disappearance will be greatly missed by the older generation. No one can deny that for so small a community, their contribution to the culture of the island over the past hundred years is a unique achievement. Burghers, particularly Dutch Burghers, have adorned every profession and vocation in the country during a century and a half. A splendid array of great judges, lawyers, politicians, doctors, surgeons, businessmen and engineers have come out of the Burgher community during the British occupation. In the field of journalism they have particularly shone, while artists have been produced in every generation. Even today they shine in almost every profession and vocation, while the genius of the cartoonist, Collette, reminds the Ceylonese everyday of the kind of talent Ceylon will be losing in twenty years time. For a hundred and fifty years a high proportion of the art and culture of Ceylon was a Burgher product. Nowhere else in the world is it possible to find so tiny a community which has made anything like the same contribution to art and culture as the Burghers have made in little Ceylon.

But now, everybody appears to be reconciled to the disappearance of this brilliant community. Ceylon's loss will be Australia's gain. In twenty-five or thirty years time the sons of Burgher emigrants to Australia will no doubt be seen making their mark in the professions there. Of course, they will cease to be a community in Australia, they will merge and become Australians.

In a few years' time, therefore, all that will remain of the culture of the Burghers will be the Dutch archives and the Dutch cemeteries. It is a curious circumstance that when giving evidence before the Soulbury Commission in 1945, Dr. Andreas Nell, the charming octogenarian and erudite scholar, was more concerned about the conservation of the Dutch archives and monuments in the Dutch cemeteries than in the preservation of his own race. Was this grand old man then looking ahead to the time when his community will have gone abroad to find a home in Australia, leaving only the archives under the Dutch cemeteries as memorials of their race?

New Era in the Fight Against Trachoma

THERE are many sufferers from the painful disease of trachoma which, when left unchecked, leads to impaired vision and eventually to blindness.

Today, thanks to the availability of the antibiotic aureomycin, discovered and developed by the research staff of the Lederle Laboratories Division of the American Cyanamid Company, doctors have effective means of combatting this widespread affliction on a mass scale. From Egypt, Indo-China, Kenya, Pakistan, Uganda, Japan, Tunis, South Africa and many other areas have come reports of the remarkable results obtained by the treatment of trachoma with the golden-coloured aureomycin—so named because "aureo" in Latin means gold—

in eye drops or salves.

A new era in the fight against trachoma in India will be ushered in this spring, when Lederle will open its new pharmaceutical plant at Bulsar, near Bombay. There, hundreds of thousands of units of aureomycin will be turned out each month, once the plant is in full production. In addition, the plant will produce many other disease-fighting and health-giving drugs and medicines. No longer will the "red-eyed" trachoma sufferers hopelessly tear at their eyes to rend the veil that masks the world from their sight. Doctors all over the country will be able to halt the grim progress of the disease with the golden aureomycin.

WHAT CAUSES TRACHOMA

Trachoma, or granular conjunctivitis, has since antiquity been a

(Continued on page 3)

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A CITIZEN GIVES GENEROUSLY

By Quintus Delil Khan

IN spite of the hot, gruelling sun at Galle on Sunday, the opening of the Thassim Chest Clinic there was an event in which unusually large numbers participated. His Excellency Lord Soulbury seated under an expansive coloured umbrella which intercepted the sun, but not the heat and the glare. His Excellency seemed however to be most happy to be present at a ceremony which meant that a dream had come true for Galle which in spite of its appearing to repose in a calm, age-old atmosphere, with open spaces and the sea beating cleanly on its historic shores, has its hidden slum areas, its heavy toll of disease and its modern challenge to the conscience of the community to deal with these problems.

One cannot imagine that Galle has been so long without a chest clinic in spite of the heavy incidence of tuberculosis which, without effective checks, is bound to grow to formidable proportions. At present it is a menace which can, with further extensions of service, be brought under control. The Clinic has come to the service of the public at the right time. Delay would have been disastrous. In a problem of human suffering interminable delays would be unconscionable and overwhelming.

But the occasion for action also found the right man. Mr. A. R. Thassim is ostensibly amongst the class of the capitalist who, according to the crude revolutionary slogans, is the type of man who is not interested in the masses. But Galle has found a man who disproves that absurd contention. Mr. Dahanayake referred to Mr. Thassim as a man with a heart of gold. His generous gesture to the poor and the suffering makes even the most fanatical slogan look foolish. Every section of opinion paid Mr. Thassim the tribute due to him as a great benefactor. It is undeniable that the Thassim Clinic is a magnificent gift. One of the speakers referred to it as wonderful. Fine and impressive as the building is, the value of the gift must be measured by the infinitely unending service it will do to thousands of people who will visit it for relief. One of the great sultans is said to have filled the mouth of an Arab singer with pearls for singing a new song which he had picked up from an Abyssian slave who was carrying a pail of water on her head and remembering the song of her simple people in her own country. Such gifts are individual. A gift like the one made by Mr. Thassim is more magnificent in its cumulative effect. It is a gift that brings hope to hundreds of homes, that gives the promise of health which is more precious than pearls of the rarest value, and which multiplies its beneficence from day to day, from month to month and from

year to year for generations to come.

There appears to be a growing confidence that the tuberculosis problem can be dealt with, and one of the speakers said that there was a renaissance in the matter of dealing with this important matter. Things can get done when enthusiasm takes a practical form. A renaissance is a word with rich associations. The keynote is enthusiasm for something that has been newly discovered. Everyone would wish that this renaissance would grow and flourish. It means the abolition of one of the most terrible scourges which can afflict any country. There can be no doubt that the Government officers are in deadly earnest. The public should co-operate with them. There are situations in which the public feels that it has grounds for complaint. Even if there are no grounds for complaint, the public can be heard on its side of the question, whilst the doctors who are doing a hard, difficult, exacting and what might be even called a thankless work have no opportunity to make their side of the question known. In all work of this kind, some things go awry. But no one can deny to the medical profession of Ceylon, concerned in the solution of this problem of tuberculosis, that it has men whose hearts are deeply and generously engaged in this work and that they act in the true spirit of a selfless missionary enterprise. We must not forget that with very limited means, with very grudging opportunities afforded to them, they have persevered towards noble ends by a difficult path.

It is only by public co-operation and public generosity that this work can be done satisfactorily in most parts of the Island. His Excellency Lord Soulbury referred to Mr. Thassim as the pioneer citizen who had done this service which is so necessary at the present time. There is every reason why this noble example should be emulated. A distinct appeal was made for rich men to come forward with their gifts in this much needed field for generosity and endowment. There is a Sanatorium which is necessary in the Galle area. It may possibly come. But the point to remember is that Government cannot do everything. Public citizens have as much responsibility in this matter as any government. To relieve suffering is not only the work of the Government but also of those who are in a position to do so. Now that Mr. Thassim has made so valuable a gift, it is for others to come forward and give, not only in Galle but in every part of the Island where there is suffering to be relieved and a campaign waged for the annihilation of the menace of tuberculosis. Freedom in one form or other always demands sacrifice, and such sacrifice alone truly enriches a nation because, as Ruskin said, the true wealth of a country is the quality of the individuals of which it is composed.

New Era in the Fight Against Trachoma

(Continued from page 2)

source of human suffering, a frequent cause of blindness and a tremendous economic burden to large sections of the world's population. (It is estimated, for instance, that today approximately 20 per cent. of the world's population or about two hundred million people suffer from the disease). However, until the start of this century, little was known about the disease except that it prevailed most where sanitary conditions were poor and public hygiene sub-standard. It also was known to be highly contagious.

In the early stages of infection, trachoma brings about a burning, grating sensation caused by the formation of hard granules on the clear surface of the eyeball. Then comes inflammation, the formation of tiny blisters or "blebs" causing severe pain, and the discharge of

pus-like material. If the disease is allowed to progress an opaque film may develop over the eyeball. It impairs vision and may ultimately lead to blindness. During the later stages of the affliction, the eyes are scarred and the eyelids droop and become deformed.

Aureomycin now affords an effective means for the mass treatment of trachoma. Aureomycin is the most suitable medication for large-scale treatment.

AUREOMYCIN BATTLES TRACHOMA

One of the first reports on the use of aureomycin in trachoma was published in November, 1948, in the United States shortly after the antibiotic became available from Lederle. The report described the successful treatment of a 20-year recurrent case of trachoma. And then additional reports started flowing in from all over the world.

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PRUDENT ADMINISTRATION

In declaring open Chilaw's new Urban Council office, the Commissioner of Local Government is reported to have said that the Council had by dint of prudent administration during the last five years, saved enough to put up a beautiful building which was an asset to the town. The new structure had been built entirely from the surplus funds of the Council without any aid from the Central Government. This was a matter that deserved unstinted praise, and an eye-opener to other similar institutions.

According to the set-up of the Local Government on 1st October, 1952, there are thirty-six Urban Councils in the Island, whose functions are broadly to protect and promote the comfort, convenience and welfare of the people and to develop the area in the fields of public health, public utility services and public thoroughfares. The finances necessary for these undertakings are obtained in various ways among them by local taxation and by grants from the Central Government.

There have been instances of the abuse of power vested in the local authorities and the Government has been compelled to remove certain Chairmen found guilty of various malpractices, to dissolve some Councils and to re-impose control by the Assistant Commissioners of Local Government. These incidents have been rather disquieting. It is, however, not generally realized that the members of these local bodies are not paid for their services and the country must be grateful to the many public spirited men who have sacrificed their leisure and in many instances, their private resources in the service to the community.

In the case of Chilaw the prudence exercised by the Chairman in husbanding the resources and making wise use of the surplus must be regarded as a shining example to the rest of these local bodies. The fact that the aid of the Central Government was not sought is sufficient testimony to the sturdy independence displayed—a rare virtue in a country where it is more often the rule than the exception to appeal to Government as a matter of convenience than of necessity, when big loans could be obtained from Government on easy terms of repayment.

The ratepayers of Chilaw should be grateful to their representatives in the Urban Council whose prudence in administration has enabled the

people to enjoy further amenities like the dainty promenade by the sea, almost a replica of Galle Face in Colombo, the workmen's housing scheme and 100 per cent clear and pure water supply. It is the true spirit of service which animates the Chairman and members of the Urban Council that is commendable. Without unduly raising taxes and burdening the people, the Council has practised the virtue of prudence immortalised by Shakespeare which is worth quoting:

"Have more than thou showest,
Speak less than thou knowest,
Lend less than thou owest."

This is a sign of real, helpful, encouraging and substantial progress in local administration to promote the comfort, convenience and welfare of the people. This should be the guiding principle that all members of civic bodies should bear in mind who dedicate themselves to the service of the community.

INDO-CEYLON RELATIONS

Much has been made by the Indian Press, or some sections of it, of mis-statements consequent on the lack of finality on the talks between Mr. Nehru and our Prime Minister. Our national press has corrected the wrong impression given in Indian press comments—but to what purpose?

Ceylon's newspapers are not read in India, and our banner headlines would hardly have been seen by more than a dozen Indians abroad. While our Press has done the country a service by exposing the scandal of misrepresentation abroad, it is now the function of our Foreign Office to get the right relations established with Indian national newspapers. As one said once before, the great national dailies in India do not indulge in distortions, but they must rely on such services as exist.

Ceylon is too small a country to expect Indian Editors to pay special attention to our problems. It is up to us, therefore, to go to them.

We said before, and we say again, that it is necessary for our Information Officer to be sent on a semi-official mission to India, to the main centres where opinion is made by newspapermen. Mr. Hulugalle is the one man who can serve his country in this particular way. It is a more useful service than that of presiding over the trifles with which his department is so busy most of the time.

The spirit of genuine anxiety to do justice which pervades the office of the Indian High Commissioner in Ceylon and our own anxiety to have a practical solution to the problem need emphasis. The details of settlement are purely secondary. The main thing is that we do honestly wish to settle the issues. Of that Mr. Hulugalle can convince the Indian Press.

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RUSSIA AND WORLD GOVERNMENT

By Eardley Gunasekera

THE present United States foreign policy is to consolidate her position and to maintain so great a preponderance of power that neither Russia nor any other nation would be in such a position as to attack it. By guarding this wide margin of military superiority the Americans believe that they could maintain an armed peace until their rivals either collapse through frustration or adopt the American way of life. To achieve this the United States are doing three things. Firstly, they are spending very nearly sixteen billion dollars on domestic rearmament and scientific perfection of indiscriminate destruction. Secondly, that country is on the search for reliable allies through treaties as the Atlantic Pact and are spending six billion dollars a year on economic and military assistance for those prospective allies. Finally, the Americans are adopting Fabian tactics by withholding all goods that tend to strengthen the military superiority of Russia of her satellites.

The belief that our national armed strength should be maintained is quite a different thing from telling the American people that the Army, Navy and Air Force are the only reliable guardians of liberty and values of life. Such arguments when considered against the background of past history and present scientific developments show us both the absurdity and danger of the un-critical belief in national armed force. This belief must now be disregarded because no nation could resist such powerful onslaughts as atomic and biological air attacks. The problem in this instance is not so much as to protect the American people in the event of war as to be able to retaliate with all the venom they could gather against merciless and unreasonable aggressors. This program of preparation for armed retaliation will require a national sacrifice of living standards and democratic liberties.

It must also be remembered that Russia too is proceeding on similar lines. The end result of such a power struggle, if it continues, will inevitably be war either by incident or design. We cannot, therefore, hope to find freedom and democracy among the starving, poverty-stricken and maimed survivors of a Third World War. After millions have been killed in the genocide of

strategic bombing it is likely that new forms of society more corrupt than any in existence today, will inherit the rains.

The United Nations Charter was a first step in the building of international security and instead of abandoning the United Nations as inefficient and inadequate the entire world can move to give it genuine authority and power thus making self-defence only a by-word. If, however, we are to rely on the United Nations as an institution that could promote peace and goodwill then it is obvious that far-reaching changes in the U.N. Charter will have to be made so that it will be transformed into a world federation. It will have to be given constitutional authority to administer international laws preventing the use of violence, arbitration of international disputes, controlling of national armament and providing for dependable revenue. Furthermore legislative, executive and judiciary agencies will have to be created within it together with United Nations' inspection and police forces to prevent the secret production of illegal armament.

There is every possibility of Soviet participation in a world federation of limited powers. The most important fact is that Russian inclusion in such a system of government would not mean an abandonment of the propagation of the Communist doctrine nor will it mean that American participation will break the belief in the extension of political democracy.

Russian agreement to world federal government would depend largely on how the offer is made and the conditions that prevail in the world at that time. The American offer of participation in a world government must be combined with a willingness to negotiate an amicable settlement on the question of a war and Russian acceptance of the necessary revisions in the structure of the United Nations.

If the revision of the United Nations Charter does not pander to the taste of the Soviet government, then what the Americans could best hope to do is to hold the United Nations Organization as a forum of discussion and proceed to form within that organization a partial federation proved economically prosperous and stable the Russians might ultimately decide to join an association they cannot compete with or dare to attack.

PREVENTION OF ILLICIT EMIGRATION

A SPECIAL Officer to co-ordinate action for the prevention of illicit emigration of Indians to Ceylon has been appointed by the Government of India.

Shri K. E. Krishnamachari, Protector of Emigrants, Tuticorin, will discharge the duties of Special Officer in addition to his present duties as Protector of Emigrants, Tuticorin.

The special officer will be in general charge of operations against touts and potential illicit emigrants. He will work in closest co-operation with the Protectors of Emigrants at Nagapattinam and Mandapam Camp.

The appointment of this officer is in furtherance of the vigorous

measures the Government of India have already been taking to check illicit emigration to Ceylon. These measures include:—

- (I) vigorous action to apprehend and send up for trial touts, abettors and potential illicit emigrants;
- (II) patrolling both by land and by sea;
- (III) grant of rewards for the supply of useful information; and
- (IV) publicity in the Press, and the Radio and by other means to the sufferers and hardships which illicit emigrants have to undergo both while at sea and after reaching Ceylon and to the penalties attending detection.

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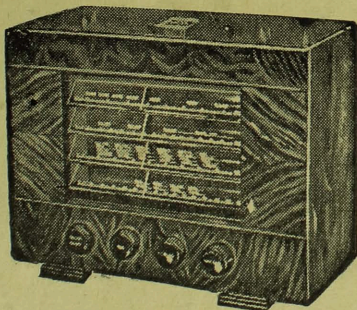
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The Hallmark of Quality

The Red Network in the United Kingdom

By John Baker White

(Continued from last issue)

D. N. Pritt, Q.C., is the President, and on the general council is the Hon. Ivor Montagu who, like Mr. Pritt, was prominent in 1940 in the Communist pro-Nazi "peace" campaign at that time and who is a member of the World Peace Council. Actively associated with ancillary organizations of the Communist Party since 1931, Montagu was—according to the Daily Worker—a member of the 1944-45 executive committee of the Communist Party and served on it again in 1945-46. His association with Communist Party continued to be intimate. On 28th February, 1949, for example, the Daily Worker reported him as attending an extended meeting of the Communist Party executive, and on 4th January, 1952, the Bulletin of the London District Committee of the Communist Party reported him as one of the speakers at a Communist Party conference in London. In 1951 he was announced as the Communist Party Parliamentary candidate for North Hammersmith, but when the General Election came it was decided not to contest the seat. The summer edition of the Anglo-Soviet Journal reported him as the hon. treasurer of the Society for Cultural Relations which is the British end of VOKS. He is now also secretary of the World Peace Council. Ways in which key Party workers and sympathisers operate in ancillary organizations are shown in Appendix V.

The British Peace Committee has organized a number of local committees in towns, factories, etc., to carry out its instructions. It can be assumed that in many cases the members of these committees have no idea that they are being exploited to serve the Soviet Government, or how this exploitation is organized. The same is true of many who have lent their names to the peace appeals and other activities described above. The other "front" organizations already enumerated are of far less importance. A prominent member of the British National Union of Students has already exposed the true nature of the political activities of the International Union of Students, and the scope for the remaining organizations is limited. Together, however, they form a by no means negligible network through which the message desired by the Soviet Government can be carried to the British public. It should not be forgotten that the Soviet Union has on occasions employed Communist parties as a recruiting ground for Soviet spies. In Canada, doubtless because of the overwhelming importance to them of the atomic secrets, the Soviet Embassy involved leaders of the Party in espionage activities and entirely discredited it as a political organization. The report of the Royal Commission appointed in Canada to examine the evidence in the Gouzenko case found that two of the Party's best known figures and a number of scientists and intellectuals connected with it had committed espionage for the Soviet Union. The process whereby men who had started as bona fide idealist Communists were gradually perverted into foreign spies is clearly set out in the Commission's report. It came to the final conclusion that:—

"It had been overwhelmingly established that the Communist movement was the principle base within which the espionage network (organized from the Soviet Embassy) was recruited and that it not only supplied personnel with adequately developed motivation, but also the organizational frame-

work wherein recruiting could be, and was, carried out safely and efficiently".

The Greek espionage trial of 1951 and the Swedish trial of 1952 proved up to the hilt that leading Communist Party members had played an important part in the Soviet military and economic espionage. In Britain there have been a few isolated cases of Communists who have acted as Soviet spies. The Soviet Union is willing, if its interest seem to be served, to use its considerable influence on local Communist parties to secure their employment in this fashion. It should be remembered that Party members are bound by iron Party discipline to disclose any information its officials want from them.

The activities of international Communist organizations in the United Kingdom raise the gravest question of the motives and the responsibility of those who participate in them, whether acting in full knowledge of the facts or in a refusal to appreciate what the facts mean. That this is so can be shown by an assessment of the true function of the Soviet-controlled propaganda network in the United Kingdom. This function can be readily explained by reference to Soviet and Communist sources.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SOVIET NETWORK

The evidence that the Communist Party and its organs of publicity act entirely in the interest of the Soviet Government is well known. The attempts to sabotage the war effort between 1939 and 1941, the volte face when Russia was attacked, the agitation for a second front in 1942 regardless of the useless sacrifice of lives it would obviously have entailed and the slavish support of every requirement of Russian policy are familiar. It would, however, be a dangerous mistake to suppose that this adequately describes the functions of the Communist Party and propaganda in the United Kingdom. They have in fact three main tasks based on the fundamental aims and methods of the Soviet Government.

The aim of the Soviet Government is to achieve world domination by establishing Communist "dictatorships of the proletariat" in other countries, which are then to be totally subservient to Moscow. In the early years after the Russian revolution the Soviet leaders hoped that revolutions would follow spontaneously in other countries, particularly Germany, and that world-wide revolutions would follow. When this hope was finally abandoned, Stalin introduced the doctrine of "Socialism in one country," which meant that Russia was to be built up as the bastion of the revolution, from which Communism could expand and impose revolutionary governments upon other countries by force if necessary. It was not until the second world war that Russia found herself strong enough to spread Communist regimes by force or threat of force outside her borders. Then the process followed quickly in the Baltic States, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. This, however, was merely the first phase. The process was to be extended over East and West Germany and the whole of Western Europe until the absorption of all the resources of Europe in the Communist empire would place Russia in a position of overwhelming strength.

The principal weapons employed were the Soviet Army and the local Communist Party in each country, the function of the latter being to infiltrate into positions of trust and responsibility, to disarm and disorganise potential opposition and, having seized power with the aid of the threat of force furnished by the Soviet Army, to make the victim nation totally subservient to the Soviet Government. The following quotations show clearly the orthodox Soviet tactics which the local parties pursue:—

(To be continued)

Cutting Out Red Tape at Kachcheris

PUBLIC opinion has been vehemently expressed about the delays in the disposal of letters, petitions and other communications addressed by the public to Kachcheris and other Government offices. Resentment has been felt and this feeling of dissatisfaction and heart-burning has been ventilated in the Press and on platforms. It is heartening to learn that the powers that be, are now realising the need for a fresh orientation of the age long lackadaisical procedure and a beginning has been made at an outstation kachcheri since the appointment of a new Assistant Government Agent. Among the few changes introduced by this new officer is the one which ensures the prompt disposal of papers. The delaying of papers has been tackled by the introduction of a Register of Reminders and weekly reports on the work of the staff and a regular scrutiny of call-up diaries by the heads of sections which were constituted on a unit basis of not more than eight clerks. The Reminder Registers which was an innovation in this Kachcheri has had a very salutary effect on the working of the Kachcheri by ensuring that no correspondence is ignored and by compelling some sort of reply within a limited period of time. By strict insistence on the tagging of all letters received and the numbering of all papers in files

and a ban on pinning or clipping papers to case covers, their loss in the Kachcheri has been insured against.

The weekly reports which are examined by the Assistant Government Agent himself personally on every Monday at the Staff Conference have proved very useful in gauging the amount of work allotted to the officers and the progress they make week by week. A proper use of this system is bound to result in a more equitable distribution of duties and finally in a check-up on the capacity and willingness of the staff. The call-up diary system which is considered as fundamental to office administration is being adopted conscientiously since its use was enforced and begun to be checked regularly; This has had the result of making the work of the staff much easier. The use of a letter of acknowledgement form in swabasha has had the effect of instilling confidence into the minds of the public that any case of delay in matters affecting them is brought to the personal notice of the Assistant Government Agent.

This change of procedure has been followed by the D.R.O.'s offices and so far it has helped considerably to disabuse the minds of the public about delays in office administration which will hereafter be a relic of the past.

The Duke of Edinburgh and Ceylon

By T. M. Ge Samat

I SHOULD like to write of the Man behind the throne as one with warmth and expansiveness to Ceylon. Prince Philip had many a pleasant day ashore in Ceylon as a young Naval Officer long before he was the Battle of Matapan sailor, President of the British Association and President of the National Playing Fields of Britain. Little did anyone in Colombo think then that he would become the husband of a princess who was to be Queen of a Commonwealth the kind of which no Queen in all the world before her could have dreamed of.

Then one to whom the Duke of Edinburgh has turned for advice since his schooldays has been another Ceylon link, Earl Mountbatten of Seac fame but for Ceylon one who endeared himself to the inhabitants of this Island just as much as he endeared himself in India as a leader in mind and a follower in heart by his contribution to the graceful transfer of power in India by the British to the Indians. There is little doubt now as Prince Consort, the Duke of Edinburgh would turn more and more for advice to the Earl of Mountbatten. That is something vital for Ceylon affairs. Be this as it may Ceylon must have satisfaction that in facing her tremendous responsibilities Queen Elizabeth as a radiantly happy wife and mother and the centre of a charming family will have unlike many other Queens before her, a Prince Consort who while preparing

to be the man behind the throne has had the advantage of previous acquaintance of people in this Island, something which no Prince Consort before had.

The Duke of Edinburgh is the first Prince Consort in Britain in 90 years. During World War II he served on the Valiant and was in a night action in the Battle of Matapan in which the British inflicted a severe defeat on the Italian Navy. Like his Uncle Earl Mountbatten he is a fine Polo player and an outdoor man taking a lively interest in social welfare. He has had many roles as a Prince from November, 1947, when, he led his bride from Westminster Abbey to realise that as husband of a Queen the family represents a symbol of the world, for royalty in the Commonwealth is the symbol of the unity of a family.

At 26 Elizabeth II with her Consort has become one of the most important people in the world, a vital person for a family of 500 million people in a Commonwealth of free nations for the Commonwealth has become an enormously important factor in world affairs. It is a Commonwealth which needs men like not only Nehru but also men like Earl Mountbatten who stir men's minds and who are masters of events, in the same way (but in the spirit of a past age) as Sir Winston Churchill.

In the unknown naval officer who within 4 years has been transformed into one of the most important men in the world this Island should always have a friend who now represents not just a symbolic head but a symbolic head that will shine in days to come.

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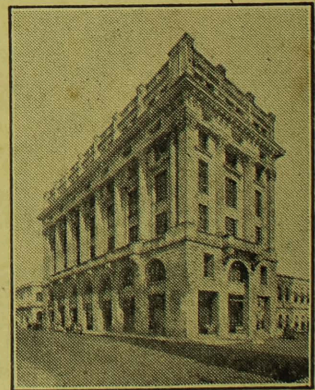
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