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Photo Plate

Miss Ranees Samarasinha, daughter of Mr. R. E. Samarasinha and of the late Mrs. Samarasinha of Razeena Group, Akuressa, and niece of Dr. and Mrs. Sam de Simon of "Evelands", Hendala, whose marriage to Dr. Felix E. de Pinto, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter de Pinto of "Killarney," Dehiwela, takes place shortly.



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The Passing Hour



BY SPECTATOR

CEYLON'S third Prime Minister since Independence took office on October 12 which ended the spate of rumours that had flooded the country for six successive weeks about his predecessor, who had ruled for eighteen months as Ceylon's second Premier.

Sir John Kotelawala has not assumed the helm of affairs at an easy period in the country's history. When the late Mr. D. S. Senanayake became Premier of free Ceylon in 1948, his task was unprecedented and herculean. On his death in 1952, his son, Dudley Senanayake took the place of a father, who had earned the name of "Father of the Nation," and whose place it was almost impossible to fill. The younger Senanayake has now decided to give up office after a short period as Premier, and his successor, Sir John inherits the leadership of a country in the throes of financial uncertainty and economic stress brought about by the inevitable trend of world affairs, which have had their repercussions on Ceylon also.

Sir John, however, assumes his new responsibilities with a background of achievement as a Minister of State for nearly a quarter of a century. It will be remembered that it was generally expected that with the crossing over of Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike to the side of the Opposition, the lawful successor to the Premiership after Mr. D. S. Senanayake would be Sir John Kotelawala. This situation was nevertheless altered when on Mr. Senanayake's death, his son was voted to power. It was therefore expected, when rumours of Mr. Dudley Senanayake's intentions to renounce office began to circulate that Sir John would get his chance this time, although in Mr. J. R. Jayawardene he had a brilliant and younger rival. The Governor General apparently by-passed the

brilliance of the younger man for the more mature experience of the older, and called upon Sir John to form the new government. Sir John has now come in with the general approval of the country although the same warmth that welcomed his two predecessors in office is somewhat lacking. Despite this he is assured of the support of the people he has now undertaken to serve in a most difficult period.

* * *

SIR John Kotelawala's first task as Prime Minister, which was the selection of his Cabinet, met with a wave of criticism from Press and public alike. He could not have expected a better reception with his team of misfits and inepts, whom the country expected him to discard for a more vigorous band more in keeping with his own spirit of liveliness and adventure.

Continued on page 3

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The Passing Hour

Continued from page 1

His Cabinet deserved the gibe of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike) that it was a new gramophone but with the same old broken records.

The only ray of hope in the original Kotelawala Cabinet, apart from two men in the persons of Sir Oliver Goonetilleke and Mr. J. R. Jayawardene, was the inclusion of that exceptional civil servant, Sir Kanthiah Vaithianathan. This one new spring he has introduced in the otherwise superannuated vehicle of his Government has renovated it to some extent, but it is not the best the Premier could have done.

It must, however, be stated in fairness to Sir John that in the making of a Cabinet even the Premier cannot have it all his own way, and it is only political bargaining and political sagacity that can win in such a situation.

* * *

ON the other hand, Sir John has been quick in making amends, and with an alertness that is characteristic of the man, he has called upon his first Minister of Justice Sir Lalitha Rajapakse, and his first Minister of Industries, Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, to resign. Sir Lalitha has left the political arena of justice, which he dominated like a Colossus impervious to public opinion for six years, with a sense of wounded pride. Some blame the new Premier for giving the ex-Minister of Justice sufficient ground to substantiate his position, by doing the right thing at the wrong time. But who can say that Sir John Kotelawala has not done well by the country by driving into political oblivion a man who used his authority to ride roughshod over public opinion, and who believed in showing his respect for public opinion by doing just what the public did not want him to do. In this respect Sir Lalitha will always be remembered for his stubborn determination to shift the law courts from their present site in Hultsdorp to a new location in Bambalapitiya, against the almost unanimous wish of the Bar. His more recent attempt to uproot

the very foundations of democracy by introducing far-reaching amendments to the law of sedition in the country, will also not be forgotten easily. It is a happy thought that his timely removal from the seat of power has prevented him from implementing either of these pet schemes of his.

In ridding his Government of Mr. Ponnambalam, the Premier has done away with a liability that thrived on experts, the reports of which seldom left the archives of the Industries Department, while the progress of the country's industrialisation was dangerously retarded. Had Ceylon's industrialisation progressed during the past five years at the pace it ought the financial doldrums in which the country finds itself today may not have arisen. In his dismissal of Sir Lalitha Rajapakse and Mr. Ponnambalam from their positions in the Cabinet, the Prime Minister has not only set a useful precedent for Cabinet Government in the future but has also made a decision which will be applauded by the nation.

* * *

EQUALLY praiseworthy has been the Premier's decision to select Mr. E. B. Wickramanayake, Q. C., as the new Minister of Justice.

A man of few words, the new Minister of Justice stands for all that his predecessor in office did not. A violent opponent of the shifting of the law courts, and a strong believer in the liberty of free speech and free institutions, Mr. Wickramanayake's first task will be to undo what Sir Lalitha did, or planned to do. In removing the odium that his fellow lawyers had for the Minister of Justice, as embodied in the late holder of the office, Mr. Wickramanayake will not have a difficult task, as his popularity at the Bar, and the ideals which he represents, will stand him in good stead in the cleansing of the stables a task he will have to undertake immediately on assumption of office.

* * *

ONE might have expected a more constructive plan from the Premier in his first broadcast to the nation on October 15, although, of course he was quite categorical when he stated at the outset of his speech that it was not his intention on that occasion to dwell on matters of policy or make national pronouncements.

Continued on page 23



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Women's Page

BY JULIETTE

TWO of the earliest to become citizens of Ceylon under the new immigration regulations were **Marjory Tutein-Nolthenius** and her husband, who is nominated Member in the House of Representatives, and Partner and Director of Boustead Bros., Ltd. Good friends of the late Mr. D. S. Senanayake, their applications for citizenship were accepted immediately. Husband and wife have closely identified themselves with Ceylon and her aspirations, and have for long looked upon this island as their adopted home.

The eldest daughter of Capt. H. G. Fellowes-Gordon, Laird of Knockepoch, Clatt, Aberdeenshire, she spent most of her youth on her father's estates and grouse-moors in Aberdeenshire, where she cultivated a great love for all wild life. It was most natural therefore that outdoor activities should have appealed to her most and this is indicated by her keenness for all sports and games, particularly tennis, riding and trout-fishing. She has played golf at St. Andrews and Balgownie and has climbed mountains in the Austrian Tyrol in search of stag and chamois.



Arriving in Ceylon in 1920, Marjory stayed with her brother, the late Abdy Fellowes-Gordon, proprietary planter of Roehampton Estate, Haputale, and Master of the Errebodde Hunt. Three years later when in Aberdeen she married, and returned to Ceylon to West Haputale Estate, Ohiya—the tea property belonging to General Sir Ian Hamilton, K.C.B., his brother Vereker Hamilton, the author of books on Ceylon, and

her husband Mr. A. C. Tutein Nolthenius. They lived there, just below Horton Plains, until 1948 and for many years had to ride eight miles to and from the railway station, their nearest neighbours being Gilbert and Mrs. Anderson on Ohiya Estate four miles away. It was there, in 1936, that she saw the last wild elephant from a small herd of six animals which used to roam between Horton Plains and Moon Plains. She vividly recalls that those were the days of splendid trout-fishing near at hand and much wild life on the Plains. There were also excellent opportunities to study bird life in the up-country jungles.

Mrs. Tutein Nolthenius has always accompanied her husband on his many camping expeditions—big game shooting, wild-life study, collecting for museums, photography and later filming. She was the first European woman to visit lonely Kumana on the Kumbukkan Oya where she made friends with the few jungle people there who were famed game-watchers and trackers, and she has also been on two pilgrimages to distant Kataragama. She has camped several times in the little-known Yala Strict Natural Reserve and visited the Inginiyagala dam site when the first trees were being cleared by bulldozers. Indeed, she is an expert on "wild" Ceylon of years gone by, her favourite part of the country being the area between Palatapaver and Arugam Bay which she has traversed many times on foot, by cart, and later on by car, lorry and jeep.

* * *

YORKSHIRE-born, **Helen Penny**, wife of the Galle businessman, was educated at "St. Ives," Bexhill-on-Sea, Queen Mary's Hostel which is affiliated to King's College, London, and completed her studies at the London

School of Economics. After her marriage she came out to Galle where she and her husband have been living ever since. Mr. Penny first arrived in Ceylon in 1912 as assistant to Chas. P. Hayley & Co., and retired as a director in 1946.

A keen social worker, Mrs. Penny is interested in child welfare and the Y. W. C. A. of which she has been the local President for many years. At present she is the Honorary Treasurer of the Galle Y. W. and Vice-President of the town's Friend-in-Need Society. A most enthusiastic member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, she has been Divisional Superintendent, Galle, since 1940 and has now attained the high rank of Officer-Sister. During the last war she ran the Hospital Supply Depot in Galle and in 1942 took over the management of the Y.W. Canteen for the troops and organised dances and other entertainments for them. Once a month she went round the island in the "shopteen" with other ladies selling comforts for the troops, whilst yet another job that fell to her lot was the management of the Free Milk Distribution for school children.



Mrs. Penny has travelled widely in Italy, U. S. A., South Africa and India. Last year she and her husband went to the States and stayed with two of Mrs. Penny's sisters who are married to Americans.

For relaxation, Mrs. Penny likes gardening, breeding pedigree dachshunds, bridge and lawn tennis. Participating in local tournaments she has annexed several cups. Her husband who has been Honorary Secretary of the Galle Club for many years shares her liking for bridge and as a keen billiards and snooker player has won many a tournament in Galle.

SLIM and good-looking 23 year old **Dhanaluxmi Fordyce**, wife of the popular Australian jockey is the daughter of Trainer Selvaratnam (Snr.) She has recently returned from abroad and has a few pertinent things to say about racing in general. She considers that the "Game of Kings" is much more complicated

in the U. K. than it is here. The race meets are spread out all over England, and trainers, jockeys, horses, etc., have to travel to the different racecourses, the average distance covered being approximately 600 miles a week!

In her opinion our betting facilities, catering arrangements, and grandstands are more progressive than those obtaining at Goodwood, Lingfield, and Ascot. The English race-tracks are however the best in the world! With the exception of Sunday there are race meets every day which are attended by large crowds. She found the racing public very sporting and says one rarely hears complaints when a favourite is beaten. The racecourses are notable fashion centres and very picturesque in their settings.

The *London Evening Standard* once referred to Dhanaluxmi as an "exotic figure on the course". When a columnist described jockey Harry Carr's wife as "decidedly the prettiest wife in racing," a controversy arose and Dhanaluxmi's name was linked with that of Patricia Evans, wife of jockey Willie Evans, in the "race" for beauty honours. Dhanaluxmi's taste in clothes is very conservative. She loves to wear the typical South Indian saree with antique jewellery and favours white in preference to any other colour.

During her stay in England Dhanaluxmi found the English people most courteous and kind and wherever she went she was gladly welcomed.

Dhanaluxmi received her early education at St. Brilget's Convent and later in India whither she had gone with her father. Her early ambition was to study medicine but she turned to classical Indian dancing with the intention of making it her career. She also learnt Indian music and studied under and travelled with Srimati Mrinalini Sarabhai, who is one of India's best dancers. She has now developed an appreciation for classical Western ballet and has attended a good many shows in England and abroad.



Her husband, "Ride-em-out" Fordyce—a compliment paid to him sometime ago owing to

his consistency in winning his mounts—has several important riding successes to his credit including the City and Suburban Handicap on *Sunny Brae* at Epsom, the Ascot Stakes at Ascot, and the Chesterfield Cup at Goodwood. He also rode *Pluchino* who was a favourite for the Cesarewitch but came 8th.

MRS. BRUCE Palmer is the devoted mother of two children, Laird, who is almost 9 and Sheila 5. Certainly no children have ever had more care, attention and affection bestowed on them than these two. Mrs. Palmer plays with them by the hour, reads to them, swims with them, takes them to the cinema or zoo or wherever else they wish to go and is their constant companion. The result is that she has developed two children who are remarkably poised and well-advanced for their ages.

However, Mrs. Palmer finds time for many other activities. She is an enthusiastic and quite a good bridge player. She doesn't participate in sports but is keen on most of them, particularly American football and basketball. When she was at college in the U. S. A. (Carlton College, Northfield, Minnesota) Mrs. Palmer specialised in the odd combination of mathematics and speech. The latter study gave her considerable dramatic experience which she later put to good use in amateur theatricals.

Mrs. Palmer has been active other than socially while in Ceylon. She has entered into the various activities of the Women's International



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Club, the American Women's Committee and the Red Cross. In connection with the last-named, for many months she regularly served tea as one of the Red Cross team at Lady Ridgeway Hospital, an activity which she said gave her an invaluable insight into the lives of the people of this Island. She has climbed Adam's Peak and Pedrutalagala, the latter with Laird; explored quite a bit of Yala and has been most enthusiastic about seeing all that Ceylon had to offer.

The Palmers are now very sorry to leave Ceylon. However, being Foreign Service people they are keen to see what they can of the world. Mrs. Palmer has toured Europe and now looks forward to a glimpse of Turkey and the Middle East. Since her husband has been assigned as Public Affairs Officer for the U. S. Information Agency in Istanbul, she expects to find much of interest in that very historic city. It need hardly be added that Mrs. Palmer is a woman of wide interests, intense enthusiasm and considerable charm.



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AN ISLAND—WIDE SERVICE

London Letter

Hope for Korea



REASSURING news from London is that diplomats still think a political conference on the future of Korea will take place — eventually. The Pekin government, it is still felt, really want such a conference. Spokesmen are not unduly perturbed by the prospect of further delay in the arrangements for the conference. It will not affect the armistice position in Korea, they say, if the conference doesn't start at the scheduled time.



"Save-the-Franc" Pinay may be the next President of France, when M. Auriol retires at the end of year.

For the political conference was not an integral part of the armistice agreement; it simply came under a final auxiliary clause headed "Recommendations to Governments". This optimism, which does not match the pessimism of all comments on the subject from London for several months past, is clearly based on a belief that the Chinese will be willing to compromise in some respect. Experience seems to justify the view—provided quick results are ruled right out.

Pinay for President?

Who will be the next President of France, when M. Auriol retires at the end of the year? M. Auriol has said he will not fight again, and though all Presidents say this when their term of office comes to an end, M. Auriol almost certainly means what he says. The French Houses of Parliament have reassembled after the summer recess, and although topic number one is the government's handling of the nation-wide strike

London; 20th October, 1953

in August, plans for the Presidential elections are beginning quietly behind the scenes. In French parliamentary circles the most 'favoured' candidate for the post at present is "Save-the-Franc" Pinay, France's last Prime Minister but one. He is a great friend of the present Prime Minister, Mr. Laniel and his ten month fight to reduce the cost of living won him support from the mass of French people.

Biding his Time

Observers at Margate noted that Mr. Butler discreetly took a back seat at the Tory Conference. The bulk of the party now have eyes for no one but Sir Winston and Mr. Eden and their happy return to health and politics; the man who acted as Prime Minister in their absence is being forgotten. But Mr. Butler, never a flamboyant showman, would not have it otherwise. His supporters are content too. They say that whatever the immediate future, the Chancellor will be the next real leader of the party. Mr. Eden has already gone back to the Foreign Office, but his health will never be as good as it was. Nor will Sir Winston's. Mr. Butler, on the other hand, is looking as fit as a fiddle, placid and unhurried, although he has not had more than a few days holiday—when he went grouse shooting in Yorkshire—since Parliament rose in July. Apart from occasional week-ends at his Essex farm, he has spent all the time at his desk in Whitehall. Looking thoroughly sure of himself Mr. Butler can afford to wait modestly in the background.

Jagan's offer

Dr. Cheddi Jagan, ex-premier of British Guiana deposed along with his colleagues for Communist conspiracy, was last in London during the 1951 General Election, when he was holidaying in Europe. He spent election night with the crowds in Trafalgar Square, watching the results go up on the board and bemoaning the impending defeat of Labour. A young London woman was having an argument with someone

in the crowd on the future of the coloured peoples, when Dr. Jagan intervened: he discussed the problem with courtesy and polish. Afterwards he twice entertained this young woman to dinner, explained the objects of himself and his wife, and invited her to join them. The new constitution which has ended so disastrously was then just being mooted. The young woman turned down Dr. Jagan's invitation. She is now, she says, feeling rather relieved.



Mr. Butler, fit as a fiddle while Mr. Eden and Sir Winston are losing strength, is tipped to be the next leader of the Conservative Party.

The Duke's Conference

When the Duke of Edinburgh returns to London from Balmoral this week he is expected to confer with the Industrial Welfare Society about his forthcoming conference. So far it has been decided that it will be called "The Duke of Edinburgh's Conference on the Responsibility of Industry in the Commonwealth". It is being organised by the Industrial Welfare Society of which the Duke is patron. It will be held in London next year, and will last for ten days. Five hundred young men and women in industry will attend. The Duke of Edinburgh will probably become the President of the conference, for it is understood that he himself suggested the subject, and he will certainly be taking a leading part in the arrangements. Former patron of the Society was King George VI; through this organisation he founded his famous "Duke of York's Camps".

Problem for New Zealand

Officials at New Zealand House in the Strand are disappointed to hear that another five years will elapse before building work begins on their new headquarters. At present the accommodation for the staff of over 300 is "terrible",

and only a third of them can be squeezed into the headquarters. The rest are housed in various other buildings. The migration office works on the first floor of the Carlton Hotel, with a view of Pall Mall. Other offices are in South Africa House, the Adelphi, and near London Bridge. The new home for New Zealand House will be in the Haymarket, where the New Zealand Government paid £325,000 for a site four years ago. But nothing further has been done, because of various leases of property on the site—including Her Majesty's Theatre, the Carlton Hotel and the Royal Opera Arcade. The Hotel may well disappear, but the arcade is expected to be preserved for historical reasons. As for Her Majesty's Theatre—where Beerbohm Tree and Chu Chin Chow were both made famous—not even the New Zealanders really want to pull it down.

London A-Bombed

What would be the effect of dropping an atom bomb on one of Britain's major ports? Scientific advisers of the Home Office, and main port, dock and harbour authorities from all over the country, have been studying the problem in London. It was assumed that "an average-size atom bomb", equivalent to 20,000 tons of TNT had been dropped on the Port of London. Since this particular bomb exploded over the Thames at Bow Creek—not a heavily populated area—it was estimated that 1,567 people were killed, and 3,873 were trapped. Had the bomb burst over the centre of the city, as many as 60,000 people might have been killed. This study shows that even with a bigger bomb—which would be less accurate—the port should not be put completely out of action, but the bomb would cause complete destruction over one and a half miles. It also shows that the old London public air-raid shelters, and the back garden Anderson would still be of use if strengthened and more deeply covered. People on the streets at the time of the explosion would stand no chance.

The Queen's Forest

Plans are going ahead for the planting of the Queen Elizabeth Coronation forest in Israel—the gift of the Queen's Jewish subjects throughout the Commonwealth. Expert advice is now being sought to choose the best types of trees and it is hoped that specimens from all Commonwealth countries may be planted. The forest cost £100,000, and it will be planted in Galilee.

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near to the King George V Jubilee Forest, which stretches towards Nazareth. Further news of the project is expected when the Duke of Edinburgh attends a Guildhall dinner given by supporters of the scheme on October 20. When he attends the dinner he will be given a new toy for Prince Charles and Princess Anne. This is a model of Noah's Ark, made from the wood of an olive tree in Israel. Figures of all the animals are carved on the ark.

Queen Mary's Adviser

Lord Claud Hamilton, who looked after Queen Mary's Household until her death, has now been appointed an Extra Equerry to the Queen at Buckingham Palace. This ends the rumours that he wished to retire from royal service. Lord Claud Hamilton, who will be 64 next month, has been busy at Marlborough House since Queen Mary's death. As Comptroller of her Household, it fell to him to wind up her affairs. He had a staff of 60 to help him, but it was an arduous task. He undertook it with the same quiet efficiency as when he organised Queen Mary's move into Marlborough House after the death of George V. A methodical disciplinary, who won the D.S.O. with the Grenadier Guards in World War One, he knew George V and Queen Mary intimately. Throughout their married life he was one of their closest personal advisers. He married twenty years ago, and lives with his wife in a grace-and-favour apartment at St. James's Palace. He will continue to live there now—visiting the Palace when required by the Queen.

Mr. Drake Retires

A man who says he has met "just about" every member of the Royal Family in the last thirty years retired to his home this week to spend the rest of his life "just pottering around the garden". He is Mr. G. C. Drake, sixty-six years old, who has been the Dean's Verger at Westminster Abbey since 1923, and on the Abbey staff since 1908. He has served for three Coronations and five royal weddings, and has shown the Abbey treasures to hundreds of distinguished visitors. The late Queen Mary often asked him to show her grandchildren around the great church. To mark his long service, a small private ceremony took place at the Chapter House. There, the Dean, Dr. Don, and the Abbey canons, presented Mr. Drake

with a handsome cheque. After that, Mr. Drake retired to his Wembley home. "But I'll come to the Abbey a lot," he says, "I just couldn't keep away from it".

Theatre Boom

It is almost impossible now to get a seat quickly for any of the most popular shows in town. Failures flop within a few days, but successes go from strength to strength. At the Old Vic "Hamlet" is booked up for weeks ahead; even Shakespeare's museum-piece "All's Well That Ends Well" is sold out for the next fortnight. At the Coliseum theatregoers can get into "Guys and Dolls", but only because the management of this 2,600-seated theatre always keeps seats back to sell on the day of performance. "Paint Your Wagon" at Her Majesty's is always sold out for several days ahead; and advance bookings extend to February. Graham Greene's sin-and-sex drama at Wyndham's has played to capacity since it opened and has heavy bookings until Christmas. T. S. Eliot's "Confidential Clerk" is sold out altogether for the next three weeks. Seats for two shows which have only just opened in London are in huge demand. "The King and I" has got bookings for the next six months. For the new Olivier-Vivien Leigh play at the Phoenix the box-office has not yet opened; but already



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Plenty of Customers

One of the busiest, yet most unpopular, places in London is the Royal Dental Hospital in Leicester Square. Here over 100 people queue for treatment every day. Why this brisk trade? It is not because patients can go under gas watching a colourful view of the Leicester Square lights, nor because they can be fitted with false teeth while looking out on the reassuring figure of Nelson on his Column.

The reason people come to the hospital is that, while other dentists even under the National Health charge £1 a time, here the treatment is free. On a weekday the average period of waiting is about one hour: on a Saturday it can be as much as four hours. Since charges were introduced for treatment by other dentists, the queues at the Royal Dental Hospital have trebled. Here the only charge is for dentures: but even in this field the R. D. H. attracts plenty of customers. The prosthetic department has chairs for as many as twenty people to be fitted for false teeth at the same time.



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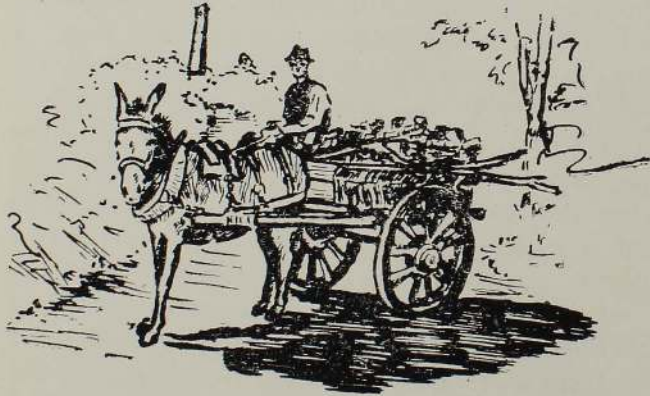
BY R. H. BASSETT C.M.G., C.B.E.



EVEN after one has retired an annual holiday is still considered necessary. One must have "a change" or one becomes too negative, so this year we went to Eira. My wife comes from Dublin, but I had never been to Ireland before; now I think I shall go again, I liked it so much.

* * *

THE principal impression one brings home from Eira is of Towers, Donkeys, Peat and Porter, and speaking of Porter, it is delightful to be able to get a drink any day, any time. Everywhere one goes there are Bars, all of them "Select" kept by Keenan, Callahan, Treenan or Moran. Often they are next door to one another, but custom is good and they all seem to exist



Irish donkey-cart loaded with peat.

comfortably. At three o'clock on a Sunday afternoon one can knock on the door of a Select Bar, not the back door but at the front, on the main street, and someone will answer it. If you say "Are you open?" they will reply "Sure 'tis open if you want to come in". Inside, one will find a party going on and Porter flowing freely; what they do about the Police or Excise I don't know, and I always felt that it would appear unduly curious to ask. I never tried "out of hours" in Dublin, but in smaller towns and villages one never gives opening time a thought. The pleasure of having no restrictions is almost as great as the flavour of the Stout,

brewed in Dublin. Irish whiskey is about the same price as it is in England, whereas Stout is somewhere near half what one pays at home.

* * *

PPEAT, of course, is everywhere in Ireland. I wish we had some on our land in Gloucestershire, then I should not have to visit the Gas and Coke Board like a petitioner coming to the Kachcheri. The peat "reek" can be seen issuing from the chimney of every cottage, however dilapidated, and many of them are indeed in ruins, even if not quite collapsed, though these are mostly relics of the "crossness," or were abandoned when their inhabitants went to America. We watched men cutting the peat with special spades and stocking it very neatly; in fact peat stocks are about the only tidy features in Irish rural industry. The people who live where the peat is cut keep their store in the yard, but those who have to fetch it use a very strange assortment of transport vehicles. I once or twice saw lorry-loads of peat, but usually it is carried in a two-wheeled horse drawn cart, with a high, wooden "lattice" body which takes a big load. For smaller loads the ubiquitous donkey-cart is used, the same little donkey that pulls its master to market, to Mass, to be married, and to the mortuary, while the better-off townsman fetches his peat in the boot and on the carrier of his car.

The boot of a car is used more universally by the Irish motorist than is the case in England. One day I was in Dungaroon market, parked next to a gentleman who had come to sell his month-old piglets. He had had them washed and was nursing one of them over his shoulder like a baby suffering from wind. The pig seemed to like it. The bargaining was being done by a pal, who was in earnest discourse with a friend of the prospective purchaser, while the principals behaved as if they were unaware of each others' presence. This is a wise precaution to prevent fights. Eventually one piglet was bought and went from the family circle in a farm cart, to solitary confinement in the boot of

a Ford Prefect. Then a second followed but, at this stage the purchaser signified that he did not want any more. I thought a fight was certain because the bargaining conventions broke down and the principals became wildly excited. The seller tore off his cap and waved it in emphasis of the excellence of his pigs, while the unwilling purchaser was very rude, but suddenly, to my astonishment, he opened up the boot again and in went two more piglets, tightly jammed, squealing madly, and doing all sorts of things I should hate to have done in my car. Then everyone went off to a Select Bar close by, leaving the piglets wildly bemoaning their fate in the boot.

TOWERS are everywhere, round and square, tall and short, but the most interesting are the tall round ones of which I believe, there are eighty still in existence, and about which there has been acrimonious argument among antiquarians. It seems however to be settled now that these towers, some hundred or more feet



Blarney Castle.

high, with an internal diameter of nine feet, and five foot thick walls, were belfries for Christian Churches, used as watch towers and keeps in troublous times. That they were intended for defensive purposes seems clear from the fact that the door is always fifteen feet at least up the side of the wall. Bells were not hung in the tower and rung by ropes;

instead the ringer climbed up the internal ladders and rang a large hand bell, (shaped like a Sinhalese buffalo bell, or socoda) out of a window at the top, just under the conical cap roof.

The square towers are those of Castles. The Irish, of old, were very fond of building Castles, one in every place of importance, from prehistoric times down to within two or three hundred years ago. I think perhaps this may have been due to a tendency towards frequent "troubles" or "crossnesses" that have arisen in the country from time to time, so that, if a man could afford it, he made himself secure. The Government Guide Book, with pardonable enthusiasm, describes each castle as "the best of its type in the country." This description includes Blarney Castle near Cork.

We visited this Castle because we felt we could not leave Eira without doing so. We kissed the Blarney Stone, both of us, though my wife has complained of a pain in her back ever since. It is a beautiful Castle, to the top of which one climbs one hundred and twenty steps, past numbers of fascinating banqueting halls and bed-chambers, most of them floorless, but none the less romantic. This Blarney Stone, which some people say is the rock that served Jacob for a pillow the night he had his memorable dream, is part of the bottom of the curtain wall round the flat roof of the castle keep. The defenders of a castle used to pour boiling water on and shoot arrows at the attackers who were carrying out offensive operations at the foot of the wall. While they did this they were protected by a curtain wall, all round, and they discharged their ammunition between the curtain and the edge of the roof. In order to kiss the Blarney Stone you have therefore to sit on the edge of the roof and bend over backwards, until, when you are leaning over upside down, from the waist upwards, (one soon contracts the Irish methods of expression), your mouth is close to the Stone and you can kiss its rather lip-sticked and smeared surface. It is all very insanitary, but you are saved the risk of an eighty foot drop by a solid iron grill below. It looks a long way down, viewed upside down. A gentleman takes your photograph while you kiss the Stone, so that you have proof that you really did so. As you come up from the depths, rather dishevelled, he presses the offer of the picture on you at 3s 6d a time, and few people at that moment have the nerve left

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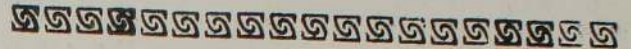
to refuse. We have a lovely picture of my inverted wife, but apparently the camera failed to register my effort.

Six priests and a char-a-banc party from Manchester witnessed my wife's feat, and afterwards all the Lancashire ladies had to have a go, urged on by the priesthood with taunts of "You can't let Grannie get the better of you." So we left Blarney in a blaze of glory earned by my intrepid wife.

The reward for bestowing one's kiss is the golden tongue of oratory and the charm of sweet persuasiveness. It was all started by Cormac MacDermot MacCarthy, Lord of Blarney in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. He was repeatedly asked to come in "off his keeping" and take the tenure of his lands from the Queen, renouncing his traditional clan customs. He agreed to the instructions, but for months he put off fulfilment of his promise; "with fair words and soft speech," doing nothing, but giving no actual cause for offence, until Elizabeth, in a rage shouted, "This is all Blarney; what he says he never means."

* * *

TOWERS, of course, also led us into Churches especially in Dublin, where we found an ancestor buried in St. James' within smell of Guinness' Brewery, which showed a pretty taste in choice of sepulture. At St. Andoen's there is a famous "Lucky Stone" in the porch, on which parishioners place their sweep tickets in order to ensure success. But the most remarkable ecclesiastical marvels can be seen in the vaults of St. Michan in Dublin, where, due to some emanation from the ground, which dries the air and maintains a steady temperature of 55°, bodies have lain for centuries without decomposition, merely becoming brown and leathery. There are literally stacks of coffins full of dehydrated people, among whom the most famous is a Crusader lying in his coffin with his feet crossed, ready to shake hands with anyone who wants to earn the good luck he is said to confer by this friendly gesture. Both his leathery hands are polished by the thousands of hand-shakes he enjoys from tourists. One queues for the favour, a feature of the proceedings which seemed to me to establish a queer combination of ancient and modern. The two Shearer brothers, heroes of the 1798 rebellion,



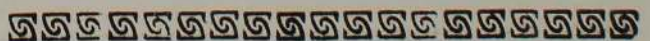
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who were beheaded, used to stand, one in each corner of one of the chambers in the vault, with their heads beside them, till someone stole Robert's head. Then they were put into coffins by Dr. William Madden, who later managed to recover Robert's missing head.

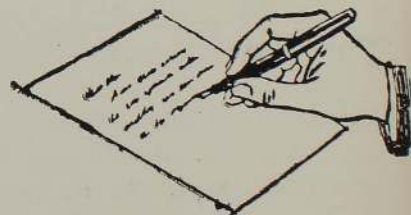
Near Dublin is Howth Castle where, at meal-times, the doors are left open in fulfilment of a promise made by the sixteenth century owner to Grainne O'Malley the Irish she-pirate and privateer, who took service under Queen Elizabeth I. On her return from a visit to Elizabeth's Court in London, where Grainne behaved with marked independence by blowing her nose loudly on a handkerchief lent her by the Queen and throwing it away with a coarse remark when she had finished with it, she had to shelter in Howth harbour from a storm. When she asked for hospitality at the Castle the doors were shut against her, so she kidnapped the heir and sailed away to Connaught, refusing to return him until she had obtained a promise that for evermore the Castle door should be kept open during mealtimes. There are many fine stories about

Grainne O'Malley and her piracy, but eventually she died and was buried in Clare Abbey on the West coast, where her skull was decorated with ribbons and shown to anyone who made it worthwhile. But this was not the end of Grainne. Her bones were desecrated, along with those of thousands of others when a ship, chartered by a Scotch artificial manure company, raided the western coast of Ireland and carried off hundreds of tons of bones which had accumulated during the centuries in ancient vaults and churchyards. It was a raid such as Grainne herself would have executed with equal daring and skill, but she was not the woman to take the kidnapping even of her skeleton, with complacency. She had her revenge. One of her grinders escaped pulverization in the bone mill and, when thrown on the land during the process of artificial manuring, got embedded in a turnip and choked a Scotsman who ate it.

* * *

| MUST tell you some more about Ireland another time.

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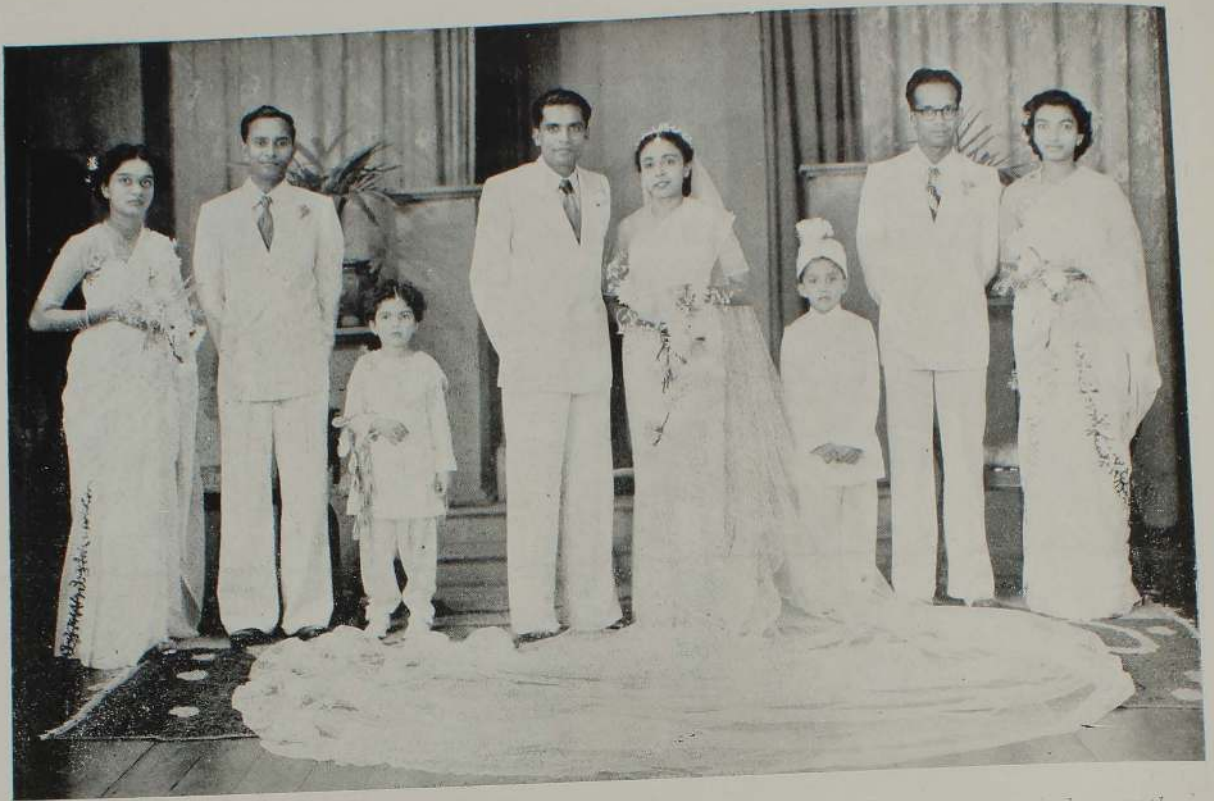
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WEDDED



Mr. Gunasena Fernando, son of the late Mr. & Mrs. W. Aron Fernando of "Guna Sewana", Kaludewala, Panadura, and Miss Indrani Perera, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Perera of Wekada, Panadura.

WEDDED



Mr. Ananda Pasqual and his bride, Miss L. Abeyagoonewardene, who were married recently.



Photos Plate

The wedding took place recently at the Galle Face Hotel of Mr. Upali Seneviratne, Asst: Signal Engineer, and Miss Vajira Sri Kalyani Jayawardena. Mr. G. P. Thambayah Government Agent Western Province performed the civil ceremony, the attesting witnesses being Dr. G. P. Malalasekera and Gate Mudaliyar D. P. Jayasinghe.

The Mystery of M. V. "Aqua Queen"

By T. M. G. SAMAT



ON August 12th, 1948, the *Aqua Queen* with 13 souls on board set a course for Colombo from off the Maldivé atoll, Suva Tiva. The *Aqua Queen* had taken on a cargo of 120 tons of Australian flour from the disabled M.V. *Thalatta* which had run aground after she had faded from view in a monsoon horizon on a sea running a heavy swell. The *Aqua Queen* has neither been seen nor heard of since.

WHAT strange and sudden disaster overtook her is another mystery that has to be added to similiar cases thrown up once in a while by the sea.

Some think that the master and the crew of the *Aqua Queen* may have pirated their vessel with its cargo and made off to some unknown lair to share the booty. Engineer Mr. A. L. Guebela, who had worked for nearly eight months on installing the auxiliary machinery of the *Aqua Queen* deposed to having seen the vessel on the morning of Sept. 3rd, about a mile off the coast of Wellawatte when he was travelling by train from Colombo to Galle.

The R. A. F. and other parties who were searching for the *Aqua Queen* however never spotted the vessel. A fisherman who is reported to having seen a vessel about this time off Panadura described one that bore no similarity to the *Aqua Queen*. Moreover Australian flour, a bulky cargo was not likely to prove attractive to pirates of rice-eating countries, and exchange conditions would have presented difficulties in securing payment.

The vessel, incidentally the largest ship built in Ceylon in recent years, was worth £7,200 and was more valuable than the cargo she carried. Enquiries made at Singapore, Penang, Hongkong, Shanghai, Sourabaya, Durban and Canton revealed that no vessel answering to the description of the *Aqua Queen* called at these ports or transacted for the sale of such a vessel.

Was there a mutiny on board in view of the fact there had been some cause for dissatisfaction among the crew regarding stores? Did an unexpected storm cause the disaster?

The mystery that surrounds the *Aqua Queen* may perhaps never be solved, and will go down as another of Colombo's contributions to the strange mysteries of the sea.

THE M. V. *Aqua Queen* was originally built as a motor mine sweeper by the Cargo Boat Despatch Co. The superstructure and auxiliary machinery were erected under the supervision of Captain Asquith and Engineer A. L. Guebela.

She was purchased in 1946 by Captain Asquith who converted the vessel into a cargo boat. Captain Asquith, who came from Hongkong, was a skipper of wide and varied experience holding a foreign-going Master's ticket backed by a notable reputation as a pilot on the Yang Tse river. A prisoner of war in Singapore during the Japanese occupation, he was married to a Chinese and had an adopted daughter, both of whom were in China.

Chartered by Volkart Bros. the *Aqua Queen* left Colombo harbour on the 16th of July 1948 for the Maldivé Islands. Forced to put into Galle Harbour three days later with engine trouble the *Aqua Queen* underwent running repairs there. A small fire had broken out on the vessel which was put out without difficulty. Examination of the lubricating system led to the discovery of a wad of cotton waste in one of the pipes. The vessel left Galle on the 27th of July.

After leaving port, the vessel, owing to renewed engine trouble, drifted for one whole night before monsoon winds. At dawn she was in front of Dondra Head where she was sighted by the *Reavely* to whom she signalled for aid. The *Reavely* stood by and sent a wireless message to Colombo, but no other assistance from her was requested as the driver of the *Aqua Queen* had succeeded in re-starting the engines.

Without further mishap the *Aqua Queen* apparently came within sight of Colombo and, reassured by the performance of the engine altered her course once again for the Maldives. She eventually arrived there on August 8th and was berthed next to the *Thalatta*.

Engineers of the *Thalatta* helped in carrying out further repairs to the *Aqua Queen* and by the time the transferring of the cargo was completed the vessel appeared seaworthy.

On August 12th, 1948, she set out for Colombo since when there has been no trace of the ill-fated vessel. Attempts to reconstruct events after her sailing date relate to various possibilities, the most fantastic of which is that the Master and crew pirated.

There is also the possibility that the crew may have been marooned on some desert island but this is most unlikely as atolls in this part of the ocean are rare and in any event news of this would have reached Ceylon long since.

Again, the end of the *Aqua Queen* may have come about by her engines having failed shortly after she left the atoll of Suva Tiva. Under such circumstances she would have been completely at the mercy of the elements as she was not fitted with wireless telegraphy. It would have been beyond the power of the crew to jettison the heavy cargo. Water entering the holds would have gradually seeped into the bags of flour and caused them to become an immense dead weight.

Another possibility is that the vessel caught fire, which if not controlled quickly, would have

set alight the wooden hull and superstructure. The life boats, two of which were equipped with life-saving gear may also have caught fire, or the crew, many of whom were on their first voyage, may have panicked making the launching of the boats impossible. Wreckage consisting of rafts and barrels but with no survivors was reported as having been seen by a ship in the Bay of Bengal some days after the vessel was reported missing.

The mystery of the *Aqua Queen* tragedy remains an unsolved one. The crew consisted of:-

N. J. Asquith,	54 yrs.	Master.
H. Fernando.	22 "	Quarter-master
Nonga bin Kalok	39 "	

Quarter-master (Malay domiciled in Ceylon).

Arsat bin Broen	36 yrs.	
-----------------	---------	--

Quarter-master (Malay domiciled in Ceylon).

D. W. Jayamanne	21 yrs.	Able Seaman
S. Sylvester	33 "	do.
K. S. Perera	32 "	First engineer.
J. K. E. Perera	30 "	Engine driver
M. P. A. Karunan-		

ayake	34 "	" "
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Appakutten	24 "	Carpenter
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G. Carolis	22 "	Cook
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Spaghetti

Green Peas

Baked Beans

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Compensation

BY MURIEL JANE



THESE are difficult days for all. There are problems on every side; of education, of health, of making ends meet. Our lives are always full of anxieties and there is never enough time to do all that we have to do. Sometimes it seems that the struggle is futile; that it is all a waste of time and gets us nowhere. There is so much selfishness and unkindness, and we wonder about the meaning of Life, and why we are here at all. But life offers compensations, and every day there are little happenings which make us realise that all is not lost. We catch a glimpse from time to time of something that restores our faith in human nature. All is certainly not lost when man can still show those finer feelings that exist deep down in the depths of his being.

* * *

KINDNESS can make such a difference to one. I do not mean the glib gush of words, which really mean nothing. "If there is *anything* I can do for you, *do* let me know. I'd *love* to help." Words, empty words, which are spoken with the lips, fly into the air and are forgotten almost as soon as they have been uttered. I mean the real kindness, the sincere word, the reaching out of the hand in friendship, the practical expression of kindness of heart by look by word, or by deed, the giving of oneself. Such kindness can in a moment bring a song where there was a sigh, can make a dark day bright. Such kindness it was my good fortune to experience not very long ago. A home opened its doors to me and enclosed me in a happy family circle. A school boy gave up the last two days of his holiday to show me around and to get my boys settled in school. Voluntarily, unstintingly and happily that lad gave of his time, with never an expression of boredom, with never an exclamation of impatience or annoyance. He did all he could and wished it could have been more. When it was time for me to leave Kandy and come home, he put me, and my small son on the bus for Kurunegala, and told the driver to put me down as near

as possible to the railway station. He could not accompany us, so he had to leave it at that. I had never travelled this way before, and I had no idea where to get off and how far I'd have to walk. About 9 p.m. the bus stopped at a boutique. The driver told me that this was where I should get down. He pointed into the night; "There's the station". Some distance off I saw some lights. I took my luggage out of the bus and put it by the roadside. It was more than I and my little boy could carry even 20 yards and there were about 200 yards between us and the station lights! I was wondering what I should do, when a voice said, "I am going to the station. I'll take you along." A young man, carrying a brief case, stepped out of the bus and, picking up one of the suitcases, led the way to the station. One train had just left, and we had to wait more than an hour for the next. He took our things to the waiting room and bought us some coffee. When the train pulled into the station he appeared from somewhere and took charge of the luggage. He found us seats in the train and settled us in. At Anuradhapura he said goodbye and vanished into the night. I had never seen him before; most probably I shall never see him again. I do not know his name, and I barely recall his face. But I shall remember always that he was kind. Kindness makes up for so much of the rude, selfish grabbing which characterizes life today. Spontaneous kindness is rare, but it has the power to refresh, revive and restore one's faith in the essential goodness of human nature.

* * *

IN these days children are a great responsibility, which few parents feel adequately equipped to bear. But bear it they must, so life becomes a difficult matter. Both parents find that they must work in order to make ends meet. There is never enough time to devote to the children. It seems such a hopeless mess at times. Then comes the compensation. The happy smile and a small boy's appreciative

remark, "The only trouble with your doughnuts is that they vanish too soon." And the whispers and secrets when a birthday is in sight: the careful counting of pocket money, and the shopping expeditions. Then on the birthday morning, the song at dawn, and the "littlest one" laden with packages. A powder puff and comb, a blouse length, a slim book of verse... Here there is enough compensation for all the struggle and the worry, for all the burden of responsibility. They are worth it every time.

NOWADAYS the old fashioned virtues of honesty and gratitude have gone by the board. But not altogether. In Madras one morning my husband brought home a young man, who had evidently got into difficulties. He was a Ceylonese returning to Ceylon from Calcutta. On the train his servant had taken his box containing all his clothing and money, and had got off at a wayside shop. So he was stranded in Madras without clothes and money. We gave him both and kept him with us for a couple of days. Then he went to investigate the theft of his things. He came back one morning. He said that he had been to the Church and that my husband had sent him to fetch a parcel which was on the piano. Also to borrow a suit of clothes which he needed. He had to appear in Court to indentify the man who had stolen the box, and had nothing decent to wear. There was a parcel on the piano. I gave it to him and a complete set of clothing. When my husband came home I asked him why the young man had not come too for some breakfast.

"What do you mean? I have not seen him for a week."

"Well, he came back this morning, and has gone off with some clothing and the parcel that was on the piano. He said you had sent him for it and I did not doubt him."

"You've given him that parcel? It is a collection of anthems. Mack's collection over twenty years!"

I was aghast. What dreadful thing had I done!

"Asking for it was just a blind. I was taken in completely. What do you think he'll do with the packet when he discovers what is in it?"

"Throw it into the nearest ditch, I expect." "Somehow I do not think he will. He seemed a decent chap," I said.

For days I got up early and looked on the doorstep, hoping to find it left there under cover of darkness. We wrote to friends in Ceylon. The reply came that there was a man of that name, well known in racing circles, who had a son who had gone to India. We wrote to the address given, asking our friend to tell us what he had done with the anthems. No reply came. Three weeks later the choir-master was visiting us.

"Well, Padre, we must be thinking of the Easter anthem." I felt cold. This was it. What I had been putting off for so long could no longer be put off.

He continued, "On Sunday I'll bring my collection of anthems from the Church and we'll go through them and choose something."

"But you have no collection of anthems," I blurted out. "It's gone. I gave it away."

He stared at me.

"When?"

"About three weeks ago."

He sat back with relief.

"Then it's all right. They are in the Church. When I went to choir practice on Thursday, I found the packet on the window sill in the choir vestry. I thought that Padre had brought it down."

"Are you sure?"

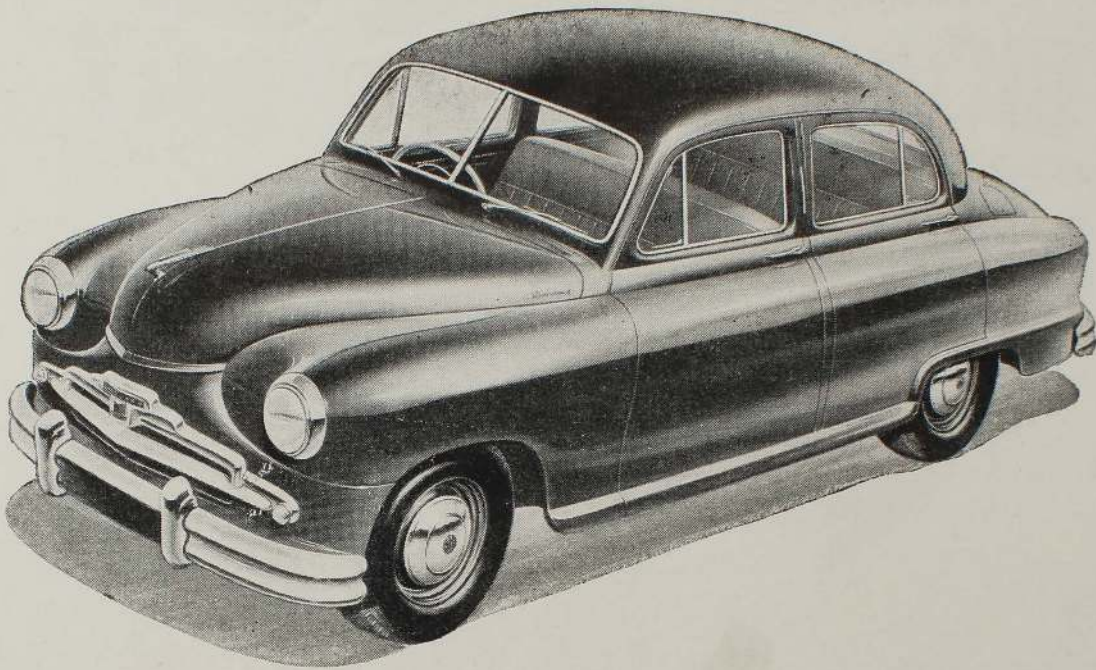
"Quite sure. Norman and I tried out one or two things. But tell me. What is it all about?"

I told him the story. We were then silent for a moment.

Then Mack said softly, "So there's good even in the worst of us, still, isn't there?".....

Paddy may be somewhere around in this island. If he reads this he will know that we do not have any hard feelings for him. His return of the anthems to the Church, which had helped him, was one of life's compensations, and we were grateful for the reminder that there is deep down in the heart of every man a core of goodness. May the good in mankind triumph, and build a new world of joy, turning despair and disillusionment to hope.

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WEDDED



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Cynthia Emersley, daughter of
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Emersley,
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recently.

The Rev. Eric Robinson-an Appreciation

BY J. N. JAYASINGHE



CEYLON has been very fortunate in the missionaries who have come to this Island and the Revd. Eric Robinson ranks as one of the greatest of recent times. As a Methodist, I came to know him and I count it a privilege to have won his friendship. There have been missionaries who occupied great positions of authority and influence, missionaries of spotless character and of great learning; but of them all Ceylon is proud to remember the subject of this sketch who possessed all the qualities of head and heart which made him outstanding. His literary gifts were high. Besides being a gifted writer, he was a journalist whose valuable contributions to the leading newspapers of Ceylon and other magazines on matters of the moment were of outstanding merit.

One of his former parishioners remarked to me recently "A cat could not give birth to kittens but what the Revd. Robinson would come to know about it." Thus meticulously he looked after the cares of his parish. His happiest moments were spent in the company of estate labourers in the Hatton district. His name was a by-word in the upcountry provinces. He brought much zeal to many vital questions particularly to that of the right of Citizenship of the Indians in Ceylon. Eric Robinson felt that a grave injustice had been done to Ramaswamy and he sought to mould public opinion in the matter. It was not a matter of politics, but of morals.

One of his articles, "Ceylon needs Family Planning" which hit the head lines in the press stirred up a hornet's nest. This article was based on the World Bank Mission's Report on the Economic Development of Ceylon. To quote extracts: "It seems to me that it is high time someone spoke out on the subject of Family Planning and caused it to receive a general airing. There is no hush-hush policy on this subject in India—Nehru has made several important public speeches advocating family planning—or in any other civilised country these days. So why is not this subject openly discussed on its merits in Lanka.

"As far as I know, there is today no church with an official hush-hush policy on this subject. All padres should be able to give young couples guidance before marrying them, and many of us do. Sex education has its proper place in the curriculum of every Christian Church."

I can never forget the reaction of a padre of the older brigade. One morning he rushed into my office and burst out, "What is Robinson up to this time? First Citizenship, now Family Planning!" Obviously the article was not to his liking.

He also had a flair for writing biographical sketches the subjects of which included Dr. Donald O. Soper, present President of the Methodist Conference in England; Revd. D. J. Bartholomeusz, B.D., a former Secretary of the Methodist Synod of Ceylon, and the late Evelyn S. Karney of Talawa. Of Dr. Donald Soper he wrote:

"He is the most unconventional padre I know and certainly one of the most dynamic. He is like no one but himself, and to know him is to be drawn to him.

"I hope arrangements will be made for Donald Soper to meet our "Marx brothers" while he is here. I would willingly pay five rupees—or more to attend a meeting in the Town Hall at which Dr. Donald Soper gave Drs. S. A. Wickremasinghe and Colvin R. de Silva, Messrs D. P. R. Goonewardena and Pieter Keuneman reasons for the Christian faith which is in him and having answered their questions and criticisms, discussed ways and means of creating a new social order in Ceylon. Perhaps such a meeting could be arranged (free) with say, Bishop Lakdasa de Mel in the Chair."

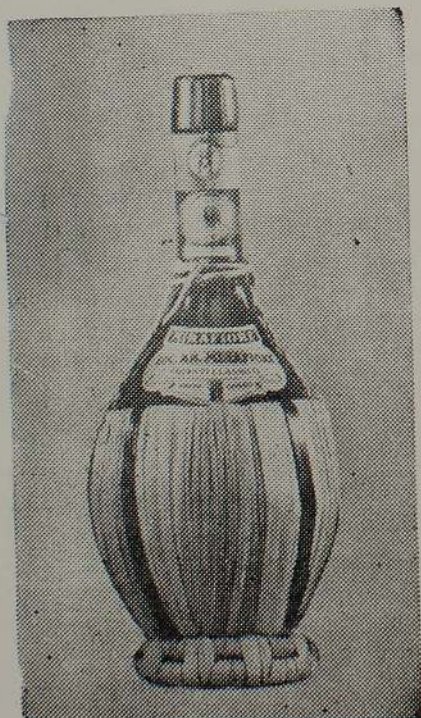
Eric Robinson's name will be remembered with respect by the Christian Community for the ability he displayed in producing the first Christmas Number of the National Christian Council of Ceylon.

In the September issue of the Ceylon Methodist Church Record, Reverend H. W.

Tattersall, Methodist missionary, Tangalle in writing to the YOUTH CLUB pays the following tribute, "You must be sorry, as I am, to have read the Revd. Eric Robinson's farewell greetings to us in the last issue. With what gusto and ability he has conducted this page during the last several years. You will also miss his friendship and spirited leadership in the affairs of this Club. We all wish him well, together with his family, in whatever the future holds for them, and express our sincere thanks for what he has done for us."

Eric Robinson was a great democrat. He realised that democracy had yet to triumph in this country in the matter of our relationship with the Ceylon Indians. "The principal of Democracy is Liberty," said Aristotle. He took the liberty of showing the Government that the grievances of a minority cannot be ignored.

As a preacher he held complete sway of his congregation. He presented the gospel with such dynamic power that a genuine response was created in those who listened to him.



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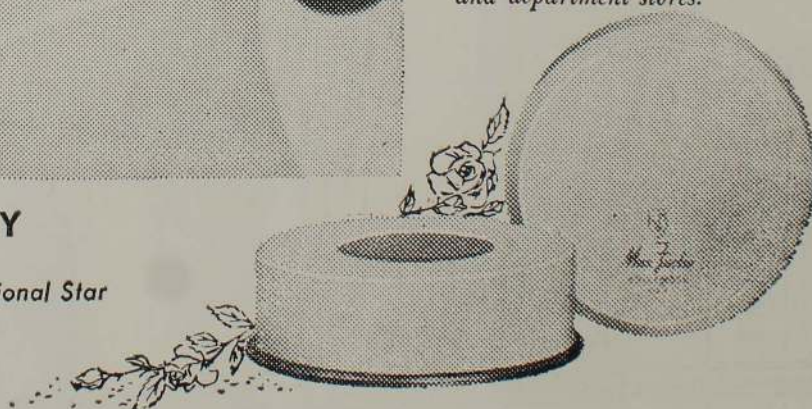
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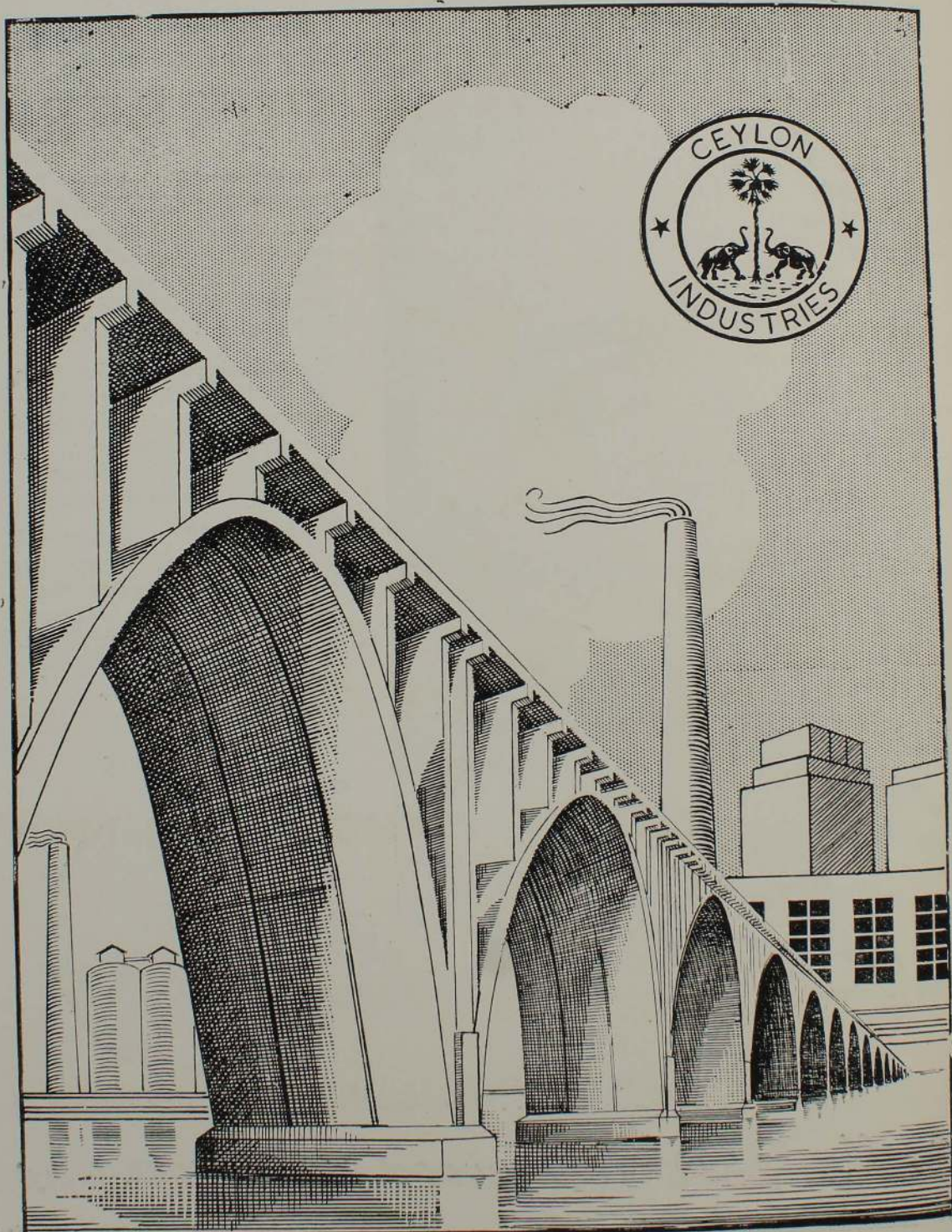
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The Passing Hour*Continued from page 3*

His appeal to "every non-national living here to be loyal to this country," and that "they can in turn be assured of a fair deal consistent with national policy," will be welcomed as a forthright utterance that will allay any fears that non-nationals of any country might entertain with a change of Government, and any doubts the people of the country may have had with regard to the policy of the new administration towards the large number of non-nationals in the country, particularly the Indian population. In this connection it is worth mentioning that one of the first matters relating to external affairs which Sir John Kotelawala will have to handle is the question of Indo-Ceylon issues.

The Indian High Commissioner, Mr. C. C. Desai, has already expressed a wish that the new Premier might continue this question from where it was left by Mr. Dudley Senanayake after his London talks with Mr. Nehru. While it is advantageous to have the Indo-Ceylon problem settled as early as possible, the new Premier should safeguard himself against being stampeded into a settlement. The only agreement that will be acceptable to the country will be one consistent with national honour, and one that will suit Ceylon's peculiar economy.

The Premier's determination to stamp out Communism from Ceylon will have many supporters, but here again, the means to attain this goal should be carefully planned consistent with the tolerance that democracy preaches, and of which Sir John's government is a strong pillar.

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Men and Matters



IN the midst of the excitement that has brought in a new Premier, few have stopped to think of the man who voluntarily renounced power and handed over the highest office in the land which was his, to another, whom he thought might do better. In thus surrendering himself to the political wilderness when he felt that he could no longer carry on the business of leadership of his country, Mr. Dudley Senanayake has set a great lead, which is surely without precedent. There have probably been few, if any, Prime Ministers in the whole world, who have at such an early age as 42 years, thrown up the sponge rather than cling to an office which they felt unequal to them.

Those of us who were nearest to Mr. Dudley Senanayake during the days of his Premiership know that he always strove to do what was right. He would devote as much time to the petition of a poor and unknown man or woman as he would to the most complicated report from official advisers on problems facing the country. It was his wish to be fair to all, but it was a position no Prime Minister could sustain considering the number of petitions that pour into a Premier's office.

Had the ex-Premier been made of sterner stuff, and possessed a less sensitive nature he would have made an excellent leader. Nevertheless, Dudley Senanayake steps into comparative unimportance as Member for Dedigama in the House of Representatives after a record of useful, albeit brief service as Ceylon's second Premier. He took over office at a difficult period of Ceylon's history, and relinquished it at an equally difficult moment. History will always remember him as one who never shirked to do what was right, and left no enemies behind - a rare achievement for a politician.

THE establishment of a separate Ministry for Housing is a step in the right direction. Ever since 1948 the problem of housing has been with us, and rather than improving,

it has become more and more acute. The former Minister of Local Government, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, toyed with the subject for four years. With his departure, Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara took over, but but achieved nothing substantial except to put up schemes on paper. The fact that he has been relieved of this important assignment is an indication that the new Premier is not going slow on this vital question. Moreover, his selection of Sir Kanthiah Vaithianathan, one of the most brilliant civil servants in the country today, as Minister of Housing, is further proof of the importance attached to finding a solution to the housing question. During Mr. Kannangara's regime as Minister of Local Government the special Committee that investigated the question of housing in Ceylon, submitted a report that at least 3,600 houses were needed immediately to ease the congestion. But what Mr. Kannangara did with this report is not known.

It will be the duty of the new Minister for Housing to start on his building schemes with immediate effect.

Sir Kanthiah is fortunate that with his assumption of duties as Minister, the Bambalapitiya law courts' site has been released for housing. This is an opportunity which the new Minister must grasp with both hands, and thereby begin his onerous duties with a bang, as it were.

THE decision of the Minister of Local Government (Mr. Kannangara) to postpone the impending elections of a number of Municipal and Urban Councils is a classic example of misuse of power by a Minister of State.

The only excuse given by the Minister for his thoroughly autocratic act is that the electoral registers have not been sufficiently well compiled. Hence, for no fault of their own, Municipal and Urban Councils have had their triennial elections postponed, much against the wish of the majority of these Councils, and without their being consulted at all.



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If registers had been unsatisfactorily prepared the Minister could have introduced ad hoc legislation to meet the cases of those particular local bodies whose electoral registers needed further attention. Instead, he has wielded his big stick indiscriminately and forced every local authority whose elections were due this year to postpone them.

It is gratifying to find that the new Premier has decided to look into this matter and prevent the postponement of some, at least, of these elections. With his zeal for upholding the rights of democracy it is hard to believe that Sir John Kotelawala will be a party to any measures that will make a mockery and negation of democracy.

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WHAT is to be the future of the two displaced Ministers, Sir Lalitha Rajapakse and Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam?

Sir Lalitha, before he entered politics, was a flourishing lawyer, who was much sought after for appeal work. In fact, he, with Messrs H. V. Perera, Q. C., and N. E. Weerasooria, Q. C., dominated the Appeal Courts for several years. Mr. Ponnambalam, like his dismissed colleague, is also a forceful lawyer, and a Queen's Counsel. Mr. Ponnambalam's field is not the Appeal Court, but the more dramatic Assize Court where trial by jury holds sway and where eloquence and pleading oft times, become more potent weapons than a knowledge of the law. Now that Mr. E. B. Wickramanayake takes over from Sir Lalitha, the void created in Appeal Court practice can be filled by Sir Lalitha. In the case of Mr. Ponnambalam, there is always room in the Assize Courts of the country, especially at present when grave crime is on the increase.

THE new Finance Minister, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, comes to a sphere of work he once handled with great efficiency as Financial Secretary under the Donoughmore Constitution. However, he now assumes for the first time the role of Finance Minister of Free Ceylon when much of his erstwhile vigour and popularity has

been dimmed by the passage of years and events. Nevertheless, there are few who will say that Sir Oliver is a bad selection for Finance Minister, and he is certainly the best choice if the Premier desired a change in the Finance portfolio.

Sir Oliver succeeds a complete layman in financial matters who, despite his lack of expert knowledge of finance and economics, won praise in those councils of the world, which he addressed during his five years as Ceylon's Finance Minister. Mr. J. R. Jayewardene was particularly effective at the Japanese Peace Conference in San Francisco; the World Bank meeting in Washington two years ago; and in all the Finance Ministers' Conferences in which he took part in Australia and the United Kingdom.

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A DIPLOMAT who is fast becoming very popular in political and social circles in Ceylon is India's High Commissioner, Mr. C. C. Desai.

A Cambridge contemporary and close friend of the new Premier, Mr. Desai made a magnificent gesture when he presented Sir John Kotelawala with a marble statue of the Buddha, the day after the latter took over the reins of Government.

Mr. Desai has just been elected President of the Colombo Plan Technical Assistance Bureau in succession to Mr. Raju Coomaraswamy, and has in this capacity already marked out aid for Ceylon.

Mr. Desai's ambition while in Ceylon is to see the Indo-Ceylon problem solved. He deserves success in this direction as his approach to the problem has been practical. He has taken care to steer clear of the self-appointed leaders of Indian labourers in Ceylon, who rode to power on the backs of these masses, and remained in their places of authority in the legislature till the franchise was denied to non-Ceylonese. Perhaps, Mr. Desai will succeed where his predecessors in office failed, because of this decision of his to remain aloof from interested Ceylon Indian politicians.



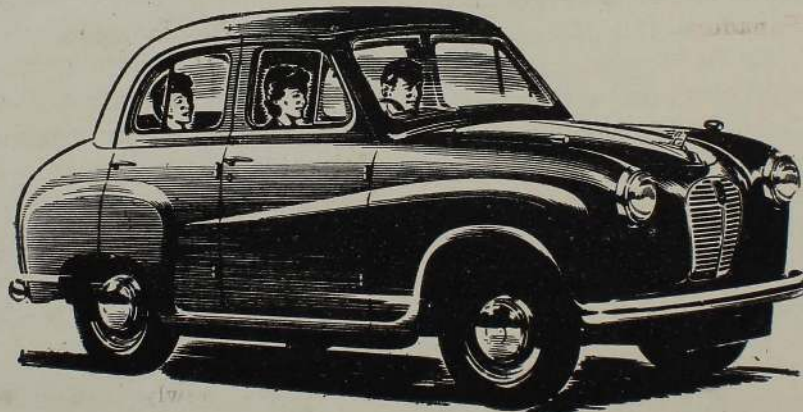
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Fernando—De Mel:

Y M. E. Fernando, son of Mr. & Mrs. E. I. F. Fernando of Negombo, to Charmaine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton R. de Mel of 12, Gregory's Road, Colombo.

Wickramasuriya—Salgado:

Dr. Aeneas Wickramasuriya, son of the late Mr. Martinus Perera and of Mrs. Ellen Perera of Dehiwala, to Mirani, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Salgado of Panadura.

WEDDINGS

Jennings—Parsons:

RECENTLY, at St. Cyprian's Church, Marylebone, of C. M. Jennings, retired Colombo Waterworks Engineer, with Helen Parsons, late of the Education Section of Ceylon House, London.

De Silva—Perera:

Recently, at Trinity Church, Hampstead, of Ralph Anton, son of Mr. E. A. V. de Silva, District Judge, Kegalle, with Dorothy Miriam, daughter of Mr. A. I. Perera, former P. M. G. of Ceylon and presently Ceylon's representative on the Commonwealth Telecommunications Board, London.

Bostock—Mills:

On Oct. 3, at Christ Church, Colombo, of Mark Cresswell Bostock, Assistant, Keell and Waldo, to Elizabeth Mills.

Muller—Solomons:

On Oct. 3, at Our Lady of Victories Church, Kensington, of Dr. Bede Kenneth Muller to Thelma Solomons. Mr. Geoffrey Wilson, late Director of the C. Plan Bureau for Technical

Co-operation, in whose office the bride was employed in Colombo, was one of the attesting witnesses.

Jayasuriya—Gurusinghe:

Recently, at Boosa, of Dr. M. H. F. Jayasuriya, Lecturer, Ceylon University, with Yasoma Gurusinghe, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. D. Gurusinghe of Galle.

Van Buuren—Jansz:

On Oct. 3, at Christ Church, Galle Face, of Denver, Assistant, Baur & Co., son of Mr. & Mrs. J. Karl Van Buuren of Norton Bridge, with Maureen, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. T. E. Jansz of Colombo.

Kennedy—De Saram:

Recently, at Toronto, Canada, of John Kennedy of the editorial staff of the *Toronto Telegram*, with Pat, eldest daughter of Mr. Geo. de Saram, retired D. I. G., Police, presently Chief Marshall, University of Ceylon, and of Mrs. de Saram of Peradeniya.

Wickramasinghe—Hulugalle:

On Oct. 12, of S. K. Wickramasinghe, eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. Martin Wickramasinghe, with Damayanthi, eldest daughter of Mr. H. A. J. Hulugalle, Information Officer, and Mrs. Hulugalle of Colombo. The attesting witnesses were Mr. N. E. Weerasooriya, Q. C., and Mr. Rex Wickramasinghe.

The Women:

THE newly-formed International Theatre Group—Arthur Vanlangenberg, President—is putting on the boards *The Women* with Patricia Pantin Munro as producer. Written by Claire Booth Luce, the American Ambassadress in Rome, the play was filmed some years ago with an all-star cast including Joan Crawford, Norma Shearer and Rosalind Russell.

The present cast of 35 will be led by Kay Atkinson supported by Rowena Ronald, who played a very successful and prominent part in *Strike a Note*, Lorna Curtin (wife of C. Plan Bureau Director), Virginia Thurrott and Anne Brooks. Amongst others are Ailsa Chalkley, Sheila Mulrine, Indrani Padmanabha, Ayoma Kotelawala, Punyakanthie Wijenaiyke and Kathleen Salter. Backstage are Bernard Tyler,

Robert Ramsee, Norman Mc Creadie (stage and prop. managers), H. V. Herft (lighting) and Reg. Weston (decor). There are eleven scenes and to cope with this the stage managers have perfected a revolutionary method of dealing with the problem. Watch for the dates.



Miss R. Sethua, who takes a keen interest in athletics.

IN 1952, at the Junior Championships, St. Thomas', Kotte was placed 1st and 2nd in the 200 metres. Marie Kulatunga was awarded the Aces Plaque for the best performances among the women in 1952. This year, Marie won both the 100 and 200 metres at the Junior Championships. The games mistress and athletic coach is

Lochore Fund Echo:

THE recent death of Sir James Lochore recalls that the Lady Lochore Fund was established as a direct result of a donation of Rs. 3000 made in August, 1927, to the Rev. C. E. V. Nathanielsz, the then Charity Commissioner, by Lady Lochore to be used for "the freeing of the poor from the hands of money-lenders."

What a long way this initial sum has gone. Every year for over two decades the good work has increased. From Rs. 20,000/- disbursed in 1937 payments increased to Rs. 58,000/- in 1951, revealing that 6152 persons had been relieved from debt and a total disbursement of Rs. 4,250,000/- had been made since the fund's inception. This has only been made possible by the generosity of public-spirited citizens and the assistance of Government. So great was the demand for debt-relief that its founder and administrator was moved to seek Government's aid and, as the Government was at that time investigating the incidence of debt among public servants, it decided to incorporate the Fund in its scheme.

In September 1951 the Lady Lochore Fund (Board of Trustees) Act saw the light of day. The latest available figures show that the Fund has assisted 17,831 persons, paying out the incredible sum of Rs. 13,833,368/- in relief! It may well be said that "Great oaks from little acorns spring."

Kali's Daughter:

ON Nov. 6, 7, 8 & 9 the Y. M. B. A. Players will stage the Sinhalese play *Kali's Daughter*, written and produced by Dick Dias. Originally produced in English 14 years ago, it had a successful run in Colombo and other towns. Those who saw the author's play, *The Red Dragon* can look forward to more thrills in *Kali's Daughter*.

The striking settings by I. D. A. Weerawardene are a feature of the production. The destruction of the rock cave temple of Kali by rushing water from a broken dam was so impressively realistic that when the English version was staged at the Empire Theatre in 1939, Governor Sir Andrew Caldecott went backstage to see for himself the devices used. The play deals with Kali, the Goddess of Destruction, whose wrath could only be satisfied by human sacrifices. The Sinhalese version is a smoothly running play with songs and dances cleverly introduced. Through it all shines the

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KURUNEGALA—Municipal Market
Square.
KAYTS—Bazaar.
MATALE—U. C. Market.
NUWARA ELIYA—New Bazaar.
NILDANDAHINNA.
POINT PEDRO—Market Area.

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author's single purpose of interpreting the spirit of religious mysticism associated with the East.

The principal female roles are played by Jessica Wickremasinghe and Ivy Fuard. Jessica gave a very creditable performance in *Red Dragon and Lore of the Three Worlds*, while Ivy, who is a newcomer to the YMBA stage has been allotted the role of Kali's daughter, the girl under the spell of a half-mad *sanyasi*. The male parts are being taken by such well-trying actors as Mohamed Mihlar, W. P. Daluwatte, W. A. Perera, S. Amarasinghe, Tilakasiri Fernando, Don Nicholas Pathirage and Jayatissa Pathirana, all of whom have appeared in previous Dias productions.

* * *

Miss Lanka:

MANEL Mlangakoon almost did it! "Miss Lanka" had been tipped to be amongst the first six in the final judging at the "Miss World" Beauty Contest in London sponsored by the Mecca Dancing Corporation and was placed 4th, a most creditable achievement for a Ceylonese who, for the first time, was participating in an international beauty contest. It's all the more remarkable as Manel himself didn't enter for the local beauty competition organised by the *Times of Ceylon*. Her sisters (good judges of beauty) did it for her and sent in the entry form.!

Writing in the women's page in the last issue of *The Ceylon Causerie*, "Juliette" rightly stated that "Manel is typical of Ceylon and a worthy representative of Sri Lanka's womanhood." Bashful though she is, Manel competed with professional models and mannequins. Well done, Manel!

East and West:

WHAT is called a "grand variety show" is being put on at the Royal College

hall on Saturday, Nov. 7 at 6 p. m. in aid of the Wesley College Building Extension Fund.

There will be eastern and western dances by the talented pupils of Timmy Ingleton, Sheilah Mack, Pani Bharrtha and Sesha Pali-hakkara, with an item of exotic Kandyan dancing thrown in by the reputed Jayana; English light classical songs by Joan Cooray (soprano) fresh from her U. K. experience, and up-and-coming Lylie Godridge (baritone), both of whom were heard to advantage recently in the oratorio *The Creation*, and Remain Diaz, a new singing star. Oriental songs will be rendered by the well-known singer Saranagupta Amarasinghe, and Kanthi Wakwella, Vincent de Paul Peris and Somapala and Chitra. Last, but by no means least, Gate-Mudaliyar A. C. G. S. Amarasekera will be there in the guise of our old friend the "Gay Deceiver" to enchant the audience with his magic. At popular rates of Rs. 3/-, 2/- & 1/-, the bookings for the reserved seats are at Diana's. Make it a must!

She:

ORGANISED by Mesdames C. E. L. Wickremasinghe, Q. Rajagopal and G. B. S. Gomes this open-air pageant depicting famous women in history, legend, art and drama will be staged on Nov. 5 and 7 at the Racecourse as part of the "Fantasia" Carnival organised by the past pupils of Bishop's College. The cast of nearly 100 will include Rowan de Costa as *Helen of Troy*, Moira Muthukrishna as *Cleopatra*, G. Formenti as *Anthony*, Helen Champion as *Mairie Antoinette* and Aloma Dender as *Salome*, E. C. B. Wijesinghe will play *Kasyapa* in the Sigiriya fresco scene. There will be oriental and western dances, the colourful procession of the *Queen of Sheba* arriving in Jerusalem, and *Henry VIII* played by Earle Goonewardene tackling the problem of his six wives! Arthur Vanlangenberg and J. D. A. Perera are assisting with the decor.





our Competition Page

Crossword Puzzle No. 205

For the first correct entry opened	Rs. 15
" " second " " " " " "	Rs. 10

Please Note: That all entries sent by post should be addressed as follows :—

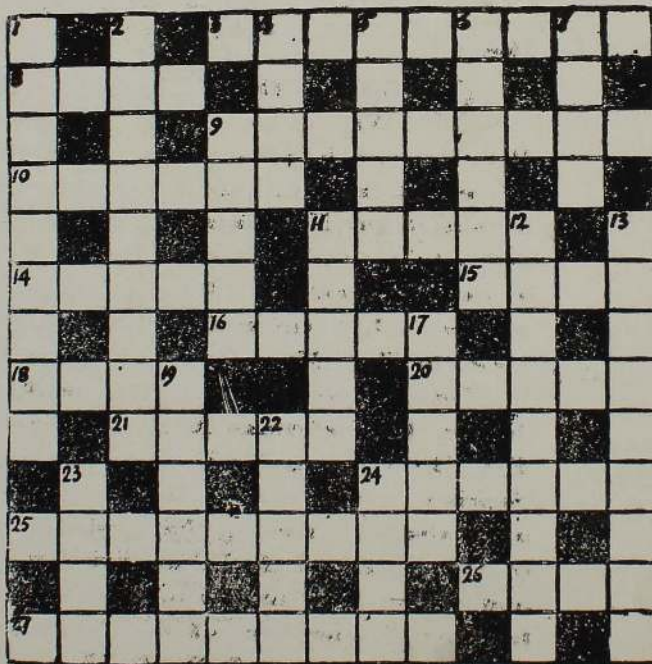
CROSSWORD, P. O. Box No. 127, G. P. O., Colombo.

Entries delivered personally or by messenger should be addressed:—

CROSSWORD, Pláté Ltd., Colpetty, Colombo.

All entries must reach this office by 12 noon on November 15th, 1953.

The Editor's decision will be final.



Name

Address.....

Winners of September Crossword Competition

1st Prize Rs. 15--Miss Mignon Fernando, Government Training College, Maharagama

2nd Prize Rs. 10—Mrs. H. Julius Fernando, 267, Panchikawatte Road, Colombo.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES

ACROSS

3. Band
8. Dance
9. Beggar
10. Italian town
11. Carpenter's tool
14. Rage
15. Melody
16. Produce
18. Uncivil
20. Dispossess
21. Public
24. Cask
25. At random
26. Brook
27. Perform by turns

DOWN

1. Change
2. Ruffian
4. Regrets
5. Fence
6. Private
7. Circle
9. Gay
11. Animal cry
12. Laughable
13. Mischievous
17. Rot
19. Develop
22. Sap
23. Determination
24. Stain

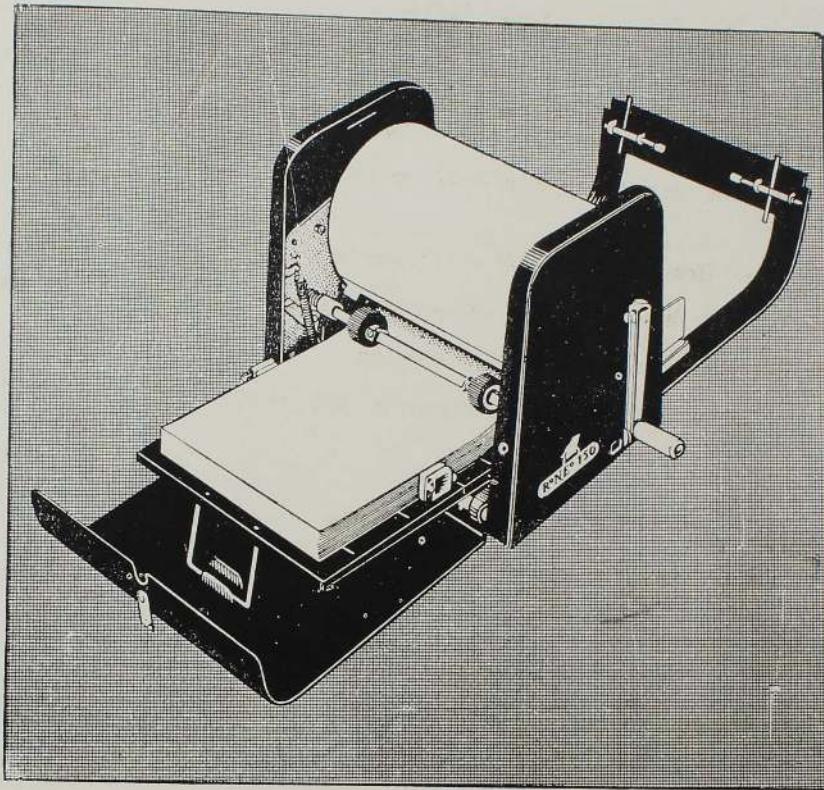
Solution to Puzzle No. 204

ACROSS

1. Short 7. Growth 8. Hard
9. Offer 10. Sooner 12. Inch
14. Obi 15. Shameless 18.
Companion 21. Tub 22. Otto
23. Insane 26. Fight 28.
Kepi 29. Intact 30. Tunic.

DOWN

- DOWN**
- | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. Ergo | 2. Swan | 3. Shortband |
| 4. Oaf | 5. Thrill | 6. Precis |
| 10. Stoic | 11. Odium | 15. Sable |
| Impolitic | 16. Extra | 17. Profit |
| 19. Outlet | 20. Nice | 24. Gin |
| Sate | 2. | 2. |



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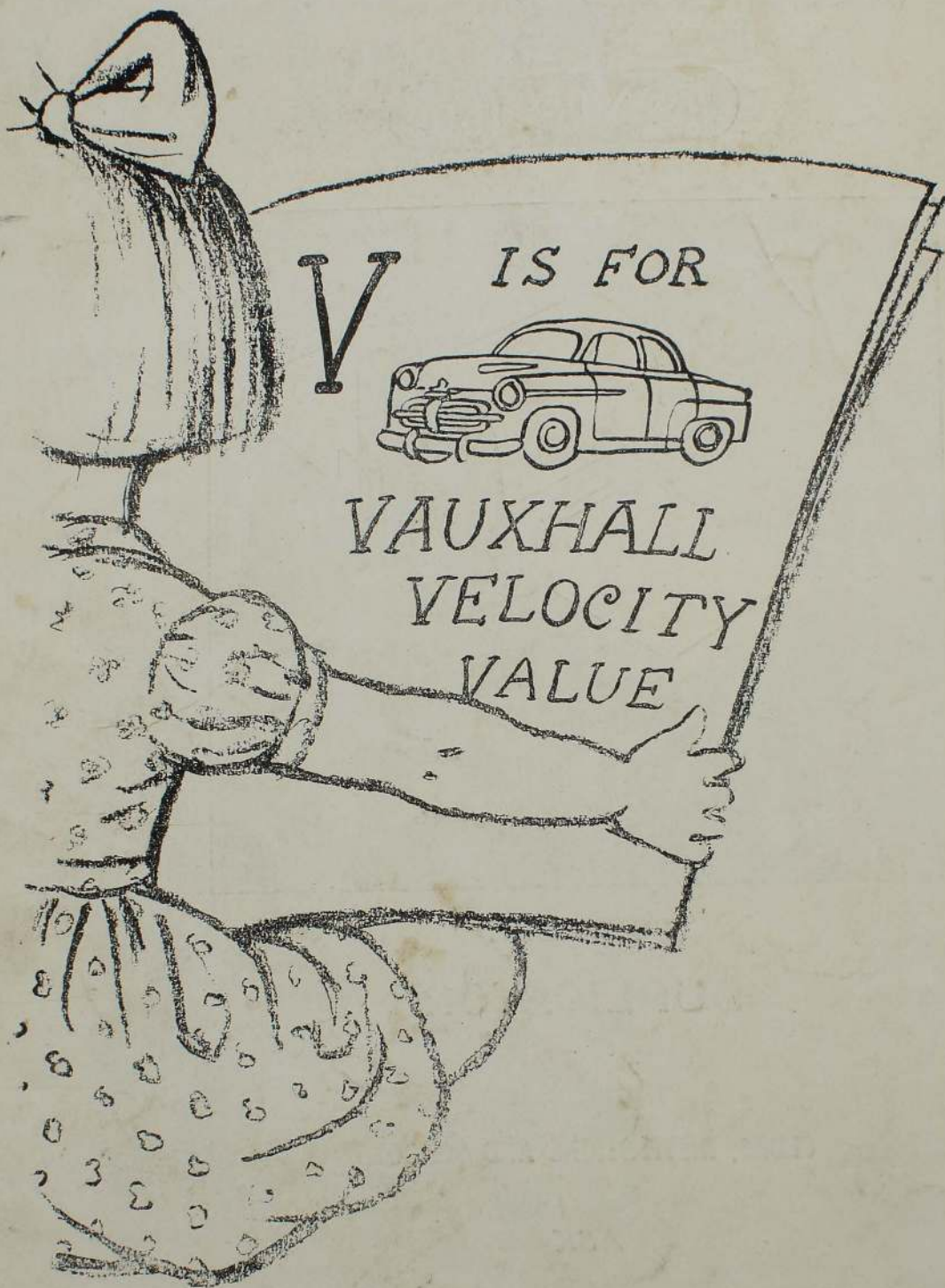
ASK

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