

The Catholic Guardian

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

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THE DEFENCE OF THE MINORITIES IN INDIA

Lord Ranheillour has once again raised in the House of Lords the question of the position of the minorities in the future constitution of India. As we pointed out the week before last Lord Ranheillour has also drawn the attention of the Lords to the Prime Minister's departure from the Cripps' declaration of 1942 that the defence of the minorities would form part of the Treaty to be concluded between Britain and India. The Prime Minister in his speech to the House of Commons said that the rights of the minorities would be safeguarded by finding a position for their representatives in the Constituent Assembly or constitution-making body. This as Lord Ranheillour contends is a complete departure from the Cripps' declaration of 1942. Because according to this declaration minorities and their rights and the safeguards for these rights would be incorporated in the Treaty between Britain and India, just like the position and rights of the Indian States. Does this departure bode ill or well for the minorities?

If the Treaty is to be the method of safeguarding the rights of minorities, what is the value of such a protection? A Treaty looks a solemn, serious, formidable document. It is a contract, a covenant between two or more peoples in States which both of them solemnly swear to observe and which may be departed from only by the agreement of the high contracting parties. But Treaties have been brought to an end by the unilateral denunciation of one of the parties.....

Nor is the independent tribunal to be appointed from England which Lord Ranheillour suggests going to be of any use to the minorities. The Constituent Assembly would not agree to any such interference with the autonomy of a Dominion or an independent

State. And even if it were constituted, how would the decisions of the tribunal given effect. It would have to be given effect by the very majority governments by the very majority governments in question accused of interference with the rights of minorities. Will the police the army of these Governments be to the carrying out of the decisions of the independent tribunals. We don't think.

The real safeguard for the minorities and the rights of minorities must be found in India and in the Indian constitution. And here we are in agreement with Lord Ranheillour when he says that there must be something like "an organic statute in any future Indian Constitution for the protection of the civic rights, customs, freedom and religion of the minorities." That organic statute must be found in the Indian constitution that is going to be framed by the constitution-making body. First of all, the rights of the minorities must be incorporated in the constitution. Secondly, those rights must be placed under the protection of an independent Judicial Body like the Federal Court at the centre, and in the provinces. Thirdly, provision must be made against the tyranny of any majority in the legislature or the executive either at the centre or in the provinces. At the centre parity between Hindus and Muslims in the Legislature and the Executive will help to secure this. In the provinces majorities must be prevented from carrying out measures affecting the religion, language, education and culture of a minority without the consent of the representatives of that minority inside or outside the Legislature. In some such ways as these by means of institutions formed in India and in the constitution of India can the rights of minorities be secured—as far as institutions and laws can secure them.—N. L.

SPANISH LETTER

Intervention Rallies Spain to Franco

Since I last wrote the situation in Spain has changed fundamentally. The decision to close the French frontier against Spain has sealed off the last chance there might have been—and it was always a very remote chance—of a break up of the Franco regime from within.

These people cannot be dealt with like naughty children; their national pride revolts automatically against actions like this; and it is safe to say that nothing more was needed to seat Franco firmly on the throne of power. The immediate result has been a wave of manifestations and protestations of loyalty to his government which recalls the hopes and longings of the far-off days of 1936; coupled with the slightly malicious thought that France is going to suffer more than Spain, since she will no longer get her oranges, potash or fish, which are the main goods she has been importing from Spain since the end of the war.

LESS TALK OF MONARCHY

The people here are now convinced that their greatest danger is Communism once more, and consequently there is even less talk than ever of a restora-

tion of the monarchy. It is quite obvious that it was the Communists and the C.G.T. in France who were responsible for the decision, and although it may free the French Government from an embarrassing situation, such as dealing with a strike of the workers engaged on the transport to and from Spain, that argument carries little weight here in Spain.

Another reaction is to ask if the Atlantic Charter was just another diplomatic piece of paper; since it would seem that the great Powers are determined to govern all other countries at least vicariously, by forcing them to put into power, not the government the people want, but the government which the three great powers think most beneficial to themselves.

Certainly, if this action on the part of France is aimed at forcing the hands of Britain and America, then it is not only unjust in the extreme, but also is certain to lead to a state of anarchy in Spain compared with which the atrocities of 1936-7 will be mere child's play.

It is most important that the Catholics of England and America should

THE LION OF MUNSTER

Tribute to the Late Cardinal Von Galen

Cardinal Griffin flew to Germany for the funeral of Cardinal von Galen, Bishop of Munster.

Field Marshal Lord Montgomery has sent the following message to Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, on the death of Cardinal von Galen:

"The Commander-in-Chief and British element in the Control Commission desire to express their regret at the passing of a great Christian leader whose fearless defence of true Christianity in difficult times earned the respect of all denominations throughout the world."

Cardinal Griffin, preaching in Westminster said:

"It is with great sorrow that we have learned of the death of Cardinal von Galen, Bishop of Munster.

"I had the privilege of meeting him in Germany in September, and had several long conversations with him during the recent Consistory. He was one of the outstanding new members of the sacred College.

"During the war he never ceased to protect his own people against the evils of the Nazi system, and to proclaim the teaching of the Church, and to denounce persecution both of Jews and Christians.

"His courage was unequalled, but I should like to speak of his deep sincerity and of his amazing humility.

"The Catholic Church in Germany has suffered a very heavy loss and we offer our deepest sympathy to the Hierarchy and to the priests and faithful of his own diocese of Munster.

"I feel that all of us can learn a lesson from his life. We must be bold in asserting Christian principles and we must not compromise when it is a question of Christ's teaching."

In the middle of the war, when to most people outside the Reich any and every German was the blackest kind of criminal, the British "News Review" boldly declared: "The man who last year gave the most sensational example of courage was a German. Inside Hit-

realise this while there is still time to make their opinions known; because, in spite of the many defects of the present regime, at least it has given to Spain peace and order such as she has not known for many years.

REALISES HIS POSITION

The Spaniard is coming slowly to realise his position and his right to choose for himself, and is no longer prepared to accept the dictates of other powers quite so easily. People who write from England give the impression of a feeling of unrest about Spain; if they could come here they would find no reflection of that feeling; although there is a good deal of resentment at outside interference.

It should be remembered that a change of regime now under these circumstances is bound to lead to Communist domination of Spain, and thus the very last bastion of truth in Europe will have gone. We have already seen Poland let down or rather betrayed without mercy. It remains to be seen whether an attempt will be made to force Spain to betray herself; but one thing is quite certain: Spain is determined to resist any such attempts, and in this the vast majority of the people are solidly behind Franco.

ler's Third Reich he dared to raise his voice against the Nazis."

"News Review" was speaking of the "Lion of Munster," Mgr. Count von Galen. It praised his moral courage, his "ability to hold out, unbroken and unflinching, against the blackest forces of tyranny."

The Nazis feared to let him go on living and feared to kill him. Cardinal von Galen went on fearing nothing though he knew he was on a black list to be murdered if the Nazis won the war.

TRUE PATRIOT

They could not condemn him as a traitor; all Germans recognised him as a true patriot, a man who dearly loved the land and the people among whom God had placed him.

Of himself and his family—an ancient family of Westphalian nobles—he once said: "We Galens are neither particularly handsome nor clever, but Catholicism is in our blood."

A giant of a man, Cardinal von Galen towered over the Nazis mentally as well as physically and morally, a man who lived to receive the plaudits of the world while his enemies—the enemies of the individual man and women—were lying in suicides' graves or awaited trial in the ante-chamber to the execution yard at Nuremberg.

For all his thunder, his immense dignity and his massiveness, Cardinal von Galen had the simplicity and humility of all the really great. I saw this man who had fearlessly withstood the Gestapo turning pink with surprise and embarrassment at the wild enthusiasm of strangers cheering, clapping, surging near him trying to show their admiration as he advanced to the steps of the Papal throne to receive the Red Hat.

SMILING WELCOME

At the end of an atrociously uncomfortable journey from Germany, when he might well have sent a message that he was occupied, I was welcomed into his compartment on the train and waved to a seat with a vast, beaming smile. The smile overflowed into a gale of laughter as he discovered that the interview would have to be conducted in my half-forgotten school French, helped out with much gesturing and raising of eyebrows.

While we talked of the hardships of his own journey, the laughter continued. But when he spoke of the sufferings of the displaced persons, I got a glimpse of the granite-front that met the Nazis. Pity gave place to deadly earnestness as he insisted: "Your people do not understand; they must realise what is really happening."

A colleague of mine, meeting His Eminence later in Rome, asked him for a statement. Unwilling at that particular time to refer to the matter under discussion, His Eminence replied, not with the usual chill official negative, but with another of his bursts of laughter. Recalling one of the Vatican ceremonies, he put his finger to his lips and said: "But the Pope has closed my mouth!"

It was easy then to picture Cardinal von Galen reducing a Nazi to ridicule with his ready wit. That remark recalled a story now famous in Germany.

(Continued on Page 6.)

MADHU

The May Festival will take place on the 5th of May. The Novenas begin on the 26th of April.

Administrator of Madhu Church.

Church Calendar

APRIL 1946

FRI. ...26 Cletus.
SAT. ...27 S. Peter Canis.
SUN. ...28 Low. S. Paul of C.
MON. ...29 S. Mark Ev.
TUES. ...30 S. Cath. of Sien.

MAY 1946

WED. ...1 SS. Philip & Jacob.
THURS. ...2 S. Athanasius.
FRI. ...3 Finding of the Cross.

The Catholic Guardian

APRIL 26TH 1946

THE RESURRECTION, A CHALLENGE.

During this week we have been commemorating the greatest of all historical facts: the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It has continued to be a challenge to an unbelieving world. The men of science, as they are pleased to call themselves, have been invited and even urged to test the truth of this occurrence by the canons of historical proof on which they have accepted so many other facts of history but they have ever fought shy of so doing. Their excuse is that miracles are impossible; the Resurrection of Christ is a miracle and hence it could not have taken place; investigation of it would be a waste of time. In saying so they assume without proof that miracles are impossible; but the correct scientific procedure should be to make the claim of the Resurrection as a test case and after a thorough but unprejudiced inquiry into its truth conclude on the possibility or otherwise of miracles. We present to them the Resurrection of Christ not as a miracle but as a pure historical fact. What makes these persons to take up an unreasonable attitude is their false philosophy. For instance, to the Materialists, who deny the existence of a spiritual soul and a life beyond the grave, the doctrine of Resurrection can have no meaning. It must be the same to the Atheists and the Agnostics who either deny or doubt that there is a God who can accomplish this unique wonder. Then, again, there is the group of Rationalists in many a University chair who deny the Resurrection of Christ not on any reasoned argument but on the pretensions of their own superior knowledge. We say not on any reasoned arguments because these University pundits have bade farewell to Reason considering it as a deceptive guide. They have come to the conclusion that objective reality is a fiction of the mind. The order and harmony we perceive are simply the modes in which the mind arranges the infinite phenomena of an ever-changing world and in their view mankind is living in a dream-land. There is no such thing as a fact or a truth, they say, except as a mental make-up. Those who hold these destructive views have to deny the dogma of the

Resurrection in order to be consistent with their so-called philosophy. Lastly, there is the vast mass of non-Christians who do not believe in it because the doctrine has either not been brought home to them or worldly cares and interests have prevented them giving to it the attention they should. We give thanks to God that we firmly believe in this saving truth which is the foundation of our Faith and our Hope. It is the foundation of our faith because upon that sure and glorious fact that Christianity is built up. St. Paul repeatedly preached it and wrote to those who were contemporaries of the great event that if Christ did not rise again our faith is vain. The Resurrection is an incontestable proof of Christ's Divinity as well as the truth of the religion he founded. Christ our Lord did more than merely rise. He has defeated death for all of us. He has made His Resurrection the pledge of our own resurrection. It is by our Faith in it that our eyes pierce through the shadows of death and look into the glorious Heaven beyond where these bodies of ours will live again in glory with the Risen Christ.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Priests and Elections.—Some days ago a large and important section of the Buddhist bhikkhus in meeting assembled bade a long farewell to all their political rights. They would neither vote nor seek election to any political body whatever. Thereupon the "Daily News" wrote an editorial very complimentary to them in the course of which a passing reference was made to the Mannar elections with a hint of undue interference of the Catholic clergy. We noted the allusion at the time but did not think it worth the while to quarrel over it. But a correspondent from Moratuwa in a letter which appears elsewhere in this issue takes up the matter and he has done well as we are given an opportunity to make some appropriate remarks. The kindly-meant apology of Mr. S. A. Fernando notwithstanding, it must be said that the Catholic clergy in the North made their influence felt in all the last elections by advising Catholic voters how they could make their votes 100 per-cent. effective and what policy they should give preference to in Constitution-making. No religious cry was raised. But were the Catholic clergy right in taking part in politics? Certainly they were and if the country's good required it they would continue to do so. Only the other day the Cardinal of Lisbon said that although the Church was above politics, Catholics as citizens are in the midst of it and it would not only be the right but the duty of priests to whom Catholics look for advice to guide them aright. A greater authority than the Cardinal, His Holiness the Pope last month addressing the Lenten preachers in Rome said:

"It is an essential right and duty of the Church, to teach the faithful by words and writings, everything pertaining to the Faith and moral behaviour. The exercise of the right to

vote implies a grave moral responsibility, at least when it is a question of electing those who are called upon to give the country its Constitution and laws. It is therefore the Church's place to explain to the faithful the moral duties carried by the right to vote.

"The priest cannot be put on the same footing as public officials or people vested with civil or military functions, for he is neither an employee nor a representative of the State but a minister of the Church, vested with a mission embracing all religious and moral duties of the faithful."

Note the words of His Holiness: "when it is a question of electing those who are called upon to give the country its Constitution and laws." That was precisely our case here of electing those who would be called upon to give the country its Constitution. Good government, to secure which every citizen ought earnestly endeavor depends greatly on a good Constitution. And, it was because of our conviction, that a broad-based Constitution giving to every community some share in its administration, would make for justice, peace, prosperity and contentment, that this paper adopted a policy at which even some Catholics looked askance.

Franco Regime and its Critics.

—A Spanish letter from the "Catholic Herald" of London is reproduced on our front page for the benefit of our daily papers which gave such unusual and undue prominence to the speech of the Polish delegate against Franco at the meeting of the U.N.O. The "Times of Ceylon" supplemented the speech by a picture of Franco giving a Fascist salute. The speech of the delegate was a despicable utterance and showed the kind of man he was and of the government that has cruelly been imposed upon Poland. The charges he advanced were of communist manufacture utterly false, without a shrewd of evidence, made unblushingly and with consummate impudence. One wonders why our papers show so much sympathy to communist propaganda. Perhaps their source of information is tainted. We would suggest to them to read one of the Catholic papers published in London such as "The Tablet", "The Universe" or "The Herald." These exist to tell the truth and not to look for dividends. As to British secular press it commanded respect fifty years ago. Now over-monopolised and commercialised it has lost its former position. There is a cry in England for a Royal Commission to look into the prevailing conditions of the British press. As to Franco himself, he must thank his enemies and their sympathisers for enormously strengthening his position.

The Question of Languages.

—A local "Nationalist Tamil" tries to pick holes in a statement in our Editorial Note on the Question of Languages. He says that our assertion that countries with dual official languages have power more or less evenly divided does not bear examination and cites examples to the contrary. But it will be a very

interesting inquiry to search out what historical factors operated so as to make these cited countries to be exceptions to the general practice that the dominant political power determines the affairs of a country of which its official language is one. There is nothing to prevent the dominant community imposing its language as the official language of the country. In fact the President of the Buddhist Congress said that within twenty years Sinhalese would be the official language of Ceylon. If Tamil also is to continue as an official language it must depend on the continued good-will of the Sinhalese.

O.M.I. COMMUNIQUE

Rome—General Administration.

The following members of the General Administration have returned to the General House 5, Via Vittorino da Feltri:—

Very Revd. Fr. Balmes, Vicar-General.
Revd. Fr. Lennon.
Revd. Fr. Dubois.
Revd. Fr. Rousseau.
Revd. Fr. Desnoyers is expected about April.

Revd. Fr. Pietsch the first assistant, always very poor in health, and is kept up alive by means of blood transfusion. Although bed ridden he prevails in spite of his weakness a great clarity of mind.

As a successor to Revd. Fr. Thiry, who died at Durban on 28th Aug. 1945, T. R. Fr. Vicar-General has appointed Revd. Fr. Francis Xavier Cianulli to be the General Postulator in Rome.

Revd. Fr. J. R. Brackelaire has been appointed the Editor of the "Missions" and of the AROMI, the Congregation is indebted to Revd. Fr. Thiel who for so many years has been in charge of this post.

The Revd. Pere Rousseau has been appointed, Superior of the General House and Moderator of the Scholastics. The scholastics just a few, occupy a part of the General House as the Scholastic proper is still occupied by Polish soldiers.

The Revd. Fr. M. Blanchet, former Provincial of the Italian Province has been nominated Bishop of Aoste his native diocese.—Ad multos annos! 16-2-46.

VERDICT ON RUSSIA

By Revd. Francis O. Tambimuttu

"Soviet policy has passed rational understanding" said the *Manchester Guardian* last November. The subsequent months have only helped to deepen the mystery that surrounds Russian foreign policy.

Yet there are the so-called friends of Soviet Russia who pretend to understand Russian aims. They say that Russia only wants to protect her frontiers against future aggression. But any serious student of communist philosophy must know that the word 'Frontiers' has no place in the dictionary of communism. It is of the very essence of communism to seek world domination. Her frontiers coincide with the horizon but not beyond because there is no beyond.

Russia seeks world domination. She is a member of the U.N.O. for her own interests. She will quit if and when it suits her. Her foreign policy is selfishness personified. The Yalta, Potsdam, London and Moscow conferences bear witness. She hung like a millstone round the Big Three's neck. She could not participate in such a plainly beneficial body as the Food and Agriculture Organization. The Civil Aviation conference was held in Chicago. Russia was absent. The Education Conference war held in London. Russia was absent. The Agriculture conference was held in Quebec. Russia was not there. U.N.O. debated Azerbaijan. Russia was not

CATHEDRAL CORNER

The following donations received for the Cathedral Building Fund, between March 10th and April 10th 1946 are gratefully acknowledged:

No. of Inst. Rs. cts.

Chairman's List.

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Mr. S. M. Chellathamby's List.

8th Novena:

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Swampillai Sakrier		
Antonypillai Soosaipillai		
Antonypillai Sebastiam		
Santiapillai Bastiam		
Adriampillai Chelliah		
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Pavilupillai Antonypillai		2
Pavilupillai Manuelpillai		6
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Antonypillai Francis		1
Mariampillai Joseph		1
Raphaelpillai Joseph		1
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B. M. Muttiah		2
K. E. Manuel		1
J. Mariampillai		1
B. J. T. Rajanayagam		1
Bastiampillai Joseph		1
Pavilupillai Manuelpillai		1
Bastiampillai Simon		1
Bastiampillai Selladurai		1
W. Swampillai		5
Mrs. Vanigasooriar		2
T. Antonypillai		1
A. E. J. Benedict		1
M. Nicholas		1
Saverimuttu Joseph		1
R. Antonypillai Muttiah		1
S. Francis		2
S. Mariampillai Chelliah		1
K. S. Santiapillai		1
S. Francis		1
Bastiampillai Santiapillai		3
S. P. Innasimuttu		2
M. K. Joseph		1
Manuel Michael		1
Santiapillai Gabrielpillai		2
M. Santiapillai		1
Theonis Antonypillai		2
S. A. Marianayagam		1
Bastiam. Saverimuttu		1
Adriampillai Chelliah		1
Thiruchelvam Joseph		1
P. E. Antony		1
Bastiampillai Swampillai		1
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(7th Novena)

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V. Benedict		1
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V. Saverimuttu		1
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J. Aseervatham		1
S. Joseph		1
J. Sebastiampillai		1
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Previously acknowledged 11,661 77

Grand Total 12,792 27

CHAS. S. MATTHEWS, O.M.I.

22-4-46.

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Cathedral Corner

Friends of the Cathedral, who carefully scrutinise the lists of donations which we publish to-day, will notice two fresh features which may impress them variously.

There is an ominous tendency in some Jaffna lists to a sharp slump in the amounts subscribed. Many clients of Our Lady who bravely started with a monthly gift of a day's pay, six months ago, have unashamedly climbed down to a Rupee a month. Is this due to a cooling of their enthusiasm or to an unavoidable reduction in their income? We know that many parishioners were employed in the various military camps which cropped up here and there during the war and that the departure of these units is spelling unemployment and poverty in not a few quarters. Yet, we cannot close our eyes to the glaring exhibitions of silks and jewels by the gentle sex—and (shall we say it with shame?) by our own sex. We hear of fabulous prices being paid for black market food.

We notice that public conveyances were never so crowded than now—days. A casual visitor to the surroundings of the Kamala Circus would imagine that Jaffna is an Eldorado where poverty is unknown and where people have inexhaustible funds available for pleasure.

We had hoped that the spiritual retreats, so fervently followed during the Lenten season, would ward off and neutralise that impalpable and insidious seeping of the spirit of worldliness and of sensuality into our Catholic way of life and that corrosion of the Catholic outlook on pain and pleasure which are the greatest evils of the present day. Apparently, we were too optimistic. Never was the Tamil sage so well inspired as when he wrote:—

பெரிசுக்குப் பத்தகாரர்
திரும்பாட்டுக்கு
ஒரு காசு.

The second new feature of our donation list is the appearance of several new collectors.

Some Jaffna Catholics—faithful of the diaspora,—who left school with an ardent love of Mary and who realise that the best way of practising Catholic Action to-day is to build Our Lady's shrine, have generously accepted the title of "Our Lady's Beggars" and have promised to go about and collect alms for our fund. Some fifty of them met the Chairman at St. Philip Neri's Church, exchanged views, discussed methods and promised their generous co-operation. The fervour and enthusiasm of these young apostles was a really comforting sight and reminded one of the division of the world into battle zones by the Apostles after the Council of Jerusalem.

Most O. L. B's. will work in the neighbouring of their office in the Metropolis: others have chosen a provincial town for their field of operations.

To-day, half a dozen of the new labourers are bringing the first fruits of their efforts to the granary of Our Lady. We congratulate them on their zeal and on their love for our Common Mother and we assure them that the Catholics of Jaffna will watch their doings with intense interest and pray fervently that their efforts may meet with a consoling harvest.

C. S. M.

NOTICE

Lorries for Sale—Permits not Required

Two lorries bearing Nos. H-415 (Chevrolet) of 21 H.P. and H-984 (Ford) of 20.03 H.P. belonging to the Jaffna Urban Council will be sold by public auction at this office on 27th April, 1946 at 10 a.m.

Permits are not necessary to purchase these lorries as the Commissioner of Motor Transport has authorised me to dispose these lorries to any one without permits on the distinct understanding that the area rights are not transferred to the buyers.

The lorries can be inspected at the Council's workshop between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily except on Sundays.

C. PONNAMBALAM,
Chairman, U. C., Jaffna.

Jaffna, 6-4-1946.

CORRESPONDENCE

Religion and Politics

Dear and Revd. Sir,

"Ceylon Daily News" in its editorial of the 3rd instant, on the above subject makes a vain attempt to minimise the guilt of election activities of the Buddhist Monks in the State Council elections by referring to the Mannar Bye-election, insinuating thereby that the Ministers of other religions are also guilty of similar election activities. But what are the facts? It is well-known that during the last General Election, it was the religious cry that decided the issue of many elections. In a large number of constituencies, illiterate masses who were enfranchised for the first time, were led to the polls like cattle with cries of "Sadhu, Sadhu" with the result that the elections were reduced to a farce and a mockery. Who were responsible for this? Buddhist Monks supported by laity; knowing very well that they had no chance whatever being returned owing to the caste and religious cry, many leading Christian public men did not come forward. It was stated at a public meeting by a leading Buddhist Monk that the Buddhist Monks were responsible for getting about 13,000 votes for Mr. R. G. Senanayake at Narammala Bye-election. Mr. E. W. Perera the veteran politician and patriot who rendered selfless service to the country for over twenty five years, was defeated by two more or less amateurs in politics at Horana and Kelaniya, because he did not want to sacrifice his religious convictions for a passing glory. Can any one deny that the religion was the deciding factor in both these elections? The Editor of the "Daily News" by referring to the Mannar Bye-election in trying to mislead the public by suggesting that the Catholic Priests are also guilty of such election activities. The public is well aware that the Catholic Priests in Ceylon, as a rule, do not take part in politics nor do they use their influence in favour of any particular candidates. If they did two constituencies of Negombo and Chilaw predominantly Catholic would be represented today by Catholics. I am not quite aware of the part laid by Catholic Priests at Mannar. Any way this is an isolated instance which cannot be brought as an argument against the Catholic Priests in general. We Catholics have no complaint against the Editor for championing the cause of Buddhism, but he is guilty of an act of gross misrepresentation when he makes an attempt to bring down the Catholic Priests to the same level as Buddhist Monks in regard to election activities.

Yours faithfully,
S. A. FERNANDO.

387, Uyana Road,
Moratuwa, 10th April, 1946.

Languages Committee

Sir,
In your editorial note on the above subject in the issue of 12-4-46 you make certain references to the Nationalist Tamils and their policy which needs further elucidation.

You describe the Nationalist Tamils as people who cheerfully supported the surrender of political power by the Tamils. It may be well to note that the Nationalist Tamils always advocated reasonable weightage in representation for the Tamil Provinces and the embodying of statutory safeguards for the preservation and protection of fundamental linguistic, cultural and religious rights.

Your assertion that "countries with dual official languages have political power, more or less evenly divided" does not bear examination. Canada, South Africa, Belgium, Switzerland are countries having more than one official language. In Canada the principle of parity in political power was tried and rejected. The act of Union (1840) providing really equal representation between upper and lower Canada, had to be abandoned on account of frequent dead locks between the French and English sections. The "British North American Act" of 1867 which provided for the Canadian Federation gives a definite pre-ponderance of seats (thus power) to the English settlers. In Switzerland the Italian speaking people are only about 6 per cent. and French-

speaking 21 per cent, of the total population and there is no chance of their having equal power with the German-speaking. In South Africa and Belgium similarly there is no question of equal share of power but the two main languages of the country are recognised as official languages.

You will therefore see Sir, apart from any question of political power, the languages of the country are recognised as languages of the State.

Before I conclude I may observe that Nationalist Tamils have always stood for good-will among communities and fair-play for all. We have not merely advocated a political settlement with the Sinhalese but in the recent past we have courageously fought for justice to smaller minorities such as depressed classes and Christians. Our attitude towards the Hindu-Christian Schism in the past has even won your commendations.

Thanking you for the courtesy of your columns.

Yours truly,
A. E. TAMBER,
Joint Secretary,
Nationalist Tamils Committee.

The Northern Islands

Sir,

The Kayts Constituency as at present constituted consists of all the Northern Islands and a portion of the mainland.

It has all along been felt by the inhabitants of these islands that, by virtue of the dimensions of all these islands (numbering about 8 or 9) and the vast expanse of ocean water separating some of them from the mainland and from one another, and the consequent hardships and inconveniences and handicaps from which they inevitably suffer, they should be separately delimited into a constituency composed of all the Northern islands which should in all appropriateness be known as the "NORTHERN ISLANDS CONSTITUENCY." It is now fervently hoped that under the Soulbury Constitution they will be able to realise their long-cherished desire to have a separate representative for themselves in the legislature, who should be able to devote his full time and energy representing them and their particularly difficult transport and other problems.

It is hoped that this suggestion will receive due consideration from the Delimitation Commission. Thanking you for your valuable space.

Yours etc.,
R. WIJAYA INDRA.

"Indra Vasa"
Hospital Road,
Jaffna, 18th April 1946.

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Jaffna Launches Food Production Drive

Jaffna will produce more short term crops like green gram, cow-peas, yams, and onions to meet the food crisis that is facing the area. This decision was reached at a Conference of Divisional Agricultural Officers, Assistant Government Agents, Divisional Revenue Officers and farmers' associations of the Northern Province, convened by Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, Government Agent, and held at the Jaffna Kachcheri sales bungalow, last week.

Mr. Coomaraswamy said that the Minister of Agriculture had drawn his attention to the very grave crisis that Ceylon was facing—a situation which was much worse than it ever was while the war was on. He pointed out the urgent need not only for intensive cultivation but also for the production of some food crops on all cultivable areas. "Due to panic created in India by the possibility of a major famine," he said, "practically all supplies of pulses and curriestuffs, including chillies and onions, have been totally cut off and it is now essential that everyone should be induced to produce as much food as possible in home gardens or estate."

"We in Ceylon are in a fortunate position of being able to produce a variety of grains such as kurakkan, maize, green gram, cow-peas, yams, chillies, onions and vegetables."

NO CONFIRMATION

Mr. W. P. A. Cooke, Divisional Agri-

cultural Officer of the Northern Province, suggested that during April green gram, Bombay gram, cow-peas and onions could be grown in paddy lands and manioc, kurakkan, sami and thinai in gardens. He promised to get cuttings of white manioc to plant up 500 acres in Jaffna. He said that the soil in the Pachchilaipalli and Palai areas was very suitable for sweet potatoes.

Mr. J. V. Chelliah, said that the Government must spend money if they wanted to encourage production. He ridiculed the idea of Government paying Rs. 6 for a bushel of paddy under the Internal Purchase Scheme when the cost of production was over Rs. 20 a bushel.

Mr. E. J. Rajaratnam, Office Assistant at the Jaffna Kachcheri, said that the appointment of instructors and food production officers in each Divisional Officer's area was very necessary.

Mr. M. Sri Khanta, Assistant Government Agent, said that so far assistance had been given to cultivators by the sinking of wells for those who owned half an acre or more as it would bring a larger extent of land under cultivation.

He decided to ask the Minister of Agriculture for the grant of a subsidy of Rs. 60 per acre to cultivators of short term crops and a sliding subsidy according to the varied yield per acre for paddy cultivators.

The conference also decided to appoint regional committees in every D. R. O.'s division in the Northern Province to encourage food production.

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there. Unfortunately Bevin and Byrnes at long last refused to dance to her tune.

"The Soviet Government by their policy of sealing off Slavdom and expelling from it all non-Slav populations useless as slave labour, as well as by their policy of removing from the territories they control everything, whether made of iron and steel or of flesh and blood, which might be useful to their own economy, have greatly and gratuitously increased the vast problems of relief and rehabilitation confronting the Western Powers. Mr. Bevin spoke of unknown numbers of men disappearing in the depths of Russia as slave labour, while their wives and children are driven westwards for the British and American authorities to deal with... It was a pathetic sight—the stream of perambulators and small vehicles of one kind or another, and the people were usually all women or children, with very few men at all." ("The Tablet").

"These expulsions are carried out under quite unnecessarily cruel conditions." (Miss Eleanor Rathbone in Parliament).

Moscow directed election in Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. In Tito's Yugoslavia, Ozna, the counterpart of the OGPU dominated the elections and carried out mass disenfranchisements. Whereas in Hungary and Finland where genuinely free elections took place communists were left in the background. Moscow is not too pleased with the Populist victory in Greece. Allied observers were on the spot to see that elections were free.

Moscow expelled fifteen million Germans from her zone. She sent five million Poles into the depths of Russia. Without respect for the sovereignty of nations she has set up puppet states. Moscow's "Asiatic policy, so important for the peace of the world, is an enigma." (U.S. Bishops after their Washington conference).

It was at Russian bidding that Britain and the United States rejected the Vatican's participation in the Peace conferences.

And yet Russia pretends to work for the peace of the world. Yes—till she manufactures some atomic bombs.

LOCAL & GENERAL

St. Alphonsus' Guild.—At a meeting of the Committee of St. Alphonsus' Guild it was decided to have the Red Mass for Catholic Lawyers and Judges on June 9th at 9 a.m. at St. Lucia's Cathedral, Kotabena.

Rev. Fr. J. B. Gregory, O.M.I., Director, presided and there were present Messrs. C. M. Fernando, D. M. L. Mendis, Cyril E. S. Perera, Joe Fernandopulle and Valentine S. Perera.

His Grace the Co-adjutor Archbishop T. B. Cooray, O.M.I., has been invited to officiate and preach at the Mass. It was decided to compile a complete list of Catholic Lawyers and Judges throughout the Island. In addition to the Red Mass a Social will be held during December. A brochure is being prepared regarding the origin and history of the Red Mass as observed by Catholic Lawyers in various countries.

S.V.P. Jaffna—The first quarterly meeting of the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul Society, Jaffna, for the year 1946 will be held on Sunday 28th inst. at 5-30 p.m. in St. Charles' School Hall. Mr. A. Gnanaprasam, the editor of the Tamil "Guardian" will address the members on "the Life of a Vincentian." All spiritual directors, members and benefactors of the various Conferences are requested to be present.

Wanni Harvest.—A harvest worth twelve million rupees is expected from the Wanni paddy crop which is about to be threshed.

Nearly half a million bushels of paddy will be given to the Internal Purchase Scheme.

During the last maha season hundred thousand acres of land were brought under paddy cultivation. In pre-war days only fifty thousand acres were under paddy. Now other food crops such as cow-pea and green gram are also cultivated, and it is proposed to do intensive onion cultivation during the coming season.

Crown Proctors' Conference.—A Conference of Crown Proctors convened under the auspices of The Law Society of Ceylon was held on Saturday

6th April 1946. Mr. S. J. C. Kadirgamar, President, presided. A large number of Crown Proctors from various Districts attended the Conference. Mr. E. G. Jonklaas, Vice-President was also present.

Those who were unable to attend had forwarded written Memoranda for consideration at the Conference. The Conference lasted three hours and various matters of interest to Crown Proctors were considered and decisions arrived at. Much interest was evinced by Crown Proctors in this Conference which was the first of its kind in Ceylon.

More D.D.T. Units.—Ten more D.D.T. spraying units will be used by the Medical Department from May 1st making 18 in all. The operation of these 10 additional units will cost the Government Rs. 629,154 until the end of the current financial year in Sept.

A stock of 50 tons of D.D.T. is expected shortly, costing Rs. 200,000, and the kerosene required for mixture will cost Rs. 180,000.

The operation of these additional units involves 10 overseers, 10 drivers, 15 labourers, and 10 trucks. The total cost Rs. 120,000 and the equipment for each, Rs. 32,000.

Personal.—We are glad to learn that Mr. S. J. Lawrence has been successful in the Final Examination for Medical Degrees in the University of Ceylon. The new Dr. Lawrence is an old boy of St. Patrick's College. He is the son of the veteran P.W.D. Overseer of Kegalle, the late Mr. S. Appukutty of Karampan, Kayts.

Dispute is Over.—A long-standing dispute regarding the appointment of a Deputy Director of Education appears to have ended with the Board of Ministers agreeing to appoint two deputies. Supplementary provision for the new posts will be sought by the Minister of Education when the State Council meets.

It is understood that Mr. R. J. F. Mendis will be appointed Deputy Director with Mr. T. D. Jayasuriya as additional Deputy.

Death of D. P. W.—We much regret to hear that Mr. S. Mahadeva, the Director of Public Works, a nephew of Mr. G. K. Swaminathan of our Town, who returned from India only a couple of days ago after selecting architects for his Department expired at his Colombo residence on Wednesday evening.

Directorship.—Dr. N. M. Vannia Singhe sent us this news item that he has joined Messrs. Ceylon Building Syndicate Ltd., as Director.

The Firm is the biggest so far launched in Ceylon and has a task of national importance for the economic regeneration of the people.

Knew Old Testament by Heart.

—Among the messages of goodwill received by the new Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, Rt. Rev. Kenneth Grant, was one from a Jewish fellow prisoner of war, now a Catholic. While a chaplain with the famous 51st Highland Division, Fr. Grant was taken prisoner in 1940, and one of the thousands of men with whom he came into contact was a Jew who could recite the Old Testament literally from cover to cover. But he knew nothing of the New Testament. He had many long discussions on religion with Fr. Grant, who after the liberation heard no more until he received the above letter, which told him that the Jewish soldier had been received into the Church and was studying in a Benedictine monastery in Jerusalem.

Christians and Cabinet Mission.

—On Wednesday, April 10th, the Indian Christian delegation, met the Cabinet Mission. They are said to have told the Mission that they were "in no way behind any political or religious body in our keen desire for a free and fully self-governing India in the near future." They wanted no special political privileges for their community in the India of the future, but were ready to accept joint electorates in the legislatures and public bodies, with or without reservation of seats. If, however, a separate existence as political entities of Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and other communities is recognized they

wished a similar right to be given to the Indian Christians.

The Christian leaders demanded that religious minorities should have statutory rights of protection for their religious beliefs, including the right to practise and propagate their religion. Their conception of the future was a united India, but they desired that, in order to meet the claims of the Muslim community, large powers should be vested in the provinces, and that they should have full safeguards for the minorities and adequate machinery for making them effective. They also urged the immediate formation of a Central interim Government.

Chairman U. C. Explains

There seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of electricity consumers and the public that the engine failed on 12th April 1946 night owing to supply being given to the circus from our Power House.

The manager of the Kamala Circus applied for supply of electricity from the 12th instant and I replied that electricity could not be supplied before 9-30 p. m. and an application for a supply of electricity after 9-30 p. m. might be considered by me. Thereupon the manager of Kamala circus applied to me for supply of current after 9-30 p. m. At this stage I referred the application for supply of electricity after 9-30 p. m. to the electrical superintendent for report. He reported that a supply of 2 K. W. could be given after 9-30 p. m. On the report of the electrical superintendent I ordered that the supply should be given after 9-30 p. m. The order was made at about 4 p. m. on the 12th instant. The order was communicated to the electrical superintendent at about 5 p. m. and the work commenced thereafter and was not completed till 9 p. m. The circus had its first show at Jaffna at 9-30 p. m. on the 12th instant and they did not require current before 9-30 p. m.

The engine No. 3 (250 K. W.) failed at about 7-25 p. m. on the 12th inst., long before connection was ready for supply to be given to the circus. Therefore I wish to assure the public that the supply of current to the circus is definitely not the cause of the breakdown of the engine.

The manager of the circus has been using current on the 13th and 14th instants between 6 and 9-30 p. m. and when this was detected by me on the 16th instant, the supply till 9-30 p. m. was promptly cut off.

The No. 3 (250 K. W.) engine—the engine that failed on the 12th instant—failed on the 29th November 1944. In consequence Mr. Nagel, the Asst. Electrical Engineer of the Department of Government Electrical Undertakings tried some experiments on the lubricating system of this engine and thereby caused serious damage to this engine. This is what I gather from the report of Mr. Aziz of the Department of Electrical Undertakings who was sent specially to investigate and report on this matter. Since then the engine has been working under very unfavourable conditions and subject to severe strain. A break-down of the engine had to be expected at any moment.

I have also to state that since the head mechanic and fitter mechanic left the services of the Council, there have been not a single qualified mechanic at the Power House for carrying out proper maintenance work on the engines. This is not due to the fault of the Council or the Chairman or the Electrical Superintendent as we advertised for filling up these vacancies several times; but there were no suitable applicants, and the posts had to remain vacant. The posts are still vacant and I have written to the Chairman, Local Government Service Commission, to fill these posts forthwith.

I enquired into the immediate cause of the break-down on the 12th instant and I am satisfied that it is not due to any fault on the part of any member of the staff.

Soon after the failure of the engine I wired to Messrs. Walker Sons & Co. Ltd. to send mechanics. I also sent the electrical superintendent to Colombo to

bring the mechanics with him as Messrs. Walker Sons & Co. informed me that mechanics could not be spared till the middle of May. The Electrical Superintendent went to Colombo and persuaded and convinced Messrs. Walker Sons & Co. about the immediate necessity for sending mechanics and brought them (mechanics) to Jaffna with the necessary tools, implements etc and the work on the engine is proceeding.

Now there is only one 110. K. W. engine available for supplying electricity to the town. This engine cannot possibly carry the full load of the town from 6. p. m. to 9-30 p. m. It was therefore found necessary to give the town a restricted supply of electricity for certain areas at certain hours. The areas supplied by the Hospital Road feeder and the Main Street Feeder are supplied now from 5-30 p. m. till 1 a.m. the following day. The other areas are supplied after 9-30 p. m. as load permits. Consumers and the public seem to think that there is discrimination in favour of the consumers of the Hospital Road and Main Street feeders. These feeders have been selected as the Hospital and the Post Office have to be supplied with current as long as possible.

It has been suggested that supply be given in turn to the different areas of the town. According to technical advice it is not feasible. Even from the point of view of the consumers, I think they will prefer to be without lights during definite hours of the day rather than get lights once or twice a week.

It has also been suggested by some consumers that all the consumers should be required not to use more than two lamps and if this is done all consumers may be supplied with electricity. Technical opinion is that if every consumer can strictly confine their use to a minimum of 60 watts all consumers, except theatres, circus etc., can be supplied with electricity between 6 p.m. and 1 a.m. If this is to be done 60 watts rule has to be enforced strictly. If this rule is to be enforced strictly supply has to be cut off without notice. But cutting off without notice will lead to complications and complaints. Therefore it may be impracticable.

If the present arrangement continues the question which is now being raised by many consumers arises. The question is about the supply of current to the theatres. There are three theatres in the town: viz Regal, Windsor and Wellington. Regal Theatre is fed by the Main Street feeder, Windsor by the K. K. S. Road feeder and Wellington by the Hospital Road feeder. When the Main Street feeder and the Hospital Road feeder work from 6 to 9-30 p. m. the Regal and Wellington Theatres can be supplied with current. The theatres are the best paying consumers of the Council and their point of view is that they lose heavily from business point of view by not being supplied with current. Even if Regal and Wellington are not supplied with current, more consumers cannot be supplied with current.

It is expected that repairs to No. 2 (110 K. W.) engine is likely to take a month to complete. The repairs to No. 3 (250 K. W.) engine will have to await the arrival of spare parts from England. These spare parts are long overdue and are expected every moment.

I regret very much that the consumers are undergoing great inconvenience and hardship. This has been caused by unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances.

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The Lion of Munster

(Continued from Page 1)

His Eminence was preaching on the duties of parents when a Nazi jibed: "What does a celibate know of parenthood?" The cathedral echoes with delighted laughter at his quick answer: "I will not have a word spoken against the Fuehrer!"

Hear what, at risk of his life, he told his bewildered countrymen.

1939. "Christendom knows no compromises. You cannot serve Christ to-day and lies to-morrow. Christ is the eternal source of life and light. That is why He warns the people who follow blind leaders; 'If the blind lead the blind they shall both fall into the pit.'"

1940. In three sensational sermons preached from the pulpit immediately after the heaviest Allied raids on Munster he thundered: "As a German, as an honourable citizen, as a Catholic Bishop, I cry aloud 'We demand Justice.' Not one of you is sure, no matter how conscious you may be of being the most faithful citizen, that you will not be one day dragged out of your house and shut up in the dungeons and concentration camps of the Gestapo."

"I am well aware this may happen to me. It is because I shall then be no longer able to speak publicly that I want to go on record as publicly warning them to-day not to continue on this course which I am firmly convinced will call down God's punishment and bring our country and our people to misery and ruin."

Governor Reports Food Decisions

The net result of the Singapore Food Conference as far as Ceylon is concerned is that we shall continue to draw our rice supplies at least until July from Brazil and Egypt, from where we have imported our rice during the past two years.

This and other matters arising from the Conference were explained by the Governor and the Leader of the State Council to the Board of Ministers which met at Queen's House last Monday morning.

Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, who returned from the Conference last Sunday night, with His Excellency the Governor, Lady Moore and staff, explained the position to "The Times of Ceylon."

He said that Burma had declared a small surplus which she was prepared to export, but Siam's surplus of one and a half million tons had not moved yet. The main efforts of the Conference were concentrated on ways and means of purchasing this surplus for which Siam demanded gold.

"In this unsettled situation," Mr. Senanayake said, "We are not expecting any supplies of rice from either Burma or Siam during the second quarter of 1946. As Siam and Burma prove by actual working that they can make deliveries at ascertainable rates per month, Ceylon's supplies may come from those areas, but for the present the Ceylon delegation thought it wise for the continuance of rice supplies from the sources from which we have been accustomed to get our rice fairly regularly for the last two years, that is, Brazil and Egypt."

A WARNING

Mr. Senanayake stressed the point that a resolution was adopted by the Conference that the allocations already made for the territories in South-East Asia should not be reduced.

"But," he warned, "as long as the world situation, and the situation in South-East Asia, in particular, remains grave, Ceylon must face the fact that the procurement of her essential food supplies will continue to cause anxiety."

"COME HOME"

At Penang the Ceylon Association of Penang and Kedah entertained the visitors and raised the question of the attitude Ceylonese in Malaya should adopt regarding their rights under the Malayan Union. Mr. Senanayake advised them to await a clarification of the situation, but said that if they at any time felt they should return home they would

be welcome to assist in the development of their mother country.

Ceylonese had not created any problem wherever they had settled down, so that they should, instead of creating any problem to the Malayan Union, return home if they felt they should do so. Their presence in the island would be valuable in the development of its resources.

Hurry up Sir C. P.

Sachivottam Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar, the dictator Dewan of Travancore, inaugurated the Compulsory Primary Education Scheme in Travancore, laying the foundation stone of the first school under that scheme at Vella Madom near Nagercoil on the 11th Feb. We were under the impression that hundreds of new schools were already under construction for the new scheme and we are surprised that the first of these schools has yet not been built but only the foundation stone has been laid with a tremendous apparatus of propaganda consisting of speeches, Press Communiqués and photos sent everywhere to show that the scheme goes on and will go on!.....But the benevolent dictator of Travancore must hurry up much more if he wishes to see at least part of his scheme carried out during his ten years' plan. The wise Dewan forgets that he is not everlasting although he may be ever-elastic and if he has to substitute the schools under private management existing in Travancore and see that his scheme is carried out within ten years, he must lay the foundation stone of at least ten schools per day!!! It is no use in making such a fuss overlaying the foundation stone of a single first school. If the Dewan does not follow our advice to hurry up, his scheme might go to the dogs. It is in that circumstance of the laying of the foundation stone of the first school that Sir C. P. boasted of having had the confidence of some Catholics. It is a pity that the readers cannot see the vernacular papers of Travancore. They would have found the story of this farce in the Catholic papers.

On the 6th February, at the Legislative Assembly the nervous Dewan lost control of himself and forgot to measure his words. On the 11th February at the laying of the foundation stone at Vella Madom the shrewd dictator said that some Catholics had expressed to him in confidence their approval of his educational scheme, and that within the last ten days he had received assurances of a very valuable character.

If this is true, namely, that from the 1st February he had received such assurances, what reason has he to speak as he did at the Legislative Assembly on the 6th? All Catholics have given and will give their approval to the principle of compulsory, universal, and free education in any scheme and they will support such a scheme; but the Dewan will make no one believe that Catholics (worthy of the name) have given him in confidence their approval for his scheme besides that. This is an old game: *divide and fool!!* But who is the fool?BY AJAX in the "N. Leader."

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA
Testamentary Jurisdiction } No. 536

In the matter of the intestate estate of Manuelpillai Vaithilingam of Suthumalai.

Deceased.
Vaithilingam Sellathurai of Suthumalai.

Petitioner.
Vs.
Sellamattu widow of Vaithilingam of Suthumalai.

Respondent.
This matter coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esq., District Judge of Jaffna on the 15th day of March 1946 in the presence of Mr. S. Tirunavukkarasu Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit and petition of the petitioner dated 15th day of March 1946 having been read:

It is ordered that Letters of Administration of the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the Petitioner unless the Respondent or any other person or persons interested shall on or before the 15th day of May 1946 appear before this Court and show sufficient cause to the contrary.

The 15th day of March 1946.

Sgd. R. R. SELVADURAI,
District Judge.

Vacancies—Food Production Officers

Applications will be received by me up to 12 noon on April 26/1946, for four posts of Food Production Officers for the Jaffna District.

Applicants should be Diploma Holders of the School of Agriculture, Peradeniya, or should have at least 10 years' practical experience in agriculture. Specialised knowledge in Lift Irrigation will be an additional qualification.

The posts are temporary and non-pensionable and terminable at short notice and carries a salary of Rs. 100/- per mensem plus War Allowance and a Travelling Allowance of Rs. 50/- (if the officer uses a motor car or motor cycle) otherwise Rs. 31/50 per mensem.

M. SRIKHANTA,
A.G.A. (E), Jaffna.

The Kachcheri,
Jaffna, 12 April, 1946.

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The conditions of sale and any other particulars can be obtained on application at the Mannar Kachcheri.

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9th April 1946.

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