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IMPRESSIVE PROTEST MEETING AT JAFFNA

ALL CREEDS AND DENOMINATIONS UNITE IN PROTEST

The most obnoxious clause in the new Education Ordinance has roused great resentment in Jaffna. The proposal to prohibit the opening of new Assisted Denominational Schools brought Hindus, Muslims, Protestants and Roman Catholics together at a mass meeting on Sunday evening the 2nd inst., on St. Mary's Cathedral grounds at 4-30 p.m. to protest against this proviso becoming law. Dr. S. Subramaniam, J.P., President of the Hindu Board of Education took the chair. Associated with him on the platform were His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. J. A. Guyomar, O.M.I., Bishop of Jaffna, Mr. S. Rajaretnam, Advocate and General Manager, Hindu Board of Education, Khadi S. M. Aboo Backer, Proctor, Mr. R. Subramaniam, Advocate, Retired District Judge and Manager of the Wesleyan Mission Schools and Chevalier S. Arulantham. Proceedings were in Tamil.

THE HINDU SPOKESMAN

In moving the resolution Mr. S. Rajaretnam said that for some time the Board of Ministers had been dreaming of educational reforms. While some reforms were good there were others which were harmful.

The Protestant Missionaries had been given grants by Government to run schools from the time of the British occupation till 80 or 90 years ago when Sir M. Coomaraswamy introduced legislation that all Denominations be allowed to open schools and that Government should give such schools grant. In 1919 when Mr. Evans was Acting Director of Education he proposed that all schools should be made Government Schools and that no grant should be paid to Denominational schools. There was universal protest and Government withdrew its proposals. Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya, a manager of 70 or 80 Buddhist Schools some time ago brought in a motion in the State Council that in the future only Government should have the right to open schools and that Denominational Bodies should be denied the privilege of opening new schools. The motion was passed by a small majority. Now Government was trying to implement that resolution by inserting it as a clause in the new Education Ordinance.

"Our religion is our birthright. Just as much as we have a right as human beings to the air we breathe and the food we eat, we have a right to educate our children in the schools of our choice. The money that is given by Government as grant is the people's money, not the money of the Board of Ministers. The Ordinance is intended to throttle and kill Denominational schools" said the speaker. Where there is no growth, there will be decay. By denying the right to Denominational Bodies to open new schools Government proposed to kill Denominational Education by a slow process. Men who valued their religion, men of self-respect should rise in protest when they see the implications. He (speaker) had mentioned on many a platform that this measure would be opposed.

What were they going to gain by Government schools? He would take just one instance. The Stanley Government Central School was started 25 years ago. The Government had spent large sums of money on it and up-to-date that school had not passed a single student in the S.S.C., whereas, one of his (speaker's) schools at Chernia Street, housed in a cadjan shed, had recently passed a student in the S.S.C., with three distinctions and a First Division and that student had also passed the University Entrance Examination. Were Government schools going to be more efficient than Assisted Denominational schools? He had doubts of their ever becoming more efficient. When the Government schools did bad work who was there to check it? By making all schools Government schools the country was going to be denuded of leaders. Gone were days when lawyers were prominent leaders of the people. The lawyers of the present day were more anxious to catch the eye of the Legal Secretary for jobs in the Judiciary. Doctors were Government servants and therefore muzzled. They had to depend finally on teachers to champion the rights of the people. Their Village Committees, Urban Councils, Municipalities and the Parliament would have to be manned by teachers. If these were also prevented, Government would effectively muzzle all criticism. Government schools could easily become centres for propaganda for the political purposes of those in power. The speaker exhorted his hearers to demand from the candidates who sought their votes for the forthcoming Parliamentary elections a pledge that they would support the Denominational schools.

Mr. Rajaretnam then moved the following resolution: "This meeting protests against the proposal to prohibit the opening of new Denominational assisted schools as embodied in the new Education Ordinance."

PROTESTANT SUPPORT

Mr. A. R. Subramaniam speaking in support traced the history of missionary effort in the cause of education not only in Ceylon but also in the East. He felt that the present move of the Board of Ministers was more sinister than it looked. Now it was the abolition of Denominational schools. Later Government schools would become Buddhist schools—Ceylon for the Sinhalese, therefore Ceylon for the Buddhists, a Buddhist Government with Buddhist schools. The speaker deplored the lack of genuine leaders in Ceylon of the type of Gandhi. True education can only be imparted by those who have dedicated themselves to the cause. They saw what a difference there was in hospitals run by Nursing Sisters and hospitals where there were no Sisters. He spoke from personal experience.

MUSLIM SUPPORT

Khadi S. M. Aboo Backer in seconding the resolution said that he was there that evening to show that Muslim sym-

POLITICAL MOLLY-CODDLING WILL NOT MAKE US INDEPENDENT

SAYS S. J. K. CROWTHER

Ceylon's national calendar is to be enriched by the addition of a new red-letter day. Beginning from this year, March 2 will be celebrated as Independence Day.

A paradox resides in the heart of this proposal. It was on March 2 more than a century ago that Ceylon lost her independence. On that account somebody has suggested that March 2 should be celebrated as a national day of mourning. The United National Party, however, thinks it should be observed as a national day of rejoicing or rather of remembrance.

"As we ourselves are about to join the ranks of the free nations of the world," declares the Chairman of the Propaganda Committee of the U.N.P., "it is time that we developed a consciousness of the value of that freedom for which humanity has sacrificed so much in recent times."

The reference is of course to World War No. 2 which was waged to save from Germany Poland's independence now lost to Russia. That is the second paradox connected with the cry for independence. A third is that in the course of six years of suffering the world discovered that no nation is really independent, and that to maintain bare existence both nations and individuals have to depend on each other. The truth of international interdependence was brutally thrust on the consciousness of all nations. With that in the background let us by all means shout for independence.

NO NEED TO BREAK BONES

This is not intended as captious criticism of the independence demand which is essentially sound. The ideal is that Ceylon should cease to be a subject country and that the people of Ceylon should be free to manage their own affairs. Britain has consented to this ideal both here and in India. So there is no need to break any bones over that.

The realisation of this ideal is the next step. For this the scope in Ceylon is almost unlimited. When Ceylon lost her independence to Britain, her people

pathy was on the side of those who protested against the proposed prohibition. Religion and Education were too sacred to be handed over to Government. A godless education would lead to an increase of crime and jails.

CATHOLIC SPOKESMAN

Chevalier S. Arulantham speaking in support of the resolution said that the new move on the part of Government was a danger to their religion and they should be ready to fight hard and even face martyrdom. What the Catholics asked was that their children should be taught in Catholic schools by Catholic teachers in a Catholic atmosphere. The presence of Denominational schools meant a healthy rivalry which was needed for progress. If all schools became Government schools there would be no incentive and there would be progressive deterioration. He wished to warn the Government that their move towards godless education was a sowing of the wind to reap the whirlwind.

The chairman then put the motion to the house and it was carried with acclamation.

lost not merely national sovereignty, but even their manhood. Do the U.N.P. and all the others who are crying out for independence recognise this? Evidence of semi-slavery abounds in all directions.

Britain meant well when she introduced a grandmotherly form of government. It could not be otherwise under the Crown Colony system which left no room for self-government of any kind. In this way the people came to expect boons from the Government. Everything had to be done for them, and they did not bestir themselves. A habit of mind was thus created which has withstood even the introduction of self-government. Worse than this, the establishment of self-government has intensified the demand for spoon-feeding. This has led to some queer results.

COMIC RESULTS

Nowhere has the habit of slavish dependence on a grandmotherly government to look after private affairs been so ridiculously demonstrated as in the administration of the Buddhist temporalities. While all other religious communities, Hindus, Muslims and Christians, look after their religious affairs, the largest, richest and most influential religious community depends on the Government to look after theirs. The implications of this arrangement are as disastrous even as the consequences are comic. For one thing it means that while Hindus, Muslims and Christians can be trusted to handle the revenues of their temples, the Buddhists, neither clergy nor laity, can be so trusted. There is no escape from this unflattering inference.

The consequence is even more shameful. Except for one brief period the Public Trustee, charged with the duty of administering the revenues of Buddhist temples, has been a Christian. The present Public Trustee is not even a Sinhalese! This is happening today among the people most vociferous in the demand for independence. They are so slavishly dependent that they tamely consent to have their most sacred affairs transacted not by themselves but by an officer of the State who is not of their race or religion.

Compare with this abject confession of ineptitude, if not worse, the splendid achievement of the Bank of Ceylon. For years the falsehood was fondly believed that Ceylonese cannot be trusted to run a bank. All sorts of objections were raised when a national bank was first mooted.

When in the teeth of criticism and opposition it was decided to establish a bank, the cautious ones among us hesitated to take shares. They thought that the bank would crash within a few years. Today the Bank of Ceylon has triumphantly vindicated the capacity of Ceylonese to conduct the delicate business of a bank.

TRUE INDEPENDENCE

This is proof that when Ceylonese are put on their mettle and do not have to look to a grandmotherly government to spoon-feed them and molly-coddle them, they make good. This is true independence, something far different from slavish dependence on the State.

(Continued on Inner Page.)

Church Calendar

MARCH 1947

FRI. ... 7 S. Thomas.
SAT. ... 8 S. John of God.
SUN. ... 9 3 L.—Pope's Day.
MON. ... 10 40 Martyrs.
TUES. ... 11 S. Constant.
WED. ... 12 S. Gregory.
THURS. ... 13 S. Euphrasia.
FRI. ... 14 S. Matilda.

The Catholic Guardian

MARCH 7TH 1947

THE MASS MEETING
ON SUNDAY

History was made in Jaffna last Sunday. All creeds and denominations met together in St. Mary's Square to protest against the egregious Education Amending Ordinance smuggled through the First Reading and now being examined by the State Council at its Second Reading.

Sunday's meeting was a remarkable one. On the face of it, there was the glaring fact that for the first time in history, all the creeds and denominations in the North met and worked together in defence of intimate religious convictions that are outraged by the proposal to prohibit the opening of any new denominational schools. That is a fact whose significance must not be overlooked.

That Christians should have so met would be understandable as they have become accustomed to being the butt of a quondam christian, but last Sunday's meeting proves that all religions are vitally concerned in the doings of the ex- and anti-christian Christopher Kannangara. One begins to wonder what religion means to him, indeed one may wonder whether it means anything at all.

The creeds and denominations in question all belong to the minorities. Sunday's speakers were not unaware of this, so that behind this week's debate lies a big note of interrogation. What is the fate of the minorities to be? Religious minorities here and now, racial perhaps later? No useful purpose is served by being mealy-mouthed. The gnawing uncertainty is there. The State Council is on trial but still more the Sinhalese members of Council are on trial.

The solidarity obtaining in the North is remarkable from another point of view. Ceylon is a country where public opinion is notoriously fluid until something positively sinister solidifies it. That something sinister has to be faced here and now: its virulence cannot be exorcized by soothing assurances or our minds set at rest by specious promises.

The solidarity is essential, as the first speaker pointed out, owing to the octopus grip of Government. It has often been said that Ceylon is the most governed country in the world so that private initiative and enterprise are fast disappearing. The only considerable body standing outside is the denominational schools and school-masters. It is not the first time that school-masters have stood in the gap to defend civic liberties. Let there be no mistake about it. If these school-masters fall, liberty of thought falls with them.

MORE NORTHERN SOLIDARITY

Elsewhere in this issue we publish an extract from our contemporary *The Hindu Organ*. This extract brings the re-opening of our aerodrome appreciably nearer as we had not known of Colonel Kotelawala's explicit promise. We understand that the matter was to have been discussed at this week's meeting of the Executive Committee of Communication and Works.

Jaffna's claims and place in the developing framework seem assured if we ourselves keep up the pressure. From this week's news it is clear that the Air Ministry is to recondition aerodromes like Minneriya that had been completely abandoned. We submit that Jaffna's claims are at the very least as strong as those of Minneriya on every ground, strategic, economic and otherwise.

It is hardly conceivable that the negotiations reported this week between the Governments of India and Ceylon on air-traffic between the two countries could have overlooked the Jaffna aerodrome. We do not intend to have our claim go by default. The planes passing overhead twice a day are an unflinching reminder.

SKIMMING THE CREAM

We are more and more concerned to offer our readers the cream of the articles published in the press, either in Ceylon or outside. The section 'Behind the News' on our back page is a digest of the most up-to-date and enlightened commentaries on current affairs.

This week we are giving our readers a chance. We are initiating a Readers' Digest column. Its success depends on you. Some book, some pamphlet, some article appeals to you, you want others to know about it, to benefit by it. Here's your chance. Boil it down.

Catholic Readers' Digest

The Call to
Catholic Action

In his interesting little pamphlet No. 685 Father Daniel A. Lord, S.J., sets forth clearly the meaning and purpose of Catholic Action. For the convenience of those who have not the opportunity of reading the pamphlet we have pleasure in giving the main lines in the sincere hope that our outline will make our readers seek the original and read and re-read it.

Catholics of today may be divided into bad Catholics, dumb Catholics and good ordinary Catholics. But still they are all Catholics, for no power on earth can erase that mark of Catholicity in them, seared indelibly into their souls by the holy waters of Baptism. Whatever their influence may be on the rest of the world there cannot be a denial of the fact that their influence will be regarded as a Catholic's influence. Hence the caution, hence the call to a truly Catholic Action.

Bad Catholics may be dismissed as doing irreparable harm to themselves by going the way leading to "weeping and gnashing of teeth." Would to God they stopped at that! No; they leave their ignoble trail behind for the world to laugh at, to revile, and to judge the whole Catholic Church. The saints are inexperienced and poor publicists. But the sinners get into headlines by their notoriety. Hence the call to holy Catholic Action.

The Dumb Catholics are those that cannot give an account of the Faith

that is in them. Their inability to talk religion to non-Catholics scares away many a soul that would otherwise have entered the Church. Such dumb Catholics ought to rouse themselves to militant Catholic Action.

Good Ordinary Catholics! Mark the word "ordinary." In common life the epithet "ordinary" would be insulting. An ordinary lawyer, an ordinary doctor, or an ordinary..... How we smart under such reproach! Then why an ordinary Catholic! Why not be an active Catholic through energetic Catholic Action?

The Holy Father meant to remove that reproach when he instituted Catholic Action among the laity. He wants us to be extra-ordinary Catholics through Catholic Action which is the participation of the laity in the apostolic mission of the Hierarchy.

The Hierarchy have their hands full in bringing Christ physically by the sacrifice of the Mass and mentally through their instruction in the catechism class and the pulpit. But religion is not only for the Sunday or for the school. It is a twenty-four hour business in every walk of life. Hence the call to the laity to bring Christ into every walk of life. Just as the priest undergoes a long preparation for bringing Christ physically and mentally into the world so it is the duty of the layman to prepare himself to carry Christ into every walk of life by first bringing Him into himself by frequent and even daily communion.

Political Molly-Coddling
Will Not Make Us
Independent

(Continued from Page 1)

This promotes manhood and self-respecting nationalism. The other makes for a country of parasites.

This is illustrated in some of the spectacular schemes launched under the auspices of self-government. Our agriculture policy is nobly conceived. It aims at making Ceylon independent of outside resources for our food. We are to grow our own foodstuffs. Towards this end vast sums of money have been voted for colonisation schemes. When the land was got ready colonists were placed on it. But a people who had been sedulously educated to expect everything from the Government were disappointed.

True, the land had been cleared, water supplied, roads built and medical aid made available. But they wanted more. Now practically everything is given them, money, houses, tools and every other inducement to cultivate. The only thing the Government has not yet contrived to give the colonist is a crop ready for harvest. This travesty on Knox's noble husbandman is the logical conclusion of spoon-feeding.

The framers of this policy mean well, but they have paid little attention to its trend. In their anxiety to show that under their hand the Government is bent on helping the people they are steadily pauperizing them.

This is shown once more in our educational policy. There are thousands of children who have no schooling and thousands more who cannot pay fees. Instead of looking after these, the children of the richest in the land, who roll up to the schools in expensive motor cars, are taught free.

The State acting normally as an officious grandmother assumes the guise of a policeman at times. In the latter character it tries to rob the citizen of the little self-respect still left to him. The proposal to deprive bhikkus of their political rights by legislation is a manifestation of the police mentality of the politicians. In line with this is the attempt to rob parents of their right to send their children to schools of their choice.

• DEVOID OF SELF-RESPECT

The whole trend of the policy of those who are implementing self-government is to make the citizen a parasite devoid of self-respect who, in return for the bribes offered him by the State, is prepared to abase himself before the politicians who run the State. This is the very antithesis of independence.

Let us then work for independence,

but it must be for a noble and consistent ideal of independence. If we are not to be subject to external control, let us not be serfs in our own country, looking to the State to provide us with what, as self-respecting men and women, we should do for ourselves. We don't want the politicians to act in turn as a molly-coddling grandmother and a bullying policeman.

We want no benevolent overlords.

(Times of Ceylon, March 1st, 1947.)

Palaly Aerodrome

"We hasten to join in the chorus of protest against the dismantling of the Palaly aerodrome which was constructed during the war period at an enormous expense. The "act of vandalism" in dismantling the aerodrome and selling the materials of the buildings for a song is unwarranted and savours of utter indifference on the part of the powers-that-to-be to the needs of the Jaffna man. Our contemporary, "The Catholic Guardian" informs us that Messrs. Tatas "are not only willing but anxious to touch down at Jaffna in view of the increasing list of Jaffna passengers." This is good news. We appeal to the Jaffna members in the State Council to press this matter with the Board of Ministers and to see that the aerodrome is preserved. It will be interesting to recall that Col. Kotelawala, Minister for Communications and Works in the course of an interview granted to the Staff Reporter of the "Hindu Organ" a few months ago stated in unmistakable terms that the aerodrome would not be, under any circumstances, dismantled, but would be maintained to provide an easy access for the Jaffna man to the other parts of the Island and to important Indian centres. We are confident that Col. Kotelawala will not be unkind of his former statement and will assist us with all the power and influence at his command in this matter which affects to a large extent, the welfare of the Jaffna man." (Hindu Organ, Mar. 4.

LOCAL & GENERAL

A New Papal Knight.—A papal knighthood has been conferred on Mr. Abraham Gardiner of Colombo, according to a cable received in Colombo on Friday last from the Rt. Revd. Dr. D.B. Regno, Bishop of Kandy, who is now in Rome.

The Bishop's cable to Mr. Gardiner read:

"Pope made you knight St. Sylvester Angela Cross Pontifice Ecclesia. Felicitations blessings—Regno."

Mass Meeting.—On Sunday the 2nd inst. a mass meeting was held on St. Mary's Cathedral Grounds protesting against the prohibition of new assisted denominational schools contemplated in the amended Education Bill. As one of the speakers remarked it was a veritable parliament of religions voicing the cherished rights of all religious bodies of Jaffna against the inroads of a dictatorial Minister of Education. A full report of the meeting appears elsewhere in this issue.

Ramanathan College Wins the Savings Banner.—The Vice-Chancellor's National Savings Banner has been won last month by the girls of Ramanathan College, Maruthanadam. In presenting the Banner Mr. P.J. Hudson, G.A., N.P., recalled the fact of the late Sir P. Ramanathan having been present at his wedding 25 years ago and having proposed the toast of the bride and the bridegroom. He hoped that it would be long before the girls would part with the much coveted Savings Banner.

Food Front.—The rice position is guaranteeing us one measure per coupon till the middle of March and three shipments of rice, two from Brazil and one from Burma, all totalling 20,000 tons are expected shortly. There is nothing to complain of about the flour position.

Untimely Rain.—The two downpours of rain Jaffna had in mid-February and the 1st day of March have caused irreparable loss to paddy crops, tobacco, nurseries, flowering mangoes and to minor cultivation. The full grown, ripe, grain had been nipped in the pod. The Minister of Home Affairs and the Government Agent have been touring the distressed areas and it is hoped that timely relief will be afforded.

Sacerdotal Ordination.—The ordination to sacred priesthood of the Rev. Bro. Joseph Antony Francis, O.M.I., will take place at St. Mary's Cathedral on Wednesday the 18th of March at 7 a.m. He will offer his first Mass in the Cathedral on the 19th at 7 a.m. Bro. Francis is the son of the late Mr. M.P. Francis and a brother-in-law of Mr. M. Jacob, the popular Tamil Pundit of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna. All friends relatives and well-wishers are invited to both the ceremonies to pray for the new priest.

The New Commissioner of Assizes.—We are glad to report that Mr. N. Nadarajah, B.A., K.C., has been appointed a Commissioner of Assizes, Colombo. The new Commissioner is an old boy of St. Patrick's College. He takes a living and an abiding interest in all matters connected with his *Alma Mater*. We congratulate Mr. Nadarajah on this honour so richly deserved and we wish him as great a success on the Bench as he has secured at the Bar.

Sir Francis Soertsz Feted.—The members of the Jaffna Bar entertained Sir Francis Soertsz, K.C., Senior Puisne Justice who is presiding at the Jaffna Assizes to dinner last night at the Jaffna Rest House. Mr. A. V. Kulasingham presided and covers were laid for about forty. The toast of the guest was proposed by Mr. S. D. Thampoe and supported by Messrs. Balasundaram and Navaratnam.

The Jaffna United Club.—The Annual General Meeting of the Jaffna United Club was held on the 1st inst. at 6 p.m. at the Club with Mr. R. R. Nalliah in the chair. After the reading of the Annual Report by the Secretary and the statement of accounts by the Treasurer the following office bearers were elected for the year 1947:—President: Mr. R. R. Nalliah, Vice-Presidents: Messrs. V. Joseph and Arumainayagam, Hony. Secy.: Mr. H. A. C. Ratnesar, Hony. Treasurer: Mr. C. Sabaratnam and a Committee of seven were elected. The members of the Committee are: Messrs. R. R. Selvadurai, W. B. Canagaratna, P. R. Thambayiah, E. P. Rasaiah, D. J. N. Selvadurai, J. N. Armstrong and the Revd. Fr. A. Cierpka, O.M.I.

Protest Meeting at Vankalai.—More than a thousand residents of Vankalai and the neighbouring hamlets assembled at a mass meeting with Mr. Salvador Souza as chairman to register their protest against the Education (amending) Bill. Mr. S. B. Kulas proposed, "We, the residents of Vankalai and the neighbouring hamlets do sternly protest against New Education (amending) Bill which prohibits the opening of new schools by denominational bodies." Mr. John Mark seconded. The resolution was put to the meeting by the chairman and passed unanimously.

Personal.—Mr. X. J. S. Rasanayagam B.A. (Lond.), Principal, St. Mary's College, Negombo has joined the Staff of St. Joseph's College, Colombo. Mr. Rasanayagam is an old boy of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.

Episcopal Advice to Catholic Young Men.—Speaking at the Kotabhena Young Men's Catholic Association the Rt. Rev. Dr. Edmund Peiris, O.M.I., encouraged the study of Pali and Sanskrit as an aid to the building up of the Sinhalese Literature. Then he outlined the anxious efforts of the Catholic Church to foster Literature always and in all places. In Ceylon he said that the Jesuits and other religious bodies were the channels through education on modern lines; even *free education* by the Jesuits and the Franciscans was established. He paid glowing tributes to several Ceylon's scholars, both living and dead, who had done their best to foster literary study by their writings. He ended up by saying that it was the duty of the young to carry the torch of learning to future generations.

Manufacture of Margarine and Glycerine.—The Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce has prepared a scheme to manufacture Margarine, Glycerine and other processed products from copra and coconut oil. The factory to produce these articles will cost about 6½ million rupees. He is to seek the sanction of his Executive Committee for a vote of one million rupees for the preliminary outlay on machinery for the purpose.

The Patronal Feast of the Patricians.—The Feast of St. Patrick will be celebrated on Monday 17th inst. preceded by the usual triduum in the College Chapel.

PROGRAMME:

Friday 14th—6-30 p.m. Triduum.
Saturday 15th—3-30 p.m. Sports Meet, Garden Party and O.B.A. Meeting.
6-30 p.m. Triduum.
Sunday 16th—6-30 p.m. Triduum.
Monday 17th—7-00 a.m. High Mass and Benediction.

Four Death Sentences.—At the Colombo Assizes, Justice Keuneman passed the sentence of death on four men named S. A. Jumonis Fernando, M. Albert Fernando, S. A. Vincent Fernando and H. D. Wilbert for murdering a man named Carolis Perera, a toddy tapper, at Nalluruwa, Panadura. When the sentence was being passed the fourth accused fainted in the dock.

National Development Savings Campaign.—Mr. R. Y. Daniel, Commissioner of the National Savings movement who has been studying the movement in the United Kingdom said in a broadcast talk that in spite of the cessation of hostilities the spirit of the national savings movement had not diminished in England. "On the contrary a fresh target of £ 520 millions is aimed at for the year 1946/47. In Ceylon too he is anxious to launch a movement entitled the National Development Savings Campaign with the introduction of the new constitution. This campaign is to be spread over twelve years and twelve-year savings' certificates and national savings' stamps have first to be introduced. The twelve-year certificates will be in denominations of Rs. 750, Rs. 15/- Rs. 75/- Rs. 150/- and Rs. 1500/- Their purchase price will be 2/3 of their face value. These certificates will not be cashable during the first year and will not earn any interest if cashed during the first three years. A maximum limit of purchase is fixed at Rs. 6,000 in addition to the present savings certificate maximum of Rs. 10,000/- The interest on these sums is free from income tax.

Asian Relations Conference.—The Plenary Asian Relations' Conference will open on the 23rd and 24th inst. An attractive programme of entertainment is being prepared by the Entertainments' Committee. It will include a dance drama, a ballet portraying Pundit Nehru's "Discovery of India," and a variety show. Public lectures by the leading members of the various Delegations will be delivered. The public will be admitted on Tickets of Rs. 50, 20, 10 and Rs. 5. An intriguing problem has arisen over the National Flag of a Free Lanka being sent to the Conference, since there is no accredited National Flag of Ceylon. The specimen flag designed for Free Lanka which is with Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya will be sent to Delhi.

Nominated to Constituent Assembly.—Mr. M. Ruthnaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University, and President of the Catholic Union of India, has been nominated by the President of the Constituent Assembly to serve in the Minorities Committee for fundamental rights etc. Mr. Ruthnaswamy is an authority on Constitution-making. His works include such masterly studies as "The Making of the State," "The Making of the Constitution," and "The British Administration in India." His nomination has been made in spite of great opposition by Congress leaders like C. Rajagopalachari, and is a tribute to his great learning and experience. Mr. Ruthnaswamy is an independent thinker in politics and a critic of Congress policy. His book, "The Meaning of Mahatma Gandhi" is a studied criticism of Gandhian politics. Father Jerome de Souza of Loyola College, Madras, another member of the Constituent Assembly, was elected under Congress sponsorship.

Their Majesties in S. Africa.—The Royal visit of Their Majesties, the King and Queen of England with Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose is proceeding according to plan without any hitch or demur in any quarter. Royalty is being received with unreserved ovation wherever they go and the genial personalities of Their Majesties create an atmosphere of

warm cordiality to the Royalty of Britain. In the words of Marshal Smuts the Royal visit is already beginning to have, "a healing, soothing and more unifying effect." Anti-British feeling on the one hand and the colour problem on the other are giving way at the approach of the Royal symbol of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Labour Trouble in Malayan Estates.—Riots described as "extremely serious" are reported among the Estate labourers in Kedah and Northern Malaya. European planters and Estate Managers have been evacuated with their families. Labourers wearing green uniforms and green forage caps have taken complete control of certain estates. So far the Police have not been successful in tackling the situation.

Brought to Book After Ten Years.—Frederick Lincoln McDermott, aged 38 was sentenced to death at Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia for murdering William Henry Lavers near Grenfell, New South Wales on September 5, 1936. Detective Sergeant Calman in pursuing the ten years' investigations had travelled 15,000 miles in the Australian States and New Guinea. The chassis of an old car, and a blood stained petrol pump handle with human hair—were the only clues on which Calman set to work.

Pope to re-build War-Destroyed Monastery.—The Vatican Radio stated that His Holiness the Pope has expressed his hope of re-building the Benedictine Monastery of Monte Cassino which was destroyed during the war. The first monastery of Monte Cassino was founded in 520 A.D. by St. Benedict who founded the oldest religious order in Europe.

The Number Forty and the Bible.—For forty days and forty nights there was the Deluge in the days of Noe. For forty years did the Israelites wander in the desert. For forty days and forty nights did Moses commune with God on Mount Sinai. Prophet Jonas warned Nineveh, the wicked city that after forty days it would be destroyed. Jesus fasted forty days in the desert at the beginning of his Public Life and at the close He sojourned on earth for forty days between His Resurrection and Ascension. The forty day fashion is continued in the forty days of Lent observed by the Catholic Church.

Irreverence of the Day.—A certain young man had invited a priest friend of his to dinner after his (the young man's) marriage. As the party was about to sit at table the young man drew the attention of the company for a tick and said, "Reverend, strut off your stuff," meaning thereby the Grace before meals.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Louis Mary Elizabeth wife of Mr. Soosaipilai Louis and mother of Rev. Fr. L. S. Joseph, O.M.I., Asst. Parish Priest of the Cathedral, who passed away at the age of 70, fortified by the last rites of the Church after a brief illness at her residence, Our Lady of Miracles Street, Jaffna.

"She was a good, pious, loving, daily attendant at Mass" wrote Revd. Fr. J. Brohan, O.M.I., about her life. Revd. Fr. P. T. James, O.M.I., Parish Priest, Cathedral officiated at the funeral service in the house assisted by Revd. Frs. L. S. Joseph and P. J. Stanislaus, O.M.I. (her grand son). Very Revd. Fr. G. A. Gurusamy, O.M.I., Actg. Vicar-General officiated at St. James' Church. The burial service was conducted by Revd. Fr. P. J. Stanislaus, in the presence of about twenty four priests and a very large gathering.

She leaves behind Messrs. L.S. Rajanayagam, L. Gratian, L. Victor, three daughters and a host of grand children beside her husband and priest son, to bemoan her loss. God rest her soul.

Do You Know Series XIX of CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

1. What are the most potent means for our sanctification?
2. How was the ark of Noah a type of the Church?

3. Who is often referred to as the Prince of Pastors?
4. What were the Universities founded in the 15th century in Scotland by the Catholics?
5. How many of the early followers of our Lord have left us any of their sacred writings?
6. Who was the Catholic Archbishop who was recently condemned for so-called "treason."
7. What is meant by a dispensation?
8. What do you know of 'The Discipline of the Secret'?
9. What do you know of the Paschal Candle?
10. What do we learn from the words of the Blessed Virgin at Fatima? (For Answers See Below)

Do You Know Series XIX

1. Prayer and the Sacraments.
2. As every kind of animal was in that ark, so in the Church there are men of every race and character.
3. St. Charles Borromeo.
4. St. Andrews's in 1411, Glasgow in 1450 and Aberdeen in 1494.
5. Eight.
6. The Primate of Yugoslavia.
7. Exemption from ecclesiastical law in a particular case.
8. A custom prevailed in the early Church of concealing from the pagans the sacred doctrine and rites of the Catholic religion.
9. A tall ornamented candle blessed on Holy Saturday and lighted at the principal feasts until the Ascension.
10. God wishes to establish in the world devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

ANNOUNCING THE UNION CARNIVAL & EXHIBITION ON THE UNION COLLEGE GROUNDS, TELLIPPALAI FROM AUGUST 6 TO 16.

TENDER NOTICE

The Government Agent, Northern Province, Jaffna will receive tenders up to 12 noon on Tuesday March 18, 1947 for grading the drainage channel from Perithambiran kulam to Aiyankoiladdy in Chunnakam N.P. Tenders should be made on forms obtainable from Govt. Agent on a deposit of Rs. 50 for each form. Further particulars may be had from him.

CORIANDER

Tenders will be received by the undersigned at the Jaffna Kachcheri up to 12 noon on Monday the 10th March 1947 for the purchase of coriander in lots of 100 (one hundred) cwt.

1. The coriander may be inspected at the Subsidiary Foodstuffs Store, Banksall Street Jaffna.

2. The successful tenderer will be required to deposit the purchase price within a week from the date of acceptance of his offer.

3. Tenders should be made on approved forms which will be issued on production of a receipt for a deposit of Rs. 50 from the Shroff, Kachcheri, Jaffna.

M. SRIKHANTA, Asst. Govt. Agent, Jaffna, Jaffna, 27th February, 1947.

NOTICE

It is notified for general information that the Food Control Supply Station at Kodikamam will be shifted to Chavakachcheri with effect from 1st March, 1947.

R. CHINTAMANI, for D.F.C., Jaffna.

The Kachcheri, Jaffna, 27th Feb. 1947.

Distribution of Dried Chillies

Dried Chillies will be issued to all consumers in the Jaffna District, other than those served by Co-operative Stores at the rate of one ounce per consumer for period 10-3-1947 to 16-3-47.

M. SRIKHANTA, Asst. Govt. Agent (Emergency) Jaffna, Jaffna, 3rd March, 1947.

History Behind the News

-The Shadow Over the Balkans-

'TO BALKANIZE'

is a new verb which has been added to the English language. The very name of the peninsula, thus transformed, connotes a deliberate dissection of a region into a number of warring states corrupt and unstable. An understanding of the Balkan peoples is essential to a correct appreciation of the Balkan problem. The other two peninsulas—the Iberian and the Italian—have preserved their cohesion, although, at the decline of their glory, attempts were made to balkanize them. Spain and Portugal lost their empires but kept their identity and liberty. The statesmanship of Cavour and the burning patriotism of Garibaldi saw the birth of a new nation in Italy. Mussolini claimed that it was a re-birth, that the Empire of Caesars had risen phoenix-like from the ashes of Rome, when he launched his adventures South and East across his 'Mare Nostrum' to grab Abyssinia, and gain a foot hold in the Balkans by his Good-Friday coup d'etat in Albania.

WITH HER GLORIOUS PAST

unparalleled in history, Greece is more a Mediterranean than a Balkan State. Although they have absorbed a large number of other races, especially the Albanians and Vlachs, the Greeks remain a remarkably homogeneous people who claim that their race and culture are higher than the Balkan peoples. Geographically, Greece is separated from the northern Danubian plain by mountains stretching across the peninsula. Ancient Greece spread her culture more rapidly by sea than by land. They are naturally a sea-faring people; no part of their hinterland is very far from the sea. It is surprising, however, that Greek culture which influenced Britain, far beyond the Pillars of Hercules, never reached the peoples close at hand across her northern frontiers; the Balkans hardly felt the impact of the civilization which transformed Europe.

A POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC UNITY

is impracticable in the Balkans for, apart from these northern mountains, all the political dividing lines are mainly artificial. Owing to the great varieties of climate, a heterogeneous collection of races has come to inhabit the peninsula. The earliest people mentioned in history were the Illyrians who are thought to be the ancestors of the modern Albanians. Serbian tribes immigrated from Southern Russia followed by the Bulgars who were assimilated by the peaceful Slav tribes they had conquered. The older inhabitants pushed into corners lived in isolated villages overlooked for generations. Into this ethnical medley, in the fourteenth century, the Turkish invasion burst and submerged the entire area with the exception of Montenegro. The mixture of blood in Balkan veins was further diluted by the Turkish transfusion. The good-looking girls of their Christian subjects were rounded up by the Turks for use in their harems. The crack Corps, known as the *Janissaries* was recruited from Christian boys dragooned from their homes and brought up as Moslems. Later in life these married Bulgar girls and their descendants today are classified as Turks! Politicians in Ceylon are taxing their ingenuity to solve the problems of the minorities. Some statistics will show what their opposite numbers in the Balkans have to face. Two are enough for our purpose to show that on the shifting frontiers of the states the population is hopelessly mixed. The Census of 1930 showed the following figures for the 17,000 sq. miles of Bessarabia, a province of Rumania:—

Rumanians	1,610,757
Russians	351,912
Ukrainians	314,211
Jews	204,858
Bulgars	163,726
Germans	81,089
Christian Turks	98,172
Gypsies	13,518
Poles	8,004
Greeks	2,844
Albanians	1,809
Armenians	1,509
Hungarians	829
Turks	541
Czechoslovaks	540

Yugoslavs and others 304,10,348!

In 1918 a new country was born and christened 'The Kingdom of Serbia, Croats, and Slovenes.' Later it changed its name to 'Yugoslavia', the land of the South Slavs. Its population is 16 millions; more than half a million are Germans, 475,000 Magyars, half a million Albanians, 250,000 Rumanians, 250,000 people of other Slav stocks, 8,250,000 Serbs, 3,557,000 Croats, 1,450,000 Slovenes—the rest 'others'!

THE TURKISH LEGACY

of corruption in the Balkans was more insidious than that of cruelty and confusion. The Turkish administration was simple; the conquered territory was divided into *Pashalaks*, with a Turkish *Pasha* over each as Governor. The *Pasha* had to pay a fixed sum as tax to the Sultan for his province. He farmed out services to his subordinates and both he and they raked in the shekels over and above what was due to the Commander of the Faithful, who asked no questions as to the method of collection employed; then as now in the Balkans every man had his price. The administrative machinery in every Balkan State employs a superfluous number of civil servants, who do not merely twiddle their thumbs!

THE GREATEST FORCE

which kept alive racial feeling during the five centuries of submergence under the Turks was Religion. The Church in the West was far too busy solving her problems in the fourteenth century, and Christians were too much absorbed in deciding perils of doctrine to take an interest in what was happening to their fellow Christians in the Balkans. Fortunately the policy of the Turk was always to organize his subject communities under a religious head. Since the Christians were the most numerous, the Greek Patriarch, although under the Sultan, exercised a great influence to keep alive the racial consciousness and culture of the submerged peoples until, when the liberal ideas of the French Revolution had turned their thoughts towards Freedom, the time was ripe in the nineteenth century to throw off the hated Turkish yoke.

(To be Continued)

JAFFNA COLLEGE

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

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

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

S. K. Bunker,
Principal.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Order Absolute at the first instance
In the matter of the last will of Joseph Timothy Johnpillai of Jaffna Town.

Deceased.
Testamentary } No. 573
Jurisdiction }

This matter coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esq., District Judge, Jaffna on 10th January 1947 in the presence of Messrs. J. A. J. Tisseverasinghe and F. L. T. Martyn Proctors for petitioners Johnpillai Chrysoptom Segarajasingham and Abraham Gabriel Tisseverasinghe, and the affidavits of the petitioners and attesting witnesses to the will having been read.

It is ordered that the last will dated 8th November 1943 deposited in this Court be declared proved and that probate thereof be issued to the petitioners as executors.

Sgd. R. R. SELVADURAI,
District Judge

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

In the matter of the Estate of the Pedrapillai Quintin Christian of 3rd Cross Street in Jaffna.

Deceased.

Testamentary } No. 614
Jurisdiction }

Mary Christian widow of P. Q. Christian of 3rd Cross Street in Jaffna.

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Helen Rasammah Swampillai
2. Agnes Ponnammah Evaris both of Jaffna Town
3. May Joseph wife of
4. S. Joseph of Supreme Court, Ipoh
5. Pua Chrysoptom of 64, Robinson Road, Singapore
6. J. E. T. Christopher of Jaffna Town
7. Primrose Elayathamby wife of
8. S. W. S. Elayathamby of Galle
9. P. J. Constantine of Jaffna Town.

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esq., District Judge of Jaffna, on the 28th day of October 1946 in the presence of Mr. W. B. Canagaratna Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit and petition of the petitioner having been read:

It is ordered that Letters of Administration to the estate of the deceased abovenamed be granted to the petitioner abovenamed as widow of the deceased unless the Respondents or any other person or persons interested in the subject matter appear before this Court on the 27th day of January 1947 and show cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 28th day of October, 1946.

Sgd. R. R. SELVADURAI,
District Judge.

27-1-47.—Time and a showing cause intended to 10/3-47.
Sgd. R. R. Selvadurai.

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R. WIJAYA INDRA,
Agent.

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