

The Catholic Guardian

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

Telegrams: "GUARDIAN", JAFFNA.

REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON.

Telephone: NO. 100.

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

Vol. 72, No. 16.

JAFFNA, FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1946.

PRICE: 10 CENTS.

CARDINAL ATTACKS INSINCERITY IN UNITED NATIONS

"The victorious Powers may be united in name but they are certainly not united in sincerity purpose," declares Cardinal Gaiffin.

"The old struggles which preceded world conflict are more present than ever.

"Many who say that they will build a new world declare at the same time that they do not believe in God or His law."

"They talk of truth and freedom when the whole world knows that they believe in neither but only in the furtherance of political theories and national power.

"On the other hand, even among those nations which proudly call themselves Christian, how few statesmen there are who have a deep understanding of the need for dependence on God alone if true prosperity is to return to a stricken world.

"We are not sufficient to think anything of ourselves as of ourselves but our sufficiency is from God." Those words should be emblazoned on every new charter which the world's statesmen propose to sign.

WE ARE NOT IGNORANT

"But if others are unaware of their need to invoke God's help, we at least, the children of the household of the Faith, cannot plead ignorance."

FRENCH HIERARCHY REJECT SCHOOL 'MONOPOLY'

"We will not accept monopoly at any price, no matter in what form it is disguised." In these words the French Hierarchy, meeting in Paris, have stated their attitude on the French education question, says the "Universe" Paris correspondent.

The day after they signed their statement the French Constituent Assembly voted against a motion by the Popular Republican (Catholic) Party that freedom of education should be included in the recently-framed French "Bill of Rights."

The French Bishops say they are united in their resolution to "protect the freedom of education by every means in their power.

"In defending this, the Hierarchy know that they are defending all the liberties of the human person, for these are closely bound up with each other."

Families of France, the Bishops add, have decided to pursue "energetically, without aggressiveness, but with ardent conviction," their campaign to enlighten public opinion on the justice of their cause.

EQUAL RIGHTS

"Let them defend their rights without wearying! In particular let them make known the great services their schools have given the country.

"Let them organise around their schools in family-school committees."

The Hierarchy continue: "Freedom of education should be recognised and protected by laws which would prevent its becoming a mere illusion, or available only to rich families.

"As we have stated before in our declaration of February 28, 1945, we

We know our duty. We must pray for ourselves. In our charity we must also pray for those who guide the destinies of nations and who are unwilling themselves to pray for guidance. Our prayer must be humble and contrite. It is clear that it may be truly contrite prayer must be accompanied by acts of self-denial.....

"The war with all its terror has surely strengthened our conviction that no true happiness or security will ever come to men until they make the unity of the human race a reality rather than a dream.

"Sympathy must be practical. Charity is not an empty phrase but a gift of God. The charity which fills our souls must overflow. We must give proof that the love we have one for another is ready to spend itself to relieve the suffering members of the mystical Body of Christ.

"The love of the brotherhood is felt equally by Catholics throughout the world. We cherish in Christ our fellow-Catholics wherever they are to be found; whether in France or Germany, China or Japan, in Europe or beyond, we salute Christ dwelling in the souls of our brethren and refuse to allow nationalism to masquerade as patriotism.

"The Catholic Church teaches us to love our country. She does not teach us to hate our enemy."

are ready on this point to consider every loyal solution which will assure the rights of the family and of the Church equally with those of the State.

"However we cannot consider any decree that does not provide guarantees on the choice of teachers, their education and the religious instruction of the children."

The "Bill of Rights"—a preamble to the new constitution—is a statement of principles and rights held to be superior to all civil laws.

The move to have freedom of education included in this—with freedom of the Press and freedom of speech, etc.—was defeated by 322 votes to 221.

'NO IMMEDIATE DANGER'

The chief opponents were the Communists and Socialists, with the Radicals and a Resistance group.

The Conservatives and half the Resistance members voted with the Popular Republican Party.

Communists and Socialists affirmed during the two-day debate that at present there is no question of suppressing the freedom of education or closing Catholic schools.

When the French coalition Government came into power the chief parties agreed that for the present independent schools should continue but should receive no State subsidy.

It would seem from the debate, however, that the Left-wing parties do not want to tie their hands. They may later want to vote for the nationalisation of all schools and the closing of denominational schools.

DEPUTY'S PROMISE

In the course of the heated debate M.

SOVIET RUSSIA AND ITS ERSTWHILE ALLIES

Recent speeches by Soviet leaders, and the Moscow Press and wireless, are full of warnings that the danger to Russian security has not passed with the defeat of Germany and Japan; and there is a particularly unpleasant echo in the phrase "capitalist encirclement," which we hear more and more. At a time when all Germans are surprised and delighted to learn that the Russians do not propose to take away their factories after all, and that after all, in the Russian zone at any rate, there is a prosperous future for German industry provided only that the Social Democrats welcome "fusion" with the Communist Party in a programme of patriotism, the Moscow journal "World Economics and World Politics" is warning the Russians, says the American commentator in Moscow, Robert Magidoff, that "international monopolies have already begun carrying out, in the American zone of Germany, the provisions of secret cartel agreements. Therefore it isn't surprising," said the article, "that directives have appeared in American-occupied Germany which aim to preserve German industry's high level of production, including its potential war industry."

And Magidoff likewise quotes another Moscow periodical, "Party Construction," which says that "the Red Army must be on guard," since the U.S.S.R. remains "encircled by capitalist countries whose reactionary forces can again bring about an armed conflict by trying to re-divide the world."

Meanwhile, in the most striking point of the parallel, contempt for Britain continues to be associated with contempt for Poland. Warsaw radio broadcast on March 21st, the day after Mr. Bevin's announcement in the House of Commons on the disbandment of the Polish Forces in the West, a statement on the

attitude of the Polish Government towards the returned soldiers.

Warsaw Repudiates British Government

Mr. Bevin's appeal to the Polish soldiers had been put in the form of a leaflet. This leaflet contained an introduction signed by Mr. Bevin, and the conditions under which the Polish Provisional Government is prepared to accept in Poland Polish soldiers from abroad. It was immediately pointed out by the Polish soldiers (and also in the "Manchester Guardian") that those conditions were not signed, and therefore could be repudiated by the Warsaw Government. The statement quoted above makes it clear that the Polish Government denies making any special declaration concerning those who may return. The fact that the declaration circulated by Mr. Bevin has no signatures, and is repudiated by the Warsaw Government, makes its contents meaningless, and puts Mr. Bevin, who signed the introduction, in a very awkward situation.

Mr. Bevin stated in his appeal that "His Majesty's Government are a signatory to the Yalta and Potsdam decisions and cannot remain uninterested in developments in Poland. When these men go back they can be assured that we shall continue to use our influence in favour of the strict fulfilment of their conditions of return."

Warsaw Radio on March 21st commented:—

"Minister Bevin's attitude, as defined by these words, is misinterpreting the truth. Neither the Yalta nor the Potsdam decisions entitle Britain or any other Power to interfere in internal Poland."
(Continued on Page 4.)

JAPAN AFTER THE ATOMIC BOMB

Mgr. Valentine Elwes, who is serving as a Chaplain in the Royal Navy, writes from the Far East on his visit last month to Nagasaki:—

"I went ashore to call on the Japanese Bishop. I found that he was away, but I was made very welcome by a Professor of Theology in a seminary next door to the small cathedral. Later on I was taken by him to a Convent, where I found a most charming French-Canadian Reverend Mother, who had actually seen, from a hillside five miles away, the explosion of the atomic bomb here last August. She gives a horribly vivid account of the absolute hell that ensued, over an enormous area. The explosion had knocked her off her feet, but she had only been bruised, and had watched the whole horrible scene.

"There are now about 7,000 Catholic

Jacques Bardoux, an Oxford man, quoted Britain, the U.S.A., Belgium and France as examples of countries that had preserved liberty in education.

A peasant deputy from Auvergne, M. Joannon, told the Assembly:

"While I am alive none of my kids will ever set foot in a school where no one will mention God to them."

Japanese left, and they are such an edifying lot that I feel quite sure that conversions are going to multiply enormously during the next decade or so.

"The old Japanese Professor of Theology, with whom I talked for a good hour in Italian—he having also done his studies in Rome, told me that, although for a month after the atomic bomb his people had been very sad and bitter against us, they were now quite reconciled, and had come to regard the bomb as a 'very great sacrifice that God had demanded of them for the sake of the Church in Japan.' The war had been stopped by it, and since then the heavy yoke of militaristic domination, which had weighed heavily on them for over a hundred years, had been removed. But, above all, State Shintoism had become very much discredited; and Buddhism, which was the only great religious rival to Christianity, which was bound up with Shintoism and had therefore been much encouraged and supported by the State, had almost miraculously become moribund. The great need out here now is for many, many more missionaries, and even the Protestant MacArthur has sent a petition to Cardinal Spellman for more priests, saying that 'the one hope for Japan is the spread of the Catholic Church among its people.'"

VALIGAMAM WEST ELECTORATE

(Northern Province)

I hereby announce my decision to stand for election to represent the Valigamam West Division in the House of Representatives under the Soulbury Constitution. My policy will be (1) to Safeguard the rights and interests of the Tamils and (2) to promote the general advancement of the country towards political and economic independence.

K. Shanmukham,
(Bar-at-Law).

Manipay,
2nd May, 1946.



In Memoriam
Pedrupillai Christopher

BORN 9TH JULY 1876
DIED 3RD MAY 1944

Sweet Jesus Grant him Eternal rest.
37, 4th Cross Street,
Jaffna, 3-5-46.

Fatima Hill,
Pandatteruppu

The anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima will be celebrated for the first time at the newly erected Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Fatima Hill, Pandatteruppu.

On the express wish of His Lordship the Bishop the programme of the feast will be as follows:—

Sunday, May the 12th, at 5-30 p.m. Blessing of the new statue of Our Lady of Fatima at the Irasa Murugu Tree. After the sermon the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed and Rosaries will be recited during the whole night. After midnight at 12-30 a Solemn High Mass will be sung by the Very Revd. Father Administrator of the Diocese. Other Masses will be said at the Shrine in the morning.

We have no doubt that Our Lady of Fatima will bless in a special manner all those who take a fervent prayer in these celebrations.

HENRI GESLAND, O.M.I.,
Parish Priest, Pandatteruppu.

Church Calendar

MAY 1946

- FRI. ...3 Finding of the Cross.
- SAT. ...4 S. Monica.
- SUN. ...5 2 E. S. Pius V.
- MON. ...6 S. John.
- TUES. ...7 S. Stanislaus B.
- WED. ...8 Sol. St. Joseph.
- THURS. ...9 S. Gregory Naz.
- FRI. ...10 S. Antoninus.

The Catholic Guardian

MAY 3RD 1946

ELECTRIC LIGHTING IN JAFFNA

Even a worm will turn is a saying and no wonder the long-suffering residents of the Jaffna urban area have begun to move. We received a notice during the week announcing a public meeting for Thursday afternoon to inquire into the frequent failure of the electric lighting in town. A few days ago the Council met and passed a resolution rationing electric current on a misapplied principle of equality giving 60 watts to every householder but with penalties attached to those who fail to fulfil the conditions for enjoying the favour. Not a word of apology to the people who have suffered so much hardship by the Council's negligence and incompetence. The fault may be with the Electrical Superin-

endent and his men at the Power House. If that is so the Council should take the necessary action; but to the rate-paying public the Council alone is responsible for the repeated failure of the lighting. To say that there has been a breakdown of the engine is no excuse. It is to prevent a breakdown that so many men are employed and paid. The engine is not a plate of glass to be easily damaged. If it is handled intelligently and with care it will continue to do its work. One can understand a mishap to the engine by accident if it was a very rare occurrence but in the Jaffna Power House, engine breakdown has become a chronic trouble. Every now and then the town is plunged in darkness sometimes for days and sometimes for weeks and months. The reason given is a mishap to the engine and that is thought is a sufficient reason to satisfy a long suffering public. As far as the streets are concerned they are still under black-out, alone in Jaffna and people have been heard cursing and swearing at the Urban Council as they grope their way in thick darkness. We learn with surprise that the electricity branch has been working all these three years without a head mechanic. That explains the frequent breakdown. And we are still more surprised that the Director of Electrical Undertakings, a Central Government Official, who exercises supervision over the electrical plant here allowed it to work without a head mechanic. The post was advertised, we are told, but there were no applicants. But no mention was made of the salary the Council was prepared to pay in order to attract applicants. If it was found that an outsider could not easily be got, an intelligent local man should have been sent on agreed terms by the Council to be trained in an Engineering Firm in Colombo. It is obvious that the Urban Council must resolve to mend its ways. We understand that arrangements have already been made to get down a big engine but the Council will be well advised to get not one but two engines so that one may be kept as a stand-by and also to extend and improve the street-lighting which was bad enough in pre-war days and things must greatly improve as the Urban Council will be raised to the status of a Municipality.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The United National Party.—The "Times of Ceylon" announced that a Party of this name was being formed which had appointed a Central Nomination Board consisting of Messrs. D. S. Senanayake, S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, A. Mahadeva, George E. de Silva, H. W. Amarasuriya, A. F. Molamure and T. B. Jayah. And collections are to be made throughout the Island to serve as party fund for election purposes. This piece of news has caused a feeling of uneasiness in Jaffna as it initiates a procedure which will make a mockery of our pseudo-democracy. It will in-

duce some of the worst features of the party tyranny of the West. The United National Party is to support Mr. Senanayake. Nobody has any inherent objection to supporting the present Leader of the State Council. In the normal course he should announce his programme and if it is found good and acceptable there is no reason why the electors will not cast their votes for those candidates who intend to support him. The Party bosses should not interfere. The Party fund, again, will be a cause of much abuse. Appointments and transfers, honours and titles will be occasions for enriching the funds of the Party in power. Abuses crept into party politics in England in the lapse of time but should this country start with these very abuses?

Nationalisation of Fishing Industry.—After a great deal of agitation that Government had done nothing to improve the lot of the fishermen by improving and modernising their methods of fishing and thereby increasing their earning capacity, the Fisheries Department came to be set up. The primary concern of the Department should then be to improve fishing methods both by imparting to fishermen the needed knowledge and by giving them financial assistance to procure improved fishing-tackle. The Department coming into being during the war, Government had to be content with square pegs to fill round holes. The Department has suffered all along from that original defect. Modernisation of local fishing methods being probably beyond its capacity, the Department took to the distribution of fish brought ashore in order to keep down criticism of the well-to-do fish consumers. Even this fishmongering business has not seen a great success. But no way discouraged, it now proposes to launch out on the nationalisation of the fishing industry. Nationalisation is a euphemism for State monopoly. Monopolies, as a rule, are bad including State monopolies. It has been said that nationalisation of fishing industry has never been attempted anywhere in the world except in New South Wales where it proved a failure. Nothing daunted, the Ceylon Fishery Department which has failed to carry out its main object, will attempt it in order to give a lead to the whole world, so says the acting Director. Even if *per impossible*, it should succeed the result will be to reduce the fishermen to State servitude. Rather than that, abolish the Fisheries Department.

OBLATE NECROLOGY

- Very Revd. Fr. John Pietch, First Asst. to the Superior-General, died in Rome on the 24th April, 1946.
- Revd. Fr. Charles Stubbe of the province of Belgium, died at Bruxelles in Dec. 1945, age 74, profession 47.
- Lay Bro. Joseph Brard of the General House died in Paris on the 21st Dec. 1945, age 65, profession 36.
- Revd. Fr. Antony Bourassa of the province of Canada, died at Montreal on the 3rd Feb. 1946, age 65, profession 45.
- Lay Bro. William Beckschaefer of the Vicariate of Mackenzie, died at Fort-Smith on 8th Feb. 1946, age 75, profession 54.

Displacing English in Ceylon

Question Raised In Parliament

(From the "Daily News" London Correspondent).

The House of Commons has evinced interest in the language problem of Ceylon and "the example of sensible Irishmen" was held up to the Island by Mr. T. Reid at question time on Wednesday.

Mr. L. J. A. Callaghan, the Labour member for a Cardiff constituency, who, I understand, has become interested in Ceylon affairs from recent conversations with Sir Frederick Rees, asked Mr. George Hall whether he would prevent the attempt now being made in Ceylon to secure the adoption of Sinhalese as the only official language to the exclusion of Tamil.

Mr. Hall's reply was that he was not aware of any such attempt in Ceylon but would look into the matter, if further particulars were given him.

"SENSIBLE IRISHMEN"

Mr. T. Reid: In view of the fact that an attempt is being made in Ceylon to oust English and displace it as an official language, and in view of the fact that most Sinhalese and Tamils either know English, or strongly desire to know English, will my Right Hon. friend commend to them the example of sensible Irishmen like Burke, Swift, Shaw and O'Casey, who remain very Irish while using the tongue of the Sassenach and Shakespeare?

Mr. Hall: There is another question on the Order Paper on that subject.

In a written reply to the other question, asked by Capt. L. D. Gammans, whether any decision had been reached by the State Council as to the adoption of Sinhalese and Tamil as the official language, Mr. Hall said that a Select Committee was appointed in Ceylon to consider the question and he was inquiring from the Governor with regard to their report.

LLOYD GEORGE'S QUICK WIT

Further to the "sensible Irishmen" cited by Mr. Reid, it is on record that perhaps the most famous of living Irishmen on one memorable occasion adopted a different course.

This was Mr. de Valera and the scene was laid at 10, Downing Street, when Mr. Lloyd George was Prime Minister shortly after the first World War.

With the intention of giving somewhat theatrical emphasis to Ireland's demands for Home Rule, the Irish leader began speaking in Eire. Mr. Lloyd George, who was far from slow-witted in such matters, promptly replied in Welsh, which brought the conversation to a deadlock. Whereupon both sides agreed to forsake the tongues of their forefathers and fall back on the common foreign language of English however hateful it might be.

Editorial Note in "Inside the Empire"
of January, 1946.

(Published by the Colonial Information Bureau)

Protest Against Constitution

The following was sent for our information but we wish to share it with our readers. We do not agree with the writer's criticism of the Senate. A check is necessary against hasty and ill-considered legislation.

The new Constitution which the Soulbury Commission recommended for Ceylon, and which the Government has accepted in principle, has been received with protests and dismay by progressive opinion in Ceylon. It is felt that the recommendations fall fully into line with traditional British policy of seeking to win over local reactionaries to support the imperialist claim for political and military bases against the rising popular movement in South East Asia. Defence and External Affairs are, therefore, to be excluded from popular control. "We cannot agree", says the Report, "that the Governor-General's powers..... in a Defence matter of importance should be

circumscribed by the necessity to obtain the concurrence of Ministers."

In recommending the creation of a Senate, the Commission quite blatantly exposes the reactionary premises from which it argues, "...not only to fill the gap created by the diminution of the powers of the Governor, but as a means of averting or minimising any conflict that might arise between the Governor-General and the Lower House in respect of those powers still left to him." In other words the increased powers which are being given with one hand to the elected Ministers are to be taken away with the other by the creation of a constitutional oligarchy whose function is to act as a buffer between the Governor and his Ministers.

The third main criticism made concerns Finance. Bills relating to currency matters are reserved for the Governor-General who, in the last resort, is to hold the purse strings. The Governor thus has the power, if he wishes, virtually to wipe off debts owed to Ceylon as a result of her contribution to the war effort. Foreign Companies and vested interests, whose operations in fact predominate in Ceylon's economic life, are put under the protective wing of the Governor whose reserve powers extend to all the Bills which affect "the rights and property of His Majesty's subjects not residing in the Island."

In short, this much advertised measure of constitutional reform which is said to be another typical milestone in the progress of a British colony to independent status, still leaves Ceylon politically and economically bound by imperialist relationship which her people unanimously condemn.

S.P.C. Old Boys' Association (Colombo)

The Old Boys' Day celebrations of the above association were held on Saturday, 24th March, at St. Joseph's College, Colombo.

Rev. Fr. B. A. John O. M. I. S. gave the Mass for the Old Boys at the College Chapel at 7.45 a.m., after which those who were present were entertained to tea by the President, Mr. A. Gardner.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Bonjean Hall at 9 a.m. with the President in the chair. Rev. Fr. John explained why St. Patrick's College had to join the Free Education scheme. He also told them that Rev. Fr. Long who went to Europe primarily for reasons of health was now very active collecting money for the Endowment Fund. At first the Archbishop of Dublin was reluctant to grant Fr. Long permission to collect money but later on when he learnt that the money was required for a worthy cause he not only gave his sanction but also contributed £200 towards the Fund.

After Fr. John's address Dr. C. Joseph moved a vote of condolence on the deaths of Messrs P. Q. Christian and H. Bernard Perera. Mr. G. Thomas moved a vote of condolence on the death of Mr. James Joseph who was one of the Vice Presidents of the Association. Rev. Fr. John then referred to the death of Mr. Jos. I. Gnanamuttu.

Elections of office-bearers for the ensuing year were then held. The following were elected:—

- President. Mr. A. Gardiner
- Vice Presidents. Messrs L. B. Emmanuel, V. E. Rajakarier and Dr. St. John Puvirasinghe.
- Secretary. Mr. Victor Joseph.
- Asst. Secretary. Mr. J. D. Aseervatham.
- Treasurer. Mr. D. Saverimuttu.
- Asst. Treasurer. Mr. E. S. W. Selvadurai.

Committee Members: Dr. C. Joseph, Rev. Fr. C. J. V. Lawrence, O. M. I. Mudr. A. B. Rajendra, Messrs M. P. Mariampillai, G. Thomas, J. L. Stanislaus, J. A. Joseph, Edwin Black, S. J. Vethanayagam, S. Ratnanather, A. Gnanapragasam, S. Thommanpillai, A. E. Puvimanasinghe, R.H.S. Phillips, M. A. Anthonypillai and A. MariaDason.

Auditor: Mr. M. Benjamin.

The President then exhorted the members to forget all petty differences and work for the common welfare of the Association. He expected the Old Boys to do their best to make the Endowment Fund a success.

LOCAL & GENERAL

S.V.P. Jaffna.—The first quarterly meeting of the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul Society, Jaffna for the year 1946 was held on Sunday 28th April at 5.50 p.m. in Charles' School Hall with Mr. R. J. Paul, President, Particular Council in the chair. After the spiritual reading by Mr. A. Philippupillai, St. Joseph's, St. James's, St. Nicholas and Mount Carmel Conferences presented their Reports and accounts for the months of Jan. Feb. and March.

Then Mr. A. Gnanapragasam, Editor of the Tamil "Guardian" delivered a very interesting and useful lecture on the "Life of a Vincentian" and his noble mission. The Hony. Secy. of the Particular Council remarked that one way of spreading Catholic literature was to distribute free every week the Tamil "Guardian" among the poor.

Mr. M. Saverimuttu proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer and commended the idea of the distribution of the Tamil "Guardian" among the poor. Mr. L. Gratian exhorted the members to be more regular in their attendance at the monthly Night Adoration and urged the Particular Council to arrange a Retreat for the members of the Conferences.

After the Chairman's remarks the meeting terminated with the usual prayers.

Town Councils in the North.—Preparation of lists of persons qualified to vote and of persons qualified to be elected as members under sections 7 and 8 respectively of the Town Councils Ordinance, No. 3 of 1946, will commence on May 13, 1946, for the general elections to the Point Pedro, Kayts and Valvettiturai Town Councils for the triennium 1947 to 1949 and for Mannar on May 1, 1946.

Elephant Pass Saltern to be Electrified.—Several new proposals for the development of the Salt Department were considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee of Local Administration.

Among these is a scheme for the electrification of the Elephant Pass Saltern so that it can be equipped with all the facilities of an up-to-date saltern and its productive capacity increased.

Another proposal discussed was the organisation of a refined salt factory with the installation of a magnesia recovery plant. It is proposed to turn out at this factory table salt and magnesium sulphate on a commercial scale to meet all the requirements of the Island.

Opening of New Bus Service from Thaleaddy to Jaffna.—Wednesday May 1st 1946 was a great day in the annals of Thaleaddy. A new bus service between Thaleaddy and Jaffna undertaken by the Northern Omnibus Co. Ltd. was inaugurated on this day.

Rev. Fr. S. A. Gnanapragasam, parish priest, Thaleaddy accompanied by Rev. Frs. L. A. Singarayer and S. Vanderkone were taken in procession from the mission house to the bus stand where a representative of the N.O.B. Bus Co. in a short speech requested Rev. Fr. Gnanapragasam to declare the bus service open.

Mr. P. Saverimuttu thanked Rev. Fr. Gnanapragasam and the N.O.B. bus Co. for having seen to the comforts of the people of that area in providing this new bus service. He requested the people to co-operate with these two in making the service a success. Mr. K. P. Muthiah said that the new service would not only bring in passengers but also civilisation from outside. He expressed his appreciation of the work of the parish priest.

The Rev. Fr. before he declared the bus service open recounted how Very Rev. Fr. J. Emilianus Pillai and he had to work very hard to bring about the new service into operation. He thanked the N.O.B. bus Co. for having undertaken that new line. He wished them good luck and declared the service open.

A group photograph was taken and light refreshments were served.

Malayan Gift Parcel Scheme.—The concession of sending free of postage gift parcels of used personal apparel by individual persons in Ceylon to individual persons in Malaya, has been withdrawn on the 30th April, 1946.

U.S. Catholics Help India.—A notice issued by the Director of Informa-

tion, Bombay, said: "The Roman Catholics of the United States of America have offered through the Archbishop of Bombay the gift of one million pounds of flour to help in the food difficulties facing India today. The munificent offer has been made by the Archbishop to the Government of Bombay and has been accepted with gratitude and thanks."

Australia.—When Cardinal Gilroy arrived in Sydney, he was presented with a cheque for £10,000 by the Catholic community. His Eminence gave the money to the St. Mary's Cathedral.

Cardinal Spellman received a welcome in New York almost equalling General Eisenhower's. He was greeted at the airfield by a crowd of 10,000, headed by the city's Catholic Mayor, O'Dwyer. The Cardinal made a tour through part of the city before going to a thanksgiving service in his cathedral.

The aircraft carrying Cardinal Stritch (Chicago) and Cardinal Mooney (Detroit), due to land at Detroit, landed in Chicago owing to bad weather.

Tamil-Speaking Masses

Under the auspices of the Ceylon Tamil Progressive Movement, a conference was held on Saturday at St. Mary's Tamil Girls' School hall, Negombo. Dr. A. P. de Zoysa, Member of the State Council, presided.

Mr. A. P. Thambirajah, the Secretary of the Movement, in his opening speech said that in the past the Tamil-speaking masses of the Western and North-Western Divisions had suffered. They appealed to different sources for help. Last year 35 candidates sat for the Tamil Training entrance examination, but not a single candidate had been selected to any Training School in the Island. They did not see any reason why the rights of the Tamil-speaking masses of these divisions should be neglected.

The Very Rev. Father D. J. Anthony O. M. I., General Manager of Roman Catholic Schools, speaking next, addressed the meeting on the question of a Tamil Training College in the South of the Island, in Colombo or Negombo.

Very Rev. Fr. Sebastian Fernando O. M. I. assured them that he would give all necessary assistance for the progress of the Tamil language.

Dr. A. P. de Zoysa in his presidential speech said that if they analysed the conditions of the country, they would see how backward it was. There was something wrong in the education system. The greatest services they could do to was to write some literature which not only this country but the whole world might recognise as an important contribution. There were Roman Catholic priests who were specialists in education. Their services must be available to others as well.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

Considering the immense difficulties undergone by the Teachers' Entrance candidates and with a view to help the progress of the language in the Western and North-Western Divisions, as there are no training schools in these divisions, this conference request the Executive Committee of Education to re-open immediately the Bolawalana Tamil Teachers' Training School, which was closed some years back.

As decided by the State Council that Tamil and Sinhalese should be the official languages, this conference requests the Government to have both as official languages.

This conference requests the Executive Committee of Education to have Tamil as a subject in schools which are in areas where Tamil is spoken as home language.

This conference requests the Executive Committee of Education that Sinhalese and Tamil schools which are registered together be separated so as to enable the progress of such language.

As the salary scale recommended for the Tamil teachers is considered to be unsatisfactory, this conference requests the Executive Committee of Education to improve the salaries like that of the English teachers.

CORRESPONDENCE

Electric Lighting Jaffna U.C.

Dear Sir,—In the "Catholic Guardian" of the 26th ultimo, the Chairman of the U.C. states: "Technical opinion is that if every consumer can strictly confine their use to a minimum (?) of 60 watts all consumers, except theatres, circuses etc., can be supplied with electricity between 6 p.m. and 1 a.m."

According to the way that lights are being supplied to certain sections of the town, "consumer" seems to mean "meter", so that a house of five persons has the same ration as an educational institute of fifty, because they both happen to have a meter each. Would it not be more reasonable to ration the supply according to the number of persons in the house, so that a boarding establishment of fifty may have say 600 watts?

But, of course, there is the question of "the best paying consumers of the Council (theatres) and their point of view." But can't they entertain their patrons when the rest of the world is enjoying a peaceful sleep?

One would also like some light to be thrown on the following points:

Why "even if Regal and Wellington are not supplied with current, more consumers cannot be supplied with current"?

Why in the Jaffna U.C. alone we hear so much about the breakdown of engines, of the absence of even a 'single qualified mechanic at the Power House', of "unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances."

ONE-IN-THE-DARK.

Jaffna, 1-5-46.

We cordially invite you

to

THE LITTLE FLOWER STORES

(Opposite Catholic Club)

School books, Stationery, Prayer books, Religious goods and every kinds of Shop goods supplied at moderate prices.

Meditations on Holy Mass Tamil -60
Month of May " -85
Sermons and Instructions for Retreat Tamil -80

A TRIAL ORDER IS ANTICIPATED.

The Little Flower Trading Co.,
102, Main Street, Jaffna.

JUST OUT

Meditations on Holy Mass
(in Tamil)

By CHEV. S. ARULANANTHAM

Cost 60 cts. per copy. Postage 6 cts.

Available from:—

(1) The Hony. Secretary,
Literature Committee,
St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.

(2) The Manager,
St. Joseph's Catholic Press,
Jaffna.

Text Books are Still Rare

But send us your list. We shall buy them for you. No single dealer can supply all of them. But our men will comb Colombo for them. You cannot therefore do without our services.

Do not hesitate to write to us for anything else that you require from Colombo: anything. We shall place your order at the proper place, or get them for you.

The Kasarine.

4, Rodney Street, Colombo.

Issue of Foodstuffs for This Week

Consumers ration for the week commencing 29th April, 1946 is being issued to Wholesale Dealers from today onwards. Authorised Distributors are requested to apply to their Wholesale Dealers for the rations by Wednesday. The public is hereby notified to apply for their rations by Thursday.

Sgd. M. SRIKHANTA,
for D.F.C., Jaffna.

29th April, 1946.

