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

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MOSCOW'S RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MEANS NOTHING

'One long Martyrdom..'

The position in Soviet Russia of the faithful believer—Christian, Moslem or Jew—is not unlike that of the village atheist in a pious American community.

It is legal, but disreputable and highly uncomfortable. Nothing that has happened in the last few years has altered this situation.

During the war the Soviet Government called off the more active kind of persecution of religion and restored to the Church [Orthodox] some of its former rights.

The Kremlin needed to rally the support of believers, who are still the majority.

It needed also to improve its position among the very religious populations in neighbouring Slav countries which the Red armies were entering.

ATHEISM STILL

But it was a change of policy, not a change of heart.

Atheism is still the state religion in Stalin's domain.

The new concessions to the Church [Orthodox], granted under extreme pressure, can be—and will be—withdrawn as arbitrarily as they were given just as soon as the Kremlin's interests make it desirable.

Anti-religious propaganda remains a part of the school curriculum. Religious education for minors is still strictly forbidden, except in their own homes.

The "godless" museums function as in the past.

The present constitution, like the one it replaced, guarantees "freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda." But it is the Government itself that carries out the second half of the guarantee.

A Communist caught attending church services or consorting with a priest will not long survive in the ruling party.

PURGED

Charges of taking part in a religious function—such as marrying in church or baptising your child—are normally enough to get you purged from the Communist ranks.

Young people must give up all hope of rising on the economic or political ladder if they wish also to practise their religion openly. One of the main purposes of the Comsomols (Communist youth organisation) is to cure its members of "religious superstitions."

The widespread notion abroad that religious worship was prohibited in Russia after the revolution is wholly untrue. The Soviet leaders would have been insane to attempt that.

Except during high holidays, there have usually been enough houses of worship for the true believers. This despite the fact that in 24 years before Hitler's invasion the number of churches and priests declined by nearly 90 per cent.

Instead, the Soviet leaders resorted to propaganda, ridicule of believers and terror against church people. They sought to "save" the new generation by teaching atheism while forbidding religious instruction.

They closed most churches, stopped publication of Bibles and other religious literature.

Priests, rabbis and mullahs were arrested wholesale. Thousands of them still languish in prisons and concentration camps.

The fact that large numbers of young men became priests and rabbis notwith-

standing is one of the miracles of Russian life in those years.

The official Soviet attitude towards religion has had its seasons. Waves of ferocious persecution have alternated with periods of relative tolerance.

Russia is now in such a period. How long it will last nobody knows.

That it will be permanent is believed only by those who do not know the deeply anti-religious obsessions of the top Soviet leadership.

THE PRICE

The moral code of religion—its ideas of right and wrong—simply cannot be made to jibe with the totalitarian code of the dictatorship.

When the prescribed beliefs and orders of the Government run counter to elementary religious morals—as they nearly always do—the believer and his church are automatically turned into political outlaws.

The price which the Orthodox Church in Russia to-day is paying for its limited new rights is absolute subservience to the State.

Even under the Czars it had more independence. Should it ever make the slightest gesture in opposition to the regime and its methods, it will be promptly suppressed.

None of the concessions made to the Orthodox Church incidentally, apply to religious bodies which the Government cannot fully dominate.

The Roman Catholic Church is a case in point.

If you were a deeply religious person under the Soviet system to-day your spiritual life would be one long martyrdom. You would live in an atmosphere of contempt and sometimes out-right persecution.

You would not know from day to day when religious institutions and mentors would be attacked and suppressed.

This is the reality under the recent ballyhoo about restoration of religious freedom in that country.—*The Universe* quoting Eugene Lyons.

Travancore Christians Oppressed

"Christians in the Travancore State of India, where they are most numerous, are suffering a regime of very considerable hardship," Mr. Christopher Hollis last month told the Commons during the debate on India.

"The Prime Minister there, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, has definitely said that he will not abate that policy whatever an Indian Government or any British Government may say."

Mr. Hollis quoted Sir Ramaswami Aiyar as saying on June 1 last that "Travancore would cease to be a Hindu State if Christians were allowed to have a free hand," and that "any approach to the Paramount Power or Indian leaders will be absolutely ineffective against me."

'FREEDOM' CLAUSE?

"Therefore it is not unnatural that Christians should view with alarm the position in which they will be left when British paramountcy ceases to run in that country," said Mr. Hollis.

"I can see how it may be possible to have some clause inserted in the Constitution about religious freedom, but I find it very difficult to see how we can persuade the Christians in India to feel secure under the verbal assurance of such a clause in the Constitution."

PRIEST-AMBASSADOR PLANS EXODUS OF 4,000,000

A priest with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary is flying the Atlantic to carry out the greatest planned transoceanic migration of peoples the world has ever known—the transference of 4,000,000 men, women and children from war-battered areas of Europe to a new life of hope and security in Argentina.

The priest, Fr. Jose Clemente Silva, is on his way to Rome, where he will establish his headquarters.

He will be assisted by a staff including a secretary-general, a diplomat and an accountant.

Meanwhile the Argentine Government is negotiating in New York to purchase ships to take the emigrants to South America.

It is probable that Fr. Silva will cooperate constantly with the Papal services for refugees and with Bishop Kaller of Ermland, whom the Holy Father some months ago appointed to take charge of refugees from the East in Western Germany.

Bishop Kaller said in a recent audience of the Holy Father that he hoped to place some of the refugees in other countries.

Fr. Silva—the priest to whom millions of all but desperate Displaced Persons will now look to with renewed hope—has been for many years rector

of the Sacred Heart College at La Palata and of the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales in Buenos Aires.

One of the greatest authorities on education in Argentina, he was offered, but declined, the post of Minister of Education. He has, however, been acting as one of the Ministry's chief advisers.

Fr. Silva was one of the principal organisers of the International Eucharistic Congress in Buenos Aires in 1934, at which the present Holy Father presided as Papal Legate.

The organisation of Children's Day during the congress was his special responsibility.

There are no fewer than 400 Salesian houses in South America.

Salesians are the leading educationists in Argentina.

A London Salesian, commenting on Fr. Silva's appointment remarked to the *UNIVERSE*: "It is not surprising that a Salesian should be chosen for this great task, since our congregation is particularly active in corporal works of mercy."

"Everyone knows of the transformation of Rome's 'shoe-shine boys' from homeless wanderers, getting their livelihood as best they could—anyhow—in the confusion of wartime conditions in Italy. That transformation was the work of Salesians."—*Universe*.

We do things Differently in Ceylon.

The Secretary of State for Scotland has appointed Fr. Patrick Quille, of the St. Andrews and Edinburgh diocese, and Mr. William Barry, BA, FEIS, head master of St. Ninian's High School, Kirkintilloch, to the Scottish Advisory Council on Education.

Although ordained only ten years ago, Fr. Quille has held several diocesan posts. He was appointed the diocese's representative on the Edinburgh education committee, director of social services—and as such is responsible for the entry of all children to homes and orphanages—and diocesan chaplain of the YCW boys' section.

Fr. Quille was largely responsible for the opening of Aberdour's residential nursery and for the introduction last month to Edinburgh of the Little Sisters of the Assumption.

Fr. Quille was born in Ireland. After his ordination in 1936 he spent two years at Bonnybridge before being transferred to Bathgate, where on the death of Canon McGrail he administered the parish for a period.

He was then transferred to Edinburgh to assist in youth work, in particular boys' clubs. Sent later to Oxford for two years' study, he returned to Edinburgh to engage in a variety of works.

Mr. Barry is first president of the recently founded National Council of Catholic Teachers and a Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland.—*The Universe*.

10,000,000 Join 'France for God' Drive

Members of a missionary movement, started at Lourdes in 1943 and pledged to bring the whole of France back to God, have travelled 60,000 miles, visited 12,000 parishes and enlisted 10,000,000 people in a campaign of prayer and penance.

A group of members walked from France to Rome and was received by the Holy Father.

His Holiness, praising the "abundant and magnificent" fruits of their movement, gave the members the watchword "Persevere" in their pilgrimage along the "royal road of the Cross."

"Your spirit of fervour, demonstrated in night watches or in barefoot processions over burning hot or frozen ground, is not the most difficult part," the Holy Father told them. "Such things are but passing episodes."

"Your hardest task consists rather in constant fidelity to the duties—even disagreeable ones—of the Christian, to pious practices and to little sacrifices in daily life, in a spirit of humility, reparation and love."

His Holiness impressed on the pilgrims the importance of reshaping their lives to that of Christ as they follow the road of briars and thorns.

Church Calendar

FEBRUARY 1947

FRI. ...14 S. Valentine.
SAT. ...15 S. Jovita.
SUN. ...16 Quin.—S. Juliana.
MON. ...17 Com. Im. Conc.
TUES. ...18 S. Simeon.
WED. ...19 ASH WEDNESDAY.
THURS. ...20 S. Eleutherius.
FRI. ...21 S. German.

The Catholic Guardian

FEBRUARY 14TH 1947

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

The logic of the *fait accompli* can be ineluctable. We are penning this appeal to the civic consciousness of the North to save us and to save us promptly; otherwise the logic of facts will be overpowering in the very near future.

The cynic will have thought that taking things by and large Ceylon and North Ceylon as much as anywhere else did not do too badly out of the war. That may be the bald prose of the situation as it affected individuals; we are not here concerned with controverting it. There were, in addition, however certain tangible benefits accruing to the community as a whole.

Incontestably one such benefit was the opening, at colossal expense, of first class aerodromes all over the island. The northern aerodrome was in the opinion of judges competent to give such a verdict one of the best in the island, if not the very best. We were proud of the fact and we looked forward, legitimately, to the day when the war would be over and civil aviation, benefitting from the countless improvements evoked by the stress of war, would be brought to our very door-steps. We were perhaps too complacent as the meagre notices appearing in the Press led us to believe that if Government would not step in, the R. A. F. was prepared to maintain the station and give every facility to civil air-craft that wanted to touch down at Jaffna. We visualised the day—there was no anxiety about it—when the whole island would be served with an efficient up-to-date service. The landing-strips were there, they had cost the country nothing. All that was needed was the planes. Civic and commercial enterprise and a government awake to our interests would see to that.

Our optimism prevailed over even the closing down of the Vavuniya strip—to mention but one of the stations near us. That could not happen to the Jaffna strip! Alas! it is happening.

We have been at pains to verify our facts. At the moment the permanent buildings at Palali have been sold and are in most cases being dismantled for the value of the tiles and the roof-timber. It is a scene of desolation to be seen only with seared eyes and an aching heart. Most people in the North have had unfortunately no idea of what was happening.

Is it too late? The answer is emphatically NO. The essentials

are still there, the strip, the control tower and the petrol storage tanks, the latter to be covered over with that pungent soil that will so soon eat through anything. Buildings that cost in some cases lakhs of Rupees have been sold for a song. In a short time the strip itself, uncared-for, will be useless.

What is our remedy? It is an obvious one, viz, that we make our votes to the sitting members of Council in the coming elections dependent on their taking up this matter immediately with Government and saving the Jaffna Aerodrome. No mere promises will do. The goods must be delivered before polling day.

We have no intention of remaining quiet while the vandalism at Palali persists. It is vandalism.

We have so many business and social ties with Colombo and South India that call for a plane service. We are impatient with the tantalising indifference of our representatives. The planes pass over our heads twice a day, we are in the direct line about half-way, between Colombo and Madras, we have the aerodrome, yet to fly to Madras a matter of two hours—we must take the train to Colombo.

This paper is conscious of its duty in this matter to the Jaffna Public. We are not unaware of the fight we put up for the opening of that "railway to the moon"—now the most paying section of the railway—that we helped to see a solid reality. These columns will be open to every sponsor of the Jaffna aerodrome until the completest success shall have crowned our joint efforts.

But we must, all of us, be up and doing. There is no time to be lost. If we miss this chance we shall have to wait till the Greek Kalends. The prohibitive expense of starting all over again will be an absolute deterrent.



Press Sunday

Every year the first Sunday in Lent is set apart as a day of propaganda for Catholic literature by means of exhortations from the pulpit and by the sale of catholic books and pamphlets, and especially by the collecting of subscriptions for our diocesan newspaper, the Catholic Guardian. In these days a very large number of people is able to read and is anxious for information. It is important that Catholics be supplied with reading matter calculated to keep alive the ideals of moral and spiritual life impressed upon them by the Church and to be put into contact with the whole Catholic world. This is done, by the Catholic Newspaper or Review whose

function it is to provide Catholic news and other items of interest to Catholic readers.

We hope that many Catholics will respond to the appeal which is made to them on Press Sunday and will help in the diffusion of Catholic literature, not only by their own efforts and Societies but also by inducing others to take a similar interest.

Lenten Regulations

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

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

The Late Fr. S. GnanaPrakasas O.M.I.

I read about the death of dear old Fr. GnanaPrakasas in the *Examiner* yesterday, and you cannot imagine how much I felt it, owing to contradictory feelings. First I felt it on my own account, because I lost in him a great and sincere friend, whom I could consult in my doubts and from whom I received reminders from time to time, when I did not write to him, often inquiring what was happening with me to explain my protracted silence; but soon I reacted. I realised that the feeling was very selfish and I rejoiced immensely when thinking that a sincere *vir Dei* had passed away, a man who was looking for the things of God and not for his own. I still remember the expressive phrase of the Right Rev. Bishop of Kandy when I told him that I had been consulting Fr. GnanaPrakasas, after my stay in Jaffna, some years ago. He said that Fr. GnanaPrakasas was the missionary that Ceylon had, by which I understood, not precisely that there were no other missionaries in Ceylon, because I knew that there were and very good ones, but that he was the ideal missionary, one for whom the glory of God and the salvation of souls was the only objective of all his activities. I still remember the patience, kindness and charity with which he received all his Christians and non-Christians through the window of his room at Nallur. Once he narrated to me what had been the cause that promoted his scholarly studies in order to make friends with the Hindus.

God blessed him owing to the purity of his intentions. He became the leading Dravidian philologist acknowledged as such throughout the whole of South India, and at the same time he continued his conversion work and was blessed

with the numerous children he won for Our Lord Jesus Christ. In one of his last letters, in fact the last but one, dated the 17th December, 1946, he writes: "I am opening a new mission station in my own village of Manipay, where I have been for the last two months, hoping to convert my own relatives". In the same letter at the end he adds: "My high blood pressure is not over yet. The head is often reeling and the fingers shaky. Still I am slowly doing my work for the glory of God". We may see in these last words of dear Fr. Gnana the soul of an apostle, who, in spite of old age and infirmities, never stopped his work for the glory of God. That was the reason why I said in the beginning that I rejoiced in the Lord on receiving the news of his demise, for the latter is equivalent to the birth of dear Father in the regions of *Scarga*. This morning I have offered the Mass for him and tomorrow I shall offer another Mass, just as we do for the deceased members of our own Province. Yet I am sure that the fruit of these Masses will be distributed by Our Lord throughout all the souls of purgatory, for I am envisaging dear Fr. Gnana Prakasas very high in heaven, with the crown of glory, with which he has been crowned by our Lord Jesus Christ for whom he had been working so indefatigably. In point of fact fully convinced of his having gone to the eternal reward I have prayed to him, yesterday and this morning, to obtain his patronage before God for a great work to His divine glory, which we are contemplating here. Kindly communicate all this sincere feeling of my heart to His Lordship and to all your confreres so that you may realize what a humble son of St. Ignatius thinks and feels about your deceased confrere.

Yours very sincerely in O. L.
H. HERAS, S. J.

Bombay,
3-2-47.

Consecration to the Heart of Mary

It was in the famous church of Our Lady of Victories in Paris that Our Lady promised to revive divine love in the hearts of the people, if the parish was consecrated to Her most holy and Immaculate Heart. The Parish Priest did so and there were numerous conversions. At the conclusion of the Silver Jubilee celebrations to commemorate the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, His Holiness Pope Pius XII in October 1942 consecrated the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and ordered the Parish Priests of his own diocese of Rome to perform the same act of consecration for their respective Parishes.

The Heart of Our Lady is mentioned several times in holy scripture. When the shepherds came to worship the infant Jesus and told Our Lady about the apparition they had of the angels, "she kept all these words, pondering them in Her Heart." Again when Our Lady found the Boy Jesus in the temple after three days search, and He told Her that He was about His Father's business, "she kept all these things in Her Heart." There are also many references to Her Immaculate Heart in the writings of the Fathers of the church.

It is only within the last few centuries that a special cult to the Immaculate Heart of Mary began. St. Mechtilde had several revelations about the Heart of Mary. So had St. Gertrude. The great Doctor of the church, St. Francis de Sales wrote on the Heart of Mary. The crest of the Visitation order, which he founded, bears the hearts of Jesus and Mary united together. After St. Francis came the central figure in the history of this devotion, St. John Eudes. From his earliest years this great Saint had a tender devotion to the Mother of God. He promoted devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and the last of his many works was on the "Admirable Heart of Mary." The Saint founded a congregation of women for the conversion of penitents. He consecrated the new society to the Heart of Mary and the titular feast of the order is that of the Heart of Mary which is kept on the 8th of February. Mother

can have the co-operation of private agencies without any sacrifice of principles or laxity of rules, I see no reason why such agencies that have done meritorious work for the last hundred years or more should now be discarded. This has been the declared policy of the Prajamandal Party and the Government. I believe there is no occasion now for re-considering that position."

Delay of Examination Results.

—Everyone has heard of Law's Delays. Now we are experiencing delays in the publication of Examination results. These delays are causing insurmountable difficulties to school Principals and irreparable harm to examinees. The Rector of St Joseph's College Colombo suggests the levying of a small Examination fee and employing additional permanent staff to cope with the ever increasing number of students appearing for the S. S. C.

Ceylon With a Population of Two.

—Speaking at the Diamond Jubilee Dinner of St. Thomas' College Old Boys' Association at the Galle Face Hotel on the 1st inst. Sir Francis Soeretsz, K.C., Senior Puisne Justice said, "If the Minister (of Education) carried out his threat of driving out of the country those who opposed free education, there would eventually be left in the Island only two people—the Ministers of Education and of Health in a country that would be dotted with central schools and free hospitals."

Domestic Science is Essential.

—Presiding at the Prize-giving function of Girton School, Nugegoda, Sir John Parsons expressed his agreement with the Principal on the value of Domestic Science and was happy to learn that the school authorities were devoting the maximum attention to that subject though the Department of Education had done away with Test Examination. In the school report read by the Principal we find the following thought provoking words, "We have decided not to lower the standard of English, but to raise the standard of Sinhalese and Tamil by strengthening our staff."

Prevention of Cycle Thefts.

In order to safeguard cycles the Police have strongly advised the public to (a) see that their cycles are safely padlocked if left unattended (b) report forthwith to the Police Station of the area where the bicycle was left when missed by the owner and (c) claim cycles if removed by the Police.

The Sinhalese Etymological Dictionary.

—From the statement of Dr. Ivor Jennings, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ceylon we are glad to learn that many parts of the Sinhalese Etymological Dictionary are ready for publication but Dr. Jennings does not know when it will be completed. The Dictionary was started twenty years ago with the late Sir D. B. Jayatilke as its first Editor. At present Prof. Ratnasuriya of the University and an editorial board of 14 assistants are at it.

Lack of Hostel Accommodation in the University.

—The number of students attending the University is 1,300 at present and is expected to be 1,500 with the beginning of next academic year. University Hostels can accommodate only 153.

Franciscans Murdered.

—According to a broadcast from the Vatican, Franciscan Order's Headquarters in Rome report that two Franciscan Missionaries—a German and a Dane—were murdered by Chinese Communists in Kiangsu Province on New Year's Day.

Four Months' Reprieve.

—The Board of ministers has recommended to the Governor extending the life of the State council by four months from the 10th of March. The Governor has agreed to the recommendation.

Luxury Taxes.

—Taxes on petrol, tobacco, cigarettes, cigars, beedies, malt liquor, wines and spirits which ought normally to have ended on Sept. 30, 1947 are to be continued at the financial Secretary's request. The Financial Secretary wishes to leave the revision of these taxes to the New Parliament. He will also ask for an increased duty of 75 cents on cement. From both these sources he

hopes to get a revenue of Rs 57,225,000 for the year 1947-48.

Paris World Jamboree.—Twenty-one Ceylon Scouts are to be selected to represent Ceylon in 6th World Jamboree to be held in Paris in July this year. Those recruited will be from first class scouts between the ages of 13½ and 17½ years. The itinerary includes visits to agricultural and industrial centres in Europe and a stay of two weeks in the United Kingdom.

Timely Words of Wisdom.

—Dr. Ivor Jennings addressing the Social and Child Welfare League, at its seventeenth annual general meeting said, "Excessive nationalism was itself one of the mistakes through which millions had died and millions more were rendered destitute; Europe was slowly and painfully trying to correct the error which some in Ceylon would apparently wish to copy. To copy it because it is Oriental and despise better things because they are Occidental is like eating a bad mango because it comes from Jaffna."

Trade Record in 1946.

—Last year's trade returns have been the highest ever recorded. Exports were valued at Rs. 764 millions and Imports at Rs. 602 millions, thus leaving a balance of over Rs. 162 millions in Ceylon's favour. The majority of the trade was with Empire countries. The goods exported in order of magnitude were tea, rubber, fresh coconuts, desiccated coconuts, arecanuts, cinnamon quills and unmanufactured tobacco.

Club & Hostel for Students in London.

—The original estimated figure for the purchase of a lease of suitable premises and for structural alterations, equipment and furniture was £7,500. Further investigations into property values and prices revealed that the amount will have to be enhanced by £3,500 before the memorandum was finally despatched to the Minister of Education in Colombo. It is hoped that this Hostel and club will give the Ceylon students in London better living and recreational facilities than at present obtaining.

The Indian Deadlock.—The Working Committee of the Muslim League has decided to keep away from the Constituent Assembly. It characterises the Congress resolution as "No more than a dishonest trick and jugglery of words by which the Congress has again attempted to deceive the British Government, the Muslim League, and public opinion in general."

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,
While perusing your instructive Series XIV of Catholic Doctrine one is at a loss to know which is the correct answer to the Question on the Indulgences granted for making the sign of the Cross. The Catechism of Christian Doctrine states that an Indulgence of 50 days is granted for making the sign of the Cross and of 100 days if holy water is taken at the same time.

The Official Volume of Indulgences Preces et Pia Opera states that 100 days is the indulgence for making the sign of the Cross and 300 days if made with holy water. May we await your revered verdict on this matter.

INTERESTED.
[The official volume is the correct one.—Editor C. G.]

WEDDING

MARTYN—SATTRUKALSINGHE

The marriage of Mr. F. L. T. Martyn Proctor S. C., son of the late Mr. & Mrs. H. Martyn and of Miss D. I. Sattrukalsinghe daughter of the late Mr. A. B. Sattrukalsinghe and of Mrs. Sattrukalsinghe of Martyn's Road, Jaffna, was solemnised at St. Mary's Cathedral, Jaffna, on the 27th of January at 7-30 a. m.

The Rev. Fr. S. James, O.M.I., Parish Priest tied the nuptial knot and the Rev. Fr. L. J. Augustine, O.M.I., delivered a very instructive and practical homily. The marriage service was assisted by the Cathedral Choir which ably rendered the hymns "Look down O Mother Mary, "Veni Creator,"

NEWTONS

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THE OPENING

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Telegrams: "MERCYN"

"Happy we who thus united," as well as the Catholic Marriage Hymn accompanied by Rev. Fr. Chas Chovan, O.M.I., at the Organ. After the elevation the Rev. Fr. L. J. Augustine, O.M.I., solemnly sang the hymn "In breathless silence kneel."

The bride who was given away by her uncle Mr. Alexander Christian had her sister Miss Violet Sattrukalsinghe as maid of honour, while Misses Ranjitham Gregory and Selvaanee Christian were the flower girls. The bridegroom had Mr. Victor Joseph Advocate, Colombo as bestman.

The bride wore a white organza saree exquisitely embroidered with a floral design in silver and a silver brocade blouse to match. Her tulle veil was held in place by a coronet of orange blossoms. She carried a cascade bouquet of Madonna lilies and white carnations.

A reception was held later at the bride's residence after which the "Cooray" ceremony took place. The "Cooray" was a gold plum red shot saree with all over horse shoe design and a gold tissue blouse to match.

The registration of the marriage was attested by Dr. G. W. Puvimannasingham and Mr. G. S. Puvirajasingham.

OBITUARY

MRS. MARIAMUTTU SUWAMPILLAI
The death occurred at her residence at Nanattan on 25-1-47 of Mrs. M. Mariamuttu widow of Mr. A. Suwampillai, Moopu, St. Sebastian's Church, Nanattan. She was 80 years of age.

The funeral took place on the following day. Rev. Fr. S. A. Singarayar O.M.I., held services at the residence, the church and the graveside.

Her three brothers, a sister, and two daughters predeceased her. She leaves behind one sister, one son, two daughters, several Grand-children and Great-grand-children. Mr. S. Thommanpillai, Accountant, Medical Dept., is her grandson. R. I. P.

CHRISTOPHER FERDINANDUSZ WIJEYRATNE

The death occurred on the 8th ult., on board the s.s. "Orbita" of Mr. Christopher P. F. Wijeyratne, who was proceeding to England to prosecute his studies in Aero-Engineering.

Mr. Wijeyratne who was 31 years of age was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Ferdinandus of 9th Lane Colpetty. He received his education at St. Joseph's College, Colombo. After leaving school he proceeded to India to study aero-engineering and was attached to the Delhi and Burma Air Centres. Later he was employed at the Hindustan Aircraft Corporation. Returning to Ceylon a couple of years ago he was attached to the Naval Aircraft Repair Depot at Colombo and was later Lieut. in the Fleet Air Arm till Oct. 1946.

Mr. Wijeyratne was quite healthy at the time he left Ceylon on the 30th Dec. last. The vessel had passed Aden and it was about midnight of the 7th inst. when he suddenly fell ill.

A Ceylonese Doctor who was travelling with him attended on him but as the patient's condition got worse the ship's Doctor was summoned, before whose arrival the patient was dead. Mr. Wijeyratne succumbed to an attack of Coronary Thrombosis. His remains were buried at sea the following day.

The cable which arrived from the

ship's agents a few hours later was a rude shock to his parents.

He leaves besides his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. K. P. G. Perera (brother-in-law and sister) and a vast circle of relations and friends to bemoan his loss.
I. V. F.

Jaffna College

Classes preparing students for the London B. A. and B. Sc. General examination in June, 1949, will be formed at Jaffna College in July, 1947. The following subjects may be offered: English, Latin, Tamil, European History, Philosophy, Theology, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry.

Classes preparing for the London Intermediate Arts and Science examinations, as in the past, will be formed the first week in July.

Inquiries and requests for application forms for the above classes should be addressed before 15th, May, 1947, to the Principal, Jaffna College (Degree Classes), Vaddukoddai.

S. K. Bunker, Principal.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MANNAR
In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Sinnathamby Maruthamuthu of Vaddukoddai East. Deceased.

Testamentary Jurisdiction } No. 659
Maruthamuthu Mahesan of Vaddukoddai East. Petitioner.

Vs.
Annammah widow of Sinnathamby Maruthamuthu of Vaddukoddai East. Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner coming on for disposal before R.R. Selvadurai Esqr. District Judge, Jaffna on the 23rd day of January 1947 in the presence of Messrs. Aboobucker & Sultan, Proctors on the part of the petitioner and his affidavit dated 23rd January 1947 having been read:

It is ordered that Letters of administration to the estate of the abovenamed Petitioner as the sole heir and son of the abovenamed deceased unless the Respondent or any other person or persons interested shall appear before this Court on the 26th day of February 1946 at 10 a.m. and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 23rd day of January, 1947.
Sgd. R. R. SELVADURAI,
District Judge

Drawn by
Sgd. Aboobucker & Sultan
Proctors for Petr.

Salt Department Tender

Weighing out Salt at Chiviyateru Saltern
Tenders are invited for weighing out salt at Chiviyateru Saltern from March 1st 1947 to September 30th, 1947.

2. Closing date: 12 noon on Tuesday, February 25th, 1947.
3. Tender deposit: Rs. 100/-.
4. Security Deposit: Rs. 500/-.
5. Tender Notices and forms could be obtained from:-

- (a) Govt. Agent, N. P., Jaffna.
- (b) Salt Superintendent, Elephant Pass Saltern.
- (c) Asst. Salt Superintendent, Jaffna.
- (d) Asst. Govt. Agent, Vavuniya.
- (e) Salt Commissioner, 37, Lauries Road, Bambalapitiya.

E. B. TISSEVERASINGHE,
Actg. Salt Commissioner

Salt Department, P. O. Box 539,
Colombo, 11th, February 1947.

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Jaffna, Ceylon.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MANNAR.
In the matter of the Estate of the late Mastankani Sahulhamid of Moor Street, Mannar. Deceased.

Testamentary Jurisdiction } No. 693
Mastankani Kachchumohamado of Moor Street, Mannar. Petitioner.

Vs.
1. Sahulhamid Pattamutty Sohara
2. Sahulhamid Mohamed Jiffry
3. Sahulhamid Mohamed Raseith
4. Sahulhamid Mohamed Muhisin
5. Sahulhamid Lily Saibatha
6. Sahulhamid Mohamed Farook
7. Sahulhamid Abdul Aseez and
8. Asiaimma widow of Sahulhamid all of Moor Street, Mannar. Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Mastankani Kachchumohamado of Moor Street, Mannar paying for letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Mastankani Sahulhamid of Moor Street, Mannar coming on for disposal before V. S. Gunawardana Esquire, District Judge, Mannar on the 30th day of January 1947 in the presence of Mr. V. Albert Alegacone, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 27th day of January 1947 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the brother of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall, on or before the 28th day of February 1947 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

And it is further Ordered that the 8th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Respondents for the purpose of representing them in these proceedings unless the Respondents abovenamed shall on or before the said date show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 30th day of January, 1947.

Sgd. V. S. GUNAWARDANA,
District Judge.

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Transport of Salt from Chiviyateru Saltern to Navatkuli Railway Station

Tenders are invited for the transport of salt from Chiviyateru Saltern and delivery into Railway wagons at Navatkuli Railway Station at the rate of 480 bags (720 cwt.) per day.

2. Closing date: 12 noon on Tuesday, February 25th, 1947.

3. Tender deposit: Rs. 100/-.
4. Security deposit: Rs. 500/-.
5. Period of service: From March 1st, 1947 to September 30th 1947.

6. Tender notice and forms could be obtained from:-

- (a) Govt. Agent, Jaffna.
- (b) Asst. Govt. Agent, Vavuniya.
- (c) Salt Superintendent, Elephant Pass Saltern.
- (d) Asst. Superintendent, Jaffna.
- (e) Salt Commissioner, 37, Lauries Road, Bambalapitiya.

E. B. TISSEVERASINGHE,
Actg. Salt Commissioner.

Salt Department, P. O. Box 539,
Colombo, 11th, February 1947.

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LOCAL & GENERAL

Marie Euphrasie Pelletier foundress of the Good Shepherd nuns adopted the same rule and they too keep the feast on this day.

Although St. Margaret Mary was intended to lead souls to the Heart of Jesus, she insisted that the most efficacious way to obtain devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In the year 1830 Our Lady appeared to St. Catherine Labouré and gave instructions for making a medal, since known as the miraculous medal. On one side of this medal was the figure of two hearts on which was a large letter M, the two hearts here represented those of Jesus and Mary. It was six years later that Our Lady spoke to the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Victories.

Mary is nearer to Jesus than we are, since She is His mother. She is our way to Jesus. As in the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus so in this the object of our veneration is the physical Heart of Mary considered as the symbol of Her love of God and of men. When we honour the Heart of the Mother of God we honour the Heart that after that of Her son is the most worthy of our admiration, the most full of grace and love. It is therefore fitting that we should make this Holy Heart the object of our devotion and pay it all the honour and respect that is its due. So far the Church has not approved of any feast for the Heart of Mary for the whole church. May God hasten the day when all the families of every nation will consecrate themselves to Her Most Pure Heart and unite on the same day to praise, honour and glorify that Heart.

C. W. M.—Series. V. T.

A Thought for the Week

Living the Faith

No Catholic who is living his faith can say that life is meaningless or unfair. What the Catholic religion gives us makes sense. It makes sense in those moments which are most difficult, the moment when unexpected pain strikes the soul, said Miss Barbara Ward in a lecture in England. Over a large part of the world the sense of having a purpose in life has faded. There are nervous breakdowns and psychological disorders. There is nothing more disturbing than the fear that one's own life is utterly meaningless. Suffering is doubly intolerable if there is no apparent reason for it. The Church stands as a bedrock. That is one of the reasons why Catholics seem to be so much less in need of psycho-analysis. Many of us drag round the Catholic Faith rather like a burden on our backs. That does not give us much momentum. We have the inestimable privilege of receiving Our Lord in a way not open to anyone else in the world and we can do all things in Him. The greatest obstacle is one's self.

Miss Ward pointed out that in the realm of politics when you come to a direct Christian participation in parties you will find in the long run that the identification of a particular party with a religious community has a disastrous effect for the religious community. It endeavours to make distinctions which do not exist and finds itself cut off from other parties on religious grounds. From the technical point of view the Church has nothing to say except to have tolerance and judgment. In defending Church policy there is a tendency among some people to say that everything the Church has done is right and must be defended to the last ditch. Such an attitude lays the Church open to even more attack. In Renaissance times a Jew went to Rome and spent some time in studying the leadership of the Church. He very soon became a Catholic because he argued that if the Church could withstand all the evil in her high places she must be divine. The blemishes of individual churchmen do not affect the rock-like structure of the Church. They only make it more remarkable.—*The Examiner.*

Sacerdotal Golden Jubilees.—The Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of Rev. Fr. N. Santiago O. M. I. the indefatigable confessor who has served in several parts of the Jaffna Diocese, in the triple capacity of parish priest, preacher and physician, comes off on Friday the 14th inst. He was raised to the priesthood on the 14th February 1897. Will those who have been benefitted, spiritually or physically by his ardent services kindly help in making the Jubilee celebrations a success by their prayers and presence at the High Mass and *Te Deum* Service?

PROGRAMME
6-30 a. m. High Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral.
5-00 p. m. *Te Deum* and Public Reception in St. Charles' School, Jaffna.

The Golden Jubilee of Rev. Fr. K. Sebastian, Mis. Apoc., comes off on the same day. St. Patrick's College, proud of the lustre he shed on it as student and professor is privileged to have the Golden Jubilee Mass. Celebrations are also planned at Ilavai and Naranthany.

The Literature Committee—bring it to the notice of the Reverend Parish Priests that they have a certain number of books for sale, at cheap rates, for Press Sunday. Please address orders to Mr. P. Saverimuttu, St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.

The Biology Dept., St. Patrick's College.—The Biology side of S P C, Jaffna has been strengthened by the addition of Mr. P. D. Varadarajan, B.Sc. (Hons.) Madras. Mr. Varadarajan is an old boy of the Presidency College, Madras, where he obtained his honours degree in Zoology with Botany and Chemistry as subsidiaries. With his addition there are three lecturers in Botany and Zoology preparing students for the H.S.C., Pre-medical and Inter-Science Examinations.

Central Delft Catholic Union Conference.—This conference was held on the 2nd inst. at the Union Hall 70, New Chetty Street, Colombo with Mr. A. P. Thambirajah, Secretary, All-Ceylon Tamil Movement in the chair. Votes of condolence were passed on the deaths of Very Revd. Fr. P. M. Francis, O.M.I., and the Revd. Fr. S. GnanaPrakasara, O.M.I. The President made a spirited appeal to the younger generation of Delft to place duty before pleasure and work for the progress of their land and the welfare of their people whole-heartedly. He exhorted them to be faithful to their religious duties whatever religion each might belong to. Finally he informed the conference about the Select Committee of the State Council to be appointed to inquire into the social, economic and other disabilities of the depressed classes and requested the conference to make the best use of the opportunity to better their conditions by giving convincing evidence before the Committee. A number of resolutions concerning the deputation to give evidence before the Committee and the improvement of travelling facilities to Delft were unanimously passed. One of the resolutions nominated Mr. A. P. Thambirajah to lead the deputation and requested him to extend his social activities by seeking election to the new Parliament.

National Provident Fund for Employees.—Dr. W. Ivor Jennings, Mr. N. E. Weerasuriya, K.C., the Very Revd. Fr. A. Peter Pillai, O.M.I., and Mr. B. Das Gupta who formed the Social Service Commission have completed their Report recommending a National Provident Fund for Employees under Government control. The Employees will contribute 5% of their wages or salaries towards this Fund and the Employers will contribute an equal amount. This together with an additional 5% contribution would give the employee an annuity on retirement roughly equivalent to the pensions paid by the Government to its own employees.

Farewell to Retiring School Principal.—The old students of the Vembadi Girls' High School, Jaffna, entertained Miss. Elsie Scowcroft at a farewell party held at the Methodist Girls' College, Kollupitiya on the 29th

ult. Dr. (Mrs.) Packiam Ratnanatham speaking on behalf of the old girls of the school said that Miss Scowcroft had given 23 years of the best part of her life to the cause of Education in Ceylon and the rapid progress of the school under her regime was sufficient evidence of the success of her labours. Miss Scowcroft, in reply, said that she felt diffident at saying anything definite with regard to education in Ceylon at present because of the indefinite nature of the educational policy. The only advice she was bold enough to give was to repeat the school motto "Dare to do right".

Teachers & Politics.—Mr. A. P. Jayasuriya, Manager of Buddhist Schools has issued orders forbidding Teachers of Buddhist Theosophical Society schools entry to Parliament or Local governing bodies without the consent and approval of the Society's "higher command" Teachers intending to take part in National or Municipal politics will have to notify their intention to the General Committee at least one month ahead; the decision of the committee will be final. Disciplinary action will be taken against those who violate this rule.

The Kotelawela Channel.—Suthumalai in Jaffna is to have a channel which will save the cultivators of the area thousands of rupees and the country a great deal of food. The estimated cost is Rs. 60,000. Col. J. L. Kotelawela who cut the first rod of the channel with a silver mamoty said that no where in Ceylon was he garlanded so profusely. Literally he felt the weight of the flowers on him. The Minister appealed to the Sinhalese, Tamils and the Muslims to weld into Ceylonese just as the Scot, the Welsh and the English had fused into the British.

Bus Station.—To the North-Western Blue Line Bus Co. goes the credit of having built the first bus station in Ceylon at Jaela. The amenities provided include a bus stand, a booking office, a waiting hall with comfortable seats and a restaurant where refreshments are available. The Hon'ble Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Minister (Local administration) declared the bus stand open and all the ministers of the state council except the minister of Home Affairs were present.

Rise of Living Index.—The increase in the price of tea has raised the living index to 244 in December 1946 as against 222 in December 1945. The increase in the price of copra is expected to raise the living index further up.

Sodalists' Rally and Protest.—"Convention of Sodalities of Trincomalee Diocese unanimously protests against Educational policy discriminating against denominational Schools. Further protests against undue haste and unconstitutional manner in moving first reading of amending ordinance to present Education ordinance.

Therefore Convention demands that
(1) Equal privileges in the award of Government Scholarships be granted to denominational institutions;
(2) Parents' rights to choose religious Education be respected,
(3) Proposed amendments to Education ordinance 31 of 1939 be disallowed." This is the text of the resolution passed unanimously by the Sodalists of the B. V. M. of the Trincomalee diocese at this annual Rally held on Feb. 1 and 2 at Batticaloa and cabled to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and copies sent to the Governor, the Leader of the State Council, the Minister of Education and the 2 representatives of the Eastern Province in the State Council.

News from Seychelles.—We are glad to learn that Mr. James M. Homer-Vanniasinkam, advocate, who went to Seychelles as Legal adviser to the Governor is at present acting as chief Justice of the Island. Mr. Vanniasinkam is an old boy of St. Patrick's College and comes of a family that has made a mark in the Legal profession both in Jaffna and Colombo.

Co-operative Motor Transport for Valikamam East.—A mass meeting of the residents of Valikamam East Division of the Jaffna District was held on Saturday the 1st instant at 8 P. M. at the Saravanapavananda School Hall, Kopay, to consider the proposal of orga-

nizing a Co-operative Motor Transport Society for the Division.

Adigar A. Naganathar presided and there was a gathering of over 1000 delegates from the various villages of the division.

Mr. R. S. Edwards, Pandit S. Thurasangam, Messrs: E. Coonarajasingam, P. Jesudasan, and Varakavi Krishnar and Proctor Subramaniam explained the difficulties experienced by the travelling public and the necessity for an organization to solve them.

It was unanimously decided to form the Co-operative Society of the Valikamam East Co-operative Motor Transport Society Ltd.

Mr. N. Thamotheerampillai, Circle Inspector, Co-operative Societies of Valikamam East explained how a Society should be formed and the detailed working of it.

The following office bearers were elected:—

- Patron: Adigar A. Naganathar.
- President: Mr. R. S. Edwards.
- Vice-Presidents: Messrs. K. Sivaguru and A. Arunasalam.
- Hony: Secretary: Mr. Mandalasegaram.
- Asst: Secretary: Mr. S. Senathirajah.
- Hony: Treasurer: Mr. C. Subramaniam, Proctor. Sixteen Committee members were elected.

With the closing remarks of the President the meeting terminated.

Cochin Minister Supports Private Schools.—Addressing a Press conference on Oct. 23, Mr. P. G. Menon, Minister of Education, Cochin said: "It is my firm belief that if we should have universal primary education, the plea that education should be the monopoly of the State should be rejected. The problem is so huge that the Government cannot but welcome with pleasure the co-operation of all parties who extend their help. If we

(Continued on Page 3.)

Distribution of Dried Chillies

Dried Chillies will be issued to all consumers in the Jaffna District other than those served by Co-operative Stores at the rate of one-half ounce per consumer for period 17-2-47 to 23-2-47.

M. SRIKHANTA,
for Govt. Agent, N.P.
The Kachcheri,
Jaffna, 12th February, 1947.

Do You Know Series XVI of CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

1. When did the Apostolic Carmel Sisterhood land in Ceylon?
2. What are the fast days during the coming season of Lent?
3. What power is vested in priests by the latest decree of the Sacred Congregation of the Sacraments?
4. Name two Catholic priests in Jaffna who celebrate their Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee this month?
5. In what epistle is mention made of the Sacrament of Extreme Unction?
6. How can we regain Sanctifying Grace lost by mortal sin?
7. What were the first and last months of the apparitions at Fatima?
8. What is the easiest form of becoming saints?
9. What feast is celebrated on 11th February?
10. What lesson do we learn from the Parable of the Sower?

(For Answers See Below)

Do You Know Series XVI

1. In 1922.
2. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
3. The Faculty as extraordinary Ministers of confirmation.
4. Rev. Frs. N. Santiago O. M. I. and K. Sebastian. Mis. Ap.
5. In the Epistle of St. James.
6. By an Perfect Act of Contrition and the Sacrament of Penance.
7. May and October.
8. Living in the state of Grace
9. The Apparition at Lourdes.
10. The good and bad dispositions with which various men hear the word of God.

The Truth Behind the News

Post-war Britain

Britain's war effort was a social revolution: in the days following Dunkirk Britain became overnight a socialist state in all but name. Manpower was shifted to the war-front, to the women's services, to the coal mines, to the factories, as the nation needed; all transport within the country and over the seven seas was taken over by the Ministry of War Transport; all food and all commodities were strictly controlled and distributed by the state; every ounce of the nation's resources and energies, every penny of the nation's wealth and production, was placed subservient to the dictates of the government. And the architect of this socialist transformation was a Conservative Premier.

When V-Day came it was too late to stem the socialist tide; the Conservative Premier himself had laid the foundations of the labour ascendancy. Two decades before, the Zinoviev Red Letter had been utilised to cause a conservative landslide into Parliament; but this time even the Harold Laski faux-pas was of no avail. The nation had been socialised and it returned a socialist government to power. True to its mandate the new government set to consolidate the socialist state. The banks of England were nationalised; the coal mines were nationalised. The steel industry and transport are in the process of nationalisation; blue-prints have been made for the nationalisation of the other major industries. War-time controls over food and production have been maintained with stricter control over import, export and distribution. The Liberal, Lloyd George, had laid the foundation of the National Health Insurance; the Labour Party has transformed it into a National Health Service under which even the medical practitioner is nationalised. To crown all, to this party has fallen the task of ushering in the most progressive system of National Education, including within its ambit the child and the adult and transmitting the education of the few into the education of the many.

In Britain socialism has come to stay. It saved her during the War—it can save her during War's aftermath. This faith is inherent in the "Britain can take it" spirit. For, Britain's war wounds are, indeed, grievous. Depleted foreign credit demands rationed imports and boosted exports; the dislocated coal industry demands putting out the home fires and damping down the factory furnaces. Disorganisation of man-power and shortage of material keep the returning soldiers and the newly-weds homeless; dislocation of school-life and conscription of parents have resulted in retarded education and increased juvenile delinquency.

But through it all Britain rebuilds. Over the devastation of Torrington Square and Gower Street rises the stately pile of a new London University. St. Paul's stands out more majestic over the flattened acres on Ludgate Hill; past the scores of half-sunk wrecks dotting the Mersey Channel stream the world's merchantmen keeping up the ever-increasing tempo of trade into and out of Liverpool; across the bomb-shattered streets of Clydebank floats the incessant chatter of the pneumatic hammers from Glasgow's shipbuilding yards. Britain is not decadent; she is rampant. She has no time for discontent—no time for capitalism or for communism; for in her socialism she has found a synthesis of both.

Pax Britannica is no longer the Pax Romana of the imperialist—nor has it become the Pax Sovietica of the internationalist. The British soldier dispersed into the world as a conqueror to conserve an empire returned as a liberator to dissolve it; he went out as an ambassador of British culture to free nations from foreign tyrants, and he returned with knowledge of foreign cultures to free nations from British imperialists. He found at home his new spirit and his new urge only matched those of the kith he left behind—who while guarding the Home Front and fashioning the tools of his victory had beheld other nations, other races and other creeds as ardent and as valiant in the cause of freedom as they. Above all, the returning soldier found at home, seated in power, a government only

willing to translate his new spirit and his new urge into action.

The break-down of the Atlantic Charter can be ascribed least to the ill-will of Britain. The recognition of India's freedom only hinges on Hindu-Muslim concord; the establishment of Palestine's peace only awaits Arab-Jewish agreement; the fulfilment of sovereignty in the Nile valley only needs the unravelling of the Egypt-Sudan tangle. No where now does Britain resist a claim for independence as does Holland in the East Indies or France in Indo-China.—*Bottled Sunshine.*

The Jews, Palestine.

A laudable sympathy for the terrible sufferings of the Jewish people has blinded many to the facts of the case regarding Palestine.

Palestine is but a small territory in a vast Arab domain, and even there, in spite of heavy immigration in recent years, the Jews are only half as numerous as the Arabs. Divided on most other issues, the Arabs are united in their undying opposition to the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. Only superior military power can overcome that opposition.

As matters stand at present, Britain is the only country in a position to use force of arms to compel the Arabs to accept a Jewish state in Palestine. But British interests in the Middle East are too important for her to risk a war with the Arab world.

Furthermore, Britain, as her recent proposals indicate, doesn't want an independent Palestine for either Jew or Arab or both combined. It is essential to the preservation of the Empire that Britain keep open her life line to the East, and the Suez Canal is the most vulnerable part of that life line. The British are withdrawing from Egypt and are basing their military establishment for the defence of the Canal chiefly in Palestine. Britain is there to stay—in spite of Zionist aspirations and Pan-Arab ambitions. In fact, the hopeless division between Jews and Arabs provides Britain with a ready-made reason for continuing control of the country.

The assertion that Palestine belongs of right to the Jews is based chiefly on historical reasons and on the Balfour Declaration of 1917. Jews have not ruled Palestine for two thousand years. For thirteen hundred years the country has been occupied by the Arabs, with a few remnants of the Jews in scattered communities. Zionist efforts to make Palestine an independent Jewish state in spite of Arab opposition are acts of aggression, and the Arabs would be justified in meeting them as such.

In the Balfour Declaration, Britain did what many nations have done before and since—she gave away what didn't belong to her. She had not even conquered Palestine at the time of the Declaration, and in any case her conquest gave her no right to take the country from the Turks who were in control and hand it over to the Jews. Furthermore the Balfour Declaration speaks only of "a national home for the Jewish people" and gives no intimation of any intention of establishing an independent state.

There is a strong element of hypocrisy in the clamour that is being made here and abroad denouncing the Arabs for refusing to cede their country to the Jews and condemning the British because they will not force entrance for the Jews at the point of a bayonet. Certainly no nation, even among the United Nations, can point a finger of scorn at either the British or the Arabs. What nation—including our own—has made any substantial contribution to the solution of this question?

At present there are about 325,000 displaced and refugee Jews in Europe. To resettle them would not be a problem at all if such countries as the U.S., Canada, Australia, various South American countries, Soviet Russia and other members of the U.N. would simply divide them up among themselves as immigrants instead of passing the buck to the Arabs. Not only could they be absorbed but also the 700,000 non-Jewish displaced persons and refugees now living in what amount to concentration camps.

This is a problem of human suffering and misery that should appeal to the Christian conscience. It is a situation that can be remedied.—(condensed from *The Sign.*)

NOTICE

The Government Agent, Northern Province, Jaffna will receive tenders up to 12 noon on Tuesday, February 25, 1947 for strengthening and turtling the Kiraikulam Bund in Nainativu. Tenders should be made on forms obtainable on application from the Govt. Agent on a deposit of Rs. 50 for each form. Further particulars can be had from him.

The Government Agent, Northern Province, Jaffna will receive tenders up to 12 noon on Tuesday, March 4, 1947 for strengthening and turtling the Karandakulam Bund at Kadduvan. Tenders should be made on forms obtainable on application from the Govt. Agent on a deposit of Rs. 50 for each form. Further particulars can be had from him.

Salt Department Tender

Weighing Out Salt at Elephant Pass Saltern

Tenders are invited for weighing out salt at Elephant Pass Saltern from March 1st, 1947, to September 30th, 1947.

2. Closing date: 12 noon on Tuesday, February 18th, 1947.

3. Tender Deposit: Rs. 100.

4. Security Deposit: Rs. 500.

5. Tender Notice and Forms could be obtained from:—

- The Govt. Agent, N.P., Jaffna.
- Salt Supt., Elephant Pass Saltern.
- Asst. Govt. Agent, Vavuniya.
- Salt Commissioner, 37, Laurier Road, Bambalapitiya.

E. B. TISSEVERASINGHE,
Actg. Salt Commissioner.

Salt Department, P.O. Box 539,
Colombo, 3rd February, 1947.

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THE MANAGER.

St. Joseph's Catholic Press, Jaffna.

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