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MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER

The Future of the Party

By

U. A. Jayasundera

IT has been my privilege in the last few months to be Organising Secretary of the United National Party. Several meetings have been held in different parts of the Island and I am glad to say that they have all been extremely well attended and can be regarded as an indication of the strong support there is in the country for the Party and its leaders. Wherever I went I found an atmosphere which belied the popular stories that were spread around that the U.N.P. did not have its base among the masses and that it was only a superficial coterie of place-seeking



Mr. U. A. Jayasundera

politicians. The most resounding reply to this malicious libel will be when the mass rally takes place on the Galle Face Green tomorrow. A great deal of work has already been done to make this rally worthy of the Party and I am confident that it will serve to give strength to those who have so far been intimidated by the vociferous shouting of the petty agents of the Marxist parties.

I am really concerned with using the impetus that this rally will give as a spring board from which the Party can move forward in the years to come.



Mr. D. S. Senanayake

What is the kind of organisation we should have if we are to deploy our strength at the next general elections.

As I conceive it we must first have a Central Electoral Association in all the 95 Constituencies into which the Island has been divided.

When this has been done each of these electoral areas should have branch associations numbering from five to eight. Once these organisations spread throughout the country we propose to have more intensive contact with our members and frequent conferences and rallies at which we shall be able to discuss all matters of policy and organisation.

In this way the country will be fully represented in the executive committee of the Party which in turn will be the driving force to plan and execute a program of national development.

We also propose to have at the Party headquarters a full time organisation with several committees to sit all the time to investigate representations made from our branch associations not only with regard to the needs of their areas but also in regard to general matters of national policy. This organisation will cause two currents of action:—

- (1) the surge of opinion towards the centre and
- (2) the spread of the views and opinions of the Central executive throughout the various provincial and branch associations in the length and breadth of the Island.

This is a rough and ready outline, the achievement of which will involve tremendous work during the next year. I have no doubt that with the assistance and co-operation of every member of the Party we shall be able to achieve these objects and be ready with a splendid Party organisation before the next general elections.

ON the occasion of the First Anniversary of the United National Party, I wish to convey through its journal greetings and good wishes to all members of the United National Party.

I do not know whether it is sufficiently well known that this journal has been in existence from the very inception of the Party, and has been the organ through which all U.N.P. publicity has been carried out so far.

It is necessary that we should see that our publicity and propaganda work is encouraged and I trust all possible assistance would be given by the members of the Party by regular contributions, both literary and cash, to this journal.

D. S. SENANAYAKE

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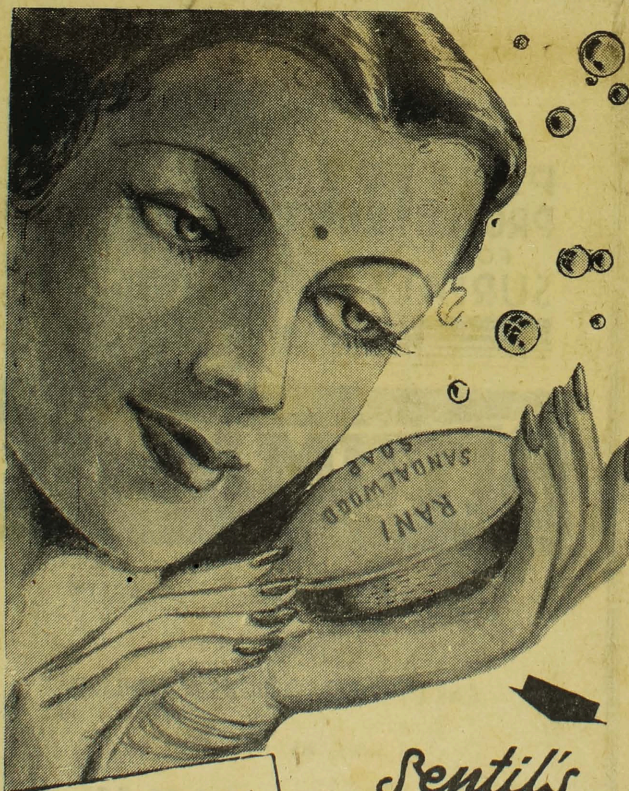
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WOMEN IN CEYLON POLITICS

By

Adelené Molamure



Mrs. Adelené Molamure

ALTHOUGH the women of Ceylon may not have played a conspicuous part in the struggle for freedom the achievement of that freedom and Ceylon's entry into the ranks of a free nation brings to the forefront the need for our women to take their place in the political struggle. By tradition it has come to be recognised that woman is the chief architect of the home and that necessarily implies that she would be as essential an unit in the political life of the country as her male partner. No country can consider itself progressive if its women are considered purely decorative creatures whose intellect and social value is secondary to the intellect and social value placed on the men.

We have the example in our neighbouring country, India, where the women played a not inconsiderable part in a glorious fight for freedom which culminated in the appointment of one of her resplendent patriots, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu as Governor of a Province. It may be imagined that the women of Ceylon do not compare with such eminent personalities as Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya. I would wish to point out that the difference is not so much in the lack of any inherent capacity or ability in the women of Ceylon but because we have not provided the atmosphere in this country for women to play their rightful part. Perhaps if the struggle for liberty had been fought in this Island as intensively and as bitterly as it was fought in India we may have produced the woman of the hour whose voice would have been as inspired and whose courage as thrilling as that of Mrs. Naidu.

IN India however the women do not enjoy the same political right to vote as the women in Ceylon. Only a very small section has the franchise and the property or literary qualifications restrict the numbers that might otherwise influence political decisions. By the 1935 Government of India Act marriage was made a basis for franchise and it was stated that the wife of a voter may also vote.

This is a peculiar distinction and a distinction that no healthy society and no progressive country should tolerate. The Indian women have yet to win the right that was conceded to the women of Ceylon by the Donoughmore Constitution.

How have we used that privilege. I am afraid that we, the women of Ceylon, have not used it to advantage. In the general sense, women are said to constitute a half of the population of a country and on that basis their influence should be immense. Leaving speculation aside let us consider the population statistics as supplied by the Census Department.

The statistics are divided into two sections, viz., those over 21 and those under 21 years of age.

The female population of those under 21 is 1,600,000 and the male population under the same group is 1,700,000. This shows that in this age group there are slightly more males than females. We are concerned primarily with the voting groups and we observe the following interesting figures: Males over twenty-one: 1,800,000; and females over twenty-one: 1,500,000.

For the 1,800,000 males there are 99 representatives in Parliament against two representatives for the almost equal number of women; and this in a country where all those over 21 years of age have a right to vote or stand for election.

Of course the reason for this gross under-representation of women is not entirely the prejudice against voting for women. I am glad to observe that Mrs. Florence Senanayake and Mrs. Philip Gunawardene have been elected, the latter of whom had the unique distinction of having been sent to Parliament without a contest.

AN important factor is a matter of economics. Most of our estate owners and our business magnates happen to be men and thus have independent means. There are a few women who are legal directors of some companies and big shareholders of others.

There have also been outstanding pioneers in politics like Mrs. Naysum Saravanamuttu and myself who were returned to the State Council in 1931. We did not mawe blood and thunder speeches but as members of the Executive Committee to which we belonged we were able to do a great service in our own way for our people. Our male colleagues came to respect our views and often consulted us with regard to particular problems from the point of view of the women of this country. In the present system, however, a woman has to be something of an accomplished speaker if she is to make her presence felt in Parliament. There are two of us in the Senate, myself and that great social worker, Miss Cissy Cooray, and we are able in some measure to put forward the case for various social measures that are necessary to improve the life of the average woman of this country.

Although there is a woman in the British Cabinet in charge of an important portfolio like Education, Ceylon has not yet arrived at the stage when in the formation of a Cabinet the name of any woman is seriously considered. In my view this leaves the women in a somewhat neglected condition and they have to depend on the process of petitions and deputations and annual general meetings of various women's organisations through which they hope to make known their own views on important matters.

WITH regard to the question of women in the Public Service itself a deputation had to wait on the Finance Minister to present the case for the right of women to jobs in the permanent service of Government. At present women are only tolerated. Government has not yet stated it as a declared policy that women shall have the same right to work as men. As far back as the first State Council, I moved a motion in the State Council that women should be admitted to the Civil Service, but it was defeated by one or two votes.

Until a definite order is made, and examinations to the Clerical and Civil Services are thrown open to women we shall not reach the goal towards which we must work.

I am glad to observe that the Treasury has in a recent advertisement allowed women stenographers to compete with men for an examination so that they may obtain permanent appointments in the Government Stenographers' Service. I hope that this is only the first of a series of administrative rulings that will enable women of this country to have a rightful share in the Public Service.

(Continued on page 3)

ONE YEAR OF U. N. P. ACHIEVEMENT

MIGHTY events acquire their due proportion and proper perspective only as we move away from them down the corridors of time. We are too close to the greatest event in the chequered history of our Island story to apprehend accurately its tremendous significance. Yet nothing that the U.N.P. has done can ever reach the stature and importance of one signal achievement—the recovery and restoration of our freedom. The achievement of freedom is the special contribution of the United National Party to the precious heritage of Lanka.

Freedom, it has been said, is important because of the opportunities it confers. But freedom is the cornerstone of all accomplishment and unless there is freedom the opportunity that makes for remarkable achievement rarely occurs.

There have been glittering events in the glorious pageant of our history. More than once our people have emerged triumphant from dark vicissitudes but the bloodless victory which gave us our freedom from our latest conqueror was the most triumphant of them all.

THE people of Lanka had previously fought various enemies, but they were foes whose strength in arms was not very much more than our own. But the British compelled our submission with resources richer than our own. The vindication of our freedom was accomplished on this the last occasion of our subjection, by means which are peculiar to the genius of our people. We won it through reason and persuasion. For the first time in the history of international relations, so often smeared with bestial barbarities a people came to freedom by asserting those qualities which most distinguish man from beast. Conference and correspondence, not conflict and quarrel, determined our path to freedom. This was essentially in keeping with the culture and traditions of our people, who are steeped in the doctrine of non-violence. Long before Mahatma Gandhi, we had sovereigns, like Sri Sangabo, who practised ahimsa, who sacrificed their lives rather than suffer others to lose theirs.

When the U.N.P. takes pride that its leaders were among the foremost in the peaceful campaigns that yielded us our freedom, the party gratefully recalls that in the immediate years which went before the achievement of that freedom none did so much as Mr. D. S. Senanayake.

It is most fitting that he should have been the leader and inspiration of our freedom movement in its last stages of accomplishment, for Mr. Senanayake

focuses in his personality the traditions and genius of the people.

LANKA is not the urbane city resident, an utterer of polished phrases and the witticism that pretends to be wisdom. Lanka, on the other hand, is a horny-handed toiler, with homely wisdom and abundant commonsense. Mr. D. S. Senanayake approximated most nearly to the archetype of our people and it was meet and proper that this typical Ceylonese whose exertions had achieved so much, should have received on behalf of the people of Ceylon the full panoply of power.

When the U.N.P. was formed it was for the specific purpose of achieving freedom. On that basis the Party contested the first Parliamentary Elections. The Party won 42 seats polling in that process or a total of 744,698 votes. Having emerged as the group with the largest following the Party's leader, Mr. D. S. Senanayake, was asked to form the Government.

The immediate task was, of course, to secure a successful passage for the Independence Bill. There was the inevitable Opposition, especially from the Leftist groups, but the Bill was triumphantly steered through both Houses of Parliament and in a few days Lanka was free.

The days up to the end of February this year were taken up with the ceremonies attendant on an event as notable as the transfer of power to the people.

Immediately the rejoicing were over there emerged signs that the leaders were eager to make use of the opportunities that freedom had conferred. There was the impatient desire to muck down to the tasks of reform and reconstruction in our economy without accomplishing which our freedom would have been a thing of little use. This impatience manifested itself sometimes so sharply that the malicious mistook it for signs of disintegration within the party. These expectations, however, were quickly confounded.

ONE of the important accomplishments of the U.N.P. in its first year of political responsibility is the assistance it has given Ceylon products. This was achieved through a policy of guaranteed prices for the major Ceylon products, particularly copra. Mr. D. S. Senanayake explained the Government's attitude to the major industries at a Party rally.

"Our policy is plain enough and those who complain that they do not know what it is, do not want to know. Our first task is to maintain our exports because we can do nothing without revenue and foreign exchange. We will give every assistance to owners of estates, great and small to obtain good prices though we shall require that they give good conditions to their workers and shall take a large part of their profits to finance national undertakings. We are not doing this for their benefit. We are doing it to keep alive the goose that lays the golden eggs. In fact we want more eggs."

Early in its administration the res-

trictions on electric current were lifted to give connections to those intending consumers who had long waited. This swift solution was possible through the purchase of a generator with the expedition usual with Sir John Kotelawala.

The U.N.P.'s attention was also directed to the transport tangle. The services of Mr. Donald Rutnam have been engaged to resolve the confusion that exists in some areas. Significant progress has also been made in the Hydro-Electric Scheme.

A STRIKING demonstration of the U.N.P.'s determination to improve the economy of Ceylon was the Galoya multi-purpose project. The dam to be constructed will be 154 feet high and over three-quarter mile in length; 260,000 million gallons is the capacity of the tank. This is equal to the combined capacity of all the tanks in Ceylon. The waters will irrigate 60,000 acres of rice for two seasons. Before the water is sent for irrigation it will pass through turbines which will yield 6,000 H.P. of power. Among the other impressive achievements of the U.N.P. administration

are the negotiations of the Sterling Balances pact with England. There is also Mr. J. R. Jayewardene's budget which aims at a six-year plan of national development.

In the sphere of education the U.N.P.'s achievement is the resolution of conflict and the reconciliation of forces which were deeply antagonised by certain injudicious actions. The feeling of confidence which Mr. E. A. Nugawela inspired among educationalists brings a promise of a new era of co-operation.

One year is a mere flash in the history of a nation but the record of the U.N.P. in that one year is an impressive token of its dogged determination to make Lanka a land of peace and plenty.

On the eve of his assumption of office Mr. D. S. Senanayake declaring that by the beginning of 1948 Lanka would be free, also said: "We shall light such a lamp as shall not easily be put out, a lamp which will be a beacon to the subject peoples still struggling to be free."

Such a lamp has indeed been lit and that flame will always be jealously guarded by the United National Party.



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WOMEN IN CEYLON POLITICS

(Continued from page 2)

I LOOK forward to the day when we shall be able to address Ministers and Permanent Secretaries as "Dear Madam."

Of course I may be told that I am looking at this subject purely from the point of view of a few appointments here and a few there, but I do maintain that the fact that a woman becomes a Minister or Permanent Secretary will influence Government to consider women as equal partners with men in the Society which is regulated by the administrative machine.

I hope that the age-old debate as to whether women are the equals of men will no longer be continued because it seems ridiculous to ask the question: "Can women do the work that men do?" In various factories and in the P.W.D. we find women carrying baskets of earth and doing unskilled labour which requires strength and endurance of a high order. In our villages we

find women working in the fields not only during the sowing season but afterwards when the hard process of gathering the harvest begins. In the learned professions there are many who have distinguished themselves.

Therefore, the social problem of making it possible for wives and mothers to secure employment in the Public Service should not be difficult to solve if only the greater mass of the women of this country determine to form themselves into organisations whose united voice will be heard in the highest Councils of the land.

I am told that active steps are being taken toward the formation of a powerful and organised body to achieve these objects—the women's wing of the United National Party. I trust it will attract all patriotic and able women, for through it we shall win for our women their rightful place in the country.

400 YEARS OF SLAVERY ENDS IN 1948

IT was at the end of September, 1947, that this Government took over the reins of office. Within two months of that day the British Parliament passed the Independence Bill and we acquired the status of a free country within the Commonwealth of Nations. The Parliament debated that status and by a majority endorsed the decision of the Government. This achievement, which was the culmination of 400 years of struggle, is in itself sufficient to commend to the people that Mr. Senanayake and his Government are worthy of being given the confidence of the Nation. On the 4th February, 1948, the actual transfer of power took place in the presence of a brother of His Majesty the King, and the celebrations which were attended by Representatives of the free

"Let us then be lamps unto ourselves. Hold fast as a refuge to the truth. Look not for refuge to anyone besides ourselves."

countries of the world were conducted with a thoroughness and discipline which evoked admiration.

The Government, however, does not depend on the achievement of Independence alone for to the masses, Independence, though it may have sentimental value, will very soon be of little use unless economic freedom follows. Here again, early in December within two months of assumption of office, the Government in its Extension Budget took very drastic steps to adjust the balance of trade in our favour, to protect our industries and to take into the State revenue such excess money as was in circulation. These measures were taken through the new Profits Tax increases in Income and Estate Duty Taxes and import duties graded according to the essentiality, semi-essentiality

or non-essentiality of imported articles.

During the period of the first session of Parliament after the attainment of Freedom, the first attempt at the erection of a multi-purpose agriculture, irrigation and power dam at Galoya in the Eastern Province was brought before the House by the Minister of Agriculture. The work was to be undertaken by an American firm and to be completed before the end of 1953. The Minister also indicated that a similar dam would be constructed in the Southern Province on the Walawe Ganga to be completed a year or two after the Galoya Dam. These two works, it was admitted by all parties, would herald a new era in our economic development.

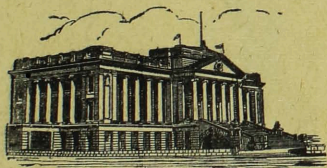
IN April, 1948, our Government concluded an agreement with

the British Government with regard to the disposal of our sterling assets, and it was admitted in England and India that the Ceylon delegation had driven a very hard bargain indeed and secured both in Sterling and Dollars all that it required for its use during the year. This was the first agreement between a free Ceylon and another free country. Soon after that Exchange Control Regulations were extended to cover all transactions between Ceylon and other countries, and a comprehensive scheme was formulated to keep the money earned in Ceylon within Ceylon itself.

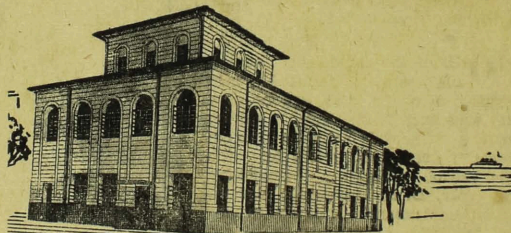
During the second session of the Free Parliament the Prime Minister introduced two important Bills dealing with Citizenship and Immigration. The inclusion of these Bills in the Statute Book will enable us to right many wrongs which for over 100 years have been permitted to eat into the very vitals of the Nation.

The first Budget of the Free Parliament was introduced on the 20th July, 1948, and there the Government outlined its plan of economic and social development covering a period of six years and having as its prime object the raising of the standard of living. A complete agricultural plan to increase our cultivated land by 132,000 acres as a minimum increase and the starting of many new industries, both of which would within six years increase our national wealth by almost Rs. 100 million, was outlined in the Budget speech.

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THE main target of the Government was explained as being the raising of the standard of living. This was to be achieved by increasing the national wealth in two ways. Firstly, by opening up the 3-million acres which are now in jungle, but are cultivable, and the planting thereon of such crops as would reduce our dependence on foreign countries for essential food as well as to produce crops that we can sell in the markets of the world. Secondly, by utilising our raw material for the manufacture of such articles as can be used by the people of Ceylon without importing them from foreign countries, and where possible seek to export them. In addition to this, the programme of the Government in regard to Utility Services, Social Services, External Affairs and Defence, Administration and Finance were explained in that Budget. A complete economic survey of the country was given, and this survey was linked up with the Six-Year Plan and the budgetary proposals. I can do no better than to conclude in the words of that speech:

"Yet, the difficulties and obstacles in the way will not deter us from a steady advance along the path we have chosen. Remember that at long last we have arisen again. The Present and the Future is ours, to shape, to mould to our heart's desire; to make or to mar. With a simple faith the people who elected us to the seats of civic power thought that freedom would change the society that surrounded and oppressed them, into something more efficient, stable and equitable. They reposed in us a trust as solemn as is the responsibility that that trust engenders. We are ready and willing to honour that trust to the full. We have deliberately decided to alter the broad framework of our social and economic structure and to do so only by the exercise of the legitimate powers that democracy has vested in us, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will.

"And finally we do not seek a solution to our problems in the context of Western economic theories alone. Let us not forget that we, a nation which in the past contributed our share to the culture and civilisation of the East, had and still have a heritage of our own. Material wealth and comfort did not attract us completely. Our philosophy stressed the development of the human mind rather than the mere acquisition of worldly riches. Let us then, be Lamps unto ourselves. Hold fast to the Truth as a lamp. Hold fast as a refuge to the Truth. Look not for refuge to anyone beside ourselves."

THE U. N. P. IN PARLIAMENT

IN the House of Representatives the United National Party stated with a delicately balanced majority. Today several Independents and an entire Group, the Tamil Congress, are ready to follow the U.N.P. Coalition Cabinet. How did this come to pass?

Both political friends and political enemies of the U.N.P. admit that more than anything else it was one man's personality which both nursed the infant U.N.P. in Parliament and increased its numerical and moral strength. That was the personality of the Prime Minister, wise in the ways of men, patient by long experience, able to foresee moves at least two ahead.

The personality alone of the Chief would not have sufficed if for his General Staff he had a set of nincomroops or if his rankers were just so many fools. Early in this parliamentary career the Chief had as his ablest lieutenant Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, then Minister of Home Affairs and Leader of the Senate. There were many who thought that it was Sir Oliver who planned and even gave the ideas. But those who followed the inside story know that the Chief drew the plan and Sir Oliver, his luncheon companion of that time, executed the plan 100 per cent. true to the views of the architect.

Those really were moves behind the scenes—every Government must have its moves behind the scenes. In the Parliament the P.M. had at his service able men who could not only hold the fort against the sorties of the Opposition but when occasion demanded lash with the whip of scorn at the revolutionary groups—the Opposition proper.

THERE was the Minister of Health and Local Government (Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike), well-equipped in debate either to defend or conduct an offensive, who could match his eloquence with the best of them all among the revolutionary groups in Parliament. Now a veteran in the art of holding an audience Mr. Bandaranaike made his personality in debate felt from the first debate on the winning of independence to the latest debates on the Citizenship and Immigration Bills.

In debate two younger Ministers of the U.N.P. have always shone when they held the floor. There is the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Dudley Senanayake) who when he makes a speech, has shown not only a firm grasp of facts but the ability to make the Chamber ring with his enthusiasm. Even his political opponents have invariably offered bouquets to Mr. Dudley Senanayake's sincerity.

His colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. J. R. Jayewardene) is the cold and dispassionate prosecutor, laying the revolutionary ranks with facts and quotations of their own rather

By "Hopper"

than by raising his modulated tones. His second Budget speech will undoubtedly find a place in our historical records which give the facts and figures of various eras.

IF there was one who can be labelled as the Hammer of the Revolutionaries it is the Minister of Transport and Works (Sir John Kotelawala). Time was when the propaganda machine of the Marxists constantly ground out the story that Sir John Kotelawala succeeded in getting any job done fast and efficiently because he was a Fascist Ruffian. But when in Parliament the Marxists came face to face with the mythical character they had themselves created, they saw not a Fascist Ruffian but the Human Dynamo in action. Now, at least privately, they admit why and how the Minister of Transport gets the job done.

There are other Front Bench U.N.P. men who have their own technique in putting across an idea in debates in Parliament. There is the Minister of Education (Mr. E. A. Nugawela) faced with a gigantic task of both overhauling and adjustment, who wins through by the pressure of his charm and the pleasing manner of his speech. There is the Minister of Food (Mr. A. Ratnayake) who can, when he wants, use the loud-pedal and provide any debate with first-hand information of rural needs.

The U.N.P. Chief has other Marshalls who are at his service though not exclusively Party men. There is the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. A. E. Goonesinha) who can out-roar any revolutionary roaring, always quick to recall that those who today clamour to be the saviours of the workers were unheard of when he raised the Labour Banner and led the crusade on behalf of the under-privileged.

THERE is also the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. C. Suntheralingam) whose loyalty to the Chief and appreciation of the theory of Cabinet Government have mellowed his ebullience but as a debater against any "other side" be they Whitehall experts or the theorists of revolution he has shown his mastery over facts with mathematical precision.

Then there is the Minister of Labour (Mr. T. B. Jayah) who can stone-wall any Opposition, and the Minister of Posts (Mr. C. Sittampalam) who has an attractive way of springing up suddenly, giving a devastating retort, and sitting down as suddenly and remaining as impassive as a carved image.

Among the Parliamentary Secretaries in the House, the Member for Kalmunai (Gate Mudaliyar Kariapper) has always lent spice to any debate and today when he rises the whole House is pleasurably expected a string of Kariapperian epigrams.

In the Senate while the former House Minister, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, was there, whether in debate or marshalling the course of it, he towered over the rest. Today the Minister of Justice (Dr. L. A. Rajapakse), the Minister of Home Affairs (Mr. E. A. P. Wijeyaratne) and Senator U. A. Jayasundera really have no Opposition debaters worthy of their steel in that restricted arena.

Indeed the year's record in Parliament, both in the work done and the debating victories scored is a record of which the Prime Minister of any country can be proud. That this state of affairs may last would be the wish of those who desire stability of Government and the gradual conversion of the status of the "have-nots" into a status of "haves."

U. N. P.

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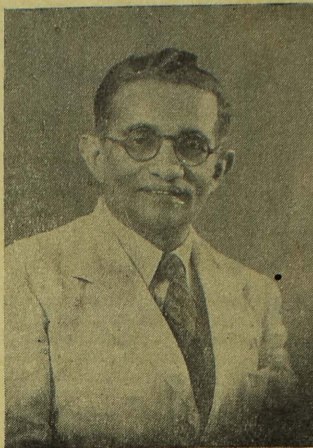
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Mr. RATNAYAKA reviews PROGRESS ON THE FOOD FRONT



Mr. A. Ratnayaka

WHEN the new Government took office in October, 1947, under the new Constitution the food position was still difficult. We were still on the inadequate ration of one measure a week of rice and one lb. a week of flour and in order to find the rice for this ration the meagre imports had to be supplemented by rice collected under the Internal Purchase Scheme. There was a good deal of dissatisfaction with the Internal Purchase Scheme the stringency of which it was felt was retarding food production, but it could not have been relaxed as the annual collection of 36,000 to 40,000 tons that was made under it formed a vital portion of the supplies needed to maintain the rice ration scheme. In spite of the limitations imposed by inadequate supplies the efficiency of our distribution scheme has all along ensured that everybody got his ration of rice and flour without interruption. It has been the envy of many other countries where food was scarce.

2. We began the year 1948 with prospects of increased supplies of most items of foodstuffs including rice and flour. The International Emergency Food Committee allocated to Ceylon an increased quantity of rice from the world exportable surplus. We were given 341,000 tons from Burma, 30,000 tons from Egypt and 29,000 tons from Brazil. Prospects of these increased supplies of rice enabled us to increase the rice ration in February, 1948, by about 25 per cent. It was also decided to issue this increased rice at the subsidized price. The increase in the rice issue naturally resulted in reduced flour consumption and we were able to save expenditure on about 6,000 tons of flour per month. As the increased imports of rice came in, there was no necessity to continue the collection of internal paddy for supplementing the supply needed for the ration scheme. Accordingly, by the end of February, Government removed all controls and restrictive measures on the purchase and sale of country rice and paddy. A free market in country rice and paddy was allowed to function and in order to safeguard the interests of the producer, Government fixed the guaranteed price at Rs. 8 per bushel for paddy bought by the Government or the agents of the Government. In order to implement this guaranteed price Co-operative Marketing Societies were set up in most of the producing areas. Also the Department for the Development of Marketing would buy through their agents in areas that were not covered by Co-operative Marketing Societies. The abolition of the Internal Purchase Scheme coupled with the issue of the increased rice ration resulted in the free market price of rice dropping substantially, that is, from Rs. 1/50 per measure to 65 cents per measure. It was also possible for hotels and eating houses to serve a full rice meal at a price round about 75 cents per meal.

3. Flour consumption dropped further with the abolition of the Internal Purchase Scheme. It became possible to secure increased imports of sugar. In June, 1948, we were accordingly enabled to decontrol the distribution of flour and sugar. The subsidy on flour had however to be reduced substantially. Sugar is now freely available to the consumer and for other kinds of users. The satisfactory rice position has also enabled us to sell a part of the imported rice stocks outside the rationing scheme. But such rice is sold at cost. These measures no doubt brought us beneficial results, chiefly a drop in the real cost of living of the masses. As flour had to be sold at a fairly high price its consumption has dropped about 40 per cent. to what it was at the beginning of the year. It will be the future policy of the Government to discourage the consumption of cereals from outside and to encourage the substitution of locally grown grains like mameri, maize and kurakkan.

4. What about the future? For various reasons food is not going to be plentiful for years to come. This is specially so in the case of rice and other cereals. Increased local production of paddy, millets, pulses, onions and chillies until the country reaches self-sufficiency should be our goal. But this takes time and we have to support an increasing population. We must produce at least 12,000 tons additional rice per annum to support the normal increase in population. We cannot expect the food producing countries of the world to give us substantially increased supplies for the next five years, for the food problem is a world problem. The population of the world has increased during the last decade, in spite of the holocaust of the world war, by 150,000,000, but production has not kept pace giving rise to scarcities of all kinds, dollar shortage and food subsidies. Food subsidies are a new and gigantic social service, a new device, in addition to all others, of transferring income from the better off to the worse-off. In Ceylon the total cost of such subsidies during the last seven years has been Rs. 212 million. During the next year we are going to spend Rs. 50 million, or perhaps more, on the subsidy on rice.

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ONE YEAR OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

By
Dudley Senanayake

THE importance of agriculture in our country needs no emphasis. The prosperity of her people is inextricably linked to agricultural progress, on which also depends her social security and political stability. The most urgent problem that faces the Government is that of improving the productivity of this Island for a two-fold objective; firstly, to eliminate our dependence on imported food, and secondly, to meet the requirements of a steadily growing population which must, for a long time yet to come, rely upon agriculture for its maintenance.

Today, though an agricultural country, we are nevertheless far from self-sufficient in respect of foodstuffs. The total area under paddy is less than a million acres, scarcely sufficient for a third of the total population. In the year 1947, the value of food imports was more than half the value of all imports and the present food bill exceeds Rs. 400 million a year. Factors inherent in the post-war economy of the world has so far prevented a return to normal conditions of supply and it is expected that the existing world shortage of food will continue much longer.

The policy of this Ministry is, briefly, the achievement of the maximum self-sufficiency possible within a reasonable period. For the implementation and fulfilment of this policy, a detailed programme has been drawn up which comprises the construction of large-scale irrigation schemes, the development of the maximum extents available under major and minor schemes, and the organisation of our agricultural effort on economic lines. The work to be done is stupendous. It involves the reclamation of large extents of land now in jungle into productivity, higher and better yields of lands already under cultivation, improvement of live-stock breeds, and the more even distribution of population which is now congested and concentrated in the wet zones.

A start has been made to undertake this work, with the inception of the Ministry under the New Constitution in October, 1947. The record of achievement in the first year of a National Government is not only encouraging but also promising for the fulfilment of our objective in the future.

MAJOR COLONISATION SCHEMES

THE programme of development of maximum available extents under major colonisation schemes consists of:—

(i) A short-term programme for the two-year period, 1947-1948 and 1948-1949 as an immediate contribution to the problem of increased production of paddy. It will bring under cultivation 26,000 acres of land and establish 3,250 colonists. An extent of 20,089 acres of

jungle land have already been felled and approximately 1,000 cottages are under construction.

(ii) A long-term programme for the six-year period, 1947-1953 under which an extent of 132,000 acres will be opened up and 16,500 colonists established. These colonisation schemes follow the pattern of an economic unit per colonist of 5 acres of paddy, 3 acres of highland with a house, and where land is available, or another 10 acres of rotational cropping worked on a co-operative basis. These major colonisation schemes are long-term measures of national development, seeking to establish colonies in areas now in forest which are being reclaimed for settled agriculture. The total cost will be Rs. 25 million of which Rs. 10 million was provided for 1947-1948 and provision has been made for another Rs. 15 million in 1948-1949.

MINOR VILLAGE WORKS

In addition to the major colonisation schemes, this Ministry has also concentrated on the development of the maximum available extents under minor irrigation works which will prove of immediate benefit in local areas. The total amount expended on minor village

works in 1947-1948, i.e., construction, maintenance, development, improvement, various provinces at a total estimated cost of Rs. 256,662. A total number of 239 schemes in the cost of Rs. 504,902 under the Food Production Vote were attended to. The Department of Irrigation took up over 176 items of work at a total cost of Rs. 1,106,672. Further, subsidies were paid to owners of private irrigable land for asseverdumising available irrigable extents under existing minor irrigation schemes. The total amount of these subsidies is Rs. 841,332.

GIGANTIC GAL-OYA

THE Ministry has undertaken two gigantic multiple-purpose projects, the Gal-Oya and the Walawe. The construction of Gal-Oya, for which the necessary contracts have already been entered into, commences in 1949 and will be completed in about 1951. The construction of Walawe is scheduled to commence in 1950 and will be completed in 1953. The total financial commitments involved in these two schemes is approximately Rs. 90 million which will be provided for from Loan Fund Expenditure.

The economy of our country as it exists today is somewhat stilted, with the greater part of development and

population concentrated on the western side. These two schemes when in full working order will open up industrially and economically, the eastern half of the Island and thereby provide a more balanced basis for our economy.

The objects and scope of the Gal-Oya Scheme briefly are:—

(a) **Flood Protection.** The Pattipola Aar Basin will be free from fear of flood damage.

(b) **Water Supply.** Treated water supply will be available for about 20,000 people.

(c) **Industrial Power.** Three turbines generating a total of 9,000 horse power.

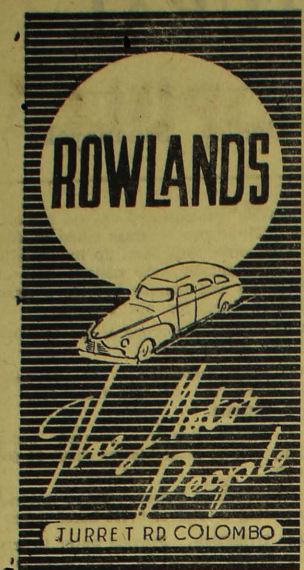
(d) **Irrigation.** Provide water to irrigate 60,000 acres for two seasons a year.

The Walawe project will be on similar lines as that of the Gal-Oya Scheme with similar advantages and with the same scope. Both schemes will come under the control of a Development Board on the same lines as that of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

COTTON

(Continued on page 11)

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ONE YEAR

The first anniversary of any institution is a noteworthy event and all anniversaries are celebrated with pomp and ceremony throughout the world. There is an extraordinary interest and importance, however, in the anniversary of the United National Party because all aspects of the life of this nation are influenced by its future and present policy. Whereas the anniversaries of other institutions may have an importance for its members, and, to varying degrees, to the rest of the community, the anniversary of the United National Party is a national event. The U.N.P. stands for all such ideals as have been cherished by the nation for many centuries. In the forefront is the ideal of all those who fought to defend the freedom of Lanka and gave their lives for that cause. It stands for the ideals of those who found a nation under the heel of the conqueror but continued the age-old struggle for independence and looked forward to the day when Lanka would once again be free. When the Party was formed and went before the country during the first General Election under the Soulbury Constitution it gave a pledge to the people that it would work towards the goal of freedom. That pledge has been fulfilled and now we are a free nation.

There is nothing so great and so worthwhile as the freedom of man and that great gift we have won in 1948, owing to the efforts and the achievements of the United National Party. Whatever else we may or may not have achieved this one great achievement stands above all other accomplishments to our credit.

We promised to fight for political freedom; we fought for and won it and are now engaged in the great task of using that freedom as a foundation on which to build the other great freedoms that our people need—freedom from ignorance, freedom from poverty, freedom from disease, and freedom from wear. We appeal to our countrymen to rally round this party—the party of ordered progress, the party of tried and experienced patriots.

“Let not a drop of water flow into the sea without going through a turbine...”

NORTON BRIDGE INDUSTRIAL

THE Ministry of Transport is going ahead with the biggest construction work in the Island, namely, the Hydro-Electric Scheme, at Norton Bridge, the completion of which will usher in the industrial revolution of Ceylon.

This scheme was held up during the war years owing to the lack of steel and cement but has been resumed and the first stage, which will produce 25,000 kilowatts of power which is nearly three times the total electric power available in the Island at present, will be completed in 1950. The scheme is in three stages, and when the second and third stages are complete a total of 100,000 kilowatts of power will be made available to the Island for industrial and domestic uses. A large number of the industrial schemes that have been drawn up by Government Departments in the past were held up owing to the lack of cheap motive power due to the fact that Ceylon has no coal or oil for industrialisation. The use of water power is the only alternative and after 1950 the Government will have at its command the great resources of the Hydro-Electric Scheme.

The Ministry of Transport has also considered the modernisation of the Port of Colombo and detailed plans are now ready for making Ceylon's premier harbour one of the best harbours in the East. These plans include the building of alongside quays so that ships need not berth in mid-water. The entire scheme has been estimated to cost Rs. 50,000,000 and the Ministry

proposes to spend this amount over a period of ten years. It is expected to inaugurate the Port Development Scheme next year. The Colombo Harbour is the most vital spot in Ceylon, in that the food supplies of the country are unloaded in it, and all our exports from which the Island derives its revenue leave Ceylon from it. As such, every improvement that is made will have direct repercussions on the economic condition of the Island and the increase of its national income.

The Ministry is also in charge of the Railway and Road Transport Services, and in order to co-ordinate all transport services a Commissioner has been appointed to study the problem and submit a report to the Minister. The general lines of policy, however, are:

- (1) That the rail and road transport services should not be considered as two separate and rival organisations but part of a single service devoted to the welfare of the people.
- (2) That the monopoly control of particular routes by individual companies should end and that a new kind of company should be set up which would provide an opportunity for the public to own shares in them. An important provision that has been decided upon is that the employees of all transport companies should have the right to a share of the profits of such companies in addition to the wages they earn. Such public companies, it is hoped, will develop with full public support and the fullest possible co-operation from its employees, so that ultimately they will be able to undertake even greater responsibilities.



The children play at the Workers' Park at Ratmalana

Sir John Kotelawela

Will Bring

REVOLUTION

bilities than have been entrusted to small companies at the present moment.

The Public Works Department has undertaken for the next year expenditure on a large number of schemes involving a total of Rs. 62,000,000. The maintenance and minor improvements of existing buildings and roads alone will involve Rs. 20,000,000 out of this amount. New buildings and new road constructions will amount to another Rs. 20,000,000.

Loan Fund expenditure on major construction works for various other Departments of the Government involves an expenditure of Rs 22,000,000.

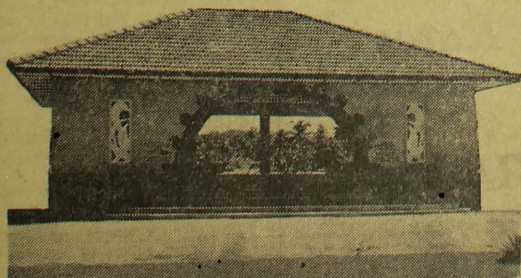
This means that the P.W.D. has undertaken to accomplish in a single year the largest construction activity of any Department in the Island, employing, at different stages, nearly 125,000 people. A great deal of the work that will be undertaken next year will be continued in the years to come and will mean the building of schools, dispensaries, hospitals and other public buildings throughout the country. It will be interesting to note that the activities of this Department show an increase by nearly five or six times in comparison with pre-war years, without any increase of the staff available at that time. Apart from the works that have been undertaken there are special activities under the direction of this Department like the University Scheme which is being pushed on as fast as possible

The Ministry of Transport is responsible for the expenditure of nearly 60 per cent. of the total Budget of the country and employs nearly 80 per cent of the personnel in the Government Service. It has therefore embarked on a new policy of labour welfare and it has



Sir John Kotelawela

been decided to inaugurate a welfare service in October this year. The principle laid down is that every employee, irrespective of his station or grade, should have every facility to make his grievances known to the highest authority and to obtain justice in every case where an injustice has been done. A new Welfare Organisation with a Welfare Officer in the Ministry Head Office will be set up and minor Welfare Officers will be chosen from among the men themselves, whose primary duty will be to inquire into grievances and obtain redress. A part of the welfare activity involves the provision of suitable housing for workers. This policy has already been put into practice with the building of nearly 1,000 homes for Railway and Government Factory workers in Colombo. Such building schemes will be continued and will, in future, include the clerical grades of Government Service and plans are ready for the first stage of building 100 homes for clerks in 1949.



The Pavilion at the Kotelawela Workers' Housing estate at Ratmalana

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THE policy of the Ministry of Health and Local Government is to extend medical facilities and to intensify preventive measures in order to provide the people of the country with efficient, adequate and effective health measures both on the Preventive and Curative side.

With a view to implementing this policy, it is proposed on the Curative side, to establish more Central, Branch and Visiting Dispensaries than have been established hitherto. The Central Dispensary will have a Maternity Ward in charge of a trained midwife where normal cases will be attended to, while all abnormal cases will be removed to the nearest hospital. It will also have a small ward where serious cases will be kept until removed by ambulance to the closest hospital.

In the draft Estimates for 1948-49, one million rupees has been provided to complete 20 Central Dispensaries sanctioned in 1947-48 and to construct 20 new ones. Moreover, Rs. 2,071,300 has also been provided to complete 71 Maternity Homes under construction and to build 15 new Homes with Central Dispensaries attached to them.

Of the so-called Rural and Cottage Hospitals it is proposed to convert some into fully equipped and staffed District Hospitals, while a few in backward and remote areas will remain as Cottage Hospitals.

The draft Estimates for 1948-49 provide Rs. 1,650,500 to complete the Rural Hospitals already under construction and to bring some of them up to District Hospital standard.

The Provincial and District Hospitals which in the past do not appear to have received very close attention, will be brought up to a satisfactory position regarding accommodation, staff and equipment. Two million rupees have been provided in the 1948-49 Estimates to make a beginning in this direction. Rs. 1,798,500 has also been provided for certain new institutions and Rs. 1,384,243 for additions and improvements.

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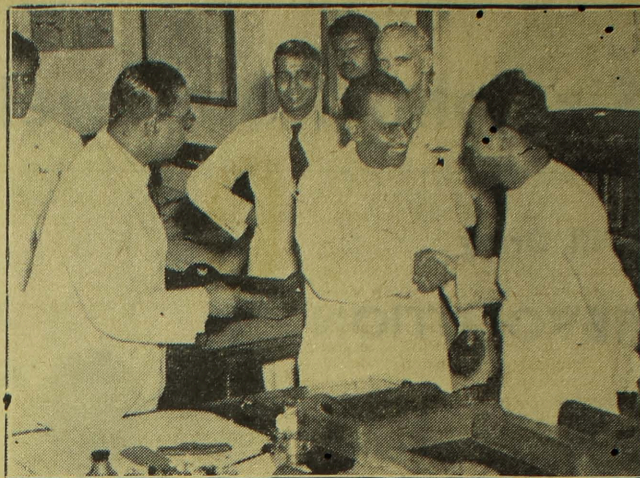
THUS it is expected in course of time to have a large number of District Hospitals in the Island with a very much larger number of Central, Branch and Visiting Dispensaries grouped round them and in close communication with them by ambulance and telephone services.

The Provincial Hospitals will be similarly connected to the District Hospitals

around them and will have specialists attached to them, whose services will be available at these institutions or at the District Hospitals where patients cannot be removed to the Provincial Centre.

With the proposed increase in dispensaries and the improvement of the District and Provincial Hospitals steps are being taken to increase the necessary staff and equipment.

A second Medical College and Hospital at Peradeniya has already been sanctioned and in a few years the output of Medical Officers will be increased to 100 per cent. The number of Medi-



CEYLON'S HEALTH POLICY

By S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike

cal Officers to be sent out for specialist training has been increased from 50 to 65, and it is proposed to obtain the services of eminent specialists from abroad on agreement for a specific period.

With a view to increase the number of Nurses, it is proposed to have a second Nurses Training School at Kandy as soon as certain American Nursing Tutors arrive. It is also proposed to recruit pupils with a Sinhalese or Tamil education to an Assistant Nurses' grade, who in due course will have an opportunity of getting into the Nurses' Grade.

(b) **PREVENTIVE:** On the Preventive side too it is proposed to intensify the activities of the Department. As water-soluble D.D.T. is now available greater use of it will be made in the anti-malaria campaign. Steps are also being taken to instruct householders to use the D.D.T. themselves so that the departmental officers can cover a much larger area than at present.

It is intended to make a concentrated effort in regard to tuberculosis, malaria, cancer, venereal diseases and to a somewhat less extent diseases such as hookworm, elephantiasis and leprosy. Steps are being taken to establish Sanatoria at Wirawila in Hambantota District and at Puttalam for T.B. patients. The Military Hospital at Kankasanturai which has a bed strength of 600 has been taken over by the Department and converted into a Civil Hospital with several wards for T.B. patients. A National Association for the prevention of Tuberculosis has recently been formed. Dr. Gellner, a worldwide expert in T.B., has been invited to come to Ceylon and to advise the department in regard to T.B. work especially the use of B.C.G. vaccine.

(c) **AYURVEDIC COLLEGE:** It is proposed to implement some of the recommendations of the Ayurvedic Commission during 1948-49, and provision has been made in the Estimates

for an increase in the number of lecturers at the Ayurvedic College and for post-graduate training and a hostel for the students.

(d) **WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION:** Ceylon has been elected a member of the World Health Organisation and has also been elected to its Executive Committee. Full advantage will be taken of this position to obtain for our country the help and advice of world experts. It is contemplated to get the services of a highly qualified expert to advise on a reorganisation of the Medical and Sanitary Departments.

LEGISLATION

(e) A Food and Drugs Ordinance, Nurses Registration Ordinance, and an Ordinance for the Registration of Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes will soon be introduced to deal with matters that have long been awaiting attention.

(2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT

IN the sphere of Local Government the policy of the past Ministry to give every possible assistance to Local Authorities both financial and otherwise is being followed.

Housing: The Ministry is giving priority to Housing Schemes and as far as funds permit, these schemes will be proceeded with in order to supply the people both in urban and rural areas with proper housing conditions. A sum of Rs. 5,032,500 has been provided for the coming year as grants for Housing Schemes while the grant for Slum Clearance has been increased to Rs. 2,000,000.

Water Schemes: This is also a matter that is receiving priority. A sum of 7½ million rupees has been set apart under Loan Schemes out of which Rs. 1,014,306 has already been spent up to the end of last financial year. A sum of Rs. 1,322,236 has been released during this financial year and there is provision in Rs. 1,390,847 in the 1948-49 estimates for the following schemes: Tangalla, Puttalam Ward No. 1, Hambantota, Padiyapelella, Matale, Haliela, Kayts, Vavuniya, Beralapanatara.

Water schemes for towns are being proceeded with as quickly as possible.

* * *

A SUM of Rs. 500,000 is provided as grants for village wells in the coming year, and a further 500,000 from Loan Funds.

A special sub-department of the P.W.D. is being set up to deal with Water Schemes and the services of an expert from abroad will be obtained to be in charge of this Department.

Village Works: The grant for Village Works has been increased and a sum of Rs. 2,500,000 is being provided for village works in the coming year. This will help to construct a number of urgent village works that have been on the waiting list for some time.

(d) **Community Centres in Rural Areas:** This movement has provided a great success in providing what is primarily a playground plus library movement in village areas. A sum of Rs. 150,000 has been provided to proceed further with this work.

New Councils and Elections: Steps are being taken to convert the Urban Councils of Kurunegala, Nuwara Eliya and Jaffna into Municipalities from 1st January, 1949, and to hold all the Village Committee elections due in 1949 under the new Local Authorities Elections Ordinance.

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ONE YEAR OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

(Continued from page 7)

A SUITABLE variety—the Uganda Selection BP79—adapted to local conditions and with generally good yields, has been evolved and quantities of pure seed enough for 1,800 acres were made available. Good prices were available for the crop. The entire output was purchased by the mills at a delivery price of Rs. 32/50 per cwt.

During the next year, approximately 1,500 acres in the Eastern Province and a few hundred acres in the North-Central Province will be brought under cultivation and pure seed production will be stepped up to supply to about 7,000 acres. Research on better types, methods of cultivation of cotton, place of cotton in rotational agriculture, are being continued. Arrangements have been made for the establishment of 3 small ginneries, each with 4 gins, to handle the pure seed and also part of the growers' crop. These ginneries, when working fully will be able to handle about 700 tons of seed cotton a year.

SUGAR CANE

The first step on sugar cane cultivation, which has been under examination for sometime, has now been taken in the commencement of the production of the necessary planting material on departmental farms under the Parakrama Samudra Scheme. Extents for the cultivation of sugar cane under Gal-Oya will also be available, and arrangements have been made for the recruitment of a sugar cane expert from abroad to supervise the whole scheme from the agricultural side. An officer from the Department has also been sent to Australia to make a special study of sugar cane cultivation.

COCONUT

The problem that faces the coconut industry is the fact that an extent of approximately 15,000 acres should be replanted every year. The first essential for the replanting programme is the supply of selected high grade nuts. For this purpose, arrangements have been made for the establishment of 3 large nurseries under the Coconut Research Scheme and by the Department of Agriculture to supply, in the first instance, sufficient seedlings for an extent of 3,000 acres and provision has accordingly been made in the 1948-1949 estimates.

ALIENATION OF CROWN LAND

Crown land is one of the most valuable assets of the people. It is the duty of the Government not only to protect it from encroachment but to alienate it to the best possible manner with a view to advancing the prosperity of the people. The total acreage of crown land mapped out for village expansion, colonisation and middle-class Ceylonese is 350,633 acres, of which a total acreage of 196,287 acres had been alienated up to the beginning of 1947. During the year, 1947-1948, a total number of 480 land kachcheries were held and a total extent of 13,870 acres alienated.

ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE LAND FOR VILLAGE EXPANSION PURPOSES

To meet the requirements of villagers, steps have been taken for the acquisition of private lands in areas where crown land available is inadequate for the purposes of village expansion. The total extent of private land acquired since 1941 is 10,835 acres, of which 5,085 acres have been allotted to 1,510 allottees and an extent of 5,730 acres is run as estates by Government on co-operative lines. The total number of houses constructed on these acquired lands is 637. During the year, 1947-1948, a sum of Rs. 1½ million was spent for the acquisition of private lands, and provision has been made in the next financial year for Rs. 5 million.

LAND REDEMPTION

24 acquisitions have been completed to date. An extent of 1,051 acres is at present under valuation.

LAND SETTLEMENT

129 villages were released from closure; and settlement orders were published in 93 villages during 1947-1948.

DEBT CONCILIATION

During 1947-1948, as many as 2,300 applications from debtors were received, and dealt with.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

In addition to the School of Agriculture at Peradeniya, the establishment of the Girls Farm School at

Kundasale has been brought to a final stage. This will provide elementary training in scientific agriculture for about 100 girls in the first instance.

SOIL CONSERVATION

In view of the urgent importance of the necessity for the protection of soil from erosion, steps have been taken for the enactment of a Bill to provide for the conservation of soil.

Arrangements are also being made to recruit an officer from abroad, with the necessary qualifications and experience, for this work.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The Department of Agriculture continued to deal with the development of new and improved methods of livestock production. The Upland Farms continued to send out animals for breeding purposes. Action has been taken to examine and implement, where possible, the recommendations contained in the Wright Report on the development of cattle breeding and milk production in Ceylon.

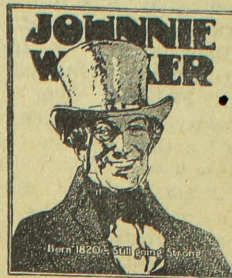
INCREASE IN YIELDS OF PADDY PER ACRE

A greater part of the work of the Department of Agriculture has been

concentrated on the improvement of paddy cultivation in the Island. This it has endeavoured to do by propaganda in regard to improved methods of cultivation, the issue of pure-line seed and the adoption of and advice on measures for the control of pests and diseases. The Agricultural Instructors conducted numerous demonstrations on various cultural operations such as ploughing with improved ploughs, the harrowing of the soil and of the growing crop, transplanting, the use of manures and the control of weeds, pests and diseases. The Department has under its control 2,850 acres of pure line paddy. These together with such paddy as is grown on private seed farms are expected to produce 120,000 bushels of pure seed.

CO-OPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND SALE SOCIETIES

Co-operative Agricultural Production and Sales Societies constitute the organisation to meet the financial needs of the peasantry. The activities of these societies cover both animal husbandry and increased agricultural production, including transport, storage, sales and loans. The total number of societies so far established is 61 and the total amount of loans given is Rs. 3,549,000.



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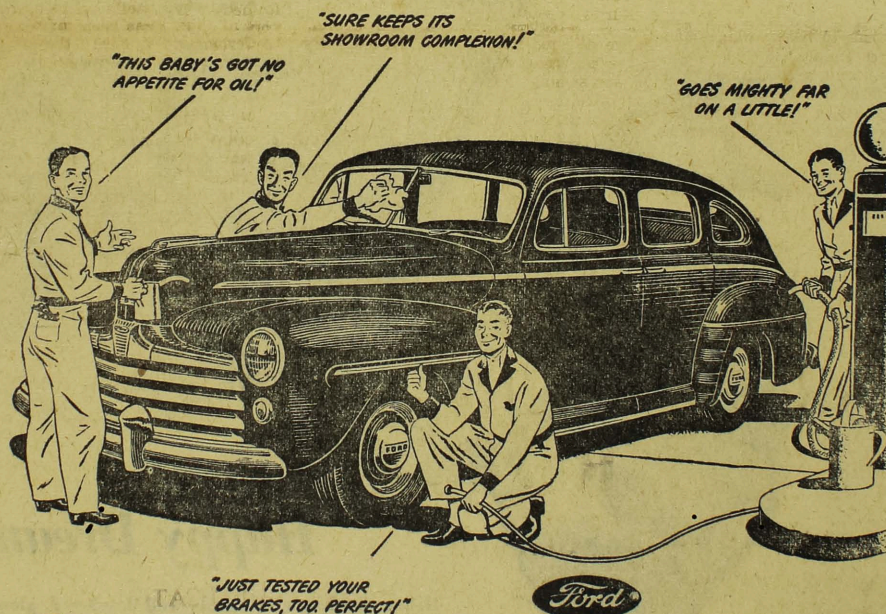
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THE Ministry of Industries, Industrial Research and Fisheries is comprised of the four Departments of Industries (including Industrial Research), Fisheries, Salt, and Mineralogy, all of which are linked together by one comprehensive policy. This policy is one of steady industrial development, on sound foundations, with Government assistance wherever it is necessary, justifiable, and possible. In order to prosecute this development with maximum efficiency and energy the closest attention is devoted to the exploitation of Ceylon's resources, coupled with particular attention to the provision of employment, and the maximum return for the operatives engaged upon Government sponsored enterprises.

The assistance afforded by this Ministry to Industry, under which heading all the four Departments are embraced, falls under several main lines of approach:—

- (1) Industrial enterprise undertaken by Government itself, e.g. factories.
- (2) The fostering of small or Cot-

INDUSTRIAL POLICY

By

C. Sittampalam

tage Industries by Government assistance both in the form of finance, demonstration and instruction, e.g., 750 institutions at which Cottage Industries are taught throughout the whole of Ceylon.

- (3) Industrial Research in the Ministry's Laboratories whence guidance issues upon any problem that confronts Ceylon Industry.
- (4) The planning and construction of new factories and Government industrial enterprise on a long-term basis.
- (5) Protection of Ceylon's industrial enterprise, which takes the form of proposed legislation, e.g., the Industrial Products Regulation Act, coupled with carefully considered protective tariffs and import restriction to afford essential

cover for growing industries, pending the operation of legislation, or where no other form of protection is possible.

- (6) The provision of marketing organization for the output of those enterprises which fall within the scope of the Ministry.

Sums of Rs. 9,517,061 under the votes of this Ministry, and Rs. 15,660,700 under Loan Fund Expenditure, in addition to money to be expended under Advance Accounts, have been provided for the development of industries in the interests of producers and consumers.

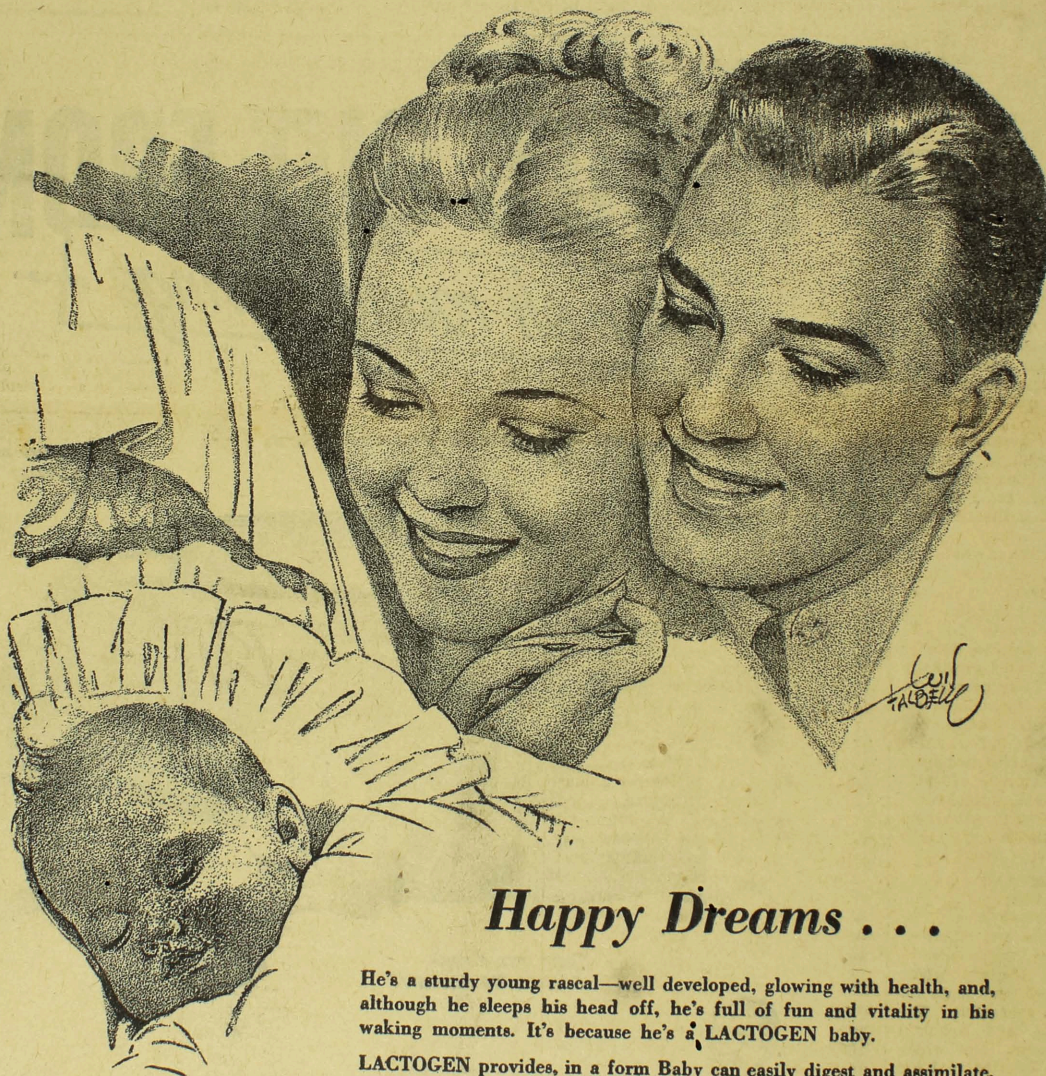
The factories already in existence are, Leather and Shoes, Drugs, Acetic Acid, Coir, Glass, Ceramics, and Plywood, while the existing Steel Rolling and Paper Factories are to be replaced with new plants on a very much bigger scale.

UNDER the Cottage Industries programme are included the development of textiles, coir spinning, sericulture, pottery, mat weaving using wetakeiya, indikola and palmyrah, twine manufacture, paper toys, needle work and hana fibre. The Cottage Industry organisation is already a Department in itself with, as mentioned above, 750 institutions, while the demand for the establishment of more centres is so great that it is difficult to keep pace with Ceylon's requirements.

The Fisheries are in progress of reorganisation with special attention to research, fresh water fish rearing and a Fisheries Training School. Direct assistance to fishermen is given by means of loans to Co-operative Societies, and the energetic sponsoring of housing schemes coupled with social welfare operations, which are accomplished through the medium of those Ministries to which these activities are allotted. Four Ice Plants are on order, and the successful exploitation of commercial trawling is in progress of expansion by means of the purchase of a second trawler.

The Mineralogical Department may be coupled with the Industrial Research branch. It is a Department that attracts little attention, but which does a volume of valuable and practical

(Continued on next page)



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POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

THE policy of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications is to improve as quickly as possible Postal and Telecommunication facilities throughout the Island so as to meet the Government, commercial and private needs of the country. Financial considerations are kept constantly in view but public utility services such as the Ministry provides cannot always be remunerative. After taking credit for free services rendered to Government Departments (which may be assessed at Rs. 5,000,000) and allowing for estimated under-expenditure the revenue appearing in the 1948-49 Estimates (approximately Rs. 22,000,000) corresponds roughly with the expenditure. The desirability of revision of the postage, telephone and telegraph rates is under consideration. The policy in regard to the various services is detailed below.

POSTAL SERVICES: The aim is to extend and accelerate postal deliveries, not only in large towns, but also in the villages, providing a network of deliveries all over the Island. Extension involves the provision of delivery services in areas which are now covered by sub-Post Offices. Deliveries will be speeded up by the provision of bicycles and the conversion of alternate day deliveries, wherever they exist, into daily deliveries. In large towns it is intended that postmen and their bicycles should be conveyed to distant points by motor vans so that deliveries may be expedited. This has already been done in Colombo.

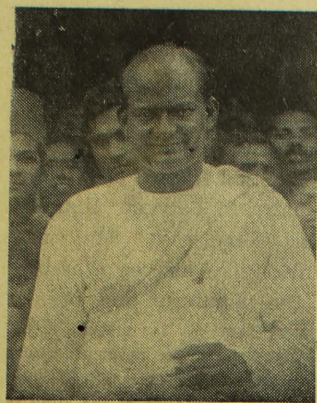
MAJOR schemes for the improvement of telegraph and telephone services have been planned but they are held up owing to the delay in receipt of materials and equipment, which have now been on order for some time. These materials and equipment are urgently required to convert exchanges to automatic working and to extend the exchanges in Colombo and other large towns in order to provide the large number of subscribers on the waiting lists with telephones. It is also proposed to extend the overseas radio telephone services.

The aim of the Ministry is that eventually all sub-Post Offices, hospitals and outdoor dispensaries in the Island should be connected by telephone. This is a big programme and can only be achieved gradually.

BROADCASTING: It is proposed to take over Radio SEAC and combine it with the Colombo Station. A new Broadcasting House in Colombo is nearing completion and when fully equipped will be one of the finest in the East. Radio SEAC is widely listened to and the possibility of putting over sponsored programmes is being examined with a view to providing income for improved programmes.

There will be separate transmissions of Western and Oriental programmes and each community will have its English, Sinhalese or Tamil programme to listen to. A marked improvement in the service within the next year may therefore be expected.

Community radio sets are to be installed throughout the Island bringing



By C. Sittampalam

into contact with the outside world the rural population who are now denied the means of listening-in. Two hundred sets are on order and will, it is hoped, be installed in selected areas by December, 1948. It is proposed to install a further 400 sets during the next financial year.

The provision of listening-in facilities in the villages will help the Government to disseminate information on subjects vital to the life and growth of village communities such as instruction in health, agriculture, etc., and will bring villagers the cultural benefits of the radio.

II.—NATIONAL SAVINGS MOVEMENT OF CEYLON

THE National Savings Movement is the new designation of the Ceylon War Savings Movement which was formed in June, 1941. Its objects are:

- (1) To promote thrift by inducing persons to save in the Post Office Savings Bank, Ceylon Savings Bank or in Ceylon Savings Certificates;
- (2) To assist and encourage regular monthly investment of a percentage of salary or income in Ceylon Savings Certificates, Post Office Savings Bank of Ceylon Savings Bank by formation of Savings Groups;
- (3) To help the National Development of the Island by securing for the Ceylon Government Loans the maximum possible support.

The Government is encouraging national savings because it desires to keep down the cost of living, reduce imports and accumulate funds for future development. The Island has to import the greater part of its food and nearly the whole of its textiles and other essential necessities of life. It also imports materials for building and other capital development. The value of our exports is not rising proportionately with the result that we are faced with difficulties in paying for our imports. The necessity for restricting our imports of non-essential goods is an urgent problem. The National Savings Movement is playing its part in the solution of the problem by encouraging saving and discouraging all forms of non-essential spending.

INDUSTRIAL POLICY

(Continued from previous page)

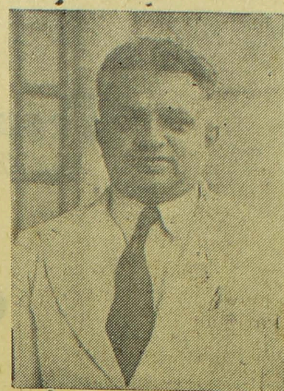
work disproportionate to its rather small size. The mineralogical survey of Ceylon is half completed and is progressing satisfactorily. We are hampered by the demands of Departments engaged upon construction work for the services of the Mineralogical staff to report upon foundations, water supplies, and other useful practical services, which it is our policy to render.

It is realised that industrialization is not an ideal to be attained by rash or ill-considered haste, and the present is a difficult time during which to embark upon the ambitious but carefully planned programme described above, which forms the policy of this Ministry. Machinery and expert staff are difficult to obtain, but our policy of constant

and determined progress is being maintained. Demonstration of consistent advance can be seen by the unflinching course of construction of the Cement Factory at Kankesantrai, the Government's largest industrial enterprise; the complete re-organisation of the Ceramic Factory; the expansion both in volume of business and size of the Plywood Factory; the start that has been made and the already appreciable growth of the Industrial Laboratory; the conversion of Government purposes of new Salt Pans and the electrification of existing salterns; the development of Trawling and purchase of a new ship; and the steady and methodical progress of the survey of Ceylon's mineral wealth.

FUTURE OF EDUCATION

IN regard to educational policy, it is the intention of Government to adhere to the scheme of free education and to make increasing use of the mother tongue as the medium of instruction. As is well known all Government schools are now free institutions. Of the Assisted Schools, about 100 are still outside the free scheme. They have been given an extension of time till 1950 in order to decide whether they are to join the free scheme or not.



By E. A. Nugawela

In the meanwhile, in order to ensure that education in free schools is of a reasonably high standard, steps will be taken to ascertain what relief, if any, should be given to schools which, having joined the free schemes, are adversely affected financially.

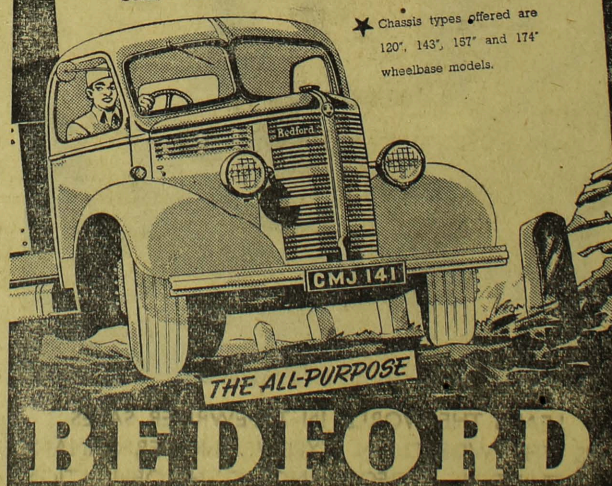
Alongside of this inquiry an investigation will be held into the whole question of financial assistance to assisted schools generally with a view to securing an adequately high standard of education of a type suited to the diverse aptitudes of pupils and the needs of new Ceylon. It is the intention so to diversify the educational structure as to make certain that talents of various kinds will be developed to the highest standard in keeping with the needs of a changing society.

While the process of education is being geared to the urgent purpose of utilisation of the talents and energies of our pupils in productive pursuits which will bring happiness to the individual and prosperity to the country, steps are being taken to ensure a highly religious background in all school activities.

It will be seen, therefore, that the policy of Government with regard to the development of education is of a highly socialistic type. When the plan is in full working order, every child in this country will have an opportunity of getting educated in a decent Primary school. He will then pass on to a Junior school which will be centrally situated round a group of Primary schools. From the Junior school he will pass on either to a Central School or to a Senior Secondary School or a Senior Practical School in the neighbourhood, where he will be able to profit from an education suited to his aptitudes. From the Central or Senior Secondary School he will have an opportunity of proceeding to the University or in the case of Senior Practical School he will be able, if he likes to proceed to an Agricultural College or to a Technical College. Every major town of any industrial importance will be given a Technical School.

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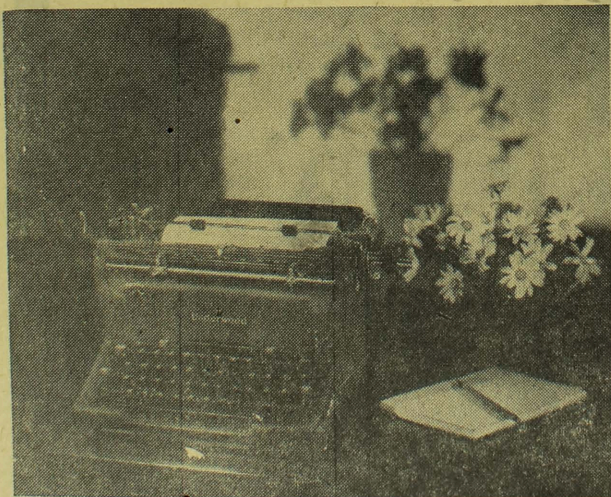
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LABOUR & SOCIAL SERVICES

THE Ministry of Labour and Social Services was created in September, 1947, to administer the subjects of Labour and Social Services which previously had formed part of the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce. This new Ministry has also been assigned the important task of formulating plans for the progressive implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Social Services. As the new designation of the Ministry indicates, added emphasis is being placed on the Social Services. A brief resume of the work done by this Ministry and the work proposed is given below.

The Labour Department originally constituted to give effect to agreements between Ceylon and India concerning Indian Immigrant Labour has extended

its activities and now secures for indigenous labour also wages and working conditions as prescribed by law.

Twelve Wages Boards constituted under the Wages Boards Ordinance, to determine minimum wages and hours of work for trades within their purview, were functioning at the end of 1947. These are: (1) Tea Growing and Manufacturing Trade, (2) Rubber Growing and Manufacturing Trade, (3) Coconut Trade, (4) Engineering Trade, (5) Printing Trade, (6) Plumbago Trade, (7) Tea Export Trade, (8) Rubber Export Trade, (9) Toddy, Arrack and Vinegar Trade, (10) Cigar Manufacturing Trade, (11) Motor Transport Trade and (12) Match Manufacturing Trade. Since then two more have been set up for the Harbour and Cinema Trades. Other trades are under investigation.

It is also proposed to extend the provisions of the Shops Ordinance by a new comprehensive Bill to cover em-

(Continued from previous page)

INSIDE STORY OF THE U. N. P. JOURNAL

By Claude de Pinto

THE story of the U.N.P. journal is a romantic tale of high endeavour, cheerful toil and perseverance on the part of a handful of loyal Party men. The fact that it appeared regularly every week ever since its inception few months before the last General Elections is in itself a great achievement. My job on the U.N.P. journals staff does not attract attention. I keep the accounts, check up subscribers and agents, as well as see that the paper is distributed and advertising revenue credited in the bank. Yet from my desk, removed as I am from the hurry and excitement of writing and editing, I can see in perspective the steady growth of the journal during the last year.

My figures show (and these are not figures cooked up to impress advertisers) that we have printed and distributed 519,175 copies of the journal up to the week ending Friday 3rd September.

We have built up 200 agencies throughout the Island and will not be content until we have increased this number many times over so that the voice of the United National Party will be heard in every corner of the Island. Greater progress was difficult to achieve for the reason that the Party itself was not fully organised these many months. One of the trials we had to face was that although at casual interviews many Party members waxed eloquent about the support they were prepared to give to the journal, when we wrote to them we rarely got a reply. Circular after circular was sent but the replies never exceeded 20 to 30 per cent.

I suppose most of these busy people postponed action indefinitely and in the

end forgot the whole purpose of our appeals. In the future there seems to be greater hope of achieving results with the electoral associations beginning to function and we have Committees in every electorate whose main task would be to organise Party support and propaganda in the various areas.

It has been a great encouragement to us to be told by discerning people that the U.N.P. journals were miles ahead of the Party journals of all other Parties.

In fact one of the visiting American journalists who was in Ceylon recently said that the U.N.P. journal was the best pocket political organ he had seen. He was specially impressed by the excellent display and knowledge of the use of type faces shown by the issues he had seen. He described the writing as vigorous and provocative and commented that if a journal was not provocative it should immediately stop publication.

* * *

THE drive and energy of the Chairman of the Propaganda Committee, Sir John, was the greatest inspiration of all. Although one of the busiest men in this country he would often rush into the office and sit at my desk, and in a democratic and comradely style ask a question in the same tone and manner as an intimate friend would ask: "So how are things getting on?"

There was nothing patronising about him. He took one into his confidence. Over and over again he told the four or five of us on this job "This paper is as much yours as mine or anybody else's." Make it a success. When our job is done we do not need anybody's thanks. We shall feel that we have carried out our task."

That inspiration kept us going even when owing to falling revenue and rising costs he had to impose severe salary cuts. I do not think any boss in the world found a more cheerful acceptance of a salary cut than Sir John from us. This is not a tribute to ourselves but a tribute to him.

The journals are now a living force and we hope that they will continue to gather strength in the years to come.

(Continued on opposite page)

ployees working in all Mercantile Offices.

Legislation is contemplated to ensure that nationals of this country are employed in appreciable numbers in Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural undertakings.

The Trade Union Amendment Bill passed recently by the House of Representatives confers on Public Servants the right to form Trade Unions. The Trade Union Adviser has been largely instrumental in forming a Joint Industrial Council for the Subordinate Staff working on Estates. It is hoped to establish similar Councils in other industries. Instructions have also been issued for the preparation of a new Industrial Dispute Bill which will be before Parliament shortly. This provides for the investigation and settling of labour disputes by conciliation and arbitration in essential services.

The promulgation of the Factories Ordinance in the near future will give the Labour Department powers to enforce welfare measures in Factories. The health and welfare provisions of the Shops Ordinance which have been in abeyance owing to the lack of building materials etc., will be enforced after sufficient notice. Preliminary steps to this end are well under way.

FINANCIAL POLICY

By J. R. JAYAWARDENE

SOCIAL SERVICES

A SUM of Rs. 495,000 has been voted this financial year for the grant of monthly allowances, casual relief and assistance to Voluntary Agencies engaged in the relief of the poor. Monthly Allowances up to a maximum of Rs. 10 per individual and Rs. 20 per family with one or more dependants are paid to about 30,000 cases.

Relief is also granted during floods, epidemics and failure of crops—from a vote of Rs. 7,500,000. This relief usually takes the following form:—

- Immediate relief for those in distress, e.g., supply of food and accommodation.
- Cash relief up to a maximum of Rs. 300 to those whose houses require repairs or rebuilding.
- Work relief during periods of distress due to failure of crops where persons concerned are in a position to do some work in return for payment.

IT is the policy of the Ministry of Finance to seek expert advice with regard to changes in our financial structure which may be necessitated by the transition from a colonial to a free national economy. Steps have already been taken to secure the services of a banking expert from America who will advise the Government with regard to the creation of a Reserve Bank. Once the Reserve Bank is created the co-ordination of our banking, credit and exchange machinery and their control through this Bank will be effected.

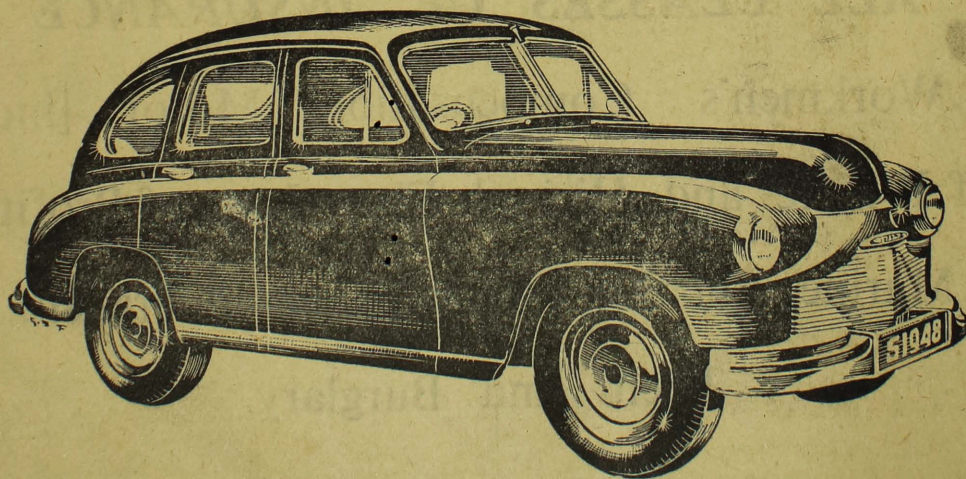
We have already entered into an interim agreement with the United Kingdom with regard to the disposal of our sterling assets, and discussions will be held again in regard to their future disposal. Exchange Control Regulations have been extended to cover the entirety of our transactions with foreign countries and measures have been taken to keep the money earned in Ceylon within Ceylon itself as far as possible.

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