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## THE LEGION OF MARY

BY H. E. THE DELEGATE APOSTOLIC

Twenty-five years ago, in countries wide apart two religious events of far-reaching importance took place, unconnected in men's minds but linked in the plans of Divine Providence, one unnoticed at the time by the world at large, the other obtaining wide public attention, especially in these lands. I refer to the Marian Congress of India, Burma and Ceylon, at Madras, and the establishment of the Legion of Mary in Dublin.

Looking back on these events twenty-five years later and in historical perspective one cannot help thinking that the Marian Congress was a providential preparation for the wonderful success of the Legion in the same geographical area. India and Madras were the first outside the British Isles to give recruits to the Legion, and to-day, after only fifteen years, the Legion has over three hundred praesidia in India and Ceylon, comprising about three thousand active members and over sixteen thousand auxiliary members. That justifies indeed the view that India and Ceylon are reaping the fruits of the Marian Congress through the Legion of Mary. Twenty-five years ago Catholic Action had not yet the prominence it has been given since, and the activities coming now under that name had not taken the specific connotation and organization it implies at present. But in reading the many papers and resolutions placed before the Marian Congress one easily discerns a line and current of thought leading to a form of Catholic Action which to-day finds its name and expression in the Legion of Mary.

Among the numerous learned and impressive dissertations on Mary and Catholic life and works, there was a striking paper in which many activities later taken up by the Legion of Mary were outlined and advocated but without the framework and system proper to the Legion.

It is perhaps due to this framework and system that the Legion to-day is realizing and putting into practice the Marian apostolate that was recommended twenty-five years ago. We cannot but rejoice that the Marian Congress and the Legion of Mary are thus linked as coefficients of such a happy result. The Marian Congress advocated Catholic Action with a Marian trend and a Marian inspiration. This inspiration, in conjunction with what has been called the "invariables" of the Legion, constitutes the latter's specific characteristic, as explained in detail in the Legion's handbook.

Here I wish to call attention to three points only, viz. (1) the function of these "invariables" in general; (2) the importance of the weekly meetings and reports in particular, and (3) the Marian inspiration.

By invariables of the Legion I mean the particular externals and methods which are the framework of the Legion's activities. They may be likened to the bones of the human body, without which we should collapse and be devoid of strength. The Legion is organized apostolate and in all organizations it is of primary importance to have a system and strictly to adhere to it. Catholic Action too, in its varied forms, must have such a system, and while the Legion is not the only form, it is a form inseparably bound up with its particular method. There is ample scope for the

most varied activities within the Legion's invariables. But fidelity to these saves it from arbitrariness and vagueness, which have rendered inefficient and ephemeral many a promising initiative and organization.

That applies especially to the weekly meetings and reports, which have been called the driving and impelling force of the Legion and which certainly are a periodical rewinding of its spiritual springs. Without such frequent meetings and detailed reports of each member to his respective praesidium, the individual Legionaries might just drift and lose the alertness of their apostolate. Just as for the particular examen in the spiritual life and for reliable statistics in wider fields of observation so for the work of the Legion frequent recordings of facts are both a means and an index of efficiency. The Legion statistics of work done by it are a most eloquent and convincing proof of its vitality, as well as an incentive to ever more zealous endeavours. In the latest yearly report for India and Ceylon I find 95 distinct items of apostolate, most of which have been performed a considerable number of times. House to house and other visits, for instance, come to over 75,000, Catholic literature distributed or sold to nearly 55,000, children transferred from non-Catholic to convent schools about 9,000 and so on. Here, indeed, in another sense than Milton's, we may speak of "harmonious numbers," nay of thrilling and soul-stirring numbers, if we keep in mind what they stand for, viz., apostolic mettle and daring and adventure in overcoming difficulties of all sorts and in living up to the Legion's first 20 years. Miss Cecily Hallack, has well said that the Legion is an organization of *dependable* action (p. 181). Whatever may be the advantages and merits of other forms of Catholic Action, the Legion is assuredly dependable, owing to its invariables and its Marian inspiration. This is the third point to which I wish to call your attention.

Of course, all Catholic Action connotes devotion to our Blessed Lady, since Catholic Action is but an overflow of Catholic life, the fullness of which necessarily comprises such devotion. But the Legion makes that devotion its fulcrum and main inspiration, the root of its apostolate, as the Handbook expresses it. While from a devotional point of view that supplies a special appeal and incentive, from the doctrinal point of view it is a proof how fully the Legion reflects the mind of the Church and exemplifies the well-known formula *sensire cum Ecclesia*, which Pope Pius X used to mention in connection with Catholic Action. The founders of the Legion were not professional theologians; but their Catholic instinct guided them in making their Catholic Action a Marian apostolate. The Handbook explains Marian inspiration as based on Mary's function in the Mystical Body of Christ as the Mediatrix of all graces. All apostolate is a means of bringing God's graces to our brethren and all apostles can say with their great model St. Paul: *Dei enim sumus adiutores* (1 Cor. iii, 9)—we are God's helpers. But if all graces come through the mediation of Mary, the apostolate is also an instrument in bringing about the effects of that mediation; and we may verily say: *Mariae adiutores sumus*—we are Mary's coadjutors.

(Continued on Page 6)

## KEEP ON PROTESTING

### Religious Liberty Does Not Exist Under the Red Flag

At a meeting in November at which 3,000 persons were present, Fr. J. C. Heenan, speaking on religious persecution, said: "We are not so foolish as to believe that one meeting in one town will be so powerful in its effect as to secure the release of Archbishop Stepinac. We do believe, however, that if Catholics are tireless in drawing attention to the terror which exists in many parts of Europe, eventually British people will be moved to demand justice and the implementation of the Atlantic Charter. Catholics also believe that by renewed protests against the attack on freedom which is made wherever Communists are in power, free peoples will see their own danger before it is too late. In Rome there was an old plaque bearing the familiar symbol of death, underneath which were words which translated read: 'Me to-day, you to-morrow.' Looking out over those unhappy lands held in thrall by the Soviet or their agents, those words might well be repeated. What is happening there to-day may happen here to-morrow unless we can persuade our fellow-citizens to awaken to the common peril. We have to remember that Archbishop Stepinac is only one of the many pastors who are being afflicted for no other reason than that they are pastors of the Church of God. They singled out the Archbishop because he is a public man and his record can more easily be studied by those who wish to learn the truth. But there are thousands of Christians, clergy and faithful, who have been struck down in their obscurity. So, too, is it possible to choose other places than Yugoslavia for examination of what freedom means in Eastern Europe. They can substitute for Yugoslavia, Poland, Lithuania, or, indeed, any of the Baltic or Balkan States, and find the same dismal story. Two facts are clear: the first being that religious liberty does not exist under the Red Flag, and the second that without religious freedom there can be no safeguard for the other rights of men."

### Search for Religion

To-day men are again at the crossroads, with the crash of the Protestant Reformation crumbling to a thousand fragments and the new renaissance of science, said Archbishop Downey, of Liverpool, at a meeting when more than 1,000 people were present. Many men have lost their balance of mind in a feverish anxiety to be considered up to date in science.

But there is a feverish restlessness and a seeking out after better things—a searching for religion, if men could only be sure of what religion is and where to find it. There were those who would define religion as having its essence in creeds, others would place it in deeds, and still others would radicate religion in emotion. There are those whose attitude is that, if they do not go to church it is because there is no church big enough. This type are spoken of in America as "blue-domers"—worshipping under the blue dome of the heavens. There are those who hold that religion is feeling, sentiment, pleasure

ble satisfaction, the inward urge, the interior glow.

Wherever there is true religion there will be real feeling, said the Archbishop, but that does not make emotion the essence of religion. All emotion is transitory—we are all creatures of moods. But religion is permanent. A second reason is that emotion is not ultimate. All emotion is based on knowledge, and the emotion is true or false precisely as is the knowledge true or false. Hence there are people who place the essence of religion in knowledge, belonging to creeds which believe they possess some mysterious knowledge of God which others have not got. It is very obvious that knowledge does not make a man religious.

Can it be said then that religion is doing things, getting things done? There is no idea more common in the country to-day than that which suggests that it does not matter what you believe, it is the life you lead, the good you do. Religion is something concerned not with one faculty of man but with man as a whole.

### What the Catholic Religion Gives Us

"No Catholic who is living his faith can say that life is meaningless or unfair, and from that springs hope." This was the theme of the talk given by Miss Barbara Ward, one of the Directors of the B.B.C., in the series, "The Catholic in the World to-day." "Anybody who has not, as a Catholic, found the sense of rock-like foundation, has missed the most fundamental thing about the Faith," said Miss Ward, "the profound conviction that whatever happens is willed by God. The loss of friends, the appalling conditions in which you have to work, these, in some inexplicable way, are good. The Church stands as a bedrock. That is one of the reasons why Catholics seem to be so much less in need of psycho-analysis. We are living in a world where nine tenths of the people do not know why they are alive. Over a large part of the world the sense of having a purpose in life has faded. There are nervous breakdowns and psychological disorders. There is nothing more disturbing than the fear that one's own life is utterly meaningless. Suffering is doubly intolerable if there is no apparent reason for it. It leads to apathy and pessimism. What the Catholic religion gives us makes sense. It makes sense in those moments which are most difficult. The moment when unexpected pain strikes the soul." —(Examiner, March 8th, 1947).

Catholic Action is the crozier on which the Bishop of the diocese leans, and which at the same time follows at the slightest move of the Bishop's hand. Whilst the priests should inspire the faithful to a devoted and effective love of God by their own exemplary lives, the field covered by modern apostolate has widened so much that every layman should take an active part in the life of the parish.—The Bishop of Harlem.



## Church Calendar

MARCH 1947

FRI. ...21 S. Benedict.  
SAT. ...22 S. Catherine.  
SUN. ...23 PASSION.  
MON. ...24 S. Gabriel, Arc.  
TUES. ...25 ANNUNCIATION.  
WED. ...26 S. Thecla.  
THURS. ...27 S. John Damas.  
FRI. ...28 Seven Dolours.

## The Catholic Guardian

MARCH 21ST 1947

## GREECE AND TURKEY

Those of our readers who will have followed the valuable series of articles 'The Shadow Over the Balkans' featured in this and our previous issues will need no prompting to realise the significance of this week's news.

Reduced to its essentials the problem behind this week's news boils down to this. Were England and America to go on indefinitely with a post-war Munich policy of appeasing the unappeasable, at the expense of every nation and country that the Russians wanted to 'protect' whether the 'protection' was palatable or not to the people most vitally concerned? For too long it seemed as if the Munich-men alone counted. The list given on page six of this issue, of the countries absorbed or 'protected' makes startling reading.

It has obviously startled America into effective action; its press has been for years refreshingly outspoken on the issue. President Truman, whom his most fervid apologist—and there are not many of the species—would hardly dare to compliment for vision or forthrightness has come out very definitely on the readiness of America to stand by Greece and Turkey in any eventuality! General, or as he is now named, Mr. Marshall knows the Russian game from A to Z after his tedious experience in China and we take it that his outspokenness at Moscow coinciding with the President's declaration indicates three most encouraging features.

The first is that in America both parties, Democrats and Republicans are solidly behind President Truman. Both houses in America are now dominated by the Republicans so that President's declaration obviously means that Russia's policy of encroachment is in united American intention to stop forthwith.

The second is that the President's declaration was not unforeseen by England. Admittedly this is putting it at its feeblest, as England's corroborative declaration followed too quickly.

The third is that both America and England whose Intelligence Service is notoriously the best informed in the world are clearly aware that the Russian facade is Russia's most imposing feature. That all is not well behind that facade has been for some time a shrewd suspicion. That it is more than a suspicion would seem to follow from the conciliatory line now adopted by Molotov, the Commissar for Foreign Affairs. The growls in *Pravda* and *Isvestia* are obviously exclusively for the groundlings; it is the Russian way of sugar-coating pills for use

within Russia. Russia's acquiescence in the Persian reconquest of Azerbaijan is another significant pointer. The bluff is being called and to mix metaphors fast and furious we are convinced that we are not 'clutching at straws to change the way the wind is blowing.'

## PASSION SUNDAY

This Sunday is called Passion Sunday, because from this day the Church occupies herself exclusively with the contemplation of the passion and death of Christ. The pictures of Christ crucified are covered to-day in memory of Christ having hidden Himself from the Jews until His entrance into Jerusalem, no longer showing Himself in public. In the Mass the *Gloria* is omitted, because in the person of Christ the Holy Trinity was dishonoured. The psalm *Judica* is not said to-day, because on this day the high priests held council about our Lord, for which reason the Church uses at the Introit, in the name of the suffering Saviour, these words: Judge me, O Lord, and distinguish my cause from the nation that is not holy.....(Ps. xlii).

Essential Message of Fatima  
Sacrifice, Not Rosary

"Created by fear of communism, a great murky cloud of pessimism shrouds Europe. A goodly number of serious, down-to-earth folks are considering selling their homes and leaving the Continent. Everywhere there is talk of another war."

These observations were made by James Mathias Haffert, author, lecturer and secretary of the Marian Committee of the United States, in an address at a meeting of the newly-founded Immaculate Heart of Mary Society in Baltimore, U. S. A. He said that he gathered these gloomy impressions as he travelled in recent weeks in England, France, Italy and other European nations before and after visiting the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal.

Mr. Haffert said that in Portugal he had seen Sister Lucy, sole survivor of the three children to whom the Blessed Mother appeared at Fatima, and that he had shown her the proposed constitution of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Society.

Mr. Haffert said that in his conversation with Sister Lucy, he asked her whether the Rosary was the essential message of Our Lady of Fatima. The Sister replied that it was not, although she stressed that she did not mean to minimize the Rosary, but that the principal message was sacrifice. When he asked her what she meant by sacrifice, Mr. Haffert said the nun replied: "Our Lady meant the fulfilment of duties."

Mr. Haffert recalled the message of Our Lady of Fatima: "If my requests are heard, I promise that Russia will be converted and there will be peace."

"We in America hardly heard the word Fatima until November 1942," Mr. Haffert said, "when Pope Pius XII stood before a microphone in Rome, with the short-wave circuits opened to the globe, and said in effect: I consecrate the world—especially Russia—to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and I call upon all Catholics everywhere to renew this consecration in their hearts that Our Lady may keep her Fatima promise before it is too late."

He recalled that on October 13, 1917, in keeping with her promise to the three children, Our Lady at Fatima performed the miracle of the sun in the presence of 70,000 witnesses. He said that at the time, Portugal, a country more than 90 per cent Catholic, had an anti-clerical government. He emphasized that the miracle happened "in our day" and that "the girl who saw Our Lady there is still living."

"May every thoughtful Catholic," Mr. Haffert concluded, "acquaint himself with the simple rules of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Reparation Society—the requests of Our Lady of Fatima—and speed the day of her promise: The conversion of Russia and world peace." (NCWC.)

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Reparation Society is devoted to answering the pleas of Our Lady when she appeared at Fatima in 1917. The society was founded by the Rev. John Ryan, S. J. of St. Ignatius Church, Baltimore. Its members are called upon to make the First 5 Saturdays by receiving Holy Communion in reparation and spending sometime during the day in meditation on the mysteries of the Rosary. They also are urged to say the Rosary daily.

(The New Leader 16th March 1947.)

Monster Meeting  
at BatticaloaPROTEST AGAINST EDUCATIONAL  
DICTATORSHIP AND DEPRIVATION  
OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

A public meeting attended by several thousand inhabitants of the District and of all denominations was held on the Batticaloa Esplanade at 5 p.m. on March 4, 1947 under the Presidency of Mr. K. Kanagasabai, who on being unanimously elected to take the Chair explained the object of the meeting and stressed the fact that the Denominational bodies were not opposed to Free Education, which was a cry that was recently raised here, but was all out for Free Education and in its proper sense and not in the peculiar meaning given to it by the Education Minister.

The first resolution, "This meeting views with alarm the extension of the rule-making-powers proposed to be granted to the Minister of Education and protests emphatically against it, and as a check desires that the power and functions of the Board of Education should be defined and enhanced, so that it really shares in the executive," was proposed by Mr. K. Kanagasabai and seconded by Mrs. Walter Olagasagam. The speakers pointed out that the Education Ordinance of 1939 took away all real powers from the Board of Education, composed of Educationists and members of the general Public and made it purely advisory. Then all power was vested in the Executive Committee of Education which exercised a check on the Minister. But in the new Parliament there will be no executive committee, although in the new Parliament the Minister will have to act in conformity with the Cabinet and his laws approved by the Parliament as a whole, yet in practice neither Cabinet nor Parliament will worry about piecemeal Legislation and thus the Minister will have his own way.

The second resolution, "This meeting protests emphatically against the proposed refusal to register assisted schools after a prescribed date," was proposed by the Revd. J. S. Mather and seconded by Mr. A. F. Gnanapragasam. It was explained that this was an assertion of the fundamental rights of the parent to choose a school for his child. Assisted schools whether denominational or not should be allowed to exist by the State, not simply because it was grateful for past services or even because they are more efficient for the most part than State schools, but because it recognised the right of the parent to send his child to a school of his choice.

The third resolution, "This meeting emphatically protests against the proposed Legislation against unaided schools with regard to the medium of instruction and against the Tribunal of Appeal appointed by the Minister of Education to judge disputes between himself and unaided schools," was proposed by Miss G. Croft and seconded by Mr. P. T. Arumugasamy. It was stressed that the Minister wished to impose even on unaided schools his media of instruction. This was against educational liberty and against the rights of parents. The State may demand a certain standard in a language but it cannot impose the means to be adopted for attaining that standard. The Tribunals are appointed by the Governor, but of course on the Minister's recommendation. Further out of the

panel of ten members of the Tribunal, three are chosen by the Minister himself for the each particular case. In England the Educational Authorities have nothing to do with the composition of the tribunal or the choice for each case.

The fourth resolution, "This meeting protests emphatically against the Legislation which will deprive the parent of the right to choose a school for his child and the regimentation implied in the words that give power to the Education Department over a classification of pupils ..... and the assignment to classes or schools according to their proficiency and aptitude," was proposed by Mr. S. W. Stephens, and seconded by Mr. D. Arumanayagam. There was not a word in this about the preference of the parents. Boys who are supposed to have qualified for secondary education are compelled to attend only one type of schools—Government Central Schools at the risk of forfeiting their bursaries. They are not allowed to hold bursaries in an ordinary Secondary School, whether Government or Assisted. All resolutions were adopted unanimously. The proceedings were conducted in Tamil to enable every one present to understand what was being done.

## PASSION SUNDAY

## Epistle: Hebrews IX, 11—15.

Meanwhile, Christ has taken his place as our high priest, to win us blessings that still lie in the future. He makes use of a greater, a more complete tabernacle, which human hands never fashioned; it does not belong to this order of creation at all. It is his own blood, not the blood of goats and calves, that has enabled him to enter, once for all, into the sanctuary; the ransom he has won lasts for ever. The blood, of bulls and goats, the ashes of a heifer sprinkled over men defiled, has power to hallow them for every purpose of outward purification; and shall not the blood of Christ, who offered himself, through the Holy Spirit, as a victim unblemished in God's sight, purify our consciences, and set them free from lifeless observances, to serve the living God?

Thus, through his intervention, a new covenant has been bequeathed to us; a death must follow, to atone for all our transgressions under the old covenant, and then the destined heirs were to obtain, for ever, their promised inheritance.

## Gospel: St. John: VII, 46—59.

And Jesus said to the Jews, can any of you convict me of sin? If not, why is it that you do not believe me when I tell you the truth? The man who belongs to God listens to God's words; it is because you do not belong to God that you will not listen to me.

Hereupon the Jews answered him, We are right, surely, in saying that thou art a Samaritan, and art possessed? I am not possessed, Jesus answered; it is because I reverence my Father that you have no reverence for me. Not that I am looking to my own reputation; there is another who will look to it, and be the judge.

Believe me when I tell you this; if a man is true to my word, to all eternity he will never see death. And the Jews said to him, now we are certain that thou art possessed. What of Abraham and the prophets? They are dead; and thou sayest that a man will never taste death to all eternity, if he is true to thy word. Art thou greater than our father Abraham? He is dead, and the prophets are dead. What dost thou claim to be? If I should speak in my own honour, Jesus answered, such honour goes for nothing. Honour must come to me from my Father, from him whom you claim as your God: although you cannot recognize him. But I have knowledge of him; if I should say I have not, I should be what you are, a liar. Yes, I have knowledge of him, and I am true to his word. As for your father Abraham, his heart was proud to see the day of my coming; he saw, and rejoiced to see it. Then the Jews asked him, Hast thou seen Abraham, thou, who are not yet fifty years old? And Jesus said to them, Believe me, before ever Abraham came to be, I am. Whereupon they took up stones to throw at him; but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple.

[Mgr. Knox's translation.]



# Patrician Teachers' Silver Jubilee

DECEMVIRS AT TEACHING

## Rector's Speech at the Jubilee Dinner

An intriguing question was raised at our Prize-Giving in December by the Deputy Director of Education. He said that while the concept of personality was an elusive one and admitted of some hundreds of definitions, nobody had any doubt in practice that there was such a thing as personality and readily acknowledged the main lines involved. Anybody visiting St. Patrick's could not fail to be impressed by the spirit and atmosphere prevailing, by its corporate personality as evidenced in its staff and the cachet it impressed on its alumni.

He then went on to analyse the personality of St. Patrick's: he was satisfied that the secret of that personality was to be found in the religious ideals animating the staff and students.

That such ideals are a large part of the secret of St. Patrick's I would be the last person in the world to deny. Those ideals make any Catholic School different from any non-Catholic School. But these ideals are not the full secret: among Catholic Schools, there are different traditions such as for instance the Benedictine and Jesuit traditions and even within schools run substantially on the same traditions there can be a tangible difference of spirit.

Therefore while the ideals of a school are of the utmost importance, I submit that they are not the whole explanation. It would seem that much depends on the implementation of the ideals, the material upon which one has to work and the people who have to translate these ideals by theory and by practice to the rising generation.

Let us take these points one by one.

**The implementation.** The word Patrick comes from the same root as the Roman Patrician which in turn comes from *Patres*. *Patres* we have had from the beginning and speaking on the eve of St. Patrick's day we may salute the memory of such names as Murphy, Smythe, Lytton, Dunne, Wheeler, Francis, Sebastian and Matthews. If every great institution is the lengthened shadow of a great man we have been well sheltered.

The original Patrician—the Roman Patrician—soon began to develop what might be crudely expressed as a form of snobishness. To a variant of that, St. Patrick's must plead guilty in the sense that she has never been vitally concerned about the sayings or doings of other schools. She has led her own life, in splendid isolation if you will, finding more than enough to keep her busy, contented and united within her own walls, leading her own life, following her own vision—Faith is a form of vision—and putting into the realization of that vision all the hard work and sweat that her patron, St. Patrick put into the achieving of his ideal.

Is there anything more to be said about the implementing of our vision? Yes. I would claim for St. Patrick's what Palmerston never tired of claiming for the British system. His claim was that under no other system was there such personal liberty consciously deriving from and based on respect for law and order. To the outsider this seems an anomaly. Only those within realise that this is the explanation of why we are such a hive of cheerful, co-ordinated activity. This brings me to

**The Material on which we work.** The Jaffna Tamil boy has received enough encomia from me and my predecessors. We find him eminently teachable precisely for his regard for the *Valamai* and for his powers of hard, sustained work. *Fide et Labore* is the motto summing him up perfectly. I now come to the

**Translators of the Valamai.** To begin with, the translators must be contented at their work, secure of their tenure and united. For you at St. Patrick's these are truisms and I would only point out with deep gratitude what a striking proof the Eight translators we are honouring this evening furnish of our unity, our contentment and security of tenure. And there are so many more whose jubilees are soon due.

Let us deal with the translators individually.

Mr. Allagaratnam has put in well over 30 years of work here. In his own way, I repeat his own way, he has been the incarnation of hard work. He was instinctively the man who helped the lame dogs over the stile. His pass list was always in a class by itself and he achieved immortality as Prefect of Games. Triple crowns came his way as easily as falling off a log. He worked out his strategy beforehand, an elastic one so that his tactics from touch or the pavilion were infallible. He gave a new touch to our fighting spirit, to the fighting finish so that the 1939 football final has left immortal memories. Last Saturday's cricket match was another example of such a finish. The playing fields properly run can be a great part of education and a translation for the benefit of the world outside of the spirit of the school. Taking him by and large, Mr. Allagaratnam is a translator we could never have done without, and we need him still.

Mr. Selvadurai, our Headmaster, is, I suppose, the very antithesis in most respects of Mr. Allagaratnam. His line has been until recently in the Lower School where with Mr. Augustine (with 40 years service to his credit) and Mr. Alfred he has been tackling our raw material—very raw, one might truthfully say, at times. Their influence has been incalculable, it was final because it involved such complete, self-deliberate and self-oblivious service. They have been the silent realizers of what we may call the Augustinian tradition in the Lower School. I may mention Mr. Keil most appropriately at this juncture. He has been a key-man in the Middle School. He has been fastidious in his horror of anything savouring of window-dressing and with Messrs. Selvadurai, Augustine and Alfred has quietly but jealously stood for the school traditions against all innovators. To some of us at the beginning it came as a surprise to find how Old Boys cherished his memory and influence.

Mr. Alwines is a muscular Christian. Ebullient yet resilient, he has horse power, horse sense and guts. He has been many things. For years he was the Geography Association as he was A.R.P. during the war, as he is to-day St. John's Ambulance, Public Health, Physiology and Hygiene. He has translated for the public the drive that is St. Patrick's. He is an author and our poet-laureate.

Mr. Jacob, our Tamil Pundit is the man who thinks on his feet without treading on other people's feet. A prodigious, prodigal worker with a big following of the 'hard cases' among the bigger boys who look to him in all their troubles.

For a man with the gift of rapid decision he was for years peculiarly unsettled about settling down. I would ask you here to tell Mrs. Jacob that in my considered opinion he is now a better and a greater man than ever.

Mr. Armstrong is Bottled Sunshine. He is the perfect man for the job. Elia-like he can assume an air of child-like bewilderment that is infinitely guileful. What a priceless translator he is to the boys and to the world of the Patrician *Valamai*.

May I conclude. Efforts are being made to destroy schools like St. Patrick's, and men like our Eight translators. Lights are going out. Lights such as these must never be extinguished.

Replying to the toast of the Jubilarians proposed by the Rector Mr. S. A. Allagaratnam the doyen of the staff said that he was dumb-founded with the burden of gratitude to the Rector who had that day publicly and in most tangible manner recorded his appreciation and the appreciation of St. Patrick's of the work he and his brother Jubilarians had done for the past quarter of a century and more; speaking for himself he said that he had put in thirty-six years of teaching and still he felt younger for all that. He could still go on and would go on even after the age limit forced him to retire in another

## Letters to the Editor

A Correspondent writes:

### Incredible!

Sir,—“The Syllabus for the S.S.C. of Dec. 1947 is not yet published”.....so write all Ceylon publishers when asked for a copy of the syllabus.

What is the minister doing? Could he not, instead of delivering nauseating tirades against assisted schools, see to the first duty of his department. Fifty secondary schools have now been at work for 3 months, preparing 10,000 children for the December Examination and the teachers have not yet any syllabus to guide them!! The pupils do not know what subjects to choose! Teachers are supposed to have planned their matter dividing it into 36 weeks and three terms. How can they do that when they do not know the ground covered by the syllabus?

The French say that “to govern is to foresee.” If that is so, may God preserve us from any Government which contains ministers of the Kannangara type!!! Why should he grumble at our wistful looks at the good old Cambridge and London Examinations. In those halcyon days, we used to get syllabuses 18 months before the examination. Principals got the books in time. Boys were given their syllabus for each term—on the very day of reopening and on the following day, every boy and master had started work in earnest. If western languages must go, should also western efficiency go to the wall? Quo usque tandem abutere, Kannangara, patientia nostra?

### PERPLEXED PEDAGOGUE

[Note by the Editor:—Since there is no planned beginning there is the putrid end. We refer to the tampering with the last S. S. C. marks leading to the dismissal of a number of clerks. Let us go back to the sovereign gold of the British Universities if our Educational tinkers can give us no better than tinsel. Ed. C. G.]

## Annual Retreat to the Catholic Lady Teachers

The Lady Teachers' Annual Retreat which will be held as usual at the Holy Family Convent, Ilavalai, will commence on 20-4-47 at about 4 p.m. and will close on 24-4-47 with Holy Mass.

All Teachers and any other Ladies who wish to profit by an Annual Retreat, are kindly requested to inform the Mother Superior as early as possible.

MOTHER SUPERIOR,  
Holy Family Convent,  
Ilavalai.

four years if only the Rector would allow him to do so. If the Rector paid him for his work it was well and good but if that could not be he was prepared to pay the Rector for allowing him to teach after he retired. “To tell you the truth, gentlemen, let me confess to you that it will be an act of charity on the part of the Rector to keep me on, for holidays are the most miserable days of my life,” concluded the Jubilarian.

Mr. F. J. Armstrong supported the reply of Mr. Allagaratnam. His speech corroborated and underlined the remark the Rector had made about him. Mr. Armstrong is the Bottled Sunshine. His speech was the most delightful course of the evening. Confessing at the beginning confusion and embarrassment he made the wittiest speech sparing none of the jubilarians including himself. He brought into the light the fact that the Rector assiduously kept under a bushel—the fact of the Rector himself celebrating this year the Silver Jubilee of his work as a teacher at St. Patrick's. Many and pleasant were his reminiscences about the brother jubilarians. Concluding he said, “The Rector has brought to the notice of most of them the fact which they did not purposely want to know—the fact that they were old. If work suffered in the future the fault was the Rector's and not theirs.”

## St. Patrick's College Old Boys' Association

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1946.

The activities of the O. B. A. during the year under review commenced with the celebration of the Sacred Silver Jubilee of Rev. Fr. L. J. Augustine O.M.I., Principal of the College Primary Department and end with the Sacred Golden Jubilee of Rev. Fr. K. Sebastian, Mis. Apos., and Rev. Fr. N. Santiago O.M.I., the two senior indigenous priests of the Jaffna Diocese. May Almighty God keep in good health these three Patricians who have devoted their lives to spread the kingdom of God.

The middle of the year saw the return of Very Rev. Fr. Rector after a well-earned rest in Europe. During his absence Rev. Fr. B. A. John O.M.I. was acting as Rector—an event of which all the Old Boys are proud as he has been the first Ceylonese and the first Old Boy to hold this onerous post.

In the latter part of last year and at the beginning of this year, the hand of death has snatched away from our midst some of our most eminent old boys. Their name and fame is so great that they cannot be easily replaced.

The late Mr. B. J. David, Retired Postmaster, was a Committee Member for several years and a very liberal subscriber to all our appeals. The late Chevalier P. Moses K. S. G., J. P. was one of the first members of the O. B. A. in Jaffna. He was an ardent Vice-President for several years. The death of the Very Rev. Fr. P. M. Francis O.M.I., Editor of the Catholic Guardian came as a rude shock to all Old Boys who knew him—a loss to Alma Mater as well as to the general public.

The death of the scholarly Rev. Fr. S. GnanaPrakasam O.M.I., caused intense grief not only to the Catholics of Jaffna but to the Tamil Community at large. May God rest their souls.

Out of this sorrowful and gloomy picture comes the glad tidings of the appointment of Rev. Fr. Rector as Editor of the Jaffna Catholic Guardian. The Old Boys convey their congratulations to him on this occasion. The Papal Honours for Mr. and Mrs. A. Gardiner stand supreme among the recent achievements of our old boys. Chev. A. Gardiner is only too well known for his generosity throughout the Island. The O. B. A. heartily congratulates the new Knight.

The O. B. A. hastens to congratulate Mr. N. Nadarajah B. A., K. C. who has been appointed Commissioner of Assize and wishes him as great a success on the Bench as he has secured at the Bar.

In this connection it may be mentioned that there are now many publications to chronicle the achievements and distinctions of the old boys. They are the Rector's Annual Report, Bottled Sunshine and the O. B. A. Annual Reports of Jaffna and Colombo as well as the College Annual which is being revived. It is felt that in reports of this nature brevity should be the aim.

I wish to place on record the great cordiality and understanding that existed between Rev. Fr. B. A. John O.M.I., and the Old Boys during the period of his acting Rectorship. It is hoped that even greater cordiality may continue to prevail so that the Old Boys may rally round their Alma Mater and celebrate the Centenary of the College in June 1950 in a fitting manner.

The O. B. A. thanks all who by their kind help and co-operation last year, have made the activities of the Old Boys' Association a success, particularly the Treasurer Mr. P. Saverimuttu.

F. J. R. VikramaSankam  
Hon. Sec.  
S. P. C. O. B. A., Jaffna.

### TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS

MARCH 17TH 1946 TO MARCH 17TH 1947.

To Collections from Members:	Rs. 205.00
By refreshments etc.	Rs. 130.50
„ printing charges	21.00
„ balance	53.50
	205.00

P. SAVERIMUTTU  
Hon. Treasurer  
S. P. C. O. B. A., Jaffna.



## Do You Know Series XXI of CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

1. When was the Council of Trent opened?
  2. What is the principal practice of the Apostleship of Prayer?
  3. What was the assurance that Simeon had received from the Holy Ghost?
  4. What are the duties of the faithful towards their parish?
  5. Who is called the Maid of Massabielle?
  6. Who is the Patriarch of the Monks of the West?
  7. Who is the sister of St. Benedict?
  8. When did our Holy Father consecrate the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary?
  9. When was the proclamation of Our Lady of Lanka made?
  10. Name one of the greatest privileges conferred on us by Baptism?
- (For Answers See Below)

## Do You Know Series XXI

1. On the 13th of December 1545.
2. Its principal practice is to make Morning offering daily.
3. The assurance was that he should not die until he had seen the consolation of Israel.
4. i To love the parish.  
ii To frequent the parish church.  
iii To take part in parochial activities.
5. St. Bernadette.
6. St. Benedict.
7. St. Scholastica.
8. In October 1942.
9. On Saturday 15th February 1947.
10. We become temples of the Blessed Trinity.

### Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.  
In the matter of the Estate and effects of Thirumankalam wife of Nava-

ratnam late of Karainagar west.  
Deceased.  
Testamentary } No. 670  
Jurisdiction }  
Sithamparappillai Navaratnam of Karainagar west.  
Petitioner.  
Vs.  
1. Ambalavanar Rajaratnam of Karainagar west.  
2. Ambalavanar Gobalappillai of do  
3. Ambalavanar Thirunavukkarasu of do  
Minor's 4. Savupakkim daughter of Ambalavanar of do  
5. Saraswathy daughter of Ambalavanar of do

This matter coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esqr., District Judge of Jaffna on the 21st day of February 1947 in the presence of Mr. P. Casipillai Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit and petition of the petitioner dated 18th February 1947 having been read:  
It is ordered that the abovenamed 1st Respondent be appointed guardian ad litem over the abovenamed minor's the 3rd 4th and 5th Respondents and that Letters of administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the petitioner unless the Respondents or others shall appear before this Court on or before the 31st day of March 1947 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary. The 1st Respondent is further ordered to appear in person before this Court on the 31st day of March 1947 and to bring the said minor's 3rd 4th and 5th Respondents to Court on the said date

This 21st day of February 1947.  
Sgd. R. R. SELVADURAI,  
District Judge.

Supply of Palmyrah Rafters & Reepers for New Out Patients  
Dept, Civil Hospital, Jaffna.

Quotations will be accepted for the above from likely Tenderers, for delivery at Site of Works. Tenders close on 8th April 1947, with Messrs. Terrazzo Tile Works Ltd., 314, Thimbirigasaya Road, Bambalapitiya.

For forms of Tender and other particulars apply to the undersigned or to the said Company in Bambalapitiya.

New O.P.D. Site, N. S. Sanders,  
Hospital Rd., Representative in Jaffna,  
Jaffna, Terrazzo Tile Works Ltd.,  
15th March 1947. Colombo.

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R. WIJAYA INDRA,  
Agent.

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## LOCAL & GENERAL

### Sacred Heart Confraternity.

The monthly meeting of the members of the Sacred Heart Confraternity (Senior Branch) will be held on Sunday 23rd inst. at 5.15 p.m. in the College Hall. Mr. J. A. V. Sylvester will give a talk on "Fortifying the Layman".

### Great Doings at St. Patrick's College.

This week had been a week of weeks at St. Patrick's College, Jaffna. The patronal feast of the College was celebrated by a Triduum followed by two days of festivities—sports on Saturday and religious functions on Monday. In between the Rector entertained the staff to dinner on Sunday, the 16th in honour of ten members—two clerical and eight lay teachers having completed twenty-five to thirty six years of unbroken service at the College. On Thursday the boys had their function for the Jubilarians. A full report is published elsewhere in this issue.

### Arrival of New Priests.

Three new priests have arrived in Jaffna on Wednesday the 5th inst. Rev. Fathers Pedro Isaac Saltiel, Yuan Spanpatti and Bonifacio Gonzalez are attached to the Bishop's House studying Tamil preparatory to receiving their obedience to the Missions.

### St. Patrick's Feast.

The feast of St. Patrick was celebrated with the traditional solemnity by the students—both past and pre-ent—of St. Patrick's College on Monday the 17th inst. The High Mass on the feast day was sung by Very Revd. Fr. T. M. F. Long O.M.I., the Rector. The singing rendered by the St. Martin's choir under the direction of Revd. Fr. L. J. Augustine, O.M.I. with Revd. Fr. Chas Chovan, O.M.I. at the harmonium was delightful and up to its usual high standard.

### The Sports Meet and Old Boys' Day.

The St. Patrick's Day Sports Meet this year was held on Saturday the 15th inst. starting at 3.45 p.m. Conway House became champions with 74 points while Abraham and Bonjean tied for the second place. The Rector before distributing the prizes, expressed his thanks to the distinguished visitors and Old Boys for being present at the celebrations and to all who had contributed to make the function of the day a success.

Then the Annual General Meeting of the O. B. A., Jaffna was held in the pavilion with Very Revd. Fr. Rector, the President in the chair.

After the adoption of the minutes of the last General Meeting, the Secretary presented a short annual Report and the Treasurer a statement of accounts. These two were adopted.

The President proposed a vote of condolence on the deaths of Mr. B. David, Chev. P. Moses, K.S.G., J.P., Very Revd. Fr. P. M. Francis, O.M.I. and Revd. Fr. S. GnanaPrakasara, O.M.I. It was passed in the usual manner all members standing.

The President said that now more than ever there was need for the Old Boys to rally round their Alma Mater because of the great hardships experienced by the College authorities in maintaining the College up to its former standard. He also mentioned that eight teachers of the College had served the College for more than a quarter of a century. This should be celebrated, he said, in a fitting manner.

The following were elected office-bearers:

Vice-Presidents: Chev. S. Arulantham, Messrs. F. A. Sandrasegara, V. A. Duraiyappah, G. S. Puvirajasinghe and Muhandiram F. J. R. Vikramasingam.

Hony. Secretary: Mr. J. Armstrong.  
Hony. Asst. Secretary: Mr. S. F. Santiapillai.

Hony. Treasurer: Mr. C. Vamadeva. Mr. S. Sebastiampillai was elected a committee member in addition to those elected in the previous year.

**A Public Lecture.**—A public lecture on the life of St. Joseph was delivered by Mr. A. GnanaPragasam, Editor, Sathiyavetha PathuKavalan, on Sunday 16th inst. at 5.30 p.m. in St. Charles' School Hall under the auspices of the Jaffna Diocesan Literature Committee. Rev. Fr. L. J. Augustine O.M.I. presided. The lecturer dwelt on the virtues of St. Joseph particularly as a spouse of the Virgin Mother quoting

freely verses from Thebavani the most outstanding work on the subject by Beschii (Veeramamuniyar). The lecture was interesting and delivered in simple but sweet Tamil. Mr. P. Saverimuttu the Hony. Secretary urged other Catholics to imitate the lecturer in giving talks on their pet Catholic topics. It was not everyone who had the time to read and acquire knowledge for himself.

Mr. S. Augustine, Head Teacher R. C. School Passaiyoor, proposed a vote thanks to the lecturer and the meeting terminated.

**Entertainment Tax.**—From Saturday the 15th inst. a new tax known as the Entertainment Tax has been imposed on all cinema goers. According to this tax a levy of 20% will be made on the face value of each ticket sold. In the other parts of the Island a levy of 15% is collected. In spite of the tax the number of cinema fans has not fallen.

**Personal.**—Mr. N. Nadarajah, K.C., took his oaths as Commissioner of Assizes Colombo yesterday the 20th inst. With him there are now two Tamils on the Supreme Court Bench. The other is Mr. Justice Nagalingam who has been recently confirmed, as Puisne Justice.

—Mr. M. R. M. Jebaratnam Assistant Farm School Officer, Jaffna is being promoted as Assistant Agricultural Officer, (Propaganda) Peradeniya.

—Mr. S. Balasingham, Assistant to the Tobacco Officer, Kilinochchi is succeeding Mr. M. R. M. Jebaratnam as Assistant Farm School Officer, Jaffna.

—Mr. A. V. Chelvanayagam Agricultural Instructor, Kilinochchi is being promoted as Senior Assistant to the Divisional Agricultural Officer, Kilinochchi.

### The Jaffna Psychological Association.

An Association for the promotion of the study of Psychology among its members and for the dissemination of knowledge of mental hygiene and allied subjects among the general public, has been inaugurated in Jaffna. The first meeting of the Association was held at Vembadi Girls' High School Hall on Monday the 17th inst. Dr. R. V. N. Selvadurai, F. R. C. S., Civil Hospital, Jaffna and Dr. C. T. Chelliah, Green Hospital, Manipal, were elected President and Secretary respectively. An interesting lecture on "Essentials of Modern Psychology" was delivered by Mr. Isaac Ponnambalam of Jaffna Central College. This was followed by a lively discussion. Regular meetings of the Association will be held on the third Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Vembadi Girls' School Hall, Jaffna.

### Patricians' Achievement in Malaya.

—We are pleased to hear that the following Patricians serving in the Government of the Malayan Union have been promoted to Super-scale I of the General Clerical Service on the salary scale \$400—A 20—\$500 per mensem with effect from the 1st April, 1946:

Mr. G. Joseph to be Office Assistant, Malayan Union Secretariat, Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. S. Manuel Pillai to be Secretary to the Custodian of Enemy Property, Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. S. Joseph to be Secretary to the Town Board, Ipoh.

Of the six super-scale posts allocated three have been secured by the Patricians.

### The Archbishop and the Education Bill.

—Presiding at the Prize-giving at St. Peter's College on Saturday 15th His Grace the Most Revd. Dr. J. M. Masson O.M.I., Archbishop of Colombo proclaimed his faith in the State Council and its leader Mr. D. S. Senanayake regarding their doing justice to the cause of Education in this country. Appealing for justice and generosity he expressed his confidence that the legislature would not permit an injustice to be done to the denominational schools. He emphasised the fact that the Catholic Church was never opposed to Free Education.

### S. S. C. Standard Recognised for Medical Students.

—The General Medical Council has decided that the Ceylon Government Senior School Certificate with exemption from the London Matriculation is to be considered sufficient standard of general education for admittance to the first examination for Medical Degrees of the

University of Ceylon. This arrangement renders the Matriculation Examination unnecessary for medical degrees of the University of Ceylon.

### Minister of Health and Free Education.

—Presiding at the Prize-giving function of St. Sylvester's College, Kandy Hon'ble Mr. Geo. E. de Silva Minister of Health allayed the fears of the denominational schools by assuring them that as long as he was able to wield some influence it would be his endeavour to maintain the highest standard of equity and justice and give every section of the people in this country a fair deal.

### Mannar and the Minister of Health.

—The Hon'ble Mr. Geo. E. de Silva, Minister of Health toured various parts of the Mannar Electorate with Messrs J. Tyagarajah and T. B. Jayah Members of the State Council, opening a Cottage Hospital at Vidaltivu, selecting a site for another at Pesalai and viewing the construction of a third at Silavaturai. An address was read and presented to the Minister at Pesalai by the Rev. Fr. S. Peter O.M.I. Parish Priest.

—Nanaddan received the party with eastern splendour. Mr. S. Mathesupillai, the President of the Village Committee read an address and presented it to the Minister. The contents of the address vividly portrayed the ancient glory and the modern decay of Mantote of which Nanaddan is the hub. Rev. Fr. S. Singarayay O. M. I. Parish Priest corroborated the contents of the address. His speech was full of admiration of the Minister and praise for Mr. Tyagarajah the Member for the District. The Minister decided to establish a Central Dispensary at Nanaddan and confer further amenities as occasion arose.

Wherever the party went they were made to understand that Mr. Tyagarajah had really delivered the goods and the constituency had no reason to cast wistful eyes on another to guide its destinies.

Mr. T. B. Jayah a Member of the Executive Committee deputised for the Minister of Education in laying the Foundation stone for a Central School at Erukklampiddy.

### Benedictine Order, Kandy.

—Rt. Revd. Dr. Anselm Weerasinghe, Abbot of the Benedictine Order, Kandy has been confirmed in Office. Very Rev. Fr. D. R. Baldarelli has been re-elected Superior of the Monte Fano Monastery, Ampitiya. The Rev. Fr. Barsenbeck has been appointed Master of Novices, Monte Fano Seminary.

### The Viceroy-Designate—Lord

Louis Mountbatten, the Viceroy-Designate of India is due to arrive at Delhi on the 22nd inst. with Lady Mountbatten and their younger daughter in a York aircraft. Another plane of the same class will bring eleven members of the Viceroy's staff. Both aircraft are expected to arrive on the same day.

### Acknowledgment and Request.

—Revd. Fr. B. Deogupillai, Mis. Ap., and Revd. Sister Mary Emilie while sincerely thanking the Revd. Fathers and Sisters and all others who either attended the funeral of their beloved father or sent messages of condolence kindly request them all to pray for the repose of the soul of their dear departed parent.

### An Interesting Study in Contrast.

—Writing in the Sunday "Observer" Percy Cudlipp gives an account of how two of the Prime Ministers of England prepare their speeches before an important debate in the House of Commons. Mr. Winston Churchill used to dictate his speech to his secretary striding to and fro as he did so. Mr. Clement Atlee retires to his private study at No. 10 Downing Street and taps out the first draft of his speech with two fingers on a portable typewriter. Churchill wanted to impress his listeners with his artistry of language while Atlee was concerned with the solid content of the speech.

### American Aid to Greece and Turkey.

—President Truman of the United States proposes to grant a loan of 250 million dollars to Greece and 150 million dollars to Turkey in order to strengthen the military machines of these countries to be "prepared for any eventuality" and against "any possible thrust." Mr. Henry Wallace, the former Secretary of Commerce thinks that the implementing of these proposals will bring the world to war.

### British Army to Remain in a State of Preparedness.

—Mr. John Bellerger, the War Minister when introducing estimates for the army said that Britain intended to keep her army in a state of preparedness to meet any contingency which can be foreseen. He said, "It would be a bold man who would assert that there is peace today and that we can demobilize armies."

### Miracle Behind the Preservation of Paris.

—This was on Sept. 3rd 1939. War was declared. A French air pilot knocks early morning at the door of the chapel of the Miraculous Medal, Rue du Bac, at Paris. His energetic features are attuned to the gravity of the hour. He wants medals, lots of medals, all that can be scraped up.

"Sister I want lots of them, I must sow a ring of medals around Paris and place it under Our Lady's protection."

The next morning, moved by his extraordinary confidence in Mary, he drops from his plane thousands of miraculous medals and wraps the capital of France in an invisible ring more powerful than an army in battle array.

The world's press has spoken of the miraculous preservation of Paris. Paris did not receive one bomb; it has kept unscathed its glorious churches, its numberless palaces and monuments, its 29 artistic bridges and all its marvels.

The world was surprised but the clients of our lady of the Miraculous Medal smile, they know what took place.

### Money Order Frauds.

—Investigations are being pursued with relentless vigour into the money frauds covering a loss of over two lakhs of rupees perpetrated by a gang functioning between India and Ceylon. Even locally we have a parallel in 15 Money Orders missing from Walabanduwa sub-post office. Two of these orders for Rs. 300/- each have been cashed at Kalutara. The C. I. D. are on their trail.

## OBITUARY

The death occurred in Jaffna of Rev. Sister Ladislava, the Superior of the Home for the Aged on the 10th inst. at 11.50 p.m. Her end was as edifying as her life had been. Entering the Civil Hospital Jaffna she had a long time to prepare for the awful moment which she welcomed with a cheerful heart, with her lamp well-trimmed and burning bright, to meet her Divine Bridegroom.

Sister Ladislava (Theresa Sifrig) was born on the 4th of March 1889 at Udligenswil Canton Lucerne, Switzerland. She received her religious habit and the name Sister Ladislava on the 6th of Sept. 1913 in the Convent of the Holy Cross, Meizingen, Switzerland. Having made her religious profession on the 7th of Sept. 1914 Sister Ladislava underwent an intensive training of six years at the Academie Holy Cross, at Fribourg.

In 1920 she answered the call to the foreign Mission and arrived at Travancore, South India, where she worked as a Nurse in various Hospitals. Wherever she was appointed she went without demur; whatever task was allotted to her was performed well as a work of pleasure. Obedience to superiors and devotion to duty were the royal road she trod in the arduous work of self-sanctification.

On the 1st of May 1936 she arrived in Jaffna, as Superior of the Home for the Aged. It was here that she had to earn her thorny crown—albeit a crown of sanctity. When she took charge of the Home, her Treasury was only implicit Faith in her Divine Master. She and her brave companions in religion begged their way through to make the life of the destitute aged a happy one and their end peaceful in the Lord.

The funeral which was so largely and representatively attended was an eloquent testimony not only to the popularity of Sister Ladislava—what cared she for personal glory—but to the good and holy work, the twenty-four's burning charity shed all over the patients in the Hospital and the inmates of the Home for the Aged by each and everyone of the Sisters of this Holy Order. All Jaffna bemoans the loss of Sister Ladislava and we with it.

R. I. P.



# History Behind the News

## —The Shadow Over the Balkans—

Events are moving fast in Europe; the success or failure of the meeting of the Big Three in Moscow will mean Peace or War for the world. Two items of news are significant: the U.S.A. has declared her intention of maintaining a fleet in the Mediterranean which means, "the Pyrenees are no more," Britain and U.S.A. have also decided to finance Greece with the purpose of helping her to maintain her independence now being threatened by Soviet Foreign Policy. We have called this study "The Shadow Over the Balkans," but in fact the Shadow is not confined to this small corner of Europe only, but, now as before, if there is to be a war, the first shot will be fired in the Balkans. There is yet another reason why Balkan History should interest us; all the causes of unrest and uneasiness, of revolt and revolution in every part of the world are present in this strategic peninsula of Europe in a concentrated and intensified form.

### RELIGION AND RACE

have always been rallying focal points of resurgent nationalism. Burma for the Burmans, Malaya for the Malays, do they not echo the voice of Hitler's Germany? What is Pakistan but an attempt to consolidate the adherents of one religion in one undivided State? The problem of minorities is also the problem of the Balkans but with this difference. Nowhere else in the world are there so many races separated from their independent parent stock and subjects of alien majorities. Just as there are Slavs in Albania and Rumania, in Bulgaria and Greece, so also there are not negligible minorities of each of these races in every other State, minorities who look upon their country of domicile as their only home. Adherents of both the explosive religions of the world—Christianity and Mohammedanism—are found in every one of the Balkan States, their religious fervour and loyalty far exceeding their racial sympathies. In fact the common method of determining a man's race in the Balkans is by his religion. If he is a Roman Catholic he is a Croat, if he is a Unit he is a Ukrainian; Pomaks are Moslemized Bulgars, Comans belong to a Turkish tribe, Gagavz are Christianized Turks, Bunyevaks are Roman Catholic Serbs, and Safardis are Jews of Spanish origin. Yugoslavia—the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes—was once described by Stephen Raditch, the martyred Croat leader, as "The Balkans in miniature." Today Croats and Slovenes are Roman Catholics and Serbs are Orthodox. But in Bosnia a province of Yugoslavia 32.2 per cent. of the population are Moslem Serbs! The wholesale transfer of population has been suggested as the only feasible solution but on which basis, Religion or Race?

### POLITICAL SLOGANS

to be catching should be translated into a language easily understood by the discontented people in every country. Unequal distribution of wealth and opportunity are fruitful themes of political agitators. It is a truism that the peasants are the back-bone of a country. But their importance in the life of a nation was brought home to the highly industrialised nations of the West only during the last war when it was demonstrated with blood and tears that in wars it was not merely the armed forces but the whole nation which was mobilised and made "to march on its stomach." But those who are the back-bone of a nation do not always share its wealth or wield its power. The Balkan lands are peasant countries. Of their 60 million peoples 74 per cent. live on the land. In Britain it is only 5%. Only a little more than 10% gain their living from industry; millions more live by the land, marketing its produce and supplying the needs of its cultivators. Per head of population the average cash income of the Balkans peasant is Rs. 224 per annum. Prior to 1914 an average of 175,000 people from the Balkans emigrated to the U.S.A. and thus eased the pressure of population and, by the remittances of the sons who

emigrated, raised the standard of living to some extent. But this suddenly ceased as a result of American labour clamouring for protection against foreign imported and cheap labour.

In Britain and the U.S.A. the clash is between labour and capital but in Balkan lands the clash is between Country and Town, the latter the marketing centre, exploits the peasant by imposing taxes on the sale of his produce. The worm has frequently turned, impelled not by ambition but by despair with disastrous results to itself. Wat Tyler's rebellion in England was the first peasant revolt of any importance—but at the sight of their Liege Lord the yokels threw their greasy caps into the air and dispersed to their homes. Instantly triumphed over Revolution and Tyler lost his head!

### EDUCATION

was never the strong point of the Ottoman rulers and during the Turkish domination education was at a standstill. The first printed book arrived in Bulgaria in 1806! Progress was slow after the emancipation. Education is always difficult in rural communities where the normal school comprises forty to fifty pupils with only one teacher. The contrast between the educated few and the peasants is great; the one is intelligent and well informed whilst the other is as often as not quite illiterate though intelligent. When every man with a university degree imagines that he has a right to a government job in a country where the number of such government and professional jobs is necessarily few, the resultant discontent provides a fruitful recruiting ground for a malcontent party. Professional politicians drawn from the unemployed and the discontented of the liberal professions have been the scourge of every country and the Balkans are not free from this incubus.

### TWO-THIRDS OF THE HUMAN RACE,

the peasants have always been exploited by ambitious politicians. Yet their potential power is immense. Combined and organized the peasant could dominate the world. Others may strike; the world suffers only in convenience, but if the peasants struck the world would starve. Instead they are divided and exploited by every other section of the population. The peasant has received a very raw deal in history. Many believe that in the revolutions of the world the peasant emerged with much gain to his credit. In the French Revolution, when the slogan 'Equality and Liberty and Fraternity' was loudly proclaimed two-thirds of those who were victims of the guillotine were peasants. During the Russian Revolution both the Reds and the Whites shot down peasants in large numbers with indiscriminate impartiality. Even those who might have been expected to befriend the peasants have held not very fraternal ideas about them. When Karl Marx talked about the oppressed and exploited proletariat he was not thinking of the peasantry; he dismissed them contemptuously as "a separate class of barbarians." Martin Luther compared them with mad dogs! The industrial worker rather than the peasant is the favoured one in Soviet Russia. The Soviet emblem is indeed the Hammer and the Sickle but the Hammer will come down pretty heavily to smash the Sickle should it express an opinion wholly in its own interests. The Balkan peasants who own their own lands are the majority and these are never likely to become Communists. Communism finds its adherents among the landless peasants and the shifting casual labourers and disgruntled intellectuals who fail to obtain government and business jobs and positions likely to give scope to their inordinate ambitions. But peasants are a dissatisfied lot and persons in this frame of mind easily turn to leaders who promise them most.

The Balkans are rich in mineral wealth. Rumania has coal, iron-ore, manganese, chromium, copper, mercury, lead, antimony besides gold and silver and oil. But two things are necessary to turn these into national wealth—cap-

tal and technical skill. These the Balkans lack. The gap between peasant craftsmen and factory operatives is wide. Thus foreign capital and foreign technical skill have exploited the natural resources not for the benefit of the Balkans. The people of Britain, U.S.A., France, Germany, representing 13% of the world's population own more than 50% of its wealth and real income. The Balkans are one of the depressed areas of the world. Now Great Britain and the U.S.A. are prepared to finance the re-equipment of the Greco-Turkish Armies and assist in the post-war civil reconstruction of the Balkans to save them from the dire effects of

### SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY,

which is to achieve peace, security and opportunity for the Soviet Union. The fall of the Bastille in 1789 was received with favour rather than condemnation by the rest of Europe until the wild challenge issued by the Convention offering help to all peoples against their rulers provoked a conflict which was to desolate Europe for the next twenty three years. But this threat was not so insidious as the one now thrown out by the Soviet Union. We have not heard the last of it although the world has gone through blood and carnage in the greatest War in History which was not unconnected with the fear of the Soviet threat to the peace of the world. The goals of Soviet Foreign Policy are the same of every foreign policy. But the Soviet leaders consider that since peace is indivisible, peace and security depend upon eradicating the non-Soviet types of society which now divide the world into two incompatible halves *ut unum sint*. The Soviet type of proletarian dictatorship which was primarily intended to end the exploitation of man by man and promote the welfare of the masses, is the ideal form of Government not merely for Russia but for the rest of the world. The security of the Soviet Union can be secured only by adding new peoples and new territories to the Soviet federal system under a constitution designed for this very purpose. Anyone who thought otherwise is branded a 'Fascist' and any opinion to the contrary is interpreted as 'unfriendly.'

There are some features within the Soviet Union undoubtedly attractive to certain types of people. The small group governing the Union has publicly committed itself to promote the welfare of the proletariat. The Soviet system is tolerant to ethnic differences between the inhabitants of its various States. Minorities with a grievance in most countries in Europe are sure to find a welcome in one of the Soviet Republics. Men have considerable freedom to argue—more freedom than in some of the States outside Britain and the U.S.A.—about such matters as science, astronomy, music, art, ballet and such matters. Religious freedom is conceded so long as religion is only a ritual of worship. But in exchange for all these advantages the governing group demand the sacrifice of intellectual freedom. Political or religious thinking which conflicts with the State is considered to be evil and is ruthlessly eradicated. The price is too great to pay for political harmony. The means used to achieve this harmony are propaganda which persuades and force which intimidates, and suppresses. The Soviet Union uses these very means to achieve abroad what has been done at home. That is Soviet Foreign Policy. The inner zone of

### THE SPIDER'S WEB

are the old and new areas which are now part of the U.S.S.R. There at Moscow sits Stalin spinning his web of foreign policy with the object of conquering the world. Since 1917 the Soviet Union annexed adjacent territories on the basis of historic, strategic, and ideological considerations while a world first preoccupied with appeasing and then fighting Hitler looked on. These are:—

1. North Finland
2. The strategic areas of South Finland controlling access to the Baltic Sea
3. Estonia
4. Latvia
5. Lithuania

6. The Northern part of German East Prussia
7. The Eastern half of Poland
8. The Eastern half of Czechoslovakia
9. Bessarabia and Bukovina (from Rumania)
10. Tannu Tuva
11. Port Arthur
12. The Southern half of Saklin Island
10. The Kurile Islands.

Thus Stalin rules over an Empire beyond the wildest dreams of the Romanovs! The Big Three have decided to liquidate Prussia. Does that mean Stalin will keep German East Prussia? What about the future of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Rumania? What Stalin has Stalin will hold. At the present moment he seeks to recover Kars and Eszurum from Turkey on ethnical grounds. The Soviet has been occupying Azerbaijan the northern province of Iran.

Britain and the United States have decided to arm Turkey and Greece. Will Stalin cry halt to his policy of expansion? In the *Middle Zone* the *cordon sanitaire* round the U.S.S.R. the Soviet has set up 'friendly' governments backed by the Red Army. The Eastern European part of this zone includes the Balkans, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Albania. The British aid to Greece and Turkey is an indication that they mean to cry halt to Soviet ambition. General Marshal has raised the question of the Soviet armies in occupied countries, which the Soviet has countered with a question designed to elucidate American intentions in China. When we remember Mr. Churchill's adventures in Salonika and the Dardanelles during World War No. I the importance of Greece and Turkey to the Western Democracies, should there be another War with the Soviet, becomes obvious. Thus a tense situation exists now in the Balkans, which, if not dealt with in the cause of peace, will yet plunge the world into another war.

## The Legion of Mary

(Continued from Page 1)

That in brief is the Marian inspiration of the Legion, and how potent and efficacious is that inspiration we can judge from the Legion's rapid extension and growth. Started most modestly twenty-five years ago, it has branches to-day all over the world, encouraged and praised by Popes Pius XI and Pius XII, by a number of Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops, and holding promises of becoming an ever-mightier Legion of the Blessed Virgin, who, to the powers of evil, is "terrible as an army set in array" (Cant. vii, 9), a Legion living up to the exhortation of St. Paul, to "put on the armour of God, the armour of justice, the armour of light, against the powers of darkness and wickedness" (Ephes. vi, 13; 2 Cor. vi, 7; Rom. xiii, 12).

Both India and Ceylon are truly outstanding among the countries where the Legion is flourishing. Hence the Legion Senatus in these lands is well justified in having organised this Congress for the Legion's Silver Jubilee, which coincides with the fifteenth year since its establishment in Madras, through the pious zeal and persevering efforts of Sister Mackenzie Smith.

The programme of the Congress promises a review of the history, theory, practice and sources of the Legion apostolate and this Congress will no doubt be, as it is meant to be, an affirmation of all that the Legion stands for, and a source of inspiration for Legionaries all over the world.—(Examiner, March 8th, 1947).



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