

The Ceylon *Just* Nightly Review

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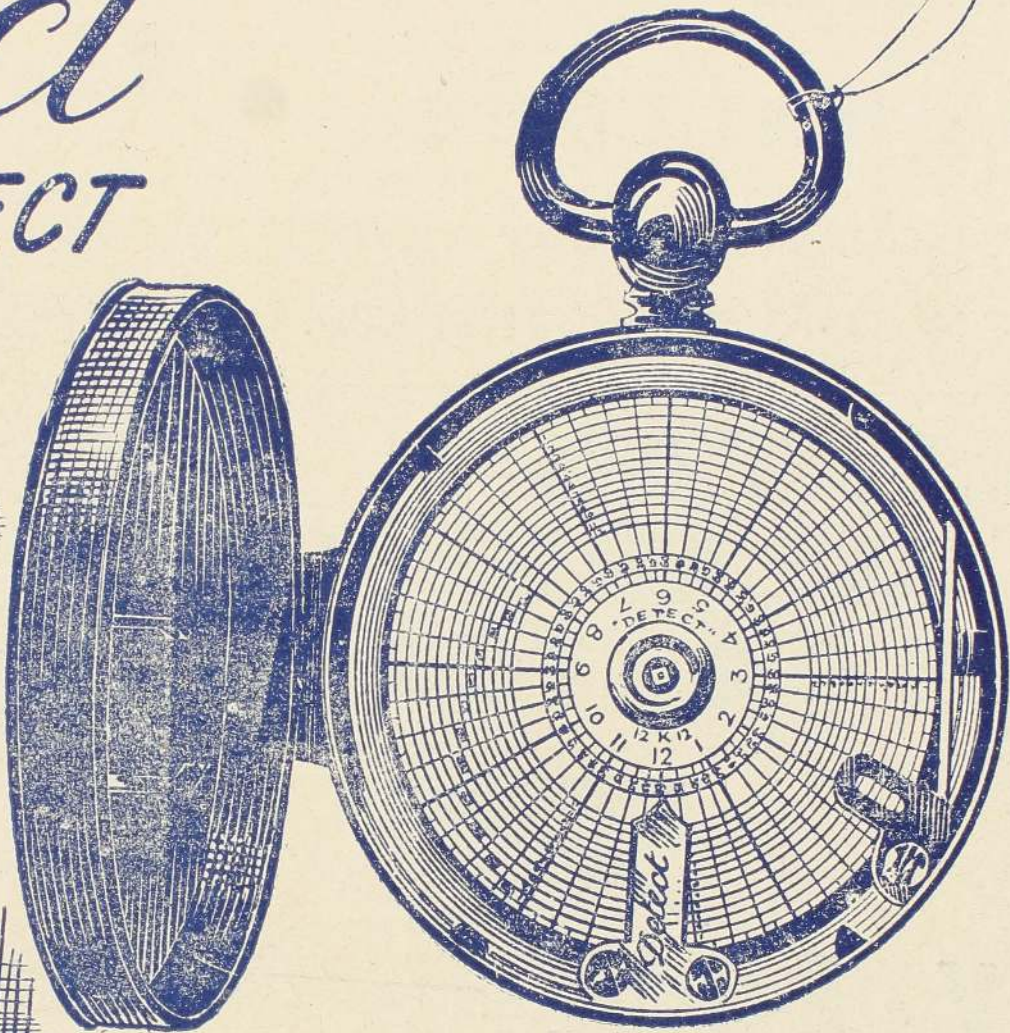
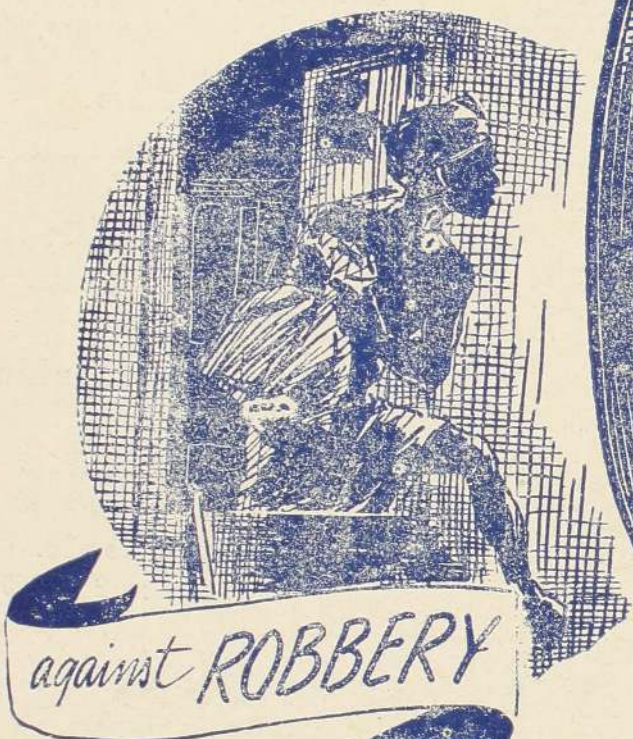
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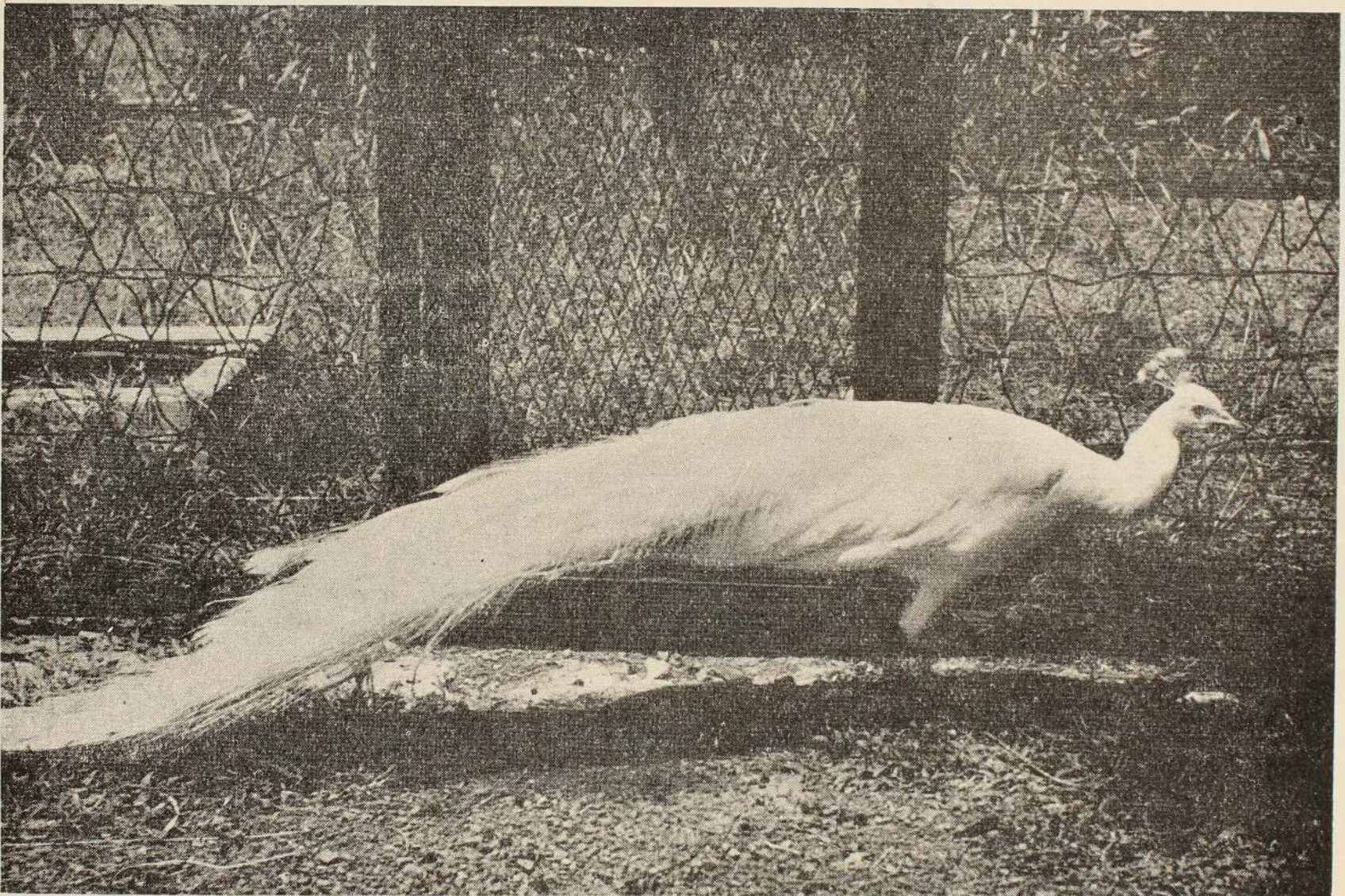
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THE gardens are beautifully laid out and visitors are charmed by the thousands of shrubs and trees, flowering annuals and perennials that help to make a colourful picture that is hard to forget. A visit to this outstanding national institution will always be worthwhile.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

By BRUTUS

THE Government and the country will do well to pay heed to the note of warning sounded by the Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Ceylon in its Third Annual Report, for 1952. "In 1952," says the Report, "Ceylon lived far beyond its means. The country as a whole not only did not reduce, it even increased, its spending on imports as its export income fell and prices of imports rose." The Island's economy passed through a difficult year in 1952—external assets fell by Rs. 350 million, approximately, or nearly 30 per cent., the largest amount on record. The Monetary Board attributes the reduction of our external assets to three main causes—falling export income, rising prices of our imports and excessive expansion of the money supply to finance the heavy Government budget deficit. As long as we have to buy and sell in a big way in the world market where prices fluctuate and not always to our advantage, we shall have to endure with fortitude "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," but our economic situation would have been certainly less difficult if, as the Monetary Board says, less money had been expended on consumption and more on production. When the Government's salaries bill and subsidies swallow up so much of the country's money, vital development work suffers by lack of funds. The Monetary Board says: "Subsidies financed by expanding bank credit are maintaining the level of consumption in the country at a point it can be sustained only by running down foreign assets. In the absence of another export boom, there is no alternative but to reduce this level of consumption. The issue is clear: not whether to reduce consumption, but when to reduce it—while the country still has external assets that can be used for development or after such assets are exhausted." If we have arrived at our present predicament as a result of following a weak policy of too much expenditure on consumption, the time has come for sterner measures and it is to be hoped the Government will be wiser if sadder in the future. Is the situation can be made easier by reduction of food subsidies, the Government should not be afraid to take

this step although the move is bound to raise a storm of protest from some quarters. And certain it is that unless the next Six Year Plan is a realistic approach to true national development we shall be well on the road towards loss of whatever economic independence we possess.

* * *

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S visit to the Island in April, next year, will be marked by the inauguration of an annual Festival of Arts, to be organised by the Arts Council. The Festival will probably include dance recitals, concerts, art and crafts exhibitions and film shows. It is expected that a full-dress rehearsal of the Festival will be conducted by November or December, this year. The Arts Council has asked Mr. J. D. A. Perera to submit suggestions for building an open air theatre in Victoria Park, similar to the one built during the Colombo Exhibition.

* * *

AT the recent annual general meeting of the Southern Province Planters' Association, Mr. F. C. Cooke, Director of the Coconut Research Institute, drew attention

to the vital dependence of the country on the coconut industry and to the need to keep the industry in good health. Indeed there is little use in talking of rural welfare if insufficient is done to maintain an industry like coconut round which a good deal of rural life rotates. As with rubber, there is no royal road to the revitalising of the coconut industry. We must be prepared to bend our backs to the task of replanting, manuring, pest control and all the other measures which have systematically to be applied if we want this basic industry to play its full part in our economy. If we allow it to decline, the time may not be far when we may have to import coconut to supply the requirements of our growing population.

* * *

THE news that the Government intends reconsidering its air policy in the light of the recommendations made by the World Bank Mission is very welcome. One of the chief recommendations of the World Bank in regard to the future of civil aviation in the Island was that we should develop internal and regional services rather than try to maintain an international service. Already large deficits have been incurred in the running of Air Ceylon. And there is no hope of our being able to compete successfully with foreign air lines which, belonging as they



Her Majesty the Queen received Marshal Tito, the President of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, at Buckingham Palace recently during the Marshal's five-day visit to Britain. The above picture shows Marshal Tito with H.M. the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen Mother and H.R.H. Princess Margaret.

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MATTERS OF MOMENT

do to richer countries, are much better equipped and have more generous advertising budgets. The most sensible policy would be for Air Ceylon to withdraw from the international field before more needless losses are incurred and try to provide a better and economically managed internal and regional service. At the same time, a vast deal can and should be done to improve Ratmalana airport. This will attract more patronage from foreign air lines. More passengers will pass through and the Island will benefit from the money they will spend here.

* * *

MR. C. C. DESAI, Indian High Commissioner in Ceylon, delivered a very instructive address at a recent Rotary Club lunch. The subject on which he spoke—the economic development of India—is one of which Mr. Desai has a first-hand knowledge as he had been Secretary to the Government of India in New Delhi in various Ministries. The High Commissioner, a fluent speaker with a pleasant delivery, referred to the great multi-purpose river valley projects that are changing the face of India—the Damodar Valley Project, the Hirakud Project, the Bhakra Nangal and Tunghabhadra Projects. In the field of industries, Mr. Desai pointed out, there was record production as far as textile, jute goods, tea, cement, sugar and a number of other commodities were concerned. The Government of India's policy, he said, was to step into industrial enterprise where private enterprise, owing to lack of capital or risks involved, was unable or unwilling to enter. The result of this increased industrial activity, added Mr. Desai, was that the composition of India's external trade changed considerably. Her exports were more and more of manufactured goods and not of raw materials. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Desai referred to the very warm reception he had received in Ceylon. Since his arrival, Mr. Desai has made a large number of friends among people of all communities as is inevitable with a man of his pleasant personality. His practical outlook and experience of business enables him to get to the essentials in study any problem. This is just the type of man required at this juncture in Indo-Ceylon relations.

AT the 13th annual general meeting of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Empire Society, held at the Galle Face Hotel, Dr. Argus J. Tresidder, of the U.S. Embassy, delivered an address on "The American and British Dialects of English." Dr. W. Balendra, the outgoing Secretary, said that this year it was decided tentatively to observe "Empire Day" on May 28. Mr. Chitra Fernando suggested that Ceylon should send representatives to the Royal Empire Society dinner to be held during the Coronation and which Queen Elizabeth was likely to attend. He proposed that Sir John and Lady Tarbat who would be in the U.K. at that time, should be deputed to represent Ceylon at that function and the suggestion was approved by the meeting. At the election of office-bearers, Col. O. B. Forbes was elected President for the ensuing year. Other office-bearers elected were:—Vice-Presidents, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Mr. T. W. Jansz and Mr. Donald Obeyesekere; Secretary, Mr. Chitra Fernando; Treasurer, Dr. W. Balendra.

* * *

WITH the marvels of modern speed it is now possible to lunch in Colombo and fly by Comet to be in time for breakfast on the following day in London. Yet the three months' voyage by sea that was necessary a hundred years ago was not time entirely wasted. Turning over the pages the other day of the "Memorials of Bishop Chapman" (first Bishop of Colombo) my eye alighted on some very interesting passages about the voyage to Ceylon of the "Malabar," the 750-ton vessel which brought James Chapman to Ceylon. "As soon as the first discomforts and confusion had settled down into order and regularity," we are told, "the Bishop began a daily morning and evening service in the "cuddy," and a systematic course to study for his Divinity students, as well as of the Sinhalese language for his Chaplain the Rev. R. Fortescue and himself . . . Nor were the sailors neglected; but books and tracts were given to such as could read and Mr. Fortescue held services for them and the steerage passengers on the lower deck, in addition to the ordinary Sunday parade service. Many years afterwards, when the Bishop was preaching at a church at Wapping, an old

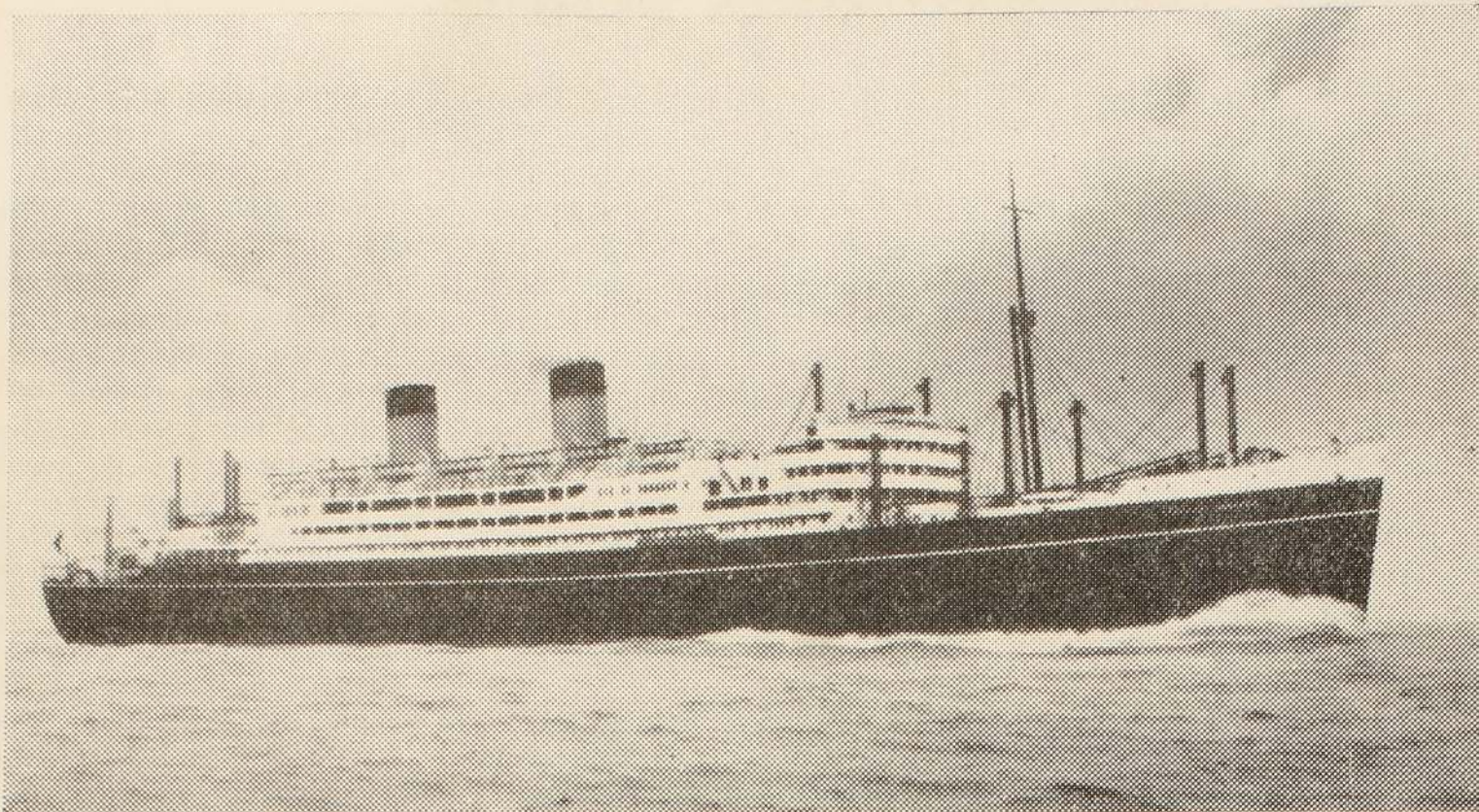
sailor found his way into the vestry, and produced a Bible which he said the Bishop had given him on that voyage in 1845, stating that he had for many years been engaged as a Scripture reader among his brother seamen. The voyage, though unbroken by any approach to land, and therefore somewhat tedious, was a very prosperous one. The Bishop took much interest in the navigation of the ship, and in the daily observations of sun and stars, marking the ship's course each day on his own chart. After a time of intense heat and calms in the region of the Maldive Islands, a fresh breeze sprang up, which carried the "Malabar" into Colombo roadstead on the morning of November 1st, and in the cool of the evening the whole party landed amidst the welcomes of a vast crowd of the different races, and drove from the quay to S. Peter's church, where the Bishop's first act in his diocese was to return thanks, at a special service, for the mercies which had been vouchsafed in the prosperous voyage and safe arrival in Ceylon."

* * *

THE Prime Minister, accompanied by the Finance Minister, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, and P. B. Bulankulame, Dissawe, Minister of Lands, made an extensive tour of Government development schemes in the North Central Province. Among the places visited were the dry farming schemes at Kurundankulama and at Mahallupalama, where Mr. Senanayake noted the progress made and exhorted the colonists to put forth still greater efforts.

* * *

THE strikes on a group of tea estates in the Namunukula district caused loss to the workers, the tea industry and the public revenue. The Workers' Congress is staging a trial of strength and has behind it clever political brains and large resources. The long-term objective doubtless is to attain their political aims by industrial means. The desire by private owners and some companies to dispose of their tea holdings will be strengthened by these disputes. New owners of these properties are not always good employers and any development which creates redundancy in the labour market cannot be in the best interest of the workers.



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MATTERS OF MOMENT

THE Public Works Chief, Mr. T. Burns, will, it is understood, be retiring from service in September, this year. He will be terminating a connection with the P.W.D. which began about thirty years ago when he joined the Department in 1924 as District Engineer, Batticaloa. Mr. Burns was educated at Morgan Academy, Dundee, at Dundee High School and at Edinburgh University. His university studies were interrupted when the First World War broke out and he enlisted in the Royal Engineers as a sapper. He saw service at Gallipoli and in France and after the war resumed his university studies at St. Andrew's University, Scotland, where he obtained a science degree with a first class in civil engineering and engineering drawing. Before he came to Ceylon he was assistant engineer, Civil Engineering Department, Scottish Oils, Ltd., Uphall, Midlothian. Mr. Burns has been Director of Public Works since 1949. He is a hard worker and is able to get the willing co-operation of his subordinates. He has cultured recreations and is fond of good music and reading. He speaks French and German fluently. Mr. Burns plans to spend his retirement in Scotland, but he has not mapped the future as yet in detail.

* * *

THE Very Rev. Father Peter A. Pillai, O.M.I., Rector of St. Joseph's College, Colombo, and Editor of "Social Justice," left for the U.S. on April 3 on a leadership grant. He intended making brief halts in Rome, Madrid and Lisbon before reaching New York on April 17. This is Father Pillai's first visit to the New World. He has, of course, travelled extensively in Europe. During his stay in the U.S., Father Pillai, who has been one of our most valiant defenders of the rights of the denominational schools, will make a special study of American secondary schools and universities.

* * *

AT the annual Nuwara Eliya Agricultural Show, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, Minister of Agriculture and Food, announced that Queen Elizabeth II would be spending nearly a quarter of the whole period of her stay in Ceylon in Nuwara Eliya. Sir Oliver said: "1953-54 is Queen's year for Ceylon. I invite you all, therefore, to make an organised

effort in the next twelve months to clean up every home in this district, to repair the hedges in your home gardens and to make the good earth yield its maximum of fruits and flowers."

* * *

A COMMISSION under the chairmanship of Mr. N. E. Weerasooria, Q.C., has been appointed by the Governor-General with the following terms of reference:

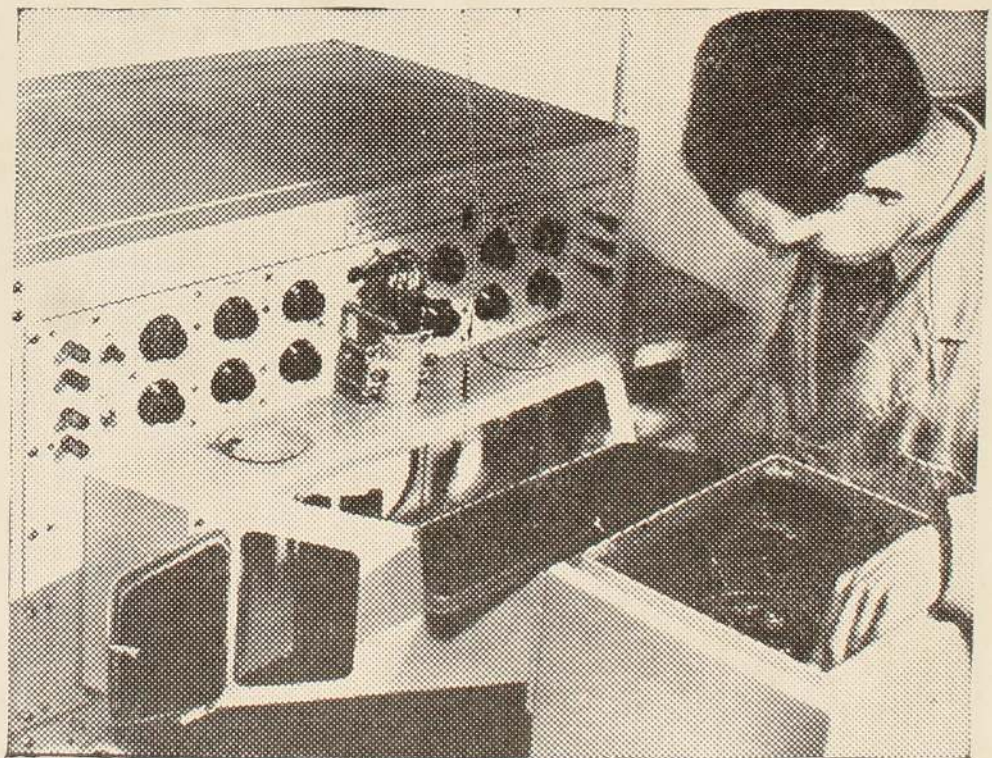
(1) To inquire into and report on the state of broadcasting in Ceylon today and in particular to inquire into and report on (a) the organisation of the Department of Broadcasting, (b) the adequacy of the staff of that department, (c) the suitability of the present buildings and equipment, (d) the type and quality of the programmes offered to the public, and (e) the operation of the Commercial Service of that department;

(2) To consider the question of the advisability of introducing television in Ceylon;

(3) To make such recommendations as may be necessary for improving the state of broadcasting in Ceylon including recommendations relating to all or any of the matters specified in the preceding two paragraphs.

Such a Commission was an urgent necessity as a first step towards a thorough overhaul of Radio Ceylon. That organisation requires to be modernised not only in regard to buildings and equipment, but, even more important, in regard to its ideals and objectives. If the Weerasooria Commission approaches its task in the same spirit as the U.K. Broadcasting Commission has approached theirs, we can hope for some definite good to result from their labours. Broadcasting is one of the most powerful instruments for good or ill. By letting things drift so long, we are paying the penalty today with a radio service that is far below required standards. To have a good broadcasting service we do not need to buy the most expensive equipment in the world. A lot depends on what use we make of the opportunities we already have. It would be a fine thing if we could afford to have television, but at the same time we ought to make fuller use of sound broadcasting than now. The Report of the Weerasooria Commission will be one of the most eagerly awaited reports that we have had for a long time. The Chairman, of course, is a very clear-headed man, learned in books as well as in the ways of the

(Continued on page 36)



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PARKING UNDERGROUND

By ERNEST CHISHOLM THOMSON

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

London, April 8th.

I COUNTED three horse-drawn carriages and two sedan chairs as the total traffic in a picture of St. James' Square, London, included in a Working Party's report, just published, on the car parking problem in Inner London. But the picture's date is 1770, when—as I discovered from a blue tablet on the north side of the square—that great Prime Minister, William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, was in office. Pitt had his problems, but parking was not one of them.

Today that same tree-lined square (a small one as London squares go) is crammed on week days with more than 500 cars at any given moment, while another fifty or more clutter up the bombed sites along its outer edge. And at any given moment your heart will be touched at the sight of anxious-looking motorists creeping round in low gear in search of an opening.

The same drama—or is it farce?—is enacted all over the capital every morning, and what better measure could there be of the magnetic attraction of the greatest Metropolis in the world? There simply is not surface room for all the vehicles which daily pour into the city; and this is why the Working Party, in a report which I found more fascinating reading than many a detective thriller, recommends that some of London's traffic should "go to earth."

The construction of garages beneath nine London squares, beginning with St. James's, at a cost of over £3 million, is part of their £12 million plan for untangling a problem which grows more complex every day.

It was Mr. Alfred Barnes, Transport Minister in the previous Government, who called for the report two years ago from his "operations room" in Berkeley Square, at the very vortex of London's traffic swirl. Nearby, at Hyde Park Corner, the endless stream of cars, trucks and buses had been counted at 44,323 vehicles between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., and it was then estimated (the

figures have since risen) that 100,000 vehicles were on the move within an area of $7\frac{1}{4}$ square miles around Mr. Barnes's office in every hour.

But some are not "on the move." Their destination reached, they stop. They dare not wait on the main highways, but are parked in the narrower side streets, causing congestion, throwing more traffic on to the main highways, adding further congestion there, more delay and perhaps accidents.

* * *

LIKE "MUSICAL CHAIRS"

THE story behind the Working Party's report reads like a campaign-history. It began with a count by an army of policemen on bicycles. They found that in Inner London some 16,000 vehicles are parked for long periods on the street, having nowhere else to go. It is like a vast game of "musical chairs," in which thousands of cars hunt for parking spaces which are not there.

No one, it seems to me, can accuse the Working Party of lack of imagination. They certainly needed it; as traffic grew, parking facilities were actually contracting. Bombed sites, a boon to the space-hungry motorist, are rapidly being built on.

Before arriving at their scheme for underground garages, the Party appears to have thought of everything else, possible and impossible. I like best the notion of parking cars over the River Thames, either with pontoons or by fixing docks on piles. But this picturesque method, as it turned out, would have created traffic problems for the shipping, and the idea was dropped as quickly as another one for burrowing under railway stations, where the cost of under-pinning would have been prohibitive.

By what means, and to whom, the flash of inspiration came, we may never know, but someone thought of scooping out London's squares. The capital is plenteously supplied with these green, tree-lined retreats, and the idea of a new scheme was to

consult Messrs. Wornum and Playne, the architects, whose striking new layout for Parliament Square, adjoining Westminster Abbey, will make a profound impression on visitors at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

* * *

ARCHITECTS' VIEW

HAVING constructed a scale model of St. James's Square, complete with automobile catacombs, the architects gave their opinion that not only was it suitable for an underground garage, but that the change would improve it. Opinions have differed on this; a garage for 700 cars would mean removing all the trees, though some could be kept if only 420 cars were accommodated.

With London's traffic roar in its ears, the Working Party has had no compunction in recommending an immediate "going-to-earth" policy in St. James's and three other squares, with five more to follow. These would hold two-thirds of the waiting cars, leaving the rest to be catered for by multi-storey garages above ground and a new scheme of side street parking for short periods with parking meters.

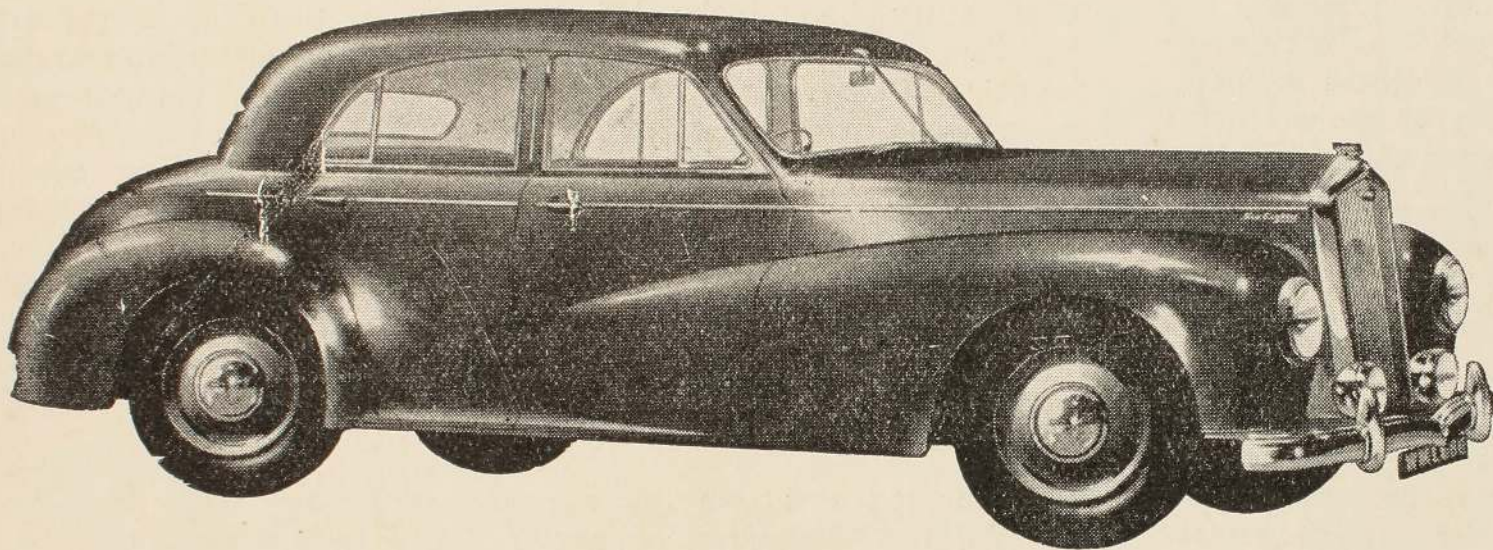
Details of the underground garages are interesting. They would consist of two storeys reached by ramps rather than elevators, which would lead to unnecessary complication if, in time of war, the garages were used as air raid shelters. Cars would be parked and de-parked by attendants rather than owners, who—according to the report—possess "varying degrees of skill!" Ventilation would be on an intricate and elaborate scale.

The scheme is now in the hands of Mr. Alan Lennox-Boyd, the present Minister of Transport and will, of course, require Government sanction before being put into practice.

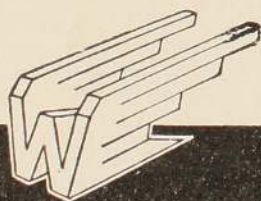
The Working Party proposes that the garages should be Government-built and leased to other bodies to operate on the monies received from parking charges. We motorists, already contributing £330 million a year direct taxation, would be ready to pay generously to end the parking nuisance. The report points out that all members of the community would benefit by the removal of one of the main causes of traffic congestion, delay, and accidents on the roads.

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PROFILES

PROF. J. L. C. RODRIGO

NOT many years ago Latin was a compulsory language in the qualifying examinations for any learned profession in Ceylon. Infants of eight and nine were started on the Via Latina and spent six or seven years gerund-grinding even if their ultimate goal was accountancy or irrigation. Less than five per cent. were able to write their mother tongue or had read any books in what are today called the national languages.

J. L. C. Rodrigo, like many of the seniors in the professional and public life of the country, grew up in that tradition. At their best, they took into their several avocations a scale of values which made for gracious living and integrity. To the majority, a classical education was more a means of training the mind than an endowment for life. For, to master the art of Latin composition, even so far as Mr. North and Mr. Hillard can help one along, is a sign of general intelligence which cannot be gainsaid.

* * *

MR. RODRIGO'S life has been largely devoted to the inculcation to a steadily diminishing number of young men and women, as they passed through University College and University, of the wisdom of the ancients who gave Europe her culture. He is so consummate a master of his subject that it has sometimes seemed as if there were two barrels from which, by the turning of a tap, he served out potations called the Glory that was Greece and the Grandeur that was Rome. It is said that his lectures are so neatly taped that each generation of his students could anticipate exactly the moment when a particular joke would be cracked.

However that may be, no more versatile wit, worldly-wise philosopher or conscientious councillor has officiated in a lecture hall or relaxed in a common room in Ceylon. For his interests are many. A diligent student of form in the copra market, his belief in the efficacy of science to produce a fecund coconut tree is undoubted. A humanist, his faith in a liberal education as the best foundation of a useful career for a human being is even stronger. He could make an after-dinner speech

effervesce like champagne and is equally happy proposing a decorous vote of thanks at a girls' school prize-giving. A church warden, dean of a faculty, member of the board of governors of several schools, a director of the Y.M.C.A., he is not too solemn to receive the confidences of women undergraduates in the throes of emotional crisis. He is always available to parents worried about the aberrations of adolescent children and, as time and energy permit, for all good causes.

The truth is that Professor J. L. C. Rodrigo is at heart young and can understand and sympathise with the young as few men of his age are able to do. His students, for their



Professor J. L. C. Rodrigo

—Times Photo

part, will not let him down, and look up to him as to a benevolent uncle interested in their welfare. The gaiety of his spirits and the sparkle of his intellect are known to a larger constituency through his genial essays contributed to the Press under a thinly-veiled pseudonym. He is, in short, a delightful combination of pedagogue and man of the world as exemplified in the lives of men like Walter Raleigh and Gilbert Murray.

* * *

MR. RODRIGO is a product of the Royal and Trinity Colleges in their best days. The foundation of his scholarship was laid at Royal under a Harlequin through the Rev.

W. S. Senior initiated him into realms of gold undreamt of by a young man who had his eye on the Government Scholarship. The influence of A. G. Fraser kindled in the bookish student a public spirit and lively interest in extra-mural affairs which make him a centre of interest in any company. When he won the Government University Scholarship he went to Balliol College, Oxford, where his contemporaries included David Maxwell-Fyfe, the prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials and later Home Secretary, and Mr. C. Suntheralingam, the member for Vavuniya. He revelled in the academic and social life of Oxford and spoke often at meetings of the Union Society.

* * *

AFTER he was called to the Bar in London Mr. Rodrigo was considering his future when a suggestion came from the late Mr. D. R. Wijewardene that he should take a course in journalism at the London University and come out to join the editorial staff of the "Ceylon Daily News." At about this time the death occurred of Armand de Souza, editor of the "Ceylon Morning Leader" and Mr. Rodrigo was offered the editorship of that paper. With the concurrence of Mr. Wijewardene he accepted the post, a decision he often regretted. The rivalry of a newspaper which was backed by powerful financial resources and consummate professional skill was not the least of his handicaps. The "Morning Leader" was owned by a syndicate of landed proprietors who did not understand the first thing about newspaper management and, like many others similarly placed, thought that a journal of public opinion could be conducted on the same lines as a coconut estate. The editorials of the "Morning Leader" were couched in impeccable prose but the paper was sadly lacking in the logistics of newspaper competition. Mr. Rodrigo had the wisdom to realise at an early stage that it had no future under multiple ownership and the cause did not justify his scorning delights and living laborious days. The call of the class room proved too strong and he filled the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. C. P. Dias, the much-respected headmaster of Wesley College. It was a half-way house to the University College where his old teacher, the Rev. W. S. Senior,

(Continued on page 35)

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POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

By CROSS-BENCHER

IF Mr. Malenkov, the Russian Prime Minister, and his fellow-members of the Praesidium wish it they could transform the international outlook in a few weeks.

They are in a position of very great strength. The passionate desire for peace in every country could be their greatest asset. The Western Powers and their allies have piled up armaments, and created new industries to produce them, at colossal cost in money and tremendous sacrifice in their living standards. The Russians could make all these preparations and the strategic dispositions of navies, armies and air forces obsolete and irrelevant by doing the unexpected thing—proving by deeds the truth of their professions of peace.

* * *

IN a crazy world, the short-term consequences of a genuinely peaceful policy by Russia could be as uncomfortable to many countries as a continuation of the cold war.

The whisper of an armistice in Korea shook the markets and brought down prices in Wall Street by several dollars. The prices of commodities show a downward trend all round. If Malenkov has a sense of humour, the walls of the Kremlin must resound with laughter at this turn of events which would have pleased Samuel Butler the author of "Erewhon."

* * *

THERE may be ground for the belief that the Russian leaders are fully alive to the irony of the situation.

So long as the sick and aged Stalin was alive, no one could take the risk of a conciliatory attitude to the Western Powers. The old man, whose brain was affected and whose fears had multiplied, had the last word in everything, and that word could mean anything from dismissal from office to liquidation.

Malenkov has less to forget. His score of imprisonment, exile and persecution is nil. He has much to gain by being a peace-maker, and in a reign of peace the Russians and their Chinese allies have a future of strength and greatness which their

respective countries have never enjoyed in history.

* * *

IN the long-run peace is the primary interest of all nations, however great the discomfiture it may cause immediately to the producers of commodities and the manufacturers of armaments.

It would seem at the moment that there is less likelihood of hostile action by Russia or China than of internal strife in those countries. If Malenkov and the veterans of the Revolution cannot maintain their grip on Russia with the same power of will and certainty of being obeyed as Stalin was able to do for over a quarter of a century, then it will be more the misfortune of the Soviet than of the rest of the world. Stalin was not a good man but he was a great force in history. After his death the vast area of the earth's surface which felt his influence cannot but be a different world.

* * *

IT is interesting to inquire whether the Russian people have been so changed by the Revolution that their diplomacy has none of the qualities of the Tsarist regime.

There is the famous story of the dinner-party at the British Embassy in Moscow. Sir George Buchanan, His Majesty's Ambassador, was the host, and his guests were Sazonoff, the Russian Foreign Minister, and M. Paleologue, the French Ambassador. After dinner the three men retired to the host's study to discuss the situation over their cigars. The conversation had turned to diplomacy.

What nation supplied the finest diplomatists? M. Paleologue, who was a Frenchman and therefore a flatterer, was loud in his praise of the Russians. Sir George, who was a Scot and, therefore, strictly honest, gave his vote to the Germans. They argued the point without being able to agree and finally appealed to Sazonoff. The Russian smiled.

"Your Excellencies," he said, "are both wrong. In my opinion the debate began a question of dispute."

The palm must surely belong to the English."

M. Paleologue, already sufficiently jealous of Sir George, made a sour face. Sir George's eyes registered an innocent astonishment.

Again Sazonoff smiled.

"You would like my explanation. When I have given it you will admit that my argument is irresistible. We Russians—and I thank M. Paleologue for his compliment—are a talented race. We are admirable linguists. Our sources of knowledge are unlimited. Unfortunately, however, we cannot trust ourselves. There is no continuity about our work. We never know what our most trusted Ambassadors are going to do next. They will fall a victim to the first unscrupulous woman, and in that condition they are capable of selling the ciphers to the enemy.

"Now the Germans are just the reverse. They are admirable workers. They are all continuity. But they begin laying their plans so many years beforehand that, long before the plot is hatched, the whole world knows what they intend to do.

"The whole art of diplomacy is to mask one's intentions. And that is where the English excel. No one ever knows what they intend to do"—here the Russian stroked his beard and smiled affectionately at Sir George—"because they never know themselves. (Memoirs of a British Agent by Sir Robert Bruce Lockhart.)

* * *

CEYLON cannot escape the repercussions of the momentous changes which impend in Europe. If the arms race comes to an end commodity prices will slump until they are able to pick up again when civilian demand gathers force.

There is still too much complacency even among the planners. The Central Bank Report shows that both the Government and its advisers succumbed to the chronic disease of imagining that when times are good they will always remain so. The comfortable margin of profit which the Chinese contract affords to rubber producers, nourishes this complacency. There is a general and erroneous belief that the price of rubber will remain somewhere

(Continued on page 36)



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THE IDEAL HOME IN CORONATION YEAR

By PEGGY SHOLTO

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

LABOUR-saving devices and gadgets to economise on time taken to perform routine household tasks are, fortunately, not the major concern of the housewife in Ceylon. She is usually blessed with at least one servant—an extra pair of hands; and time in Eastern countries has never been the gruelling taskmaster that men make it in the West. How fortunate, then is the Ceylonese housewife! For it means she can regard the many household innovations which each year crowd on the market in Britain not as pressing necessities to ease the day-to-day toil, but as interesting curiosities that may be tested at leisure and adopted only if found to be satisfactory. Such were my thoughts when I entered the Domestic Labour-Saving Section of this year's Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia in London, to see once again the latest ideas conceived to cut the toil of household chores.

* * *

WOMEN who are accustomed to sending the family's linen to the dhoby to come back clean and well pressed might smile—but here for the housewife was an electric iron that never needs lifting. When the user's hand leaves the handle, the iron rocks back so that the hot

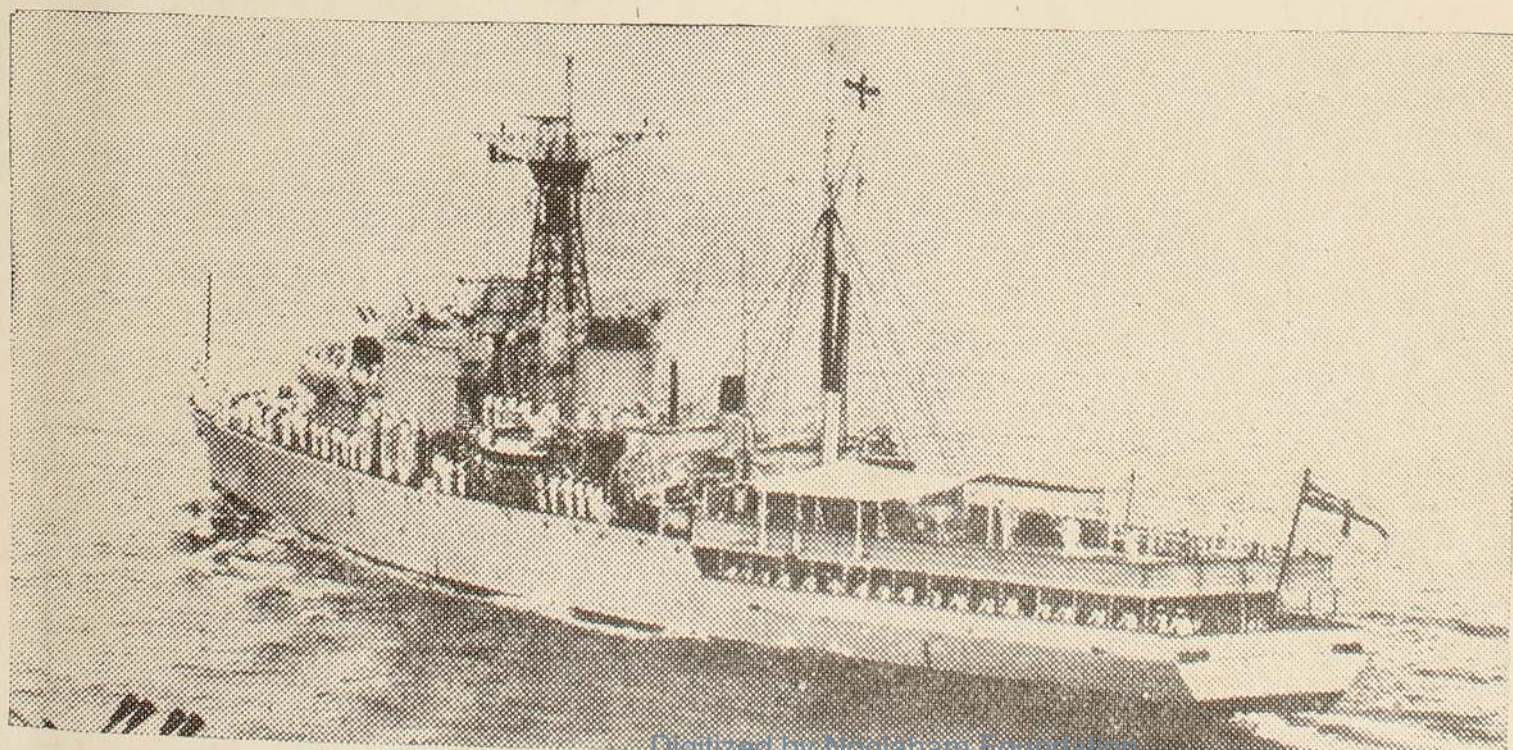
base is clear of clothes or ironing board, eliminating fears of scorching or fire—and the need for a stand. This iron was comparatively inexpensive (about Rs. 42/-) but if a woman has more money to spend she might well wish for an electric rotary ironer which can be fitted to any table. And there was another type of iron designed to fit a washing machine's wringer attachment. The washing machine seems certainly to have superseded the pressure cooker for prestige in the kitchen in this Coronation Year. On display were washing machines of all shapes and sizes and, for a kitchen too small to accommodate one, there was a plastic washer that stands in the sink, making use of its water taps and drainer. This attachment can be stored in a cupboard when not in use. The desire to possess an electric mixer is very strong, judging by the numbers watching them demonstrated. And this is a gadget which might well find its way into a tropical kitchen for in hot climates many dishes are enhanced by the lightness which beating of culinary ingredients produces. The electric mixer can be held in the hand as you beat, stir or whip but I considered the one fitted on a stand—and costing a little more—to be far more practical.

OUT of the kitchen and into the bedrooms a moment for another device which merits the consideration of a housewife in a hot climate. For little more than twenty rupees there was an electric airer-heater for clothes or linen cupboards. What a boon this would be during the monsoon periods—and even at other times—when excessive dampness pervades the almirahs, rotting clothes and causing mildew beads to grow on shoes and up-country woollens. Allied to the troubles and damage caused by damp, is the destruction wrought by rust—a very real and ever-present menace in Ceylon. The 1953 answer to this is Jenolite, an inexpensive rust remover and preventer which can be applied to any surface either by means of a brush or by immersion into the compound. Jenolite percolates into the smallest pores of the metal surface and removes every trace of rust without harmful corrosive action. It also has a neutralizing effect on metal which prevents re-rusting for a very considerable time without any further treatment whatsoever.

* * *

THE cheapest way to set up home in Britain is also the cheapest form of holiday—hence the popularity of caravans. Many new types of caravan were on display, including an inexpensive one designed for touring behind a motor-cycle combination. Three others could easily be drawn by a really small car. Here is the ideal way for people in Ceylon to see something of their beautiful

(Continued on page 33)



It was announced recently that H.M. the Queen, accompanied by Admiral of the Fleet, H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, will review the Royal Fleet at Spithead from H.M.S. "Surprise," which is now being converted into a Royal Yacht at Portsmouth. H.M.S. "Surprise" is a vessel of 1,590 tons, and for the review will be commanded by Vice-Admiral E. M. C. Abel Smith, Flag Officer, Royal Yacht.

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A LOOK ROUND

By PERISCOPE

A MARGIN for the imagination : this used to be my favourite lecture-topic ; I'd suggest the thought that we are but half the MAN we ought to be if we leave this faculty undeveloped. Imagine, therefore—imagine ! You see there's no escaping it—imagine my delight in finding the British Minister of Works on my side.

Mr. David Eccles has said this : "The world of imagination is probably the most important world."

* * *

HE was giving a hundred journalists in London a progress report about his Ministry and the Coronation. The gossip-writer in the *Church Times* was there and this is what he wrote :

"Anyone who thought that it must be a far cry from Works to Poesy must now think again. Mr. Eccles is a stylist. He augmented the purple and gold of his subject with a few pale mauve touches of his own. The arches in the Mall will not only be graceful but 'exciting.' Wires supporting coronets will be threaded with polished aluminium spheres 'which, if you are feeling romantic, you can compare with drops of dew on strands of gossamer.'" (Not with, but to, Mr. Eccles, by your leave.)

* * *

THE gossip continued : "Clearly, Mr. Eccles was feeling romantic. It was he who made the comparison. Lions and unicorns will be poised 'in the manner of old-time dancers.' The Minister's nicest touch was when he departed from his hand-out and added, whimsically, that the world of imagination 'is probably the most important world'."

* * *

AND if you want the aid of physical sight there is that issue of *Time* which portrayed the Queen on the cover of a recent issue as The Woman of the Year. It contained a few delightful impressions in colour of the most imaginative designs for the

transformation of London's most important streets into ways by which the young Queen may ride happily with the feeling of *Roses, roses all the way* : which is what the gossip-writer I have quoted contributed in a sub-head, as though when it came to imagination he was not to be out-done himself.

* * *

THENCE to Shakespeare is but a step. "The Winter's Tale" was recently broadcast in *London Calling Asia*. Was it chance or imagination, to pick that play ? (It is given in the Stratford Festival too.)

It was easy to pick these lines as the just ones for the time :

Go together

You precious winners all : your exultation

Partake to every one.

They are spoken towards the end of the play, and they are addressed chiefly to the King's daughter Perdita, lost and found, and to her betrothed, the other King's son Florizel, after the heart-clutching scene of the restoration of Queen Hermione, Perdita's mother. If a reader here and there is moved to take up "The Winter's Tale," he or she may, I suggest, readily come under the impression of a felicitousness that could not be fortuitous.

* * *

THE B.B.C. feature I referred to a fortnight ago, without hitting precise title of it, is (I find) called "Throne and People." It comes on Wednesdays, very soon after the news. I am not ashamed of my failure again to be precise because any reader who is sufficiently interested will listen for the announcements. We are coming to modern times : King Edward VII was the theme on April 15.

* * *

I GO back to the chapters from Queen Victoria's life. We have let the fancy play with the idea that what is felicitously pat to the occasion need not also be mere coincidence. "The Winter's Tale" is to hand again, and I wonder whether

Shakespeare was ever so felicitously quoted as when Disraeli (it must have been he) used this telling line to bring Queen Victoria back to realities. Every one knows how after the death of her "darling angel," the Prince Consort, she went into retreat and refused to take any further part in the life of the country. England was never nearer to becoming a republic. It was only the extreme vociferousness of the Republican Group that saved the situation by creating a revulsion of feeling. Illustrative of the situation is the story of the wag who put up a card on the gates of Buckingham Palace : *This desirable residence to let.*

* * *

WHAT were the magic words that were used to stir her ? In "The Winter's Tale" the moment comes when the life-like statue of Hermione must be seen to be the living Queen herself who had been kept in hiding for sixteen years. Her gentle-woman, the genius of the reconciliation, speaks :

'Tis time ; descend ; be stone no more.

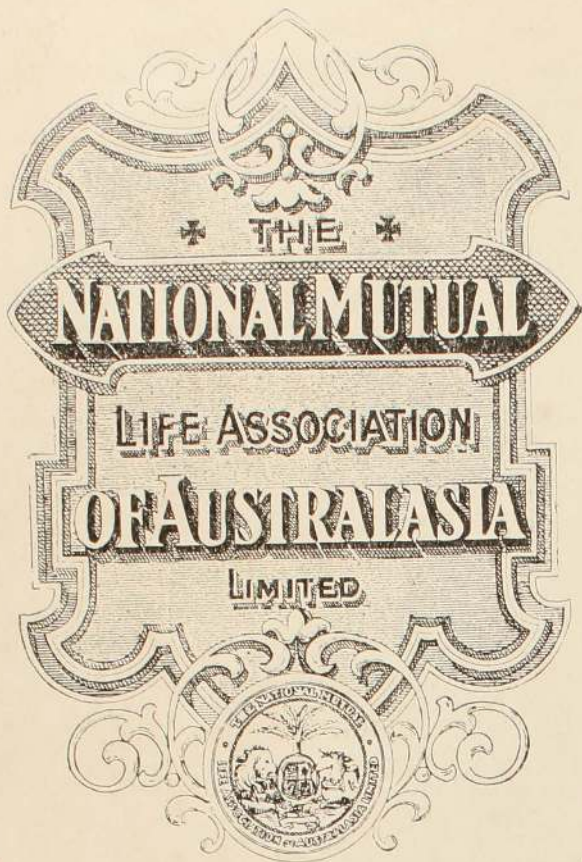
* * *

QUEEN Victoria, back in reality, returned to her throne and to her people with the same dramatic suddenness as Shakespeare's imagination evoked in that scene with the *precious winners* whose widely shared *exultation* is the pattern for this glorious year.

REV. PERCY T. Cash writing from his home in Knichton, Radnorshire, on the 12th March, says : "I was greatly pleased to read in the *Fortnightly Review* to hand this week the article about Sir Arthur de Silva, who was a great friend of mine in my days at Wesley. But I did not see him often after my transference to Jaffna. I first met him in 1907 when we travelled down from Kandy together. He had only recently returned from England. He was our medical officer for the Wesley Hostel."

Rev. Cash, who will be 72 next July, was for some years Vice-Principal at Wesley and later went to Jaffna as Principal of Central College.

He was at one time a lecturer on Zoology at the Medical College.



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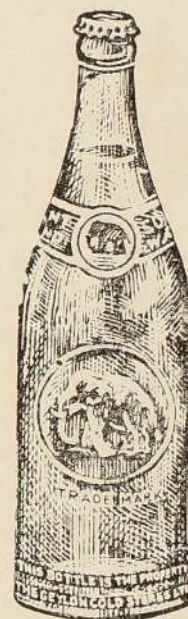
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PEOPLE

THE introduction of the Sherwani reminds one of the days when the top hat and frock coat were *de rigueur*, varied at times by the picturesque Kandyan costume or the less sober dress of the Tamils. But Mr. W. S. Christoffelsz, who was in his day the *doyen* of the Clerical Service, as he was afterwards of the Civil Service, refused to be bound by any convention. He filled the office of Council's Clerk for more years than we can remember, and those who came in contact with him, from the Governor down to the most junior member of the Council, learned to value the quiet efficiency with which he performed his exacting duties. Always dressed in spotless white, with vest of the same colour, a black tie and black shoes, he went about his duties with a quiet efficiency which won for him universal admiration. He seemed by instinct to anticipate the wants of every member, and was always ready to supply them with information. The climax of his services was reached when the Order of the Imperial Service was conferred on him, and soon after that promotion to the Civil Service, with more important duties.

Mr. Peter de la Harpe had worked with Mr. Christoffelsz as his colleague for many years and was fully conversant with the duties of the office. On Mr. Christoffelsz's retirement, therefore, there was no difficulty in filling the appointment. The same measure of efficiency marked his work as did that of his predecessor, and he enjoyed the same respect and admiration. He himself has had the Imperial Service Order conferred on him, and promotion to the Civil Service.

These two officers, so like one another in every respect, differed in regard to their recreation after retirement. Mr. Christoffelsz used to be seen on Galle Face in the early mornings taking his constitutional. Mr. de la Harpe, on the other hand, is satisfied with a less strenuous form of exercise. He spends his evenings at his Club playing a quiet game of Bridge, for which he has a great partiality. No one will suspect that he has now reached the age of seventy-six years, so full of youthful vigour is he. His numerous friends will wish him many more years of quiet usefulness.

THE Rt. Rev. A. R. Graham-Campbell, Bishop of Colombo, who is at present on a holiday in England has, according to a recent arrival in London who met him after service at All Saints', Margaret Street, on Maundy Thursday, already greatly benefited by the rest and change. The Bishop expects to return to Ceylon in July.

A WIDE circle of friends must have mourned the recent passing of Paul de Costa, a popular figure in the Fort for many years and one who had been closely and very successfully associated with Ceylon racing. A genial companion, Paul



The late Mr. Paul de Costa

de Costa, always so smartly clad, was best known to people who frequented the Colombo harbour. He was head of the Firm of Paul de Costa & Son who had been associated with Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie and the P. & O. Company for over 125 years. For many years he was in partnership with his uncle, the late Mr. Fred Abeysondera, whose string of race horses he trained with marked success. Among his biggest successes were those gained with Lassitude, who won the Lawyers' Cup in the then record time of 1 min. 42 sec. for the mile. Other winning horses that he trained included Swari, Milton, Mrs. Murphy and Harmonic, who once paid out a record dividend

of Rs. 1,044 at Galle. He also trained Negro, who was owned by Mr. Mace :—M for Mack, (Dr. Garvin Mack), A for Alles, (J. M. Alles), C for Costa and E for Ephraims (Arthur Ephraims), and won the Southern Cup.

MR. JOHN R. MURRAY, Director, Messrs. Bosanquet & Skrine, Ltd., and Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, will be leaving for the U.K. on a holiday with Mrs. Murray by the "Orion" early next week. During his absence from the Island for six months, Mr. R. P. L. Ross will act as Chairman of the Chamber. Their many friends will wish Mr. and Mrs. Murray a pleasant holiday.

MR. FRANK J. M. de Mel, Proprietary Planter, and Mrs. de Mel sailed for Europe early last week by the "Stratheden" and will be away for six months. They will spend two weeks in Italy as Mrs. de Mel is keen on visiting the Art Galleries in Florence. While in England Mr. de Mel will be witnessing all the five Test matches between England and Australia and he is also looking forward to the Royal Agricultural Show to be held in July, at Blackpool, where he will study the modern machinery on exhibition. Incidentally it should be mentioned that Mr. de Mel was a winner of several prizes at the various Cattle Shows held in Ceylon.

DR. F. J. T. FOENANDER, who is visiting England after twenty-one years, and Mrs. Foenander are also travelling by the "Stratheden." A member of the Thomian cricket eleven in his day, Dr. Foenander is still very keen on the game and he is looking forward to seeing the Test match to be played in June at Lord's.

MR. M. R. SIVARAMAKRISHNAN, an experienced journalist, arrived in Colombo to assume duties as Information Officer to the Indian High Commissioner's Office in Ceylon. He served for several years with the Indian Express chain of newspapers and also was Information Officer attached to the publicity section of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs.

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THE INLAND WATERWAYS OF CEYLON

By MAJOR R. RAVEN-HART

WHEN the British took over Ceylon from the Dutch, they inherited over 100 miles of inland navigation, Kalutara to Kalpitiya. Many writers claim the credit for the short artificial parts of that waterway for the Dutch: it is a very doubtful claim.

For the section from Colombo to Negombo there is no room even for doubt: this part was in use during Portuguese times. Barradas tells for 1613 how "near Colombo the Fathers embarked on a canal by which they entered into the River Calane, and going down this, they proceeded into another canal as narrow as shady," and so came to Negombo. It was still in use in early Dutch days, before the fall of Colombo to them: Behr writes in 1646 of traffic on it.

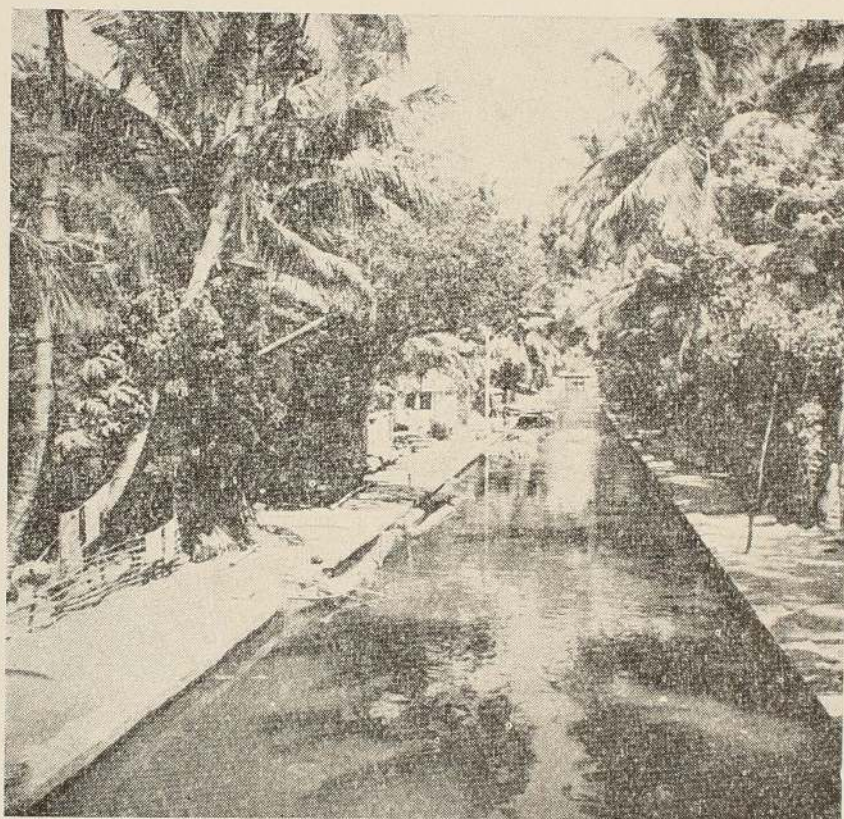
From Negombo to the Maha Oya at Toppu, there is less certainty, although Behr again writes of its use by boats: and it is most improbable that the Dutch would have already built this section, since at that date they had been in sure possession of Negombo itself for less than two years.

* * *

BEYOND there, nothing has been traced for the Dutch period. Very little has, in fact, been written on Ceylon's inland waterways: an article by Mottan (sic: it should be Mottau) in the University of Ceylon Review for April, 1947, is outstanding.

Nor can anything definite be stated for the section from the Kelani southwards to Bolgoda lake, although Governor Van Imhoff referred to part of it as "Portuguese," which must mean at least "pre-Dutch." Most of it is natural, needing improvement at most: upstream from the lovely entry just by the Victoria Bridge towards the Kotte Lake, downstream by another lake-overflow to Havelock Park, thence upstream again most of the way to the Bolgoda Lake. From there Nature again provided the route, first by this ramified lake, then by a delta-arm of the Kalu Ganga which flowed into the south end of it.

In all those hundred miles I doubt if there are 15 which are artificial cuts rather than improved rivers. And if those cuts are not Dutch, are they Portuguese? For the Colombo-Negombo section, no again, if Portuguese Queyroz of 1685 can be trusted: he gives the credit for them to Parakrama Bahu VIII, father of the king ruling at Kotte when



The Hamilton Canal: South of the Negombo Lagoon with logs and bamboos and a canoe.

the Portuguese arrived; and if he is wrong, it at least means that he recognized it as pre-Portuguese.

* * *

PERSONALLY, I believe that all the waterway from Colombo northwards, and probably also southwards, was Sinhalese in origin, and very much earlier than the date given by Queyroz. After all, the engineers who could lay out and build those astounding irrigation-canalns were surely capable of ten-mile navigation-cuts; and such cuts are, in fact, far easier to plan and to build, since no fall is necessary or, in fact, desirable—any ditch will do, in flat, swampy country such as this.

That is a personal opinion: the only support for it that I can offer is a third-hand quotation, from Abu Zeyd via Rainaud via Tennent (his Reinaud translation not being avail-

able to me, and the one by Renaudot not including the passage). Abu Zeyd wrote (says Tennent) of an inland voyage in Ceylon lasting for weeks, along the "Gobbs," as he calls the linked lagoons: a pleasant voyage, he says, in "valleys long and wide, open to the sea," and under overhanging trees (which suggests a narrow waterway, at least in part), with good food and good drink, arrack mingled with honey—honest chronicler if bad Moslem.

And Abu Zeyd made that voyage six centuries before the date given by Queyroz for that waterway, well over a thousand years ago.

* * *

WHEN the British took over, there existed also another short waterway from the Bentota Ganga to Galle: this may well have been Dutch, from the times when Galle took on a sudden importance as their capital. Some say that this route linked onwards with the Kalu Ganga, that it was possible to go by boat from Galle to Colombo and to Kalpitiya. It is very improbable: in 1740 Van Imhoff was flirting with the idea of a short canal to link a tributary of the Bentota Ganga to a tributary of the Kalu Ganga, which would have been unnecessary had some other link existed; and his proposed cut was apparently never made. He also proposed another short section, from Kalutara southwards to near Maggona: this seems to have been carried out, but was in any case little

but the improvement of an existing delta-arm.

Probably the Portuguese maintained the canals they found: certainly the Dutch did so: certainly the British did not. Campbell, in charge at Galle in early British days, lamented their "very impolitic neglect" of the water-way system. It was allowed to deteriorate: in 1820 Winslow was able to go by boat from Colombo to Negombo, but then had to make a nine-mile portage (she uses the Canadian-French word). Then she went on by boat again, beyond Chilaw, enjoying the trip: after a swim, "I find that frequent bathing is very necessary to health in this country," she writes for her New York readers, "and you cannot conceive how pleasant it is. I wonder that it is not more practised in America."

(Continued on page 36)

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THE SINIGAMA DEVALE AT HIKKADUWA

By C. M. AUSTIN de SILVA

(Secretary and Librarian, Colombo Museum)

LOCATED in the sea, about two miles from the shore, is the Sinigama Devale at Hikkaduwa, which is reputed as the sacred fane of Devol Deviyo. The surging waves dash on all sides of the rock on which the Devale stands. It is a small shrine with walls built of rock ; and it is strange, that no image of the god is found within this sanctuary. By the side of the Devale, two coconut palms rise into the air, with their leafy crowns fluttering in the strong wind, and they help to locate the Devale from the shore. People, who visit the shrine to implore the favours of Devol Deviyo, get there by boat. At one time the rock formed a part of the neighbouring land. A tidal wave swept over the place, submerging a great extent of the seaboard, save the rock on which the Devale stood. And so the sacred fane of Devol Deviyo came to be severed from the mainland. The kapuralas who officiate in the Devale dwell nearly the seashore, in close proximity to the shrine. For centuries they have been the custodians of the Sinigama Devale, and the sacred office of kapurala of Devol Deviyo has been confined to the members of their family circle.

* * *

DEVOL Deviyo is a most awe-inspiring deity, inflicting his vengeance and punishment on cattle-lifters, house burglars and jewellery thieves. People, who have been so robbed, pray to Devol calling down curses on the miscreants. In doing so, they grind pepper at his shrine. To grind pepper at the Sinigama Devale is a most dreadful act, which is certain to bring down the vengeance of the god followed by disease, sorrow, mental agony, and even death itself. From the kapuralas of the Devale and the people around Sinigama, one is able to gather many a woeful tale of the deadly manner in which Devol Deviyo worked his vengeance.

It is narrated in the Vahal Devol Kavi that the god was born in the Vadiga land from whence he came to Ceylon with a mighty retinue in

seven ships. Their ships got wrecked and they drifted about for seven days. Then a stone raft was provided in which they were swiftly transported to Ceylon. The sea-goddess Mudu Mani-mekhalava and the four Guardian Gods of the Universe helped them in their journey to Ceylon. It is said that they sighted Adam's Peak and attempted to land at Panadura and Gonagala, but were prevented from doing so by the gods. Then they proceeded to Sinigama, where the Goddess Gini Pattini created seven walls of fire to obstruct them. Devol Deviyo devoured the fire and managed to land at Sinigama, where a shrine was built and dedicated to him. And he came to be known as Alut Bandara Deviyo. It is mentioned that on visiting Kalugan-ala, the god cut some plantain bark which he threw into the water and sat upon it. And lo ! it spouted into trees and blossomed forth in seven days. That miracle was perpetuated by naming the place "Kehel-gomuva" or "Plantain Village."

* * *

THE legend of Devol Deviyo as recorded in the Devol-yadonna mentions the god rising from the ashes of Bhasmasura, who was burnt to death. He and six other gods including Teda Kurumbura, Mal Kurumbura, Vata Kurumbura and Kalu Kurumbura set sail for Lanka in seven ships. They were shipwrecked and reached Ceylon with great difficulty. To prevent their landing, Pattini created even mountains of fire. Trampling down the fiery barriers, they came ashore and visited Panadura, Iddagama, Madagama, Sinigama and Udugampitiya.

One version of the Devol-baga Kavi records that Siddha Pattini gave him the power to exercise authority in Ceylon. He heals diseases and has the power to run over fire. The god has his sanctuaries at Pasbaga, Kehelgomuva, Kotmalaya, Samanala, Nuwara Eliya and Gavara Eliya. Another version of this poem describes Devol Deviyo, wearing a red blanket round his waist, pearl orna-

ments; and a shawl over the shoulders. He is described as fanning himself with a cloth of gold and dancing near the Maha Meru Rock with a golden bangle in his hand.

* * *

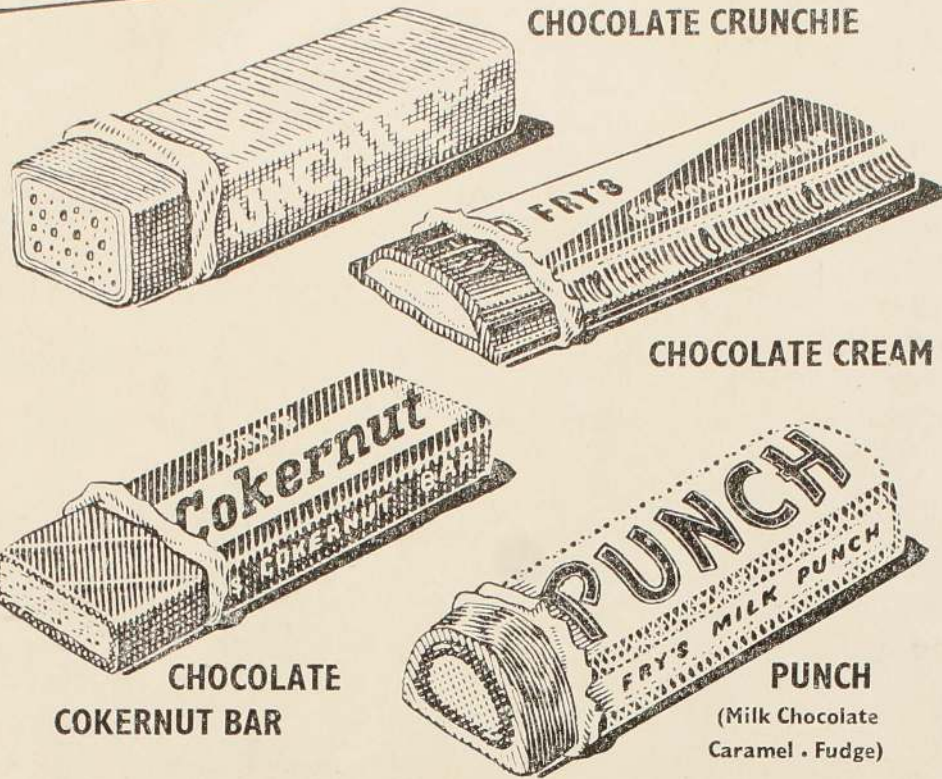
DEVOL Deviyo is associated with a series of sacred dances. The "Maha-devel-vidiya" records an exorcistic ritual representing Devol Deviyo by a torch on the right, and Giri Kurumbara by one on the left. The celebrant carries in his right hand the god's bangle with which he is said to have danced on the crystal rock beyond the Himalayas. The Devol Devi Natima describes a sacred dance on hot charcoal, and mentions the arrival of the god in Ceylon, crossing the Seven Seas. The Pandama-kima mentions the blazing fires created by Pattini to prevent his landing in Ceylon. Devol Deviyo then leaped into the flames and performed the "fire-dance" or "gini keli." The Devol-devi-yadonna is a hymn associated with the Devol gods, and is sung to accompany a sacred dance performed in their honour. The "gini-pagana" ceremony conducted during the celebrations of a Gam Maduva commemorates Devol Deviyo's miraculous feat of trampling the raging flames created by Pattini, when he attempted to land at Sinigama.

* * *

THE formal invocation to Devol Deviyo as recorded in the Mal Yahan Kavi teems with eulogistic phrases in praise of the god. It is a solemn chant intoned by Kapuralas on behalf of those supplicating the favours of Devol Deviyo. The chant runs in the following strain : "O Lord radiant with the refulgence of the moon, and resplendent like the glorious sun ; O Lord of boundless fame ; Thou art blessed with manifold graces by the gods above. Thou didst come from Pulupara Desa to this land bringing with thee seven ships loaded with goods. And a storm arose in the sea and the ships were wrecked. By the power of thy merits the sea goddess Manimekhala came to succour thee. She caused seven rafts of stone to rise from the waters of the deep. And thou didst come with thy retinue on the stone rafts, to the shores of Lanka. When thou didst attempt to land at Sinigama, the Goddess Pattini


(Continued on page 31)

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THE MALAYAN TAPIR

By S. V. O. SOMANADER, F.Z.S.

THE Malayan Tapir (*Tapirus malayanus*), figured in the illustration, was some years ago one of the most prized additions to the Zoological Gardens in Ceylon. Receiving rice and milk in its captive condition for breakfast, it showed considerable attachment to its keeper, but the cruel hand of fate had snatched it away, leaving all who loved it the poorer by its loss.

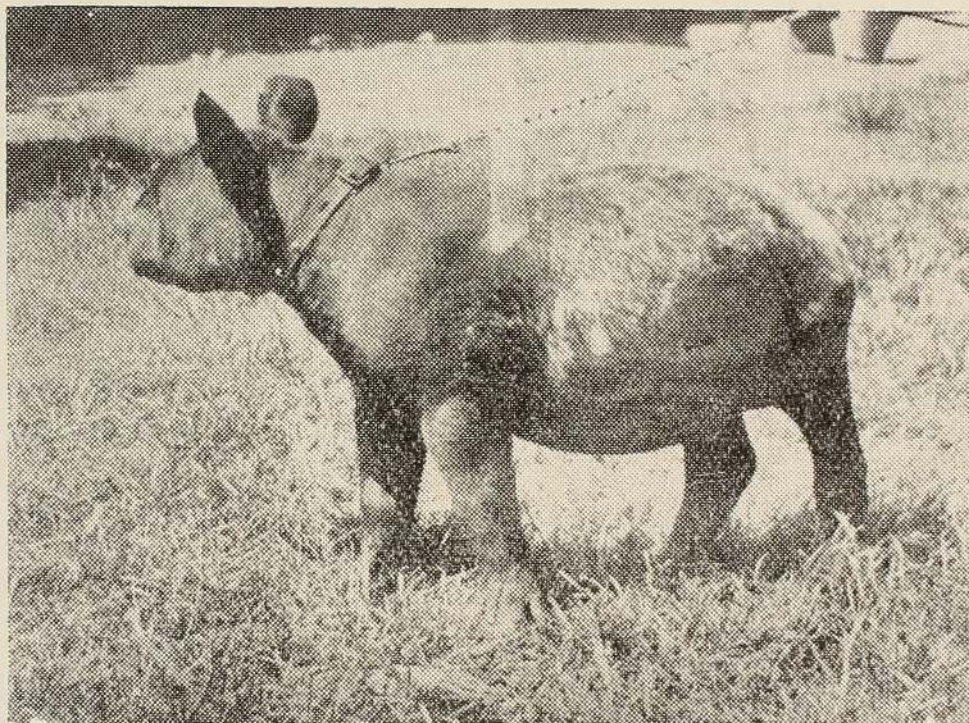
Its sudden death, alleged to have been due to poisoning, came as a shock even to those of us who were very interested in it. A post-mortem held on the body of the animal could not reveal to the "vet" how it came by its death, but it was later reported that the Government analyst, to whom the abdominal organs were forwarded for examination, found white arsenic in its stomach. And, though the Zoo Superintendent and the C.I.D. left no stone unturned to solve the mystery, their prolonged investigations have not been successful.

But be that as it may, there is no doubt that this queer creature—the "Peter Pan" of the pachyderms—was shy, solitary and gentle in nature. Further, it was regarded as a living fossil belonging to the only species found in Malaya, Java, Borneo and Sumatra.

* * *

THERE is, of course, another species—the American Tapir—which is found, inhabiting in large numbers, the densely-forested areas that fringe the banks of rivers in Central and South America. It is said that the jaguar is the worst enemy of this tapir upon which it often springs, grabbing it with its claws. But the victim dislodges its foe by rushing through the bushes immediately in order to brush the jaguar off against the thick branches. At other times, we are told it takes to the water to force the enemy to relinquish its prey

With small eyes and a stumpy tail, and a fat body supported on short legs, the Malayan tapir is a curious sight. But what is even more remarkable is its queer snout lengthened into a kind of "proboscis" like the trunk of an elephant. This snout, however, has no finger-like appendage at the extremity as elephants possess, although the nostrils, like the elephant's are placed at the end. And by means of this funny, short, movable trunk, the tapir is able to convey its food in pretty much the same way as elephants do. It



The Malayan Tapir which died at the Zoo some years ago.

—Photo by S.V.O.S.

is not a little interesting to watch the animal do it.

A full-grown tapir stands about four feet at the withers. Being a representative of one of the oldest of living mammals, it can be regarded as one of nature's curiosities, forming a connecting link between the elephant and the hog—and a not-distant relation of the horse, and even the rhinoceros.

* * *

IN their wild state, tapirs, which inhabit the inmost recesses of the dense tropical forests of South-east Asia, are nocturnal in habit, feeding on vegetable substances, and relishing wild gourds, water-melons, green shoots and grass. And, being possessed of a thick hide, they can

easily dash through the brushwood, breaking their way through obstacles to find their food or escape an enemy. They are also very fond of water, and would often resort to it to take refuge when pursued. Not infrequently, they would even plunge into it to walk along the bottom instead of swimming. Not only that, but they could remain below the surface for a considerable period. No wonder that, in view of the tapir's aquatic habit, the Malaysians call it "kuda-ayar," which means a "river-horse."

The colour of the adult tapir is a deep sooty black, but, as a contrast to this, the back and flanks are greyish-white, so much so that, at a distance it looks as though the hinder part of the animal has been muffled up in a white sheet or "horse-cloth"; or that someone had played a practical joke on the beast by painting its loins and hindquarters white.

* * *

TAPIRS produce only one young at a birth, and though it was not known what at the age of the deceased Zoo specimen was, it is said that the average life of a tapir, which is regarded as a most delicate animal, is only seven years. The baby tapir looks lovely in its velvety black coat marked with spots and

longitudinal streaks of brownish-yellow, which set off the white underneath.

Although tapirs possess an individuality of their own, they can be readily tamed and can be affectionate, as the Zoo tapir revealed. For in offensive was its disposition, and even when annoyed, it would not rush at its keeper to bite him with its powerful teeth, as will tapirs would at an antagonist in the Malaya-sian jungles. Though it is stated that the tapir's hide is put to several uses by the natives, it is said that its flesh is dry and tasteless—and "not worth the trouble of cooking."

That does not make the tapir, however, any the less an interesting animal, be it wild or in its captive state.

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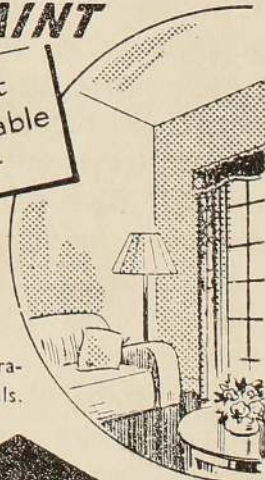
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CRICKETING DAYS—XIII.

By W. T. GRESWELL

(Fortnightly Review Special)

THE outbreak of war in August, 1914, perhaps did not at once strike Ceylon, at so great a distance from the seat of trouble, with that degree of shock and bewilderment which brought all Europe to a shuddering standstill. But the deepening shadow lengthened and quickly spread Eastwards. The "sun" was indeed in total eclipse and in Ceylon too the hum of life was stilled as uncertainty invited questions which could not be answered. Games and recreation and the restful evening hours at the Clubs became but empty shells of what they were. Cricket too came to an end, for the game cannot be played in "bad light" and many players had gone to take part in a sterner test.

* * *

IN June, 1915, I left Colombo and, by previous arrangement reported to Sir "Plum" Warner at a War Office recruiting centre for officers. I was given a commission in the Somerset Light Infantry. Warner kindly arranged for me to do my officers training course at Oxford which he recommended as the best course in England. Eventually I found myself appointed Platoon Commander of the Balliol College platoon, a doubtful privilege as I had never worn uniform before and knew no words of command. In perilous addition and by strange coincidence W. B. Burns, the Worcester cricketer, was a member of the platoon, having already been "to the front" as a private and having now received a commission. Billy was a delightful and spirited companion ready for any adventure. He enjoyed life very much both on and off parade but did not seem to regard Army discipline in either state as even remotely acceptable. In my capacity of Platoon Commander he caused me several moments of acute embarrassment made worse by our mutual cricketing background! In another College platoon was Ernie Hayes the Surrey cricketer. The course lasted seven weeks after which we were posted to our Regiments. Our parades and much of our training took place in the Oxford "Parks"

and, if it was desecration to "advance in extended order" across the famous cricket ground or to practise digging trenches just beyond the boundary line it was symbolic. For let it be claimed that more playing fields than those of Eton helped to win battles far greater than Waterloo in those bitter years.

* * *

AS these memoirs are confined to cricket for the most part no more need be said than that, during my three years absence from Ceylon, I played in four games only and these were far from serious matters, though strange experiences where men turned their backs on Armageddon for a while and were grateful for a reminder of things belonging to Peace so long in coming. I played in one match at Oxford, one in Belgium and two in France. One of these games took place in conditions that were rough and none too peaceful. The ground was the site of the wagon lines of a Brigade of Artillery "in the Line."

Before the match took any shape it had to be abandoned under the order of the senior officer "on parade" (Not guilty!) A spoilsport Teuton in an enemy observation balloon, riding high aloft some miles away must have reported "suspicious enemy movements." The first spell burst well, outside our "ground," the second indicated that the third would achieve an artilleryman's ambition, known in his trade as a "bracket," in our's middle stump! So we dispersed with that unhurried show of feigned indifference peculiar to such occasions. It was a rare case too of sudden termination of play without an umpire's decision being invited.

* * *

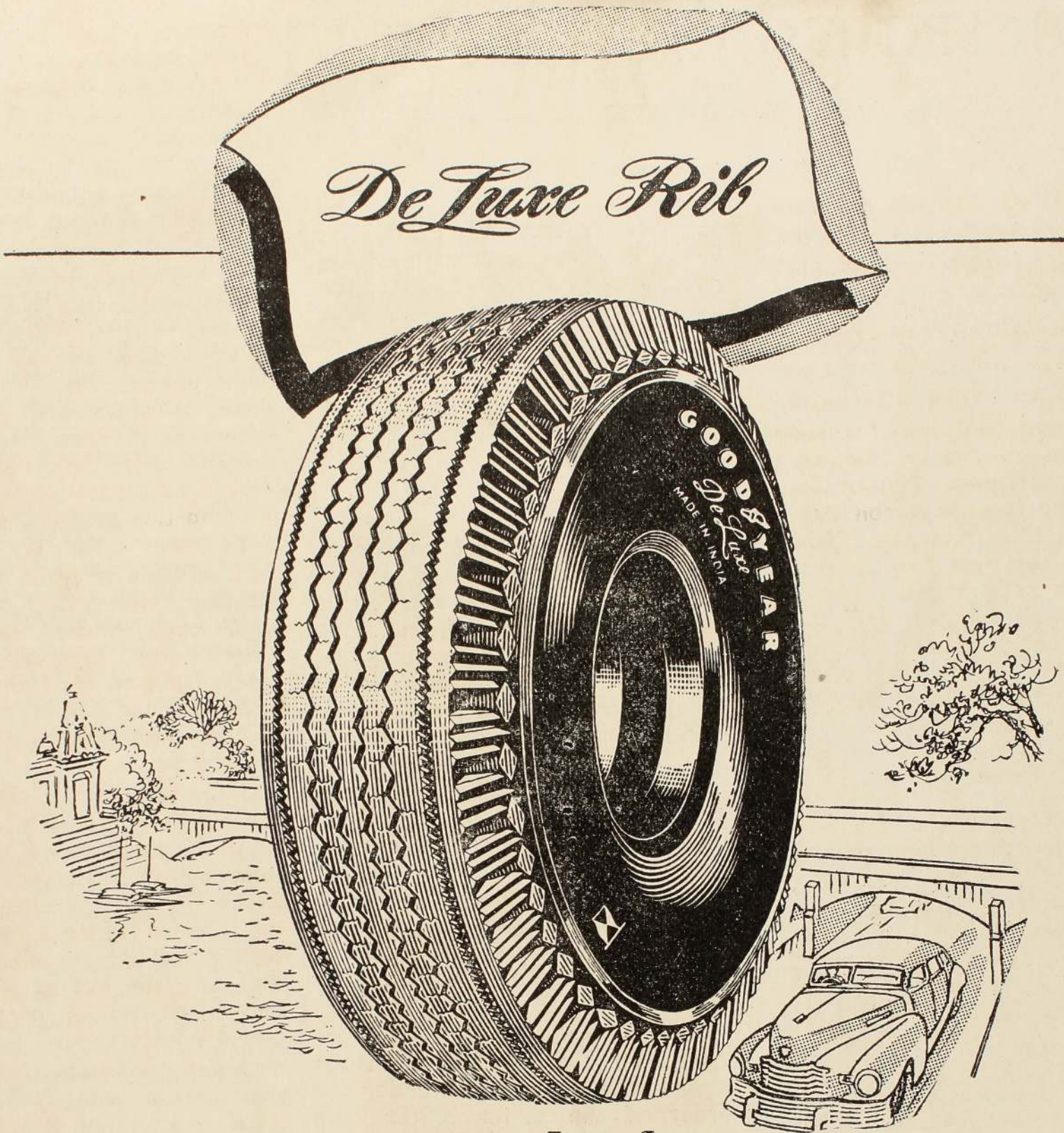
IN another match under more peaceful conditions I played for an Army Headquarters against a nearby training school. I remember this game for the fact that I was given a spell of bowling with indifferent success and then banished to the deep-field, a novel experience

for one who always fields in the slips and a salutary reminder that the Army is no respecter of persons. The field was a large one and, in attempting a very long throw-in, I tore the muscle chiefly concerned with such propulsion. Sadly did I recall a year or two previously at the C.H. & F. C. Sports winning "Throwing the cricket ball" with 105½ yards. I still have a silver ink-stand to show for it, sulking in neglect in this age of ball-point pens. Incidentally that torn muscle and a broken nose caused by a high-flung ammunition boot during a game of Soccer were my only War wounds!

* * *

THE more impressive of these war games was for the purpose, I was told, of settling a bet between the Commanders of two adjacent Corps and I made mention of it in a former "Cricketana." We rapidly routed our opponents, thanks to the bowling wiles of South Africa's famous S. J. Pegler. I associate this match with an off-stage incident of Ceylon flavour, for, just before play started, I was accosted by the one and only A. L. (Toby) Gibson. He was wearing, I think, Rifle Brigade uniform, and had come to watch the match. This meeting brought sharply to my memory the surroundings in which I shall always picture this greatest of Ceylon's European sportsmen: thoughts of Radella and Darrawella, sunk in folded hills of lush green tea, the sound of the early morning muster horn and the tang of wood smoke hanging on the dawn air. No doubt if Toby were alive and read these lines he might rudely reject such sentiment and ask if I did not also remember the gay evenings at the Club after close of play! Of course I do, but I heard the muster horn all the same and, though on occasions hard put to it, smelt the fragrance of that smoke!

I was thankful to be out of uniform and demobilized in January, 1919. Three months later I was given a repatriation passage to Ceylon in S/S "Warwickshire" still wearing her grey war paint and, as a troopship, filled mostly with buoyant "diggers" en route to Australia. Never, in my experience of several returns to Ceylon was I more grateful for the prospect of her peaceful haven so far removed from the alternate storm and tempest and soul searing boredom of the First World War.



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By ITINERANT

RACING

FESTIVAL KING, Mr. P. Samsudeen's chestnut son of Pylon II, got the better of quite a stylish field to win the Nuwara Eliya Cup on the second day of the Nuwara Eliya Meet. Much of the credit for this win must go to Willie Silva who handled his mount expertly. Three first favourites obliged on this day of fluctuating fortunes. Master Gamin, for some strange reason neglected, won the Kotagala Plate Division I to pay over five to one. Harbutt, who rode Master Gamin to victory over Fairpair and the favourite, Karun, completed the only jockey's double of the day when he brought Royal Eagle in first to win the April Handicap.

* * *

EASIEST victory of the day was that of the hottest favourite of the day—Pantomime Star who, with jockey Cook practically lounging in the saddle, cake-walked the Pedro Stakes. Masrur, a good-looking newcomer, made a winning debut in the Moon Plain Stakes, Division II. An animal for your notebook, this. Once again the starting was most satisfactory, and punters as well as all others concerned had reason to be grateful to Major Gulliland, the C.T.C.'s new official.

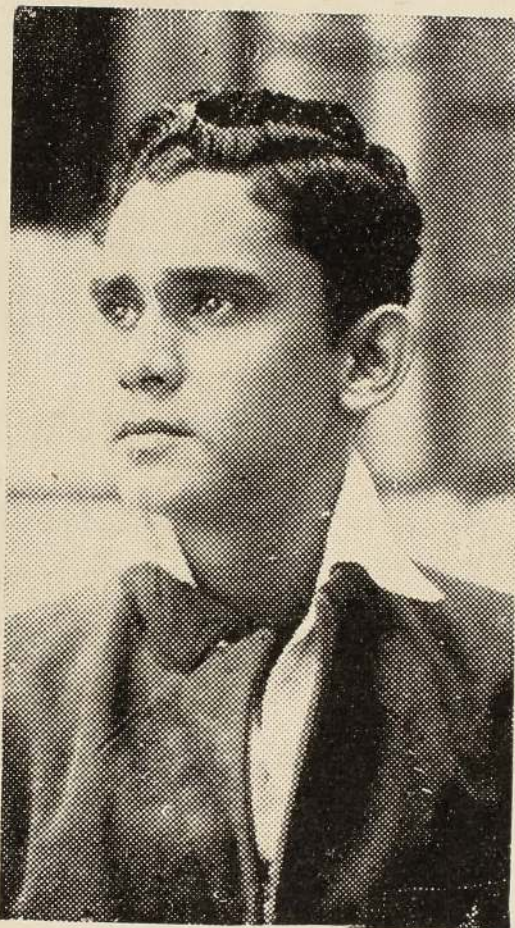
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THE Stewards, I am glad to note, wasted no time in inquiring into two cases of questionable riding on rather, one case of bad riding and another concerning a frivolous objection. Both jockeys were warned.

* * *

MAIN event on the third day of the Meet, the Tom Wilson Plate, was won in dashing style by Messrs. S. R. de Silva and K. Adamaly's O.B.E. who, cleverly ridden by Stead, made a well-timed spurt to win from Way to Paradise and War Admiral. An objection lodged by the rider of Way to Paradise was rejected by the Stewards. Madison, an early leader, will undoubtedly profit by this outing and should not be neglected next time he runs.

IT almost seemed as if Victor Ludorum was aware that he was favourite to win the Nanuoya Plate, and, intoxicated with excitement, threw jockey Alf Smith at the barrier, pranced round the course twice, and was withdrawn for his trouble. The race was won by Mr. Jayaprithi's Peri Gal, Somapala bringing her through strongly to beat the early leaders Pink Lightning, and La Fleche II.



M. Spittel

—Times Photo

JOCKEY MACKENZIE scored his first win in the Island when he booted home a vastly improved London Wall in the senior division of the Ramboda Plate. It was, generally, a good day for Ceylonese riders, in particular Baldwin Perera who rode two good winners in Al Ajdal and Ajib London.

* * *

CEYLON OWNERS' WIN

SENATOR Sir Donatus Victoria, that very popular and tremendously enthusiastic Ceylon sportsman, is to be congratulated on the success of his three-year-old colt, Kithyra, who won the first race of the Newmarket flat season. A thrilling race it was, and a splendid victory: to Sir Donatus's many well-wishers a happy occasion altogether.

CRICKET

MALCOLM Spittel's devastating return to form and physical fitness has changed the complexion of the closing stages of the P. Saravanamuttu Trophy tournament. The B.R.C., having vanquished the N.C.C. and S.S.C. at home, and with only the N.C.C. (away) and Tamils to play, looked to be easy a winner, particularly as the N.C.C. held no bowling terrors. Then Spittel came back to take all ten wickets for them against the Tamils, moving them quickish and both ways. Veteran G. S. Hubert, and C. Saravanamuttu, alone held out against his wiles; but these two alone could not hold the bridge and the Tamils went down.

N.C.C. did it again, this time in the Daily News Cup championship which they clinched, defeating the "dark horse" Saracens with absurd ease. Douglas Maclean, just back from England, used his left-arm medium pace bowling to advantage taking 6 for 24.

Unpredictable cricket! That Nalanda-Ananda duel which, according to the prophets was a dull, drawn game before it started, turned out to be the most exciting match in the inter-collegiate series, climaxed with a real story-book finish. The facts and the figures are too well-known to repeat here, but the memory lingers on.

Under conditions bordering on the farcical, the N.C.C. and the B.R.C. met in their P. Saravanamuttu Trophy engagement, and in less than four hours the game was over. It was unfortunate that so important a game should have been played at all in such conditions.

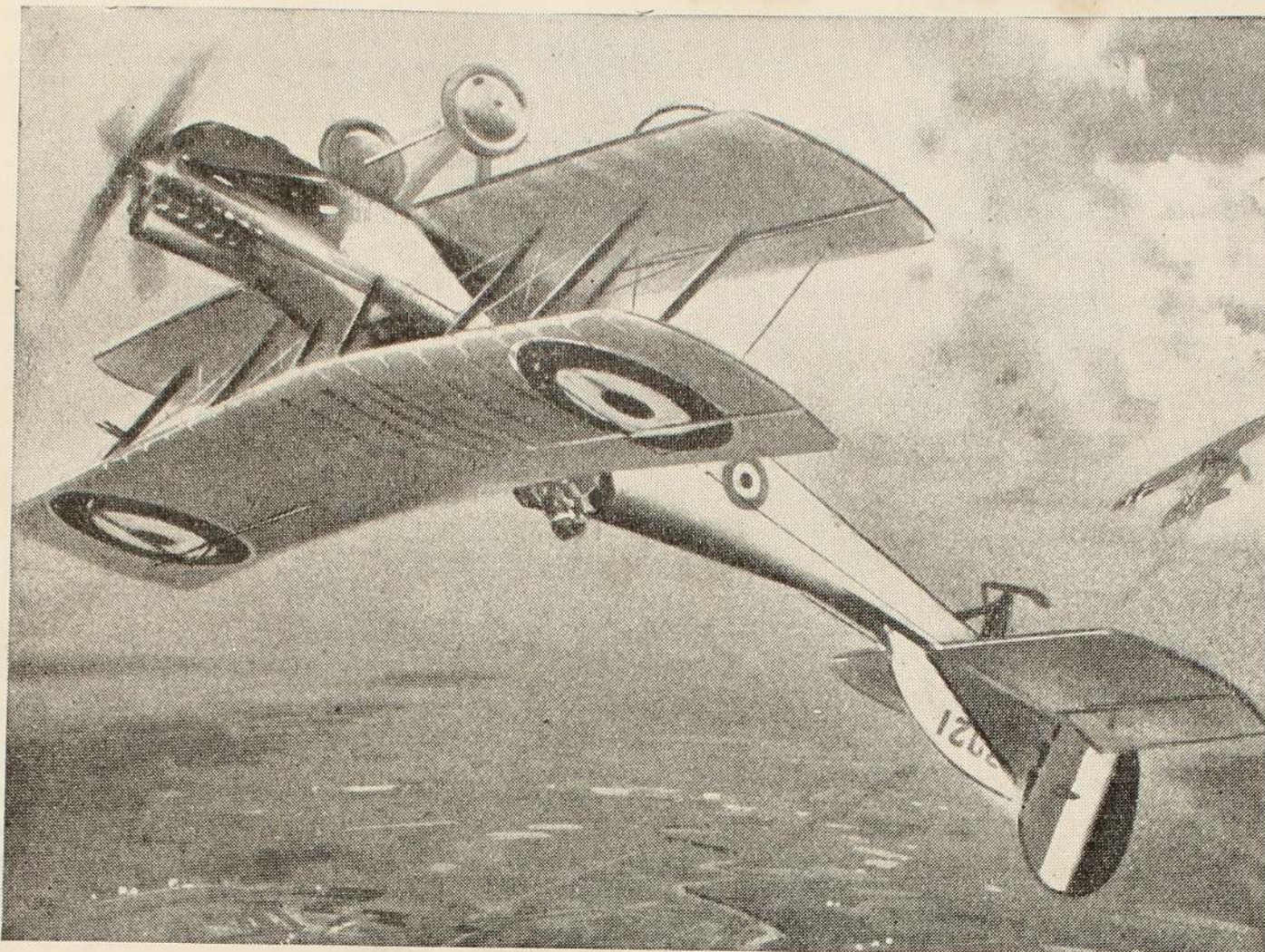
However, the game proved most exciting, and the N.C.C.'s total of 43 runs was enough to give them the victory by 7 runs. The bowling on both sides was steady, while both teams gave good exhibitions of fielding on marshy ground. But the batting . . .

* * *

SOCCER

IT is now more than likely that a team of "crack" Bangalore footballers will tour Ceylon in the near future and play about six matches here. This team will be made up of the best players now turning out for Hindustan Aircraft S.C. and Bangalore Sporting Club—two top-notch clubs in the district. The former, Bangalore league champions

(Continued on page 31)



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FOR THE MOTORIST

By COXON

THE Mahagastota Hill Climb, as predicted, provided motoring enthusiasts with everything they could ask for—speed, exhibition of perfect control, thrills, and the satisfaction of seeing budding talent ripen and burst into full flower. But what was not predicted, and what the organisers are to be congratulated on, was the good organisation which made this a meet to remember.

In perfect weather, and on a painstakingly improved road surface, old records tumbled and new ones soared like mercury in a tube in a furnace. And what little of this wonderful morning's sport could not be seen by some was clearly heard by all, thanks to a commentary the type of which we hear too seldom in Ceylon. The bouquet goes to Gordon Graham.

* * *

ONE needs more space than that provided here in which to give praise wherever praise is due. So one must content oneself with the stray recollection, the memory that lingered. For example, Allan Clarke (J.A.P. "Aries Special") clocking 49.1 secs. to break the lap record; Wally de Zylva (Peugeot) winning his stock car event with more planning than power, and infinitely more subtlety than were speed; and the records built up and broken in the Racing Car class.

* * *

BIG moment of the meet, in my opinion, was when youthful Tony Brookes clocked 55.5 in his T.C. to break the Sports Car record. This very accomplished young driver also ill-treated our nerves and scalps with a screaming skid at Cemetery Bend.

A. E. F. Filby, though I've seen him drive better, was still good enough to win the Wakefield Challenge Trophy to the fastest time of the day—47.7 secs. Brooks and de Zylva won the trophies for the best sports and stock car times respectively, and Allan Clarke the Garth Challenge Trophy.

SPORTS CAUSERIE

(Continued from page 29)

last year, are assured of the title this year, too, with the latter as runners-up. I understand that if the Indian Amateur Football Federation gives its formal sanction the tour is a certainty.

Talking of football the Police, already high up in hockey and cricket, qualified for the A. A. Perera Cup final by defeating Colombo Port Commission in the Government Service Knock-out Soccer tourney. It was a solitary goal, by left-winger Somapala, that did it, but the Police (holders) displayed better understanding and had more of the exchanges. And this despite the absence of a number of their regulars! A bouquet, too, to Halim Deen for his grand goal-keeping. Here is an agile, courageous player with hair-trigger anticipation and hands like the vault of a bank.

* * *

TENNIS

GEORGE ERNST, brother of Ceylon's Davis Cup representative, won the men's singles title at Bandarawela in no uncertain manner, dictating terms to Jayawickrema after an evenly matched but brief preliminary skirmish. Taking top honours, though, at this meet which has taken the place of the Nuwara Eliya tourney, is Miss Ranjani Jayasuriya who covered herself in glory winning the triple crown. In the singles final she defeated the previous holder, Mrs. C. Wright, in straight sets. The issue was never in doubt. In the women's doubles the sisters, Mrs W. L. Rutnam and Mrs. Direckze did very well indeed to reach the finals, but even their fine understanding and consistency were no match for Ranjani and her partner, Kusuma Gunawardana, who won through in straight sets. Then, partnered by Jayawickrema in the mixed event, Ranjani won her third title, but not without stiff opposition from Mrs. Rutnam and E. Rajapakse.

In this meet—a very successful one from every aspect but the weather—one saw a great deal of talent ripening, and most of it at the bottom of the tree. But, if I may continue the metaphor, some of it was "forced ripe" and revealed an absence of cultivation and pruning. It did, however, provide our tennis officials an opportunity of selecting

a fair number for immediate attention and grooming—an opportunity which, I hope, will not be allowed to go a'begging.

* * *

THE FLEET'S IN

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" and H.M.N.Z.S. "Black Prince" swept into Port and breezed through our playing fields the other week with more enthusiasm than method, but nevertheless afforded the city's sporting public a great deal of enjoyment. These two ship companies engaged local clubs in cricket, hockey, water polo and rigger, and they played with great gusto. At rigger they proved their superiority, the "Black Prince" defeating C.H. and F.C. and the "Sydney" proving too strong for Anderson S.C. At hockey, cricket and water polo they were more light-hearted and were consequently drubbed—an occurrence which failed utterly to extinguish their high spirits.

* * *

GOLF

"PIN" FERNANDO, Ceylon's All-India golf champion, won the Nuwara Eliya Golf Club gold medal in better style than I've seen displayed by him in a long while. An impeccable home journey in 32 was responsible for this fairly easy victory. Fernando took 70 for the 18 holes—one under bogey—while J. M. D. Strong, who was runner-up, returned a card of 76. Len Sawyer, definitely nowhere near his best, returned a (for him) poor 78.

G. D. Nicholl, who must now be tasting Olympian nectar, and who is playing really grand golf, won the singles versus bogey event and with M. J. Robinson, the four-ball foursomes, 5 up. The ladies' medal competition was won by Mrs. G. D. Nicholl. The family mantlepiece is doing nicely, thank you.

THE SINIGAMA DEWALE AT HIKKADUWA

(Continued from page 23)

created seven mountains of fire and obstructed thee saying, "I will not allow the demons coming from the sea to land on the shores of Lanka." Swallowing the blazing fires, thou camest ashore. Believing in the truth of these incidents associated with thy miraculous power, we implore thee, O Lord, and prevail upon thy compassion and mercy to succour us, and grant us thy divine favours."



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MUSIC

— By ETUDE —

THE Festival of Arts organised by the Arts Council in connection with the Colombo Exhibition held last year is to be made into an annual event, they say, when Queen Elizabeth visits Ceylon in April next year. Preparations are already afoot.

The Festival will include dance recitals, concerts, arts and crafts exhibitions, and film shows. It is intended to hold a full dress rehearsal before the end of this year.

Mr. J. D. A. Perera has been asked for suggestions regarding the building of an open air theatre in Victoria Park, on the lines of the theatre built last year for the Colombo Exhibition dance recitals. It is the opinion of the President of the Arts Council, Sir Richard Aluwihare, that as many shows as possible should be held in the open air, impressed by the use made in this direction of the Regent Park in London.

The 13 panels of the Arts Council have been asked to submit programmes. The deciding date has been fixed by the Council for April 21st.

As recording and filming will be done as well as "live" recitals, the Folk Songs and Folk Dancing panel has decided to acquire its own wire recorder and cine-camera. Radio Ceylon, the Ceylon Folklore Society, and the Rural Development Department will collaborate.

What is also of great interest is that the Western Music panel will discuss a scheme for sponsoring recitals and concerts by artists of international reputation, on the level of the Cassado and Kentner concerts held recently. A major item in the fruition of this proposal will be the acquisition of a concert grand piano, of which there is at present not one of the quality required, in either public or private possession. This has made a serious difficulty, so far, in organising concerts of this nature.

* * *

PROFESSOR LUDOWYK, in an interview given to the "Times of Ceylon," said that the purpose of the Arts Council was, broadly speaking, "to improve standards and make the arts better known." As chairman of the panel for Western Drama he discussed the possibilities of drama in Ceylon, and stressed the importance of the achievement, very

soon now, of a properly constructed theatre building. The drawbacks experienced by producers and actors with inadequate acoustics and stage and greenroom space would be to a great extent now eliminated, and this should encourage production.

He has also suggested as a means of genuine assistance to smaller groups the setting up of a sort of advisory bureau, and the organisation of a library, wardrobe, and a collection of props, on which, if need arose, they could draw.

A competent and active advisory bureau should undoubtedly be of considerable assistance in setting and maintaining a standard of production.

* * *

IN the "Save Our Wild Life" campaign that is occupying attention at the moment will be the premiere of Aloy Perera's film, *Ruhunu National Park*, to be shown by the courtesy of the Shell Co. at the Galle Face Hotel on April 28th. We have already seen some of Aloy Perera's films, whose close knowledge of our jungles and exceeding patience with a camera have resulted in some not only very beautiful but genuinely "true-to-life" pictures of the wild life of Ceylon. It is to be hoped that this film will be released to the public later.

* * *

THIS year's World Fair of Photography, to be held at San Francisco on June 30th this year, will see the inclusion of a collection of photographs of Ceylon, sent by the Government Tourist Bureau. They will include scenic, historic, and romantic attractions, designed as representative of Ceylon.

THE IDEAL HOME IN CORONATION YEAR

(Continued from page 15)

countryside without having to go to the expense and vicissitudes of Rest-house accommodation. If you have a large family and wish to holiday a-wheel, there's a two-storey caravan to sleep six people. Another one extends at both ends, and a third type travels in two parts but can be joined up on the site to make a five-roomed home. For taking your leisure in the garden or out on the verandah, there's a luxury hammock called "La-Ze-Li." This is a large "rocker" made of tubular steel over which a canvas top is stretched. It's more comfortable

to lounge in than a chaise-longue and is fitted with a canopy for protection against the sun. In the evening, the canvas part can be quickly folded up, and the metal structure left outside, as it is specially treated and will not corrode in the most adverse climates. The cost of this hammock complete, is about Rs. 100/-.

* * *

NO mention of the Ideal Home Exhibition would be complete without a reference to the beautiful gardens, so cool and so exquisitely laid out. With every imaginable plant and shrub just in bloom, fountains playing and lawns green and smooth, the gardens presented an unrivalled joy to the senses. A Ceylonese friend with me was amazed at the beauty which surpassed anything she had ever seen. She remarked what a pity it was that with natural conditions for growing flowers on their doorstep, people in Ceylon did not hold an annual display of blossoms and gardens such as this. It would not do, either, to forget the many complete homes built and furnished with an eye to comfort and economy as examples of the contemporary Elizabethan way of life. One of these houses, which the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visited, was designed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and I was told that the Queen was specially attracted by a glass rolling pin which could be filled with cold water to keep pastry cool in the making, and which swivelled in the centre, without the housewife having to roll it over and over. One could not fail to be impressed by the replica of the golden State Coach which greeted visitors in the main entrance hall. Here was a colourful reminder that this is Coronation Year, and that the forthcoming festivity will permeate, by way of souvenirs and mementos, into the humblest home in the remotest corner of the British Commonwealth.

THE CEYLON FORTNIGHTLY REVIEW.

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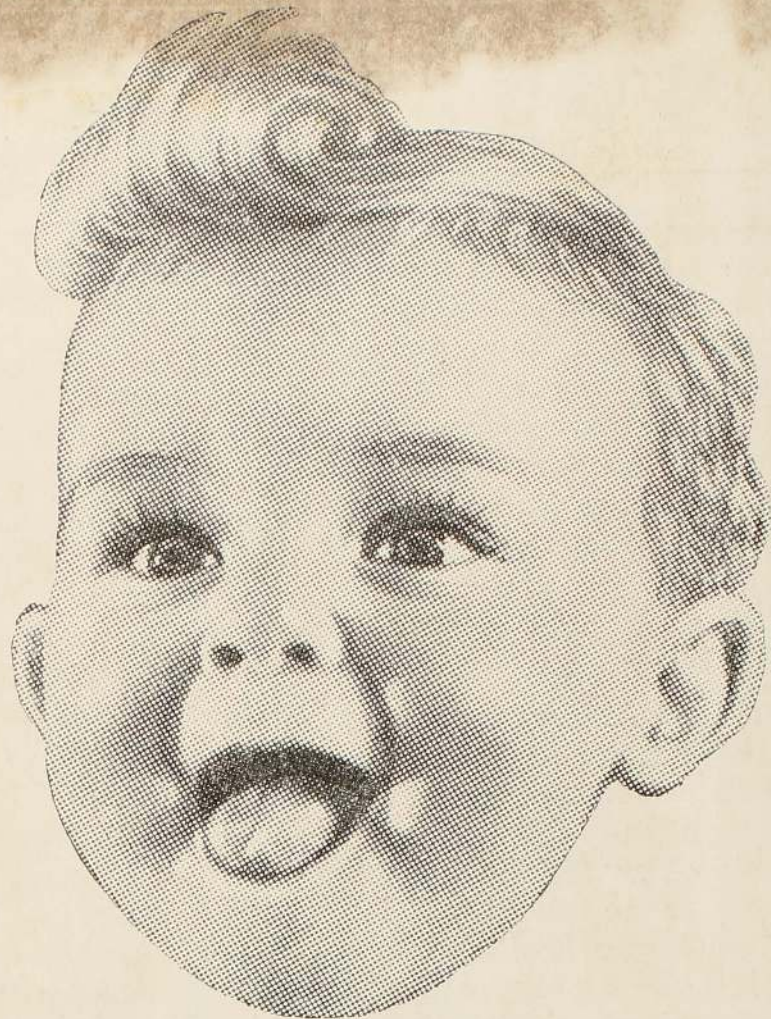
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UVA DIARY

7. HAPPY NEW YEAR

IN mid-March, the rain that had been doing its best to wash away our vegetable garden suddenly stopped, as though the tap had been turned off. Overnight, the wind changed and we told each other that the Uva Summer had at last set in—a season of cool nights and crisp dawns, and burning hot sunshine to bake the ground hard by noon-day.

Arnolis's men were still busily cutting away at his hillside to fill up our swamp (and it is surprising what an amount of earth can be shifted with two wheelbarrows trundling back and forth from dawn to dusk).

Master, looking on, decided it was time to let our own labourers lend a hand. He invented a "drag," made from a thin longitudinal slice of a tree trunk, with ropes at either end and a pole in the centre. Two men pulled the ropes and a third pushed at the pole from behind. With this the mounting pile of earth could be distributed. I wondered how our men would take to the "yoke" but they appeared to think it a great idea and worked willingly, so that presently the reclaimed land was taking shape, likewise the pool at one corner, fed by the newly-discovered spring.

This merry undertaking had to be interrupted to get our rather steep drive patched up; but no sooner had the surface been smoothly topped with loose gravel than the weather unkindly changed again, the floods descended and our drive was reduced to a quagmire, in which a visitor's car immediately got bogged, to such an extent that it had to be left there until the next day and then dug out. I fear we shall never become weather-wise in Uva.

* * *

THE rain has since continued daily, doing its best to dampen holiday spirits and interfere with the tennis and dog-racing and other simple delights of Holiday Town and its environs. Yesterday, on the eve of Ceylonese New Year festivities, I stood on our verandah and watched the rain teem down. (I have just looked up the word teem in the

dictionary, and find that, in its sense of "pouring," it is derived from the Icelandic "timr" meaning "empty.")

Certainly it seemed as if the heavens were emptying themselves for an hour or two. Our two small streams quickly changed into foaming torrents, then overflowed their banks to merge in one broad river, the full width of the grass field. Having lately had a bund raised to catch the top-soil that might be washed down in just such an eventuality, we dashed from one window to another, to get a view of what was happening.

The bund held, but the channel leading from it proving quite inadequate, the water proceeded to flood the flower garden, hiding the planks of the rustic bridge and filling the fish pools to overflowing. Now we know how the fish disappeared mysteriously from the pools last year just before we took possession.

When the storm was at its worst I beheld our head gardener carrying an umbrella in one hand and a mamoty in the other, paddling through the flood to open a channel which had got blocked, just in time to save a plot of vegetable seedlings—for which I blessed him.

* * *

EARLY this morning, in brilliant sunshine and to the sound of New Year crackers, I went to see the extent of the damage. Except for our good James, everyone had taken a holiday—even the telephone had gone out of action. Alas! for our lovely Dutch gladioli, whose fat buds had been just bursting into bloom! Poor General Eisenhower lay all asprawl and the ivory buds of "Roosevelt Memory" were mud-died past saving. The fruit trees that had been asmother with blossom this season gave little hope of fruit.

The lotus pool had fared the worst. Not only had the fish disappeared but weeds had washed into the feed pipe and stopped the water flowing in, so lilies and pond weed were almost dry. The pipe was soon freed and the water flowed in again, but some of the masonry was broken. As I leaned over to look for the fish, a tiny snake darted out from a hole close to my hand and flickered away under cover again.

And then, where no leeches had been before, I saw hundreds

of long thin bodies poise on the grass blades and come on their undulating way towards me. This well-loved corner of my garden, I decided, should be given a wide berth until gardeners and a spell of dry weather had disposed of the menace.

* * *

THERE was a rabana playing competition and a few children's sports at the school opposite us, this morning. James explained this was just a means of passing the time for the villagers until custom permitted them to light a fire and cook a meal. In the early afternoon, rain descended again, mercilessly, and I thought of all the little homes huddled on the hillside behind us and hoped the thatched roofs and mud walls were proving weather-proof as the families waited for the auspicious hour for the fire-lighting.

Then the rain ceased and a watery sun smiled. A sudden fury of crackers announced the hour had arrived. Everywhere blue curls of smoke were ascending . . . Happy New Year! Happy New Year!

FELICITY.

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PROFILES

(Continued from page 11)

was Lecturer in Classics. Mr. Rodrigo took up a post as Assistant Lecturer at the University College and in due course succeeded the Rev. W. A. Stone, former Warden of St. Thomas' College, as Lecturer. Later he followed Professor S. Whiteley as Professor.

* * *

THERE is no branch of learning in the Ceylon University, which has maintained so uniformly high a standard as the Western Classics. The men and women who have graduated through them have rarely failed to carry into their lives a poise and judgment which are the hall-mark of a classical education. They acknowledge their debt to the wise teacher whom they know as "J.L.C."

MATTERS OF MOMENT

(Continued from page 7)

world. It is also an interesting coincidence that, like Lord Beveridge who was chairman of the 1949 U.K. Broadcasting Commission and is also an authority on the social services in Britain, Mr. Weerasooria himself served on the Ceylon Social Services Commission.

* * *

SIR THOMAS Dalling, Veterinary Consultant, F.A.O., who recently arrived in the Island, said in the course of a talk he delivered to members of the veterinary profession at Kandy, that international co-operation was necessary to check the spread of infectious animal diseases. He hoped veterinarians throughout the world would form a more and more closely-knit body for pooling information and exchanging ideas. Mr. Charles McGaughey, Professor of Veterinary Science, University of Ceylon, presided at the lecture.

* * *

AT the recent prize-giving at Methodist Central College, Batticaloa, the Principal, Mr. S. V. O. Somanader, in the Report he presented referred to "the gradual deterioration of English" in schools. Deploring this development, he said :

"I have, I hope, as much love and esteem for our national languages as any tub-thumping nationalist, and I certainly believe that the time must ultimately come when secondary education is through swabhasa. But, on purely factual grounds, I am certain that Tamil and Sinhalese, the languages of but fifty million people in the world, can never be the vehicles of a literature as extensive and rich as English contains. This is a hard fact of economics and no amount of wishful thinking or nationalistic eloquence can alter it. Apart from other reasons, the worldwide demand for books in English will always ensure that there is a large supply of them."

Dr. Argus J. Tresidder, of the American Embassy, presided.

* * *

SIR JOHN Kotelawala, Minister of Transport and Works, paid a visit to the Eastern Province, where he laid the foundation stone of the Arugam Bay causeway. At a reception given to Sir John at Pottuvil, representations were made to him on the need of a harbour at Arugam Bay and of a better bus service between Panama and Akkaraipattu.

THE INLAND WATERWAYS OF CEYLON

(Continued from page 21)

Fortunately, about a century ago Skinner handled canals as well as roads. He set to work on the blocked canal at Periamulla, north of Negombo, an out-of-the-way spot where no one was likely to notice, cleared out the sand, built revetments, and left the route open. By 1857 the navigation from Puttalam to Colombo was restored : by 1860, south onwards to Kalutara.

(To be continued)

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POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

(Continued from page 13)

about Rs. 1.35 per lb. during the next five years, or at any rate that it will be 30 to 50 cents about the world price. There is nothing in the contract to warrant such illusions. Next year the differential may be only a few cents. If market operators depress the world price in December, the outlook for 1954 may spell doom for the scheme for rehabilitating the industry.



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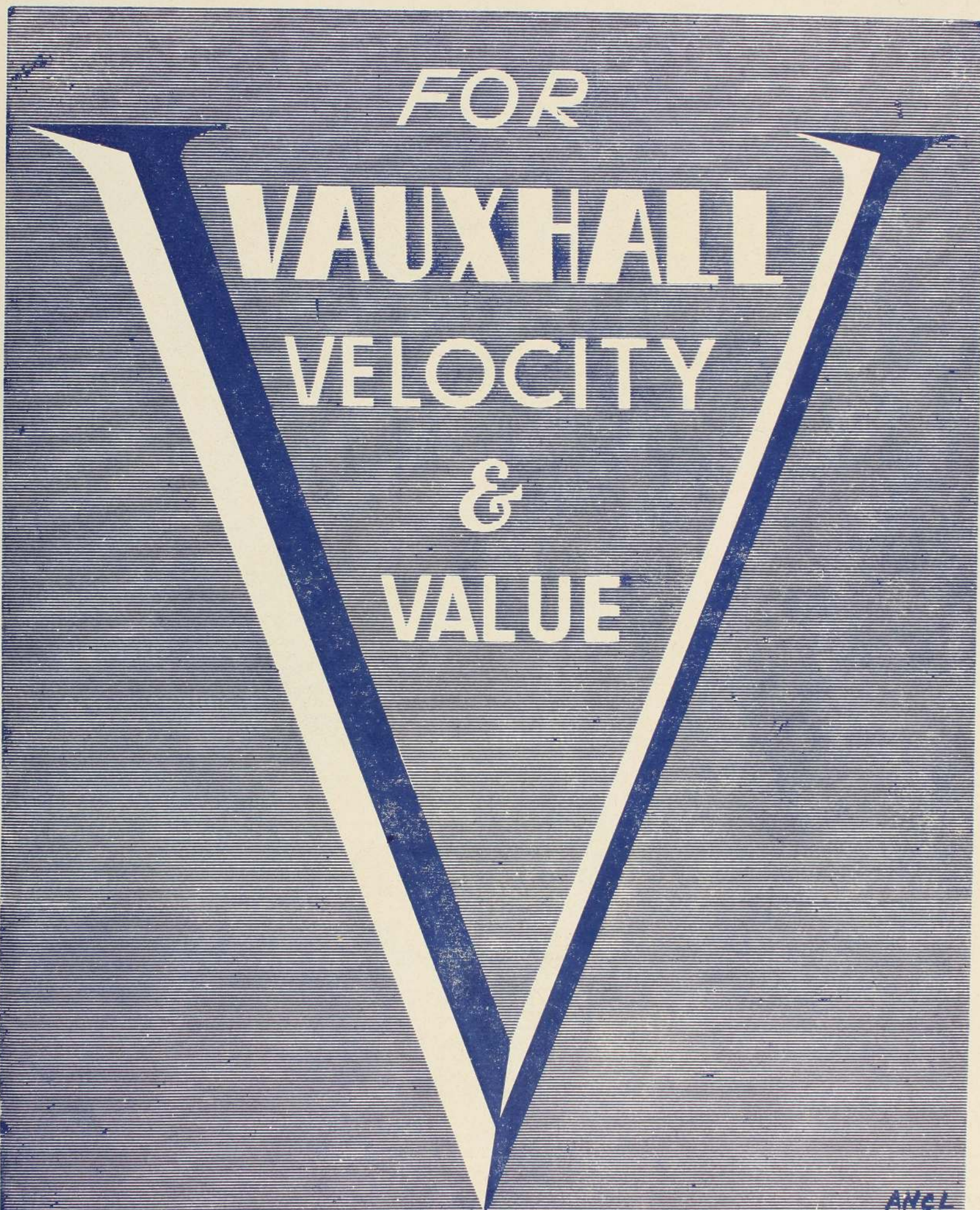
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