

THE KARAIYUR SLUM CLEARANCE SCHEME PASSED BY THE STATE COUNCIL

The Minister of Local Administration Outlines the Scheme

It is scarcely necessary to go into the detailed history of the Karaiyur Slum Clearance Scheme. Proposals for relieving the terrible congestion of population in Karaiyur started about 80 years ago as the result of a big cholera epidemic. A portion of the foreshore of the lagoon on the southern boundary of Karaiyur was gradually reclaimed at Government expense for the purpose of allocating suitable sites for settlement by the inhabitants of Karaiyur, but no definite schemes of resettlement and housing were drawn up although much correspondence on the subject did pass between the Local Authorities and the Central Government during the years 1917 and 1942. It was only in the year 1944 that a comprehensive Housing Scheme on the reclaimed land at Karaiyur was prepared by the Government Town Planner in connection with the Ministry's schemes for Post-War Development.

The Karaiyur Slum Clearance Scheme provides for the construction of 462 houses of which 58 have already been built, in blocks, of two, four and six houses on an area of reclaimed land approximately 40 acres in extent. Each house will consist of 2 bed rooms, front verandah, back verandah, kitchen and detached latrine. The layout plan includes access roads, bathing wells, and water seal latrines of the type adopted by the Department of Medical and Sanitary Services. A complete sewerage scheme will be installed by which sewage will be conducted to sumps and pumped therefrom into the lagoon by electric power.

In terms of an arrangement agreed upon between the Ministers of Health and Local Administration the sanitary requirements of the scheme were discussed at several conferences between the Sanitary Engineer's Department and the Town Planning Division of the Local Government Department. The total estimated cost of carrying out the scheme is Rs. 2,226,800 according to the details given below:—

To cost of constructing 404 houses ...	Rs. 1,616,000
To cost of constructing latrines ...	80,000
To cost of Scheme for Sewage disposal ...	370,000

To provision of wells (for bathing), roads and contingencies ... 2,000,000

2,266,800

It is proposed that the cost of the Scheme should be borne by Government and that the rents recovered should accrue to revenue. The funds necessary for the execution of the Scheme are to be released on condition that—

(a) The plans, specifications and bills of quantities prepared by the Government Town Planner, and approved by the Executive Committee of Local Administration are adopted by the Urban Council.

(b) No variation in the approved plans and specifications is to be made without the prior approval of the Government Town Planner.

(c) The estimated cost of each scheme approved by the Executive Committee is held in deposit by the Commissioner of Local Government at the Kachcheries.

(d) The Commissioner of Local Government will call for tenders for the execution of the work in the manner approved by the Treasury.

(e) Tenders received are considered by a Tender Board consisting of the Chairman, U. C., the Commissioner of Local Government, or the Deputy Commissioner of Local Government, the Government Town Planner or the Assistant Government Town Planner, and a representative of the Treasury.

(f) The Form of Agreement to be entered into by the Urban Council and the contractor is approved by the Commissioner of Local Government.

(g) The work is carried out under the direct supervision of the technical officers employed by the U. C., and a special Supervising Officer appointed by the Commissioner of Local Government. (A fully qualified Civil Engineer will be recruited for this purpose, or arrangements will be made to second a suitably qualified officer from the P. W. D.) and under the general supervision of the Town Planner.

(h) Payments for work done are made by the Commissioner of Local Government to the Chairman, U. C., from time to time as the work proceeds on certificates submitted by the

CHRISTIANITY NOW FACES ITS WORST CRISIS

POWERS OF DARKNESS ARE INCREASING PRESSURE

"The Church to-day faces a religious crisis among the people, which is perhaps the most serious, religion has had since the beginning of Christianity," the Holy Father last month told 400 members of the Christian Renaissance Movement and the Ladies of Charity.

"A Christian life of conventional custom is no longer sufficient," said His Holiness. "The need to-day is for a bold and courageous group of men and women who, living in the world, are ever ready to fight and struggle for their Faith, for the law of the Lord God and for Christ, with eyes fixed on him as a model to imitate and a Leader to follow in their apostolic work."

"Above all, we must re-sow the Catholic Faith, whole and entire."

The Holy Father recalled that recently Christianity was advised to "adapt itself to modern life to the extraordinary power of technique and scientific progress" and to "reform the dogmas of the past centuries which no longer apply and are almost extinguished."

ILLUSION

"This error and others like it show the vain illusion which deceives superficial spirits" remarked His Holiness.

"They seem to wish to make the Church fit into the narrow limits of purely human organisations, as if the new plan of the world and the present dominion of science and technique occupied the whole landscape, leaving no place free for the supernatural life."

"The marvellous discoveries of science, which the Church favours and promotes, show with greater efficacy than formerly the eternal power of God."

"Modern thought and life must be led back to and regained for Christ. His truth and His grace are no less necessary to the man of to-day than to the man of yesterday, the day before and of all the past centuries."

NO DIVISION

"The Catholic Faith is the only source of salvation. Some may look on this Faith as folly. This view is not something new. It existed in the days of St. Paul the Apostle."

The Holy Father spoke of the zeal that should flow from the really Christian life.

"To try to draw a line of demarcation between religion and life, between the supernatural and the natural, between the Church and the world, as if they have nothing to do with the other, as if the rights of God have no value in the manifold realities of daily life, is absolutely alien to Catholic thought and is obviously anti-Christian."

TENACIOUS ACTION

"The more the powers of darkness increase their pressure, the more they try to eject the Church and religion from the world and from life, so much the more is it necessary for the Church to have tenacious action and perseverance, to reconquer and subject again all fields of human life to the sweet empire of Christ."

"This office of the Church is very arduous. Those who, because of a badly understood supernaturalism, wish to reduce the Church to a purely religious field, as they say, are really playing the game of her adversaries." —New Leader.

Chairman and certified by the Special Supervising Officer in the following manner:—

Interim payments up to 85% of the contract sum for work done. Completion payment of 10% on the contract sum. Final payment of 5% of contract sums after expiry of maintenance period.

(i) The existing insanitary houses indicated by the Executive Committee of Local Administration are demolished by the Urban Council within 6 months of the completion of the new houses.

(j) The new houses are rented to families living in the insanitary buildings approved for demolition, and that the selection of tenants is made by the Chairman, U. C., a representative appointed by the D. M. & S. S. and a representative appointed by the Commissioner of Local Government.

(k) A register of tenants is kept by the Urban Council and on the allocation of each house the name of the tenant is entered in it, and the Urban Council undertakes to take legal action

to eject any tenant who defaults.

(l) The Council will pay to the Central Government Rs. 45 a year being nine months' rent at Rs. 5 per mensem for each cottage, the remaining three months' rent being appropriated by the U. C. to cover the cost of maintenance and repairs, and irrecoverable rents, &c.; no contribution in lieu of rates will be paid by the Central Government.

(m) The Urban Council enters into an agreement with the Commissioner of Local Government on behalf of Government for the due observance of these conditions, a provision of which will be that in the event of default by the Urban Council, the Commissioner of Local Government or any officer authorised by him has the right to carry out each condition.

The full sum of money is voted but only the expenditure required in each financial year will be released by the Financial Secretary.

* * * * *
The vote was passed by the State Council on Wednesday, the 19th inst.

Church Calendar

FEBRUARY 1947

- FRI. ...21 S. German.
- SAT. ...22 S. Pet. Chr. Ant.
- SUN. ...23 L. S. Peter Dam.
- MON. ...24 S. Matthias.
- TUES. ...25 S. Victorinus.
- WED. ...26 S. Alexander.
- THURS. ...27 S. Gabriel.
- FRI. ...28 S. Romanus.

The Catholic Guardian

FEBRUARY 21ST 1947

PRESS SUNDAY.

Press Sunday which is an annual call to a renewal of our ideals, is with us once again. Let us, as soberly and dispassionately as we can, assess its importance and significance.

It will be found on analysis that the Catholic press understood in its widest sense serves three functions viz., as antidote, as inspiration and as focus.

As antidote, its function is self-explanatory. The world is too much with us, that world for which our blessed Lord refused to pray. It is present in its *idola fori*, those false judgments of unregenerated mankind on life and its essential values propagated by the daily press, our daily contacts, the cinema, the radio. Hitherto, that influence had not been aimed at us deliberately; to-day, with the ominous and explicit emergence of propaganda aiming at the blurring of fundamental christian concepts, such as those of the spiritual life, personal purity, individual liberty, the value of the individual and of the existence of absolute moral principles, we are living in an infected world and we must take counter-measures.

The counter-measures are there in abundance if we but use them. Our periodicals not merely give us the truth in the news but they point out how and why news-services are vitiated; they point out also the insidiousness, the persistency and the coherence of the attack. They thus remove blinkers but more important still, they supply correctives.

(2) As inspiration, the lives of the Saints teach us that nothing is more inspiring than the Catholic periodical and book of which latter there is a superabundance, well-written by some of the world's greatest minds; never let it be forgotten that the Catholic is the true internationalist, the legitimate heir of all the ages.

That inspiration is brought home to each of us directly by regular, prayerful, faithful reading. In its essence it is Christ's message relayed to us, His message with all the freshness it had 2,000 years ago for His contemporaries, its vision, telescopic and microscopic transforming our daily life in all its ideals and details, its confidence—and never was a virtue more needed than confidence to-day—its enthusiasm, white-hot and self-dedicated to the only person and the only Cause that can ennoble life and sweeten existence.

The books may be lives of Saints, those luminous illustrations of the Gospel and Gospel principles, they may be doctrinal, they may be historical, philosophical or theological—here is, in literal truth, God's plenty.

(3) The Catholic periodical and book bring our vague desires and wishes into focus: they urge us to action, to personal sanctification and thereby to the world's sanctification. In an age when the sincerity of a man's belief is gauged by the efforts he makes to communicate it, we cannot remain dormant. There is no amiable or amicable neutrality. The issue is narrowed down to being either for Him or against Him. The disjunction in logical phrase, is absolute. That is why we said in our opening paragraph that Press Sunday is a call to a renewal of our ideals—and of our dedication.

A TREBLE EVENT?

Let us be big enough and men enough to say it. We are deeply grateful to the Sinhalese Ministers concerned, and to the Financial Secretary, for the generous scheme they have sanctioned and got passed through the State Council for the Karaiyur Slums Clearance project. Let there be nothing niggardly about our thanks.

We thank in the first place Mr. Bandaranayake, the Minister most directly concerned. We have had no hesitation in scrapping other front-page items to make room for his outline. Jaffna will not easily forget what it owes him. To Mr. Senanayake as Chairman of the Board of Ministers we are similarly indebted.

To Mr. Mahadeva, the Member for Jaffna the passing of this huge vote must be particularly gratifying. To the works he has already seen inaugurated or completed e.g., the Pungudutivu Causeway, the Pooneryn Causeway, the Pannai Causeway, the Jaffna Fisheries Harbour and Bridge, the Maternity Home and the Out-Patients Dispensary, he has now added the greatest work of all, the Karaiyur Clearance Scheme. May we, in local phrase but very sincerely, say, 'Well done, Maha'.

We are glad that he paid his own tribute in the State Council to the increasing efforts for the realisation of the Scheme, of our U. C. Chairman, Mr. C. Ponnampalam and our late editor, the Very Rev. Fr. P.M. Francis. Christians, Hindus and Sinhalese have all worked together to achieve this realisation. Is it an omen pregnant with the richest possibilities for the future? We like to think so.

This does not exhaust our local news for the week. The news about the conversion of the Vadamardchi Lagoon makes heartening reading.

We should have been so happy this week if the privilege had been ours to announce that in addition to the news items mentioned our aerodrome had

been saved. May we appeal directly and hereby to the same Ministers to thus make this week's news a treble event!

Our Lady of Lanka

Significance of Tewatta Proclamation

On the night of the 15th inst. amid unforgettable scenes in the sylvan surroundings of Tewatta now made historic, and with amazing pomp on the one hand and unexampled devotion on the other, Mary was proclaimed Queen of Lanka.

At first sight of it you would say it was a scene from Robin Hood or a trysting of fairies—this Proclamation of a Queen by starlight in the heart of the woods.

For one thing, it gives the lie to the charge that religion is prosaic, unimaginative, inhuman.

For with all its pageantry, its flash of richly embroidered vestments, its blare of trumpets, pealing of bells and boom of "artillery"—last Saturday night's ceremony out at Tewatta (Ragama) was a purely religious function.

Its chief participants were grave Churchmen, such as we know Bishops to be. Further, at their head was that embodiment of pondered composure, His Grace the Archbishop of Colombo.

But Bishops share in the prerogatives of the Church they represent, and, in an understanding of human hearts, the Church is preeminently a Mother.

How could she convoke her children to the accession of their Queen, albeit a spiritual one, and not leave them a wide margin, in the ceremony, for clapping, and acclaiming..... joyfully, vigorously?

YOUTHFULNESS OF HEART

In permitting this spontaneous outburst of sentiments, the Bishops were not only condescending to their flocks. They were—with reverence, be it said—indulging that youthfulness of heart of theirs which is the rightful possession of the really spiritual.

Around the Throne upon which they had set their Mother, even they felt just her children—a little bigger perhaps than the rest.

And of them all, no one could have felt this more deeply than the greyhaired Metropolitan, Dr. Masson, for whom the Proclamation means the fulfilment of a personal plan—the crowning of a pet scheme.

For, whereas there is nothing more normal than that all the Bishops should have agreed to give Mary public recognition of the place she has won and holds in the hearts of the Catholics in Ceylon, it is Archbishop Masson's distinction to have provoked such an agreement at the time, place, and in the manner that last Saturday night's ceremony has rendered historic.

The "provocation" arose from a vow made by him in a moment of exceptional crisis in Ceylon

Books for Sale

Rs. cts.

- The Holy Bible (Douai Version) ... 12-50
- The New Testament (Mgr. Knox) ... 5-50
- My Daily Reading from the New Testament . 1-25
- The New Missal for Every Day 12-50
- The New Missal for Every Day (De Luxe Edition) 20-00
- Kyriale (Modern Notation) 4-50
- Kyriale (Gregorian Notation) 3-50
- Priest's New Ritual. (Text in Latin and English) 11-00
- Daily Prayer Book (Containing the Ordinary of the Mass and a choice of Devotions) 1-50

Apply to:

The Manager,

St. Joseph's Catholic Press, Jaffna.

during the early years of World War II. when Ceylon seemed the imminent objective of Japanese aggression and when, humanly speaking, nothing could prevent such an attack and there was little to prevent it from succeeding.

Those were the circumstances in which Archbishop Masson, in a great gesture of faith and piety, entrusted our safety to Mary's keeping and vowed her a National Basilica at Tewatta.

The choice of Tewatta for last Saturday's ceremony is therefore singularly appropriate. There the vow was sealed. There it had to be fulfilled.

This Proclamation of Mary as Queen of the Island is a purely religious act, but it is not devoid of national significance.

MADONNA OF THEIR OWN

Now that they possess a Madonna of their own, Ceylonese Catholics can feel that, as a people, they are a unit—sharing indeed in the general life of the Church, but endowed with its own characteristics in all that does not affect the essentials of doctrine and devotion.

It is particularly to be noted that the Proclamation refers to Ceylon by its historic name of Lanka.

Once again an old prejudice is dissipated as an old fallacy is blasted. The Church is not opposed to nationalism. She blesses it, but she will have it remain wholesome and sane by maintaining a correct attitude towards larger issues.

Nations, like planets, may turn on their own axis, but they must also keep to their particular orbits round the sun.

In hitching our national development to Mary's Queenship, the Catholic Church has taken the best measures to assure it.

—Times of Ceylon.

Auction Sale

150 logs of Palu will be sold by Auction on Friday, 28th, February 1947, commencing from 10 a.m. at the Forest Department Timber Depot, Jaffna Customs, Jaffna. Further particulars of the sale can be had from the Divisional Forest Officer, Northern Division, Jaffna.

H. E. C. Lushington
Conservator of Forests,
Colombo, 15-2-47.

"The Congregation of the Rosarians"

A Review of a Brochure on the Monastery at Tholagatty.

All castes are equally welcome. There are now 30 monks, 3 being priest-monks.

This little brochure gives an account of the humble beginnings of the above Congregation, founded by the Revd. Fr. B. A. Thomas O. M. I. in 1928, its ideal and spirit, its special object, its subordinate objects, the method of spiritual direction obtaining in the Congregation, its prayers, penances, works, its absorbing devotion to Our Lady and to her most holy Rosary, and lovingly contemplates with gratitude its present flourishing condition, and the maternal and singular protection it has experienced during the last 18 years of its existence.

The Monastery is after the strictest Trappist Model and is said to be the first of its kind in the East. The brochure, that so very modestly speaks about it, is a double-distilled essence of the most exalted form of monastic life, and as such, a volume is really needed to explain, all that the Rosarian life implies. Reading it is a kind of excursion, into the 'Infinitely Infinite' regions of the Sacred Heart of Christ, whose faithful victims, the Rosarians are. To review it therefore is no easy task, unless one quotes the entire brochure. The writer, in his helplessness, begs to confine himself to a few reflections, that stand uppermost in his mind.

The Beginnings!—how very humble they were! One is reminded of Nazareth and Bethlehem. But as it is today, its growth and progress is something marvellous. One is tempted to use the word miraculous. It is really epic in character—Our Lady's own Epic! Her Caravan goes on; only it keeps moving, to the hymns of angels and the blessings of all men of good will. The tiny little mustard seed is now grown into a majestic tree, and God willing, promises in years to come, to take under its shelter, not only Ceylon and India but the whole of the East. There is already a branch Monastery established at *Vadakkankulam* in South India.

Apart from personal sanctity, which is the common object with all Religious Institutions, the Rosarians have their special objects. The object is to do penance and to offer vicarious suffering for the conversion of sinners and that of our native land—Ceylon and then India and the East. The Congregation at the same time has several subordinate objects, viz: to "explore ways and means of applying most effectively a supernatural remedy to the Spiritual, social, and economic disorders prevailing in our midst". The brochure explains each point briefly, but very clearly. But in the words of the Founder "the desires and aspirations of the Congregation are boundless". "Nothing is impossible with God". Without intending to be flippant, I say that even God Almighty must bend before such Faith—and He does!

There is one notable feature among the secondary objects, which must be mentioned—'to leave no man unemployed, in the neighbourhood of the Rosarian Monastery'. There are at present over a hundred labourers in the farm and in the workshops of the Rosarian Monastery at Tholagatty, well paid and well fed. How the monks manage to do it is a mystery to the writer. For he knows by personal experience, that the monks sell their products very cheaply indeed. They never, never seek for profits. Yet how they maintain their enormous establishment is one of the secrets of our Blessed Lady. Truly, it is Our Lady's special help and protection. Faith indeed doth work miracles, and the age of miracles is not gone!

Now let me come to my most important reflection. The only way to redeem the world from its present frightful condition, lies along the path of penance, prayer, sacrifice, and vicarious suffering. Either the world returns to God, or gets blown into chaos. There is no other alternative. Only souls that are willing to offer themselves as holocausts for others, to the Heart of Christ, can bring about the regeneration of the world.

Of course, Our Lord if He wills it, can do it all in a second. But such is not His will. He calls on men and women to co-operate with Him, to pay the price for the ransom of souls, enslaved. The Monastery at Tholagatty offers a grand opportunity. It is Our Lord who offers it to us, with His pierced hands extended. How many will accept it?

Further, a convent of Rosarian Nuns is being established. It is hoped that there will be no lack of vocations. So far, vocations to the monastic life in the Rosarian Monastery, among the Ceylonese is almost NIL. Why? Because our young men and women are not told about it. If the Reverend Fathers in charge of the various parishes in Ceylon, will do all they can, to encourage such vocations, they will be numbered among the saviours of our land. Just think of it. We have to get nuns from Switzerland to nurse our sick. All praise and glory to God for those holy souls! *What about our girls?* When will they rise to such heroic heights? Please do read the brochure.

S. A.

Colombo Celebrates Silver Jubilee of Inauguration of Press Sunday

The Literature Committee of the Colombo Catholic Diocese has drawn up an elaborate programme to celebrate the 25th Press Sunday of the Archdiocese.

Lectures, Conference and Broadcast Talks will be given in English, Sinhalese and Tamil.

Instead of the normal Press Sunday, the Archdiocese will observe this year, *Catholic Press Week* from the 2nd to 9th March 1947. His Grace the Archbishop has directed the minds and hearts of his faithful to this event in a Circular Letter which appeared in the "Ceylon Catholic Messenger" of the 16th inst.

The first item in the programme is a Public Lecture by J. P. de Fonseka Esq. on "Catholic Literature Will Last" at 5.15 p. m. at the Catholic Book Dept., Pettah, on Friday the 21st inst. Rev. Fr. G. Fortin O.M.I., will preside.

On Monday the 24th inst. there will be a *Catholic Press Meeting* at the same place and time. The business will be conducted in Sinhalese. Mr. D. Don Peter Fernando will speak on "The Purpose of the Press Week" and Mr. D. S. Kurukulasuriya on "Catholic Newspapers." Rev. Fr. Marcellin Jayakody O.M.I., will preside.

On Tuesday the 21st inst., there will be a meeting in Tamil at the R. C. School, Hill Street, Colombo, at 6 p. m.

Mudaliyar A. B. Rajendra will speak on "Tamil Catholic Literature" and Mr. A. P. Thambiraja on "The Catholic Newspaper."

Dewan Bahadur I. X. Pereira. M.S.C., will preside.

The other items of the programme will be published in these columns in due course.—Colombo Cor.

Rev. Fr. N. Santiago's Golden Jubilee Celebrations

It was exactly fifty years ago, when more than half of us were not born, that three veteran and revered priests of the Jaffna diocese were raised to the sacred priesthood on 14th Feb. 1897. They were Very Rev. Fr. P. M. Francis O. M. I. of revered memory who died only forty days ago, Rev. Fr. A. Sebastian, who is famous as a mathematician of no ordinary merit, and Rev. Fr. N. Santiago O. M. I., sang his Jubilee High Mass on Friday last in St. Mary's Cathedral, His Lordship and several priests being present in the sanctuary. Rev. Fr. B. Wm. Jesuthasan O. M. I. and Rev. Fr. L. Joseph O. M. I. acted as deacon and sub-deacon.

Rev. Fr. S. J. Stanislaus O. M. I. delivered the Jubilee oration. At 4-30 p. m. there was a Te Deum service in the Cathedral, after which the Jubilarian was taken in procession, in a decorated car, to the accompaniment of

native music and the din of crackers to St. Charles' School, where the Catholics of Jaffna Town gave him a grand reception.

Mr. G. S. Puvirajasinghe garlanded the Jubilarian. Rev. Fr. P. T. James O. M. I., the Chairman spoke of the hardships that the veteran Oblate had undergone for Christ's sake during the last half a century. Chev. S. Arulantham speaking next dwelt on the life of the Jubilarian and held him up as a model for all his brother priests. His life was a life of prayerful penance.

Dr. St. John Puvirajasinghe in a very humorous and effective speech said that Fr. Santiago was married to the Church for the last fifty years and had been an ideal husband. He had served his wife faithfully and unselfishly. He said that the dignity of the priesthood was one for which the Catholics of Jaffna had the greatest respect. He advised the present generation not to be found wanting in this admirable quality of their ancestors and to prize and preserve above all Catholic solidarity. Mr. K. T. Gnanaprasadam read an Address and Muhandiram F. J. R. Vikramasingham made a presentation of a purse on behalf of the Catholics of Jaffna.

Rev. Fr. Santiago said that he was thankful to God for having given him the grace to become a priest and the blessings given to him by the Almighty to live the difficult life of a priest for the last fifty years. He was glad, he said, that he was one of the first two native priests to celebrate their Golden Jubilee. He also thanked all those who by their prayers and reception had celebrated his Jubilee. He then gave his blessing to all those present at the function. Mr. A. Gnanaprasadam, the Editor of the Tamil Catholic Guardian, proposed a vote of thanks to all those who had contributed towards the function of the evening and particularly to Mr. P. Saverimuttu who had spared no pains to make the Jubilee Celebrations a success.

"How Tamil was built Up"

(In Tamil)

By Rev. Fr.

S. GnanaPrakasam O. M. I.

Price Rs. 3-00

Apply to:

The Manager,

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LOCAL & GENERAL

A Request.—Rev. Fr. B. Deogupillai, Mis. Ap. and Rev. Sister Mary Emilie kindly request the prayers of the Rev. Fathers and the Rev. Sisters for the repose of the soul of their beloved mother who passed away to her eternal reward on Sunday the 16th inst.

The Jaffna Diocesan Union.—A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Jaffna Diocesan Union will be held at the Catholic Club on Sunday 23rd inst. at 5.30 p. m.

Karaiyur Scheme Passes Nem. Con.—The vote for Rs. 2,266,800 for building model tenements to clear the slums of Karaiyur, Jaffna was unanimously passed by the State Council yesterday. This scheme has been sponsored by several people beginning with Sir William Tynnam and its cause was steadily urged by the late Very Rev. Father P. M. Francis O.M.I., Editor, "Jaffna Catholic Guardian". The immediate honour goes to the Minister of Local Administration, Member for Jaffna and Minister of Home Affairs and to Mr. C. Ponnampalam, Chairman, Urban Council, Jaffna. Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam, Member for Point Pedro and Mr. J. Thiagarajah, Member for Mannar also spoke in favour of the scheme.

Cement Factory at Kankasanturai.—The India General Construction Corporation Ltd., has signed the

largest single unit contract with the Government of Ceylon to complete the Civil Engineering of construction work in connection with the cement factory at Kankasanturai. The amount involved in the contract is over one and a half million rupees.

The First Feast of Our Lady of Lanka.

—The first feast of Our Lady of Lanka—a title duly authorised by His Holiness the Pope for the Blessed Virgin—was celebrated on Sunday the 16th inst. at the Grotto at Tewatta, Ragama. All the Bishops of Ceylon were present at the celebrations which consisted of Pontifical Vespers, a sermon by the Co-adjutor Archbishop of Colombo, a torchlight procession from the Grotto to the foot of the hill on which the votive basilica is to be built, an illuminated cross and flag, marking the spot on Saturday evening and several Low Masses on Sunday followed by the Pontifical High Mass sung by the Archbishop with a sermon by Dr. Edmund Peiris, Bishop of Chilaw. The festivities were concluded with *Te Deum* and the imparting of the Papal blessing. Several special trains ran on both days carrying pilgrims to the Grotto. On instructions from the Archbishop the bells in all the parish churches were rung at 9 p. m. on Saturday the scheduled time of the Proclamation. It will be recalled that this basilica was planned by His Grace the Most Rev. J. M. Masson, O.M.I., Archbishop of Colombo as a thanksgiving memorial for Ceylon's safety during the War.

The Third Order of St. Francis.

—The monthly meeting of the 3rd Order of St. Francis will take place at 5 p. m. in St. Aloysius' Hall on Monday the 24th Feb., 1947. All the Brothers are kindly requested to be there in time. Plenary Indulgences can be gained in March on these dates: - 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 18, 19, 22, 25, 26, 28 and 30.

Conditions: - Confession, Communion, Visit to the Cathedral and prayer for the Pope's Intentions. There will be General Absolution on the 1st, 19th, 25th, 30th and 31st proximo.

Jaffna Library Society.—The 108th Annual General Meeting was held in the Library Hall with Mr. R. Nalliah in the chair. After the Secretary's Report and the adoption of the Treasurer's statement of accounts the following office bearers were elected. C. Coomaraswamy Esq., C. C. S., President, Vice-Presidents: Messrs. T. Mutusamypillai and R. R. Nalliah, Secretary: Mr. Sam A. Sabapathy, Treasurer: Mr. V. Manicavasagam. A Managing Committee was also elected.

Slum Clearance at Karaiyur.—Acting on the memorandum submitted by the Hon'ble Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, the Board of Ministers has approved an expenditure of Rs. 2,266,800 to erect 462 houses at Karaiyur, Jaffna with the conveniences enumerated in one of our issues of the last month. The construction will be under the joint supervision of the Central Government and Local Officers. All plans, specifications etc., will be set forth by the Government Town Planner and any deviation from his plans will have to get the sanction of the Local Government Board. All payments for work done will be made by the Commissioner of Local Government to the Chairman U. C. on vouchers submitted by the Chairman certified by the Special Supervising Officer.

Reduction of Rice Ration.

—From Monday the 17th inst., the rice ration has been reduced to one measure as a result of the depletion of the rice stocks in the Island without any prospect of any expected shipments arriving in the immediate future. But "sorghum" and "bajiri" are to be issued along with rice to make up for the reduction.

Trawler Fishing in Ceylon.

—With the arrival of the S/T "Ariaga" Trawler Fishing in the deep waters round Ceylon has become a reality. The vessel is equipped with all modern appliances including auxiliary engines for lighting, power and refrigeration. The plant is capable of freezing 5 tons of fish a day and a storage capable of 100 tons is another feature. For the present the vessel will be manned by an Italian crew of sixteen each of whom is a specialist in his own line. Ceylonese will be taken into service for work and for training from various Co-operative Fishermen's Societies in the Island.

(Continued on Page 6)

After 25 Years

[By I. V. FERDINANDUSZ]

It happened on the 12th November 1922. The bells of St. Mary's Cathedral pealed joyously. There was a new awakening among the Catholics of the North. It was the occasion of the *First Press Sunday* in the Diocese of Jaffna. The Archdiocese of Colombo had gone ahead and observed it a month earlier and this year marks the Silver Jubilee of its inauguration in both Dioceses.

THE LATE BISHOP BRAULT

In Jaffna the clergy and the laity were fully prepared for the occasion by His Lordship the late Dr. J. A. Brault O.M.I. who issued a special Circular Letter to the clergy and laity of the Diocese. It will be recalled that the late Bishop was one of the pioneers of the Literature movement in this country. The special prayer composed by him invoking God's blessings on all Press Workers is now indulged in India, Burma and Ceylon and is read on Press Sunday evening at Benediction in our churches. "In the message sent to the members of the Catholic Union on the occasion of the first Catholic Convention held in Colombo in July last", said Dr. Brault in his Circular Letter just 25 years ago, "we stated that we would avail ourselves of the general impetus given by the continued efforts of the Catholic forces in the metropolis to urge the faithful of our Diocese, to join hands for the triumph of a common cause, the object of which is so near to the heart of every Catholic Bishop viz. the diffusion of Catholic Literature, The co-operation of the lay auxiliaries is needed to obtain satisfactory results. Men of good will are not wanting in Jaffna or in the outstation centres." Yes, men of good will there have been for the last quarter century. But whether the percentage is consoling we cannot say. Just as St. Paul had Prisca and Aquila to assist him in his labours so to the end of time members of the laity are destined to be auxiliaries of the apostles' successors working with them under their rule and direction. It is not possible to write on this subject without some reference, though inadequate, to that GRAND OLD MISSIONARY OF NALLUR who has been laid to rest, alas in this Jubilee year. He was with us from the very beginning. He represented the Diocese of Jaffna at the Literature Convention in Colombo in July 1922 and read the paper on *Press Sunday* urging that steps be taken to set apart a particular day for Catholic Press Propaganda. Throughout the last 25 years he was a giant in our midst, the fearless champion of our Faith. The influence of his singular combination of genius and devotion has had no parallel in our land and his publications will survive as long as Catholic literature survives in this country.

PRESS SUNDAY

"Press Sunday then" said the late Fr. GnanaPrakasam on that remarkable occasion in July 1922, "is a Sunday year after year on which the pastor of souls takes a special interest in and works for the Literature movement of the Catholic Union of Ceylon, so fruitful in its good results, thus far and so bright with promises for the future". It may be mentioned here that the Catholic Union carried on the work of Catholic Press Propaganda till 1940 when the work was decentralized and handed over to the different Diocesan Unions which now organise the "Press Sunday." What exactly is the purpose of this day? On this day is carried out in an intensive manner and on an extended scale what should be one of the most important concerns of every Catholic in every country viz. the apostolate of the Press so earnestly recommended by the Vicars of Christ. Once a year on this day the clergy and the laity are called upon to rally together to make it predominantly a day of Catholic literature, Catholic books and papers are sold after Mass at church doors, house-to-house visits are made, subscriptions collected towards Catholic newspapers, booklets and periodicals distributed free etc. In short every effort is made to see that the Word of God is disseminated far and wide.

EFFECT OF GOOD BOOKS

The reason why so much stress is laid within recent years on the diffusion of Catholic literature is not far to seek. People are gradually becoming more and more literate and they are able to read whether they are educated or not. With the advent of "Free Education" we shall at least have more people in this country who will read and write. It is true that reading uplifts us intellectually and emotionally and we are often carried away with the views and prejudices of the authors. Libraries, clubs, reading circles and even shop-pavements are filled with immoral books which treacherously undermine the faith of many a soul. Societies have been founded and even financed to carry on propaganda which is harmful to Catholics and all that we stand for. What then is the remedy except the propagation of our Catholic view through Catholic books, periodicals and newspapers? If communist or Samasamajist literature prepares its adherents and makes them what they are, it is not insensible to expect Catholic books to turn out good Catholics. To writing, writing must be opposed. Let the weapon that is so powerful in ruining souls, become powerful in saving them, let the antidote flow from the same source as the poison said Pope Leo XIII.

None can gauge the influence of a good book. It is said that while St. Ignatius Loyola was convalescing after the siege of Pampaluna he asked for a book and was given the Lives of the Saints, which was the only one available there. He decided to read it and soon there was a complete re-ordering of his life. From being a soldier of the King of Spain he determined to be a soldier of the King of Kings. Eventually he not only became a Saint imitating the heroes of God that he read, but gave us the Society of Jesus, the church militant on earth! Such is the effect of good literature.

THE CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS

An effective way by which we can help the Catholic Press is by supporting Catholic newspapers. There is no doubt that more people read the "Ceylon Catholic Messenger" and "The Catholic Guardian" now than they did 25 years ago. On Press Sunday a special effect is made to enrol subscribers for our local Catholic journals but it will be useful to know how many Catholic homes have a Catholic newspaper after all these efforts. Our religious papers are not meant only for mission-houses, Convents and Catholic Clubs. We have a duty to see that they find a place in our home—they will safeguard our children, strengthen our own belief, and bind the family together in the faith. At least now let us resolve—after 25 years of intensive Catholic press propaganda—to buy a Catholic paper for our homes. The two English Weeklies of Colombo and Jaffna and one Vernacular paper would not be a heavy drain on our purse. The total cash works out to about Rs. 1/50 per month which is a ridiculously small amount for an instrument that feeds and nourishes our soul—for the "living voice" of an institution founded by Christ bearing a message not for the day but for all days.

Catholic Press

Man is untiring in his quest for knowledge; the more he knows, the more he is eager to know. So it will ever be, until man's restless intellect gazes on the vision of Eternal Truth. But human knowledge is not the final purpose of our existence. We are created in order to "know, love and serve God". Mary Magdalene realised this when she sat at our Lord's feet in Bethany. And was there ever a more keen and diligent student of our Lord than His mother who during her whole life "kept all these words in her heart". St. Paul, too, gave proof that he knew true values when he wrote to the Corinthians: "I judged not myself to know anything among you, but Jesus Christ and Him crucified". Human knowledge is good, but without the knowledge of Jesus Christ all other learning is foolishness and pride. How can we love God

unless we first know Him? The more we understand Him and what He has done for us, the better we shall love and serve Him.

To argue about the importance of the press to religion is like bringing coals to Newcastle. The truth of it stands out quite clear. Every public cause depends largely for its success on the backing it can secure in the press. Even so it is with religion. Pope Leo XIII wrote to the Bishops of Brazil: "With no less insistence, we renew our advice that you should labour with as much zeal as prudence for the publication and diffusion of the Catholic Newspapers. For in these days people form their opinions almost entirely by their daily reading of newspapers". The same Pontiff wrote to the Bishop of Vienna: "Among the means best adopted to the defence of religion, there is none in Our Opinion more suited to the present time, than that which consists in meeting the Press by the Press". His successor, Pius X., was no less emphatic. On one occasion he took the fountain pen out of the hand of a Catholic Journalist kneeling at his feet, and blessed it in these words: "There is no nobler mission in the world today than that of a journalist. I bless the symbol of your office. My predecessors used to bless the swords and armour of Christian warriors. I am happy to draw down blessings on the pen of a Christian journalist". Again, he pointed out that the building of churches, the preaching of missions and the foundation of schools would be a vain task unless supplemented by a sound Catholic Press.

No pen can be employed in a higher or nobler task than in the vindication of religious truth. It is nothing less than co-operation with God in the dissemination of His Great Truths.

Under the term Catholic Press, we may understand in a wide sense all publications of Catholic literature. The object aimed at by the Catholic Press is the education of Catholics in the Catholic point of view, that is the "mind of the Church". The mind of the Church is that we should view all things, not in the terms of this world but in those of eternity. Her aim is to see them as our Lord sees them and to judge them as He will judge them. We should measure all things by standards very different from those of the world around us. The chief function of the Catholic Press is to apply the Catholic way of thinking to the problems of the day. Most of us are satisfied with the knowledge of our holy religion that we learnt at school in our penny Catechism. The catechism contains only the bare minimum of the doctrines of the Church. How can a Catholic share the mind of the Church, with only these half remembered, half understood truths from his childhood days to guide him amidst a non-catholic and pagan world? Unless he reads Catholic newspapers and books he will soon adopt the views of his neighbours and run the risk of losing his faith.

The usual complaint is that our Catholic papers and literature are below standard and offer no attraction. If it is so, the fault is with us, who do not support the Catholic Press. Let us in this month that is dedicated to the spread of Catholic literature make a firm resolution to support the Catholic Press and to purchase Catholic books and study them.

V. T.

St. Vincent de Paul Society, Jaffna.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1946.

The Particular Council of the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul Society, Jaffna has pleasure in submitting its Sixth Annual Report and statement of accounts.

The year just gone, whose activities are briefly given below, has been one of many difficulties, particularly due to the economic conditions of the times. It may be mentioned that finding the funds to furnish the poor with food and clothing has been extremely difficult.

As our funds are limited, the help we give the destitute poor and others is insufficient in view of the present stringency and the high prices of food-

stuffs and textiles. If we had greater resources, we should be able to give not only necessary additional help to those already maintained by us, but also help those poor who deserve aid but whom we have not been helping so far for lack of funds.

The Council begs to thank all the benefactors of the various conferences for their kind contributions and generous donations of last year totalling Rs. 5,614-21 without which the temporal distress of the poor could not have been alleviated. May they continue to be more and more generous to the poor!

The Council arranged an Enclosed Retreat for the members lasting for three days in August. It was well attended. The preacher Rev. Fr. J. Nicholas O.M.I. gave several conferences on the objects and spirit of the Society.

The Members and the Spiritual Directors have to be specially thanked for their zealous sacrifices to brighten the lives of the poor as is shown by the numerous visits to the poor either in their homes or at the hospital.

The good God has been generous to us in a marvellous degree during these six years of our existence and we look forward to the future with that confidence and hope which have never failed us in the past. *Dominus spes nostra.*

Number of Affiliated Conferences	6
MEMBERS.	
Number of Honorary Members	99
Number of Active Members	84
Number of Benefactors	452
MEETINGS.	
Number of Meetings held	42
Average attendance	69
WORKS.	
Number of Families helped	540
Number of Persons helped	1,256
Number of Visits to the poor	6,279
Number of Visits to the sick (House or Hospital)	4,300
Number of books and magazines distributed	495

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

COLLECTIONS.	
Cash in hand	622-35
From Hon. Members	627-00
From Active Members	95-43
From Benefactors	742-01
From Offerings	2,714-27
From other Sources	1,157-93
Grant from Particular Council	736-00
Total	6,694-99
DISBURSEMENT.	
Cash to the poor	3,298-23
Cash to the stranded	235-95
Clothes supplied	482-99
Burials helped	54-50
House repairs	51-50
Grant to start a trade	222-34
Books and magazines supplied	336-40
Other Expenses	1,341-90
Total	6,023-81
Balance in hand	671-18

R. J. PAUL,
President,

P. SAVERIMUTTU,
Hon. Secy. Part. Council.

The Fundamental Work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Extracts from the Bulletin

The visitation of the poor in their homes is the fundamental work of the Society, and as there can be no superstructure without a foundation, so there can be no edifice of Vincentian works without the visitation of the poor in their homes. The conference which neglects this work is not a part of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, but is a philanthropic or humanitarian association. It is not the help given to the poor that is the fundamental work of the Society, it is the visitation of the poor in their homes. Especially in small towns there may be a temptation to say "we don't need to visit them. We know all about them. We know whether they are deserving of our charity or not. Why then, should we visit them?" My dear brothers, your visit is not merely intended to protect you from imposition. That was not the ideal of Ozanam, that is not why your work has received the enthusiastic approbation of successive Pontiffs, and been richly endowed with

spiritual favours. No; the visitation of the poor is something very different from that. It is a visit of a brother to a brother in distress, it is a visit of a kind Christian heart to a heart weighed down with want and misfortune, in order to sympathize with it and to console it, and to breathe new life and hope into it. It is the visit of a heart full of zeal that wishes to encourage its brother in the practices of religion, or gently lead him back if he has strayed from them. In a word, it is the visit of a Christian who sees Christ in the poor.

You are well aware how highly your visits are valued by the poor, and how deeply grateful the poor are for your visits. If our own personal friends were in misfortune, we should not stay away from them if we were acquainted with their circumstances; on the contrary, we should, for that very reason, go to console them, and give them comfort. In the visitation of the poor we may distinguish three distinct acts of charity. First, that of giving the material assistance to the poor man; second, that of giving yourself to him by visiting him by sympathizing with him and by consoling him; third, the enormous good you do yourself by the visit, because, although you may not do any moral good to the poor man, it is perfectly certain that if you make the visit in the proper spirit, you do enormous spiritual good to yourselves. The moral improvement of the poor is laid down as an aim and object of your visitation, or to use the words of the Manual. "The aim of the Society in relation to the poor is to make them better men and better Christians". Hence, your work is ordained towards the salvation of your own souls and the souls of the poor. You are doing then, the work of God Himself "without whom you can do nothing". If you are inclined to attribute to yourself any success that might attend your work, you are inevitably bound to be a failure. The visit should not be a case of calling at the door and handing in a relief ticket. You must devote sometime to it, in order that you get to know your people, and so as to afford an opportunity of giving them some spiritual consolation. The visitor should take his hat off on entering, and take a chair if it is offered to him and force himself to be at home in the surroundings. No matter how foul the disease, or dingy the hovel, make it a duty to spend a little time with the sick person.

What About Your Spiritual Reading?

Its Importance—Advantage and Method—Choice of Books.

What things soever were written, (in the Bible) were written for our learning." (Rom. iv 4)

This text implies the duty of reading the Scriptures; it is also inculcates the principle of Spiritual Reading. It is a most effective aid to making our lives truly spiritual.

IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL READING:

(i) We all need instruction, though perhaps we think we know enough. Hence,

(a) In the Old Law, the Scriptures were daily read in the Synagogue.

(b) In the New Law, the Epistles and Gospels are "written for our learning"

(c) St. Paul advised his disciples to read (1 Time iv, 13),

(ii) Spiritual Reading is listening to the voice of God Himself.

(iii) The Fathers of the church inculcate its necessity e.g. St. Athanasius "You will find no one truly intent on God's service who is not also given to reading"—Exhortad Relig. (St. Jerome) "Ignoratio Scripturarum ignoratio Christi est, To ignore Holy writ it to ignore Christ." (Proleg. in Is.)

(iv) Founders of Religious Orders all agree in requiring it.

(v) The common practice of holy persons in the world.

ADVANTAGES:

(i) We cannot at all times hear sermons, but we can always read a book.

(ii) The words of a sermon may pass away or escape us, but, with a book, we can pause or read again.

(iii) Books speak to all alike without respect of persons, or fear of offence.

(iv) Books give us the companionship of Saints and Doctors, whose sanctioned words have fed and formed souls to God.

(v) It gives purity, tranquility, nourishment and strength to the soul.

(vi) A wonderful influence to encouragement and perseverance (Conversion of St. Ignatius July 31 and St. Augustine Aug. 28).

METHOD:

(i) Read slowly, not hurriedly, unlike when reading a story book for pleasure; but dwelling on parts that concern us or affect us. Food does good only when digested.

(ii) Make an occasional ejaculation while reading and so turn it into real prayer.

(iii) Read little at a time: To remember better what is read; to make a practical realisation of it; read often the same book, if found profitable.

(iv) St. Francis of Sales read the "spiritual combat" for 20 years. Above all seek God therein, not mere information or pleasure.

WHICH BOOKS TO READ?

(i) Holy Scripture, especially the Epistles and Gospels as so many letters from our Father and our true Home. With a desire of spiritual progress in the spirit of humility, and submission to the church's interpretation.

(ii) The "Imitation of Christ", containing sweetness like the manna, for every condition of soul.

(iii) Books of religious instruction. So necessary in these our days.

(iv) Lives of the Saints and Martyrs. Example is the best exhortation to sluggish human nature.

RESOLUTIONS:

(i) Regularly, every Sunday at least do some Spiritual Reading.

(ii) Procure suitable books occasionally especially for children on Press Sunday.

(iii) Lead these to adopt the practice in their early years.

Jaffna Literature Committee.

Prayer for the Diffusion of Catholic Literature.

(Mgr. J. Brault, O. M. I.)

To be recited during the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on

PRESS SUNDAY

O Lord, infinitely loving and infinitely worthy to be loved by Thy freewilled creatures! We lament the cruel perversity of so many, who, having sworn the ruin of Thy servants, make havoc of their souls through an unfettered diffusion of corrupt literature. In this saddening situation have pity on Thy children, infuse into their hearts the Wisdom and Prudence of Thy Holy Spirit, so that they may set their faces against all reading that is contrary to the pure doctrine of the Holy Catholic Church and spurn all writings that will injure the purity of their soul and body. Grant them, O Lord of light and truth, a holy desire to advance through sound and instructive reading in better knowledge of Thee, the only true God, and of Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent, being all united in perfect submission to the teaching of Thy Church.

Bless, O God of mercy and goodness, that phalanx of devoted men, who, fully alive to the danger to which the faith and morals of Thy Children are exposed, have enrolled themselves under the guidance of their pastors, to defend, as new Crusaders, Thy Sacred Cause. Help them Almighty God, in all their holy undertakings for the diffusion of Catholic Literature, inspire many more lay auxiliaries to join their ranks to fight the Prince of darkness, as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, under the protection of His blessed Mother, Help of Christians. Let them all show forth that missionary spirit which will inspire them with the courage to spend and be spent for the preservation and salvation of souls redeemed with the most Precious Blood of Thy Son Jesus Christ, to whom be all honour and glory for ever. Amen.

200 days Indulgence granted by His Excellency the Delegate Apostolic.

PERMISSU SUPERIORUM.

Press Sunday Work

The Editor,

"Catholic Guardian,"

Dear Revd. Fr.—May I through the columns of your valuable journal appeal to all parish priests, heads of institutions and Catholic Actionists to work unselfishly in the matter of the Diffusion of Catholic Literature on Press Sunday in their respective areas. "The more one reads, the more one knows" is an accepted axiom. Hence to know more about God and His saints, one must read the Scriptures and Lives of saints—Catholic literature. "Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime." Then why not read the lives of the Great Redeemer, the great Doctors, Bishops, Martyrs etc. of the Church and conform our lives to theirs? In this connection I may state that it is essential that we receive the fullest support of every Catholic in every parish and heads of institutions to make Press Sunday in the Jaffna Diocese a great success this year. Let the motto on Sunday next be "Every Family a 'Guardian'; every adult a book and every pupil a booklet."

May I also request the parish priests to notify the undersigned within a fortnight of Press Sunday of the value of books sold in their parishes and the number of subscribers enrolled for the "Catholic Guardian" the Sathivethapathukavalan" and the Iruili Oli separately so that the Press Sunday Report and accounts may be presented by the middle of next month with full particulars for each parish and institution.

P. SAVERIMUTTU,

Hon. Secy., Lit. Committee, Jaffna Diocesan Union.

St. Patrick's College.

The Co-operative Method

Are You Interested in Catholic News and Books?

Year in year out this question has been asked by the Bishops in their circular letters on Press Sundays. Yet how few are there who subscribe to the "Catholic Guardian" or to the "Sathivethapathukavalan"? "It is a great pity that its circulation among our Catholic population is so limited" wrote our Bishop this year. Is there no remedy to this pitiable state of affairs? The Lit. Committee of the Jaffna Diocesan Union proposes a scheme which, if it receives the support of the Parish Priests, Heads of institutions and Catholic Parish Councils, will bring a tremendous change in the circulation of the Catholic Papers. Every parish priest or head of an institution gets down weekly say 10 "Catholic Guardians" or 10 "Sathivethapathukavalan" (according to the needs of the area) and through the help of say 3 young pupils they are sold in the Church premises immediately after Mass every Sunday. In the absence of the parish priest, some permanent organisation like the Legion of Mary can undertake the weekly sale of the papers. The parish priest thus subscribes to ten papers, the cost of the postage is reduced and hence the parish priest will be able to give the young workers a little "santhosam" for their trouble.

Another method of diffusing Catholic literature is the free distribution of Catholic Tracts and leaflets. The Lit. Committee appeals to the charitable societies of every parish to get some pamphlets printed at least once a year and distribute them free among the faithful.

A more lasting method is the setting up of a Reading Room in every parish where Catholic literature and Catholic papers occupy a prominent place. It is gratifying to note that some parishes have already moved in this matter.

Jaffna Lit. Com.

Moscow Attacks the Vatican

Both Moscow and Belgrade have renewed their attacks on the Vatican. All the old "gags" were repeated such as the one that the Vatican wanted to save Fascist and Nazi reactionaries. Notable examples were a broadcast on Moscow radio of a *New Times* article on "Whitewashing Nazis" and Belgrade Radio's accusation that the

Vatican is harbouring war criminals. In the case of Moscow the "proof" was the hiding of Mussolini's body in a monastery, and Belgrade's evidence was that a former Yugoslav Fascist had been reported as having been received in audience by the Pope.

Vatican Radio replying to the attack, commented: "The history of the early years of the war shows the full solidarity of the Pope with those who were unjustly attacked. The telegrams of Pope Pius XII on May 10, 1940, to Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg, victims of unprovoked aggression, condemns before humanity the violation of the rights of nations. What were certain champions of liberty then doing? The same history records for the Soviet-German pact, that is to say, the complicity necessary for the aggression. *New Times* would do well not to touch the subject of war criminals."—*The Examiner*.

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 Sinnathambu Maruthamuthu of Vaddukoddai East.

Deceased.

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

Vs.
Annammah widow of Sinnathambu 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

Weighting out Salt at Chiviyateru Saltern

Tenders are invited for weighting 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.

Ceylon University Entrance Examination.—The following Patri- cians have been successful in the Cey- lon University Entrance Examination. Arts: M. J. Melchior, Medicine, S. E. Wijeratnam, Science: M. V. Philips and R. E. Thambiratnam. Messrs. Em- manuel Patrick and V. Rajasundram are two old boys to be successful in the same examination.

Lent a Hospital for 5 sh.—Pro- testant Children's Service (New York) has been for a long time vainly seeking for a building to house needy children in their care. Head of the organization, Mr. James Blaine, met the chancellor of New York diocese who reported the quest of Mr. Blaine. In a few days Mr. Blaine had his building accommo- dation, for Cardinal Spellman rented a large building to him for only 5 shill- ings. The lease on property extends to March 1948. *The New York World- Telegram* calls the deal "A BLOW FOR BIGOTRY."

Exploration of the South Pole.—The South Polar regions hitherto unexplored and supposed to be inacces- sible have been flown over and more than 75000 square miles of territory had been photographed by Admiral Richard E. Byrd the leader of the U. S. Navy Expedition to the South Pole. Admiral Byrd had discovered 50 new mountains in this area. He is now planning a full expedition to the land of lakes in this area which is believed to be ice-free.

Tutor Nurses from America.—The Executive Committee of Health has decided to recruit two tutor nurses from America and to send four nurses from Ceylon to be trained as tutor nurses abroad.

Rs. 1,500,000 from Entertain- ments.—The Colombo Municipality expects to reap Rs. 1,500,000 as re- venue from the entertainment tax which is to 20% of the total value of tickets sold.

Egyptian Royalty in an Air Crash.—An unconfirmed report states that one of the five sisters of King Farouk of Egypt was killed when a four engined 6-95 crashed into the sea near Terracina about 60 miles from Rome.

A Fourth Daughter to Princess Juliana.—Princess Juliana of the Ne- therlands had been blessed with a daughter at Soertdijk Palace on the 18th inst. The child's birth extends the continuity of the Netherlands being ruled by women for more than fifty years.

Zonal Cricket in the North.—The Zonal Cricket Match between the North and the South Zones begins to- day at 1-30 p. m. on the Central Col- lege Grounds and will be continued tomorrow. The South Zone team will be the guests of the Jaffna Sports Club. The North Zone Team will be selected from the following :-

A. D. J. N. Selvadurai (Capt.), S. Cumarasamy, R. Cumarasamy, R. Joseph, M. A. Tennekoon, S. Kanaga- navagam, N. Kandiah, D. J. N. Selva- durai, C. Ponnampalam, V. Rama- krishna, Beck Wright, G. Karunaratne, P. H. E. Austin, N. S. R. Arumugam, G. L. B. Arulle.

More Technical Schools Con- templated.—According to the recom- mendations made by the Committee on Apprenticeship Training, branches of the Technical Colleges are to be opened in Kandy, Galle, Jaffna and Batticaloa. The recommendations which are being scrutinized by the Executive Commit- tee of Labour, Industry and Commerce favour the establishment of a Central Apprenticeship Board to secure a Uni- form Training for apprentices and to work out a scheme for holding exami- nations, issuing certificates of compe- tence and other allied details of Techni- cal Education.

Police Transfer.—Mr. Osmund de Silva, Superintendent of Police, Jaffna, has been transferred to Colombo. Mr. R. E. Blaze, Superintendent of Police, Uva, succeeds him.

Dog Bite Sequel in Court.—A resident of Ward Place, Colombo, is being charged before Col. Mervyn Joseph, the City Magistrate with having caused hurt by means of a dog to Rev. Father A. Margesz and Mr. E. C. S. Paul of Ward Place, at Kynsey Road, Borella on Feb. 7. Mr. A. E. L. Ohlmus, the owner of the dog pleaded not guilty to the charge and was allowed bail in Rs.500, The trial was fixed for March 4.

Uxorial Fidelity.—Fourteen years ago a man in Pretoria, South Africa was sentenced to 23 years hard labour for burglary and man slaughter a year after his marriage. Before going to serve his term he pleaded with his young wife to divorce him for her own sake. But she steadfastly clung to her matri- monial vows "for weal or for woe" and had been supporting herself and her son on her meagre earnings. That man is to be pardoned on the visit of their Majesties to S. Africa.

The Fresh Water Lake is no more a Pious Dream.—The Execu- tive Committee of Agriculture and Lands has approved of the Scheme to convert the Vadamaradchi Lagoon into a Fresh Water Lake at a cost of Rs. 1,100,000. When completed this Lake will help to reclaim 15000 acres of land of which 8500 acres will be fit for paddy cultivation and the rest for market gardens. Work is to be begun as early as possible. Rs. 150,000 is to be spent this financial year. The whole expenditure will be spread over several years. The main work is to construct two barrages to prevent sea water from inundating the lake. The barrages alone are to cost six lakhs. It will be recalled that this scheme has been hang- ing fire for some years.

The Union Carnival and Exhi- bition.—During the festival period of the Maviddapuram Kandaswamy Tem- ple from 6-16 August an Educational Exhibition and Carnival are to be held

on the premises of the Union College, Tellippalai, in aid of the College Exten- sion Fund. The various officers of the Exhibition and Carnival and twelve Committees to be in charge of the dif- ferent sections of the show were elected at a Public Meeting held at the Town Hall on the 13th inst. The Office- bearers are:- President: T. C. Raja- ratnam Esq., J.P., M.B.E., Executive Officer and Treasurer: I. P. Thun- ratnam Esq., Asst. Treasurer: S. K. Rasaiah Esq., and Joint Secretaries: V. Sithambaranathan Esq. and V. D. Burder Esq.

Independence Day.—Mr. J. L. Kotelawela, Chairman, Propaganda Committee of the United National Party is soliciting a little space to inform all political, social and economic organisa- tions throughout the Island to observe the 2nd day of March as an Independ- ence Day for the Island of Ceylon. The 2nd of March has a significance, his circular reads, because of the fact that on March 2, 1815 the ancient kingdom of Lanka was solemnly vested in the British Crown. Now that we are head- ing for complete freedom within the British Empire he feels it fitting that we re-claim our rights on the very day we lost them. In course of time when public opinion is sufficiently roused by meetings, demonstrations and peaceful observance of the day it may even be declared as a public holiday as the 14th of July is for France and the 4th of July is for the United States of America.

(Continued on Page 7.)

TOURING SERVICE.

We have great pleasure in announcing that we have recently organised a touring motor bus service.

Enquiries and bookings for picnics, pilgrimages, excursions and holi- day expeditions by Schools and Colleges, etc., will receive our prompt and careful attention.

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NEWTONS

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THE OPENING

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This Department will be in charge of
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Late of Dr. Ratnam's Private Hospital,
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Drugs & Dispensing Dept.,

Telephone: 114

MAIN STREET, JAFFNA.

Telegrams: "MERCYN"

The New Salaries Bill.—At a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Government Trade Union Federation on the Galle Face Green on Saturday the 8th inst., the workers unanimously accepted, under protest, the revised wages and conditions of service passed by the State Council sometime ago with regard to Government skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour. The proposed increase of salaries had augmented the Salaries Bill by Rs. 12,000,000 but the individual increase was too negligible and the whole scheme more was characterised as an "offer of sugar coated pills" to the workers to bring about cleavage between the permanent and daily paid units in the ranks of labour.

Allowance to School-Going Children.—The four-man Social Service Commission has recommended payment of an allowance of Rs. 5/- per head per mensem to school going children between the ages of 5 and 14 of parents who have more than two children and whose income is less than Rs. 100/- per month. Good moral character on the part of the parents is one of the conditions since, "no educational reform can be fully effective unless there is parallel development in the home, whose influence in the formative years is far greater than that of the school". The cost of such allowances is put at Rs. 30,000,000.

Food Position in Ceylon is Better than in England.—Sir John Tarbat, Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce said that food rationing in England was very strict. In England he saw an egg only once a week and he could not get anything like the bread we get in Ceylon.

Missionaries are not to Blame.—At the 24th annual celebrations of the Sri Lankadharma Society Mr. Rajah Hewavitane, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce deplored the criticism cast on the missionaries for founding educational institutions and orphanages for the alleged purpose of converting the children. "We should not blame them but rather blame ourselves more," said the Minister, "for neglecting to care for our poor children and orphans who were deprived of the joys of life owing to their poverty and want."

Houses for the Police.—On representations made by the new Police Chief Mr. Richard Aluvihare C. C. S., the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Communications have considered the question of giving the highest priority to a new housing scheme for the lower ranks of the Ceylon Police Force. This is specially welcome when the Home Ministry is on the eve of increasing the number of the force to 6000 before the coming Parliamentary Elections.

Costly Gravestone.—Mrs. Anna S. Beauchle has left \$ 150,000 or £ 37,500 for the erection of a mausoleum for herself. Each of her relatives got \$100.

Bringing Down Costs of Living.—The Treasury which was entrusted with the task of devising ways and means to bring down the rocketing cost of the living index has submitted its report to the Board of Ministers who will debate it at their next meeting. The report favours the lifting of all controls so that traders may be given a free-hand in importing foodstuffs from any country they please. At the start there will be a sharp rise in prices but after the temporary flare, free competition will bring down prices to normal. Another way out is for the Government to subsidise and take over the import of all essential commodities. The Treasury does not favour this course since it will mean additional taxation to maintain the present subsidy of Rs. 200,000,000 per year. De-control has been tried with success in Singapore.

Weather Crisis in England.—The extraordinary cold wave in England is paralysing industry and precipitating the country and the Government into a crisis. Coal supplies are short and an electricity cut has been introduced all over, essential services alone excepted. Factories have to be closed thus increasing unemployment and impeding the export drive. "Export or starve" "Shinwell must go" are familiar cries. Mr. Shinwell is the Socialist Minister for Coal and Power. Mr. Churchill characterized Socialism as progressive degeneration.

Government to Run a Cloth Mill.—The Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce proposes to establish a cloth mill which is calculated to produce no less than 50% of Ceylon's requirements of textiles within five years. The benefits of such a venture according to the Minister are (1) substantial new employment (2) production of new wealth to raise the standard of living (3) elimination of total dependence for textile supplies on other countries. It is hoped that the visions of the Minister will prove economically sound by relieving the poor.

Japanese Yarn for Ceylon Weaving.—The Government of Ceylon has placed an order with Japan for the supply of cotton yarn to the value of Rs. 3,000,000. Mr. U. P. Dolapihilla, the Textile Technologist of the Department of Commerce and Industries is to fly to Japan for the purchase of this commodity. Mr. Dolapihilla has been in Japan for several years.

"Literature and Obscenity."—The General Committee for publication in the University of Ceylon has rejected an article entitled "Literature and Obscenity" with the result that the Union Society passed a vote of disapproval of the action of the General Committee and the Magazine editor has resigned. The reason for rejection was the word "obscene" which, it is felt might upset the public.

Two Thousand Ex-Service Men to be Settled.—Plans have been prepared to adopt about 2000 ex-service men to an agricultural life in the vicinity of the Parakrama Samudra. Each individual is to receive a two or three acre-plot for his own use with living quarters, community halls and facilities for games etc. The settlers will work a farm run on a co-operative basis.

Headmasters and the New Educational Bill.—The Ceylon Headmasters Conference has submitted a memorandum to the members of the State Council opposing the new Education Bill to be rushed through the last days of the present Council. The headmasters feel that a scheme which is bound to have far-reaching effects on one of the most vital questions of the whole country and its future deserves the consideration of more calm let than can be offered by a State Council in the throes of dissolution. Moreover the Bill as it is proposed does not tackle the problem of education fairly and squarely in all its aspects. It is believed to be subtly calculated to vest the Minister with code-making powers that would be absolute and dictatorial.

Free Scheme Pupils.—In a circular addressed to the Managers and Principals of the non-fee-levying schools the Director of Education has defined the status of pupils who are to benefit by the free scheme. According to his circular only children who are of Ceylonese parents and of foreigners resident in Ceylon are to receive the benefit of the free scheme.

Wife-beater Acquitted.—An interesting case of a wife-beater being not only acquitted but his conduct being held as upright is reported from Cairo. The accused, a highly educated man, took objection to his wife going on sight-seeing tours with a member of a family with whom she stayed when she was studying in England. This companion of hers had come to Egypt as a soldier. When his disapproval was not heeded the husband chastised his wife to make her adhere to oriental traditions of virtue. The Giza Court of Misdemeanour in acquitting the husband observed "chastising a wife is a man's legitimate right."

Dr. Ivor Jennings to Serve on Malaya Commission.—The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ceylon Dr. Ivor Jennings has been appointed a member of the Commission that will investigate into the preliminary arrangements connected with the establishment of the proposed University of Malaya and the University College which is to precede the University. The Chairman of the Commission is Sir Alexander Carr Saunders, the Director of the London School of Economics. Prof. M. D. Ratnasuriya, Dean of the Faculty of Oriental Studies will act as Pro-Vice-Chancellor during the absence of Dr. Jennings from the Island.

Bribery in High Places?—The Colombo Municipal Council has adopted a resolution to appoint a Commission to inquire into and report on the allegations of bribery and corruption with regard to the recent Mayoral election to the premier Municipal Council of Ceylon. Rumour has it that a certain bookmaker of a bucket shop offered Rs. 10,000 to a member to vote for a particular aspirant. That offer was, however, refused but it would appear that three other offers of Rs. 5,000 had not been rejected with the scorn they observed. One municipal member was offered a house, a motor car and Rs. 5,000 in cash. It is hoped that a Commission will be appointed to clear the fair name of the City Council by a thorough purge or substantial clearing of ill founded allegations.

Mikado's Property Nationalised.—According to the terms of the revised Constitution for Japan all property now vested in the Mikado is to belong to the nation. The Mikado will be allowed only his personal belongings. This order when carried out will deprive the Mikado of about 90% of his present possessions.

WEDDING

The marriage was solemnised at St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya on January 27 of Mr. Victor Reginald Bastiampillai and Miss Theresa Ida Emmanuel, eldest daughter of Mr. X. Emmanuel, Supervising Officer, Post Office, Kalutara.

The Very Rev. Fr. Emilianus Pillai, O.M.I., Vicar-General tied the nuptial knot and celebrated the Mass.

The Rev. Fr. J. B. Gregory O.M.I. preached the homily.

The bride was attended by Misses Angela Pillayayagam and Mabel Chrystosom as bridesmaids. The bestman was Mr. Stanny Xavier.

The bride's parents later held a largely attended reception at the Galle Face Hotel.

OBITUARY

At her residence at the "Masabielle" Mathagal, at the ripe old age of 86, surrounded by her children, grand children and relatives, fortified by the last rites of our Holy Mother the Church, Mrs. Mariammah Anthonypillai passed away peacefully to her eternal reward on the 4th inst.

Mariammah was a true Catholic mother. Her husband, the late Mr. T. Anthonypillai having died early, the duty of bringing up the four children fell entirely on her. She found her strength and consolation in the daily reception of the holy Eucharist. It was an edifying sight to see her every evening with her whole family reciting the holy Rosary before our Blessed Lord in the Holy Sacrament. This love for her Divine Lord she instilled into the hearts of all her children and at her last moments, the desire, love and reverence with which she received her Lord and Master for the last time was so touching that the priest, at her grave side, could not but bear testimony and ask others to emulate her example.

Mariammah, the eldest daughter of the late Mr. B. Santiapillai (Sadayar), President Mooppu of the Parish Church, died as she always lived in the love of our Lord. We have lost a model of a generous heart that always went to the help of the needy, a genial soul that knew no guile, a simple faith that moved mountains.

The following day her last remains, encased in a dainty coffin, were borne on a hearse drawn by a pair of white steeds. A long procession of members of different Confraternities with their banners, and a host of relatives and friends mournfully accompanied, reciting prayers for the departed.

Rev. Fr. H. Veyret O. M. I., Ph. D. conducted the service at the house and grave-side.

She leaves, besides her numerous relatives and friends, Messrs. A. S. Pillai and Family, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lazarus and family and Mrs. S. Bastiampillai and Children (sons and daughters) and C.V. Amirthanayagam (grand-son) to bemoan her loss. May the soul of this faithful Catholic rest in peace.

R. I. P.

MRS. IGNATIAPILLAI BASTIAMPILLAI
Fortified by the Last Sacraments and the rites of the Church, there passed away to her eternal reward Ignatiapillai, beloved wife of Mr. M. Bastiampillai of Karampan, Kayts, and dear mother of Rev. Fr. Deogupillai and Rev. Sr. Mary Emilie.

Previous to her death which took place on Sunday the 16th inst., the deceased had been ailing for about a week. And when she breathed her last, she had around her all her children and grand-children. She was 74 years of age at the time of her death.

The funeral took place at Kayts on the 17th inst. and was largely attended. There were over 20 priests and as many nuns present. Rev. Fr. Deogupillai officiated from the house to the parish church of St. Sebastian's, while Very Rev. Fr. Guruswamy officiated from the Church to the Cemetery.

The deceased was a good-hearted and pious lady, loved by all her numerous relations and friends. She was intensely devoted to the Rosary throughout her long life. She leaves behind her beloved husband, eight children, and a large number of grand-children.

Rev. Fr. Deogupillai and Rev. Sr. Mary Emilie, while very sincerely thanking all those who were present at the funeral of their beloved mother, and those who sent them messages of condolences, kindly beg of all their brother Priests and sister Nuns to remember her in their prayers. R. I. P.

We regret to record the death of Mr. James Ignatius Bushnell-Bastiampillai, the retired Inspector of Telegraphs on Saturday the 12th inst. The late Mr. Bastiampillai was ailing for sometime past and in spite of the best medical treatment in Colombo and in Jaffna and in spite of the assiduous nursing on the part of his relatives he passed away on the day of the feast of his Patron, St. Ignatius.

The funeral took place at 9 a. m. the next day and was well attended. The Rev. Father S. Vanderkone O.M.I., assisted by the Rev. Fathers L. J. Augustine O.M.I. and R. T. James O.M.I. officiated both at home and at the grave-side. The chief mourners were Mr. J. F. X. Bastiampillai, the only son, Mrs. Rose Bastiampillai and family sister-in-law Messrs. V. E. & P. A. E. Bastiampillai and families, brother S. A. Xavier and S. E. Namasivayam bro-s-in-law and families and Messrs. A. J. Selvadurai and Regi Rajakarier bro-s-in-law and their families. R. I. P.

Do You Know Series XVII of CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

1. What lesson do we learn from the parable of the barren Fig-tree?
2. Who said "Timeo Jesum transeuntem"?
3. What European Cardinal recently visited England?
4. Who said "the Faith ever old, ever new"?
5. Who preached the famous sermon entitled "The Second Spring"?
6. What is the vesperale?
7. What is the tiara?
8. What is the nationality of the author of the Song of Bernadette?
9. Name three immortal Spaniards canonized in 1622.
10. What is a biretta?

(For Answers. See Below)

Do You Know Series XVII

1. The end of all who will not correspond with God's grace.
2. St. Augustine.
3. Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne.
4. St. Augustine.
5. Cardinal Newman, on the occasion of the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy in England in 1852.
6. A chant book containing only the office of vesper.
7. The triple papal crown.
8. Jew.
9. (i) St. Teresa of Avila.
(ii) St. Ignatius Loyola.
(iii) St. Francis Xavier.
10. A square cap with projections above the crown.

History Behind the News

THE SHADOW OVER THE BALKANS

Peninsulas and Islands, arrogance and impudence, have shaped the history of the world. A piece of land jutting out into the ocean is a picture of adventure and arrogance; and an Island swimming in the waters, does it not make one think of an impudent school boy with his tongue in his cheek—like De Valera so near and yet so far?

THOSE ANCIENT ADVENTURERS:

the peoples of the Aegean Sea, who carried the civilization of old Asia into the wilderness of Europe were the teachers of the Romans whose Empire extended beyond the Mediterranean lands, and whose power dominated ancient Britain for nearly five hundred years. The sea-pirates of Norway, Sweden and Denmark following in their wake came to destroy and stayed to build kingdoms far from their homeland. Soon the North men (or Norsemen or Normans as they were variously known) overran North Western Europe but, where her armies failed, the missionaries of the Church went forth to preach the Gospel of Peace, and the Northern barbarians were laid low by the victories of the Cross. Spain and Portugal full of that wonderful energy they had developed in their long life-and-death struggle against their Moorish invaders produced the Navigators and Explorers who discovered a New World and found a New Way to the glamorous East.

A MYSTERIOUS MOSCOVITE

state slumbered through all this activity and progress in the extreme Eastern Europe, and rumour spoke of a mythical city called Moscow from which a scientific expedition sponsored by the Archbishop of Tyrol was turned back in 1492, the year in which Columbus discovered America. The missionaries of the Byzantine Church which had become very Oriental, indeed carried the civilization of Byzantium into the vast territory called Russia but Western civilization has hardly touched the majority of the multitude of races which compose the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Geographically Russia is an ideal territory for nomads; the Urals formed no barrier against the Tartar and Mongol invaders from Central Asia who surged through the land at different periods of her history. Sometime in the distant past Rurik, the Norseman, had founded one of the many small states established by these adventurous warriors. It was one of these whose capital was Moscow which proved to be the Saviour of Russia.

BY DECEIT AND DIPLOMACY

Moscow grew fat at the expense of its neighbours until it rebelled successfully against its masters, the Tartars. Its success and its fame as leader in the cause of Russian independence made Moscow the natural Centre of all those who believed in the future of the Slav people, just as today it is the Spiritual Mecca of all those who hope for the triumph of the Hammer and the Sickle all over the world. In 1463, ten years after the fall of Constantinople, Ivan III laid claim both to the spiritual inheritance lost by the Byzantine Empire and such worldly traditions of the Roman Empire as had survived at Constantinople. A generation later Ivan the Terrible called himself Caesar or Tsar, and demanded recognition from the Western powers of Europe. The double eagle of Byzantium, the symbol of the days when Rome had been divided into an

Eastern and a Western part, became the coat-of-arms of Modern Russia. Stalin, in spite of the Hammer and the Sickle superseding it, true to the Russian character, professes to face both ways and the world is left to conjecture whether he is an Eastern Despot or a Western Democrat.

ORIENTAL BYZANTIUM

was chosen as his new capital by Constantine the Great when he found that the pressure of the Northern hordes made Rome uncomfortable as an Imperial residence, and re-named Constantinople, the gateway for commerce between Europe and Asia. Unfortunately for the Slav Tribes who then wandered through the regions between the Dniester and the Dnieper, the main road from Northern Europe to Constantinople ran through their territory. Thus Russian distrust of foreign influence and Russian desire to consolidate the outposts of the Soviet Republics against possible invasion is an inheritance from her past. "Despite Atom Bombs, guided missiles and air power, the U.S.S.R., because of its vast size, population and geographical position is essentially vulnerable only by means of land armies supported by other military arms and weapons". Besides, to a Russia all out for world domination, the control of Constantinople is indispensable.

(To be Continued)

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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.
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- (b) Asst. Govt. Agent, Vavuniya.
- (c) Salt Superintendent, Elephant Pass.
- (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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Wanted: Sub-Inspectors of Co-operative Societies.

Qualification: London Matric, S. S. C. or equivalent examination. Preference to candidates with knowledge of accounts. A good knowledge of Tamil is essential.

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Canvassing in any form will be a disqualification.

N. D. Co-op: Federation,
Jaffna, 18-2-47.

A. Arulambalam
Hony. Secretary
N. D. C. F.

All-Ceylon Tamil Congress

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E. M. V. Naganathan
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St. Joseph's Catholic Press, Jaffna.

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