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# MATARA BIDS FAIR TO BE THE CENTRE OF MOB RULE Definite Signs of Things to Come



Mr. T. B. Jayah

REPORTS reaching Colombo from Matara are disturbing. The situation down south, appear to be fast developing into mob rule, where it would appear, even the Police are powerless to enforce law and order. Anything may have happened at Matara on Thursday last week but for the presence of mind of Messrs. Jayah and Goonesinha. Gangsters appear to have got the populace and even the police well under their heel. They appear to resent the presence of Government offifor obvious reasons.

The Communists have made it their populace with Communist propaganda. They will go to any length to prevent the people from being disillusioned.

It is rumoured that a Member of Parliament had openly asked the people to at that of another master plan to con-

prepare themselves to revolt. It is also said that certain Members of Parliament were the leaders of the mob that nearly caused a riot at Matara. This is intimidation at its worst and no Government true to its pledge to maintain law and order could tolerate in for a

These men must be shown up at any cost and their false propaganda well and truly exposed.

The Ceylon "Daily News" carried a special article last Saturday wherein the obvious duty of Government was clearly portrayed. The sooner Government present the people with its clear-cut programme of work for the next four years of its office, the better. When the programme of work is ready, the Government should see to it that every single citizen of the land knows its significance. Every means of publicity should be employed to this end and the programme itself should be rigidly adhered to.

The country will know when the programme is presented to the people that it would be something practical, something workable, above all something the country could afford. It will be an honest attempt to relieve unemployment, feed, clothe and shelter the people.

It will be dishonest if the Government cials and least of all Ministers of State promises the millenium, much less the Sun. Moon and Stars.

It is a sad but dangerous fact that stronghold. They have seeped the our extremists will promise anything if only to get hold of the Government and

### THE MASTER PLAN

They are but the tools and poor tools



Mr. A. E. Goonesinha

them is not of their making but the poor fools once caught in the trap could not get out even if they wish to for there is the simple process of elimination awaiting those who backslide.

The Minister of Labour and his Parliamentary Secretary went to Matara to meet and discuss with the representatives of the people the various needs of the electorate. That was the last thing the Communists wanted. They therefore wrecked the whole programme and the people lost what they would have normally received.

Thuggery will not deter the Government from doing its duty and the people of Matara will be protected and assisted in spite of the thugs.

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# ITALIANS SENSE DANGER OF THE IRON HEEL

# Democratic Party Sweeps Away Communist Opposition

centred upon Italy last Sunday for the fate of Europe was in the balance and depended upon the will of the Italian people whether a war drenched and unhappy continent was to be saved from another catastrophe or not.

Fortunately for Italy, she was fairly well removed from the centre of Com- good of mankind

THE eyes of the world were munist influence unlike the rest of the Eastern block who fell easy victims one by one as an inevitable result of their closer proximity

> The tide has fortunately turned in Europe and the prospect of another conflagration has receded and yet another opportunity given to the Western world to settle their differences for the greater

### AVISAWELLA THE SEAT

THERE is some surprise in the a good reason that the United National country that the Avissawella Party did not contest the seat. Seat was allowed by the United National Party to be uncontested.

This was not for want of a candidate to contest Mrs. Gunawardene. the wife of Mr. Philip Gunawardene who lost his seat as a result of his

Although Dr. N. M. Perera tried to make out that it was the "First defeat of Government" it was actually due to

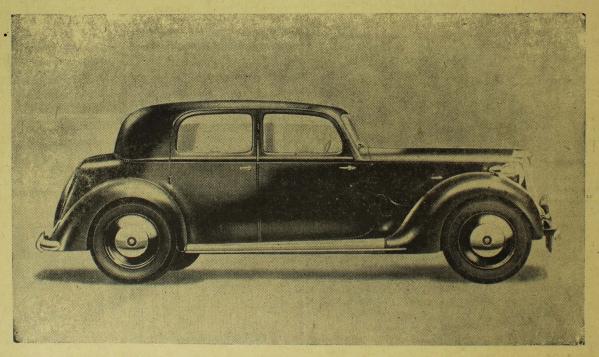
The public are aware that Parliament is awaiting the recommendations of the sub-Committee appointed to revise the Order-in-Council and it is quite possible that the clause referring to political offences may be modified

Mr Philip Gunawardene will then be automatically eligible to contest his seat again in which event Mrs. Gunawardene may stand down and offer her husband the opportunity

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# METHODS OF ADULT EDUCATION IN AMERICA

Some 28 million American adults over and above are more than two million students enrolled in full-time institutions of higher learning—are spending part of their leisure time going to school. addition millions of others receive some form of education through libraries, museums and the radio without actual particiin an organized group Continuing impetus is being given the adult education movement by labour unions, institutions of higher learning, junior collegesthrough their evening classes-and correspondence schools. There 450 private correspondence schools and more than 125 col-leges in the United States which offer education by mail in anything from Greek history to chicken farming or business administration.

A CCORDING to the most recent estimates, some twenty-eight million American adults are spending part of their leisure time going to school. This number is, of course, over and above the more than two million students enrolled full-time in institutions of higher learning and does not include the millions who receive some form of education through libraries, museums and the radio without actual participation in an organized group.

A vital educational role is played by the American Association of Adult Education which co-operates with State Departments of Education and with local Adult Education Councils composed of representatives of schools, libraries, business, labour and professional organi-In rural sections the Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture co-operates with local government officers, schools and colleges in a continuing program designed not only to increase the efficiency of agriculture but also to enrich the cultural like of rural communities. Each year the Service distributes hundreds of thousands of free pamphlets whose subject matter embraces virtually all phases of farm operation and rural living.

U.S. Department of Agriculture County Agents—more than 3,000 in number—serve as local educational officers on such matters as land use and conservation, care and improvement of livestock. Government experts travel to remote communities to give demonstrations and instruction in child care, nutrition, and sewing. Many study groups, initiated for the consideration of purely practical matters, have subsequently broadened their programs to include world affairs, music, drama and literature.

# VARIOUS PROGRAMS FOR ADULT "SCHOOLING"

"Schooling" for some adults may take such a comparatively passive form as faithful listening to one of the serious educational programs presented regularly on the radio. Among those with largest audiences are the discussions of social, economic and political

questions by authoritative spokesmen of differing points of view on "America's Town Meeting of the Air" and the University of Chicago Round Table. Every Sunday an audience estimated at five million listens to the program "Invitation to Learning"—a discussion of literary classics by noted scholars. Printed transcripts of educational programs of this type are supplied to listeners, upon request, for a nominal charge and, are frequently used as a basis for further study by informal groups or clubs.

Growing tremendously in popularity among city workers are the free lectures on topics such as painting, sculpture, and archaeology, offered evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons by art museums. Only in recent years have museums begun on a large scale to try to satisfy more fully the intellectual curiosity of the thirty million people who visit them annually. The response to lectures, offering interpretation of the museum's exhibits, has been enthusiastic-last year in New York City, for example, attendance at the lectures offered by the Metropolitan Museum of Art totalled 60,000.

Also gaining in attendance are the free film forums, book review cluks and discussion groups at public libraries. Among the most recent developments in this field are reading and discussion groups based on the great landmarks of world literature. The "great books" concept received its impetus from the University of Chicago which, in co-operation with libraries of the area, has developed 40 classes with more than 12,000 students in Chicago alone

There have been sporadic and scattered ventures in the field of adult education in the United States since the mid-nineteenth century. An unprededented spurt of activity occurred in the years from 1880 to 1910 when immigrants arrived in the United States. The task of teaching them to read, write and speak English was recognized as basic to the assimilation of these new comers. And, under the auspices of the U.S. Office of Education and the Department of Immigration, public schools and settlement houses throughout inaugurated extensive free classes, chiefly held in the evening.

#### LABOUR UNIONS' ROLE

Continuing impetus was given the adult education movement by the labour unions which had maintained mechanics institutes and trade union colleges since the early 19th century. The larger unions and scattered locals gradually expanded their programs beyond the trade and vocational level at which they began.

In 1921, the American Federation of Labour founded the Workers' Education Bureau which serves as a co-ordinating agency for the educational activities of affiliated unions It publishes books and pamphlets and organizes institutes run ordinarily at annual meetings and often on college premises. Sometimes small seminars of twenty to fortp people meet for intensive study; other times, as many as 600 people at-The American Labour Education tend. Service, on whose board sit both American Federation of Labour and Congress Industrial Organizations' members, carries on a similar program.

In the past two decades many of the larger trade unions have greatly enlarged their educational activities. The International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, for example, maintains a professionally staffed educational department which offers classes in fifty-eight cities throughout the United States. In 1946, 9,000 members attended classes in public speaking, labour problems, music, dramatics. Similar in scope and program are the educational activities of other large unions such those in the men's clothing and steel industries.

Within recent years institutions of higher learning have partic pated increasingly in worker education—education with a focus on the problem of providing the worker with an understanding of labour problems, the nature of the social and economic system in which he functions, and the history and philosophy of trade unions. Today more than seventy-five colleages and universities provide courses in this field.

Harvard University recently established the first full-time residence course in labour, dealing with the procedures involved in negotiating, launching and administering trade union agreements. Special classes in economics and labour relations are held for representatives of labour unions and company management at the Yale University Labour and Management Centre. The University of Michigan program is designed to help workers to cope with day-to-day problems of union organization, collective bargaining, and community welfare. An Institute of Labour Relations has recently been set up at the University of Illinois, modelled after the New York State School of Industrial and Labour Relations at Cornell University.

### JUNIOR COLLEGES

Regarded as potentially the most important of the formal institutions in the adult education field are the junior colleges. A comparatively new phenomenon on the American educational scene, they offer to undergraduates a two-year programme of general education to follow the regular high school Because of their flexibility of program and because they are planned to serve the community directly rather than as centres of advanced scholarship, the junior colleges have performed exceptional service in providing learning opportunities for adults.

One such institution which has a daytime student body of 3,000 has an enrolment of 25,000 adults in its evening Educators, at the present classes. time, are strongly advocating establishment of many more such community colleges, of which there are now some 600 in the country. As indicative of the educational interest of adult groups, they point, for example to the town of Modesto, California, where 5,000 of the town's 14,000 adult citizens are enrolled in courses sponsored by the local junior college.

### CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS

For adults in both city and country, the correspondence schools have filled a

need of men and women who wish to study at home. Throughout the nation there are 450 private correspondence schools and more than 125 colleges, universities and teachers' colleges which offer education by mail. These vary from short five-lesson stints to more ambitious programs of study, in anything from Greek history to chicken farming or business administration.

The largest correspondence in the country—the one after which most of the others are modelle-is the International Correspondence School in Scranton, Pennsylvania. the past fifty-six years, it has helped five million students. Through pocketsized pamphlets written by authorities in the several fields, It has taught subjects ranging from arithmetic to ship-building. The lucidly written texts are prepared especially for learning without an instructor. Students usually receive one phamphlet at a time, enough to keep them busy for lifteen hours. When the work is completed, it is sent to the school for grading and further instrutcion service, and examination papers piur into Scranton at the rate of 5,000 a day

Despite the tremendous increased scope of adult education in recent years educators are well aware that their goal to make life-long learning available to everyone is not yet realised. The obstacles still to be overcome are in part those common to American education generally-a grave shortage of facilities to serve a population whose standard of living has risen markedly and swiftly, providing both time for and interest in more education. In addition, the adult educators must solve specialized problems for they are dealing with students whose backgrounds, interests and educational qualifications are incalculably diverse.

One of the principal needs of the moment is for more textbooks, pamphlets and films which will be understandable and useful to the farmer who has had meager formal schooling, to the office or factory worker who has only recently developed an interest in the drama or in anthropology; to the plumber who wishes to improve his skill in his own trade; to the young mother who wants not only to care for her children's physical well being but also to participate in their intellectual growth.

Because of these diverse interests, the concept of education in the adult field extends far beyond anything resembling conventional classroom teaching. It includes stagecraft and the production of plays by amateur groups; weaving, furniture-making and hundreds of other handicrafts; practical experience in steam-fitting, we or any other skill that might lead to greater efficiency on the job. The term adult education is, in fact, used to cover every type of activity that broadens the individual's horizon or enriches his life culturally or vocationally.



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Friday, April 23rd, 1948

#### MOB RULE

We are glad to record that the first attempt at mob rule will be very strongly dealt with by the police.

We refer to the most intolerable state of affairs that prevailed at Matara last week when a Minister of State and his Parliamentary Secretary were heckled at the resthouse where they had been on State service.

The Communist, the L.S.S.P., and B.L.P.I. leaders should know that though they are free to let off steam anywhere they like, they could not take the law into their own hands. Much less could the Government permit them to make pawns of the public for their own ends.

The howling mob that assembled at the Matara resthouse, as Mr. Goonesinha describes it, nearly caused a riot but for the presence of mind of the two gentlemen concerned who found that the mob was beyond Police control at that stage and quietly stood up to the abuse they were subjected

We are surprised that this should have happened Matara, the ancient seat learning where the percentage of literacy is higher than in most other places in country.

It is a fact that it had nothing to do with the large majority of the people who are law abiding but that it was engineered by L.S.S.P., Communist and B.L.P.I. gangsters whose all consuming passion is to discredit the Government at any cost. If they for a moment think that a Government could be discredited by intimidation they live in a fool's paradise,

These desperate men, finding themselves frustrated at every

### ROAD TO SOCIAL THE JUSTICE

# National Ministers' Impressive of Achievement

A Special Correspondent

THERE has been so much concentration on the strictly political problem of Ceylon, the reform movement, and especially the endeavour to attain independence that the achievements in the sphere of Social reform accomplished by the National Ministers have been overlooked. The shadow of a triumphant nationalism has obscured other impressive deeds.

In the sixteen years since the introduction of the Donoughmore Constitution several strides have been taken towards the goal of social justice. the progress of this march many evils have been eradicated from our system and the adverse effects of many others have been modified. The Socialist state is now an acceptable term Cevlon politics.

The most startling achievement of the past sixteen years of near self-government now happily terminated in Dominion Status, is the introduction Free Education from the Kindergarten to the University.

One of the essential conditions of a democratic state is an educated, in-When the Donoughmore Report was being considered Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan argued that education should precede the extension of the franchise. He was alarmed that power should pass into the hands of men and women, many of whom were illi-

The Free Education Act, is in part, the reply to such contentions and fore-There is also the solid fact bodings. that the total net expenditure on education had risen from a paltry 12 million rupees in 1931 to over 35 million rupees in, say, 1945.

It has been the policy of the Government, whose composition is very much the same as that of the present administration, to provide schools all over the Island. In 1931 there was only 1,395 Government schools; in 1944 there were 2,445; the number of Assisted Vernacular Schools rose from 2,246 in 1931 to 2,455 in 1945.

### HOSPITAL SERVICE

Before 1931 under the old planter raj there was a poor hospital service, a

large proportion of which served the The expenditure was plantation areas. about 10 million rupees. National Ministers by 1945 the expenditure had risen to 15 million rupees. Branch Hospitals. maternity homes, child welfare clinics have been opened in large numbers.

Preventive medicine is taking an increasingly vital share in the Government health measures. Malaria was once a scourge, particularly in the North-Central Province. Now its incidence has been largely restricted by the spraying Numerous measures have also been taken to spread positive knowledge about health and sanitation.

One of the most important contributions the state has made in the last 16 years is the provision of poor relief. This is especially significant in a country where a large number of people live below the subsistence level. Expenditure on the item of poor relief from Rs. 127,525 in 1932 to Rs. 1,209,340

#### LABOUR LAWS

Since 1931 the National Ministries have been increasingly concerned with the welfare of Labour. Up to labour legislation reflected the state's concern chiefly with estate workers. For the estate labourer elaborate safeguards and benefits had been devised but for the nationals of Ceylon, for the country's own population, labour measures and protective legislation were meagre. This anomaly was adjusted by the National Ministers

Among the measures promulgated in the last sixteen years the most striking is the minimum wages ordinance which assures that the ruthless exploitation of labour is not possible. In 1941 the General Wages Boards Ordinance was passed giving power to establish a Wages Board for any trade, with members representing employers and workers in equal proportions. The Board may fix minimum wages, the number of working hours and working days and the number of days for an annual holiday. Such Boards have been established for the Tea, Coconut and Rubber Industries, the Engineering Trade, the Printing Trade, the Plumbago Trade and the Arrack, Toddy and Vinegar Trade

It must be remembered that when the National Ministers assumed office, Ceylon, like the rest of the world, was in the grip of the Great Trade Depression. It was a time when money was scarce and in most countries social legislation was being abandoned as being economically impossible. The depression lasted in its full severity till 1935 Four brief years of peace gave way to the war. In spite of these restrictive circumstances the country has advanced on the road to social progress. This background merits consideration as a measure of the Island's great achievement.

The great social advance we have made show that given a body of Ministers responsive to the needs of the people mach can be achieved by peaceful legislation.

turn, with their following sadly disillusioned, dwindling day by day, will go to any length to bolster up what remains their shattered camps.

The Government has been tolerant, true to its conception of democratic principles but when it comes to lawlessness no Government worthy of it name could tolerate it, for the first duty of a Government is to protect its citizens from thugs and thuggery.

# PARTY OR PERSONALITIES?

By Nandalal

THE most significant issue which confronts the country in general and the United National Party in particular is whether politics should be the affair of leading personalities only or whether it should be established on the basis of a sound party organisation. It is generally believed that party politics is an essential condition for survival of a democratic social order. But party politics presupposes the existence of sound political parties. This is a statement of the very obvious but it is a statement which has suffered the obscurity and neglect to which anything simple is subject these days.

The dominant theme in the memorandum which the U.N.P.'s Propaganda Chief, Col. J. L. Kotelawala, drafted is the demand that the U.N.P. should so reorganise itself as to satisfy in its structure the essential conditions of a vigorous disciplined party

A Party must be disciplined, it must have a policy reached by the most thorough democratic discussion and once agreed upon must be vigorously executed by all Party members. Loyalty to the Party line is a necessary condition. There cannot be a party which speaks with many voices. Should there be any to whom the Party's particular policy is unacceptable there's the course open to such a person of resignation. If on the other hand a man does remain within the Party it is expected of him that he should devotedly endeavour to work the policy which the Party has declared its own.

It is generally felt, and we must be willing to stand up to this unpleasant fact, that at the moment members of the U.N.P. speak diverse theories. In the circumstances it seems that discipline is lacking within the Party. That's But it is only a symptom of a graver disease. The sickness is that members of the U.N.P. are not acutely aware of the Party's views on any particular issue. Politics today is largely a matter of improvision, of swift adjustments to problems but not a co-ordinated, calculated theory which determines the outlook of every party mem-

The U.N.P. has a policy It outlined on the eve of the Elections. has been given a new direction recently when the Chairman of the Propaganda Committee issued his memorandum. But this policy impressed itself in the rank and file of our Party? Has the Party any method, except through the publicity of its journals to take that policy to the people? Has the Party any method by which it can give life and energy to its general aims and objections? A policy is useless until it reaches the people and is shared enthusiastically by them. A policy comes to life in the hands of the people, whose zealous apostles a U.N.P. member must

How is the policy to be put across to the people? The necessary condition is the existence of a disciplined vigorous Party and the construction of a Party of that nature is the most urgent task today. The Party conference, the regular meeting of the Party members at various levels and divisions—these are the basis of a well-knit Party.

In England the Conservative Party the Labour Party are so organised that in every constituency each of the parties has its grouping. The Party of local supporters animatedly arguing parochial problems as well as matters of national importance. This is the pattern of English politics. The local association is the strength of the Party Similar organisations must be devised by the U.N.P. in Ceylon.

The constituency is too large a unit. In each town and village there should be a Party unit. These units should organise themselves into district associations on the Committee of Delegates elected by the local association. the district associations come the Central Executive of the Party—a grouping which is the highest body within the That is the structure and close co-operation should exist among these numerous groupings.

Every year there should be the annual conference of the Party when a national policy is discussed and planning action on a national scale should be At the local levels of the Party, there should be monthly discussions in the town and village units; quarterly meetings should be held of the district association.

In this way it is possible to have a group of conscious politicals more or less in session instead of the present spasmodie political action and discussion which only a matter of grave importance can bring on.

Each political grouping, local as well as district, must regularly report its activities both to the Central Executive as well as to the Party journal must be the medium of contact and propaganda of Party Members

Party discipline follows from an efficient, virile Party organisation.

As Col. Kotelawala's memorandum maintains a new political situation has arisen within the country. The U.N.P. has achieved its objective of forming the Government, now it has to settle down to the tasks of Government and to that end the Party's structure must be

Machinery must be swiftly designed by which Party Members can express their opinions on vital matters. Through such action policy becomes the interest of every member of the Party and ceases to be the edicts of individuals, however talented or brilliant they may be.

A democratic Party demands the machinery of a democratic system. The prime task today is to build up such a

# IN THE SLUMS OF COLOMBO

MRS. Edith Ludowyke Gyomroi, one of the stalwarts of the recently formed Eksath Kantha Peramuna, has visited the slums of Colombo. She has met Cecilia Silva, Dadi Bee and so many others of the slum dwellers and obviously her kind heart has so thawed that she has given expression to her experiences in an illuminating and none the less sad account in the "Times" of Sunday last.

The public will await with the same interest to read what more she has to say about the same slums at a subsequent date for the account is to be con-

The theme of the present account appears to be to pick a bone with the Government Tourist Bureau for having drawn a technicolour picture of Colombo of luxurious hotels, clean roads bordered with flowering trees, modern

# B.L.P.I. CHIEF BLAST THOSE MIGRATES TO PARIS

DR. COLVIN R. DE SILVA appears to have given our local May Day celebrations a miss and sailed away to salubrious Paris. The pity of it all is that Galle Face and Price Park should have to do without his thunder, fire and brimstone on the 1st of May

Why he should have left the fort so completely to the L.S.S.P. doctor and the Communist chief is very intriguing. Possibly he is now quite convinced that he has spent his bolt at least where Ceylon is concerned. Possibly he is also convinced that the people of Ceylon will not permit their land to be the dumping ground for international tionaries

Now that the B.L.B.I. Now that the B.L.B.I. has been counted out, the tussle for the spoils between the L.S.S.P. leader and the Communist chief should be very interest-Will they fire their guns from the same platform or take their turns at Galle Face and Price Park on May Day? That will be the clue as to whether the cleft has widened or not. The chances are that, with the B.L.P.I. chief well out of the way, they will make their individual efforts and go for it with might and main to show up one another.

The result, however, will be the same. The public are thoroughly disillusioned. They will be there to see and hear the  $firework_S$  as usual but they will never again touch the L.S.S.P. or the Communist parties with the end of a barge pole!

It is indeed a thousand pities that men of intelligence should waste away their energies when a job of work is awaiting to be done.

Do they still insist in living in a fool's paradise? Do they still think that they could get a backing in the country except for their handful of thugs and camp followers who will be the first to decamp when they see that the game is up?

buildings, colourful shops, picturesque crowds, culture, commerce, industry, beauty and natural delights, and she poses the question—for whom? For the tourists, madam, for the tourists who dump a portion of their wealth in this

Does Mrs. Ludowyke-Gyomroi by any Does Mrs. Ludowyke-Gyomroi by any chance propose that the slums of Colombo should also be shown up by the Government Tourist Bureau? Or else what is she driving out? We all know that there are slums in Colombo, Kandy, even Jaffna and Trinco, and it is a safe guess that there are slums in her own home-town as well. For that matter the Colombo Charity Commissioner knows every yard of it and pracmatter the Colombo Charity Commis-sioner knows every yard of it and prac-tically all the slum dwellers besides! What is more, there are slums, it is told, in New York, London, Tokyo, Moscow, Stalingrad and Timbuctoo and slums in our cities through-Moscow. Staingrad and Timbuctoo and slums in our cities throughout the length and breadth of the world will go on till the end of the world which fortunately is nigh! What the thinkers of the world are interested in is not in the existence of the slums but how to destroy them how to destroy them.

Katherine Mayo went about smelling the drains of India just about the time India was in the thick of her movement India was in the thick of her movement of emancipation. One could not attribute the same motives to Mrs. Ludowyke Gyomroi who is one of our well known social workers and reformists. She has seen conditions outside Ceylon. She possibly knows what steps the outside world are taking to at least minimise the sufferings of slum dwellers.

Our City Fathers and even our Cabinet should be grateful if Mrs. Ludowyke Gyomroi would only present a plan of action and how to find the wherewithal to implement it instead of bleeding her tender heart.

# **ASTROLOGERS** By Vernon Phelps

THE New Year portents predicted by astrologers proved to be wrong. The "Reds" whose fortunes were supposed to be on the ascendant were stoned at Jaffna. Ironically enough these apostles of revolution, egged on by the happy portents predicted for them, went to Jaffna to ask for bread and received stones.

Now, whatever else one might say of the people of Jaffna it cannot be said that they are not discerning. These hardy sons of the North are nothing if not microscopic in their discernment Show them a good thing and they will assess its value correctly. they are quick to detect imitations how ever flashy they may be.

Against the knowledge of the background of this traditional perception of the people of Jaffna, it is certainly worthwhile analysising the reasons that prompted the hailstorm of stones that descended on the Sama Samaj meeting at Nallur.

Here were a group of "saviours" aided by the alleged auspicious signs in the heavens who went north to convert adherents to their creed of revolution. The revolutionaries spoke of a millenium at hand which could be obtained by the simple device of handing to the revolutionaries the loaves of office.

Then came the surprise-packet. stead of a reverential response there came a hailstorm of stones-unmistakable evidence that the entire conversion technique had misfired. Even the remote chance of coming back "another day" was nullified by the clumsy reaction of the Reds to the debacle that overtook them. Understandably, but unpardonably, unable to bear the bitterness of being called upon to swallow in one gulp this wormwood and this gall being stoned, the Reds turned (like the proverbial worm) and spat back invective at their defiant "converts" by calling them "misguided fools." This was indeed a tactical blunder of the highest magnitude for the canny Jaffanese, like the elephant, never forgets. It may well be that the persons who committed this blunder may be soon "on the mat" and that this blunder might invoke thunder at the Headquarters of the Sama Samaj

Jaffna, and in no less degree, the rest of the Island, are now only too aware of the painful processes to which the Sama Samajists resort to propagate their half-baked revolution which (after the advent of freedom in Ceylon) is receding so rapidly that the Reds are at their wits ends to find a means even to make

Desperately they looked round for some straw to clutch. The astrologer wittingly threw them a lifeline The astrologers unthey predicted that in the New Year the Reds would have some luck. The Reds, no doubt, were disappointed that the predictions did not say that the rainbow would in future be only red, but still some straw was better than

Then came the "tactical "bloomer," The Reds decided to rush the pace under The Reds decided to rush the pace under the aura of predicted auspices portents. But of all places, the last they should have picked on, was Jaffna, for do they not still know that the arid north is inhabited by realists who have little time for "fly" neers" and less for political sour?

The worse happe proved to be miserally wrong. The stones came. The campaign was called off in a hurry and the revolution so far as Jaffna is concerned, at any rate, just won't come off. Blast those astrologers!



CRICKET continues to provide the headlines again this week.

The end of the Holkar visit comcides with the tour of team led by the Rajah of Pudukottah, who will be in the Island till nearly mid-May. This side is, of course, not half as strong as our Holkar visitors and is naturally concentrating only on club fixtures. Next week they meet the three major clubs in Colombo, namely, the Sinhalese, the C.C.C., and the Tamil Union, all of whom, at full strength, have the beating of the South

But for the "act of God" in the shape of rain, and the act of man in the un-fortunate but unavoidable absence of any fortunate but unavoidable absence of any S.S.C. men in the C.C.A. team, the Holkar tour would have been a bigger success than it has been. At a crucial stage in the only three-day fixture when there was every prospect of a grand finish, rain fell in buckets and converted the Oval into a swimming bool. But this match did go far enough to evoke an eulogy on Mushtaq Ali, which must have made that/very modest batsman blush. I yield to no one in my admiration of this very stylish player, whose record in England speaks for itself. But the Mushtaq of today cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, be compared to Ranji or Duleep, except in Pavlova-like footwork. Mushtaq has no off stroke, worthy the name, in his bag, whereas the two princes were equally at home in cutting and coverdriving, as they admittedly were in glancing and hooking. I make this statement with no intention of belittling this great Muslim cricketer, who is deservedly so popular with Ceylon crowds, but I feel that in fairness to him, one must be moderate in praise.

THE brief holiday which horses and trainers have been enjoy-ing in Nuwara Eliya comes to an end next week when the first post-war May next week when the first post-war May Meet ushers in a spell of racing at head-quarters, which will go on continuously till the end of November. The May Meet this year begins earlier than it used to do pre-war and this may be due to the fact that Vesak falls on the fourth Saturday of the month and a later starf would have meant that the last day of the Meet would have coincided with Vesak day.

The programme arranged for the open-

cided with Vesak day.

The programme arranged for the opening day of the May Meet caters solely for sprinters. Horses in the two top classes will be seen out over the 5 furlongs as will thoroughbreds in Class IV and Arabs in Class III. There will also be a race over the Channer Straight for horses in Class III, while Class I Arabs

will compete over 6 furlongs and Class II ponies will provide the longest race of the afternoon, over 7 furlongs. Final entries for the Meet do not close till Monday next and, consequently, I shall reserve my comments on the races till next week when I hope to be able to give readers some pointers and I trust that they will be as successful as they were up at Nuwara Eliya.

THE flat racing season in England is now well under way and our thoughts will turn next week to the Classics. The Guineas and Derby favourite, the Gaekwar of Baroda's My

Babu, who was known as Lerius in his first season, has already won the Craven Stakes and by his ready victory has confirmed his 2-year-old form.

Another Classic 'hope' who has taken well off the mark this season. is Miss Dorothy Paget's Birthday Greetings, who won the Greenham Plate. While these two colts will take a lot of beating in the 2,000 Guineas, I would advise readers to keep a watchful eye on the American-bred and owned Black Tarquin, about whose winter progress I have had the most encouraging reports from a friend of mine who recently saw him at work.

### Art & Letters

### By Quintus Delilkhan

# A NATIONAL THEATRE

THE idea of a National Theatre for Ceylon is evidently a matter of almost overpowering interest to the public. We hear of the National Theatres of other countries, and can only marvel at our own supineness over a very long period of years during which we have allowed the potential talent of this country to remain unexpressed. What rich results it may have produced, if fostered early, we cannot now speculate with any degree of assurance. It is a vastly intriguing but a practically fruitless field to wander in, and we can be better engaged in thinking of the future which seems to now hold very large prospects. The drama is one of the most effective means of keeping alive a country's consciousness of its past greatness, of its present desires and its aspirations for the very long period of years during means of keeping alive a country's consciousness of its past greatness, of its present desires and its aspirations for the future. It affords the best corrective of our present idiosyncracies and is a means of correcting, if properly handled, the faults of the age. It can achieve much by satire, by a kindly humour or by a deep and searching wisdom in the high forms of magnificent rhetoric. The choice of the medium depends on the genius of the dramatist, and the audience to which he hopes to make his appeal. Bernard Shaw has been a reformer through his flaying wit which he has used ruthlessly to expose the shams of a civilization apt to grow too complacent of its fancied gains. He has rendered an immense service to his country for he has described himself as an Englishman born in Ireland, and it an Englishman born in Ireland, and is England that he has most conspicuously wished to reform. Ibsen has is England that he has most conspicuously wished to reform. Thesen has also done a very considerable service, not only to his own country but the whole of Europe by making his plays the vehicle of ideas meant to point out the way to more sincere and honourable forms of public and private conduct than he saw around him. The drama, and other allied arts, require to be given a big chance in Ceylon to thrive, and out of all this may emerge a great change of heart in the people. The Sinhalese drama can be made a form of popular expression without sinking to the level of crudity which is so frequently manifest in an attempt to hold the attention of the audience of methods of sensationalism. It is possible that a National Tbsen has of the audience of methods of sensation-alism. It is possible that a National Theatre, with all the publicity which it affords, will enable the public taste will be elevated by slow but definite degrees to a level which will ensure that the drama becomes a worthwhile form of art. It does not matter whether the dramatist chooses tragedy, comedy or even farce, so long as he maintains each form in its essential integrity as a medium of sincere and conscipntious art. medium of sincere and conscientious art. I have no doubt that with this new opportunity it will not be long before we opportunity it will not be long before we will see the emergence of a very considerable effort on the part of writers to realise their responsibility and give only of their very best so that there will be evidence of improving standards of literary production fitted to fulfil the purpose of genuine drama combinin gamusement and high entertainment with valid instruction and the correction of the faults of the age whilst adhering to strictly artistic dramatic standards, conventions and forms. The public taste must be exacting and should not be chary of expressing itself strongly if spurious and hurried work is being passed on as good drama.

THERE is much to be learnt from the experience of others, and a fruitful source of instruction is

drama

the work of a group of Irishmen who have been tamous as the creators of the modern drama in Ireland. Even the greatest of them had opposition to meet before their work was acceptable to a critical and, in many instances, a wholly unreasonable public. These men and women were made of indomitable stuff, and they preserved against heavy odds, and needless to say, won all along the line in the end. The whole fascinating story of their successful experiment is told in "THE IRISH DRAMATIC MOVEMENT" by Una Ellis-Fermor (COLOMBO BOOK CENTRE). a Methuen production and ought to be of special interest to those in Ceylon who have hopes of a like renaissance here. One of the persons who had a big influence in the Irish Dramatic Movement was Lady Gregory, the wife, I believe, of Governor Gregory of Ceylon. Her praise was by one who knew the movement through all its phases, and she had been helpful to every dramatist who laboured in this great cause, and even to the incomparably greatest of them all, W. B. Yeats. "They have won much praise for themselves," she said, "and raised the dignity of Ireland." By their efforts, the true face of Ireland emerged out of the enveloping mist of ages, the caricature of Ireland ceased to exist, and the true greatness of Ireland became manifest. Everyone of gains had a part to play, Synge by his terrifying realism, sombre in its tragic sense of life and W. B. Yeats and Lady Gregory by their passionate nationalism which must have thrilled friend and foe alike by its perfect sincerity and unrivalled poetry and strength. This movement produced a drama which a critic noting its influence on the people said, had created an exultation which transformed their nature so that they "who believed so much in the soul and so little in anything else that they were never entirely certain that the earh was solid under the foosole" discovered a new digin anything else that they were never entirely certain that the earh was solid under the foosole" discovered a new dig-nity and power in being Irishhen. nity and power in being Irishmen. There was no racial snobbery in this but only that Ireland had discovered her soul anew. Of Ireland and her matists, it might be said:

They shall be remembered forever They shall be alive forever, They shall be speaking forever The people shall hear them forever"

The people shall hear them forever"

W. B. Yeats with the penetration of the poet to the heart of hings demanded of hose who were helping to create this new drama that the most important ingredient of their work should be a "living imagination." This was the basis from which no deviation was permitted, and so long as this need was kept in mind any these could be selected for dramatic treatment. When manuscripts had to be rejected in increasing numbers a notice called "Advice to Playwrights" was drawn up for circulation to intending writers who would otherwise have mistaken the aims and scope of the work required for the Abbey Theatre. One of these points reads as follows, and may be of interest to any intending dramatists here too: "A play to be suitable for performance at the Abbey should contain some criticism of life, founded on the experience or personal observation of the writer, or some vision of life, of Irish life by preference, important from its beauty or from some excellence of style; and this intellectual quality is not more hecessary to tragedy than to the gayest comedy.... A work of art, though it must have the effect of naure, is art because it is not nature, as Goethe said; and it must possess a unity unlike the accidental profusion of nature."

This is a formula which is as valid for Ceylon as for Ireland.



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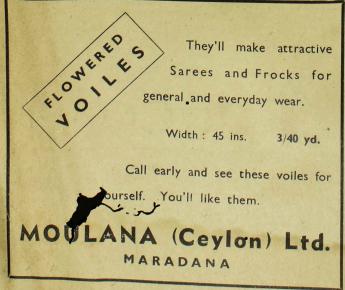
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### SIX MONTHS OF U.N.P. GOVERNMENT Has Justified Itself?

Ву 'Caliph'

THE United National Party has been over six months in power. Has it justified the people's faith and hopes. Let us • examine the work it has done and judge for ourselves.

The record of the Prime Minister, in his fight to gain independence for Ceylon is too well-known to recount here. His services to the country have been acknowledged even by his bitterest enemies.

Ceylon's representation at the Manila and Havana Conferences, and missions to India, Pakistan, Malaya, Burma and Britain (re sterling balances) has increased Ceylon's prestige. Last week Ceylon was unanimously elected as the 57th member of the Food and Agricultural Organistion. Her election to the United Nations Organisation will see the culmination of the Premier's efforts, to see Ceylon takes her rightful place to see Ceylon takes her rightful place in the world. world.

let us see the records of the

other Ministers.

#### A REAL HIT

MR. J. L. KOTELAWALA
opened his account with the
removal of car controls which was a big
boon to the public.

In October he ended the control on new cars of 9 h.p.
and less, as a preliminary to
absolute lifting of control. In not lifting it immediately he was wise. For,
as the representatives of the trade itself explained, the latter would not be
equipped to deal with the sudden rush
of nearly 3,000 would-be customers. He
acceded to their wishes to continue the
permit system for a short time more.
On February 1, 1948, he removed car
and petrol control altogether. This was a
great godsend. At his request the
authorities controlling the world supply
of petrol had agreed to grant Ceylon
an additional quota of 600,000 gallons.

"I would like to take this opportunity
to request bus companies to improve
their services," he said. "I am aware
of the growing discontent, in the country with the running of certain bus services." The supply of more petrol was

try with the running of certain bus services." The supply of more petrol was his method of improving the bus ser-

All railway stations that were previously lit by gas—"dark and gloomy" was the complaint—are being fitted with electric lights. The brilliant display Fort Station gives at night is a pointer to what is coming.

### CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

HIS crowning achievement was, of course, the improvement of Ceylon's air services, so much so that Ceylon is well on the air map. As Minister of Communications in the last State Council he had done much this way. But within this short period of six months he has speeded up, broadened and modernised the airways.

On December 10 last, the Air Ceylon plane took off from the Colombo Airport on the first flight of the passenger service between Colombo and Madras via Kankesanturai. Going to India now is just a few hours' journey and the service is being utilised daily. Mr. Kotelawala has made Ceylon air-conscious.

Mr. W. Dahanayake, one of the Opposition leaders and the Minister's most virulent critic, also participated in the inaugural flight, after which he acknowledged the foresight of the Minister. He paid a sincere tribute: "I have to congratulate Mr. Kotelawala on his popularity and success."

Last week he concluded an air pact with Pakistan, by which a regular Colombo-Karachi air service was established.

The Hydro-Electric Scheme and the

lished.

The Hydro-Electric Scheme and the Housing Schemes for the Railway workers also stand to his credit.

Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Minister of Health and Local Administration, has set in operation 79 water schemes for the Island in the urban and rural areas. Many of them will be implemented immediately.

According to this scheme, submitted by Mr. C. E. de Fonseka, Chief Engi-neer, Waterworks, of the Public Works Department, the water supplies to the

towns south of the Colombo Municipal limits up to Kalutara and the hinterland of these towns could be made available by tapping the Kelani River at a strate-gic point.

MR. BANDARANAIKE has already announced his plans to establish a Cancer Institute and to further improve the facilities already provided for tuberculosis patients. Cancer and tuberculosis, in the Minister's opinion, are the arch enemies of the people. He is determined to save the people from these scourges.

He also proposes to establish a Credit Corporation to finance the building of

He also proposes to establish a Credit Corporation to finance the building of houses. The Corporation will release funds not only to individuals but to coperative societies for putting up buildings. The initial capital will be Rs. 10 million. The Minister will be responsible for the provision of the funds, ensuring the availability of building

Mr. Dudley Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, is already going ahead with his plans to "make two blades of grass grow where one grew before."

His first action was to expand the on the restoration of village s, and to create an entirely new

tanks, and to create an entirely new division in the Irrigation Department to deal with village works exclusively.

Mr. S. G. Taylor, the Director of Irrigation, commented on this policy: "The Minister has instituted a drive to ensure that the work done in the past twenty years shall result in increased cultivation. One of the criticisms of village works expenditure in the past has been that it has not resulted in any increase in the area brought under cultivation.

Minister has now co-ordinated "The Minister has now co-ordinated the activities of the Survey, Irrigation, Land Commissioner's and Revenue Departments to ensure that land rendered irrigable will be blocked out in suitable lots ready for Revenue Officers to give out to villagers who are on the spot so that no question of colonisation schemes arise."

He also proposes to open up 50,000 to 75,000 acres a year for agricultural and colonisation schemes.

### VILLAGERS' WELFARE

MR. C. SITTAMPALAM,
Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, has always had the welfare of
the villagers at heart, as evinced by
his noble work in Mannar.

Last December he announced his
scheme to popularise broadcasting by
supplying each village with a wireless
set, in order to make masses wirelessminded. As a start 200 wireless sets
will be installed in the rural areas where
it would be possible for the village folk
to hear broadcasts.

Nearly a lakh of rupees was to be

to hear broadcasts.

Nearly a lakh of rupees was to be utilised for the purchase of wireless sets and equipment and maintaining them.

His aim was to see the growth of healthy village community centres and he was conscious that by bringing the people together that this could he achieved. This scheme is well on its

way.

Mr. A. Ratnayake, the Minister of Food, has eased the food situation. Flour is so plentiful now, and so is country rice (after the abolition of the Internal Purchase Scheme) that the former is even not wanted, and the latter is sold at 65 cts. per measure.

He has also made available for the common man to have a rice and curry meal for only 30 cents—a great boon to a hungry people and all his energies are centred upon making the Island self-sufficient.

MR. J. R. JAYEWARDENE which was noteworthy for clarity and foresight. Save in a few cases, there were no increased taxes on commodities entering into the cost of living index. The duties on all the principal items of food, and cotton piece-goods and cotton apparels, was therefore, not raised. The only exception of any importance was tobacco; but the additional revenue would offset the increase in the cost of living allowance which would ensue.

The duties imposed were relatively light on conventional necessities, extremely heavy on luxuries while general

consumer goods were moderately taxed-

consumer goods were moderately taxed—a sound scheme.

"We do not intend to stop or starve any of the progressive social and economic schemes of development, such as free education, free milk and meals for children, subsidies on essential goods, salary increases and war allowances, keeping the cost of living steady and the great agricultural and industrial projects, already begun to increase the national wealth," explained Mr. Jayewardene in his Budget speech.

"While holding to these principles we shall further attempt to close from both ends the gap which separates the standard of living of the great mass of our fellow-citizens from that of a small privileged minority."

vileged minority.

#### ACT OF FAVOUR

MR. C. SUNTHERALINGAM, Minister of Commerce, and Trade, scored a big hit by abolishing textile control. It was an act of favour on the suffering middleman, who had to struggle with coupons, blackmarketeers and profiteering traders to clothe himself and family.

He also realised the worth of advertising Cevlon in a commercial way. He

ing Ceylon in a commercial way. He set in operation a Tourist Information Kiosk at the Passenger Jetty, an In-formation Bureau at the Ratmalana Air-

port and another at the R.A.F. Aero-drome, Katunayake.

He set up a Tourist Advisory Board, which will tackle the problems of stamping out the tout menace, the standardis-ing of taxi fares for running within the city, and the improving of resthouses with regard to food and lodging so as to

make them more attractive to tourists.

Attractive posters and literature to advertise Ceylon have been planned by the Minister who is determined to put Ceylon on the world trade map.

### RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SIR OLIVER GOONETILLEKE as Minister of Home Affairs and Rural Development, had nothing exciting in the "Home" side, but was

very active in rural development.

"There is a greater urgency today in the hearts of all men and womes to experience a richer and fuller life. It is the responsibility of the Government to see that this fuller life is achieved," he said.,

"I do not propose to fill Ceylon with an army of badly paid public servants to deal with rural reconstruction,

"It is on the rich experiences of social workers that I hope to build the plan for the rural reconstruction of Ceylon...

We cannot postpone for one day the work that has to be done in rural Ceylon."

He has not lost time in getting things

He has not lost time in getting things one. The rural folk are a wonderful

crowd now.

Mr. T. B. Jayah has helped to find employment for thousands of unemployed. His is an unenviable job, for there are tens of thousands clamouring for jobs. But he is keen and deeply interested in the welfare of the workers. He is touring the Island with his Par-

liamentary Secretary, Mr. A. E. Goonesinha, relieving distress to the utmost capacity of the Government.

The Minister of Education,
Mr. T. B. Nugawela, has not
only a compromise plan in place of the
controversial Free Education Scheme.
Feeding of school children also claimed
his attention.

his attention. His view was that in spite of the fact that the Education Department has spent nearly eight million rupees on the feeding of school-children. It was not done in a satisfactory manner.  $H_{\rm e}$  adopted the scheme submitted by Miss Elsie Solomons, the Inspectress of Schools, and the school-children are all the happier regarding

midday meals.

HERE is the record of some of the services of the Cabinet to the people. Can anyone with a sense of justice deny that the U.N.P. has done much, and efficiently within a period of only six months, and can be depended upon to do more?

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