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Organ of the United National Party
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FRIDAY, 30th JANUARY, 1948

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MINISTER PLEDGES HIS FAITH IN THE PEOPLE Car & Petrol Control off: Users must ration themselves: Future Transport will follow Socialist Lines

The following is the statement made by Hon. Col. J. L. Kotelawala, Minister for Transport and Works, at the Press Conference held on Monday, 26th January, 1948, at the Minister's Office, P.W.D. Building, Fort, at 2 p.m.:

I WISH to recall the first Press Conference I held as Minister for Transport and Works when I announced the decontrol of motor-cars of specified Horse Power groups. At that time I was anxious to lift control of cars, but the supply position made it necessary for 10 H.P. cars as well as cars above 16 H.P. to be controlled by the Commissioner of Motor Transport. A promise was made, however, that as soon as the supply position improved, the control would entirely be lifted. I now propose to redeem that promise and car control will end on 1st February, 1948.

Since the date of the last Press Conference, 324 permits for new cars have been issued and there are today about 65 cars in the garages of different dealers awaiting buyers.

No inconvenience will therefore be caused to anyone except to those fastidious people who want only a particular make and a particular colour in cars. I am convinced that anyone who wants a car can buy one if a car is essential for his use.

APPEAL TO PATRIOTISM

PETROL: There has been a persistent demand by the public and the Press that petrol control should also be lifted. On this subject I would like to say that opinion is unanimous on the point that the most notorious of all black-markets has been the black-market in petrol. There has obviously been a racket in this commodity and allegations have even been made against large users that they fed the black-market and made fortunes out of it.

Apart from this aspect of the matter, I am also alarmed at the low ebb to which standards of public honesty have fallen. Thousands of people think nothing of adopting all kinds of expedients to obtain a few more coupons than are allotted to them. It is not in the national interest to let things slide further and I earnestly appeal to all patriotic citizens to help raise the standards of public honesty.

I have been warned that if I lift petrol control there will be cornering of supplies and a black-market leading up to a transport crisis in Ceylon.

The picture of possibilities that has been drawn for my edification may frighten most people. But I declare my faith in the people and place my trust in their good sense and patriotism. I appeal to them to co-operate with me in the national interest. The people must ration themselves because this country cannot afford to burn millions of gallons of imported fuel if we are

to conserve our national wealth and put it to productive use. The burning of fuel on unnecessary journeys is the burning of the country's money resources.

I have decided that petrol should be sold without coupons as from 1st February, 1948, until further notice. Government will, however, retain the right to re-introduce the coupon system at any time if there should be any indication of a black-market or of attempts to corner existing supplies.

Coupons will be issued as usual to all users but no month will be printed on them. These should be carefully preserved for use if and when necessary for they will become valid if the coupon system should have to be imposed. But I earnestly hope it will never become necessary to use them.

I would like to take this opportunity to request Bus Companies to improve their services. I am aware of the growing discontent in the country with the running of certain bus services. The point has been made in the past that the rationing of petrol made it difficult to maintain an adequate service. From February 1st this point will cease to be relevant.

LORRIES

The question of lorries and route licences is the topic of the day. Applications are being made by very many who have driving licences probably in the hope of eking out a living plying a lorry for hire. Such applicants naturally chafe at the delay in obtaining a licence or are resentful of their applications being turned down and appeal to me to intervene as Minister for Transport. It would appear that the public is not aware of the requirements under the Motor Ordinance and I would like to briefly explain the process through which an application must go before a decision is made on it.

Under the Ordinance at present there is no difference between a private lorry and a lorry plying for hire and the procedure is as follows:—

- (1) Application is made in the first instance to the licensing authority (i.e. in Colombo the Municipal Treasurer).
- (2) The Licensing Authority forwards the application with his recommendation to the Commissioner of Motor Transport.
- (3) The Commissioner of Motor Transport gazettes the application and invites objections if any.
- (4) Inquiry is held by the Commissioner of Motor Transport and if the application is refused the applicant may appeal to the Appeal Board and if the application is allowed the objector may appeal to the Appeal Board whose decision is final.
- (5) An appeal to the Supreme Court is also allowed but only on a point of law.

The requirements of the Ordinance and the process described above naturally takes several months. The inquiry stage is reached only after two and a half to three months from the date of application.

The Minister however has no power either to interfere in any decision or to intervene in the proceedings.

I would like to inform prospective lorry owners that before the war there were about 3,000 lorries plying for hire and today there are over 6,000. I am advised that this number is in excess of our real needs and if allowed indiscriminately to increase, will bring in the horrors of cut-throat competition such as overloading and thuggery between rival owners of lorries and lorry transport will ultimately become a public menace similar to the nuisance caused by private bus owners before the formation of Bus Companies.

EFFICIENT SOCIALISM IN PRACTICE

The public appears to take a keen interest in transport problems and I feel

encouraged by that interest. A healthy and informed public opinion is worth millions to this country. But before I announce any plans for the future I shall have to study the problem in greater detail. I do not agree that the old scissors-and-paste method of following the systems of other countries will be of much help unless we relate the system to the peculiar needs of Ceylon. I cannot therefore make a statement on the general outlines of future transport policy at the present moment but I can assure the public that I shall not be lacking in courage and thoroughness in dealing with outstanding problems involved in co-ordinating road and rail transport as well as with the organisation of internal transport on the lines of Efficient Socialism.

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BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

POLITICAL BANDWAGGON

By Lakshman Seneviratne

ONE doesn't have to read Yaroslavsky's "Landmarks in the Life of Stalin" or the Frenchman Barbusse's "Stalin" to be critically convinced that Gunther (a pathetic source for perennial quotation to those who cultivate their Oxford accents in a non-collegiate environment), has not penetrated into the subtle complexities of Stalin's character and motives, with any degree of analytical success. Perhaps it was Gunther's lack of knowledge of Russian that is responsible for it.

For that eminent biographer Emil Ludwig, in a recent article in the "Contemporary Review," London, on "Making Great Men Talk," writes: "No one not mastering at least four languages should try to get 'great' interviews. An Italian and a Frenchman may be able to converse, for instance, in English with each other. But each thus talking in a foreign tongue, they will yet not succeed in conveying to each other the nuances of their ideas—which are the core of any interview." I personally have found it very useful to know the three "official United Nations languages, English, French and Spanish, with a working knowledge of Italian, as it gives a cosmopolitan background to the coverage of international news, that is denied to any pompous mediocrity, who only knows English and represents a linguist?

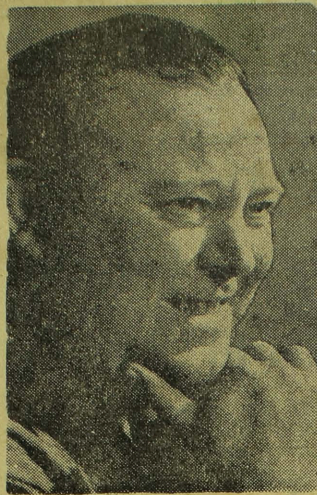
Does Comrade Pieter Keuneman talk Russian and can he read Stalin's Leninism or Molotov's "Peace Policy" in Russian? Or can Dr. Colvin R. de Silva discuss Trotsky's book on "Stalin" with the author's ghost, in Russian, with a Jewish accent? I doubt it. Though if he knew French and German, which he doesn't, he could yet commune, through an Indian medium, with the Master!

Comrade Keuneman, who is the "cominform" clique in Lanka is now busy telling his audiences that Right-Wing Social-Democrats, and national bourgeois leaders are being exploited by Anglo-American monopoly capitalism in the global fight against Stalinite Russia.

Actually, politically and economically, I favour the attitude of a man like the Secretary-General of the United Nations—Trygve Lie—who "has been accused of being a tool of Stalin and an agent of the American State Department. Actually, he is an old-fashioned Social Democrat, who believes in improving man's lot on earth without destroying his dignity as a man." The economic benefits of Communism, with the civic liberties of political democracy, basically denied in Soviet Russia, should be the policy of the U.N.P. here.

Stalin does not like the United Nations, which he considers a major roadblock on the triumphal march of Stalinism to world conquest.

When Trygve Lie met Stalin and discussed the organisation and charter of the United Nations with him, he didn't seem enthusiastic, though he verbally confined himself to admitting that the U.N. Charter was a "very interesting document." But Lie claimed with characteristic Scandinavian Nordic Social-Democratic contempt for racial prejudice that the Charter was a pass-



Trygve Lie



Stalin

port to redemption from bondage of the coloured and colonial peoples. He said: "The colonial peoples of the earth have here an opportunity for freedom. The coloured races of the earth have at last the possibility of dignity."

BUT Stalin presumably wanted the coloured peoples for Communism. He wants Asia to back him when the show-down with America comes.

However, the smaller nations at Lake Partial Success, New York, are as happy as an angel on an enforced holiday in purgatory.

That witty American political commentator, Howard Brubaker, in New York, observes: "The small nations make it clear that they are not having a good time in the General Assembly. They are sick and tired of hearing the U.S.S.R. and the United States argue about who will take care of them."

It is this perverse protective instinct, this ingrained weakness of Big Powers, satisfying competitive power lusts, in an unseemly scramble to protect small powers, that is mainly responsible for diplomatic disharmony in international relations.

And as one who has known the diplomatic jigsaw puzzle rather intimately in brilliant post-World War I Paris and in Madrid, I would advise our Foreign Minister, Mr. Senanayake, to instruct his U.N.O. delegates, when they are duly nominated, to keep clear of the psychological imperialism, inherent in Big Powers protecting, as client States, our delegates.

MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE is no tryo in either political tactics nor in the diplomacy necessary to manage, and inspire respect among his fellow men. I have disagreed with him in my time but even his most bitter political opponent, a Cambridge Union brain "cell" admitted that Messrs. Senanayake and Goonetilleke were mainly responsible for the failure of the Fifty-Fifty Constitution. The "Times of Ceylon," then also under alien direction, galloped Fifty-Fifty with stooge political stars, to perdition.

Well, as one who manned a Buddha Gaya Mission over ten years ago, it

standing diplomatic achievement on his recent visit to India. And, it must be conceded that Pandit Nehru has exhibited over this problem a breadth of vision he admired so much in India's Nobel Prize winner, Rabindranath Tagore. Indo-Lanka political and economic problems are fluid and require critical scrutiny, and a comprehensive assessment of final agreements reached with their future implications, before judgment can be passed on them.

MR. BANDARANAIKE has come back from the Burma Independence Celebrations, with good news for the Minister of Agriculture, on food supplies for us.

And, is Colonel Kotelawala interested to hear the good Parisian that he is, that the French film producer Rene Clair and the Parisian Music-hall star Maurice Chevalier, have produced a new film together, entitled "Man About Town"? My experience of political Paris enables me to advise all Ministers not to flirt with Communism, for the Communists swallowed the Socialist Trade Union Movement, thereafter having originally entered it as an annexe. That is political cannibalism as practised by Stalinists though devotees of Trotsky will emulate the same tactics when given the opportunity they seek to create, of wooing a Social Democrat, to crush him in the embrace. Kerensky Ki Jai.

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Why U. S. Favours Industrialization of Less-Developed Countries

INCREASED TRADE WILL RESULT IN GROWING PROSPERITY OF OTHER NATIONS

WASHINGTON, JAN. 16

The reason why United States economic foreign policy favours aiding the industrialization of less-developed countries can be seen in the historic pattern of U.S. foreign trade in the past half century. United States foreign trade—both in exports and in imports—has expanded with other countries in proportion to their advancing industrialization. This policy of economic aid, based as it is on enlightened self-interest, has produced mutual benefits.

For example, 50 years ago when Canada was largely an agricultural, mining and lumbering country, exports from the United States to Canada were relatively small. But as Canada developed industrially, it became one of the United States' best markets. In 1946 the value of shipments to Canada was about 15 per cent. of the total U.S. exports.

In this half century, Canada was producing more and more of the manufactured articles in which the United States itself specializes. Yet the actual value of trade between the two countries increased sevenfold, and Canada's share in U.S. exports more than doubled.

The same general trend is visible in U.S. trade with the other American Republics, although economic development has not been as rapid in that area.

In Mexico, for example, there has been much new activity and a great increase in the output of its textile industry, in iron and steel, in automobile manufacturing, and in many other types of production. Hand in hand with this expansion of domestic output has come Mexico's demand for U.S. merchandise, a demand which has risen far beyond any previous levels.

As a result, U.S. exports to Mexico in 1946 exceeded 500 million dollars, compared with only 83 million in 1939. Mexico has become a much more valuable market for U.S. exports, in large part due to its success in developing its productive resources which, in turn, has brought generally increased national income and stimulated a greater demand for American goods. Recently the U.S. Government's Export-Import Bank granted 13 million dollars in credits to Mexico for further industrialization.

In the other American Republics, trade figures show that the general economic development of those nations will bring not only enlarged total trade but more productive and more prosperous domestic economies.

Commenting recently on the United States' interest in helping other nations industrialize and develop their resources Treasury Secretary John W. Snyder said: "Industrial progress in our modern world is not the same as self-sufficiency. Instead, it usually means a fuller measure of co-operation and an increase of mutually profitable trade in goods and services.

"So our interest lies not in attempting to hold down other countries to the status of suppliers of raw materials, but rather in lending them a helping hand, in making available our capital resources and our technological knowledge. In this way, we may share in supplying the increased demand for goods created by expanding national incomes in other countries."—(USIS).

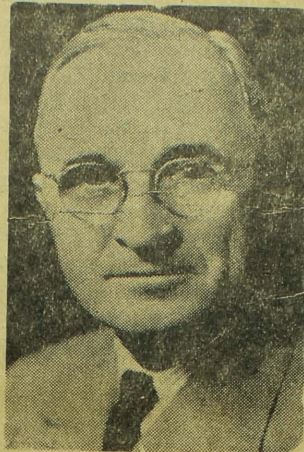
U. S. MOVE TO IMPORT

WASHINGTON, JAN. 16

In an effort to increase imports of goods from abroad into the United States, the U.S.



Marshall



President Truman

Department of Commerce for the past several months has intensified and broadened its services to American importers and, through the U.S. Foreign Service, its contacts with foreign manufacturers and traders. This shift of emphasis from export to import promotion amounts to a reversal of such policies as existed largely during the past 25 years or longer when exports were of first concern.

Translating into reality the United States post-war policy of creating freer markets and expanded world trade and aiming at eliminating the post-war unbalance of exports over imports, the Commerce Department's efforts stand to stand to profit materially from the tariff cuts recently agreed to at Geneva by the United States.

The shift to import coincides with the

contention of American economists and businessmen that the United States should find a middle road between two extremes. One occurred late in the last century, when the United States—then a debtor nation—bought far more abroad than it exported. The other one is of recent date, involving a preponderance of exports over imports. For example in 1947 the United States stands to count at least an expected 14,000 million dollars in exports against an estimated 5,500 million dollars in imports.

This situation, economists point out, has been an important factor in the dollar famine abroad. The sensible way to reduce the export-import gap in accord with the aim of enlarged world trade, they point out, is to increase imports to perhaps 10,000 to 12,000 million dollars a year, rather than to let exports drop to near the level of post-war imports.

INSTRUCTIONS TO DIPLOMATIC POSTS ABROAD

Therefore, as early as last March, Commerce and State Department officials agreed on instructions authorizing Foreign Service officers to report on commodities regarded as potential exports to the United States, and also to assist foreign exporters and manufacturers in problems related to the sale of goods on the American market.

As U.S. diplomatic posts abroad, foreign manufacturers and traders can now find guidance to sources of advice about advertising, scientific marketing, packaging, etc., for American buyers.

Last year representatives of the Commerce Department spent several weeks in Europe to aid diplomatic outposts there in this activity and also to collect information on what would be needed to facilitate exporting to the United States. This type of activity is scheduled to be expanded to the other parts of the world.

Also, the routine recall of Foreign Service officers will be used to bring them up-to-date on what the domestic American market would be interested in or willing to buy from abroad.

In the United States offers and inquiries of foreign traders and manufacturers are being published periodically; they are estimated to reach through various publications a total circulation estimated at close to 100,000 largely among buyers of American firms. The Advertising Council, a group of private American advertising organizations, has issued a series of pamphlets and advertisements on the need and wisdom of increasing imports, to illustrate business interest in the import drive.

With the aid of such import promotion, U.S. Government agencies hope to increase the flow of dollars to foreign countries, and better balance trade on a high level of productivity to the benefit of all concerned.—(USIS).

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Friday, January 30th, 1948

ANTI-NATIONAL TRAITORS

WE are reliably informed that the Left-wing Parties in Parliament are preparing to boycott the Freedom Celebrations to be held during February. This move has been inspired by the Bolshevik-Leninist Party of India (Ceylon Branch) and the other Left-wing Parties blindly followed this lead. This is obviously a sour grapes attitude because the Leftists in Ceylon have had no hand whatsoever in the achievement of freedom by this country. The credit belongs entirely to the Senanayake Government which Colvin. N.M., and Keuneman have tried and failed to discredit. The demonstrations that are being planned are calculated to mislead the people and lead them astray. This will convince the masses that the Leftists are opposed to freedom and are the enemies of a free Lanka. They must be thoroughly and adequately exposed as anti-national, unpatriotic, selfish place-hunters who cannot rejoice at the freedom that the people have won.

Every nation requires a rallying cry which can urge it forward to ever greater heights

of achievement. This cry is essentially emotional in character and is similar to the inspiration that is necessary for individual effort. Anyone who has to perform an allotted task can do so in one of two ways. He can mechanically, through acquired skill, carry out the work entrusted to him or he can bring into his work a driving force of inspiration and invest it with a power that transcends ordinary understanding. Similarly, on a national scale we require the emotional strength that can inspire the people to reach forward in time and make of this Island the haven of peace, prosperity and health that we all desire it to be. That emotional strength we can find from Freedom Celebrations.

All those who love this country and feel the urge to work for its people would look upon the celebrations in connection with Independence Day as something unparalleled in the history of Ceylon during the last 300 years. It is true that a little over 130 years ago we had a king who ruled over his kingdom with that same spirit of free and unchallenged authority as did other sovereigns of his time. But it is also true that he held power over a restricted geographical area and that all the maritime provinces were the possession of the British East India Company. In the two preceding centuries also the King of Kandy was the king of Lanka only in name and real power was in the

hands of first the Portuguese and later the Dutch who often made a bold show of their authority.

February 4th will usher in the renaissance period of the history of Lanka. What is significant is that for the first time in three centuries there will be a free Lanka, but not in small fragments scattered throughout the land. When the nation should unitedly gather to rejoice at such an event we find Left-wing politicians jealous of the popularity that will come to the leaders of the freedom movement and attempting to organise a desperate demonstration in order to mislead some small section of the people into believing that this is not freedom after all. The Lanka Sama Samajist Party declined to vote on the freedom issue although they attacked the Resolution tabled by the Prime Minister. They may be of the opinion that after all if the Bolshevik-Leninist Party of India get away with the demonstration they will be left in the cold. As for the Communist Party it seems a pity that they are neither Communists nor Marxists but amateur theorists who have failed even to understand the elementary principles of political strategy. They must remember that the oratorical gift of their leader in Parliament cannot by itself save them from the ignominy of being nose-led by the B.L.P.I. and L.S.S.P Parliamentary Leaders in curious and contradictory alliance with the only communal party in Ceylon, the Tamil Congress.

Between Two Historians

KANDY, 2nd March, 1815: "The British flag was then hoisted, and the firing of cannon announced the establishment of British rule in Kandy. The Kandyan independence was now at an end. The ancient rule which had lasted for over two thousand three hundred years now definitely gave place to foreign sway."—("A History of Ceylon for Schools" by L. E. Blaze).

★ ✨ ★

THE British flag was then hoisted for the first time at Senkadagala and British cannon announced that Sri Vikrama Rajasinha had been replaced by George the Third, while Brownrigg's son hastened to England to lay the Lion Flag of Tri Sinhala at the feet of the Prince Regent."—(Dr. Paul E. Pieris, in his book "Tri Sinhala").

★ ✨ ★

Mr. Blaze and Dr. Pieris will no doubt rejoice with us on February 12th, 1948, when His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester hoists the Lion Flag at Kandy. "If you have tears to shed, prepare to shed them now," was heard in Rome centuries ago on a memorable but mournful occasion. Need we be ashamed to shed tears of joy when "the meat of two hundred ancient drums begins and as the rataplan grows to its fullest volume of sound the Lion Flag slowly rises to the mast-head." Jayawewa!

NEW WOMEN'S PARTY

By K. Stephen Perera

THE announcement that an island-wide organisation of Socialist women has been formed reminds the public once again of a certain Women's Political Party the founding of which was reported in the Press about a year ago. That party, it was said at the time, was determined to fight for feminine rights for feminine rights in this fair Isle of Sri Lanka. One really felt elevated that some at least of the gentler sex in this country had "got one foot out of the home" though as yet they did not know where to put it.

As the public at the time was anxious to know more about that party I put the following couple of questions in a letter to the Press:

"Is the babe being secretly brought up in the congenial atmosphere of an already existing men's political party? Or—perish the thought—did it all result in a still birth?"

And now the emerging of an island-wide organisation of Socialist women from the womb of capitalist society is announced.

The new organisation, we are told, will not be a political party, "but its primary object will be to study the social and economic needs of the women of Ceylon with a view to alleviating their condition." But whatever it is, the galaxy of sweet names of the conveners makes interesting reading.

Why are there only Stellas, Doras and Florences, Viennenes, Helens and Doreens? Where are the country's Babahamys and Mangononas, the Letchimis and Meenatchis who should form the backbone of a "Socialist" group?

Far be it from me to wish that the labour of this enthusiastic band of women "Socialists" will result in yet another still birth. However, while pondering over this subject, the following thought-provoking lines of Prof. C. E. M. Joad, the eminent English Philosopher, came to my mind again:—

"Women do not so much have ideas as experience a rush of ideas to the head. Arrived there they become invested with an emotional content; the best that one can hope is that they should be accepted as merely true or dismissed as merely false."

Mohammed's Teachings Opposed To Communism

By M. A. C. M. Saleh

THE world is in a state of chaos on account of conflicting ideas of government. Old words have assumed new adaptations and adjustments. Nationalism is threatening to uproot all the great ideals of pacifism. People are arraying themselves against each other in a state of confusion. The second Great War has ended but conditions have not changed. Religion—the last resort against the ills of society—is not effective to prove its efficacy and establish the foundation of lasting peace upon the basic principles of fear and love in the Oneness of the Supreme Deity. It is in this chaotic condition of the world the modern tendency to Communism in relation to Islam should be examined.

It is said that certain features of Islam have closely knitted resemblance to the Communistic ideas that have been recently evolved with the firm belief and conviction that the world can be made fitter for the greater contentment and happiness of the human race. It is a syllogism to evolve theories upon dead matter, and the fruit of one's labour may lead to a wider conception of thought in all spheres of life. Islam has one distinct feature which completely takes away the taint of Communism from its fold. It is the principle of the individual right which is made sacred and inviolable. The essence of progress and development of man in the scale of evolution and in the attainment of the spiritual aspirations is fundamentally in its ascent.

The annihilation of the individuality in the Communist programme has made Islam far superior and the modern tendency to Communism cannot find a respectable place within the fold of Islam. Desire controlled upon the basis of right conduct helps to mediate between right

and wrong upon the individual responsibility of the person whose freedom remains unimpaired. This gives an impetus to rise and ennoble oneself within the limits of his ability and capacity governed by the Divine Ordinance.

The two great things which Islam emphasises and Communism denies are God and the individual. If we remove these two features from Islam, the entire structure falls to the ground. A godless state has nothing to aspire and nothing to achieve. The acceptance of the Oneness of the Supreme Deity in Islam has produced and promoted a confraternity full of virtue and virility, claiming to its fold nearly a third of the world's population and it is no easy achievement. Let us ponder over the mind of man under the influence of a godless state. The mind—the fount of all knowledge and the crown of man—would be wandering aimlessly and any material gain may not help in the hour of mental disturbance when all things material fail to minister to the needs of man beyond the network of materialism. In this state of unbalanced mind due to nothingness beyond materialism will create an epoch of everlasting perdition in his mind. Mind must be trained to respond to something beyond the comprehension of human faculties and that training is absolutely necessary to make the world fit for habitation circumscribed by law and order and avert by the feeling of the presence of something supreme and superior to all that man could perform with his limitations of life and limb. To understand this great philosophy of life Communism can never help nor can it claim to help on the face of its denial to acknowledge One above man.

would again be an absurdity which Islam can never tolerate and contemplate. There must be aim in society based upon fundamental laws that would raise man above the scale of human wants and satisfy him in his inner cravings for something higher and nobler than that which is materially available but not conclusively self-sufficient or satisfactory spiritually. In short Islam can never accept the theories or the vagaries of Communism. It has one fundamental difference which is sufficient to reject it. The God-idea is a sine qua non in Islam and Communism is just the reverse. Where can compromise and conciliation between these two conflicting ideas be effected for Islam to infuse its force upon the godless theory of a stateless society. No doubt there are marked features resembling the Islamic principles in Communism which do not lend support to the claim of Communism in place of Islam. In everything new there would be some old ideas and ideals and on that score Islam cannot be mixed with the unholy system of Communism, the sooner it's forgotten the better.

If we carefully study nature, she has a great lesson to teach the world. There is unity in diversity. Uniformity in law and unification in the universe. All this has full of deep and subtle meaning. An individual serving a state has something to achieve beyond his satisfaction in all his material desires and this missing part Communism like Darwin can never link with all its claim to maximum happiness and minimum labour. It is the individual aspiration of something which human hand can never offer. It is in the belief and conviction of a

Supreme Deity he will receive his reward which gives him eternal bliss and solace and which no man with superhuman power and abundance of material wealth and worldly greatness can give him. Islam seeks to endow man with this great gift.

★ ● ★

LET there be a thorough examination of the difference between Islam and Communism on the question of an appeal to heart. Communism has dictatorial powers and its command must be obeyed whether it appeals to the heart or head. Human beings are modelled on the lines of dumb-driven cattle. They have no freedom to think and evolve but to obey and do what may be against one's own conscience, if he can cultivate a conscience for himself under the Communist edict. Even if he has, he has nothing to reach beyond the cloak of materialism. Islam on the other hand appeals for a change of heart and makes him do wonderful things, the benevolence of which is attributed to God. This difference, too, remains irreconcilable. Islam preaches and practices the recognition of individuality causing a spontaneous change of heart but Communism aims at removing the conscience which is the seat of God and must be preserved for all time in the odour of sanctity for the guidance of man. Let no Communism worry the Muslims. They have an excellent code to inculcate the idea of how to serve Allah and respect authority in the service of their country with devotion and love.

★ ● ★

THEN let us find out the condition of a world with a stateless society. Where shall it begin and what destination should it reach? It

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U.S. Government agencies regularly provide expert information on a wide variety of subjects, from caring for a baby to aerial navigation, in booklet form at nominal cost or free. Thousands of Americans take advantage of this service. For example, about 4,000,000 copies of a booklet "Infant Care" have been sold throughout the country. The Commerce Department's series of booklets on small business have been widely used by veterans to establish and operate new enterprises.

INFORMATION on a wide variety of subjects, from caring for a baby to wood-working, is prepared by various U.S. Government agencies and printed in booklet form by the Government Printing Office for sale at nominal costs or for free distribution upon request. Thousands of Americans take advantage of this service, for the information given is written by experts familiar with a particular subject.

Pamphlets and books on babies are the most popular. About 4,000,000 copies of a booklet "Infant Care," prepared by the Children's Bureau, Federal Security Agency, have been sold throughout the country.

Publications on pilot training, navigation and other aviation subjects from the second most popular group. Prepared by the Civil Aeronautics Administration, the sale of some of these totals more than 400,000 copies each.

The U.S. Office of Education provides a vast amount of material on schooling and reading, and the Public Health Services gives copious information on keeping healthy. Innumerable cooking recipes are prepared by the Agriculture Department's Bureau of Home Economics. There are even recipes on cooking wild game, made available by

the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service.

BOOKLETS ON SMALL BUSINESS FOR VETERANS

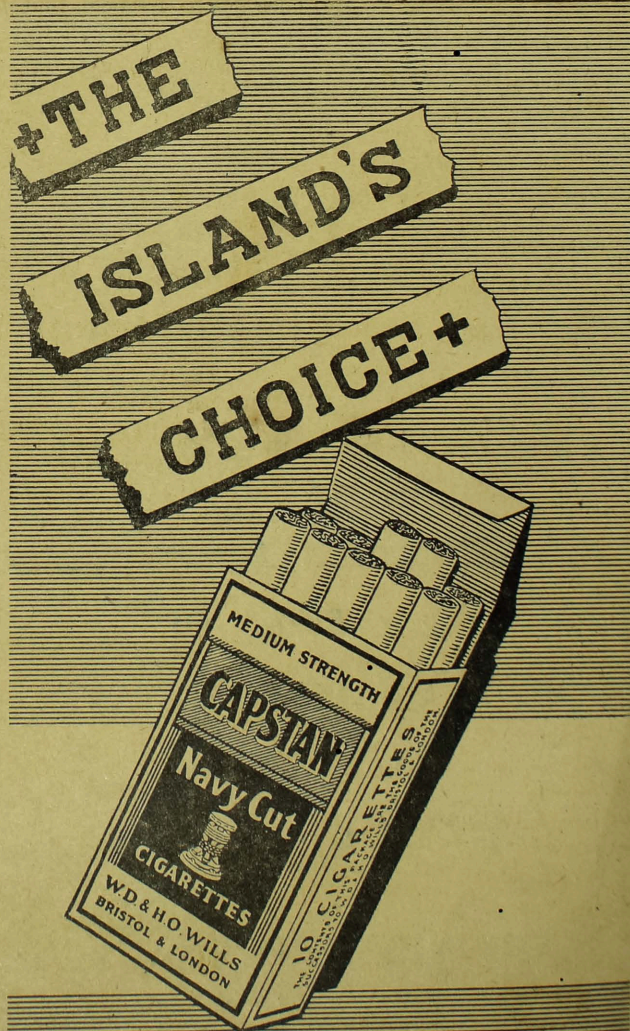
For those wishing to go into business, the Department of Commerce tells how to establish and operate a great variety of enterprise, as well as the requirements for success and the situation in the business field. Produced chiefly for veterans wanting to start small businesses, these booklets give detailed information on such enterprises as grocery stores, shoe repair shops and weekly newspaper plants.

If a person is planning to buy a home the Department of Commerce booklets tell how to judge a house before buying it, and how to care for and repair it.

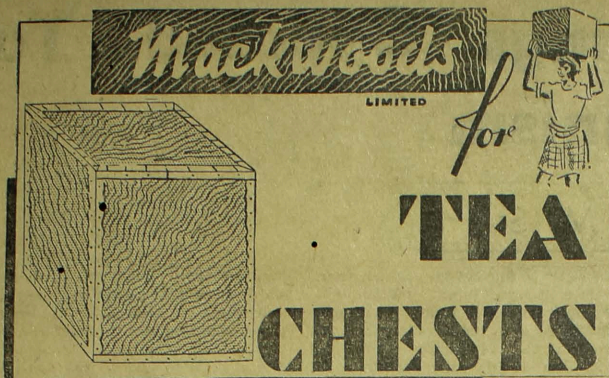
Farmers and their wives can find all types of information on running a farm or a farmhouse, with much of the gardening and household advice useful to city dwellers, also.

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Art & Letters By Quintus Delilkhan

Francois Villon

FEW poets have lived through such years of crowded misery as fell to the lot of Francois Villon. He feels a prey to every ill to which flesh can be heir. It was a completely tormented life, in which he paid the devil's price to the full. What he got from it is enshrined in the story of his life. What we have got from it is a handful of precious poems with the aroma of immortality strong upon them.

In "FRANCOIS VILLON" by D. B. Wyndham Lewis (COLOMBO BOOK CENTRE) we get a description of the background of Villon's life, an interpretation of his poetry, and a documented survey which brings before us the results of the latest scholarship without too much formality and pedantry. It is readable in every page because Villon's life in all its varied and sordid incidents is in itself a master-key to his poetry, so closely is his verse interwoven with the texture of his experience.

"As for the matter," says Mr. Belloc, "Villon has, being French, that supremely national acquaintance with the grandeur and bitterness of reality, and therefore the power of jesting with it; bitter sometimes, sometimes combe and sometimes almost genial. And he has what goes with the bold appreciation of reality, the refuge in beauty, and the natural (not weak) refuge in affection. But of these last he is a little afraid—wherein again he is national. If you desire one word to use as an antithesis to the word sentimental, use the word Villon." Nothing need be added to explain why this virile poetry, unusual in its sinewy strength, should have commanded the admiration of all classes of lovers of poetry from his day to ours. Villon has become almost a cult even among those who cannot assign the true reason for the hold this poet, so remote from our own day, exercises upon their minds.

AN entirely fascinating picture of the Paris in which Villon lived is given us by Mr. Wyndham Lewis who has studied the Villon terrain with the most meticulous care and precision. And he writes about it lyrically, too. "In the symphony of Medieval Paris which is Villon's poetry," he says, "in its rich tumult, its vivid colour, its cruelties and generousities and riotings and obscenities and crimes and dirt and splendour and prevailing largeness—the Middle Ages were sometimes scandalous but never vulgar—in its strange pathos, and preoccupation with Death, in all this there is mixed the brawl of the streets and the laughing loud songs of the taverns, the screams and giggling of the daughters of joy and the everlasting disputations of the Sorbonnical Doctors, the clink of goblets and the clash of steel, the thud of flying feet and the jangle of chains and the creak of ropes on Montfaucon gallows; but under all these noises there runs, with a steady beat, permanent like ground-bass, the chant of De Profundis and the Salve Regina." In this atmosphere, Villon lived the life of a poet and a poor scholar, a thief, a vagabond and a murderer for which he was in danger of death. He was several times in prison and in the end disappears completely from recorded history. It might be that he wandered from Paris and died poor in some obscure place in the country, or it might even be that some charge of a serious kind was framed against him and he was hanged.

He was born of poor parents, his name being at first Francois de Montcorbier or Francois des Loges. He derived the name Villon from a priest who decided to adopt him after his father's death. The bond between them was a strange one. The priest loved the scapegrace of genius who was always getting into trouble and who allowed the shadow of the gallows even to fall upon his young life. Villon took everything he could with the carelessness of the prodigal, but he also appears to have returned the old man's love in his own queer way. Up to about twenty-one years of age, Villon appears to have trodden the path of the just. In 1449, he became Bachelor of Arts of the University of Paris and Master of Arts on August 16, 1452. Robert d'Estouteville, Provost of Paris, befriended the poet and he was received at his house. Villon having caught his attention by writing an acrostic ballade dedicated to the Provost's wife, Ambroise de Lore. We must not suppose however that Villon swam into the current of the high life of Paris or that he was a profound scholar. He was at the same time making the acquaintance of a very undesirable set of persons to whom riotous living was the chief joy of existence, and who were utterly unscrupulous as to how they got the money which they squandered as fast as they could in the low dens of vice in the capital. But amidst all the dangers and excitements of tavern life, Villon fell in love. The object of his devotion was Catherine de Vaucelles who, though she was perhaps proud of the attentions of the poet whose verses were on all lips, did not feel that she could carry her admiration to the length of becoming his wife.

She toyed with his affections, and brought disaster to Villon's life by making her affianced lover thrash the poet for having published some unkind and insulting verses about her in revenge for the deception which she had practised upon him. He contended himself with light loves, and it was in a quarrel over a girl named Ysabeau that on June 5, 1455, he killed a man and had to flee from Paris. His subsequent life was a nightmare in which we see him flitting like a shadow here and there, imprisoned, granted pardon, herding with thieves, murderers and other vagabonds and finally a thick curtain of obscurity falls upon him. No amount of intense research by scholars has up to now been able to discover the slightest trace of him during his last days.

♦ ★ ♦
BUT Villon is undoubtedly a great poet. All his sufferings he put into his poetry. He could be bitter, gay, mocking and terribly repentant. His lines are written with an iron pen and many of them are etched upon the memory unforgettably. His Testaments in which he playfully leaves legacies he does not own to persons whom he liked and those whom he disliked, and delighted to insult, and his ballades are his title to fame. As soon as Villon composed he carried his manuscript to his boon companions in the taverns which he frequented, and they were read to the immense joy of the reckless carousers. In the circumstances, his poetry has the very breath of reality. It palpitates with life. It reflects all his changing passions, his loves and his hates, his enthusiasms and fears. His ballades have been translated by many great English poets, including Rossetti and Swinburne, the most well-known of which is "The Ballade of Dead Ladies" by Rossetti, the opening lines of which are:

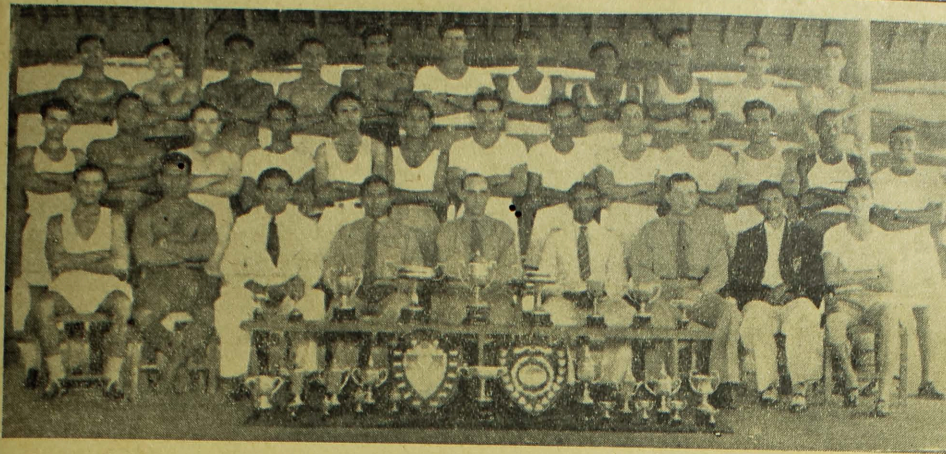
"Tell me now in what hidden way is
Lady Flora, the lovely Roman?
Where's Hipparchia, where is Thais,
Neither of them the fairer woman?
Where is Echo beheld of no man,

Only heard on river and mere—
She whose beauty was more than
human?

But where are the snows of yester-
years?

and the Envoy of which ends thus:
Nay, never ask this weak, fair lord,
Where they are gone, nor yet this
year,

Except with this for an overword—
But where are the snows of yester-
years?



THE Railway Security Service athletic, boxing and wrestling teams had a very successful season during 1947. The athletes swept the board at

the Railway Inter-Departmental Meet and won the Inter-Departmental Challenge Shield, and many of them were in the Railway team that won the Novices' Championships at the Govern-

ment Services Meet. L. S. Goonesekera, the Athletics Captain who represented All-Ceylon in the Indo-Ceylon Meet in 1946 is now under training for the Olympics. Another athlete, C. S. Joseph, is also a member of the Olympics team.

In boxing, E. D. Raymond, D. D. N. Perera and Abeysekera have won their weights in the Government Services boxing meet, while O. M. D. V. Perera, the Boxing Captain, has figured prominently at open meets. Of the wrestlers, D. D. N. Perera who captained the Ceylon team against Bengal in 1946, Walwin Perera, the best wrestler in the 1946 Championship Meet, Wijetunga and Abeysekera have been successful. The success of the Security Service teams has been due mainly to the interest and keenness shown by the Chief Security Officer, Colonel Harold Van Langenberg, himself a keen sportsman.

Rain on the final day saved the tourists when they were facing defeat.

I SAW some of the exchanges in the final of the D Division

of the Government Service Cricket Competition between Railway and Electrical and came away from the Sports Club ground with the feeling that it was the better team that had lost. Had not the epidemic of dropped catches spread like wildfire among the Electricians, the tale might have been a different one. While all credit must be given to Bultjens for his invaluable century, it cannot be denied that he had more than his share of luck, as dolly catches were put on the floor in the most unlikely quarters. Railway, on the other hand, gave a grand display of fielding, one catch being a particularly brilliant one in which the fieldman threw himself full length at mid-off to take a stinging drive inches from the ground.

★

I HAVE good news for tennis fans and that is that there is just a chance that the Swedish champions, Bergelin and Johansson, who drove a coach and four through the recent All-India Hard-Court title meet in Madras, may come to Ceylon sometime in March.

Their visit should prove of immense benefit to Ceylon and if they can be persuaded to play in the local championships at Nuwara Eliya, no one will appreciate it more than the players who may be beaten by them. Incidentally I hear that Bergelin has played a lot on the 'en tout cas' courts in Europe and has so modelled his play on the type that suits them that he, unlike other world champions, does not depend so much on pace for his winners. It is his amazing ball control that gives him such a whip hand over his opponents, who invariably make the first mistake. It will do Ceylon tennis a world of good if these Swedes decide to come over to the Island even for a series of exhibition matches.

SPORTS

Commentary

COVER-POINT

CRICKET and Racing provide the main theme of the week's sports round-up and with two Test matches on the card, Cricket naturally takes precedence, though these notes have of necessity to be written before their results are known.

At Adelaide, the Indians are engaged in the penultimate Test of their tour. They have found Dame Fortune frowning on them in the sense that the luck of the toss again went against them. The early success gained when Morris played on, led one to entertain the very fond hope that India's mediocre attack had suddenly developed sufficient sting as to be able to follow this up with a few quick wickets. But, Bradman, as usual, and Barnes intervened to prove how illusory these hopes were, and with the aid of a dropped catch, these two proceeded to give Australia a flying start. They just ran riot once they had mastered the bowling and the 300 was sent up in just over four hours. Bradman beat Barnes to the century and thereafter went verserk.

Amarnath packed the off-side field with as many men as he could spare but Bradman found the gap and with it, the boundary almost at will. Losing Barnes at 112, Bradman took complete control and sent the Adelaide crowd almost into hysterics as he cut, drove and hooked the tired Indian bowlers. It was only after he had scored his double century that he gave up his wicket and that too when attempting a big hit off Hazare. Bradman has now scored 1,124 runs for the season and shares with Amarnath the distinction of being the only batsman to score over 1,000 runs this season in Australia—and, it must not be forgotten that whereas Amarnath got some gift runs against weak teams, Bradman made his either in Test cricket or in really first-class games. No account of the first day's play would be complete without reference to the excellent wicket-keeping by Sen, who gave away only two byes. All the Australian Radio Commentators were full of praise for his efficient work behind the stumps.

The Indians had two tiring days in the field and it was not till the evening shadows stole across the ground and nearly 700 runs had been put on the board that their labours were ended.

I was listening in to Radio Australia most of the morning and was particularly gratified to hear that the Indian attack, though collared, never really wilted and that their bowlers, particularly Rangachari, stuck gallantly to their task.

The dislodging of Hassett, on whom the mantle of Bradman seems destined to fall, is always a difficult task even when the attack is fresh, but when that attack is tired, it is practically impossible. And so it proved to be this afternoon when Hassett belaboured the Indian bowlers to carry out his bat for 198.

The last wicket partnership between

Hassett and Toshack gave rise to much amusement to the crowd and, as the commentator said, Toshack like the little boy who had measles, realised for the first time his importance as a batsman.

Australia's score of 674 is the highest score ever made by Australia in a Test match in Australia, beating the previous record of 658 made against England last year at Sydney.

Facing that huge total, India made a disastrous start and in the few minutes of play left, lost Sarwate and Sen, both victims of Keith Miller, at 6.

Their position appeared to be even more hopeless when on the Monday, Amarnath, after giving a glorious display to score nearly 50 at the rate of a run a minute, fell to a dolly catch, to be followed back into the pavilion a little later by Mankad and Gul Mahomed. This brought Hazare and Phadkar into a partnership which was destined to pull the game out of the fire and give India just the faintest chance of saving the match. Hazare in scoring his first Test century gave a faultless display.

★

AT Barbados, the M.C.C. have exceeded the most sanguine expectation of their supporters by taking the honours on the second day, after being seemingly outplayed on the first. When the West Indians had batted all day on Wednesday to score nearly 250 runs for the loss of only 3 wickets, particularly with Headley still to be accounted for, it appeared to be quite a safe bet that the West Indians would chalk up another huge total as they had done in the opening match of the tour. But for once the rain gods smiled on the M.C.C. and a sudden overnight downpour made the wicket less of a bowler's heart-break than it usually is and Jim Laker, Surrey's spin bowler, came along to exploit this help to the full. To take 7 wickets for 103 runs in his first Test match is an achievement which augurs well for the future. Who knows but that Laker might be the answer to England's prayer for a bowler hostile enough to have even the remotest chance of holding the Australians when they tour England later this year. But Laker alone will not be enough. England's search for a fast attacking bowler must be unremitting.

The M.C.C. batsmen failed to follow up the good work done by Laker and on the third day of the match were dismissed for 43 runs short of the West Indian total, losing the last 7 wickets for 103 runs. Joe Hardstaff played a defiant innings, batting for over four hours and had very bad luck in missing his century by just two runs. The Notts batsman has been in the forefront of English cricket for many years now, and is still a potential England cap. But for Robertson and Hardstaff, none of the M.C.C. batsmen cut much ice against the very steady West Indian bowling, though young Evans, the England keeper, had a bright knock for 26.

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