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MR. HENRY AMARASURIYA DECIDES TO CONTEST BADDEGAMA

MR. H. W. AMARASURIYA, the General Secretary of the United National Party has been invited to contest the Baddegama seat which has been rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Simon Abeywickreme.

Mr. Amarasuriya has accepted the invitation and if he is returned the Country will once again have the valuable services of one of our most experienced and qualified men not only in politics but in the larger fields of Finance, Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, a very rare combination hardly ever possessed by a single man.

Mr. Amarasuriya needs no introduction to Baddegama or any other electorate in the Island for that matter, being one of our most popular public men and philanthropists who has in his own quiet, unassuming way done such a tremendous lot for the uplift-



Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya

ment of the masses and in the service of the State.

WHO IS THE POLITICAL BOSS OF THE COMMUNISTS?

IT is very intriguing that never, in the dog fight between the L.S.S.P. and the Communists, had Dr. S. A. Wickramasinghe entered the list. The wordy warfare both on public platforms and in the press had been conducted by the President of the L.S.S.P. and the General Secretary of the Communists. It cannot be that the Communist doctor considers it beneath his dignity to cross swords with the President of the L.S.S.P.

• Could it be that for all intents and purposes Mr. Keuneman is the party boss of the Communists and that Dr. Wickramasinghe is only the nominal head? The L.S.S.P. leader is too clever to permit any of his subordinates to usurp his right. He speaks and acts

for his unit and works himself into the news in contrast to the Communist leader who is apparently unconcerned when the General Secretary steals all the thunder and publicity.

Why is this? Nobody apparently knows except a very very few. But even bigger secret have come to light in the course of time.

Could it be that Comrade Wickramasinghe has read the writing on the wall? Could it have dawned upon him that the L.S.S.P., the B.L.P.I. and the C.P. will never secure a foothold in this Island and that it is far better to leave the red gang and turn to something constructive?

Such things have happened before. It could happen again.

MR. G. G. PONNAMBALAM CALLS

The Communist Buff

AT long last Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam the leader of the Tamil Congress has made a clarion call to the Tamils to have nothing to do with the reds. It happened in far away Batticaloa whilst one would have preferred to have him say so in Colombo or even at Jaffna!

But the place does not matter. What the country is concerned is that Mr. Ponnambalam has sensed the danger and given the warning to his community and so has his lieutenants Messrs. Chelvanayagam and Kumarasamy.

The Tamil Communists were none too comfortable that Ponnambalam and the other representatives whom they returned to Parliament should have hobbled with the reds in and out of

Parliament against their declared wishes. Nor was Mr. Ponnambalam himself ever at home in that nondescript crowd, particularly when he was aware all along that he was acting against the fundamental principles of his community.

Had he not made this unqualified declaration sooner or later, he would have forfeited not only the support of the whole of the Tamils but the goodwill of the other communities in the Island as well which he could ill afford to lose.

Now that he has cleared the first hurdle in his self imposed campaign of non-co-operation, it is to be hoped that his next approach will be in the right direction.

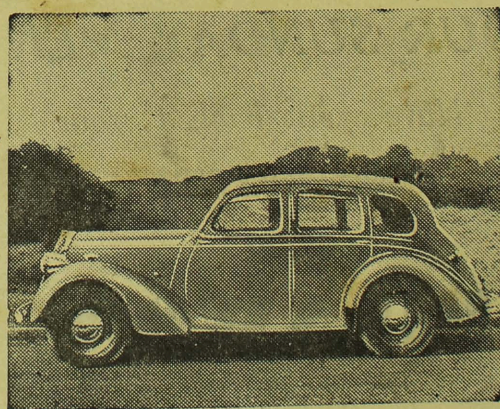
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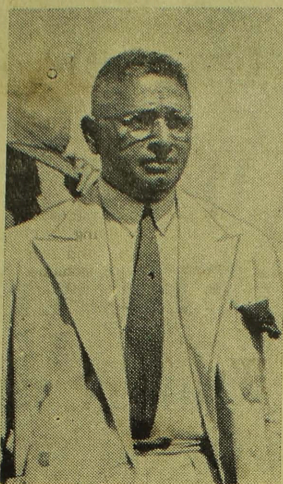
UNION PLACE

COLOMBO

FULL TEXT OF Col. J. L. KOTELAWALA'S BROADCAST TALK FROM THE B. B. C.

THIS is the first time that a Minister from my country speaks over the B.B.C. as a Minister of a free and independent Dominion in the British Commonwealth of Nations. Ceylon is the youngest of the Dominions and it was very recently that we celebrated our new-found freedom. All over my country there is a feeling of exultation and a strange attitude of abandon and joy that once more we can walk the earth in majesty.

It has been said that only the free can understand the value of freedom and when I look at post-war London and talk to the people in this great city I know why it is they fought most bitterly and most grandly to preserve that freedom they had known for centuries in England. Men do not give away their lives lightly, nor do they want to destroy the quiet ways of life that they have built up unless they can feel that they are doing so for something far more important than the ordinary desires of existence. Therefore, when the British people prepared to have their country devastated and to let their ancient and beautiful cities be bombed, they were prepared for all the sacrifices that were necessary to preserve the freedom of the common man.



Col. J. L. Kotelawala

That way of looking at the value of freedom has come to us in Ceylon, in India, in Pakistan and in Burma, who are neighbours of each other and who form a very important group of nations in Asia. I had the good fortune to visit all three countries outside my own, namely, Burma, India and Pakistan, on my way to London, and everywhere

I found the same spirit of exultation. It seems to me as if new qualities of human energy have been released and creative impulses stirred again among nearly six hundred million people in this part of the world.

It is also significant that all these countries have a national faith with a distinctly spiritual bias, and particularly based on self-sacrifice and tolerance. Against that background one has to think of the vast possibilities that lie before these great millions, and in the modern world the results of whatever policies they may adopt, either with regard to domestic politics, or with regard to their views on world affairs, are bound to have repercussions in Europe and in America.

FROM my experience as a student of politics during the last seventeen years I can say that these people want a peaceful way of life. They do not wish for new conquests. There is no desire to dominate other peoples or to create new Empires from the debris of the old. They all have difficult problems of internal Government to solve. The transition from colonial countries in the British Empire to free and independent Dominions in the Commonwealth has been swift in the case of Pakistan and India and the breaking of the set routine of life, administratively, has caused the growth of several difficulties that have to be faced and overcome. In the case of Burma, the Union of that Government decided to secede from the Empire, and Burma is therefore a free country outside the British Commonwealth. The break from administrative ties, therefore, is very drastic and a completely new system has to be developed and put into use. This is not to be lightly dismissed because Government may seem an easy proposition to the arm-chair critic but to those to whom the heavy responsibility of the management of States has been given, problems of day-to-day routine and of national planning are very real and have so much to do with the welfare and happiness of many millions of people. In my country, Ceylon, we were rather fortunate in that we had no violent break with tradition. We had a great measure of self-government and ministerial responsibility, and transition from responsible Government, as it was called, to Dominion status created no special problem in the administrative field.

It is important to remember that the British ideal of democracy has its roots firmly embedded in the whole of that part of Asia to which I have referred. All the many millions living in those territories stretching from what is called the north-west frontier, which is one border of Pakistan, right down nearly one thousand five hundred miles of coastline to the southernmost tip of India, beyond which the Island of Ceylon lies, have known British traditions for many years. The leaders of these countries have been bred in the traditions of British politics and the two-party system of Government, which has been such a great success in the British Isles, has been tried out with success in my own country. The leaders also have the benefit of the conventions of the British Parliament to guide them in their new experiments. It is not as if one had to create an artificial nation State relying mainly on geographical boundaries or languages or religion. The new Dominions are really ancient nations which were conquered by Britain in the old days of Empire-building or were attached to the Empire by treaties. During the 19th century, they were ruled from Whitehall and British systems of government were imposed on them. With the growth of liberal ideas in Britain itself, colonial students began to acquire a new passion for self-government. I remember my own student days in London when in the National Liberal Club we used to hear people say that bad self-government was better than the best Government that a foreigner could give.

These students went back to their countries with a determination to spread the gospel of nationalism and found that it was a gospel that caught on rapidly, and thus was born the agitation for self-government in India.

Burma and Ceylon. The great Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, were products of this period in the development of Asia. Today all these countries are free. This freedom means that the old conception of nationalism must change, for that nationalism was based on opposition to everything British. In the modern world we must accept the fact that we in Asia have acquired several new ideas which will fundamentally alter our ways of life, and these ideas of life have come from British political literature.

As I have said, our Parliament will be run on the lines of Westminster. But I do not think that we should continue to be mere imitators of the British way of life. We must make our own contribution to world thought so that the great eastern philosophies will have a direct influence on the rest of mankind. It has always been accepted that Asia was supreme in the world of philosophy. What this philosophy is, has not been so well appreciated. The time will come when we shall be able to give to the world those gifts of the mind that could not be given when we were slaves of an alien system. Thought and culture cannot develop except in an atmosphere of absolute freedom, and that freedom is now ours. I look forward to the years when the people of our countries will have a place in the Councils of the world State. I look forward to a time when we shall be able to lead and guide the world on the paths of tolerance, of peace and of brotherly love, which our religions and our philosophies have taught us to tread. That will be when the world will have given up adherence to the laws of the jungle and when humanity has come to learn that the common man only needs the simple things of life, food, shelter, clothing, and education; and all these things without the fear of war or disease or totalitarianism. All the world's energy must henceforth be directed to the achievement of these objects, and just as we learned to organise and mobilise whole nations for the purposes of war, we must learn also to organise and mobilise the hearts and minds of men for these great purposes of peace.

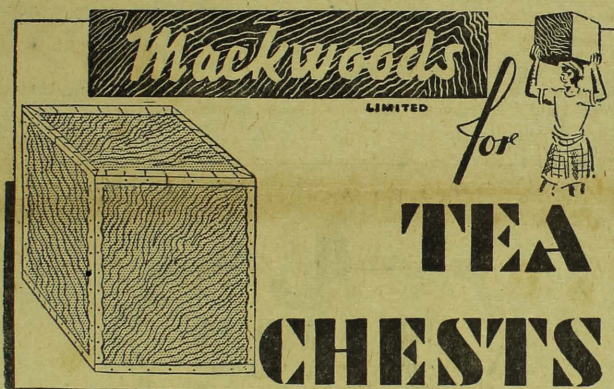
Hunt for Cosmic Radiation which Holds the Universe Together

Cosmic ray hunters, working in a B-29 "flying laboratory" between 30,000 and 40,000 feet above California, are on the track of the "neutral meson," an elusive but fundamental particle of cosmic radiation the energy of which is thought to hold the universe together. Nobel Prize winner Dr. Carl D. Anderson of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena reported recently that scientists scanning the cosmos from the B-29 had found evidence that "neutral meson" actually exists.

This meson is the third type of tiny particles of which cosmic radiation is compounded. Its existence had been predicted after theoretical and mathematical study by Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, New Jersey, long before there was any actual indication of it.

The neutral meson seems to change continually in an alternating rhythm with a rapidity inconceivable to the layman. One fraction of a moment it exists as mass, the next moment it has vanished, changed into energy. It is this energy that is believed to bind the universe together.

With its rapid see-sawing transmutations, the meson personified the interchangeability of mass and energy, basic axiom of nuclear physics. More knowledge of the elusive particle, scientists hope, will unravel another set of mysteries still enveloping the atom and universe.—USIS.



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BOLSHEVIK-LENINISTS LOOK AT THEMSELVES

L. S. S. P. Leaders New Line

By Nandalal

IN the May Day number of the "Samasamajist" which is the official organ of the L.S.S.P., occurs a remarkable example of self-analysis. This is really a confirmation of what has been previously published in this column.

The ideological "guru" of the L.S.S.P., Phillip Gunewardene, spends several columns outlining a new thesis for his party, which he still claims to be a part of the B.L.P.I. (section of the Fourth International).

In this article Phillip Gunewardene urges that Bolshevik-Leninists should join the Congress Socialist Party of India. What is of immediate relevance is the analysis of the Trotskyite party. It is useful to remember that when Phillip Gunewardene refers to the B.L.P.I. he is talking of his own group and not of the dissident Bolsheviks of Bagatelle.

At the birth of the B.L.P.I., says Phillip Gunewardene, "Formalism, Bureaucratism and sectarianism" were the God-fathers. This is of course the Bolshevik-Leninist way of describing what was plainly told by us earlier that the L.S.S.P.'s politics and decisions are dominated by a clique which consists of Dr. N. M. Perera and Phillip Gunewardene. The others are the willing yee-men who merely rubber stamp their decisions.

★ ● ★

IN further confirmation of our contention Phillip Gunewardene writes: "The Samasamajists who were in exile in India during the war still keep a tight hold over the governing centre of the Party. Bureaucratism has assumed alarming proportions in the Central Committee of the Party."

In another sordid act of confession Phillip Gunewardene further states: "We must admit that our growth in numbers and in influence on the Continent of India is slow, insufficient and unstable. The party was ridden with sectarianism till the end of 1945. Then it entered the path of unprincipled opportunism. Its election manifesto and strategy were opportunist through and through."

This article of abject analysis was first written to the internal bulletin of the party in 1947. It also announces a new line for the B.L.P.I., which is that "Bolshevik-Leninists should enter the Congress Socialist Party."

What is the significance of this new policy which Phillip Gunewardene urges? And how is it that he should ask those who have considered themselves to be the only genuine revolutionaries to join a party which is regarded as the "bourgeois opposition to the Congress and is also called the 'loyal opposition to the Congress?'"

The Congress Socialist Party is by no means a fully-fledged revolutionary political party. It bases itself largely on the ideology of Mahatma Gandhi and has even applauded the very arrests of Trade Unionists in India which the L.S.S.P. has vigorously condemned in a telegram to Pandit Nehru.

★ ● ★

THE reasons for this swift change are to be sought in two facts. In the first place it arises from the organisational weakness of the

L.S.S.P. in India. The party is therefore prepared to thrive on the exertions and prestige of the better organised Congress Socialist Party. It is the policy of the parasite which falters and ultimately kills the tree to which it clings. It is an act of political opportunism.

In the second place, the explanation of the new line is to be found in the "class nature" as a Marxist would put it, of the leading lights of the L.S.S.P.

Most people delude themselves with the naive belief that the L.S.S.P. leaders are genuine revolutionaries who will usher in a Socialist State in which the workers and peasants and other "oppressed" classes will rule.

The truth is that the L.S.S.P. leaders are themselves engaged in a drive for power, in an attempt to oust from authority those who presently wield it. In that struggle they have tried to enlist support of workers and peasants. How genuine are their interest in the workers and peasants can be gauged by a study of the structure of the Central Committee, where effective authority is in the hands of a caucus led by Phillip Gunewardene and Dr. N. M. Perera. After over a decade of Samasamajist agitation in Ceylon can it be confidently pointed to a single worker or peasant whom the movement has thrown up as a leader? These are still in the position of blind sheep.

★ ● ★

THE ambitions of the present Samasamajist leadership is understandable in terms of the historical development of our country. Under British rule and through the spread of English education a new class of people have grown up who feel themselves excluded from office because others profited from British rule earlier than they did. These new men are semi-feudal in character, men with authority in their villages, possessed of property which gave them benefits which the peasant and worker lacks.

In order to capture the state power for themselves they are trying to enlist the support of the worker and peasant whose cause they pretend to champion. But their real interests are their own and they take good care to see that

the worker and peasant does not achieve the same intellectual power and knowledge as they possess. This is the revolutionary of contemporary Ceylon politics, whom the people must watch with great care.

WORLD'S BIGGEST EYE Begins to Peer at the Heavens

The world's largest telescope with a diameter of 200 inches, twice that of any previously used, has been mounted at the Mount Palomar Observatory near the Pacific Ocean in California for unraveling the mysteries of the universe. Astronomers hope that they can through this giant telescope penetrate the heavens to a depth of one million light years. The 500-ton instrument took twelve years of grinding and polishing to complete.

mounted with satisfactory results registered in the first tests.

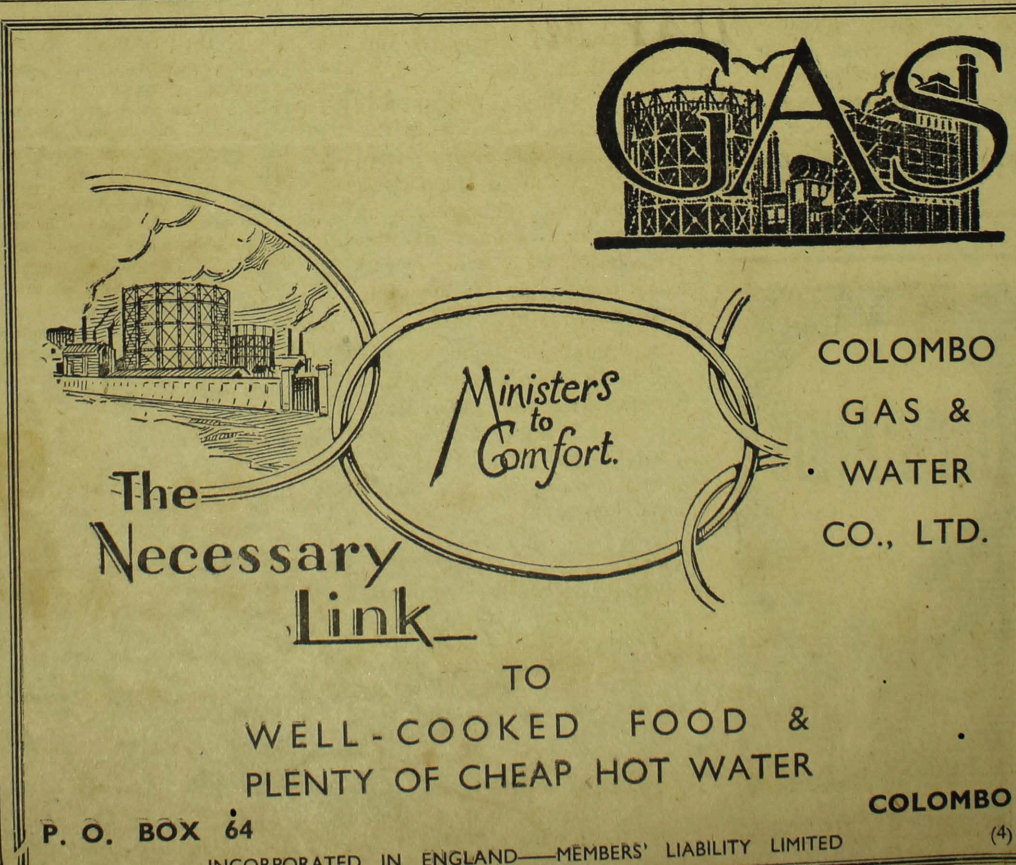
One light year figures roughly at 5,880,000 million miles. Thus, what the giant lens-mirror is hoped to picture on a photographic plate will be about 5,880,000,000,000 miles distant in as yet unseen and unexplored regions of space. Stars and their clusters and nebulae will appear as they existed one million years ago.

TOOK 12 YEARS TO COMPLETE

To achieve the penetrating power and the infinitesimal accuracy required, it took what the Observatory Chairman, Dr. Max Mason, called "man's most daring optical job." Never before has such a huge chunk of glass been polished to equal accuracy. To the specialists of the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena, who worked on the 14.5 ton disc of glass, the twelve years of grinding and polishing were not only painstaking, but often nerve-wracking.

After the lens was cast into shape near New York City and transported carefully across the continent, the grinding began on April 22, 1946. Ever since that day, with the exception of war years, Nobel Prize-winner Dr. John A. Anderson, one of the outstanding American astronomers, supervised the finishing job requiring some 180,000 man-hours.

(Continued on page 7)



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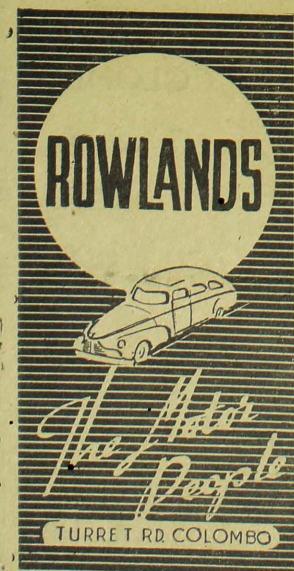
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Friday, May 14, 1948

RELIGION AND EDUCATION

THE introduction of religion into the curriculum of Government Schools by the Minister of Education, Mr. E. A. Nugawela, is a popular decision laying at rest a long and bitter controversy.

But for a handful of Leftists who prefer the rule and worship of Moloch each parent of whatever denomination is particular that his child should be brought up in an atmosphere and background of religion.

In the absence of this in Government Schools parents preferred to send their children to schools of their own denominations as far as possible while the large majority particularly the Buddhists, were left with no choice in the rural areas, very much against their own wishes.

The Communists, L.S.S.P., and B.L.P.I., who are first in the field to act the part of the saviours of the people were strangely silent during the whole of this controversy. Here, at least was one of their own fundamentals being pursued by Government. But the people, Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists refuse to surrender their rich and sacred heritage to a pack of wolves, thieves and vandals for whom religion is but dope and morality an unwanted restriction foisted on society for Imperialistic purposes.

This subtle approach strangely had its appeal in the occident. It was even partly successful. But in the Orient religion is the very breath of life and no amount of red propaganda will ever wean away the people from their religion.

In dropping religious education in its schools, Government pursued a negative policy however well intentioned and nearly played into the hands of the Communists and their lesser breeds.

These very schools were being quietly converted into instruments for the propagation of Communism. Its repercussions were already in evidence in schools throughout the country where contempt for discipline and disrespect to teachers and elders was becoming the order of the day.

The foresight of the Minister for Education and his advisers has saved our schools from further deterioration.

THE L. S. S. P., B. L. P. I. AND COMMUNIST

Vie with Each Other to Pose as Trade Union Leaders

ONE of the greatest blunders committed of our trade union organisations is to permit Communists, the B.L.P.I. and L.S.S.P. representatives to have anything whatsoever to do with their activities. The sooner they rid themselves of red leadership and take charge of their organisation the better in their own interests.

Trade Unions in Ceylon have now the experience and the necessary personnel within their own ranks to take charge without being tied to the apron strings of political parties.

They should know by now that Trade Unionism has no place in Communism and that the reds are merely using Trade Unions for their own ends. If by any chance the reds get any power in the country, Trade Unions will be among the first items to be liquidated.

Trade Unions, in democratic state are meant for the protection of the interests of workers and not as political

platforms for red propaganda. It is, therefore the duty of Trade Union leaders to educate the workers that in their own interest, they should close their ranks and stop the infiltration of reds into their organisations.

No reds are permitted to touch the Trade Unions in places like England, America, Switzerland, Sweden and other countries where these organisations are handled by the workers themselves with the support of the State.

It is only in Ceylon, we have the anomaly of workers handing over their control to Communist and their ilk who have so far led them up the garden path and left them there whenever it was in their interests to scuttle to save own skins, leaving the workers high and dry to get of the mess by themselves as best they could. Our workers have learnt many a bitter lesson, now at the hands of the local reds not to have anything more to do with them in their own interests.

SIMON ABEYA- WICKREME In Memorial

"PLENTY of horse sense—all effort and no laze—a grim determination to get there with a high sense of duty" was how Simon was described to me by a high ranking Government official whose opinions are worth more than the ordinary something. It is, however, as a good pal that I would always wish to remember Simon Abeyawickreme. He was first, last and always a Genuine Good Pal.

Essentially simple by nature and by habit he could yet be firm. Once he decided nothing could deviate him from the path he chose to take. Others might think in other ways but once Simon decided he thought and acted accordingly. It was perhaps this characteristic which drew for him the respect and regard of his colleagues and the public.

One almost felt that a cloud had been drawn across the clear calm sky on hearing of his sudden death and that too in the full tide of a buoyant life. What a Life? What an end? I wish somebody more competent than I could place this wreath of words round the pedestals of the Majesty of Death but what is lacking in elegant phrase is complete with the cup of sincere sympathy.

Blunt perhaps in oratorical effort and repartee he was yet impressive, formidable in marshalling his facts in argument, and simple but elegant in dress and personality he was a figure to be reckoned with both in and out of the House of Representatives. A conspicuous citizen, planter and M.P. he fought for and advanced his country's cause in his own inimitable way. A great man he truly was with large sympathies and guileless charity—ever ready to help another in times of trouble and need.

His death is an irreparable loss and whilst yet under the shadow of the sorrow of his death may we pass on our sympathies to those who mourn him as we may not or rather cannot. In this their moment of overwhelming sorrow and unspeakable anguish it may be

E K S A T H KANTHA PERAMUNA

Leader Returns from London

There is no news available from the ladies of the Eksath Kantha Peramuna except that their leader Miss Dora de Fonseka is back again in its fold after a short trip to London and Paris.

Mrs. de Fonseka was not there to see the Kantha ladies marching with the Communist nondescripts down the streets of Colombo to Price Park on May Day.

It is said that the ladies went to the rendezvous in their limousines from their Dickman's Road Headquarters. Saw the sweating crowd of the down trodden masses, sans banians, sans sandals, sans hats and umbrellas which moved their hearts. They acted on the spot, left their cars and even their shoes, got hold of a few 'Bangawewa' placards and trudged it gallantly to the tune of the hammer and sickle.

The cars, it is also said, followed the procession at a discreet distance to Price Park. Mrs. Ludowyke was the only lady who spoke. The ordeal of the march was far too much for the rest. But there is room for improvement. Leave that to the leader Dr. (Mrs.) Dora de Fonseka. One thing the Peramuna ladies could do is to turn their back to the reds and join up with the Mahila Samitiya ladies who require all the Peramuna ladies and more in their noble task of village welfare. But will they?

Times change. So will the Peramuna ladies.

some consolidation for them to know that there are many who mourn the passing away of a great hearted pal and a fine gentleman. He left behind no resentments or enmity—only a kind and gracious memory that will live long after others are gone.

H. E.

THE STATESMEN'S HANDBOOK

By Quintus Delilkhan

THE art of government is no doubt the most difficult in the world because the human element is always intractable, unaccountable, and also irresponsibly various. Napoleon who was a good judge of men, when after a successful campaign, was given a great ovation by the people on returning to Paris, remarked that after a reverse the same crowd would demand his destruction. The fickleness of the mass of men is proverbial. But at the same time there is no other material on which the art of government could be exercised. One has to take the material as one finds it. The statesman must deal as well as he can with his contemporary world. He has to judge its strength and use it judiciously and effectively. He has to know its weaknesses, and to take his precautions against their being employed by unscrupulous men to undermine the stability of the good work he is doing. He has to know when to compromise, when to be firm, when to yield before a storm breaks out which he will not be able to control. The people are very seldom the wise judges of their own good. They can be easily led astray by the captious demagogue, the plausible sophist or by the intemperately ambitious who will not hesitate to offer them the moon, though only until the moment of actual fulfilment arrives. At the same time, however, the people also have been in the right when the statesmen have been in the wrong. More than one correspondent in the English Press declared that the people of England, the common man, had been right in the years preceding the war, when the major statesmen of England were completely off their balance and living in a world of dim and temporarily comfortable illusion. The common man did not want Abyssinia to go under the heel of Italy, China under the domination of Japan, or Austria under the iron rule of Hitler, and they knew the price of placating power-mad despots. Chamberlain hoped for "peace in our time" but the deluge of war soon covered Europe and other parts of the world. Only Churchill had the foresight to maintain that war was inevitable. But though statesmen can be mistaken, many of them have developed a sixth sense which enables them to see more from their coign of vantage than those who belong to the crowd. They have learnt from routine, from crises, from the manipulation of the most varying situations and from the varying moods of individuals, of groups and of the larger masses of men. Whether it be in wisdom, in patience or in cynicism the great statesmen of the world have the right to be heard. They speak out of their character, their environment, their experience, and no one who is interested in the art of government can afford to disdainfully hold aloof from their warnings or their exhortations. We in Ceylon, in Burma, in India and in other countries of the East ought to be grateful for the opportunity of knowing what great statesmen who have played their part on the world's stage have to say on the art of governing mankind.

"THE Statesman's Handbook of Anecdotes and Sayings"

collected by M. RUTHNASWAMY (Colombo Book Centre) is an invaluable work. Mr. Rutnaswamy is the Vice-Chancellor of Annamalai University and he has lectured on his recent visit to Ceylon from various platforms, always giving the impression of a great scholar on whom learning sits lightly but not inconspicuously for behind his utterances, simple, direct and luminous, is the stress of ideas and principles which are valid, weighty and abundant. "This booby," says Mr. Rutnaswamy, explaining its genesis, in his Preface, "contains the literary loot of a lifetime. Ever since I began my adult studies in history and politics and administration, I have been jotting down in odd notebooks anecdotes and sayings of the rulers and statesmen that I have met

on these intellectual journeys. The sayings are mostly of men of affairs, men that have been actually engaged in the business of government. They are the most trustworthy teachers of politics. Those others, the theorists and metaphysicians of politics, the tribe of Rousseau, and Marx and Engels, find no place here. Not that the Left is left out. Sieyès, Danton, Robespierre, Lenin are admitted but as political actors, not authors. Machiavelli, the administrator rather than the begetter of Machiavellianism, has found entry. Not all statesmen and rulers find mention in this collection. But that is because it is one man's collection—not a dictionary." A further principle of selection which guided Mr. Rutnaswamy is revealed by his reference to Burke who has said that "there is no qualification for government but virtue and wisdom, actual or presumptive," and this is the keynote of the book. Mr. Rutnaswamy does not offer this book as a solution to all our problems of today, but only as a confirmation of Napoleon's statement that "history offers us not models but lessons." Mr. Rutnaswamy amazes and subdues the mind of the reader to instant admiration and homage by his surprisingly wide range. Like De Quincey he might be described as a "sprite begotten of libraries." Here a principles which in their abundance and power can fructify our own thinking on the problems of the hour, not by providing easy formulas but by indicating the valid grounds on which we can think out their solution. Amidst the slogans of many contemporary ideologies, sound traditional and tested political wisdom is the Cinderella which has been driven into sordid neglect, and we should thank Mr. Rutnaswamy for playing the part of the glamorous prince in the fairy tale in giving her the pride of place to which she rightfully belongs as different from the callousness and stridency of moral countenance of much modern revolutionary dogmatism. Mr. Rutnaswamy is doing us all a great service in enabling us to benefit from his adventure of voyaging through many books alone—books which contain thoughts and ideas which are precious for all those who understand how obligatory it is upon the rulers and the ruled to allow their mutual relations to be judiciously guided by the wisdom of the best minds who have been entrusted with the high tasks of governing their fellowmen, and shaping in their several epochs a people's destiny.

HERE are a few extracts which will give readers a savour of the rich quality of this book which bears an individuality of its own and a formidable power to perennially move the mind of the reader:—

"A disposition to preserve and an ability to improve taken together would be my standard of a statesman."—Burke.

"It is vain to expect any man to be a great statesman unless he cares for something greater than politics."—Plato.

"I always live a couple of years ahead."—Napoleon.

"We must not promise what we ought not lest we be called upon to perform what we cannot."—Lincoln.

"Mahadeva Rao Sindia," it was said, "became a sovereign by being a servant."

"I have endeavoured through my whole life to make myself acquainted with human nature, otherwise I should be unwise to take even my humble part in the service of mankind."—Burke.

"Fools say that they learn by experience. I prefer to profit by others' experience."—Bismarck.

"Weakness and irresolution are the worst faults of a statesman."—Palmerston.

"My Pir wrote unto me saying: 'Let Abul Munsoor Timur in conducting the business of government take by the hand four assistants, to wit, Deliberation, Counsel, Vigilance and Circumspection'."—Timur in his Institutes.

"If the people do not fear the majesty of government, a reign of terror will ensue."—Anon.

SHALL WE LET OUR VEDARALAS USE GANJA?

By 'Caliph'

AGAIN our Ayurvedic physicians are up in arms. They have renewed the agitation for the use of ganja in their medicines. Legally ganja has been banned, though many "vedaralas" have known to use ganja in their preparations.

I remember the time more than a quarter century ago when the Hon. Mr. K. Balasingham fought a vain battle in an effort to introduce ganja in the medicinal system. In 1915 and again in 1917 there was agitation in the Legislative Council.

In 1915 Sir Ambalavanar Kānagasabai moved that "provision be made for the use of ganja by native medical practitioners." The Hon. K. Balasingham, Sir Ambalavanar Kānagasabai, Sir Christoffel Obeyesekere, Sir Hector Van Cuylenberg, and Hon. Mr. Moonemallé are some of the names I remember, of those who were in the forefront of this campaign.

In 1916 the British Medical Association (Ceylon Branch) unanimously resolved to persuade the Government to remove the restriction placed upon the preparation of this drug. The B.M.A.'s Journal said:

"We are glad to be able to state that Dr. Rusherford, always sympathetic and tolerant, has assured us at the meeting that he would use his influence to make accessible to the native practitioner the official preparation of cannabis India (ganja)."

In 1917 the sub-Committee of this Association, Drs. Fernando, Sinna-

tamby, Ratnam, Lucian de Zilfa, David and Spittel made representations to the Government. But the latter was adamant.

"The Hon. K. Balasingham was disgusted. He asked emphatically: 'Is the Government justified in brushing aside so lightly the considered opinion of the British Medical Association, of the entire native medical profession, and of all the Ceylonese members of this Council in a matter of this kind?'"

MAIN OBJECTIONS

WELL let us see their main objections.

Objection No. 1 is that if medical men are given the use of the drug, it might fall into the wrong hands. For the ayurvedic physicians may abuse their privilege and may give it for uses other than medicinal.

But the ayurvedic physicians argue that they know all about the effects of ganja much more than the layman. So they will not be so daft as to hand the ganja over to the wrong men. Besides, they are questioning the integrity of our profession. It's an insult" one of them told me.

We all know that our medical practitioners (ayurvedic) are very reliable. Mr. Balasingham, I remember, mentioned his colleagues in the Legislative Council who had firm faith in ayurveda: Messrs. Tillekeratne (accident), Meedeniya (illness), Sabapathy (serious illness), and L. W. A. de Soysa (now Sir Wilfred)—also Dr. Sinnatamby (serious eye disease).

Sir Pardey Lukes once Surgeon-General in India, once said in the Viceroy's Legislative Council.

(Continued on page 7)

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SPORTS

Commentary

COVER-POINT

THE C.T.C. May Monsoon Meet will be wound up tomorrow with another very open programme of eight races.

The big event on the card, the Dundee Stakes, serves as a first rehearsal for the Governor's Cup. Entered in this 11 furlong race is last year's Cup winner, Kunj Lata, who has not run in Ceylon since her unsuccessful trip to Bombay. I understand that he recently went a trifle sore hit that he is now alright again. I doubt, however, whether he will accept and the race should resolve itself with another duel between Cosy Corner and Breech. These two grand stayers have met twice over 10 furlongs and Breech has so far taken the honours with a win and a dead-heat against Cosy Corner's second and a dead-heat. This will be the first time that they will actually oppose each other over 11 furlongs and personally, I think Cosy Corner will prove the racing axiom that a god English thoroughbred always has the beating of an equally good waler. There is no need to doubt the ability of Cosy Corner to see the distance out as he is the winner of the Turb Club Plate last August. The only snag is the weather as it is well-known that Cosy Corner does not like the mud. The upset in this race may come from the waler, Devilment, who dead-heated in the Madras Governor's Cup and also won the R.C.T.C. Cup at the same centre early this year. Devilment was given a rare on the first

day of the May Meet. He was obviously not in condition then and should strip a fitter horse tomorrow.

The most open race on the programme is, undoubtedly, the Ripon Plate for Class II horses over 7 furlongs. Ingomar who blotted his copy-book Saturday before last when he planted and let down a whole host of supporters, has a chance of rehabilitating himself hit I am not too sure whether he will quite set the distance. The horse I fancy most for the race is Sri Lanka who has been improving with every run. With a strong rider on his back, he will take all the beating. If Erajh does not take too much out of himself at the barrier, he must be thereabouts as should Naval Action who is as game as you make them.

The Brighton Plate will be run in two divisions. In the senior section Tansar, Golden Reign, Snemich and Redpoll will bear watching while Skylark, Postal Light and Prince Chatter are the pick of the second division.

The Narammala Plate for Class IV horses seems to lie between Prince Rufus, Maclean, Sinbad and Silver Valley.

The Arab events are not too well supported.

Jayawewa, Eisenhower, Mr. Mr. Colman and Lord Nelson should fight out the issue in the Eastern Plate while Shandy should make up for his unfortunate defeat last Saturday by making the Argonaut Plate his own.

The hardest to beat in the Kiriella Plate is Kingsley and his dangers are Dhiban and Tair Dija.

No comments on racing will be complete without reference to the grand achievement of Manchu in winning the Carlisle Stakes last Saturday with 9.13 on his back. In a copy-book finish the son of His Grace came with a long run in the straight to catch his stable-mate St. Just on the post. In spite of the holding going and he weight, Manchu could not have blown out a candle at the finish, indicating in what grand form he is at the moment.

Another noteworthy victory was that of Mohan Tara in the Ormonde Handicap. The top weight was not dismayed by the long lead which Tudor had secured and came with a rare rattle in the last furlong to claim the major spoils by a head.

★

The Australians have begun their tour of England in whirlwind fashion. After serving out short shrift to Worcestershire in their opening match, they beat Leicestershire, and the weather in their next. Competent critics were always of the opinion that Ian Johnson, with his off-spinners, would be the most deadly of the Australian bowlers on a wet wicket. Their views were confirmed at Leicester here Johnson was almost unplayable capturing 9 wickets for the match, while Ring, who took 5 wickets in the first innings, failed to claim a single scalp in the second. While Bradman has probably good reason to be satisfied with the showing of his bowlers, he couldn't be too happy with the rather pronounced tail in Australia's batting. Though neither Worcestershire nor Leicestershire could point to a single bowler of Test calibre, more Australian batsmen were dismissed for 10 or thereabouts than the few who got in amongst the runs. Against Worcestershire, it was only Morris, Bradman and Miller who did anything of real note. Against Leicestershire it was Miller and Bradman who did most of the scoring. This unevenness in the Australian batting, particularly on a wet wicket, was further exposed at Bradford when the Australians in the absence of Bradman, were dismissed for a paltry 101 by Yorkshire.

Though it is true that even this small score sufficed the tourists to beat the champion county by 4 wickets with a whole day to spare, the fact that Australia could only muster barely a round 100 must have been rather disquieting to Bradman. The Yorkshire bowler who did most of the damage was Smalles, who, I believe, played for England against India. He is, however, not among the upper ten of England's bowlers but will probably get a chance in one of the forthcoming Tests.

The infinite variety of Australia's attack was demonstrated in this match at Bradford where it was the swing bowlers, Keith Miller and Bill Johnston, who took 19 of the Yorkshire wickets whereas in the earlier match at Leicester it was the spin bowlers, who reaped the richest harvest.

The Australians were in London for the first time early this week and showed their penchant for the Kennington Oval by trouncing the Surrey bowlers and making Bill Laker, who is one of England's bowling hopes, look very moderate indeed.

★

With the monsoon rugby football comes into its own in Ceylon. Rugby trials have been played all over the country and judging from the form displayed by some of the newcomers, the season, which lies ahead of us should provide some excellent and closely contested matches. The giants of the rugby world are of course the two major metropolitan clubs, the C. H. and F. C. and the C. R. and F. C. both of whom have a call on some of the best players in the island. The C. R. and F. C. gave an indication of their strength last Saturday when they made rings round Dimbula where they beat by 23 points to nil.

The season was set going Saturday before last when Kandy were at home to the Havelock Sports Club on Bogambara. Havelocks won the match by 14 points to nil. Kandy have many gaps to fill, chief among them being the wing 3 positions, occupied so ably last year by Lushington and H. Abeyratne. These two stalwarts are both out of the island and are thus not available this year. A regular full back, too, has not yet been picked.

Havelocks have a young side, in fact the youngest side with a full district fixture list.

The Captain this year is C. O. Foenandey, the former Royal College captain and an excellent scrum half. The club has quite a large number of young and enthusiastic players. The forward are fit and keen and the only factor lacking in the pack is weight. A certain amount of adjustment is necessary in the outside positions and once this is accomplished there is no doubt that Havelock will even better their last season's record.

Their next game is against Uva a week from today.

The C. H. and F. C. from all accounts are at last emerging from the very lean years of the war. Gordon is the skipper and it is expected that over forty players will be available for the first practice game fixed for next Saturday. The first match on their card is against Kandy on May 29th on the race course, which is now available for play.

The C. R. and F. C. will be led this year by Fred Kellar Ray de Zilva will not be available at full back, but his place is ably filled by Malcolm Wright, the former University and Trinity full back, who is fit again. Molligoda, Percy Perera, Pate, McHeyzer and Ohlums are some of the old brigade who will be donning colours again this year. Molligoda is undoubtedly one of the finest wing threequarters in the Island today with his speed and easy action. It is fairly clear that not one of them is as well off as the Colombo clubs for reserves, to draw on in the event of casualties.

If casualties do not upset the balance of their respective teams, Dimbula, Dickoya and Uva should provide sides able to give a good account of themselves. The K.V. is captained by F. D. Church, a pre-war veteran who has not lost anything of his fitness or knowledge of the game.

It is understood that the Ceylon Union is taking up the question of neutral referees for matches, but in the absence of any sort of official referees' Association it is unlikely that this plan will be implemented at once. A Referees' Association will be a step in the right direction. Even slight variations in the interpretation of certain rules by different referees can leave a bad taste in the mouth of players and spectators alike—and there are many such variations today!

CEYLON ARTIST RETURNS HOME

THERE was a heavy rush of students, friends and relatives to greet Mr. J. D. A. Perera, who returned to the Island by s.s. "Stratheden."

He travelled to England a couple of years back on the Ceylon Government's first European Scholarship on Art. During the period of his two years' stay he toured widely in England and the Continent, visiting all the important Art Galleries, Art Schools and Museums.

Mr. Perera's work was accepted with great appreciation in several Art Exhibitions in London and Paris. He returned home after submitting three paintings to the Exhibition of Fine Arts in Rome. Besides painting, Mr. Perera has done work in stage production, decor and lighting in the Old Vic, London, Milan and Rome.

At the lower jetty Mr. Perera was received amidst a number of visitors by Messrs. Victor Perera and Mauris Perera of the Art Department, Ceylon Technical College. As he came to the Upper Jetty he was received by Mr. K. D. C. Fernando (President), Secretary and the members of the Special Reception Committee of the Art Department who are making necessary arrangements to accord a reception to him. He was heavily garlanded by the students of Ceylon Technical College.

Among the visitors were Dr. A. N. Pannikar, the Principal of the Indigenous Medical College, and Dr. M. S. Ghouse Amet.

M. A. C.

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WHAT ARE WE DOING?

By *Vernon Phelps*

WHAT are the United National Party back-benchers doing? The answer to this question was very pertinently raised and convincingly answered by Mr. R. G. Senanayake, the Member of Parliament for Dambadeniya who frankly told his constituents the other day, that he conceded that this was a question that the voters could legitimately ask and demand a straightforward answer.

Mr. Senanayake pointed out that the U.N.P. back-benchers did not catch the limelight as they did not criticise the Government in season and out, as the Opposition members of Parliament did. This did not mean, he explained, that the U.N.P. back-benchers were reduced to being mere spectators in the political arena. Members of Parliament who belonged to the United National Party, he said, as a matter of fact helped considerably in bringing the problems of the people to the notice of the Government and in finding a solution for them.

Mr. Senanayake was indeed eminently qualified to claim that such valuable and unostentatious service was rendered to the people by the U.N.P. back-benchers, as was evidenced by what I witnessed on a visit to this constituency.

Sensing the vital need to establish a strong link between the Government officials and the people to enable both groups to co-operate in the solution of their common problems, Mr. Senanayake set about establishing a chain of Grama Samwardhana Samitiyas in the villages in his constituency. The results have proved to me most encouraging as the Samitiyas have been converted to powerful instruments in rural uplift, in all its aspects.

These Samitiyas have dispelled the aloofness that once prevailed between the officials of the Government and the villagers. This has been achieved by both groups contacting each other in a friendly atmosphere at the regular meetings of the Samitiyas.

A praiseworthy feature of these group discussions has been the tremendous influence they have in the reduction of crime in the villages. It is well-known, for instance, that petty crimes (which sometimes leads to such major offences as murder) such as the sale of illicit arrack or toddy is extremely hard to detect by official means unless the co-operation of the villagers is forthcoming. The Samitiyas have not only helped the police to detect such offenders but have even influenced these bootleggers to give up their nefarious habits and make their contribution to the advancement of village life.

The Samitiyas have also wiped out the petition habit—the bane of this country—that usually seek to ventilate private grievances or promote personal vendettas. Such a crusader gets short shrift at the Samitiya gatherings, for the simple reason that in the village everybody knows everybody else and the cat is soon out of the bag as to the real purport of such petitions. On the other hand if the complaint is genuine and needs redress, in the interests of the public good, the weight of the representative opinion of the Samitiyas results in the speedy redress of such complaints.

Mr. Senanayake who makes it a point to be present at the meetings of these Samitiyas in his constituency, has therefore a dependable means of ascertaining the real needs of the people which he in turn brings to the attention of the Government.

This machinery helps the villagers, the Member of Parliament representing these people and the Government itself, as the detection of the needs of the people is both quick and dependable and is also conducive to speedy attention being paid to meet these needs.

All this, of course, is done without the fanfare or flourish that usually accompanies the frothy criticisms made of the Government by the Opposition members in Parliament who have tried to impress on the people that they have the interests of the people at heart.

Yes, the answer to the question: "What are the U.N.P. back-benchers doing?" is the marked and rapid progress made in the constituencies they represent, not by resort to preferential

WORLD'S BIGGEST EYE

(Continued from page 3)

Thirty-one tons of various fine polishing materials were used to remove a total of 5½ tons of glass. In the most delicate end stages, not more than a third of an ounce of glass was taken off the giant lens in a week. This meticulous job shaped the exact concave (parabolic) curvature that makes it possible to concentrate the heaven's dim light on to a photographic plate.

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The polishing was finished on October 6, 1947. After receiving its reflective backing in an aluminium bath, the lens was transported carefully by trucks under escort the 130 miles from Pasadena to the wind-swept Palomar summit. There, in utter seclusion from earthly life, the best astronomical minds in America are now venturing farther out into space than ever before to extend man's knowledge of the universe.—(USIS).

SHALL WE LET OUR VEDARALAS USE GANJA?

(Continued from page 5)

"Personally if I were ill I may frankly say that I would prefer to be treated by a good 'vaid' or 'hakim' rather than by a bad doctor. I resent strongly that spirit of Medical Trade Unions which leads many modern doctors to stigmatise all 'vaid's' and 'hakims,' as quacks and charlatans.

On another occasion he said: "I wish to impress upon you most strongly that you should not run away with the idea that everything that is good in the way of medicine is contained within the ringed face of Allopathy or Western medicine.

"The longer I remain in India and the more I see of the country and of the people, the more convinced I am that many of the empirical methods of treatment adopted by the vaid's and hakims are of the greatest value and there is no doubt whatever that their ancestors knew ages ago many things which are nowadays being brought forward as new discoveries."

ITS BENEFITS

THE ancient sages of India said that when the gods churned the ocean for ambrosia they were given the ganja plant.

The benefits of ganja, if used properly by our vedaralas, are numerous. Here are some of them:

In morbid states of the system it has been found to cause sleep, to allay spasms, to compose nervous disquietude and to relieve pain. In these respects it resembles opium; but it differs from that narcotic in not diminishing the appetite, checking the secretions, or constipating the bowels.

It is an excellent remedy for neuralgia, gout, rheumatism, tetanus, hydrophobia, cholera, convulsions, delirium tremens, insanity and hæmorrhage.

For treating bronchitis and tuberculosis it occupies a place which cannot be filled by any other drug, as it tends to alleviate the paroxysms of coughing and exert a stimulating effect.

In skin affections associated with intense itching the internal administration of ganja will often give relief where other applications fail.

SHALL we give the vedaralas a chance? I think we should.

advantages, which are not available to Opposition members in Parliament, but rather by dint of the assiduous and unostentatious work done for the people by these Members of Parliament.

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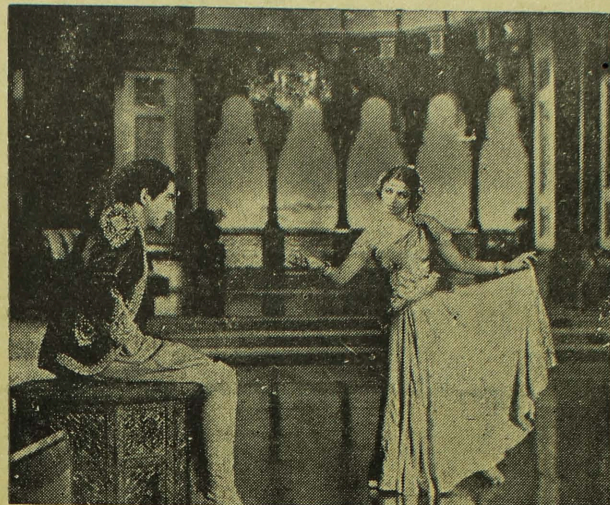
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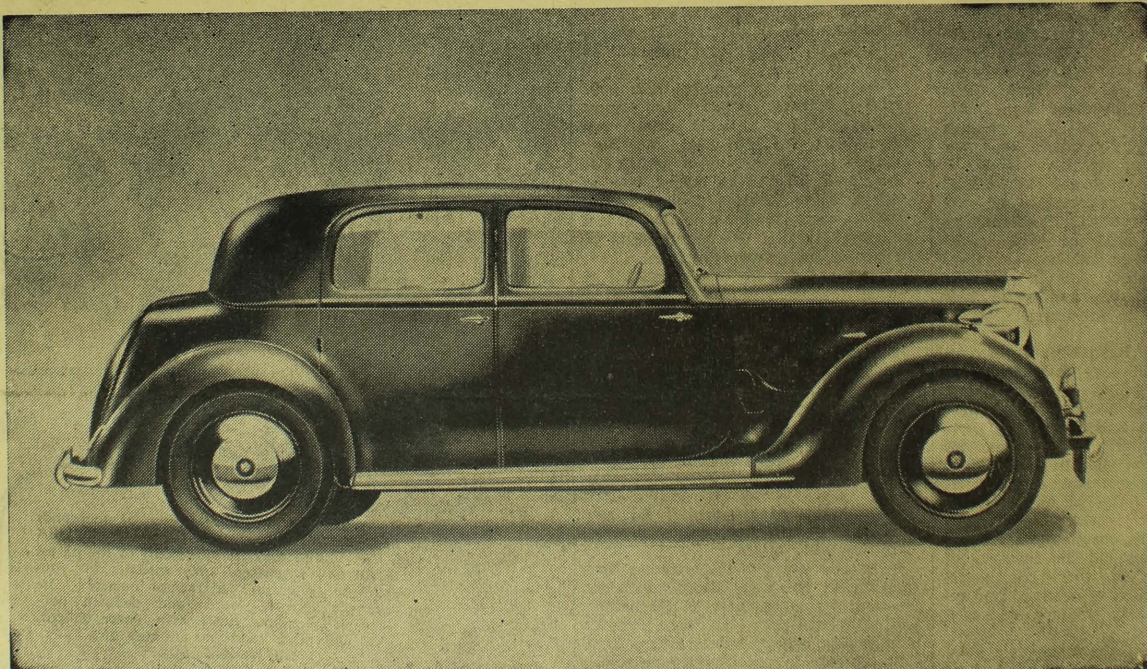
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