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

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## PHENOMENAL SUCCESS OF CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

"The Jaffna Co-operative Central Bank is the finest jewel of the co-operative crown which sits so firmly on the country's forward movement, and Jaffna has every reason to be proud," said Sir Oliver, addressing a large gathering of delegates to the annual general meeting of the Bank.

### MR. COOMARASWAMY'S SPEECH

Mr. Coomaraswamy said that to the Northern Division belonged the unique distinction of having a Co-operative Federation. It was a pleasure and privilege for him to open the 19th session. He took the opportunity to offer his humble and sincere congratulations for the great work the North and the East were doing in the field of co-operation. It was unnecessary for him to point out what they hoped to derive from the movement. Even if it was necessary Mr. Veerasingam had already drawn their attention to what made it necessary for them to bind themselves to make the movement a success.

### JAFFNA'S EXAMPLE

There were in the Island four Central Banks, and in Jaffna they had the premier Central Bank, having a turn-over of 8½ million rupees with a Reserve of Rs. 40,000. There was, in Jaffna, a more important co-operative development viz. the Co-operative Sales Societies, whose sales amounted to 3½ lakhs.

They had also three very important Tobacco Sales Societies, two of which were dealing in internal business and the other was the well-known Jaffna-Malayalam Tobacco Sales Society dealing in business abroad. He wished to congratulate that Society for its excellent reputation and business capacity and co-operative methods. In Travancore it had made it possible now to stop credit sales and deal in cash sales only. The speaker would again refer to Transport Societies in Jaffna such as the Island's Transport Society, the Pannai Ferry Society, and the Mullaitivu Transport Society. Then there was the Co-operative Hospital Union whose 470 odd members were doing a great service. The father of these Transport and Hospital Societies was Mr. C. Ranganathan who was with them that day. There were also the industrial and agricultural societies which the people of the North had undertaken to work. In that regard the people of the North had set a shining example to the rest of the Island. They had in the past laid emphasis on credit societies, but the departure of the North in laying equal emphasis on other lines was worth mentioning as it was going to revolutionize the economic life considerably.

### NEW SPIRIT IN BATTICALOA

A significant step, the speaker continued, was to be seen in the Eastern Province. In 1938, there was a co-operative slump there reducing the movement to nothing. But since 1938 there had been a forward movement. A new spirit had been developed to-day. There were 500 societies to-day as against Jaffna's 1,200. He gave his personal thanks to Gate Mudaliyar Kariappan, of Batticaloa, who made the movement take root there and who was present there that day.

### THE ACID TEST

The speaker also would draw their special attention to the fact that

through those numbers were gratifying, there were important considerations for the future. The number of Co-operative Societies in the Island was 2,000 before the War after 30 years' work and they now had 6,000 societies. Undoubtedly a good deal of development was due to the enthusiastic work of the Registrar, Mr. de Zoysa. It could not, however, be doubted that a good number of societies came into existence not because of co-operative spirit but out of the necessities of the situation. The speaker did not mention the fact to damp their enthusiasm but to rouse them to face facts. If that was the fact, that was going to be their opportunity and the acid test. After the war, if the societies flourished, they would confer a lasting benefit for the economic development of the country.

### THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

He, the speaker, was a great believer in industrial co-operation. He was very glad that industrial societies were springing up in the country since the industrial prosperity of the country and the standard of living were dependent upon co-operative movements. There was one difficulty in regard to the Textile industry about yarn. He was deeply concerned and anxious about it. In 1943 the sale from the Government departments i.e. the people's consumption was 300,000 lbs. and this year 800,000 lbs. were required. The estimate for 1945 was 2,100,000 lbs. Their greatest difficulty was, where to buy? The quota allotted by India was only 800,000 lbs. Would India give 2 million lbs.? The Government was trying to get more from India, but could not be sure of success. The Government was also thinking of starting a Spinning machine and importing cotton from elsewhere. He also proposed to open a yarn store in Jaffna.

### THE GOVERNMENT AGENT

Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, the G.A. said that it gave him a great pleasure to see before him such a large gathering assembled in the spirit of co-operation without considerations of caste or creed. Co-operation was the panacea for all ills. If the spirit of co-operation had been rightly understood in the West, there would have been no war now. At no time in the history of the people of Ceylon was a spirit of co-operation more needed than now. Hard times were ahead of them. Unless all of them joined and worked together in the spirit of co-operation they would not progress. He hoped that the spirit would spread and strengthen Mother Lanka.

### WHY GOVERNMENT INTERFERED

As one of the people, as a native of Jaffna, the speaker felt happy and proud that co-operation had taken deep root in Jaffna. He believed that in no other part of the Island there were co-operative societies on so many lines as in Jaffna. The movement should extend in all directions. The war had done one good. It had given an impetus to the movement. One aspect was the opening of stores societies in large numbers. The establishment had come in for much criticism. Could the Government interfere with the rights of the traders? People knew why the Government was encouraging the societies. That was because the traders had not played their game. If they had not profited the

## CIVIL DEFENCE COMMISSIONER'S VISIT TO JAFFNA

Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, the Civil Defence Commissioner, had a strenuous day on Saturday when he visited the milk centres in the urban area and toured the villages in Jaffna district spending nearly 12 hours addressing people of various places.

Manipay, Sandilipay, Changanai, Tholpuram, Moolai and Vaddukoddai vied with each other in according him a welcome the like of which has never been witnessed in the North within living memory. All along the route men and women held up his car and garlanded him. At Manipay and Vaddukoddai Sir Oliver had to alight from his car and walk on nilapavada under a canopy of flowers preceded by bands of oriental musicians and dancing children, to specially erected pandals.

After conferring with the chief headmen and government officials and a deputation from the Paddy Growers' Associations of Jaffna and Karachchi, Sir Oliver, in the company of Messrs. C. Coomaraswamy, G.A., R. Y. Daniel, War Savings Commissioner, and K. Kanagaratnam, Acting Auditor-General, motored to Manipay where he was received by Mr. C. Thiagarajah, Chief A.R.P. Warden.

Sir Oliver then proceeded to Changanai where he inspected the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment and the onion cultivation plot. He then visited the Co-operative Union Hospital at Moolai and opened an extension ward of six beds. Sir Oliver was presented with a walking-stick worked with palmyrah leaf by Dr. C. Chelliah, President of the Union.

Lunch at Jaffna College was followed by an elocution contest among the boys of the school.

Sir Oliver then moved on to the grounds of the Valigamam West Food Show, which he declared open. He also inspected the A.R.P. personnel.

### SIR OLIVER'S ADDRESS AT PUBLIC RECEPTION VADDUKODDAI

"To-day is a very proud day in my life. I have been welcomed in more than twenty places in Jaffna to-day with nothing but kindness and generosity everywhere, and more than all you have received me as one of your own brothers. My friend Mr. K. Kanagaratnam's mother is present here. She has one great son who, let me tell you a secret, is going to make history. I hope she will always remember that the brother of that great son has been so very enthusiastically received in Jaffna. I am not speaking an untruth when I say that to me you are not a different people because you hail from Jaffna. To me there are only six million people to care for. I know no such distinction as Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, Burghers or Europeans," said Sir Oliver Goonetilleke at the reception given to him at the Jaffna College.

Government would not have interfered. It was to stop profiteering and help the people the Government had to step in. The Government's interest lay only in the supervision and management. The Government made no profit. Then it was said that the Societies only repeated the mischiefs of the traders. No doubt defects were found here and there. They could be remedied. There was nothing to worry about in the objects or ideals.

He saw before him, the speaker continued, a group of A.R.P. personnel, members of Co-operative Societies, ladies helping in the distribution of milk, those who were engaged in the Grow More Food Campaign and a band of leaders who helped the country in the present emergency. To all of them he could only give his bow of sincere thanks. To them he would only make one prayer. It was that they should continue in their leadership. They had done very good co-operative work, but the real work had only just started. The war might be won before the end of the year or early next year. The war in the West and the East might be over but Ceylon's battle with food would then start in right earnest. They should remember what happened after the last war was over in 1918. After the present war Ceylon would not enjoy any priority. She should look after herself. England would have to feed the occupied and defeated countries.

He was very much pained to hear one remark from the chair. It was said that many poor women were unable to go out and earn their living for want of clothes to wear. He would like to ask the audience if conditions were so bad. If it was so, what was going to be their fate in the future? The speaker had been told that never in Jaffna was there so much money as now. If with so much money in the country conditions were so bad, what was their fate going to be when unemployment would face them after the war? What was then the duty of their leaders both in Jaffna and Colombo? Again the chairman said that they could not start more milk centres on account of shortage of milk at the supply station. It must have been surely due to some mistake in his office. He could assure the people that so long as volunteers came forward to help in the distribution he would supply all the milk required.

Wherever he went, the speaker continued, there was the recurring complaint about shortage of labour. He was told that labourers had to be paid Rs. 5-00 a day and that most of the labourers had joined the services where there was only a pretence of work. He wanted to know whether labourers in Jaffna worked 6 days or 7 days in the week, or whether they worked only for 3 or 4 days and lived on those three days' wages during the whole week. The speaker wanted the employers to take interest in their employees and to set a new impetus and dignity to labour. How were they to secure that new impetus and dignity? It was for the leaders to make the labourers believe that 6 or 7 days' work was essential for the country in the present emergency. It was they who would prolong the war beyond its limit if they did not do full seven days' work. Labour in Ceylon could shorten the war. Their work was as essential as that of soldiers in the front. The present war had been won by the people. He, the speaker, had great faith in the people of Ceylon. The history of the last 2½ years had shown what faith the world had in Ceylon. Jaffna's contribution too had been great. They were all God's children and it was said that God's children had wings. He would serve the people to the utmost of his ability.



## Church Calendar

AUGUST 1944

FRI.	...4	S. Dominic.
SAT.	...5	Our Lady of Snow.
SUN.	...6	10th Sunday after Pentecost. Transfig.
MON.	...7	S. Cajetan.
TUES.	...8	S. Cyriacus.
WED.	...9	S. J. M. Vian.
THURS.	...10	S. Lawrence.
FRI.	...11	S. Tiburtius.

## The Catholic Guardian

AUGUST 4TH 1944

CO-OPERATIVE  
MOVEMENT

The past week may be described as the co-operative movement week in Jaffna with its annual general meeting. Those who have been working for the success of this movement must feel gratified at the results so far attained on the question of credit facilities in a land where want of capital was the greatest handicap for all kinds of business enterprise. This economic reform will not stand by idle without reacting on national life. And so we have here a great economic and social transformation taking place silently among our people the value of which cannot be exaggerated. It took many years for co-operation to take root but having done so it is branching out in several directions. There can be no limit to its expansion. Almost every business activity can be brought under its scope. On the rich possibilities of the co-operative idea and on the evolution and wide application of its principles lie our hopes of a more prosperous North. The large measure of success achieved so far gives an earnest of further success. It has come in good time as an effective challenge to deigning men who have dared to preach Socialism and Communism as potent means of social and economic uplift. If the co-operative movement is properly conducted and developed it should defeat their pernicious propaganda. Furthermore, the training in mutual aid, interdependence and business habits which co-operative movement affords is of immense value in life. The great hindrance to progress had been individualism and the lack of mutual trust, but the success of co-operation is a prove that these defects are being gradually overcome.

The above are general considerations. To come to what took place at the annual meeting, Mr. V. Veerasingham welcoming the Hon. Mr. Corea who presided said that the Minister's presence predicted a boom in industrial co-operatives. His régime as Minister of Industries had seen the revival of many old industries and the establishment of new ones. We have no wish to gainsay the compliment paid by the speaker to the Minister but what practical relief in their daily needs have the people been afforded by the revival of many old industries and the starting of new ones? Mr. Veerasingham urged the establishment of co-operative factories. The organisation of these factories must come from

the people, but there must be assistance from the Minister. Mr. Corea himself must admit that in the matter of establishing industries he has not done enough for Jaffna. If the Board of Ministers had only been more sympathetic a large cement factory would now be working either at Kayts or Kankasanturai. A few months ago speaking in Jaffna he said that before many months elapsed a cement factory would be established somewhere in Jaffna. But some time after in the State Council to a question of Mr. Natesan, Mr. Corea said he did not where the future cement factory would be located. He mentioned a place in the South as equally suitable and likely enough that it will be the one finally chosen. The Minister paid a well deserved tribute to the Jaffna Co-operative Central Bank as being the premier bank in the Island and to the Sales Societies and the Malayalam Tobacco Sales Society. The co-operative movement has received an unexpected expansion by the hundreds of Food-Stores that had to be started to keep out the profiteering traders. Will these co-operative stores survive the war? That is the question. That is the acid test whether or no the people have become really and truly co-operation minded.

## EDITORIAL NOTE

**Regretted Polemics.**—To a number of letters publicity is given to-day in deference to the wishes of our correspondents though our personal inclination was to allow time for things to clarify. Letters received this morning could not go in. It seems to us that there has been some misunderstanding somewhere. The mention of mental reservation by the Hon. Mr. Mahadeva may have reference to the conflict in his mind between his own private views and the views he must hold as representative of the Jaffna electorate whose mandate to him was perfectly clear. And as long as he continues to be its representative he must not give up the charge committed to him though it may become opposed to his personal and private political opinions. The fact that unlike his ministerial colleagues, Mr. Mahadeva wanted the question of the representation to be decided by a Commission and so informed the Secretary of State although all the time in his heart of hearts he utterly disliked the coming of the Commission shows his will to abide by the views of his constituency and not by his own personal predilections. It will be time to condemn him outright after hearing what he says to the Commission. In any case, the really important thing now is not the views of Mr. Mahadeva but the unity of the Tamils which may be imperilled by continuing a bitter controversy. There are schemers who may take occasion of it to create mischief. It was well that the Jaffna Association in its meeting while inviting Mr. Mahadeva to address it re-affirmed the proposition that no community should be in

a position to dominate all the other communities and declared this to be its guiding principle.

How Bishop Saved  
250 Hostages

Readers may remember the brief report that a Bishop in Southern Italy had received the Silver Medal of Military Merit from King Victor Emmanuel for offering his life in place of 250 hostages. The prelate is Mgr. Francesco Petronelli, Archbishop of Trani, and the full story has been told by a Canadian Army chaplain, Fr. L.X. Aubin, C.S.S.R. Five German soldiers were killed in a skirmish with an Allied patrol. The Germans blamed civilians and orders were given that 250 civilians were to be shot—50 for each of the Germans. One of them was Archbishop Petronelli's own doctor. They were to be killed in batches of 50 a day.

The first 50 were all lined up in a public square, and the troops were awaiting the order to fire, when the Archbishop suddenly appeared in full pontificals between the squad and the hostages. He first turned to the hostages and gave them absolution. Then he addressed the commanding officer, demanding that they should be spared, and offered his own life for them. The parley between the Archbishop and the officer went on through interpreters for half an hour. By his courageous intervention the Archbishop succeeded in saving not only the first batch of 50 but the 200 others.

When the chaplain spoke of the matter to the Archbishop, the latter replied: "What do you expect? One must put the Gospel into practice, otherwise what would be the use of it?"

## Sophia College

## The Tree Known by Its Fruits

Another reader sends an article from the "Rast Rahbar Annual," in which a Parsi draws some interesting conclusions from the Sophia College case:—

"Whatever one may say about Catholic Religion and however bigotted its followers may be, one fact remains supreme. The Jesuit priests, the nuns and those others who have given up their life for their mission, attract tender minds by their sincere devotion to their cause—right or wrong,—and the indefatigable energy which they display in their social service, albeit in their own community, stands out in bold relief against the insipid presentation by our priestly class of the intrinsic beauties of our Holy Faith.....Our children see these Reverend Mothers and Sisters, Reverend Fathers and Brothers, in Schools, hospitals, destitute homes and such other humanitarian institutions, toiling hard for the alleviation of the miseries of their disciples, for the promotion of Christian education and for other philanthropic tasks. Against this picture they see our priestly class, soaked in rites and rituals, looming large in striking contrast."

It need hardly be said that Catholic charity is not limited to the Catholic community. If it were, there would have been no Sophia College case. But much may be forgiven the writer for the sake of his delightful phrase "soaked in rites and rituals." This will be a handy missile for our clerical readers when the local liturgical expert points out that the collects have been said in the wrong order, or something of the kind.

## The New Privileged

The great division in England at the present time is not a division of class or income. It is a division between those who enjoy and those who do not enjoy official status. Inside the national community, four and a half years of war have produced a large caste remote from and above the rest of the people, who work on in blinkers. The official world has its own by now very elaborate Press, not available to the non-official world. It enjoys a much higher standard of public facilities and priorities, and is, in short, a privileged class, claiming as the basis of its privilege that it is winning the war, just as the old

feudalism claimed a military justification for taking the cream of what was going. Side by side with the old currency there is a new currency of permits, for travel, for petrol, for supplies of all kind, which is the really valid paper money.

More and more people have come to believe that this is the shape of the future everywhere, and that Mussolini, who so often showed a great political prescience, was right when he described Fascism as the characteristic social form of the twentieth century; the essence of Fascism being the organization of the mass of the people by and under a small bureaucratic elite called in some countries, "The Party," but in others, "Public Servants." "We have ceased," said Mr. Herbert Morrison in a speech of propaganda for the new hierarchy, "to believe in either the rewards or the punishments of last century industry." We do not believe in millionaires, or in anyone being left unemployed. Power has replaced wealth as the main object of ambition for able and ambitious men.

It may be the day will come when we will look back with regret on the Victorian successful men, who only desired to build themselves enormous houses and to strut importantly about them; who were, indeed, exceedingly greedy individuals but who did not find their happiness in ceaseless re-conditioning of their fellow-men. The idleness of the idle rich was an expensive safeguard, and very much preferable to the industrious enforcement of wrong policies which is the new fashion.—*Tablet*.



## OBLATE NECROLOGY

- Died 21st June 1943, aged 26, Scholastic Brother Henry Kuegeler of the Province of Germany (in Russia).  
Died 16th July, 1943, aged 70, Revd. Fr. Joseph Lagathu of the Vicariate of Ceylon (in France).  
Died 27th July 1943, aged 29, Scholastic Brother Francis Bob of the Province of Germany (in Russia).  
Died ?? 1943, aged 36, Revd Fr. Albert Joseph Pascheur of the Province of Belgian Netherlands.  
Died 2nd March 1944, Revd. Cenez Jules at Sion.  
Died 21 July 1944, Revd. Fr. Montagne Joseph of 1st Province of France.  
Died 13th Aug. 1943, Scholastic Bro. Kretschmer Alphonus Novice from Germany in Russia

St. Anthony's Conference of  
the St. Vincent de Paul  
Society, Kandy

The 3rd Annual General Meeting of the St. Anthony's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society Kandy, was held in St. Sylvester's College Hall, on Wednesday the 19th July, 1944, at 6 p.m.

His Lordship the Rt. Revd. Dr. D.B. Regno, O.S.B., Bishop of Kandy, presided.

The Honorary Secretary, Mr. Francis X. Joachim, gave a report of work done by the Society during the previous year.

The President, Mr. Hugh de Silva, in his speech which followed, referred to various activities that might have been undertaken if the Society had more support and appealed to the permanent population of Kandy to come forward either as Active Members or benefactors of the Society.

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr. C. de la Motte, then read the financial statement for the past year.

His Lordship the Bishop, while congratulating the Members on their achievements during the past year, mentioned various means of increasing the funds. "You should be more aggressive in your begging on behalf of the poor," he added.

His Lordship then gave away the prizes for attendance and proficiency to children attending Sunday School classes conducted by the Society.

The Right Revd. Mgr. Anselm Weerasinghe, O.S.B., Lord Abbot, addressed the poor helped by the Society, who



were also present, in Sinhalese, exhorting them to be grateful to God and to the benefactors of the Society for whatever help they received from the Society. He then distributed bread and money to 50 poor persons helped by the Society.

The Very Revd. Fr. D. G. Phoebus, O.S.B., the Spiritual Director of the Conference, spoke next on the mercies of Providence on which the Society has to rely on, without any thoughts for the morrow, in their acts of charity.

The Meeting was followed by a Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament given to Members, Benefactors, and the poor, by the Spiritual Director.

Sgd. FRANCIS X. JAOCHIM,  
Hony. Secretary, S.V.P., Kandy.  
Kandy, 19th July, 1944.

Receipts	Rs. 1,532 92
Expenses	„ 1,176 82
Balance in hand	„ 356 10

**LOCAL & GENERAL**

**Eucharistic Rally, Mannar.**—A public meeting was held at St. Xavier's College on Wednesday the 1st of July, 1944 at 11 a.m. with Rev. Fr. Superior in the chair. Representatives had come from all the Missions in the Mannar District with their Parish Priests.

The meeting unanimously resolved to commemorate the 4th Centenary of the 'Mannar Martyrs' by a District Eucharistic Rally on the 8th of Oct. this year.

A General Committee was elected, with Very Revd. Fr. Superior as President, Gate Mudlr. S. Muttutambay, Vice-President, Revd. Fr. A. J. B. Antoninus and Mr. Bastian Fernando, Joint Secretaries and Messrs. A. P. Venderkone and Cyril Philippupillai as Joint Treasurers.

Six sub-Committees including a Ladies' Committee were also formed, to work out the details of the Rally. It was decided to include Vavuniya and A'pura missions in the District Rally.

**Ordination Services.**—On the 9th of Aug. at Bishop's Chapel Revd. Bro. Louis Anthony, O.M.I., will be raised to the Priesthood and Revd. Bros. Francis and John to the sub-Diaconate. On the 10th at St. Thomas' Church, Maghagal Revd. Bro. S. A. Michaelsamy, O.M.I. will be raised to the Priesthood.

**S.V.P. Jaffna.**—The Second Quarterly Meeting of the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul Society will be held on Sunday the 6th inst. at 5-30 p.m. in St. Charles' School Hall. The Directors and members of the various Conferences are kindly requested to be present.

**Memorial to Colonial Office.**—A combined attack on the State Council and the Donoughmore Constitution is made in the memorial to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by one hundred well known citizens of Ceylon, drawn from all communities, five of whom, as already stated in the "Times of Ceylon" forewarned the Secretary of State against the draft constitution of the Ministers. Their cablegram, signed by Sir Gerard Wijeyekoon, Sir Wilfred de Soysa, Mr. N. Nadarajah, J.S.R. Gunawardene and Geo. Wille, reads: "Please defer decision on Ceylon Ministers' proposed reform of the constitution."

Following this telegraphic request, a memorial has been forwarded, and nearly every one of the one hundred signatories to it is in the position of needing no introduction to the Colonial Office.

The entire case of the memorialists leads towards the necessity for the establishment of a second chamber, elected on a distinct franchise involving educational and property qualification.

**For Jaffna Hospital.**—The Board of Ministers have approved of a further vote of Rs. 120,000 for the construction of maternity wards at the General Hospital, Jaffna.

The demand for these facilities has been insistent and the Minister of Health obtained a vote of Rs. 68,000 some time ago. The Minister of Health and the Minister of Communications and Works conferred on this subject and reported that this sum was inadequate to put up the necessary buildings and applied to the Board for a further vote.

A supplementary estimate will now be introduced in the State Council next

week by the Minister of Health.

**Orphanage Inspector.**—It is proposed by the Government to appoint an inspector of orphanages.

The Orphanages Ordinance of 1941 was recently brought into operation. It provides for the appointment of inspectors of orphanages for the purpose of investigating the management by any orphanage and the condition and treatment of the infants.

The Executive Committee of Home Affairs recently decided that an appointment of an inspector should be made without delay, and the Board of Ministers, it is understood, approved of the proposal.

**D. R. O. Probationers.**—Tamil speaking area: Messrs. T. Chinniah, S. Sivagnanam, S. M. Theophilus, S. Suppramaniam and B.S. Richard.

All appointments will be subject to passing of a medical examination.

**Agricultural Corps.**—A batch of men from the Agricultural Corps had left Colombo on Monday morning by train for A'pura. These men will be engaged in work connected with the Apakulama food production scheme.

The Minister of Agriculture and the Civil Defence Commissioner inspected the camp on Sunday, when the Minister talked to the men on the importance of the work they were undertaking.

This scheme which is sponsored by the G.A., N.C. Province, will bring about 4,000 acres into cultivation.

A further batch of men will be sent there early next month.

**Shorter Medical Course.**—The British Medical Association (Ceylon Branch) has approved the proposal to reduce the course of studies for the M.B., B.S. examinations of the Ceylon University from six to five years, for the duration of the war.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University has been requested to take the necessary action to recast and rearrange the course of studies in the Faculty of Medicine. This, it is pointed out, can be given effect to if the four months' accumulated holidays a year are reduced to two months a year. A five year course can be put into operation without the curtailment of lectures and clinical studies.

It has been pointed out that there is urgent need for more doctors and that a shorter course with curtailed vacations would solve the problem.

**C.D.C. in Manipay.**—The residents in Manipay Parish gave a reception to Sir Oliver E. Goonetilleke, Civil Defence Commissioner on Saturday 29th July on his visit to the A.R.P. Centre and Free Milk Centre. Sir Oliver who was accompanied by the G.A. and Commissioner of War Savings was taken in procession under a flowered Canopy with music, displays of sword dances and Kolattam and was profusely garlanded on the way.

Mr. C. Thiagarajah, Chairman V.C. and Chief Air Raid Warden welcomed Sir Oliver and a petition from the Grow More Food Association of Manipay Parish was handed to him by Mr. S. Muthukumarasamy, Secretary of the Association.

The C.D.C. congratulated Manipay on its splendid achievements in War effort and thanked the residents for the reception given to him. He was highly pleased at the number of ladies available in Manipay to help in the Manipay Milk Centre.

A Parade of the A.R.P. Personnel of Valigam West under the command of Mr. C. Thiagarajah, Chief Air Raid Warden was inspected by Sir Oliver, C.D.C. at Vaddukoddai on the 29th July. He paid a glowing tribute to the organisation.

**Father Orlemanski in Rome.**—News has been received that through the services of Mr. Myron Taylor, personal representative of Mr. Roosevelt to the Holy See, Father Orlemanski has been received by the Holy Father and that his report of the conversation he had with M. Stalin is being examined by a special commission.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva & the Tamil Congress.**

The Editor, "Catholic Guardian," Jaffna.

Sir,—The report of the proceedings of the Conference for the formation of

the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress and the subsequent correspondence that appeared in the papers, including the Hon'ble Mr. Mahadeva's letter, were read with interest by many of your readers. I was painfully surprised at Mr. Mahadeva's statement that he had given pledges and signed memorials with "Mental Reservations." I was one of those who had worked hard in my own humble way for Mr. Mahadeva at the election for the Jaffna seat. The issue on which he fought the election was the principle that no single community should be in a position to exercise domination over the others. It was because he subscribed to this principle that I myself and many friends supported Mr. Mahadeva's candidature. At that time he did not say anything about his having "Mental Reservations." He represented to us and the electorate that he was fighting for this principle. Now after his elevation as Minister, he is openly speaking and writing against the principle to which he and all of us subscribed and we cannot at this time take any cognisance of his "Mental Reservations" which Mr. Mahadeva says he had. If Mr. Mahadeva is going to depart from his election pledges repeated from many platforms to thousands of trusting men and women, then he should in all fairness resign his seat and seek re-election on his new policy. If not, he must be honest enough to adhere to the solemn pledges given by him to the electorate which has invested him with the position which enables him to speak in a representative capacity. It is the clear duty of Mr. Mahadeva's electorate to express its disapproval of Mr. Mahadeva's present course of action and call upon him to resign his seat forthwith.

Mr. Mahadeva speaks of two things which are not compatible with each other—(1) Conscience (2) Mental Reservation. A person speaking of the sanctity of his conscience cannot in the same breath speak of Mental Reservations.

I would respectfully appeal to you to give your valuable opinion as to whether it would be proper for a member of the State Council elected on a definite political pledge given to the electorate to go behind the pledge and advocate a different line of action without seeking re-election on the basis of a changed policy.

Yours truly,  
S. SARAVANAMUTTU,  
Huftsdorp, 1st August.

II  
Sir,—Whilst we do not desire to enter into an unnecessary controversy with the Hon. Mr. Mahadeva, we cannot in the interest of the public and of truth leave unchallenged certain allegations made in a letter of his which appeared recently in the local press. He states that the brief summary of proceedings of the preliminary meet of All Tamils which we communicated to the Press has given "an incomplete and misleading picture of the proceedings, ... from which the Press was excluded." He further protests that an "unjustifiable aspersion" has been cast on him by his being "painted as one defying representative Tamil opinion."

Firstly, it was on Mr. Mahadeva's own motion and ardent pleading that the Press was excluded (on a count) in spite of our voiced opposition. It was decided that a summary of the report of the proceedings should be sent to the Press.

Secondly, you will agree that no half-column summary of the proceedings (which lasted for four hours) could possibly be full and complete.

You will admit Sir, that brevity always a virtue is to day a necessity especially in newsprint, because a paper (not "The Catholic Guardian") was constrained (no doubt from pressure of space) to condense even our brief summary in two places..... Thus our opening sentence "a large representative gathering of Tamils met....." was rendered by it as "a meeting of Tamils was held....." Again it was obliged to abridge the wording of our main resolution even at the cost of deleting the two most fundamental words "democratic equality."

Thirdly, Mr. Mahadeva says that our Press summary was "misleading but he has not been able to point to one single

word or sentence in our statement as being incorrect..... will Mr. Mahadeva even now please oblige?

It is a well known fact that Mr. Mahadeva was elected to the Jaffna seat on the basis of an election pledge that he would work for the attainment of a constitution in which no single community would be in a position to outvote or dominate all the others. This was the proposition to which Mr. Mahadeva has subscribed in memorials and manifestoes for over a period of 10 years. When therefore Mr. Mahadeva gave expression for the first time at this meeting, to the astounding proposition that all the manifestoes and pledges subscribed to by him in the past (and to which he owes his present seat in Council) were not now binding on him as he had signed them with "mental reservations," and again when in reply to a specific question from the audience, Mr. Mahadeva refused to be guided in the matter of Reforms by any mandate or direction the Tamil community as a whole might express through the Congress (or any other body of men) however representative it might be, we felt that these were new and startling propositions which merited publicity even in our short summary of the day's proceedings.

We might also mention that at an earlier stage of the meeting, Mr. Mahadeva had announced that having nearly reached the 60th year of his life he had made up his mind to retire shortly from active politics presumably on the termination of his present Ministerial office in 1946. Hence Mr. Mahadeva's defiant statement later that he was fully prepared to face the consequences of any wrong political action on his part, far from revealing a courageous politician, appears to be empty bravado.

We still hope that Mr. Mahadeva will see his way to co-operate with us in the furtherance of the objects of the Congress.  
(Continued on Page 4.)

**NOTICE**  
**ARRACK RENT SALES,**  
**MANNAR DISTRICT, 1944-45**  
Notice is hereby given that the sale of Arrack Rents, Mannar District will take place on 11 August 1944. Tenders should reach the Kachcheri, Mannar before 11 a.m. on the date fixed.  
Further particulars can be obtained on application at the Mannar Kachcheri.  
V. C. ARULANATHAM,  
for Asst. Govt. Agent, Mannar.  
1-8-1944.

**SOMETHING YOU CAN DO**  
If you cannot be a priest or a nun to spread wide the FAITH, you can at least to one thing—get one to join the Catholic Book Club, Ampitiya, Kandy. Do not put it off till tomorrow. Start straight away. You will be surprised to see that you find not only one, but quite a number ready to be members as you had been long ago. Getting others to join our growing list of members is CATHOLIC ACTION.

**STOP PRESS**  
**D. R. IS BACK AGAIN.**

Mr. D. R. Ramchand, Proprietor, Novelty Silk Store, Main Street, Jaffna, has recently returned from India, and has renovated his Textile Business, which though in a small scale this time, yet with a good selection to meet everybody's essentiality.

Mr. D.R. in order to make his old and numerous customers know about this has started a "SALE"—No doubt an "Anti-profiteering" Sale.

Although the times have changed and things are so scarce, resulting in tremendous Black-marketing, even the Govt., reviewing the acute shortage, is planning to Ration the available Textiles; yet this firm is offering their goods at comparatively lower prices than the controlled Market.

May the old and numerous customers, friends, patrons, and well-wishers of Mr. D.R. note this please—the SALE started by him is with a view to contact with them once again, and have the business relationship re-instated. They are urged, therefore, to avail themselves of this opportunity without delay.



**CORRESPONDENCE**

(Continued from Page 3).

gress and reflect its decisions both in the State Council and outside.

Let there be any misunderstanding in any honest mind as to the aims of the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress, de desire to state briefly that it is an organisation for the union of All-Tamils, whose object is not domination but co-operation with all true sons and friends of Lanka for the economic and social regeneration of this land and the early attainment of Swarajyam on the enlightened principles of democratic equality.

Yours truly,

E. M. V. NAGANATHAN,  
S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM,  
Joint Secretaries.

**III**

Sir,—As one who was present at the preliminary meeting of Tamils held at the Zahira College on Saturday the 22nd July and who subsequently read the communique issued to the Press by the Joint Secretaries and the letter written by Mr. Mahadeva thereon, will you permit me to make a few observations.

I might state that I was present not as a partisan though in fact after hearing Mr. Mahadeva's case against the Tamil demands I have been able without difficulty to make up my mind to join the Congress. It is somewhat disconcerting to find that Mr. Mahadeva, who initiated and persisted in the demand for the exclusion of the Press from the meeting and even stated that he would have to refrain from speaking if the representatives of the Press were allowed to report proceedings, should take exception to the authorised communique of the Secretaries without pointing to any single mis-statement or inaccuracy.

As a matter of public interest I must state that I was bewildered to find that Mr. Mahadeva who during the last 10 years of his public life was closely and intimately associated with what is now popularly known as the Tamil demand for balanced representation should seek now to resile from his position a short while after his entry into the homogeneous Board of Ministers. It is not uncommon for a politician to change his views. I have no doubt Mr. Mahadeva had good reasons to change his views when he resigned from the Ceylon National Congress of which he was one time Secretary. I have again no doubt Mr. Mahadeva had good reasons for the change of political views that enabled him to be Mr. Goonesinghe's lieutenant in the Labour Party and again for quitting that institution. Once again he must have had strong convictions when he acquiesced in the boycott of the present Constitution by the Jaffna Tamils in 1931 and again in demanding a fresh nomination day and entering the State Council in 1934 on the plank of balanced representation, a stand which he adhered to in the second election in 1936. So that it would not have been surprising if Mr. Mahadeva gave a reasoned recantation of his political principles. But when he says as he did at Saturday's meeting that in all the memorials and manifestoes that he signed he had mental reservations and that he used them as slogans one must confess that one is amazed at such a confession with its obvious consequences on the body politic. This horrible feeling of mine was further strengthened by his mental reservation par excellence, when he said that in demanding the Commission on the question of Reforms he hoped and prayed it would never arrive.

He said his demands in the past were slogans to rally the minorities. Is the demand for a Royal Commission with his mental reservations a slogan to rally his Ministerial colleagues?

Yours truly,

E. MUTTUKUMARU,  
Nugegoda, 30th July.

**IV**

Sir,—The correspondence in your columns regarding the proceedings of the Preliminary conference for the purpose of forming an All-Ceylon Tamil Congress was read with interest by many of your readers. The resolutions passed at the conference have been published. Reference has also been made to the

speech of Hon. Mr. Mahadeva who participated in the proceedings. The interests of the public will be best served by the publication of a report of the entire proceedings including the speeches made by the various speakers on that occasion. The issues involved relate to the future Government of the country and the welfare of the people of Ceylon. The organisers would best discharge their duty by the public if they would be pleased to publish a report of the entire proceedings and take the public into their confidence. The matter under reference is not one which concerns only those present at the conference.

Yours truly,

P. NAVARATNARAJAH,  
Wellawatte, 30th July.

**V**

Sir,—I was present at the preliminary meeting to form the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress which was held at the Zahira College Hall on Saturday the 22nd inst. I wish to state that the report of the proceedings sent by the Joint Secretaries to the Press though brief is accurate and is in no way misleading.

Yours truly,  
VICTOR JOSEPH,

Wattala, 29th July.

**Danger of Being Choked Out of Existence**

Addressing a gathering of over 1,000 men, women and children at the Uduvil Health and Food Carnival, Mr. Sam J. C. Kadirgamar warned Jaffna that if she did not begin to think in terms of large schemes and planned a progressive effort the people of the peninsula would be choked out of existence.

Mr. S. Natesan, M.S.C., presided Mr. Kadirgamar said that the Jaffna peninsula was overcrowded. Every inch of cultivable land was already under cultivation. The Jaffna man should now stop scratching his parappus and begin to think in terms of acres and square miles. A parappu was only one-sixteenth of an acre.

Five eighths of Ceylon was uncultivated. The Wannii district of the Northern Province was once under extensive and intensive cultivation. Modern scientific agricultural methods harnessed to the Jaffna man's enterprise and energy and a progressive government's assistance should make this jungle a smiling garden producing again the staple food of the people. This question should receive the immediate attention of the people, their representatives, in the State Council, and the Minister of Agriculture. If those concerned slept over it when war conditions ceased and Burma was retaken moves and counter-moves would be made to import cheap rice into Ceylon and the people would once again relapse into a state of coma. Each country must produce its staple food or perish.

If Jaffna did not begin to think in terms of large schemes and a planned progressive effort the people of the peninsula would be choked out of existence. The days of clerks and book-keepers, teachers and professional men, were gone. They had become consuming agents. The greatest need of the peninsula and the country as a whole was well-informed, well-trained producing agents who could make the Island self-respecting, independent and economically free. Jaffna had its vital contribution to make to the prosperity and general well-being of the country and the present was the time to begin.

**The North-Ceylon Workmen's Union**

A largely attended public meeting under the auspices of the above union was held on Sunday the 23rd inst. in the Ridgeway hall. Urban Council at 2 p.m. Mr. A. P. Thambyah presided and Mr. Subramanyam was elected secretary.

Mr. Thambyah addressing the vast assembly thanked those present for the ready response they gave to his invitation although the notice was very short.

The following resolutions were unanimously passed:

(1) This meeting thanks the Hon'ble Mr. A. Mahadeva for his bold stand,

single-handed, in the Board of Ministers for supporting the appointment of a Royal Commission before whom the workers can place all their disabilities.

(2) This meeting requests the State Council and the Home Committee to do away with the unnecessary and vexatious rules that prevent the legitimate tapping of toddy in certain areas.

(3) This meeting requests the Government to close all arrack taverns and foreign liquor taverns and restaurants in Theatres within certain distance from churches, temples, schools and public places.

(4) This meeting requests the Government to grant equal treatment in respect of textiles to the workers who do not belong to Co-operative Stores to enable them to get their needs on the same easy terms.

A vote of thanks to the chair brought the proceedings to a close.

**St. John Ambulance Brigade and Cadet Division**

More than 250 men, women, boys and girls were on parade on Monday the 24th inst. at the Town Hall grounds. The Ambulance Divisions of St. Joseph's Training School, the Govt. Training School, Kooly, the Nursing Division of the Women's Union Training School, Nallur, the Cadet Nursing Divisions of the Holy Family Convent, the Chundikuli Girls' College and the Cadet Ambulance Divisions of St. Patrick's College and St. Joseph's Practising School, Colombogam and the A.R.P. Casualty Service Squads, participated in the Parade. The Asst. Commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Ceylon, Dr. S.F. Chellappah, D.M.&S.S., accompanied by the District Superintendent, Mr. T. Sathasivam, J.P., M.B.E., inspected the Parade. Mr. Comas W. D. Alwines, the District Officer was in command of the Parade. The other officers on Parade were: Dr. E.P. Kanagasabai, Mr. S. Karthigesu, Miss V. Hutchins, Misses Antonia Saverimuttu, E. Cosmea, Margaret Bastin, Angelina Pillainayagam, Mary Lewis, E. Kelk, Y. Muttiyah and Messrs. J.K.R. Athonipillai, S. Emmanuel and A.J. Cook.

After the inspection the Asst. Commissioner distributed certificates to more than 150 who had passed the First Aid Examinations conducted by the St. John Ambulance Association.

Addressing the gathering, the Asst. Commissioner said that he was very pleased to see such a large turn out. It showed the great progress Jaffna had made in Ambulance work. The enthusiasm showed augured well for the future. To be of greater service to the community, it was proposed to distribute equipment to a number of them so that in the case of an accident, they may be in a position to render effective help. Continuing the Asst. Commissioner said that he should make special reference to valuable services of Dr. E. P. Kanagasabai. His personal services and his car were always at the disposal of the District Officer, Mr. Alwines. He was glad to hear that Dr. Kanagasabai had been placed in category 'A' so that he was sure of his tyres and tubes. This would give him greater opportunities to continue the good work he was doing. Three cheers were called for the Asst. Commissioner and lustily responded.

**Telegraphic Summary of News**

**POLISH PREMIER WAITS FOR STALIN'S INVITATION**

The Polish Prime Minister (Dr. Stanislaw Mickolajczyk) is waiting in Teheran for a direct invitation from Marshal Stalin, according to the usually well-informed correspondent of the London "Sunday Observer."

**STALIN INVITES POLISH PREMIER FOR TALK**

It is learned that the Polish Prime Minister left Teheran by air for Moscow on Sunday. It is understood that Marshal Stalin's direct invitation to him

to visit Moscow reached Dr. Mikolajczyk while he was in Cairo.

**ROMMEL: GERMAN DENIAL**

The German News Agency issued a denial of reports that Field Marshal Rommel has been wounded. When a representative of the German High Command enquired on Monday about Rommel's health he was told that "the Marshal is just shaving," stated the Agency.

**HINDU LEADERS "NO"**

Addressing a public meeting, Dr. S. Mokerjee the Working President of the All-India Hindu Mahasabha completely dissociated himself from acceptance of the Pakistan scheme involved in the offer made by Mr. Rajagopalachariar to Mr. Jinnah. He said that if they started breaking India into fragments, on religious or linguistic or racial considerations, the entire national fabric would fall to pieces and they would remain in perpetual foreign bondage.

**WANTED**

for Service in Ceylon  
**Tamils for R.A.S.C. Labour Company.**

Apply in person at the Central Recruiting Office, 399, Galle Road, Kollupitiya on any weekday between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

RICE RATION BOOKS MUST BE PRODUCED.

**Chief Recruiting Officer, Ceylon**

**Order Nisi**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MANNAR  
Testamentary } No. 673  
Jurisdiction }

In the matter of the Last Will and testament of Mohideenpichai Mohideen Meraisaibo, late of Moor Street, Mannar.

Deceased.

Kappalusan Nachia alias Salka Umma widow of Mohamedo Abdul Rahiman of Moor Street, Mannar.

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Matharamohideen Leyer Usan.
2. Mohamedo Abdul Rahiman Sahul Hamid.
3. Mohamedo Abdul Rahiman Ravula Umma, all of Moor Street, Mannar.

Respondents.

This matter of the petition of Kappal Usan Natchi alias Salka Umma widow of Mohamedo Abdul Rahiman coming on for disposal before A.C.Z. Wijeyeratne, Esq., District Judge on the 3rd of July 1944, in the presence of Mr. M. M. H. Marikar, Proctor, on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated 3rd July, 1944 having been read.

It is ordered that the will of Mohideenpichai Mohideen Meraisaibo, the deceased abovenamed, dated 24th July, 1941 and now deposited in this Court be and the same is hereby declared proved and the petitioner as the widow of the brother of the deceased is entitled to have letters of administration to the estate of the deceased with copy of the will annexed unless the respondents or any other person shall on or before the 14th day of August 1944 show sufficient cause to the contrary.

It is further ordered that the 1st respondent be appointed guardian-additem over the 2nd and 3rd respondent for the purpose of representing them in the proceedings unless the respondents shall on or before the said date show sufficient cause to the contrary.

Signed the 22nd day of July, 1944.  
A. C. Z. WIJAYARATNE,  
District Judge.

**NOTICE**

Distribution of Subsidiary Foodstuffs in Jaffna District.

Arrangements have been made to distribute the curyustuffs mentioned below at the rates specified against each commodity to each consumer not attached to a Co-operative retail store from Monday, the 7th Aug. to 13th August 1944 (both days inclusive).

1. Gram Dhall 2 oz. per head.
2. Split Lentils 1 oz. per head.
3. Coriander 1 oz. per head.
4. B. onions 1/2 oz. " "

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

(Sgd.) E.B. TISSEVERASINGHE  
for G. A. N. P.