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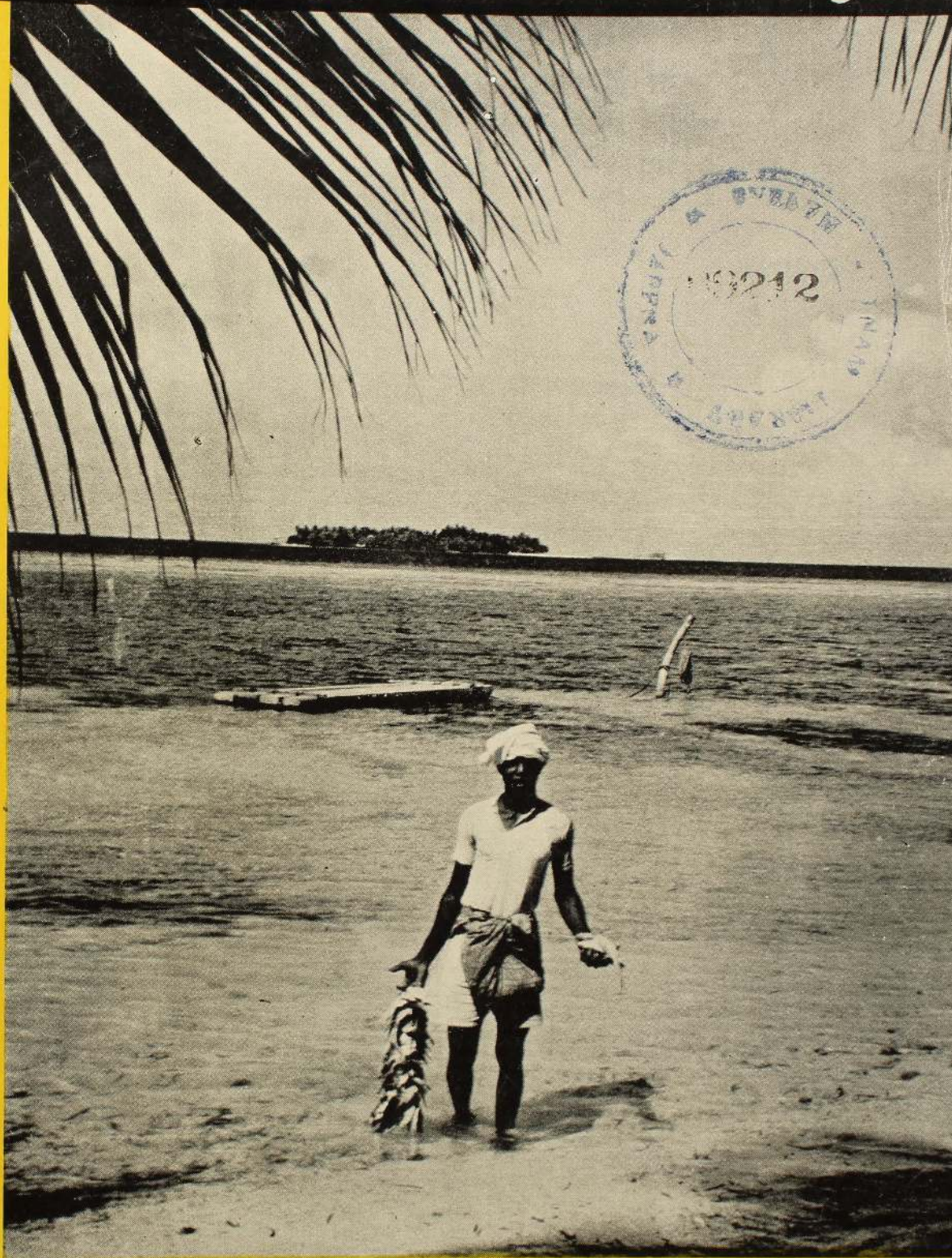
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JULY—AUGUST, 1955

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The Fourth Session of the Second Parliament

HISTORY was made in the Island on June 7 when the first Ceylonese Governor-General of Ceylon, His Excellency Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, opened the fourth session of the Second Parliament of Ceylon.

All the colour and pageantry customary on such occasions was witnessed by large crowds which lined the route from Queen's House (the Governor-General's residence) to the House of Representatives.

In his Speech from the Throne, His Excellency said :—

Mr. President and Members of the Senate.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives.

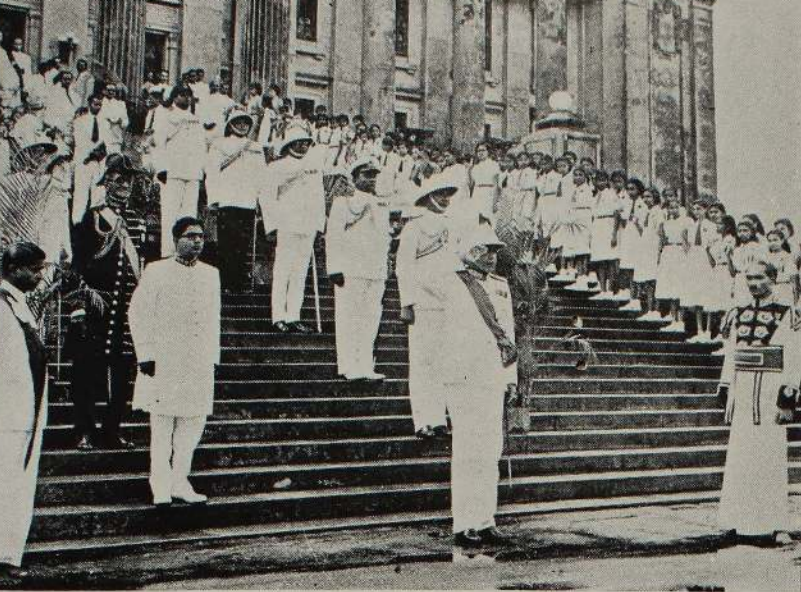
The last Session of Parliament was made memorable by the fact that it was opened with a Speech from the Throne delivered in person by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty's visit will long be remembered.

The year 1954 was a very eventful one in the life of this country, for it saw the beginning of a new and more active phase in Ceylon's international relations. My Government sponsored and convened the meeting of Asian nations which are now referred to as the Colombo Powers. One of the most important results of the Colombo Conference of South East Asian Prime Ministers was the effect it had on the Geneva Conference

which met almost simultaneously to seek an end to the war in Indo China. It was in Colombo too that the unique idea was conceived of convening a conference of Asian and African States for the discussion of common problems. The plans were worked out at the second meeting of the Colombo Powers in Bogor, Indonesia. The historic conference of twenty-nine Asian and African States was held in Bandung on eighteenth April of this year.

Bandung Conference

THE Bandung Conference was unique because this was the first occasion on which leaders of Asian and African States had found it possible to come together. The agreed decisions of the Conference showed a remarkable willingness on the part of all to forget their differences and work together for the good of the world. Among the more important decisions of the Conference were those relating to condemnation of colonialism in all its manifestations, support of the cause of dependent peoples all over the world, an appeal to the nations principally concerned to seek agreement on disarmament and the banning of nuclear weapons, and a declaration of fundamental principles, the observance of which these Asian and African States considered would lead



The Governor-General taking the salute at the State Opening of Parliament

to the promotion of world peace and co-operation. My Government may well look back with satisfaction on the initiative taken by it in convening the first meeting of the Colombo Powers which led to the Bandung Conference. The results that flowed from these conferences have contributed to the lessening of the tension that existed in the international situation.

The tour of several countries undertaken by the Prime Minister at the close of 1954 effectively contributed towards goodwill for Ceylon and an appreciation of her point of view in the international sphere.

The New Year was ushered in with a meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London at a time when the international situation was grave. That Conference served to demonstrate the strength and unity of purpose that exists among members of the Commonwealth.

My Government's relations with other countries continue to be cordial. Diplomatic missions will be opened shortly in France and Germany. The mission in Japan will be raised to the status of an embassy. A Bill relating to diplomatic and consular privileges is under consideration. My Government desires, once again, to express its gratitude for the assistance received from many countries under the Colombo Plan and under the United Nations Aid Schemes.

Every effort is being made to dispose of the outstanding applications for Ceylon citizenship under the Indian and Pakistani Residents (Citizenship) Act expeditiously.

Six-Year Programme

MY Government will shortly present its Six-Year Programme of investment covering the period 1954-55 to 1959-60. This Programme will embrace the capital expenditures of the Government in all spheres of activity. It will go a considerable way towards laying the basis for a process of continued expansion in the economy. It is only by such an expansion that a true solution can be found for the pressing problems of unemployment and low living standards. The Six-Year Programme will represent an important advance towards a planned approach to the solution of our problems.

The recommendations of the Salaries and Cadres Commission in regard to the salaries of government officers have been accepted with some modifications. The question of granting relief to the large number of temporary employees of Government is receiving attention.

Within the last eight months it has been possible to increase the rice ration and to reduce the price of rationed rice. My Government, however, considers it necessary to retain some control over the import and distribution of food. It is proposed to introduce legislation to prevent the hoarding of essential foodstuffs in the event of a shortage or on the occurrence of an emergency.

The ultimate solution of the Island's food problem lies in a progressive increase in local food production, particularly paddy. The Guaranteed Price Scheme for paddy and the adoption of improved methods of cultivation continue to be the most effective instruments of increased production. The purchase of paddy is expected to reach the record figure of ten million five hundred thousand bushels in 1955. This in itself is a sufficient tribute to the patriotic enterprise of the peasant cultivator.

It is proposed to implement without delay the recommendations for increasing paddy production

made by experts from Japan and by a combined United Kingdom and Australian rice mission. A rice research unit will be set up in the Department of Agriculture. Special attention will be paid to the cultivation of minor products.

My Government intends to hold early next year an Agricultural and Food Exhibition to which Her Majesty the Queen has graciously consented to extend her patronage. The main object of this Exhibition will be to focus public attention on the progress made during the last two decades and on the need to achieve greater efficiency in agricultural production.

Irrigation

IRRIGATION is another matter which has had the constant attention of My Government. The aim has been to provide irrigation facilities for twenty thousand acres of undeveloped land annually, and work on several major schemes is proceeding satisfactorily. Large extents of land have also been alienated to middle-class Ceylonese and to peasants under village expansion schemes. During the present Session it is proposed to continue the alienation of land to peasant colonists. The policy of giving monetary assistance to alienees of Crown land under the Land Development Ordinance for the construction of cottages and the provision of other amenities will be continued.

Measures to arrest soil erosion are to be extended to areas where soils are in imminent danger of losing their fertility. A beginning has been made with the campaign to eradicate the salvinia weed.

My Government will have under its consideration, in consultation if necessary with other Governments of this region, the question of obtaining adequate and stable prices for tea, rubber and coconut. Egypt has agreed to allow the unrestricted import of Ceylon tea into that country. Rubber continues to command a fair price under the Five-Year Trade Agreement with the People's Republic of China. You will be asked to approve a Bill to consolidate the law relating to the production and marketing of rubber. A

scheme for the replanting of coconut and the rehabilitation of the industry has been prepared and your approval will be sought as early as possible.

Due attention will be paid to the promotion of animal husbandry. Facilities for basic training in practical agriculture will be extended and plans are under consideration for establishing more farm schools. The Milk Board's schemes for increasing milk production and supervising its distribution in selected areas are now in operation. Every encouragement will be given to the organisation of milk production on co-operative lines.

Co-operative Movement

CO-OPERATIVE education and propaganda will receive greater attention than hitherto. In this connection, I have no doubt that you will welcome the formation of the Co-operative Federation of Ceylon which I had the pleasure of inaugurating last month. Suitable measures are contemplated to put co-operative finance on a sound footing. Steps have been taken to cure such defects as exist in the co-operative movement and a Parliamentary Committee has been appointed to suggest further reforms that may be necessary.

Another picture of the ceremony





Members of both Houses of Parliament listening to the Speech from the Throne

Every facility is being provided for the training of members of the public service in the use of the national languages for purposes of administration. In the field of education, the national languages will be used as the media of instruction in the senior secondary stage from 1956, and facilities will be provided for the training of the necessary teachers. A Department of Swabasha has been set up for the production of textbooks and the compilation of glossaries of scientific terms. Handicrafts as a subject of the school curriculum will be progressively introduced. It is proposed, during the course of this year, to establish a practical institute of technology in the outskirts of Colombo and junior technical schools in Galle, Kandy and Jaffna

The new Department of Housing which has been set up under the National Housing Act is engaged in the building of houses and in granting loans to private parties for housing. Emphasis will continue to be given to housing for the lower and middle income groups. Financial provision will be made for the erection of houses for fishermen.

Corporations will be set up under the Government-sponsored Corporations Act to manage some of the industrial enterprises originated by the Government. An Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research has been established and its services are now available both to the Government and to the private sector of industry. The policy of encouraging private enterprise in industry will be continued, particular attention being given to the establishment of small-scale

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industries. Considerable progress has been made in the rehabilitation of some of the rural industries on co-operative lines. The Departments of Rural Development and Cottage Industries will be amalgamated.

Trade and Commerce

MY Government will give every assistance to enable Ceylon citizens to take their rightful place in the trade and commerce of their country. In furtherance of this policy a Ceylonese firm was encouraged to establish a shipping line in association with governmental and foreign capital. Another company has been formed with Ceylonese and foreign capital, for further developing the fishing industry. Training and apprenticeship schemes for the purpose of ensuring an adequate supply of skilled personnel are under consideration.

The development of the Ratmalana Airport to international standards is being undertaken. Work is progressing satisfactorily on increasing the Island's electricity supply. Additional thermal plants will be installed at Colombo and Jaffna. The revision of the electricity tariffs is being considered. The services rendered by the Railway and the Port of Colombo are being improved. Steps will be taken as early as possible for the development of the ports of Kankasanturai and Galle.

The construction of the new fishery harbour at Mutwal and the installation of a cold storage plant, a by-products factory and other ancillary units, are nearing completion. Inland fisheries are being developed.

Postal and telecommunication services, which have been extended each year, will be further developed. More facilities will be made available to the public at post offices for the transaction of their day to day business in the national languages. You will be asked to approve a Bill to provide for the running of the Overseas Telecommunication Service which was taken over from the United Kingdom Government in 1951. A new series of savings certificates earning a higher rate of interest will be issued at an early date.

Local Government

A Commission has been appointed to report on certain matters of local government, especially the financial relations between the Central Government and local bodies. Measures to remove the long-felt want of a pure and adequate supply of water to some of the urban areas will soon be undertaken by the Government. Work on the scheme for the preservation of the ancient City of Anuradhapura is being accelerated, and it is hoped to transfer the civic activities to the new town before the end of the next financial year.

A sustained effort is being made to consolidate and intensify the existing health services. Measures for the treatment of mental diseases, cancer and leprosy will be reorganised. Attention is being given to improving the dental care of the child population. Steps will be taken to launch a new policy towards Ayurveda.

The recommendations of the Kandyan Peasantry Commission are being implemented and the necessary financial provision will be made in the Six-Year Plan. The reports of the Commissions on Taxation and Broadcasting will receive careful consideration. In order to implement certain recommendations made by the Criminal Courts Commission your approval will be sought for a Bill to amend the Children and Young Persons Ordinance and a Bill relating to Youthful Offenders. Some of the administrative changes recommended by the Fiscal Commission have already been implemented. The rest will be carried out from the commencement of the next financial year. A Commission will be appointed to examine the question of introducing legislation to prohibit racing and gambling and the consumption of liquor in the Island.

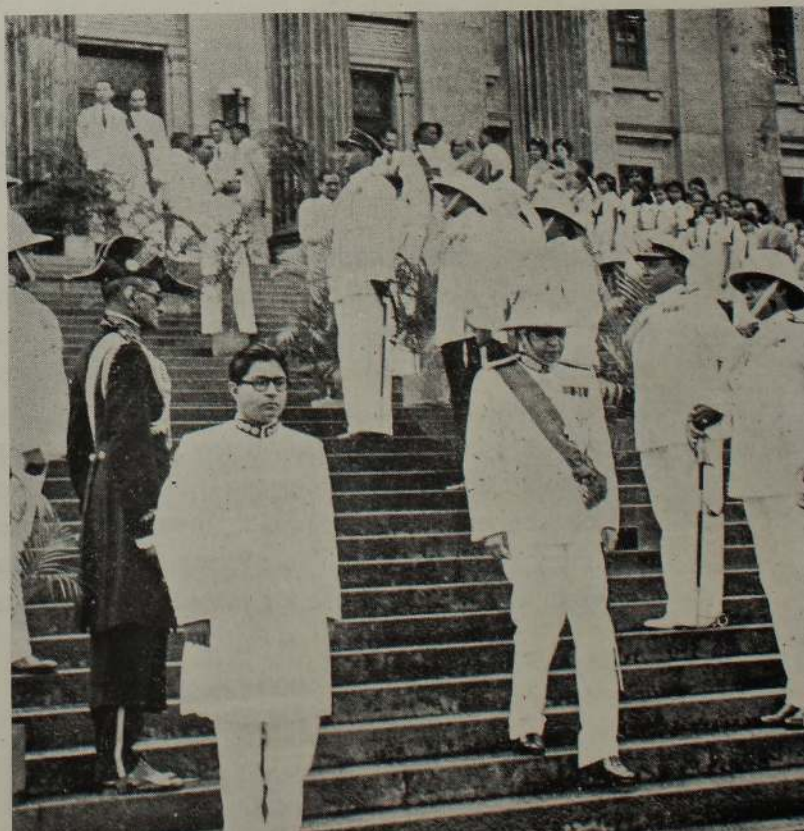
Among the other legislative measures which will be laid before you will be a Bill for the establishment of a Development Finance Corporation to provide for the financing of agricultural and industrial enterprises, a Bill to amend the Motor Traffic Act to give effect to some of the recommendations of the Omnibus Commission, and a Bill to enable private estate roads

to be made available for public use whenever such user is necessary in the public interest.

In May, 1956, the Buddhists the world over will inaugurate the celebrations in connection with the Buddha Jayanthi which marks the Two Thousand Five Hundredth Year of the **Parinibbana** or passing away of the Buddha. To the Ceylonese this occasion marks also the Two Thousand Five Hundredth anniversary of the landing of Vijaya and the founding of the kingdom of Lanka. For the purposes of these celebrations an organisation known as the Lanka Bauddha Mandalaya has been set up. My Government will assist this organisation amongst other things in the translation of the Buddhist canon into Sinhalese, the compilation of an Encyclopaedia of Buddhism in English and a general encyclopaedia in Sinhalese, the completion of the Dalada Maligawa in Kandy, the restoration of the Mahiyangana stupa, the construction of a Sangaramaya at the University of Ceylon and the holding in Colombo of an International Buddhist Conference and an Exhibition of Buddhist Art.

I commend all these matters to you for your deliberation and I trust that they will receive your most careful consideration.

The Governor-General leaving the House of Representatives at the end of the ceremony



Weather Forecasting in Ceylon

G. S. JAYAMAHA

THE weather in a specified locality during any month or season of the year or during any particular time of the day is known when the conditions of the meteorological elements (such as temperature, pressure, humidity, wind, visibility, cloud and precipitation) are defined. In order to predict the weather successfully the forecaster should be in a position to say what changes are likely to take place in these meteorological elements within the relevant period of time.

It is common knowledge that these various elements and the natural processes that combine to produce the weather are essentially patchy and are usually subject to a great deal of variation. Therefore, it would not be possible for the weather forecaster to be more precise by abstaining from the use of words like "scattered" "occasionally" or "temporarily". This difficulty arises out of the natural variability of the weather rather than from any limitations in the techniques employed by the forecaster. As a matter of fact it would not be realistic to expect the weather forecaster to be always precise when the nature of the conditions he has to forecast is generally otherwise. One has to bear these in mind in order to appreciate the problems and the techniques of weather forecasting in general and, in particular, in the Ceylon area.

Nearly all the weather processes take place within the gaseous space surrounding the earth known as the atmosphere. The atmosphere consists of vast, almost homogeneous, masses of air which are distinct from each other. The behaviour or performance of any particular air mass would undoubtedly depend on its properties and on the modifications which these properties are likely to undergo. The surface of separation between any two of these air masses is known as

a "front". Along such a front or boundary there will naturally be discontinuities in the weather elements. These discontinuities are, more or less, abrupt and are generally associated with bad weather conditions—such as rain or squally showers and, perhaps, thunder.

General Weather Forecasting in the Tropics

WEATHER forecasting should be based on the study of the properties of air masses and the identification of fronts. This, in fact, is the technique generally adopted in the temperate zones. In the tropical regions, however, the weather situations differ so widely from those experienced in the temperate latitudes that it is sometimes even felt that the techniques of weather forecasting employed in the temperate zones are not suitable for adoption in the tropics. Yet, it should be remembered that the same types of physical and dynamical processes are taking place throughout the atmosphere and the same fundamental laws of nature apply to all the regions. But the chief difficulty in the tropical regions is that the problems of weather forecasting appear to be less amenable to mathematical treatment than in the higher latitudes.

For instance, the manifestations of weather in the tropical regions are mainly due to unstable conditions in the atmosphere. Pressure systems are generally not clearly defined within the tropics, and there is apparently little or no connection between the prevailing pressure fields and the winds.

Again, nearly all the air masses in the tropical regions are warm and unstable, and there is usually hardly any difference in the properties of the various types of air masses that are present. Also, tropical fronts are much more diffuse. In addition to all these features there is the important

phenomenon of convergence. Convergence of air is one of the main factors in the weather of the tropical regions.

Air Masses in the Ceylon Area

HAVING seen the background on which the tropical weather should be studied it will now be possible to examine and analyse the salient features of the weather over Ceylon. It will, of course, be necessary to take into consideration

the meteorological conditions of the larger meteorological region of which the Island forms a part.

There are five different types of air masses that influence the weather in the Ceylon area. They are Indian Continental Air, Siberian Air, the North Pacific Trades, the South Pacific Trades, and Equatorial Air. Of these, Indian Continental Air, Siberian Air and the North Pacific Trades are "formed" within the high pressure belt of the northern hemisphere

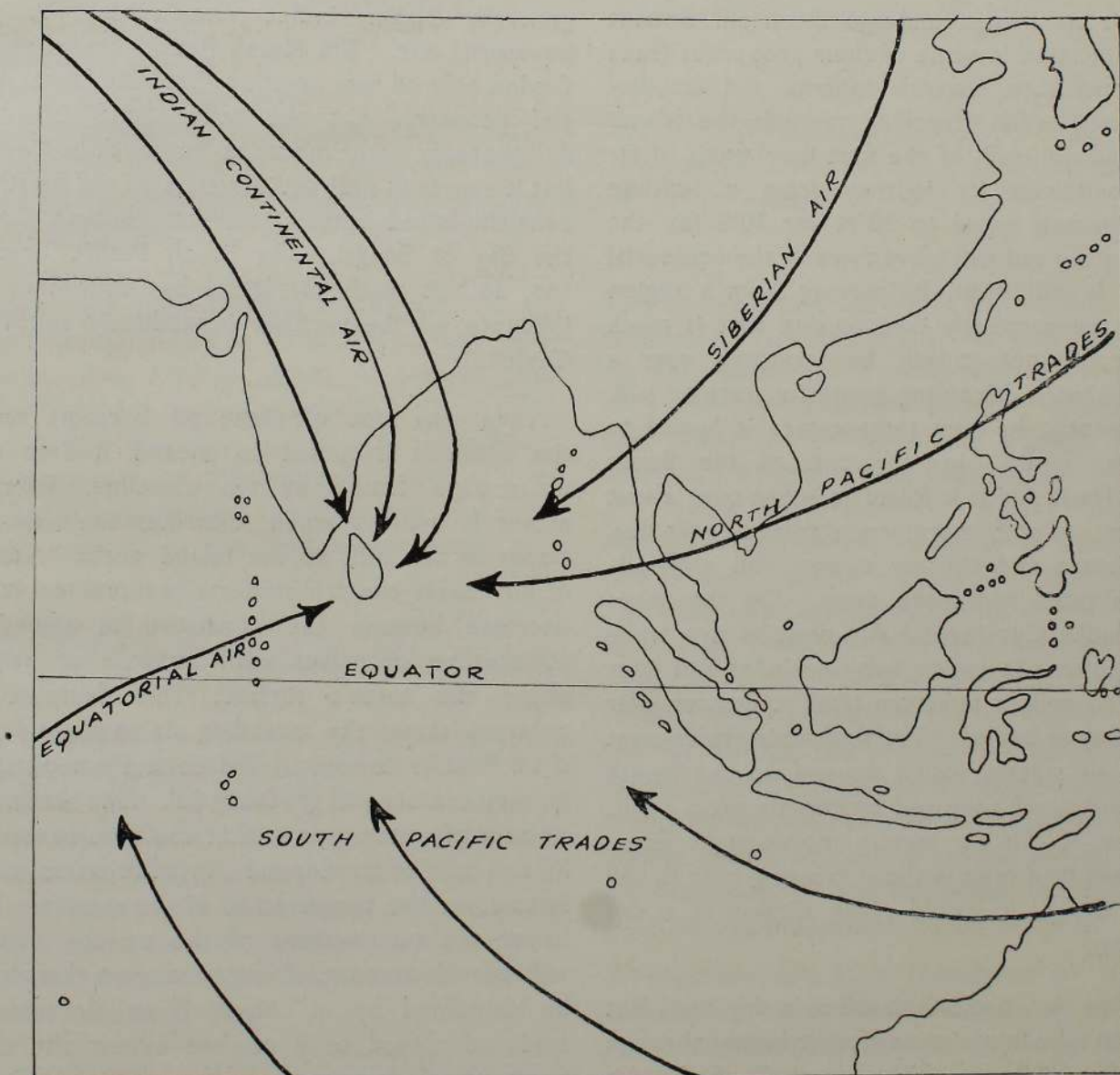


FIGURE I The tracks followed by the different air masses of the Ceylon area

(that is, at about 30°N). The fourth type, namely, South Pacific Trade Air, originates in the corresponding system of the southern hemisphere (that is, at about 30°S). The other type, Equatorial Air, is produced when the trade winds of either hemisphere move into the equatorial space and stagnate there owing to the absence of any appreciable pressure gradient. This air stream is sometimes referred to as the "Equatorial Westerlies" because it remains within the equatorial space and has a general direction of movement from west to east.

These air masses undergo a certain amount of modification in some of their properties (such as temperature, vapour content and stability conditions) while travelling towards the Island. For example, each of the first four types of air will commence its journey from a latitude approximately equal to 30°N or 30°S (as the case may be) and will move towards the equatorial space. It will, thus, be moving from a region that is comparatively cold to one that is much warmer. Hence it will be travelling over a surface that is becoming gradually warmer and, consequently, its own temperature is bound to increase. Again, in the case of the South Pacific Trade Air it is found to move over a vast sea area. It will, therefore, absorb a great deal of moisture and the air stream will gradually become more and more damp. On the other hand, Indian Continental Air remains dry while passing over the Indian Sub-Continent and later begins to collect moisture after it crosses over to the Bay of Bengal. The final moisture content of this air stream would depend on the length of the sea track followed by the air mass. But, however, if this air stream moves right down the Indian land mass without crossing over to the Bay of Bengal it would reach Ceylon in a dry condition.

Siberian Air, too, starts off as a dry mass but begins to take in moisture after it breaks through to the Bay of Bengal. The North Pacific Trades collect water vapour during their journey over the Pacific Ocean but a portion of this is deposited

while crossing the land mass of South-East Asia. Fresh supplies of water vapour are taken in by this air stream after it crosses over to the Bay of Bengal. Thus the vapour content of this air mass will be fairly high when it moves into the Ceylon Area. Equatorial Air passes along a long track over a warm equatorial oceanic region before it reaches Ceylon and, consequently, its vapour content will be very high. As a result this air stream is a potential rain bearer. The trajectories of these air masses are shown in Fig. 1.

The type of air prevailing over the Island is generally either Indian Continental Air or Equatorial Air. The North Pacific Trades reach Ceylon only on rare occasions between December and February. On the other hand, Siberian Air probably never moves as far south as Ceylon but it exerts an indirect influence on the weather over the Island because it affects the weather in the Bay of Bengal. The South Pacific Trades, too, do not reach the Island but they have an influence on the weather immediately south of Ceylon.

When any one of these air streams reach the Island it is forced to ascend due to the obstruction caused by the coastline. Further ascent is induced when it strikes the exposed slopes of the hills of the inland areas. Ascent of air causes the atmospheric pressure on it to decrease because the pressure in the free atmosphere decreases with increase of height above the earth's surface. This decrease of pressure causes the ascending air to expand and if no heat is communicated to it from outside, its temperature will gradually fall. The maximum amount of water vapour that could be contained in a sample of air depends, in addition to other factors, on the temperature of the sample. The lower the temperature of the air the smaller will be the amount of water vapour that could be contained by it. Now, if an air mass is made to ascend to a marked extent the temperature of the air may drop sufficiently low as to reach that value at which the water vapour already present within it would be the maximum

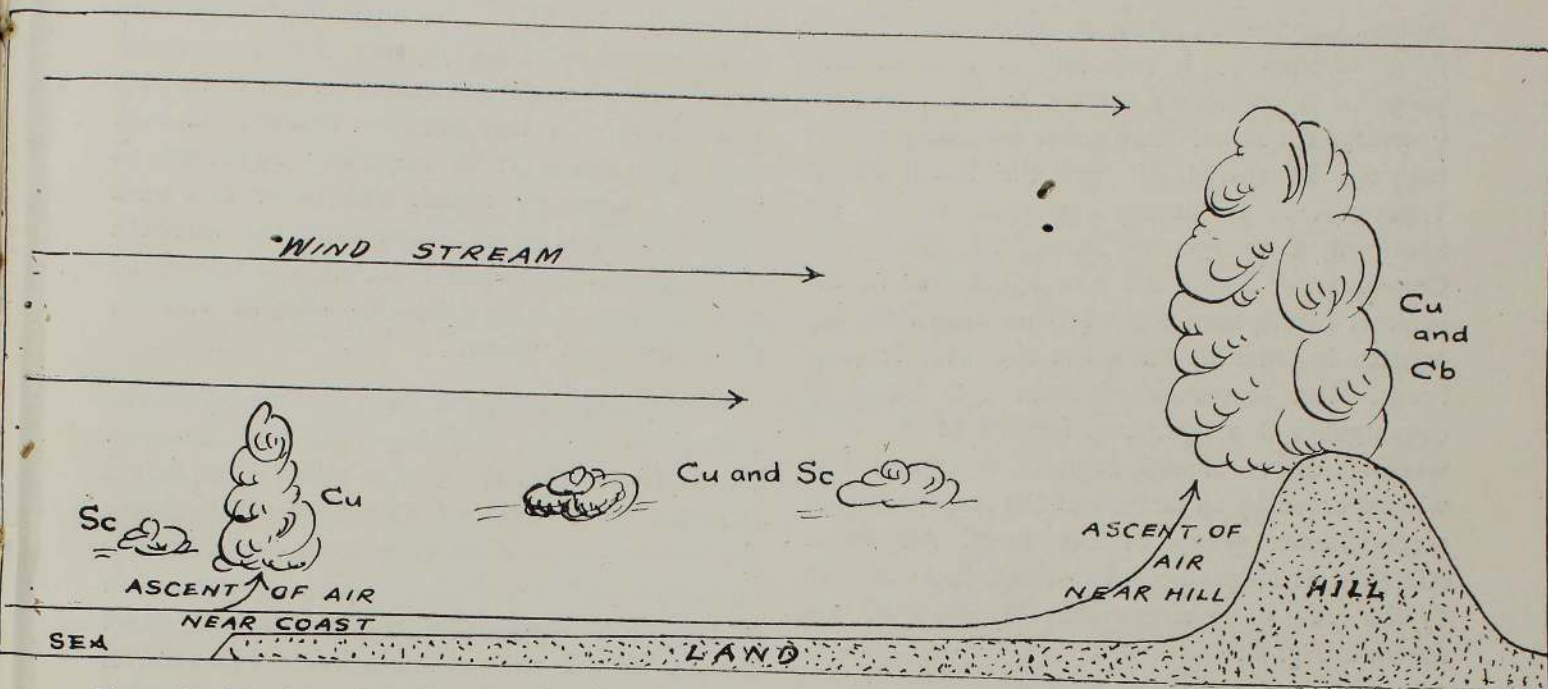


Figure II. The formation of orographic clouds. (The diagram is not according to scale.) Cu = Cumulus cloud, Cb = Cumulonimbus cloud, Sc = Stratocumulus cloud

amount that could be held by the air. At this stage this air is said to be saturated with water vapour. Any further ascent of the air mass and consequent cooling will cause water droplets to condense and form clouds. (A diagrammatic representation of this cloud formation is given in Fig. II.) Continued cooling will make the drops increase in size and weight until, at a certain stage in their development, they become too heavy to be kept up within the air mass. When this stage is reached the drops will come down in the form of rain.

The orographic features of the Island are, therefore, of great significance in the distribution of clouds and rainfall. Due to orographic control the heavier falls of rain are generally concentrated along the south-western and north-eastern slopes of the hills that are exposed to the wind currents of the rain-bearing air streams and, in a milder way, along the south-western and eastern coastal areas.

Convergence of Air Streams

FRONTS or clearly defined surfaces of demarcation between different masses of air have

been an important feature of the weather in the temperate zones but it was felt that fronts did not exist within the tropical regions. However, the technique of modern synoptic meteorology, with emphasis on streamline analysis of the horizontal windfields, has focussed the attention of tropical meteorologists (during the past decade or two) on the existence of discontinuities or fronts within the tropical areas as well. The boundary surfaces or fronts of the tropical regions are somewhat different from those of the higher latitudes. The discontinuities along these tropical fronts are only in the windfields. There are no abrupt changes in the other surface characteristics, such as temperature and humidity. These fronts are, therefore, identified by the discontinuities in the horizontal winds. These discontinuities in the horizontal wind streams give rise to convergence and ascent of air.

There are two such boundaries or zones of convergence within the meteorological region under consideration, that is, the large region of which Ceylon forms a part. They usually lie almost parallel to the equator. In this region Equatorial Air forms one boundary with either

Indian Continental Air or with the North Pacific Trades. This boundary or zone of convergence is commonly known as the Northern Convergence Zone. The other boundary occurs between Equatorial Air and the South Pacific Trades. This is usually referred to as the Southern Convergence Zone. Of these two Convergence Zones the one which lies in the summer hemisphere and is further away from the equator is generally known as the Inter-Tropical Front. The existence of these two zones of convergence is a significant feature of the daily weather charts of this region. A typical case was reported by an aircraft of the meteorological reconnaissance group of the Royal Air Force stationed at Negombo. The cloud lanes as seen by the crew of an aircraft on May 20, 1950, are shown in Fig. III.

The South-West Monsoon

THESE two zones of convergence generally move northwards or southwards, although not in any uniform manner, according to the season of the year. But, sometimes, one or the other of these two zones may remain stationary during a certain period. On account of these movements the northern convergence zone crosses Ceylon through the lowest layers of the atmosphere during April on its northward journey and during the month of October on its return. The southern convergence zone, however, has not been known to lie over Ceylon. Perhaps it never reaches the Island.

When the northern convergence zone moves away to the north of Ceylon the Island comes under the influence of Equatorial Air or the Equatorial Westerlies. This is the air stream of the South-West Monsoon and the Island is considered as being under the influence of the South-West Monsoon. Monsoon activity, however, is not experienced over the Island until the latter half of May because an air stream of sufficient depth is required for such activity, and that is available only from about the middle

of May (see Fig. IV). The onset of the monsoon is associated with heavy rain if the northern convergence zone is associated at the time with a disturbance or low pressure system. In such cases the monsoon is popularly supposed to "burst" over the Island. Whenever this type of disturbance does not occur along the northern convergence zone during this time of the year, the monsoon sets in only gradually—that is, without, the well-known "burst".

As stated earlier this air stream of the Equatorial Westerlies has a very high moisture content. The lifting of this air stream when it strikes a coastline or a range of hills very often causes the building up of large cumulus and cumulonimbus clouds and, in certain cases, the precipitation of rain. On account of this orographic effect the rainfall due to the South-West Monsoon is practically confined to the south-west quarter of the Island and the western and southern slopes of the exposed hills.

The average total rainfall during the South-West Monsoon season is highest in the Watawala area where the total generally exceeds 120 inches for the period of five months from May to September. The rainfall totals decrease steadily towards the southern and western coastal areas. The average values along the coastal belt are less than 60 inches, being 40 to 60 inches between Ratmalana and Weligama, 20 to 40 inches from Dehiwala to Marawila along the west coast and from Matara to Tangalla along the south coast. Further away, along the west coast as well as along the south coast, the average rainfall totals for these five months are quite low—being less than 20 inches from Chilaw onwards in the west and again beyond Tangalla in the south. These figures and the others that follow are taken from the Annual Reports of the Colombo Observatory, published by the Department of Meteorology.

The North-East Monsoon

CEYLON comes under the influence of the Northern Hemisphere Air (Indian Continental

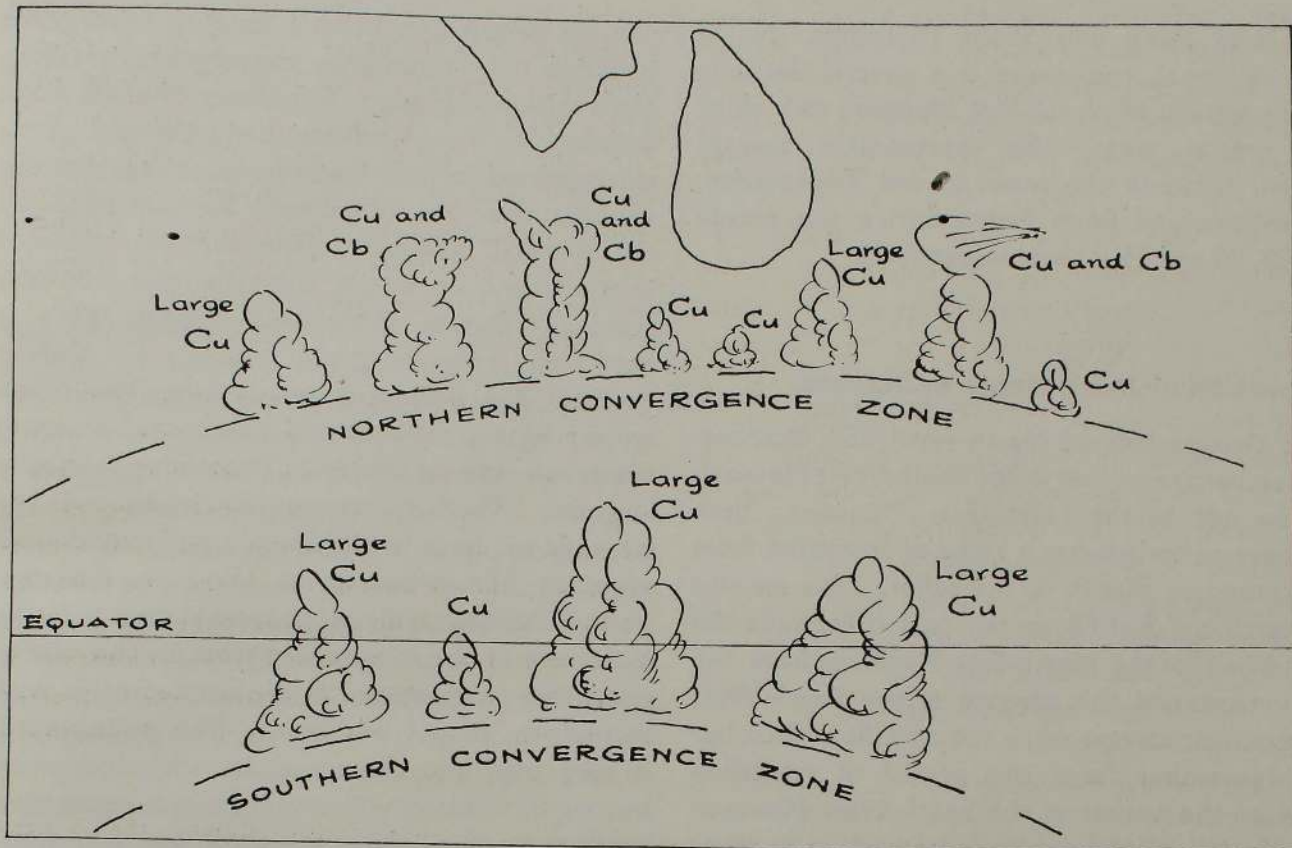


FIGURE III The two "cloud lanes" reported by an aircraft on 20th May 1950.

Air or the North Pacific Trades) when the northern convergence zone moves away to the south of the Island in the same way as it comes under the influence of the equatorial air stream when this convergence zone moves away to the north of the Island. Northern hemisphere air generally prevails over the Island from the beginning of December to the end of February. This is the North-East Monsoon season of Ceylon.

Orographic lifting due to the east coast of the Island and the northern and eastern slopes of the central hills will induce clouds and precipitation whenever the prevalent air stream contains a sufficient quantity of moisture. The resultant rainfall will be chiefly confined to the northern and eastern portions of the Island with the heavier falls being concentrated along the windward slopes of the exposed hills.

The greatest amount of rainfall in this region during the three months of the North-East Monsoon season is usually recorded in the Nitre Cave area. The average combined rainfall total for the area during this period is between 80 and 90 inches. The areas around Madulsima, Gamma-duwa and Urugala show the next highest averages with totals ranging from 50 to 70 inches for the period. In the coastal regions the maximum amount of rainfall is generally experienced in the areas surrounding Valaichenai, Batticaloa, Kalmunai and Akkaraipattu where the average totals for this period are between 30 and 35 inches. South of Akkaraipattu the season's rainfall decreases gradually towards the Pottuvil and Panawa areas where the averages range from 25 to 30 inches. Beyond Panawa the decrease is more abrupt, the average rainfall total in the

Yala area being only about 15 inches. North of Valaichenai, too, there is a general decrease in the amount of North-East Monsoon rain along the coastal areas. The approximate average rainfall totals in the areas around Trincomalee, Mullaithivu and Point Pedro during this season are 25, 20 and 15 inches, respectively.

Transition or Inter-Monsoon Seasons

THE two periods of March-April and October-November are neither in the South-West Monsoon season nor in the North-East Monsoon. Each of these periods forms a stage of transition from one monsoon season to the other. The months of March and April form the period between the withdrawal of the North-East Monsoon from the Ceylon area and the advance of the South-West Monsoon air stream while the months of October and November form the period of transition between the retreat of the South-West Monsoon from this area and the onset of the other monsoon. On account of this these two periods are commonly known as the transition periods or the Inter-Monsoon Seasons.

During these two transition or inter-monsoon periods the northern convergence zone is lying either across the Island or in its near vicinity, and the northern hemisphere air stream will converge with the air stream of the Equatorial Westerlies to produce large banks of cumulus and cumulonimbus clouds and also several layers of altostratus and cirrostratus clouds. An idea of these cloud types is given in Fig. V. The weather conditions over the Island deteriorate and result in intermittent rain which is occasionally accompanied by thunder. In cases where this convergence zone is lying only in the neighbourhood of Ceylon and not directly over the Island the convergence will occur only at some distance away to the north or south of Ceylon. In such an event only stratiform medium and high clouds (altostratus and cirrostratus) will be present over the Island or over the affected portion of it.

It has been noticed that a zone of convergence is active only when true convergence is taking place within the zone. Whenever the northern convergence zone is inactive during any particular period of an inter-monsoon season the weather over the Island will be controlled by the thermal influence. (The thermal influence is at a maximum during the two inter-monsoon seasons.) During these two seasons there is hardly any pressure gradient across the Ceylon region. The prevailing winds over the Island will be light and variable in direction. This will result in the air stream becoming virtually stagnant. The occurrence of clouds and the weather sequence will show a significant diurnal variation. From sunrise to the early forenoon period the sky will be generally clear. If the lapse rate in the atmosphere (that is, the rate at which the temperature of the air decreases with increase in height within the free atmosphere) is very high and the air moist, the differential heating of the land will set up intense convection currents in the inland areas. These will cause large cumulus and cumulonimbus clouds to build up inland, particularly over valley locations such as Ratnapura and Diyatalawa. Thunder activity will commence at midday and will gradually spread towards the coastal areas during the late afternoon or evening, the process starting earlier if the lapse rate is steeper—in other words, if the instability conditions are more marked. If, however, the lapse rate is only moderately steep (or less unstable) the convective action and the resulting clouds and precipitation will be restricted to the hill country. With the decrease in the instability conditions after sunset the clouds will quickly dissipate and only fragments of stratocumulus and altocumulus clouds may be present at sunrise on the following morning. These are burnt off rapidly after sunrise.

It follows, therefore, that the weather over the Island is controlled by two important factors during these two inter-monsoon seasons. One of these factors is the influence of the northern convergence zone when it exists in an active state. In such a case the weather would possess

certain frontal characteristics. The other important factor is the thermal effect. During these Inter-Monsoon seasons the weather over the Island would generally be diurnally controlled by the thermal influence whenever the northern convergence zone is inactive.

Tropical Storms

ANOTHER important feature of the weather in the Ceylon region is the depressional activity that is experienced occasionally. Low pressure systems or depressions in the region are commonly known as cyclones or (if they are intensely active) tropical storms. Cyclones influence the weather over Ceylon only on rare occasions and that, too, only for short periods. On an average only two or, perhaps, three tropical storms may occur every year sufficiently close to Ceylon in order to affect the weather over the Island. The highest frequency is recorded during the month of November when the average number of occurrences is about one per year. October experiences the next highest frequency with approximately one cyclone in every two years.

The general characteristics and effects of these cyclones will be best understood from the description of the general weather sequence over the Island during one of these storms. The storm of November, 1944, will serve as an illustration. This particular storm was detected in the south-western region of the Bay of Bengal towards the end of November. On the 25th of this month the pressure, which had been steadily falling for sometime, was well below the average value for this time of the year. The surface winds along the coastal areas were light and the air temperatures all over the Island were about normal. Rain was widespread and was accompanied by thunder in most places, and the weather conditions over the Island showed a general tendency to become unsettled. (These details and those that follow are taken from the records of the Department of Meteorology.)

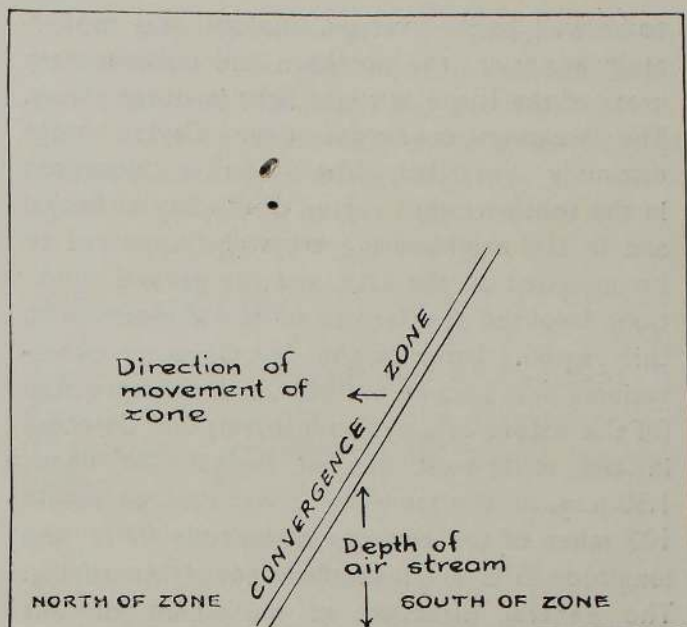


FIGURE IV A vertical section of the convergence zone

On the following day the weather was, in fact, somewhat unsettled. A moderate north-westerly pressure gradient became apparent across the Island but the surface winds remained light. The night temperatures were rather on the high side, perhaps due to the presence of extensive clouds. Rain was again fairly widespread.

The pressure remained unchanged on November 27, while the coastal winds continued to be mainly light but showed definite signs of strengthening during the latter part of the day. Temperatures, however, showed a marked falling off and were well below their average values for the season. This was probably due to the continued clouding and rain. Rain was again widespread, the heavier falls being concentrated in the north-eastern areas of the Island.

On the next day the pressure had fallen in the southern section of the Island and the pressure gradient became moderate north-westerly. The surface winds were much stronger than during the past few days. The temperatures continued

to be well below average. Rainfall was moderately heavy in the northern and north-eastern areas of the Island but was light in other places. The weather conditions over Ceylon were distinctly unsettled. The weather situations in the south-western region of the Bay of Bengal and in the neighbouring areas also appeared to be unsettled on the 28th, and the general conditions favoured the formation of a depression in this region. Later in the day, as more observational data became available, a deep depression (of the nature of a cyclonic storm) was detected in the south-west Bay of Bengal. At about 1.30 p.m. on the same day it was centred within 100 miles of the position of latitude 09°N and longitude 85°E , and it showed signs of intensifying. The general direction of movement of this system appeared to be towards the west or north-west. By 4.30 p.m. it existed in the form of a cyclonic storm with its central region within 100 miles of latitude 10°N and longitude 84°E , and was continuing to move in a westerly to north-westerly direction. At midnight it was found to have moved further and appeared to be centred near latitude 10°N and longitude 83°E and its general direction of movement was approximately west-north-west.

On the following morning the cyclonic storm was still somewhat to the north-east of Ceylon, the central region being situated within a degree of latitude $10\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{N}$ and longitude $82\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{E}$ at about 7.30 a.m. The system unaccountably remained stationary until nearly 5.30 p.m. and then began to move once more in a west-north-westerly direction. By midnight it was centred within half a degree of latitude 10°N and longitude 82°E while its direction of movement had now become more westerly. In the meantime the surface pressures had dropped appreciably throughout the Island. The surface winds showed a marked falling off, particularly towards the evening. The temperatures continued to be mainly below normal. The rainfall was light, indicating a decrease in the activity of the storm in the Ceylon area.

By the 30th morning the pressure over the Island had fallen a little further but the gradient across Ceylon had become weak and its direction had changed to westerly. The surface winds showed a marked easing off towards its normal strength, and even below at times. The temperatures were below normal during the day but were somewhat above average at night. The rainfall was widespread but the heavier falls were orographically confined to the eastern slopes of the central hills. The slackening of the pressure gradient and the dying down of the winds clearly indicated that the influence of the storm was waning. In fact, the cyclonic storm was actually found to be rapidly weakening and at 7.30 a.m. on the 30th it was identified as existing in the form of a mere trough of low pressure extending from the Gulf of Mannar to the east coast of Ceylon. Thereafter, the weather conditions gradually returned to normal.

General Summary of the Weather Situations

THE year, as is well known, may be divided into four seasons. The most important season is that of the south-west monsoon which generally prevails over the Island from May to September. The north-east monsoon season lasts from December to February. The other four months form the two inter-monsoon seasons. The period of March-April is sometimes called the Pre-Monsoon Season (that is, with particular reference to the south-west monsoon) while the period of October-November is at times referred to as the Post-Monsoon Season.

During the south-west monsoon months the type of air that prevails over the Island is Equatorial Air. During the season of the north-east monsoon Indian Continental Air is generally found over Ceylon but this air mass occasionally withdraws when there is a forward surge of the North Pacific Trades. The rainfall of the south-west monsoon stream is orographically confined chiefly to the south-west quarter of the Island and to the southern and western slopes of the central hills. The north-east monsoon rainfall

is similarly distributed in the northern and eastern areas of the Island and particularly along the northern and eastern slopes of the central hills.

The air over the Island during the two inter-monsoon seasons is generally a mixture of northern hemisphere air and Equatorial Air. The northern convergence zone has a great influence over the Ceylon weather during these four months. The effect of the diurnal heating of the land, however, takes control of the weather situation whenever this convergence zone is inactive during these two seasons.

The chief features of the Ceylon weather may, therefore, be considered as the south-west and north-east monsoons, the northern convergence zone, thunder activity due to thermal control, and tropical storms.

Acknowledgment

I must express my thanks to Dr. D. T. E. Dassanayake, Director of the Department of Meteorology, for allowing me to use the data collected by the department.

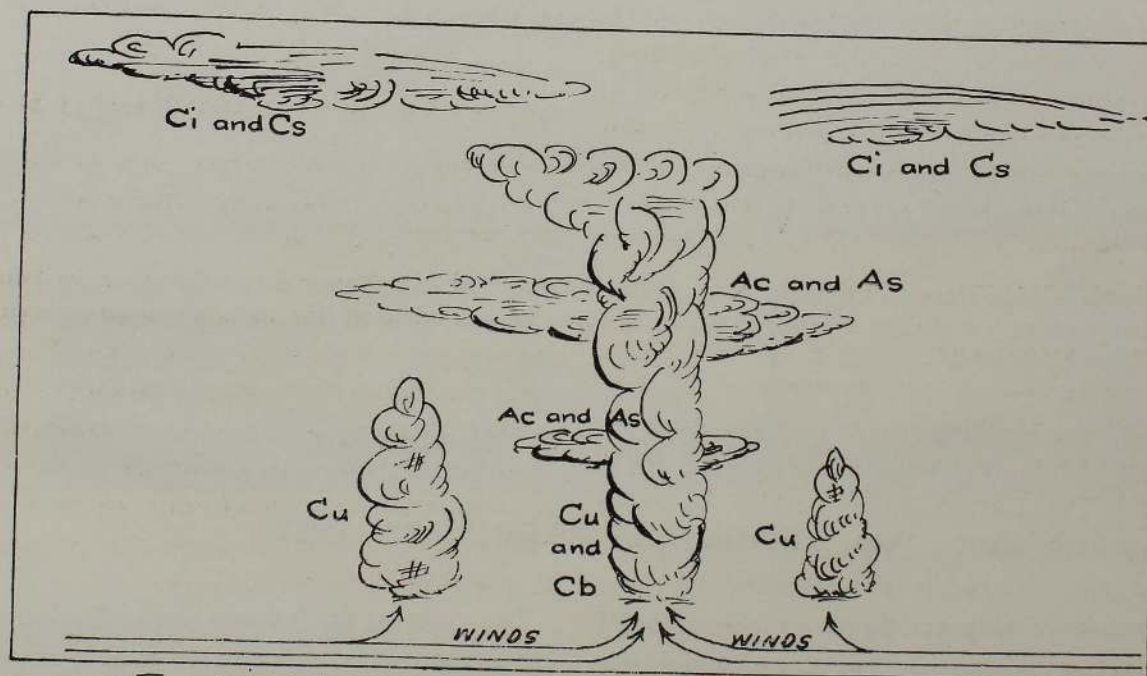


FIGURE V The distribution of clouds at a zone of Convergence.

Ac.....Altostratus cloud
As.....Altoparvus cloud
Ci.....Cirrus cloud
Cs.....Cirrostratus cloud



Man and Woman—This picture on exhibition at the Museum shows how an ancient man and woman were clad. On the left is a man wearing a mudaliyar's overcoat of the Kandyan Period, while on the right a woman is seen covering her bust with a "lansoluwa".

Ancient Textiles of Ceylon

Ven. TIRANAGAMA RATANASARA THERA

THE purpose of this article is to give a brief account of Ceylon's ancient textiles of which the "somana", "lansolu", "gindangituppotti", "ottukachchi", "gahoni", "diyakachchi", "hela", "kayyali", handkerchiefs, Welitara bedspreads and different types of flags are some of the items. It also seeks to assess the importance of the Exhibition of Arts that was held from May 31 to August 26, 1955, at the Colombo Museum, with a view to fostering cultural and educational knowledge among the people.

The facts so far known about Ceylon's ancient textiles are not sufficient to enable any accurate information to be given about them. But one fact may be stated. The "Mahavamsa" or the Great Chronicle of Ceylon, in Chapter 32, referring to the last moments of King Dutugemunu, says that his brother, Prince Saddhatisa, had the unfinished portions of Ruwanweli Seya covered with white cloths so as to give it a finished appearance. The Chronicle also states that Kuveni had been in the act of spinning when Vijaya landed in Ceylon.



Kandyan Dancers

The investigations of Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy lead to the conclusion that in the reign of Vijaya Bahu III, a Muslim by the name of Pathimeera Lebbe brought to Ceylon from South India some textile weavers of the Sala community. That was about 700 years ago. The handlooms used by the ancient Sinhalese

textiles are rarely met with now. Handlooms consisting of parts such as "nadawa", "aluwa", "wema", "madawa", "athdeda", "ongakanda", "mankaruwa", and so on, were used to produce textiles woven from the yarn of locally grown kapok. How the ancient folk dyed their textiles is not yet known with any degree of certainty. The fact that sapan and the juice of leaves have been used in the painting of ancient frescoes suggests that these ingredients must have gone into the dyeing of cloth too.

In frescoes over 400 years old one does not find the designs that are to be seen in ancient textiles now available. However, in wall paintings done within the last 400 years, designs of the "somana", "lansolu", "thuppotti", "olagu" and handkerchiefs are to be found. The manner of painting these designs, which vary from one another, reveals extraordinary skill when one considers that they reflect the state of the times.

Kandyan Costumes

THE costumes belonging to the Kandyan period still remain unchanged among those engaged in "theva" or the traditional services in the Dalada Maligawa. The various service-men known by designations such as Diyawadane Nilame, Rate Rala, Korala, Geparala, Mohottala, Kariya Karavana Rala, Peramune Rala, and so on, had their respective costumes which are distinct from one another. During the Kandy Perahera, they present an altogether extraordinary sight.

Also among the frescoes that throw light on the nature of Ceylon's textiles of the Kandyan Period, are the paintings at such ancient vihares

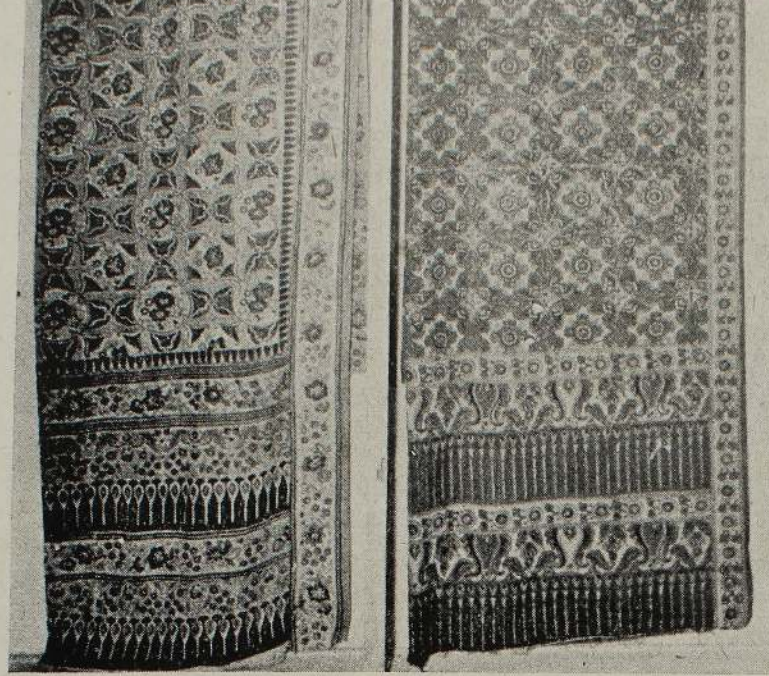
as Mulgirigala, Medagama Sigala, Kahandawa, Godawela, Pattiyawela, Arambegoda, Telwatta, Ganagama, Maniyangama, Kelaniya, Diyasunnatha, Welagama, Medawala, Degaldoruwa, Dambulla, and Kandy. In wall paintings of the Southern Province, the "somana" cloth and "lansolu" are frequently seen, while in frescoes that adorn the viharas of the Central Province the "thuppottiya" is predominant.

Ceylon's ancient textiles fall into two categories, namely, those that were imported from India and those that were woven in handlooms with locally-spun yarn. Now on exhibition at the Museum are "somanas" of 66 designs. I myself have seen about 148 varieties of "somana" cloths in all parts of the Island. It is scarcely possible to give an idea of their types through a verbal description and it is hoped that the pictures accompanying this article will be helpful in giving the reader an impression of their intricate technique and variety.

It is only through a detailed and comprehensive study that one can gain a correct understanding of the various articles of clothing that the ancient

Canopy—A specimen of a "viyana" or a canopy used overhead along the route whenever the reliquary was taken in procession together with the *sangha* for ceremonial occasions





Somana—Here are two designs of “somanas” worn by ancient women. They are woven in a variety of colours—yellow, blue, emerald, red, and white

inhabitants of Ceylon used. Such an enquiry will also enlighten us on an aspect of Ceylon's national culture as well.

Attempts were made in vain to trace the model of a cloth described in an old ola manuscript. This particular model was known as “Kaiyali”.

A variety of cloths known in ancient times as “hela” was used for canopies (“uduviyang”) and also for “pavada” (foot-cloth) on very important occasions.

“Hela” are still to be found in ancient temples. “Diyakachchi” (loin-cloth) was the cloth that was worn for bathing as well as for work in the paddy fields.

“Somana”

“Somana” cloths were decorated with the designs of fowls, swans, eagles, parrots, and also with various designs of flowers, fruits and leaves. They were available in scarlet, black, and white. They were also occasionally found in blue, yellow, and violet. Among the

fancy decorations found in “somanas” the most intriguing ones were those worked in fine lines. Sinhalese motifs that have been used to make these cloths attractive are the “gal-bindu”, “panawa”, “lanuwa”, “ditta”, “roses” and the four-petalled flower (“hatarapeti mal”). It appears that the cloths called “lansolu” have been used for shawls and bed-spreads. In olden days, women used to wear “somanas” over the navel and the “lansolus” over the shoulders, the latter covering only a part of the breasts. “Somanas” and “lansolus” had beautiful designs of tigers, lions, squirrels and various flowers.

The variety of cloths called “Welitara Etivili” which was made of coarse yarn appears to have been so named after the village called “Welitara” where it was made. This variety also carries designs of “idda-mala”, “depota-lanuwa”, stars and “gal-bindu”. It is available in red, black, and blue. This variety of cloth appears to be indigenous to Ceylon.

Cloth called “Gindangi-tuppotti” formed the chief dress of the Kandyan men. This variety of cloth, white-squared and red-coloured, also had its origin in Ceylon.

The cloth called “ottu-kachchi” was 17 feet long and 1 foot 6 inches wide. Its shape was similar to that of the scarf. It was widely used by bridegrooms at weddings. It was available in red, black, and blue.

Kerchiefs were used for shawls, belts and loin-cloth and even as a form of head-gear. They were made of coarse yarn.

Canopy-cloth was a beautiful variety used for “uduviyang” (an overhead covering) on occasions such as the conducting of the casket of relics and the monks in procession. It has a bo-leaf shape border. Its beauty is enhanced by the fancy designs worked on it in red. Canopy-cloth is also made out of multi-coloured pieces of cloth. A full-size canopy to cover the entire overhead space of a hall is also made to suit special occasions. An example is the “mookiri-galla” canopy. It is 45 ft. by 20½ feet and is a



Lansolu—The border line picturing elephants and the peacock design in the middle have been painted in red and black dyes. Ancient Sinhalese women wore these gorgeous lansolus on their shoulders.

single piece, square-designed and made of white coarse yarn. It must have been woven in a handloom. The loom, no doubt, must have been one of a large size. This is the canopy that is found in the "Mookirigalla" Dana Salawa.

Southern Dress

THE jackets worn by Mudaliyars and Muhandirams of former times served as models of the dresses that were in vogue in those days. This type of jacket that came into existence during the Kandyan period formed a part of the dress worn by the people of the Southern Province. It is now a special item of exhibition at the Museum. There are also cloths with hand-worked designs. One such cloth, now on exhibition, displays the skill of its maker. It is a green-and-red cloth with designs worked in white and gold threads.

The various provinces of Ceylon have their own flags. Some of them can be seen at the Exhibition. The flags of the four korales, the eagle flag, and the Ravana flag, rank high among them.

Designs and the size of a "somana" indicate the social status and the position of its weaver. Somanas are named according to weavers' position in the society. Thus they were categorised into groups such as Raja-somana, Mudali-somana, Vidana-somana, Arachchi-somana, Govi-somana, and so on. It appears that the somanas with floral designs were used by the members of the fair sex, while those with fancy designs formed the apparel of their men-folk. There were different types of somanas for different occasions. For instance, the designs intended to be worn at funerals were not used on religious occasions, and those of the latter were not worn at weddings. The largest somana displayed at the Exhibition is 26 ft. 4 inches by 4 feet. Coarse yarn as well as fine varieties have been used in making these cloths. An interesting feature of these somanas is the fact that their colours never fade. Although



A silken somana—Among the somanas on exhibition are a few made of silk. The one pictured above is of fine silk texture, and bears designs combining blue, black, and red. The cloth presents a yellowish hue.

we are not in a position to give any details about the dye compounds at present, as the investigations on them are yet to be completed, we do not have the slightest doubt that they were manufactured in this country.

My efforts to find an explanation for the question as to how did the ancient temples come to possess so many varieties of ancient cloths were rewarded. I found that those people who originally possessed them had gifted them to the nearest temple when they felt they were nearing the end of their lives. Some people made curtains out of somanas and presented them to temples. In certain temples one can find hundreds of ancient cloths of different types.



Welitara Bedspreads are so called because they were made in the village of Welitara with locally-spun yarn. Fashioned in the tradition of Sinhalese Art, they contain attractive designs that would adorn any household.

In many a place, I have seen cloths rotting due to lack of care. Hundreds of valuable pieces of cloths, which would have provided important information about a phase of our civilization, had been destroyed by termites and moths. Our object of holding an exhibition of ancient cloths is to give the people a sort of national and cultural education. The Ethnological Section of the Museum took a special interest in this Exhibition.

The first of a series of exhibitions, intended to present the ancient cloths collected from nine provinces for the public view, is devoted to the Southern Province. 130 items presented at the Exhibition were gathered after a search carried out in an area of 2,000 sq. miles. As much as a thousand ancient cloths are found in a good state of preservation in ancient temples.

In the ancient frescoes of the Southern Province there can be seen various designs of "somana". There are also ceilings painted in somana designs. "Somanas" and "Lansolus" of similar designs are a rare sight. "Peshar Lensas" worn by aristocratic Kandyans as their head-gears are not found in the Low-country. The cloths on which Buddha pictures are painted are known as

"Pethikada". They are mostly found in the Kandyan Provinces.

"Manthaya", worn by ladies round their necks, has a beautiful design. Nowadays this is being used by girls in "Lamasariya". "Manthaya" of olden days, knitted with threads of various colours such as green, black, and red was a speciality.

There are many cloths, sixty feet in length, which bear the designs of historical importance, such as the battle of Rama-Ravana and the abduction of Seetha. These are available at ancient devales and vihares. In the days of Kirthi Sri Rajasinha, it is said, that there were mattresses ("Kalichcham") made of local cloths with cotton in the middle. They have been used by kings and chief monks. They can be seen today at ancient viharas of Diyasunnatta, Galkame and Pallawela. They are said to be the offerings of King Kirti Sri Rajasinha.

There is a special kind of ancient cloth in the Provinces of Sabaragamuwa, Uva, and Kandy. If steps are taken to hold an exhibition of these ancient cloths available at Yudaganawa, Arama, Lankatilaka, Degaldoruwa, and Galkanda, I am certain that more designs will be brought to light.

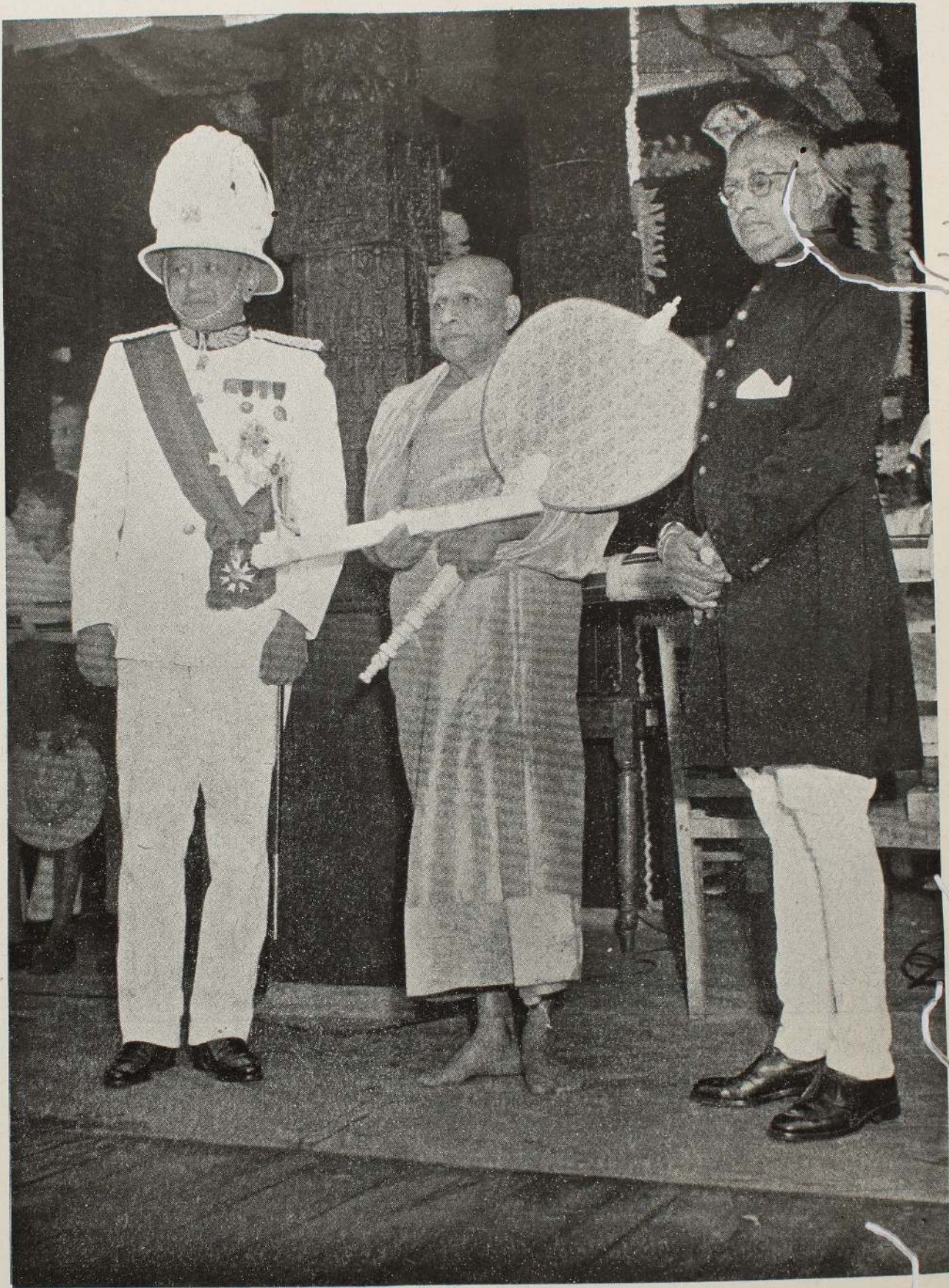


The *Anunayake Thero* expressed his happiness at being appointed to that high office at a time when Ceylon was approaching the historic Sambuddha Jayanthi, and assured that he would discharge his new duties with the utmost love and devotion. The scroll in his hand is the Act of Appointment.

A Historic Buddhist Ceremony

THE Buddhist religion and the literary arts, which were in a process of deterioration from the time of King Rajasinghe of Sitawaka, had fallen on bad days with the dawn of the Kandyan period.

Degeneration in the field of Buddhism had reached such depths that "Upasampada" or Ordination of the priesthood to the Higher Order had become a thing of the past, and "Samaneras"



Picture taken after the presentation of the Act of Appointment shows the newly-appointed Anunayake of the Asgiriya Chapter, the Ven. Udugama Sri Buddharakkhita Ratanapala Thero, with the Governor-General and the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister.

(or novices) wearing the yellow garb were the only members left in the Order of the Sangha.

It was at such a time that the country witnessed the entry into the scene of a great leader, the Ven. Weliwita Pindapathika Asarana Sarana Saranankara Sangharaja whose courage and zeal combined with inexhaustible energy was to give new life and vitality to a nation that was fast degenerating into spiritual and cultural bankruptcy. In the year 1753 A.D., he enlisted the

support of the reigning monarch, Kirti Sri Rajasinghe, to introduce "Upasampada" into Ceylon from Siam.

Again in 1800 A.D. the Ven. Ambagahapitiya Nayake Thero brought "Upasampada" to Ceylon from Amarapura in Burma, while a group of bhikkus headed by the Ven. Ambagahawatte Nayake Thero, in 1875 A.D., also brought "Upasampada" to Ceylon—this time from another part of Burma known as Ramanna.

The Governor-General at the installation ceremony of the Anunayaka Thero



In this way, three distinct sects known as the Siamese, the Amarapura and the Ramanna Sect came into being among Ceylon's priesthood, all of whom joined one of the three groups. Even today all the bhikkus in the Island belong to one of the three sects.

The Siamese Sect which embraces a majority of the priests is divided also into two Chapters—the Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters, which are administered by two Maha Nayakes. Each Chapter, headed by its Maha Nayake, has two Anu Nayakas, a Karaka Sangha Sabha or a Council of Bhikkus, and a Secretary.

The following is a brief account of the historic ceremony at which independent Ceylon's first Ceylonese Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, presented the Act of Appointment to the Ven. Udugama Sri Buddharakkhita Ratanapala, the newly-appointed Anu Nayake Thero of Asgiriya Chapter.

The venue of the ceremony, the Royal Audience Hall, Kandy, was gorgeously decorated with the traditional "rallipalam" and flags, and the floor was covered with rich carpets.

The white and gold ceremonial costumes of the Kandyan chieftains mingling with the bright yellow robes of the members of the Mahasangha presented a unique scene.

The Kandyan chiefs, led by the Diyawadana Nilame, C. B. Nugawala Dissawe, received Sir Oliver at the war statue. His Excellency was conducted in a colourful *perahera* with elephants, dancers, musicians and *sesath*-bearers to the Audience Hall. Large crowds had gathered both *en route* and around the Hall.

At the Audience Hall Sir Oliver was received by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, Mr. A. Ratnayake. The Home Minister presented the new Anunayake Thero, the Ven. Udugama Sri Buddharakkhita Ratanapala, head of the Rangiri Dambulu Vihare, who was installed in a special seat in front of Sir Oliver.

The Ven. Boragolla Dhammananda, Secretary of the Asgiriya Chapter, speaking on behalf of the

Chapter, referred to both the national and the religious significance of the occasion. He said that such ceremonies had been taking place ever since Buddhism was introduced to the land by Mahinda. As was the practice throughout history, the rulers of the land made such appointments directly and performed the presentation of instruments as part of the royal duty.

After the advent of the British the tradition was continued, local representatives of the government performing the duty.

They were very grateful, he said, to Sir Oliver for honouring the occasion and assisting to have a great tradition revived in full measure.

Sir Oliver then addressed the gathering in Sinhalese. At the end of his address Sir Oliver walked up to the recipient of the act of appointment—an ornamental silver case. With deep reverence Sir Oliver presented the encased act, and returned to his seat.

The new Anunayake Thero expressed gratitude to Sir Oliver and said that the historic occasion was of tremendous significance and great joy to himself and all present. Coming as it did during the period of the Buddha Jayanti, the new office brought with it added responsibility and happiness. Equally significant was the fact that the ceremony took place in the historic Royal Audience Hall which was associated with such occasions for centuries up to 1815.

He realized the vast responsibility the new office brought with it, and would endeavour to serve the *sasana* and the nation as devotedly as possible.

The new Anunayake Thero was thereafter conducted in *perahera*, according to custom, to the Asgiriya Mahavihare, the instrument of appointment being borne by Gajanayake Nilame of the Dalada Maligawa on an elephant.

The secretary of the Chapter, Venerable Sri Dhammananda, read the *sannasa* in the hearing of the large gathering present.

Harvest Customs of the East Coast—II

S. V. O. SOMANADER

IN my previous article on "Harvest Legends of the East Coast", I made mention of the East Coast peasant's traditional belief that "Poothams" could work great havoc in the paddyfields, if they were not prevented by charms or placated with offerings. And I referred to the strange devices he adopted to foil these evil spirits from pilfering the golden grain, unperceived by mortal eyes. The methods practised are chiefly those connected with the threshing, measuring, and heaping of paddy, and what these are we shall consider in this second article on the subject.

To begin with, one will find "esims" or talismans hung on ropes running round the threshing-floor right in the middle of the field. These talismans are written by Muslim peasants on slips of paper, and contain Arabic letters. And as the team of patient buffaloes goes round and round the heaped-up paddy-sheaves in the middle of the roped area, thus threshing the grain, often to the quaint music of the peasant's songs, the cultivator has no fear lurking in his mind that the malevolent goblins would spirit away his hard-earned toil.

Sometimes, I have found these "esims" pasted on to the sticks, and planted on the grain-heap when the sifting operations are on. They look like small white flags stuck on the sifted pile of paddy. The sifting, by the way, is done by the men standing on stick-trestles made in the form of a tripod lashed with straw, and "pouring" the grain from a certain height, to enable the wind to separate the paddy, which falls directly below, from the chaff which, being lighter, is carried away diagonally to a short distance.

To scare Goblins

IN some paddy-fields, after the grain has been threshed by the buffaloes, or by women "trampling" on it, a how and arrow are planted on the

stored crop to frighten away the goblins which may come, unseen, to work damage. Another method of scaring away the intruders is by dipping a bunch of margosa leaves into an earthen pot containing sea-water, and sprinkling the saline (bitter) liquid on the paddy-heap. "Poothams", it is believed, would not relish such food.

Not infrequently, in Tamil and Muslim areas, the paddy is measured with the chaff, as it is thought that the "Poothams" will not feast on the grain which has been taken count of.

Besides "esims" and other devices I have mentioned, a charm popularly called "Arakku" is practised in certain agricultural areas. It consists of silver, copper, iron, coral, pearl, and chanks—in addition to "valampuri" (a kind of fruit), "chadaimudi" (a vegetable), and a phial of arrack, all shut up in a box, and buried with margosa leaves (a great safeguard) in the middle of the threshing-floor. These are supposed to appease the demons.

Apart from offerings to propitiate the "Poothams", or defensive weapons like iron rods or bows and arrows to terrify them, or charms like "esims" to ward off their attack, clever ruses or hoaxes are practised by the cultivators to thwart the damage wrought by these wicked spirits. For instance, during threshing-time, the peasants—be they Muslims or Tamils—do not speak their own language (Tamil), but use a peculiar *patois* deliberately introduced to make it unintelligible to the "Poothams", and to confound them. In this way, the men tease and deceive the evil spirits which may be lurking about unnoticed, as the latter, through long association with the cultivators, are supposed to understand the language in ordinary use.



An altar roofed with coconut leaves, within which propitiatory gifts like rice, plantains, betel, arecanuts and flowers are placed to placate the "poothams".

New Words

TO quote some instances, the threshing-buffalo goes by the name "vari-kalan", which means "the productive-legged one". A small basket is called "kunchuvayan" ("tiny-mouthed"), while a big one is termed "peruvayan" ("large-mouthed"). Then the "marakkal" (or measure) is referred to as "kanakkan" ("accountant"),

and the rope is known as "neduvalan", which means "the long-tailed one". Every implement, too, has a different name on the threshing-floor to keep the goblins ignorant of what is going on in the field.

It is significant that, in all this conversational device, all expressions suggesting decrease or ill-luck are scrupulously avoided, and terms



The "Arakku" is being buried in the threshing floor. Note the bottle of arrack (fermented juice from coconut flowers) waiting to be sunk. The bow and arrow here are an additional safeguards.

signifying gain or good fortune are substituted. As instances, "drive the buffaloes" is expressed as "multiply the vari-kalan"; "bring some water" is expressed as "multiply some flood" ("vëllum"), and "go home for rice" has for its substitute "multiply home for vellai" ("white")—rice being regarded as white.

In all these examples, it is also significant that the Tamil word "Perukku" which means "multiply" is used in every sentence as the predicate denoting the increase. Also, it may be mentioned, that while measuring—or rather counting the measures ("kottu") when the measuring is done—the number ten, each time, is referred to as "lapam", which connotes profit or increase.

Before closing, I must refer to yet another device which is often adopted to pacify the "Poothams", or to secure their good favour. In this instance, a small structure, built of sticks

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A Muslim cultivator, with the help of margosa leaves in the right hand, is sprinkling on the threshed heap some salt water brought in a pot, to thwart the evil spirits stealing the grain. Note the "esims" on white paper stuck on sticks as an additional charm.



The Six-Year Programme

Dr. GAMANI COREA

THE Government recently published its Six-Year Programme of investment covering the financial years 1954-55 to 1959-60. The purpose of this article is to describe in very broad outline the general nature and significance of this programme.

A programme of Governmental investment is naturally related in an intimate way to the general problem of development and expansion in the economy. The urgency of this problem does not need emphasising. Ceylon has in recent years experienced a growth of population which is amongst the highest in the world. The main reason for this increase is not, of course, a rise in the birth rate but a marked and progressive decline in the death rate. If Ceylon is to maintain and improve her standard of living in the face of this rise in population she must obviously expand the productive capacity of her economy so as to increase the assured flow of goods and services.

This flow is not of course confined, as is sometimes suggested, to tangible goods. It embraces all the components of the standard of living. Some of these are produced, or provided by the private sector, whilst others are provided by the State. But whatever the agency, an increased output of goods and services is usually dependant on an increase in the stock of capital—not only in the narrower sense of machinery and equipment but also in the wider sense of roads, power plants, harbours, irrigation systems and so on.

Now the Six-Year Programme as its name implies is a Programme of Investment. It is a programme which aims at augmenting the nation's stock of capital. But the Six-Year Programme, I must emphasise, covers only the investment or capital outlays of the Government. It is not the equivalent of an overall Plan embracing the entire economy. Such a plan would indeed require programmes of investment for each of the branches of the private sector as well. The

present programme provides for aid and assistance to the private sector at a number of points. But it does not add up to the total of investment activity in the economy.

Pattern of Priorities

BEING primarily a Government, or what we generally call a public sector programme, the Six-Year Programme must naturally reflect a pattern of spending or a pattern of priorities which is basically appropriate to the public sector. The Government does not usually partake in the direct production of commodities for consumption or export. Its role in this sphere would generally be to provide the ancillary services and assistance needed for these purposes. There are, however, a number of other fields which are the exclusive responsibility of the State and in which direct outlays have to be incurred by Government. These fields are closely related to the processes of production but they are not in themselves directly productive of commodities for consumption or export. There are in fact a number of requirements which a public sector programme has to satisfy. It must first provide such services as are needed for the maintenance and expansion of output. The Six-Year Programme makes substantial provision for the rehabilitation of the rubber and coconut industries and for the improvement of small-holder production of tea. It provides for the opening up of new lands, for the extension of such non-export crops as rice. Five major irrigation schemes, including the Walawe Scheme, would be commenced during the six-year period. The Programme also seeks to increase the yields of areas already cultivated. In the sphere of industries the Programme reflects the Government policy of assistance to the private sector and sponsoring the growth of small-scale industries. It provides for financial assistance,

experimentation and technical training. Save in exceptional cases the Government will not undertake the direct construction and operation of industrial ventures.

The Basic Overheads

THE second requirement of a public sector programme concerns what is generally called the basic overheads of the economy. These include the country's system of roads and railways, ports and harbours, telecommunication services, and the network of power. These fields are more or less the exclusive responsibility of the State, and it is natural that they will occupy a prominent place in a public sector programme. They improve the environment for growth and expansion in the economy. Where they are absent or inadequate they raise costs and inhibit growth. The Six-Year Programme has made provision for investments in this field. It includes programmes and projects which aim at expanding these basic overheads.

The third requirement of a public sector programme cover the social services. The Six-Year Programme provides for an extension of medical and educational facilities, of hospitals and schools. Technical education receives a special emphasis. There is also an added stress on housing and water supplies. Investments in these spheres improve the quality and living standards of the people. But these contributions to further production are naturally indirect.

The last category of needs or requirements which must find a place in a public sector programme embraces the administrative services and defence. The Six-Year Programme includes provision for outlays in this sphere but this provision has naturally to be restrained in favour of other competing requirements.

The broad distribution of the total programme over these spheres reflects the general pattern of priorities. The cost of the Programme over the six years is roughly Rs. 2,500 million. Nearly 77 per cent. of this amount is devoted to projects of an economic nature which expand in one way or another the productive base of the economy.

The social services secure about 16 per cent. of the total programme, whilst defence and administration each receive about 3.5 per cent. of the total. I think it could be claimed that the broad pattern of priorities or allocations as depicted here is reasonably balanced. It conforms to the general requirements of a public sector programme weighted towards the needs of development.

Financing the Programme

YOU may want to know how this Programme is going to be financed. Well the first thing that needs to be said is that the Programme is not based on an extravagant or over-ambitious scale of spending. The average annual expenditure envisaged by the Programme is something like Rs. 620 million. This is a rate of spending for which the Government has in fact been able to make provision during recent years out of its own resources. It does not represent any expansion in the level of spending over and above what the Government has been able to provide for the last two years or so. It is, of course, true that the volume of resources in Ceylon is particularly susceptible to fluctuations whose origins are external.

As I have just said the Six Year Programme is based on present levels of income and expenditure. It is, however, sufficiently flexible to provide for supplementary courses of action in the event of either an expansion of resources over present levels or a shortfall. An approach on these lines is, perhaps, somewhat more realistic than the alternative of basing a programme on an assumed or hypothetical budget of future resources.

The Six-Year Programme in its published form contains a good deal of information on the projects that are to be introduced, the employment that is likely to be created, and so on. It is not possible to expand on these within the scope of this article.

There is, however, one point which I must stress. A process of planning or programming is necessarily a continuing one. It is particularly so

(Continued on page 52)

Planning in a Democracy

NOT everyone reads the Hansard nor does the vast majority of public-spirited citizens have the opportunity of listening to the debates in Parliament. The Press, conscious of its responsibilities, is, however, handicapped by the heavy demands made on newspaper space in an alert democracy.

It is, therefore, not surprising that the speeches made in the House of Representatives on June 23, 1955, by the Hon. M. D. H. Jayewardene, the Minister of Finance, and the Hon. J. R. Jayewardene, the former Minister of Finance and presently Minister of Food and Agriculture, should have gone relatively unnoticed. In the debate on June 22 and 23, following on the Amendment to the Address to H. E. the Governor-General, which sought to condemn the Government for the so-called failure of its first Six-Year Plan and to brand the Government's Second Plan as "an elaborate camouflage designed to conceal its failures in the past", the two Ministers gave detailed facts and figures in vindication of their policies and methods of planning.

Mr. J. R. Jayewardene dealt with the background of the seven Budgets which he had introduced from 1947-48 to 1953-54 for, he said, "It seems to me really that those Budgets and myself are on trial". The writer will now summarize the salient facts and figures given by Mr. Jayewardene in his well-prepared brief which won him an acquittal by an overwhelming majority of the House of Representatives.

Our Object

"PLANNING in a democracy is very different from planning in a dictatorship. You can have a plan where the State uses its powers to oppress the people, transfer the people from one part of the Island to another, to do work which they do not wish to do for the purposes of the State.

You can confiscate property and income; but that is not the type of planning we want. You can plan in such a way that you pauperize the first generation before you make the second, the third and next generations rich. The Soviet Union had not only pauperized a whole generation but also actually liquidated two million persons to establish a new generation of happier Russians."

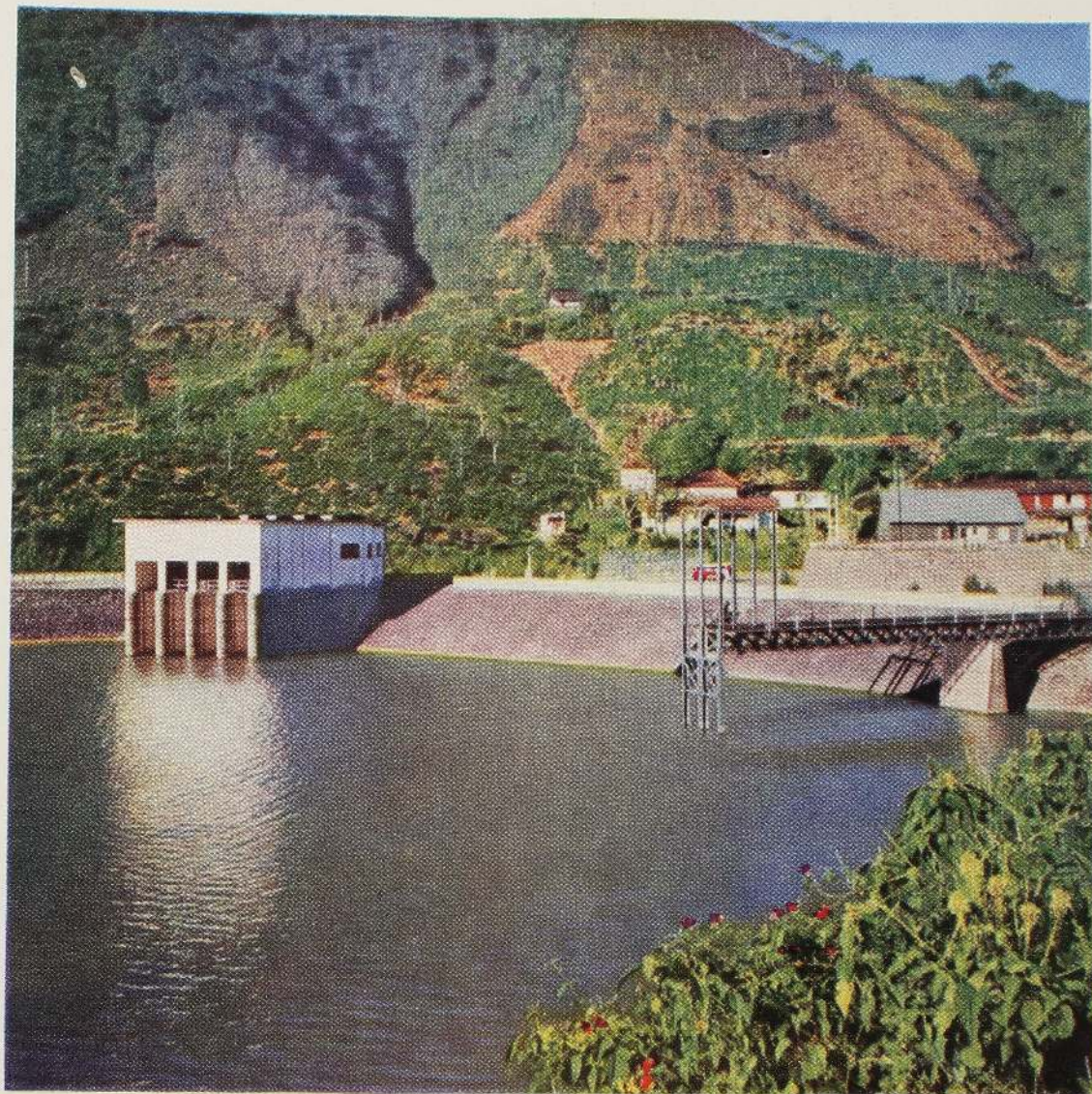
Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, the Indian Socialist leader, had charged that "the seven authors of India's second Five-Year Plan were all men from behind the Iron Curtain". He was disturbed over the "highly-centralized totalitarian kind of planning" of the Indian Government.

Planning in a developed country with vast resources, where the private sector develops the economy more than the public sector does, is also very different from planning in an under-developed backward economy like Ceylon's. Two main factors are necessary to achieve any plan—the capital and the men. One cannot print bank-notes and create capital nor can one make technicians overnight out of people who are just emerging from a Colonial economy.

"The State is only an engine that is in charge of the plan" said Mr. Jayewardene. "It may be that, in the course of the journey, one of the wheels became a little bent or the piston did not work properly or that the little metal fatigue caused some delay—but, by and large, the engine DID travel."

Difficulties

THE difficulties of planning a budget were analysed at length. The 1951-52 Budget was introduced at a time when Ceylon enjoyed a period of complete budgetary surplus, when expenditure on current account and loan account was met from normal taxation. Within four



Laksapana Hydro-electric Scheme



A view of Colombo Harbour

months—by February/March, 1952—the position had become completely different and by September, 1952, there was an overall deficit of almost 300 million rupees.

In such a precarious economy, any Minister of Finance would have difficulties in budgeting for any particular period of time. Before 1948 for example, no school was built with loan funds, but from the first Budget of Independent Ceylon almost 150 million rupees out of loan fund expenditure had been devoted to developing and building of schools.

Ceylon is a country of small property owners. Small-holders comprise 80 per cent. in coconut, 40 per cent. in rubber, and 25 per cent. in tea; and, as for paddy, it is a 99 per cent. small-holders' industry. It is from these very small-holders

that the national income is to be derived. The Government's policy has been to gradually increase taxation on the higher levels of income until the peak of direct taxation, viz., 80 per cent., was reached in the 1953–54 Budget. Any further increase in direct taxation will completely dry-up the resources available for the development of the private sector. The rich are being taxed to help the poor and that was the approach of the Six-Year Plan—"to reduce the difference that existed between those who owned property and derived large incomes and those who owned no property and got no income".

Not only are we a nation of small-holders but also we are a nation where the poor peasant, as in India, has had, up to now, little or no education. He cannot find the means to obtain medical relief nor are many medical institutions



Housing at Anuradhapura

run by the private sector. It is the State which has to buy even the D. D. T. and organize the entire anti-Malaria Campaign. Peasants have little or no land to cultivate and it is the State that must, therefore, find the land.

Members of the Opposition repeat *ad nauseam* that our development compares very unfavourably with that of India. Besides the fact that India is a much larger country, with far greater resources than ours, if we take into account the development in each village in Ceylon and in India and the amenities of life in the two countries, Ceylon compares very favourably with India or, for a matter of that, with any other country in South-East Asia.

This point was also emphasized by Mr. M. D. H. Jayawardane, who visited India recently at the invitation of the Indian Government to see the progress made in that country. "Certainly, it is considerable", he said, "but having seen what has been done in India I am in a position to say that the progress made by Ceylon during the last six years, both in actual development and in the field of social services, is something we can be proud of." The Minister of Finance then quoted from his predecessor's Budget Speech introducing the first Six-Year Plan.

"The Government has outlined this Plan for the future development of our resources. It is a human plan, containing defects that all human

endeavours are heir to, conditioned further by limitations imposed by the existing wealth and the potential resources at our command. We can honestly claim, however, that in the preparation of this Plan, the single purpose of doing the greatest good to the greatest number influenced our decisions."

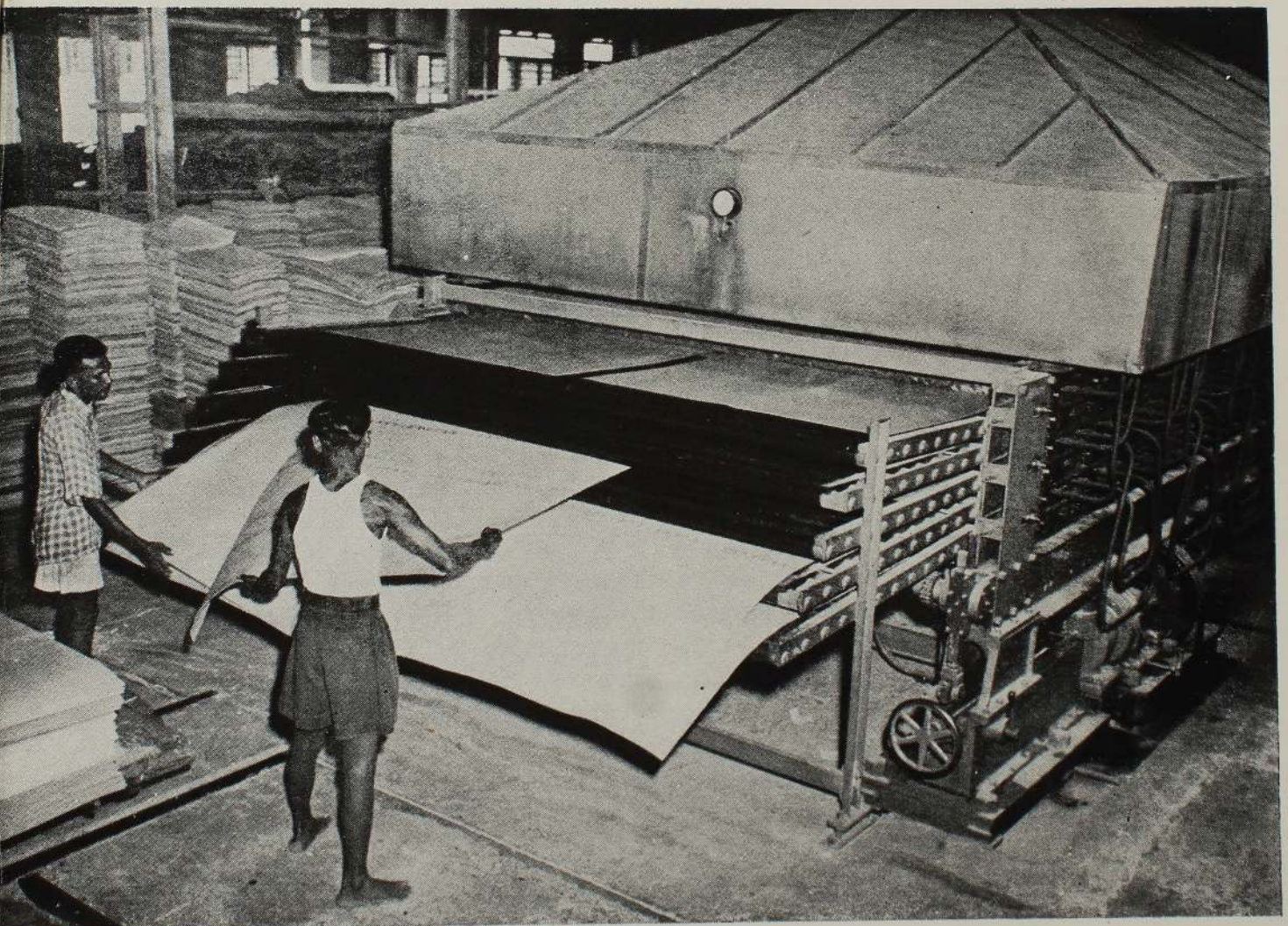
The Minister of Finance, as well as his predecessor, then analysed in great detail the progress made by this country in the last six years, and thereby vindicated the first Six-Year Plan. They also reiterated the view that, given public co-operation which can only come from public understanding of planning, the Government

will be able to solve many of the urgent problems that still remain with us. This Plan, incidentally, was presented on Thursday, July 7. Many have already condemned the Plan without knowing anything what it is about.

Food Subsidy

Mr. J. R. JAYEWARDENE, analysing his seven Budgets from 1947-48 to 1953-54, revealed that Government spent on an average a sum of Rs. 900 million every year. (In 1931 the total expenditure both from current revenue and loan funds was only Rs. 90 to 100 million.) In the

Making Plywood



7-year period, expenditure surpassed revenue by almost Rs. 800 million—the total overall deficit, in a sense. The Food Subsidy during that period was Rs. 800 million. Almost the entire total overall deficit was therefore spent on the Food Subsidy.

External Assets amounted to Rs. 947.3 million in 1947. At the end of 1954 they amounted to Rs. 895.2 million. Though in 1952 they dropped to Rs. 600 million they rose again in the next Budget. The real decrease for the seven years was therefore only Rs. 50 million.

A proper picture of the country's economy cannot be obtained from Budget figures alone; much depends on the balance of trade by which the economy of the country could be affected, favourably or adversely. At the end of 1951, the balance of trade was in our favour by Rs. 345 million and Ceylon was living entirely within her means.

The end of 1952 saw the sudden end of the Korean boom and Ceylon was hit by a "Sadasulang". Tea, coconut and rubber prices dropped and essential imports, e.g., rice, rose steeply. The end of 1952 saw a trade deficit of Rs. 200 million but in 1953 it amounted to only Rs. 40 million and September, 1954, saw an overall surplus—thanks to the removal of the Food Subsidy and the increase in tea prices and export duties. Though there was a total trade deficit of Rs. 40 million at the end of 1953, the year 1954 ended with an overall trade surplus—a record one—of Rs. 412 million.

The Government has given as much relief as possible to the middle and lower income groups, releasing entirely from income tax all those who drew a net income of less than Rs. 400 a month. Public servants were given a special living allowance and opportunities of borrowing money at the lowest rates of interest from the Lady Lochore Loan Fund were also afforded to them. The private sector of the economy was helped with incentives for purposes of development.

Ceylon ceased to be tied to the Bank of England and the economy of Britain with the creation of the Central Bank. If not for this, this country could not have withstood the storm that hit us in 1952.

Public Health

GREAT strides have been made in the field of public health. In 1947 the death rate per thousand was 14.3; in 1954 it was 10.4—a rate better than that of the U. K. or France. The infant death rate per thousand live births in 1947 was 101; in 1954 it was 72. The maternity death rate per thousand dropped from 10.6 in 1947 to 4.6 in 1954.

"Very soon", said Mr. J. R. Jayewardene jocularly, "people will not die in this country." The expectation of life between 1920 and 1946 increased from 33 to 44 but between 1946 and 1954 it further increased to 58 which, according to experts, "is unparalleled in world demography". Today, the Government has doubled its 1947-48 expenditure of Rs. 55 million on hospitals.

The field of education shows no less striking figures. The number of school-going children has risen by 600,000 from 1947 to 1954 and teachers by over 20,000. The number of teachers per 10,000 of the population in Ceylon is 58 compared with 21 in India and 8 in Burma.

The total acreage of land cultivated during the six-year period was 177,798 acres, exceeding the target set by 50,000 acres—a just consolation in contrast to the disappointing results in the sphere of industries. This disappointment is admitted by the Government but this does not make the whole Six-Year Plan a failure. There have been further improvements with regard to agriculture—resulting in increases in the yield of paddy. The Parakrama Samudra Scheme has been completed and 128,316 families have been settled in newly-developed lands. 682,389

people—men, women and children—have been moved from congested areas where they had neither land nor income nor employment.

Industries

THE achievements elaborated in these speeches are far too many to be listed here, but mention must be made of the development and the modernization of the Port of Colombo; improvements in the Postal and Telecommunication Services; extension of the electricity supply services; the improvement of road and rail communications; and the gradual Ceylonisation of trade and commerce.

In the field of industries, some of the Government factories have been closed down because of severe competition from abroad. In other countries, these ventures are started as private enterprises but, in Ceylon, rich business concerns seem reluctant to invest in new undertakings. Government has learnt its lessons and has decided to hand over to private corporations most of the industries that it had started.

Ceylon's record in the field of social services is very impressive. No other country in the world has spent such a proportion of its revenue on health, education, free midday meals, charitable allowances, &c.

Priorities

THE London *Economist* recently published an article on "Indian Socialism and State" where it sets out the objectives that a government of a backward economy must achieve. Said Mr. J. R. Jayewardene: "Each one of those things this government is doing, and I take pride in saying that we are doing it well".

These notes would not be complete without a reference to the new Six-Year Plan. The present Minister of Finance enjoys the assistance of the Central Bank, the Planning Secretariat, and a team of international experts. These were not available to the former Minister of Finance.

A set of priorities has been carefully considered—priorities set out by the World Bank Mission and examined by the Planning Committee of the Cabinet.

The Government has benefited greatly by the advice of the World Bank Mission which set three fundamentals for industrial development: the setting up of a Planning Secretariat; the establishment of a Development Corporation; and an Institute of Scientific Research. These three organs of planning are now working in full measure—or will be soon.

Mr. M. D. H. Jayawardane revealed in the House of Representatives that top-ranking Indian planners had told the young men of Ceylon's Planning Secretariat, on their visit to India recently, that they were progressing in the correct direction and that the Indians had hardly anything to give them by way of advice.

People's Help

BUT, however able the planners may be, no plan can be successful without the co-operation of the people of the country. It would be appropriate to end this article with the words of Mr. M. D. H. Jayawardane on this subject:

"Planning should not be a job of the Government alone. It requires the co-operation of the entire Parliament; it requires the co-operation of the public; and it also requires leadership not only of those on the front benches of the Government but also of the people, at every stage of planning. We are introducing this plan in the certain knowledge that it has defects; but, with the advice that we have and the co-operation that we hope to get from the public, we are certain that we will be able to correct those defects and fill in any weak spots, if there are any . . . It is only upon constructive criticism and with the co-operation of the public that we can march forward so as to be able to bring to the people more opportunities to live a richer and a fuller life".

(Reprinted from "The Times of Ceylon", July 6, 1955.)

How a Leopard kills its Prey

LAST year, in the August-September issue of *Ceylon Today*, we carried (from the Administration Report for 1953 of Mr. C. W. Nicholas, Warden of the Wild Life Department) a translation of a narrative by Game Guard W. L. A. Andris of the Yala Range, describing the birth of an elephant.

We reproduce here, from Mr. Nicholas's Administration Report for 1954, translations of three narratives of how a leopard kills its prey.

(i) *By Game Guard W. L. A. Andris of Yala Range :—*

I was on my way to Yala one evening and, near Wilapalawewa, I noticed a leopard lying beneath a tree. I took cover and watched. The leopard was lying on its belly with its forelegs stretched forward and its gaze was fixed on a herd of spotted deer which was grazing about 100 yards away. It kept tossing its tail about but its head and body were motionless. The unsuspecting deer were nibbling the grass and moving slowly forward towards the leopard. As they approached closer and closer the leopard gradually brought its forelegs back close to its body and kept its head low down, but the occasional twitching of the tail continued. When the deer were within 20 yards the leopard became very tense and I knew that the charge was imminent. Suddenly, it shot forward like a streak and in a flash had seized a spotted doe. It attacked the doe from the front, threw its paws round the doe's neck, seized the doe by the throat with its jaws and clung on. The rest of the herd ran some yards and then stopped and stood looking on, barking and stamping.

Stood its Ground

THE doomed doe stood its ground for some minutes while the leopard hung on and got its fangs deeper into its victim's throat. Then the

doe collapsed and fell sideways. The leopard did not relax its hold but pressed the doe, which was kicking and making frantic efforts to rise to the ground. Soon the doe lay still. The leopard then released its hold, moved off a few yards, sat on its haunches and looked at its fallen victim. Two or three times it sprang back on the doe and bit its neck, and again moved away and watched. Then the leopard seized the carcass of the doe by its neck, and dragged it, the carcass being parallel to the leopard's body, towards the tank. The herd of deer, which all the time remained 30 or 40 yards away, followed the leopard at a distance, still giving the shrill, alarm call.

(ii) *By Game Watcher A. Malhamy of Wilpattu Range :—*

About 7 o'clock one morning, at the height of the drought, I saw a leopard about 150 yards away walking across the dry bed of the Maradan-maduwa tank. I followed cautiously, got under a tree and sat down to watch. The leopard had by then climbed up a *dan* tree and lay down on a branch about 10 feet above ground. The *dan* tree was in full fruit, and every day deer and pigs used to come under it to eat the fallen berries. The leopard lay perfectly still on the branch of the tree, only turning its head to look all around. After about half an hour a small herd of 9 spotted deer came across the dry bed of the tank, stopping to nibble every now and again, towards the *dan* tree. The leopard became absolutely still. The deer reached the tree and began to feed on the fallen fruit. One of the does came right under the branch on which the leopard was lying. I saw no movement of the leopard which was absolutely still and tense. Suddenly it sprang on the back of the doe beneath it. The doe called out loudly but the leopard kept its hold and bit at the doe's throat, with each bite getting a firmer grip on its throat. At the doe's cries the rest of the

herd stampeded for a short distance and then stood and barked violently and stamped the ground with their forefeet.

The seized doe then fell to the ground. The leopard continued to bite the fallen doe's throat and to claw its body, the leopard's tail twitching and tossing from side to side all the time. The doe soon lay still and the leopard got off its kill, moved away 2 or 3 yards and sat on its haunches, panting and watching its kill. It sat thus for about 2 minutes and then got up and walked twice round the dead doe. Then it urinated and scattered the earth with its hind feet and came back to the carcase. It seized the carcase by the neck, and walking backwards, dragged the carcase about 20 yards into scrub jungle and disappeared from view.

(iii) By Game Guard W. L. A. Andris of Yala Range :—

One evening I was coming round Suduweli-mulla when I saw a sounder of 8 adult pigs and 7 small sucklings feeding in a muddy pool. Almost at the same time I noticed a leopard emerge from the jungle edge. I concealed myself and watched. The leopard sat on its haunches and watched the pigs from a distance of about 150 yards for about 20 minutes. Then it rose and walked slowly and cautiously towards the pigs, which were in the hollow of the pool,

till it was about 75 yards away when it lay down flat on its stomach with its head low.

Crouching Leopard

THE pigs were now leaving the pool and moving towards the crouching leopard, unconscious of its presence. The leopard lay absolutely still, with only an occasional slow movement of its tail. The pigs moved closer to within about 25 feet when the leopard suddenly sprang out amongst them. In a moment it was out again, running full speed on three legs, with one suckling held in its mouth and another hooked in the claws of its right, front paw. It ran for about 75 yards and quickly went up a *malittan* tree. The rest of the sounder of pigs pursued the leopard, grunting and screaming, but could not catch up with it. The suckling in the leopard's mouth appeared to be dead, but the other one in its paw was squealing loudly. The sounder reached the tree which the leopard had climbed and ran about, grunting, around the foot of the tree. Some pigs stood on their hind-quarters and bit the bark of the tree, making various noises. After a time there was silence and I left my hiding place and approached the tree. The pigs were still there and ran away on seeing me. The leopard was on the tree. It had killed both sucklings, placed one on a fork of the tree, and was eating the other.

HARVEST CUSTOMS OF THE EAST COAST—II

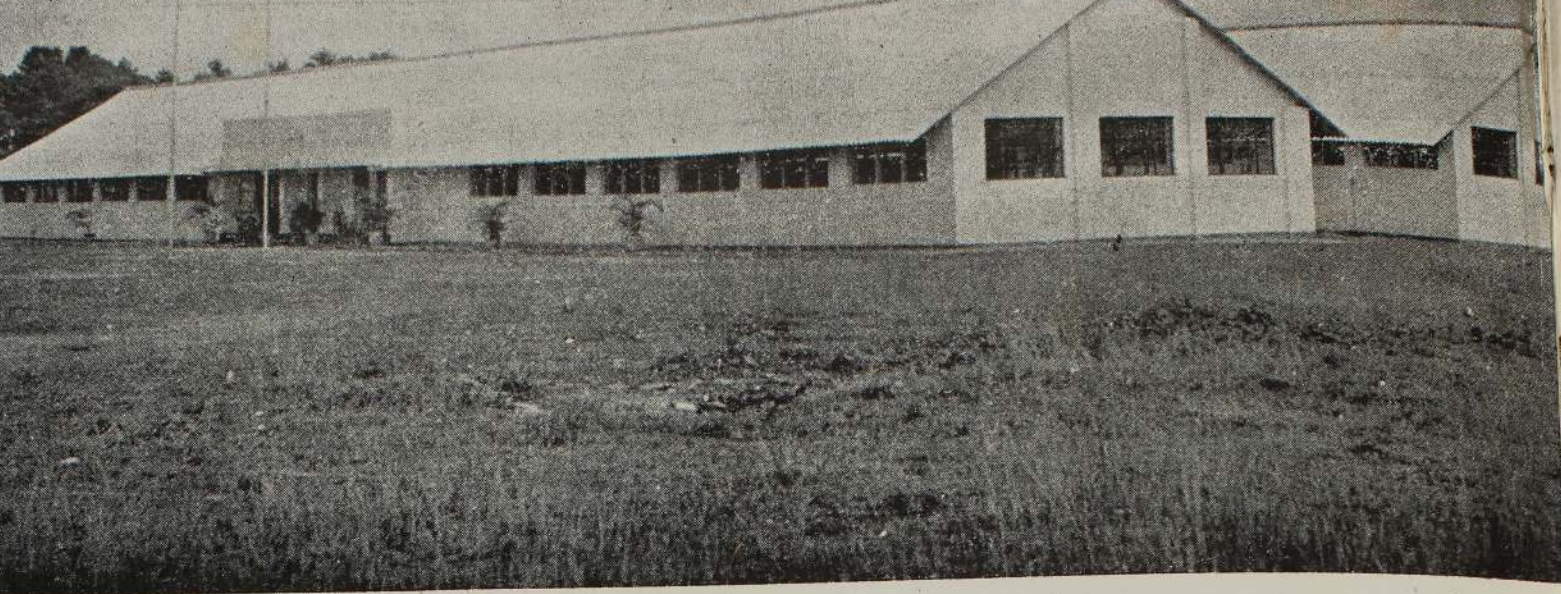
(Continued from page 29)

and roofed with green, plaited coconut-leaves, is constructed close to the threshed paddy-stacks. And within this altar are placed various propitiatory offerings in the shape of rice, plantains, coconuts and betel, not to mention shoe-flowers and other flowers, to divert the evil ones from their mischief. This practice obtains usually among Tamil Hindu cultivators who share the superstitious beliefs in common with their Muslim brethren.

In this way, life goes on with the simple peasant on the East Coast. Hard-working and resourceful

as he is, he is withal steeped in superstition. And though the "schoolmaster is abroad", he still persists in believing that "Poothams" do pilfer his paddy. We cannot entirely blame him, for he cherishes such beliefs not only through heredity but by the very nature of his environment. Who amongst us is not superstitious, if not in agricultural matters, at least in some other aspect of our life?

And so, it will, perhaps, take a long time before he can be made to give them up.



The new buildings at the Maharagama Government Training College where the Handicrafts Section is housed

Training in Handicrafts

A Handicrafts Training Department has been established at the Government Training College at Maharagama. The department has been in operation since January, and on June 3rd the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, formally declared the workshops open. On the same occasion, the New Zealand representative, Mr. W. J. B. Hunter, handed over the equipment gifted by the New Zealand Government under the Colombo Plan Technical Co-operation Scheme.

The origin of the new Handicrafts Training Department goes back to 1953 when the New Zealand Government, at the request of the Ceylon Government, loaned an adviser in Technical Education, Mr. W. J. B. Hunter.

Since then, a Technical Education Branch has been set up at the Education Department. The Chief Inspector who is in charge of the Branch underwent additional training in New Zealand, while four of the Inspectors underwent training in the United Kingdom or Australia.

Practical Education

THE problem of practical education is being tackled in both primary and secondary schools

in Ceylon. In the primary schools, handwork is being extended and will be an integral part of the curriculum, while in the secondary schools, handicrafts are being introduced on an improved scale, particularly at primary school levels. Ceylon has built the necessary workshops of modern pattern whilst the equipment has come from the United Kingdom and Australia.

The major handicrafts for boys are woodwork, metalwork and, in some areas, lacquerwork. The major handicrafts for girls are cloth-weaving, lacquerwork, leatherwork and pottery.

The special training department that has been set up at the Maharagama Training College, with the assistance of the New Zealand Government, comprises large workshops for woodwork, metalwork and craftwork (i.e., cloth-weaving and lacquerwork). In addition, there is a drawing office and a technology room.

The course for specialist teachers is for two years, half of the time being spent in the workshops. Fifty students were selected this year and another such group is to be selected next year, giving a total in training at one time of about one hundred.

The workshops will not only cater for new trainees but also be used later for In-Service training of persons already in the service, and for refresher courses. The workshops, which are laid out on very modern lines, will serve as a model for the schools.

It is not without significance that a U. K. technical officer who recently visited the place expressed the view that this training establishment was unique in South-east Asia, and that Ceylon might well, in the future, take students from other countries.

Meanwhile, three junior technical schools are being planned. They will be situated at Galle, Kandy and Jaffna. The position at present is that equipment for Galle is gradually coming from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.* For Kandy and Jaffna, the whole expense is being borne by New Zealand.

These three provincial junior technical schools will be allied to the present Technical College in Colombo. The character of this college is gradually to change to that of a truly vocational school.

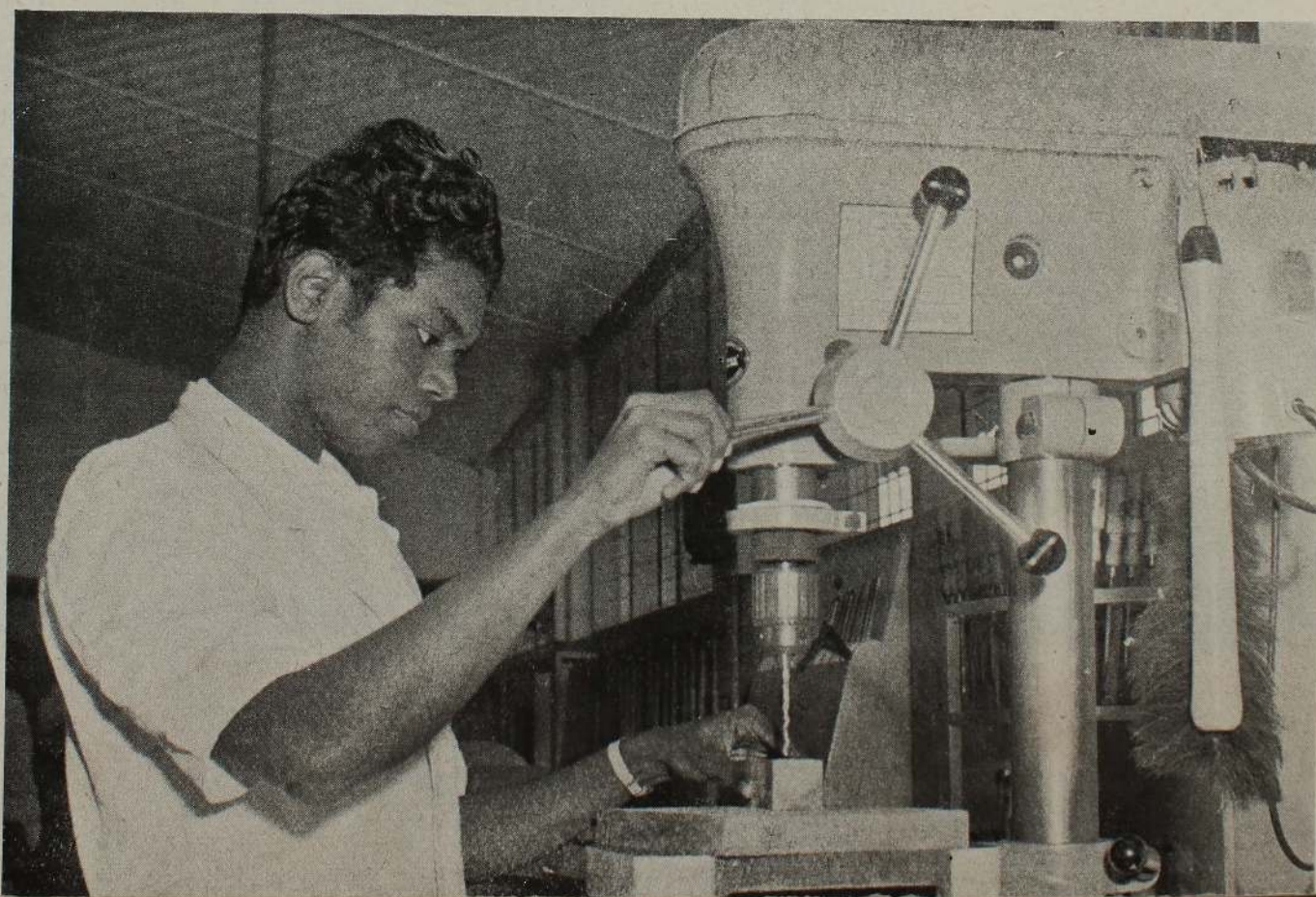
A general view of the carpentry workshop





Leather work

A drilling machine being operated by a trainee-teacher





Hand-loom weaving

Within the province of the Ceylon Technical College Department will come also an Institute of Practical Technology, a vocational school to take students at a higher level, i.e., the grade of

technicians rather than apprentices. Plans are complete and building is to commence soon. The whole institution has been provided by capital aid from Canada.

Champions of the Ceylon Turf

D. E. WEERAKOON

AT the end of August every year, the temptation cannot be resisted of giving full rein to the imagination and entering the realms of conjecture. Each year or each cycle of years brings into focus one or more racehorses whose achievements entitle them to be regarded as champions.

It is for the racing man an easy transition from the conviction that what he has seen is the best, to a sub-conscious comparison with the great horses of other times of whose performances he has either heard or had visual proof.

In the last six years we have had two horses of undoubted quality, whose exploits have given them the right to be ranked with the "immortals" of the turf. They are Cotton Hall and Owen Grange. Both have done enough in their own time to dispel any doubt as to their versatility and their gameness. Challenging them this year was the all-conquering Joshua who more than redeemed his lapse in the Governor-General's Cup by winning the O. E. Goonetilleke Cup in almost record timing with a handicap of ten stone.

It may be that, belonging as I do to a generation that is once removed from the present, I am inclined to view, through rose-coloured spectacles and with happy memories, feats of equine brilliance of years gone by; whereas I tend to be more critical of perhaps equally brilliant performances of the present day. But the fact remains that much as I am thrilled by the amazing achievements of horses like Cotton Hall (of revered memory) and Owen Grange, I still treasure most the now almost fading memory of the great Mordennis brushing off opposition with the grand mien of some Mogul Emperor.

Mordennis

I was young in years and perhaps more impressionable when I saw Mordennis for the first time winning the Governor's Cup. Mordennis ran only 10 times in Ceylon and he won four

Governor's Cups, two Clement's Plates and two Turf Club Plates. He was beaten only twice by Little Star to whom he was conceding over a stone. Other horses like Norbert 1895, Jack O'Lantern 1896 and Footprint 1907 had won the triple Crown, but gray beards at the time that I started racing were all agreed that in Mordennis they had seen the perfect racing machine. No jockey who ever rode him ever moved on him till the turn for home but the straight—it was much shorter than it is now—was enough for Mordennis to leave his rivals sprawling behind him. Mordennis was sent to Bombay and won three Byculla Cups and the Aga Khan's Cup.

His victories were all the more remarkable in that they were gained in an era when there were patrons of the turf who were princely in their purchasing. At the time when the pound sterling was worth fifteen times what it is worth today, some of the bigger owners in Ceylon, like the doyen of the Ceylon Turf, Mr. E. L. F. de Soysa, Mr. Wilton Bartleet and the like, thought nothing of paying Rs. 25,000 for a horse just to win the blue ribband of the turf which then had a stake barely a tenth of what they paid.

Without venturing to distract from the merit of the undoubtedly brilliant exploits of our post-war champions, I am convinced that no one will cavil at me for asserting that the class of thoroughbreds now racing in Ceylon bear little or no comparison with the quality that prevailed about thirty years ago.

Five-figure Prices

IT is true that present day owners pay five-figure prices for their horses but this is due in the main to the spiral of inflation that set in with World War II. A horse for which the price of Rs. 10,000 or more is willingly paid today would not have cost a hundred pounds in the old

days. But yet, long after the time of Mordennis, a Ceylon owner in Mr. "Bowie" instructed his friend who was in England, Captain Barnes, now a senior stipendiary steward in Ceylon, to go up to a £1,000 and buy him a horse to win the Governor's Cup. Captain Barnes did so, but he had to go to the limit to buy out of a "seller", Nightjar, who dead-heated with Jingle for the Ceylon Governor's Cup and then went on to win the Viceroy's Cup and the Burdwan Cup in Calcutta, then the Mecca of racing in the East.

It is, on reflection, precisely this ability to beat not only the best in Ceylon but to take on all comers in India at a time when the princes of India were at the height of their glory that convinces me that the champions of the past are more than a match for those of the present.

There is perhaps no racing man in Ceylon who does not thrill with pride at the mention of the name Orange William. Although his record in Ceylon is a moderate one, his career in India is one that will never be surpassed in the annals of racing history. Four King Emperor's Cups, three Viceroy's Cups and a host of other valuable prizes including a Rajpipla Gold Cup in Bombay against the cream of Western Indian blood stock in timing that was a record till quite recently—such was the achievement of Orange William.

Success Abroad

APART from Orange William, Jingle and Nightjar who had dead-heated from the Ceylon Governor's

Cup went on to sweep the board in Calcutta, bringing back to Ceylon the Classic of that centre including the King's Cup, the Viceroy's Cup and the Burdwan Cup. Other Ceylon horses of yesteryear who were perhaps not in the top flight like Dalkexter, It Snows, Aborigine, Warriors Call and Wanderer carried away in their own respective spheres some of the lesser plums of Indian racing.

Set against this galaxy of triumphs what have we to show for the top notchers of the present day?

The legendary Cotton Hall was admittedly past his prime when he was sent to Calcutta. Again, admittedly, he won the Nepal Gold Cup but he was taken to a short head by an ancient Class II horse before he gained the prize. He broke down thereafter and there was no means of testing how good he was even against the middling class he was up against in Calcutta.

Pink Lightning, the fastest thing on four legs we had in Ceylon also went to Calcutta but in the Metropolitans which was his main objective he could not make the grade.

To prove that I am by nature not a "laudator temporis acti" I make bold to say that if my good friend Mr. A. R. M. Zarook decides to send Joshua along with veteran trainer Medhi Hussein—a remote possibility I fear—the prospects are set fair to the re-emergence of Ceylon on the racing map of India.

Finish of the Queen's Cup : Mr. A. R. M. Zarook's Joshua is seen winning the Queen's Cup, running away from the field, during the recent August Race Meet



The Budget Speech, 1955-56

THE Minister of Finance, the Hon. M. D. H. Jayawardane, making his Budget Speech in the House of Representatives on July 7, said that in his last Budget Speech he had made three promises, namely, the appointment of a Taxation Commission, the drawing up of a comprehensive development programme, and the setting up of a Ceylon Development Corporation.

A Taxation Commission was appointed on October 29, 1954, under the Chairmanship of Sri K. R. K. Menon, Finance Secretary of the Indian Government and a member of the Indian Taxation Commission. Two experts from the U.K., Mr. D. G. McPherson of the Inland Revenue Department, and Dr. A. D. Knox of the London School of Economics, served on the Commission. Two others from Ceylon, Mr. T. D. Perera, a former Commissioner of Income Tax and a former Secretary to the Treasury, and Mr. J. Tyagaraja, a member of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank, also served on the Commission. Dr. Harbans Lal, Professor of Economics at the Patna University, was the Economic Adviser to the Commission.

The Commissioners' Report has been published. He had given careful consideration to the various recommendations made by the Commission and some of them he had included in his tax proposals for the current budget.

With regard to the drawing up of a development programme, he said that the Planning Secretariat with the help of the various Ministries had prepared a Six-Year Programme of Investment covering the period 1954-55 to 1959-60. He said that the Six-Year Programme has been drawn up in relation to the priorities and outlays recommended by the Mission from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in their report on the economic development of Ceylon.

Six-Year Programme of Investment

THE priorities remained much the same, but the scope of Government's Six-Year Programme of Investment was somewhat broader than the plan recommended by the Mission. The outlay had been increased from Rs. 1,600 million to Rs. 2,400 million over the six-year period. That had been made possible because the rate of development in recent years had exceeded the rate envisaged by the Mission. The programme included the capital expenditure in the current year's Budget estimates and laid down the orders of magnitude of capital expenditure in the next five financial years.

In drawing up the Six-Year Programme, they had been motivated by the immediate needs of the economy. The crux of the economic problem in Ceylon was the low level of income per head of the population though it was higher than in most of the under-developed countries in South and South-East Asia. Associated with that basic problem was the problem of unemployment which became all the more acute due to a high rate of population growth. The immediate and pressing need, therefore, was to increase the national output. The Finance Minister remarked that not only must the national output be increased but the rate of increase must be sufficiently high to outstrip what was almost an exceptional rate of population increase and to eliminate the emergence of widespread unemployment.

Accordingly the emphasis in the programme was on increased output. High priority had been given to projects which would contribute towards the maintenance of existing output and the increase of future output. They had also laid emphasis on social investments, which would improve the quality and living standards of the people and which would contribute most effectively towards an expansion of production.

Programme Essentially for Public Sector

THE Finance Minister said that the Six-Year Programme was essentially a programme for the

public sector. Nevertheless, the Government has given due consideration to the various factors which were now hampering economic development in the private sector.

Mr. Jayawardane continued that the problem of providing more capital for the genuine developmental needs of the private sector had been engaging the attention of the Government for some time. The I. B. R. D. Mission recommended the setting up of a Ceylon Development Corporation to provide the finance necessary to initiate new projects in industry, agriculture and other fields and to furnish or arrange for the procurement of managerial and technical assistance for such ventures. He said that as promised by him last year, draft legislation for the purpose had already been prepared and would be introduced in Parliament shortly.

Foreign Capital

REGARDING foreign capital, the Finance Minister said that the Government's policy was one of encouraging foreign capital to enter local production in conformity with the national interest. Foreign capital would be entitled to the same tax and other concessions enjoyed by local capital entering new industry in Ceylon. Nationalisation was not a general aim of Government policy. In the event of compulsory acquisition, however, foreign investors would be entitled to the fullest compensation. There would be no restriction on payments of dividends and interest as well as the withdrawal of foreign capital.

Referring to the Six-Year Programme, the Finance Minister said that the total outlay under the programme would be Rs. 2,400 million. He said that the Government's policy was designed to step up capital formulation at as fast a rate as was possible in order to ensure for the entire population of the country a progressively increasing standard of living. The success of that policy depended on the extent of co-operation that they received from the private sector. The programme of investment of the public sector had to

progress hand in hand with investment in the private sector. Government was going a long way in providing the necessary climate for the private sector to develop and it was hoped that the private sector would respond to the call, said Mr. Jayawardane.

Government Finance

HE next drew the attention of the House to the current state of Government finance. He said that for the first time in many years a net cash operating surplus of Rs. 33.7 million was achieved in the financial year 1953-54, mainly due to the substantial reduction in the expenditure on food subsidies and considerable shortfalls in Loan Fund Expenditure. This improvement in Government finances had been accelerated in the current financial year. During the first eight months, they had accumulated a net cash operating surplus of Rs. 186.0 million, as against Rs. 66.6 million during the corresponding period in the previous financial year.

The Government's Gross Domestic Debt, which was Rs. 952.9 million at the end of September, 1954, fell by Rs. 43.6 million to Rs. 909.3 million at the end of May this year. The net domestic debt, exclusive of sinking fund, which stood at Rs. 825.8 million at the end of September, 1954, had fallen by Rs. 50.2 million to Rs. 775.6 million at the end of May, 1955.

The Gross Foreign Debt rose from Rs. 192.1 million at the end of September, 1954, to Rs. 198.8 million at the end of May, 1955. The increase of Rs. 6.7 million represented the amount withdrawn out of the Rs. 91 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The proceeds of the loan were utilised for the purpose of financing the foreign exchange costs of Stage II A of the Hydro-Electric Scheme. The Net Foreign Debt, exclusive of sinking fund, was Rs. 133.0 million at the end of May, 1955.

The Finance Minister said that Ceylon's total Gross Public Debt, both foreign and local, stood at Rs. 1,108.1 million at the end of May, 1955, as

against Rs. 1,145.0 million at the end of the last financial year. The corresponding figures for the Net Public Debt, exclusive of sinking fund, were Rs. 908.6 million and Rs. 951.9 million respectively.

Referring to the Budget for 1955-56, he said that the budgetary objective was a balanced budget from the point of view of long-term stability. Hence he had compromised on a small budget deficit which was unlikely to lead to any financial instability.

With regard to the expenditure proposals, Mr. Jayawardane said that Expenditure Chargeable to Revenue would be Rs. 946.3 million, Loan and Loan Fund Expenditure would be Rs. 262.6 million, making a total expenditure of Rs. 1,208.9 million. The total Capital Expenditure for the forthcoming year was Rs. 491 million as compared with Rs. 452 million in the original Estimates for 1954-55.

Capital Expenditure

THIS capital expenditure in 1955-56 included expenditure on projects commenced in earlier years and the expenditure on new capital projects to be commenced in 1955-56. The Irrigation Department would be commencing projects which would, when completed, provide irrigation facilities and flood protection to about 28,000 acres of additional land in various parts of Ceylon. The Land Development Department expected to bring under cultivation 9,600 acres of paddy land and 5,000 acres of garden land. The Gal Oya Development Board would complete during the year the development of the Left Bank under which 40,700 acres of under-developed land would have been rendered irrigable and 36,140 acres of under-developed land would have been provided with irrigation facilities.

The Finance Minister continued that a scheme of rural electrification would be launched next year. He said that work was now in progress on Stage II A of the Hydro-Electric Scheme which would, when completed, have a capacity of 25,000 kilowatts. Steps were also being taken to proceed with Stage II B.

The Colombo Port Development Scheme would be completed during the course of the next financial year. Ceylon would then possess a modern harbour providing 15 alongside berths and ancillary facilities. The Port Commissioner's Department would undertake surveys of Galle and Kankasanturai with a view to commencing the development and modernisation of those ports.

In the industrial sphere, Mr. Jayawardane said, corporations would be set up, under the Government-sponsored Corporations Act, to take over the management of the Ceramic, Vegetable Oil, Paper, Plywood, Leather, Cement, and Caustic Soda factories. The Salt Department would complete its scheme of development and modernisation designed to ensure self-sufficiency in salt.

Social Services

THE expenditure on education, health, and social services had been increased. A programme for the re-organisation of the health services of the country based on the recommendations made by the late Dr. Cumpston and the World Bank Mission and several other experts was inaugurated this year and would be continued in the next year. In the field of Education, the National Languages had been used as the media of instruction in the Junior Schools. Next year its use would be extended into the Junior Secondary Schools, beginning with the pre-S.S.C. A new Swabasha Department has been set up for the first time. In the sphere of Social Services, assistance to T. B. patients and their dependants had been increased to a rate of Rs. 4 million per annum. A further sum of Rs. 1 million had been provided for relief from widespread distress due to floods, drought, &c.

The Finance Minister observed that out of the total budgeted expenditure of Rs. 1,208.9 million, 72.7 per cent. was on projects of an economic nature while 20.7 per cent. was on social services. The bulk of the capital expenditure of Government was on economic development, which was



The traditional Vel festival in Colombo in honour of Lord Subramanya is held in the month of "Adi" (July-August). The picture shows the Vel car being taken in procession,

the long-term solution to the multiplicity of economic problems facing the country.

Taxation Proposals

REFERRING to his tax proposals to meet this expenditure, he said that he had been mainly guided by the Taxation Commission Report. His proposals were based on the following broad categories :—

- (a) incentives designed to encourage savings and capital formation in the private sector ;
- (b) proposals designed to change the existing income tax law relating to the concept and determination of income, and the law and administration of the taxes ;
- (c) purely revenue proposals designed to reduce the budget deficit as far as possible.

Referring to the taxation proposals falling within category (a) the Finance Minister said that certain special concessions had been recommended in respect of the payment of life insurance premia and contributions to approved provident funds. He would also increase the initial allowances in respect of plant and machinery by 10 per cent. and in respect of industrial buildings by 5 per cent.

It has been resolved to amend the Stamp Duty Ordinance to provide, in the case of a bank loan or overdraft advanced on the security of a life insurance policy, the levy of a nominal stamp duty.

With regard to import duties, he proposed to reduce to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preferential and $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. general the duties on iron and steel imported in an unfabricated form. He also proposed to reduce the duties on heavy equipment like earth movers and other agricultural machinery and irrigation equipment to the concessional rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preferential and $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. general. The duty on spare parts of all machinery, to which these concessional rates applied, would be reduced correspondingly. Similar reductions of duties would apply to raw materials.

The rates of duty on plastic sheets would be reduced from 35 per cent. to 5 per cent. ; on wax of all kinds from 20 per cent. to 5 per cent. ; on asbestos fibre from 20 per cent. to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ; on drawing paper and book cover paper to 5 per cent. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preferential and 15 per cent. and $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. general respectively.

The duty on bon-bons has been increased to 100 per cent. ; on carbonic acid gas to 50 per cent. preferential and 60 per cent. general ; on match labels to 110 per cent. ; on wire nails to 30 per cent. and on neon signs to 50 per cent. preferential and 60 per cent. general.

The Finance Minister further said that the rates of duty in respect of a number of other articles including cotton waste, rolled gold sheets, celluloid sheets and adhesive flock would be reduced to $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as a measure of encouragement to local industry.

Income Tax Modifications

WITH regard to Income Tax falling under category (b) he said that several modifications had been made. Concessions have been allowed in the case of commuted pensions and retiring gratuities. Non-resident manufacturers, trading through an agent in Ceylon, would be taxed only so far as their merchanting profits were concerned.

In determining the income from employment of professional and technical men, a deduction would be allowed of a sum not exceeding Rs. 300 per annum in respect of expenses incurred in the purchase of books and periodicals.

The grant of child and dependent relatives would be extended to include (1) an adult child, who is an engineering or business apprentice or is receiving full-time instruction in an educational establishment up to an age of 25 years and (2) a dependent relative, who is maintained in an asylum or sanatorium or as a student in an educational establishment.

The Finance Minister next proposed to extend certain concessions to non-residents of countries which provided similar concessions to Ceylon residents.

The existing rate of minimum liability to tax of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. would be reduced to 1 per cent., where the assessable income did not exceed Rs. 6,000. The rate of minimum liability to tax, where the assessable income exceeded Rs. 6,000, would be 2 per cent. instead of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. with suitable adjustment for marginal cases.

In regard to charitable and religious institutions, the Finance Minister said that the existing exemption of the income of these institutions would be limited to such an amount as would be applied to charitable or religious purposes.

A company director holding more than $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the shares of the company would be treated in the same way as partners in a business and passages and other allowances would be liable to tax. Expenses allowance in the case of directors and senior executives would be included in the total profits from employment and the actual expenses for the purposes of the business would be deducted.

The rate of tax applicable to a liquidator would be 34 per cent. if the company in liquidation was a resident company and 40 per cent. if a non-resident company.

Provision would be made to give legal effect to the deduction as an expense of United Kingdom income tax, which would be in excess of the tax credit given against Ceylon tax under the Double Tax Relief Agreement with the U. K.

Import Duties

WITH regard to Customs Tariff (falling under category (b)), the following revisions had been made :—

The rate of import duty on sewing machines would be reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preferential and $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. general. The duty on motor spares

would be reduced to 15 per cent. preferential and $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. general.

The ban on skim milk would be removed so as to make it freely available instead of it being imported under licence. In the case of imported foodstuffs, the duty on tinned fish, meat, &c., and frozen meat, fish, &c., would be reduced from the existing rates of 40 per cent. preferential and 50 per cent. general to 15 per cent. and 25 per cent. respectively.

The duties on all sports materials would be reduced by a further 5 per cent. In addition, the duty on tennis balls would be reduced to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preferential and $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. general.

Glassine paper used for making Vesak lanterns would have a duty of $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preferential and $27\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. general, as against the rates of 50 and 60 per cent. respectively.

The following changes in the duties of other items listed below would also be brought into force :—

Bottling capsules	..	Reduced to $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
French chalk	..	Reduced to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
(Plastic cups and saucers, dishes and plates)		Reduced from 35 to 30 per cent.
Coal pitch	..	$27\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to Re. 1.10 per cwt.
Aluminium-ware, wholly or mainly of		20 per cent. preferential and 30 per cent. general
Automatic parking motors		10 per cent.
Shoe thread not specified elsewhere		15 per cent.
Marble (unfinished)	..	$22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Referring to his tax proposals under category (c), the Finance Minister said he would introduce a revised scheme of collecting estate duty. Under the new scheme, estates of over Rs. 20,000 and below Rs. 10,000,000 have been subjected to a

graduated scale of duties, varying from 3 per cent. to 35 per cent. respectively. Estates beyond Rs. 10 million would have a rate of 40 per cent.

With regard to excise duties, the price of arrack would be increased by Rs. 2 per bottle. In terms of the Excise Regulations, there would be a consequential increase in the selling price of locally manufactured gin. The rate of excise duty on locally made malt liquor would be doubled.

In regard to motor vehicles, the yearly licence fees were doubled for almost all classes of vehicles. It was further proposed to levy a fee on the transfer of second-hand vehicles, except motor cycles, and the fees which ranged from Rs. 300 to Rs. 100 varied according to the age of the car. As regards other taxes, he said that the lottery tax has been increased by 30 per cent.

The import duties on refrigerators would be increased by 10 per cent. on foreign liquor by Rs. 2 per bottle of whisky, brandy, and gin, and on beer by 12 cents per pint bottle.

Export Duties

REFERRING to export duties, the Finance Minister said that new duties would be imposed on all exports of glycerol in all its forms, including crude and refined glycerine at the rate of 15 cents per lb. The existing duty on cardamoms would be

revised so as to be Re. 1 per lb. on cardamoms (in shell) and Rs. 2 per lb. (shelled).

He further said that the following reductions in duty would be given effect to :—

- (1) Copra .. The duty would be reduced from Rs. 200 to Rs. 185 per ton
- (2) Cocoa .. The duty would be reduced from 50 cents per lb. to 40 cents per lb.

The Finance Minister thanked the countries that had given aid to Ceylon. Under the C-Plan, he said, Ceylon had so far received Rs. 60 million of capital aid. The country had also received 140 foreign technical experts and 501 Ceylonese had been sent abroad for training.

Under the Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, they had received equipment to the value of Rs. 1 million, while 204 experts had come to Ceylon and 57 Ceylonese have received training abroad under its auspices.

Negotiations for further aid from the Government of Australia were now under way. The Government of Canada has already concluded an agreement for the grant of aid amounting to Rs. 10 million during the year 1955-56. Negotiations for capital aid from the Government of New Zealand would commence shortly, he said.

THE SIX-YEAR PROGRAMME

(Continued from page 31)

in a country like Ceylon which is prone to frequent changes and fluctuations in the economic climate. A programme or a plan needs constant revision and improvement—not only to adjust itself to changes but also to take account of better data, more accurate information and more scientific techniques. The Programme that has been presented is in no way complete in every

respect. It does, however, provide a basis or a foundation for progressive improvement and continued work in the future. As both the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister emphasised in their introductions to the volume, the success of the Programme depends in large part on the response and co-operation of the public at large.

(Adapted from a talk over Radio Ceylon)



His Excellency Mr. R. S. S. Gunewardene being greeted by President and Mrs. Case of Colgate University at the Colgate University Conference

Foreign Affairs

C-Plan Council holds Policy Session

THE Policy Session of the Colombo Plan Council for Technical Co-operation began in Colombo on July 14.

The Japanese Ambassador in Ceylon, His Excellency Mr. Shiroji Yuki, announced at this meeting that Japan, who was one of the newest members, would provide technical assistance under the Colombo Plan in the fields of agriculture, cottage industries and light industries, in the present financial year.

The President of the Council, His Excellency Haji Abdus Sattar Saith, Pakistan High Commissioner in Ceylon, who opened the Session, said that the "Colombo Plan has now got into its stride, and the actual benefits of the Plan have begun to be felt".

Referring to the question of extending the Colombo Plan, the President called on the members to "apply our minds to this question, keeping in view the phenomenal success that this plan has so far achieved and the field that remains

to be covered, to attain the targets that were aimed at when the plan was newly started in 1950".

The Council then discussed and completed its report on the technical assistance provided during the past year.

At the sessions of the Council on the following day (July 15), the Pakistan High Commissioner in Ceylon was re-elected President for the ensuing year.

The Council considered the effect on technical co-operation, if the Colombo Plan was terminated, when its first phase ended in mid 1957. The views of the Council on this matter would be made known to the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee which, at its meeting in September-October in Singapore, would consider whether the Plan should be extended for a further period or not.

Ceylon's Trade Mission to Europe

THE Ceylon Trade Delegation to Europe, which was led by the Hon. Shirley Corea, the Minister of Commerce, Trade and Fisheries, achieved a good measure of success in France. It has been successful in persuading France to enter into an Agreement and to increase the import quotas for Ceylon goods, particularly coconut products and tea.

The mission was successful in getting the French Government to withdraw discriminatory import restrictions against imports from Ceylon. The discriminations operated against Ceylon by the fact that France was a member of the O.E.E.C., which stipulated these conditions.

Formal handing over of German X-Ray Equipment

THE official handing over of a private German gift consisting of a Siemens X-Ray Equipment Set for the Colombo Chest Clinic took place on Friday, August 5, 1955, in the presence of

His Excellency Dr. Georg Ahrens, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ceylon, and the Hon. E. A. Nugawela, Minister of Health. The gift, donated by the German Rubber Study Group which visited Ceylon last year for participating in the International Rubber Conference, will be a valuable addition to the equipment of the Chest Clinic.

The German Minister, Dr. Ahrens, pointed out that in May last year a group of business men representing German rubber importers, consisting of Mr. Albert Schaefer, President of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the giant Phoenix Rubber Plant, Director Karl Rueger of the Metzeler Rubber Plant, and Mr. H. A. Fritz, Manager of the German Rubber Industry Association, came to Ceylon to discuss and study the rubber situation with delegates from many other countries. They had been greatly impressed by two things in Ceylon—the spirit of friendliness with which they had been welcomed everywhere, and the impact of the social problems this country was facing.

Through their gift they wished to express their appreciation of the great hospitality extended to them by Ceylon, its Government and people. They hoped that it would be of some help in the fight against T. B.

New Radio-Telephone Service

A radio-telephone service between Ceylon and Malaya was inaugurated on July 11. The service was started with an opening announcement by Mr. E. W. Dowdeswell, Manager of the Overseas Telecommunication Service, from the office of the Minister of Posts and Broadcasting.

The Minister of Posts and Broadcasting, the Hon. S. Natesan, then conducted a long-distance conversation with Mr. Francis Thomas, Minister of Communications and Works, Singapore. This was followed by another conversation between Ceylon's Postmaster-General, Mr. V. A. Nicholas,

and the Minister for Posts and Telecommunications in the Federation of Malaya, Mr. V. M. Menon.

ECAFE Conference on Problems of Budgetary Classification

THE Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East is convening a Conference on "Workshops on Problems of Budgetary Classification in the ECAFE region", to be held in Bangkok from Tuesday, August 30 to Saturday, September 10, 1955.

Ceylon has been invited to participate. The Ceylon Government has nominated Mr. A. Ratnam, C.C.S., Assistant Controller of Supply and Cadre of the Treasury, and Mr. S. Kaneshasan of the Central Bank to represent Ceylon.

U. K. Premier's Reply to Ceylon Premier

THE following is the text of a message received from the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in reply to a message sent by the Prime Minister of Ceylon, on the eve of the Summit Conference in Geneva :—

"I thank you, the Ceylon Government and people for your generous message of good wishes. The close harmony of outlook of the Government and peoples of the Commonwealth is a great source of strength in what we are trying to do.

It is my earnest hope that the obstacles which have so far prevented Ceylon's admission to her rightful place in the United Nations will with many other barriers be removed and Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will do all that can be done to further this object.

I have conveyed your message to my colleagues."

P. M's. Message to U. S. President

THE following is the text of a message sent to the President of the United States by the

Prime Minister of Ceylon on the occasion of American Independence Day on July 4 :—

"The Government and the People of Ceylon join me in sending you our warmest felicitations and best wishes on the occasion of the 179th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by the U. S. A."

P. M's. Message to France

THE following is the text of a message sent to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, France, by the Prime Minister of Ceylon on the occasion of the French National Day :—

"On the occasion of the French National Day, 1955, the Government and People of Ceylon join me in sending you our sincere felicitations and good wishes for the coming year."

Ceylon Felicitates Canada

THE Ministry of External Affairs conveyed to His Excellency the High Commissioner for Canada in Ceylon and through him to the Government and people of Canada the sincere good wishes and felicitations of the Prime Minister and the Government and people of Ceylon on the occasion of the Anniversary of Canada Day on July 1.

Ceylon Felicitates Belgium

THE Ministry of External Affairs has conveyed to the Charge d'Affaires of the Belgium Legation in Ceylon and through him to the Government and people of Belgium the sincere felicitations and good wishes of the Prime Minister and the Government and people of Ceylon on the occasion of Belgium National Day, 1955.

Thai Royalty in Colombo

H. R. H. the Princess Mahidol, mother of Thailand's King Mahidol, and her daughter, H. R. H. Princess Kalyani, arrived in Colombo by air on June 28 en route to Europe.



A picture of the drummers leading the procession during this year's celebration of the Kandy Perahera

They were met on arrival by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala; the Official Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. P. Nadesan, and the Thai Ambassador in India, H. E. Phra Bohiddha Nukara, Madame Nukara, and Miss Nukara.

Princess Mahidol and Princess Kalyani were later the guests of the Prime Minister at his country residence at Kandawela. They were on their way to Switzerland to spend a holiday.

They left the Island the same day.

Royal Visitors from the East

THE Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, announced in late June that members of the Royal families of the Buddhist Countries of Siam, Laos, Cambodia and Japan would come to Ceylon next year to participate in the Buddha Jayanti celebrations in commemoration of the 2,500th year of the death of Lord Buddha.

Sir John said that the Ceylon Government had invited several countries to participate in the Buddha Jayanti celebrations. He added that Communist China had replied that since they did not believe in any religion, they would not be able to send an official delegation. But they would certainly send an unofficial delegation consisting of Buddhist scholars.

World Bank Experts Leave

THE World Bank experts, Mr. Richard Demuth and Mr. William Fraser, who came here recently for consultations with Ceylon Government officials on the proposed Development Finance Corporation, left the Island on July 15.

In an interview to the Press, Mr. Demuth said that the Development Finance Corporation would have a big part to play in the economic advancement of this country. He expressed confidence in the venture and stated that the plans formulated by the Government for the running of the institution were sound, realistic and workable. He added that the sooner it

was established, the better it would be for the country as a whole.

Referring to the International Finance Corporation, which was being set up in the U. S., Mr. Demuth stated that it was a similar body but with much wider scope. It could also be of assistance to industrialists in Ceylon. He further stated that there was scope for industrialisation in Ceylon, particularly in the field of small industry. That would give an opportunity for Ceylonese to gather experience in industrial management and technical know-how.

He further stated that he visited the newly constituted Applied Research Institute in Ceylon and was impressed by the rapid progress it has made.

Buddhist Leader Returns

THE President of the World Fellowship of Buddhists, Dr. G. P. Malalasekera, returned to Ceylon on June 30, after an extended tour of Europe. He told pressmen, on arrival, that he was fully satisfied with the results of his mission, which was undertaken primarily to enlist the co-operation and assistance of eminent scholars in his work of compiling the Buddhist Encyclopaedia for the Buddha Jayanti.

Dr. Malalasekera said that he had been promised financial assistance for the Encyclopaedia by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in Paris. Recommendations for the granting of such assistance would be placed before the Budgetary Committee when it meets in September.

Indian Textile Delegation Visits Ceylon

AN Indian Textile Delegation, sponsored by the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, arrived in Ceylon at the end of July, on the last lap of its journey back home after a study tour of Burma, Thailand, Malaya and Indonesia. The Delegation met the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, before it left the Island.

The Delegation consisted of leading representatives of the Indian cotton mill industry and the textile export trade.

French Professor was here

THE Professor of Indology^o of the College de France, Paris, Dr. Jean Filliozatt, arrived in Ceylon on July 18.

Dr. Filliozatt is the regional editor in France of the Buddhist Encyclopaedia, which is being compiled by the Lanka Bauddha Mandalaya, for the Buddha Jayanti next year. Dr. Filliozatt had discussions with the Buddhist Encyclopaedia Compilation Committee before he left the Island.

M. R. A. Mission comes to Ceylon

A MISSION of 192 members from the Moral Re-Armament Movement arrived in Ceylon by air on July 12. The team represented twenty-six countries, twelve languages and three creeds. Its members ranged from Cabinet Ministers to Coal Miners, businessmen, industrialists, journalists, trade union officials, former Communists, actors and actresses, doctors and nurses.

Leading the mission were Mr. John McGovern, who for 25 years was a Labour M. P. in the British House of Commons, and Peter Howard, author of seven plays, the most recent of which—a musical play entitled “The Vanishing Island”—was presented to Ceylon audiences during the mission's stay in the Island.

Mr. McGovern and Mr. Howard were guests of the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, during their stay in the Island.

British Army Chief Visits Ceylon

GENERAL SIR GERALD TEMPLER, who will assume duties as Chief of Imperial General Staff in November, arrived in Ceylon on July 31, on an official visit.

General Templer is on a tour of Far Eastern countries to acquaint himself with the British service posts, prior to taking up his new appointment.

He was met on arrival at the airport by the U. K. High Commissioner in Ceylon, His Excellency Sir Cecil Syers, the Acting Commander of the Ceylon Army, Col. H. W. G. Wijekoon, and the Chief of Protocol, Mr. Alfred Edwards.

After inspecting a guard-of-honour, provided by the Ceylon Army, General Templer drove to “Temple Trees”, where he was the guest of the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, till he left the Island on August 3.

On the day after his arrival, he called on the Governor-General, His Excellency Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, at Queen's House and also met the Prime Minister and the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs, Mr. G. de Soyza, in their respective offices.

Ceylon's High Commissioner in Australia Returns

CEYLON'S High Commissioner in Australia, His Excellency Mr. Aubrey Martensz, returned to Ceylon on July 25 after relinquishing duties.

Interviewed by pressmen, he said that from what he had heard, Ceylonese who had settled down in Australia were quite happy and some of them appeared to be doing well. Asked about the chances of Australia re-entering the Ceylon tea market, Mr. Martensz said he gathered that the opinion in the Australian tea trade was that, in due course, they would start buying Ceylon tea once again.

Later speaking at the inauguration of the Ceylon-Australia Association on Tuesday, Mr. Martensz said that it was with deep regret that he left Australia. “One could not have spent so many years in happier surroundings”, he added. He said that the Australians had a great affection for the people of Ceylon.

The High Commissioner-designate for Ceylon in Australia, His Excellency Mr. P. R. Gunasekera, also spoke at this meeting. Mr. Gunasekera left for Australia on July 30 to take up his appointment.

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Forbes was an able man and had a wide knowledge of the Sinhala Language and customs of the people.

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