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POLITICAL BANDWAGON

By Lakshman Senaveratne

THIS is pre-eminently an age of democracy, and I would prefer it to be an age of Social Democracy. So that I don't expect my readers to be recruited from chic people who, if they only knew it, would discuss politics sipping Benedictine after coffee.

Politics, both on a global and local basis, would be my theme. For, though I am of Socialist Vintage, having learnt my Social Democracy from M. Leon Blum, the veteran French Socialist leader in Paris, I don't quite agree that the U.N.P., as an epistolary lascar from Goanistan would prefer to call it, is exactly the United Nazi Party, when it should be, in these days of internationalism intimidated no doubt by the atom-bomb and the radio-active cloud, the United Nations Party.

The really provocative question that poses itself to penetrating and what is more, if not suppressed, original minds, is whether Social Democracy depends, for its survival in its struggle against Communism throughout the world, on American economic patronage?



M. Leon Blum

in Paris, Andre Malraux put me a strange question at the very beginning of our conversation. What was it, he asked me, that enabled Hinduism to push away organized Buddhism from India, without any major conflict?... The question was perhaps typical of a French intellectual who was also a man of action. And yet few persons in Europe or America would trouble themselves over such matters; they would be much too full of the problems of today. More present-day world problems filled and troubled Malraux also and with his powerful and analytical mind he sought light wherever he could find it in the past or, in the present—in thought, speech, writing or, best of all in action, in the game of life and death."

★ ● ★

WILL Buddhism return to India to spiritually guide her destinies to a non-belligerent future? Or is the Asokan wheel in the flag of India, a symbol of her potentially pursuing a policy of expansion, utilizing Buddhism as a prop and a medium of incorporating Buddhist countries within her ample, but frequently arid, bosom?

With the prevalent harmony and goodwill that Lanka's Premier had created when hearts and stood each other in New Delhi and legal minds would be instructed to codify such understanding into legislation, it would seem undiplomatic to pose such questions. But the sooner they are answered, the more secure we in Lanka would be about planning economically a Socialist future for our own country.

So that diplomatically a visit to Pakistan, after one to India, is as necessary as a visit to Burma. It can be stated, with some degree of pardonable pride, that I was the first Social Democratic publicist to analyze and expose the philosophic weaknesses of Marxism, to the public in Lanka.

I was, of course, accused of being in the pay of the Imperialist "Times," but as you know the payment is so negligible that my attack against Communism was in terms of economics, a purely idealist crusade. For I was particular about attacking economic

imperialism, with the same vehemence, unlike one evening paper, which can embrace with an equally cynical fervour, for strategic reasons Trotskyites, Stalinites, the City of London, the Fort Banks and the Tea Plantations.

★ ● ★

TO fight Communists, it is first necessary to understand it, an elementary prerequisite that most of the Communists themselves in Parliament, have failed to do. Trotskyism, to that intourist pseudo-expert on Marxism, Dr. Colvin R. de Silva, has been, to my mind, a prophecy and a medium for a lucrative capitalist practice, pending the Trotskyite millenium he envisages which condemns Lanka to be a stooge State or Province in a Trotskyized India.

Marxism can be understood by reading publications of the Marx-Lenin-Angels Institute in Moscow for the Stalinite version of the Marxist Hot Gospel and Trotsky's works, for Trotskyite deviations, from it. One of the most brilliant critics I have read of Marx's philosophy is by the Socialist thinker, Lord Bertrand Russell, who I happen to know, I shall expound in detail the essential points in his criticism, in a later feature.

Meanwhile, do you know that John Gunther, the ace American Foreign Correspondent is following up his "Inside U.S.A.," with "Inside Africa" in 1950 and "Inside Australia" in 1952?

A recent New Yorker Profile on Gunther describes him as "one of the half-dozen or so authentic international celebrities."

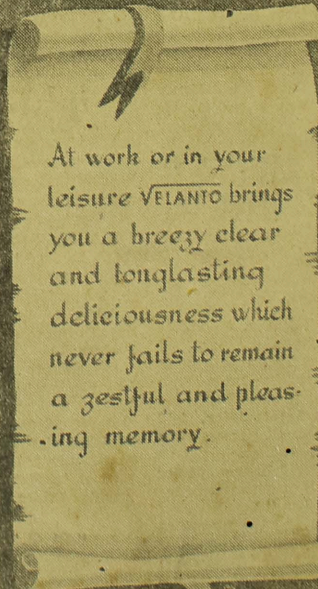


Senator Taft

And how long boom in the American internal economy, which the American Republicans will capitalize to put Senator Taft into the U.S. Presidency this year, would permit her to subsidize countries in their fight against Stalinism, for Trotskyism as a world force is a negligible international joke?

Now that Mr. Senanayake, whose tactical acumen in politics has more than a family resemblance to the less suave technique of Sardar Patel, has returned to Lanka from India, it recalls to my mind a question that an ex-Trotskyite in Paris, M. Andre Malraux, put to Pandit Nehru, when he visited Paris. Nehru mentions it in his book, "The Discovery of India." Nehru writes: "Eight or nine years ago when I was

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BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

'Caliph' Selects

TEN MEN OF THE YEAR

(This article represents the personal views of the writer.)

I AM aware I have taken on a tricky job—of selecting the "Ten Men of the Year" (1947). Anyway this is my own selection and you are entitled to your own opinion. I have been hyper-critical of everyone. But I could sift a commendable ten out of the hundreds. You might have already guessed their names. Here they are:—

1. Mr. D. S. Senanayake
2. Sir Henry Monck-Mason Moore
3. Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike
4. Mr. D. R. Wijewardene
5. Mr. J. L. Kotelawala
6. Mr. G. C. S. Corea
7. Mr. R. F. S. de Mel
8. Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam
9. Mr. Albert Perera
10. Mr. Daya Hewavitane

Mr. D. S. Senanayake does not hold pride of place merely because he is Premier of Ceylon. His office may be a historic one, as he is our first Prime Minister since the British took over in 1815. But my reason for selecting him is due primarily to the fact that we would not have gone so fast and far towards Dominion Status and independence but for his personality, political sagacity, energy and drive.

When he drove triumphantly from Kandy down to Colombo, on his appointment as Prime Minister, the crowds that cheered him vociferously were unconsciously voicing their votes for the "Man of the Year." It is his popularity among Sinhalese, Muslim and Burghers—and even Tamils—that has given us this bloodless revolution.

We did not have to fight a "War of Independence." Mr. Senanayake fought our war—and won. To this fact alone I award him the crown of laurels.

Another is his ability to put Ceylon on the map. His visits to India and Pakistan, I hear, aroused a great deal of interest there as it did in England and other Dominions when it was announced that the British had acceded to Mr. Senanayake's request for independence.

TO our affable Governor goes the credit for the successful negotiations which led to our obtaining Dominion Status. Like Sir Andrew Caldecott he was for ever in sympathy with Ceylonese aspirations.

Unlike the old-time colonial governors, whose main object in office was to please Imperial interests, Sir Henry Monck-Mason Moore was a realist. He understood the temper of the people and backed by the sagacity, he actually turned advocate and represented our case in undeniable terms.

To him Ceylon says: "Thank You." While 1947 will commemorate him, let's wish him a happy regime as our first Governor-General in 1948.

LIKE Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike also put Ceylon on the map. I award him marks purely on the merit of his performance at the Inter-Asian Relations Conference at New Delhi.

An Indian, whom I met later, told me that Mr. Bandaranaike spoke with the oratory of Mark Antony. "If I was a Ceylonese I would have wept for joy to know we were represented by such a brilliant speaker."

Behind that speech was the finesse of the Oxford undergraduate. In politics he kept him flag flying as high as ever. His unprecedented victory by 26,000 votes at the polls is another factor that gets him on top of the country.

BEHIND all this freedom talk is the giant figure of Mr. D. R. Wijewardene, the Press magnate of Ceylon. He fought for freedom and independence earlier than any of our present patriots. But he was always in the background letting the others steal the thunder. But the country cannot forget him.

Another reason for my including him in the list is his pioneer work in the establishment of the University of Cey-



Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam

lon culminated by the creation of the University Sangharama and Vihare Trust with a handsome donation of Rs. 250,000.

WHATEVER Mr. Kotelawala might have done in his Ministerial capacity in the way of transport, hydro-electric scheme, workers' houses (the Kotelawala plan), and other achievements, Mr. Kotelawala's main achievement in 1947 was to make Ceylon air-minded.

The establishment of regular air services within a few post-war years is a remarkable achievement. On that alone I award him an honoured place in the roll.

MR. G. C. S. COREA has been a little bit of Ceylon in England. His decorum and diplomacy have been marked at the international conferences.

THE most popular Mayor Colombo ever had for some time was Mr. R. F. S. de Mel (who only last week was elected thrice Mayor of Colombo). Mr. de Mel's cheery smile has won many a friend and won over many an enemy. He has a knack of being in the news always.

Either as a champion of the cause for more houses for the poor, as a social mixer or as a clever Senator, Mr. de Mel has been constantly in the people's minds as well as in their hearts.

THE only sportsman in the list is Albert Perera, Ceylon's bantam weight boxing champion, who boxed in England under the sponsorship of Capt. G. A. K. Peebles. He won many honours for Ceylon beating the bantam champions of the British Royal Navy, Northern Counties, several London Clubs and Scottish Divisional. He came very near to qualifying for the A.B.A. title.

Added to the encomiums of the London Press was this tribute by Capt. Peebles:—

"He has been a fine ambassador who has displayed sportsmanship of the highest order; he has accepted one or two very doubtful decisions without the slightest sign of annoyance or disappointment; and he has always been modest in victory....." Ceylon was proud of him.

"G.G." might have been misdirected. But there was no doubt that it was his impressive personality and powerful leadership that won the Northern constituencies for the Tamils in the Parliamentary elections. Many elections were won merely because "G.G." was there.

So here's to you, G. G. Ponnambalam, leader of the Tamils. Let's hope you will be in the "Big Ten" of 1948 too by implementing co-operation with the Sinhalese in a statesmanlike way for the greater good of Sri Lanka.

MR. DAYA HEWAVITARNE has always been a popular figure in the art and social world. But his part in bringing the sacred Sanchi



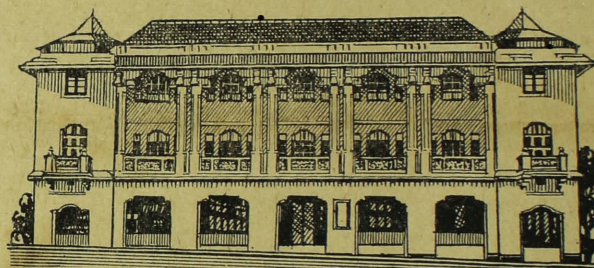
Albert Perera

Relics to Ceylon earns him the gratitude of the Ceylon Buddhists. I hear, it was his personal popularity that went well with the authorities. He is a coming Buddhist leader.



Mr. G. C. S. Corea

So there we have the "Ten Best for 1948." No correspondence is invited, for, as I said before, this is my personal opinion.



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BOADECEAS OF THE VANNI

AFTER the withdrawal of the Sinhalese sovereigns from their northern capitals in the 14th century, their deserted country was abandoned to the Malabars. The latter, distracted and disorganised by the ruin they themselves had made, broke up into small principalities under semi-dependent chiefs.

These chiefs (called Vanniya)—with chieftainesses added to the hierarchy—soon developed into supreme lords of the Vanni. So much so that one chieftain, Kaila Vanniya, openly flouted a summons by Van Goens, the Dutch Governor, and refused to leave his principality.

The Portuguese, though they conquered a good part of the country, never had real dominion over the Vanniya.

For one thing they feared the Vanni chiefs would go over to the King of Kandy; for another they feared the hostility of the chieftain themselves.

The Dutch were content to exact a tribute of elephants. But soon the Vanni chiefs jeopardised the Dutch possession of Ceylon. At one time while Tennekoon, Dissawe of the Seven Korales, was hovering near Kalpitiya, the Matara Dissawani was menaced from Sabaragamuwa, and Batticaloa was in revolt against the Dutch, the port of Aripoo (the possession of which was so important for the pearl fisheries) was menaced by the same Kaila Vanniya, who rebuffed Van Goens. Kaila Vanniya was working in concert with Tennekoon Dissawe.

THE Vanniya became so independent that nothing could be done without their consent. Communications with Jaffna and to the north-eastern ports were disrupted and hindered by hostile chieftains. Unless a right-of-entry pass was given by the Vanniya, no expedition could get across the Vanni. It was only the Dutch expedition (led by Lt. Nagel) against them that brought a semblance of tranquillity.

The career of Kaila Vanniya makes absorbing reading. He was a benevolent despot, who maintained sovereignty over the Vanni for several years. The Vanni folk paid him

greater taxes than the Sinhalese paid to their king at the time.

But he was very considerate. The soldiery who maintained guard at his palace and who were serving in his wars abroad were fed from his Royal Granary, to which a certain proportion of the Vanni's harvest produce was added. This was contrary to the practices at the Kandyan kingdom where the soldiers had to bear their own expenses.

Kaila Vanniya was in a close bond of friendship and correspondence with the King of Kandy (Rajasinha II). When the latter sent an army against the Hollanders, the Vanni chief let them pass through his country. And he went himself in person to direct Rajasinha's troops in their attack against several Dutch forts.

Because the King of Kandy would not permit his people to have any manner of trade with the Dutch, the Vanni chiefs allowed his people to buy from the Dutch salt, salt fish, brass, butter and other commodities and sell them to the Kandyans.

AT Udaiyur, the large tank of Kanakarayankulam, possessed the remains of the bathing-place of a haughty Vanni King. It was built into the bund of the tank. A semi-circular mound projected into the tank and a flight of steps led from the top down to the tank. The side-walls of brickwork had the traditional Vanni marks (five wavy lines).

The Vanni king, who had his palace near the tank, had the Buddhist monastery, attached to it converted into a Hindu temple dedicated to Andiya. A step-stone to one of the side verandahs of this temple was discovered in 1889.

There was another Vanni king at Ruwanmaduwa, on the south-eastern limit of the Vavuniya District. Ruins of the king's palace have been discovered—a brick-walled enclosure, numerous pillars, stone mortars and other dressed stones. Panakamam was once the headquarters of the Vanni chiefs while a tank four miles from Pandarakatkulam, was described as "the residence of the Vanni prince of this district."

THE Vanni people had their Amazon queens or chieftainesses. Near Puliyankulam there could be found some mysterious ruins—a large square "pokuna" built up with a cabook-like stone (about 90 yards square) and a rectangular stone with

By
Mohammed

raised borders (such as those used to place flowers at Buddhist altars) besides tiles and other indented stones.

Tradition has it that these are the ruins of the "Kannya-kovil"—the seven temples of seven Vanni virgin chieftainesses. These Amazons are popularly believed to be the seven daughters of Nanti.

But the most celebrated of the Amazons is the Vannichee (female Vanni chieftain), Maria Sembatte. In the campaign of the Dutch Government to destroy once and for all the Vanni power the best opposition came from Maria Sembatte who held out fearfully against superior arms.

She was finally defeated, taken away prisoner and detained in captivity in the fort of Colombo.

Even though the Dutch subjugated the Vanni for a time, the hot blood of the Vanni Amazons kept bubbling up. These women joined their men in guerilla warfare. Dutch policy resulted only in the impoverishment and desolation of the Vanni.

BEING impatient of Dutch presence and control the Vanni men and women abandoned their traditional habits of cattle-keeping and farming and resorted to a wild marauding life. They suddenly descended on the outlying villages of Jaffna and bolted back with the smash-and-grab booty.

The women acted as decoys in this career of banditry. While the men plundered and ravaged the villages, the women enticed the young women and virgins. While the latter chatted to the Vanni women, the marauders would swoop on them and kidnap them bodily.

These village women were sold as slaves or as courtesans to the people in the dominion of the King of Kandy.

THE last Vanni chief to be mentioned in any chronicle appeared to be Pandara Vanniya. This Vanni chieftain, author of the "Mulattivu Massacre" was once warned by the British and re-instated.

But his restless spirit made him revolt again and come within an ace of success before being routed by Captain Von Driberg—who received the tank of Pandarakulam as reward.

It was popularly thought that the restlessness of the Vanni chief was more due to instigation by the Kandyans than by any desire for revolt himself: for on June 17, 1802, Von Driberg had written about the Vanni to Mr. Lusignan, the Collector of Jaffna: "I have great attention to the proceedings of the Candians, and will not fail to communicate them to Barbut," thus totally ignoring Pandara Vanniya's movements.

BUT in 1848, it was recorded, there was an old lady residing near the fort of Jaffna and enjoying a small hereditary estate. This Vanni chieftainess perhaps still wielded some power among her subjects. But she was left to herself clinging to the decaying threads of a past heritage.

MARSHALL

As Chief of Staff, Marshall was the professional head of the nation's military establishment and commander of the field forces. In this capacity he had charge of the mobilization, organization, equipping and training of the nation's military forces, which grew under his command from a scattered combat force in the continental United States of some 1,064 planes and 174,000 troops, to a total in May, 1945 of 8,250,000 men and an air force of more than 69,000 planes.

As Chief of Staff and member of the Joint and Combined Chiefs of Staff, it was Marshall's task not only to provide and train troops, but to place them in theaters of operations at the proper time and keep them supplied. In addition, he took part in planning and directing over-all Allied strategy in which every force, enemy and friendly, had to be delicately balanced and in which time and distance played desperately important parts. In addition, security of the United States itself had to be provided for.

Marshall's remarkable biennial reports on the progress of the war, not only important and meaty in content but good reading, proved that the general was also a writer of ability. And the lean-faced, gray, steely-eyed Chief of Staff was his own author; the reports, which were the length of many a short novel, were not "ghost" written.

Besides the Distinguished Service Medal, Marshall also has been awarded the Silver Star and numerous foreign decorations. He holds honorary doc-

tor's degrees from five colleges and universities in the United States.

In the office Marshall is considered to be an ideal boss. He does not fumble in instructions, is quick and positive in his decisions and possesses a detailed knowledge of what is going on. He does not put up with ineptitude. He delegates authority and if it is misplaced, he tries somebody else. He is soft-spoken and conversational in his suggestions, and he prefers to suggest rather than to direct how things are to be done. He has that quality which marks a gentleman, never being intentionally rude.

Early to bed and up at 6.30 a.m. is the habit of the able, serious Marshall. His lean, six-foot frame is seldom inactive. Spare time, which is rare with him, he devotes to tennis, table-tennis or bridge, all of which he plays well. An outdoor man as well, he likes horse-back riding and is an excellent horseman. Washington, D.C., the national capital, knows him as a man who works hard and fights steadily for what he thinks the country needs, a man of remarkable patience and calm good nature. Like many men of action he dislikes publicity.

Thus the General of the Army who served his country so well in building the Army that proved decisive in the war now has a task of almost equal importance. More than almost any other man in the world, he will be called upon to make decisions that will preserve the peace he did so much to win.—(USIS).

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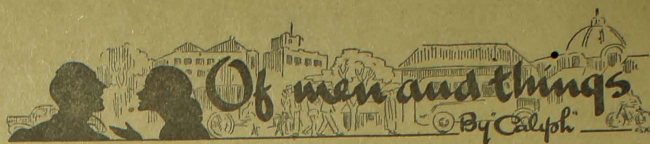


Friday, January 23rd, 1948

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

WE are glad to note that the House of Representatives accepted an amendment on the lines indicated in the article on this subject published in the last issue of our paper. In passing an amended form of Mr. Griffith's resolution the points we made in our editorial and in the special article were unanimously upheld. Mr. Griffith's amendment was most appropriate in that he has now asked the Government to consider the amendments that may be necessary to the Constitution in order to clarify some of the doubtful provisions there may be included in it. This resolution does not even specifically state that the Constitution should be amended in regard to a single provision or to get over a particular difficulty. That is the attitude we ourselves took up on this subject and it gives us some degree of satisfaction to feel that wiser counsels have prevailed. It is fitting that the Parliament should have put aside the temptations of sympathy and considered the principles that were involved in the amending of the Constitution. The Government may now set up a Committee of the House to hear evidence.

We should not pre-judge the issue by giving such a Committee terms of reference which will presume that particular sections of the Constitution should be amended or deleted. In matters of this nature political pressure should always be resisted because Party factions consider only their sectional interests and are naturally in favour of their special requirements. We do not concede that the mere existence of a very vocal group which sets up a howl against some sections of the Soulbury Constitution justified the assumption that there is definite need to alter the provisions in order to pacify the Opposition Groups. We have to think of the Constitution in terms of the future and not merely of the present day needs. We should not tamper with it in moments of heated argument with opposing factions. This is a subject that must be studied with care and at leisure. Mr. Griffith's amendment has saved the situation and there is every hope of a satisfactory settlement.



More Parks

IT is an excellent thing that the popular parks of Colombo, especially Victoria and Campbell, are being gradually restored to their pristine beauty after the ravages of military occupation. But what we need now is more parks in the city for they are, to use a hackneyed term, "the lungs of the city."

Colombo is a highly developed and populated city. The population has doubled due to the influx of war-time workers who have chosen to stay put. (In a big way they are responsible for the housing shortage). The increase of population and the nature of jobs make the case for more parks more pressing.

The city workers are in constant need of refreshment and outdoor recreation. The richer ones could well afford to spend a week-end Upcountry in untrammelled country. But the others need parks not only for evening walks but also for whole-day picnics.

A park with a stream or river flowing by would be ideal. Can't a park be constructed on the banks of the Beira? If we can stretch a point, a park on the banks of the Kelani Ganga won't be too far for a city worker to go to.

COMMUNAL CONCORD

WE can learn a good deal from Madras besides the idea of abolishing horse-racing and rickshaws. I note that in Madras they have had a Communal Concord Conference. Though our communal problem is not so acute as in India it will be a good thing if such conferences are held annually.

Youth organisations, anti-crime societies, communal clubs and other bodies may send in delegates to a monthly conference where ways and means of achieving communal concord could be discussed and devised.

Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Public Works and Information in the Madras Cabinet, who inaugurated the conference said that though the province was free from communal troubles they could not be blind to what was taking place in other parts of the country and cautioned that they must be ever vigilant for the maintenance of peace and harmony.

Religion should be well understood, he said, and the interests of the masses should be the dominant urge for all their acts if communal strife was to be avoided.

We may take a tip from Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam.

OUR CROWDS

CROWDS all over the world behave practically the same way. In Ceylon we have a variation of the temperaments that entice people to form crowds.

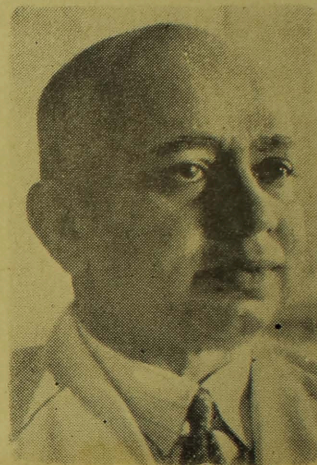
As in other countries women form the most interested crowds at weddings in Ceylon. New styles in bridal dresses, head-dressing, etc. are the main objects of their comments, fair or foul. If the bride does not look "sweet" she is "awkward", "clumsy" or dark. Many count the cars; the more the cars, the richer the wedding, they estimate.

Accidents on the road, a fire, or a lunatic attract attention. A motorist who happened to be involved in a minor accident told me that it is more nerve-

racking to know that an idle and inquisitive crowd is watching you than to state your version of the accident story to the police constable.

The war has given a clean combing to the ugly scrambles that were a feature at theatres, co-ops and toddy-taverns. The queue system has given these crowds orderliness—so much so that it is hardly fair to call them crowds.

Of course there are no popular demonstrations as outside Buckingham Palace during crises. But if the crowd that greeted the Premier on his triumphal drive from Kandy some time ago was any criterion, we are going to have large crowds at every important national event.



Sir Oliver Goonetilleke

Sir Oliver, Royalty and Horses

SIR OLIVER'S fondness for horses has made a reader query whether our gallant knight is not a descendant of Sinhalese royalty, who were noted for their fondness for horses. As far as I can think, I know of three Sinhalese kings who were really "mad about horses."

One was Sri Wickrema Raja Sinha, whose love for horses was sensed by the cute Governor North who sent him, with the first embassy of friendship, an Arab steed with white marks on the hind legs—considered a splendid omen by the Sinhalese.

King Narendra Sinha had magnificent horses harnessed to his State carriages. The Dutch obtained for him horses from Europe, Turkey and Persia (with the usual auspicious marks) "without delay as otherwise His Majesty would not be satisfied."

Another horse-fancier was King Rajasinha II who applied to the Dutch Governor, Jacob van Kuitensteen thus:

"I shall value to have at this, my imperial court, a dexterous horse taught to dance, and at the same time one or two more Arabs trained in war."

The Dutch had been liberal about gifts of horses and had already gifted the King with a Persian colt and a black stallion.

Tail-Piece

THE death was announced recently of Mr. A. R. Edwards of Manchester. He contested a seat in the Manchester City Council fifteen times. Fourteen times he was at the bottom of the poll. But at the fifteenth try—in 1937—he won! Can you beat that?

Art & Letters

BOOKMAN'S HOLIDAY

By Quintus Delilkhan

IN the quaint and fascinating books "BOOKMAN'S HOLIDAY" by Holbrook Jackson (COLOMBO BOOK CENTRE), there is no resisting the spell which authors cast upon us. They can be grave, sarcastic, joyous, kindly, sceptical, vitriolic and gay, and in fact make us run the gamut of all emotions. Here is a strange reason given by Dr. James Beattie, a celebrated person in his day, who writes to the Hon. Charles Boyd in 1876 why he considered himself a great man. "For," he says, "have I not headaches, like Pope? vertigo like Swift? grey hairs like Homer? Do I not wear large shoes (for fear of corns) like Vergil? and sometimes complain of sore eyes (though not of lippitude), like Horace? Am I not at this present writing invested with a garment not less ragged than that of Socrates? Like Joseph the patriarch, I am a mighty dreamer of dreams; like Nimrod the hunter, I am an eminent builder of castles (in the air). I procrastinate like Julius Caesar and very lately, in imitation of Don Quixote, I rode a horse, I am, old and lazy, like Rissnante. Sometimes, like Cicero, I write bad verses; and sometimes bad prose, like Vergil. This last instance I have on the authority of Seneca. I am of small stature like Alexander the Great; I am somewhat inclined to fatness like Dr. Arbuthnot and Aristotle; and I drink brandy and water, like Mr. Boyd." It is interesting to know that anyone with the like infirmities can even today aspire to greatness at least in his own esteem. The Doctor's facetiousness is almost modern in its happy manner. And here is Carlyle writing to his brother Alexander in 1821 in his rugged, truthful and exorbitant manner: "I know there is within me something different from the vulgar herd of mortals; I think it is something superiod; and if once I had overpassed those bogs and brakes and quagmires, that lie between me and the free arena, I shall make some fellows stand to the right and left—or I mistake me greatly." Carlyle here makes an affirmation of faith in himself which not only his contemporaries but posterity has endorsed. It is also a magnificent faith which Walter Savage Landor had in the immortality of his work. Writing to John Forster

in 1850 he says: "One thing is certain . . . I shall have as many readers as I desire to have in other times than ours. I shall dine later; but the dining room will be well-lighted, the guests few and select. I neither am nor ever shall be popular. Such never was my ambition." It is undeniable that Landor's marmoreal prose will appeal to few, but this handful of admirers will always be conscious of its classic strength and its near approach to a difficult perfection.

★ ★ ★

MOST authors have during their lifetime tasted of glory and all the homage that can minister to their happiness, though many also have had a full measure of bitterness meted out to them. After seeing a good deal of men and things, Roger Ascham, the famous schoolmaster, desired only to be left alone with the Bible, Plato, Aristotle, Demosthenes and Cicero. This was apparently his design for high and happy living. Horace Walpole declares that after having met all the great men and writers and other statesmen of his time, he has come to the conclusion: "Fame or interest is their object; and after all their parade, I think a ploughman who sows, reads his almanack, and believes the stars but so many farthing candles, created to prevent his falling into a ditch as he goes home at night, a wiser and more rational being, and I am sure, an honestier than any of them." Surely, a hard judgment on the world of which he himself was one of the most busy and active, especially in the social sphere. Cowper, the poet, loved his orchard, and this is how he describes his pleasure in it: "I have made in this orchard the best winterwalk in all the parish, sheltered from the east, and from the north-east, and open to the sun, except at his rising, all the day. Then we will have Home and Don Quixote: and then we will have saunter and chat, and one laugh more before we die." His ambitions were indeed small, but perhaps they were of the stuff out of which genuine contentment with life is made. Carlyle was always seeking for the solitude in which he thought all greatness comes to maturity: "Solitude is what

I long and pray for. In the babble of men, my own soul goes all to babble; like soil you were forever screening, tumbling over with shovels and riddles; in which soil no fruit can grow." Wordsworth had much more solitude than Carlyle ever got from his days in London, and his way of living determined his philosophy of life. Writing to Thomas de Quincy in 1904, he says: "Do your duty to yourself immediately: love Nature and Books; seek these and you will be happy; for virtuous leadership, and love and knowledge of mankind must inevitably accompany these, all things ripening in their due season." This is the gospel of a grave man to whom life has brought rich sources of enjoyment by which he has sensibly profited. "Good heavens," exclaims James Russell Lowell, the American poet: "of what uncouthly material is our earthly happiness composed—if we only knew it! What incomes have we not had from a flower and how unfailing are the dividends of the seasons." Most men would find these dividends entirely unsubstantial and unsatisfactory.

★ ★ ★

AS many people in Ceylon are assiduous readers of Marie Corelli, it is interesting to obtain a glimpse of this lady who took herself seriously as a great moral influence in her day. Edith Schiel writing to a friend in 1918 describes the lady novelist in rather acrid terms: "At a dinner given to Anatole France I sat with Wells to the back of me, Mrs. Humphrey Ward to the front of me, and Marie Corelli (in pale-blue baby-dress), a pink

rose over the ear, an immense barrel-bulk, a mighty atom indeed) to the side of me. And straight into the ocean of soup swam the two hundred." This suggests a cool and neat correspondence in form and figure with the rather dowdy sensationalism of the Marie Corelli novels. Dr. Johnson, the embodiment of English common-sense is quoted by Boswell as saying: "Some people have a foolish way of not minding or pretending not to mind what they eat: For my part, I mind my belly very studiously, and very carefully; for I look upon it that he who does not mind his belly will hardly mind anything else." The Wordsworths, William and Dorothy, were very different. Mrs. Hofland, writing to Miss Mitford in 1817 states: "The Wordsworths never dine. . . they hate such doings; when they are hungry they go to the cupboard and eat. . . Mr. Wordsworth. . . will live for a month on cold beef, and the next on cold bacon."

When one considers the sensuous element in the poetry of John Keats, one is not surprised at the physical comfort of his eating of a cherry: "Talking of Pleasure, this moment I was writing with one hand, and with the other holding to my mouth a Nectarine—good God, how fine. It went down soft, pulpy, slushy, oozy—all its delicious embonpoint melted down my throat like a large Beatified strawberry." Medwin reports this startling saying from Lord Byron: "Gin-and-water is the source of all my inspiration." There is great fun in going through this book which shows you the strength, weaknesses, foibles and virtues of the men who have made English literature a thing of joy forever.

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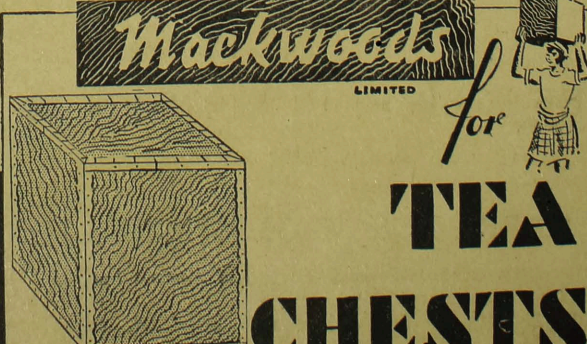
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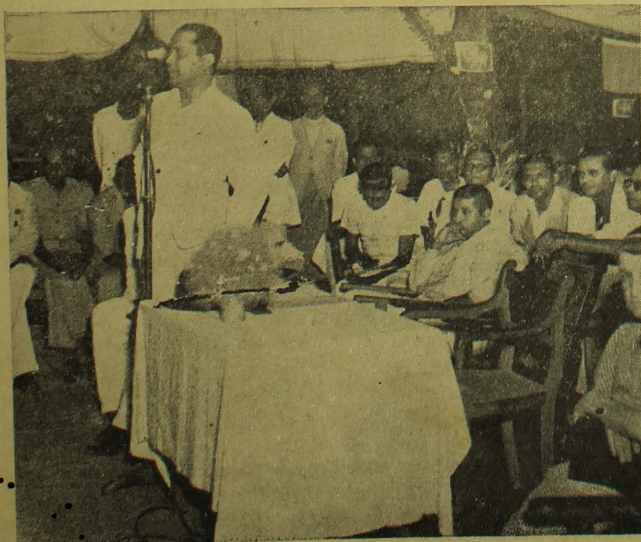
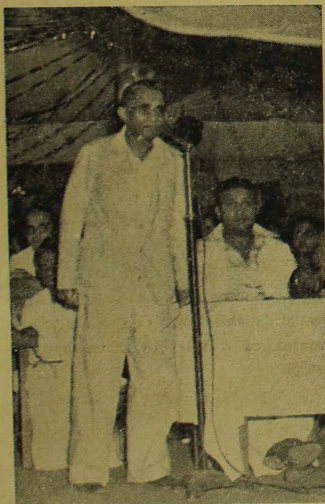
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MORAKELLE EN FETE

THESE pictures were taken by Rienzi Wijeratne of Studio Sun at Morakelle. Left: Mr. A. Ratnaike, Minister for Food addressing the gathering. Below: Mr. Albert Pieris, M.P. for Nattandiya, welcoming the guests.



SPORTS

Commentary

COVER-POINT

I HAVE good news for racing fans and that is that the Stewards of the Ceylon Turf Club have provisionally decided to hold a special race meet to celebrate the Independence of Sri Lanka. This meet will be held on the 14th of next month and will take the place of the third day of the Spring Meet on February 7, which has been abandoned. This decision by the Stewards cannot be commended too highly and will, I am sure, receive unanimous confirmation by the C.T.C. Committee when it meets this week. It would have been tantamount almost to an insult to the racing public of Ceylon if they were not given the

opportunity to celebrate in their own fashion, the dawn of freedom after so many centuries of foreign rule.

The prospectus for the meet makes provision, I understand, for a trophy worth Rs. 500 to be presented to the winner of each race. Such trophies will, I hope, carry names appropriate to the occasion, such as the Independence Cup, the Duke of Gloucester Cup and the Moore Cup. Although our Prime Minister, Mr. D. S. Senanayake, is not a racing man, I feel sure that he will not object to his great services in the cause of freedom being perpetuated with the offer of a trophy named after him.

I also understand that the races framed by the Stewards for this special meet are to be run over distances which will ensure the maximum support from

owners. There are to be four events over 7 furlongs, namely the races for Class I and III horses and Class I and III Arabs. Class II horses will have a sprint over 6 furlongs and the Class IV race will be over a mile. The longest race on the card will be over 9 furlongs for Class II Arabs.

While all these decisions of the Stewards are in the best interest of the meet, there is just one point I would like to make. I am told that there will be no increase in the stakes money attaching to the races, and that the recently revised scale of stakes will operate. For a meet intended solely to celebrate an epoch-making event in the island's history, this is, I think, is not good enough. prizes offered should be even better than the usual August Week plims for, whereas the August Meet, like the poor, is always with us, Independence Day comes only once in the life-time of a nation. The Club authorities need have no fear as to the measure of public support which will be extended to it as one does not have to be a prophet to forecast a record attendance.

★
THE first race meet in Colombo for the New Year begins next Saturday and entries for the Spring Meet closed last week.

A noticeable feature of the entries is the absence of the Maharajah of Gwalior's champion Arabs, Gold Flake, Miss Irene, Boonian and Jahaj Mahal, who are to be sent back to India. The Maharajah is giving up racing in Ceylon and he has decided that these Arabs, who have proved a veritable gold mine to him ever since they came to Ceylon, should be retired from racing and spend their rest of the days at ease on one of his country estates.

While their absence removes the touch of class from the Arab races, it will, at the same time, make them more open than before. I believe that of the 20 odd races for Class I Arabs, which have been run since racing was re-started in Ceylon last July, nearly 75 per cent. of them were won by the Gwalior ponies, the greatest of whom was undoubtedly Gold Flake. Boonian, on Bombay form, was a real top-notch but unfortunately he went amiss early last July and did not come to hand again till the December Meet in Galle where he won at his only start.

★
THE Ceylon Turf Club, I hear, proposes to break new ground by holding the sale of their English griffins on a Sunday. There are 29 such griffins and it is impossible to auction such a large batch on a race day, even if the last race is run as early as 5 o'clock. It has, therefore, been decided to sell them next Sunday and according to present indications the sale will take place in the morning, in keeping with the practice in Bombay, where, I believe, sales are regularly held on Sunday mornings. Of these 29 griffins all of whom have gone into Class III, five are winners in England while several others have been placed at most of their starts. Going through the pedigrees of these griffins, I was particularly struck by a four-year-old who is by the Derby winner Owen Tudor and is a half brother to the St. Leger winner, Sun Castle. There is also a filly by Pappagene, sire of our own champion, Kunj Lata, and another filly by the French bred Michoumy who traces back to the French champion, Kiterari, who won almost all the French classics of his year.

Racing was in full blast at the three principal Indian centres last Saturday. In Madras, Ceylon was strongly represented but failed to touch a place. The Guindy Cup, which was the principal feature on the card, was won by the neglected Hunter, who was due to be ridden by young Frank Black. Mr. W. H. Kerr, who owns Hunter, had a field day winning two other races with

Calcutta celebrated Independence Day rather belatedly but made up for it by offering a prize of Rs. 25,000 and a Gold Cup to the winner of a terms race for Indian horses four years old and overs. Winner of the Indian Gold Vase and Champion Cup, Push On looked a certainty for the race but in the end he was run out of the major prize by the very consistent Romeo to whom he had to concede a stone and 4 lbs. The other Cup event on the Calcutta card was the Carmichael Cup which Mrs. Justice won with her former Bombay horse, Haunt Ton. Mrs. Justice has won practically all the cup

owners. There are to be four events over 7 furlongs, namely the races for Class I and III horses and Class I and III Arabs. Class II horses will have a sprint over 6 furlongs and the Class IV race will be over a mile. The longest race on the card will be over 9 furlongs for Class II Arabs.

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★
IN the piping days of peace Thai Pongal used to be celebrated "ad tertium Diem" down in the Valley, which echoed from dusk to dawn and then again from dawn to dusk with sounds of revelry. Racing and all the fun of the fair were crammed into the three days at Talduva where Karuppen and Menachchi, Sinna Dorai and Peria Dorai gave themselves up to one unending orgy of gaiety. Post-war austerity has put all this festivity into the limbo of forgotten things and last week's Thai Pongal holiday provided in the way of sport only a few cricket matches in Colombo and the outstations.

★
AFTER the break occasioned by the Christmas and New Year holiday, King Cricket made a welcome reappearance in Colombo Sunday before last when two first-class matches were played on adjacent grounds in Victoria Park.

The Sinhalese Sports Club, who are the inter-club champions, had the Nondescripts over as their guests and in a low-scoring match had to acknowledge defeat. Though I do not wish to detract from the merit of the N.C.C. victory, it must be admitted that the Sinhalese were not at full strength. The Nondescripts had first lease of a good wicket but found R. B. Wijesinghe in one of his most destructive moods. The former Thomian skipper who, as I have said before, is probably the best all-rounder in the game today, bowled remarkably well for nearly an hour and a half on end to take 5 for 15 and the only batsmen to face up to him with any degree of confidence was the N.C.C. captain, G. M. Spittel, who scored a hard-hit and somewhat lucky 42 out of a total of 125.

Having done his bit with the bat, Spittel proceeded to run amok among the Sinhalese batsmen, summarily dismissing eight of them for a bare 31 runs, thus giving the N.C.C. a narrow victory by 19 runs. Once again Wijesinghe came into the limelight with a fighting innings of 20 and, along with the bustling Ben Navaratne who collected 30 of the best, was responsible for very nearly half the champions' total.

Across the road, on the C.C.C. ground, the Horn Club met the home team and thanks, in the main, to the evergreen veteran G. D. H. Alston, took first innings honours from the C.C.C. A stylish half century by Alston helped the Horn Club very materially to secure a lead of 26 runs and only time prevented an outright victory after the C.C.C. had declared their second innings closed.

★
IN the opening match early last week of the M.C.C. tour of the West Indies, Barbados took all the honours and the manner in which their batsmen rattled up over 500 runs for the loss of only 4 wickets, suggested that England's search for bowling talent has not been fruitful. It is true that the wicket was a batsman's paradise but against that must be set the fact that the three batsmen, who took the heaviest toll of the M.C.C. attack were not even Test probabilities. When Headley and others of his calibre meet the tourists, I wonder what fate will be in store for the visitors.

★
THE Indians are gradually coming to the end of their tour in Australia. They went last week to Tasmania and their first match at Hobart brought them an easy victory. However hollow their success may be, this match gave an opportunity to Police Inspector Rangachari of Madras to stake a claim for Test match honours. A hat-trick in the first innings followed by steady bowling in the second should at least bring him into Test reckoning especially as the first three Tests have shown how much lacking in sting India's bowling is.

(Continued on page 7)

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TVA Steps Up To Feed 35,000 More Miles With Power

MOBILIZATION of TVA power during 1946 offers an example of rapid and successful reconversion of a project that had been called one of the major arsenals of the United distribution, but in the switch from wartime chemicals to fertilizers, in the use of navigable channels as highways for wartime materials to arteries for peacetime commerce, and in the flood-control factors that resulted in increased water storage through the construction of new dams.

In the field of power consumption the trend is clear, and it has proved to be a barometer for other phases of TVA's reconversion. With most of the project's steam and hydro-turbines revolving at capacity, engineers look to a further power step-up to feed 35,000 miles (56,000 kilometers) of new lines to serve 150,000 additional farms. This increase would nearly double the present 126,000 rural users now relying on TVA power. To this potential is added the burden of continuing to supply power to 207,000 consumers in communities which range from populations of less than 250 people on up.

During the war, TVA engineers undertook only the construction necessary to provide power for war projects. These emergency operations loaded transmission lines and other equipment beyond safety standards. Consequently, with the end of the war, TVA technicians were shouldered with the problem of transmission-line construction and the general rehabilitation needed to bring its operation back to efficient peacetime requirements. This task, it seemed, would not be accomplished immediately. Evidence pointed to its extending over a period of two years because of material scarcity. Of the 10,000,000 dollars expenditure for power lines and substations in 1946, only about half had been utilized. To continue the work in 1947, approximately 14,000,000 dollars has been budgeted.

The Tennessee Valley Authority's ability to carry its peacetime obligations were forecast during the war years when it reached a new status of economic power. The new strength was reflected quickly after the United States entered the war in a strategic and accelerated production of food, fibres and munition elements for the armed forces of the Allied nations.

POWER PRODUCTION TRIPLED

POWER production, keeping pace with the increasing demands for wartime operations, grew from 4,000,000,000 kilowatt-hours in 1940 to more than 12,000,000,000 kilowatt-hours in 1945-46. Such a tremendous source of hydro-electric power was a primary factor in locating the atomic energy plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and was the sole reason for attracting a large portion of aluminium production so vital in building America's giant wartime air force.

Construction of TVA dams during the war completed 650 miles (1,040 kilometers) of superior navigation channel, connecting the Tennessee Valley with the 6,000 miles (9,600 kilometers) of nine-foot (2.7-meter) draft inland waterway system of the interior United States.

Shippers have been making increased use of the new navigable channel. Figures for the calendar year of 1945 show 256,465 ton-miles of freight moved on the Tennessee River, the largest amount in history, and 31 per cent. higher than the previous record year of 1943. Among the commodities moved have been coal, gasoline, wheat, corn and other heavy freight. Within the past year the shipment of passenger and commercial automobiles has been resumed. Such commerce has stimulated the construction of new and enlarged river freight terminals by private interests.

While booms were indicated in many quarters, construction activities on the TVA project fell off sharply after meeting war demands. At the close of 1946 only 2,200 were employed in building projects as compared with 10,050 in 1944. At the peak of construction in July, 1942, there were 29,000 persons employed. Most of the activity, during 1946 was clean-up work at Kentucky and Fontana Dams, the 15th and 16th to be built and placed in operation. The total capacity of the system now stands at 2,538,900 kilowatts.

LABORATORY FOR AMERICAN INDUSTRY

TVA scientists have, in addition, drawn up a research program in agriculture. Research dealing with the basic related problems in fertilized, soils, crops and animal and human nutrition were continued during the year in co-operation with the agricultural experimental stations of the Tennessee Valley States. Outside the Valley States, studies were conducted chiefly with respect to fertilizer investigations which were undertaken by a total of 23 States. All of the knowledge gained goes into soil rehabilitation elements that are being shipped in large quantities to all parts of the world.

While engineers harnessed great power in building 16 TVA dams, they also served another phase in the multiple-purpose of such construction. Through the creation of the vast man-made lakes, 11,000,000 acre-feet have been safeguarded against floods by vast waterstoring facilities. Besides this immediate security to the Tennessee Valley, protection of even greater value was extended to cities and to 6,000,000 acres (2,400,000 hectares) of rich farm land in the alluvial valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

NATIONAL FLAG

The Editor, U.N.P., Colombo,

Dear Sir,—In today's issue of the "Daily News" a letter signed by some Proctors headed by Mr. D. A. B. Ratnayake, Chairman, U.C., supports the view of Messrs. G. G. Ponnambalam and Dr. Andreas Nell on the National Flag. It was the same Mr. Ratnayake who presided over a meeting of the Kurunegala Urban Council which unanimously passed a resolution supporting the Lion Flag as the national flag of Ceylon.

I may add that after the Kurunegala election Mr. Ratnayake delivered a speech at the Esplanade Park condemning the Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake. But soon after the Prime Minister assumed office Mr. Ratnayake presided over an Urban Council meeting which unanimously decided to accord a civic reception to Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake, the Prime Minister.

We witness these somersaults with pleasure.

Yours etc.,

R. W. PATHIRANA.

SPORTS COMMENTARY

(Continued from page 6)

Their return match with Tasmania was notable chiefly for Amarnath's success as a No. 3 batsman. Ever since the Indian tour opened, Duleep Singh has urged Amarnath, in season and out, to go in, first wicket down. Particularly in the Third Test at Melbourne, Duleep was insistent that Amarnath should have gone in as No. 3 to consolidate the good start given his men by Mankad and Sarwate. Now that Amarnath has scored two successive centuries though the bowling was admittedly very poor stuff, it is likely that the Indian skipper will take Duleep's advice and go in first wicket down this week at Adelaide.

While wishing him and his team all success at Adelaide, I cannot help observing, notwithstanding the caustic remarks of a former colleague, that the Indian team, as at present composed, has not more than one chance in a hundred of avenging their earlier defeats.

TOURIST INDUSTRY ANTICIPATED

THE total surface of the Tennessee Valley artificial lakes is 600,000 acres (240,000 hectares). They provide exceptional opportunities for recreation, and for commercial fishing, which brought to the market last year some 1,100,000 pounds (500,000 kilograms) of fish. In addition, the woods of the Valley afford good habitats for game birds and animals. Because of these features, plans have been made within the past twelve months to encourage large-scale development of recreational facilities by private firms and

individuals along the various lake fronts.

The Tennessee Valley Authority looks to the tourist industry with the same confidence which it places in the future profitable operations of the project itself. The scale of these anticipated operations may be measured by the revenue for power operations in 1946 which totalled 35,265,000 dollars. The return on the average net investment in power facilities was 4.2 per cent. At this rate of income, the taxpayers stock in the TVA project has been conservatively estimated by experts as valued at 100 cents plus on the dollar.

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