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

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ACTION THIS DAY

CONTINUING THE STORY OF THE 5,000-MILE TOUR OF THE WAR ZONES

THE HOLY FATHER

BY THE MOST REV. FRANCIS SPELLMAN, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK

Vatican City, Feb. 28, 1943.

The trip to Rome was beautiful. Imagine flying over Corsica with Sardinia visible to the south! Within half an hour we passed over Ajaccio, Corsica, the birthplace of Napoleon, and Elba, the place of his exile. But what events occurred in the lifetime of Napoleon between Ajaccio and Elba!

I thought of Napoleon's modern counterpart who has set on fire and ravaged the modern world. I visualised him as he looked down on Napoleon's tomb in Paris, after his Nazi legions had devastated Poland and western Europe from the Baltic to the Pyrenees.

What did Hitler think when he saw Napoleon's tomb? Whatever he thought, he makes me think of Antichrist. Never has before anyone sown so widely, so thickly, and so deeply the dragon's teeth of hatred and cruelty.

At Littoria Airport in Rome, he who has been always a loyal, devoted friend, Enrico Galeazzi, was there to welcome me. For the moment everything was wonderful.

And yet, with everything familiar, I moved in an unfamiliar world. I was told to get into an automobile. I did so. The automobile started. I was told that I was to go to the American College on the Janiculum Hill, which Italy considers extraterritorial. I said I wanted to go to St. Peter's. We went to St. Peter's.

I got out of the car. Friends and acquaintances of years ago greeted me. Others recognised me and welcomed me. I walked up the steps and entered St. Peter's. I prayed before the tomb of St. Peter, where I offered my first Mass as a priest; and before the altar of the Chair of St. Peter, where I was consecrated a Bishop. I walked about the Basilica, thinking, praying sorrowful in my happiness, happy in my sorrow.

Mr. Galeazzi told me that it was time to go to the American College, but before I went I made arrangements to celebrate Mass at the tomb of St. Peter the following morning, Sunday Feb. 21. After Mass, I said prayers at the tomb of the Popes that I had known: Pius X, Benedict XV, and Pius XI, and also for Cardinal Merry del Val.

I was told that I was invited to attend a meeting of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences the next morning, over which the Holy Father was to preside.

I arrived early for the meeting and met a great many friends. Suddenly, five minutes before the appointed time, the door opened. A hush came over the assembly, and there was Pope Pius XII!

The Holy Father had aged with more than years since last I saw him when he was Cardinal Pacelli. The countless sorrows that had throbbed in his heart had also etched his face with grief and care.

I thought of last Christmas and the Pope's message which I read just before the Midnight Mass in St. Patrick's, words which touched me deeply, words well understandable but not understood for the most part except by those for

whom he prayed and pleaded—"the sorrowing hosts of mothers, widows and orphans, numberless exiles and hundreds of thousands of persons, who without any fault on their part, sometimes only because of the nationality or race, have been consigned to death."

That was the night on which again he protested that international agreements to make war less inhuman by confining it to the combatants had remained a dead letter. That was the time when he prayed and pleaded for a return of the world to its "centre of gravity," which is God's law. That was yet another time he denounced, as he had from the beginning, the horrors of indiscriminate bombing of non-combatants—women, children, sick and aged, hospitals, charitable refuges and houses of prayer.

The Christmas message of the Pope I read again, but this time it was a wordless message in his eyes.

The Holy Father looked at me smilingly and then went to his chair. All was quiet. The Pope began to speak. Of the discourse itself I shall not write, for it was published in America in its entirety. In his beautiful style, the Holy Father spoke for half an hour. As always, His Holiness used no manuscript and delivered his address just as he had written it.

After the meeting of the Academy, the Pope greeted the twelve Cardinals who were present and then came to me as I knelt waiting for his approach. He placed his hands on my shoulders, bade me rise, welcomed me, and told me to accompany him. I was with His Holiness about two hours. Afterwards I remained in the Vatican and talked with Mr. Galeazzi until five o'clock, when I again went to the Holy Father. It was eight o'clock before I returned to the villa, after a day that I shall never forget.

The Holy Father thinks of the war all the time, and all the time he works and prays for peace. No one understands more clearly than he the horror and the devastation of war, and of this war. No one suffers more poignantly. He feels the sorrows of all. He sees the blood and the tears of all. He sees tremendous masses of men increasingly effaced in mutual massacre, increasingly crushed by tentacles of brutality and hate. He realises that hate begets hate, that brutality spawns brutality, and that revenge cries for revenge. The juggernaut of war crushes forward and backward over nations and peoples. Men aflame with savage goadings rush onward crashing other men aflame, and thus the conflagration mounts, spreads, devastates and consumes.

The Pope thinks, works, prays and literally dies for peace. He wishes the conquerors to be not only just with the conquered but also merciful.

He feels that the leaders of conquering nations will have opportunities to show not only greatness in victory but also greatness in making the peace. The Holy Father hopes that peace and justice will come in conformity with the principles that have been proclaimed.

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PERPLEXING PROBLEMS OF POST-WAR WORLD

WHAT GENERAL SMUTS WAR CABINET MEMBER THINKS

The publication of General Smuts' great speech, "Thoughts on the New World," was in striking (and in many ways consoling) contrast to the international conferences which have filled the world's headlines. It would be hard to imagine two more different types of approach to the problems that face us. At the feet of the Pyramids and in Persia's capital the "big men" devoted themselves for the most part to the problems of war. That of course, was their first business. For the rest we may charitably trust that their first concern was propaganda. Indeed from Teheran there was no attempt to reveal any interest in the shape of the world to come save in the most general and meaningless propositions. And we can still hope at least that the more detailed disclosure of the proposed lines of a Pacific settlement had for its sole purpose the allaying of misgivings among the ruder politicians of America. To be content to view the complexities of the Far East solely in terms of the stripping from Japan of all that she has acquired in the last fifty years would betray so childish and primitive a mentality that we might well despair once and for all of the whole future. We refuse to believe that matters can be as bad as that! We have no sort of affection for Japan and we believe that her industrial imperialism (in many respects, we must admit, modelled on British history in the 18th and 19th centuries) is a menace. But neither in equity nor in commonsense can one found peace and order on the mere destruction of fifty years of history. The Pacific settlement needs the active co-operation of the eighty or ninety millions of go-ahead, industrious and inventive Japanese, and no settlement can be final which does not discover the means of enlisting this race in the task of peaceful reconstruction. The mere condemnation of humanity an active

and is utterly incompatible with the professions of the United Nations, let alone with the Christian ideals put forward by the Pope. We refuse to take it as more than propaganda.

NO PEACE CONFERENCE

Even were all this not obvious in itself, the study of General Smuts' speech would proclaim it, even though the Far East did not come within his purview. The key to his mind is to be found in the words: "We are facing today probably the most perplexing, complicated human situation that has confronted the world for many generations, and anybody who thinks he has a panacea at his command to deal with these problems must be either sub-human or super-human," and again: "I am myself doubtful whether we shall ever come to a peace conference at all at the end of this war. It may be that we shall be faced with questions so vast, so complicated, so difficult and intractable, that in the end we shall have to be satisfied with making a pretty comprehensive armistice dealing with the general military question of ending the war, and leave the rest of the problems to a long series of conferences, to a long process of working out solutions without coming to any general peace conference at all."

Only in such an attitude of mind can there possibly be any hope at all for civilisation. Matters have gone much too far to allow for any thinking in terms of mere frontier delimitations, commercial treaties, changing of political regimes, still less of primitive notions of retaliation and punishment as between the masses of human beings which constitute nations. Only one outlook can save us, and that is a readiness for a common effort to think through these appearances to the underlying realities of moral principles, political forces, and industrial and economic organisation, all of these in terms of the

(Continued on Page 4.)

EMPIRE COMMONWEALTH

The announcement made by Mr. Mackenzie King, the Canadian Premier, that the Canadian Legation in Russia, China and Brazil are to be elevated to the rank of Embassies implies that the Dominion has achieved sovereignty. The achievement of this rank by the Dominions generally was, indeed, implied in General Smuts' references to them.

How far does that allow for the leadership of Britain in matters of foreign policy? Is what the General said about the necessity of leadership applicable to our own group of nations in this most crucial matter? It is obvious that conflicting interests may dictate different policies. The omission of any reference to China in his address was symptomatic of a South African conception of Asiatics which has already manifested itself in the laws governing the immigration of Natal of Hindoos. Such a difference, if perpetuated, is going to create a serious cleavage within the Commonwealth.

Even more serious is the South African attitude towards the Negro. While we are supposed to be fighting for a democratic system of Government, we have to remember that since the Representation of Natives Act in 1936 both Coloured and Native lost their right to elect non-Europeans to the Cape Provincial Assembly. The Colour Bar Act of 1926, passed in obedience to pressure from trade unions, limits the granting of certificates in certain skilled industries in a manner which altogether excludes the Bantu. Education and the administration of justice display a similar discrimination against the Native.

General Smuts rightly described the Race and Colour Bar as one which is "going to test our wisdom, our farsightedness, our statesmanship, our humanity, probably for generations." But unless the Commonwealth is held together by common ideals in such affairs, under the system which he envisaged, what remains as a common bond.—Cath. Herald, London.

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Church Calendar

MARCH 1944

FRI. ...17 S. Patrick.
SAT. ...18 S. Cyril Jerus
SUN. ...19 4 Lent. S. Pancharius.
MON. ...20 S. Joseph.
TUES. ...21 S. Bede.
WED. ...22 S. Catherine.
THURS. ...23 S. Victorian.
FRI. ...24 S. Gabriel, Archangel.

The Catholic Guardian

MARCH 17TH 1944

THE RE-ORGANISATION
OF THE CEYLON POLICE

Col. G. H. R. Halland, the present Inspector-General of Police has submitted a comprehensive memorandum on the re-organisation of the Police Force in this country. If we are not mistaken he was engaged on a temporary basis for this special work. With 31 years of Police experience and having held responsible posts in that Service in Britain he is well qualified for the task provided he has the required knowledge of this country and its inhabitants so as to adapt the British Police system to the Island. That is a very important consideration. His reorganisation may be perfect in itself but will it work so well here as to attain its objective? Col. Halland has been in the Island only about a year and he makes the admission that he had been far too busy with a large volume of day to day work. However, he says he has taken some time to make himself acquainted with local conditions. But is this degree of acquaintance sufficient for his difficult task? His is to enable Ceylon to have a first-rate Police Force organised, equipped and trained on modern lines.

"I have satisfied myself", he states in his memorandum, "that there is no reason whatsoever why Ceylon should not have one of the best Police Forces in the world given proper organisation, training, the necessary staff, equipment and up-to-date methods. There are obviously in the Force to-day many Ceylonese Officers in all ranks with a marked apti-

tude for Police work and much knowledge and valuable experience. The main trouble is that basic organisation of the Force is faulty in many respects, it has hung too long to its old military tradition, it has not moved with the times, there has been rigid economy in matters of both staff and equipment and a complete failure to introduce modern methods of working and a new outlook towards Police problems generally."

The result of all this has been to quote Col. Halland again: "I had never in the whole of my service been faced with such an unsatisfactory state of affairs in any Police Force and the general deterioration had gone so far that it was obviously necessary to take immediate action to restore morale and prevent any further downward movement. And yet, it is not very long ago that Mr. Dowbiggin won a remarkable success as a remarkably successful organiser of the Ceylon Police Force and obtained a Knighthood as reward. He was sent to Palestine to re-organise the Police Force there. Under Sir Herbert Dowbiggin this country had a very efficient and contented Police Force albeit it was quasi-military. This latter feature need not necessarily detract from its merit, nay it should rather increase its efficiency and smartness. The Police is no doubt, essentially a civil Force and its members are expected to be civil, courteous and helpful but as guardians of law and order they must also inspire fear. Our Police Force as it is to-day has deteriorated and this deterioration has gone on chiefly during the last thirteen years of the Ministerial government. Col. Halland will do well to look into this aspect of the question whether undue interference on the part of the members of the State Council has had anything to do with the supineness and unconcern that mark the attitude of the Force to-day. We are aware of the outrageous abuse of power by some members of the Police which rightly called for action by the State Council but we are not referring to that now.

CONFIDENCE IN

JOSEPH

19th March

"Go to Joseph," was said of old to Jacob, and with much better reason than this command he accepted by all Christians in regard to St. Joseph, of whom the ancient Joseph was a figure. "Go to Joseph," you who are in sore distress from poverty and want. He who, in the strange, dark land of Egypt found means to satisfy the wants of Jesus and Mary, will surely from his abundance provide for your necessities. "Go to Joseph," you who are assailed by secret storms and distracted by doubts. He who believed incomprehensible things at the word of an angel and whose grievous perplexity was thus dispelled, will obtain for you peace of mind. "Go to Joseph," you for whom the burden of care and responsibility seems too heavy to be borne. He, to whom were committed God's greatest treasures and who in silence and obscurity sheltered them from harm, will strengthen you for the successful discharge of your duties and will obtain a blessing upon your efforts. "Go to Joseph," you who are seeking to draw near to God by leading a life of perfection. He, who learned the secrets of the interior life from the fountain-head, will lead you into the green pasture of spiritual delights, where your soul will

be refreshed with the living waters which flow therein. "Go to Joseph," you who are in the bondage of sin, from whose soul the brightness of God's light has departed, and who, grouping in the darkness, would fain return to the Father's house and be numbered among his children. He who for three days sought sorrowing the Child Jesus will pity your blindness and conduct you to the light, will find you that lost treasure, the love of God, will obtain for you the grace to worthily receive the life-giving sacraments and to persevere in a new life. "Go to Joseph," all who need light, strength, grace, protection temporal aid; for all these things has God given into his hands: "Behold, I have placed thee over the whole of the land of Egypt."

There is one grace which all need, for which all should pray, and that is the grace of a happy death. Other graces are in vain if this does not crown them all. And St. Joseph is the patron of a happy death. He, who in the ineffable consolation of dying in the arms of Jesus and Mary, is hovering near the death-bed of every soul, which in life invoked his aid for the hour of death. He will not permit them to die at enmity with God, and numerous are the well authenticated instances in which a miracle has been wrought, in order that a soul devout during life to St. Joseph, should receive the last consolation of religion before entering into eternity. It has been observed that the death of sincere clients of St. Joseph is invariably calm and peaceful. He seems to have surrounded them with theegis of his protection, and the darts of the enemy are rendered harmless.

How profitable then are the prayers and honour we offer to St. Joseph! The Church ever solicitous for us has made March St. Joseph's month and encourages us to dedicate it to him. But we should remember that the highest honour we can give to our holy patron is the imitation of his virtues, and especially of his humility, his purity and his fidelity in the discharge of every duty. The imitation will make us worthy children of St. Joseph, and prepare us for the society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for all eternity.

The Wheel of History

The full text of the recent declaration of the American Bishops of the N.C. W.C. Administrative Board reveals it to have been a masterly document. In particular one welcomes the insistence that the Church cannot help being intimately concerned with politics, both international and domestic. Strangely enough, one still comes across persons holding responsible Catholic positions who profess to be scandalised whenever they come across evidence of a Catholic concern with politics. And this scandal appears to be most easily taken by Americans. Thus we have received a number of letters from American chaplains who apparently take exception to the "political" character of the paper. Their idea of Catholic outlook still appears to be the one which Hitler has taken such pains to enforce in Germany: a Catholicity carefully confined to the sacristy and mothers' meetings.

We have got to realise the fact that the times when the world of politics and economics still rested against a moral background inherited from a Catholic order is over and done with. The world to-day is run from top to bottom in terms of one or other of the competing schools of secularism and each of these is nothing more or less than a false religion, and an appallingly dangerous one at that. The fruits of embracing such false religions are all around us. Hence there is nothing surprising in the fact that the American Bishops, like the Holy Father, take the whole world and every angle of domestic politics as their province. The distinction they make is not between one subject and another, but between the attitude "of pastors of souls and teachers of religion" and the attitude of politicians. There is a purely spiritual and moral interest.

It is interesting to note how the wheel of history has come full circle. In the Middle Ages the Church made great claims over secular affairs *sub ratione peccati*, as they put it. During the long period of rigid separation between

Church and State many a Christian almost blushed when he read of medieval Papal claims. But the world has made such a hash of trying to ruin things on a purely secularist basis that Catholics are finding themselves forced back to a position that is far more in line with the medieval outlook than with that of the post-Reformation period.—*Cath. Herald, London.*

Ireland's Day

To-day is St. Patrick's Day. What is it that today turns us, who have never seen Ireland, to that land as to a home? Whence comes the power and charm, Ireland holds over the hearts of millions the world over, who have never seen her? This day is not merely the anniversary of a Saint's death, nor the national holiday of a nation, but to those who have felt the spirit of it, who have been touched by the wand of Patrick, to them, there is a "subtle, witching grace about the day and the name of St. Patrick which waves its mystic spell over their hearts and turns those hearts with one sweet accord back to Ireland, that Isle of the Blest."

We all know that it was St. Patrick who won Ireland to the Faith. He found Ireland pagan; but by his apostolic labours he had the happiness to see it Catholic before his death. But we little know how Ireland remained Catholic. Little do we realise at what price Ireland did cling to her Old Religion. Her fidelity to God and loyalty to the Holy See cost her the lives of thousands, nay millions, of her children. The whole nation as one man (for they had the gift of the Unity of Faith) surrendered and sacrificed everything but their Faith. Ireland was the victim of the English Bull-dog's bullying. But, not even the tenacity of the Bull-dog could bend, much less break, the Irish stout heart.

Lord Macaulay is frank indeed in speaking of the British persecution of Irish Catholics. I take the liberty of quoting him at length.

He says: "It is not under one, or even twenty, administrations, but for centuries, that we have employed the sword against the Catholics of Ireland. We have tried famine, we have had recourse to all the artifices of Draconian laws, we have tried unbridled extermination, not to suppress or conquer a detested race, but to eradicate every trace of this people from the land of its birth. And what has come of it? Have we succeeded? We have not been able to extirpate or even to weaken them. They have increased successively, notwithstanding all our persecutions, from two to five, and from five to seven millions. Ought we then to return to the superannuated policy of former days, and render them yet stronger by persecution? I know history. I have studied history, and I confess my incapacity to find in it a satisfactory explanation of this fact. But if I were able, standing beneath the dome of St. Peter's, at Rome, to read with the faith of a Roman Catholic the inscription traced around 'Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it', then, indeed, I could solve the problem of Irish history."

The learned historian himself confesses that the fact of Irish History puzzles him. Whence comes this strength? It is the Irish Faith that could explain the mystery; the blind and undying Faith of the Irish race that was Catholic Ireland's Glory perseverance in the Old Religion that spelt England's Defeat and Ireland's Victory!

Not satisfied with shedding their blood for the Faith in their native soil, the Sons and Daughters of Eire are now actively engaged in spreading the Good News of the Gospel, in the Catholic Missions. The battle of defence being over, they are attacking, out to conquer the world for Christ. They are scattered all over the earth—in the darkest Africa, in China, Japan, and the Indies. Some of them landed in our own Isle and in our own corner of the earth—the Northern Peninsula. Though their numbers have dwindled, their memories are an inspiration. What they have sown, we reap. St. Patrick's as she is today, owes much to them. Is it not a curious coincidence that her first Principal was a Patrick and a son of Eire?

He was Mr. Patrick Foy—an Irishman. Privileged as we are to call ourselves Patricians, may we imbibe a spark of that unflinching Faith of the glorious sons of St. Patrick. May we be Irish in Our Faith!!!

V. A. P.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Lenten Retreats.—In the parishes of the town Lenten Retreats are being conducted in turn beginning from the Cathedral parish where a retreat for women was held last week. On Sunday next a retreat at St. James' will commence and will close on Passion Sunday to be followed by another retreat at the Cathedral for men and one at Our Lady of Refuge.

Anxiety Over Rome.—The Lisbon newspaper "Voz" says: "Who leaves Rome in ruins, either obstinately defending her or by attacking her in search of momentary success, will have to face a dreadful verdict of history. Rome is the patrimony of Christianity. If Christianity could find a way of saving Cairo and Athens, it is incomprehensible that it cannot find a way of saving the Eternal City."

The Radio Eireann reported on Tuesday night that the Prime Minister, Mr. Eamon de Valera, was asked in the Dail on Tuesday whether the Government would make representations to the belligerent Governments to respect the inviolability of Vatican State. He replied that certain steps had been taken and that it would be premature to say more at present.—Reuter.

Mannar Seat.—Mr. C.B.P. Perera, the Returning Officer, received the nomination papers of candidates for the Mannar Seat in the State Council at the Vavuniya Kachcheri between 12 noon and 1-30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Only two candidates, Mr. C. Suntheralingam, Advocate, and Mr. J. Tyagaraja, Bar-at-Law, former Manager of the State Mortgage Bank, presented their nomination papers, which were accepted without any objections being raised.

The colours allotted were: Mr. Suntheralingam (red) and Mr. Tyagaraja (green). Polling has been tentatively fixed for May 6.

Bibile By-Election Result.—Mr. S. A. Peeris was returned to the Bibile seat in Saturday's State Council by-election.

The result of the ballot, announced at the Badulla Kachcheri on Tuesday was as follows:—

Mr. S. A. Peeris,	2,387
Mr. W. Dahanayake,	2,113
Mr. Francis Sebastian,	1,841
Mr. J. A. Rambukpota,	903
Mr. K. B. A. Adhikaratileke,	658

The result was announced by the Returning Officer, Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, Govt. Agent.

Messrs. Adikaratileke and Rambukpota forfeit their deposits.

N'Elia Election Set Aside.—Mr. Justice Hearne delivered judgment on March 10, declaring void the election of Mr. M. D. Banda to the N'Elia seat in the State Council.

The matter came up before Court on the petition of Mr. J. T. Rutnam, an unsuccessful candidate, who challenged the election of Mr. Banda on the grounds of general intimidation and undue influence. His Lordship held that the offences of undue influence were committed by two agents of the respondent. On the ground of general intimidation His Lordship held that there was gross intimidation.

Personal.—Mr. J. X. R. Anthonypillai of the Staff of St. Patrick's College has been successful in the B.Sc. of the London University held in June last. He is the son of the late Mr. B. Anthonypillai of Fiscal's Office, W.P., Colombo and of Mrs. Anthonypillai of St. Patrick's Road, Jaffna.

Schools Concert.—Under the patronage of Mr. V. K. Nathan, Divisional Inspector of Schools a concert will take place by pupils of Vernacular Schools at the Town Hall, Jaffna on Saturday the 18th inst. at 7 p.m. Admission by tickets.

Rate-payers Meeting, Manipay.—A public meeting of Rate-payers of

Manipay Parish has been convened by the Chairman, V.C. Manipay for Saturday the 25th inst. at the Memorial English School Hall at 5.30 p.m. The Hon'ble Mr. S.W.R. Dias Bandaranaike will preside. The Commissioner of Local Government will address. The agenda includes the reading of the Administration Report for 1943 by the V.C. Manipay and the Distribution of Prizes to winners in the Vegetable Garden Competition recently organised by the Committee.

Germans Arrest Cardinal.—Polish authorities in India have received news from London that Cardinal Hlond, Primate of Poland, was arrested in the first days of February in Aix-les-Bains by the Gestapo and transferred to Paris. The Papal Nuncio in Paris intervened with the German authorities and informed the Vatican.

70 New Bishops were Appointed in 1943.—Some 70 new Archbishops and Bishops were appointed in 1943 and 5 died. Vatican Radio stated recently.

One new diocese was formed—Youngstown, U.S.A., one new vicariate with a Bishop—Indo Ilorin, Nigeria, which is in the care of Irish missionaries; and two new prefectures were formed—Mbola, in East Africa, and Accra, in West Africa.

What Chesterton Foresaw.—"The age long struggle of the Church against heresy, in the technical sense of the word, is over. She has won through; Christ has always fulfilled his promise: 'The gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church founded on the rock of Peter.' But another great struggle is approaching, I may not live to see it. Hell's next attack will be on that doctrine on which all religion and all morality are based—the existence of a Personal, Infinite and Eternal God. That attack will be accompanied by a mighty effort to sweep away the standards of Christian purity."—Quoted in Lenten Pastoral of Bishop McGrath, of Cardiff, Wales, who made the following comments on these words: "Chesterton's words have come to pass. For some years now that attack is in progress. Materialistic Totalitarianism leads the van, and the demon of impurity, bold and brazen, strides alongside."

Master of Ceremonies.—As unobtrusively as he directs the services in Westminster Cathedral, Mgr. Canon Joseph Collings, has lately observed the 25th anniversary of his appointment as master of ceremonies.

It is a tribute to Mgr. Collings that hardly anyone in the Cathedral congregation is aware of his presence in the sanctuary and that few, unless they are specially interested in the comings and goings of the officiating prelates and priests and of the servers, are conscious that everything always goes smoothly when so many things could go wrong.

Some masters of ceremonies behave like excited musical conductors.

Mgr. Collings, on the other hand, reminds one constantly of the master of ceremonies, Mgr. Respighi, at the Vatican. A gentle turning of one hand, a slight bow, a movement of the eyes or a slow inclination of the head are all they require and use to achieve a smooth, steady flow of movement even on the greatest occasions.

40 Nations Express Sorrow at Vatican City Bombing.—Messages of sympathy with the Holy Father on the bombing of Vatican City were received from more than 40 countries, reports the "Osservatore Romano."

The Vatican newspaper, quoted by Vatican Radio, named all countries. Great Britain was one, and Germany was included.

"All," said the "Osservatore," "condemn the mad act and pay homage to the Pope's inexhaustible source of beneficence for the war-torn populations and all who suffer."

Saying that it was impossible to mention all the individual messages, the newspaper summed them up by remarking that "they make up a wondrous manifestation from all over the world."

Malta Consecrated.—The islands of Malta were consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The consecration was "a public demonstration to express our gratitude to

our blessed Mother for the help given to Malta in this war," announce the island's two prelates, Archbishop Camilleri, Bishop of Malta and Bishop Gonzi, his Coadjutor, in a special pastoral letter.

Kachcheri Blamed for Black Market

At the monthly meeting of the Jaffna U.C. (Mr. C. Ponnambalam, Chairman, presiding), Mr. P. Mortimer moved the following resolution:—

"While thanking the Central Government for the measures taken to control the prices of foodstuffs and other commodities and to make a fair distribution thereof among the people so as to alleviate hardships arising out of the present scarcity and consequent increased cost of living, this Council finds it imperative to bring to the notice of Government that its aims and objects are being nullified by the existence of a flourishing 'black market' in practically every essential commodity. The 'black market' is freely patronised and does not exist if the rules and regulations laid down for dealing with wholesale and retail dealers, co-operative stores and other distributing agencies are strictly and impartially enforced by the various Government officers employed for this purpose—by frequent inspection and checking of stores and rigorous scrutiny as to their disposal. By this method only can malpractices be suppressed and a fair distribution of the available commodities be assured to the people instead of being diverted to the 'black market.'"

The Council accepted the motion and decided to forward to the Civil Defence Commissioner, the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, the Food Controller, the G.A., N.P., the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Colombo, the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Jaffna, and the Marketing Commissioner, copies of the motion for information and necessary action.

Mr. Sam Sabapathy, seconding, said that people experienced difficulties owing to red tapism in the Kachcheri and the ignorance of the Kachcheri officers of what was going on outside the walls of the Kachcheri. The speaker further stated that the Emergency Department of the Jaffna Kachcheri were not taking interest in food production, Jaffna was not keeping pace with the rest of the Island in the matter of food production.

The Chairman said that the existence of the black market was due to bribery and corruption among Kachcheri officers, clerks and Price Control Inspectors. If the Civil Defence Commissioner and the Govt. Agent took a personal interest, adopted stern methods and exercised proper supervision over the staff, bribery and corruption would be much less and there would be far less opportunities for a black market.

CORRESPONDENT

Government Pensioners

The Editor, "Catholic Guardian"

Sir,—I ask your indulgence to bring to the notice of Government the case of Government pensioners for relief. They are also victims of currency inflation and other consequences of the War. The provision of war allowances to public servants and labourers designed to mitigate the hardships consequent on soaring prices, has not been extended to them. High prices of consumable commodities pay high dividends to producers (e.g. dairymen, poultrykeepers, farmers etc.) Poor relief and Social Services on which large sums of Government money is being spent have taken under their wings all cases of poverty. The case of Govt. pensioners has been left out of consideration. They form a class by themselves. The pension represents a fraction of what an officer drew for salary about the time he retired. In normal conditions it was barely sufficient to maintain life. Its purchasing power having fallen so abruptly, the present condition of the Government pensioner is pitiable. His honesty of character and conscientious discharge of duty while in office seem to indicate the measure of his poverty at the present time.

Government pension is certainly not a charitable allowance. The condition of pension is a service condition. It is deferred salary. The pensioners are public servants on the retired list. They could be called out at an emergency to serve His Majesty's government and indeed many have joined the services. Most of those who were not called are lacking in physical energy through age or sickness. These need relief.

No civilised government can afford to remain unconcerned when its former employees suffer hardship through poverty owing to no fault of theirs.

The mother country is now taking steps to afford relief to her pensioned officers. I sincerely trust Ceylon will follow suit.

P. Q. CHRISTIAN.

Jaffna, 15-3-1944.

GOVT. VACANCIES

Jaffna Kachcheri—Temporary Clerks

Qualifications—Matriculation, Senior or equivalent examination—knowledge of typewriting preferable—suitable and healthy Burma or Malayan evacuees not over 45 years old may apply.

Attempted canvassing or personal interviews will result in disqualification.

Applications close 24th March 1944.

Viva-Voce examination 26th March 1944.

Previous applicants need not re-apply.

(Sgd) E.B. TISSEVERASINGHE, A. G. A. (E)

Jaffna, 16th March, 1944.

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL DEFENCE

JAFFNA A.R.P. SCHEME

CASUALTY SERVICE:—Applications for (a) posts of First Aiders will be received by the Officer-in-charge, Casualty Service up to March 25th.

Salary:—Rs. 1-25 per diem.

Uniform supplied.

Qualifications:—Candidates must not be under 18 years of age and must speak and write English tolerably well.

(b) one post of ambulance driver.

Salary:—Rs. 45 per mensem.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE:—Applications for posts of telephonists (both men and women) will be received by the Officer-in-charge, Communications Service up to March 25th.

Salary:—Rs. 50 per mensem.

Qualifications:—Candidates must not be under 18 years of age and must have passed the J.S.C. or an equivalent examination.

A.R.P. DEPOT:—Applications will be received by me for the post of Assistant Superintendent of the A.R.P. Depot, up to March 25th.

Salary:—Rs. 75 per mensem.

Qualifications:—Applicants should be over 25 years of age should be able to control labour and maintain discipline; they should know office routine and, if possible, be interested in motors.

A.R.P. CONTROLLER.

Jaffna, 13-3-44.

NOTICE

Distribution of Subsidiary Foodstuffs in Jaffna District.

Arrangements have been made to distribute the curriestuffs mentioned below at the rates specified against each commodity to each consumer not attached to retail co-operative store from Monday, the 20th inst. to 26th March 1944 (both days inclusive).

1. Coriander $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per head.
2. Cummin seed $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per head.
3. Oorid whole 1 oz. per head.
4. Peas 1 oz. per head.

2. Consumers are advised to draw their ration of the above articles along with their ration of other commodities.

(Sgd.) E.B. TISSEVERASINGHE, Asst. Govt. Agent, (E).

Jaffna, 14-3-1944.

Action This Day

(Continued from Page 1).

and the strongest guarantee of lasting peace will be justice tempered with charity.

I had been informed that the Italian Government would permit me to go anywhere I would desire. However, I preferred to remain in the Vatican or at the Villa. The Cardinals were all gracious enough to come to see me, sincerely my self-imposed restrictions I could not call on them. I also saw every American priest and nun living in Rome and made note of their home addresses, so that I might contact their relatives as soon as I returned to America, and say that I had seen them.

I was able to care for many official matters pertaining to the Church in the United States, which for months had been awaiting disposition. I presented to the Pope the Peter's Pence offering of the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese of New York. It amounted this year to fifty thousand dollars. The Holy Father directed that this sum be used at once in its entirety to help the prisoners of war of all nations.

The many precious hours I had with the Holy Father reminded me of other years, happier years, when I was privileged to be in his company, when we worked, talked, walked and prayed together. I thought of the many times I had assisted him as he offered Mass. I thought also of the visit of His Holiness to America, of being with him on his visit to President Roosevelt, and of having the honour of receiving him in the parish house in Newton Centre, Massachusetts, and also at our home in Whitman. Again I was privileged to be with him, see him, talk with him, to pray with him. At night in the private chapel of His Holiness, he led the rosary and I answered.

Over the Mediterranean.
March 3, 1943.

My farewell audience with the Holy Father was yesterday, March 2, his sixty-seventh birthday and the fourth anniversary of his election as Pope. At this audience, His Holiness gave me the cross and chain which he had received on the day of his consecration as Archbishop 25 years ago, and which he has worn ever since. I do not like to take it with me on this long journey, but I will do so, and wear it constantly.

Early this morning I said my last Mass at the Villa, using the chalice loaned to me by the Holy Father for use during my stay in Rome. I prayed God to spare him to the Church, begged blessings on my country and my countrymen. With Mr. Galeazzi and some American priests I left for the Guidonia Airport. A few formalities, a few minutes for farewells, and once more I am aboard a plane for the seven-hour flight to Seville.—*The Universe*.

Perplexing Problem
Post-War World

(Continued from Page 1)

moral and material welfare of the human being, be he white, yellow, black, be he rich or poor, highly educated or uneducated.

The General rightly emphasises the problem of power and he declares that the League failed through a neglect of this problem. It is only too true that power (or, better, brute force) is to-day a paramount consideration. But we believe that history will show that the re-emergence of brute force after the last war was not due to the failure of the League to allow for it, but to the failure of the League to deal with the injustices, grievances and maladjustments which sowed the seeds of brute force and gave them a rich soil in which to mature. To-day brute force is in the ascendant, and it will remain in the ascendant even though each of the Axis Powers is completely defeated, so catching is the disease. But surely we must not reconcile ourselves to the idea that brute force will remain forever a factor of equal importance with the ideals of freedom and democracy. That is a counsel of despair and a surrender to the idea of perpetual war. Our only path must be the path that will in the end transcend the factor of power and brute force.—*Catholic Herald, London*.

WAR REVIEW

By J.C.W. Rock—12-3-44

This week is a continuation of the Allied record of successes, with some variations. The only field of action in which no substantial success can be recorded is in Italy; there the Allied forces seem to be playing a waiting game while Kesselring prepares another attack. Elsewhere Allied air superiority grows in intensity and punishing power whether we look at Russia or Germany or whether we look at the Pacific.

In the Pacific the present Allied plan seems to be to capture or neutralise as far as possible the bases of the outer perimeter of the Japanese defence system. The attack on Truk has been followed by the landing on the Admiralty Islands to the north-west of New Guinea. This practically completes the encirclement of Rabaul. The possession of the Admiralty Islands and some of the Marshall Islands on the east interrupts the flow of supplies from Rabaul to Truk on the one side whilst the possession of the Admiralty Islands on the north-west interrupts communications with the Philippines. The main object of the seizure of these bases and the attack on Truk is to tempt the Japanese fleet to come out and offer battle, or lose these bases ultimately by default.

There is a difference of opinion at Japanese Headquarters at present as to the right handling of the navy. There are two schools of thought on the subject:—One school believes in the theory of attack, attack, attack all the time and the present policy of the Navy Command is too cautious and conservative. The other theory believes that the business of the navy is not to risk destruction by engaging in a major battle but to be handy and ready to take troops to the points where they are wanted. The first duty, in fact, is to supply reinforcements and supplies at the points attacked.

The American theory on the other hand coincides with the Nelsonian theory to seek the enemy and engage him. The American fleet lies in wait and intercepts Japanese convoys and destroys them. This is a policy that can only be undertaken by a navy under two circumstances:—

(a) if it is willing to risk all in order to bring about a decisive result, or and

(b) if it is confident by reason of superior numbers and other factors that there can only be one end to such a battle.

The Japanese Navy Command has latterly adopted the conservative theory which is described as that of keeping "a fleet in being" which means the fleet must be used as economically as possible. Recent defeats must have caused the Japanese to be anxious moments and are the cause for the recent shuffling at the Admiralty by which he has personally appointed Admiral Sugiyama and appointed Admiral Shimada in place of Admiral Osami Nagano.

Keeping with this change Tokyo is made to realise the seriousness of the situation. There are to be no more places of entertainment, no more Gai-shas and the Gai-shas are to be sent from tea houses to factories.

This plan comprises two phases. The first is the "short term" or "blitz" phase in which their fleet acted with the utmost dash and seized the places which would be useful to them both from an economic and from a military point of view. In other words, they seized places like the Philippines, Java, Sumatra and Borneo, and in doing so they not only made geographical additions to their territory but acquired raw materials—the rubber, the tin, the oil, and other articles of which they stood badly in need. They also seized places like Guam, Wake Island, the Gilbert Islands and New Britain, the Solomons and Timor, from which they could not only defend themselves against counter-attack but which they could use in due time as springboards for further advance against Australia and the American coast. The first "short term" plan—the aggressive period is over.

The second period is now in operation. They have not been able to

advance further and it is now their turn to defend. This is the "long term" period which the Japanese foresaw. This is the period of consolidation. Opinion has been expressed in various quarters that time is against them. They are said to be short of shipping, short of factories, and more important still, short of technicians to conduct a building campaign in any way comparable with the productive rate of which America is known to be capable. That explains why they are being out-produced, out-fought and out-classed on the sea first and then on land, by an enemy armed with the latest inventions.

If this view is correct, then the attack in India must be regarded as a diversion intended to forestall the invasion of Burma and also cause the Allies to use up all available reserves on the Indian frontier itself. No doubt the Japanese prefer to gain a foothold on India rather than allow British forces to gain a foothold in Burma. It is also the propaganda value such a victory would have. It would raise renewed hopes in Tokyo and it would tend to revive unrest in India. The full story of the campaign on the Burma front has yet to be written.....

As we said, the Germans are in much the same position as they were in 1918. It is clear that they cannot now expect to win outright or win at all. They can continue the war perhaps for an incalculable period, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy and leaving a desert behind, but salvation will not come that way. They may even fall back on the German frontier—on the East Wall which no doubt has been heavily fortified. The fighting spirit of the Germans both in Russia and Italy seems to be unbroken, and there is the German home front to be considered. Whilst factories and military objectives in Germany itself are being blasted the effect upon the home front morale is incalculable, hence German propaganda machine is busy trying to prop up the morale by publishing the number of planes brought down by their defence. 79 were brought down in the raid on Berlin on the 7th. Last week there were more raids on Berlin as well as on military targets as Trappes, La Mans and elsewhere and to add to their miseries 12,000 lb. bombs have been brought into play. Their sufferings are ten-fold greater than what they inflicted on Poland, Rotterdam and London in 1939 and 1940. In this state of things one can imagine that the Germans would prefer to have the second front commence as the lesser evil rather than endure this continual bombardment from the air. They would probably like to put the altered plans of invasion to test because in this direction their confidence is yet not shaken.

In 1918 the German General Staff admitted that although they could indefinitely carry on to the point of exhaustion, the fight was definitely lost and there was no saving factor on which they could call to redeem the situation. To-day there are three factors which the Germans appear to be taking into account. One is that their country has not been invaded and therefore they can claim that their army is still invincible and no foreign foot has yet been set on German soil. The second is that there is still some nexus between the two limbs of the Axis. There is still some bond—it may be of criminals in distress—of sympathy between Germany and Japan. The latest news is that (German submarines) they are operating in the Indian Ocean and notably German submarines may be taking to Japan the materials and technicians and advisers that he badly needs. The Germans may think that they ought not to quit while Japan holds out. That is the factor which exists today which did not exist in 1918. Germany still has an unbeaten Ally. In 1918 Germany's strongest Ally—Turkey—had crumpled. Today Turkey and Spain remain neutral (up to now). The third and perhaps the most important factor is the political factor. By this we refer to the insistence of the Allies upon "unconditional surrender." It means that the Germans have nothing to hope for if they are defeated. Both they and the Japs insist on hanging together. From the German point of view this is equi-

valent to extermination, and this in the hands of Goebbels is a very powerful propaganda weapon. It means that they must go on fighting till the other side tires so that they can win a diplomatic victory.....

Telegraphic Summary
of War News

POPE'S PLEA FOR ROME

The Vatican Radio broadcast Pope Pius XII's coronation anniversary speech to the world from the balcony of St. Peter's on Sunday afternoon. The Pope, who was greeted with tremendous applause, said: "In the present calamity you have today, perhaps without money and goods, come to hear the comforting Word of God. In this particularly grave hour of the much-battered City of Rome, sighs have increased and we beg again for material help. This is an air war which knows no law. To turn Rome into a battlefield would, indeed, be an inglorious deed. Once again, we appeal to the wisdom of both belligerents to turn their thoughts towards peace. Romans, lift your eyes and hearts to Him who will give you fortitude to carry your cross. Once again, we appeal to responsible men in both belligerent camps not to let their names in any way smirched by an act which history would never justify. We ask them to devote their thoughts and deeds and efforts to a peace of liberation (this passage evoked great cheering). Then will their acts be greeted with blessings and not maledictions by all peoples of the earth. Dear Romans, you have suffered scars which even the most generous hand of mankind cannot heal. Lift your heads to Him who will give you strength to carry your cross with Christian fortitude."

At the end of his speech which lasted 20 minutes, the Pope imparted the Apostolic Benediction *urbi et orbi*.—*Reuter*.

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