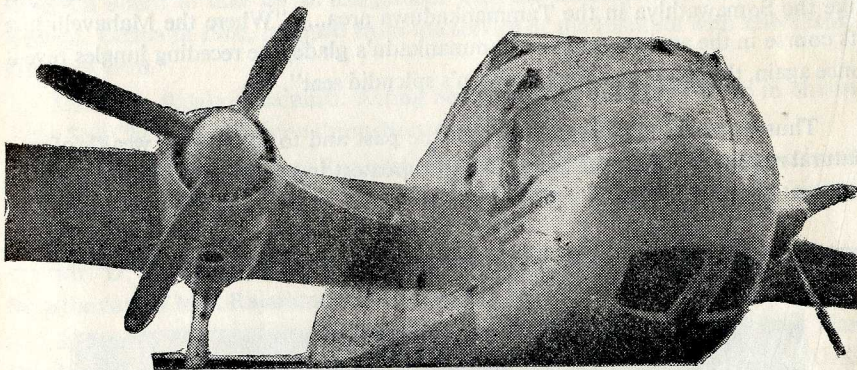


In two articles published in the previous issue of this Journal (Vol. VI, No. 2) reference has been made to—"Aerial Surveys".

The present note on this subject has been prepared by Mr. K. S. O. Perera, Technical Assistant in Charge of the Coconut Research Institute, Soil Survey Unit.—*Ed.*



The Aerial Survey

The "aerial survey" is one of the most useful methods employed at the present time in mapping the earth and its natural resources. We are aware that in the dawn of the space age the lunar surface has been studied and mapped by means of air photographs.

Though the first aerial photographs were taken by a balloon nearly 100 years ago, the aerial survey developed into a scientific discipline during the two world wars, where aerial photography was extensively used in the location of enemy installations.

The three dimensional effect obtained from air photographs, is being used in quantitative work (Photogrammetry) for engineering surveys, and in qualitative studies (photo-interpretation) involved in geological, forestry, soils and archaeological surveys. The aerial survey is also utilized in the location of mineral ores, and the great deposits of deep seated iron ore at Panirendawa (Chilaw District) were located by air borne instruments.

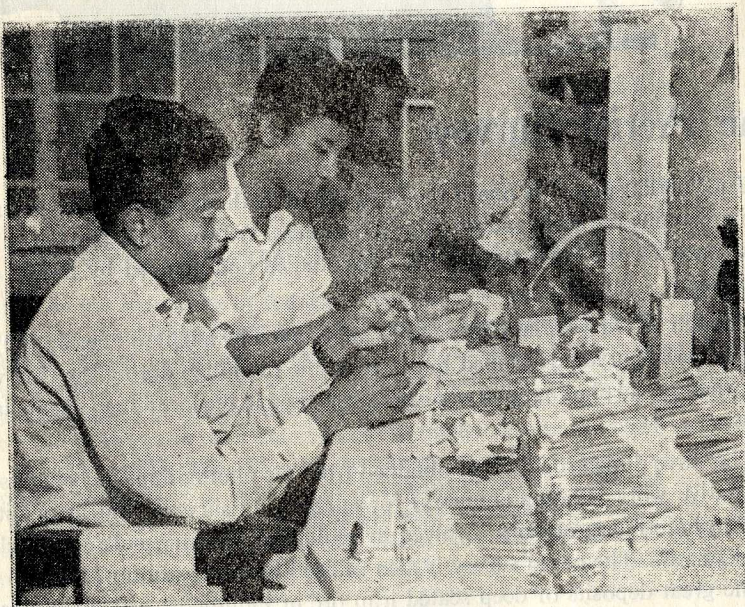
The first aerial survey in Ceylon was carried out by the Hunting Survey Corporation of Canada as a Canada/Ceylon Project, and the natural resources of the

major river basins were surveyed, such as the Mahavelli, Kelani, Aruvi, and Walawe basins. At present aerial survey work is being continued by the Air Survey Branch and the Resources Survey Centre of the Surveyor General's Department, and the information is being utilized for development projects.

In this connection, it could be mentioned that during the past ten years, the Soil Survey Unit of the C.R.I. has utilised the techniques of photo-interpretation in its soil mapping and survey work.

It is most interesting that the discovery of the old river course of the Mahavelli is the result of the application of the technique of aerial survey in recent times. The observations are that the Mahavelli had really flowed past ancient Chaitiyas like the Somawathiya in the Tammankaduwa area....."Where the Mahavelli lost its course in the ancient muds of Tammankadu's glade, the receding jungles reveal once again, the lost horizons of a nation's splendid seat".

Thus to reveal the lost horizons of the past and to unfold the wealth of our natural resources, the aerial survey is of the greatest importance in the overall development of our country.



Parasite breeding for the control of *Promecotheca cumingii* in progress at the Biological Control Laboratory situated at Havelock Terrace, Colombo 6.