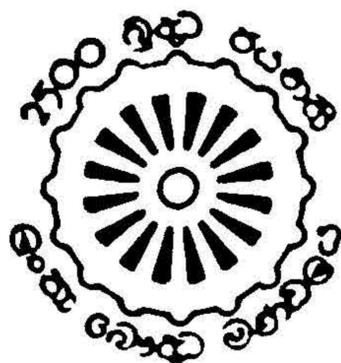


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**AN EVENT OF
DUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

An Event of
DUAL SIGNIFICANCE



Published by

The Lanka Bauddha Mandalaya

(The Buddhist Council of Ceylon)

The Ministry of Home Affairs

COLOMBO.

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FOREWORD

THIS booklet comes to you with the compliments of the Lanka Bauddha Mandalaya. This seeks to give you an idea of the hopes and aspirations of the organisers of the Buddha Jayanti in Ceylon and of their achievements during the last eighteen months.

There is no doubt that the programme drawn up by the Mandalaya is very comprehensive and includes a number of items which have been generally considered essential for the development of Buddhism in Ceylon. The programme, when implemented, will bring lasting results. The Bauddha Mandalaya requires the co-operation of all both in voluntary services and in funds for its successful implementation. On behalf of the Mandalaya, I appeal to you to give it every assistance so that the Buddha Jayanti celebrations will be a fitting tribute to the Great Teacher who had brought peace and solace to millions of people during the last twenty-five centuries.

May the spirit of brotherhood pervade among mankind as a result of the Buddha Jayanti. It is my sincere hope that with the unstinted support of both Buddhists and non-Buddhists, we will achieve our objective of making the world a happier place for us to live in.

May all beings be happy.

A. RATNAYAKE,
Minister of Home Affairs.

Ministry of Home Affairs,
Colombo.

CHAPTER 1

THE DUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BUDDHA JAYANTI

No man since the dawn of history, has by the influence of his teachings, so enriched and ennobled the thoughts and lives of countless generations of humanity as the Buddha. And it is the three important events of his life, to wit,

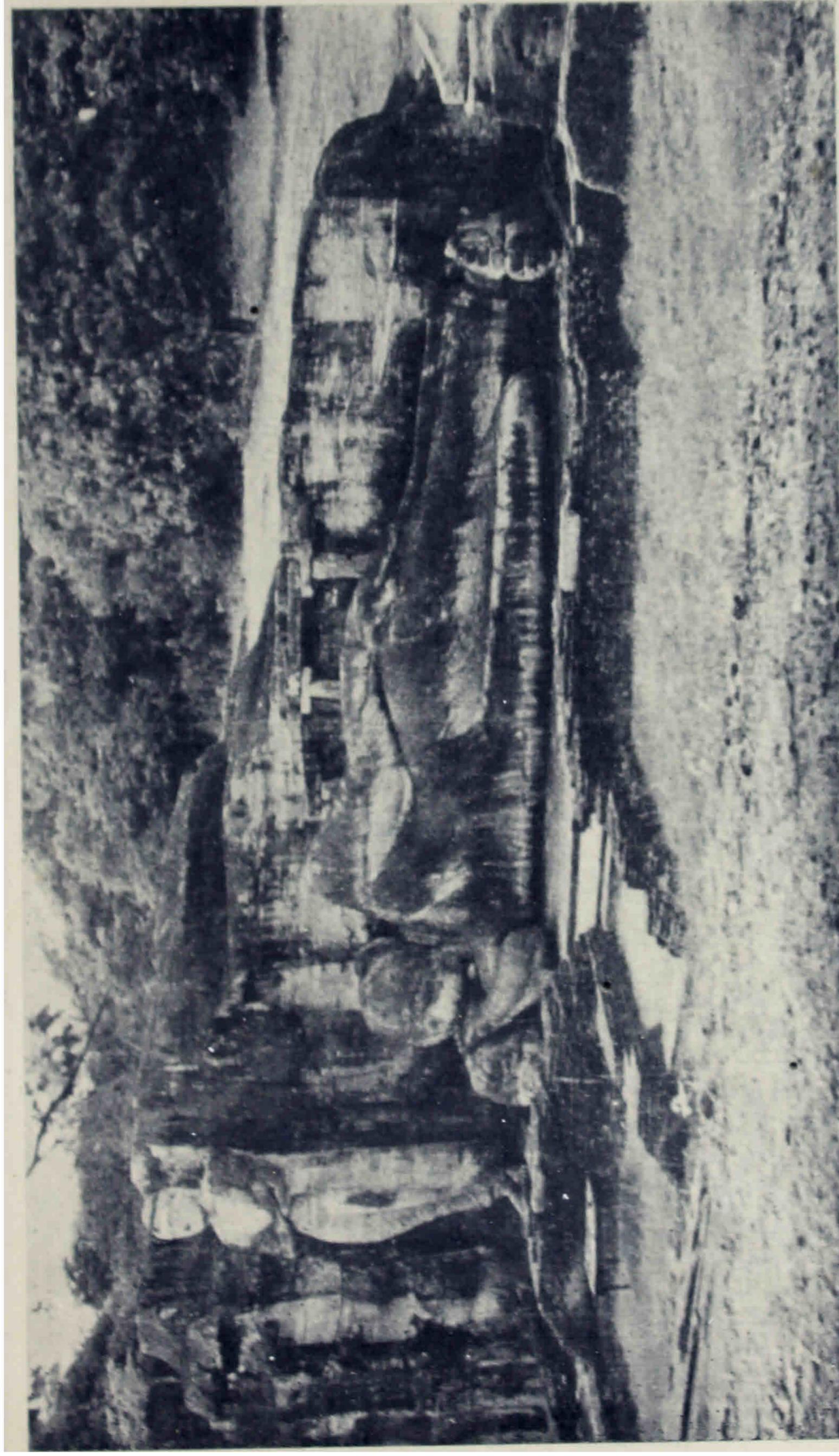


the birth, the enlightenment and the Parinibbana, which have been celebrated in great splendour on the full moon day of the month of Vesak, the most sacred day in the Buddhist Calendar.

In 1956, the Vesak full moon day acquires a unique significance for it marks the 2500th anniversary of the passing away of the Buddha—the beginning of the 2500th year of the Buddhist Era. It is this anniversary that the world is preparing to commemorate. It is indeed a unique event in the history of our times.

The Buddha Jayanti is an occasion to be celebrated not only by the Buddhists but also by every human being, whatever be his race or creed. The Buddha was a great thinker who renounced his princely comforts and worldly pleasures so that he may discover the path of Deliverance for suffering humanity. He did not look for glory nor for authority. As a humble mendicant he set out into the state of homelessness to experience the worst of misery imaginable, to fast and to meditate until on a full moon day of Vesak he found a solution to his problems. He realised the Four Noble Truths of Suffering, the Cause of Suffering, the Cessation of Suffering and the Eight-fold path which shuns the two extremes of self-mortification and self-indulgence and which leads to the Cessation of Suffering—Nibbana, the Supreme Bliss: *Nibbānam paramam sukham*.

For forty-five years, the Buddha led a most active life touring India, debating with the philosophers of his day on metaphysical issues, preaching his doctrines of Equality, Ahimsa and Metta and winning over myriads of followers whose lives were made brighter and richer by his humane principles. He fought most vigorously against the outworn conventions and practices of his day; he exposed his contemporary philosophers whose teachings did not contribute towards the cessation of human suffering. As a social reformer, he disapproved of all caste distinctions and laid down the wise rule that deeds alone, and not birth, determined one's caste. To the lay devotee he taught the simple principles of compassion, pity, tenderness and equanimity, the five precepts and lessons in rights and



Gal Vihara in Polonnaruwa — A Specimen of Buddhist Sculpture of the 12th Century A. C.

duties. In short, the Buddha spent his lifetime expounding the fundamentals of his philosophy and his way of deliverance and living in full the life he preached.

During the last 2500 years teeming multitudes of people throughout the world have come under the benign influence of the Buddha's teachings. The culture and civilisation of many countries have been moulded by their influence. In Ceylon, our art and architecture, our literature and our script—in short our heritage of which we are proud as a nation—have been to a very great extent inspired by the spread of the Message of the Master.

The Buddha's contribution to the well-being of many generations of Asians is indeed unique. Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of the Republic of India, a Hindu and an authority on Indian Philosophy, sums up his impression of the Buddha as follows.

“Gautama, the Buddha is one of the most alert, vigorous and cheerful personalities of whom we have historical record. The austere beauty of his life, the sublimity and tenderness of his character, the essential truth of his teaching, the middle way between scepticism and superstition, between the life of indulgence and the life of mortification which he taught make a powerful appeal to the modern mind.”

Therefore, it is clear that the 2500th anniversary of the passing away of the Buddha is not essentially an occasion for sectarian celebrations; it is an occasion for the world as a whole to celebrate the Jayanti of one of its greatest men.

The National Significance

But for us in Ceylon, the Buddha Jayanti coincides with another day of national significance, namely the 2500th anniversary of the birth of the nation. As the Mahavamsa, the Great Chronicle, describes,

“The Prince named Vijaya, the valiant, landed in Lanka in the region called Tambapanni on the day that the Tathagata lay down between the two twin—like sala-trees to pass into Nibbana.”

The coming of Vijaya is undoubtedly the most significant event in the annals of this island for with it began her written history. In the course of 2500 years was built the great edifice of our nation whose mighty bond of fellow feeling, oneness of purpose and unity of effort keep the diverse races of our population together. Today we stand as a free nation with a creditable record of achievements and a reputation for political stability in spite of invasions, political upheavals and civil disorders. Therefore it befits us Ceylonese to celebrate the twenty-fifth centenary of the birth of the nation, which occurs at a time when as a nation we have regained our Independence and are putting forth our best effort for our own economic and cultural amelioration, besides contributing, in whatever small way, towards the peace and well-being of the world.



CHAPTER 2

THE STATE AND THE BUDDHA JAYANTI

“Buddha Jayanti is not an occasion to be celebrated by the Buddhists only. He belongs to humanity as a whole and not to a parochial religious group. The 25th centenary of such a personality must necessarily be celebrated by the State which represents the people of different creeds and communities. Besides Buddhism is a national asset of this country and the Government has always done everything to protect and safeguard it and interested itself in its welfare.

It is the considered opinion that the Government while guaranteeing freedom of worship to all religions and maintaining its policy of religious tolerance should, as occasions arise, assist the activities of all religions. We are convinced that the Government should do everything to foster religion in order to combat the forces of irreligion which are a danger to peace and welfare of humanity.”

From the Report of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Buddha Jayanti—29 Sept., 1954

On the 19th of February, 1954, the Hon'ble A. Ratnayake Minister of Home Affairs, acting on a resolution, proposed by Mr. Dudley Senanayake M. P. and former Prime Minister of Ceylon, which was accepted by the United National Party at its Annual Sessions, addressed a letter to the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala, stating:—

“We of this generation are fortunate that we shall live to celebrate the 2500th Year of Buddha's 'Parinibbana.' The tradition throughout the Buddhist World is that there will be a great revival of Buddhism during that period. Burma, Siam and other Buddhist countries are taking steps to celebrate the event in a fitting manner. Burma Government is having the sixth 'Sangayanawa' in Rangoon to commemorate the occasion. I suggest:

- (1) To set up a Supreme Council of the Buddhist Clergy to advise the Government in all Buddhist matters, and advise Ceylon Buddhists as to what steps should be taken to celebrate the “Buddha Jayanti.” This Council will be appointed by the Prime Minister. It will not take away the rights and privileges, powers and duties of the existing 'Nikayas.' Their privileges will be completely safeguarded.
- (2) Appointment of a Lay Council, also by the Prime Minister, consisting of representatives of leading Buddhists from all parts of the Island, to execute the programme drawn up by the Ecclesiastical Council.
- (3) To provide funds from various sources, to give effect to such a programme.

I visualise amongst other things the following:—

- (1) The complete translation of the Tripitaka into Sinhalese—an event which will be unprecedented and unique in the history of Ceylon. The Sinhalese

versions of the Tripitaka disappeared many centuries ago.

- (2) The promotion of a great spiritual movement through all existing Buddhist organisations, Government giving every assistance and encouragement.
- (3) Government—while being impartial in religious matters will be prepared to help all religions to promote similar objectives.

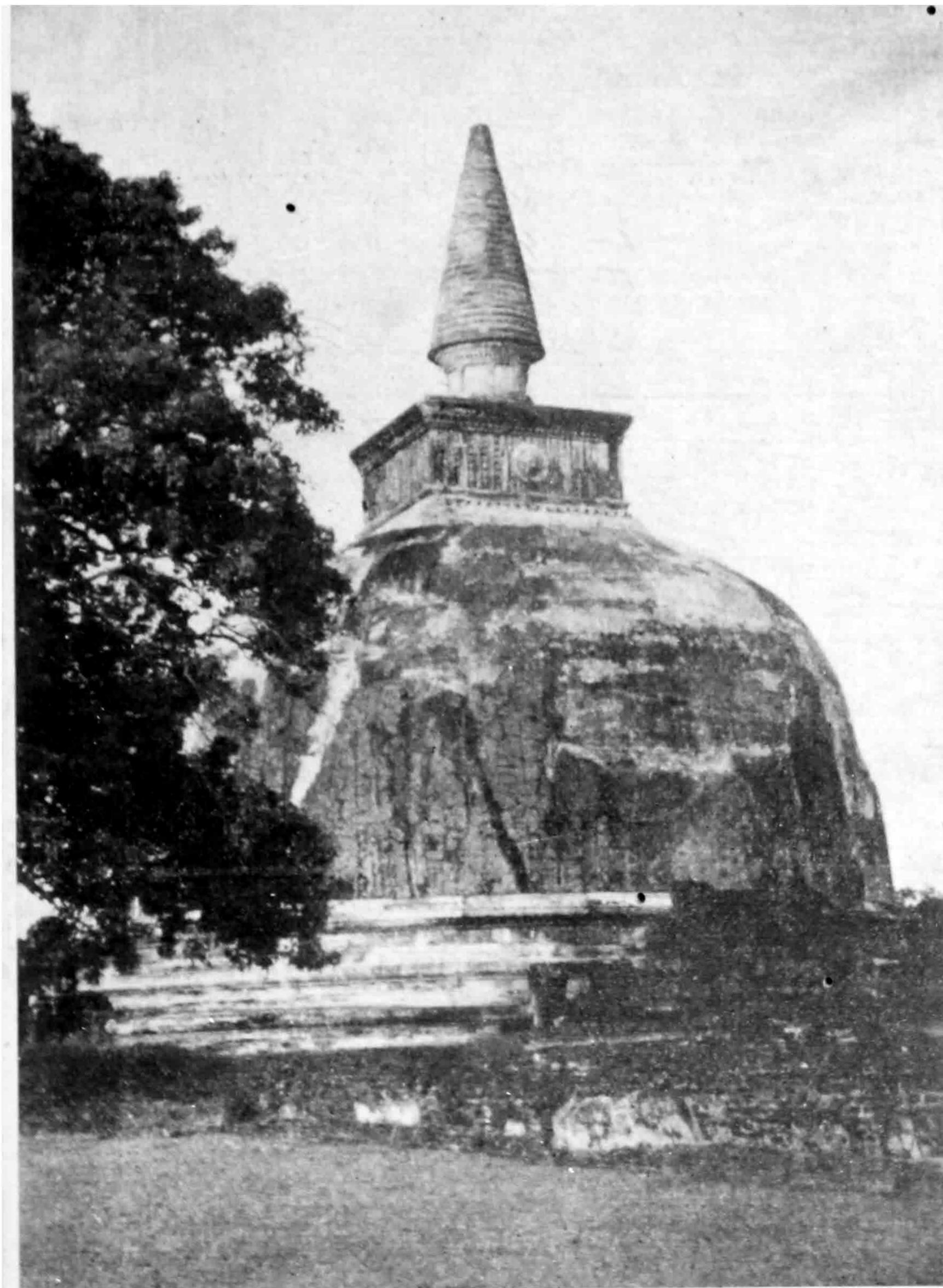
If you are in sympathy with the above objects, I shall be prepared to submit a detailed programme with the advice of the leading Buddhists in this country.”

This was incorporated in Cabinet Paper wherein the Prime Minister desired to have the advice of the Cabinet on the suggestions, and the Cabinet on the 20th of May 1954 appointed a Sub-Committee consisting of:—

- The Hon. Mr. A. Ratnayake, Minister of Home Affairs;
- The Hon. Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, Minister of Agriculture and Food;
- The Hon. Mr. M. D. Banda, Minister of Education; and
- The Hon. Dr. C. W. W. Kannangara, Minister of Local Government.

to report on all matters connected with the Buddha Jayanti. Mr. B. F. Perera C.M.G., O.B.E. Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Mr. V. F. Gunaratne, Public Trustee, assisted the Sub-Committee in their deliberations, and Dr. A. W. P. Guruge C.C.S. functioned as Secretary.

The Cabinet Sub-Committee invited the prominent Buddhist Associations to give evidence before it, and a number of sittings were held in Colombo and Kandy, to discuss important matters with members of the Buddhist Sangha and laity, considered the numerous representations made and



Kiri Vehera in Polonnaruwa — A Buddhist Monument of the 12th Century A.C.

- programmes submitted by these bodies and recommended to the Cabinet a series of activities to be undertaken in connection with the Buddha Jayanti.

On the 5th of October the Cabinet approved in principle the proposals of the Sub-Committee. It decided:—

1. The Government should muster all its resources to usher in a spiritual awakening. By this they envisaged a movement which will inspire all Buddhists to live up to the teachings of the Buddha and all other religionists to follow their respective teachers, and which will also be the most effective way of checking the prevalence of crime and the growing menace of irreligion.

2. That the Government should establish a Chair in Buddhism at the University of Ceylon.

3. The Government should establish a Buddhist Council whose functions will be,

- a.* to make representations to the Government on matters pertaining to the Buddha Jayanti.
- b.* to undertake all matters connected with the Buddha Jayanti.
- c.* to consider such matters as may be referred to it.

This Council shall comprise two sections, namely the Sangha Sabha and the Gihī Sabha and shall be representative of all Buddhist interests. This should be inaugurated on the Full Moon day of the Sinhalese month of Vap—October 12, 1954.

4. The Pali text of the Tripitaka in Sinhalese script prepared by the Vidyalankara Pirivena, Peliyagoda, should be published, and that 5,000 copies of this work be printed by the Government voting the amount required to the Government Printer.

5. That a Sinhalese translation of the Tripitaka should be prepared and published in time for the Buddha Jayanti, and that an editorial board consisting of both monks and laymen should be appointed for the purpose and that the Board should decide upon the best available Pali text of each book of the Tripitaka for translation.

6. That an authoritative Buddhist Encyclopaedia in English for international use should be published and that the University should be entrusted with this undertaking.

7. That the Government should assist in the publication of the following:

- a.* a Buddha Jayanti Souvenir containing articles and pictures to depict the significance of the event, the life and teachings of the Buddha, the history of Buddhism and the main trends in the Buddhist culture of Ceylon and other South East Asian Buddhist countries to be published in Sinhalese Tamil and English.
- b.* a brochure in all three languages on the life and teachings of the Buddha and the history of Buddhism written specially for the school child and the average reader.
- c.* a compendium of Jataka stories in Sinhalese written in a lucid style.

8. That a new series of postage stamps to be selected through an islandwide competition should be issued on the Vesak Full Moon day of 1956, and that a special postmark should be used by all important Post Offices during the period of the Buddha Jayanti.

9. That the Government should assist in the completion of the Dalada Maligawa, which houses the Tooth Relic, the most venerated object of worship throughout the Buddhist World—a national asset which draws thousands of pilgrims and tourists to Ceylon every year.

10. That the Government should provide funds for the shift to the new town of Anuradhapura in order to preserve the sacred city.

11. That the Government should help the Council to hold an International Buddhist Conference during the Jayanti period.

12. That the Council should be requested to advice the Government in what way they might assist in the Sangayana to be held by the Vidyalankara Pirivena during the Jayanti period.

13. That the following should be published:—

- a. an Encyclopaedia in Sinhalese
- b. an illustrated national souvenir in Sinhalese, Tamil and English to depict the history of Ceylon and the salient features of the culture and civilisation of the nations.
- c. reprints of such important works on Ceylon as Parkers "Ancient Ceylon"; John Davy's "An Account of the Interior of Ceylon" and Emerson Tennent's "Ceylon".

14. That an all-Island conference of representatives of Rural Development Societies and Unions, rural volunteers, Kantha and Mahila Samitis, Co-operative societies and Community Centres should be held in Colombo during the Jayanti period.

15. That the Council should be asked to consider the holding of an Exhibition of Buddhist Art.

The Minister of Home Affairs was requested to work out the financial implications and report back to the Cabinet. The Cabinet later approved a sum of Rupees five million for the Buddha Jayanti.

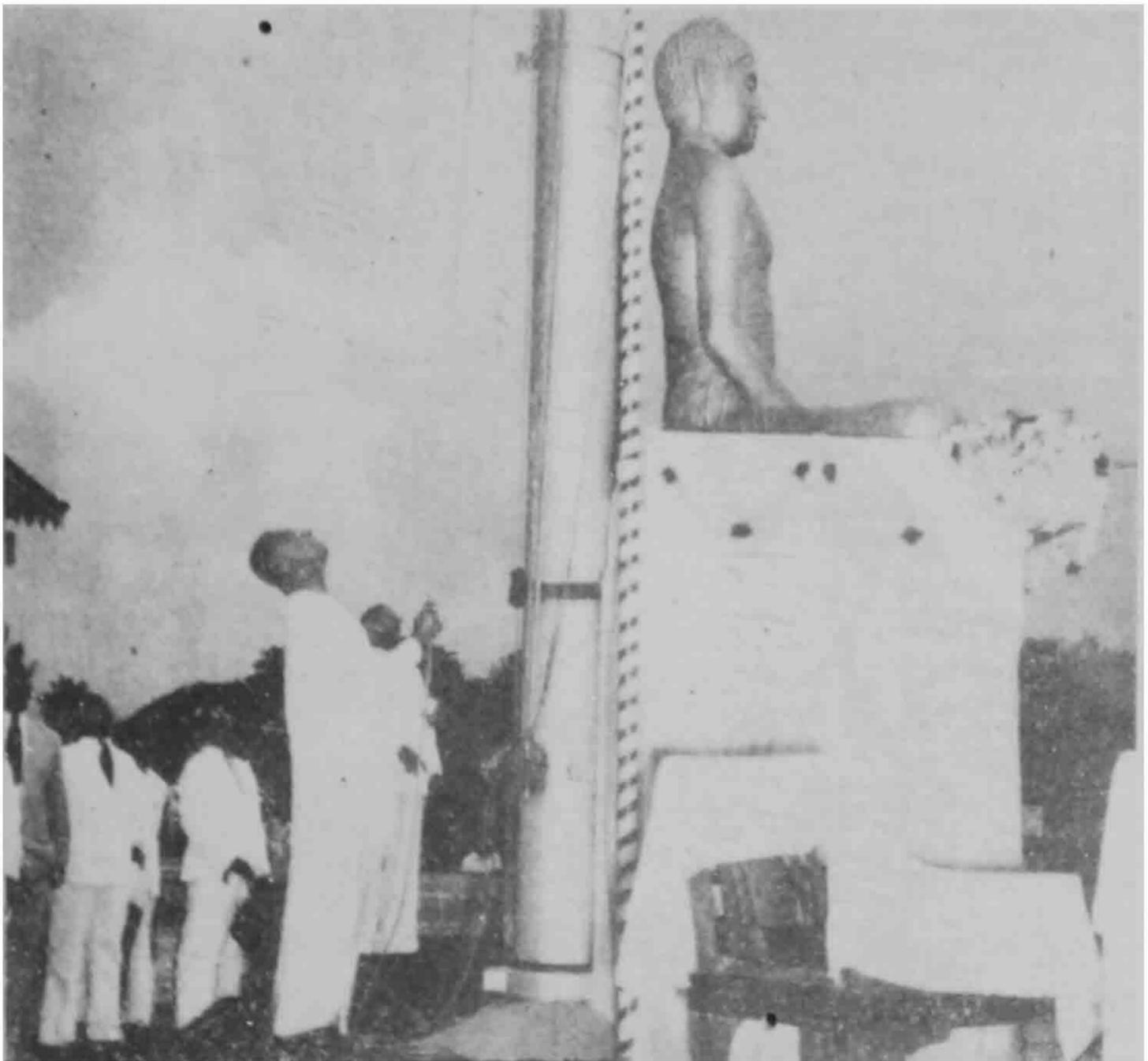
On the 6th of April 1955, the Honourable A. Ratnayake moved in Parliament that a sum of Rupees one million three hundred and fifty five thousand rupees be paid out of the Consolidated Fund as the first instalment of the Government grant to the Buddhist Council of Ceylon for expenses in connection with the Buddha Jayanti. The debate on the motion lasted for over six hours and the participants included the Hon. A. Ratnayake, Minister of Home Affairs, the Hon. J. R. Jayawardene, Leader of the House and Minister of Food and Agriculture, Mr. Dudley Senanayake former Prime Minister of Ceylon, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Leader of the Opposition, Dr. N. M. Perera, Leader of the Lanka Samasamaja Party and Mr. R. E. Jayatilleke. That support for this motion was spontaneous and forthright will be evidenced from the speeches made in Parliament.

The Hon. A. Ratnayake, Minister of Home Affairs said "Our life, our thoughts, our aspirations, are fully based on Buddha's influence, his path towards perfection..... I think it would be quite fitting and proper to celebrate the event by getting together the countries and re-delivering the message of all great religious leaders in order to save mankind from imminent peril. That is why I feel that whatever money we spend, we shall be spending it not only on doing the various things mentioned in the schedule, but that we shall also be at the same time be creating a renaissance, a spirit of religious awakening in the people of the country to make them realise that the world and mankind have come to this sorry pass today on account of the fact that man is today obsessed with a greed for power, for wealth and for things material; that it is on account of this inordinate desire this lust for power, for wealth, that nations are divided, villages are divided and families are divided, countries are divided, cities are divided and that there is hatred and violence throughout the world. I do sincerely hope that Buddha Jayanti will usher in an era of peace and prosperity for all mankind."

The Hon. J. R. Jayawardene, Leader of the House said "I do not think it is contested that the event we seek to remember, Sambuddha Jayanti is an event not only of national but also of international importance. All other countries in South and South East Asia which are Buddhist are taking part in this Sambuddha Jayanti, and could we as a State which represents the majority of Buddhists and Hindus, wash our hands off this great event, and say that we are a secular state and are not going to take part, leaving it to the Buddhists to look after their activities. We could not say that.....Of the Rs. 5 million, Rs. 4,545,000 is for books and buildings, which is nearly 90 per cent of the grantWe Buddhists of Lanka have for so many generations, for 23 centuries, been known for the way in which we have adored the teachings of the Buddha, the Theravada teaching, preserved it, and tried in our humble way to follow it..... We have a great tradition, a great history, so that one cannot conceive of a non-Buddhist or even a Marxist saying that this State should not help the Buddha Jayanti celebrations. We can then be able to tell the world, that we have here something of great value, a way of peace, a way to happiness an upward path, where we do not obstruct any human being. This is the teaching of the Buddha which this Buddha Jayanti vote is seeking to propagate."

CHAPTER 3

CEYLON PREPARES FOR THE JAYANTI

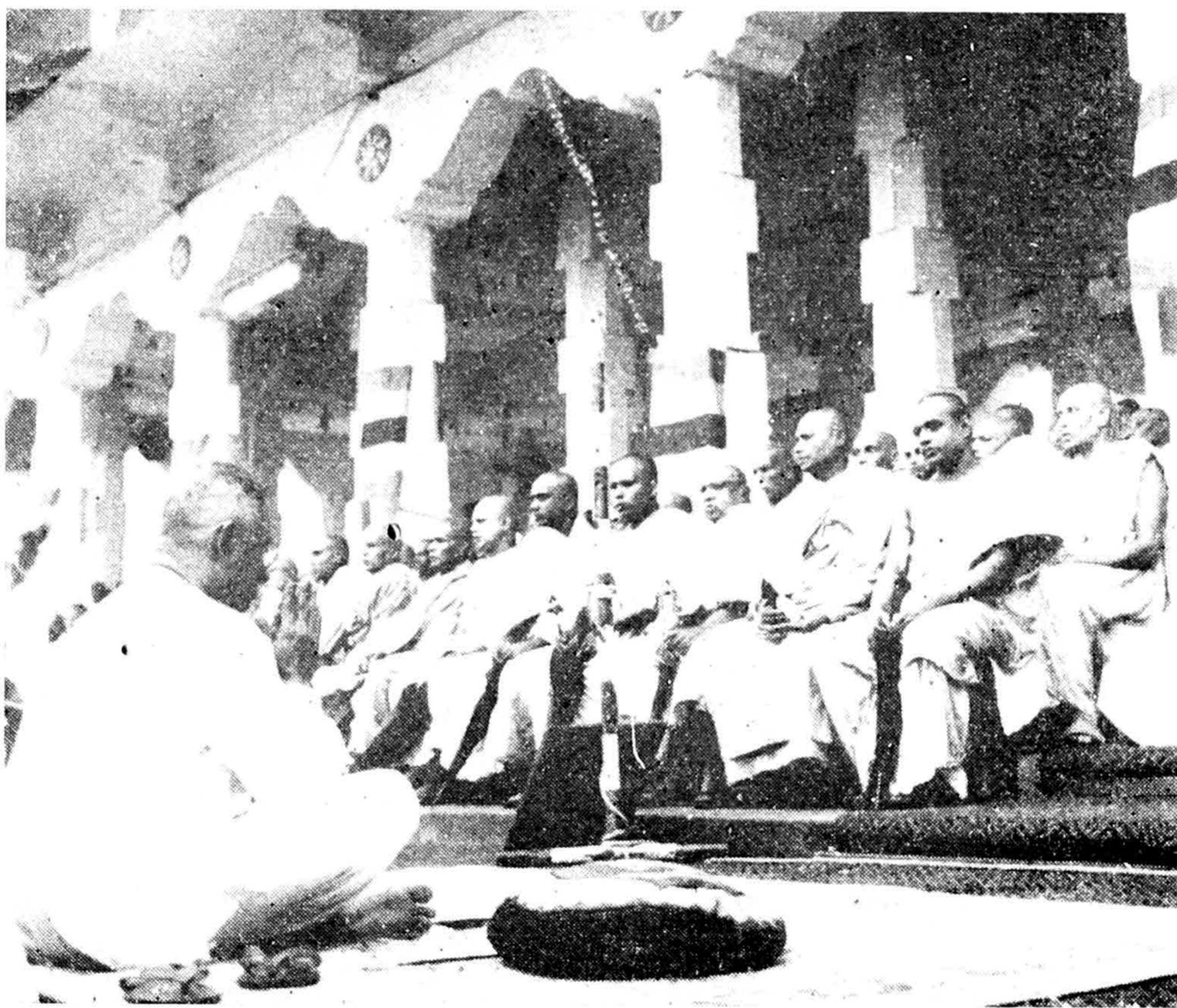


*The Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, hoists the Buddhist Flag
at the Independence Hall.*

The Buddhist Council of Ceylon or the Lanka Bauddha Mandalaya, as it is better known, which was set up with the inauguration of the Buddha Jayanti celebrations by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala on the 12th of October 1954, marked an epoch in the history of Buddhism in Ceylon.

The venue of this historic event was the Independence Memorial Hall which only eight years ago was the scene of the granting of Ceylon's Independence by the Duke of Gloucester on behalf of the late King George VI, and a few years later, of the ceremonial opening of Parliament by no less a person than Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Queen of Ceylon.

Over two thousand five hundred saffron-robed monks assembled at the Hall which was decorated in traditional fashion as a "Pirit Mandapa" and recited Pirit for about an hour. Close upon a ten thousand people of all denominations including foreign diplomats and religious dignitaries were present at the impressive ceremony.



The Prime Minister Listens to "Pirit."

It was in this atmosphere, charged with religious fervour, that the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister clad in white national dress announced that his Government welcomed the appointment of a Buddhist Council, which he was inaugurating. The constitution of the Council was marked by the simplicity and elasticity of its provisions. The Council was appointed

- (i) to make representations to the Government on matters pertaining to the Buddha Jayanti.
- (ii) to undertake all matters connected with the Buddha Jayanti; and
- (iii) to consider such other matters as may be referred to it.

This Council, he said, was to be entrusted with a very responsible task. He would not have called it a responsible task, if what he anticipated as Buddha Jayanti celebrations were mere festivities exhibitions and pageantry.....The Council was to consist of a Sangha Sabha and a Gihhi Sabha, with the Prime Minister as President. It was to form committees in charge of the various activities which should be undertaken in connection with the Buddha Jayanti, and make recommendations to the Central Executive Committee.

The Prime Minister added "It augurs well for the future of this island that members of different religious communities have participated in this ceremony today. I call upon you all to work in harmony to make the celebrations we propose to have in honour of one of the greatest figures in world history a success. I take this opportunity of wishing the newly-formed Buddhist Council all success in their endeavours. If our aims and objects are fulfilled, I have no doubt that this Island of ours will continue to maintain its reputation as the home of Theravada Buddhism and a guide to suffering humanity in its quest for peace."

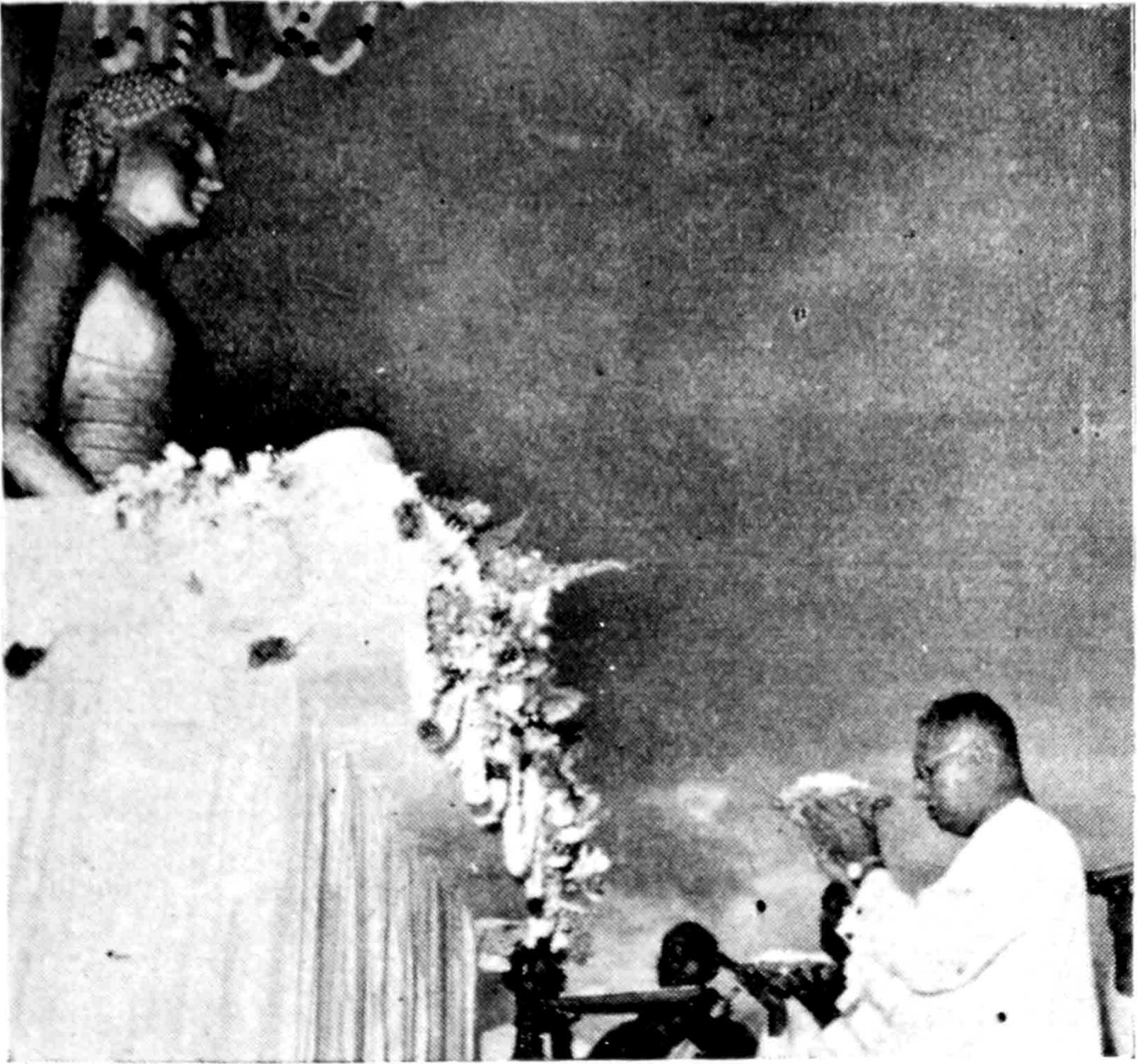
On behalf of the Sangha, the Ven. Yatigamma Wimalanana Thero of Malwatte, Kandy, the Ven. Kassapa Thero of the Vajiraramaya, and the Ven. Hisselle Sri Nanodaya Mahanayake Thero addressed the gathering. C. B. Nugawela Dissawa (the Diyawadana Nilame), Messrs. C. Sunthera-

Jingam M.P., R. Singleton Salmon, C.B.E., M. P., Senator A. M. A. Azeez, Prof. G. P. Malalasekere and the Hon. J. R. Jayewardene, commented on the significance of the Jayanti and expressed their wish that it should bring about immense benefits to every man, woman and child of Ceylon.

Messages were received from His Excellency the Governor-General of Ceylon and the Prime Ministers of a number of Asian countries. The message from the Governor-General read—"When the Prime Minister inaugurates the Buddha Jayanti celebrations this afternoon, I should like him and all those present to feel that my thoughts are with them. Today marks the beginning of two most important years in the long history of our island. On the shoulders of the two Buddhist councils which will be formed will fall the great task of giving every man, woman and child in this land an organised opportunity of participating in this national celebration. The celebration of the 2500th anniversary of Buddhism is an event of great importance to all of us in Ceylon. For over 2,200 years this Island of ours has been famed far and wide as the treasury of Theravada Buddhism. Sage and savant sought these shores to learn the great teaching of the Buddha and to carry his message to the other lands. It is our bounden duty as the inheritors of this great national treasure to do all we can to preserve it for generations to come."

The Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru stated in his message—"In this world of storm and strife, hatred and violence, the message of the Buddha shines like a radiant sun. Perhaps at no time was that message more needed than in the world of the Atomic and Hydrogen Bomb. Two thousand five hundred years have only added to the validity and truth of that message. So on this memorable occasion, while we pay homage to the Buddha, let us remember that immortal message and try to fashion our thoughts and action in the light of that teaching so we may face with equanimity even the terrors of the Atomic Bomb age and help a little in promoting right thinking and right action."

The other messages were from the Prime Ministers of Burma, Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and the Chinese Buddhist Association.



The Prime Minister offers flowers.

Shortly after this impressive ceremony, the members of the Council were appointed to the different committees. The following are the names of the office-bearers of each committee and its objects.

The President of the Lanka Bauddha Mandalaya:
The Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, C.H, P.C., K.B.E., M.P.

Committee for Religious Affairs.

Chairman:—Ven. Kalukondayawe Pannasekhara Nayaka Thero.

Secretary:—Ven. Pandit Ambalangoda Dhammakusala Thero.

Committee for Books and Souvenirs.

Chairman:—Ven. Kahandamodera Piyaratana Thero B.A.

Secretary:—Ven. Mirisse Gunasiri Thero, B.A.

Committee for Buddhist Education.

Chairman:—P. de S. Kularatne, B.A., LL.B.

Secretary:—D. J. Kumarage, B.A., M.B.E.

Committee for Buddhist Literature.

Chairman:—Ven. Aggamahapandita Polwatte Buddhaddatta Anunayaka Thero.

Secretary:—Ven. Pandit Kosgoda Dhammavamsa Thero.

Committee for Tripitaka Translation.

Chairman:—Ven. Pandit Weliwitiye Sorata Nayaka Thero

Secretary:—Ven. Dr. Parawahera Vajiranana Thero. Ph.D.
(cantab)

Committee for The Buddhist Encyclopaedia.

Chairman:—Prof: G. P. Malalasekera, M.A., Ph.D., D.Litt.,
O.B.E.

Secretary:—D. T. Devendra. B.A.

Committee for The Sinhalese Encyclopaedia.

Chairman:—Prof: D. E. Hettiaratchi, M.A., Ph.D.

Secretary:—P. B. Sannasgala, M. A.

Committee for The Dalada Maligawa

Chairman:—C. B. Nugawela Dissawe

Secretary:—W. Gopallawa.

Committee for International Buddhist Affairs.

Chairman :—Rajah Hewavitarne, C.B.I.

Secretary:—H. L. Caldera.

Committee for Arts.

Chairman:—J. D. A. Perera, C.B.E.

Secretary:—W. P. Daluwatte, C.C.S.

Committee for Vidyalankara Sangayana.

Chairman:—Ven. Ambanwelle Sri Dhammananda Anu-
nayaka Thero.

Secretary:—Ven. Yakkaduwe Sri Pragnarama Thero.

Committee for Competitions.

Chairman:—Dr. A. Ratnapala.

Secretary:—R. Premadasa, M.M.C.

Committee for the Buddhist University.

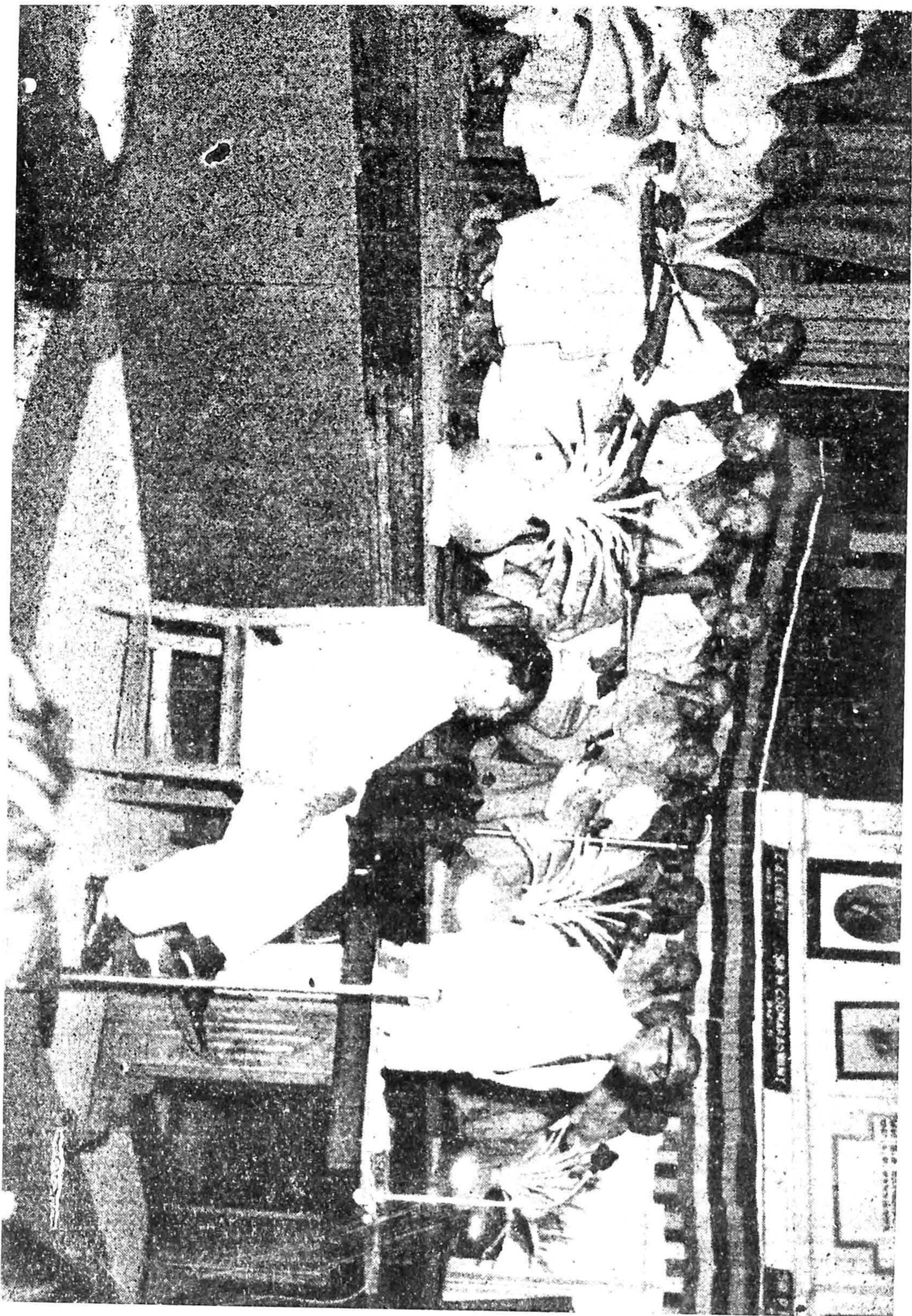
Chairman:—H. W. Amarasuriya.

Secretary:—P. C. Perera.

Committee for the Buddhist Library.

Chairman:—Senator Dr. A. M. Samarasinghe.

Secretary:—D. P. Jayasekera.



The Presidential Address by the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala at the First Anniversary Celebrations of the Mandalaya.

Committee for Memorial Buildings.

Chairman:—Senator Sir Cyril de Zoysa.

Secretary:—Daya Hewavitarne.

Committee for Finance.

Chairman:—Senator Justin Kotelawala.

Secretary:—D. N. W. de Silva, O.B.E.

Committee for Sangha Affairs.

Chairman:—Pandit Kiriwattuduwe Pannasara Nayaka Thero.

Secretary:—Pandit Induruwe Uttarananda Thero.

Secretary of the Sangha Sabha:—Ven. Yatigamma Wimalanana Thero.

Secretary of the Gihhi Sabha:—D. B. Ellepola O.B.E.

General Secretary of the Lanka Bauddha Mandalaya:—

Dr. Ananda W. P. Guruge C.C.S.

Central Executive Committee:—

The Chairmen and the Secretaries of Committees the Secretaries of the Sangha Sabha and the Gihhi Sabha and the following nominated by the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister:—

The Hon. H. H. Basnayake.

The Hon. J. R. Jayawardene.

The Hon. Dr. C. W. W. Kannangara.

The Hon. M. D. Banda.

The Hon. A. Ratnayake.

Dudley Senanayake.

S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike.

B. F. Perera C.M.G., O.B.E.

Secretary:—Dr. Ananda W. P. Guruge.

CHAPTER 4

THE LANKA BAUDDHA MANDALAYA AND ITS PROGRAMME OF WORK

The Lanka Bauddha Mandalaya within a few months of its inauguration laid the foundations for a Buddhist renaissance.

Through its special committees, referred to in the, previous chapter, it proceeded to work out a long term policy which would not merely inspire a spiritual awakening by the Buddha Jayanti but also ensure its continuance thereafter. A review of its manifold activities, which follows, affords ample evidence that the Mandalaya is fulfilling what was expected of it.

The Spiritual Awakening

Since the Buddha Jayanti is expected to usher in an era of spiritual awakening, the emphasis was on religious activities. The Committee for Religious Affairs planned out a 12 point programme of work. This programme provided for—

(i) Propagation of the Dhamma:—

- (a) To establish, with the assistance of the Buddhist monks, residents and Government Officers, Committees in each village with the Headquarters at the local temple for the purpose of ensuring the moral upliftment of the people and the establishment of Buddhist temples where they are essential.
- (b) Sermons—To organise sermons at the rate of at least once a month in every village.
- (c) Pamphlets and Books—To prepare and publish rare pamphlets and books which will teach the people to adhere to a good life.

(d) Ritual - To ensure that Buddhist rites are performed with a certain degree of uniformity.

(ii) Daily Life and Buddhist Environment.

(a) To prepare and publish a time-table to regulate the life of the Buddhists on the Full Moon Poya Days.

(b) To prepare a time-table for the other Poya Days.

(c) To make representations to the Government to make Full Moon Poya Days public holidays.

(d) To publish a book containing instructions to provide a Buddhist atmosphere in every home.

(iii) Temperance

(a) To make representations to the Government to take administrative steps with a view to implement total prohibition.

(b) To have organised temperance meetings in every District and to give publicity to the evils of drinking through sermons, pamphlets, films etc.

(c) To ensure that the Government and the people holding responsible offices set an example to the people by abstaining from liquor and to seek co-operation of the Government to promote abstinence.

(iv) Slaughter of Animals.

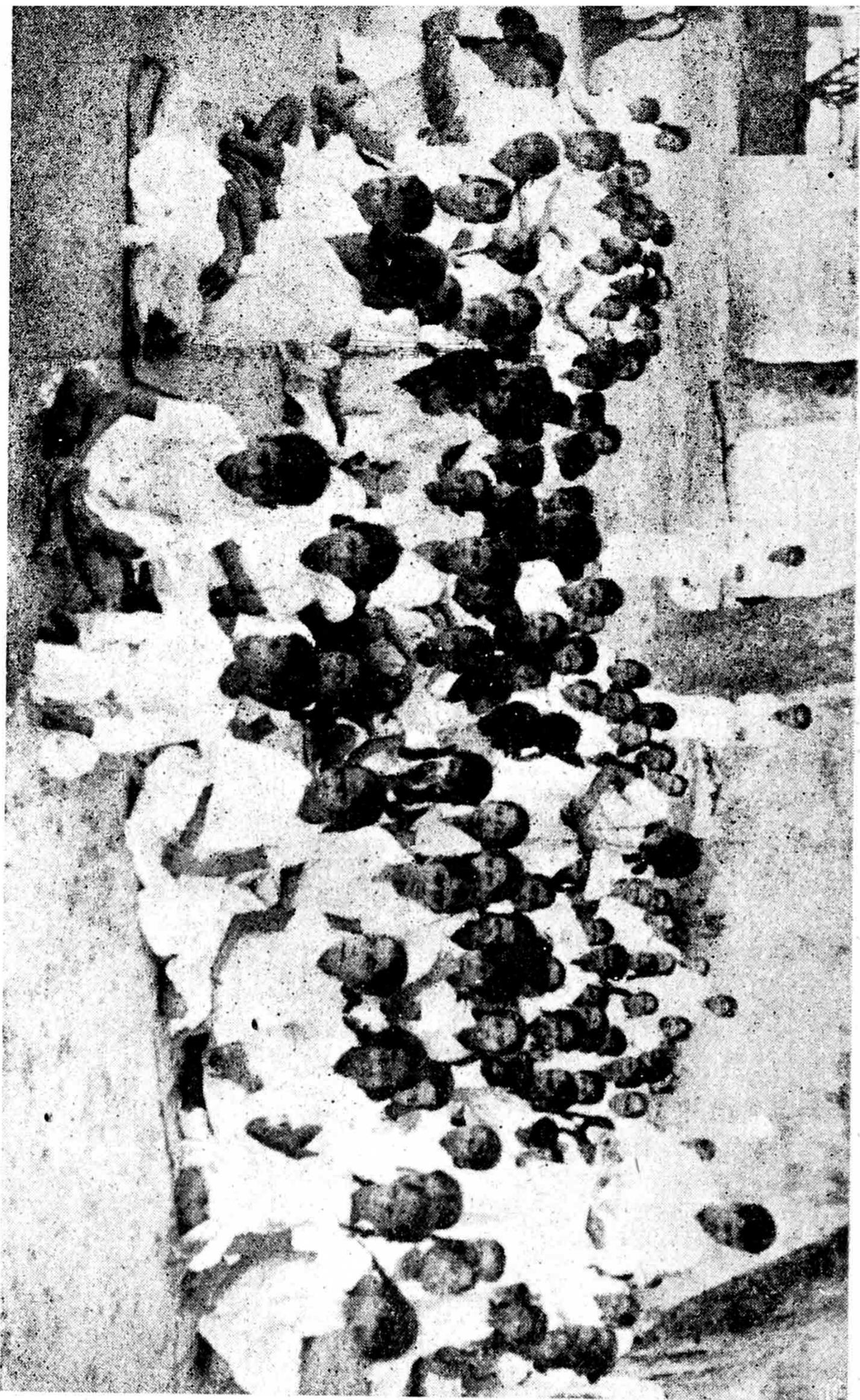
To give publicity to the evils of killing animals and of eating meat and fish through sermons and pamphlets. To ensure that people holding important places set an example to the others by becoming vegetarians.

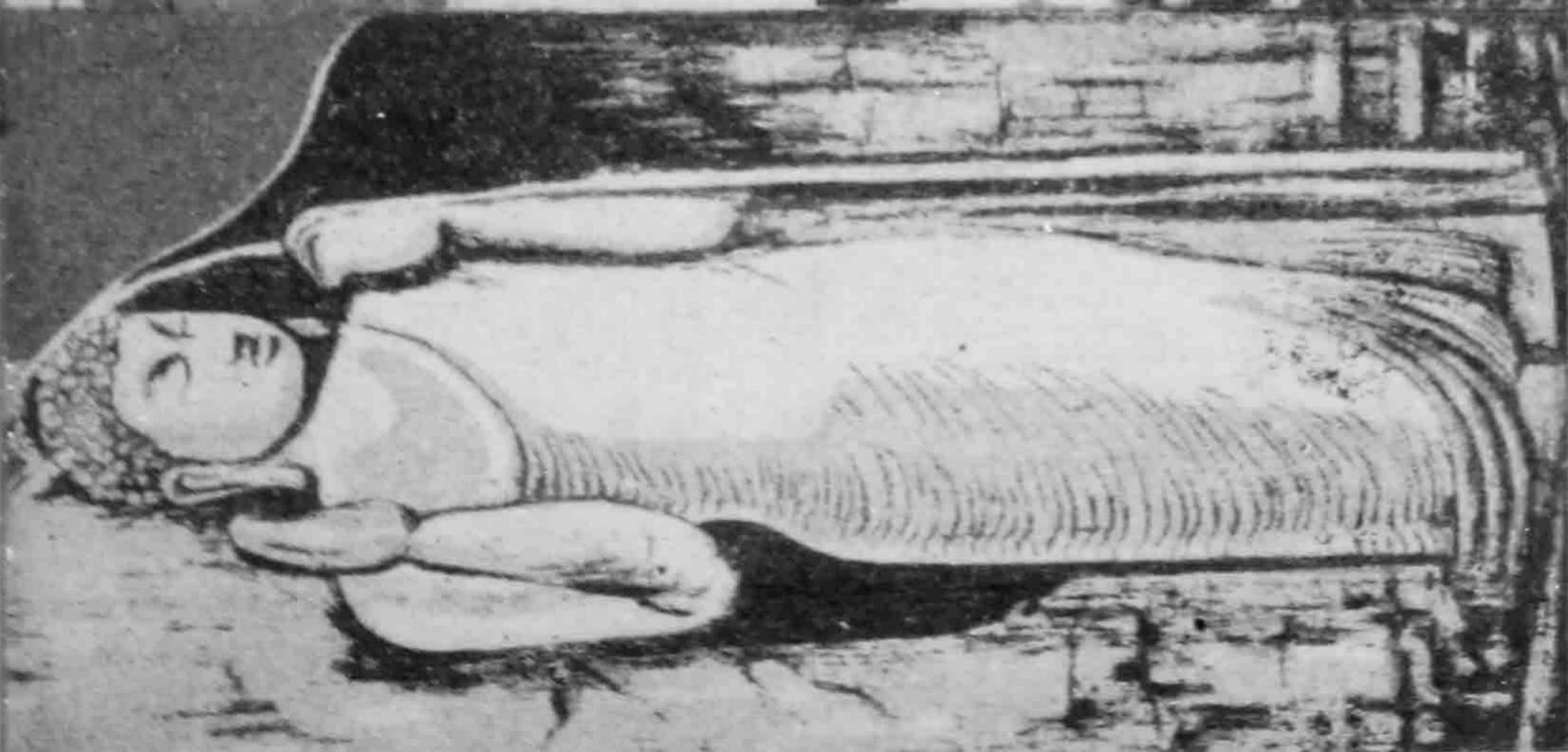
(v) Vices

(a) To take such steps as are necessary to abolish prostitution and also to take steps to see that women who are taken over as domestic servants are not made use of for immoral purposes.

(b) To give publicity to the evils of prostitution through sermons, pamphlets and films.

A group of school-children who had observed "Sil".





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PHOTO COURTESY

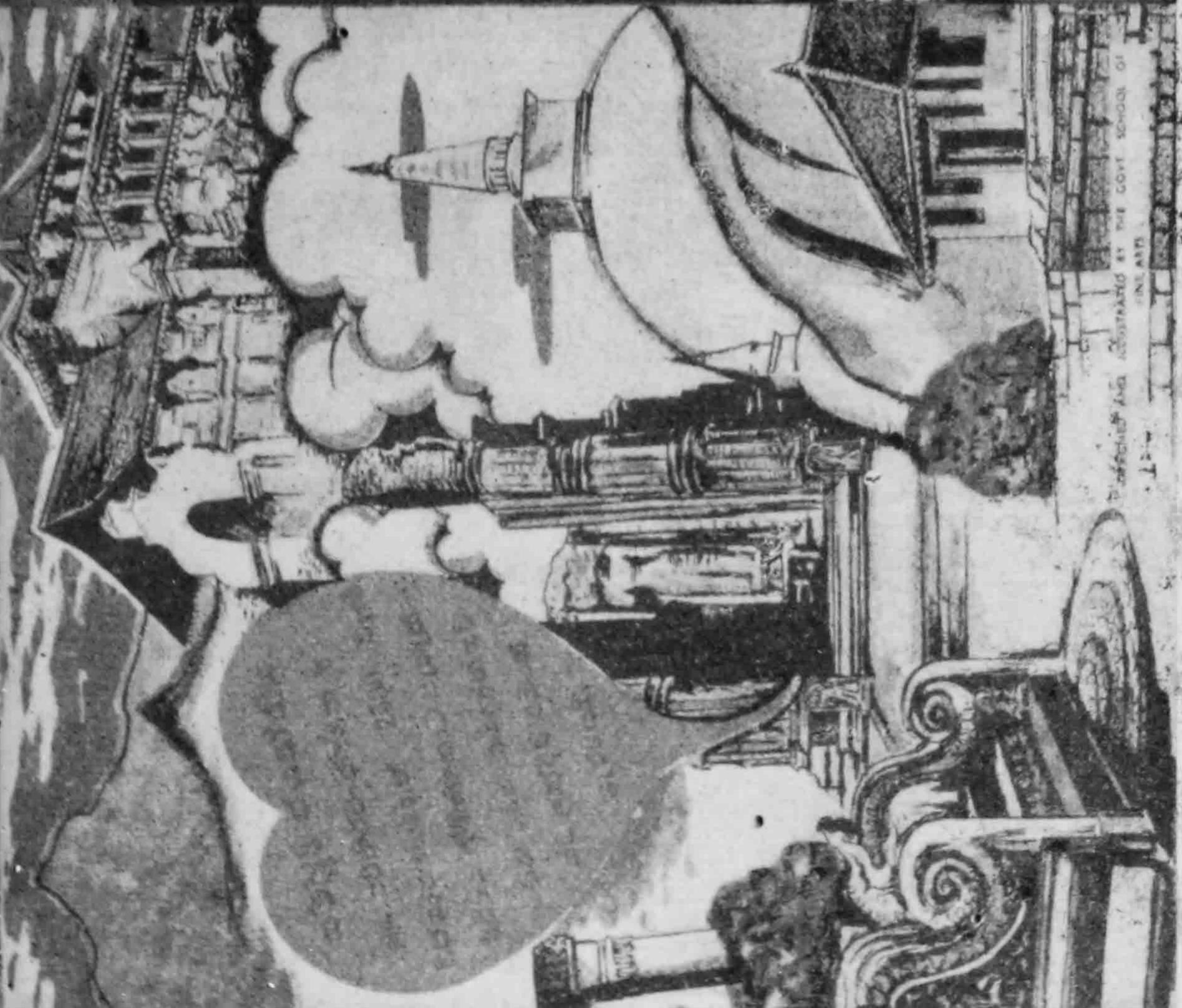


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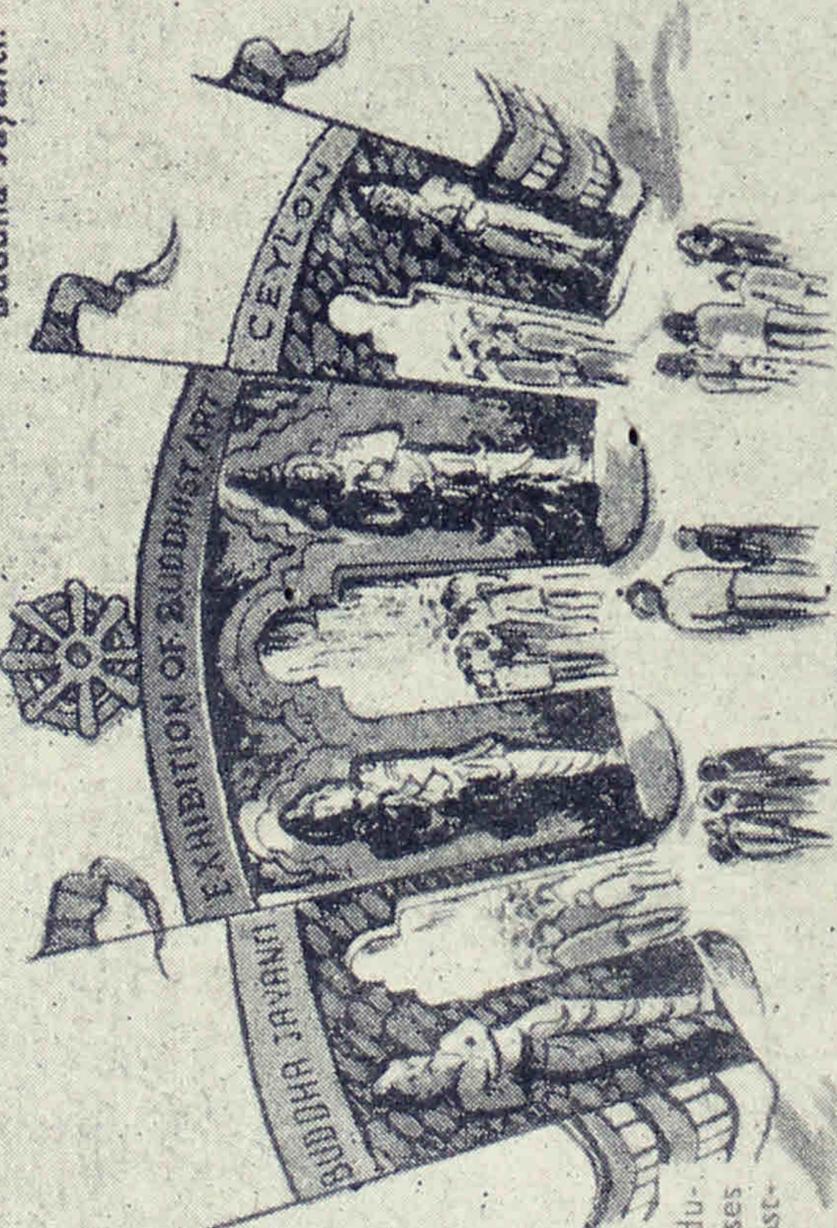
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PHOTO COURTESY

The Lanka Bauddha Mandalaya has drawn up a comprehensive programme for the Buddha Jayanti.

Education

The Committee for Buddhist Education will establish religious schools in all villages where no such schools exist and will make representations to the Government regarding religious education. It also proposes to establish a Post-graduate Buddhist College.



Dalada Maligawa, Kandy

The Dalada Maligawa which houses the Tooth Relic of the Buddha, the most venerated object of worship throughout the Buddhist world, is one of the most important monuments in the Island. It will be reconstructed with a view to restore it to its pristine glory. The new wings which were planned a number of years ago will be completed before the Jayanti is over.



Buddhist Library

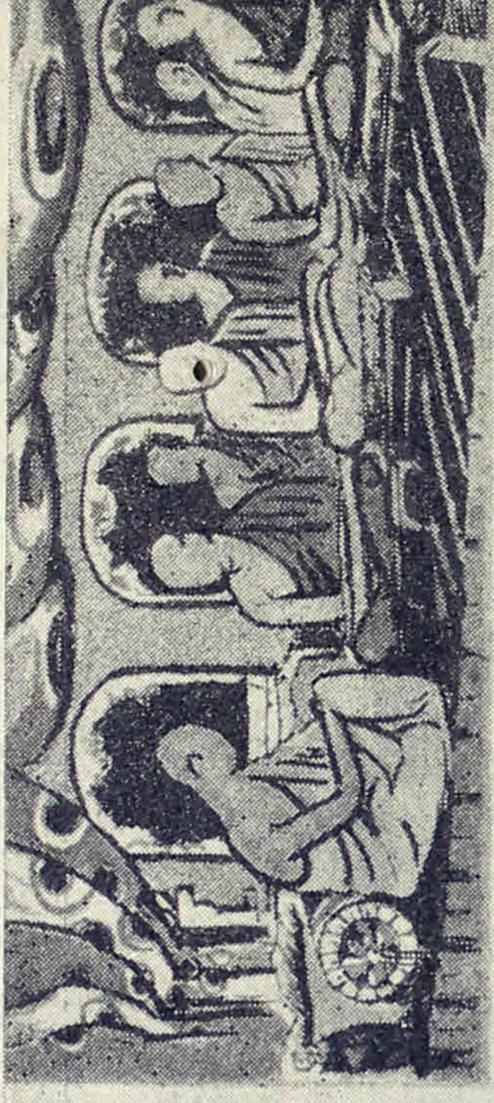
Steps are being taken to establish a Buddhist Library where books on Buddhism written in all languages will be available for reference.

Memorial Buildings

Suitable Memorials will be constructed during the Jayanti period to commemorate the Buddhist leaders and scholars, who from the time of Wellwita Sangharaja, had striven for the advancement of Buddhism in Ceylon. Besides assistance is being given by the Mandalaya to many organizations which

Literature

Tripitaka: The Tripitaka which contains in full the discourses, utterances and dialogues of the Buddha is being translated into Sinhalese by 44 erudite monks. An Editorial Board consisting of 9 monks and two lay scholars meets weekly to scrutinize the translations and prepare them for the press.



The Buddhist Encyclopaedia

With the co-operation of the leading Buddhist scholars in the world the Mandalaya is now compiling an Encyclopaedia of Buddhism which will be an authoritative Reference Book on all matters pertaining to Buddhism and Buddhist Civilization.

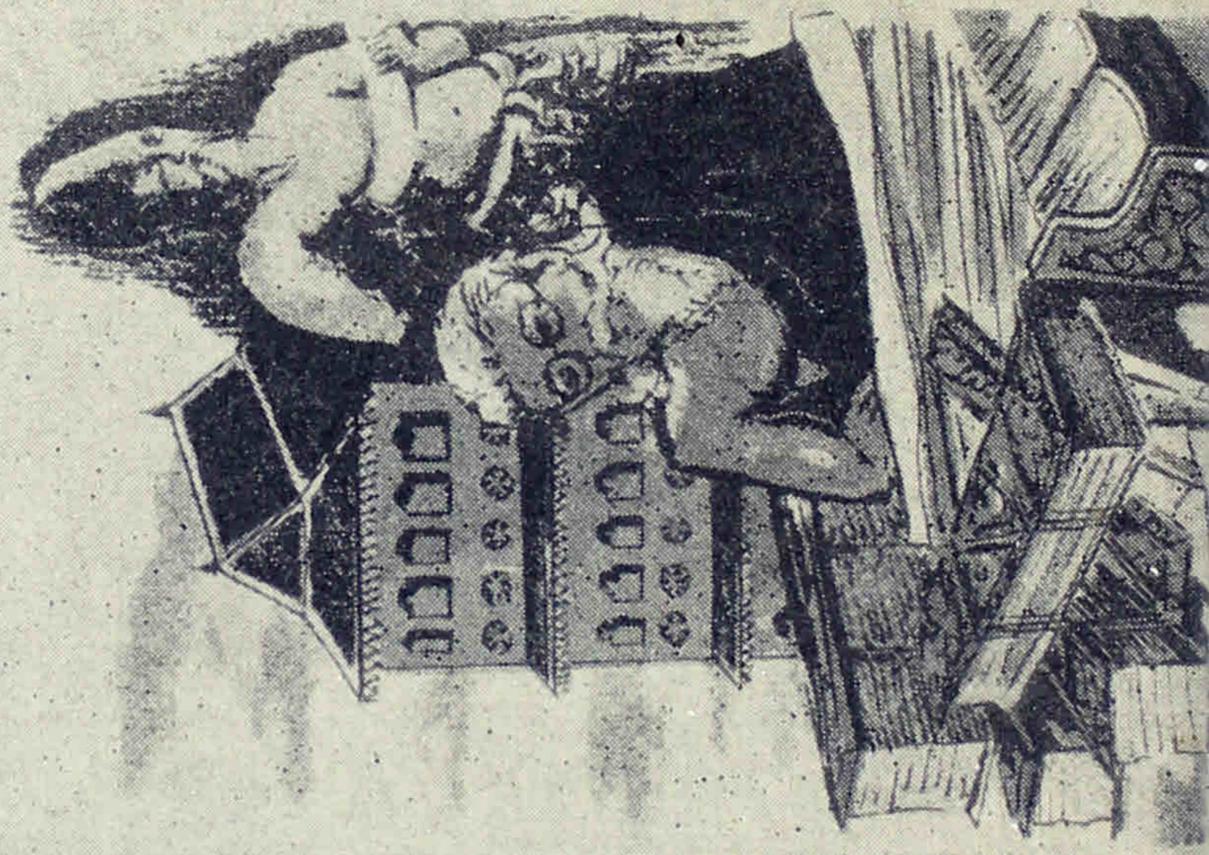
The Sinhalese Encyclopaedia

A general Encyclopaedia in Sinhalese being compiled to commemorate the 2500th Anniversary of the landing of Vijaya was the founder of the Kingdom of Lanka.

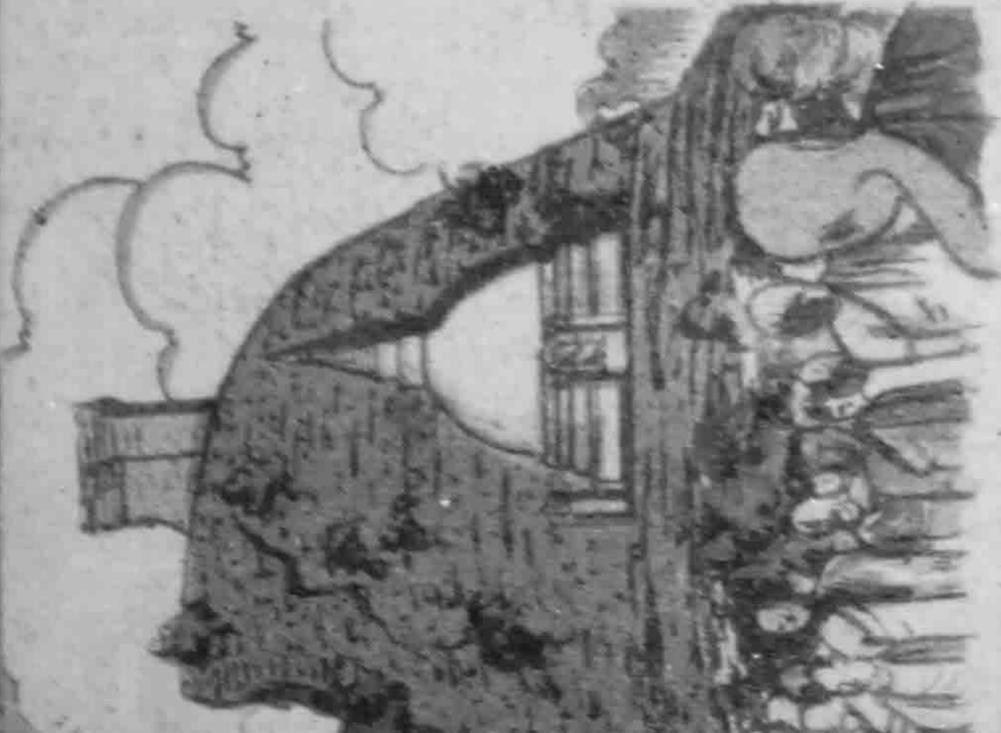
"Jayanti"

Three Monthlies are issued in English, Sinhalese and Tamil.

In May 1956 three Buddha Jayanti Souvenirs in three languages will be issued. These will contain the history of Buddhism in all the Buddhist countries written specially for the Mandalaya by leading scholars in each of the countries. In May 1957 there will be a National Souvenir in all three languages.



Besides, many books on Buddhism will be published.



The Mahiyangana Stupa which stands on the spot visited by the Buddha during his first visit to Ceylon is being restored by the Mahiyangana Restoration Society. To enable them to complete it in time for the Buddha Jayanti a substantial grant was given by the Government.

A year of glorious events

The Buddha Jayanti year which commences on Wednesday the 23rd May, 1956, will see Ceylon at its best. Elaborate plans are being made to hold celebrations on every Full Moon Day during the year in the important cities of the Island.

An Exhibition of Buddhist Art and an International Buddhist Conference to which all countries in the world will be invited, will be held in February, 1957.

At the Vidyakankara Pirivena, Kelaniya, a Sangayana will be held commencing from May, 1956. Five hundred monks from all parts of the Island will participate in this historic recitation of the Triptaka as revised by this Pirivena with the cooperation of the prominent institutions of Ceylon.

Higher Education

A substantial grant is being given to the organization which is building a Hall of Residence for Buddhist monks at the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya.

The Mandalaya also proposes to establish an Institute of University standard where Buddhism and allied subjects will be taught besides providing facilities for research in them.

WE NEED YOUR COOPERATION

The Lanka Buddha Mandalaya symbolises the keenness of the people of Ceylon to celebrate in the most fitting manner the Buddha Jayanti which, besides the religious significance it has to the Buddhists of the world, has a special national significance to us in Ceylon. The full programme which has been briefly referred to above is

estimated to cost Eighteen Million Two Hundred and Forty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Rupees (Rs. 18,248,900/-). The Government of Ceylon has given a Grant Five Million Rupees and has also exempted contributions made to the Buddha Jayanti Fund from Income Tax.

We Need Your Co-operation both in funds and in voluntary work. Please communicate for further details with the General Secretary, Lanka Buddha Mandalaya, Ministry of Home Affairs, Torrington Square, Colombo 7, Ceylon.



In furtherance of this programme the Mandalaya sent out Dhammaduta Missions consisting of eminent members of the Sangha to inspire the people to a spiritual awakening. Up-to-date twelve missions have covered the entire Southern Province and they had been accorded rousing receptions. In vans equipped with microphones and recorders, and Cinema Projectors these missions have penetrated into the remote villages and infused into its people the spirit of Jayanti.

Sil campaigns have become immensely popular and is fast becoming a regular feature on every Poya day. The Government on representations made by the Mandalaya are actively considering making Poya days public holidays. A campaign against obscene publications is well under way and the Police have changed the emphasis from the use of force to resorting to rehabilitative measures to check the high incidence of crime prevalent in the country. To achieve this end, they have the assistance of the District Jayanti Committees established under the auspices of the Mandalaya throughout the island.

The Buddhist Encyclopaedia

In the field of Buddhist Literature, some epoch making projects have been undertaken. Prominent among them are the compilation of a Buddhist Encyclopaedia, a Sinhalese Encyclopaedia, the translation of the Tripitaka into Sinhalese, and the Vidyalankara Sangayana apart from the numerous texts, brochures and souvenirs.

The Buddhist Encyclopaedia aims at being a comprehensive and authentic work of reference on all aspects of Buddhism from the earliest times to the present day. The



The Mahanayaka Thero of the Malwatte Chapter hands over to the Prime Minister the Sinhalese •

Encyclopaedia will contain in addition to accounts of the Buddhist doctrine, the history of Buddhism in the various countries into which it has spread accounts of persons and places connected with this history, the development of Buddhist civilisation in its numerous aspects—literature, art, architecture sculpture etc.—particulars of Buddhist rites and ceremonies and the influence exerted by Buddhism socially, politically and economically upon its followers in different countries.

The Encyclopaedia will be in about ten volumes consisting of 7,500 to 10,000 pages. It would be in English. Topics pertaining to the Theravada will be decided upon by the Editorial staff in Ceylon with the aid of Regional Editors. Regional Editors have been appointed to be in charge of the sections dealing with Chinese Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhism, Japanese Buddhism and Indian Buddhist Civilization. The following scholars have been invited to function as Regional Editors:—

- Prof: G. Tucci of Rome.
- Prof: L. M. Nagai of Japan.
- Prof: Jean Filliozat of France.
- Prof: P. V. Bapat of India.
- Dr. S. Paranavitane of Ceylon.

Ven. Dilowa Hutuktu and Mr. Latmore of U. S. A. Southern Buddhism will be in charge of the Editor-in-chief—Dr. G. P. Malalasekera, Dean of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Ceylon.

Dr. Malalasekera is making every effort to publish a fascicule of the Encyclopaedia of at least a 100 pages during the Jayanti Year 1956—57.

The Sinhalese Encyclopaedia



Opening Ceremony of the Encyclopaedia Office.

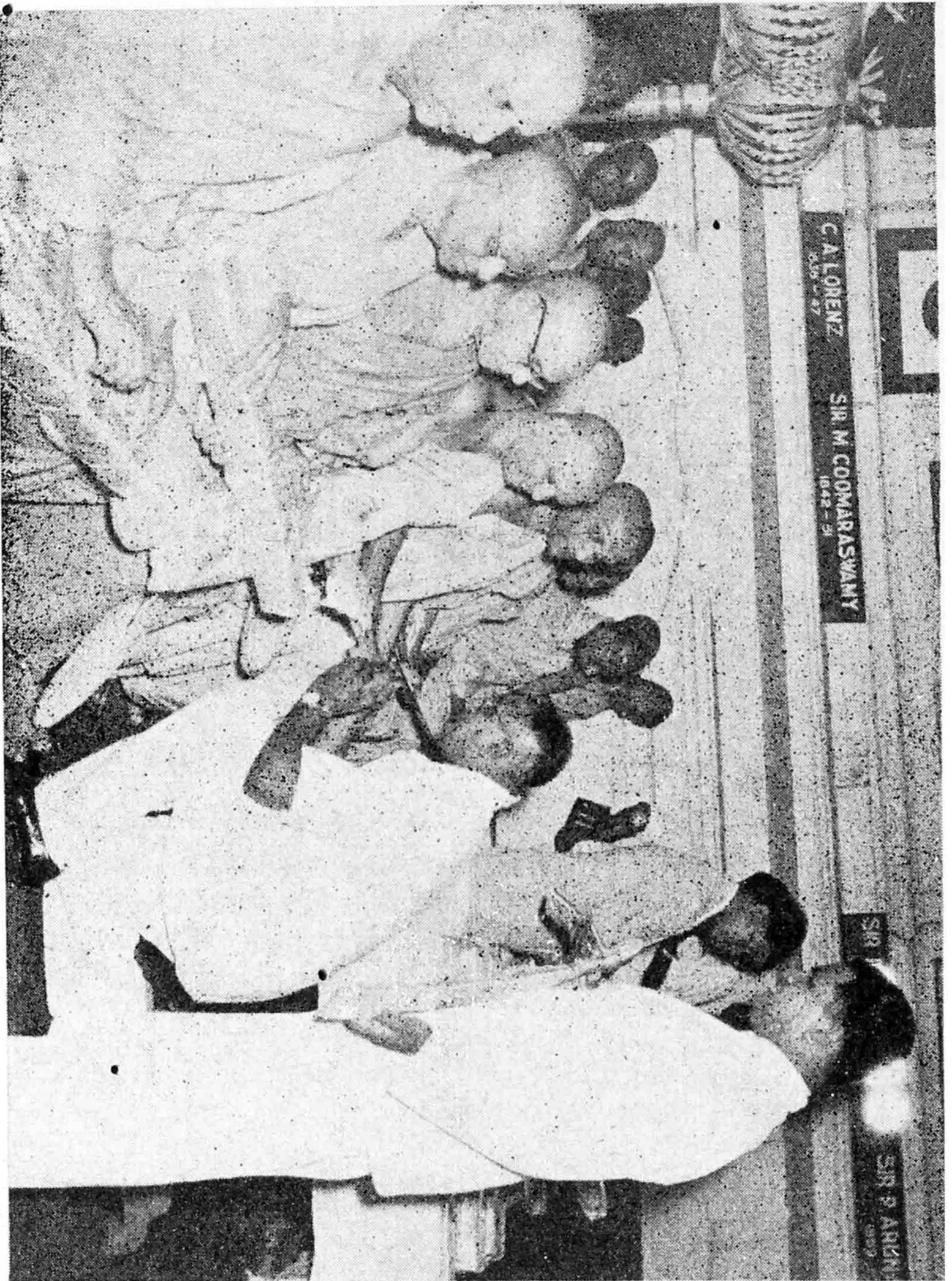
The Sinhalese Encyclopaedia will be in about five volumes comprising 7,500 pages. Its Editor-in-Chief is Dr. D. E. Hettiaratchi, Professor of Sinhalese, University of Ceylon.

The material will fall into two categories.

- (a) Matters pertaining to the Sinhalese and Sinhalese Culture.
- (b) General information regarding the world.

The Translation of the Tripitaka

The translation of the Tripitaka into Sinhalese the language of the people, marks an epoch in the history of Sinhalese literature.



The Prime Minister hands manuscripts of the Tripitaka to the monks who had undertaken to translate it into Sinhalese.



Tripitaka Ceremony at Aluvihare.

Sixteen out of the forty four Maha Theros who were entrusted with this task, returned their completed translations to the Prime Minister at a special ceremony at the Aluvihare, which centuries ago had been the scene of the Tripitaka being reduced to writing by a Council of 500 Elders. The Prime Minister in keeping with the traditions of ancient Sinhalese kings presented "Guru Panduru" to the Maha Theros. Thus the Tripitaka which had hitherto been inaccessible to the masses as it was in Pali, will now afford facilities for learning the Dhamma which will ensure and usher in a spiritual awakening for the Buddha Jayanti. The following form the Editorial Board.

Ven. Pandit Weliwitiye Sorata Nayaka Thero.

Ven. Dr. Parawhera Vajiranana Thero.

Ven. Agga Mahapandita Polwatte Buddhadatta
Anunayaka Thero.

Ven. Balangoda Ananda Maithriya Thero.

Ven. Haldanduwana Dhammarakkhita Thero.

Ven. Pandit Weliwitiye Punnasara Thero.

Ven. Pandit Ambalangoda Dhammkusala Thero.

Ven. Pandit Kadawedduwe Sri Nivasa Thero.

Ven. Pandit Kosgoda Dhammavamsa Thero.

Prof. G. P. Malalasekera and

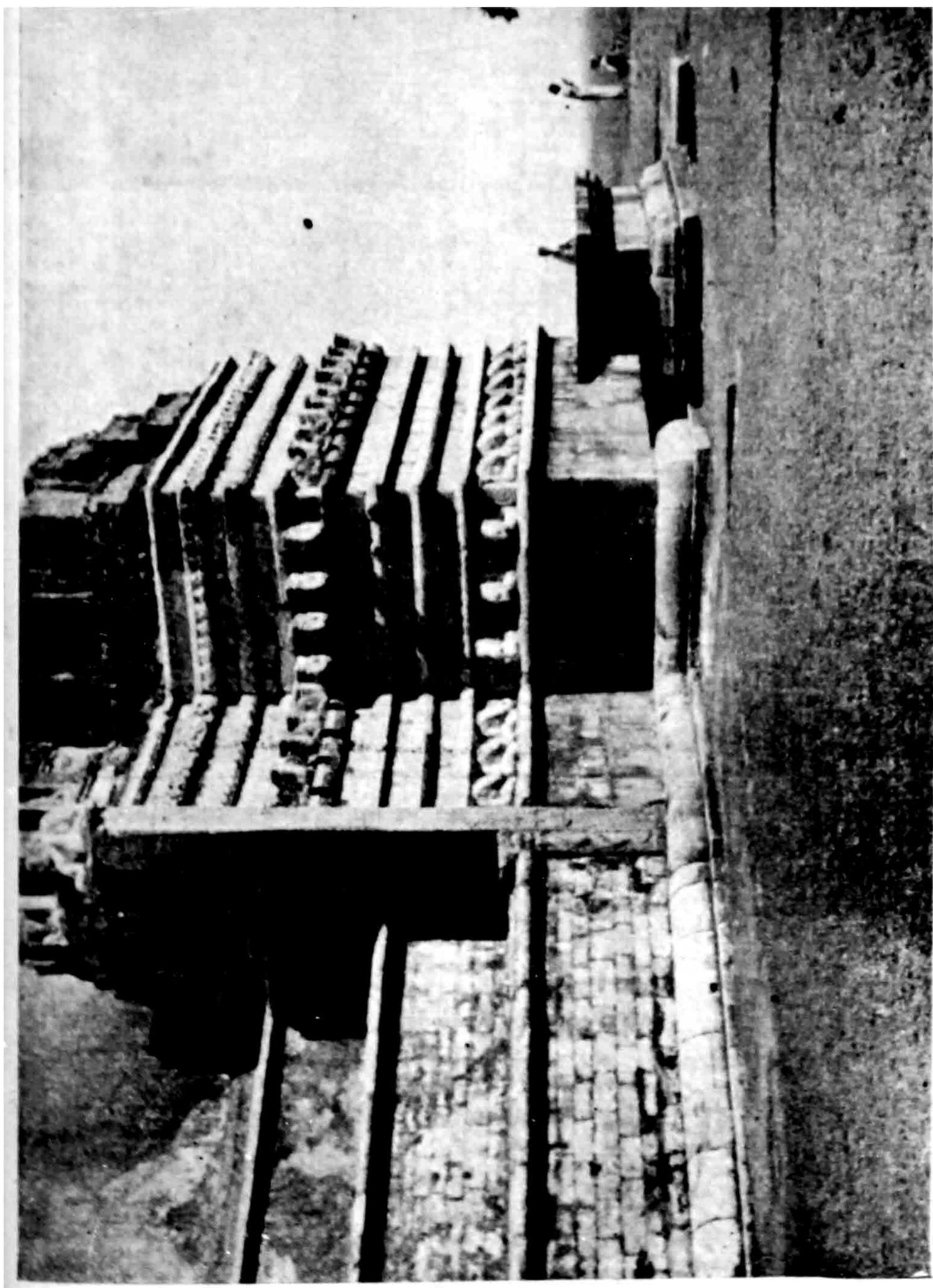
Dr. S. Paranavitana—Archaeological Commissioner.

The Vidyalkara Sangayana

The Vidyalkara Sangayana is a part of the programme of the Vidyalkara Pirivena to revise thoroughly the Tripitaka in Pali and prepare a critical edition. About 500 Buddhist monks are expected to participate in the Sangayana which will continue for about six years with four sessions of two weeks each year. A special session of the Sangayana will be held to coincide with the International Buddhist Conference which will be held in January 1957.

Literature

Apart from these monumental projects, the Mandalaya will publish a series of text books. Among them, a cheap edition of a Jataka book, a historical work on Buddhist civilisation of Asia a book on the lay life as laid in Buddhism, a catalogue of ancient Sinhalese manuscripts and reprints of a number of important works on Ceylon.



Kantaka Cetiya — A specimen of Buddhist Art in Ceylon.



Cover pages of the three monthly magazines.

Besides these, the Mandalaya will bring out a Buddha Jayanti Souvenir in Sinhalese, Tamil and English, each about a 100 pages. It will also publish a National Souvenir in Sinhalese, Tamil and English of an even number of pages. The Mandalaya will also compile a brochure in Sinhalese, Tamil and English on the Life and the Teachings of the Buddha and the History of Buddhism.

Education

In the sphere of education, the Bauddha Mandalaya has decided

- (a) to establish religious schools in all villages where no such schools exist in order to teach the children their religion.
- (b) to make representations to the Government regarding religious education

- (c) to establish a Buddha Jayanti College with classes from J.S.C. upwards.

The Ministry and the Department of Education have now instructed all schools to have compulsory periods for religious instruction daily. They have also intimated to all schools, that they must have a separate-shrine room.

Memorial Buildings

The Buddha Jayanti will be marked not only by a spiritual awakening but also by landmarks which the Mandalaya is putting up in the form of memorials.

The Mandalaya has decided to put up a stone inscription describing the Buddha Jayanti celebrations at a cost of Rs. 10,000/-. A further sum of Rs. 600,000/- has also been allocated for putting up thirty-three other memorials. They are as follows:

1. A shrine-room in memory of Migettuwatte Gunananda at Mohottiwatte, Balapitiya.
2. A building in memory of the Ven. Migettuwatte Gunananda to be erected at the spot in Panadura where the famous controversy took place.
3. A life size statue of Walisinha Harischandra to be erected at Anuradhapura.
4. A life size statue of Anagarika Dharmapala to be erected in Colombo.
5. A life size statue of Sir Baron Jayetilleke to be erected in Colombo.
6. A memorial Hall and Library at Tilakaramaya, Hikkaduwa in memory of the Ven. Hikkaduwe Sri Sumangala.

7. A museum at the Pulinatalaramaya, Kalutara to house the books and other articles that belonged to the Ven. Weligama Sri Sumangala.
8. A museum at the Abhinavaramaya, Waskaduwa to house the books, documents and other articles that belonged to the Ven. Waskaduwa Sri Subhuti.
9. A building in memory of Col. Olcott at Ananda College, Colombo.
10. A memorial with inscription at Weliwita, the birth place of Weliwita Sangharaja.
11. A museum at Suriyagoda Viharaya to house the books and other articles used by Weliwita Sangharaja.
12. The Sangharaja Pirivena Hall and Library in Kandy in memory of Weliwita Sangharaja.
13. A Jayanti image house and shrine room at the Fort Y. M. B. A. premises.
14. A library at Sanchi in memory of Arahat Mahinda.
15. A memorial at Wariyapola to the Ven. Wariyapola Sri Sumangala.
16. A library at Aluvihara as a memorial to the Great Sangayana where the Tripitaka was reduced to writing.
17. The building of the colossal Buddha statue at Vehera-hena, Matara.
18. A vihara on an old site at Amparai.
19. Contribution to the work at Lumbini to be undertaken by the Nepal Government and the Dharmodaya Sabha.
20. Installation of electric lights and drainage at Biyagama Upasikaramaya.

21. A memorial to Ven. Walane Sri Siddhartha at Ratmalana.
22. The Renovation of the old Ambarukkarama at Balapitiya.
23. A statue of Vihara Maha Devi.
24. A memorial to the Ven. Ratmalane Dhammaloka and the Ven. Ratmalane Dharmarama.
25. A museum to house the valuable articles that belonged to Tibottuwawe Sri Siddhartha Buddharakshita Maha Nayaka Thero.
26. memorial to King Siri Sangabo at Attanagalla.
27. A museum at Dharmagupta Pirivena, Paiyagala to house the books and other articles there.
28. The restoration of the Gedige at the Adahana Maluwa, Kandy and the tombs of Ven. Upali and King Kirthi Sri Rajasinghe.
29. A library at Pelmadulla.
30. A Jayanti Memorial at Jaffna.
31. A life size statue of Mr. W. A. de Silva to be erected in Colombo.
32. Restoration Work at Seruwawila.
33. Training College for Bhikkhus at Ratmalana.

A Buddhist "University"

To further higher education in Buddhism preparations are afoot for the establishment of a Buddhist Institute of University standard at Anuradhapura by June, 1957. It will be run by a Board of Management and will be open to both the Sangha and the laity.

The Institute will be non-professional in character and devoted to the pursuit of humanistic studies and study of languages.

A Buddhist Library

The Mandalaya has also decided to establish a Buddhist Library, where books on Buddhism written in all languages will be available. It has been tentatively decided to have it as a separate section of the University Library at Peradeniya.

The International Exhibition of Buddhist Art

In order to foster and promote Buddhist Arts and Crafts, the Mandalaya has decided to hold an International Buddhist Exhibition in February, 1957.

The Exhibition will depict the important events of Buddhist history and the influence of Buddhism on the arts of various countries in the world. It will also represent sermons, pageants and processions, and there will be staged plays, ballets etc., depicting Buddhist teachings, customs and ways of life. The Exhibition ground will be spanned by a "Panorama of Fame" which will consist of a pandal with statues of Buddhist leaders, both monks and laymen down the ages. There will also be a model of the Tivanka Pilimage and the Vatadage of Polonnaruwa which will be open for worship and a Theatre Hall for pageants and plays.

Arts and Crafts Exhibition, Kandy

Meanwhile, in the hill capital of Kandy, preparations are afoot to hold a Jayanti Arts and Crafts Exhibition during the Esala Perahera, 1956.

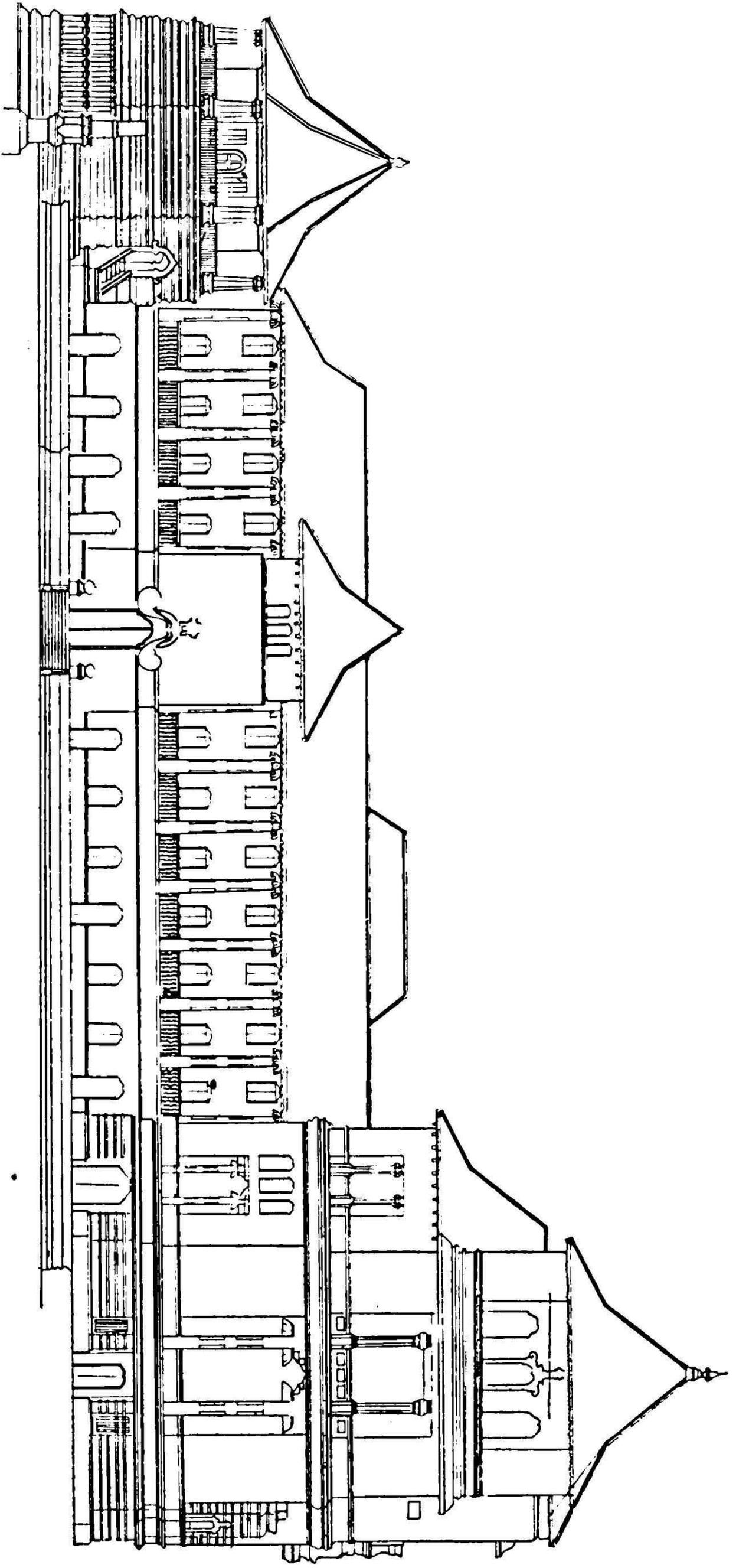
A special committee of the Kandy District Buddha Jayanti Mandalaya has been appointed to organise the exhibition which is intended to raise funds for several Buddhist purposes and to revive national Art, Music and Drama.

Special features of this exhibition will be (1) a Giant Makara Thorana entrance (2) a replica of the Maligawa Octagon, in which will be exhibited an illuminated statue of the Buddha (3) a Hall of Fame which will include portraits of eminent Buddhists of the past (4) an open air theatre, for Kandyan dancing, folk dancing etc.—it is intended to organise a competition to encourage and attract artists from all parts of the island. (5) a propaganda stall for various departments like health, Cottage Industries, Rural Development and Agriculture (6) and a theatre for staging ballets and Jataka stories.

But perhaps the Kandy Esala Perahera will be the most colourful spectacle in the Buddha Jayanti celebrations this year. The perahera itself will be much bigger and conducted on a grander scale than in previous years. It is intended to add certain features to it in keeping with traditions and revive some of the ancient aspects which had been given up in recent times. The entire route of the perahera will be floodlit and all dissawas and nilames are to participate in the perahera. It will be filmed in colour so that it could be shown as a documentary both in Ceylon and abroad.

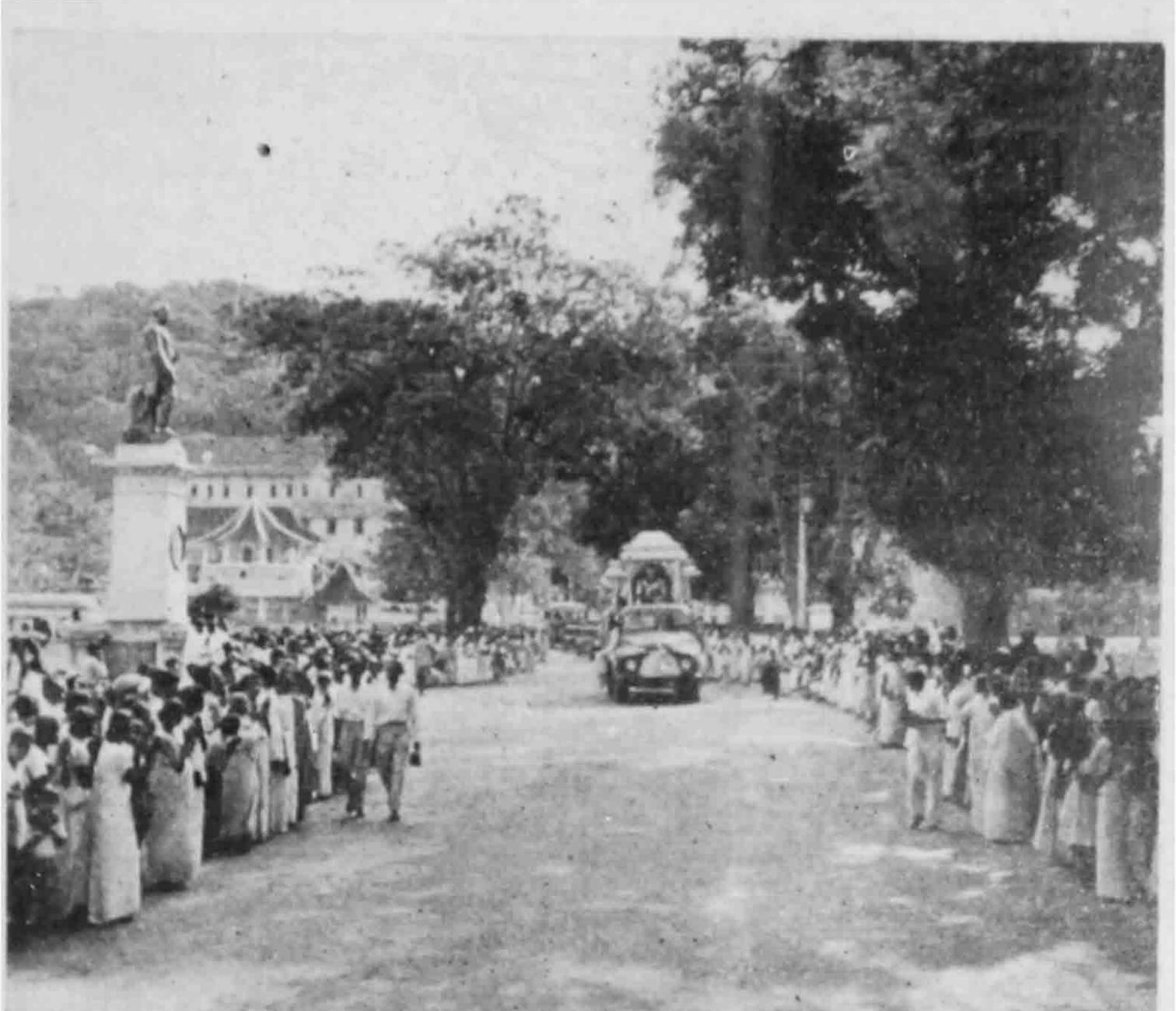
International Buddhist Conference

The activities of the Bauddha Mandalaya have however not been entirely confined to Ceylon. The Mandalayæ will hold an International Buddhist Conference in or about January, 1957. It is proposed to invite 250 delegates. This conference will enable the Mandalaya to keep in touch with the Buddhist activities of other countries and to ensure the co-operation of all nations in the celebration of the Buddha Jayanti. This will be an opportunity for the Buddhist scholars of the world to meet together and discuss their common problems.



A view of the Dalada Maligawa, Kandy, from the Lake when the proposed buildings are completed.

The Dalada Maligawa, Kandy



*A Buddhist Procession in Kandy.
The Dalada Maligawa is seen in the background.*

But by far the most historic undertaking in the work of restoration is that the Dalada Maligawa, a monument which is undoubtedly the most valuable national asset, will be restored to its pristine glory in time for the Buddha Jayanti.

On the 19th of May, 1955 the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala in the midst of a rare spectacle of traditional colour and gaiety following the age-old traditions of the Sinhalese Kings in the presence of a large and

distinguished gathering laid the foundation stone, inaugurating the restoration project.

The wings which were planned a number of years ago, but could not be built due to many difficulties, will now with the State grant of over a million rupees be completed.



The Hon. A. Ratnayake speaking when the contract for the additions and alterations to the Dalada Maligawa was signed at the Home Ministry.

According to the plans two wings will be built to the North and South of the Relic Chamber, which will improve the artistic view of the Dalada Maligawa, which is now reduced by the massive wing to the East of the Relic Chamber. Other additions and alterations will be made to the existing buildings with a view to making the Dalada Maligawa a symbol of our highest concept of Art and Architecture—in fact an architectural gem which will no doubt draw many millions of pilgrims and tourists to Ceylon.

Nothing can surpass in splendour and pageantry the annual Perahera held by the Maligawa authorities in honour of the Tooth Relic. It is the supreme manifestation of the religious fervour and devotion of the people, a spontaneous demonstration of their deep-seated reverence for this “palladium” of Buddhist Ceylon.

Special Grants

The Mahiyangana Stupa:—this Stupa which stands on the spot visited by the Buddha during his first visit to Ceylon is being restored by the Mahiyangana Restoration Society. To enable them to complete it in time for the Buddha Jayanti a grant of Rs. 500,000/- was given by the Mandalaya.

University Sangharama and Vihara:—A grant of 305,000/- was given to the University Sangharama and Vihara Trust which is building a Hall of Residence for Buddhist monks at the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya.

Other Grants:—The Mandalaya is now considering a proposal to give financial assistance to Tissamaharamaya, Mutiyangana and Kirivehera.

Vipassana Bhavana Centre, Mihintale

Another of the very important projects which the Mandalaya has undertaken in connection with the Buddha Jayanti is the establishment of a Vipassana Bhavana Centre at Mihintale.

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Introducing JAYANTI

The Monthly Magazine of THE LANKA BUDDHIST SOCIETY, The Buddhist Council of Ceylon



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BUDDHA JAYANTI

Right Hon'ble Sir John Kotelawala K.R.E., M.P.,
Prime Minister and President of the Buddhist Council of Ceylon

For the Government of Ceylon
and the Buddhist Council of Ceylon

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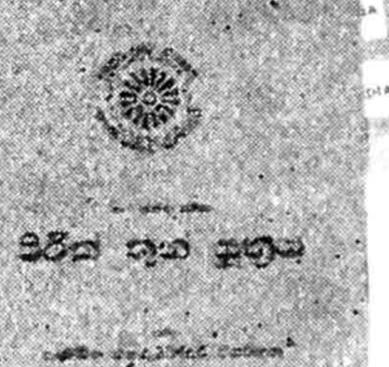
EASY LAYMENT

THE TRIPITAKA IN SINGLES



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BUDDHA JAYANTI



HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE

සමස්ත ජාතික ජනතාවගේ සාමාන්‍ය මතය

A few of the brochures and pamphlets published by the Mandalaya.

CHAPTER 5

BUDDHA JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS

Ceylon will be a focus of world interest during Buddha Jayanti. For this religious festival, with the participation of members of the Royal Family, Prime Ministers and Sangharajas of Asian Buddhist countries will go down in world history, not merely for its rare spectacle of colour and pageantry but as the turning point of human thought towards a spiritual awakening which the renaissance of Buddhism will usher in.

May 23, 1956, on which day falls the 2500th anniversary of the passing away of the Buddha, and the founding of the Sinhala race, and the year's celebrations which will follow, will go down in the annals of the history of Ceylon.

For planning out the celebration of this historic event, the Government appointed a special Cabinet Sub-Committee consisting of the Hon. A. Ratnayake, Minister of Home Affairs (Chairman), the Hon. J. R. Jayewardene, Minister of Food and Agriculture, the Hon. M. D. Banda, Minister of Education, the Hon. Dr. C. W. W. Kannangara, Minister of Local Government and the Hon. Sir Kanthiah Vaithianathan, Minister of Housing, Industries and Social Services, with Dr. Ananda Guruge, General Secretary of the Lanka Bauddha Mandalaya as Secretary of the Committee.

One of the first recommendations of this Committee was the declaration of a week's public holidays during the Jayanti week, so that everyone would have full scope to take a share in the successful celebration of the Jayanti. The Committee also recommended that the first day of this week's holidays, namely May 23rd be devoted to the observance of sil.

The following is the rest of the programme which has been approved by the Cabinet for the Jayanti celebrations.

Jayanti Week

May 23rd. 6 a.m. A special ceremony in every temple and the observance of Sil etc. A Buddhist Flag will be hoisted by a distinguished resident in each area and will be flown for the entire Jayanti year. This will be followed by Maitri Bhavana for five minutes, at 6.30 a.m. The Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister of Ceylon has appealed to the Governments of all countries to request its people to join in the five minutes of Maithri Bhavana as a mark of respect to the Buddha.

At 7.44 p.m. there will be Sabda Puja for a few minutes followed by the chanting of the three Sutras in all temples, schools, community centres and Buddhist homes. School children have been specially trained for this purpose by the Education Department.

May 24. The hub of the celebrations will be the historic Independence Memorial Hall at Torrington Square, which will be decorated with the traditional rallipalam etc. It will take the form of a Memorial Meeting to which over 10,000 people will be invited, with a request that all invitees come clad in white.

These celebrations will commence in the afternoon with 2500 schoolchildren, 1500 girls and 1500 boys, clad in white and carrying Buddhist Flags, will assemble at the Town Hall and form a procession. The procession will conduct to the meeting the guests of honour, namely, the Sangharajas of Burma and Thailand and the President of the Japanese Buddhist Federation.

Proceedings at the Independence Memorial Hall will commence after the Maha Nayake Thereros of the Malwatte and Asgiriya chapters have taken their seats. After pansil, schoolchildren will sing the Buddha Jayanti song and the

celebrations will be formally inaugurated by the Maha-nayake Thero of the Asgiriya chapter. This will be followed by speeches by the three guests of honour.

Three speeches will be made by monks of the three Nikayas—two in Sinhalese and one in English. The days proceedings will be brought to a close with the singing of the Mahā Jaya Mangala Gathas and the National Anthem.

From May 27th to the 29th there will be a series of lectures on Buddhism by three distinguished Buddhist Scholars.

From May 25th there will be a five day exposition of the Tooth Relic at the Dalada Maligawa, Kandy.

During the week mass meetings will be held in every town and village in the island. Meanwhile a Pageant on wheels, depicting various incidents from Buddhist history, will parade the streets.

The week's celebrations will be brought to a close with a grand fire works display at Torrington Square.

Further the entire celebrations will be filmed in black and white and in colour so that it could be used as a documentary both for showing in foreign countries and future generations.

Twenty-three Centres

But Jayanti celebrations will not be confined to this week. It will spread out over the Jayanti year. Apart from these. The Bauddha Mandalaya has planned out special celebrations during the year at places of Buddhist historical interest. Foreign dignitaries have been invited to participate in these celebrations. The following is the programme drawn up by the Mandalaya:—

2500

1956

May 23 (Wesak)

—Islandwide Celebrations ...

The Sangharajas of Burma, Thailand and the President, Japanese Buddhist Federation and Mrs. Otani. U. Nu. The Prime Minister of Burma.

June 22 (Poson)

—Anuradhapura & Mihintale, Situlpahuwa & Tissamaharama.

July 22 (Esala)

—Mutiyangana, Kirivehera and Kataragama.

August 20 (Nikini)

—Kandy. ...

H. H. Prince Mikasa and Princess Mikasa.

September 19 (Binara)

—Mahiyangana

Sangharaja of Cambodia.

October 18 (Wap)

—Jaffna, Seruwawila, Girihandu Seya & Dighavapi. ...

November 17 (II)

—Dambulla & Aluvihare. ...

December 17 (Unduwap) —Kurunegala & Panduwas-... Sangharaja of Laos. nuwara.

2500

1957

January (Durutu)

—Kelaniya & Colombo.

Their Majesties the Kings of Thailand, Cambodia and Laos.

February (Navam)

—Galle & Matara.

March (Medin)

—Sri Pada.

April (Bak)

—Polonnaruwa.

May (Wesak)

—Islandwide Celebrations

Pandit Nehru.

CHAPTER 6

BUDDHISM AND WORLD PEACE

“He should not commit any slight wrong, such that other wise men might censure; may all beings be happy and secure; may their hearts be wholesome.

Let none deceive another, nor despise any person whatsoever in any place. In anger or ill-will let him not wish any harm to another.

Just as a mother would protect her only child at the risk of her own life, even so let him cultivate a boundless heart towards all beings. Let his thoughts of boundless love pervade the whole world—above, below and across—without any obstruction, without any enmity.”-The Metta Sutta.

This doctrine of love preached by the Buddha over 2500 years ago, was invoked by the Prime Minister of Ceylon, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala at the historic Asian-African Conference held at Bandung in 1955, when he stated in a message to the delegates, that it was this doctrine of love which alone could save the world from the destruction wrought by nuclear weapons, a doctrine which alone could bring harmony to the world which was torn asunder by greed, hatred and ignorance.

He said “Let the Buddha Jayanti be an integral part of our scheme to ensure world peace. ‘We who had been subject to foreign domination and have therefore remained poor and under-developed, have neither the means nor the strength to maintain peace by warfare. Even if we do have, the rich religious heritage to which we are heirs prevents us from adopting such a course of action, whose failure has been proved beyond any doubt. Our solution to war is the message of Universal Love which the enlightened one has taught.”

He added "The spiritual unity of a formidable sector of the world's population will exert an enormous influence on the rest of mankind. The Buddha Jayanti will be an ideal occasion for the followers of the Buddha to announce to the world that the true object of life is to "do good, shun evil and cleanse the inmost thoughts" (Dhammapada) and to draw the attention of the warring world to the lofty teachings of the Master who has taught humanity the way out of misery and suffering. The message of the Buddha can truly be the solution to all ills in the modern world."

Significantly enough, Buddha Jayanti is due to be held at a time when many international changes of far-reaching consequences are taking place. Buddhism now faces a challenge, the greatest in its long history in a world torn by "dissension, hovering on the brink of catastrophe". Millions look to its sublime message as the only way to achieve real peace by eliminating the root causes of war greed, hatred and stupidity. War it has been stated starts in the minds of men. It is in the minds of men, therefore, that the defences of peace must be built, not in a mere co-existence of conflicting ideologies.

But the picture is not one of unrelieved gloom and despair. There are encouraging signs that large masses of mankind, alert to the common danger, are mobilising the forces of peace in an effort to arrest the growing tension in international affairs so that the spirit of negotiation and conciliation will prevail over the instincts of brute force and the resort to weapons of mass destruction averted.

Promising developments of the post-war world is the revival of Buddhism no more strikingly exemplified than in the land of its birth, India, from which it had disappeared centuries ago. This renaissance has spread to many parts of Asia.

As the Prime Minister of Ceylon the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala stated in his message at Bandung—"the Asian

countries which are organising various activities in connection with the Buddha Jayanti must have felt the necessity for international co-operation. There is no doubt that if all of us pool our resources and make a unified effort to celebrate the Buddha Jayanti we would derive immense benefits. The Buddha Jayanti will be celebrated in a manner befitting the greatness of the personality in whose honour it is held. Besides such an arrangement will contribute towards the strengthening of the bonds of friendship which exist among us. It will, moreover be unique in so far as it is motivated not by military or commercial considerations but by the keenness to celebrate the 2500th anniversary of the passing away of the Buddha whose message we offer to the world today as the corrective it sorely requires to save mankind from self-inflicted annihilation.

“The contribution which Buddhism has made to the cultural and spiritual advancement of humanity is indeed notable. And the promise it holds for the future is still more significant. Therefore the Buddha Jayanti will be an occasion not only to evaluate the benefits rendered to humanity by the Buddha and his teachings, but also to speculate or how his lofty ideals can be utilised to bring peace and harmony to our troubled world.”

From the foregoing chapters, the reader can gather that the Dhamma is very much alive today; that is, much more than some of its critics might think it is. Just as the sacred Bodhi tree at Anuradhapura is renewing itself yearly through new buds and shoots of emerald beauty to keep the memory of the Blessed one fresh in the world, so the Law of the Buddha, through spreading itself in the minds of new generations of men of the East and West, adorning them with its purity and strength, is making it less and less possible for right understanding to disappear. From the cold north to the sunny south the message of the Buddha is flashing its signals and men are taking notice of them and changing the direction of their mental life to the plain clear, open doctrine of the Buddha.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

“Jayanti”

The monthly magazines in Sinhalese, Tamil and English which, besides giving you all the information about the Buddha Jayanti activities, provide very interesting and instructive articles on Buddhism and Buddhist Civilization is acclaimed to be the most attractive Buddhist monthlies to be published in any country. Profusely illustrated with photographs and paintings, they carry every month a copy in full colour of a fresco from a Buddhist Temple in Ceylon.

JAYANTI in English costs you only -/75 cts. per copy. Annual subscription is Rs. 8/- or 15 sh. JAYANTI in Sinhalese is priced at -/25 cts. per copy and the annual subscription is Rs. 3/- JAYANTI in Tamil is also priced a -/25 cts. per copy.

Jayanti Calendars

A special Calendar—perhaps, the first of its kind—from May 1956 to May 1957 gives you all the information you need as to where the monthly celebrations are held during the Jayanti year in addition to 13 paintings in colour of the shrines where they are held. Published in all three languages it is sold at Rs. 1/25. Sellers and Institutions can obtain over 100 Calendars at Rs. 105/- per 100.

The Tripitaka in Sinhalese

The Sinhalese translation of the Tripitaka along with the Pali Text will be available within the next two years. The first volume will be ready before May this year. A special scheme to enable everyone to possess a copy of this invaluable publication has been launched by the Mandalaya.

According to it you can pay 24 instalments of Rs. 15/- and receive your copy as each volume is published. In all probability the published price of the Tripitaka in Sinhalese will be much above Rs. 360/-

The Sinhalese Encyclopaedia

The same pre-publication easy payment scheme enables you to pay Rs. 200/- in 20 instalments for the Sinhalese Encyclopaedia. Both the Tripitaka and the Sinhalese Encyclopaedia will cost Rs. 500/-. That is, 25 instalments of Rs. 20/-.

The Buddhist Encyclopaedia

The pre-publication Price of this work is Rs. 500/- and this amount is payable in twenty-five instalments.

Those joining this scheme early have many advantages. Firstly, their copies of these important works are assured. Secondly, they pay in small instalments without going through the cumbersome procedure of finding guarantors and paying a substantial first instalment. Thirdly, if the published price is more they do not have to pay anything. But if it is less they will have the difference refunded.

Buddha Jayanti Souvenirs

Perhaps it is very rarely, one can hope to have in a souvenir six large size colour plates of photographs taken by the best photographer of Ceylon. But the Buddha Jayanti Souvenir in Sinhalese, Tamil and English will have not only a rare assortment of such photographs but also a number of frescoes from Buddhist Temples. One such fresco depicting a Jataka story will be 35" X 9½"—a glorious picture to preserve for ever as a memento of the great celebrations. The articles will bring you in touch with the whole of the Buddhist world. Well known scholars from the Buddhist

Countries of South and South east Asia have outlined in the pages of these Souvenirs the history of Buddhism in each country. There is no repetition in the three souvenirs. Each will be a delightful and instructive magazine which you will not only read with interest but preserve for the posterity. How much these will cost you, we are unable to tell you just yet. But it will not be long before you find out announcements in the local papers.

The Buddha Jayanti Adhithānaya

If you listen to the Sinhalese Programme of Radio Ceylon at 7.00 a. m. you would not have missed the Buddha Jayanti Adhithānaya, which serves daily to remind thousands of listeners that the long-awaited celebrations are round the corner. This also serves many a person as a guide through life. The Adhithānaya is available in an attractive form so that you may display it in your homes. Your children will benefit immensely by reading it regularly. It is just Cts. -/50 per copy.

Many More

There are many more items of Buddhist interest which you can obtain from the Office of the Lanka Bauddha Mandalaya. Buddha pictures and many interesting books and pamphlets are available for sale. Do please call over whenever you find the time.



"Dīrit"

The Three Sutras

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