

The Catholic Guardian

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

Telegrams: "GUARDIAN", JAFFNA.

REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON.

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

Telephone: NO. 100.

Vol 69, No. 35.

JAFFNA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1944.

PRICE: 10 CENTS.

THE POPE AND THE MISSIONS

ADDRESS TO MEMBERS OF THE PONTIFICAL MISSIONARY SOCIETIES

On June 24th Pope Pius XII received members of the Pontifical Missionary Societies and of the Congregation de Propaganda Fide.

Addressing those present, the Holy Father said that their presence had a particular significance. Whilst the most gigantic battles in history were still raging, the international character of the missions, and the spirit of brotherly collaboration prevailing among them, symbolized the universality of the Catholic Church. The impartiality and universality of faith and love, transcending all battlefields, frontiers, continents and oceans, aiming at extending the frontiers of the Faith to embrace the whole world: here was the antithesis to the wars dividing mankind.

The Holy Father spoke then of the astonishingly rapid growth of the missions during recent years. "Our immediate predecessor created no fewer than 221 new mission districts. The number of missionaries was, during his reign, doubled. Doubled also was the number of native clergy, and tripled was the number of children in the missionary schools. In 1889, the year of the foundation of the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, there were 870 native priests in the mission-fields, and 2,700 native seminary students. Within fifty years these figures increased eight-fold...."

"That is why We now, in this wide conflict, again look into the future with a steady eye, and for even stronger reasons: because the work meanwhile done has been conscientiously based on giving the missions a character not foreign but corresponding to the countries of their activity. Hence the need for native clergy and students, and hence the principle that characteristic native customs should be upheld so long as they are compatible with the Divine Law. The missionary is the apostle of Jesus Christ. His task is not to transplant European culture into the missionary lands, but to make people who have in some cases a thousand-years-old culture, ready and able to adopt the elements of Christian life and behaviour. These elements of Christian life are quite easily and naturally harmonized with any sane and healthy culture, to

which they will give the power of full blossoming. Native Catholics must be truly members of God's family and citizens of His Kingdom, without thereby ceasing to remain citizens of their earthly motherlands. It is the great aim of the missions to introduce the Church into new regions, and to let her take root, so that one day she will be able to live and to develop without the assistance of missionaries. The work lives not for its own ends; it retires as soon as it has reached its aim."

Each year 800,000 people are received into the Church through labours in the foreign missions, says an announcement by the S. Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith.

Other statistics, reports Burke Walsh N.C.W.C. war correspondent, show that 22,000 priests, 9,000 brothers, 53,000 nuns, 76,000 teachers, 92,000 catechists and 33,000 other assistants are collaborating with the heads of the mission areas.

Despite the war the Sacred Congregation, through the establishment of new areas, has raised the number of ecclesiastical jurisdictions dependant upon it to 560.

Seventeen jurisdictions of the Latin Rite are dependent upon S. Congregation for the Oriental Church.

Also in the mission areas there are 97,000 schools attended by more than 5,000,000 pupils; 1,000 hospitals with 75,000 bed-capacity, 3,000 dispensaries annually helping 30,000,000 people; 2,000 orphanages housing millions of children; hundreds of leprosaria and institutes for the aged; 76,000 churches and chapels; 400 seminaries for native clergy and social works in every field to meet the needs of the entire population of the world mission fields.

Due to the war, some mission areas have been cut off from communications. In others workers have suffered death, imprisonment and banishment, and there has been no hope of sending additional workers or financial aid. Nevertheless the Holy See has continued to surmount many of these obstacles.

A VERDICT ON MONTE CASSINO

Colonel Francis A. Markoe, a staff officer in General Clark's Fifth Army at the time of the bombing of the Abbey of Monte Cassino, who is now home in United States has condemned that operation in an interview given in May to the "St. Louis Post-Dispatch." He said that it was not only "militarily useless" but was actually harmful to the Allied campaign, since besides blasting "a beautiful Christian shrine into oblivion," it gave the Germans "the right to occupy the Abbey site, which before the bombing they had not used; and entrenched in that advantageous position they have been able to checkmate our advance. They have also taken advantage of the bombing to tell the Christian world what monsters the Americans are in destroying age-old Christian shrines uselessly.....In answer to re-

ports published after the monastery bombing that left the impression that General Clark ordered its destruction, I want to say that the order came from a higher authority than General Clark, and was issued despite his recommendation against it. Criticism of him for the job is misdirected."

The American staff officer's statement about Monte Cassino is one about which we hope Members of Parliament will ask for official elucidations; which, now that Cassino is so very far behind the battle front, can hardly be withheld. It was always, on the face of it, so obvious that it was the bill and not the monastery which was valuable to the enemy, whether for observation or artillery, that we have not heard any plausible alternative to the hypothesis that the High Command ordered the

THE TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

THE ESSENTIAL UNDERLYING POSTULATE

To-day, as in 1917-18 the problem of the punishment of war crimes is being eagerly discussed in the papers; the House of Lords gave two days to the debate on it and a newly formed United Nations War Crimes Commission deals with it; while the Moscow Conference published a resolution on the subject.

After the last war efforts to solve the problem failed completely, as is well known, although Articles 227 and 228 of the Versailles Treaty had envisaged the trials of "persons accused of having committed acts in violation of the laws and customs of war." Clear definitions of these crimes, however, were as conspicuously lacking as was any regulation concerning the legal proceedings. Eventually the whole tiresome matter was left to the Weimar Republic, and the German Courts were required to deal with approximately 900 individual cases collected and forwarded by the Allies. The whole question was finally lost in the sands.

Today, stimulated by the general anger at such episodes as the murder of the fifty officers from Stalag Luft III, there is an urgent demand that similar mishandling shall be avoided this time, and that the matter shall be earnestly and thoroughly approached. We do not intend here to discuss the psychological question of how far the genuine moral demand for justice may be influenced by rather sinister impulses of vengeance and retaliation. There is an abundance of evidence that unparalleled outrages and bestialities have been committed by the Germans all over Europe, and there cannot be any doubt that the claim is perfectly justified that those who have committed these atrocities should account for them. The problem with which alone we propose here to deal is: Why was it that this justified demand was not met after the last war, and why is it that once more today a certain hesitation, an embarrassment and even helplessness, clearly appear in all discussions of this subject?

NO PROBLEM TO ORDINARY MAN

To the man in the street the matter does not seem complicated or controversial. He knows that crimes and cruelties have been and are still being committed, and he rightly feels that those responsible for them should be punished. There is no problem to him. His outlook, however, is apparently not shared by the experts. Lawyers, political scientists and experts on international

destruction for psychological rather than for tactical reasons, to prove to the troops fighting a desperate battle for Cassino that they were not being handicapped by any secret arrangements. The Abbot of Monte Cassino and the High Command are now able to meet; and we think that their conflict of testimony should be cleared up, and that for the good name of the Benedictine Order the Abbot should not continue in so distinguished an office if his statements are not accepted as true; but that amends should be made to him if they are.—*Tablet*.

law hold very different views on this subject. There is a discord between the simple and natural sense of law and order and the prevailing doctrines of jurisprudence and political science.

TO THE EXPERTS THERE EXISTS A PROBLEM

The gravest responsibility lies in the guilt of having arbitrarily initiated the war; but that act is not in a legal sense a war crime, because political actions are not covered by criminal law in so far as they are legitimate in themselves. But even those acts which under normal circumstances are covered by criminal law, such as murder, arson, rape, etc., cannot be dealt within the framework of ordinary proceedings, if they have been committed under war conditions, in connection with military actions, by occupying forces and in occupied countries. The whole of a normal national system of law is thrown out of gear by war and occupation. The problem arises of which national criminal law is applicable and which law courts are competent. According to uncontested conceptions of international law, the sovereignty of the occupied country is suspended or restricted by the military occupation, and the occupying forces are exclusively subject to the national laws and jurisdiction of their own country. (Otherwise British or American soldiers at present in Italy would be subject to Italian law and jurisdiction). The prosecution according to the local laws of soldiers having committed crimes in an occupied country would mean, therefore, a downright contradiction of every modern conception of law and sovereignty. The same is, of course, true with regard to jurisdiction. The application of these principles in the present case, however, means just what everybody is anxious to avoid. If these uncontested principles were applied, the prosecution of war crimes committed by Germans in occupied countries would have to be left to German law and jurisdiction. German laws, which sanction, or at least tolerate, the shooting of hostages, gas vans and extermination squads, would not promise very satisfactory results. But to prosecute the Germans according to national laws other than German would mean a denial and breach of fundamental principles of established conceptions of law. These considerations render the subject a highly delicate and complicated one.

MODERN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AT FAULT

On the one hand public moral sense demands, in the name of law and order, that revolting atrocities should be punished; and on the other hand a wall of deeply-rooted, fundamental and axiomatic principles seems to bar—also in the name of law and order—the way to any effective proceeding. This manifest discordance is most significant, and casts a striking light upon the moral and intellectual crisis of our times. If we try to fathom the depth of it we shall find that the real issue lies in the very roots of modern political philosophy and the modern conception of law. These roots run down to two fundamental principles: the one is the modern conception of national sovereignty, and the second—inseparable from and complementary to the first—is the positivist conception of law.—*Tablet*.

THANKSGIVING

My grateful thanks to St. Anthony for finding my lost jewels.

MARGARET RAJAKARIER.

"Aria Lodge,"
Jaffna, 12-9-44.

Church Calendar

SEPTEMBER 1944

FRI.	...15 Seven Dol.
SAT.	...13 S. Cyprian, M.
SUN.	...17 16th Sunday after Pentecost. Stig. S. Francis.
MON.	...18 S. Joseph Cup.
TUES.	...19 S. Januarius.
WED.	...20 S. Eustachius.
THURS.	...21 S. Matthew.
FRI.	...22 S. Thomas, V.

The Catholic Guardian

SEPTEMBER 15TH 1944

JAFFNA STANDS UNITED FOR BALANCED REPRESENTATION

Last week we complimented the organisers of the meeting called for the purpose of inaugurating the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress on the splendid success they achieved. That success lay not only in the thousands who responded to their invitation and in the enthusiasm that was manifested but especially in the strength and the depth and we might almost say in the universality of feeling that has come over Jaffna regarding the debated question of Balanced Representation. To give an instance of this remarkable change:—to the *Morning Star* Balanced Representation was anathema. Our contemporary was for national unity and responsible government at all costs without further delay. Only a fortnight ago, the *Star* was beaming with pleasure that another local paper the *Hindu Organ* had come to share its views on the question of representation. But now the same journal while taking comfort in the thought that the position it took up was ideally the correct one has to admit that that position has become impossible in the present circumstance. "We must now," says the *Star*, "close our ranks and show a united front when the Commission arrives." That is exactly the position all over the Peninsula. Sitting on the fence and indulging in political acrobatics are now things of the past. When we wrote last week that even the man-in-the-street would not now have anything less than fifty-fifty it was no exaggeration. When he is told that the major community would singly have fifty seats and all the minorities combined would be allotted fifty seats, he thinks the scheme to be quite just and fair. It commends itself to his common sense. So that, what we may call the mass movement of opinion in favour of Balanced Representation is no blind follow-the-leader development.

The *Morning Star* was harping on the 'larger question of responsible government.' Responsible to whom? To the 75 per cent. of illiterate and semi-literate electorate? We have seen how it had been exploited by artful politicians? Respon-

sible government at the present stage to be beneficial to the country must be protected by sufficient safeguards and Balanced Representation is the chief of them. Our Constitution should be so framed as to be fool-proof, that is to say, it should not allow any racial or religious fanatics to disturb the peace of the country. Another reason for the large-scale landslide, so to say, in favour of Balanced Representation is the attitude of the Board of Ministers, but with one exception, to the Royal Commission. The crime committed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies is the expression of his will that the Commission should consult with the Minorities. The Ministers would allow no such consultation and if any such consultation should take place they would boycott the Commission. This attitude shows in what light they regard the Minorities. It is unthinkable how a body of responsible men could be capable of such a capital blunder.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Why Murder is on the Increase?—Mr. Justice Cannon presiding over the Supreme Court Sessions in Jaffna last week addressed an accused as follows after a three day's trial:

"The jury by their verdict have shown that they do not believe that you were there at all. They are responsible. You are discharged."

And he added:

"In this case two witnesses gave evidence for the prosecution. They said they were eye-witnesses to the tragedy and they saw you held the deceased round the body whilst the absconding man advanced with a knife and stabbed the deceased, killing him almost instantaneously."

"There was no evidence in the case suggesting that either of these witnesses was a person other than a witness of irreproachable character, nor were any inconsistent statements of any material value in their evidence proved."

"For the defence you did not go into the witness box. An eye-witness was called for your defence and he had given evidence before the Magistrate from which any reasonable person could say that that witness was deliberately suppressing evidence. In view of what I have told you, you will consider yourself a very lucky man because in my view and I tell the jury so, the verdict is against the weight of evidence."

This remark coming from so cautious and careful a Judge as Mr. Justice Cannon is damning indeed.

What to Think of This?—A strange letter reached us during the week but we have decided not to publish it as it gives names of place and persons which we are not prepared to divulge at this stage. Our correspondent's story in short is this. In a certain locality a certain minor headman registered 10,000 names instead of the 6,000 and made provision for 10,000 Rice Ration Books while actually only 6,000 books were wanted. He distributed the 6,000 R. R. Books among the people of the locality and sold the remaining 4,000 Books at Rs. 10 each realising thus Rs. 40,000. Of this sum, he spent Rs. 10,000 in taking protective measures and shared the balance of Rs. 30,000 with his friends. This is the story. How much truth there is in it

we do not know but the correspondent adds this extraordinary detail:

"These facts were brought to the notice of the Authorities concerned. Some of these false R. R. Books were also purchased and sent to them in proof of the allegations made. But no one has done his duty in taking disciplinary action in this matter."

Let us hope that an inquiry will be held and the matter, disposed of. Such rumours spreading among the people would tend to demoralize them and make them lose confidence in the Authorities. The above allegation only shows to what extent the rationing scheme could be abused by unscrupulous persons and such persons are not wanting. When a scheme is liable to such abuse it must not be resorted to unless it is really necessary and Mr. Corea will do well to think many times before he makes up his mind to sanction rationing in textiles.

Consecration of St. Mary's at Kayts

Elaborate arrangements are being made at Kayts to celebrate the Consecration ceremony of the marble altar and church of St. Mary's on September 17, 1944. His Lordship Dr. J.A. Guyomar, O.M.I., Bishop of Jaffna will officiate and he will be assisted by a large number of the clergy.

The church was built by Father Leonardo Ribeiro, a Goanese Oratorian in 1789 and during the last 155 years it has undergone many transformations especially during the time of Revd. Fr. H. Perrussel, O.M.I. who was in charge of the Parish in 1921-23.

The ceremony will last about 4 hours but it may be asked why such elaborate ceremonial and the answer must be given in the words of King David "The work is great for the house is prepared not for man but for God."

Consecration is a rite reserved to a Bishop, who by the solemn anointing with holy chrism and in the prescribed form, dedicates a building to the service of God, thereby raising it in perpetuity to a higher order. The blessing of a church is a less solemn rite, it consists in the sprinkling with holy water and the recital of prayers, thus making it a sacred place though not necessarily 'in perpetuum.'

SPECIAL BLESSING

There is also a special blessing attached to prayers in a Consecrated Church. Owing to special circumstances not many churches in Ceylon have been consecrated.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Chilaw was the first Church consecrated in Ceylon. The ceremony was performed by Bishop Sameria on November 16, 1860.

The chapel of the Immaculate Conception in Jaffna known as the Bishop's Chapel was consecrated by the same Prelate on April 14, 1863.

The church at Marawila was consecrated by Bishop Bonjean on February 2, 1875.

St. Sebastian's church at Moratuwa was consecrated by Archbishop Coudert on January 19, 1925.

The magnificent Church of Our Lady of Refuge, Jaffna was consecrated by Bishop Guyomar on September 8, 1928.

St. Mary's Cathedral at Trincomalee was consecrated by Bishop Robichez on March 7, 1937.

St. Lucia's Cathedral, Colombo was consecrated by Archbishop Masson on December 13, 1938.

The Church of Our Lady of the Rosary at Madhu was consecrated by Bishop Guyomar on June 25, 1944.

P. Q. CHRISTIAN.

All-Ceylon Tamil Congress

INAUGURAL MEETING

THE SPEECH OF MR. G. G. PONNAMBALAM

Moving the adoption of the aims and objects of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam said that although the Tamils were the second largest community in the Island it was a shame they had no single organisation yet to speak on their behalf with one voice. The Europeans, the Burghers, the Muslims, the Indians and the Sinhalese had their own congress and associations. But in a country where the race which ruled the Island like lions were now in the position of monkeys. Did not Gandhi say that in India the Tamils were those who fought hardest for Swaraj? What were the Tamils doing in Ceylon?

The Sinhalese thought they had already seven-tenths self-government and were now trying to get full tenths and rule the Island without caring a jot for the minorities. The Tamils would fight for Swarajyam and not for Sinhalese rajyam and they would not be slaves either under the British or the Sinhalese.

He, the speaker, was sometimes called an enemy of the Sinhalese. No bigger falsehood was ever uttered. Now and then he went to the Jaffna Courts for some cases, but he had his largest practice in the Courts of the Sinhalese districts. How could he be an enemy of the Sinhalese people? He was certainly an enemy of the politicians who wanted to trample his countrymen—the Tamils. The ministers and the newspapers supporting them would never speak the truth. If the Sinhalese people came to know the truth and what was going on behind the scenes, they would be the first to forsake their leaders. The Wijewardene Press never gave the full truth of what happened in the country. For example, there were at least 3,000 men in that hall that day. There was only one voice howling. But it might be represented the next day that half the people were opposed to the first resolution. He did not blame the reporters. They had to work for their pay. It was all due to want of unity. The "Times of Ceylon" was doing immense service to the minorities, but unfortunately its Jaffna representative sent to it only carbon copies of the reports sent to the Wijewardene Press.

The Ministers wanted to send their own scheme of Reforms to the Secretary of State. When the members representing the minorities in the Council wanted to know what the proposals were, they were called in by groups and not told what the proposals were. He, the speaker, asked them whether they were practising the *Divide and Rule* policy. If they really wanted Swaraj would they have ignored the twenty lakhs of minorities? Therefore, the Council members representing the minorities, excepting two (whose names the speaker need not mention) sent a cable to the Secretary of State showing up the hole and corner methods of the Ministers, and now they all knew that the apple-cart had been upset.

That was the reason why they now started the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress to speak with one voice for the Tamils of Ceylon. The real reason why the Sinhalese leaders objected to the Ceylon Tamils allying with the Indian Tamils was their fear that the Ceylon Tamils would grow stronger. With whose help was Mr. Rajakulendram of Madras elected to the State Council? It was through the Indian votes he won. Again Mr. James Rutnam was defeated at N'Elia by only a thousand and odd votes. Who gave him that overwhelming support? It was the Indians.

The speaker then gave the populations of several Soviet States and showed how each Soviet sent an equal number of members to the Supreme Soviet irrespective of size or population, and as a result every small minority in Russia felt that the whole country was theirs, and how they fought bitterly against a common foe.

THE SPEECH OF MR. K. BALASINGHAM

ON BALANCED REPRESENTATION
Mr. K. Balasingham, former member of the Executive and Legislative Coun-

cils, on rising was greeted with continued applause from all parts of the hall for full three minutes. He said, that he fully supported the resolution as he thought it proper that the power should be divided half and half between the majority and the minority communities. He was always of that opinion but the Donoughmore Constitution decided it otherwise. The result was that the minorities, although one-third in strength of population, got only one-fifth or one-tenth the number of seats in the State Council. That was wrong.

It was also wrong to bring in the examples of other countries. In America there were 15 million Negroes and not one was a member under territorial representation. So in South Africa no Indian or Boer had been a member. Pure and simple territorial representation was not the best way to do justice. The fifty-fifty formula was a very reasonable demand. The speaker appealed to all to yield to that view so that they could present a united front when the Royal Commission came to Ceylon.

They all wanted to reach the same goal, but only by different routes. Let them be united and travel by one route. The fifty-fifty proportion would be good for the Sinhalese as well. As there were now, communal feeling were running very high.

It was in places outside Jaffna the feeling was at its highest. Therefore in the speaker's opinion, a settlement at fifty fifty would tend to the growth of unity between the majority community and the minority communities.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Jaffna Diocesan Union.—Under the auspices of the Jaffna Diocesan Union an interesting lecture on "Say it With a Laugh", was delivered by Revd. Fr. J. B. Gregory, O.M.I. Chevalier S. Arulanantham, the Vice-President occupied the Chair. Mr. M. Jacob, the Secretary thanked the lecturer for the interesting talk.

Boy Scouts Fund.—Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, G.A., N.P., President, Jaffna Boys Scouts Association notifies that a Public Meeting will be held at 5-30 p.m. on Wednesday the 20th Sept. 1944, at the Town Hall, Jaffna, for the purpose of devising ways and means of Collecting Subscriptions for the Boys Scouts Development Fund, inaugurated by His Excellency Sir Andrew Caldecot, Governor and Chief Scout, Ceylon. All are cordially invited to be present.

Mental Home Opened.—At the invitation of Dr. S.F. Chellappah, D.M. & S.S., Mr. Geo. E. de Silva, Minister of Health on Sunday declared open the new Mental Home at Pelawatte.

The Mental Home is ideally situated on a site of 500 acres of land, 15 miles from Matugama, and the roads and buildings so far constructed have cost the Medical Department Rs. 185,000. The "mild" cases at Angoda will be removed here gradually and the patients will be engaged in occupational therapy. Agriculture will be the chief means of occupation for the patients for the present but as time passes, carpentry and farming will be added.

Dr. Chellappah and Dr. C. O. Perera dwelt on the curative possibilities of mental diseases & mentioned that one of the greatest obstacles was the fact that patients did not seek treatment in the early stages.

Social Welfare Work.—In accordance with the proposal made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies some time ago that two candidates from Ceylon should be sent to England for a two-year course in Social Welfare Work at the London School of Economics and Political Science, the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce has, it is learned, recommended the grant of the scholarships to Mr. B. A. Seneviratne (of the Labour Department) and Mr. S.J. Jegasothy.

Internal Postal Censorship.—It is announced that military operational security may, as in England, from time to time require a censorship of all correspondence between one area of the Island and another. It will not be possible to give notice of the time or place of such censorship, but every endeavour will be made not to interfere more than is absolutely necessary with the speed and punctuality of the post. All letters

examined in transit will be labelled "Opened by the Censor."

Big Industrial Group Formed in Midlands.—It is understood that a large industrial group representing fifty industries has been formed in the Midlands as a result of a conference convened to make a special study of the potentialities of India as a market or manufacturing extension for their engineering and other products.

Bursaries at the University.—

The grant of bursaries for the year to deserving students of the University has been almost completed, and a total of 175 students are to receive financial assistance in this way. The total expenditure involved in the grant of these bursaries is said to be over Rs. 57,000.

The 175 bursaries have been distributed in this way: 57 to students in the Faculty of Medicine; 57 to students in the Faculty of Oriental Studies and in the Faculty of Arts; 47 to students in the Faculty of Science; and 14 to First M.B. students.

H.S.C. Examination.—It has been decided by the Executive Committee of Education that the above examination should be conducted by the University of Ceylon in 1945, since the Department of Education has not been able to draw up the syllabus and make the necessary arrangements. The Department, however, will hold the examination from 1946.

Fatal Collision.—On Sunday evening at about 5-30 p.m. a military lorry going towards Palali from the Jaffna town and a bus going along the Stanley Road came into collision with at the Ariakulam junction, and two men seated in the front seat of the bus met with instantaneous death as a result of the bus being overturned. Two or three others are said to have been badly injured.

J.S.C. Examination.—At a meeting of the Headmasters of Jaffna schools on Saturday last, it was decided that the J.S.C. examination should be conducted by the Education Officer in the North from next December. A Board of Examiners will select qualified teachers from various schools in the North to correct the scripts. The fee will be raised to five rupees. The question as to whether the Director of Education or the Education Officer should sign the certificates has not been decided yet.

Big Fire at Neeraviady, Jaffna.

—On information received by telephone from Neeraviady at 12-30 p.m. on 8-2-44, the Company Fire Officer, Mr. J. R. Santhipillai with the assistance of the Sectional Fire Officer Mr. K. T. Jayasingham, the Hony. Officer Mr. C. Rajakarier, and a crew of men promptly proceeded to the scene of fire and got to work from a nearby well. The fire was brought under control within 20 minutes. The timely arrival of the Fire Service prevented the fire from spreading. The supposed cause of fire was a spark from the kitchen. The estimated damage is about Rs. 400.

Franco Offers a Ship.—General Franco has placed a Spanish ship at the disposal of the Holy See for the transport of foodstuffs, which the Vatican has stored at Barcelona, to a port near Rome as soon as the necessary permission can be obtained, announces the "Osservatore Romano."

MANNAR—MULLAITIVU

From the Budget Speech of Mr. J. Tyagaraja

I would like now to deal with the requirements of my electorate. There is no part of this Island which is in a more neglected and deplorable condition than the Mannar-Vavuniya-Mullaitivu District. The pitiable condition of that District affords a telling indictment against the party in power which was responsible for providing for the needs of that area in the last decade or so. The greatest justification for the misgivings and apprehensions of the minorities is afforded by the plight of the unfortunate people of Mannar-Mullaitivu. Sir, if a fraction of the vast sums of money which had been expended by, say the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, on his food drives in other parts of the Island had been expended on this area, there would have been prosperity and contentment instead of

desolation and death in that part of the Island. What do we find there today? We find abandoned tanks, uncultivated fields, wretched roads and a dwindling malaria stricken population. If this state of affairs is permitted to continue much (Continued on Page 4.)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul St. James' Conference, Jaffna

The Annual General Meeting of St. James' Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was held on Sunday the 10th inst. after the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at St. James' Boys' School. Very Revd. Fr. J. Emilianus Pillai, O.M.I., Vicar-General presided. Besides the members of the Conference, Members of the Particular Council, representatives of different town conferences, Ladies of Charity, Legion of Mary, Confraternities of the Sacred Heart and Immaculate Conception and a good number of the public, there were present Very Revd. Fr. P.M. Francis, O.M.I., Parish Priest and Rev. Fr. E. Pomykol, O.M.I., Director.

After the reading of the reports and the presentation of the statement of accounts of the Conference and the Karayoor Marriage Provident Society, Mr. R.J. Paul, President of the Particular Council, Chev. S. Arulanantham and the Chairman spoke. Mr. Paul urged the members to increase the help to the poor by collecting more funds and cautioned them that whatever works they undertake, they must be done well. Chev. S. Arulanantham delivered an interesting lecture on "Can we too become Saints." The Chairman thanked the members for the work they have done and suggested three things (1) to increase the number of membership (2) to increase the fervour by prayer and (3) to organise a Housing Scheme.

In the end Mr. L. Gratian proposed a vote of thanks to the chair and to all who had graced the occasion.

REPORT FOR 1942 AND 1943

Gentlemen,

We have pleasure to submit our annual report and statement of accounts for 1942 and 1943 to our benefactors and well-wishers. It is regretted that owing to unforeseen circumstances, the report was not issued in 1942.

MEMBERSHIP: We have 9 members on the roll and during the two years there was a marked change in the membership. It is the duty of every Conference to recruit proper type of young men but it is really a problem nowadays when many are wanting in Faith and Charity. We are endeavouring to recruit true spirited Vincentians and we are certain that God will help us in our endeavour. It is not in numbers we should count but in quality and action. There were 102 meetings held with an average attendance of 6.

RELIEF: During the part two years 11 families consisting of 45 people, adults and children were helped regularly, the active members visiting them weekly and exhorting them in their troubles and participating in their joys. Temporary helps were given for re-thatching houses, for defraying funeral expenses and for starting small trades.

NIGHT ADORATION: We regret to mention that the attendance is not quite satisfactory. With a view to remind the devotees in the different parts of the Town we have decided to insert a small notice in the English and Tamil "Guardian" monthly. We kindly ask the different Confraternities, Conferences and Catholic Associations of the Town to get more volunteers for this pious devotion. We wish to thank here Rev. Fr. L.J. Augustine, O.M.I., for his ever ready service to preach and conduct the general Holy Hour held at the start, even at half an hour's notice.

CHILDREN'S DAY MASS CRUSADE: There are 75 children on the roll with an average attendance of 30. Instructions enumerated with examples were given to them occasionally for five or ten minutes on Holy Mass, Holy Eucharist, Good Conduct etc. In spite of these hard times, the annual prize was given to them. Every month some benefactors send bread and the children are delighted to receive these along with other gifts given occasionally. The chil-

dren never fail to pray daily for their benefactors. It will be advisable if the Teachers of both schools and parents took care to send their children regularly for Mass.

The Karayoor Marriage Provident Society, which our Society was running for the benefit of the Catholics of Jaffna Diocese has been registered under the Societies' Ordinance and a special report is issued separately. Owing to the pressure of work of the different activities of the Conference, we regret we are unable to issue a report now on the Penny Savings Fund, the services of which are greatly appreciated and patronized both by the poor and the rich alike.

The Particular Council has donated on two occasions Rs. 70.00 in time of our need and we are very much thankful for it and for their kind advice.

We are very much beholden to our Lordship the Bishop who is taking a keen interest in our undertakings and is very solicitous about the various activities. We offer our sincere thanks to our genial parish priest Very Revd. Fr. P.M. Francis, O.M.I., and Revd. Fr. E. Pomykol, O.M.I., our Director, who jointly direct our activities and to our benefactors and especially to those who contributed their mite to St. Philomena's Fund.

THE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES' CONFERENCE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

RECEIPTS	Rs. cts.
To contribution from subscribers	89 21
" Collections at weekly meetings	45 87
" St. Philomena's mite offerings	148 07
" Hire on benches	35 00
" Sale of books proceeds	140 11
" New Year Collection	62 29
" Children's Daily Mass Crusade Collection	53 63
" Particular Council donation	70 00
	644 18
" Balance on hand on 1-1-42	19 84
	664 02
EXPENSES	
By relief in cash	382 26
" Printing and stamps	26 32
" Re-thatching houses and medicine	20 00
" Cloth	42 24
" Funeral expenses and trade	44 65
" Mass for benefactors etc.	4 50
" Daily Mass Crusade prizes etc.	58 63
" Newspapers, manazines and books for Reading Room	71 52
" Malabar Relief Fund	20 00
	670 12
" Debit balance on 31-9-43	6 10
	664 02

The Karayoor Marriage Provident Society Ltd. Report for 1942-43 will appear in our next issue.

OBITUARY

We regret to record the death which occurred in the early hours of Wednesday morning (the 6th inst.) at her residence at Martyn Road, Jaffna of Louisa Anantham widow of Mr. John Phillips, Registrar of Lands, Kandy. The deceased who was 90 years of age at the time of her death carried with her the air of old world charm and courtliness of a past generation. She was a devout Catholic and rarely missed her daily Mass and Communion till age confined her to the house.

She was the last surviving child of the late Henry Martyn, the foremost scholar and Catholic of his generation and sister of James Henry Martyn, Editor of the "Catholic Guardian" and John Henry Martyn, author and journalist who also were towers of strength to the Church.

The funeral obsequies which took place in the evening were presided over by Revd. Frs. S.L. Joseph, O.M.I., and J. F. Xavier, O.M.I.

The deceased leaves behind Mrs. M. B. Francis and Mrs. A. S. Johnpillai (daughters) and grand children and great grand children to bemoan her loss. Her sons Messrs. J. R. and A. E. Phillips predeceased her. R. I. P.

MANNAR—MULLAITIVU

(Continued from Page 3)

longer, even the dwindling population will eventually disappear. The death rate of the district is about the highest in the Island and there are repeated references to this fact in the Administration Reports of Asst. Government Agents of that area.

Now, Sir, I would like to go more specifically into these matters. I would take the question of roads first. The so-called P.W.D. roads in the Mannar District are nearly sandy tracks rather than roads. Access to important villages is cut off during the wet season of the year. For three months of the year the villages are completely cut off because of the impassable condition of these roads. To give you one or two illustrations. There is a very important village partly Muslim partly Tamil called Vidathalivu, and the road leading to that village is the Mannar-Pooneryn road which is a P.W.D. road. This road is badly worn out. There are pits and trenches on that road which becomes pools of water during wet weather with the consequence that it is impossible for any kind of traffic to go over it.

A similar condition prevails in respect of another important area which is a Muslim area, called Musali. The access to this village is by an important P.W.D. road the Murunkan-Silavaturai road which is also in a most miserable condition with the result that access to Musali is impossible in wet weather.

The Executive Engineer of the district is taking a great deal of trouble with regard to these roads, but what is required is provision of ample funds to put these roads into proper condition.

I am sorry to find that the Minister of Communications and Works is not here. But I happen to be a Member of this Committee and I am keeping him fully informed of the state of affairs. With regard to the Mullaitivu district the V.C. roads in other parts of the Island are better than the so-called P.W.D. roads here. I refer particularly to the three main roads in that area. They are Mullaitivu-Nedunkerni, Oddi-Sudan-Nedunkerni, and the Mullaitivu-Puthukudiyruppu roads. All these three roads are in a most miserable condition. It is impossible for traffic to go over them and furthermore it is impossible, owing to the wretched condition of these roads, to have proper access to any of the villages which are approached by means of these roads. As the Hon. Minister has just arrived I might tell him that I was dealing with the roads in my electorate and that I was mentioning to the House the wretched condition in which these roads are. But I would very much like the Hon. Minister to pay a visit to this district and see for himself in what a wretched condition these roads are. I hope that he will pay an early visit to this district.

The Hon. Col. Kotalawa: I have just come from there.

Mr. Tyagaraja: Then, I suppose, he is fully aware of the condition of the roads. I trust that he will do his best to see that these roads are maintained in good condition.

Then with reference to the Ministry of Home Affairs I have nothing to say except that my electorate wants to see the tree tax system introduced there. I have already moved a motion in this House with regard to that matter and that motion has been referred to the Executive Committee of Home Affairs for consideration. So I do not want to anticipate that motion at all. I would, however, ask the Minister and his Committee to consider this matter sympathetically and not to shelve this motion on the ground that a state of emergency exists at the present moment and that the matter will be considered after the war. I would like him to issue his report without delay supporting this motion.

The introduction of the tree tax system has been recommended both by the A.G.A., Mannar as well as by the Excise Commissioner, and the electorate too had held several mass meetings in that connection. I, therefore, see no reason why the request of the electorate should not be granted. The tree tax system has been introduced in the Pen-

insula and it is only in this part of the Province—Mannar-Mullaitivu area, that it has not been put into effect.

I would also ask the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs to consider the desirability of establishing Police Stations at Murunkan and Uyilankulam. I have already written to him on the subject and I have also received representations from my constituents regarding this matter. I trust that he will do his best to establish the Police Stations in question.

Then I come to the Medical Department. I have already said that the death rate in my area is about the highest in Ceylon. There are hardly any medical facilities in my area. We require many more dispensaries, cottage hospitals and so forth. I have already introduced a motion in this Council to the effect that the building now used as a hospital in Mullaitivu should be demolished and, in its place, a proper building put up. The present building is tumbling down and is utterly unsuitable for use as a hospital. I trust the Hon. Minister will see to it that the new building is erected without delay.

(To be Continued)

Constitutional Issue in Ceylon

Comment of London "Times"

The controversy over the Draft Constitution for Ceylon is "complicated by lack of a workable understanding between the majority and minority communities," says "The Times" in an editorial of last Saturday, headed "Growing Pains in Ceylon." The contention of the Board of Ministers that the Commission now proposed does not conform with the original undertaking (since its task is not restricted to the examination of their scheme and since it may examine the constitutional position) is, in the opinion of "The Times," "untenable."

ALL SIDES MUST BE HEARD

"It has been unanswerably refuted," says the journal, "by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the course of the correspondence, now published. The British Government cannot confine the Commission's investigation to a scheme put forward by majority interests alone, though that is to have full consideration; in common fairness all sides of the case must be heard. Their conformity with the general principles laid down in the 1943 Declaration does not of itself entitle the Minister's scheme to monopolize the field; and it is significant that Mr. Mahadeva, the single non-Sinhalese, is anxious that the Commission should examine the question of minority representation."

"These Ministers have made a grave mistake in not framing their spirit with minority support; they have underlined their error by their proposal to boycott the Commission. Their decision to withdraw their scheme from examination is in itself an admission of intransigence."

CEYLONESE INITIATIVE

"It is highly desirable that the new Constitution should derive from Ceylonese initiative, that it should afford legitimate pride of authorship to those who will work it, and that it answers to the characteristic and peculiar needs of a composite people should be their own. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the present attitude of the majority will not be maintained. If it is, it will confirm the minorities in their present lively fear of domination by Sinhalese interests. In the meantime it supplies a further justification, if any were needed, for a careful inquiry, such as the visit of a Commission will ensure, into the whole constitutional position in Ceylon."

Telegraphic Summary of News

'VICTORY IS EVERYWHERE' SAYS PREMIER

Mr. Churchill has arrived in Quebec for a conference with President Roosevelt, who is already in the city. Mr. Roosevelt, who had arrived earlier, was accompanied by Mrs. Roosevelt. Mr. Churchill was accompanied by Mrs. Churchill.

DRIVE TO CITADEL

Mr. Roosevelt drove to the Citadel in an open car with the Governor-General, Lord Athlone, and Mr. Churchill followed with Mr. Mackenzie King, the Canadian Prime Minister.

DE GAULLE AND FRENCH PARTIES AT LOGGERHEADS

A special correspondent of the "Observer" writes that politically the whole of France is in a state of flux. The controversy between De Gaulle and his followers and the political parties and organisations in France is coming to a head.

The National Council of Resistance, which led the underground movement during the German occupation has now voiced its dissatisfaction with General De Gaulle's policy and passed a motion demanding a thorough reconstruction of the Provisional Government. Newspapers of various political shades have also raised the demand for a democratic constitution and a representative government. De Gaulle, however, has so far refused to make any sweeping changes.

MARTIAL LAW IN SOUTH-WEST FRANCE

The F.F.I. radio on Sunday said that martial law has been proclaimed in South-West France in the Departments of the Gironde, Landes and Basses Pyrenees.

PETAINE'S FRENCH "STATE" ABOLISHED

The Govt. of General De Gaulle on Sunday in a formal statement said that Marshal Petain's "French State" has been abolished with all its laws and, asserted that France remains a republic since "in law the republic never ceased to exist."

FOE LOSES FIRST FORT IN BATTLE OF REICH BORDERS

Allied Armies are rolling but irresistibly forward in France, Belgium and Luxembourg, while the Germans push in the battle all the reinforcements they can amass.

GANDHI-JINNAH TALKS

Mr. Gandhi met Mr. Jinnah exactly at 4 p.m. on Saturday. The meeting took place on the first floor of Mr. Jinnah's bungalow.

Their talks lasted three hours and were then postponed at 7 p.m. to be resumed at 5-30 p.m. on Monday.

Just the two of them, Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah had "frank and friendly talks"—as they themselves put it—for over three hours in the first floor lounge of Mr. Jinnah's bungalow on Mount Pleasant road in Malabar Hill.

At 7-15 p.m. as they came out the faces of both leaders were wreathed in smiles which clearly indicated the cordial and friendly atmosphere in which the momentous talks were carried on by the two leaders.

ANTI-PAKISTAN DEMONSTRATORS ARRESTED

The Malabar Hill area, which has been entirely cordoned by special police was quite and peaceful. The only incident was that eight anti-Pakistan Sikh demonstrators who had broken through the cordon were arrested by the police. The only people inside the compound of Mr. Jinnah's bungalow were seventy-five journalists, including five foreign war correspondents and cameramen who lounged in the well-kept lawns of the garden.

Hindu demonstrators who came to Birla House to fast in front of Mr. Gandhi's residence were also taken into custody.

Notice to Karachi Farmers—Sirupokam 1944

By virtue of the powers vested in me by Regulation 37 of the Defence (Miscellaneous) Regulations and also by the (Purchase of foodstuffs) Regulations and Defence (Paddy Cultivation) Regulations, all proprietors and cultivators of paddy fields situated within the Karachi

chi area of Pachchilaipali-Karachchi division in Jaffna district, are hereby required to inform the Land Officer, Kilinochchi, in writing on the prescribed form (obtainable from the Land Officer) of the quantity of paddy harvested and other particulars (as required therein) relating to the present "Sirupokam" before removing paddy to the barns or stores within this area.

2. All proprietors and cultivators are also informed that they should not dispose of any paddy in any manner until the surplus had been duly assessed by the Land Officer and other officers duly appointed for the purpose.

3. Any proprietor of cultivator wishing to remove any paddy outside this area should apply in writing on the prescribed form (which is also obtainable from the Land Officer) and obtain a permit from him.

E.B. TISSEVERASINGHE,
A.G.A. (E), Jaffna.
Jaffna, 9th Sept., 1944.

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL DEFENCE

National Food Campaign

Home Garden Competition—Valikamam West

Under the auspices of the A.R.P., V.V. C.C., and The Grow More Food Association, Manipay Parish

1. The competition is open to permanent residents of Valikamam West Division.
2. Competitors should be bona fide cultivators of their Home Gardens.
3. The extent of the garden should not be less than half a lacham V.C. i.e. 1/32nd of an acre.
4. It is necessary that three fourths of the area should be grown under local vegetables viz. Brinjals, Chillies, Onions, Bandakka, Cowpeas, Radish, Tomatoes, Cucurbits such as Snake gourd, Bitter gourd etc.
5. Additional marks will be given for Cabbages, Carrots, Radish, Cauliflower, etc., also for marrying, arrangements of beds and channels, Precaution taken against insects, pests and weeds.
6. Planting should be completed before 30th Nov. 1944.
7. Intending competitors should inform by letter to the Chief Air Raid Warden, Valikamam West, Manipay, through the Head Warden of his area or Secretary of Victory Volunteer Centre on or before 30th Sept. 1944.
8. An Agricultural Officer or one authorized by him will visit periodically to inspect the progress of the competition.
9. The Final Judging of the best 100 gardens will be done by the Chief Air Raid Warden, Agricultural Officer and the Maniagar, Valikamam West, on or about the 28th Feb. 1945.

Prizes offered are as follows:

C. D. C's Prizes

1. Cash Prize Rs. 100 for the best garden
2. " " " 75 for the 2nd best garden
3. " " " 50 " 3rd

Grow More Food Association Prizes

1. Gold Medal for the best local vegetables
2. Silver " " 2nd best local
3. Cash Prize Rs. 20 for the best chillies
4. " " " 20 " onions
5. " " " 20 " cowpeas
6. " " " 20 " brinjal

A.G.A. (E) Jaffna's Prizes

1. 6 ploughs for the six best cultivators.
2. 12 Mamotties for the twelve best layouts of the gardens.

Agricultural Department's Prizes

1. Cash Prize Rs. 50 or implements of equivalent value and certificates for the best plot under Cauliflower or Cabbage.
2. Cash Prize Rs. 30 and certificates for the best plot under Beetroot or Carrot or Knolshol.
3. Cash Prize Rs. 20 and certificate for the best plot under tomatoes.

For further particulars, please apply to:

C. THIAGARAJAH,
Chief Air Raid Warden,
Valikamam West, Manipay.
Manipay, 6-9-44.

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 a Co-operative retail store from Monday, the 18th Sept. to 24th Sept. 1944 (both days inclusive).

1. Dry Peas or Split Peas 1/2 oz. p. h.
 2. Gram Dhall or Split lentils or Oorid whole 1/2 oz. per head.
- II. 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.