

RETAIL AT A TIME OF RATIONING

In 1941 Joseph Stalin became Premier of the Soviet Union, replacing his foreign minister Vyacheslav Molotov. The German battleship Bismarck sank the British battle cruiser HMS Hood, killing 1,416, with only 3 survivors. Nazi Germany and its allies invaded the Soviet Union during WWII, the largest military operation in history. British PM Winston Churchill launched his "V for Victory" campaign. The siege of Leningrad by German, Finnish, and eventually Spanish troops commenced. US President Franklin D. Roosevelt approved an atomic program that would become the Manhattan Project.

The Imperial Japanese Navy with 353 planes attack the US fleet at Pearl Harbor Naval Base, Hawaii, killing 2,403 people. The US and Britain declared war on Japan and the US entered World War II. On December 8 US President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered his famous "Day of Infamy" speech to a joint session of Congress a day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Paul Simon, Neil Diamond, Bob Dylan, Charlie Watts, Otis Redding and Emmet Till were born. James Joyce and Rabindranath Tagore passed away.

Gary Cooper and Joan Fontaine received oscars for best actor (Sergeant York) and actress (Suspicion), respectively. Duke Ellington recorded Take the A train.

The Royal-Thomian of 1941, played at the NCC grounds, was drawn. Royal made 205 and 119 for 8. St. Thomas' made 360 for 8, with A.F. Molamure making a century and N.T. Wijesooriya scoring 81.

Ceylon had so far not been affected militarily by WWII. It was only in 1942 that the Japanese attacked harbours in Colombo and Trincomalee.

Although the entire proceeds from the sale of The History of the Colombo Colts Cricket Club was to be given to the war funds, going by the adverts it carried one would never guess that a war was going on. However, one wonders how many of the items advertised were readily available, since much was not made locally, and even locally made products required imported raw materials.

Household items

For
Everything you require for your Home, from the furniture piece to the kitchen utensil, or for your personal use, or Entertainments, or Gifts, and so on

TRY

Porolis Fernando's

A few very interesting items out of hundreds are :-


Lamp Ware and Stoves	Fountain Pens
Porcelain and Glass Ware	Perfumeries of all kinds
Toilet Sets	Paper Ware
Thermos Flasks	Table Decorations
E. P. N. S. Ware	Fibre & Leather Attache & Suit Cases
Cutlery	Picture Post Cards
Clocks and Watches	Musical Goods of all Descriptions
Enamel & Aluminium Ware	Spectacles and Eye-Wears
Kitchen Utensils	Sewing Machines
Torch Lights	Electrical Goods
Children's Carts & Tricycles	Radio Sets
Carpets and China Matting	Photographic Films
Flower Pots and Vases	Drug-Chemical & Grocery
Brass Flower Vases & Trays	Bicycles, Etc., Etc.
Iron Beds	
Presentation Ware	

N. Porolis Fernando & Co.,
Colombo Kandy & Bandarawela.

GIVERS OF GOOD GIFTS

Consult
The Specialists
for Choicest **Gifts**

LALVANI BROS.
107, Main Street, COLOMBO.



METZLER
SPENCER
MONINGTON & WESTON
DANEMANN
MOUTRIE
COLLARD & COLLARD

DEFERRED TERMS ARRANGED

H. W. CAVE & CO.

Courtesy of Foenander 1941

In 1909 N. Porolis Fernando founded the well-known firm in Pettah. During the early forties it provided employment to over 200 people, a rare achievement at the time and opened branch establishments in Kandy, Kurunegala and Bandarawela. N. Paules Fernando, his brother played a leading role in the business. An ardent musician, he pioneered the promotion of Sinhala gramophone records under the "Columbia" and "Odeon" labels. The very first complete "Maha Pirith" recording was produced by his firm. Porolis Fernando also opened the Empire Hotel, Kandy, in 1898.

The Lalvani Brothers were famous for their import and distribution of "Goya" beauty products and owned a property in Bambalapitiya. It had a massive garden and a house that accommodated Thaku Lalvani, wife and daughter, Dina, and his siblings (three boys and seven girls).

In contrast to most department stores which offered clothing and furnishings, HW Cave & Co. catered for the cultural and recreational needs of the tea planter community. It sold everything from books and stationery to sports equipment, pianos and bicycles. The store became an institution in the life of the colony. Probably, the demand for pianos came mainly from the British expatriate community.

Household furniture

Modern Furniture Needs
A Modern Finish - -

Specify
' DUCO '
CELLULOSE WOOD FINISHES

ITS BEAUTIFUL SILKY TEXTURE IS IMPERVIOUS TO
HOT PLATES, ICED DRINKS, OR EVEN SPIRITS.


If your furniture is already finished
in this unique material, use - - -
" DUCO "
No. 7 SPEEDBLEND POLISH
and preserve its beauty.

QUOTATIONS FROM:-
COLOMBO APOTHECARIES (Furniture Dept.)
DECARNS
H. DON CAROLIS & SONS LTD.
N. POROLIS FERNANDO
MILLERS (Furniture Dept.)

AGENTS :
BOSANQUET & SKRINE Ltd.
P. O. Box 14 COLOMBO. Phone 4381

Courtesy of Foenander 1941

90 NOT OUT!



1860
90
1950

NO, THEY DO NOT PLAY CRICKET IN
BURMA, BUT DON CAROLIS' SPECIALISES
IN **FURNITURE** IN BURMA TEAK. ESTAB-
LISHED IN 1860 AND PLAYING THE GAME
BY CEYLON FOR 90 YEARS AND STILL
GOING STRONG !

H. DON CAROLIS & SONS, LTD.,
THE FURNITURE PEOPLE.

Courtesy of Foenander 1949

The Refinement of
YOUR HOME
is reflected by
YOUR FURNITURE
Dial 4261
For particulars of our
NO DEPOSIT SYSTEM
AND
FURNISH OUT OF INCOME
THE COLOMBO
APOTHECARIES
CO. LTD.
Complete House Furnishers

Courtesy of Foenander 1941

Bosanquet and Skine Trading are today engaged in the export of apparel and garments, and textile machinery. For a long period it was an estate agency house.

In 1880 a firm named Skrine Fort was started in Colombo by two planters. It amalgamated with Bosanquet in 1930. In 1957 Whittall & Co took over the entire business of Boustead Bros, and two years later Whittall Boustead Ltd. integrated with Bosanquet and Skrine.

The companies that supply duco celluloid woods finishes and duco speed blend polish are the local furniture suppliers. They are Colombo apothecaries, Decarns, Don Carolis, Porolis Fernando and Millers. Colombo Apothecaries and Millers have their own furniture departments.

Don Carolis Hewavitharane Wijeyaguneratne was a Ceylonese businessman, industrialist, philanthropist and a pioneer of the Buddhist revival movement. He was the father of Anagarika Dharmapala.

In 1860, Don Carolis married the daughter of Lansage Andris Perera Dharmagunawardhana, a wealthy businessman from Colombo. As dowry, Don Carolis received a furniture shop in the Pettah, which became H. Don Carolis & Sons Ltd, one of the largest and most reputable furniture companies in Asia.

In 1886 H. Don Carolis & Sons exported furniture to Australia. An Indo-African syndicate was formed in London in 1895 to carry out a large furniture business with South Africa. This led to the establishment of the firm's first factory, 'Steam Furniture Works' on Slave Island. The firm became the dominant furniture maker in the country.

By the turn of the century, the firm was exporting to Australia, South Africa, India, Burma, the UK, Europe & the USA. Don Carolis received gold and silver medals for furniture exhibited at the Ceylon Agricultural Exhibitions, the Indian Industrial Exhibition of 1901, the Paris Exhibition of 1900, and the Saint Louis Exposition of 1904.

From manufacturing wooden furniture to meet the increasing demands of coffee, coconut and plumbago industries for casks and barrels the company now makes solid crafted furniture to European styles.

Fashion



Courtesy of Foenander 1941

The palayakat is a South Indian style cotton sarong with coloured checks on a white background. At one time palayakat was virtually a generic name for sarongs in Ceylon.

We see two extreme contrasts in style serviced by a store. From the epitome of high class as embodied in hat, double-breasted coat, trouser cuffs and spats, to the humble sarong.

There is Britto Tailoring and Suiting store in Nugegoda. Any connection with the Britto Bros of yore is hypothetical. The Britto name is of Colombo Chetty origin.

Perfumery

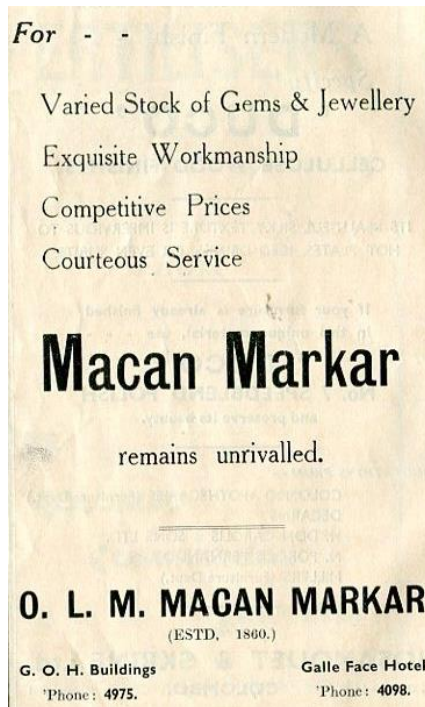


Courtesy of Foenander 1941

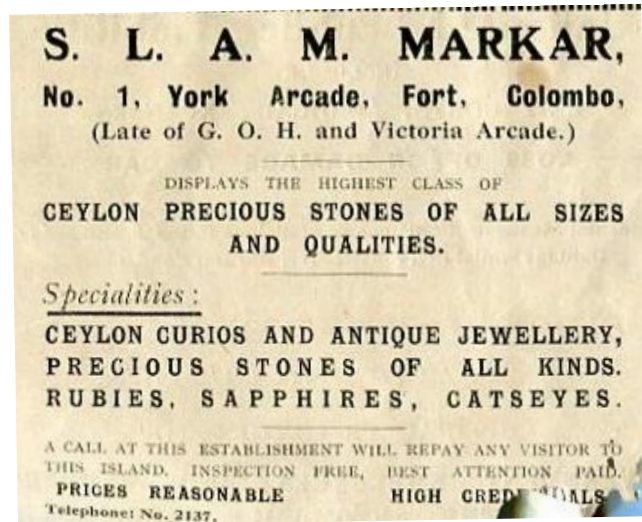
The Officina Profumo-Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella is considered the oldest pharmacy in the world. In 1334, Santa Maria Novella became known for treating a wealthy merchant from one of the most powerful families in Florence. Today the house is known worldwide for its perfumes, candles and "traditional preparations". Acqua della Regina is Santa Maria Novella's first fragrance. Today many perfumes and fragrances are promoted using the Regina brand name.

Regina Perfumery Company is probably a Ceylon company that used the famous brand name. Cologne 555 is Egypt's most famous scent.

Jewellery



Courtesy of Foenander 1941



Courtesy of Foenander 1926

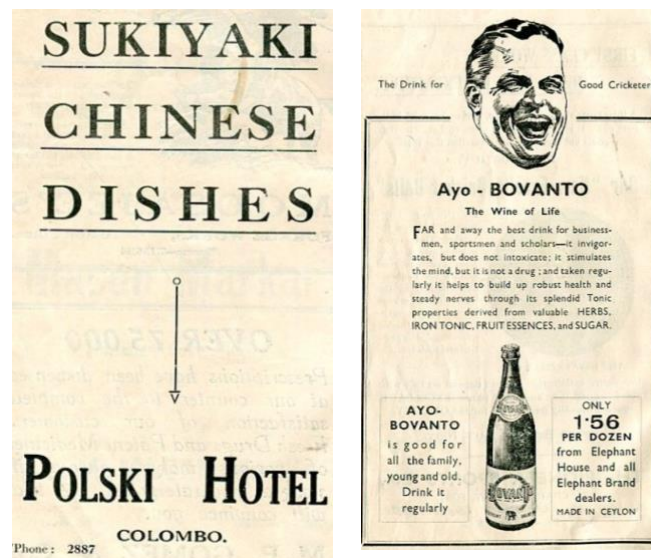
The business establishment of O.L.M Macan Markar was founded in 1860 at Galle. The business was expanded to Colombo in 1870 and set up at the GOH Arcade in the Fort.

In 1935 Macan Marker put out a promotional booklet which included photographic illustrations of mining operations, stone grinding and goldsmithing, and a table of birthstones. It also included a brief section on giant sapphires with an illustration of the Blue Belle of Asia. O.L.M. Macan Markar is famous for selling sapphires to people such as J.P. Morgan and Lord Nuffield. The company also had a textile department and provided high-class ladies and gent's tailoring.

After over 150 years of their existence, the company has today branched out to other areas of business related to real estate. In addition to their jewellery showroom at Galle Face Courts the family has set up two companies, Galle Face Land and Buildings Ltd and Macan Markar Buildings Ltd. The family today owns the Macan Markar building in Janadhipathi Mawatha which houses the Seylan Bank and many other key business institutions. This section was earlier used by Apothecaries which was a well-known departmental store which has now put-up shutters. The other two properties at Galle Face Courts opposite the Indian Embassy too have been given out to commercial establishments and for apartments.

S.L.A.M Markar, established 1905, is a separate establishment. It specialises in the procurement and sale of fine gem and jewellery, antiques, historic old coins and old notes, and luxurious perfume oils.

Food and drink



Courtesy of Foenander 1941

There is no address for Polski hotel which makes it impossible to pin down its location. Many were the Chinese restaurants located in Colombo Fort from the 1950s until about the early 1980s. These were mostly found in Chatham Street (Nanking Hotel, Peiping Hotel) and York Street (Free China Hotel, Victory Hotel).

Outside of Fort the Chinese hotels were well dispersed. There was the Chinese Lotus Hotel, Colpetty; Hotel Nippon, Kumaran Ratnam Road, near the Odeon Cinema; Park View Restaurant, Park Street, Colombo 2; Golden Gate Hotel (opposite Savoy Cinema), Great Wall (on Galle Road opposite Lindsay's Girls School), Chinese Dragon Café (Dickmans Road/Galle Road junction), and Modern Chinese Café (Havelock Road/Lauries Road intersection). The Chinese Dragon Café (est. 1942) today has a Bambalapitiya outlet at 1 Miligiriya Avenue, its original location, and many other outlets, mainly around Colombo.

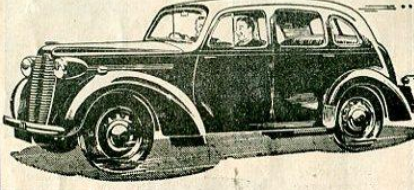
Bovanto is an indigenous Indian cola which came into existence in 1916. It is today manufactured and marketed in Tamil Nadu. Apparently, it has a different taste to more mainstream colas due to lesser carbonation and a tangy grape juice flavour base.

Tucker Autodrome

Tucker Company in Detroit only produced 51 vehicles. But Tucker formed his company in 1947 and couldn't have been the inspiration for Tucker & Co at Union Place. In 1949 it went as Tuckers Ltd and was sole distributors for cars made by General Motors India Ltd (Vauxhall, Buick and Bedford commercial vehicles).

Tucker's Autodrome was the first company to import Cadillacs to Ceylon. Its Managing Director Cyril Gardiner presented a Cadillac to the soon to be ousted Prime Minister Kotelawala at Galle Face Hotel 1956. It was the first car to have a Sinhala name plate. Today, and since 1962 at least (Refer Royal College cricket souvenir 1962), when it went as Tucker Autodrome, the Autodrome PLC located at 304 Union Place is the sole distributor in Sri Lanka for Bridgestone Tyres.

VAUXHALL SHOWS
THE WORLD
HOW TO SAVE PETROL



MORE M. P. G.
With the petrol-saving
VAUXHALLS

THE 10 H.P.	40 M.P.G.
DOES . . .	
THE 12 H.P.	35 M.P.G.
DOES . . .	
THE 14 H.P.	30 M.P.G.
DOES . . .	

under normal driving conditions.

Sole Distributors:—
TUCKER & CO., LTD.,
UNION PLACE, COLOMBO.

Telephone :
9242/9243

Telegrams :
Tuckers Colombo

Courtesy of Foenander 1941

Vauxhall Motors Limited is a British car company. It was acquired by American automaker General Motors (GM) in 1925.

There is a Vauxhall Street running parallel to Union Place and bordering the Beira Lake. Vauxhall Lane comes off it.

Health

OVER 75,000
Prescriptions have been dispensed at our counter to the complete satisfaction of our customers. Fresh Drugs and Patent Medicines of various makers always in stock at moderate prices. A trial will convince you.

M. P. GOMEZ & Co.,
COLOMBO & WELLAWATTE

Courtesy of Foenander 1941

Common last names adopted by Bharatha community include Machado, Perez, Coonghe, Cruz, de Cruz, Fernando, Ferdinandes, Paiva, Miranda, Motha, Corera, Costa, Rayan, Rayen, Rodrigo, Leon, Vaz, **Gomez**, Victoria, Kagoo, Carvalho, Almeida and Rubeiro. Today M. P. Gomez & Sons is a wine store - one of 282 in the country.

Cigarette manufacture

The Imperial Tobacco Company was created in 1901, through the amalgamation of 13 British tobacco and cigarette companies: W.D. & H.O. Wills of Bristol (the leading manufacturer of tobacco products at that time), John Player & Sons of Nottingham, and 11 other independent family businesses, which were in competition with companies from the United States by the American Tobacco Company. In 1902, the Imperial Tobacco Company and the American Tobacco Company agreed to form a joint venture: the British-American Tobacco Company Ltd. The parent companies agreed not to trade in each other's domestic territory and to assign trademarks, export businesses, and overseas subsidiaries to the joint venture.

The Ceylon Tobacco Company PLC (CTC) is a subsidiary of British American Tobacco and controls the manufacture, marketing and export of cigarettes in Sri Lanka. It manufactures the following brands - Benson & Hedges, John Player Gold Leaf, John Player Navy Cut, John Player Gold, State Express 555, Shuangxi International, Bristol and Capstan.

CTC started in 1906 and was owned by the British American Tobacco. Its first office was located in Prince Street, Colombo. By 1954, the company had become a Public Limited Company, company listed on Colombo stock market since 1950s.

Capstan and Three Rose cigarettes, popular makes in fifties and sixties Ceylon, were manufactured by Imperial Tobacco and the Ceylon Tobacco Co, respectively.

False advertising

In the fifties and sixties smoking was considered therapeutic. Today cigarette packets carry the warning linking smoking to lung cancer.

Cigarette companies were wont to promote smoking with sporting metaphors. This is quite evident in the advert taken out by the manufacturers of Sportsman cigarettes. Sportsman cigarettes were produced by W.D. & H.O. Wells (New Zealand) Limited. It was targeted towards male sportsmen. Rothmans go a step further and promote the idea that smoking Column cigarettes eradicate coughing.



Courtesy of Foenander 1941

Rothmans International PLC was a British tobacco manufacturer. Its brands included Rothmans, Player's and Dunhill. It was acquired by British American Tobacco in 1999. Its business was the strongest in the whole of Europe.

The company was founded by Louis Rothman in 1890 as a small kiosk on Fleet Street in London. In 1900, Rothman opened a small showroom in Pall Mall, from where he launched his famous *Pall Mall* cigarette brand. In 1954, the Rembrandt Tobacco Company acquired a controlling interest in Rothmans. Rembrandt was expanding and in 1958 acquired Carreras, who in turn took a 51% stake in Alfred Dunhill in 1967.

In the 1970s, Rothmans became involved in sponsorships, sponsoring the British Olympic team in 1972 and the inaugural Hong Kong Sevens in 1976. They also sponsored Rothmans Football Yearbook, an annual football reference book, from 1970 until 2002.

In January 1996, the Rembrandt Group and Richemont merged their tobacco businesses under the "Rothmans International" name. Then, in 1999, Rothmans was acquired by British American Tobacco.

Insurance

In the 1926 publication Clark, Young & Co, and London Guarantee & Accident Co., Ltd, advertised their services. In 1941 it was the turn of The National Mutual Life Association.

POLICIES ARE MORE
ATTRACTIVE or COMPREHENSIVE

Insurance

MOTOR, MARINE, FIRE,
ALL RISKS, ACCIDENT,
EMBEZZLEMENT,
LIVESTOCK,
BURGLARY,
LIFE.

*Special and best terms and lowest rates for
above can be obtained from—*

Clark, Young & Co.,
P. O. Box No. 30. :: COLOMBO.

AGENTS FOR—

The General Accident Fire and Life Assurance
Corporation, Limited. The Eagle, Star and British
Dominions Insurance Co., Ltd. The Yorkshire
Insurance Co., Ltd. China Underwriters, Ltd.

Courtesy of Foenander 1926

London Guarantee and Accident Co., Ltd.
Chief Agents in Colombo:—WHITTALL & Co.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE CHIEF FEATURES OF THE
ATTRACTIVE "LONDON"
MOTOR CAR POLICY ISSUED BY THIS CO.

Unlimited Public Liability
INCLUDING
LAW COSTS, MEDICAL EXPENSES
LOSS OF OR DAMAGE TO CAR
BY
Accidental Means or Collisions or Malicious Damage and Loss of
Damage whilst in Transit, Fire, Burglary and Theft
ALSO
**ADDITIONAL BENEFITS,
SPECIAL REDUCTIONS**
SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO
**GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS
OF THE AUTOMOBILE CLUB.**

**The National Mutual Life Association
OF
AUSTRALASIA LIMITED.**
(Incorporated in Victoria, Australia.)
(The Liability of Members is Limited)
"THE MOST PROGRESSIVE LIFE OFFICE."

POLICIES IN FORCE ASSURING £ 117,092,227 ANNUAL INCOME £ 6,323,079 ASSURANCE FUND £ 47,495,193		BONUSES LARGE: RATES MODERATE: CONDITIONS LIBERAL EVERY YEAR A BONUS YEAR.
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COLOMBO BUILDING
Colombo Branch Office:
CORNER CHATHAM AND QUEEN STREETS.

"Wherever the Association operates it is widely respected,
and, as we have pointed out before, its continued progress is
a direct result of offering attractive policies at competitive
rates, with an excellent bonus record and unquestionable
security."
— "The Post Magazine and Insurance Monitor, London."

Full Particulars regarding Rates of Premium, etc., on application.

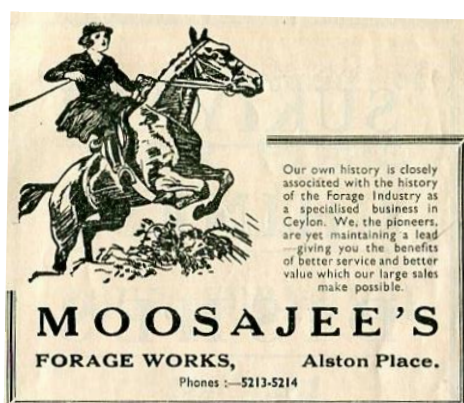
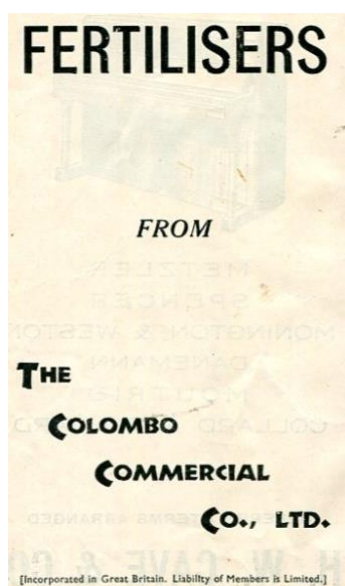
R. M. WEST,
P. O. Box 242. *Manager for Ceylon.*

Courtesy of Foenander 1941

The London Guarantee Building or London Guaranty & Accident Building in Chicago is a historic 1923 commercial skyscraper whose primary occupant since 2016 is the London House Chicago Hotel. It was designed by Chicago architect Alfred S. Alschuler and completed in 1923 for the London Guarantee & Accident Company, an insurance firm that was then its principal occupant, and is still a listed company.

National Mutual Life Association of Australasia is now owned by AXA. AXA has around 1500 advisers and 2000 employees. AXA is a leading provider of wealth management products and financial services in Australia and Asia pacific. Head office of AXA is situated in Melbourne, Australia and regional office is situated in Hong King, China.

Agriculture and forage



Courtesy of Foenander 1941

Colombo Commercial was registered in London but were agents for famous estates for a long period.

Mr. Burn opened his business in Colombo on premises namely "Ackland House" a ground covering 13 Acres at Slave Island, Colombo 02. Ackland House No. 25, Lilee Street, Colombo was the Head Office of Group of Companies of Colombo Commercial Company Ltd until the year 1976.

According to the Ferguson's Directory of 1965 the company dealt in Estate Management, Fertilizer, Tea, Insurance, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and were agents and Distributors of about fifty foreign companies. The group of Colombo Commercial Company constituted the tea subsidiary companies. In 1976, The Colombo Commercial Company Ltd (CCC) with its Head office in Ackland House and Branch offices in Badulla, Hatton, Kandapola, Kandy and Ratnapura was taken over by the Government.

The newly instituted Colombo Commercial Fertilizers Ltd was under the purview of the General Treasury of Sri Lanka. In 1989 this company was re-named as Colombo Commercial Fertilizers Ltd. Presently, the Colombo Commercial Fertilizers Ltd is one of the two state owned organizations engaged in wholesale distribution of quality chemical fertilizers to the farmers in Sri Lanka.

There is no racing industry in Sri Lanka since Buddhist monks had racing banned for moral reasons. Yet, people still gamble at casinos and through state run lotteries. Gaming is a regulated activity in Sri Lanka and is governed by the Gaming Ordinance, No. 17 of 1889 (as amended), Casino Business (Regulation) Act, No. 17 of 2010, and the Betting and Gaming Levy, No. 40 of 1983 (as amended).

“Unlawful gaming” was declared an offence under the Gaming Ordinance, No. 17 of 1889 (as amended) (“Gaming Ordinance”), punishable by a fine and/or rigorous imprisonment. Today Moosajees focus on fibre and providing forage to poultry.

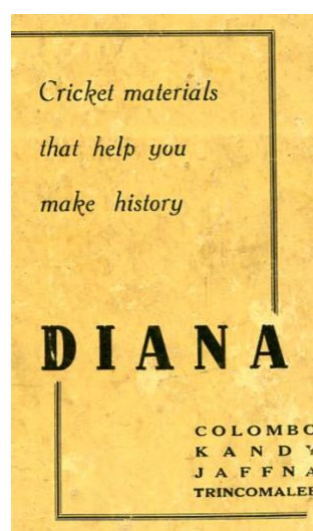
Shelltox was an aerosol insecticide produced by the Shell company. Twenty years after the advert was taken out, all private oil companies in Sri Lanka, Shell, Esso and Caltex, were nationalised. In 1962 the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) was established. It is currently under the ownership of the Ministry of Petroleum Resources Development. The CPC provides a substantial source of income for the Sri Lanka government, with 30% of the government's budget dependent on the company's dividend.

In the first four months of 2022 the foreign exchange loss of the CPC stood at 549 billion rupees due to the depreciation of the currency. It was the main driver of losses experienced by state owned enterprises in early 2022.

Until the end of 1961 the jingle “I’m going well, I’m going Shell” could be heard on the radio. On Sinhalese radio there was a Sinhalese translation of the jingle.

Sri Lanka continued to import and use agrochemicals after 1961. In 2021 the government banned the import of agrochemicals and fertilisers, and the economy subsequently went into free fall.

Sporting gear



Courtesy of Foenander 1941

In 1949 Millers Ltd were stocking bats made by Gun & Moore, Wisden and Flyer & Driver (Indian). Bats also carried the names of Compton and Hobbs.

In the sixties Royal purchased its cricket gear, particularly cricket balls, from either Dianas or Chands Ltd., located along Chatham Street. In the sixties there was also a store called Sportsmen Ltd located along Chatham Street (Royal College cricket souvenir 1962).

There is a Diana shoe shop in Colombo. It is unlikely to be a descendant of the Diana Sports Shop. The Pioneer Sports Store also appears defunct. However, there is a Pioneers Sports Club located in Kotahena.

New Excella cricket balls are made in India by The Pioneer Sports Works Private Ltd. They are likely to be the people behind the balls in the above advert.

In 1926 the West End were selling rubber sole shoes for tennis and high-grade footwear. They were also selling brooches and were clearly targeting women. In 1962 they were still in Main Street, Pettah, offering tailoring services (Royal College cricket souvenir 1962).

The Hamer Bros were one of many companies catering to the demand for sports trophies. They are no longer in business.

BIKE
is the better supporter



BIKE No. 77 SUPPORTER
This pre-shrunk elastic mesh pouch actually softens with laundering. Cool, Porous, Soft and Elastic.
Rs. 2-25



BIKE No. 59 SWIM SUPPORTER
A feather-weight support with mesh pouch for swimming or light exercise.
Rs. 1-75



BIKE No. 55 SUPPORTER
Made of Lastex, the miracle yarn which gives full elasticity and firm support without chafing.
Rs. 1-75



BIKE No. 9 SUPPORTER
Has wide 6-inch waist band. Knitted cotton elastic pouch. All Bike Supporters are available in small, medium and large waist sizes.
Rs. 3-00



THE BRACER
Brace up with the Bracer. Holds up sagging waist muscles, giving a youthful figure. No buckles or buttons. Has fly-front for convenience. Sizes 38-40, 42-44, 46-48.
Rs. 9-50

F. X. PEREIRA & SONS.

for
Cups,
Sport trophies,
Engraving of distinction
Electro-plating
Picture framing
please ring up 4178
or call at
26/28 Bailie Street.
Hamer Bros.
FORT, COLOMBO

Courtesy of Foenander 1941

The bike brand specialises in providing supporters for sportsmen. The above supporters are intended to protect male genitals and should not be confused with the cricket box intended to guard the same from leather cricket balls.

The Hamer Bros were one of many companies catering to the demand for sports trophies at the time. The Indo Ceylon Trading Co and Miller and Co were also in the game. None of them appear to be around today.

Hemachandra Bros had a shop in Kollupitiya in 1949. They supplied handwrought sterling silverware. Although they advertised shields and cups, it is unlikely that clubs and schools sought trophies in sterling silver. The company is still around and based in Kandy.

Today there are numerous trophy making, engraving, and electroplating establishments throughout the country, using modern technology. If at all the demand for trophies is greater than ever because of the spread of cricket throughout rural areas. It is not uncommon to find households in remote areas replete with trophies won through school cricket competitions. One such household was in Landewela, a village in upper Uva. When the chronicler did his postgraduate research in 1980-81, even softball cricket wasn't a visible activity in that part of Sri Lanka. Today, a trip taken between Hali-Ela and Ketawela will reveal numerous games of cricket being played in social spaces. The sights are no different to what still catches the eye in the urban centres of Sri Lanka.

Today Badulla fields a competitive team in the national T20 competition. Many of its players are no doubt drawn from players whose homes abut paddy fields.