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# HOW GOVERNMENT KEPT THE PEOPLE FED THROUGH WAR YEARS

THAT the people's faith in the U.N.P. was fully justified and that the U.N.P. deserved the support it received at the last elections was shown when the Hon. Mr. Ratnayake, Minister for Food, moved two supplementary estimates for Rs. 103,500,000 and Rs. 109,000,000 in Parliament.

These were the largest supplementary estimates ever to be presented. They represented the money that the so-called "Dhanapathi" (!) Government had spent to feed the nation during the war years. The heavy taxes that had been imposed on the rich had gone to pay for the people's food.

These figures proved that the Government had kept faith with the people. Whereas in food producing lands like Bengal three million people had died of starvation, not one man, woman or child in Ceylon had died owing to food supplies being insufficient. That is a record of achievement of which any Government could be proud.

From 1941 to 1948 the Government spent Rs. 1,984,347 on food purchases. The following table of figures is revealing:—

	Rs.
1941—42	71,674,576
1942—43	163,711,313
1943—44	237,497,884
1944—45	284,382,763
1945—46	347,080,720
1946—47	390,000,000
1947—48	400,000,000

All the food paid for was imported by the Government because it undertook to bear the full responsibility for keeping the people fed. As is known, the Government maintained a steady selling price of 36 cents a measure of rice, but it paid much more to buy that measure. In fact the price per measure varied from country to country and from time to time.

In 1946 we paid India 46 cents per measure.

In 1943 we paid Egypt 41 cents per measure; 51 cents in 1945 and 52 cents in 1946.

In 1947 the price paid to Egypt shot up to 62 cents per measure.

The Ceylon Government naturally had no control of this buying price, and the markets were not to be found just anywhere.

Wheat flour, which supplemented the rice ration, cost the Government vast sums of money. In 1942 Ceylon imported a mere 24,000 tons of wheat flour. In 1943 this figure shot up to 250,000 tons. In 1947 this further increased to 293,000 tons—nearly 12 times the quantity imported in 1942.

Price levels in other countries—Australia, for example—did not remain steady. Flour used to cost ten cents a pound. The price Government pays today is 60 cents a pound.

For every measure of rice supplied to the people the Government bears a loss of 23 cents—hence the millions of rupees spent on food subsidies.



Mr. U. A. Jayasundera

## U.N.P. Gathers Strength

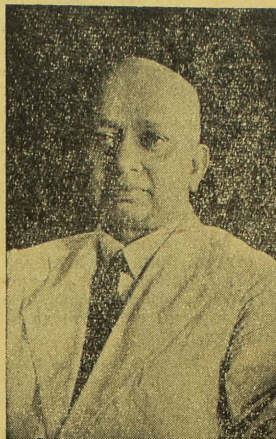
UNDER the dynamic direction of bespectacled, chubby, good-humoured go-getter, Senator Jayasundera, the United National Party is gathering strength. The old plan of organization, thought out at the inception of the party, featured electoral associations, regional secretaries and other paraphernalia of party organization. Came the General Elections and almost sapped all the resources of the months old party. Then came the aftermath of grouching and growling, natural upsurges of lost hopes and beaten candidates.

Leader Senanayake kept the flock together, produced peace and calm.

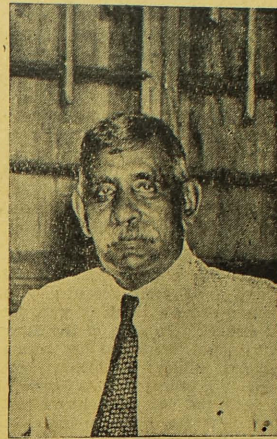
Ex-Oxford President and world-famed orator Bandaranaike warned of revolution within twelve months if.....

Human dynamo and Propaganda Chief Kotelawala produced island-thrilling slogan of "Efficient Socialism."

Then came Jayasundera. With Peter Mellawatchy, Secretary to Propaganda Committee. He toured the Island in U.S. Presidential campaign style. Party associations sprang up and the machine began to move. On low gear yet, but there is still a heavy steep to climb. But Jayasundera can do it.



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# FOOD MINISTER UNFOLDS STORY OF MAGNIFICENT EFFORT

## 200 Million Rupees Went to Feed the People

By A. Ratnayake

THE situation that arose on the food front during and after the end of World War No. 2 was unparalleled in the history of this Island. The problem was an enormous one, and there were neither plans nor precedents to meet it. Although the war was started in 1939, we did not feel the impact of it till about 1941 or 1942 when the Japanese entered the war and successfully invaded a number of countries from which we obtained our food supplies. It is a source of gratification to us that even when all the sources of food supplies had been completely cut off, we were able to meet this unprecedented situation in such a way that we were able to feed the nation without any complaint whatsoever, particularly when you come to think of the fact that during the period of this war practically every country in the world made large sacrifices.

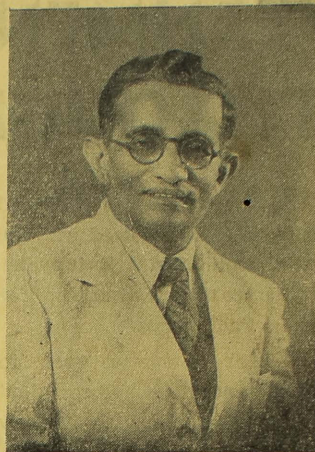
There was a heavy toll of death claimed from every country. Many people died as a result of war, famine and disease. In some of the European countries the death roll has been more than ten million or fifteen million people. I believe that in Russia alone the death roll was more than 25 million people. Nearly home in India some three million people perished of starvation during the famine. How happy it is to think that a situation such as

arose in famine-stricken Bengal with a death roll of millions was averted in this Island! Bengal is the country from which we imported most of our food immediately before the war. It must be said to the credit of those who were responsible for the distribution of food supplies in this country that even before the crisis arose in or about the year 1941 this Government, the previous Board of Ministers, was ready with a complete scheme to meet the emergency, if an emergency arose. In 1941, there were ration cards printed and available to all the six million inhabitants of this country and, when it was decided by Government to ration the issue of rice, the Administration was ready to deal with that situation.

I WILL now proceed to recapitulate briefly in some detail the activities which constituted this battle on the food front, and compare the benefits each has conferred on the people with the cost at which it has been done.

During the past years we have been spending Rs. 90,000,000 on the internal purchases. The total expenditure incurred on food purchases during those seven years was Rs. 1,984,347,256.

The most difficult task in connection with the maintenance of the food sup-



Mr. Ratnayake

plies has, of course, been the procurement and rationing of rice, the staple food. Till 1940, our food imports were not materially affected by the outbreak of war. During 1941, with the development of war conditions, it became apparent that the Island was about to face a serious threat to its food supplies, and steps were taken under the Essential Commodities Reserves Ordinance, 1939, to ensure the maintenance of a reserve of six weeks supply of rice. On account of the growing uncertainties of the situation and as Burma, which supplied us with nearly 70 per cent. of our rice imports, was in a vulnerable position, the normal imports of rice through the trade declined. This Government had, therefore, for the first time to step in and import rice on its own account from Burma; but Japan's over-running of Burma developed so fast that no rice could come from that country after March, 1942. The Government then turned to India as the only source from which to purchase certain quantities of rice and paddy.

Rice rationing was introduced in February, 1942, and the rice ration for that year was two measures per head per week, and action was taken to obtain Ceylon's minimum requirements from India. But at that time India herself was an importer of one million tons of rice from Burma annually, and the Government of India naturally imposed restrictions on the export of rice from India. In this predicament the then Minister of Agriculture and Lands negotiated an agreement by which the Government of India would permit a quota of 38,000 tons of rice monthly for export to Ceylon. This arrangement could not be implemented in full owing to rising prices and unavailability of stocks in the areas to which quotas were assigned. The rice ration was then reduced by 25 per cent. The serious diminution of our rice supplies by the end of 1942 necessitated the reduction, in January, 1943, of the rice content of our cereal ration to the very low level of one pound or half measure per head per week, the remainder of the cereal ration of 4 lbs. per head per week being made up of flour, whole wheat or kurakkan.

IN view of the perilous position of our rice supply, the Secretary of State for the Colonies started, at the beginning of 1943, negotiations for securing our rice supplies from Egypt, and the first shipment of Egyptian rice arrived in April, 1943. This supply prevented a breakdown of our rationing scheme. By the middle of 1943, the food situation in India had deteriorated so rapidly that the Government of India completely prohibited the export of rice.

The world shortage of rice continued during 1944, and, as a matter of fact, was aggravated by crop failures in South America and low production in Egypt, the two sources from which we have been receiving moderate allocations from 1943 onwards, when supplies from India ceased altogether.

The rice ration had to remain at the altogether inadequate level of half a measure per head per week till the beginning of 1945. The case for an increased supply of rice from 1945 was pressed on the Combined Food Board in Washington, and an allocation was secured for 1945 from Brazilian and Egyptian sources which would enable the rice ration to be doubled during that year. It was, however, a far cry from obtaining an allocation to having it fulfilled.

With the cessation of hostilities during the middle of 1945 and the restoration of Burma, small supplies of rice started to be available from this last source which gradually increased from 1946-47 and eased the position gradually. We are now in the happy position to be able to maintain a one-and-a-quarter measures ration and also make off-ration issues in limited quantities.

IT will be interesting to see on what exiguous supplies of rice the Island had subsisted during these six years. The normal import requirement of rice in the years immediately preceding the war was about 540,000 tons, but our imports during 1943 to 1946 were as follows:—

In 1943, from 540,000 tons the import figure went down to 140,000 tons. In 1944, it went down further to 112,000 tons. In 1945, we got 216,000 tons; in 1946, we got 276,000 tons; in 1947, we got 257,000 tons; and this year we are likely to get about 400,000 tons.

While the above figures will reveal the magnitude of the problem, we are now concerned with the paying of the bill for solving this problem. The price of rice from all sources from which we obtained it was high. I shall mention to you at what prices we have been selling rice from time to time. During 1942, we sold a measure of raw rice for 23 cents—I will take up raw rice only. The price fluctuated later to 16 and 18 cents, from which it again rose to 22 cents. In the first half of 1943, the average price of all varieties of rice was 30 cents per measure. From the middle of 1943, up to the present date, we have maintained the price of rice in Colombo at 36 cents a measure.

Compared with that, the price that we paid for rice varied from country to country, from time to time. For instance, we paid India 46 cents per measure in 1945. We paid Egypt 41 cents in 1943, 51 cents in 1945, 52 cents in 1946, and 62 cents in 1947. I believe the price has risen by another small figure now. The price of rice from other countries fluctuated between 33 and 59 cents.

THE loss on rice, wheat and wheat flour (the last two items began to be subsidized in July, 1946 only) was Rs. 172,883,993 up to 1947, and Rs. 130,000,000 for the period of one year from 1st October, 1947, to 30th September, 1948. Assuming that 1,200,000 families have benefited from the subsidy on rice and flour, each family has received during a period of three years—1945 to 1948—an average of Rs. 84 per annum, or Rs. 7 per month.

Losses were also incurred on the item of Internal Purchase Scheme, which was an auxiliary to the more colossal problem of import of rice, but was no less fruitful. Owing to the insufficiency of the imports of rice under the year to year allocations from the Combined Food Board and the International Emergency Food Council, it was necessary to supplement imports with the local

(Continued on page 5)

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THE STRATEGY AND TACTICS OF WORLD COMMUNISM

By Nandalal

THE one political problem which preoccupies every country is the threat of Communism to the established order. The United States, particularly, has given close attention to this issue. A Congressional Inquiry has been made into the strategy and tactics of world Communism and these findings were recently published in a report submitted to the U.S. House of Representatives. These findings are not merely of academic interest to Ceylon.

Communist Parties, and by this term is here included such dissident units as the Lanka Sama Samaj Party and the Bolshevik-Leninist Party of India (Ceylon Unit) are expected to work on certain definite theories and principles. A knowledge of these theories is necessary for an understanding, and even anticipation of the complicated policies these parties pursue.

Communist Parties in all countries are instructed to work according to a single principle and thesis. As the U.S. House of Representatives report remarks "An examination of all aspects of Soviet and Communist policy and tactics lead directly to some simple conclusion:

- (1) The Communists have one goal—world revolution (as a means of introducing the social order they desire).
- (2) They assume that the revolution will be violent.
- (3) They are incapable of accepting the idea that peace can endure from now on, and they expect one more catastrophic war.
- (4) The Soviet Union is regarded as the main force of the revolution.
- (5) They fear a coalition against the Soviet Union.
- (6) The Communist Parties outside the Soviet Union are junior partners or auxiliaries.
- (7) The tactics are based upon a definite theory and the central propositions of that theory do not change.

shall examine the theory of Communism which determines and defines the practices of Communist Parties.

The importance of theory for the Communists, and for an understanding of Communist strategy cannot be overestimated. Communist leaders, at all times, have attached great weight to theory.

"Without a revolutionary party" Stalin once remarked in a lecture at Sverdlov University, "there cannot be a revolutionary movement. Only a party guided by an advanced theory can act as a vanguard in the fight."

Theory alone give the Communist movement "confidence, guidance and understanding of the inner links between events; it alone can enable those engaged in the practical struggle to understand the whence and the whither of the working-class movement."

While Communist theory attempts to explain the development and growth of history and is even concerned with the way in which matter functions—covered by dialectical and historical materialism—for political purposes, it would be profitable if we should confine our examination to Marxist analysis of contemporary society.

The basic contention of Marxism in relation to human history is that the mode of production in material life determines the general character of the social, political and spiritual processes of life.

It is not the consciousness of men that determines their existence but on the contrary, their social existence determines their consciousness at a certain stage of their development, the material forces of production in society come in conflict with the existing relations of production or what is but a legal expression for the same theory—with the property relations within which

they had been at work before.

FROM forms of development of the forces of production these relations run into fetters. Then comes the period of social revolution. With the change of the economic foundation the entire immense superstructure is more or less rapidly transformed. In considering such transformations the distinction should always be between the material transformation of the eco-

nomic conditions of production which can be determined with the precision of natural science, and the legal, political, religious, aesthetic or philosophic—in short ideological forms—in which men become conscious of this conflict and fight it out".—Critique of Political Economy (Preface).

(To be continued next week)

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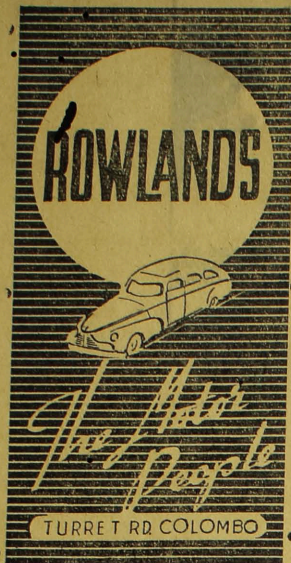
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IN this article, which is the first of a series based on the report of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives, I





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FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1948

### RED STRATEGY

"A spectre is haunting Europe," wrote Karl Marx in the Manifesto of the Communist League. One hundred years later that spectre stalks Asia as well as Europe. The "spectre" is live flesh and blood in over one-sixth of the world's surface. In Soviet Russia, in Czechoslovakia and the other eastern lands of Europe the "spectre" of communism is solid and substantial. Men sit in authority in these places whose inspiration and outlook is the doctrine of Marx, Engels and Lenin.

In the regenerated countries of Asia, Communism is as much an urgent issue as it is in Europe and the Americas. Here in Ceylon we have to contend with the closely-knit organised forces of Marxism. Communism seems a danger that needs to be exorcised because it appears to be to people brought up in the tradition of parliamentary democracy and liberalism a threat to those institutions which guarantee them freedom. To us the individual is much more important than an abstract entity called the state, and the well-being of the people is measured by the security and welfare of the individual men and women who make up the political agglomeration called

the people. We always have in mind the individual who is an essential unit in the collection called the people. We pursue the same aims and ambitions as the Communists profess. But we fear that the Communist methods will yield not the ideal we all desire but a totalitarian tyranny in which liberty is subject to the whims of a clique or a coterie. That is why we resolutely keep our feet from the "Soviet Way" and follow the path of "Efficient Socialism."

Because liberty is a precious heritage we are determined to foil and frustrate the designs and devices of the Marxists. It is a commonplace of political wisdom that one should know the enemy one is fighting. In order that the people of this country should see Communist plans and policies in their proper perspective we publish in this issue the first of a series of articles on the strategy and tactics of world Communism. These are designed to show the single theory which guides Communist parties all the world over and the unity of purpose which binds the different sections of Marxists.

The problem of Communism, however, is not merely that of defeating a threat to liberty. It is also that of opposing a positive policy to a philosophy which has a dangerously fascinating appeal. We must recognise that Communism is not a disease but a symptom of disease. The disease is poverty and misery. Our task is to formulate measures which will cure the disease, the symptoms will then disappear. We have already made a beginning with a six-year plan of efficient

socialism. We must energetically apply ourselves to the implementing of that plan. The prosperity of our people is the surest guarantee that Communism will be defeated.

### DR. COLVIN'S SPEECH

The progress of the Budget debate shows that the Government position has strengthened far more rapidly than its supporters expected. The most remarkable feature of the last eight months is the rapid decline of the attacking power of the L.S.S.P. It has virtually ceased to count as an effective Opposition and the interests of Democracy require that an effort should be made to give some kind of rejuvenation to those who sit across the Government benches. The speeches of the L.S.S.P. M.P.s have shown a lack of conviction and earnestness. Half-hearted attempts to attack the Government have been made and it has been left to the B.L.P.I. to make the most effective contribution to the Budget discussions. Although Dr. Colvin R. de Silva lacked style and lucidity in the manner of his exposition his speech in print will be recognised as a remarkable and worthy contribution to a Parliamentary debate. The Doctor's speech will rank among the best that have been delivered on the floor of the House and his example of dealing with political issues on the high plane of intellectual analysis will serve as a lesson to many aspirants to Parliamentary honour. Just as his personal prestige has risen as a consequence of his speech so has the prestige of the L.S.S.P. and the Communists waned in contrast.

### Books & Authors

By Quintus Delilkhan

## Communism Destroys the Personality of Man

BEHIND every movement there is a philosophy, and as has been shown previously the Russian mind entertains the philosophy of dialectic materialism. To give this philosophy respectability, matter is regarded as combined with dialectic, and the one cannot be considered exclusive of the other. The resultant philosophy is crude and indefensible but it has been officially adopted by the Russian State. No one is allowed to openly disagree. Stalin has become an exponent of this pseudo-philosophy, and what he says must supersede the findings of the plain reason. After so many ages of the development of the human reason, it is surprising that any country in the world can accept its intellectual beliefs from so dubious a source as the head of a State incapable of judgment beyond the practical concerns in which his mind is immersed. Stalin forbids gross materialism. He also forbids dialectic without matter for the Russian must not incline towards idealism which dialectic divorced from matter would actually mean. Even philosophy therefore must be subjected to the imagined political needs of the State. But in the modern world this should not occasion too great surprise. Hitler too set up as a philosopher, and the philosophy of Nazism, derived from many fanatical sources, and meant not

to serve the cause of disinterested truth but only race superiority and political ends, found in him an expounder whose flights of imagination carried him convulsively beyond common-sense into the region of perpetual hysteria. But no German dared disagree. The servitude of the body could not be complete without the servitude of the mind. Tyranny at least knows its job. It is on its guard at all points. It is not only democracy that demands an eternal vigilance. Tyranny requires the same safeguards, but for other and completely ignoble ends. The authoritarian State can least afford to be lacking in vigilance.

AND once this position is assumed, there is no length to which the Soviet philosophy will not go. Sanity and balance are for the bourgeois philosophers. Revolutionary philosophy is not bound by the ordinary laws of reason. It follows quite easily an anarchic impulse. "Soviet philosophy," says Berdyaev in "The Origin of Russian Communism," giving its true nature formidable expression, "is in opposition to the enlightened materialism of the 18th century. For it everything is controlled not by enlightenment of thought, not by the light of reason, but by the exaltation of the will, the revolutionary titanic will." All that

the communist requires is the operation of this titanic will upon the actual world. He must feel himself not an individual but a part of the social force of his country moulding not only itself but the whole world along new lines. He does not ask himself what kind of a new world is being made. He desires the exaltation which comes from the consciousness of breaking up the existing order and refashioning it along the lines dictated by the dictators of the proletariat. In this frame of mind freedom which means the opportunity of individual choice does not matter. Berdyaev quotes the example of a young Russian who visited France and who at the end of his stay was asked what impression had been created upon him. He said: "There is no freedom in this country." Obviously he did not understand the essence of the democratic life. He was not in sympathy with an ordered and settled way of living. It bored him to see life following an established pattern. Governments might go but the life of the people went on unchanged. The restfulness of civilization was no dearly-won prize for him. The freedom to act and think as one liked cast no spell upon him. Revolutionary change whether for good or ill was all that mattered. The new man created under Russian methods is everywhere the same. He is restless under the normal conditions of life. Order means

(Continued on page 7)



# SOVIET IMPERIALISM LAND BY LAND

## Since 1939. . .

SOVIET Russia has annexed the following territories. In all cases the annexation has been carried out by the use, or the threat, of armed force, combined with Communist activity designed to weaken the resistance of the governments of the countries concerned:

Country	Area in sq. miles	Population
Lithuania	24,058	3,029,000
Latvia	20,066	1,950,000
Estonia	18,853	1,120,000
Eastern Poland	68,290	10,150,000
Bessarabia and Bukovina (Rumania)	19,360	3,748,000
Moldavia (Rumania)	13,124	2,200,000
Carpatho-Ukraine (Hungary)	4,922	800,000
East Prussia	3,500	400,000
Karelia (Finland)	16,173	470,000
Petsamo (Finland)	4,087	4,000
Tannu Tuva (Mongolia)	64,000	65,000
Southern Sakhalin (Japan)	14,076	415,000
Kurile Islands (Japan)	3,949	4,500
Total	273,948	24,355,500

“THUS, the dictatorship of the world proletariat is an essential and vital condition precedent to the transformation of world capitalist economy into social economy. This world dictatorship can be established only when the victory of socialism has been achieved in certain countries or groups of countries, when the newly established proletarian republics enter into a federal union with the already existing proletarian republics, when the number of such federations has grown and extended also to the colonies which have emancipated themselves from the yoke of imperialism, and when these federations of republics have grown finally into a World Union of Soviet Socialist Republics uniting the whole of mankind under the hegemony of the international proletariat organised as a State.

“The conquest of power by the proletariat does not mean peacefully ‘capturing’ the ready-made bourgeois State machinery by means of a parliamentary majority. . . . The conquest of power by the proletariat is the violent overthrow of bourgeois power, the destruction of the capitalist State apparatus (bourgeois armies, police, bureaucratic hierarchy, the judiciary, parliaments etc.), and the substitution in its place of new organs of proletarian power, to serve primarily as instruments for the suppression of the exploiters.”

(From “The Programme of the Communist International, 1932”)

## Since V. E. Day

The Red Tide has swept over the following countries:—

Country	Area in sq. miles	Population
Albania	11,000	1,000,000
Bulgaria	43,000	7,020,000
Czechoslovakia	50,000	14,500,000
Germany (Soviet Zone)	41,100	17,313,000
Hungary	36,000	8,000,000
Poland	120,200	24,000,000
Rumania	92,000	22,000,000
Yugoslavia	96,000	16,000,000
Total	489,300	109,833,000

In the Far East almost the whole of Manchuria is under Communist control. In the West alone 762,000 square miles more of territory, containing more than 133,000,000 people, have been engulfed by the Red Tide since September 1, 1939.

# FOOD MINISTER UNFOLDS . . .

(Continued from page 2)

production of rice in order to maintain the minimum ration issues. It was also a condition for allocation from the world export availabilities of rice that local production should be harnessed as much as possible for the ration pool. The scheme of Internal Purchase was therefore inaugurated early in January, 1942.

There is a further item of losses on the supply of wheat flour. Wheat flour which we imported in very small quantities—in the year 1942 the total amount imported was 24,000 tons for the whole year—increased in 1943, to 250,000 tons and ultimately the increase became very rapid, and in the year 1947, we imported as much as 293,000 tons. That is about 12 times the quantity we imported in 1942.

The pre-war price of flour was about 10 cents per lb., but during the early stages the purchase price of that commodity was in the neighbourhood of 12 or 13 cents per lb. We sold it at 18 cents and up to the end of 1946 we made a small profit on it, but later on the price went up, and today the price of flour which at one time was £7 per ton, has gone up to nearly £39 per ton, which is nearly five to six times the original price. The loss on this account also is merged in the Food Control account and is represented in these figures.

NOW I shall refer to sugar.

On sugar we are making a small profit, and that amount is set off against our losses on other items.

There are other subsidiary foodstuffs which were subsidized during this crisis. As a result of the air raid in Colombo during April, 1942, most of the importers of pulses, spices, garlic, coriander, chillies, tamarind, fennel, maldive fish, and so on, closed down their establishments and evacuated. The imports were restricted as India, which is the principal source of supply of these commodities, imposed quantitative restrictions on exports.

Other Middle East and African sources were also cut off. Government was therefore obliged to undertake the import of many of these subsidiary foodstuffs. Besides, whatever small quantities were imported by private merchants were also requisitioned or bought by Government on cost and freight terms or on a landed and delivered cost basis. This ensured that all foodstuffs came under the physical control of Government on their arrival in the Island.

Distribution was then effected through the consumer co-operative stores and the authorised distributors, the prices being controlled, so that they were available to the consumers at reason-

able prices. It was possible to make small profits on some of the items while on others such as chillies, and onions, a loss had to be incurred. In order to keep the cost of living down, the control prices were fixed much below cost in some cases.

The business in sugar and other subsidiary foodstuffs yielded a net profit of about Rs. 91,000,000 for the seven years 1942 to 1947.

IN this connection I must refer to the statement made by Dr. W. M. Clyde. Dr. Clyde was the Food Adviser to the Colonial Office. This is what Dr. Clyde said in 1944 with regard to the food situation in Ceylon:

“The improvement in the food situation in Ceylon during the past few years is everywhere evident and seems to me, in many ways, remarkable. The efforts of the Government to obtain sufficient supplies of food, and to control and distribute them fairly and economically have been most successful, much more successful than the general public can be expected to know. For the general public knows, and can be told, but little of the constant and anxious struggle for supplies, or of the provision that has to be made against their possible deficiency; and not everybody appreciates the delicacy of a large and complicated food supply and control organization in which the failures of even a few executives may mean the temporary failure of well-planned scheme of control.”

Dr. Clyde added: “Ceylon seems to me to be singularly well provisioned. Her food policy has been ably administered.”

In this task the Hon. Prime Minister was very ably assisted by Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, whose skill for negotiation both in Ceylon and outside is well known. He contributed largely to the success of the various schemes inaugurated.

It is difficult for me to omit paying, my humble tribute to the Heads of Departments, particularly Mr. R. S. V. Poulter, who played a very important and prominent part. Mr. Alvapillai and the two heads of the Co-operative Department, also contributed towards the success of this scheme.

There are also a number of public servants, members of the Civil Service, and others, who carried out and shouldered these onerous responsibilities, from which most people would have flinched. Forsaking leisure and recreation and sustained merely by a high sense of duty and patriotism they applied themselves to the various tasks

(Continued on page 7)



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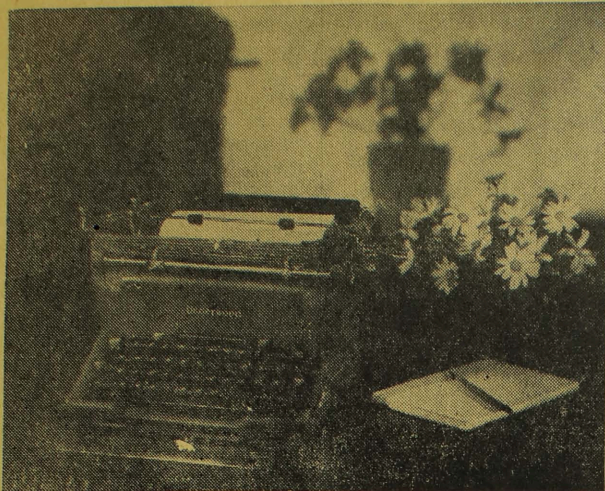
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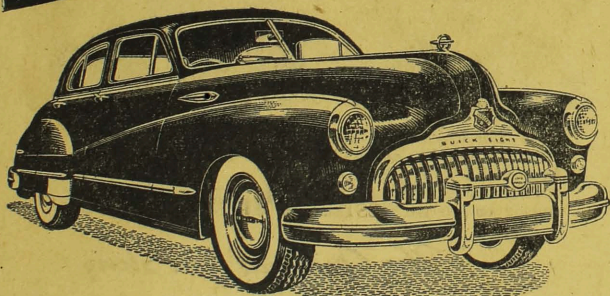
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## SPORTS

Commentary

COVER-POINT

MUCH water has flowed under the bridge in the racing world since I last wrote my weekly notes. The two principal classics of the August Race Meet have been won and lost and the meet enters its penultimate stage tomorrow.

THE chief attraction on tomorrow's programme is the Clements' Commemoration Plate in which all the Governor's Cup winners except Mohan Tara, are among the 14 entries. The hardest to beat here will, I think, be Seasprite who is very fit at the moment and whose failure in the Cup was due to the fact that he just cannot get the distance. Last year's winner, Kunj Lata, and Aerial will be his principal rivals while the Indian challenger Touche, who set a scorching pace in the Cup, may be seen to better advantage over the shorter distance if he is ridden a little in check.

The Selvaratnam stables is very well represented in the Galle Cup and I think that the Stewards' Cup winner Jape, now that he is eligible to compete, will prove the best of the quintette with Tanstar as the next best. I like Tudor for the minor placing and select Flying Sand for any upset that may be going.

The Yarmouth Handicap caters for stayers in Class III and will be run in two sections. On current form the best half dozen in the field are Maclean, Silver Valley, Naval Action, Plastic, Tehmina and Jimson.

The Horana Plate lies between Silver Ray and Seafire with Lady Bobs as the upsetter.

The Jaffa Stakes for Class I Arabs should give Najaiman Sami an opportunity of atoning for his Roberts' Cup lapse. He will, however, have to beat Seventh Wonder and Ta'an Walid before he can claim the prize. If General is fit, he is class enough to beat the lot.

The Tuticorin Stakes is a gift for Sukab even with a boy on his back. Id al Jala'a is coming to hand slowly and may be regarded as Sukab's greatest danger. Aban is certain of a place while the upsetter may be Itimad Jubayir.

The Colombo Cup reads like a good thing for Taif Rawa with Rolex Prince, Hadir Ra'ad and Wadhab al Iraq as his only rivals.

THE Motor Sports at Ratmalana, made a great draw last Sunday and provided by far the biggest thrill that the sporting public of Ceylon has had for a long time. Reference has been made in the Press to the risks involved in driving on a wet track. It

is a pity that there should be accidents but we should console ourselves with the thought that it is usual in England and Ireland for motor sports to be punctuated by a few deaths of drivers and riders at almost every meet! One cannot expect to drive at speeds over 60 miles an hour without any risk to life or limb.

Much has been made of Wally de Silva who swept the board with his Fiat. I wonder why he gave up competing in the motor-cycle events against Andriesz? It is a pity that the other types of cars could not match the pick-up speed and the round-the-corner manoeuvrability of the Fiat. Wally is a fine driver and deserved to win.

We once again saw Ceylon's ace motorist, D. C. Rajaratnam, sweep by to beat Roe. I do not think any other driver in Ceylon can match Rajaratnam's judgment or driving skill. If he had control of the Rowland Special he would have beaten anything on the course.

The Motor Sports Club is in need of a regular racing track and we hope that the Government will consider taking early action to lay out a course to be used by all lovers of motor sport.

★

THE Fifth and final Test starts tomorrow at the Oval. At long last the English Selectors have decided to cut adrift from their policy of putting their faith in veterans and have taken the bold step of introducing new blood. The choice of the J. E. Dewes, the Cambridge and Middlesex left-hander, is significant. If he makes the grade, he seems destined for the England captaincy. Simpson has already batted well against the Australians while Hollies recently took 8 of the tourists' wickets for a little over 100 runs. Alan Watkins of Glamorgan is a very good all-rounder but I would have thought that the Selectors would have given Roberts of Lancashire, who is an even better all-rounder, preference to the Glamorgan man.

The England team is still woefully weak in bowling and it looks as if the Australian run of victories will not be checked. Playing his last Test at the Oval, Bradman is bound to go all out in a bid to end a memorable career in a blaze of glory.

★

THE Maradana Cricket Club will meet The Central Sports Club in the second round of the Borella Sports League Tournament on Sunday 15th August, 1948 at Campbell Park at 9-30 a.m.

The Maradana team will be selected from the following:—

J. S. F. Moulana, M. Halaldeen, W. D. Victor, D. M. S. De Silva, H. M. Fernando, A. W. Fernando, M. J. Fernando, K. G. Wimalasena, W. F. Perera, A. P. Perera, S. H. K. Moulana, A. M. A. Hussien and T. A. Halaldeen.



# Communism Destroys the Personality of Man

(Continued from page 4)

merely stagnation. Hostility to the existing order is part of his essential nature. Destroying and blindly re-fashioning the world under the impulse of an ignorant and disorderly passion is his obsession.

**F**REEDOM as a rightly ordered creative energy is accordingly not understood in Russia. "And we can see," Berdyaev remarks, "that in the Russian communist realm freedom of conscience and thought is absolutely denied. There freedom applies exclusively to the collective and not the individual consciousness; the individual person has no freedom in relation to the social whole; he has no personal freedom and has no personal consciousness. For the individual person freedom is simply adaptability to the collective whole. But when the individual has adapted himself and merged himself in the collective whole he acquires enormous freedom in relation to all the rest of the world. Freedom of conscience, and above all of the religious conscience, presupposes that there is a spiritual principle in the individual which does not depend upon the community. This, of course, communism does not recognise." Under such a system the personality of man is crushed out of existence. This is the offer that communism has to make. It pays back confidence in its creed and its power by taking away from its adherents everything that makes for human dignity and preserves human rights. The evils of democracy are endurable because it acknowledges the supreme rights of the individual, but communism by its very nature destroys the very foundations of the human personality. It is because of this inevitable tendency that it must be regarded as an unmitigated evil and that even the small measure of incidental good that it may do becomes useless as a means of improving the lot of man. Its philosophy is not only riddled through with error but is inherently destructive and untrustworthy. It uses men for the creation of the communist state merely as a means to this end. Such a philosophy must stand condemned in the eyes of the democratic world as affording an unexampled tyranny over the spirit of man which throughout the ages has made untold sacrifices to attain individual freedom.

**I**RONY is a weapon which we all employ, and in its essence it is a criticism of life. It is "the glory, jest and the riddle of the world," because it is not only a subtle means of expressing ourselves, but because

when skilfully used, it easily accomplishes more than open attack can. Attacks can be repelled by specious arguments to meet a given situation and get over a temporary difficulty, but irony cannot be dealt with in this facile manner. It is both insinuating and elusive and can do its work with a deadly precision. This is a weapon habitually used by the politician who very fully understands the devastating work which it can do. But of course its most potent use has been in literature. All the great masters of literature handle this weapon with skill, finish and effect. It is pleasant to read a book on this subject of universal practice and application by a competent scholar who has delicately savoured the full effects of irony in literature. "IRONY—AN HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION" by J. A. K. Thompson (COLOMBO BOOK CENTRE), a George Allen and Unwin Ltd. publication, covers very wide ground and traces this faculty throughout its long history from the days of the Greeks, who in this as in many other kindred matters, are originators, and have placed the whole world under a lasting debt. The book is dedicated to Gilbert Murray as from one scholar to another, and there is a distinguished urbanity. It is a graceful acknowledgment of the common interest in the Hellenic world which says the author felicitously. "If one cannot touch with some imaginative understanding, one had better not touch at all. So thinking and hoping," he continues, "to whom could I dedicate Irony but to you who more than most of us have seemed to realise in yourself the scholar's dream that the ancient wisdom is somehow made more living by his thought, and lovelier, it may be, by his love?" In this book which has an atmosphere of leisurely but competent study, the subject is treated not to illustrate any particular theory, but as far as possible from an historical and objective standpoint. It is the Greeks who gave irony a practically complete expression, using it always not only in speech and writing but also adopting a habitually ironic attitude towards life. "This," says Mr. Thompson, "may turn out to be in some measure the secret of that power and charm, so haunting and so permanent, which Greece still exercises on the minds that have once felt them. We hear much of Greek plainness and Greek simplicity. Let us not forget that these virtues would never produce the effect they do if the simplicity were only simple and the plainness merely plain." The word was first brought into use by Aristophanes, but in the sense of mere trickery as contrasted with straightforwardness but it soon developed into something nearer to its present meaning. Though Plato never discussed this subject in any of his dialogues, he is accepted as the master of irony which gives a special tang and savour to his immortal works. It is not easy at all to catch the full significance of Greek irony in a translated work because we miss the exact play of the words used, being cut off from the genius of the language. "Think, for example," says Mr. Thompson, "of the translations we give of Sophocles. To feel the true meaning of that strange and beautiful word one must become an ancient Greek again, inheriting the experience of his race—a thing literally impossible. One may, by a genuine exercise of imagination, divine something of all it once had meant; this is the privilege and reward of the scholar.

## FOOD MINISTER UNFOLDS . . .

(Continued from page 5)

allotted to them with devotion and determination, and the happy consumption of their endeavours is their only reward. The subordinate staff too gave all possible assistance and co-operation.

The creation of a single organization to carry on the business of importation and distribution of the Island's food requirements must have been a stupendous task, for it was business, which in normal times, was done by hundreds of private firms and thousands of individual merchants. Starting with little or no knowledge of business, these officers have done extremely well in mastering the complexities of importation and distribution. In the vast opera-

tions that were involved, it was inevitable that the method of trial and error had sometimes to be adopted and the quick decisions taken in times of stress may not all have conformed to the principles and practices of orthodox commerce or even to Government regulations. Infallibility in business is not claimed even by the most well organised business houses in the world, and when the several measures and decisions, both business and administrative, taken in this period of seven years are viewed in the context of the continual threat to the well-being of the community and the magnitude of the operations themselves, great credit is undoubtedly due to the public officers who carried such heavy responsibilities.

In the same way with regard to Irony in the early stages of its history, one has to practise something of this divination." But it is gratifying to know that English literature is also filled with the spirit of irony. Swift, Scott,

Pope, Addison and others give us lively and abundant examples of Irony, and with this rich heritage we must be satisfied, taking also all we can from classical sources according to the measure of our appreciation.



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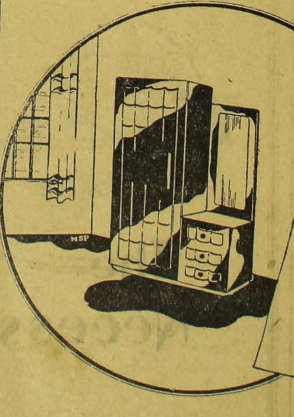
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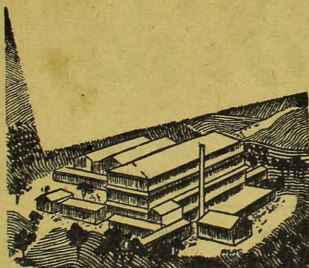
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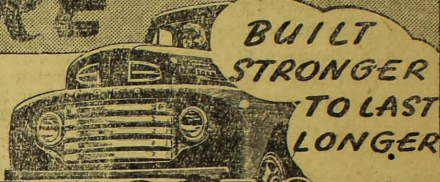
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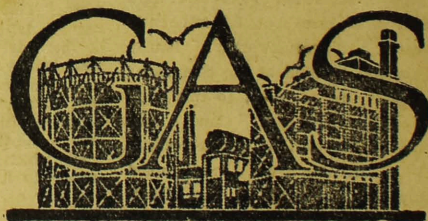
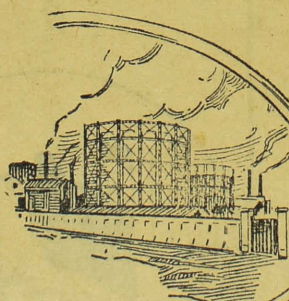
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