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CATHOLICS & EDUCATION REFORM

CATHOLIC LAITY CONSIDER SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S PROPOSALS

Under the auspices of the Catholic Union of Ceylon a very largely attended meeting of Catholics—from all parts of the Island—was held at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, the 11th Feb. at St. Joseph's College, Borella, to consider the education scheme outlined in the Report of the Special Committee on Education.

His Lordship Mr. F.J. Soertsz, K.C., President of Union, presided and with him on the platform were His Grace the Archbishop of Colombo, and Mr. C. M.G. de Saram, Honorary Secretary of the Catholic Union.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

After the usual preliminaries the Chairman addressed the meeting.

They were assembled, he said, to consider a subject of the utmost importance—the educational reform recommended by the Special Committee on Education. Of the importance of the subject there could be no doubt. The children of today would be the leaders of the State and Society of tomorrow and the way in which they would acquire themselves then would depend upon the education received in their young days. If their education was on wrong lines the safety and well-being of the country would be imperilled.

It was therefore the duty of everyone to study the question very seriously. The Committee no doubt had before it very worthy ideals; but did the proposals formulated by it tend to the realisation of those ideas—that was the question that mattered. The defects of the present system were admitted. But there was no point in leaving ills that we were suffering from, only to find other and perhaps worse evils.

The one appeal I venture to make to you is not to take from other people who happen to discuss this matter their verdict on the question. If you spare yourself the trouble and just ask your next door neighbour what he thinks of it and if he says "Oh, the object is to give free education to everybody" you will lose further interest on the assumption that if that is so nobody can say anything against it. Rather I would ask you to go into the matter personally and to see what the actual implications of the scheme are. That is your duty, that is the duty of every one of us.

In conclusion Mr. Soertsz urged the necessity of taking immediate steps to see that a real reform scheme was put before the Government.

FR. PETER PILLAI ELUCIDATES

The Very Revd. Fr. Peter A. Pillai, O.M.I., in a lengthy address explained the practical implications of the Committee's proposals.

Outlining the scheme of the Committee he drew the attention of the meeting to the proposed classification of schools. He then went on to explain the type of education that would be produced in the various categories of schools.

The education in these schools would be given by teachers whose salaries would be as follows:

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.—Salary of a Trained Teacher: Rs. 50 to 75 (basic salary). The maximum salary, with allowances for wife and children, which

a teacher of this class would draw would be Rs. 150. And that was the type of teacher we would get in the Practical school.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.—Trained Teacher: Rs. 80 to 150; Trained Graduate: Rs. 150 to 300.

But, said Fr. Peter Pillai, a school had not only the salaries of teachers to meet. To meet those other requirements the Committee suggested an equipment grant of Rs. 1-50 per unit of attendance per year for a Primary School, Rs. 2-50 for a Practical School, and Rs. 5-00 for a Secondary School. A Practical School would also be authorised to charge, where necessary, an equipment fee of Rs. 2-00 per pupil per mensem and a Secondary School Rs. 3-00 per pupil per mensem.

Now the salaries proposed, said Fr. Peter Pillai, were ridiculously low, the equipment grants inadequate. If they were adopted the schools would deteriorate, the standard of education would go down. The consequence would be that parents who would not agree to their children going to a school of a lower standard than they had been accustomed to, would ask for Private Schools. But these Private schools which would receive no grant from Government, would be obliged to charge very high fees. They would thus be open to the very rich alone, and thus a very definite cleavage between the rich and the poor would ensue.

The Committee, explained Fr. Peter Pillai, proposed to remedy certain defects of the present system, one of which was the unfortunate cleavage between the English educated and the so-called vernacular educated. What the Committee was trying to do was, as explained above, to introduce a worse cleavage in the social organization.

THE GRAVEST DEFECT

The gravest defect in the Report, said Fr. Pillai, was the inadequacy of measures proposed for giving education to the hundreds of thousands who were not getting any education at all. The Committee had not gone into the ways and means of making education compulsory. It had not even appreciated the bigness of the task involved. In its calculation of the cost of its children it had not taken into account 400,000 children, at least, who were at present receiving no education whatever.

Fr. Peter Pillai also stressed the need for adequate scholarships to give to poor children the same educational opportunities as were available to the children of the rich. Remission of tuition fees alone would help only the middle classes. The Report made only two references to this question of scholarships and one could not find in it any plan for the provision of scholarships.

Referring next to grading of schools Fr. Peter Pillai pointed out that if the Committee's scheme was accepted 80 per cent of the children who passed the Vth Standard would be sent to Practical schools to be trained as carpenters, agriculturists etc. No doubt labour was noble; but he thought people would hardly agree to 80 per cent of their children going to Practical schools.

(Continued on Inner Page.)

WIDESPREAD RESENTMENT AGAINST DISAFFILIATION OF SOPHIA COLLEGE, BOMBAY

We publish below the further reports summarised of the meetings held in different parts of India to protest against the proposal to disaffiliate the Sophia College, Bombay

MADRAS

St. Mary's Hall, Armenian Street, Madras, was overcrowded on the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 9, when under the presidency of His Grace the Archbishop of Madras a public meeting was held to protest against the move for the disaffiliation of the Sophia College for Women. Besides the laity a large number of the city clergy also attended the meeting.

BANGALORE

At a mass meeting of the Catholics of Bangalore, attended by Ministers and members of other denominations and held under the auspices of the Catholic Association of Bangalore, in St. Joseph's European High School Hall on Sunday, the 6th Feb. at 6 p.m. the proposed move on the Bombay University to disaffiliate the Sophia College for Women, Bombay, was discussed.

His Lordship Rt. Revd. Dr. P. Thomas, Bishop of Bangalore, who presided over the meeting spoke of the danger threatening Catholic educational institutions by the proposed move of the Bombay University authorities. Such exhibition of intolerance on their part was without precedent in the history of Universities in India. The Christians, who formed nearly eight millions of the population of the country, were filled with alarm and anxiety with regard to their elementary rights and liberties in a changing India, said His Lordship. He stressed:

"Such steps as are now contemplated by the Bombay University were only calculated to destroy that confidence. The proposed disaffiliation of Sophia College was a challenge to the rights and interests of the whole and to the freedom of the student population of Universities. We, the Catholics, should not be treated as

CALCUTTA

The General Council of the Catholic Youth Movement, Calcutta, assembled in an emergency meeting on Feb. 7th, 1944, unanimously passed the following resolution:

(1) We protest against all the persecution and campaign carried on against Miss Gool Dhalla and Miss Dhun M. Kalapsei, and express to these young ladies our sympathy and admiration for their high spirit and courage which should be an inspiration to modern youth.

(2) We protest in particular against the procedure, findings and conclusions of the so-called Enquiry Committee appointed by the Syndicate of the Bombay University.

(3) We protest against the unwarranted interference of the authorities of the Bombay University with the religious convictions of individual students.

(4) We protest against the attempt to disaffiliate Sophia College as unjustified, unfair to the College authorities and actual students, and foreboding future vexations against denominational institutions.

(5) We call on all the youths of the country to join in the struggle for freedom of conscience of individual youths, against the pressure of groups, public authorities and vested interests.

(6) We urge that this resolution be given all possible publicity.

MYSORE

Under the auspices of the Catholic Action Society of St. Philomena's Cathedral, Mysore, a protest meeting was held on Feb. 6 when the following resolution was passed:

"We the Catholics of Mysore strongly protest against the proposal of the Syndicate to the Senate of the Bombay University, to disaffiliate the Sophia College for Women in Bombay, on the report of the Committee of Enquiry; and on the grounds urged by them.

This attitude on the part of the Syndicate restricts the freedom of thought and action of the University students, and deprives them of independence and discrimination in the choice of religion, which is a matter concerning conviction of a person and his own conscience.

TRICHINOPOLY

A largely attended meeting of the South India Catholic University Federation, consisting of University students as well as graduates and professionals was held on the 7th instant at St. Joseph's College, Trichinopoly, Mr. A. Hirudayasamy, M.A., B.L. presiding. The following resolution was unanimously passed:

This meeting of the South India Catholic University Federation conveys to the Senate and the Vice-Chancellor of the Bombay University its emphatic protest against the sectarian agitation carried on against the Sophia College for Women, Bombay, and the threat of disaffiliation held out by the resolution before the Senate, coming for discussion on 12-2-1944."

KUMBakonam

At a meeting of the members of the King's Club, held on Feb. 5 the following resolutions were passed:

"This meeting of the members of the King's Club, Kumbakonam resolve unanimously that it protests with indignation against the action of the Syndicate of the Bombay University in recommending to the Senate the disaffiliation of the Sophia College after a sham enquiry into the alleged breach of assurance."

"This meeting resolves to request the Senate and the Vice-Chancellor of the Bombay University to make proper inquiry into the matter and to discard the recommendation of the Syndicate as it is the outcome of biased and one-sided inquiry."

MANGALORE

A crowded meeting of the Catholics of Mangalore was held at the Catholic Club Hall on Feb. 6 when speeches were made by Mr. M.S. Sreshta, Dewan (Continued on Page 4.)

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Church Calendar

FEBRUARY 1944

FRI. ...25 S. Matthias.
SAT. ...26 S. Alexander.
SUN. ...27 1 Lent. S. Leander.
MON. ...28 S. Gabriel, C.
TUES. ...29 S. Oswald.

MARCH

WED. ...1 S. David.
THURS. ...2 S. Simplicius.
FRI. ...3 S. Marinus.

The Catholic Guardian

FEBRUARY 25TH 1944

THE SOPHIA COLLEGE AND THE SENATE, BOMBAY UNIVERSITY

A local paper good-humouredly perhaps reminds us of our saying a fortnight ago that further comments would be made on learning of the action of the Bombay University Senate. It is now known what took place at its meeting on the 12th inst. and an account of it appears elsewhere in this issue. Accepting the findings of the Inquiry Committee it passed the motion of one Mr. K. T. Shah by 53 votes recommending to the Chancellor the disaffiliation of the Sophia College for Women. The redeeming feature of this wretched business is that there was strong opposition against the motion from members of the Senate themselves and 41 voted against it. Had it been more or less a unanimous vote in favour of the motion we intended to suggest to some Catholic Action group to write out the story of the conversion of the two Parsee ladies and have it printed in pamphlet form and broadcast the copies in England and particularly in America where some endeavour is being made to secure political freedom for India. The story, besides making interesting reading, will reveal the true inwardness of that country. If Indians are so intolerant that they will

not grant their own fellow Indians freedom of conscience on what right can they claim political freedom? In a quite recent book by Prof. Macmurray entitled Constructive Democracy he writes: "The achievement of religious toleration is the core of democracy itself for it establishes the principle of the limitation of political authority and it implies freedom of conscience, freedom of thought, freedom of learning and of art and literature—in a word, all that is involved in freedom of mind." Hence, it must follow from what has so admirably been stated above, that political power will work hideous tyranny in a country that knows not religious toleration. Religious fanaticism among ignorant masses is excusable. Members of a University Senate it is unpardonable. It is well for the Bombay University Senate that there were found as many as 41 members who protested strongly against this glaring piece of intolerance. Prof. V. K. R. V. Rao deplored the fact that an assurance should have even been obtained from the Principal. If parents did not like an institution it was open to them to withdraw their children from it, he said. The Bombay University dealing, as it does, with grown up persons should leave the question of religion to the students themselves. One has never heard of any other University in the world acting in the manner this Indian University which is thus acquiring notoriety for bigotry. The protest of the University students—Hindus, Muslims, Parsees, Jews, Sikhs, Christians—of the Sophia College itself tears up to shreds the findings of the Inquiry Committee. These students declare publicly, and they must know more than anybody else, what has been taking place in the institution, that the College authorities do not indulge in proselytising activities either directly or indirectly and the conversion of the two Parsee girls was a personal matter for which the College was not responsible and record their regret that they were not questioned by the Inquiry Committee. True, the committee was composed where in this issue. Accepting the findings of the Inquiry Committee it passed the motion of one Mr. K. T. Shah by 53 votes recommending to the Chancellor the disaffiliation of the Sophia College for Women. The redeeming feature of this wretched business is that there was strong opposition against the motion from members of the Senate themselves and 41 voted against it. Had it been more or less a unanimous vote in favour of the motion we intended to suggest to some Catholic Action group to write out the story of the conversion of the two Parsee ladies and have it printed in pamphlet form and broadcast the copies in England and particularly in America where some endeavour is being made to secure political freedom for India. The story, besides making interesting reading, will reveal the true inwardness of that country. If Indians are so intolerant that they will

EDITORIAL NOTE

Not True.—Defending itself against the charge made by a correspondent of supporting the policy of full State control of schools, the *Hindu Organ* writes: "In the leading article under reference we were concerned only with the efforts being made by Christian organisations to maintain the status quo. We were not dealing with the problem of State control of education." Now, will our contemporary be pleased to say on what grounds it makes the statement that Christian organisations are trying to maintain the status quo. That is a serious misrepresentation. This

line of attack had been planned in the hope that should it succeed, the objections of Christian bodies to certain of the recommendations of the Special Committee must lose much of their force with the public. Knowing this, in our reference to the Memorandum of the Catholic Union of Ceylon last week, we stressed the fact that the Union notes with satisfaction the intention of the Special Committee (a) to attach greater importance to the mother tongue and make it a medium of instruction up to a certain stage (b) to procure for all rich and poor alike the same educational opportunities (c) to make our educational system less academic. We added that the Catholic Union's approval of these recommendations of the Special Committee should be emphasised in view of the attempts made to misrepresent the attitude of Christian organisations. Well! weren't we right? But it is reasonable to suppose that these organisations after having worked so long and spent so much of their money for the spread of education in the country will now be against any well-conceived plan of educational progress in the Island? In fairness, the *Hindu Organ* should substantiate the charge it makes.

Catholics and Education Reform

(Continued from Page 1.)

RESOLUTIONS

Dr. W. M. Muller moved the following resolution:

"This meeting resolves that the denominational schools and the denominational Training and Central schools should form part of the National System of education and that the Denominational Central Schools should enjoy the same privileges as the State Central Schools."

In the course of his remarks Dr. Muller said: It was an obligation on the part of Catholics to send their children to Catholic schools and for the Government to step in and ask that denominational schools should be abolished, to put it mildly, was an infringement of the liberty of the subject. It should be clearly shown that they (Catholics) would not tolerate it. They were bound in conscience to send their children to Catholic schools as they would do that. No single person had been adduced to show why Denominational schools should be abolished.

With regard to Training Schools, continued Dr. Muller, there was the question of teachers who were the pivots on which education depended and they were rightly jealous of their training schools because they knew that their training schools produced teachers whose influence would have a great bearing on the boys.

It had been definitely laid down that Central schools should be run by the Department. Already the State had begun to establish Central schools with lavish scholarships. In certain districts hundreds or more children were taken from Primary schools and sent to Central schools but that was not allowed in denominational schools. What they wanted was that the same facilities should be given to them for the establishment of Central schools and that Government scholarships should be extended to these schools as well.

Mr. C. M. Fernando seconded and the resolution was passed unanimously.

Mr. J. A. L. Cooray moved:

"The most essential task before the educational authorities is to provide at least elementary education to the hundreds of thousands who are at present receiving no education at all.

"Every poor child who is capable of

profiting by Secondary and University education should be able to obtain it by an adequate provision of boarding and tuition scholarships.

"If the State finds that it can afford it, universal free English education might be provided, but the present system of fee-paying grant-aided schools should in any case be allowed to continue."

Mr. E. Muttucumaru seconded and the resolution was passed unanimously.

Mr. Cyril E. S. Perera, Advocate moved the third resolution which was as follows:—

"This meeting is of opinion that the basic salaries of teachers are low and hence that talented men and women will not be attracted to the teaching profession."

Mr. G. A. Fernando seconded and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. A. Gnanaprasadam, Advocate moved:—

"This meeting deplores the regimentation that would follow from the drafting of children into the three types of post-primary schools on the basis of the Fifth Standard test. A parent cannot be compelled to surrender to the School or to the Education Department the right to choose the type of education for his child."

Mr. E. B. Wickramanayake seconded the resolution which was carried unanimously.—*C. Messenger.*

Levering Up or Down?

Dr. Ivor Jennings had some trenchant remarks to offer about certain aspects of the new educational proposals, at the Trinity College Prize-giving on the 11th inst.: "The people of Ceylon" would surely see that the way to reform education was to lever not downwards but upwards."

If the proposals of the majority of the Special Committee are accepted Trinity must either become a private school or lower its standard very severely. The former would be socially undesirable, the latter a catastrophe to Ceylon. Moreover, I may claim a special interest in the matter.

I have said in my dissent to the proposal of the majority of the Special Committee that my duty to the University would not allow me to sign a report which threatened to lower the standard of some of the best schools in the Island. The success of the University depends upon the quality of the schools. We have to improve the schools and make them more widely accessible, not to lower their standard.—*C. Messenger.*

The Late Mr. Jos. I. Gnanamuttu, M.S.C.

(AN APPRECIATION)

The sudden and unexpected death of Mr. Jos. I. Gnanamuttu is a great loss to Ceylon in general and to the Catholics in particular. To those of us who know him intimately the loss is almost irreparable.

His imposing personality, his firm character and sincere convictions, the ease and force with which he wielded the pen, his command of the English language, his ability as a public speaker, are all lost to us at a time when we need them most. Many of us are, at the moment, moved to just and holy anger at the imminent threats to our divine right as parents; to the freedom allowed us to choose the type of education suited to our children. To these Mr. Gnanamuttu's death is a great calamity in that they have lost a redoubtable champion.

As a State Councillor his life has been all too short; but not too short to make his worth felt. The extensive but much-neglected districts of Mannar, Vavuniya-Mullaitivu, which have for long continued to crawl in the shadows of the Tropical, malaria-infested jungles, may have to relapse into that of snail-rate as regards their future progress, now that their friend is no more. Within the short period of hardly three months in Council, Mr. Gnanamuttu had already done much to change the aspect of the neglected 'Island of Martyrs.' Roads have come under repairs,

Decision of Disaffiliation Left to the Chancellor of the Bombay University

Strange Happenings at the Senate Meeting

At the meeting of the Senate on Saturday 12th February, the motion of Prof. K.T. Shah was carried 53 voting for and 41 against; while Prof. Gadgil's amendment suggesting that a further enquiry be made was lost by 43 voting for and 53 against. The Resolution of the Senate however, was passed in the face of widespread overwhelming opposition not only from Catholics throughout India but from the very members of the Senate themselves. Mr. Mascarenhas, Principal, Engineering College, Poona, opposed the resolution. He criticised the manner in which the Committee of the Syndicate conducted its inquiries and said that they had failed to show even elementary consideration of fair play.

Sir R. P. Masani supported Prof. Gadgil's amendment. Dr. John Mackenzie said that there should be a further enquiry into the whole matter, before they took any drastic steps. Prof. V.K. R.V. Rao in supporting the Amendment deplored that an assurance from the Principal should have been obtained. If the Syndicate wanted teachers not to engage in extra curricula activities it might be that to-morrow teachers would be asked not to discuss or teach Socialism or Communism. If parents did not like an institution it was open to them to withdraw their children from it.

Sir Chimanlal Setalvad said that the inquiries so far conducted were not sufficient to justify disaffiliation. The Governing Body of the College had not been examined by the Committee.

The Resolution of the Senate however, is only recommendatory, since only the Chancellor or the Government of Bombay can give effect to it. We trust that the Chancellor who is also the Governor of Bombay, will appraise the measure of opposition to the Resolution and view the whole case with a fair and unbiased mind and withhold his consent to the Resolution of the Senate. Such an action by the Governor and Chancellor will prevent the perpetration of a gross injustice to Catholics throughout India and frustrate the designs of prejudice and tyranny.

wells and more wells have been sunk (some at his personal expense) to provide against the hardships that a typical Mannar drought creates; he had made practical plans for providing his electorate with some urgent amenities of life—in short, by words and deeds, in the press and on the platform, no less within the precincts of the State Council, he had demanded speedy redress of some of the crying needs of his electorate. It would interest many to know that only the afternoon before his tragic death Mr. Gnanamuttu had told the writer that one of the things uppermost in his mind at the moment was to visit, on his return from Bangalore, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu districts in order to know his constituency more intimately and to study in greater detail the more important needs that he ought immediately to take in hand. Mr. Gnanamuttu had always proved that his words were as good as his deeds. Even his bitterest enemies will be forced to admit that.

However, what strikes us most forcibly in his inveterate hatred of anything shady or mean, or anything savouring of falsehood. When he was once convinced of the correctness of a course of action, he never swerved from his path of action, nor did he give in to anybody. This great honesty of purpose and his firm convictions, as must be expected in a world where zig-zag diplomacy has crept in even where we should least expect, created for him, in his sphere of activity, unfriendliness of no small degree. But the alienation of the feelings of his dearest friends, or even of his kith and kin would not make him sacrifice his principles and convictions even to the slightest degree.

His election campaign is brimful of incidents that support this trait in his character. The election-fever was nearing its climax; it was only a week before the polling day, and zealous supporters of Mr. Gnanamuttu after titanic efforts could muster the services of only five cars, a number too paltry. The

By strange reasoning the same Senate which resolved the disaffiliation of the Sophia College granted by 46 votes to 38 the affiliation of the College for three years from June 1944. We are not unaware of the technical snag in this affiliation which is *without prejudice* to the resolution of disaffiliation and that it is a mere act of chicanery on the part of the Senate; but it is amusing that the same body which had set its face against the College from its very inception and had made up its mind to bring about its downfall by all means, should so forget itself and vote for the affiliation. There is no limit to the unreasonableness to which prejudice and hatred may carry even the noblest and intelligent humans.

SOPHIA COLLEGE STUDENTS' STATEMENT

At a general meeting of all the University students of Sophia College, attended by Hindus, Muslims, Parsees, Jews, Sikhs, Christians; the following resolution was unanimously passed:

"This meeting records its protest against the recommendation of the Syndicate and the Academic Council to the Senate for the disaffiliation of Sophia College. The College authorities do not indulge in proselytising activities either directly or indirectly. The students unanimously agree that the conversion of the two Parsee girls was a personal matter for which the College was not responsible. The first convert had already decided to take such a step before she joined the College; the second had been withdrawn from the College twelve months before her conversion.

"This meeting wishes to record the regret that no inquiry committee has questioned the students themselves, who will be most affected, should the proposed disaffiliation be carried out. They consent to give evidence before any such inquiry committee, appointed by the University.

"The meeting authorises the Chairman to communicate this resolution to the members of the Senate and to the press."—*New Leader*.

prospects of obtaining more conveyances looked hopelessly gloomy. Despair was writ on the emaciated faces of those who had toiled night and day for weeks and weeks. One of the drivers of those cars took advantage of the situation and began to act in a shady manner, adding to the already existing consternation. Mr. Gnanamuttu got wind of the mean conduct of this driver and the inevitable happened: the driver got the "Standing sack." The delirious exhortations of his supporters to change his mind and re-engage the car, nor the threat of a defeat after so much toiling and sacrifice could move him an inch. The driver and his car had to go. On another occasion, and this was just a couple of evenings before the election-day, an influential person commanding a large number of votes suddenly fell out with the chief workers over a definitely unbecoming action on his part and left the place. The only chance of a "patch-up" was for Mr. Gnanamuttu to go in person and intervene. But these were his well-considered words to those who feverishly made that request: "I would rather lose the whole election than be a party to such a fraud." He stuck to his convictions; he consciously risked his whole future.

Some may call this strong-handed imprudence of the highest degree, uncompromising foolhardiness; we would call it unswerving fidelity to one's convictions, the distinguishing mark of true sincerity, the hall-mark of a noble character.

His life as a Catholic may well be summed up in the words of one who knew him well: "He was a great Catholic layman." He devoted much of his time and energy even from his youth for the furthering and the spread of the Faith in the Island. For years he laboured as the honorary secretary of the Catholic Union of Ceylon. The admirable booklet of the "Ceylon Sacred Heart Messenger" that today reaches

the homes of hundreds of Catholics in and outside the Island is, if I am not mistaken, one of the monumental ventures of the late Mr. Gnanamuttu. The establishment of book-stalls all over the Island for the diffusion of Catholic literature was undoubtedly the result of Mr. Gnanamuttu's zeal for his Faith and his God. The numerous helpless children in Batticaloa and Badulla, not to mention other places, who have been fed, clothed, and instructed will bear testimony to his noble and disinterested efforts as a Catholic social worker. Truly therefore are the consoling references made by His Excellency the Delegate Apostolic and His Lordship the Bishop of Bangalore in their messages to the bereaved wife a fitting tribute to such a great Catholic gentleman as the late Mr. Gnanamuttu. May God rest his soul.

A. G.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Blessing of Rosary Branch Monastery, Tuticorin Diocese.—The Rosarian Monastery of the Tuticorin Diocese has transferred itself permanently from the Panagudi Hills to Vadakangulam, a Catholic centre in the Tuticorin Diocese fifteen miles from Cape Comorin. His Lordship the Bishop of Tuticorin blessed the site and temporary buildings on Sexagesima Sunday. On the following day, Mass was said for the first time in the monks chapel. His Lordship was the celebrant. Priests of Vadakangulam and the neighbouring parishes attended the functions.

Nomination Day for Mannar Seat.—March 15 has been fixed as the day for the nomination of candidates to contest the Mannar Seat in the State Council rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Jos. I. Gnanamuttu.

Revenue Excess of 13 Million Rupees.—There was an excess of revenue over expenditure amounting to nearly Rs.13 millions in the first four months of the present financial year, that is, from Oct. 1943, to Jan. 1944, according to Treasury statement issued on Monday. The revenue for this period was Rs. 77, 180,867 and the expenditure Rs. 63,314,766.

Free Treatment for School Children.—It is understood that the Board of Ministers has approved the grant of free medical treatment at Government institutions to all school children who are found at school medical inspections to be suffering from any illness or physical defect.

At present Government medical institutions charge fees for the treatment of children found defective at school medical inspections according to the incomes of the parents.

No Pension and No Re-Employment.—Members of the Government clerical service and the staff of the service who join other services, the appointments are of a non-pensionable nature, and they forfeit their pension rights, especially seconded for their services to the Chief Secretary.

These conditions have been made known to the permanent service of men in the permanent service of the Government from leaving for other services offering more attractive terms.

New Director of Agriculture. Mr. L. J. Seneviratne has taken up duties as Acting Director of Agriculture and Mr. E. Rodon, whom he is succeeding, will, it is learned, act as an Additional G.A. at Kandy.

Personal.—Mr. J. S. D. Ariaratnam, Accountant Jaffna Co-operative Central Bank has been appointed Public Auditor and Valuer under the Societies Ordinance.

Jaffna Co-operators form Union.—On Thursday last representatives of the 53 Co-operative Stores in the Jaffna Maniar's Division assembled together at Cherniya Street, Biligal School, to form a Co-operative Union. Mr. S.R. Kanaganayagam, Advocate occupied the chair.

Among the resolutions passed was one which stated that as a result of the inadequate supply of foodstuffs by the Jaffna Co-operative Wholesale Establishment, the shareholders of Co-operative Stores experience great hardship.

The Union urged the adoption of the Colombo system of distribution.

Special S.S.C. Pass.—The Family Convent, Jaffna:—Madappa, F. D. I. Anthonipillai, M. S. S. C. A. Muttutamba, R. Nagalingam, M. Namasivayam, M.T.L. Paul and D. T. W. Tampoe.

The Catholic University of America.—Mgr. Patrick J. McCormick was installed as Rector of the Catholic University of America at Washington on Nov. 9th. Lord Halifax attended the ceremony in his capacity of Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

Wearing the Chancellor's robes and followed by a page carrying his train, Lord Halifax was the outstanding figure in the academic procession of delegates from nearly two hundred Universities. He was the guest of honour, and was shown to a place on the dais among the eighty Archbishops and Bishops who were present.

The Catholic University at Washington during its short life has developed in a way not unlike the medieval Universities. To-day it is composed of no less than forty Houses or Halls of religious orders for men and twenty six for women, occupying a position in the University akin to the Oxford Colleges. It covers a large area, each house surrounded by its own grounds, and it is probably the greatest centre of Catholic activity outside Rome. Over a thousand masses are said there every morning.

The new Rector, Mgr. McCormick, has lectured and written extensively on educational subjects, and is editor of the "Catholic Educational Review."

CORRESPONDENCE

Read Catholic Papers

The Editor, "Catholic Guardian," Jaffna.

Dear Sir,—At the last meeting of the Jaffna Diocesan Union a motion protesting against the proposed disaffiliation of the Sophia College by the Bombay University was brought before it by a member. Another member present at the meeting said that they were not sufficiently informed of the question and wanted the motion to be deferred. Why are not educated Catholics *au courant* of important events that are of Catholic interest? The dispute between the Bombay Senate and the Sophia College was sufficiently explained in the "C.C. Messenger" and the "Catholic Guardian." Strange, indeed, to use the mildest term, that the meeting accepted the objection and agreed to defer the motion to the Greek Kalends!

WHAT-A-PITY.

Jaffna, 22-2-44.

NOTICE

Distribution of Subsidiary Foodstuffs in Jaffna District.

Arrangements have been made to distribute the currysuffs mentioned below at the rates specified against each commodity to each consumer not attached to retail co-operative store from Monday, the 28th inst. to 5th March 1944 (both days inclusive).

1. Peas at one oz. per head.
2. Cummin seed at $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per head.
3. Mustard at $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per head.

2. Consumers are advised to draw their ration of the above articles along with their ration of other commodities.

(Sgd.) E.B. TISSEVERASINGHE,
Asst. Govt. Agent, (E).

Jaffna, 23-2-1944.



Sophia College, Bombay

(Continued from Page 1).
 Bahadur, Mr. L.C. Pais and Mr. B. ... condemning the action of the Board of the University of Bombay in recommending the disaffiliation of the Sophia College for Women, Bombay. The resolution passed protested against the procedure adopted by the Committee of inquiry set up by the Syndicate as irregular, one-sided and unfair to the College, and against the conclusions arrived at as untenable and unjustified by facts. The meeting therefore, requested the Senate to set aside the recommendation of the Syndicate.

PONDICHERRY

A public meeting of the Catholics of Pondicherry Archdiocese was held on Feb. 6 to protest against the recommendations of the Bombay University Syndicate and Academic Council, that the Sophia College, Bombay should be disaffiliated for the reason that two girl students of the said college had embraced Christianity.

His Grace the Archbishop of Pondicherry gave his blessing after a few words of exhortation.

The following telegram was sent on Feb. 7:

His Excellency Lord Wavell, Viceroy, New Delhi.

Indian Catholic representatives of Pondicherry, Tindivanam, Gingee, Tiruvannamalai, Madurantakam, condemn intolerant attitude of Bombay University Syndicate regarding Sophia College and respectfully request Your Excellency's intervention to avert the proposed disaffiliation tantamount to religious persecution.

Similar telegraphic messages were sent to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, and the Vice-Chancellor of Bombay University.

BISHOP ROCHE'S TELEGRAPHIC PROTEST

His Lordship Bishop Roche, President, Tuticorin Catholic Association sent the following telegram to H.E. the Governor of Bombay:

"To disaffiliate Sophia College because two girls of age of their own accord became Catholics, will be the blackest stain on the University of Bombay. We appeal to your sense of justice."

FURTHER PROTEST MEETINGS

While going to Press we received reports of meetings held in Tuticorin, under the auspices of the Tuticorin Catholic Association, in Ernakulam, by the Catholic Association of the Archdiocese of Verapoly. The Trichinopoly Catholic Club has sent its protest as also the Goan Educational Society, Karachi. Sri J. Krishnaswamy, Village Magistrate, presided over a protest meeting held in Marambady, Madurai. —New Leader.

Protest Meeting of Indians at the Town Hall, Colombo

Mr. A. Aziz, President of the Ceylon Indian Congress, presided. There was a large gathering present including many prominent Indians and members of the minority including Messrs. G. G. Ponnambalam, S.P. Vytilingam, A. A. Davoodbhoy (President Indian Mercantile Chamber), J. Thiyyagarajah, Proctor S. Sivasubramaniam, A. Mammujee, S. H. Moosajee, Advocate Subbiab Saravanamuttu, A. Muthusamy, Bar-at-Law, and many others.

In opening his address Mr. Aziz observed that the attitude taken up by the Board of Ministers with regard to Indians in relation to the Reforms proposals was indeed alarming. In the interview the Secretaries of the Ceylon Indian Congress had with Mr. Senanayake, the Leader of the House, Mr. Senanayake categorically stated that the question of rights of citizenship to Indians does not form a part of the Board's Reforms proposals. Mr. Senanayake had also stated that even while sinking in his death-bed he would fight against the rights of citizenship to Indians, and that the only obligation that the Government

of Ceylon recognised was to finance the repatriation of Indians from this Island. It was necessary that Mr. Senanayake realises that the country does not belong to one race and that it belongs to all races that inhabit it and produce its wealth, and any attempt on the part of the Board to whittle down the rights of citizenship to Indians in the Island will be resisted by all Indians. Mr. Aziz further stated that five years ago he led the opposition in the Indian circles against the demand of Balanced Representation, but today he is convinced that the only way to remove communalism which is so rampant in the country and which is the only political platform is to give different minorities their representations in the legislature and thereby destroy the communal cry at the elections and other matters. Mr. Aziz said that this remedy might sound paradoxical but that is the only way. He further stated that the Indians in Ceylon stood firm on the demand of self-government but wanted to know for whom was self-government to be obtained. He requested the Government to be self-government for all the communities in the Island. He then moved the following resolution against the attitude of the Board of Ministers:—

"This public meeting of Indians strongly protests against the attitude of the Board of Ministers in disregarding the question of the rights and status of Indians in Ceylon in their Reforms proposals to the Secretary of State for Colonies and requests the Working Committee of the Ceylon Indian Congress to take such steps as are necessary for the inclusion of the Indian rights in the Reforms proposals."

The following resolution was moved by Mr. S.R.M. Valliappa Chettiar and seconded by Messrs. A. Mammujee and S. Arulanandam (Secretary of the Nadar Mahajana Sangam):—

"This meeting of Indians reiterates its demand for the recognition of the rights of Indians for full citizenship on the basis of a residence of five years and to afford an opportunity to acquire the full rights of citizenship on the completion of five years for those whose residence of stay in the Island falls short of five years, and also an opportunity to qualify for full rights of citizenship to those who left Ceylon after January 1, 1939 and were prevented to re-enter Ceylon on account of the Ban on Immigration of unskilled workers imposed by the Government of India, it being provided that the civic and political rights like that of franchise be given to all who are in the country on the date of that may be arrived at on the Indian question."

The other resolution moved by Mr. Madhavaram and seconded by Mr. A. Muthusamy Bar-at-Law was:—

"This meeting of Indians condemns the attitude of the Board of Ministers in the views of the minority in submitting their proposals to the Secretary of State for Colonies and in refusing to consider the proposals to the country in submitting them to the Secretary of State for Colonies."

When Mr. S. P. Vytilingam observed that during his last eight years' experience in the State Council they had seen that Indians have showed that they are not in any manner opposed to the aspirations of the country and it is false propaganda that Indians are opposed to self-government in Ceylon. He then moved the following resolution seconded by Mr. M.P. Sinniah:—

"This public meeting of Indians invites all minority communities in the Island to summon on all Ceylon Minorities Conference with a view to taking united action in the matter of constitutional reforms and the general advancement of the country and offers all co-operation to the minorities in this direction as also for drafting an alternative constitution on the basis of

1. Self-government for Ceylon,
 2. Balanced Representation as the solution of the minorities problem, and requests the working Committee of the Ceylon Indian Congress to take necessary steps in the direction.
- Mr. J. Thiyyagarajah in addressing the

meeting deprecated the attitude of the Board of Ministers in disregarding the wishes of the minorities and excluding the question of rights and status of Indians from their Reforms proposals. Then Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam in his observations stated that self-government was not the family affair of the Board of Ministers and it is the affair of everybody in the country and every community is entitled to have its say and share. He wanted the Governor and the Secretary of State for Colonies not to forget the fact that war efforts of Ceylon referred to in the Secretary of State's declaration would be nil but for the very active co-operation given by the Indian Estate workers in the production of Tea and Rubber. It will be a pity if this important contribution is forgotten by the Secretary of State for Colonies.

Jaffna Urban Council

Present:—The Chairman and all the members excluding Mr. S.P. Nadarajah.

1. Mr. S.A. Sabapathy withdrew the motion that stood in his name in view of the fact that Mr. P. Casippillai had also given notice of a motion on the same subject.

Mr. P. Casippillai then moved that the present method of transporting night soil to the trenching ground at Ariyalai by conservancy carts be discontinued.

Mr. K. V. Sinnathurai seconded the motion.

It was decided to appoint a committee consisting of Messrs. P. Mortimer, S.A. Sabapathy and P. Casippillai to investigate and report whether night soil should be transported by lorry to Ariyalai or by boats to Kurusaditivu and the cost likely to be incurred.

After discussion it was decided to leave it to the Chairman to make temporary arrangements to transport the night soil to Ariyalai if possible by lorry.

2. It was decided to defer consideration of papers regarding acquiring a well at Navatturai and to consider same after the Chairman had gone onto the title and reported regarding the ownership of the well.

3. It was decided to defer for the duration of war and till the situation becomes normal papers regarding licensing of Hair-dressing Saloons and Barbers' Shops.

4. Considered the request of the scavenging labourers for increased wages and it was decided on the motion of Mr. S. Patanjali seconded by Mr. K.V. Sinnathurai to give the scavenging labourers increased allowance from March 1, 1944.

It was further decided to appoint a committee consisting of Messrs. S. Patanjali, S. Kumaraswamy and S.A. Sabapathy to fix the rate.

Telegraphic Summary of War News

COBLER'S SON WINS AGAINST MARQUIS

A cobbler's son has defeated a marquis in the liveliest by-election campaign in Britain since the present Government was formed.

In spite of all-out support by Mr. Churchill and Conservative Labour and Liberal Party headquarters, the Independent Labour candidate, Alderman Charles White won the West Derbyshire contest with a large majority over his National Government opponent, the Marquis of Hartington.

Except for the period between 1918 and 1923, members and relatives of the Cavendish family have been identified for about 300 years with the Parliamentary representation of this constituency. In 1918, the father of Alderman White won the seat from the Duke of Devonshire.

COUNTERBLAST TO SOVIET MOVE?

Set the task of dealing with the possi-

bility of any single Power dominating Europe or any part of Asia and other diplomatic and economic problems after the war the British Cabinet is being requested to form an Imperial Cabinet, according to American Congressional circles.

According to a message from New York, American Congressional circles believe the British Cabinet is being requested to give the Dominions and possibly also Holland and Belgium an "Imperial Super-Cabinet." No comment is forthcoming from British authorities but Congressmen are reported to expect an immediate announcement from London.

JAP CONVOY SUNK

The entire Japanese convoy, which was badly mauled on Feb. 17 by Allied aircraft of General Douglas MacArthur's Southwest Pacific Command off Nassu island, is believed to have been sunk.

Three warships and 12 merchantmen are already reported to have been sunk.

The convoy was attempting to take supplies and reinforcements to the hard-pressed garrisons in the Bismarck archipelago.

NOTICE

Distribution of Subsidiary Foodstuffs in Jaffna District.

Arrangement have been made to distribute the currysuffs mentioned below at the rates specified against each commodity to each consumer not attached to a retail co-operative store from Monday, the 21st to 27th February, 1944 (both days inclusive).

1. Red onions, 1 oz. per head.
2. Black Moong or Mysore dhal or Peas or Too dhal ½ oz. per head.

2. Consumers are advised to draw their ration of the above articles along with their ration of other commodities.

(Sgd.) E.B. TISSEVERASINGHE, for Deputy Food Controller, N.P. Jaffna, 15 Feb. 1944.

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.