

Sunday Gazette

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1945.

EDITORIAL

WITH REGRET

With the formation of a Sub Area responsible for the Military Administration of Penang and Province Wellesley, the appointment of Military Governor for this island has now ceased.

Air Commodore Cracroft takes leave of us with regret; we, for our part, are equally sorry that he is leaving us.

BRAVE NEW WORLD?

Deserts and other arid regions of the world can blossom, aeroplanes, ships, trains and cars travel indefinitely; and man may become superman.

Faced with this twin prospect, all peoples of all countries await eagerly the talks which are to be held in Washington shortly between the British Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, the American President, Mr. Truman, and the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King.

Outstripping the most fantastic prophecies of Jules Verne and all his fellow scientific crystal-gazers, the potential realities of the atomic age have placed humanity at the cross-roads.

Unemployed Are Not Forgotten Hundreds Absorbed Into Government Offices

UNEMPLOYED persons who have registered their names are not forgotten by us. We are doing everything we can to help them.

"We do not wish to mislead every one who comes to register his name with us. The peak of absorption by BMA has been reached and unless mercantile firms open up, we cannot hope to find vacancies to take in so many more unemployed.

the habit of bowing,) all are of good education and with nearly the same qualifications. It is difficult for any officer to make his choice when every person interviewed is anxious to get back to work.

It's That Mallam Again

In which FREELANCE talks of men and mice, looks at Blighty from other eyes, and gives "fags" and figures on the tail-end of lease-lend.

A NUMBER of big manufacturing firms back home are making every possible effort to stop their key workers under the age of thirty being called up for the Services.

the first time, wanting to stop and stare, but in Euston Station an express rushed me away. As I travelled north I found myself slipping back to 1939.

By The Way

Lights-on: Surprise: surprise: Passing down Macalister Road on Friday night, this column was agreeably taken aback by the very cheery atmosphere exuding from the row of gaily lit Osira lamps stretching down to Magazine Circus.

Dream: George Bilainkin, former Editor of the "Straits Echo" and now "News of the World" correspondent in Paris finds the French capital as breathtaking as ever.

Relief: The B.M.A., it seems to this column, is dispensing relief very liberally. The poor and needy apparently will not be the only ones to get it.

Back Door: A Butterer who signs himself "British Fair Thinker" writes suggesting that the B.M.A. should inquire into the ever prevalent practice of getting employment by what he calls the "back door."

Dear Sirs: I read, from a recent issue of the London "Times," that the Jap Commander in Malaya began his address to his conquerors: "Dear Sirs, I have the honour to surrender....."

Filmfare: Latest Hollywood gossip: Bing Crosby has been told by his doctors that he must take things easy. Seems he has been working too hard.

Tale-end: A self-important actress, on her way to the theatre, turned into her favourite West End cocktail-bar and ordered a Sunset Glory (one part British sherry, one part hair oil and pepper).

Along The Five Foot Ways (To The Editor) Sir—Along Penang Road, life flows by nightly for a multitude of pleasure-seekers, in cars, in jeeps, on foot, on bicycles and in trishas.

POSTBAG

Small Things Tell Big Stories (To The Editor) Sir—It goes without saying that with the exception of the rich, the unscrupulous businessman and the profiteer, we all view the ever mounting cost of living with the gravest concern.

School For The Poor (To The Editor) Sir—In order to ensure that children of poor parents who cannot afford to send them to school are given every chance of receiving elementary education, may I suggest that the wealthy classes take the initiative to establish a School for the Poor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHOLERA At present, an outbreak of Cholera is suspected in NIBONG TEBAL. The cases have been imported from KEDAH.

NOTICE PENANG SUB AREA has been formed and is responsible for the Military Administration of PENANG ISLAND and PROVINCE WELLESLEY with effect from Nov. 45.

NOTICE Four experienced Composers wanted by Taiping Prison. Salary according to classification and B.M.A. rates. Superintendent of Prison, Perak. Taiping, 1.11.45.

WANTED Wanted to purchase S (Metal) Camp Bed with Mosquito Net. C. T. Smith, Petroleum Bunk, Hongkong Bank Building.

The Mercantile Bank Of India, Ltd. (Incorporated in England) (Liability of Shareholders Limited) Authorised Capital .. £3,000,000

RADIO Roundabout

By Johnny Microphone

Trying to achieve a balance between "highbrow" and "lowbrow" isn't an easy task, and a lot of hard work goes into the making of the programme that's put on nightly "for you the people of Malaya" as the announcer says when he's introducing the English Hour. We've got our ideas on the subject and we try to make the programmes varied we hope of a quality to appeal to every taste. You may not know this, but the programme is modelled closely on the B.B.C. in London. There are regular weekly programmes like "Nights at the Opera" or "Name Bands;" there are talks and stories; and of course the mere fact of having the Time Signal and News at nine o'clock is enough to make those of us from England a trifle nostalgic. When we hear it!

Ideas Wanted

But this is what I'm driving at. We have our ideas; but we would very much like to have yours. If you like a programme, please write and tell us so it will give us an excuse to have an extra drink before closing time, and if you hate a programme, we'd like to know that too! Very few people write into us, you know; and the chairman of the English Hour thinks something ought to be done about it, that's why I'm putting in a spot of binding exhortation this week. Better than writing, of course, would be to come along any evening and see us, if you've ideas for radio you'd like to see put over. We don't keep alcohol at the studio, but if a glass of iced water will do—!

And now a word or two about the programmes in the coming week. Tonight's "Quiet Corner" with Lilli Busse, Leslie Chanter and Cyril Hott as guest artist, should be worth listening to; this quiet Sunday evening service seems to be popular with you listeners—and I think rightly so. Monday's recital by Firth and Doggett should be good; Victor Doggett is a pianist of high quality, and in the past we haven't heard enough of him at the piano. On

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

- Monday 9.15: Recital by Jack Firth (baritone) and Victor Doggett (piano).
- Wednesday 9.15: Dvorak's 5th Symphony in E Minor from the "New World"
- Friday 9.30: "Before Trafalgar," a play in one act by J. L. Hodson.
- Saturday 9.30: Excerpts from revue "Blue Berets" presented by R.A.F. Regiment.

Wednesday Dvorak's 5th Symphony in E minor from the "New World," written while he was head of the National Conservatoire of Music, in New York, will make most music lovers cancel their engagements for the evening.

Friday night Theatre has something special in the way of plays this coming week: the Dramatic Department are putting on "Before Trafalgar" by J. L. Hodson with a really sound cast; they should put over a very good show.

Excerpts From "Blue Berets"

On Saturday, sport lovers can again hear that great sportsman Wally Reynolds talking about sport in Penang and sport in general. His rich West Country brogue comes over the mike extremely well (being a Devonian myself, I like it!) and he certainly has a very pleasant fireside manner. Saturday evening's broadcast concludes with excerpts from "Blue Berets" the variety show that the R.A.F. Regiment are putting on at the Rex on the 6th and 7th this week (Advt!); some first rate people will be performing.

So much for the highlights of the week's listening. Don't forget to write in and let us know how you liked it; the address B.B.C. Victoria Green, Penang, will always find us.

That's all till next Sunday. Good Listening listeners!

Around the Town

By "JEEP"

APOLOGIES are due for the error in last Sunday's column concerning Soliano's broadcast. In a burst of enthusiasm the show was announced a week ahead of its time. Anyway, I hope you all enjoyed "Sussex Hayride" last night.

Army In Retreat

There are very few of us left in Butterworth town now as owner of the house in which the officers' mess was situated unexpectedly turned up a couple of days ago, causing a further exodus to the Jap barracks. Owner is Mr. B. J. Cramer who has spent 31 years in Malaya, 13 of them in Butterworth as General Manager of the Straits Trading Co., Ltd. His friends in Penang will be interested to know that after escaping from Singapore he has been for the past three years in South Africa as Controller of non-ferrous Metals.

Now working for the Ministry of Supply, he is to go to Britain to report on the general situation in regard to the works and return once more to Malaya.

Ordeal In Restaurant

Thought I'd have lunch at a real Chinese restaurant, just for the novelty, and found there is a great deal of difference between those that cater for English tastes and the authentic ones.

I was served with an exotic concoction in which some of the lesser known parts of chicken and fish could be dimly recognised.

Then the band struck up and a boy and girl started in singing—a duet that lasted fully half an hour. The accompaniment sounded like someone dashing stones against a corrugated iron shed on a wet Thursday afternoon in February. The combined noise was terrific, but the patrons didn't seem to notice it very much and all seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely.

I came to the conclusion that the best part about Chinese music is that it's so nice when it stops. With the bill they presented me with a hot wet towel, I gratefully mopped my fevered brow and departed.

Swing Time

The unit leave centre at Kedah House continues to flourish and the chaps enjoy a very fair seven days' leave. So far we have held two dances—last Sunday and the Sunday before.

I don't know, if in the opinion of the locals, the men of Sussex are considered shy, but we seem to have a lot of difficulty in persuading them to bring along partners.

However, a contingent of very charming nurses from the hospital did us the honour of attending the dances, so things went with a swing.

A very special rum punch, brewed behind locked doors by the staff, helped to increase the festive feeling (the recipe is covered by the Official Secrets Act).

We intend to hold another of these dances this coming Sunday evening. Incidentally, while the topic is dancing, Headquarters Company are holding a dance in Butterworth on Tuesday, Nov. 6, commencing 8 p.m. The rendezvous is the NAAFI in Pantai Road.

Boating Season

This coming Thursday, Lieut. Prevost opens the boating season with a regatta for which each company in the battalion has entered a team. Speculation is rife and the P.R.A. is reputed to be making a book.

A good time should be had by all with the possible exception of the actual competitors who, no doubt, will come in

Fighting In Central Java Ceases

SOURABAYA SITUATION QUIET

BATAVIA, Nov. 2.—Fighting between Indian troops and Indonesian extremists at Magelang in mid-Java ceased this afternoon. Early this morning it was reported that Gurkha troops, who had there been fighting heavily against strong nationalist forces, had the situation "under control."

This was soon followed by an announcement that a truce had been concluded after some initial delay.

In the naval base of Sourabaya, "proof that for us the wishes of the population form the basis and are the guiding principle of social reconstruction," a statement said. It did not specify how elections would be organised. The Indonesian press emphasised that they want freedom of government while desiring to co-operate with the Dutch and other nations. Meanwhile, Soekarno, whose problem it is to control extremists, has been given a chance to test his leadership.—Reuter.

DUTCH GOVERNMENT BARS SOEKARNO

THE HAGUE, Nov. 2.—The Netherlands Government has issued the following statement on the meeting in Batavia of Dr. Hubertus van Mook, Lieutenant-Governor-General of the Netherlands East Indies, and Dr. I. R. Soekarno, Indonesian leader.

"If it is true that Dr. van Mook has had discussions with Dr. Soekarno, it is only possible to declare that this happened against the direct instructions of the Netherlands Government. Government's guiding principle remains that there is no mutual basis for discussion between Government and Dr. Soekarno, and discussions were thus not in order. Government will act accordingly."—Reuter.

INDONESIANS PLAN ELECTIONS

BATAVIA, Nov. 2.—Soekarno's "Indonesian Republican Government" in a statement issued here today announced their intention of holding a general election "in a few days."

A political flare-up is expected in Indonesia in the next few days. It is said that Dutch Lieutenant-Governor van Mook made secret proposals to the Republican leaders in a lengthy document which may shortly be published.

Elections would be held as

Dockers To Return On Monday

LONDON, Nov. 2.—The National Strike Committee—an organisation representing some 4,000 striking British dockers—today resolved that "we resume work on Monday in an organised fashion to allow negotiations to proceed on behalf of all port workers."—Reuter.

Lord Gort Resigns

LONDON, Nov. 2.—Lord Gort, High Commissioner for Palestine, has resigned on account of his health. The resignation has been accepted by the British Government. This was officially announced in Parliament today.

George Hall, Colonial Secretary, who announced Lord Gort's resignation, said J. V. W. Shaw, Chief Secretary, would administer the Government of Palestine in the meantime until the successor to Lord Gort was appointed.

Government accepted Lord Gort's resignation with very great regret. "I know well," added Mr. Hall, "that it is a grievous blow to Lord Gort to be compelled to leave at this difficult moment a post he has filled with outstanding ability and distinction." He wished him a speedy recovery on behalf of the House.—Reuter.

for a good deal of banter. "The Diamond Revue" produced, written, directed and otherwise organised by Pte. A. Glover was attended last Friday evening by a large and representative audience at the Malayan Opera House. The entertainment was excellent and the cast were given a big hand by all present.

Highlight of the show was Soliano's superb clarinet playing and a song and dance number by two tiny tots who went into their routine like real old troupers.

Ceylon Accepts New Constitution

COLOMBO, Nov. 2.—The Ceylon Board of Ministers at a meeting today decided to recommend the State Council to accept the constitutional proposals contained in the British Government's White Paper as the country had been promised Dominion status.

With the full concurrence of all ministers, D. S. Sananayake, the leader, will move in the Inter-State Council the motion that "this House expresses its disappointment that His Majesty's Government have deferred admission of Ceylon to full Dominion status, but in view of the assurance contained in the White Paper of October 31, 1945, that His Majesty's Government will co-operate with the people of Ceylon so that such status may be attained by this country in a comparatively short time, this House resolves that the Constitution offered in the said White Paper be accepted during the interim period."

Reforms recommended in the White Paper included universal suffrage on the present basis of two legislative chambers, and reform in the present number of electoral districts. The present Executive Board should be abolished and a Cabinet of Ministers responsible to the Legislature should take its place. A Public Service Commission and a Ministry of Justice should be set up.—Reuter.

FRENCH DELEGATE IN HANOI

CHUNGKING, Oct. 31.—The French representative in Northern Indo-China yesterday paid a courtesy call on General Lou Han, Commander of the 1st Area Army, at his headquarters in Hanoi.

He said the French Government had sent him and his adviser to Indo-China for the specific purpose of helping the Chinese military authorities in solving various problems, and that his mission was exactly the same as that which he carried out in Saigon. He had made no plans to meet any Vietnam leaders, but if they desired to meet him, they could do so at any time.—Chungking Radio.

ALLEGED USE OF GAS IN NORTH CHINA FIGHTING

(By Doon Campbell, Reuter's Special Correspondent)

CHUNGKING, Nov. 2.—The charge that poison gas was used against Communist troops was made today in a special dispatch received here from Communist headquarters.

Entitled "Factual Account of Misdeeds of Yen Hsi-shan," the dispatch accused General Yen, Governor of Shansi Province, of using gas against the Communist 8th Route Army besieging Changte in North Honan on August 13.

Latest reports state that Communist forces are now laying siege to Kweisui, capital of the province of Suiyuan, and threatening Tating in Northern Shansi.

All main elements of the Communist New 4th Army are on the north bank of Yangtze River in line with the strategic plan to concentrate on the north and build a military barrier between China and Manchuria, according to Central Government sources. About 50,000 Communist troops are now concentrated in Kiangsu north of Yangtze River.

"BAD BEATING" IN SHANSI

The government spokesman admitted that Central Government forces had suffered a "very bad beating" in Shansi where casualties among four divisions of provincial troops were "quite considerable."

The Communists are apprehensive lest General Chiang Kai-shek should revise his decision to postpone convocation of the National Assembly and allow it to meet without consulting the Communist Party.

"It he does that, the situation may become even more serious," the Communist spokesman said today.

Reuter's correspondent in Shanghai said today that responsible American Army officials emphasise in Shanghai that transporting Chinese troops to the north was only intended to assist in the surrender of Japanese troops. While many of them are sympathetic towards the Chinese Central Government and dislike Communist tactics, the position of American forces can only be clarified after the return from the United States of their commander, General Albert Wedemeyer.—Reuter.

