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VENDETTA ON THE WORKING CLASSES

Communist Hooligans Show What Red Rule Can Be Bandaranaike Already Used and Thrown Away

EVERY decent-minded citizen, whatever his or her political views might be, would have heartily approved of the swift and strong measures taken by the Government to protect the lives and property of the peaceful citizens of Ceylon from further danger from Red hooligans.

The Prime Minister was fully justified in the action he took to safeguard the men, women and children who desired to be allowed to live their lives free from the fear of intimidation.

Even those who opposed the U.N.P. on various grounds and even those who strongly felt that the cut in the Rice Subsidy was unfortunate, all now unite in strongly backing the Government.

It is patent and obvious to everyone that the Ceylon Communist Party dominates all other Left Parties and that Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike is a stooge of his Red Masters. Already he is silenced. He can do nothing but repeat the C.P. line in different words. He too, will be exterminated if he does not.

Witness the Dompe incident in his own electorate! Despite Mr. Bandaranaike's repeated appeals to his Party not to participate in the Hartal, Dompe was the scene of bloodshed and death. C.P. men possess the outer fringes of the so-called S.L.F.P.

Mr. Bandaranaike has already ceased to serve his purpose and is a tame cat on a string. As for the C.P. itself it has revealed itself as a Party without any of the decencies of civilized human beings. They are shown up as bloodthirsty adventurers who do not hesitate to kill, maim, burn and pillage the innocent.

The damage done was to the poor man's mode of transport—the buses and trains. The shade trees served the poor pedestrians from the hot macadam of our roads. These, the Communist hooligans cut down—and now in many places there is no shade.

If bridges were damaged and culverts broken, there again it is the poor man in the bus who had to walk home to and from work.

When boutiques were closed it was the poor man who couldn't get bread or tea for his family, and it was the small boutique-keeper who lost two days' earnings.

All this to solve the vanity of Communist leaders who faced a situation in which their vaunted power to call a strike was threatened with exposure. When a genuine, spontaneous strike was seen to be impossible, these bloodthirsty, irresponsible hooligan leaders launched a vendetta, not on the Government but on those who did not strike.

Those who lost their lives and those who lost their jobs have only the Communists to blame and Communist sympathisers who from the security of their arm-chairs and the guarded safety of their homes did nothing but talk, talk, talk.

The last few days would have shown the country what Red Terror can be and how Russia is ruled—by threats, violence, intimidation, murder, vendetta.

Here in Ceylon there was a strong, democratic Government to save the people. A democratic Government refrained from wanton shooting and the police and military fired only as a last extremity. Even without power in the country, Red rowdies intimidated and terrorized peaceful citizens. What a fate will overcome this ancient people if they had not, in their wisdom, elected the U.N.P. with such an overwhelming majority.

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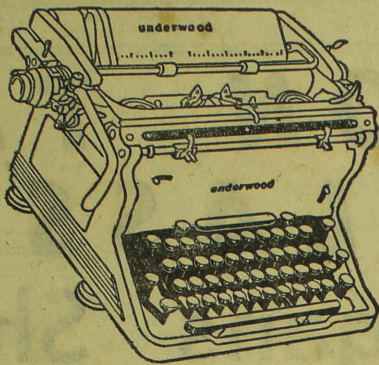
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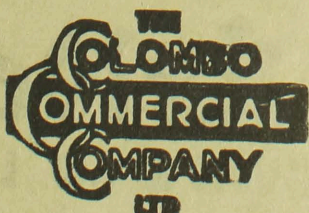
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WHAT THE SO-CALLED HARTAL ACHIEVED

THAT Marxist-sponsored political strike misnamed a Hartal (described by the Prime Minister as "a challenge to democracy" did not "bring every thing to a standstill on August 12th" nor did it "force the Government to resign or create a situation which called for an immediate general election" as was the fervent hope of the sponsors the L.S.S.P. who in a message to the people instructed them "to stay away from work, to close all boutiques and business houses, to boycott transport and to hoist black flags." Rumour-mongers and mischief-makers were busy on the eve of this political strike, circulating fantastic rumours with the idea of intimidating people from going to work as usual. The attempts at preventing members of the public from going to work was partially successful in respect of public transport services for the working staffs of those services appeared to have been overawed by gangster threats.

COLOMBO ALMOST NORMAL

Nevertheless Colombo was about almost normal, as more than 95 per cent. of the Public Services personnel reported for duty and it was apparent that a similar response was recorded in the case of employees in the mercantile employees as well. All mercantile firms stood firm. Those who stood by did deserve praise.

It is heartening to learn that in connection with the Public Services, the Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. A. G. Ranasinha, in a communication to the Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments pays a tribute to the loyalty of the personnel of the Public Services. He says:—

"I am directed to express the gratitude of the Government at the manner in which the Public Services manifested their sense of duty and loyalty by their attendance at their various places of work on the 12th of August, 1953, notwithstanding the serious inconvenience caused to individual officers by the disruption of communications.

Preliminary statistics show that 95.2 per cent. of the Public Services reported for duty on this date, and you are requested to enter minutes of commendation in the personal file of every officer who was present on duty and carried out his normal functions until released for the day by your direction."

HARTAL A MISNOMER

During the debate on the Budget in the Committee stage last week, the Member for Matugama in defining Hartal said:—"What is a hartal? It is a facet of the Gandhian technique that the late Mahatma Gandhi adopted in India of non-violence and non-co-operation."

But the Leftists who sponsored this hartal have obviously changed that technique into one of mob violence which is the reverse of the technique of that revered Indian leader, judging from the results achieved so far. A large number of firemen of the railway service did not turn up for work as they were intimidated by thugs, and only a skeleton train service was maintained in consequence. Trams and trolley buses did not run, on an order made by the Mayor, Mr. C. T. Grero, (since resigned) because he feared acts of hooliganism. Much inconvenience was caused to the public by a few mischief-makers who delayed the departure of trains from central stations at Maradana and Colombo Fort, but pulling the communication cords just as the trains leave the station. Train service was interrupted on the K.V. and coast lines. About 7,000 labourer employees of landing companies did not turn up for work that day and the Port authorities had to employ all reserve labour from the labour "pool."

Telecommunications between Colombo and Galle, Ambalangoda, Matara, Bandarawela, Avissawella were disconnected, the lines having been cut.

Sporadic acts of violence were reported from various areas in Colombo, Pettah and Mutwal. Extensive damage was reported from Moratuwa, Egoda Uyana, Kirillapona and Kalutara.

A train on the coast line was wrecked at Anguland. Cushions and fittings were thrown out of the train on the track by looters who boarded it as it was approaching the station. The looters after wrecking the train uncoupled the engine and sent it rolling towards Moratuwa.

Buses, cars and other vehicular traffic were stoned. Transport, was dislocated on the K.V. and coastal lines as the tracks were damaged at Kottawa, Homagama and Wadduwa.

In several outstations, lorries were set on fire. The forces let loose by the Leftists were at work. Along main road huge trees were cut down and thrown across. Bridges and culverts were broken and the roads made impassable.

Incendiarists encouraged by the Leftist-sponsored disturbances elsewhere set fire to the Dehiwala Govt. Central School premises.

A special bus conveying pilgrims turned turtle at Delkanda junction near Nugegoda on the High Level Road, after hitting the trunk of a coconut tree which had been felled across the road by the hartal terrorist gangs. Many innocent passengers, mainly villagers, were injured.

The Colombo Fire Brigade was kept busy responding to several fire calls. There was a fire at Vavasseurs' Store in Dean's Road, another at Walkers Marine Engineering Works, Mutwal, a third at Volkarts Store in Grandpass and a fourth at Chalmers Quay in the Fort.

A kerosene bowser was set ablaze by agitators at Kirillapone.

A police raid on the Kandy headquarters of the Communist Party in Castle Street, found two packages of films and a number of documents, one relating to an "army of Liberation for the Central Province."

The above are a few incidents in which the hooligans succeeded in creating a panic and paralysing the transport services.

PRE-HARTAL APPREHENSION

During the budget debate on the day preceding the hartal, the Member for Colombo North, observed that while it was not usual for anybody in the House to repress the expression of political displeasure, much less would anybody in the House support the use of force against the use of political displeasure. Each party and each person should be free to express his political displeasure or disapproval of anything done by the Government in a constitutional and legitimate manner. He asked the Prime Minister to make it equally safe for those who approve of Government measures to be allowed to go about their work in peace, because molestations with threats, with the fear of violence, had been thrown and hurled at them.

RUSH FOR INSURANCE

Continuing, he said:—"I am not speaking theory. To an unprecedented extent in Ceylon, there has been a rush for insurance by all those who have any sort of glass. Insurance companies are charging double premia for them because the foreign insurance companies have asked for that amount, and people have to plank down Rs. 700 to Rs. 800 just to feel sure that they will get over tomorrow's strike. That does not show a state of peace."

STATE OF FEAR

People were seen in the Tripoli Market buying two to three days' provisions and vegetables. Messages have been sent to me by boutique-keepers who say that they want to keep their boutiques open. But threats have been used against them and they want to know what steps they are to take to keep their boutiques open. Bakers' boys have been requested to tell their customers that they will not be supplying bread tomorrow and have requested them to buy their bread for one or

(Continued on page 3)

WHAT THE SO-CALLED HARTAL ACHIEVED

(Continued from page 2)

two days in advance. Peons working in the Colombo firms have asked for refuge in Colombo or in their shops or boutiques in order that they may be safe until the following morning. Surely, this is not the country that we have been accustomed to! Are we going to be left in this state of fear?

DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT

"And it should be the duty of this Government to see that such a task of affairs is not brought about", declared the Prime Minister who continuing said: "that's the duty of any Government, the duty to protect its innocent citizens. A person may be for or against a particular measure that we have taken, but surely if a trader wants to keep his boutique open, if a person wants to come to his work, in spite of requests on the part of certain people not to do so, the person concerned is entitled to do what he likes without being prevented or bullied.

Hon. Members have appealed to me not to allow a state of affairs to come into being where people may lose their lives. I do not treat lives lightly. Certainly not. I do not know how hon. members across look upon and treat others' lives. As far as I am concerned I will not just sit idly and allow those who stand for violence and disorder free rein to do as they like, to destroy life as they like, to destroy property as they like, and thereby to get into a position where they can try out some of their political theories. Yes, it is because I value human life that I am taking precautions to see to it that that safety is ensured.

DEMOCRACY'S DIFFICULTY

Every democracy is often faced with this difficulty of dealing with those who do not believe in democratic methods and democratic procedure, those who use the freedoms that are inherent in democracy for the purpose of overthrowing that selfsame way of life. That is our difficulty too. That is the difficulty that, I believe, even some of the Opposition Parties are faced with, the difficulty of even getting together when certain other Parties do not believe in democracy at all. To those Parties the freedoms ensured by democracy government are merely tools to be used to wipe out democratic government altogether. There are those who think in that way. There are those who profess to follow such an ideology, to whom any opportunity is good enough to give practical effect to the theories they hold dear. Therefore, Sir, in extraordinary circumstances and situations, even in democracies certain measures have to be taken.

Hon. Members have asked me the question what orders have been given by me. The Army and the Police will act constitutionally and will use all the powers they are legally entitled to use to see that law and order are maintained. I know hon. Members want to get from me some statement which will help them tomorrow."

NO PEACEFUL HARTAL

The so-called peaceful hartal which the sponsors had organized was completely forgotten by subversive elements behind the movement. Abandoning all pretences of "non-violence and non-co-operation" they resorted to violent intimidation of individuals and the wanton destruction of private and public property. In the disturbances created by the hooligans it was not the United National Party that suffered inconvenience, damage to property, violence and injury, but it was the people. In the circumstances Government was compelled to declare a state of emergency as a result of the wanton acts of lawlessness and destruction committed by thugs and

hooligans incited by the revolutionary parties.

PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC SECURITY

The Prime Minister made the following statement in Parliament, the day after the hartal:—

"The state of public security was considered today at an emergency meeting of the Cabinet, and I have had with much regret, with the concurrence of my colleagues in the Cabinet, to apprise His Excellency of the situation and advise him that special powers should be taken under the Public Security Ordinance to deal with the situation.

A proclamation has been issued by His Excellency the Governor-General under that Ordinance declaring the existence of a state of public emergency and regulations will be brought into force which will ensure the protection of public security and order and the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community.

Members will be aware of the mischief, damage and inconvenience caused in Colombo as well as in other parts of Ceylon by persons inimical to the State who have been induced by unscrupulous leaders to resort to strikes and violence of established law and order.

I need only quote a few instances of the reactionary nature of the occurrences today which led me to advise His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to take appropriate action to prevent further violence and destruction.

The persons responsible for today's strike have not contented themselves with that demonstration. They have incited and intimidated others to strike and in their desire to achieve their unscrupulous purposes they have obstructed buses and railway trains, held them up and in some cases in the suburbs of Colombo, have destroyed or attempted to destroy them. Telephone and telegraphic communications have been disrupted by sabotage, railway lines have been removed with a view causing derailment and fires have been caused in various buildings and other places.

Persons engaged in driving public transport have been intimidated, molested and assaulted, crowds have been incited to collect in public places, obstruct the police in the preservation of law and order, pelt stones at buses and public buildings and intimidate shop-keepers to close down their establishments and so deprive the public of essential supplies.

Incidents of mischief, assault and arson have been reported throughout the day in Colombo in south-coast towns like Moratuwa and Ambalangoda and further inland in places like Hanwella, Maharagama and Boralessgamuwa and they have been dealt with promptly and effectively.

I need not repeat that the Government is determined to stamp out this mob violence and has taken all measures necessary for the protection of the public and for the restoration of the rule of law which the leaders of these unruly and irresponsible mobs seem to have no regard for."

STAMP OUT MOB VIOLENCE

The Prime Minister's declaration disclosed the determination of the Government to stamp out mob violence and take all the necessary measures for the protection of the public and the restoration of law and order. It is not as the leader of a political party that he has spoken, but as the Head of the Government, responsible to all the people of whatever political complexions they may be, for the liberty of the citizen and the protection of his property. The imposition of the curfew from dusk to dawn in the Western and Southern Provinces the worst affected areas will undoubtedly be unpalatable and cause considerable inconvenience to the people, but in the interests of the people themselves the measures have become necessary.

(Continued on page 4)



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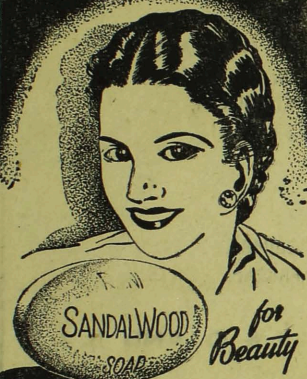
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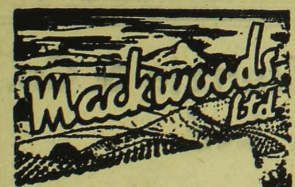
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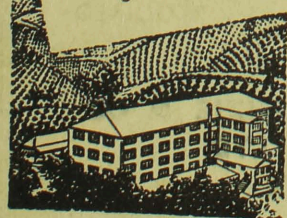
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THE STRIKE WAS A SUCCESS!

Says Eardley Gunasekera

THE long awaited 12th August has come and gone and the strike has been an "unqualified success". It has succeeded in wanton destruction, looting and all that could be associated with mob rule. The strike was meant to achieve one purpose but unfortunately achieved another. It was to be considered as prima facie evidence of the peoples' disapproval of the removal of the food subsidy by the government. It was to be regarded as a general manifestation of the people's distaste to the action of the government specially in relation to the food issue. The leftist leaders felt that this was their opportunity to whip up antagonism for the government and the government would, I am sure, have been only too ready to entertain representation provided it was to be of a constructive nature and helped the government in formulating a policy in harmony with public opinion. But it was distressing to note that this was in no way realized because, assessing from the results the strike has obtained it could only be deduced that parties who have had absolutely no relationship or connection with the policy of the government have been adversely affected.

Strikes are meant to achieve an end. They are, in other words a means to an end. If however this particular strike was meant to render to a certain section of the general public heavy loss, then the strike has very evidently been completely successful in this end. It does not require much thought and scrutiny to set fire to a building or while threatening bodily harm loot a place. This strike was meant to be a token strike and as such was to be considered as the strikers' disapproval of the government's action in removing the food subsidy. Workers struck work no doubt but they struck only to give way to the baser instincts of hooliganism and thugery, so much so that we are now posed with the question how seriously we

are to view the assurances and credentials of those who fostered this strike when they told us time and again that this was to be a token strike and evidence of universal dis-favour with which the government was held. We are then to ask ourselves whether this was ever realised and to whose detriment.

There was a time when the people of this country were called upon to face with courage the requirements of national emergency. It will be remembered that during the war the Ceylonese fed themselves on half a measure of rice per week and yet there were no disturbances but today there is enough and more of rice available to everyone at extra cost and there has been so much chaos. The government has not removed the food subsidy for all time but only so far as it is in a position to tide over these difficult times. Besides the duty of feeding the people a government is called upon to do a variety of other things and when the time comes to estimate and weigh the performances of a government no reasonable political sovereign would consider firstly how well-fed the country has been. Readers will thus realise that we have to forsake for some time a number of items we have been accustomed to. But this is only for some time and not for all time and we do so for the sake of national progress. It is very encouraging to observe that the people of a country are deeply interested in matters that affect them but how far is it encouraging when public security has been undermined and the liberty of the individual has been threatened. This strike has produced disastrous results to the extent that it has damaged property to a great extent. Above all it has resulted in the loss of a number of lives and more of them have their fate in the balance. If a verdict was to be given then we could only say that the strike has succeeded. It has succeeded in wanton and meaningless destruction.

WHAT THE SO-CALLED HARTAL ACHIEVED

(Continued from page 3)

OPPOSITION RESENTS "EMERGENCY" MOVE

The joint statement issued by the leaders of the revolutionary parties that "as originally announced the 24-hour hartal ended" is obviously an attempt to save themselves from the charge of responsibility for the acts of hooliganism on that day. In fact Dr. N. M. Perera, described the disturbances as a "one-day hartal which ended at midnight on August 12th and that there was no need to be panicky." He and the other Opposition M.P.'s asked the Government for an opportunity to discuss the proclamation of a state of emergency. The Communist Leader observed that a very grave situation had been created by the declaration of a state of emergency which in his opinion was "quite unwarranted."

It is wellknown that the most incendiary speeches were made by politicians of the Communist Party, the V.S.S.P., the N.L.S.S.P., the L.S.S.P. All these denoted the approaching strike, as not organized for

economic reasons—wages or conditions of service, but actually a strike for political reasons with acts of violence and hooliganism.

CIVIL DEFENCE SET-UP

A lesson which has been brought home to the authorities is that the personnel available now in case of similar urgency is inadequate. Realising this, it is gratifying to note that the Cabinet has approved the formation of Home Guard, Rural Volunteer Service, the personnel for which will be enlisted through Government Agents, District Revenue Officers and Headmen. Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, will be responsible for Civil Defence during the period of the emergency. He will work with the assistance of Cabinet Ministers and existing Government Departments and there will not be a separate organizational set-up of his own. Sir Oliver was Civil Defence Commissioner shortly after the declaration of war by Japan and he built it up to such a pitch of efficiency that this country was able to stand the test of the Japanese raid on Easter Sunday, 1942.

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THE LESSONS OF BLACK WEDNESDAY

By Stanley Morrison

NEVER before has the citizen of Ceylon been confronted with so imperative a necessity to make a choice between the forces of law and order and the forces which now openly stand for lawlessness and violent revolution. The events of last Wednesday and the following days are only a sample of what a Red Revolution really means. In the face of the events of those days it is clear that a recrudescence of such violence on an even bigger scale and at frequent intervals can only lead to one thing—the complete breakdown of the Island's economy and the impoverishment of the whole community. Whatever the Government may do, this can happen unless every citizen who prefers law and order is prepared to support the Government. If through fear the average citizen remains apathetic and indifferent to his duties, the Government's task will become extremely difficult. And if the Government's task is made extremely difficult, it is the average citizen who will suffer most, because mob law will hurt him more than it can hurt the Government. It is the average citizen who will have to face brickbats, home-made grenades, dynamite, arson, criminal intimidation, and trespass; and it is his children who will suffer in their education by being kept at home through the troubled days.

As I said, therefore, the citizen of Ceylon is today face-to-face with stark realities. He cannot escape his duties without imperilling the whole community and paralysing the Government of his choice. Can anyone deny that the Government which today rules the country is the lawfully elected government of the country, however unpopular its decision may be to remove the subsidy on rice? And after all, unpopular though this decision undoubtedly is, there are lawful and peaceful ways of making the Government realise that their rice subsidy decision has caused hardships to a section of the community and that the people as a whole would wish to see it restored by some means or other. For months before it was removed the Finance Minister and other members of the Government publicly asserted that the Government might be compelled to remove the subsidy owing to its financial plight and the grave risk that the rupee might lose its present value. But all that time, while the question of abolishing the rice subsidy was being openly debated by the most responsible members of the Government, neither the Leftist leaders nor Mr. Bandaranaike, the S.L.F.P. leader, uttered a word against such a step. They stealthily waited till the Government had committed itself before starting a rumpus about it.

Now to come back to my point. Are riots directed against the whole community the best and only means of protest against the Government's rice subsidy decision? Considering that the Government is now at its wits' ends to find the money to continue programmes for developing the country's resources and to maintain the normal public services, can a repetition of Wednesday and Thursday's events improve the financial condition of the Government? Who suffered most on those days from the vile policy of violence which the Leftists deliberately let loose? When the great majority of the middle class workers and most of the working class refused to support the Leftist strike call, were the Leftists justified in instigating violent attacks on buses and trains in order to intimidate workers who did not approve of the strike to stay away from work? Was this not the attempt of a minority to impose their will on the whole community? Contrast with the happenings in Ceylon the magnificently peaceful strike in France, which is still going on and which is going on a scale unheard of even in that country in the past. The moral

effect of such strike is tremendous because there has not been a single act of violence although millions of workers are out on strike, not for one day but for five days already.

Meanwhile, every law-abiding citizen in Ceylon is entitled to ask what purpose the present tactics of the revolutionary parties is designed to achieve. Are they aiming at the revolutionary overthrow of the Government? Perhaps, that is their objective, to judge from the statement just issued by the Political Bureau of the Communist Party. If that is really their objective, then the stupidity of the men who believe in revolution has undoubtedly reached new high heights of absurdity. Do these men really believe that Britain, the USA, and India will watch with folded arms while a government is set up in Ceylon which is openly allied with Communist China and Russia? Do these men really believe that Britain, the USA, and India will permit a government to be set up in Ceylon which will hand over the use of Trincomalee naval base and our airports and military aerodromes to Red China and Russia? If they genuinely believe this, then it means that Britain and the USA are willing and ready to see the whole of Asia come under the domination of Communist China and Russia. No man in his senses will believe such a thing. No doubt there are such men in the Mental Asylum at Angoda.

However, jokes apart, the revolutionaries in Ceylon really hope to stage a Communist revolution in Ceylon and if they, by any chance, were to succeed or are in danger of succeeding, this fact is certain: Ceylon will lose her independence: the British or the Americans will take this country over and administer it under an iron rule. That is as certain as night follows day. The British, the Americans, and India can only surrender Ceylon to a Red government if they have decided to wipe their hands off Asia. And that they will never do without a world war, because their own future safety depends on the existence of democratic governments in Asia. This is a fact which every sane and sensible man and woman in Ceylon should understand.

But do the educated classes understand this? I am afraid many of them do not. I have come across many middle class men (some of them grey-haired men) who furtively express the view that the present Government should hand over power to the Leftists. These men are too cowardly openly to support the Leftists and they are too cowardly even to write to the papers expressing their disapproval of the removal of the rice subsidy. These are the cowards who, if there were a Red government in Ceylon, will go about furtively railing at that government too. But, of course, it is a consolation to know that under a Red government they would be thrown into a concentration camp or 'bumped off.' No wonder Lenin once contemptuously referred to the Middle Classes as the Lumpen-proletariat. May I tell the Government that those working class elements and peasants who stand by the Government are more reliable and display more courage than that section of the middle class (I believe they are a large number) who by their apathy and cowardly defence of violence are a menace to any society, whether it is a Communist or democratic society? These men are also marked men by the revolutionaries, who know that these cowards are of no use to any cause because they do not support the revolutionaries except with their mouths.

Postscript.

Before I conclude I must refer to one of the most stupid acts of arson ever perpetrated during the riotous days that have temporarily ended. I refer to the burning down of the timber and thatched school buildings of the Government Central College at Dehiwala. This is reported to have

(Continued on page 6)

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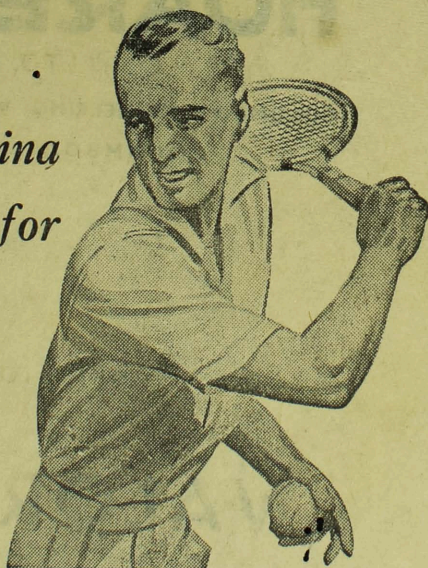
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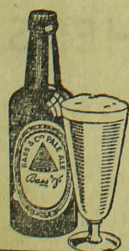
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Wanted—Vernacular Text Books in Accounting

By T. M. G. Samat

MORE and more Pettah traders in the small sectors of commerce now predominantly Ceylonese, are beginning to realise the significance of accounting in current problems of commerce as Income Tax, Controls, a permanent feature of this century and Sales forecasts etc. Indeed accountancy is indispensable for stability and order in economic society and this would be evidenced by the fact that "Buth Kaddy" accounting so widespread is now definitely on the borderline of antiquity.

The days are gone when even those professionally concerned did not find so many puzzling customs and control laws that depend on accountancy which in the Pettah many nowadays see but so few understand. In consequence when spurious benefits of one trade trend is not infrequently followed by an adverse trend or even by crashes it occurs without few traders and contractors understanding about prevention of such incidents or safeguarding markets.

Does anyone in retail business in Pettah or even those in wholesale business review internal emergency controls sampling and testing them in financial transactions and procedure and then verify from responsible officials that the relevant laws and regulations have been complied with?

Often it is after an infringement has been detected that the trader becomes aware that an offence has been committed though unwittingly. The resultant liability in some cases might by then materially effect the financial position of the business.

What is most needed today is a standard procedure to disclose a fair representation of the business in the context of present day conditions and anticipation of the future. In other words there is the need for

establishment of solid understanding of fundamental concepts in accounting in Pettah. Yet there is hardly anything in the way of texts in the vernacular which express simply and clearly the underlying ideas of basic accounting procedure or on the subject of auditing and allied subjects.

Everyone who is anxious to see business efficiency in the Dominion would deplore the lack of research students engaged in work of raising accountancy in vernacular to the status of an academic subject. Unless there is progress in this respect, lack of resilience to such trends as balance of trade or vagaries of the export market must always be expected.

In the present situation small undertakings can never make their contribution towards the building of the national budget. How could the examination of a scheme of taxation be evolved on fundamental lines to expand retail business that would be satisfactory to small undertakings?

Uniformity of accountancy in the vernacular is certainly a field worthy of attention in view of its present scattered nature. Along with the development of agriculture as an academic subject accountancy in vernacular has become a natural and logical development for the Island. Rapid communications, scientific methods of production and organizational groups of co-operative movements of today are masses of figures that have to be recorded and co-ordinated. Unless these figures are reliable they may be misleading the nation. Promotion of the best interests of her small traders by developing accounting on the correct lines representing in principle nothing different from established procedure is possible in a wide way by establishing accounting in the vernacular. Swabhasa cannot be complete with everything else in vernacular except accounting.

Revenue From Window-Pane Pearl Oysters

THE reply to a question by Mr. Mohamed Ali, M.P. for Muttur, the revenue from the lease of the Tamblegam Pearl Fishery was revealed by the Minister of Industries and Fisheries. These pearl oysters are known as window-pane pearl oysters and they contain seed pearls which find a ready market among jewellers in India. They are also reduced to a chalky powder by a

process of calcination by the action of heat, and used as chunam an ingredient of pan sopari or betel chew, a luxury popular among the rich and leisured classes.

The fishery is given on lease to the highest tenderer of whom there are many. The highest tender received was Rs. 35,561 per year for a period of three years. Three other tenders received were for Rs. 30,000; Rs. 27,153.40 and Rs. 25,000.

The Lessons of Black Wednesday

(Continued from page 5)

happened at about three o'clock on Saturday morning. Incidentally, among the buildings burnt down was a block of class-rooms erected in February this year by very poor parents at a cost of Rs. 4,500. As a Vice-president of the parent-teachers Association of this school I personally know with what difficulty the parents who subscribed towards this particular block of buildings did so. Most of them are poor men and women living in the hinterland of Dehiwala and... the Rs. 15-each of them subscribed was like a rib from their bodies. Even if the supporters

or sympathisers of the Leftists had no hand in this disgraceful episode, they at least created the conditions of lawlessness which made such an act possible. But a day or two before this incident, threats were being uttered by hooligans that Dehiwala was very quiet and had not co-operated with the Leftists. There is, therefore, some reason for believing that Leftist sympathisers had some hand in this. However, if Dehiwala was quiet, it was due mainly to the extraordinary vigilance of the Police who carried out their duties with great zeal and devotion to duty—the senior inspector going without sleep for 48 hours at a stretch.

Ceylon's Six and a Half Million Cultivable Acres LAND DEVELOPMENT AND SETTLEMENT EXPLAINED

THE subject of lands and land development in Ceylon was exhaustively detailed and clearly explained by the Minister entrusted with this Portfolio, Bulankulame Dissawa, during the Budget debate.

It will be realized, he said, that although the Island has an acreage of 16 million acres, only 6½ million of these are cultivated and cultivable. Out of this, 4 million acres have already been brought under cultivation, and there is a balance of about 2½ million acres for various uses. Of this 2½ million acres, about 600,000 to 700,000 acres could be brought under paddy cultivation with the help of major and minor irrigation works. The balance will have to be utilized for various economic products such as coconuts, rubber, and to a small extent in tea and other products like citronella, etc.

LAND HELD IN TRUST

Under the Law this land is treated as Crown land. A constitutional question had been raised by a lawyer member as to why it should be thus called. Did the land belong to Queen Elizabeth II of England? Such a thing as "Legal Fictions" must be known to a practising lawyer. By that process since all Members of Parliament have sworn allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, they admit that all land at the disposal of the State is Crown land.

As Minister of Lands and Land Development, he realized that this land is held by the present Government in trust for the people, and that this trust must be respected and these lands are utilized to the best interests of not only the individual but also of the State.

MANAGEMENT SET-UP

The set-up established by the Government to look after these lands is the Land Commissioner's

Department. The policy of the Government has to be filtered down to the country through this Department. The set-up should have an over-all picture of land utilization and land management in the country. For that purpose another Department called the Survey Department has been established, which is entrusted with a survey of all land, which is one of the primary objectives. In order to ascertain whether the land surveyed or such portions belong to private individuals, another Department called the Land Settlement Department has been established. This Department goes into the claims of private individuals as against the State. It serves a very useful purpose, the object being to settle land in the best interests of the community. That Department was by no means a curse of the country as described by a Member, nor was the settlement done in the manner of an inquisition.

PROCESS OF SETTLEMENT

Describing the method adopted, the Minister said that first the needs of the peasants in a village were satisfied—the paddy lands are separated from the garden lands and the communal needs of the people are attended to; chena lands are apportioned and the balance left in the village is set apart really for private enterprise, namely, for use by the middle-classes and if necessary, the Capitalist class. Thereafter Government undertakes the restoration of tanks and major irrigation works which have gone into disuse.

VALUE OF DENIYA LANDS

The type of land known as deniyas is not land that could be disposed of at random. One must appreciate the true value of this type and realize that it serves a certain specific purpose. In any forest reserve one would find deniya lands scattered about all over the place. This type of land preserves forest growth, keeps springs functioning and prevents floods in streams and soil ero-

sion. Dr. Gorrie's report on such erosion and conservation writes as follows: "I should deprecate the alienation of deniya land. Most of those that I have examined have had a very definite value to water conservation. The clearing of deniyas will of course reduce this value and if it is allowed to become a general practice, the effect on rivers would be to exaggerate both flood peaks and the low levels of drought periods owing to the removal of deniyas which have a cushioning effect on the stream flow."

Therefore if deniya lands were got rid of for the sake of food production, it would not produce food but create dust bowl conditions in the Island.

HOW LAND IS GRANTED

Under the Land Development Ordinance land is granted to the person who deserves to get that land by permits and grants with a certain enforcement of rules. The land cannot be fragmented, the land cannot be put to a use other than that for which it was given; the land should not be alienated and that land must be used properly for the benefit of the individual and ultimately of the State. From 1935 up to about 1952, these lands were more or less parcelled out to the peasants and peasants only, except in a few cases where the middle-class also got a quota of land. It was found that the pace and rate of alienation and development during the last six years was not up to expectations. He believed that a stage has now been reached when, inducements should be offered for private capital and private enterprise also to take a share in the development of the land. Although the offer of three major tanks having extents of 5,000, 1,000 and 500 acres respectively was advertised, he regretted that there was no response from private enterprise. He was now planning a scheme by which minor tanks of 50, 60 and 100 acres extent could be

given out to private enterprise and hoped to have same measure of success.

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

The total area planned to be developed under various major irrigation schemes from 1947-48 to the end of September this year, was 131,137 acres. The area brought under cultivation was 97,573 acres in extent, with a shortfall of about 30,000 acres. That shortfall is in the Gal Oya Valley. This was due to shortage of skilled personnel, while it must be admitted that fast exploitation was not in the best interests of the land. Hence the process was one of hastening slowly. To meet the shortfall, in Gal Oya, as much as 75,786 acres were stepped up under minor works, making a grand total in the six years of 173,390 acres. To give effect to village expansion schemes besides the colonization, it has been planned to put up 16,000 houses in the colonization schemes. Up to the end of May, 1953, the number of houses constructed was 13,545. In the first year 1,200 houses were completed. The programme of building 30,000 houses was now nearing completion.

YIELDS OF PADDY

According to the statistics supplied by the Government Statistician, 2.3 million bushels of paddy were the direct result of the Six-Year Plan and the estimated value is in the region of Rs. 30 million. A pre-war survey indicated that the total income obtained by a colony was approximately 2½ times the income from paddy. On that basis the individual income created by colonization schemes could be estimated at Rs. 75 million. The sample survey conducted by the F.A.O. expert has disclosed the correct yield. The expert estimates the yield at 27.2 bushels per acre and in the year 1952—the yield of the entire Island—an extent of 1,161,869 acres of paddy had been sown, which brought in a yield of 28,444,910 bushels of paddy.

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