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# GOVT. STUDY GROUP GETS DOWN TO WORK

A STUDY group of Government M.P.s among whom are several Parliamentary Secretaries, has been formed for the purpose of discussing the subjects that are shortly to be brought up before Parliament. The formation of this group was decided upon by several back bench M.P.s and two or three Parliamentary Secretaries with the following objectives:—

- (1) The fact that the Parliamentary system of Government is new to this country and procedure with regard to the discussion and disposal of important Government

Bills is not yet clear to many M.P.s had to be recognised.

- (2) It was obviously unsatisfactory to make Parliamentary speeches extempora.
- (3) Preparation of speeches desirable though it was could not be done without a knowledge of subjects discussed for the only practical way in which such a state could be made possible was for group meetings to thrash out a problem unofficially before the official parliamentary group meetings were held.

The formation of this group for these very laudable objects was pounced upon by the "Times of Ceylon" as an indication of the growth of a rebel group on the Government benches.

temper of the transport workers that the strike collapsed because busmen and railway drivers were not as revolutionary as the L.S.S.P.'s leader had fancied them to be.

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THAT Dr. Perera has not yet learnt the art of assessing rightly a situation is the lesson of his Gampola speech. It is the lesson also of the resounding defeat his Party suffered in that electorate.

Let it be remembered that Dr. Perera was so confident of his Party triumphing that he despised the hand of C.P.-B.L.P.I. co-operation and their offer of a united front. What an egregious

assessment of popular opinion was it that the Doctor should have been so hopeful of success!

The Communists foisted a man from Kalutara, notable only as a man rapped on the knuckles for the strange reason that he took his own party's politics seriously. Mr. Ratnaweera, it will be remembered, had been reprimanded once for supporting a U.N.P. candidate, even though he had acted on his Party's thesis that the U.N.P. should be aided in areas where a working class candidate was not contesting the seat. This unfortunate Mr. Ratnaweera could collect only a paltry 396 votes.

Gampola's verdict is that it is not deceived by the shifts and twists of the Leftist politics.

## L. S. S. P. DEBACLE

By Nandalal

IT is a sign of political maturity and wisdom gracefully to accept a defeat at an election. A political realist profits from the adverse verdict of an electorate. He carefully considers why his Party should have been rejected, and on the basis of such an analysis sets out to correct the deficiencies of his party's policy and tactics.

The behaviour of Dr. N. M. Perera, the leader of the Lanka Sama Samajist Party, immediately after the results of the Gampola elections were announced, only indicate how woefully deficient this erudite doctor and pundit of political philosophy is in political acumen.

When the results revealed that the two Leftist candidates had forfeited their deposits and that his party's choice for the Gampola seat, Mr. C. Gunasekera, had polled only a meagre 1,089 votes out of a total of 19,593 cast for all candidates, Dr. N. M. Perera made a speech which was an incredible example of political naivette, perhaps even of inanity.

Said the Doctor, in defeat, his Party's object had been served by the failure of the U.N.P. candidate.

If all that the Doctor intended to achieve was the negative objective of defeating the United National Party, surely what was necessary was that he should have kept off from the contest and left Mr. R. S. Pelpola to fight it out with Mr. R. S. S. Gunewardena?

It would be obvious even to the most inexperienced in election tactics that the effect of putting up a second rival

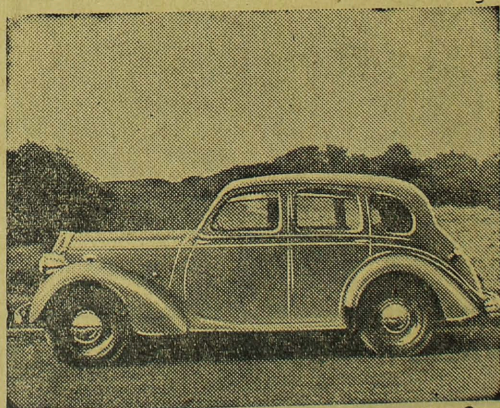
to the U.N.P.'s nominee would only be that of splitting the votes which would be aligned against the U.N.P. Would not that be the best way of serving the U.N.P. and defeating his own aims? As it was Mr. Gunewardena lost by a meagre margin of 775 votes.

Dr. Perera's words might charitably be construed as a complacent comment in a moment of defeat—a rationalising of a distressing situation. Unfortunately that kind of explanation is inadequate. The truth on the other hand depends on Dr. N. M. Perera's inability to draw reasonable conclusions from the Gampola debacle of his Party. This is typical of the fantastical world his political thoughts occupy.

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IT is this utter absence of a capacity correctly to assess a situation which has often led the Doctor down the path of frequent defeat. If this is deficiency affected only Dr. N. M. Perera, it would not matter much. The tragedy is that he takes with him on his disastrous adventures many politically immature workers who subsequently pay with unemployment the price of Dr. Perera's escapades.

The workers of Colombo and clerks still recall Dr. Perera's boast during the General Strike: "Not a wheel will turn tomorrow," when he fondly expected that the transport workers would come out on strike on the basis of that calculation Dr. Perera had agitated for an extension of the strike and had argued that the clerks should come out. The clerks came out but Dr. Perera had so hopelessly misjudged the



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# MODERN PUBLICITY-3

By Ananda Tissa

"TOO little and too late" was the desperate cry of Allied Armies during the early stages of the war. This was with regard to vital supplies of munitions. That same cry can be as true a description of the publicity that is put up by Government in Ceylon at the present time.

In the absence of an official statement the public, the Press and the Members of Parliament cannot be blamed for coming to their own conclusions on matters of public interest. A very apt example of the amount of unwarranted public criticism that can be made against the Government came

to our notice this week with regard to Radio SEAC. Reuter cabled a news story that appeared in the London "Daily Mail" to the effect that the Government of Ceylon had agreed to buy Radio SEAC at a price of one million pounds sterling. The immediate reaction to this statement was a bitter attack both by the Press and by the general public of the spendthrift methods of the present Government. Several Opposition M.P.s tabled questions on the subject. Every weekly paper criticised the alleged agreement. Within a month it became the current gossip throughout the country. This week several monthly magazines have devoted leading articles to the same theme.

One of them says: "It is becoming a habit with our Ministers to squander the people's money. In this instance that of the already overburdened and impoverished taxpayer, who, as matters are fast developing, cannot even spare a dime to procure a decent meal. What good the SEAC Radio can do to the country, one is at a loss to understand."

On Tuesday the Minister for Transport made a statement in Parliament in which it was revealed that the Government of Ceylon was in no way committed to the purchase of Radio SEAC at any price. What is more, he stated that Radio SEAC would become the property of this Government without cost to the taxpayer.

This statement will appear in Hansard, an official document which will be in the library of the Parliament and copies of which can be obtained from the Record Office.

The circulation of that journal probably will not exceed 300, and in any case even those to whom free copies will be issued cannot be expected to be regular readers of it.

The official, however, will argue that the Press is represented in Parliament and therefore it ought to report the statement of the Minister. This attitude is wrong for the reason that newspapers are not interested in helping the Government to publicise its announcements. It treats every news story on its news value and is unconcerned with the particular desire of a Department or a Ministry to get its views across to the people.

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WHAT happened in this case will prove my point. On the same day the Minister of Finance announced the regulations that were to be imposed with regard to the control of currency. His announcement was splashed on the front page of the "Daily News" and immediately relegated the Radio SEAC announcement to a minor position in the paper. In technical terms, the finance statement received a double column spread and the Radio SEAC announcement was published in a single column top head, purely on the relative news value of the statements.

However, the official mind will now be completely satisfied because it has observed the statement in print and will assume that the public ought by now to know the true facts of the case.

In actual practice the public will hardly notice this statement and thousands of people will continue to believe that the Ceylon Government committed this country to unwarranted expenditure of one million pounds sterling to purchase a radio of doubtful value to this country.

If the Government had in the first instance issued an immediate denial of the "Daily Mail" report, the public would have had an opportunity of knowing the truth and would not have been susceptible to the barrage of non-Government propaganda that was made out of the London cable.

The handling of the particular matter shows the correctness of my view that one has to understand the news value of a statement if one is to conduct Government publicity.

A newspaper also believes that what has already appeared in another paper must not be given the same publicity in its own pages. This rule was observed with regard to the Radio SEAC and the "Times of Ceylon," which appeared on the streets six hours after the "Daily News" gave only a few inches to it.

The thousands of readers of the "Times of Ceylon" who read the original report from London will never see the contradiction. One cannot blame the Press for this situation. That is why timely announcements are so essential if the Press and the Public are to be kept informed, as they have the right to be kept informed, of the activities of Government.

It is here that the Information Officer of a Ministry or of the Government comes into play. Obviously if he is to be kept in the dark or is taken on sufferance he could not be in a position to advise as to when and how a statement should be issued. It is no use telling him the facts long after the rest of the world has got to know of them; and as it happens when facts are kept away from the public for too long only rumours and false statements get publicity.

I once heard several very competent heads of Departments proudly announce to a Minister that they had tightened up leakages of information to the Press! I have been a newspaper reporter and I can say that no Government Department will ever devise a measure by which it can successfully keep all the news of what is happening in its Departments secret. It is the business of the newspaper reporter to find out things for himself. If he fails he is very soon put out of business. Only totalitarian Governments can keep out of the Press what they do not wish the public to know.

So that, if information about the affairs of a Department can and do leak out in bits and pieces it is surely in the interests of Government to organise the news services within its departments so that the Press and the Public will have the truth at all times.

(To be continued).

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# NEHRU ON WORLD PEACE CRUSADE

PANDIT Jawaharlal Nehru is likely to visit London, Moscow and Washington this autumn on an inspired and dramatic peace mission. He will meet Attlee, Stalin and Truman all three of whom are known to have honoured the Indian Prime Minister with personal invitations to their respective states.

Several feelers towards such a summation were made during 1947. Mr. Krishna Menon, Indian High Commissioner in London, is believed to have conveyed to Pandit Nehru the feeling

shared by leading British and European diplomats that only such a crusade undertaken by an Indian leader, free of the decadence of European power politics, is likely to save the world from atomic annihilation. Viceroy Mountbatten is also said to be encouraging Nehru to undertake the mission.

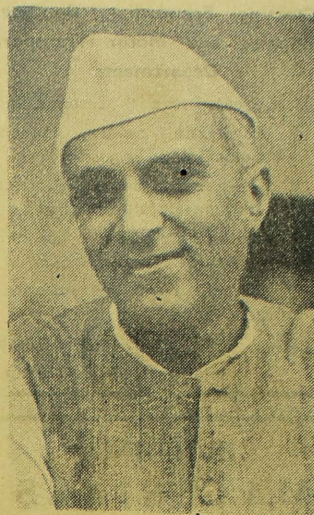
It may be recalled that, in the course of a Press Conference he addressed here in November last year, after his round-the-clock tour of Europe, Mr. R. K. Karanjia revealed the fact that leading statesmen like the late Jan Masaryk, Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia, and Henry Wallace, presidential candidate for the "Third Force" in U.S.A., had

requested him to convey to the Indian Prime Minister their faith in his leadership and their appeal for his personal intervention to bring the "Big Three" together again.

The announcement evoked enthusiastic response from British publicists like Mr. Kingsley-Martin, Editor of "New Statesman and Nation" and the Editor of "The Times."

It must be recorded that the first invitation to have been received by Pandit Nehru came from Moscow over the signature of Generalissimo Stalin and was handed over to Mr. Krishna Menon personally by M. Molotov. Nehru had accepted the invitation, but his visit to Moscow—scheduled to take place last year—had to be cancelled because of the recurring crisis in Indian affairs. This fact needs to be underlined in view of the manner in which Anglo-American news agencies are making the whole show look like an American pre-election jamboree owing its inspiration wholly to President Truman's invitation.

If Nehru decided to drop Moscow from



Pandit Nehru

his tour, the mission and its ideals would surely be distorted and Russia would take it as an insult—a situation the Indian Prime Minister would not like to create.

(From "Blitz")

## Leftist Aristocrats AT PLAY

By Vernon Phelps

THE announcement that two Ceylonese Communists have been included in the Communist "Upper Five Hundred" in the Eastern Hemisphere by the United States House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee has surprised nobody in Ceylon. What the United States Foreign Affairs Committee has still to learn is that the two names they have got constitutes (for all practical purposes and intents) the Communist Party of Ceylon! There are, of course, registers of party members, intended to convey the impression of the party solidarity among non-existent serried ranks of party members. The few others who comprise the party only serve as the entourage to the hierarchy.

That this is quite patently the case was amply demonstrated at the recent Gampola bye-election. The Communist Party (once you eliminate the twins selected by the U.S.A. Foreign Affairs Committee) has little material left as a political party. To make-believe, however, a Communist candidate was put forward. What happened? He received less votes (396) than the number of spoilt votes (487)!

Nor was that the full dose of the Gampola gall and wormwood that the Communists and their L.S.S.P. rivals mad to swallow. Candidates from both these political parties lost their deposits, clearly indicating that Marxism is having short shrift at the hands of the masses of this country.

And it is to be wondered why? Consider for a moment the tireless efforts made to concentrate power in the hands

of picked personalities within these political parties, which exist for the sole purpose of serving as a means to enable these personalities to climb to political prominence. When they have got there they throw down the ladder so to speak, to their next of kin and thereby "hook" in a few members of the family who, as an incidental consideration, are also members of the party. This lure for power is so irresistible that they are not above picking even crumbs which are denied to their camp-followers, unless as very special favours, which the party bosses sometimes deign to confer on very servile servitors. Some indication of this greed for office can be gauged by the attempts of members of these political parties trying to clutch at small Municipal and Urban Council representation honours even after they have entered Parliament. Are there no other members of these parties deserving of even these small plums of office? If so why do not their parties nominate them and sponsor their candidature? This never happens. All one witnesses is an unseemly scramble between the "aristocrats," the "upper layer," of these so-called Marxist parties, for plums of office both big and small.

The approaching Municipal bye-election at Borella and the Urban Council bye-election at Mount Lavinia will soon provide the public with all the evidence it needs of the tactics of these Leftist aristocrats at play, making chateaus of misguided people who are diddled by their pseudo Marxist masquerades.

But these performances will soon cease, for the people are becoming increasingly aware of the lengths to which their gullibility has led them. Our Leftist "Upper Layers" will then have to look for happier and safer hunting grounds elsewhere.

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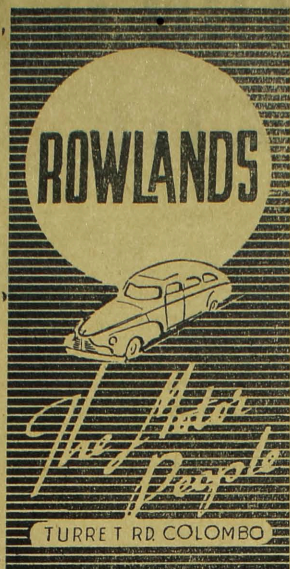
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Friday, June 4, 1948

### TRADE UNION BILL

AN important piece of legislation came before Parliament with regard to basic principles of Trade Union rights of public servants. The Government will have to face this issue squarely now that the heat of election pledges and war cries has had time to cool off. There is a strong movement within the public service which is campaigning for full political rights for members of the Public Service. Their appetites have been whetted by the experience of the Clerical Service Strike last year which culminated in the tragedy of Kandaswamy who was killed by a bullet which was fired at the mob by the police at Dematagoda. Although it is now established that this bullet ricocheted off a wall the political section of public servants is trying to make a martyr out of Kandaswamy. It is in the interests of political parties who desire to use the clerks as tools in their game to encourage this build up campaign. In coming to a decision with regard to the question of Trade Union rights of public servants one must be careful to remove all traces of emotional appeal that is expected to be produced by bringing in the

case of Kandaswamy into the discussion. We can imagine Mr. Pieter Keuneman already preparing a speech calculated to make the hearts of politically minded ladies beat a little faster. He will produce rhetoric out of the death of that unfortunate young man who happened to be in the forefront when the police fired over the heads of the crowd.

The public will appreciate the fact that the public servants, namely all those who are paid from the revenue of the Government Treasury, form a part, and a small part, of the population in this country. Although people seem to take it for granted that the main industry of the country is the Government Service they will not tolerate the position by which the Government of this country will be run for the exclusive benefit of perhaps 1.2 per cent. of the population of the Island. Already the Government Servants are a specially privileged class. They are guaranteed the highest possible levels of salary that are paid to wage earners in this country. A great number of them will retire at the age of 55 with pensions guaranteed during their lifetime, and even after their death their wives and minor children will continue to get the support of the State. Their jobs are secure. It is extremely difficult for the administration to dismiss a Government Servant without a very elaborate process of framing charges for inefficiency.

In spite of these privileges the public servants are attempting to hold up the State to ransom. They demand the right to join political parties and the strongest arguments they lead in favour is their loudly proclaimed challenge that if they are sufficiently united there is nothing that a Government can do about it.

Obviously no Government can discharge its responsibilities if the public servants are allowed to actively engage themselves in electioneering, in organising and attending public meetings of a political nature and in openly denouncing the political programme or the political personalities of

the Government in power. Surely the only reasonable way in which a politically minded public servant can give expression to his views is to enter the political arena on his own initiative and to do so it will be necessary for him to resign from the service. What some public servants want to do now is to have it both ways: they want the safety and the security of their jobs and they also want to exercise political power whilst in the employ of Government. This is definitely an untenable position and all this talk of high ideals in the name of civil liberty cannot blind the public to the grave dangers of being hustled and intimidated into legalising a process of sabotage of the national interest.

The public servants had every freedom to form unions of their own. The General Clerical Service Union was recognised by the Government as a legal body. It was within its province to discuss matters pertaining to the terms and conditions of service of clerical servants under the Crown. It had the authority and the status to argue its case and to represent its grievances to the Board of Ministers. But in actual practice they desired more than that. They invoked the authority of left-wing politicians and organised a general strike with the one purpose of forcing the hands of Government and getting away with all their demands however unreasonable or untenable they might have been. It is true that the average citizen has a natural tendency to be sympathetic to a struggle because it is a struggle. One has only to mention the word and the citizen pays lip service to the man who claims to be suffering under "injustice." But that same citizen would do well to realise that if he stood by and abetted the public services to obtain the right to interfere in the political structure of the country he will be opening himself to complete dominion by that service regardless of the interests of the country.

It is necessary for the Government to make it clear that this country is not being governed for the exclusive benefit of 112 thousand people who earn salaries from the State. This fact must be brought home to the public servants and made known to the public of this country.



# A MARXIAN FANTASY

By Quintus Delilkhan

**B**ERDYAEV in his penetrating analysis of Marxism in "The Origins of Russian Communism," discovers strange and fantastic elements in it, some of which I referred to in last week's article. Marx is not above contradicting his own theory of economic materialism. He must have been under very strong influences to have not become aware of the anomalous position which he was occupying. But consistency in his theory was something which Marx did not care for very deeply, not being a thinker of any impressiveness or magnitude. An element of imaginative escapism was found in this thinker who did not completely know his own position or realise the effect of his teaching. Whilst maintaining that man was dependent on economic processes, the very intemperate exuberance of his imagination made Marx indulge in the fantasy of introducing, as Berdayev says: "A doctrine of deliverance, of the messianic vocation of the proletariat, of the future perfect society in which man will not be dependent on economics, of the power and victory of man over the irrational forces of nature and society." This is idealism with a vengeance. No realist would expect a world of such easy perfection. The Marxian man is very much the common man, and by no means the superman. He is not likely to change into a perfect upholder of the perfect society in which he subordinates himself to production so completely that he will ever remain a member of the perfect state. It is most chimerical proposition in Communism that it can so radically alter nature that for the first time in human history the ideal type of man will emerge and live happily, as in the fable, ever after.

**M**ARX deplores the fetishism which he says goods exercise over the mind of man and thinks that he should not allow the world of his own creating to dominate his consciousness. Marx emphasises the necessity for man to, as it were, worship his own incessant activity, and to venerate the relationship between man and man in industry. "Behind the economic reality," says Berdayev, explaining the Marxian position, "are always hidden living people and social groups of people. And man, by his own activity, can always dissipate this phantom world of capitalist economics. To this task the proletariat is called, and it falls a victim to this illusion of making the products of human toil into fetiches and independent entities. It is the duty of the proletariat to combat the dependance of man upon the products of human toil, to fight against the dehumanizing of economic life, to bring to light the almightiness of human activity." This is the theory, but the actual practice is very different. Marxism has actually succeeded only in making man entirely dependant upon the system of production as the primary purpose of existence, and subjecting him to the dictates of a small but brutal bureaucracy which constitutes the whole state and which will not surrender in any degree its right to direct, enforce and punish, with all the rigours of an insensate tyranny, the slightest desire on the part of the proletariat to decide on its own initiative what is best suited to its own development. A theory which promises so much and performs so little cannot earn for itself the respect of even the least wise. Those who see its drift, and from the outside watch its practical form of enslavement of the proletariat, cannot but feel that Marxism is itself the greatest of all illusions, much greater in character and content than any of the alleged

illusions from which it forcibly seeks to rescue the proletariat.

**T**HERE is also much confusion in the coining of the absurdly contradictory phrase—dialectic materialism. "There cannot be a dialectic of matter," says Berdayev, "dialectic presupposes logos, meaning; dialectic of idea and spirit is alone possible. But Marx transferred the nature of thought and spirit to matter. It appears that the material process had its own thought, reason, freedom and creative activity, and therefore the material process can lead to the triumph of rational interpretation, to the victory of social reason over the whole of life. Dialectic here turns to the exaltation of the human will, of human activity." We are very far away in this interpretation from materialism, and this faith has become a fanaticism which most easily and effortlessly takes in any contradiction. Marxism in this violent manner becomes not a religion but an orgy of ebullient sentiment, seeking on this flimsy basis to claim the allegiance of the whole man as to a new and corybanic ecstasy. It is upon such an unbalanced foundation that it seeks to recreate the world by abolishing the bourgeoisie and allowing the proletariat to possess all things at least in theory if not in actual practice. This is the supreme form of exploitation of the masses in our day, for it enslaves the whole proletariat in the name of a non-existent freedom.

**T**HERE is a perennial interest in all subjects connected with the Middle Ages which was a great flowering time of the human spirit and which has its influences permeating the laws, customs, art, literature and life

of today. In a great symposium entitled "THE LEGACY OF THE MIDDLE AGES" (Colombo Book Centre), an O.U.P. publication, leading authorities contribute their expert views on a variety of mediaeval activities. There can be no doubt that the names of the great figures of the Middle Ages have given an impulse to those seeking today to recreate the world on a plan of social justice. The work of Dante, Giotto, Thomas Aquinas and other men of colossal intellect have a quality of universality and direct appeal which will, just as they have penetrated to the world of today, also outlast our insecure and opinionated modern philosophies. The law which was formulated at that time, based on supreme conceptions of the rights of the individual could if applied today, save us from many of the mistakes which riddle our political life in which justice is only for the strong as against the weak, and which also enable the strong to act on a principle of expediency solely relative to its own material interests. These theories and principles of action are derived, not from the supreme mediaeval thinkers but from Machiavelli who, repudiated in his own day, finds considerable favour with the contemporary great powers, though they would indignantly disown his active influence on their own minds. Machiavelli used the terms "reasons of state" and balance of power to justify any action which the state took for its own benefit and for its relations with other powers in the international field. Both these ideas have been fruitful causes of trouble in modern times, and the world will not possess peace until more definite and well-defended ideas of justice, individual, national and international, are allowed to prevail. Mediaevalism has a marvellous potency of just ideas and they deserve to be carefully examined by all students of public affairs.

**I**T is not realised by the believers in the Marxian fantasy that no power could so mould nature that a state of society will be created which does not require amendment and change, for this is the necessary condition of all progress. Man has throughout history tried a thousand experiments in creating the perfect state, and all history is strewn with the wrecks of his high hopes. Life is an endless striving, and at no point will mankind be able to say that it has reached its goal. Just as capitalism has had to be subject to criticism, to be exhorted to be just to its dependents, and has had to be fought in order to make sweeping reforms possible, self-adjustment, by response to new conditions which are always in a state of flux, and by a power of adapting itself to the instant need. Marxism can do this least of all systems because its own theory offers no consistent explanation of itself, and can be at best but an urge to needless sacrifice in the hope of realising an ideal world of perfection which will always remain only a figment of the imagination. The condemnation of capitalism as a failure is inevitable in Marxism, but it is strange that the assumption is made that the marvellous change which is anticipated will come from the proletariat. Every possible good attribute is freely fixed on the people. How this change will be effected is not explained. It is put forward as an axiom which there is no disputing. Marx has in this matter a capacity for exaltation of the people which passes the bounds of temperate and practicable belief. His faith has no rational foundation.

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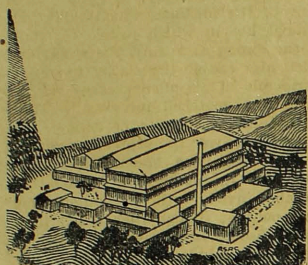
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# SPORTS

## Commentary

COVER-POINT

ALL roads in Southern England will lead tomorrow to Epsom where the blue ribbon of the English turf, the Derby, will be run over a distance of 1½ miles.

One of the biggest fields of all time will line up in a bid to win Britain's richest Derby ever. Of the 36, who accepted at the final forfeit stage last week, some may be withdrawn before the race, but the total will not be far short of the record field of 33, which faced the starter 86 years ago.

Most people will make the trek to Epsom tomorrow with the conviction that the race lies between two horses, My Babu and The Cobbler, who finished first and second in the 2,000 Guineas. I might, however, admit here and now that I do not share their optimism because, in my opinion, neither of them are true stayers. It is granted that My Babu won over the Rowley Mile with a nice long run that took him past The Cobbler 20 yards from the post but

I doubt whether he will have enough stamina to last out the 1½ mile journey tomorrow particularly in view of the fact that his training was interfered with owing to an unfavourable reaction to an anti-tetanus injection. I cannot recall an instance where a colt, who was on the easy list for about a fortnight, overcame this disability and went on to win the Epsom classic.

The Cobbler will be ridden by Gordon Richards, who has won every other big race on the calendar except the Derby. I fear he will find the Epsom prize just as elusive this year as in the past.

My best bet for the Derby tomorrow is My Love, who is now part-owned by the Aga Khan. This Indian prince has already won three Derbys with Blenheim, Mahmoud and Bahran and may quite conceivably equal the Duke of Westminster's record of four Derby victories. My Love is half brother to last year's Derby winner, Pearl Diver, being a son of Vatellor.

The Chester Vase winner, Valognes, who is by the 1938 Derby winner, Bois Roussel, will be a grave danger to the Aga Khan's candidates. Valognes will be ridden by Edgar Britt, who is fast making a name for himself in England after being champion jockey in Bombay for many years.

Among the longer "shots" whose chances will have to be assessed are Black Tarquin, who regained favour after an easy victory in the Derby Trial Stakes at Lingfield, and Pride of India, who, despite a subsequent failure ran really well in the 2,000 Guineas.

★

THE entries for the C.T.C. June Meet closed last Monday and revealed that excellent support has been extended to most of the races, particularly those in the intermediate classes, which will be run in two or more divisions.

As I shall not have another opportunity of discussing the first day's programme before the Meet opens, I should like to offer some suggestions based on the entries.

The big event on the first day is the Falmouth Plate in which Manchu is certain to get a handicap of 10 st. or over. This grand money-spinner who has won nearly half a lakh in six months, is in such great heart at the moment that I doubt whether the weight will stop him completing the second hat-trick in his brief career. A stable-mate in The Eagle, who won a 6-furlong race in Bombay at generous odds, is now fit again after a temporary setback but I reckon that Manchu's chief danger will come from the well-bred Seasprite, who came into this class after a great victory under top weight in the Tom Wilson Plate at Nuwara Eliya. Like Manchu, Seasprite has won from 5 furlongs up to a mile and I know that his trainer thinks the world of him. He was given a rest during May because his connections were not quite satisfied with his condition but when I last saw him on the track he was in excellent fettle. His entry in the Herbert Stanley Cup in the last day of the Meet, however, gives one the impression that he may have the Governor's Cup as his main objective but I have a feeling that, like Manchu, he will be found wanting in stamina. I, therefore, hope that the lure of the cup will not make his connections sacrifice certain victories over shorter distance for the elusive gamble of a Governor's Cup.

The Scarborough Plate for Class II horses is noteworthy for the entry of King Cosmo, who earned promotion after making rings round his class III rivals at his debut. Regarded by some as the fastest thing on four legs for the first 3 or 4 furlongs, he will be given a

really good test in this race as he will be given a really good test in this race as he will be up against three proved sprinters in Ingomar, Profile and Sir Cuckoo. If King Cosmo makes the grade at his first effort in the company, one need not look beyond him for the winner of the two sprint classics in August, namely the Bachelor's Purse and the Channer Stakes.

The Jersey Plate for Class III horses has attracted over 40 entries and may quite conceivably be run in three divisions. A large number of griffin newcomers are likely to make their debut in this race and it will be interesting to see how they shape. The best half dozen on form are Golden Sapphire, Golden Reign, Dinhill, Peace Talk, Suemick, whose last run is too bad to be true, and Shahman. Of this sextette the well-bred Dinhill, who suffered at the start of his only race so far, will bear watching in whatever division he finds himself. I liked the way in which he made up ground after a slow start on that occasion and he should strip a fitter horse next Saturday.

Class IV horses will be seen in action over the Channer Straight in the Lunugala Plate, which reads a gift for Nobility, who should earn promotion to the higher class. Shahzadi, Clarendon and Golden Gleam may be reckoned as his chief rivals.

There will be three races for Arabs. The Thirteen Plate for Class I ponies lies between Mahbub Khalid, Noble Duke and Yisir al Arab, whose failure in his last race may, perhaps, have been due to the fact that it was over the Channer Straight over which he had never previously run.

Al Shanfara and Matlub Yunus should fight out the issue in the Gazi Plate while the Maskeliya Plate, where there is an entry of 20 class III Arabs, there are several promising newcomers, one of whom may make a winning debut. Najran al Muluk is moving very attractively on the track and may have the beating of older ponies like Itmad Jubayr, Tawus al Bayda's and Kabsum Baghdad.

★

I HAVE been given to understand that the C.C.A. Committee have revised the C.C.A. constitution and that their proposals will be put before the next general meeting of the Association.

Their chief proposal is the formation of a Board of Cricket control composed of the two principal executives of the Association, namely the President and Secretary, and six other members, who are to be elected by the Association at the general meeting. This Board will control the visits of Ceylon teams to foreign countries and will act as a tribunal of appeal from decisions of the C.C.A. Colours will be awarded by the Board alone and the teams for matches arranged by the Board will be chosen by a Selection Committee of four to be named by the Board.

Another Selection Committee of four to be elected by the Board will be responsible for choosing the Captain for any match arranged by the Board.

There are some of the main proposals of the C.C.A. Committee to revise a constitution which needed revision many years ago and I am sure that the general meeting next month will endorse these suggestions.

★

THE British Amateur Golf championship has ended at Sandwich with an American victory. Frank Stranahan, who was runner-up in last year's British Open, achieved one of his ambitions by beating the British challenger, Charlie Stowe, who had done well to dispose of the American title-holder, Turnesa, in the semi-final. It was a great pity, from the Ceylon point of view, that our champion, W. P. Fernando, came up against a former English champion in Bentley who was playing at the top of his form. Fernando, from all accounts, was by no means disgraced and I do hope he will have a crack at as many championships as possible, including the British open, before he returns home.

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# WHAT HAPPENS IN PALESTINE

**PALESTINE**, with an area of a little over 10,000 square miles, and population slightly less than 2,000,000 manages to be in the news oftener than countries ten or even hundred times its size and population. It has evidently, a genius for hitting the headlines!

Britain's 30-year-old Mandate is being surrendered, and, as is Britain's wont, there is serious disturbance at the parting. The rousing of communal passions, serious disturbances at the time of parting and, consequently, the inevitable partition of the country.

## SCHISM DRIVEN DEEPER IN SOUL OF PALESTINE

Palestine has been made a thorny problem from the beginning. The conflicting MacMohan and Balfour Declarations, with their mutually exclusive promises to Arabs and Jews, have been the deliberately designed corner-stone of the entire superstructure. The passage of time has driven deeper the schism in the soul of Palestine.

The first attempt at partition was made in 1936 by the Peel Commission; an amended proposal in the same direction was made by the Woodhead Commission in 1938. The War shelved the plans and proposals.

The question was re-opened after the War, and the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry reported, in 1946, in favour of a bi-national state shorn of sovereignty working under UN Trusteeship. The Committee further recommended the revoking of land and immigration regulations of 1939 and recommended an increase in Jewish immigration to Palestine from 1,500 a month to 100,000 a year. The British Government rejected the recommendations, as their implementation demanded financial and military burden beyond Britain's straightened post-war capacity. The complicated problem was, therefore, turned over to the United Nations' General Assembly.

The UN Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) was established in May, 1947, and reported past haste, in August, 1947. The majority report, approved by the representatives of Canada, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, the Netherlands, Peru, Sweden and Uruguay, favoured the establishment of two independent states, the one Jewish and the other Arab, neither including Jerusalem, which was to have international administration. The two states and the enclave of the Holy City were to be banded together in an economic union providing common currency, customs unions, etc. The Minority Report (India, Iran and Yugoslavia) favoured federal Palestine

with Cantonese autonomy for the Arab and Jewish areas.

## PARTITION PLAN FLOUTS FREE WILL OF NATIONS

The Minority Report was shelved and the vast political, economic and financial pressure of the USA was used to rush through the partition plan. The Arabs have suggested that Haiti's vote for partition had been bought for \$10,000! The final vote was: for partition: 38, against, 13 including all the Asian countries except China, abstentions: 10, including United Kingdom and China. A revolution in Siam invalidated the credentials of the representatives of that country.

It is, therefore, that the Arabs argue that partition does not represent the true free will of the nations of the United Nations: the total population of the countries voting in favour of partition was about 600,000,000, while the total population of countries voting "no" or "abstaining" or "absent" was more than 1,000,000,000.

Hence the Arabs see no "united moral force of mankind" behind the partition decision. In fact, they feel that the wrong decision deliberately arrived at, has killed, "murdered the United Nations Charter."

"Apart from the question of the rights of the Jews, who lived in Palestine 2,000 years ago, and of the Arabs,

who live there today", writes Thomas J. Hamilton in the Special Report on Palestine for the Foreign Policy Association (N. Y.), "the importance of the Holy Land is written large in any military geography, even in the age of the atomic bomb. It is the bridge between Europe, Asia and North Africa. Although it has no oil itself, the pipeline which carries the oil of Mosul reaches the Mediterranean at Haifa. Above all, Palestine is the meeting-place of the Russian and Anglo-American spheres of influence" (accent ours).

It was the interest of the USA, arising partly from the strategic importance of Palestine, and partly from the key-position the Jew votes possess in the US Presidential elections, scheduled for this November, that jockeyed the General Assembly of the U.N. to vote for partition. It is obvious that the American support, in the face of British apathy, is the sine qua non of the partition. The hostility of the Arab countries is now directed against the American government.

The partition plans to divide the country into a crazy-quilt pattern each new state being split into three sections connected with each other by narrow corridors.

According to the Jewish Agency, the area and population of the three States are as follows:

	Area.		Population.	
	Sq.M.	Arabs.	Jews.	
Arab State	4,500	804,000	10,000	
Jewish State	5,500	397,000	538,000	
Jerusalem Enclave	74	150,000	100,000	


Figures supplied by the British are somewhat different, particularly about the Jewish State.

	Arabs	Jews
Arab State	8,47,000	10,000
Jewish State	4,05,000	4,98,000
Jerusalem Enclave	1,05,000	1,00,000

That means that while in the Arab State the population of Jews to Arab would be 12: 88, in the Jewish States the same would be 50:45.

## ARABS WILL HAVE NO TRUCK WITH THE PLAN

The Arabs have refused to accept the partition; the farthest they resourceful and powerful countries like the USA and the USSR should take a lead in the matter. In the USA, for instance, there is uncovered quota of immigrants for the War years—400,000 refugees can, therefore, be admitted immediately. But every nation wants to show sympathy to the homeless Jews at the expense of the Palestine Arabs! this modern philanthropy the unsophisticated Bedouins cannot understand.



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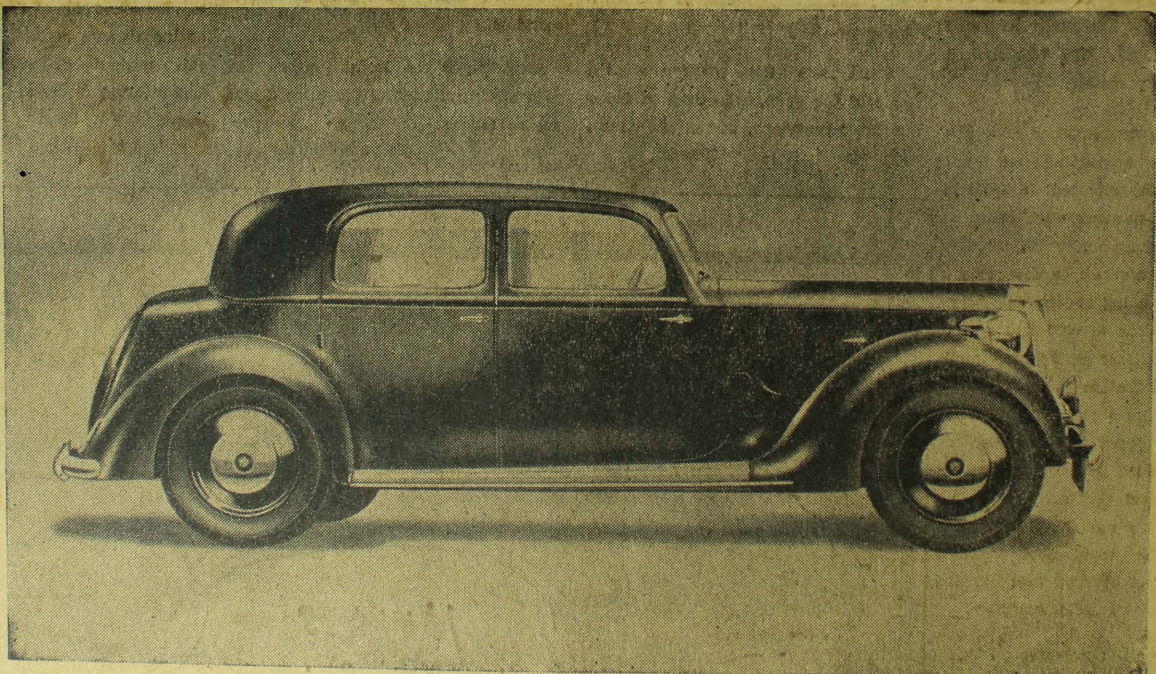
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