

British Firms 'Squeezed' By Government Of Ceylon

By HENRY S. BRADSHAW
COLOMBO, Ceylon (AP) — Ceylon is a beautiful tropical island. For centuries it grew rice and coconuts without much trouble. The climate demanded little clothing or shelter. Living was easy.

Entered the British merchant, behind British soldiers and a governor British in 1815. It brought in foreign capital in the form of exports like tea, rubber and coconuts.

To handle exports, the British built a modern commercial city, Big Bazaar. It imported companies, banks, insurance companies and oil companies were established.

When foreign capital came in, the best international communication systems in Asia were built mostly with taxes from the foreign companies.

Today the economy of independent Ceylon depends upon what private British investors developed. But many British and the hands of other foreign businessmen are being driven out.

PACE ACCELERATING
 The government of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the world's only woman prime minister, has taken over some of the economic fields formerly dominated by the British. The pace seems to be accelerating.

Whether it will end before all British business interests have been forced out is the question being discussed in parlours and offices, ocean-view clubs and mountaintop tea estate bungalows.

Some foreigners here are highly sceptical that it will stop short of nationalizing most of their holdings. They think the political pressure on Mrs. Bandaranaike's predominantly middle-class government from its own leftist elements and from the Marxist parties is too great to withstand.

POLICE PUZZLED BY GOLD CASKET

DETROIT (CP) — The case of the coveting casket had police puzzled here.

Here are the facts: Patrolmen Edward Laterwicz and Robert Woods were making their rounds in a scout car when they noticed a gold and tan casket on the sidewalk in front of a restaurant. The officers said they thought the matter was odd, but recalled the restaurant had opened only a few days earlier, and thought the casket might be some kind of a promotional stunt.

Later, the officers were called to a casket company where a \$1,500 gold and tan casket had been stolen.

Minutes later, they were called to an automobile showroom nearby where the gold and tan casket was prominently displayed in the middle of the showroom.

Inside the casket, nestled in the satin folds, was an empty half-gallon whisky bottle and a neatly printed sign that read: "Do not disturb."

8 Masked Men Rob Paper's Safe

LONDON (AP) — Eight masked men walked into the offices of the London Times Sunday night while the paper was going to press, broke into a safe in the accounts department and escaped with £7,000 (\$21,000) in cash. The Sunday Times is owned by Canadian newspaper publisher Roy Thomson.

SECT SPREADS
 The Amish community of Pennsylvania has spread to include some 60,000 members in 20 states.

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Tiny Quints Push Troubles Of World Into Background

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL
ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — For a brief moment, five tiny babies have pushed the world's troubles into the background. Five human beings so frail they couldn't be weighed or measured suddenly became the food concerns of millions who had never heard of Andrew or Mary Ann Fischer.

For Mary Ann Fischer had given birth to quintuplets. The first baby, a girl, was delivered at 1:58 the morning of Sept. 14. Two more girls, a boy and another girl arrived in the next 60 minutes.

Aberdeen, an obscure community on the grass-land farm land of South Dakota, suddenly became known to the world. It will never be the same.

births—so high that no authorities agree—took a beating this month. Seven days before the birth of the new little Fischers, the wife of Eren Prieto was delivered of five sons in Maracaibo, Venezuela.

To the Fischers and quite a few others in Aberdeen, the imminent birth of quintuplets was no surprise. Dr. James Berbos, the 40-year-old general practitioner who delivered the other Fischer children, had x-rays made three days before and told Fischer.

NEEDN'T HAVE WORRIED
 "I don't make the most money in the world and it does present some problems," he said in the first shock of realization. He needn't have worried.

Money and gifts promised the Fischers have topped an estimated \$250,000. They'll have a new home that may cost up to \$100,000, and likely will be one of the finest in town.

The odds against quintuplet births—so high that no authorities agree—took a beating this month. Seven days before the birth of the new little Fischers, the wife of Eren Prieto was delivered of five sons in Maracaibo, Venezuela.

10 The Guardian, Charlottetown, Tues. Sept. 24, 1963

daleme, Mary Catharine, Mary Margaret, and James Andrew. The quintus were baptized and confirmed the day they were born.

The Fischer quintus are only the second set known to have been born alive in the United States. Mrs. Cecelia Hannan of San Antonio, Texas, bore five tiny girls on Oct. 20, 1959. Four of them died almost immediately and the fifth 18 hours later.

THREE SETS SURVIVE
 The only other quintuplets to survive in the western hemisphere are the Prieto boys, the Dionne girls who were born May 28, 1934, at Callander, Ont., and the Diligent children of Argentina. Emile Dionne suffocated in 1954 in an epileptic seizure.

The Dionnes, taken from their parents "for the protection of the girls' welfare and interest" by the Ontario government, became a backwoods bonanza for the province of Ontario. At the age of 10 months they surpassed Niagara Falls as a tourist attraction.

an inch in his stated intention about oil and insurance.

Langarata has been quoted many times by Colombo newspapers as threatening to nationalize tea estates. They are the backbone of the British state here, both in terms of investment and in dependence of British banks and export companies on the tea trade.

Each time he is quoted as making this threat to some upturning political meeting, Langarata denies it. But the cumulative effect on the British community here is a feeling that the time will eventually come.

Foreign banks—five British, two Indian and one Pakistani—have been limited on taking new accounts from Ceylonese. They are now under pressure to make more loans to small Ceylonese businessmen instead of concentrating on financing the foreign trading community here.

Behind this pressure lies a threat of nationalization.

Life insurance was nationalized several years ago. After Jan. 1, the 25 British insurance companies cannot write any other kinds of insurance either, halting a business for them of about \$3,000,000 a year.

A state trading corporation is being established that might eventually take over, by law, the profitable import-export business.

SANDYS VISIT
 British Commonwealth Secretary Duncan Sandys recently visited Colombo to discuss insurance, oil and other problems with Finance Minister T. B. Langarata. Ceylonese sources said Langarata did not yield to Sandys.

The process of British withdrawal from Ceylon's economic life began in earnest after independence in 1948. A few tea estates and a large proportion of rubber plantations were sold to Ceylonese.

Figures for the present value of British investments here are difficult to pin down because quotations depend on whether capital value of present returns or other bases of calculation are used. One estimate is that the British still have \$500,000,000 in tea and \$140,000,000 in rubber.

FIRST ACTION
 The first major government action was against the three western oil companies, one of them British and two American. They have to stop retail sales mostly with taxes from the foreign companies.

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