

The Ceylon Postnightly Review

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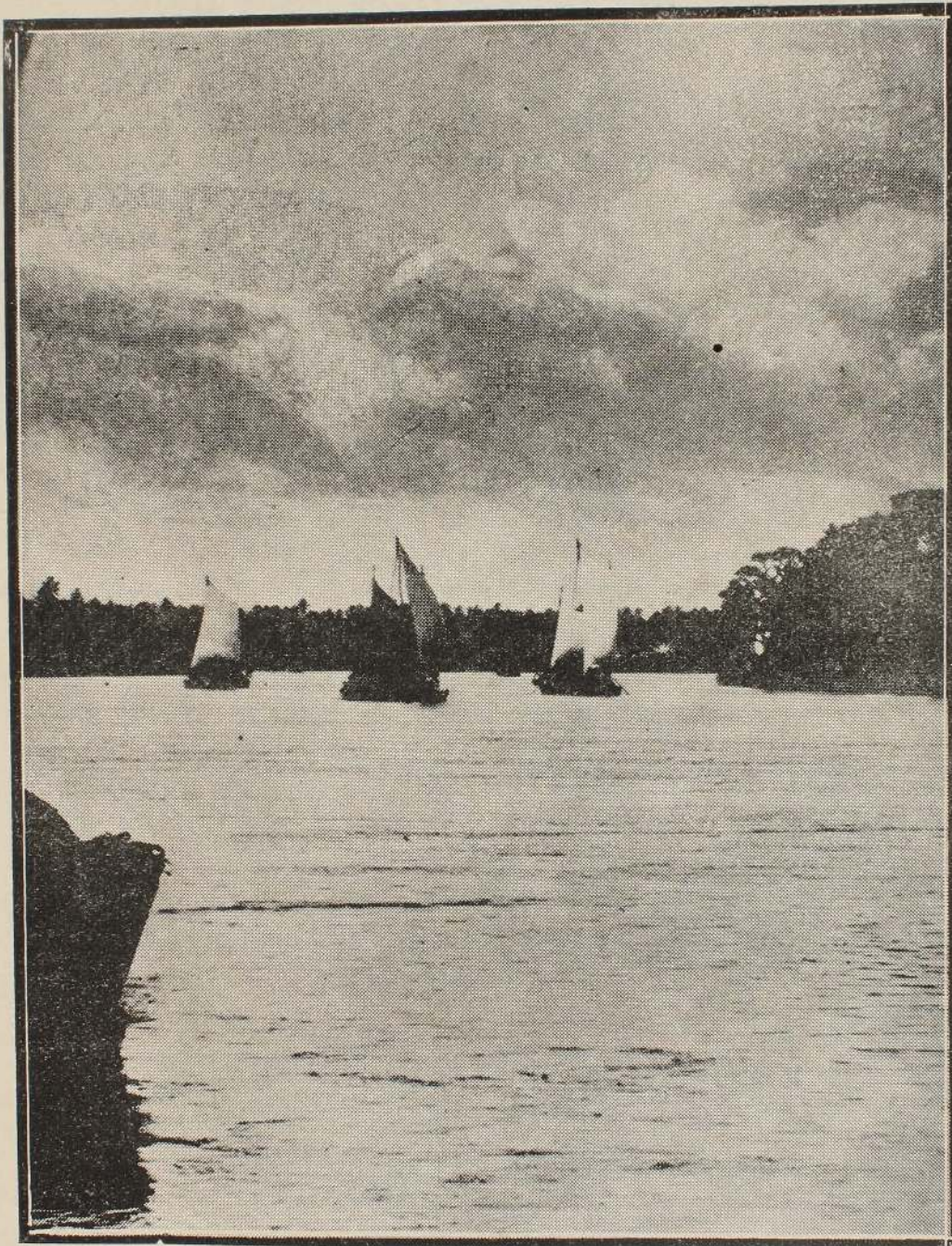
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INDEPENDENCE DAY

THE celebration of Independence Day this year in Kandy should bring the Government rich dividends. Held in Colombo in the past, it was a remote event in which the mass of the people had no part. The special place which Kandy has in the history of Ceylon invested the occasion with added significance and should act as a stimulus to national sentiment.

The departure from custom may well result in taking a stage further the revolution ushered in by the late Mr. Bandaranaike.

* * *

THE thousands who flocked into the city from the villages and watched the military spectacle and cultural pageant and gazed at the illuminations and fireworks must have been conscious of a deep emotion. From their daily labour in sustaining the economy being taken for granted, here were they in the dress circle at the national festival. And were not their representatives even honoured guests of the Prime Minister at the once unapproachable King's Pavilion?

After this the appeal to patriotic endeavour should not fail to evoke a response from them at least.

* * *

MRS. Bandaranaike struck the right note too in her broadcast in calling for greater production in agriculture and industrial enterprise. She with her family set a vivid example in urging wider use of domestic products and enjoining sacrifices in the interest of development. What is needed now is good leadership if the favourable climate that has been created is to yield fruit.

Let us hope that the Government as a whole will in the days ahead be less disposed to follow divisive policies and rather concentrate on achieving national unity. As far as the people are concerned, they would surely be relieved when there is a cessation of controversy and political strife so that they may get down to the serious tasks that face the country in peace and amity.

THE EDITOR.



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MATTERS OF MOMENT

—BY BRUTUS—

KANDY recaptured a moment of history when Independence Day was celebrated in the old capital this year. It was the first time the main event marking the anniversary took place away from Colombo. Credit for the imaginative idea goes to the Minister in charge of home affairs, Mr. Maitripala Senanayake, himself a native of the north-central province. Kandyans responded with fervour and the ancient city was crowded to overflowing with village folk as well as people from the low-country, besides the diplomatic corps and other official guests.

The usual review of troops not being possible, this was omitted from the programme. Instead the green below the Dalada Maligawa was made the centre of the military spectacle. The guard of honour for the Governor-General was drawn up here with the massed bands. The troops marched past up Ward Street, with spectators filling the walk bordering the lake and all points of vantage far around. The Air Force staged a fly-past, the aircraft coming in by way of the Mahaiyawa gap and going out via Ampitiya.

SPECIAL features of the celebrations were a cultural pageant in the wake of the march past and a historical display commemorating leaders of the Uva and Matale rebellions who were executed, exiled or imprisoned. In the afternoon there was a special exposition of the Tooth Relic in the Maligawa and an exhibition of national games on Bogambara. Illuminations transformed the city at night and the final touch of glamour was given by fireworks set off from the island on the lake.

IN Jaffna, however, the day was observed like a day of mourning. Black flags flew over the Town Hall and over shops and houses. There were no official functions; instead there was a ceremonial burning of copies of the Constitution, the Sinhala only Act and the Language of the Courts Act.

Having yielded pride of place to Kandy for the day, Colombo had the appearance of a dead city, with little traffic and few people about, apart from those manning essential services.

IN a broadcast to the nation, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, called on the people to cooperate with the Government in achieving economic freedom. The country must, she said, aim at self-sufficiency in food and increased production of cloth and other consumer goods. Pleading that local products be used wherever possible she said: "Initially we may have to pay a higher price or the quality of the locally produced article may not be on a par with its imported counterpart, but these are little sacrifices we must make for the development of our industries and the prosperity of our country".

Mrs. Bandaranaike referred to the vast strides being made by India in industrial and agricultural development, as she said she had seen for herself on her recent visit. But more impressive, she declared, was the national pride and patriotism of the people. A similar spirit was necessary if the national objectives were to be realised.

ADDRESSING the "privileged classes", she said: "To those who resent the changes that are taking place and who are accustomed to decry every effort of ours as communist, I would like

to quote the words of President Kennedy, so that they may appreciate and understand the aims of my Government: "If the free society cannot help the many who are poor, it can never save the few who are rich".

The taxation and fiscal policies of the Government were all directed at the industrial and agricultural development of the country, she said, and warned anti-national elements who tried to exploit the consequent situation that stern measures would be taken to bring them to book. She also asked the people not to be deceived by political opportunists who might attempt to create disaffection. "The greatest days of Sri Lanka lie in the days ahead", Mrs. Bandaranaike concluded.

THE Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Algeria, Mr. Ferhat Abbas, who spent three days in Ceylon, was assured of support from all political parties at a public meeting which he addressed on Galle Face. He had a meeting with the Prime Minister and also met other ministers, and at a Press conference declared himself pleased with the reception he and the other members of his delegation had been given in Ceylon.

Mr. Abbas told pressmen that France had violated a cardinal principle of international law by holding the recent referendum, as



Queen Elizabeth II being welcomed at the Maharajah's Palace, Jaipur, in the traditional Hindu style by the application of the tilak (a vermilion mark) on her forehead.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

far as Algeria was concerned, under the supervision of the army. The FLN, the party of which he is the leader, would continue the struggle, he said, until guarantees (which are to be negotiated) were forthcoming from France for free elections in Algeria under United Nations auspices. In reply to questions, one of his colleagues said that the 45 per cent of the Algerians who were claimed to have voted in the referendum were almost all rural folk who were under the influence of the army.

Mr. Boudjiel, who led the Algerian delegation to secret talks in France in June, 1960, after President de Gaulle announced his policy of self-determination for Algeria, said that the talks proved abortive because France insisted on a four-year interval before elections were held in Algeria as a fundamental condition for a truce. Col. Mohamed of the FLN army described some of the atrocities committed by the French army in Algeria. He was most bitter in speaking of the destruction of food in the countryside by the army in their campaign against supporters of the FLN.

Among other engagements of Mr. Ferhat Abbas was a civic reception by the Colombo Municipal Council and a lunch which was attended by ministers and members of Parliament.

* * *

THE Government has imposed restrictions on credit, following the raising of import duties, to meet growing inflation. The Governor of the Central Bank has required commercial banks to deposit with the Central Bank 38 per cent of any amount by which demand deposits exceed the level at the close of business on February 1st.

Under regulations already in operation, commercial banks have to maintain with the Central Bank cash reserves amounting to 12 per cent of the demand deposits and 5 per cent of the time and savings deposits. It is reported that at the end of November, 1960, demand deposits with commercial banks totalled Rs. 667.9 million; the reserves required against them amounted to Rs. 80.1 million. Time and savings deposits amounted to Rs. 365.6 million, the reserves required being Rs. 18.2 million.

But the bank's actual reserves with the Central Bank exceeded requirements by Rs. 17.6 million.

In August, 1960, simultaneously with the earlier raising of import duties on petrol, cars, liquor and other luxury goods, the Central Bank's interest on money lent to commercial banks was increased to 4 per cent from 2 per cent. The Government also placed curbs on hire purchase financing.

* * *

CANADIAN aid to Ceylon under the Colombo Plan was reviewed by Mr. H. O. Moran, Director-General of the External Aid Office,



Sir Henry Self

Permanent Secretary of the U.K. Ministry of Civil Aviation, who visited Ceylon recently accompanied by Lady Self.

during a three day visit to the Island with Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Veterans' Affairs. Mr. Moran was Ambassador to Pakistan from 1957 to 1960.

Since the inauguration of the Colombo Plan, Canada's aid to Ceylon, excluding loans, has amounted to Rs. 115 million and is at present running at more than Rs. 10 million a year, half of it in the form of wheat flour.

While in Colombo Mr. Moran had discussions with Mr. Shirley Amerasinghe, head of the economic division of the Prime Minister's office, as well as with officials of the Colombo Plan bureau.

Mr. Churchill has been attending the inauguration of several Canada-aided projects in India and Pakistan. Among them was the Canada-India nuclear reactor in Trombay, near Bombay, and the Warsak dam in Pakistan.

* * *

MR. G. D. Gordon, of Hunter & Co., Ltd., and Mr. E. Turner Green of Turquand, Young & Co., are reported to have made a takeover bid for the Ceylon Cycle Industry, Ltd., producers of the Monara bicycle, in which the Government has also invested. Criticism of the proposed transaction evoked a statement by Mr. Young, on behalf of Tube Investments, of Britain. "The entire plan is in the nature of a salvage operation", he said, "designed towards placing the industry on a sound financial footing and thus ensuring its continuance".

The statement added: "If the Government approves of the proposals for reorganization, there will be no liquidation of the existing company; the work-force will be retained; and creditors of the company will suffer no loss. An undertaking has been given to the Government that, as soon as the company is on a profit-earning basis, fifty per cent of the capital will be made available to Ceylonese investors, thus achieving fulfilment of the plan originally approved by the Government in the year 1958".

The Government is reported to have disapproved of the proposals, but indicated that there is no objection to foreign capital being associated with local capital.

* * *

THE private sector has received a bouquet from an unexpected quarter—the Finance Minister, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, no less. He said the other day that private enterprise had more than fulfilled the hopes entertained from it in the Government's Ten Year Plan. Mr. Bandaranaike followed this up with what must have been a difficult admission for the Government to make, namely that while private enterprise more than rose to expectations, the public sector had still to catch up with the Plan.

The admission was made in the course of certain remarks the Finance Minister made after an

MATTERS OF MOMENT

address by Sir Henry Self, former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Chairman of the British Electricity Council, on the management of nationalised industries and Government commercial ventures and their day-to-day relations. He said that the Government's intrusion into day-to-day management was bound to create difficulties and commended the U.K. example, where there was a gentleman's agreement—a working compromise—where the boards gave full information in their annual reports and a special parliamentary committee discussed the reports. Pin-pricking parliamentary questions and intrusion by a minister into the routine administration was not helpful, Sir Henry said.

In the course of his stay in the Island a seminar on the management of nationalised industries was held at the auditorium of the Ceylon Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research at which Mr. C. E. P. Jayasuriya, who had been a Civil Servant for more than 20 years and retired as Director of Commerce, said that political interference in state corporations provided opportunities for bribery and corruption.

Sir Henry said that it was not in the best interests of a corporation that a Minister should be invested with specific powers but he could give general directions. In the event of disagreement on a crucial issue it was the duty of the board to resign or, in the alternative, the chairman should.

* * *

WHAT is described as a new deal for mercantile employees in Ceylon is set out in proposals submitted by the Ceylon Mercantile Union to the Mercantile Employers Association. It was suggested that the proposals should take the place of the Canekaratne Award, which lapsed last year.

To be known (if agreed upon) as the Clerical and Allied Staff Agreement, 1961, it seeks to bind employers of clerical and allied staff who are members of the Employers' Association and clerks, stenographers, typists, accounting machine operators, storekeepers etc, belonging to the Union and deals with hours of work, overtime, leave, holidays, promotions and provident fund facilities.

It seeks to bind employees not to call a strike on any demand raised against an employer during the

currency of the agreement, all disputes being settled by following a procedure to be accepted. A striking feature of the "agreement" is the provision that all employees affected by it should receive two increments on the basic rates of pay of the Canagaratne Award. Employers' reaction to the proposals had not been indicated at the time of going to press.

* * *

AS members of the private sector, who believe in private enterprise, we welcome competition, even Government competition, as this must result in benefiting the customer. But we feel that Government must not compete with us unfairly in that it should enjoy privileges denied to us or that it



Lady Ogilvie

Principal of St. Anne's College, Oxford, who is in Ceylon on a two weeks' lecture tour

should take over our means of livelihood for its purposes until it can prove beyond all shadow of doubt that we have not done our job properly, said Mr. S. T. L. de Soysa, Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, at a recent conference of local businessmen and a United States trade mission at which the Minister of Trade, Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, was also present.

Mr. de Soysa also said that disincentive taxation had been a large factor in the prevention of foreign investment in Ceylon. The amount of risk capital in this country was small and, far from assisting the private sector to gather its meagre resources together in the creation

of joint stock companies, the method of taxation penalised such formation. In addition to the burdens of general taxation, joint stock companies were taxed annually on their authorised capital and, furthermore, skilled personnel or specialists in various fields were taxed additional sums because they happened to be specialists, he said.

* * *

THE Bandaranaike Assassination trial began in Colombo last week before a special jury. The judge is Mr. T. S. Fernando, some time Attorney-General. The accused are Mapiitigama Buddharakkhita Thero, incumbent of the Kelaniya temple, Mr. H. P. Jayawardena, printer and publisher, Mr. Anura de Silva, motor mechanic, Talduwe Somarama Thero, some time lecturer at the College of Indigenous Medicine, and Mr. Newton Perera, Inspector of Police. The fatal shots are alleged to have been fired by Somarama Thero in pursuance of a conspiracy in which the others are alleged to have been concerned. During the non-summary proceedings one of the accused, Mr. C. Amerasinghe, turned Crown witness and another, Mrs. Vimala Wijewardene, Minister of Health in the Bandaranaike cabinet, was discharged.

Leading counsel for Buddharakkhita is Mr. Phineas Quass, Q.C., of London. The prosecution is led by Mr. George Chitty, Q.C., of the unofficial Bar, with the authority of the Attorney General. The trial is expected to last three months.

* * *

THE first act of indiscipline in her party confronted the Prime Minister at the election of the first Mayor by the new Dehiwela-Mount Lavinia Municipal Council. The SLFP having obtained a majority in the Council, Mrs. Bandaranaike persuaded the three aspirants to the mayoralty to hold the office for a year each. At the election, however, the second candidate on the list, Major L. V. Gooneratne, former Chairman of the Urban Council, put himself also forward, and won the day.

Major Gooneratne subsequently explained that his supporters in the electorate were against the agreement arranged by the Prime Minister. The party, however, expelled him and two others who voted for him from its membership.

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QUIZ-MASTERS' DELIGHT

— BY ERNEST CHISHOLM THOMSON —

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

WHILE I respect people who can solve the most difficult crossword puzzles while consuming a hasty breakfast or standing up in a crowded train, my unstinted admiration is reserved for those who set the puzzles.

I feel the same, too, about quizzes and other popular panel games. The man behind the scenes—the one who compiles the questions—is the one who wins my profoundest esteem. How deserving he is of sympathy. Ransacking the store-houses of human knowledge, he lives in constant hope of finding treasures the eager, sharp-witted competitors have missed.

* * *

BURSTING WITH FACTS

FOR quiz-compilers who would like to tease the "know-alls" with questions about the United Kingdom, I have come across just the book to suit their needs. Perhaps I should say it came across me. It arrived in the shape of a fat package which the postman had tried in vain to wedge through my letter box. No wonder he failed. The 1961 edition of "Britain" weighs slightly more than two pounds (0.90 kilograms), runs to 579 pages, and is almost bursting at the seams with a million easily assimilated facts about the Mother Country of the greatest Commonwealth of free nations in the history of mankind.

It is the most human official handbook I know. Inside the front cover there is a photograph of Queen Elizabeth II wearing the Order of the Garter and surrounded by the Commonwealth Ministers at their meeting in London in May, 1960. The frontispiece is a charming home portrait of the Queen with the infant Prince Andrew. Pictures enliven the text all through. They range from lightning snapshots of Britain's wild forest animals, like foxes, badgers and red squirrels, to a "Skylark" space research rocket in full flight, from panoramic views of the reconstructed City of London to an assortment of export products, including pianos, radio-isotopes, anti-tuberculosis vaccine, a 74-inch (1.88 metres) reflecting telescope and a batch of pedigree poodles.

AN EYE OPENER

TO get down to facts, however, which form the main contents. For 13 years "Britain", in regularly revised editions, has been a chief source of reference for British Information Services overseas, and has been on sale throughout the world since 1954. It came as an eye-opener to many United Kingdom citizens when this remarkable compendium appeared for the first time on the home bookstalls six years ago.



Rt. Hon'ble Duncan Sandys]

Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, who recently toured Asia.

There were so many facts of which we were unaware ourselves. It was news to many, I will wager, that the 50,000,000 people in Britain are mainly descended from the inhabitants of 900 years ago, and that Queen Elizabeth II can trace her descent from the Saxon King Egbert, who united all England in the year A.D. 829.

Yes, what a book for quiz-masters! Skimming over the pages, let me guess at the sort of facts that would catch their fancy.

The United Kingdom is 75th in size among the countries of the world and accounts for only 2 per cent. of the world's population. Yet it ranks second in world commerce, conducting 10 per cent. of international trade, being the world's biggest market for foodstuffs and a major supplier of machinery, ships, road and rail vehicles, aircraft, metal manufacturers, chemicals and textiles.

Britain takes about a fifth of the world's exports of primary products and provides nearly one-fifth of the world's exports of manufactured goods.

* * *

FOURTH MOST-POPULATED COUNTRY

IN density of population, it is fourth, with 552 persons to the square mile (2.59 square kilometres), only Japan, Belgium and The Netherlands being more crowded. There are 16,250,000 houses. School-children number 9,000,000. The 22 universities have 105,200 full-time students, double the number before World War II. Of the 45,000 overseas students, two-thirds are from the Commonwealth.

There are 200 learned scientific societies, headed by the 300-years-old Royal Society, which have a profound influence on the development of the country's research. Britain's cultural heritage is preserved by numerous official and unofficial bodies. Although there is no Ministry of Fine Arts, Government expenditure on the arts is now more than £7,000,000 annually. Of this total, more than £3,000,000 goes to museums and art galleries (of which there are about 900), £1,500,000 to the Arts Council, and more than £1,000,000 to the preservation of historic houses and their contents.

Taking a few hard economic facts, the United Kingdom's gross national product (the measure of total goods and services produced at home and net income from abroad) has doubled in 12 years from £10,446,000,000 to £20,831,000,000. Allowing for price changes, this amounts to an increase of about 33 per cent.

* * *

INTRIGUING FIGURES

THIS quiz-masters' compendium bristles with piquant details, colourful facts and intriguing figures

(Continued on page 27)

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A POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

—By CROSS-BENCHER—

THERE was another exciting session of Parliament before the adjournment for the Independence anniversary celebrations. The second schools Bill arising from the Roman Catholic resistance to the take-over of assisted schools was adopted after a sitting which lasted 19 hours—from 2 o'clock in the afternoon on February 1st to 9-30 the next morning. The Bill provides for the property of state-managed schools to be vested in the Government without compensation. Premises used for public worship are excluded and objections to vesting orders will be subject to arbitration.

In the committee stage amendments were adopted, on the motion of the Minister of Education, Mr. Badiuddin Mahamud, forbidding the establishment of schools for pupils under 18 without the prior approval of the Director of Education and absolutely forbidding the opening of private schools for pupils between the ages of 5 and 14.

* * *

THE debate on the Bill was notable for the support it received from Mr. P. de S. Kularatne, the veteran educationist, who also voted for it in defiance of the Opposition whip. Mr. Kularatne later resigned from the U.N.P., on whose ticket he was returned for Ambalangoda, defeating a former minister, Mr. William de Silva of the M.E.P. The party, however, expelled him and called upon him to resign his seat.

Explaining his defection, Mr. Kularatne said that education of Buddhist children under a state system had been his life's ambition and his life's work. He had a few years left to live and he was grateful to the Government for being the first to give Buddhist children the proper environment. He was not completely satisfied with the Bill but it was the nearest to what he had been working for. He was disappointed with the U.N.P. for doing nothing about it, although he had pressed for it when it maintained the caretaker government.

Mr. K.M.P. Rajaratne, Welimada, who spoke for 13 hours criticising the qualifications to the main provisions of the Bill and advocating the

entire schools system being taken over by the state, abstained from voting at the third reading.

* * *

AN unprecedented incident on February 1st was the absence of all the ministers when the Speaker took the Chair.

As the first motion on the order paper was in the name of the Leader of the House, the Speaker consented to a suggestion that the House meet ten minutes later. It seemed at first that members were anxious to listen to the broadcast of the final stages of the fourth Test between Australia and the West Indies. But when the House resumed not a single minister was yet present, and Opposition members were quipping "Has the Government collapsed?" and "Has the Government resigned?" Then several ministers turned up and the Leader of the House (Mr. C. P. de Silva) apologised for being late, explaining that he and several other ministers had been at a lunch given for Mr. Ferhat Abbas, Premier of the Provisional Government of Algeria.

Nevertheless, Mr. R. Singleton Salmon raised the point of order whether it was proper, when there was a quorum, to have adjourned the House merely because not a single minister was present. Opposition members supported the point of order and protested at the discourtesy to Parliament on the part of ministers.

The incident closed with the Speaker (Mr. R. S. Pelpola) apologising to the House for "suspending" the sitting, which he said he did because the first two items on the order paper were to have been moved by the Leader of the House and he was absent.

* * *

WHILE the schools take-over controversy has for the moment receded to the background, the language controversy goes on. A visit to Jaffna by the Minister of Justice, Mr. S. P. C. Fernando, who is responsible for implementing the official language laws, in order to clear "misunderstandings" did not abate the resistance of the Federal Party. In a broadcast he announced that if any inconvenience is inadvertently caused by any Govern-

ment department the matter would be rectified with as little delay as possible. He also pointed out that Sinhala had not been made the language of the courts throughout the Island and there was nothing to prevent proceedings being conducted, where convenient, in Tamil. What the language of the Courts Act provided for, he said, was for the determination of those courts where the official language should replace English as the language of record.

To this the reply of the leader of the Federalists, Mr. S.J.V. Chelvanayakam, was to ask the minister whether he was prepared to advise the Sinhalese to adopt a language other than Sinhala provided they had the facilities that Mr. Fernando said were available to the Tamils. He claimed that what the Tamil-speaking people wanted was that the courts in Tamil-speaking areas should be able to maintain their records in Tamil. Similarly with regard to the language of administration. "What the Tamil-speaking people are struggling for", Mr. Chelvanayakam said, "is the statutory and factual recognition and adoption of their language in the administration of the affairs of this country".

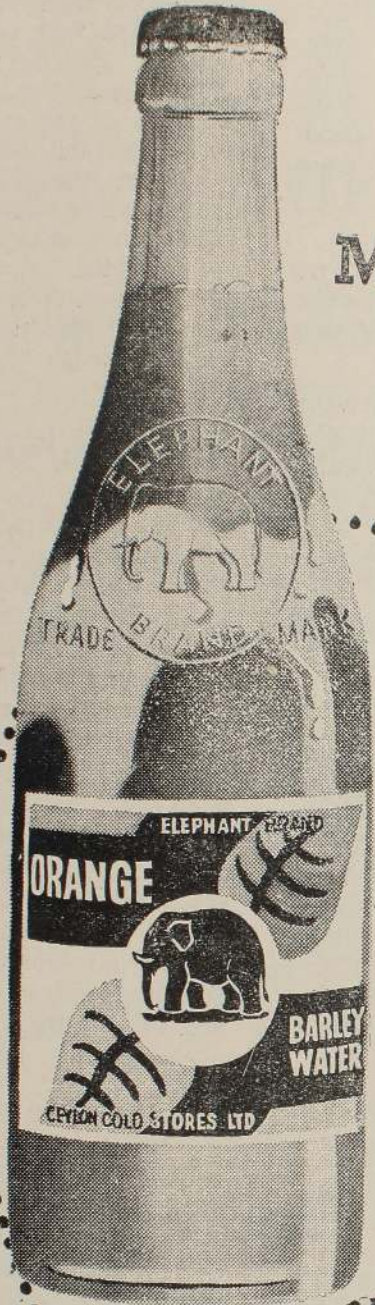
* * *

THE Government has laid itself open to attack again by its attitude to the findings of the Parliamentary Bribery Commission. Where not only the Opposition but parties which generally support its policies advocated deprivation of the civic rights of the guilty members, the Government took the view that they should be tried by the Supreme Court. The Government regarded the Commission as a fact-finding body and held that any punishment to be imposed on those it has found against should be after formal trial.

As far as the by-elections caused by the resignation of two members of the present Parliament who were found guilty by the Commission are concerned, the SLFP has observed the proprieties by not nominating either of them or their wives, as suggested in some quarters. But the Opposition has given notice of a motion of no confidence in the Government for its standpoint in the matter.

(Continued on page 19)

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SIR WILLIAM AND LADY MURPHY ON HOLIDAY

THEY VISIT THE MIDDLE EAST

(Special to the Fortnightly Review)

SIR William Murphy, formerly of the Ceylon Civil Service and for many years Mayor of Colombo and later Governor of the Bahamas, sends us an interesting account of a recent holiday with Lady Murphy. This is what he says:—

"I am writing this to wish you and the *Ceylon Fortnightly Review* a very successful and prosperous New Year. I trust the circulation of your journal, which gives so much of pleasure to old Ceylon residents like myself, continues to expand.

"For my wife and myself 1960 has been an eventful year. We took a long holiday in the Summer, leaving Salisbury by Comet for Rome on the first leg of what proved to be a very extended tour at the end of June. From Rome we went direct to Naples and Sorrento, where we spent rather more than a week on the island of Capri, and Pompeii and Herculaneum on the mainland.

"We then continued our flight to England, where we stayed with our eldest daughter, Mary, and her husband in Suffolk. While in Suffolk we paid a visit to my old friend Sir Herbert Dowbiggin, whom we found very vigorous at 80 and engrossed in his garden. We had a long talk about old friends and the old Ceylon days.

"IN August we spent about three weeks in Ireland, first in Wicklow, where my sisters live, and then on the island of Boffin, off the west coast, where our second son, Richard, spends the Summer in his yacht and where, in the rather rare intervals of fine weather, we did some sea fishing.

"After another three weeks we left for Sicily, where we spent a fortnight at Taormina, a delightful place on the sea about half way between Messina and Syracuse. We spent a day in Messina, and I thought of the many times I had seen it from the Straits on my journeys to and from Ceylon.

"OUR next departure was for Jerusalem, the Jordan half of the city, which we reached via Beyrout. At Beyrout we were met by

Indian friends, the Raja and Rani of Alirajpur, whom we knew very well when he was the Indian Government's diplomatic representative in Salisbury.

"We spent a night with them and then flew to Jerusalem. We were in a party of members of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the occasion was the opening of the new Ophthalmic Hospital of the Order in Jerusalem. I went there representing the Commandery of the Order in Central Africa, of which I am lieutenant.



Sir William Murphy

"IT was a great disappointment that King Hussein, who was to have taken one of the two leading parts in the ceremonies, had to attend the United Nations and so was unable to be present, and this also made it impossible for our Great Prior, H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, to be there either. In their absence the principal roles were filled by Lord Wakehurst, Governor of Northern Ireland, who is our Grand Prior, and one of King Hussein's ministers.

"The Governor of Jerusalem also took a prominent part. H. E. was a tall and very handsome Arab who, strangely enough had served under my brother-in-law, Gerald Foley,

when they were both officers in the Palestine Police in the time of the Mandate, when R. G. B. (Roy) Spicer, formerly of the Ceylon Police was Inspector-General there.

WE visited once more the Garden of Gethsemane, the Temple area, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and other sacred places we had previously visited 25 years ago on a voyage from Ceylon, when we spent ten days in Palestine. We also visited again Bethlehem and the Dead Sea, and went to Amman, where there was a reception at the British Embassy and an Arab luncheon. It was all most interesting, but the feeling of tension between Jews and Arabs was very marked. Jerusalem is divided into two sectors, just like Berlin, and armed security forces were present even at the Thanksgiving Service in the Anglican Cathedral.

FROM Jordan on our way back to Rhodesia we spent a fortnight in Greece. Athens was our headquarters and we spent two days in Corfu, a lovely place having associations with the foundings of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. After two days in Delphi we finally flew back to Rhodesia via Nairobi at the end of October. The weather was good except in the British Isles where they seemed to have more rain. We have returned to a country distracted by political problems and 'the wind of change'.

AS I write the preliminary talks about the future constitution of Southern Rhodesia are being held in Salisbury and it is impossible to predict what the outcome will be. Events in the Belgian Congo have had a salutary effect here, and one can only hope that wise and moderate as well as liberal counsels will prevail and bring about a just and lasting settlement. The Federal problem is an even knottier one and if Federation as we all hope is to be preserved, considerable modifications will be needed.

"You, indeed, have your problems too in Ceylon and much of the news from the Island makes anxious reading.

"The *Ceylon Fortnightly Review* arrives regularly and we greatly enjoy the news and articles. We wish it continued success".

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A LETTER FROM MR. W. T. GRESWELL

(Fortnightly Review Special)

Taunton, February 5

AS I write it is all square and one to play and the present Test series between the West Indies and Australia has already scaled heights of excellence perhaps never before attained in this highest grade of the game where it is more customary for the grim importance of the occasion to overshadow any attempt at carefree play. The fourth Test at Adelaide was well up to the standard set by both sides for this series and was even more exciting in what it gave to a large and thrilled crowd of spectators.

Kanhai's two centuries were the fruit of superb and aggressive stroke play, Gibbs' hat-trick was, I believe, the first for sixty years in Test cricket while the amazing last wicket stand by Mackay (62) not out and No. 11 Kline (15 not out), which saved Australia, will never be forgotten. Kline bats No. 11 for his State and it is said that he is as bad a No. 11 as anyone has a right to expect and yet he defeated the West Indian bowlers, racing to the kill for one and three-quarter hours! Indeed astonishing and very admirable! There was one blot only in that Australian 2nd innings when Sobers, to the complete satisfaction of all his side, quite clearly caught Mackay at silly point. The umpire had a different view of it; a "bump ball", he maintained.

* * *

BUT then things happen in cricket, and, if my memory serves, have happened more than a few times in Australian history. The incident now before us is mentioned by the great Keith Miller in an article in a London daily. It is highly significant when he concludes to the effect that Australian Test umpires are so few that the strain of too much Test umpiring is liable to result in errors of judgment. On the other hand, Test players to whom I have spoken say that Australian umpires are too quick to give their answer to an appeal, and this urge may lead to errors. Many will remember the slow and deliberate method of that great English umpire Frank Chester.

So majestic and deliberate was he that his action in giving a batsman out was frivolously referred to as "slow death".

* * *

BUT to revert to the present Test series in Australia and the coming 6-day fight-to-a-finish 5th match in a few days time. I have stressed in previous letters the importance of the impact on 1st class cricket in general of this delightful contest. I could write at length on varied aspects but I hand it to one of the greatest of old time world-all-rounders to say it for me. Leary Constantine, that famous prototype of West Indian aggressive play, who in recent years has seen even his own countrymen descend to the dreary depths of inaction and dullness, is inspired by the news from Australia to express what is now in the hearts of all cricketers. I take his comments from the London Times of today:—

"The monster which set about to destroy World cricket during the last 15 years has been destroyed and strokes and runs have begun to come again. I have always been convinced that, until the West Indians play their characteristic cricket, they will never take their rightful place in the cricketing firmament.

"Over the last 15 years a certain attitude to cricket was adopted all over the world, and, for want of a better term, I might call it the Hutton philosophy. This way of life was to stay there, to reduce the margin of error, to make no strokes and all the runs would come by singles and trickles. Thank Heaven the West Indies and Australia have revived the old tradition and destroyed a monster which had dulled the minds and cramped the feet of the youngsters. Australia, as World champions, have with another captain, set a new pattern and cricket as a game has at last regained its supremacy."

IN a few words this great authority has summed up the disease which has reduced first class cricket in recent years to a deplorable state, which is driving away spectators and is depriving the game of its life blood, which in first class cricket, is money, however regrettable this fact may be.

But now an interesting situation presents itself. While wonderful cricket news comes to us from Australia, news which is making cricket lovers grateful to those who are raising the game to pristine heights of excitement and interest, the names of the Committee appointed by M.C.C. to go into the structure of the first class game with a view to suggestions as to how to make it more attractive have been announced and there are no doubt, already at their labours. There are 20 members of this committee, all of them cricketers of note or cricket officials. There is one exception, a Mr. E. R. Lewis, described as "representing the public." If Mr. Lewis is not a cricketer himself he deserves much sympathy, for, when cricketers are gathered together and tongues start wagging, a mere spectator, vaguely representing the public, is most certainly out in the cold! I feel sure at any rate that the discussions of this Committee will be carefree and uninhibited, so we may hope devoutly that they will pass on the same spirit to the playing of the game by our English counties, in fact the spirit which animates the present Test series in Australia.

It is the saving (financially) of English County cricket which is the main objective of this committee and, let it not be forgotten, County cricket has far more acute financial problems than Test cricket, though the news from Australia is undoubtedly the key to the problem: in other words carefree cricket.

* * *

JACK Fingleton, former Australian Test player and splendid judge of the game, recently in an article to a London paper suggests one item for brightening cricket. Regulate by law the length of run for a fast bowler so as to spare the public the tedious spectacle of the long funereal walk back between each ball.

How right he is! Many fast bowlers could halve their run and bowl just as fast.

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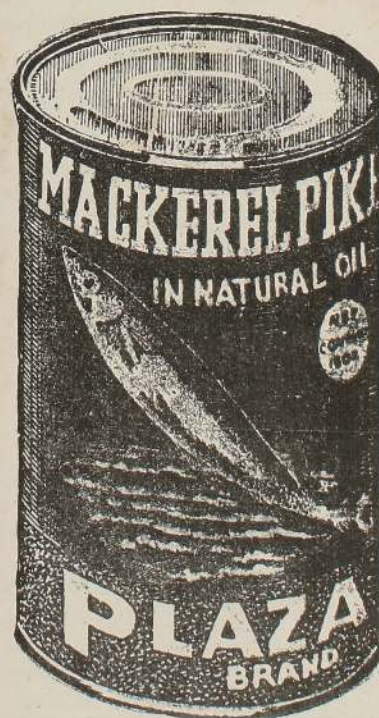
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THROUGH FRUSTRATION TO FAME

By L. J. SOERTSZ

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

ALTHOUGH the old belief that a genius is born and not made has long since been exploded, yet there are many who still believe that a genius, at least in the literary world, has only to sit twiddling his thumbs till the divine afflatus hits him like a bolt from the blue and galvanizes him into inspired action.

At the same time it cannot be gainsaid that a literary giant is born with an urge in him which manifests itself in one form or another despite the most frustrating odds with which he has to contend.

* * *

BY way of illustrating the above observations, it will, I think, suffice to refer to the early struggles and frustrations of a few literary figures whose names are household words and whose works have a global circulation to this day.

Walter Scott leaps to one's mind in this context. A cripple in his early youth, trained to be a lawyer, copying legal documents in his father's office and going on frequent "rent collecting raids" to the Highlands, his receptive mind absorbed all the fascinating folklore of the Highland clans which he translated into literary verse and into his Waverley novels.

* * *

GOLD and glory came to Scott in a steady stream, and he put all his faith in the printer James Ballantyne as the one person who could help him rise through frustration to fame. But the crash came unexpectedly — Ballantyne went bankrupt, and Walter Scott's entire fortune was wiped out. The blow was as sudden as it was tragic, but the tragedy only made his genius glow like a white-hot flame.

Stoically he set to work, writing, writing, writing in order to discharge his entire debt. He soon fell sick from overwork. When he was unable to sit up, he dictated his manuscript from his bed. Then a terrible solitude overtook him with the death of his wife. But he went on writing until "the plough was nearing the end of the furrow." He died a greatly disillusioned man, but mercifully in the belief that he had fully wiped out his debt.

"A narrow garret furnished with a bottomless chair, a rickety table and a miserable pallet bed with two dirty curtains half drawn around it. On the table were an inkstand, a big copybook scribbled all over, a jug of lemonade, a glass and a morsel of bread. The heat in this wretched hole was stifling and one breathed a mephitic air." That is the description of Balzac's workshop and stock-in-trade by one of his closest friends.

Balzac, it is said, always wrote at a white fever, turning out stories after a set formula. He wrote sixty pages a day. In those years he completed thirty-one volumes of adventure, and still he was neither loved nor famous. His royalties came to him in the form of notes "payable when able", and all his obligations, too, he had promised to pay in the future. Then he tried his hand as a publisher and this landed not only him but a number of his associates in a welter of pecuniary losses.

* * *

HE was still a young dreamer of thirty odd years when he conceived the stupendous plan of writing a cycle of novels and fusing them into a Human Comedy of manners. He never swerved for over twenty years from this task. No novelist had ever dreamed of writing ninety-six books giving a consecutive picture of life. It was all one vast panorama of hopes and desires, ambitions and struggles, rivalries and loves and hatreds and fears—a picture of all the inhumanity of the human race under the reign of Napoleon I and Louise Philippe. But the Little Corsican was a hero to Balzac, and he often liked to compare himself to him. "This man is the soldier with the sword, and I am the soldier with the pen. . . . Yet I shall succeed where Napoleon failed. For I shall conquer the world." And the Human Comedy did conquer the world.

But Balzac never completed his grandiose plan. Every novel in the Human Comedy was written in an agony of toil, and he struggled on with his work till the end of his life.

AFTER years of misfortune, Alexander Dumas suddenly struck oil. He amassed a fortune, but his generosity was like a sieve and he was always in debt, with the bailiff almost a fixture at his door. Once a friend asked Dumas for a contribution to help bury a poor man who had just died. Dumas took fifteen francs out of his pocket. "And who", he asked, "is this poor dead man?" "A bailiff was the reply. "So you're burying a bailiff?" cried Dumas. "Here's another fifteen francs—bury two of them." But while Dumas' pockets were running empty, his fame kept rising from height to height.

* * *

WHEN a publisher once visited Nathaniel Hawthorne to ask him whether he had anything worth publishing, he replied, "Why, no, what publisher would ever risk a book from me." And as the publisher was about to leave, Hawthorne took a bundle of papers from one of the drawers of his desk and said, "Perhaps you might care to look over this bundle of rubbish." The publisher took the bundle home. It was the manuscript of "The Scarlet Letter"—that great book which depicts the struggle between the love of religion and the religion of love.

THE latest number of the D.B.U. journal pays a gracious and well-deserved tribute to Mr. D. V. Altendorff. The former deputy-Inspector General of Police, who is 87, has found a valuable hobby in his retirement in the preparation of the genealogy of Dutch-Burgher families. The 150th genealogy has just been published.

This has been entirely a labour of love for Mr. Altendorff and done by himself alone without assistance of any sort except of those from whom information was necessary for material for his work. The tables he prepared have been of inestimable value to many who have gone abroad to make new homes for themselves, especially migrants to Australia. Though he scorns any recompense himself, the D.B.U. has benefited by voluntary donations made by grateful clients in appreciation of his service to them.

The three genealogies that go to make up 150 refer to the families of Meerwald, Kreltszheim and Dirckze.

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THE INDIAN WOMAN OF TO-DAY

— BY EZLYNN DERANIYAGALA —

(President All Ceylon Women's Conference and International Alliance of Women)

A look at the Indian woman of today reveals a very different person from her grandmother of thirty years ago. In that incredibly short space of time she has made swift strides towards complete political emancipation and established herself as an adult citizen. Her equality of status and opportunities with men is guaranteed to her by the Indian Constitution. The Statesmen who inserted the significant principle of equality so solemnly proclaimed by the Declaration of Human Rights into the fabric of the Constitution had a far-sighted vision of India's future, and a comprehension of the need to utilize to the maximum the nation's total man and woman power in order to realize their hopes and ambitions. The women themselves, given this great opportunity, have clearly demonstrated their willingness not only to share the heavy new responsibility of independent nationhood, but also to devote their particular skills and talents to the service of their country.

In present day India, the position of women is excellent. They are no longer a mere potential source of strength to the country, but a vital positive one of considerable power. There are 29 women M.P.s in the Lok Sabha, 24 in the Rajya Sabha and 195 State Assembly members.

Education is advanced and girls are prominent in Indian Universities. They study all subjects and compete, often successfully, against men in examinations. All jobs in all departments are open to them. There are women Lawyers, Judges, Magistrates, Professors, Vice-Chancellors, Governors, Ministers, Mayors and Diplomats. In short no profession or position is barred to them, and in many cases they serve with distinction.

* * *

Voluntary Organizations

A comprehensive account of women's activities in a large country like India which is undergoing a great social and economic reconstruction would need a large volume.

For the purposes of this article it will suffice to indicate some of the kinds of work being done by Voluntary Organizations and Government Agencies, and a few of the leading personalities who dominate the feminine scene. There are many hundreds of women's organizations, both big and small, engaged in various kinds of social work designed to ameliorate conditions, to improve the welfare of children and to raise the status of women. They work independently with local leadership and deal with problems which appear to them to be the most pressing.

* * *

All-India Women's Conference

THE All-India Women's Conference is the premier organization of an all-India character, which co-operated with the All-Ceylon Women's Conference in holding the Asian-African Conference of Women sponsored by leading women's organizations in the five Colombo-power countries in 1958.

The A.I.W.C. has 300 branches, a membership of 30,000 women in all parts of India and it is about 30 years old. It provides a platform where women meet to learn and plan their arduous tasks of community service. The aims and ideals of the A.I.W.C. have inspired many earnest workers, and provided a pool of brilliant leadership from which spring names like Dhanvanthi Rama Rau and Hansa Mehta—both recipients of the coveted Padma Bhusan in recognition of their outstanding record of social work for India—Renuka Ray, Urmila Mehta, Ramesvari Nehru, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy and Lady Hamid Ali, to mention just a few.

It is a meeting place for women who work without political bias for the welfare of their country, and its present President is Srimati Raksha Saran, who combines in her small dainty person a rare collection of qualities—those of a good leader, a devoted social worker and an efficient business woman.

In 1921, not content with passing Resolutions, the A.I.W.C. began its practical work by raising money to start a College entirely staffed, financed and managed by women to educate them in Home Science and to train teachers. This was Lady Irwin College in Delhi, where several Ceylonese women have received their training in Home Science.

* * *

Rural Activities

IN its work for rural areas, the A.I.W.C. tries to combine social welfare and economic projects in order that they will reach down to the grass roots of the Indian social structure. It has five mobile roadside hospitals which supply medical aid to isolated villages, and its ambition is to create a network of medical vans to cover the whole country. It considers these vans a valuable means of raising the standards of village life and improving the health of village children, and in this particular work it secures considerable assistance from "CORSO" in New Zealand. It is interested in creating Consumer Societies in the villages to guarantee standards of goods and to protect the purchaser. Its branches assist food production by teaching women to eliminate shortage and wastage, thus attacking a serious problem. Homes for Refugee Children are run by A.I.W.C. and their Relief & Rehabilitation Committee provide vocational training centres for refugees. They also organise milk centres and child welfare clinics.

The A.I.W.C. is doing an excellent job. It is carrying out its formidable self-imposed task with courage and devotion. Already it is an influential pressure group with which to be reckoned, and reports from its branches show a vast programme of varied activities, aimed at approaching the women in the five lakhs of villages which comprise India—"INDIA NEWS"

(To be Continued)

POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

(Continued from page 11)

The Government, on the other hand, has tabled a Bill providing for appeal to the Supreme Court from the findings of the Commission. Confirmation of the findings or failure to appeal will mean loss of political rights for seven years.

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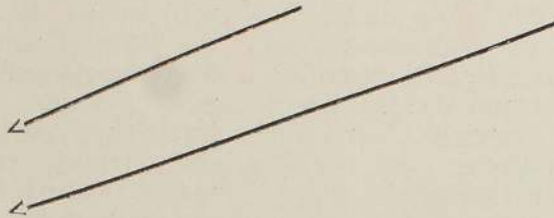
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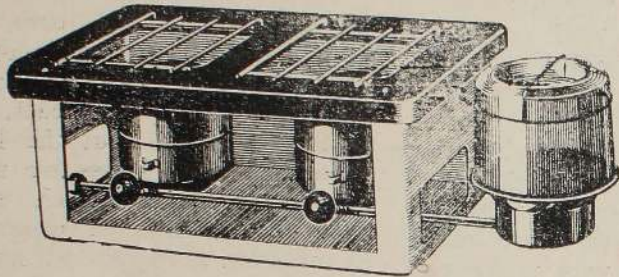
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THE PASSING SCENE

—By SPHINX—

A four and a half year-old girl claims to recognise Queen Elizabeth from her previous birth! She was in her previous birth actually a boy and saw the Queen as she travelled past Talawakelle by train in April 1954 (when the Queen visited Ceylon with the Duke of Edinburgh.)

The girl made the claim when her father recently brought home a picture of the Queen. The child's face lit up when she saw the picture, and she said she had seen the person in the picture before. Asked when, she recalled that with her family she had stood at the Talawakelle railway station to see the Queen.

She was a member of a different family then, of course, and, as I have said, she was a boy. Her story is that in her previous birth she was a boy called Turin and the youngest of seven children of parents in Talawakelle. Turin died in a hospital in November, 1954. Fourteen months later was born the girl who claims she was Turin.

Radio Ceylon made history, by putting her on the air recently. It is said that her claims of retrocognitive knowledge was checked over a period of two months by a Buddhist monk, an advocate and a probation officer. The investigators have apparently accepted her claim to recognise her parents of the previous birth, who are living and with whom she was confronted, and her brothers and sisters and a former teacher. The date of Turin's death is said to be confirmed and the man and the woman who were Turin's parents, it seems, have no hesitation in believing that the girl, whose name is Gnanatilaka, is indeed Turin reborn.

* * *

THE place: the auditorium of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. The occasion: a conference of Ceylon businessmen and a U.S. trade mission.

Enter Ceylon's Minister of Food, Trade, Commerce and Shipping, Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, who speaks not as a theorist but as a "rustic from the hills where the wounds of political, economic and cultural imperialism" are not yet healed.

Excerpts from his speech: We aspire to be friendly with all countries and to steer clear of any power blocs.

We will neither be lord nor vassal of another country in matters of economics, politics or culture.

And then the most priceless gem of all:

"The private sector was mainly concerned about making profits".

Followed the comment:

"This is the most extraordinary statement heard in 1961. It is this type of woolly thinking which has crucified the country's trade for the past six years".

The comment came from Hunter & Company's Managing Director, Mr. G. D. Gordon. But the Minister was not there to hear it, having left already.

The year is still young and, politicians being what they are, another may surpass Mr. Ilangaratne's astounding statement on the private sector.

But if forthrightness and sense deserve the accolade, the Man of the Year for 1961 has already been found. Ladies and gentlemen Mr. Gordon.

* * *

SKELETONS are in short supply in Ceylon and it is anticipated that would-be doctors will have to pay black market prices for this essential commodity.

Ceylon's skeletons, it seems, are those imported from India and there is a monopoly in the trade; there is only one supplier. (Unless a grave is dug up illegally, of which there is apparently no evidence).

The waiting list for skeletons is already past the hundred mark, and the supplier's Indian principals have been asked to air freight all available skeletons!

Prices? A newspaper report said the fair market price is Rs. 135 for a skeleton complete with a whole skull. Doctors who have passed out are reported to be selling their skeletons—the ones they worked on, not their own, naturally—at over Rs. 250, if they are in a "healthy condition"—with all bones intact.

The crisis in the skeleton market is expected to arise about next June, when 300 new students enter the Medical Faculty of the Ceylon University who will need skeletons.

* * *

A sense of humour is a precious asset—particularly in troublous times. The serious historian naturally takes no account of such things in his chronicles; so you may not have read about this incident during the current "direct action" campaign by the Federal Party against the Government's language policy.

Ceylon's Justice Minister, Mr. S. P. C. Fernando, flew to Jaffna; his mission, to investigate problems and difficulties arising from the language acts. At Ratmalana airport the ministerial party ran into a contingent from the F. P. also on the way to Jaffna on the Minister's heels.

At the other end the Minister was met by black flags, waved in his face, among others, by some of the F.P. contingent the Minister had already met at Ratmalana. "Well done"! applauded the Minister.

But that was not the end of the story. Said the Minister to his Permanent Secretary: "See the hospitality I get. Yesterday morning Dr. Naganathan comes to my house with a request that I should make Mr. Sellathurai, Deputy Mayor of Jaffna (one of the flag wagers) a J. P. He saw me early in the morning and so I invited him to breakfast. Now I come to Jaffna to their home and Mr Sellathurai greets me with a black flag!

"However, I am not petty minded and this will not prevent me from giving Mr. Sellathurai the privilege of being a J.P."

Yet another light story that has come out of the direct action campaign is the loss of three Sinhalese franks from the Jaffna Education Office, and the loss was discovered soon after a visit to the office by an anti-official language Act group, appealing to public servants in Jaffna not to help implement the Act.

If the loss of the franks was a gain to the direct actionists, it was short-lived, for instead of the three franks ten were sent to the office from Colombo!

PEOPLE

THE man behind the symbol of the elephant that dominates the skyline in Slave Island, Mr. O. F. L. M. Blaxall, General Manager of the Ceylon Cold Stores, Ltd., goes on retirement at the end of the month. He has spent 32 years of his life in the Island, having arrived here when Mr. C. M. Mathieson was General Manager. Mr. Blaxall has during the many years he has been General Manager, maintained the purity and quality for which Elephant House products have earned their high reputation. Mrs Blaxall, who has identified herself with various organisations engaged in social service, and her husband will carry away with them the good wishes of a large circle of friends on their return home to Britain.

Mr. S. D. Room, who has been Accountant of Ceylon Cold Stores, Ltd., for a long period, succeeds Mr. Blaxall as General Manager.

* * *

MR. A. D. Learmond, a former Director of Messrs R. Gordon & Co., and later of Messrs Forbes & Walker Ltd., who is now living in retirement in Edinburgh, writes to say how keenly he looks forward to the receipt of copies of the *Ceylon Fortnightly Review*, of which he has been a founder subscriber. He writes: "Congratulations on maintaining the high standard of your journal. I have recently seen a number of old Ceylon friends: Lt. Col. D. Whitelaw, formerly of Strathisla, Matale; F. G. Rae, formerly Manager of the Motor Department of Brown & Co., Ltd., J. C. Mackie, formerly of C. W.

Mackie & Co., Ltd., and R. D. Scott of the Colombo Commercial Co., Ltd.

"I also had a call from D. S. Hutcheson, on leave from Forbes & Walker. We could do with a touch of Ceylon warmth occasionally but have little to grumble about".

* * *

THE death occurred in Tasmania on January 28th, after a long illness, of Mr. H. J. Huxham, former Financial Secretary of Ceylon. He was 72. The body is to be cremated and taken to Derwent. He is survived by his wife.

Mr. Huxham came to Ceylon as Income Tax Adviser to the Government in 1929. Two years later he was appointed head of the department of income tax and estate duty. He was appointed Financial Secretary in 1934 and subsequently awarded the C.M.G. He was Chairman of the Gal-Oya Valley Development Board at the time of his retirement in 1949.

* * *

DEVAR Surya Sena, writing to us recently, says: "Congratulations on the standard you have maintained in the *Ceylon Fortnightly Review*. To my mind it is a model of clean, upright journalism. Long may you be spared and given strength and health to carry on".

* * *

PROFESSOR W. N. Rae, formerly of the Government Analyst's Department in Ceylon and later Professor of Chemistry, University College, Colombo, now in his 75th year, writes to us from Dublin, where he is Secretary of the

Conjoint Board in Ireland of the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons. He came to Ceylon in January, 1923, and left the Island many years ago on retirement.

* * *

MR. H. K. de Kretser, former Director of Public Works, and a prominent member of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon, of which he was President for three years, has returned to his home in Brisbane, Queensland, after a short holiday in the Island. Mr. de Kretser has been in Brisbane for three years and, like hundreds of Ceylonese who have made their home in the Commonwealth, speaks highly of the conditions of living there. The Australian people, he says, are very friendly, and the climate in Brisbane is greatly to his liking.

* * *

MR. J. E. D. Madawela, Deputy Director of Rural Development, has left for the U.S.A. to accept a senior executive post at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York. He will be away for two years.

Mr. Madawela has been in the Department of Rural Development since 1952 and was Director of the Fundamental Education Project at Hingurakgoda, originally established by UNESCO.

* * *

MR. Eric D. Robertson, head of the B.B.C.'s Asian Service, arrived at Katunayake by BOAC on February 1, and left from Ratmalana in the afternoon of February 3 en route for Madras and Delhi. He will subsequently visit Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran before returning to London. Mr. Robertson discussed matters of mutual interest with the local broadcasting authorities.

The Asian Service is the B.B.C.'s largest group of regional services. It covers the vast area from Iran to Japan, and broadcasts in 14 different languages, including bi-weekly programmes in Sinhalese and Tamil.

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PEOPLE

IT is with regret that we record the death of Dr. A. S. Wickremesinghe which occurred on Saturday, 28th January, at his residence in Wellawatte, after a brief illness. He served under government as District Medical Officer at several stations which included Chilaw, Matale, Kegalle Anuradhapura and Nuwara Eliya. He settled down in private practice in Nuwara Eliya after retirement. Apart from his professional activities he took a keen interest in social and public life and in activities of the church. He was a member of the Diocesan Council of the Church of Ceylon. He was a pioneer member of the co-operative movement and was president of the Nuwara Eliya Society. He was also chairman-designate of the Kurunegala Planters' Association.

At his funeral the pall-bearers were the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, Dr. C. W. W. Kannangara, Messrs H. A. de Silva, R. R. Selvadurai and Shirley Corea and Drs. V. E. P. Seneviratne and L. A. Paranavitane. The Bishop of Colombo, the Rt. Rev. Rollo Graham Campbell, and Canon Ivan Corea officiated at the funeral assisted by Dr. Wickremesinghe's nephew, the Rev. Lakshman Wickremesinghe:

* * *

MR. Mirza Hamid Hussain, High Commissioner for Pakistan, has left for home on the termination of his tour of duty in Ceylon.

Mr. and Mrs. Hussain and their daughter will drive across India by car. A former Army officer, Mr. Hussain and his family were popular hosts and made many friends among all communities in Ceylon.

* * *

THE death occurred at Peradeniya, at the early age of 38, of Mr. I. D. S. Weerawardena, senior lecturer in political science in the University of Ceylon. He developed complications following an attack of chicken pox.

A very popular member of the staff, Mr. Weerawardena did a considerable amount of original work and was much in demand as a speaker by student bodies and other organizations. He was a product of the London School of Economics. He leaves his wife (nee Marguerite Ferris of London) and three children.

MR. S. P. Chambers, chairman of Messrs. Imperial Chemical Industries Limited is on a three week's visit to India, Ceylon and Pakistan. It is his first visit to the offices and factories of the I.C.I. subsidiaries in these countries since becoming chairman of the company. Mr. Chambers first visited the headquarters of the Indian company, I.C.I. (India) Private Ltd., in Calcutta, arrived in Colombo on February 11 for a two-day visit.

Mr. Chambers acted for some years before the last war as taxation adviser to the Government of India, during which time he became a member of the Legislative Assembly and later of the Council of State. He was created a Companion of the Indian Empire for his services.

MR. Rodney Jonklaas of Colombo has been selected by the International Federation of Aquarium Societies as the outstanding hobbyist of 1960 for his contribution of fishes and articles about Ceylon and his discovery of new species.

More than any other person Mr. Jonklaas has been responsible for making skin-diving popular in Ceylon. He has explored the sea almost all round Ceylon's coast and the Maldives and is an authority on marine life. To receive the award Mr. Jonklaas has been invited to the annual general meeting of the Federation in Canada.

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LIGHTER INTERLUDES

By TWEEDLEDUM

A famous aircraft designer was attentively studying a stuffed bird in the museum.

"That bird seems to interest you, sir," observed a passer by.

"It certainly does," was the reply. "It tail-plane infringes one of my own patents."

IDEALIST: "Ah, the world is materialistic. One hears only one word—'money'."

Materialist: "I always hear two: 'No money'."

OPTIMIST: Cheer up, old man. Things aren't as bad as they seem to be."

Pessimist: "No, but they seem to be."

"I see that a man who speaks six languages has just married a woman who speaks three."

"That seems to be about the right handicap."

DON'T talk to me about right and wrong. I simply can't remember the time when I couldn't distinguish the difference between them."

"I suppose you were taught the difference at your mother's knee."

"No, certainly not, it was over my father's knee."

THE farmer discovered his cow-hand, a one-time city girl, giving one of the cows a drink from her milking pail.

"What are you doing that for?" he demanded.

"Well", explained the girl, "the milk seemed pretty thin to me, so I thought I'd put it through her once more."

A lady approached the barrow boy and asked for a pound of grapes, remarking that her husband was very fond of them. As she was about to walk away with her purchase she said: "These haven't been sprayed with any kind of poison, have they?"

"No, lady," answered the barrow boy, "you'll have to buy that from the chemists!"

"I want enough money to buy an elephant."

"But what do you want with an elephant?"

"I don't want an elephant; I want enough money to buy one."

"**N**OW, let me see. Do I owe you anything?"

"Not a cent. Are you going about paying your little debts?"

"No, I'm going about to see if I've overlooked anybody. Lend me ten rupees till Saturday."

SOMEONE quotes Confucius as saying: "Man who does not smoke is a fool."

"Did not All-seeing first make man, then woman?"

"And lastly tobacco because he felt sorry for man?"

THE finest collection of old china I ever saw was owned by a racing tipster."

"And I suppose he started it with just a few mugs?"

"**D**O you think there's any difference when a man has a birthday and when a woman has one?"

"Yes, old man. When a man has a birthday he might take a day off, but a woman usually takes a year off."

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THREE CENTURIES OF DANIEL DEFOE

— By FRANCIS WATSON —

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

BEHIND one of literature's most candid and universally recognisable figures, erect under the tropical sunlight, we still have to search in the shadows for his creator. Crusoe's very improbabilities are somehow trustworthy. But Daniel Defoe, elusive to his enemies, "hid in mists" to his own son-in-law, keeps something to himself three centuries after his birth.

Is it, indeed, just three hundred years? There is no record, but the year 1660 has been deduced, after long dispute, as that of Defoe's birth in Fore-street in the City of London. The date might be a small matter, save for one question of peculiar interest: which is, how much the late author of *A Journal of the Plague Year* could himself have remembered of London's ghastly summer of 1665. And the date must also concern the organisers of commemorations. Without a birthday to rely upon, the London borough of Stoke Newington chose May 7 to inaugurate their Defoe Exhibition—and not unaptly, for May, 1660, was the month of the restoration of the monarchy in the person of Charles II.

* * *

THUS we can recall at the same time how the great Maypole was set up again in the Strand. Samuel Pepys, who recorded it all, confronts us in the Exhibition in the first group of Defoe's contemporaries, with Wren and Newton and Locke, Dryden and Congreve and Vanbrugh; and among these great persons the solemn face of Samuel Annesley, who gave the young Defoe a sound and practical schooling in his Dissenters' Academy on the green near Stoke Newington. The King had come into his own, the playhouses were reopened, and the Puritan and Dissenting sects were marked out (even under an easygoing monarch) for the revenge of political, social and literary exclusion. Coming of Dissenting stock, Defoe was an outsider from his birth. No university for him and for profession the choice between low-church preacher and tradesman. He chose the latter and remained, in a sense that exasperated his opponents, the former. Trade (that

powerful resource of the excluded class) claimed him, and ruined him, and claimed him again, through all the activities and vicissitudes of his life. He was an author under four sovereigns, the first of whom, Dutch William, star of hope for the Protestant middle-class, helped to put into Defoe's hand another weapon against a hostile environment, political journalism. Strangely, among all those portraits that the Stoke Newington librarians have collected, through a great age of literature and history, there are not more than one or two of whom we can be sure that Defoe met them face to face. But one of those was King William, and that meeting was remembered ever after with pride.

* * *

AND then there was the third spur to ambition—literary achievement, in the course of which he produced books and pamphlets now numbered at between four and five hundred (item, more lines of verse than Milton). Or was it just to pay his debts? Argue as we may, the weirdest fate for the great Augustans—Pope, Swift, Addison and the rest—is to hang now on a wall in Stoke Newington in commemoration of Daniel Defoe, the slippery pamphleteer, the secret agent, the suddenly successful purveyor of books for old women, and servants, and sailors (as they sneered): or in the words of Swift, who borrowed some ideas from him and lent him some others, who served the same Minister (Harley) by the front door—"the fellow that was pilloried, I have forgot his name".

Stoke Newington, helped by much patient research, can claim connections with several periods of Defoe's restless life, but most positively with the first years of education and the last years of prolific achievement (though not quite with the last days, for it was to the City quarter where he was born that the old man at last crept secretly, in flight from we know not what). It is all well documented for the Exhibition, and there are drawings of the big house in Church-street (only a conjectured fragment of wall now remains) within whose thick walls, in a library stocked with well-kept books and

maps, the elements wide knowledge fused with introspective feeling in the immortal theme of *Robinson Crusoe*.

* * *

AS for the personal relics, here is just one—Defoe's broken tombstone. Time and his creditors have had the rest. But what neither could devour forms the main part and purpose of the Exhibition; a collection from many libraries of the early editions of all Defoe's books and a large number of his pamphlets, together with copies of some of the chief general works and special studies of him in English. One writes "all" his books, but the list alone in the British Museum runs to 61 pages, and though collected editions have been undertaken none of them have been, nor probably will be, completed. The distinguished American Defoe-scholar who honoured Stoke Newington's commemoration with an opening address, Professor J. R. Moore, of Indiana University, has himself increased the canon by attributing to Defoe the *General History of Pirates* and *Robert Drury's* (Madagascar) *Journal*. It was chiefly of these wide horizons—Defoe's literary exploration of all the known world—that Dr. Moore spoke. But when we have scoured the oceans for an island we come back to *The Whole Island of Great Britain*, Defoe's own island. He conceived, he tells us, a mysterious aversion to quitting it. A new appreciation and a vast amount of research has bestowed on Defoe the title chosen by Dr. Moore: *Citizen of the Modern World*. But in glimpses we award him also that which he himself chose, satirically, for his attack on prejudice and hypocrisy: *The True-Born Englishman*.

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HISTORY OF WEST INDIES CRICKET

FAMOUS PLAYERS OF THE PAST

II

THE first World war held up progress in the West Indies, and when in 1923 the second team went to England, the selectors once again had to satisfy the aspirations of all the Islands and at the same time try to maintain the growing reputation.

Two stars in that side were Challoner, who must have been a superb batsman, and Learie Constantine, who had a splendid tour. This side included a couple of fast bowlers besides Constantine—Francis and John—and they had days of grandeur. In the last match of the tour at Scarborough, the home side needed only 28 runs to win and lost their first six wickets for 19.

* * *

IN 1928 the West Indians played their first Test Match, or matches rather, as there were three of them, and they lost each by an innings. The weather was all against a team which was used to bright sunshine, but Constantine played inspiring cricket.

Then came 1929-30 and the appearance of George Headley, possibly the best batsman the West Indies has produced. He played in all four Tests, made 176 at Bridgetown, 114 and 112 at Georgetown, and 223 at Kingston. This last match saw some tremendous scoring England made 849, got rid of the West Indies for 286, but even so did not enforce the follow-on. Rain washed out two days play and the game was then abandoned so that the Englishmen could catch the ship home. Sandham made 325 for England. It was the longest Test up to that time, giving place finally to the 1939 match at Durban between England and South Africa. This was abandoned on the 10th day owing to rain.

* * *

SINCE those days the West Indies has produced superb cricketers. In 1933, Grant, who led the 1930-31 side in Australia, was again Captain, and Martindale and Griffith were the fast bowlers.

Headley had a marvellous tour. Then two years later, in 1934-5, the West Indies had their first victory when they beat a side led by R. E. S. Wyatt in the Tests. Their fast attack did the job and Wyatt himself had his jaw fractured by a rising ball bowled by Martindale. Headley played an innings of 270 not out at Kingston and that was a West Indies record, an honour now held by Gar Sobers, whose 365 not out against Pakistan is the highest ever in a Test match.

The West Indies have always had the capacity for high scoring, especially on their own delightful pitches. Several of them have played innings of more than 300 runs, Stollmeyer 324, Headley 344 not out, Walcott 314 not out, Worrell 308 not out, Tarilton 304 not out, Weekes 304 not out and Sobers 365 not out.

* * *

THE Australians have played innings of 300 runs or more on 11 occasions. They are Don Bradman with 452 not out, 369, 357, 340 not out, 334 and 304; W. H. Ponsford 437, 429, 352, not out and 356; C. W. Gregory 383; Clem Hill 365 not out; C. G. Macartney 345; H. L. Hendry 325 not out; W. L. Murdoch 321; C. L. Badcock 325; A. F. Kippax 315 not out; W. W. Armstrong 303 not out and Victor Trumper 300 not out.

The West Indies tour of India in the 1948-49 season brought a wonderful crop of outstanding individual performances. Everton Weekes played successive innings of 128 at New Delhi, 194 at Bombay, 162 and 101 at Calcutta, 90 at Madras (he was run out). As he had hit a century in his previous Test Innings (141 against England at Kingston) it made five successive Test centuries.

During this Indian tour C. L. Walcott (152 at New Delhi), G. E. Gomes (101 at New Delhi) and Christiani (107 at New Delhi) all hit centuries on their first appearance against India. Christiani had made 99 in his first innings against England. In this match at New Delhi

the West Indians scored 631 runs. In the second Test at Bombay they made 629 for 6 wickets and declared and in the fourth they reached 582.

* * *

NOT only have the West Indians managed big individual scores, but they have also put up some rare partnerships. Playing for Barbados against Port-of-Spain in 1945-46, Walcott (314 not out) and Worrell (255 not out) had an unfinished partnership of 574 for Barbados, also against Trinidad in 1943-44, Worrell (308 not out) and John Goddard (218 not out) added an unfinished 502 for Barbados. In 1931-32, George Headley (344 not out) and C. C. Passailaigue (261 not out) added 487 for the sixth wicket for Jamaica against a team captained by Lord Tennyson and neither was dismissed.

In the earlier half of their tour the West Indian players have not run into long partnerships against Australia. The Australians think highly of them. Sometimes players don't live up to their reputations in other countries, but up to now the West Indians have done a good job and their tie with the Australians in the first Test at Brisbane and their great win at Sydney have been most impressive, and above all they have proved wonderful sportsmen and have captivated Australian crowds by their enterprising cricket.

QUIZ-MASTERS DELIGHT

(Continued from page 9)

on every page. Take nuclear power for peaceful purposes. Calder Hall, in the English county of Cumberland, led the world in 1956 as the first commercial-scale nuclear power station. Now it has been joined by Chapecross in Scotland. Six more are under construction and a seventh approved, with an eighth in the planning stage.

From massive facts like these we can jump at a flick of the page to such tit bits as that a quarter of all Britain's homes have a pet bird, slightly over a fifth have a cat and slightly under one-fifth have a dog. Most of the pet birds are budgerigars.

* * *

"BRITAIN 1961" is now available in Ceylon, Price Rs. 11/50, from the British Council, 154 Galle Road, Colombo 3. and from leading booksellers.

A SPORTS CAUSERIE

—By "ITINERANT"—

"SARA" TROPHY CRICKET

THE "Sara" Trophy appears to be a four-way battle that will be fought out until the very last match before a champion can be found.

Last year's champions, the S.S.C. are the worst off of the four, with runners-up N.C.C. best away. But very much in the picture are the Saracens and the Varsity.

The S.S.C. gained ground in the middle of the month when they trounced the Saracens, only time preventing an outright victory. That same week-end, in a high-scoring match the N.C.C. just managed to get the better of the Varsity. Moratuwa and the Moors were involved in a no-decision encounter.

The following week-end the N.C.C. suffered their first defeat of the season when some sound 'tail' batting by the Moors enabled them to edge a first innings decision.

The S.S.C., at the same time, were humbled by lowly Moratuwa who revelled in the 'home' batting conditions, in a high-scoring encounter. The Saracens meanwhile helped themselves by trouncing the Colts, though they could not get full points.

As the month ended, the N.C.C. kept up the pressure with a good outright win over the Colts, while the Saracens edged the Moors on the first innings. The S.S.C., meanwhile, just managed to get the better of the Varsity, thanks to their last wicket pair.

"SARA" TROPHY "B"

IN the Sara Trophy "B" division, the B.R.C. are in the lead, with the Tamils "A", their closest challengers. 'Dark Horse' here is the Bloomfield team, which is way behind in schedule.

In the middle of the month, the Tamils "A" scored an outright win

over Negombo, while the B.R.C. beat the Catamarans in a free-scoring match. When the league 'giants' met the following week-end, the B.R.C. consolidated their position as the Tamils "A" turned in a disappointing performance.

At month's end, the Tamils "A" went to the top of the table by virtue of an innings victory over the Saracens "B".

* * *

SCHOOL CRICKET

SCHOOL cricket came into its own in the first week-end in February, with the largest 'card' of the year. St. Joseph's began their season by leading Royal on the first innings, but Royal came back into their own (after a first innings collapse) in the second innings, thanks to a brilliant unfinished 92 by E. B. Pereira.

In a low-scoring match St. Thomas' held Wesley to a draw, thanks entirely to their last wicket pair. This Thomian tail defied the Wesley attack for 45 minutes to save the match.

High-scoring Ananda were surprisingly held to a draw by Dharmaraja in a match in which Ananda's T. D. Rajapakse scored 104 not out and took six wickets for 71.

In other major matches, Nalanda trounced Ibbagamuwa, Maliyadeva beat Mahinda and Kingswood drew with Prince of Wales, Moratuwa.

* * *

A FINE SPORTSMAN PASSES

IT is with regret that I have to record the death of Mr. K. C. Rasiah of The Oval. This doyen of ground secretaries, who died at the age of 53, presided over the grounds of the Tamil Union for over 25 years.

The Oval, one of the finest turf wickets in the East and a ground that has drawn praise from the 'great' in many sports, will ever remain a monument to Mr. Rasiah's labour of love that made the ground what it is today.

Mr. Rasiah was a vice-President of the Club.

* * *

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

SOME sort of an international record for a Soccer Cup Final must undoubtedly have been set



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A SPORTS CAUSERIE

by young P. D. Sirisena of Saunders when he scored five consecutive goals and had a hand in the two preceding goals which enabled Saunders to win the C.F.A. Cup, beating Wellawatte Spinning and Weaving Mills, 7-2.

This schoolboy is undoubtedly the best forward Ceylon has had in many a year and Wellawatte Mills were distinctly unlucky to have had to meet him on a day when he was in peak form—a day on which he appeared to atone for the number of near misses he chalked up the previous week against the Young Boys XI of Berne, the Swiss Champions.

Saunders appeared to have learned at least one lesson from the Swiss: packing their defence, while their forwards lay well up waiting for the long clearance, which was promptly fed to sharp-shooter Sirisena. With the Mills' goalie weak (though Saunders' was even more so, the packed defence saved him), that was all Sirisena needed.

Against Berne, however, he was up against a packed defence and good goalies, so try as he and Somapala did there was no appreciable result. But it was good for once to see foreign goalies being really made to work in Ceylon.

* * *

WHAT a lot of good that three weeks' coaching camp did Ceylon's Soccer stars. True we lost both games—but that was only due to a certain lack of technique. As it was, without technique, if our finishing had been better and we had had a little bit of luck, we would have chalked up many more goals and might have even won the first match.

That match we lost 5-2, holding Berne 2-2 for three-quarters of the way and during that period having much more of the game. If only we could have scored a couple of more goals during that period!

In the second match we trailed 0-2 until 15 minutes before the end and had shared the game with the Swiss. Then we unaccountably collapsed to a 7-0 defeat as the defence failed to 'mark'.

But both games revealed the Soccer talent of Ceylon. If only that is now encouraged to bloom!

SWIMMING

COLOMBO routed Bombay in the annual inter-cities Swimming meet at Bombay. Bombay could only win two of the fifteen events—none of the women events. Ceylon's Tara de Saram set up two meet records.

* * *

THE MAGPIES

THE annual meeting of the Magpies and the Police, which dates back to 1912, used to be one of the most interesting cricket matches of the year. The Ceylon Magpies Club was formed in 1912 by Mr. George (Creeper) Fellowes, who used to belong to the Cambridge Magpies, a Club that was formed by the undergraduates of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, in the seventies. That Club is now defunct. The first President of the Magpies was Mr. Walter Shakespeare, a famous Colombo merchant and sportsman who after he retired from Ceylon visited the Island nearly every year to be present at the annual reunion at the Galle Face Hotel and the whole day match with the Police who were skippered by Sir Herbert Dowbiggin.

The present President of the Magpies is George Fellowes, who presides every year at the Mag-

pies dinner in London in June. There are still a few of the original Magpies who regularly meet on this occasion—P. R. May, W. T. Greswell and till recently Tom Cuming, F. A. Waldoock, A. M. Clarke and W. T. Brindley, who have passed on.

This year's match with the Police was unfortunately cancelled as the original date—Saturday, 4th February—clashed with Independence Day.

* * *

THE Magpies met the C. C. C., on the C.C.C. ground, on 5th February, and were beaten on the first innings by 40 runs. The C.C.C. batting first scored 154 and the Magpies replied with 114. Two recently elected members of the Magpies did best for the side, Sathi Coomaraswamy, the old Royalist and Tamil Union all-rounder top-scoring with 49 and taking 3 wickets for 50 runs and M. Tissera, the old Thomian, and N.C.C. all rounder, capturing 5 for 46 and scoring 12. For the C. C. C., G. Prendeville 33, J. Paulet 34 and P. D. Filmer 29 were the chief contributors.

THE ORIGINAL MAGPIES



Back Row:— T. Cuming, G. A. Wright, W. T. Greswell, H. P. L. Roberts, E.B. Alexander.

Seated:— P. R. May, A. M. Clarke, W. Shakespeare, G. F. Fellowes, A. H. S. Clarke,

Seated on ground:— D. A. Wright and Major H. V. Greep.

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A WOMAN'S DIARY

—BY "BETA"—

A much neglected branch of communications in these days is the art of letter writing. Almost anyone you ask will tell you quite openly "Oh, I love to get letters, but I'm no good as a correspondent—I take so long to reply to the letters I receive" and most of them go on to explain, apologetically, that they have so much to do, that there simply isn't time to sit down to letter writing. This is a great pity, because writing letters can be quite good fun, besides being a great strengthener of the bonds of friendship. I feel that, for most of us, this dislike of writing letters can be traced back to our school days, when, ever so often, we were required to write letters to this, that, or the other one on some subject, and after our letters were written, they were subjected to criticism and correction, and all our mistakes were pilloried, till we came to feel that every single letter we ever wrote would be examined by those who received them for any errors, grammatical or otherwise, and then returned to us to do better next time. But letters are really a bridge between us and our friends, and should help us to know and understand our friends better. Especially in these days, when so many people are making up their minds to start life afresh elsewhere, we have got to keep in touch by writing letters, unless, of course, we are willing that out of sight should be out of mind.

* * *

ANOTHER factor which sets people against writing letters is the idea that a letter must be long. This is not an essential ingredient at all! Short letters are just as good, and it is a fact that if you write frequent, short letters you will feel much more in touch with your friend than if you waited to "collect" material for a long letter and took so long about it that you wonder whether your friend will find your news interesting after all. The Americans have developed the short letter idea into the "card for every occasion" slogan, and claim to produce cards suitable to any possible situation. The story is told, for instance, of a lady who went to a store and confided to the counter clerk working there that she wanted a card to send to a

friend sympathising with him in his being sentenced to a term of imprisonment—and was offered a card saying "so sorry to hear you are a shut-in. Hope you will soon be enjoying the sunshine again"! Unfortunately for us here, of course, the cost of greetings cards do not encourage their prolific use, and we have to confine our card sending for special occasions, though nothing prevents us from concocting our own cards to suit any occasion and any friend.

* * *

SOME people complain that no sooner do they make up their minds to write a letter, and get paper and pen and ink all ready to begin, than their minds become perfect blanks, and they absolutely cannot think of anything to say. For people who have this difficulty, perhaps a system evolved by a friend of mine would help. This friend keeps handy among her things a little notebook, and immediately something happens, or she hears of anything which she thinks may interest one of her correspondents, she jots it down, and then, when she settles down to letter writing, her note book is there to suggest things to write about. I'm sure you've often had it happen to you—you hear of something and at once you think "So-and-so would be most interested to hear about that"—but of course you rarely remember to tell so-and-so about it when you write, and instead sit gnawing the end of your pen and groaning "whatever shall I write?" If you had just jotted down whatever it was at that moment you would never lack material to write about.

* * *

THERE are others who hesitate to inflict letters upon their friends because they feel their handwriting is a great stumbling block, and think no one would thank them for sending them puzzles to read. The perfect solution for such people, of course, would be to invest in a type-writer! Those who find this solution too expensive, of course, will have to try to improve their handwriting—or comfort themselves that the oftener they write and so familiarise their friends with their writing, the easier it will be for them to decipher it!

Once you really begin writing letters you will soon find you are enjoying yourself. After all, any-

one would enjoy having a chat with a friend—and that is just what a letter is meant to be—with the added advantage that your friend cannot interrupt, but must let you have your say!

* * *

I do not think there is any woman who would not have thoroughly enjoyed visiting the recent Hungarian Trade Exhibition which was held in Colombo last month. The numbers thronging the Art Gallery to see the exhibits on view was sufficient testimony to this. The glassware on view was really exquisite—the crystal ware and cut-glass ware being the sort of thing we dream of possessing some day when our ships come in! The tumblers and goblets, the bowls and vases, each attracted the attention in turn—the only criticism being that there was not more of it! The chinaware too was most attractive in its gay colours, and they seemed to be of very good quality. Those who love cooking would have appreciated the selection of saucepans and other cooking utensils on view. Other aluminium articles, such as trays, cruet sets, and jars could also be seen. No part of the house was neglected, for besides everything else, there was also a section showing samples of porcelain sanitary fittings. I am sure that all those who visited this exhibition must have felt their time was well spent, and that they had really enjoyed seeing how articles of utility could also be articles of beauty. Is it too much to hope that those who are responsible for producing similar articles in this country would be inspired to strive to attain—like degree of excellence for their own products.

OBITUARY

THE death occurred early this month, at the age of 37, of Mr. Tissa Wickremasinghe, son of the late Mr. C. L. Wickremasinghe of the Civil Service and of Mrs. Wickremasinghe of Colombo. He was the first head of the Soil Conservation Division of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Wickremasinghe went from Royal College, where he was prominent in sports too, to the University of Ceylon and on graduating joined the Department of Agriculture. Following a course of training in America he was appointed Soil Conservation Officer in 1952.

A SPORTS CAUSERIE

COLOMBO LADIES WIN PUFFIN GOLF CUP

THE annual contest for the Puffin Cup between Colombo and Nuwara Eliya played last week on the Nuwara Eliya course ended in an easy win for the visitors by 7 matches to 2. Colombo won all three foursomes and four of the six singles. The reigning national champion, Mrs. Lilamani Weeraratne, was beaten by Mrs. E. A. Richardson 2 up after a great game. Mrs. W. P. Fernando beat Mrs. R. Beadon 3 & 2, and other Colombo wins were:—Mrs. G. D. Gordon, 3 & 2 over Mrs. P. S. Gray, Mrs. N. W. G. Brown, 2 & 1 over Mrs. E. C. Bousfield and Miss R. de Mel, 2 & 1 over Mrs. R. Lushington. Mrs. R. I. H. Scott (N.E.) beat Mrs. W. R. McMorran (Col.) 5 & 3.

The Foursomes ended as follows:—Mrs. W. P. Fernando and Mrs. G. D. Gordon (Col.) beat Mrs. E. A. Richardson and Mrs. R. Beadon (N.E.), 6 & 5; Mrs. Weeraratna and Mrs. Brown (Col.) beat Mrs. Bousfield and Mrs. Gray (N.E.), 1 up; Mrs. McMorran and Miss de Mel (Col.) beat Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Lushington (N.E.), 1 up.

FIVE CENTURIES IN ONE MATCH

THE joyful "new look" cricket that has swept Australia since the arrival of the dashing West Indies' team last October produced a particularly splendid performance in the inter-state match between Queensland and South Australia that ended at Brisbane on January 24. During the four champagne days of this Sheffield Shield fixture five players hit centuries in the combined total of 1,182 runs. South Australia won by 39 runs on the first innings—its second Shield success of the season.

Queensland won the toss and opened its batting on January 20. The first innings ended early next afternoon with 469 runs on the board to which Test wicketkeeper Wally Grout contributed 119. South Australia then went in faced with a formidable task. It batted until nearly 2 p.m. on January 24 (there was no play on Sunday, January 22) for a first innings total of 508, including three centuries—Murray Sargent (164), John Lill (106) and Bob Lloyd (138). In the little more than three and a half

hours left for play Queensland lost three wickets for 205 (Tom Veivers 103 not out). The match ended on a sound note. The time was 6 p.m., only one delivery remained to be bowled, and Veivers was on 99. He stepped out to the ball and crashed it through the covers to the fence for a four.

IMPRESSIVE BOY SPINNER

AN 18-year-old schoolboy, David Sincok, amazed West Indies' batsmen by his clever left-arm spin bowling at the Adelaide Oval nets on the eve of the Fourth Test against Australia. The captain of the West Indies' team, Frank Worrell, said that the youngster was a "real good one" and predicted that within a very few years he would mark his mark in big cricket.

Young Sincok bowls an off-break with a googly. He is short, solid and red-headed. Nobody paid much attention when he came on to bowl at the nets but everybody sat up and took notice when he wrecked the wickets of star batsman Rohan Kanhai with his first two deliveries. After that shattering introduction he proceeded to worry every batsman to whom he bowled.

Worrell said later: "None of our fellows really could pick him. He is just about the best young bowler of his type I have ever seen."

GARFIELD SOBERS

GARFIELD SOBERS, who is twenty-four years old, is a gifted left-handed batsman whose natural game is based on attack. He is the second youngest player ever to represent West Indies in Test cricket. On his debut in 1954 against Len Hutton's England team he surpassed himself and later compiled his record individual score of 365 not out against Pakistan. His prolific scoring has brought him over 3,000 runs in Tests, far earlier than his first four years in Test cricket suggested. So far he has represented his country 32 times against England away and at home, against Australia away and at home, India away and New Zealand away; and has altogether played 59 innings.

Between 1958, when he surpassed Hutton's 364 and the present day, Sobers has helped himself to eleven three figure innings, three each against Pakistan, India and England, and two against Australia.

Strange as it may seem, Sobers, like Worrell, whom he has succeeded as "pro" at Radcliffe, started his First Class career as a bowler for Barbadoos, but his quickish left-arm spinners could hardly have kept him in the West Indies team because of the presence of Ramadhin and Valentine. It was therefore not surprising that by the time the 1957 tour of England had come around Sobers had established himself as a front line batsman of worth, capable of jostling with the giants (Walcott and Worrell) as a rungetter. Sobers has taken nearly 50 Test wickets and as a fieldsman he has held some of the best close-to-the-wicket catches in the Caribbean and on the present tour.

RACING

RACING returned to Colombo with the Independence Cup—1 mile, the main event on the February Meet's first day card. A depleted field faced the starter and Wardust, making his debt in this class, made no mistake in scoring his fifth win in a row, pipping Fiery Goddess on the post despite veering out.

The Sri Lanka Cup was won by Neon Lights who had to withstand a driving challenge from Fateen who was interfered with.

Stylish winners were Hill Castle in the Galkissa Plate—6 furlongs. King Solomon 11 in the Embilipitiya Plate—6 furlongs—and Mohan's Pet in the Point Pedro Stakes—1 mile.

In the remaining two races close finishes were witnessed, Skelbo Star and Confair figuring in a dead-heat for the Belihuloya Plate—1 mile—and Oris, the day's biggest upset which sent the treble soaring, beating The Locksmith by a neck in the Nuwarawewa Plate—1 mile.

THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL

Basketball Federation President James Sarangapany has mooted a National Sports Council and appears to have received a lot of Parliamentary support for his scheme which can do much for Ceylon sport if ever it comes about.

PUT AN END TO RESTLESS NIGHTS....

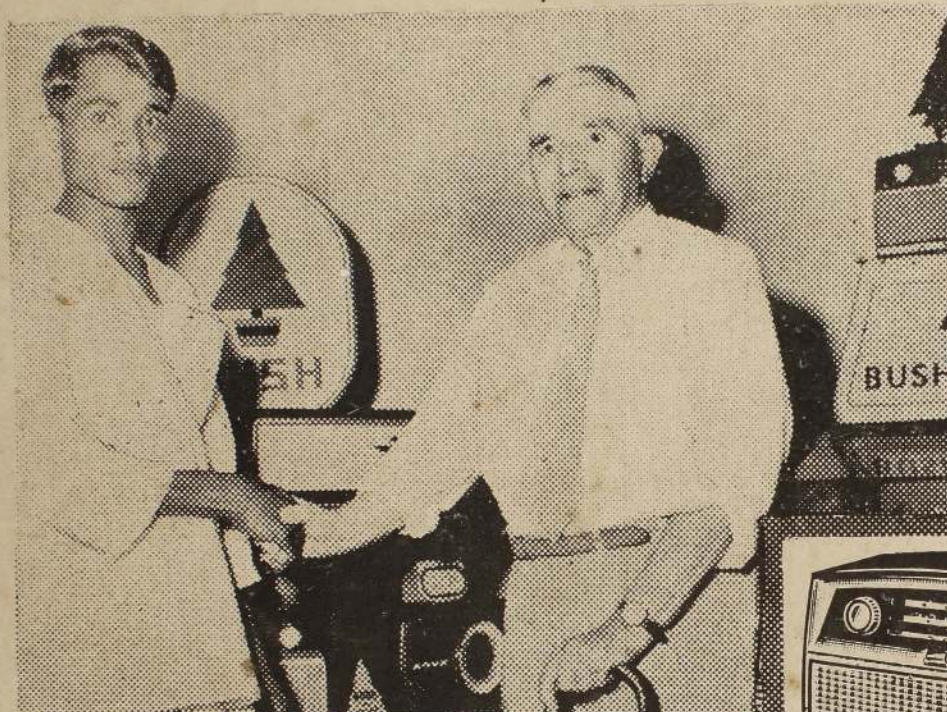
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