

The Catholic Guardian

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

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A Private Audience With the Pope

The Editor and the Special Staff Correspondent of the *Canadian Register* had a twenty-five minute private audience with the Pope last May in the private library of His Holiness. They both give very interesting accounts of it in the *Canadian Register*. This is what the Editor writes: "My personal conclusion from a frank conversation with the head of this tiny, well-ordered State as well as the supreme spiritual leader of the Catholic world is that the world-wide reports reaching the Vatican reflect some concern lest the peoples of the world become too engrossed in their immediate domestic problems to the neglect of full support for their statesmen on over-all world problems.

The Pope received us in his private library. In contrast to great lay statesmen I have seen, the Holy Father receives at his plain wooden table used as a desk just inside the door of entry, and dispenses with a visitor's always embarrassing walk across the length of a big room. As we entered the long study we were surprised to find the Pope sitting just inside. As one advanced for the prescribed three genuflections before the Holy Father, he smilingly extended his hand. It had been more than 14 years since, as a correspondent, I had seen this same man, who now is Pius XII, as the Papal Nuncio in Berlin. I was struck at how little he had changed and how the white Papal attire seemed to suit the transparency of his kindly and carefully chiselled features better than the darker habit of a Nuncio which years ago seemed to me to emphasize a frailty which the Pope to-day did not show, despite the difficult years he has been through.

With his desk neatly stacked with papers and reports, with his two telephones, especially with his acute interest and knowledge of all subjects, the Holy Father impressed me with a close working proximity to the day-to-day world-wide problems. While the Pope immediately put us at our ease with his kindly remarks and the conversation moved along smoothly, partly in English and mostly in French, I was struck by the ultimate simplicity, kindness and the down-to-earth friendliness of the Pope in contrast with the rich and historic formality which surrounded our entry into his presence.

The Special Staff Correspondent of the paper is no less interesting: To visit the Vatican these days is to go from the confusion of war-torn, politically disrupted Europe and Italy to the peace and order of a well-run State. Yet small though Vatican City may be, there can be no doubt in the visitor's mind that it is truly the centre of the world as he stops at the Gate of the Bells to present credentials to the Guards on duty and then sweeps—or rather in our case jeeps—behind the great nave of St. Peter's to the papal apartments in the Vatican. Empires and hegemonies have come and gone with the flux of time, but the spiritual power represented by the Vatican is timeless and having outlasted them all, remains itself full of life and power.

It was living history that we witnessed as we arrived in the courtyard of St. Damasus, and, on passing to the second floor, went through majestic corridors frescoed by Raphael and hung with huge maps of classic design, each

(Continued on Inner Page)

What is Catholic Education

The Most Revd. J. C. Cody, D.D., Coadjutor-Bishop of London, Canada, speaking at the Separate School Teachers' Convention, spoke of religious training as "the keystone in the arch of education." He called attention to the fact that the world is wandering far away from religion, which should be the heart of education. Bishop Cody said that "the whole purpose of Catholic education was settled around the ultimate, which is the purpose of our existence on this earth. Many people adopt a philosophy in life that calls for them to live for to-day only with little consideration for the future. These people adopt a thought that pleasure and money are the reasons for living, and money is only a consideration because it will buy pleasure." Likening life on this earth to a mechanical operation, Bishop Cody contrasted God and an inventor with a machine and a life, and said that if a person sees a machine, about which he knows nothing and the inventor of the machine is standing alongside, the reasonable thing to do is ask the inventor what his machine is for, and how it works. Now, he continued, we are people trying to find out about ourselves, and we are the invention, and God is our Creator, so we must ask God why we are here and what we are here for. He explained that the will of God is hard; we must work hard to understand our purposes here, and live according to the will of God.

OBJECT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

"It is useless to discuss the education of a child unless we understand what a child is, and what is the purpose of a child and what is the purpose of a child's existence. A child is born to live, not merely for peace and happiness in this world, but to prepare for peace and happiness in the next world; to know, love and serve God here in this world and to be happy with Him for ever in the next." Speaking at the Brighton Conference of the Catholic Teachers' Federation, Cardinal Griffin went on to say: "What does the Church tell us about the object of education? Pope Pius XI says that the proper and immediate end of Christian education is to co-operate with divine grace in forming the true and perfect Christian. Education, he says, takes in the whole compass of human life, emotional and spiritual, intellectual and moral, individual domestic and social, not with a view of reducing it in any way, but in order to elevate, regulate and perfect it, in accordance with the example and teaching of Christ. Hence the true Christian, the product of Christian education, is the supernatural man who thinks, judges, and acts constantly and consistently in accordance with right reason illumined by the supernatural light of the example and teaching of Christ; in other words to use the current term, the true and finished man of character. It is clear, therefore, that to divorce religion from education is unreal. Purely secular education leaves the child undeveloped. He will be only half a man, only half developed. It is for this reason that the Catholic Church insists that true education must concern itself with the whole man and must therefore be Christian."—(Examiner, 15th Mar. 47.)

Confessions of a Convert

1.—Aboard Peter's Barque

There are few actions in a man's life about the correctness of which he enjoys absolute certainty. Sometimes doubts assail him before he takes a step. More often he is visited with doubts after he has taken it and there is no escape from its consequences. Happy therefore is he who can look back on something he has done and feels absolutely certain that he has been right all along.

It was more than thirty years ago that I took the momentous step of seeking admission into the Catholic Church. I had been driven to it by an irresistible impulse which opposition from within and without could not withstand. A great measure of certainty lay behind that impulse but it was not till the step was irrevocably taken that hundred per cent assurance was attained. From that day to this there has never been a moment's doubt about the correctness of the act. On the contrary I have often wondered how any man who calls himself a Christian could be any thing but a Catholic.

Before a man became a Catholic and while he is trembling on the threshold little things crop up to disturb his peace of mind. I remember one such incident which now seems trivial in retrospect. I had gone to Mass one Sunday at St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah. I had gone early and was gratified to find an impressively large congregation. While we waited for Mass to begin, there fell on the ears of the congregation the blare of a military band marching a column to church parade somewhere else. At sound of the martial music the mere irresponsible section of the congregation at St. Philip's rose and moved out to stand on the steps and watch the soldiers go by.

The virulent and somewhat critical neophyte inside was inexpressibly shocked. To my mind this excursion of devotion argued a scandalous lack of devotion. Could this be the true church, I asked myself, whose members instead of continuing their devotions before Mass, trooped out of church at sound of a military band? In retrospect I can now afford to smile at the silly stumbling block placed in my way by the enemy of souls. But it is really no laughing matter because paltry incidents of this kind have in some cases deterred sincere seekers after truth.

To all such my advice is to go straight ahead and not to be put off by petty disappointments. These beset you and worry you only while you have yet to take the final step. Once you take that step and are well on board the barque of Peter they fade into the background as you sail on your voyage of discovery. That journey has no end because it stretches from this life to the next and on to infinity. That of course is common ground to both converts and those who enter the church at their birth. But it is the lot of the former that is more enviable. Born Catholics, if the term is permissible, are so familiar with the facts and forms of their faith that they sometimes fail to note its wonders. To converts everything is new and is therefore all the more wonderful.

Many Catholics take the Missal to read and seldom look into its pages. What a lot they miss! Those who examine this unique collection of prayers cannot fail to discover the finger of God which wrote them into this mar-

Mgr. Stepinac Refuses Offer of Freedom

A Tito offer of freedom—with conditions—has been once more refused by Mgr. Stepinac, Archbishop of Zagreb, who was sentenced to 16 years' forced labour, in October, 1946, by a Yugoslav court, and who at present is working in the book-binding shop in the prison of Lepoglava. "La Liberte," Swiss Catholic daily of Fribourg, has published a confidentially received report on the recent visit to the prison of Dr. Vladimir Bakaritch, Communist "People's Premier." Dr. Bakaritch addressed Mgr. Stepinac as "Your Excellency," a title which has not been used by official persons or in official documents since the Archbishop's arrest. The Croat Premier submitted to the Primate a petition for pardon addressed to Marshal Tito. In order to induce the Prelate to sign it he assured him, among other things, that he would be immediately released and handed over to the Americans, who would be allowed to take him abroad. Mgr. Stepinac categorically rejected that offer and refused to sign the petition for pardon. With firmness he pointed out that he demanded a revision of his "trial," a revision, however, which would have to be carried out not by the Communist Party, but by an independent tribunal. He declared that he was willing to give publicly to the Croat people an account of his attitude, but he would never leave his country and his people, much less his Diocese. Dr. Bakaritch's efforts to induce the Archbishop to modify his attitude were in vain.

vellous book. With this chart in hand you sail the ocean of devotion. Daily you put into port and you see God. That is another amazing thing which the Catholic Church has made possible. Those who seek God naturally want to see Him. God in His mercy has made such a sight of Him possible—not once in a while in some far off spot like Rome or Jerusalem, but in the humblest church in the remotest village. In this connection I cannot ever forget a remark made by a fellow-convert. He told me that whenever he entered a church, it was not necessary to see the red glow of the sanctuary lamp to tell him that the Blessed Sacrament was present there. If it was not there, he was aware of an emptiness.

This emptiness is an experience felt not only in churches where the Blessed Sacrament is not present, but much more so in human life. To supply this void God has furnished the means in His Church. And it is not Catholics alone who find Him there. A dear friend, who unfortunately never found his way into the Church, nevertheless in his moments of stress used to pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament in the nearest Catholic Church. He found there something he could not find elsewhere. To us of the household of the faith this is a constant privilege for which we cannot be sufficiently grateful.

C.

Education without religion is comparable to chemistry, without any mention of oxygen, mathematics with addition neglected, or a language with no verbs. Education without religion is utterly incomplete and empty. Education without religion cannot be learning because it ignores the sources of all knowledge.—Rev. F. M. Weiler, C.R., of St. Jerome's College, Canada.

MADHU

MAY FESTIVAL

Novenas preparatory to the May festival begin on the 25th of April. The Feast will take place on the 4th of May.

Administrator of Madhu Church.

Church Calendar

APRIL 1947

FRI. ...18 S. Apollonius.
SAT. ...19 S. Elphege.
SUN. ...20 2 E. S. Domicilla.
MON. ...21 S. Anselm.
TUES. ...22 S. Caius.
WED. ...23 SOL. ST. JOSEPH.
THURS. ...24 S. Fidelis.
FRI. ...25 S. Mark.

The Catholic Guardian

APRIL 18TH 1947

THE SHAPE OF THINGS
TO COME

All of us are concerned in the political future of Ceylon as each of us will be personally affected by the changes in our political status. It will not therefore be inopportune to speculate quite academically, on the data given us, what is to be the shape of things to come.

We are to become an effective democracy. If this is to be more than a piece of glib phrasing it means that the democratic ethos and background must prevail. Political theorists may differ in their estimate of the different forms of government but all are agreed that the democratic system in its basic recognition of the dignity and value of the individual and in making the individual the ultimate judge, is the ideal form of government. That ideal is normally realized in the parliamentary system and it has or should have as its logical derivative and indeed objective the economic security of the individual, his freedom from want. It is not mere cynicism to insist on the individual's interest in government for what he gets or hopes to get out of it.

What is the form that parliamentary democracy might be most reasonably expected to take in Ceylon? It is, we feel, unfortunate that there is what can only be called an obsession about the two-party system. The obsession is based on defective reasoning. The two-party system was a success in England only from about the middle of the 19th century when Britain ruled not only the masses but the world. It postulated world supremacy, a secure position when the men of property 'played the game' in politics, the only essential difference between them being one of tempo: whether social changes were to be achieved more or less rapidly.

To impose such conditions and the procedure such conditions entail, on Ceylon is in one sense typically British. Their system is perfection for them, therefore it must be the panacea for all countries. We wonder, and we wonder all the more that in England to-day all are not so happy about the two-party system especially since a third party has come into power and is not un-

duly impressed with the rules of the game or their sacro-sanctity.

The two-party system in England has therefore had a chequered career: it functioned to perfection at a period when expanding trade and Empire induced the smugness that is part and parcel of what we know as Victorianism. That such a system has been recommended for Ceylon is, we feel, more on account of Ceylon's insistence on Cabinet rule than for any intrinsic merit in the system itself.

The committee system has been bitterly and honestly decried but it is maintainable that it was given with honest intentions to enable every member of the legislative to gain the executive experience and sense of responsibility that had been hitherto lacking. The prose of the political situation is that, on the reasonable estimate of the majority of the sitting members being returned to Parliament, the only political experience of Parliament will have been acquired through the Committee System. It is not we feel too rash a conjecture that in the Parliamentary system a vested form of the Committee System will persist in that each Minister looking for support will in effect have his own committee from amongst the members.

Such a practical compromise would not seem to be an illogical inference and it might not, all things considered, be the worst means of obviating the unreality of party bitterness. We are not risking any prophecy on the issue but a truly National Government on such lines would seem to hold out most hope for our political future.

A Private Audience
With the Pope

(Continued from Page 1)

door being guarded by Swiss Guards in their picturesque costumes of striped red, yellow, purple and orange, designed by Michael Angelo. In the large Hall of Tapestries we were received by a Chamberlain of the Sword and Cape, who bowed and passed us on to another Chamberlain in the Hall of the Chapel, who in turn took us past gold helmeted Noble Guards who saluted with drawn swords as we moved deeper into the papal apartments. Pausing briefly in the Throne Room, where the Pontiff holds public audiences, we were led eventually into the very ante-chamber to the Pope's private library by a Chamberlain holding a ceremonial sword and dressed in the uniform of the papal court with a wide red and yellow sash over his numerous decorations. In the ante-chamber we were greeted by Mgr. Nasalli Rocca, Private Chamberlain in waiting to the Pope, who opened the door to the Pontiff's chamber and told us to enter.

With the utmost simplicity and benignity the Holy Father made us welcome and asked us to be seated on two chairs drawn up close to his own. So gentle and so kind was his manner, that it was difficult to realize that we were indeed being received by no less than the Vicar of Christ. Looking worn but dynamic in his costume of plain white, the Holy Father was a living demonstration of the sweetness of sanctity. Anxious, as always, to put his visitors completely at their ease, the Pontiff began by asking us what language we would prefer to speak. Wishing to mark the fact that we came from a bilingual country, and wishing also to pay tribute to the founders of the Church in Canada, we answered the Holy Father in French, and most of the audience was conducted in that language, which the Pope speaks perfectly.

Finally, with true kindness shining in his deep luminous eyes, the Holy Father raised his beautiful hands to impart to us the Papal blessing as we knelt before him. But even that was not enough for the warm and fatherly heart of the Supreme Pontiff, and he invoked blessing after blessing on us as we withdrew from his presence, walking backwards to the door. "I bless you," he said, "I bless your work. I bless your families, and I bless your generous country and all its citizens." —(Examiner, 15th March 1947.)

2nd Sunday After Easter

Epistle: 1 Peter; 2, 21-25:

Dearly beloved: Indeed, you are engaged to this by the call of Christ; He suffered for our sakes, and left you His own example; you were to follow His footsteps. He did no wrong, no treachery was found on His lips; He was ill spoken of, and spoke no evil in return, suffered, and did not threaten vengeance, gave Himself up into the hands of injustice. So, on the Cross, His own body took the weight of our sins; we were to become dead to our sins, and live for holiness; it was His wounds that healed you. Till then, you had been like sheep going astray; now, you have been brought back to Him, your Shepherd, who keeps watch over your souls.

Gospel: St. John; X, 11-16.

At that time, Jesus said to the Pharisees: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep, whereas the hireling, who is no shepherd, and does not claim the sheep as his own, abandons the sheep and takes to flight as soon as he sees the wolf coming, and so the wolf carries the sheep and scatters them. The hireling, then, takes to flight because he is only a hireling, because he has no concern over the sheep. I am the good shepherd; my sheep are known to me and know me; just as I am known to my Father, and know him. And for these sheep I am laying down my life. I have other sheep too, which do not belong to this fold; I must bring them in too; they will listen to my voice; so there will be one fold, and one shepherd.

(Mgr. Knox's Translation.)

Letters to the Editor

Bury the Hatchet,
Minister and Member!

Dear Sir,—For the last few weeks, reports have appeared in the press of meetings held in the Jaffna district relating to the parliamentary elections. One of the Northern constituencies namely the Jaffna town electorate seems to be developing into an arena of unfruitful strife between two outstanding politicians. The Hon'ble Mr. A. Mahadeva, the sitting member for the constituency, and Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, the member for Point Pedro, are facing each other in this electorate.

A considerable volume of public opinion has been agitated by this conflict and the general feeling among the Tamils, though not sufficiently articulate, is strongly in favour of the view that both these gentlemen should seek election for the respective constituencies which they now represent in the State Council. The interests of Ceylon and of the Tamil community to which these two candidates belong require at the present moment the presence of both of them in the future Parliament. The elimination of either of them is likely to result in unnecessary loss to the general public. In the circumstances, it is earnestly trusted that the parties concerned would find a way out of the difficulty and that the greater good of the State will be given its due place.

It is needless to state that both the candidates are esteemed gentlemen, each with his peculiar qualifications and claims. One of the greatest tributes to Mr. Ponnambalam was paid by Mr. Mahadeva a few months after the election of the former as the representative of Point Pedro constituency in the present State Council. Speaking at a reception accorded to Mr. Ponnambalam at Wellavatte, Mr. Mahadeva acclaimed him as a stalwart fighter in the cause of the Community and the Country. Some

years later, Mr. Ponnambalam, while addressing a gathering at the Vivekananda Society Hall, Colombo, which had assembled to do honour to Mr. Mahadeva, after his election as Home Minister, stated that the Tamils owed a lasting debt of gratitude to Mr. Mahadeva for the latter's services in connection with the lifting of the boycott of the first State Council by the Jaffna constituencies.

I am referring to these utterances to bring home to the public the fact that each of the two candidates for the Jaffna seat fully appreciated the worth of the other at one time. Though it might be said that times have changed, I feel that the change of times has not in any way rendered it desirable for the Tamils to dispense with the services of either Mr. Mahadeva or Mr. Ponnambalam in the Councils of our State.

Very many years ago I remember the occasion when the high standard of Indian Parliamentary life was threatened by a very serious contest at the polls. The late Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and the late Pandit Motilal Nehru, father of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, were preparing to contest each other in the same constituency. On that occasion too the threatened conflict was said to be necessitated by a difference of opinion between the two Indian leaders on policy and principle. Fortunately for the Indian people the contest was avoided without any sacrifice of principle on the part of either of the two Pandits, and both entered the Council as representatives of different constituencies. Misunderstandings were cleared to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. While not attempting to place Messrs. Mahadeva and Ponnambalam in the same category as Pandits Malaviya and Motilal Nehru, I would respectfully suggest that the Indian precedent has its moral and might serve as a guidance to our two local leaders.

The general public has also its duty to perform by urging upon the two contestants the necessity for reconciliation, compromise and co-operation. Both contestants have worked together in the past in close association with each other up to a certain stage; public interest again demands that they should resume their joint labours.

The Tamil and Sinhalese New Year we are celebrating today should be the occasion not only to inspire Messrs. Mahadeva and Ponnambalam to come together but also draw the Sinhalese and Tamil communities together. We shall be doing justice to this happy occasion which, in accordance with our time honoured and immemorial traditions we are expected to turn to good account, if we succeed in forgetting our past animosities and recriminations for the sake of the future welfare of one and all. What would be a substantial step towards the achievement of greater co-operation between the Sinhalese and Tamil communities and a New Year gift from the Tamils to the rest of Ceylon is the avoidance of an avoidable conflict between Messrs. Mahadeva and Ponnambalam for the ultimate good of the country.

Yours truly,

S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM.
156, Hultsdorf, Colombo.
14-4-47.

Omissions in Electoral
Registers

Sir,—After a delay of many months the voters' lists for Jaffna could now be inspected.

Although there has been much fuss in the State Council, controversial letters in the Press often supported by editorial comments re these registers, the results after scrutiny are surprising if not amazing. It could be seen that somewhere about 10 per cent. of the voters names only are included, round the area where I live. Besides most of them whose names were omitted having the necessary qualifications to vote for the forthcoming Parliamentary elections, some of them were of double or treble the age for Universal Franchise, others who lived for many years in their own lands for generations and still others being officers and distinguished persons.

In view of the several omissions in these registers, the public has a right to know on what methods these Registers have been prepared.

Pandianthalvoov,
Jaffna, 17-4-47.

S. R.

LOCAL & GENERAL

S.V.P. Jaffna.—The first quarterly meeting of the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul Society, Jaffna, will be held on Sunday 20th inst. at 5.30 p.m. (immediately after the Cathedral benediction) in St. Charles' School Hall. The spiritual directors, members and benefactors of the various Conferences are kindly requested to be present.

O. M. I. News.—We are glad to announce that the Rev. Father A. R. Brown, O.M.I., has returned to the Island after a nine months holiday in Europe. Speaking to a member of our staff, he said that conditions in Europe have not yet improved and that the Ceylonese cannot even imagine the sufferings undergone by the people of Europe. He has been visiting several Oblate houses in England and on the Continent.

S. S. C. Exam.—The following candidates from St. Joseph's College, A'pura were successful in the S.S.C. Exam. of Dec. 1946: P. G. L. Chandranana (s), *K. B. Dissanayake (e), D. P. Gunatileke, D. B. Rajapakse, E. Subramaniam, N. Vamadeva (e), J. Welartne.

Food Front—A very large quantity of flour is expected to arrive in Ceylon shortly. All the bakeries whose ration had been cut will be restored their full quota. The Rice allowed for Ceylon from the South East Asian pool is 26,000 tons for April and May. In addition to this 4,200 tons from Brazil have already arrived and a further quantity of 8,000 tons is expected by the middle of May.

Shortage of British Cement.—Britain has restricted her cement import to Ceylon to less than half of the former amount on account of her acute supply position. The Commissioner of Imports has advised the local dealers to obtain their supplies from elsewhere, chiefly from India.

Jaffna Union-Church Gets a Bishop.—The Electoral Convention of the South Indian Church Union Scheme has appointed the Rev. S. Kulandran, B.A., B.D., President of the Jaffna Council of the South Indian United Church, as Bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Jaffna in the Church to be under the Union Scheme.

The North Ceylon Tennis Meet.—A crowded week of a successful Tennis Meet was gone through at the United Club Courts Jaffna between the 7th and the 12th inst. Messrs. Selvadurai, Williams, Sebastiampillai and Ratnesar (Junior) came from outside the Peninsula to take part in the Tournament. Prizes were distributed by Mrs. R. R. Nalliah, the wife of Mr. R. R. Nalliah, the President of the Club on the 12th. A large number of the general public attended the meet daily and a representative gathering was present at the prize distribution. In the absence of the President, Mr. V. Joseph, the Vice-president addressed the gathering congratulating the prize-winners and giving a resume of the past history of the Club and its place in the public life of Jaffna.

Prize-winners:—Open Singles: V. Williams, Runner-up: C. Sebastiampillai.

Open Doubles: V. Williams and A. J.D.N. Selvadurai, Runners up: D. J. N. Selvadurai and F. J. Ratnesar.

Open Mixed Doubles: Miss Koshy and V. Williams, Runners-up: Miss H. Saverimuttu and D.J.N. Selvadurai.

Handicap Singles A: C. Rajasingham, Runner-up: D. J. N. Selvadurai.

Handicap Singles B: K. Sriskanda, Runner-up: M. Rasiab.

Handicap Doubles: V. Williams and A. C. Ponnampalam, Runners-up: D. Saverimuttu and A.J.D.N. Selvadurai.

Mixed Handicap Doubles: Miss S. Coomaraswamy and F. J. Ratnesar, Runners-up: Miss C. Selvadurai and D.J.N. Selvadurai.

The Karaiyur Scheme.—At one of the recent public meetings Mr. C. Ponnampalam is reported to have said, "The public ought to know the part played by Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam in connexion with the Karaiyur Scheme. Did he not work privately against financial provision being made by the State Council for the Karaiyur Scheme? Did he not phone up Sir Oliver Goonetilleke and ask him to report against the Scheme?"

Registration of Nurses.—Steps are being taken to raise the status of the nursing profession. The Director of Medical and Sanitary Services is considering a Draft Bill for the purpose. At present there is a lamentable lack of trained nurses to look after the sick in Ceylon Hospitals. There are 12,000 beds in the hospitals of the Island and only 600 nurses. These have to look after the additional number of patients nudged along the floors too.

Day-light Robbery.—Mr. Letchmanan Chettiar of Passara was relieved of Rs. 14,000 which he had been carrying from Badulla for paying the labourers of the Gonakelle Estate. Two men named Jayasinghe and Peries had been arrested in this connection and Rs. 2,000/- recovered from one of them.

Indian Cricket Team to Australia.—The Indian Cricket tourists to Australia will receive intensive practice at Poona for three weeks from August 15 to September 7. The team is expected to sail for Australia by the second week of September if steamer accommodation is available or by air during the first week of October.

Fifty Per Cent Murder Cases.—The Kalutara Assizes opened on the 11th inst. with Mr. Justice Canakeratne presiding. Of the 60 cases in the calendar 30 are for murder.

Bus Strike Again.—The Bus workers of the Northern Omnibus Co., plying between Jaffna-Anuradhapura and Madhu Road struck work on Saturday the 5th inst. This is the third strike during recent months and the inconvenience caused to travelling public is no concern of theirs!

Girls' Farm Augurs Well.—A flood of four-hundred and fifty applications had been received for admission to the Girls' Farm School, Peradeniya, next year. There are vacancies only for 15.

Trade Union Rights to Govt. Servants.—His Excellency the Governor, has forwarded to the Secretary of State the Memorandum of the Govt. General Clerical Service Union along with the memorandum containing the specific proposals made by the Union. A further communication on their proposals will be sent on receipt of the observations of the Secretary of State.

Royal Tourists Meet a Seven-Footer.—During their present South African Tour Their Majesties have had the pleasure of meeting a seven footer at the high veldt station of Commodore. The actual height of Cornelius Mostert, a Boer veteran is seven feet three inches.

Legal Action Against Henry Wallace.—Mr. Parnell Thomas, the Chairman of the U.S.A. House of Representatives Committee on un-American affairs declared that the Department of Justice had no alternative to taking Legal Action against Henry Wallace for his utterances in Britain against America. What Wallace was committing is a serious offence punishable with a fine of not more than \$5,000 dollars and imprisonment of not more than three years.

Antarctic asVast Refrigerator.—Admiral R. Byrd, who had recently returned from his Antarctic expedition declared that the world need not fear food shortage in the future. The antarctic is a natural refrigerator where surplus foodstuffs could be stored against the likelihood of shortages.

Death of Sir Cecil Clementi.—Sir Cecil Clementi died at his home near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire at the age of 71. Sir Cecil had been the most acceptable of all Ceylon Colonial Secretaries and during his tenure of office he had been called upon twice to act as Governor. He took a deep and abiding interest in the establishment of a University for Ceylon.

Orphan Parcel in Train.—On information received that a parcel of Indian Ganja was being conveyed by the Jaffna mail train, Excise Inspector Shelton Sirimanne of Valvettiturai and two Excise Guards boarded the train at Vavuniya and found a parcel of two lbs. of Indian Ganja with none to claim the ownership. The parcel was taken to Point Pedro to be produced before the Magistrate.

The Viceroy and the Muslim League.—Lord Louis Mountbatten the new Viceroy of India has had a busy time in holding conferences with Indian Leaders. Mr. Haji Sattar Seth the right hand man of Mr. Jinnah said, "Whatever the outcome of the conferences which the Viceroy is having with various Indian Leaders, there was no possibility of 100,000,000 Muslims accepting anything short of Pakistan."

Parliamentary Elections.—Mr. Alan Rose, Legal Secretary is said to have stated that the Parliamentary elections will not definitely take place before September. He said that two tentative periods are thought of—Sept. 6-24 and Oct. 4-25, and a decision as to the exact period will soon be arrived at.

Minister of Thinking.—In a letter to the "Times", London Mr. George Bernard Shaw the 80-year old philosopher pleads for portfolio of thinking. "We have Ministers of everything except thinking, which is the only activity that can cope effectively with modern civilisation."

The Passing of Mr. Henry Ford.—Mr. Henry Ford I, the Motor Mogul of Detroit U.S.A. died suddenly at mid-night on the 7th inst. Having started life as a watch repairer and later become a farm assistant this humble son of an Irish immigrant farmer never dreamt that he would one day become a wizard of wealth and leave such a dollar pile behind him. His first car nicknamed "Tin Lizzie" provoked poetic fancy into:

"There was a little man named Henry Ford.

He took a piece of string and he took a bit of board,

He took an iron nail, and a rusty oil can,

He tied them all together—and the darn thing ran.

Priest Hacked to Death.—The Revd. Father Patrick Gravy, a Jesuit Missionary was hacked to pieces with bush knives by the insurgents in the region of Andreia in Northern Madagascar, East Africa.

Tragic Death by Acetic Acid Burns.—Dr. E.A. Coorey, former member of the State Council and the Colombo Municipal Council met his death on the 10th inst. under tragic circumstances. He was travelling in his car to his Estate with a jar of Acetic acid in the back seat. On the way the jar burst splashing the acid all over Dr. Coorey's body. He was rushed to the Hospital where he died, aged 65.

Vatican in Danger of Sinking.—According to well informed engineers it is feared that the walls and several buildings of the Vatican are in danger of sinking unless timely precautions are taken to prevent their collapse. This state of affairs is due to the recent neglect of the annual inspection of the Vatican buildings.

Ceylon and the Empire-Commonwealth Air Conference.—Mr. L. S. B. Perera, Director of Ceylon Civil Aviation has gone to London to represent Ceylon at the Conference of the Directors of Civil Aviation Colonial governments. Early in May he will represent Ceylon in the Commonwealth Air Transport Council in Montreal and also attend the Inter-national Civil Aviation Organisation Conference in the same place.

Distinguished Visitors from India.—Mrs. Vijelaxmi Pandit and Mr. Acharya Kripalani, President of the Indian National Congress are expected to be in Ceylon on the 18th, 19th and 20th inst. to attend the Seventh Annual Sessions of the All-Ceylon Indian Congress to be held at Nawalapitiya. Mrs. Pandit will address a special women's session which will be held at the same time.

Pull Marx.—"Vital interests should render Great Britain the earnest and unyielding opponent of the Russian projects of annexations and aggrandisement. England cannot allow Russia to become the possessor of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus."—Karl Marx (April 12, 1853), quoted in "Whitehall News."

Prescription Filled

The dentist was an overbearing individual.

"Did you go elsewhere before coming to me?" he demanded of his new patient.

"Only to the druggist," the suffering man answered.

"And what idiotic advice did he give you?"

The patient regarded his questioner innocently.

"He just told me to come to you."

OBITUARY

That in the midst of life we are in death, was illustrated by the sudden and untimely death of Mr. J. P. Edirmannasinghe of "Williamhaven," David Road, Jaffna which occurred during the early hours of the 1st inst. He passed away fortified by the last rites of the Church.

His amiable disposition, winning ways, keen intellect, and lively humour endeared him to all. But the most notable trait in his character was his readiness to render every help and service to his friends and relations. If anyone was ill he was there at the bedside. If anyone died he was there to render all help. No social gathering, function or wedding was complete without him. The large number of callers throughout the day was a tribute to his popularity and worth.

The funeral obsequies took place the following morning. The Revd. Fr. P.T. James, O.M.I., Parish Priest of the Cathedral assisted by Revd. Fr. L. J. Augustine, O.M.I., officiated at the residence. The funeral procession was headed by the acolytes carrying the banner of the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart followed by the members of the Confraternity and by a large concourse of the general public. At the Cathedral the Revd. Frs. N. Santiago, O.M.I., and A. Rajanayaggam, O.M.I., assisted the officiating priests. After the last blessing at the graveside by the officiating priests and while the coffin was being lowered into the grave the Hymn "Nearer My God to Thee" was feelingly rendered by those present.

Much sympathy will be felt with his aged mother Mrs. Paul Edirmannasinghe, his sisters Mrs. John David, and Mrs. F. X. Nisseverasinghe, his brother and sister-in-law Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Edirmannasinghe and his nephews and nieces.

R. I. P.

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HISTORY BEHIND THE NEWS

THE PRELUDE TO WAR

Soviet Russia has once more used 'the Veto' in the Security Council. No Soviet Russian delegate was present when the first sessions of the U.N.O. Trusteeship Council met at Lake Success on Wednesday the 16th. A complete and up-to-date plan of defence is prepared and ready for immediate action. Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz assured U.S. Senators on the 27th. Generalissimo Stalin has been created an Honorary Citizen of Rumania 'as the people's recognition of their deliverance from the Fascist yoke.' These are some of the disturbing items of news during the fortnight reproduced from the daily press.

THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES

which concluded World War No. 1 brought into being the League of Nations, the vision of an idealist whose country repudiated his dream to outlaw war based on the principles of the rule of law in international relations and collective security. The idea was by no means new. About the year 1305 in his book, *The Recovery of the Holy Land*, Pierre Dubois suggested international arbitration and the establishment of an international Judiciary; Erasmus (1466-1536) had ideas of a League of Peace; the French writer, Abbe' de St. Pierre in the 18th Century suggested a federation of nineteen States for the maintenance of Peace; Kant the German philosopher, proposed such an organisation for the special purpose of doing away with war. In 1815 a Holy Alliance was formed between Russia, Prussia and Austria and they declared their firm resolve to be guided, both in the administration of their States and in their political relations with every other State, by the precepts of Justice, Christian Charity and Peace. The Hague Conferences in 1899 and 1907 were summoned on the initiation of Russia to promote peace and disarmament. How the people the world over reacted to the League of Nations was indicated by the almost religious fervour with which it was hailed. So serious was the disaster which overtook men and morals in that global carnage, World War No. 1, that popular feeling in every country clutched at this Olive Branch as the only means of banishing for ever the terrible calamity of war. Millions of pounds were expended in setting up the League in palatial buildings amidst the peaceful atmosphere of Geneva; many noble men and women devoted their lives in its service. From platform and pulpit, from the Press and the Pamphleteer, there poured forth a paean of praise hailing the League as the prelude to Peace and Plenty. But

POLITICAL HYPOCRISY

destroyed the promise of the Versailles League of Nations as it threatens to undermine the San Francisco Charter of the United Nations. Statesmen of the great Powers were not prepared to use the power of their States on the side of the League and collective security. The trail of hypocrisy is strewn with betrayal from the Sino-Japanese dispute (1931-33) to the Rape of Abyssinia (1934-36). History now repeats itself. Two world wars in one generation were too much even for the phlegmatic Statesmen of the Great Powers, Britain, America and Russia. Besides the tempo of civilian war effort and military morale had to be kept at a high pitch. At Dumbarton Oaks the possibility of 'a general international organisation to maintain peace and security' was vaguely considered. At Yalta it was decided to set up such an organisation as soon as possible and the San Francisco Conference was convened for that purpose. Political hypocrisy has now reached its zenith.

In October 1946 Mr. Atlee lamented in the House of Commons that 'the Veto' was being put to obstructive use in the deliberations of the United Nations. He said, "At San Francisco we agreed to the creation of the Veto, but I am quite certain that we all regarded this as something to be used only in the last resort in extreme cases where the five Great Powers might be involved in conflict..... The Veto was used for

every trifling thing and that is reducing to a nullity the usefulness of the Security Council. What is more it is leading to disrespect whereas the Security Council was created in order to create confidence..... The use of the Security Council as a propaganda instrument is to be regretted." But when the permanent members of the Council reserved to themselves the individual right of Veto, the hope of a better world receded like a mirage even from the steps of the Palaces of Yalta. The Statesmen of UNO are trying to reconcile two incompatible concepts. A common international authority to lay down rules of conduct cannot function effectively as long as any State refuses to surrender its external sovereignty, to renounce its right to settle disputes by making war. The Veto means that the Big Three were not prepared to subordinate their national sovereignty to an over-riding world authority. *Hinc illae Lacrimae.*

The possibility of disarmament was explored by the Political Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at Lake Success at the same time as the Foreign Ministers were discussing the Veto in New York. Here again the discussions reached a stalemate because it is obvious that a collective world government presupposes both disarmament and the abandonment of national sovereignty. The world is now

ONE ARMED CAMP

Neutral Sweden is retaining her Home Guard set up in 1940 after the Nazi invasions; likewise neutral Switzerland speculates about World War No. 3 in 1947; there is Civil War in China, oppression in Balkans; chaos in occupied Germany, free fights in the Near and Middle East and industrial unrest everywhere. Britain maintains a large army, the occupying forces of the Soviet was the subject of a question by Mr. Marshall in the U.N.O. Now Admiral Nimitz has assured the U.S. Senators that plans for the defence of Continent are complete. Meanwhile

MODERN NERO

is calling the time in Moscow. Facts must be faced. In the War just ended the Allies were not fighting in the same cause although they faced the same enemy. But in spite of their opposition to Communism British and American admiration of the Russian was profound. A nation was entitled to have the government it wanted; the legend of a dictatorship forced on an unwilling people was killed by the character of the Russian resistance. Britain was moving to the Left but Russia was certainly moving to the Right. Anyway time enough to consider these problems when Hitler was beaten. Communists of every shade and colour in America and the Empire joined up and, in the race to Berlin, Russia beat the others only by a short head. It is not proposed to contrast Communism and Capitalism; both the excellent features of the one and the drawback's of the other are freely conceded. But what is germane to the present situation—the refusal of Russia to co operate with the West—is that the war of words now carried on in the UNO is an ideological war. Russia's fanatical creed uses direct action or revolution as the method of propagating its peculiar tenets and by flaunting its standard of Atheism it denies even a pretence of exalted motive. The Soviet can justify the revolution at home to her own people only by inciting revolutions in other lands. The Russian people are being taught behind 'The Iron Curtain' that it is necessary to regard the rest of the world as hostile to it and that Russia is the Messiah destined to save the world by enforcing her ideology on other States. Therefore wherever possible, in Indonesia, Greece, Iran, Spain or Central Europe the weakness of the West must be ruthlessly exposed. In States immediately adjoining Russia, Communists have been successfully encouraged to set up governments subservient to the Soviet. The "Courageous" *coup d'état* of King Michael of Rumania in 1944 was applauded by Stalin who decorated him with the Order of Lenin; and today a grateful nation

has elected Stalin as an Honorary Citizen of Rumania.

In the outer zone beyond her immediate vicinity Soviet policy is to encourage and finance strikes and fan other internal disputes into the flame of Revolution with the object of contrasting the peace and contentment within the USSR with the unrest and turmoil under a Capitalist Constitution. It is not difficult to imagine what measure of help the West can count upon should a War with the Soviet become inevitable. Britain's attempt to set her house in order and her complete reversal of Indian and Colonial policy is a direct result of the aggression of Soviet ideology and shock tactics. If June 1948, as we hope, brings Freedom to India, the Conservative diehards in Britain cannot prevent it for the alternative is too staggering to contemplate.

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