

The Catholic Guardian

ESTABLISHED AS A FORTNIGHTLY, 1876; ISSUED AS A WEEKLY, 1878.

Telegrams: "GUARDIAN", JAFFNA.

REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON.

Telephone: NO. 100.

Vol 69, No. 6.

JAFFNA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1944.

PRICE: 10 CENTS.

CATHOLIC UNION'S MEMORANDUM ON THE PROPOSED EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

The Catholics of Ceylon, represented by our Council, true to their traditions, are ever ready to co-operate with Government in any endeavour that makes for national progress. They note with satisfaction the intention of the Special Committee on Education (a) to attach greater importance to the mother tongue, (b) to procure for all, rich and poor alike, the same educational opportunities, (c) to make our educational system less universally academic. They regret, however, to find in the Report of the Committee many features that are either impracticable or totally unacceptable.

1. The low salaries proposed for the teachers, the very low equipment grant and the inadequate equipment fee suggested as its alternative will inevitably lower the standard of our good schools unless they elect to become private schools. But private schools will automatically become the preserve of the rich and will introduce a cleavage between the very rich and the rest such as has never existed before. It cannot surely be the intention of the Government to introduce such clear cut class distinctions in a democratic State. The brilliant but poor student will inevitably be shut off from the best education that is available in the country, simply because he is poor. In other words there will no longer be any equality of educational opportunity.

In the school that agrees to accept the Government salaries and not to charge fees, a much greater degree of control from the Government may be expected, with consequent smothering of educational freedom, and endangering the maintenance of the fully denominational character of the school. That these are not vain fears may be shown by reference to the published statements of the views and intentions of the Minister of Education.

It is impossible to understand why it is sought to abolish fee-paying grant-aided schools. Many of these schools have great traditions, they have an individuality of their own, they serve as a bond of union between students of different races and of diverse social classes, and they have been responsible for the educational progress of the country. Their basis can be broadened to give greater importance to the national languages, they can be made to take a much larger number of free students than they are doing now, they can offer boarding scholarships to the really poor students and finally they can also make less exclusively academic by being asked to provide "modern" and practical courses.

Sound educational progress demands the modification in desirable directions of what has been a proved success, not its destruction and the creation of a new system of whose value we have no educational experience.

2. One of the gravest defects of the Report is its failure to realise that the primary need of the country is the extension of education to the hundreds of thousands of children who are at present not going to any school. The illiteracy of large sections of our people is surely a scandal of the first magnitude that we must make a determined

effort to destroy at the earliest possible opportunity and at whatever cost. Other educational changes are secondary and subordinate to this essential and absolutely indispensable reform. The Report expresses a pious wish that compulsory education be made really compulsory, but nowhere does it suggest a plan by which literacy can be quickly attained nor does it show any awareness of the problem when it comes to the practical question of calculating the expenditure for the educational reforms suggested in the body of the report.

In Appendix 8 it calculates the salary cost to the country on the basis of an average attendance of 600,000 pupils and adds this illuminating remark: "This is not on the low side." Now the Report on Vital Statistics for page 24, gives the figure of 1,650,000 between the ages of 5 and 15; the compulsory school-leaving age being 14, the figure of 1,350,000 for the age group 5 to 14 is not reasonable. This will lead to an average attendance of about 1,000,000, our present low rate of average attendance, a figure, however, far in excess of the 600,000 which the Report considers not to be on the low side. That the expenditure on the basis of this two-thirds increase is not going to be incurred in the next financial year is conceded. But if it is not proposed to rise up to it within a short period, then it means practically that illiteracy is to continue as before. A more unrealistic approach to educational reform in our country can hardly be imagined.

3. The Report recommends that at the conclusion of the fifth standard, admission to the three types of post-primary schools should be determined by an examination conducted by the Department of Education in co-operation with the school authorities. It says expressly that as many parents cannot exercise the choice judiciously, admission to Government or Assisted schools should strictly conform to the best results. The Catholic Union protests emphatically against this unwarranted interference with the liberties of the parents. The State and the school authorities can advise the parent, and can use their powers of persuasion, but have no right to compel a parent to send his child to the school which he disapproves of. The regimentation suggested is understandable in a totalitarian State, but is contrary to the principle of democracy, and can in no wise be tolerated. If the three types of schools are to enjoy parity of status, according to the "unequivocal" statement of the Special Committee what does it matter to the State which school a parent chooses for his child?

But it must be recognised that the Practical Schools are envisaged in the Report will be inferior to the other types of schools (as shown by the lower scale of salaries and equipment grant) and that many parents will dislike sending their children to such Practical Schools. If the parents' wishes are followed, it must be conceded that the State may be sometimes involved in wasteful expenditure. But that is a result of the unsatisfactory system devised by the Special Committee, in which parity of status will not be attained.

(Continued on Inner Page.)

GREAT CONCERN OF CATHOLICS IN INDIA

UNITED CATHOLIC PROTEST AGAINST UNIVERSITY'S INTOLERANCE

"It is unthinkable that in this Year of Grace One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-four, such a flagrant example of injustice and intolerance can be perpetrated by a university—an institution considered by all men to be the teacher of Culture and Learning and the embodiment of the noblest sentiments of Justice, Righteousness and Tolerance." So said the Most Revd. L. Mathias, Archbishop of Madras, in his opening address at the mass meeting of Catholics held on Wednesday 9th February in St. Mary's Public Hall, Madras, to protest against the disaffiliation of Sophia College by the University of Bombay.

The following resolution moved from the chair:

This gathering of representative Catholics of Madras, expresses its great concern at the proposal to disaffiliate the Sophia College of Bombay. It considers that the proposal is based on groundless charges insupportable in any Court of Law and on unfounded suspicion. It notes the fact that the unproved allegations concerned religion and not education and it strongly resents the spirit of bitter intolerance exhibited by the proposers of disaffiliation.

The resolution was supported by Revd. Frs. L. Murphy, S.J., and F. Basenach, S.J. and Messrs. K.O. Antony, A.P.C. Albuquerque, C. Selva Raj Reddiar and G. Pais.

INDIAN CHRISTIANS

At a public meeting of Indian Christians held at St. Anthony's School, Pudukot, on January 29th with Mr. J.J.P. Roche-Victoria, M.L.A., the following resolution was passed: "The alleged proposal of the University to disaffiliate Sophia College and appealing to the Government not to embitter the feelings of the community by such intolerant and intemperate action."

CATHOLIC ASSOCIATIONS

Resolutions were also passed by the Catholic Lawyers' Guild, the Catholic Social Guild, the Catholic Workers' Association and St. Thomas Catholic Club, Mylapore, and the Catholic University Students' Association.

THE CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOUTH INDIA

The President of the C.E.C. of S.I. sent the following message to His Excellency the Viceroy, His Excellency the Governor of Bombay and the Vice-Chancellor of the Bombay University; and a copy of the message was sent to the Most Revd. T. Roberts, S.J., Archbishop of Bombay:

The Catholic Educational Council of South India representing thirty dioceses deplores the proposed disaffiliation of Sophia College by the Bombay University. The Council views the action as intolerant, unjust and grievously prejudicial to Catholic Educational Institutions throughout India and demands the withdrawal of the proposal.

THE CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF BANGALORE

To several who had not heard or read the latest news of the day the announcement by the Bishop of Bangalore that a move on the part of Mr. K.T. Shah to disaffiliate the Sophia College for Women, Bombay, came as a rude shock and an unpleasant surprise. A mass meeting of Catholics in the station would be held in the near future to consider the action to be taken in the matter.

CUDDALORE

A public meeting of the Catholics of S. Arcot was held on the evening of 4th Feb. under the presidentship of Mr. Joseph Roman, B.A., B.L., Advocate, Cuddalore, to enter their emphatic protest against the recommendations of the Syndicate and the Academic Council of the Bombay University, that the Sophia College for Women, Bombay should be disaffiliated for the reason that two girls of the said College had been converted to the Catholic Faith.

The following resolution protesting against the proposed disaffiliation was moved by Mr. V.A.J. Samu Pillai, B.A., B.L., M.L.A., Municipal Chairman, Cuddalore, and duly seconded by Mr. V. G. Savarimuthu, B.A., L.T., Assistant, St. Joseph's Secondary School, Cuddalore N.T., was unanimously carried:

The Catholics of the District of South Arcot, Madras Province view with great concern the resolution passed by the syndicate and the Academic Council of the Bombay University recommending to the Senate that the Sophia College for Women should be disaffiliated. They seriously apprehend that, if the said recommendation based as it is on the flimsy and unproven testimony of highly interested and prejudiced witnesses were to be accepted and given effect to it would shake to its very foundation the confidence of the Catholic community in India in the bona fides of the University authorities to administer the affairs of the University impartially and with equality of justice to all without distinction of caste and creed. The threatened act of disaffiliation, if carried out, is bound to produce a conviction in the minds of the Catholic community not only in India but all the world over, that the Bombay University has set its hand to the unholy task of religious persecution. No better and more concrete proof would be needed then, to justify the fear that the minority communities entertain that in the would-be self-governing India, they would have to suffer under the tyranny of the majority community.

The Catholics of South India therefore resolve to request the University Authorities, Bombay, to judge the matter dispassionately and in a spirit of tolerance and reject the recommendation of the Syndicate and Academic Council for the disaffiliation of the Sophia College for Women Bombay, as being unjust and highly detrimental to the best interests of the country.

MANGALORE

The Executive Committee of the Catholic Association of South Kanara (Continued on Page 4.)

Catholic Women Teachers' Retreat

The retreat of the Catholic women teachers will be held this year at the Holy Family Convent, Ilavalai. The retreat will commence on 19th of April at 4-30 p.m. and close on 23rd morning. It is hoped that all Catholic women teachers will avail themselves of this opportunity. Women who are not teachers are also welcome. Lodging facilities will be made by the Revd. Mother Superior. Those who wish to take part in the retreat should write to the Revd. Mother Superior, who will inform them of details necessary.

REVD. MOTHER SUPERIOR,
Holy Family Convent,
Ilavalai.

Church Calendar

FEBRUARY 1944

- FRI. ...18 S. Simeon.
- SAT. ...19 S. Suzanna.
- SUN. ...20 Quin. S. Eleutherius.
- MON. ...21 S. German.
- TUES. ...22 S. Pet. Chr. Ani.
- WED. ...23 Ash Wednesday.
- THURS. ...24 S. Ethelbert.
- FRI. ...25 S. Matthias.

The Catholic Guardian

FEBRUARY 18TH 1944

NOTICE CONCERNING LENTEN REGULATIONS

We notify the faithful of the Jaffna Diocese that owing to the present economic conditions, food rationing, enhanced prices of foodstuffs and other hardships affecting their daily lives, dispensation from Fast and Abstinence for the whole time of Lent except on Good Friday, and for the rest of the year is hereby granted to all. It is to be observed, however, that the spirit of penance which is the characteristic of this holy season ought not to suffer from this general relaxation. The faithful will make up for it by accepting cheerfully the privations imposed on them by present circumstances, by reciting the Rosary more frequently, by performing the devout exercise of the Stations of the Cross, by attending with greater fervour and regularity the spiritual exercises of the Annual Retreat in their parish, by almsgiving according to their means etc., so that they may derive from Heaven all the graces they need for a more perfect accomplishment of their duties as Christians.

✠ J. A. Guyomar, O.M.I.,
Bishop of Jaffna.

TEACHING OF RELIGION IN STATE SCHOOLS

The Catholic Union of Ceylon as representing the Catholics of this Island has issued a well-thought-out and clearly-expressed Memorandum on the Report of the Special Committee on Education. The Union speaking for the Catholics notes with satisfaction the intention of the Special Committee (a) to attach greater importance to the mother tongue (b) to procure for all rich and poor alike the same educational opportunities (c) to make our educational system less universally academic. The Catholic Union's whole-hearted approval of these recommenda-

tions of the Committee should be emphasised in view of the attempts that are being made to misrepresent the attitude of the defenders of the denominational system. These are being accused of opposing all improvement in our educational scheme. But reforms on the above three heads would eliminate the defects and modernize the system. But the moving spirits of the Committee were not content to leave well alone; they wanted nothing short of an educational revolution which would make clean sweep of the Christian schools. That was their miscalculation which did not reckon with fair-minded and enlightened public opinion. In its appeal to the enlightened public the Catholic Union of Ceylon while accepting all the recommendations that will really serve to improve our educational system finds at the same time many features that are either impracticable or wholly unacceptable. One of the Committee's recommendation which the Catholic Union views with misgiving is the teaching of religious dogmas in State schools. A cardinal policy of the Government up-to-now has been its neutrality in matters of religion. A very wise policy it is to adopt in a country with several religions. A departure from it must spell suspicion and disorder. However, strange it may appear that Catholics who attach such vital importance to religion in education should cold-shoulder the Committee's proposal of teaching religion in State schools. Their objection is not to religion in education but the Government's undertaking a duty which it cannot perform. It is not capable of supervising the teaching of Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism and Mohammedanism through its teachers and Inspectors, nor has it any authority to do so. The different religions are diverse in principle, diverse in origin, diverse in their principle of authority, diverse in the meanings of the terms they use and so on. There may be a common belief in God, but there is the greatest difference in the conception of God. If the Minister is in his anxiety for an efficient system of education should encourage and extend the denominational system, he can give to education a religious background. But the Minister's notion of religion is of the vaguest kind. In his long dissent wherein he gives vent to his views rejected by the Committee he says that "it is not beyond human ingenuity to devise a system of education subject to public control in which there will be adequate arrangements to ensure religious background and atmosphere appropriate to the different pupils concerned"..... This is all nonsense but coming from a Buddhist one must excuse his ignorance, for Buddhism is no religion. The variety of creeds found in our schools makes religion a subject which cannot be treated on a common basis while separate instruction for different creeds would be impracticable as well as unacceptable.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Hinduism and Caste.—The New Leader of Madras writes:

"We wonder whether the advocacy of separate villages for the scheduled classes made by Mr. N. Sivaraj at their recent conference is the best method of solving their problem. It is their attempt at Pakistan. Have they found it is so difficult to convert the Hindus to grant them equality and other rights. Is Hinduism incompatible with the rights and liberties of the untouchables? If it is we cannot understand the contention of Mr. Bhole, another representative of these classes saying in England recently that they have no idea of giving up caste, just now. If the Hindu caste system is incompatible with the rights and liberties of these classes, then caste must be given up. But as Mr. Bhole contends caste is bound up with the Hindu religion, a religious and logical conclusion, we must leave Mr. Bhole and his people to draw.

Memorandum of the Catholic Union of Ceylon

(Continued from Page 1).

The same difficulty will not arise in the fee-paying grant-aided school in which the parent will be prepared to pay more when his choice differs from that of the education authorities.

4. The low salary scales proposed are bound to react disastrously on the efficiency of our schools. The basic salary for example of Rs. 50 for a trained teacher in the Primary and Practical schools will bring into profession only those who are unfit for any other occupation (with the exception of course of the religious teachers), especially, as the new candidate for training must have the English S.S.C. or its equivalent in another language.

5. The Report quite rightly makes provision for the denominational system of education. But in the detailed recommendations there are some unsatisfactory features. In para 25, it is stated that in order that a new denominational school may be established, "it shall have at least 30 pupils of school-going age of the same denomination as the controlling body who reside with their parent within a radius from the school of two miles for boys and one mile for girls and children of under 8 years of age."

We request the omission of the words "with their parent," as there are many reasonable circumstances in which children need not reside with their parents.

In the same paragraph it is stated that if the new denominational school is within two miles of an already existing State school, children of an "unlike" denomination (i.e. of a denomination different from that of the controlling body) shall not be taken into account for assessing grant.

This is an interference with the liberty of the parent of an "unlike" denomination who desires to send his child to the denominational school. The State school will not suffer if it is as efficient as the denominational school.

We see no reason for the suggestion that Central Practical schools should be State-managed except where there are over a 100 post-primary children belonging to one denomination, when only a Practical School under the control of that denomination may be permitted. As in other schools 30 children of one denomination should be sufficient to have a denominational school. That there should be at least 100 children of all denominations may be insisted upon in order that the Central School may be run efficiently.

6. As a natural corollary to the denominational system of education, the denominational training school has been wisely included in the recommendations by the Special Committee. But the conditions imposed on the Training School are too stringent. The minimum number of students of 150 is too high a requirement. Educational experts assure us that it is possible to conduct an efficient training school with 100 students, which number we accordingly recommend as the minimum. We claim the same right to have training

schools aided by Government, as to have schools under trained teachers aided by Government. A Catholic teacher must have a Catholic training.

7. The teaching of religious dogmas in State schools is a departure from the wise policy of State neutrality in matters of religion which we view with misgiving. We agree with the conclusion arrived at by the Education Committee of 1926 "that with regard to religion in schools it was essential for Government to maintain an attitude of neutrality and that the preservation of such neutrality could best be maintained by the refusal to subsidize, either directly or indirectly, religious instruction in any school." (Sess. Paper XXVIII of 1929 p. 18).

8. The Catholic Union protests against the Proposed Trust Ordinance and makes its own, the opinion of the Hierarchy that the Ordinance would violate the rights vested in them by the law of the land and impede the fulfilment of the responsibilities laid on them by the laws of the Church.

While the Catholic Union of Ceylon is as anxious as any other body of citizens to see a real educational advance in this country, it feels it would be failing in its duty if it did not draw attention to the defects in the proposed scheme of Reforms.

For and on behalf of The Central Council of the Catholic Union of Ceylon,

G. M. G. DE SARAM,
Hony. Secretary.

Colombo, 11th February, 1944.

Story of an Indian Lourdes

Thanking Our Lady of Lourdes for a safe journey from South Africa, Asst. Steward M.J. Gregory, 59, and of Madras, went to Westminster Cathedral yesterday after his ship had docked in a British port. He told me the story of another Lourdes in India, which he knows well. In fact, he was one of the first to hurry to the scene of the Apparitions there in 1898, and since then he and thousands of Indian Catholics have flocked to the Shrine each year in the first week of July, when the Apparitions occurred.

A six-year old boy, so goes the story, was so ill that he could neither sit nor stand, and the doctors of the time wanted to do away with him, his dread illness being incurable. But his widowed mother took him into the jungle near Nagapatnam, some 140 miles southeast of Madras, hiding him there three days and nights. Not being a Christian, she would wonder on her way to her daily tasks at a statue she saw in the local cemetery of a lady with a child in her arms. A Catholic friend told her what the image meant, and the widow at once began to pray for her son to the Lady it represented.

MILK FOR THE DIVINE CHILD

One morning a week later, the Lady appeared to the stricken boy while the mother was absent, took him in her arms, and setting him on his feet, disappeared. He ran, now fully recovered, to find his mother and tell her what had happened.

A second Apparition followed, when on the next day a Hindu peasant carrying milk to his customer at Nagapatnam, crossed the same jungle and found a beautiful lady with a child in her lap, sitting in his path. She asked him for some milk for the child, and sensing that the lady was some wondrous deity, he put down the earthenware pot that contained the milk and prostrated himself at her feet.

When he arose, the pot was empty and the vision had vanished. But on reaching home the pot at once became full of new milk, which overflowed the brim.

News of the strange occurrences spread like wildfire, those who had been favoured with the visions returning to the spot and seeing for the third time Our Lady and Child, who then announced: "I am Our Lady of Valangani" (Good Health).

This is the story Mr. Gregory told me, and he is now anxious that it should become better known in Western

countries. He added that devotion to Our Lady of Good Health has now spread to South Africa, too. In East London, South Africa, where on account of the war he has evacuated his family, he is actively connected with various church societies, and is a member of the Legion of Mary. —By a Reporter in the "Catholic Herald", England.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Vicar of Missions.—The Very Rev. Fr. P. Monnier O. M. I., Vicar of Missions, is on a visit to Jaffna and is staying at Bishop's House.

Jaffna Assizes.—The Jaffna Assizes which was adjourned last Friday on the receipt of a message intimating the death of the mother of Mr. Justice Jayatilake who had to leave for Negombo resumed its sitting on Tuesday.

Mr. J.A.P. Cherubim, Crown Counsel, addressing the Judge when the Court adjourned on Friday, conveyed to his Lordship the sympathies of the Bar, the staff and the jurors on his loss.

Catholic Messenger's 75th Anniversary.—The "Ceylon Catholic Messenger" celebrated its 75th anniversary with a social at the Kotahena Catholic Young Men's Association Hall on Saturday at which the Rev. Fr. J. B. Gregory, O. M. I., the Editor, and the Rev. Fr. Huber, O. M. I., the Manager, were the hosts.

The Rev. Fr. Gregory thanked the staff and the contributors for all the assistance they had given the "Catholic Messenger."

Within the past three decades, said Fr. Gregory, there had been steadily growing between the "Catholic Messenger" and its secular contemporaries a welcome spirit of fellowship, mutual regard, mutual helpfulness and co-operation which for their part they had done their best to foster. They honoured the secular press for its freedom from bigotry and prejudice, its sense of justice and fairplay, its high moral principles, its independence and its spirit of service.

The Archbishop of Colombo thanked Fr. Gregory for his work on behalf of the "Messenger."

Mr. H. A. J. Hulugalle, Editor of "The Ceylon Daily New", spoke on behalf of the secular press.

Pooneryn Causeway.—The building of the Pooneryn causeway is now nearing completion. The northern arm leading south from Chavakachcheri into the Jaffna Lagoon for a distance of eight miles has been completed. The southern arm leading north from Pooneryn into the lagoon for a distance of three miles is still under construction and it is expected, will be completed in the course of this year.

The linking of Pooneryn with the Mannar District by the opening up of a coast road from Pooneryn to Mannar will lead to the development of at least 50,000 acres of land in the Mantai Division of the Mannar District.

Special S.S.C. Passes Dec 1943.

—St. Patrick's College: J. J. G. Amirthanayagam, S. Arulanandam, C.F. Bartholomeusz, J. Bartlett, I. David, M. Emmanuel, M. Farroque, M. M. Francis, A. Karunakarar, G. Kulasegerampillai, C. Kumarasoorier, S. Kunentham, E. Kurunathan, B.A.E. Marianayagam, C. Masillamani, S. Nicholas, J. Pakianather, P. Poorajah, V. Rajasuntheram and T. K. Shakespeare.

St. Henry's College, Ilavala: —B.Gnanasegaram, V. Antony, V. Gunanayagam, K. Sabaretam, E. Kanagasoorier, Nadarajah, R. Clive, M.Aroganam, S. Tharumalingam and S. Arulappu.

Jaffna F.I.N.S.—At the annual general meeting of the Jaffna Friend-in-Need Society (held at the Town Hall, last week, Mr. R. M. Davies presiding), Mr. R.R. Nalliah, Hony. Secretary, in his report for 1943 stated that the number of pensioners was 148, one less than in the previous year. Rs. 3,871.50 had been spent on pensions, as against Rs. 4,072 in 1942. Donations were given to four persons to start small trade. Train fare was given to six persons and by expenses were borne in the case of one.

After the Chairman's address the election of office-bearers took place and resulted as follows:—President: Mr. R. M. Davies; vice-presidents: Mr. P. Mortimer and Atikar A. Naganather;

Hony. Secretary: Mr. R. R. Nalliah; Hony. Treasurer: Mr. P. Chellappah.

Agent for Ceylon in India.—It is understood that the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce proposes to appoint a textile expert in India to act on behalf of the Ceylon Government to supervise Ceylon's purchases of textiles in that country.

The person to be selected for the purpose is likely to be a man of wide experience of the textile trade both in India and the United Kingdom.

The proposed appointment, is intended to enable the price control of textile to be more effective in the future.

Bishop Prisoner in Dachau.—Reported dead two years ago, Mgr. Michael Kozal, Auxiliary Bishop in Wloclawek, Poland, is still a prisoner in the Dachau concentration camp, says K. P., Polish Catholic Agency in London. All efforts for his release have failed.

The Bishop who is 53, has been subjected to all the inhumanities practised in this notorious German camp, it is stated. He has been whipped, maltreated and persecuted, and is said to be as thin as a skeleton from hunger and exhaustion.

He has all along, however been "a heroic confessor of Christ" and an inspiration and consoler to the other prisoners, many of whom are priests. The Bishop is "the meekest, noblest, and most valiant priest in the whole camp," says a former prisoner, now in Switzerland. "All respected and listened to him."

Pope's Summer Residence.—It was officially announced at Allied Headquarters in North Africa on Saturday that Castel Gandolfo, where the Pope's summer farm is, now lies in the battle area and contains a heavy saturation of German forces.

"Whenever vital enemy targets appear they will of necessity be bombed", the official announcement said.

The Church in South Italy.—Lieut. General Mark Clark, commander of the Fifth Army in Italy, has presented \$5,000 lire to Mgr. Francesco Guazzo to repair the tower of a 10th century church in Vallo-Capaccio, which the Americans damaged when shelling the Germans out of the town.

During the battle the Germans, it is officially stated, used the church as an artillery observation post and had two heavy guns just outside it. When Fifth Army men saw the damage one of their shells had done, they made a collection. Accompanied by a Catholic chaplain and Major-General Gruenther, Chief of Staff—who is a Catholic—Gen. Clark personally handed the money to Mgr. Guazzo.

A Giant Bishop.—Archbishop Szepticki (pronounced Sheptiss-Key) is thus described in the "Canadian Register" by the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Toronto who was appointed to act as Secretary to this Russian bishop on his visit to the Archdiocese:

The Primate of Lwów (Lwow) stooped to enter the episcopal reception room. He was seven feet high. His beard was a foot and a half long. He weighed over three hundred well-proportioned pounds. He had the strength of four men. When he had extricated the smiling Archbishop of Toronto from the depths of that Russian embrace, it was interesting to see these two men, so deeply appreciative of each other. The Primate was every inch an aristocrat. One found himself analysing striking clear-cut furrows on the noble brow that would be invisible on the ordinary man. For all his size, he was exquisite, even dainty, in his sensitive reactions, one of the most remarkable men in the whole world...In this 1st great war he has been prisoner on both sides, but he still lives, paralysed and over eighty, a living shrine of courage and faith.

Trichinopoly.—The Bishop of Trichinopoly has won two appeals in the High Court against Schismatics in regard to the use and possession of the Sacred Heart Chapel, Irudayapuram and the Catholic Chapel at Varaganeri.

Priest who Won Libel Suit Against Hitler.—The Revd. Carl-Oscar de Soden, a German baron, who died recently in New York, won a libel suit against Adolf Hitler in Munich in

1920. He was then a lawyer, active in politics in Bavaria, and only became a priest in 1931. Hitler libelled de Soden in a paper during a political controversy. In June, 1920, de Soden brought a libel suit against Hitler, and the latter had to publish an apology. Before the outbreak of war in 1939 Fr. de Soden was forced to flee from Germany and live in Switzerland. He went to the United States in 1941.

Sicilian Cathedrals.—First official reports show that most of the Cathedrals escaped serious damage, except that at Messina, but here too the early Gothic facade is relatively unspoiled. Churches destroyed and badly damaged include three at Palermo, the basilica at Girgenti, and some churches in smaller towns.

Missionary Congress.—Toronto held its first Missionary Congress in October, and the Holy Father sent a long letter of blessing. "This," said His Holiness, "is indeed a project eminently adapted to foster the growth of Catholic Faith throughout Canada. A National Missionary Exchange, Oct. 16th-19th, included a collection of Indian handicrafts sent by the Holy Cross Fathers.

Jaffna Urban Council

Mr. S. P. Nadarajah, at a meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council, moved that "in view of the increase in the number of patients attending the outdoor dispensary of the Jaffna Hospital, this Council requests the Minister for Health (1) to appoint an additional medical officer to attend to these patients without delay; (2) to provide necessary accommodation and to make suitable arrangements to prevent inconvenience to these patients by heavy rush and over-crowding."

He said that there was no waiting room for patients seeking treatment at the out-patients department, there is no dressing room and there could be a worse female ward in any institution. For many years nothing had been done to improve the hospital whereas new hospitals and extensions had been made in other parts of Ceylon.

There were only 200 beds but an average of over 300 inmates. Daily 300 to 403 patients sought treatment at the out-door dispensary but there was no separate doctor to attend to them. It was essential that there should be a full-time medical officer in charge of the out-patients department.

Mr. K. V. Sinnadurai seconded the resolution which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Sam Sabapathy moved "that this Council calls upon the Minister for Health to make suitable arrangements and necessary accommodation for a maternity ward in the Jaffna hospital. He said that it was a shame that Jaffna was neglected whereas new hospitals had been built in Kandyan and other places. He said that expectant mothers lying in the maternity ward might be due to the fact that representatives in the State Council do not take sufficient interest in the matter.

Mr. K.V. Sinnadurai seconded the resolution which was carried unanimously.

Later, when the Chairman (Mr. C. Ponnambalam) wanted provision to be made for an additional midwife, Mr. Sabapathy said that the Council should not make provision for an additional midwife until the maternity ward and general condition of the Jaffna hospital were improved. The Council agreed to this suggestion.

The Council decided to press on the Government the urgency for a grant for payment of war allowances.

VACANCY FOR BOOKBINDER—FISCAL'S OFFICE, JAFFNA

Applications are invited for the above post. Candidates should possess a good knowledge of bookbinding and office routine. Preference will be given to those who know English.

The post is pensionable and carries a salary of Rs. 360-00—Rs. 12-00—Rs. 480-00 per annum.

Applications in candidates own handwriting should be addressed to the Fiscal, N.P., Jaffna and should reach this office not later than the 24th instant.

WEDDING

DEVASAGAYAM—JAMES MERCIÉ

Our Lady of Refuge was the scene of a pretty wedding on Saturday the 12th Feb. 1944, when Walter Devasagayam of the Agricultural Dept., Madawachchiya, son of the late Mr. Gregory Devasagayam of Mullaitivu, Irrigation Chief Inspector, Vavuniya, and a nephew of Mr. B. L. Phillips of the Magistrate's Court, Kalutara, led to the altar Miss Mary Emeliya Pearl James Mercie, daughter of the late Manuelpillai James Mercie, Chief Clerk, Tea Estate, Oaklands and a grand daughter of the late Mr. C. Andrew, Printer, St. Joseph's Catholic Press, Jaffna.

The Church and the altar were tastefully decorated for the purpose with garlands and up-country flowers. The bridegroom and his best man Mr. George Sydney Arulnayagam Phillips arrived at the specified time. Then followed the bride accompanied by her maternal uncle Mr. Joseph Andrew, the organist of the Church, who later gave her away. She was attended by Miss Daisy Margaret Joseph as bridesmaid and Miss Pusbpam Wijeyaratnam and Jayarani Emmanuel as flower girls. Mas. Christy Marius Wijeyaratnam filled the role of an attractive page.

The service which was fully choral, was conducted by the Revd. Fr. L. J. Augustine, O.M.I. of St. Patrick's College. The Revd. Fr. Robert Perera, O.M.I., tied the nuptial knot and the celebrant of the wedding Mass preached a short but impressive homily. The Church choir rendered the "Come Holy Ghost" and other hymns selected for the occasion with the Revd. Fr. Chas. Chovan, O.M.I. presiding at the organ.

After the ceremony the couple retired to the vestry to sign the Register, the attesting witnesses being Mr. B.L. Phillips, an uncle of the bridegroom and Mr. P. Vethanayagam of the staff of St. Henry's College, Ilavala, a grand-uncle of the bride. The couple were garlanded at the facade by Mr. A. Ananda Nadarajah, of the Provincial Registrar's Office, Jaffna, and Mrs. Ananda Nadarajah. After a group photograph the procession wended its way to the bride's residence amidst strains of native music and the City Band.

The select gathering were entertained to light refreshments and after the 'Koorai' ceremony was performed Mr. F. C. Thurasingham of the staff of St. Patrick's College proposed the toast of the couple in which he eulogised the qualities of the bride who is herself an exemplary teacher of little ones. The bridegroom replied suitably and the function was brought to a close by Mr. Joseph Andrew, the host thanking all those who had graced the occasion and blessed the couple. Several congratulatory telegrams and valuable presents were received by the couple.

Propagation of Faith Jaffna Diocese 1943

	Rs. cts.
19. Puthukudyiruppu	36 00
Chaimannar school staff and pupils	10 86
Already acknowledged	4,440 46

Total 4,487 26

S. G. HILARY, O.M.I., Director.

NOTICE

PRESS SUNDAY IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF COLOMBO

Sunday the 5th March 1944 will be observed as Press Sunday in the Archdiocese of Colombo.

Those who have Catholic books in English, Sinhalese or Tamil to be disposed off, may please send them to the undersigned, with invoice showing prices, discount allowed etc., as early as possible.

We are grateful for any literature sent us for free distribution on Press Sunday.

I. V. FERDINANDUSZ, Hony. Literature Secretary, Colombo Catholic Diocesan Union, Central Bk. Depot, St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 17-2-44.

Great Concern of Catholics in India

(Continued from Page 1.)

representing a lakh and a half of Catholics in the district has learnt with grave concern that the Syndicate of the University of Bombay has recommended to the Senate the disaffiliation of the Sophia College for Women, Bombay. The Committee considers that such a recommendation is an invasion of the elementary inalienable rights of every citizen to freedom of speech and freedom of conscience, and feels that, if the Senate were to accept the recommendation of the Syndicate, Christians all over India will lose their confidence in the sense of justice and fair-play of the majority communities in their dealings with minority communities.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY FEDERATION OF SOUTH INDIA

At a largely attended meeting of the Federation at which many non-Catholics were present, held on 8th Feb. in St. Joseph's College, Trichinopoly, the following resolution was passed:

This meeting of the Catholic University Federation of South India conveys to the Senate and Vice-Chancellor of the Bombay University, its emphatic protest against the sectarian agitation carried on against the Sophia College and the threat of disaffiliation held out by the resolution before the Senate.

The Federation is also arranging for the despatch of a thousand individual protests from the citizens of the town. —New Leader.

Approaching End of War

When the Holy Father spoke of the approaching end of the war, he could only have been thinking of the imminent defeat of Germany. Obviously no other end is possible. But His Holiness' concluding words (as reported) were the most explicit he has yet used in this connection: "Naturally, the conclusion of peace will not mean that measures should not be taken to prevent any strong force, from committing aggression upon humanity again." These are courageous words, coming from "the Prisoner of the Vatican," President Roosevelt, in his Press conference in Washington on Oct. 1st, the day on which Naples fell, said:

"The Vatican is surrounded. There are German troops in St. Peter's Square and it is clear that if you have troops in your front yard, and everyone going in or out is inspected, there cannot be much freedom. Thus the Allied march northwards is a march looking towards the liberation of Rome, the Vatican and the Pope. The Allies hope that Rome may be liberated and restored without destruction, but in the last analysis it will be the Germans and not the Allies who will decide that point. It is quite possible that the Nazis will attempt to induce destruction in Rome by attacking the Vatican. Everything possible is being done to prevent fighting and consequent destruction there. I can give details, but that is the Allied objective." —Examiner.

WAR REVIEW

By F. A. E. Price

Events in this global war move so rapidly on some fronts that it becomes rather more than difficult to make these monthly talks link up with one another, so as to point to one grand strategy that is being worked out steadily and relentlessly by the United Nations for the utter confounding and destruction of the Axis Powers...the Powers of Darkness.

There are, for instance, since I last broadcast, the new Allied landings in Italy...far nearer to Rome, and behind a portion of the German front; then there is the Allied capture of Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, which Japan had regarded (quite erroneously, of course) as her own since 1919. Again, the rapid advances and superior strategy of the Red Armies, have carried them from success to spectacular success.

Then there is the bombardment, by sea and air, of the Island of Paramushiro...most northerly of the Kuriles; and this Island is indeed a part of the

Japanese homeland. Yes, events move forward with bewildering rapidity in many sectors...in others, due to difficulties of terrain and/or transport, the progress seems slower: just the same, though, even there, progress is being made.

Here in Ceylon, as if to bear out my warnings of last month, we have had yet another nuisance raid, just to remind us, if that were necessary (?) that we are busy no means out of the wood yet, and that (if there are still those who incline to complacency) there is still a war on, and that Ceylon is very near to the front line.

To turn to the German's Eastern front; here, the Red Armies by a series of brilliant manoeuvres and stubborn pushes, have made advances all along their long battle-front, culminating in the taking of Nikopol, where they put out of action some 12,000 Germans and deprived the Hun war-machine of its most valuable source of manganese... that vital element in the manufacture of high explosives. The Russian armies are now some 100 miles west of the 1939 Polish frontier... perilously near to the 3rd Reich itself, they have surrounded and are now busy annihilating 10 German Divisions in the Kaniev pocket in the Dnieper bulge. As I write they have practically encircled the last German fortress in the Dnieper bend, Krivoi Rog...indeed, it would seem that, for the time being at any rate, all organised German resistance was at an end on this front.

The loss of this vast number of trained personnel, together with enormous supplies of arms, equipment and transport, constitute disasters to the first magnitude to the German, and with the clearing of the Dnieper river, the Russians will hold a commanding position in respect of the Black Sea ports; of the Rumanian oilfields and of the Crimea. Yes, taken all round, Hitler and his confederates, have nothing, absolutely nothing, from which to extract a degree of comfort.

Again, the Russian air assault on Helsinki, capital of Finland...followed by President Roosevelt's plain speaking to Finland to clear out of the war, or, take the consequences, shows that the United Nations are now in a position to enforce their demands on Hitler's lukewarm Allies. Indeed, there is plenty of talk inside Finland now as making a separate peace. This point has been further brought out in the firmer attitude adopted towards Spain regarding the release of Italian shipping interned in Spanish ports: to which request Spain has agreed.

This means that even Hitler's friends are becoming acutely aware that he has now no chance of victory. On the Western front, the blasting of Germany and German-occupied-France by aircraft based in Britain goes on systematically and methodically: indeed, there is a rumour that Berlin...the battered city...gangsters...has ceased to be a part of the Reich. It would be hard to know that the fat man...the crippled blackguard...thinking about it all, for he swears by Hitler's holy moustache that 'no one would be allowed to fall on the

The unseen war of the oceans goes on with ever-increasing success and January gives us one of the lowest months of the war in Allied shipping losses, while the sinking of U boats (despite smaller numbers used, and even more cautious tactics), have increased most satisfactorily.

The Senior partner in the Crime Gang is now getting a pretty thin time in every direction: terrific losses in manpower, in territory, in manganese; her oil supplies must be dwindling and her main sources, the Rumanian oilfields...are becoming increasingly vulnerable to the Red Armies. This is not to say, by any means, that she is beaten yet: she has plenty of fight left and she is fighting with the fury of desperation; her leaders have simply got to go on fighting (they are not concerned with the loss of life of their wretched followers) but the writing is on the wall and she can no longer harbour any illusions as to the outcome. The 'megalomaniac' Hitler must be invoking his 'intuition' night and day and doing a good bit of carpet-biting in his spare

time, but it will take more than that to hold the United Nations if they hang resolutely together and refuse to let up for a moment.

In Italy, our advances are going more slowly than we would like, but I think that, in reality, they signify those 'creative pauses' that are so necessary an antecedent to big moves.

Here, the nature of the country, undoubtedly lends itself more to defence than offence and bears of gruelling transport along and up the sides of mountain peaks, with 18" tracks falling to tremendous abysses. One strategy in Italy may be (I don't know, as I'm not in the confidence of our strategists, and if I were, I wouldn't talk about it), but I think it may be our strategy to hold down as many German divisions as possible, while big events take place on other fronts.

Big events are taking place now, but bigger are to come and it is secret that plans for the grand... Hitler's European fortress... being hurried forward with all possible speed, speed compatible with attention to the slightest details. Our air cover is superior to anything that the Luftwaffe can put up, but an invasion on such a scale is bound to be a bloody and a costly business.

Now let us turn to the junior partners in this world war, the Japanese, and see how they have been faring. The taking of Kwajalein atoll in the Marshalls Group is of 1st rate importance, for not only does it represent a bit of what the Japanese think to be a part of their home territory...whereas it was only mandated after the last war, but it also gives us valuable air and seaplane bases from which we can push our offensive ever nearer to the Islands of Japan proper. The Allied air attack on Paramushiro Island...most northerly of the Kurile Chain of Islands which reach right down to the main Islands of Japan, but serves to show them that the United Nations are now in a position to launch attacks from whatever angle they please and, catching them utterly by surprise, as it did, has given the Yellow men seriously to think.

In New Guinea Allied progress is being steadily maintained, and, with her ill-gotten gains spread over most of the Pacific, Japan's strategy has turned to one of defence, but, with her growing air losses and destruction of surface craft, it is by no means easy to see how she is to make a success even of defence.

In Burma massive preparations are being made for an all-out assault, but, here again, the terrain is just about as difficult as it possibly can be, and immense, as well as far-sighted plans have to be made in order to handle the vast numbers of men, of equipment and food needed to keep pace with any advance made in a country of jungle, swamp, river, ridge and ravine. As was only to be expected another nuisance raid has been made on our coasts by the Japanese...this about as much as they are capable of at the moment; still even nuisance raids can cause damage and loss of life if a sneak raider can get through to drop his bombs in an inhabited area...and it is practically impossible for even the R.A.F. to keep every one away: still it is another reminder (if one were needed!) that Ceylon is by no means out of danger yet. However —when you contrast the voice of the Japanese fire-eaters now, with that they used when they were in the height of their burglarious career you will find that it has come down several tones, and the Yellow Men must now be seeing retribution staring them in the face; retribution for all the hideous wrongs they have inflicted on mankind in their lust for power.

Yes, taking a world view of this global war we have lots to be thankful for, but absolutely nothing to be complacent about.

And now for a bit of local news: and good news too! During the course of a few days long-postponed holiday last month I had the good fortune to go over a State Farm in the heart of the Wannu jungles. Well... I have seen many so-called Food Projects: quite good, no doubt in theory, but here I was

able to walk through hundreds of acres of real, potential food—nearly ready for harvest—a really luxuriant growth of hill paddy, kurrakan and vegetables, all in the most excellent condition and promising splendid returns. Very much more can be done in this area to make Ceylon nearly 75% self-supporting. I hope no stone will be left unturned to make this a reality.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA
In the matter of the Estate of the late Ponnus Lysa of David Road. Deceased.

Testamentary Jurisdiction } No. 183 T.
Martyan James Rasiah of David Road. Petitioner.

- Vs.
1. Mary Thangaratnam Saverimuttu.
2. Mary Josephine Joseph.
3. Mary Margaret Joseph.
4. Emmanuel Lionel Joseph.
5. Mary Elizabeth Joseph all of do.

Respondents
This matter of the petition of the above named petitioner praying that the 5th Respondent be appointed guardian ad litem of 3 and 4 Respondents and for the grant of letters of administration to the above Estate coming on for disposal before James Joseph Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna in the presence of Mr. C.T. Kumaraswamy, Proctor it is ordered that the 5th Respondent be appointed guardian ad litem over 3 and 4 Respondents and letters of administration to the above estate be issued to the petitioner as an heir of the deceased unless the Respondents shall show sufficient cause to the contrary on the 3rd day of December 1943. Order Nisi extended for 21-2-44.

Sgd. JAMES JOSEPH
District Judge.



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.

CEYLON 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.