

The Catholic Guardian

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"Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem frustra vigilat qui custodit eam."

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CALLING FOR JUSTICE TO THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

PERSONAL APPEAL TO MR. CHURCHILL

Mr. Churchill, 100 Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2. We, the wives, mothers, daughters and sisters of Catholic men serving in the Forces or the Merchant Navy have made a personal appeal to Mr. Churchill to secure justice for Catholic schoolchildren.

Their petition was organised by the Catholic Women's League and the Union of Catholic Mothers.

They recall Mr. Butler's statement in the Commons: "I have not been able to concede the full demand of those who desire complete liberty of conscience," and say that this means that "those who desire complete liberty of conscience must be prepared to pay for it."

The comment on this is:

"We and our menfolk claim that we have already paid for it—we women by our work in the factories and by our anxieties and fears and our tears; our husbands, our sons, our fathers, our brothers, some by their blood, all by their service as fighting men."

On the point that Mr. Butler's decision has been imposed upon him by the pressure of the local authorities, the Free Churches, and the teachers, they say: "We answer that in the light of our declared war aims, no pressure, no matter from what source, should be able to compel a British Government to adopt a policy which sacrifices principle to expediency."

"Our menfolk," they continue, "will be rightly and, for their betrayers, dangerously embittered if on their return, to their homes they find that the full liberties which they have helped to win for others are denied to themselves."

"Some of our men will never return. They will have died for freedom, and in vain."

They tell the Prime Minister that "we find it impossible to believe that this statement of Mr. Butler's can meet with your approval."

"You, sir, have been a soldier. You have a soldier's sense of honour. We cannot think that you will be a party to the betrayal of Catholic soldiers, sailors and airmen."

"You are the protagonist of liberty in Europe to-day. You hold an unparalleled position in England. If you say that justice must be done, no one will dare to gainsay you."

"We therefore appeal to you, sir, with confidence. We ask you to refuse to allow this contemplated wrong to be inflicted on us."

FIGHTING MEN PROTEST TO SCHOOLS BOARD

The Board of Education is stuffed with letters of protest from soldiers and sailors regarding the White Paper on Education, Bishop Moriarty of Shrewsbury, told 2,000 Catholics of the Stockport district in the Centenary Hall in November.

The Bishop read a letter from an officer of the Eighth Army expressing disagreement with the proposals and stating that he had written to his local M.P. pointing out that Catholics in the Forces stand behind the Hierarchy in the fight for the schools.

BUTLER IN BAD COMPANY

Mr. Butler is not the ogre many people seem to think, said the Bishop. He is very much in earnest in trying to do the right thing for all, "but unfortunately he has been mixing with bad companions and told us, on that account, he cannot give Catholics full liberty of conscience."

There will be no settlement with the Government of which the people do not approve. Catholics are a minority, but Britain is fighting to-day for minorities and therefore Catholics expect the minority in this country will be tolerated with all that fairness Britain is prepared to give to other nations.—*The Universe*.

CHRIST CORNERSTONE OF POLAND'S FUTURE

The people of Poland—"a new generation of confessors and saints"—"believe with all the conviction of their hearts that Catholicism alone can and must rebuild the nation, knit it together and smooth out the differences of opposing factions, orientations and political parties," writes Bishop Gawlina and Bishop Radonski in a joint Pastoral Letter issued for the fourth anniversary of the outbreak of war.

The men of Poland, the exiled Bishops declare, "desire to build the future of Poland on Christ as the cornerstone.... It is along the path of truth and not of mirages that the way to greatness lies. Therefore they shun men of whom St. Paul says they have an appearance indeed of godliness but deny the power of God, that they resist the truth and reprobate concerning the Faith."

It is the conviction of the Catholics of Poland "that good ends can never be attained through evil means. The Christianity they profess is whole, entire, and thorough going, based on the Gospels and the teaching of the Church. Their purpose is to unite all Polish strength in a fight for Catholic principles and ideals...."

"Our brethren at home," the Bishop says, "are fully aware that the achievement of the external aims of war does not secure a better future unless it is preceded by a revival of the spirit. Our country's demand is that the future should be founded on solid moral values."

"We are not of those who cry 'Poland, Poland' and mean all the while themselves and their own advancement."

Reminding Poles that shortly they will hear again the joyous peals of bells at Our Lady's Shrine at Czestochowa, the Bishops conclude:

"Wherever her name is blessed, throughout the length and breadth of Poland, from Czestochowa to Ostra Brama, from Jazlowiec to Piekary, from Koden to Svarzev, by our sea, a hymn of praise will be sung in her name."

The Polish President, Mr. Raczkie-wicz, the whole of the Government and the National Council, and General Hal-ler and General Debinski were present at a Mass for Polish children celebrated in the Polish Church, London.

Bishop Radonski offered the Mass. Bishop Gawlin preached.—*Universe*.

ALLIANCE OF STATESMANSHIP AND MISSIONS

Stating that England's contribution to the missionary effort of the Church was never better than it is now, Mgr. George Telford, head of the Pontifical Mission service in Great Britain, goes on to discuss missionary prospects after four years of war. He says:

We begin with the fundamental thing. The first duty of the Church, therefore of all Catholics, is to make the means of salvation accessible to all men, whether they accept them or not. It is the non-acceptance, in so many countries where the Christian map of life has already been adequately drawn and is there for anyone to see, that has involved practically all the world in a major disaster. True, the war is no more than an incident in human history while the unceasing effort of the Church to extend the kingdom of Christ is still the main thing. Even so, the war will only be won if the world sees that what it is fighting for and must afterwards safeguard is the structure of Christian civilisation.

In seeking to enlarge this, many more of our missionary priests and nuns have given their lives in the past four years. If, in that same period, men and women in the fighting services have died for any other reason than to preserve it, they will have died in vain. I still believe that, inarticulate though it may be, we have enough Christianity left for that tragedy to be averted. But we cannot know this until we are sure of a Christian peace. If, somehow, while that peace descended this year upon more than forty thousand new converts in a Mill Hill mission in Africa we can say that the same peace will be the outcome, no matter how remote or obscure at present, of the campaigns of our fighting forces, there is an unmistakable identity of purpose.

How much clearer this would appear if Christianity itself were a united thing! It has paid dearly for the break-up and is discredited because of it. We have to say this, for though our own eyes may have grown accustomed to the century-old spectacle of divisions, until we no longer see then danger, that is not the case in missionary countries which have a clearer view. As a great missionary puts it, Christian unity "is a prerequisite for the effective conquest of the pagan world which we hold to be indispensable." Let us make no mistake about that and no harsh

criticism of any attempt to bring about a closer understanding between the various Christian bodies. There is more goodwill in the vital matter than there has been for centuries, at home as well as in the missions. It must increase.

These two things—Christian peace and Christian unity—will determine the future of Catholic missionary work, and it is a solemn duty of all Catholics to pray that no cross currents of other interests may run counter to them.

For there are these cross currents and if I comment on them in relation to Africa it is because this is an article for Mission Sunday and not because they are not also at work nearer home.

Not long ago a Member of Parliament, writing about Africa, stated that it was a false assumption to hold that "the usages and beliefs" of the Christian missionary were "truer than and superior to African religions," and it must be got rid of. The way would then be clear for a system of communal land tenure and for "forging" Africa into "a vast economic unit." Now Africa has 7,000,000 Catholics and an enormous number of others who have no least desire to be forged into anything. You already have a complete refutation of that sort of large-scale paper scheme in almost every well organised Catholic mission. The missionaries have started where the work of colonisation ought to start, namely, with the human being. A mission is a workable group of human beings and the missionary has a plan which is wholly for their good, not a fantastic scheme for forging a whole continent into an economic unit. What African knows or cares anything about that?

Africa, like Europe, needs to be run on lines which are Christian, and if it is not we shall regret it as bitterly as we now regret the European disintegration. Africa is already good where it is Christian and best where it is most Christian.

Recent events have given good evidence of the essentially sound policy of (Continued on Page 4.)

VATICAN DENIES GERMAN CLAIM

The German lie that splinters of bombs used in the raid on the Vatican have been found to be of British origin has been promptly denied on behalf of the Holy See.

Last November the Germans stated in numerous broadcasts that a committee of experts, under Signor Galeazzi, had reported that the splinters came from small calibre bombs. Almost before the splinters were cold the German propaganda factory was forecasting that this verdict would be reached.

The "Universe" commented in Nov: "It is unlikely that the Vatican officials would have reported as soon to the Germans the result of their enquiry."

The Vatican disclaimer appeared in the "Osservatore Romano" and was quoted by Vatican Radio in November. It said:

"Some papers have stated, writing of the air raid of Nov. 5, that a special commission of enquiry has already reached a decision as to the origin of the attack. In answer to questions as to the truth of these statements, the 'Osservatore Romano' says that having made due enquiries, it is in a position to state that the investigations made by the competent technical body do not so far allow the forming of any definite judgment."

It should be noted that the only statements pre-judging the result of the enquiry have come from German sources.

A round-up of opinion in all countries outside German control shows that the world has not been convinced by Hitler's bluff that the Allies bombed the Vatican.—*Universe*.

WANTED

A manager for the Cathedral Co-operative Stores Society, Ltd. Monthly salary Rs. 40. Security cash Rs. 500 or property worth Rs. 1,000. Please apply before 28-1-44.

The Hony. Secretary,
180, Main Street, Jaffna.

Church Calendar

JANUARY 1944

FRI. ...21 S. Agnes, V.M.
SAT. ...22 S. Vincent.
SUN. ...23 3rd Sunday after Epiphany.
S. Raymond.
MON. ...24 S. Timothy.
TUES. ...25 Conv. S. Paul.
WED. ...26 S. Polycarp.
THURS. ...27 S. John Chrys.
FRI. ...28 S. Peter Nol.

The Catholic Guardian

JANUARY 21ST 1944

PLAN TO LEGALIZE
"BURGLARY."

The late Father Bede Jarrette in his 'Meditations for Lay-folk' says that the sin of stealing is of many kinds. The most obvious and the less dangerous is the direct taking of what belongs to another. This sort of burglary is recognised as sinful and reprobated by the common conscience of society. Theft of this sort is committed ordinarily when the perpetrator hopes not to be detected. There are other kinds of stealing far more dangerous because under cover of various names it seeks to escape the severe judgment of the public. The Ministry of Education is adopting one of these methods. Tucked away at the end of the Report of the Special Committee on Education in smaller types is a draft Ordinance the purpose of which to commit, what in plain language will be called, burglary. We believe that the responsibility for this scheme should be laid at the door of the Education Ministry as the draft Ordinance is appended to the Report after the signatures and dissents of the members of the Special Committee who thus seem to say that they have nothing to do with it. The title is: An Ordinance to declare an assisted school and the right to the school property an Educational Trust and to provide for the registration of proprietors of schools. Clause 2nd of the draft Ordinance states that every school established and being in receipt of grant before the appointed date and the property used in connexion with the school is hereby declared with effect from the appointed date to be an educational trust and shall be deemed to be a charitable trust within the meaning of the Trust Ordinance. The third clause prescribes the same regarding new schools that may be established after the appointed date. An exception is made for schools built on lands forming part of a church, temple or mosque. The effect of this draft Ordinance, if passed into law, is to deprive the present owners of denominational schools their right of proprietorship and turn them into mere trustees. If these trustees for one reason or another cannot run their schools the

Director of Education is empowered to hand them over to other persons or societies. These trust schools and their proprietors are both to be registered. But the word 'proprietors' in the sense of the Ordinance means not an owner but 'any person or persons in the opinion of the Director has for the time being the right to maintain and conduct the schools.' If the trust fails, the school with its properties will be sold and the proceeds, paid into a fund called an educational fund to be administered by the Director of Education. It is clear from the foregoing that the aim of this proposed Ordinance is to 'burglarize' our schools and school lands for the acquisition of which Government contributed nothing. May even Government legalize burglary? That is the question. "Thou shalt not steal" is the Divine injunction and no amount of legislation can make it void. The draft Ordinance is brought in as a remote preparation for the destruction of denominational schools. If Government refuses financial assistance the denominational bodies will not be able to run their schools and thus the trust fails with the result the lands and buildings will be taken over by Government and turned into State schools without additional expense to the State. How nice is all this! Who is the genius who devised this plan? Neither Hitler nor Stalin is a match for him.

MR. JOS. I. GNANAMUTTU,
M.S.C.

It is with poignant grief that we received the sad intelligence of the death of Mr. Jos. I. Gnanamuttu, M.S.C. for the Mannar-Mullaitivu district who died as the result of an accident. It was learnt later that returning from Colombo on his way to India, the deceased got out of the train at Mannar and again on boarding it while in motion he lost his foothold and fell. He was taken to the hospital where he died after a few hours. Such was the tragic end of a life that gave so much promise in his new field of politics. It is no exaggeration to say that his death is a public loss. The country is distinctly poorer by his passing away. One of the many mysteries with which death baffles us is to be found in the sudden cutting off of fruitful lives when their services are so sorely needed. The useful are taken away and we are overcome by painful surprise; they had done so much and had given promise of so much that we cannot realise how the unexpected limit had been reached. Only about six months ago Mr. Gnanamuttu was in the thick of an electoral struggle from which he emerged victorious. At that time he was not so widely known outside Catholic circles. The reason was he as a rising government servant confined himself to his official duties and refrained from mixing in political and public questions, though he did a good deal of social service among the poor as a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. There was then some cri-

ticism born of ignorance of his capacity. But those who knew his rare abilities were confident that he would be a real asset to the State Council. And even his too short a tenure of membership has proved that his admirers were right. He did not enter the Council as a novice. From the first day he showed himself familiar with the various questions discussed there and himself took an intelligent part in them in such a way as to make a most favourable impression on his colleagues. A keen student all his life, he read widely and deeply and had sound views on current questions. He was a pleasant and persuasive speaker and an able writer with a fine literary style. His contributions, papers and particularly the many articles that appeared in this paper were read with much appreciation. Mr. Gnanamuttu was above all a fervent and well-informed Catholic who had the welfare of the Church at heart and worked for it. For many years he was a member of the Central Council of the Ceylon Catholic Union and the Secretary of its Catholic Literature Committee. In the latter capacity he worked hard to spread Catholic books and papers and promote reading habit among Catholics by means of church book stalls. In other ways too he proved himself a valuable member and in his lamented death the Church loses a devoted son. May he rest in Peace.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Returning to the Right Track.

—We are quoting with genuine satisfaction a portion of the leading article that appeared in the last issue of the *Hindu Organ*. Our contemporary can do a great service not only to the minorities but also to the country at this juncture by giving, as it does in its latest issue, correct guidance to its readers. The paragraph carefully avoids the phrase balanced representation but it is not the verbal phrase that matters but its significance and it is all there:

"Those who think that what the minority communities demand is some form of protection or safeguard misunderstand the position altogether. What the minorities demand fundamentally is that the future constitution should be so framed that, without having to depend upon human factors such as generosity, justice, statesmanship etc., the minority communities may be enabled by specific and positive provision in the constitution always to be sure of obtaining their legitimate share in the administration of the country. Now that at long last representatives of the people are to be given complete power over the internal affairs of the country—if the British Government's declaration is to be believed—what is wrong in the desire of the minority communities that their representatives also should be sure of obtaining places in suitable numbers in the future government 'of the people, for the people, by the people'? self-Government certainly does not mean government of the people of Ceylon by a cabinet composed predominantly of one community inhabiting the country. That is the sort of Government we have had since the Donoughmore Constitution came into force. That is, the minorities fear, the shape of things to come. It is too late in the day to pretend that a racial majority can by any means call itself a political majority in the British sense and claim the right perpetually to form the Government."



of a Leader

By

The tragic death of Mr. Jos. I. Gnanamuttu is yet another irritating reminder of Arnold's recital on Fate. Little did anyone dream of the disaster that awaited the Vannie Legislator. Little did it occur to anyone that he would leave the world so soon when he set forth, like Chesterton, the beautiful paradox: "The finished product awaits production" while he referred to the Reforms Despatch" of Messrs. Senanayake & Co.

Slow and steady with a feature suggestive of practical learning, Mr. Gnanamuttu had that engaging come-hither-ness that makes people take to one another on first acquaintance. That was the secret of his success against Mr. Suntheralingam. It is well to remember that during his short stay in the Council, he had a say in everything—from political controversy to the subtleties of social doctrine. Thus, the "ugly duckling" of bye-election time bloomed into a beautiful swan within so short a time. His loss is therefore irreparable to the Tamil cause—specially at this hour when a Ministerial clique is drafting a new constitution for Ceylon behind closed doors. We are once again on tenter hooks and it is left to the unique statesmanship of the honourable Member for Point Pedro to find out a worthy successor.

May Mr. Gnanamuttu's soul rest in peace.

Mr. Gnanamuttu was returned to the Mannar Seat at the by-election held in August last year, beating Mr. C. Suntheralingam.

He was a former Civil Servant who rose to the rank from the Clerical Service.

Before his promotion to the Civil Service he was Chief Clerk of the Harbour Engineer's Department. As a Civil Servant he held the posts of Additional Assistant Controller of Establishment, Office Assistant to the Director of Agriculture, and Secretary to the Rubber and Coconut Research Schemes.

He was an ardent Roman Catholic and a Secretary of the Catholic Union and one of the organisers of the Catholic Home in Baillie Street, Colombo. He was an old boy of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.

Mr. Gnanamuttu was 65 years old.

Resolutions of the
Executive Committee
on the Education Report

The Executive Committee of Education has recommended that a Council of Educational Research should be constituted to co-ordinate experiments and research in education.

This is one of the recommendations of the Executive Committee on the report of the Special Committee on Education.

The Executive Committee has expressed the opinion that steps should be taken to give effect to its recommendations on the report of the Special Committee as from Oct. 1 this year, putting into force suitable transitional arrange-

ments thereafter until the administrative and organizational difficulties incidental to the superimposition of the new system on the existing one are smoothed out.

The resolutions of the Executive Committee on the report of the Special Committee will shortly be placed before the Board of Ministers before they are submitted to the State Council.

The resolutions of the Executive Committee, twenty-four in number, are divided under the following heads: Control of Education, Grading, Classification and Organisation of Schools, Medium of Instruction, Training of Teachers, Scheme of Free Education and Administration.

MAIN RESOLUTIONS

The following are the principal resolutions:—

The system of State schools and denominational schools shall continue, subject to the limitation, in the case of new denominational schools, that such school establishments shall be under national authority and shall be assisted from public funds. It serves primarily the children of the same denomination as the controlling body, and to the extent it serves such needs.

The system of State Training Colleges and Denominational Training Colleges shall continue.

Religious instruction shall be provided in all State schools, including the Training Colleges, subject to the right of a parent to withdraw his child by a written request addressed to the headmaster from such instruction.

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

The medium of instruction in all State and Assisted primary schools shall be the mother tongue, but English shall be a compulsory subject in all schools.

The medium of instruction in the lower department of the post-primary schools may be either the mother tongue or bilingual (one of the languages being English).

The Minister of Education and Mr. A. Ratnayake voted against this resolution while Dr. A. P. de Zoysa declined to vote on it.

The medium of instruction in the higher department of the post-primary schools may be English, Sinhalese, Tamil or bilingual (one of the languages being English).

The Minister and Mr. Ratnayake have dissented from this resolution also, Dr. de Zoysa again declining to vote.

In Assisted or State primary and post-primary schools or Training Colleges, no tuition fees shall be levied.

Dr. A. P. de Zoysa has dissented from this resolution.

In the State Technical, Agricultural and Trade schools no tuition fees shall be levied.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION FREE

University education shall be free. Voting on this resolution was unanimous.

The responsibility for primary education shall be transferred to the respective local authorities subject to these authorities contributing fifty per cent. of the cost.

A Central Examination Board with Executive functions shall be constituted to be in charge of examinations.

The principle of family allowances as indicated in the report of the Special Committee shall be adopted in framing a salary scheme for teachers.

LOCAL & GENERAL

New Archbishop of Westminster Enthroned.—The new Archbishop of Westminster, Dr. Bernard Griffin was enthroned in Westminster Cathedral on the 18th inst. in the presence of a huge congregation including many soldiers of all the United Nations.

Police Conspiracy Trial.—Hearing was resumed on Monday before Mr. James Joseph, District Judge, Jaffna, in the case in which Police Sergeant Arulappah and Mr. S. G. de Zoysa, A.S.P., stand indicted with conspiring to cause

harm to two Brahmin priests, Sivasarma Iyer and Ponnudurai Iyer, both of Thunnalai, in Pt. Pedro, to extort information and with conspiracy to fabricate false evidence.

Mr. R. L. Pereira, K.C., on behalf of the second accused objected to the presence in Court of Mr. G. H. Bromley, D.I.G. (C.I.D.) who was a witness for the defence. The Judge overruled the objection.

Sergeant Lawaris continued his evidence and after cross-examination of the witness Ponnudurai Iyer gave evidence.

25-cent Coins out To-day.—The Treasury has received a consignment of the new 25-cent coins, and these have been put into circulation to-day.

The existing notes will continue to circulate side by side with the new coins for some time.

Suspected Arson.—The main building and the Tamil School building of the Kokuvil Hindu College were burnt on Sunday 16th in broad daylight at about 2 p.m. The school was not in session and was to re-open the following day.

As there was no fire burning in the premises or anywhere close by it is surmised that the disaster is probably due to arson. The roofs of the two schools and some school furniture have been destroyed. Damages sustained may rise to Rs. 7,000.

As the college is outside the Urban Council area the fire brigade could not be despatched. A fighting squad of the A.R.P. (which is not subject to same limitations) however rendered useful service though the fire had done its worst when it could reach the scene of the conflagration.

Italian Prisoners of War in Ceylon.—The public will be interested to know that a number of Italian Prisoners of War have arrived in the Island and mere will follow to work in forward military units on Service projects.

Those men who have volunteered to co-operate with us until final victory is won will be given some measure of freedom as soon as they have settled down. They are accompanied by their own officers and will work under military supervision.

They will wear ordinary khaki uniform with either Italian regimental badges or Italian colour Red, Green and White on their shoulder straps.—Press notice issued by the Commander-in-Chief, Ceylon.

Jaffna F.N.S.—The Annual General Meeting of the Jaffna Friend-in-Need Society, Ltd. will be held at the Town Hall on Monday the 31st Jan. at 5.30 p.m. under the Presidentship of the Govt. Agent.

Cheaper Cloth.—The Government of India has, it is understood, agreed to place Ceylon on the same footing as Australia in regard to the selection of an expert to recommend the prices to be paid for textiles obtained from India.

It has been represented to the authorities that Indian traders in Ceylon earn more than Rs. 50,000,000 in profits by merely handling import permits and that this amount, being added to overhead charges by the retailer, eventually has contributed largely to the increase in the dearness allowance.

According to the system adopted in Australia an import licence is granted on the condition that the sale price of cloth in Australia bears a fixed relation to the internal price in India. Australia imports only a few varieties of Indian textiles, whereas Ceylon gets more than a hundred varieties, so that some adjustment has to be made to make the scheme workable.

A.R.P. in Valigamam West.—The first of the series of A.R.P. Incident Practices organised by Mr. C. Thiagarajah, Chief Air Raid Warden, Valigamam West was held at Manipay on the 6th inst. at the A.R.P. Centre. A large gathering of the A.R.P. Personnel and public were present. Mr. C.D. Thillaiyasam, Officer-in-charge of the House Fire Parties of the Colombo A.R.P. organisation spoke on Street Fire Fighting. Mr. A.T. Vethaparanam, Warden, Vaddukodai and Mr. K. Chornalingam, Head Warden, Manipay also spoke.

Acting Legal Secretary.—Mr. M.W.H. de Silva, K.C., Attorney-General, will act as Legal Secretary in addition to his own duties, with effect from January 18, during the absence on leave of Mr. J.H.B. Nibill, K.C., M.C., or until further orders. Mr de Silva has also been appointed a member of the Public Services Commission during the absence of Mr. Nibill.

Italy and the Church.—Cardinal Schuster, Archbishop of Milan, in a Pastoral Letter, observes how easy it is for Italians under present circumstances to satisfy private or political desires for revenge against people who "cannot always defend themselves." He writes: "Whoever by means of anonymous letters or of the use of assumed names reports fellow human beings to the authorities, or accuses others of infringing laws and decrees issued by the military command, will be excommunicated and pledged to make full reparation for the harm done. Only after full reparation will he, through confession, receive absolution of this sin."

The Aged Acolytes' Association.—The youngest "altar boy" in St. John's Cathedral, Cleveland, Ohio is 21. The ages of the other "boys" range up to 70.

They were recruited when the Cathedral school was closed. The rector asked for a few volunteers, and got 75. The Cathedral Servers' Guild was formed for them: they call it the Aged Acolytes' Association.

"The 'old boys' serve at more than 12 Masses on Sunday Mornings and at six Masses daily.

Fruit, its Relation to Health & Body Building

The truth of the adage EAT MORE FRUIT is daily becoming more apparent to those who are studying how to keep fit. The health of the people to-day is one of the most important parts of our War Effort. We have to keep fit in order to give our best, it is an essential factor in all our war effort.

Vitamins, the ones we know of, have become a family topic of conversations: what of the undiscovered ones? A simple definition of the term 'vitamin' can be summed up in two words: HEALTH INSURANCE. Fruit and vegetables supply a large proportion of these little known elements that we call vitamins to the human system. The discovery of new ones is almost a monthly occurrence so that the terms expressing them already run into more than half the alphabet.

Fruit diet items have been studied all over the world, particularly in America, where the very young are given Citrus juices almost from birth. They certainly play a big part in building up fine babies. Apart from vitamin contents the biological values of certain fruits and vegetables are being constantly brought to our notice. This is particularly so in the case of the citrus fruit family.

A new line of research has just come to light in Sweden owing to the fact that calcium phosphate is radio-active and can be traced through the system; this is the part played by CITRIC ACID in the building up and constant renewal of the bones in the human body so that the widely known association of calcium with citric acid in the animal kingdom holds also of the human body. Our bones contain up to one per cent of citric acid. The fact that our bones are constantly being renewed has been known for many years, but the fact that calcium salts derived in a large way from citric acid enter into this process is something new; the breaking down of sugars and carbohydrates requires large reserves of citric acid, to supply the oxidation of this important group of foodstuffs. This is quoted from "Monthly Science News" (A free publication by the British Council, 3 Hanover Street, London W. 1), which conveys to the interested public the latest Scientific Discoveries.

Calcium as a whole is very insoluble and requires citric acid to render it less so, and make it available for use in the

human system. Calcium Citrate and Calcium Pectate are some of the most easily assimilable forms of calcium, contained in large proportions in Citrus fruit.

The family of Citrus trees requires large amounts of calcium as part of 'their diet'; all the finest citrus all over the world are grown on limestone soils, the healthy citrus tree will absorb vast quantities of calcium, and certain debilitated ones will even take in dehydrated lime in solution through the bark of their stems and larger branches. They will consume and thrive on lime, applied to the extent of one lb. per year of life per tree, where calcium does not exist in sufficient proportion in the soils in which they grow.

It is easier and sometimes more convenient to drink fruit juices than to eat fruit.

Does not this application of the latest Scientific Research apply to Ceylon as well as the rest of the world to-day?

A well-known local scientist suggests that lime juice used as a flavouring agent in curry supplies a very small proportion of this very necessary ingredient in our daily diet. Is this enough? Should we not try and profit by these latest discoveries in the scientific world of to-day?

The form in which the citrus juice may be taken will depend on circumstances. The citrus grower will prefer to take fresh fruit: limes used in curry, as for instance in Jaffna, may meet the situation to a certain extent but for the non-grower citrus juices are easier, cheaper, more reliable and more convenient. The purchaser of such juices should realise that the best is good enough, i.e. the juices should contain up to 50% of the vitamin content of fresh fruit and considerably more of the citric acid. Not all the juices marketed however come up to these specifications.

Our Lady of Refuge, Jaffna

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 1943
OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT
DE PAUL
ST. PATRICK'S CONFERENCE

RECEIPTS	Rs. cts.
By balance in hand 1st Jan. 1943	135 80
„ Subscriptions:	
from Active Members	35 75
from Hony. Members	104 00
from Benefactors	130 50
„ Other sources	20 00
Total	427 05
EXPENDITURE	
To relief to the poor:	
in kind	15 00
in cash	197 85
„ Feeding some school children	20 00
„ Discharged Hospital patients	11 57
„ Burials	13 00
„ Travelling	7 00
„ Malabar Relief Fund	15 00
„ Christmas gifts:	
in cloth	91 40
in cash	21 00
„ Stationery and Printing	2 10
„ Balance in hand 1, Jan. 1944	32 13
Total	426 05
J.F. XAVIER, O.M.I., Treasurer.	



THANKSGIVING

My grateful thanks to St. Joseph for granting me a special favour.

G. C.

Alliance of Statesmanship and Missions

(Continued from Page 1.)

the British Government in Africa. Mission and Government are collaborating now in a way which is most promising for the future. That is why we may hope that the various "secular" experiments, especially in education, will be carried no further. But the missions and governing authorities realise that the materialistic bias of the secular school is fraught with more dangers than advantages, and are more and more tending to a common policy within a Christian framework where orderly economic development is not only possible, but easy, so long as profit is never the primary object of what is done.

We cannot at the moment say that this is any more than a trend of opinion and policy. The Catholic observer will undoubtedly affirm that it has already been proved by our flourishing Catholic missions that the African gets and gives his best when his life in this world is properly related to the next.—*Eng. Cath. News Letter.*

WEEKLY WAR COMMENTARY

By J. C. W. Rock—16.1.44

I told my listeners two weeks ago that the Teheran Conference has opened a new chapter in the history of the war, if not of the world. Its importance arose partly, if not chiefly, on account of the presence of Marshal Stalin. Its value lay in the evidence it gave to the world in general, and the Dictators in particular of the solidarity of the union existing between U.S.A., Britain and Russia. Its prime object was to decide questions of military importance and what the next step was to be in the military programme. Many questions of moment were settled but it is now clear that there were some questions which were not decided then, and one of them was the question of post-war boundaries. The first case regarding which has cropped up is the Polish-Russian boundary. That boundary has varied from time to time with the varying fortunes of war and its varying impact upon the Polish State. It is a vital question both for Poland and Soviet Union—vital as well as difficult. It is vital for both countries because both believe that their future security depends upon the achievement of a just boundary. Difficult because of the changes which the varying fortunes of both countries since 1914 have brought about. There have been 3 or 4 boundaries—the 1914 boundary—that of 1917—that of 1921 which Russia says was imposed—that of 1939 and the Curzon line—which may be the basis of discussion. It is also a delicate matter because at this stage one must refrain from the appearance of taking sides. So conscious are the parties concerned of the delicacy of the situation that they have not been able to arrive at a settlement, and the Polish Cabinet has issued a statement to the effect that the British and the United States Governments are being invited to join them in confidential talks and presumably play the part of intermediaries. The shadow of the past still hangs over Russian-Polish relations and it is to be hoped that shadow will be dispersed, once and for all, when Poles and Russians fight side by side against Germans on the battlefields of Poland.

In Russia the German position is definitely not good, or to put it differently the Russians have vastly improved their position. Last Sunday you were told that the capture of Berdichev opened the way to further immediate advances, but this is only one of a series of positions which the Russians have captured or are at the point of capturing. The first position captured during the past week was Sarny on the west side of the 1939 Polish Frontier. The Russians are now pushing on from Sarny to Kovel. Further north the Russians have captured Mozyr and Kalinkovichi. From this point the threat is aimed at Pinsk inside the before-mentioned Polish border. Further south the Russians are advancing against Shepetovka and Zhmerinka. Kovel, already mentioned, Kovno, Shepetovka

and Zhmerinka are important key points on the north to south line of railway communications from Warsaw to Odessa. They have by-passed and partly encircled Vinnitsa, which is not far from Zhmerinka. I am reluctant to trouble my listeners with the mention of these place names, but I also think it a pity that they should not have a look at the map and see how the capture of these places would have the effect of splitting up the German armies and cutting the southern army off from the central German army as well as imperil the retreat of the armies of Manstein now stationed in the Dnieper Bend as well as a number of divisions in the loop formed by Kanev, Smyela and Myevdin; so we have to ask why it is that Manstein or the German High Command runs the risk of these troops being encircled and annihilated in the Bend—why do they not withdraw before it is too late?

It has been suggested that the German High Command is going on the principle that the battle is not lost until it is won and Manstein has staged a number of counter-attacks which have had the effect of delaying the Russian advance. He may be still hoping that Vatutin may make a mistake and leave his left flank too thinly guarded, in which case the German troops in the Smyela loop would act as an advance guard for a successful counter attack and roll up Vatutin's troops instead of now fighting a rear-guard action to shield Manstein's withdrawal from the Dnieper Bend, and stage off a defeat. Another explanation is that it is absolutely necessary for the Germans to maintain the southern army in the best position for the defence of Rumania, and there is still time for Manstein to pull out his troops and cross into Polish territory through Tiraspol or Rumanian territory through Galati since it is essential for the Germans to maintain the stability of the Balkan States. The first of these in the line of retreat is Rumania. Rumania is not only important as a staunch ally of Germany, but also as a primary source of oil supplies. The Russians moreover are increasing their pressure on the German southern armies by attacks on the Kerch Peninsula but so far without any substantial gain.

On the Italian front the capture of Cervaro has opened the way to Cassino—brought the 5th Army 4 miles from Cassino—and brings the Allied army another lap nearer to Rome. French troops have advanced beyond Cervaro and captured Aqua Fondata.

Activity on the Dalmatian Coast and in the Aegean may well be the prelude to launching an attack on the Balkans. Tito is firmly on the Allied side and fighting hard. Should the Germans be forced to retreat through Rumania, they would fare badly if an Allied force simultaneously got a grip on the Dalmatian Coast and was in a position to cut off their retreat. That perhaps is Manstein's dilemma. He must choose whether to retreat his southern army through Tiraspol and Jassi, or through Rumania. Incidentally it may be noted that part of the southern German army is fighting in the Dnieper Bend and part of it on the Bug.

Coming to the Far East, we find increasing activity on the Burma front. Maungdaw has been re-captured and a renewed thrust is being made towards Akyab. What the big idea is, however, is not yet known. Japan is evidently getting worried, as steps are being taken by the Japanese Southern Command to strengthen the defences of South China. Canton is being fortified. We may expect them to launch another attack on Changsha—so far a baffling problem. There has been heavy fighting in the Pacific area. The Allies are pushing along on the New Guinea coast. They have enjoyed unbroken success since they drove the Japanese back across the Owen Stanley Mountains and took Buna.

Admiral Hasley in fact confidently states that the Japanese merchant marine has been severely crippled by our attrition attacks by submarine, air and surface action. The expert view expressed last year that the Japanese were likely to be weakened and fritter away their strength in defending the perimeter of their Empire appears to have received justification. Admiral Hasley's view

is that the Japanese are now massing surface craft and planes near their home waters to repel an eventual Allied attack and the U.S.A. navy is now in shape to meet the Japanese on any terms. If that is true then the end may not be so far off after all. But we should guard against complacency and over-confidence. Tojo has admitted that the "Allies had completely crashed into our mastery sphere." Well, that is something to go on—that is a substantial basis for optimism.

Jubilee of Congo Mission.

Jesuits have been 50 years in the Belgian Congo; they arrived in 1893. They have established 3,600 village schools, with some 100,000 pupils, together with high schools, trade schools, convents, hospitals, colleges and a seminary. The first Jesuit went to the Congo in 1893 in answer to the call of Leopold II and Leo XIII. At one time Government hostility did great harm to the mission, and later the sleeping-sickness retarded it with ruin. But it has surmounted every obstacle.

Telegraphic Summary of War News

SOVIET OFFICIAL REPLY TO POLISH STATEMENT

The Soviet news agency has issued an authorised reply to the Polish Government statement. The agency says the Polish statement can only be interpreted as a rejection of the Curzon Line. "In reply to the declaration made by the Polish Government in London on Jan. 15, Tass is authorised to state: (1) The Polish declaration, the question of recognition of the Curzon Line as the Soviet-Polish frontier is entirely evaded and ignorant which can only be interpreted as a rejection of the Curzon Line"; (2) as regards the Polish Government's proposals for the opening of official negotiations between it and the Soviet Government, the Soviet Government is of the opinion that the proposal aims at misleading public opinion, for it is easy to understand that the Soviet Government is not in a position to enter into official negotiations with a Government with which diplomatic relations have been broken. Soviet circles wish it to be borne in mind that diplomatic relations with the Polish Government were broken off through the fault of that Government because of its active participation in the slanderous campaign against the Soviet of the German invaders in connection with alleged murders in Katyn."

The Moscow radio announces that upon the liberation of Smolensk, an official commission was set up for the investigation of the murder of Polish officer prisoners-of-war in the Katyn forest. The Commission has nearly completed its work and its finding will be announced shortly.

SOVIET-POLISH DEADLOCK

Polish Government quarters stated on Monday that the "tone and its contents of the Soviet announcement in reply to the Polish Government's declaration of January 14 are very much regretted, particularly in view of the very different tone and contents of the conciliatory Polish declaration which was proof of Poland's desire to do everything she can to promote the solidarity of the United Nations." It is difficult to forecast what will now ensue. The Polish Government's first step will probably be to consult the British and the United States Governments.

Mr. Hull said that the United States Government, through its Ambassador in Moscow had informed the Soviet Government of his willingness if agreeable, to the Soviet Government, "to extend its good offices with a view to arranging for an invitation of discussions between the Soviet and the Polish Governments. No reply has as yet been received from the Soviet Government."

PREMIER FULLY RECOVERED

The British Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill's early return to

London from Morocco is expected among members of Parliament now that the news of his complete recovery from pneumonia and its after effects has been released.

U. S. CASUALTIES

The Office of War Information reports that the announced casualties of the United States armed forces since the outbreak of war total 139,858. This includes: Dead, 32,078; wounded, 45,595; missing 32,478; prisoners-of-war 29,787.

NEW QUAKE SHOCK ROCKS SAN JUAN

The city of San Juan, Buenos Aires, hit by a severe earthquake on Saturday, was rocked by a new shock on Sunday night. The latest tremor was of slight intensity.

An earthquake rocked many provinces of Argentina on Saturday night. First reports indicate that the epicentre was in the province of San Juan. These reports show that 60 per cent. of the houses in the city of San Juan have been destroyed. Mendoza has received urgent requests for doctors and medical supplies from San Juan. Considerable damage was reported throughout the province. Telegraphic and telephone communications with the rest of the Republic have been interrupted.

Reports quoted by the newspaper "La Nacion" of Buenos Aires say that San Juan has been almost completely destroyed. It was impossible to estimate the casualties because the city was plunged in panic, it was added.

JAPAN TO SPEED UP AIRPLANE PRODUCTION

All Japanese industrial organisations manufacturing aircraft have been combined into one agency called the "Aeroplane Industries Association," said a Tokio radio announcement picked up in New York. "The formation of the association represents an attempt to speed up forcefully the increased production of aeroplanes in Japan," the announcement added.

NOTICE

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS

WANTED men for training as CLERKS, STOREKEEPERS and DRIVERS in the R.A.S.C. Good pay and prospects and OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR PROMOTION TO COMMISSIONED RANK in the R.A.S.C. Candidates should be between 19 and 40 years of age, physically fit and willing to serve overseas. Those to be trained as Clerks and Storekeepers should be educated up to the 6th Standard in English while those wishing to become Drivers are only required to speak, read and write English.

Proof of age may be required by the Recruiting Officer. Family allowances will be issued only after marriage and birth certificates of children are produced.

Daily rate of pay on enlistment is Rs. 2.00 per day and family allowances. Maternity Benefits will be paid in all cases under usual conditions.

CEYLONESE ROYAL ARTILLERY FOR SERVICE IN CEYLON

English educated youths are wanted for this Unit. Large numbers of such men are now serving the guns defending our own coasts.

MORE ARE WANTED

We require a satisfactory standard of English which is not high.

Daily rate of pay on enlistment is Rs. 1.33 per day with family allowance. Candidates should be between 11 and 35 years of age with a minimum height of 5 feet 3 inches.

Applicants for the above units should apply personally at the Central Recruiting Office, 399, Galle Road, Colpetty, on any week day between 8.30 a.m. and 12 noon, bringing with them their RICE RATION BOOKS.

Chief Recruiting Officer, Ceylon.