

# The Catholic Guardian

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

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## RUSSIA IN THE MIDDLE EAST THE IMPACT OF COMMUNISM ON ISLAM

Recent events in Egypt, Palestine and neighbouring territories have brought into relief an increasing Russian influence throughout most of the Middle East, due to Communist and other forms of propaganda; and it is important that the nature and effect of this should be understood as far as possible at the present stage of its development. Whether this movement be defensive or offensive (the latter can almost be synonymous with the former), does not concern us at the moment; nor does Russia's ultimate objective form part of what is now taking place. What does concern us is that doctrines and policies contradictory to what Catholics as free individuals believe to be right are being impressed upon peoples of simple culture by means which are now condemned by all right-thinking people. It is a second version of totalitarian technique, and as usual the motive is to profit at the expense of others.

It looks as if there were two sets of primary objectives: (1) the old Tsarist aim to control the Straits, giving exit from the Black Sea, and the Persian Gulf giving exit to Indian Ocean; and (2) the wooing of the Arabic-speaking peoples of the Middle East and North-East Africa, thereby creating a strong sphere of influence to be made use of as opportunity occurs.

In the first case Russia seems to aim at drawing into her system as many small neighbouring peoples as she can to increase her strength *vis-à-vis* Turkey and Iraq. This is reflected in her policy for Armenia, Kurdistan and Azerbaijan. She has called her Armenian volunteers to return to their "homeland," while Armenians in Syria and the Le-

banon (backed by those in Egypt) have been induced to apply to U.N.O. for the return of Armenian territories previously seized by the Turks. Simultaneously there has been a Russian movement to befriend the Armenian Church as part of a definite "religious plan" to go side by side with a "social plan" for the Arabic-speaking peoples in general and the Moslem communities in particular. This is more evident further south. In Kurdistan, on the other hand, Russia assumes the role of a great "liberating" Power, while in reality the direct opposite is the case. On April 4th "The Times" reported a Kurdish chieftain of 4,000 riflemen as having stated that "the independent Kurdish army of Ghazi Mohammed obtained 20 tanks, four lorries and a number of mortars from a Russian unit in Miyandub," and that "Russian technicians had arrived at Mahabad to train tribesmen" for what he called a "general drive to free Kurdistan." The proximity of the Mosul oilfields to Kurdistan is worth noting. Russia's policy *vis-à-vis* Persia and her "democratic" activities in Azerbaijan speak for themselves.

There is no uncertainty as to the direction in which these movements point. As long as the Dardanelles and Bosphorus block the exit from the Black Sea, Russia fears the danger of a hostile fleet in what she considers her own waters. And, as long as Turkey holds a large part of the southern shore of the Black Sea, Russia is conscious of a potential enemy within fifteen miles of Batum, the western terminus of the railway and pipe-line from the Baku oilfields. So that an increase of Russia's  
(Continued on Page 4.)

## THE VOICE OF INDIA AT THE U. N. O. ASSEMBLY

Mrs. Pandit told the United Nations Assembly:

"We in India have pursued steadfastly, often at great cost, the goal of freedom of peoples to which this great organisation is dedicated."

"We have yet to achieve our independence, but we have travelled so far along the road of freedom that today, for the first time, India's delegate to an international assembly is briefed and accredited by a National Government and speaks with a full sense of responsibility and authority vested in that Government by the confidence and sanction of our people."

"India does not yet play a sufficiently effective part in this Assembly. She desires and intends to do so."

### PLACE IN WORLD AFFAIRS

"As a majority country, geographically in a strategic position in the Indian Ocean, with significant relations and cultural ties with her neighbours in Asia, the contribution she had made in resistance to aggression and the cause of human freedom, and her role in world economy entitle her to a place in the important organs of the United Nations—I would mention the Security and Trusteeship of Councils—and an adequate share in the administration of the organisation."

"We are confident this Assembly will readily recognise and respond adequately to these desires."

"Hitherto, as a dependent country our relations with the rest of the world were perforce not of our choice or making. Today the Government of India has announced the outlines of an independent foreign policy."

"We believe peace and freedom are

indivisible and a denial of freedom anywhere must lead to conflict and war. We repudiate utterly the Nazi doctrine of racialism wheresoever and in whatever form it may be practised. We seek no dominion over others—we claim no privileged position over other peoples, but we do claim equal and honourable treatment of our people wherever they may go, and we cannot accept any discrimination against them."

### GAZE OF MILLIONS

"For this reason and as a demonstration we expect the United Nations to implement in practice, the principles and basis of civilised life which have been embodied in the Charter. We have brought before the Assembly the treatment of Indians by South Africa, a member State and a signatory to the Charter. The way this Assembly treats and disposes of this issue is open to the gaze not only of those gathered here but to millions in the world—progressive peoples of all countries, more particularly in the non-European people of the world—who, let it not be forgotten, are the overwhelming section of the human race."

"The issue we have brought before you is by no means a narrow or local one, nor can we accept any conclusion that a gross and continuing outrage of this kind against the fundamental principles of the Charter can be claimed by anyone and, least of all, by a member State, to be a matter of no concern to this Assembly."

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit received a loud ovation at the conclusion of her speech when she said India claimed equal and honourable treatment for Indians everywhere and could not accept discrimination.—*Daily News*.

## THE PEACE WITH ITALY

Signor de Gasperi continues to conduct the Italian case at Paris with moderation and skill, in the face of an opposition from MM. Vyshinsky and Kardelj which has degenerated at times into simple abuse of the whole Italian race. His agreement with the Austrian Foreign Minister, Dr. Gruber, on the region which everyone has called the South Tyrol, and not the Alto Adige, even when envisaging its unqualified retention by Italy, comes not only as a tribute to the diplomacy of Mr. Bevin, but also as a model for the treatment of minorities contrasting with the method of mass-expulsion favoured in the Soviet-dominated countries of Eastern Europe, and as a rebuke to the intransigence of the Great Powers towards Italy. While none of the victorious nations finds it easy to treat the Italians generously, in the interests of general concord, the Italians have found it possible to treat the Austrians generously.

The British and Americans have made a well-intentioned gesture in foregoing their claims to reparations, but they have made it with a singular lack of grace, so that it is difficult for the Italians to see it as more than a sign of concern that the Italian economy shall not collapse altogether. The Brazilians, too, have announced that they will not make any claim which might be a burden on the Italian domestic economy, but they have judged it necessary nevertheless to say they must have all Italian property in Brazil. The total

sum which Italy will have to find, including very heavy demands from Abyssinia and Yugoslavia and bills presented even by such members of the grand alliance as Costa Rica, San Domingo, Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, is such as to prevent any prospect of real economic recovery for years to come. We hope that these Central and South American allies will understand how disastrous it will be for the future development of their continent if immigrants from Europe like the industrious Italian colonists are liable to have the work of years taken from them to pay for the misdeeds of the Government of their home countries years after they have left. There is neither justice nor statesmanship in this.

Meanwhile, the cost of living in Italy is bounding up ("The price of spaghetti," said one American commentator from Rome the other day, "has risen ten per cent in the last 48 hours"), the *lira* is falling steadily, unemployment is acute, restlessness which the Communists are doing all they can to stimulate is spreading from the north to the south, and Italians everywhere are bitter and discouraged. Signor Corbino, the Liberal to whom, at the Ministry of the Treasury, Signor de Gasperi entrusted the main direction of economic policy, has been forced out of office by the Communists for his naturally unpopular anti-inflationary measures, and a major crisis in the coalition is possible at any time.—*The Tablet*.

## THE DAY OF INTERCESSION FOR POLAND

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, was a Day of Intercession for Poland. In his sermon during the Mass offered in Westminster Cathedral, Cardinal Griffin said:—

"How strong are the bonds which unite us in our Catholic faith and charity! They transcend all frontiers of colour, class and nation. They are forged in our loyalty to the Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, the Pope of peace and charity. They are forged in our fidelity to the teachings of the Son of God and in our devotion to His Holy Mother."

"To-day, our Lady's birthday, Poland is being solemnly consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and from every Polish heart ascends fervent prayers of love and supplication. Multitudes are gathered at the sacred shrines of our Lady of Czestochowa and our Lady of Ostrabrama. In union with Poland's re-dedication today to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Catholics throughout Great Britain, in every church and chapel, intercede with her for the people of Poland."

"During the past seven years Poland has been tried in the crucible of suffering. She never faltered, in spite of intolerable hardships and attacks on her Catholic faith: the people of Poland, led by their heroic Bishops and priests, remained loyal to the ancient faith. Untold numbers suffered and died for their religion. Many thousands of Poland's gallant fighting men made the

supreme sacrifice for their country and for the allied cause. During this period of suffering the Mother of Sorrows stood by Poland as once she stood at the foot of the cross. Today we ask for the all-powerful intercession of the Mother of God with her Divine Son for the cause of Poland, that Poland's Catholic faith may ever increase and that her Catholic life may be strengthened and her Catholic organizations revive and flourish; that she may regain the freedom for which she fought, and be allowed to live her life in peace and security."

"You will already have heard that we have set up a Catholic Council of Polish Welfare. The objects of this Council are to raise funds to help the thousands of Poles who are in this country and also those who are in displaced persons' camps in other countries. Help will also be sent to the people in Poland. I need not remind you that recently thousands of Polish soldiers who fought under the leadership of General Anders in the cause of freedom are now here with us. They were brave heroes when they were fighting with us and for us. May we continue to treat them as heroes now that the fight is over. I beg of you to give generously. This will at least be a token of recognition of our debt to a great people and a great country. The bonds of friendship forged by mutual sacrifice during the bitter period of war should now receive fresh strength in the more intense struggle for peace."



Of your charity  
pray for the repose of the soul of

**Em. Raja Sandrasagra**  
(retired Maniagar of Pallai)  
died 31st Oct. 1943

"Your memory is a flame  
To our lonely lamp of separation."

Inserted by his sorrowing widow  
and children.

R. I. P.

A Requiem High Mass will be said  
at St. James' Church, Jaffna at 5-30 a.m.  
on the 4th inst.

## Church Calendar

NOVEMBER 1946

FRI.	...1	ALL SAINTS.
SAT.	...2	ALL SOULS.
SUN.	...3	21 P.—S. Winefride.
MON.	...4	S. Charles.
TUES.	...5	Holy Relics.
WED.	...6	S. Leonard.
THURS.	...7	S. Willibrord.
FRI.	...8	S. Godfrey.

## The Catholic Guardian

NOVEMBER 1ST 1946

### DEMOCRACY

The British Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, Reuter cabled, claimed that his Government had put its democratic principles into practice in India, Burma, Trans-Jordan and in Ceylon and other Colonies, and he further added that no country had given greater and practical proof of its desire to put principles into practice than Britain. We believe Mr. Attlee is honest and means well by the countries mentioned. But M. Charles Maurras a noted French popular writer had a different view of this policy. He used to argue that the crafty English exported their parliamentary system with its parties as a way of dividing and weakening other countries while they under apparently the same system were really united in pushing ahead with the aggrandizement of their own land. Charles Maurras was no friend of democracy and his view of the policy of England may not be fair. But there are facts to support his statement that British parliamentary system with its parties and its principle of absolute majority rule has had the effect of dividing and weakening the countries where it had been tried. Here is an authentic incident. After the war of 1870 when France was defeated by Germany a Conference of Emperor Frederick and Bismarck took place as to the form of government to be set up in France. Frederick favoured the restoration of the monarchy. Bismarck demurred. He said that it was not advisable to have a strong and powerful France close to Germany and proposed instead a republic. Thus it was that the Third Republic came to be established. How it had been the ruin of France is common knowledge. Again, after the first world war when it became known that Germany was being defeated and Emperor William

fled to Holland the topic of the hour was about her future form of Government. At that time a French shop-girl is said to have uttered these words: "The French will not conquer Germany by destroying her, but by the help of Germany herself." When she was asked how, she replied: "*En foutant aux Allemands la Republique.*" So in 1919 it came to pass that an assembly representing the German people met at Weimar. It declared the abolition of all privileges of birth and rank and the establishment of a German Republic to be an accomplished fact. The French girl who uttered the words quoted above knew only too well through her experience in France that nothing so hastens the degeneration of a nation as modern democracy. In a sense the downfall of Germany may be attributed to the Weimar Republic. It plunged the country into such a chaos and the people were in such despair that they were ready to follow any daring leader who promised them deliverance. That was the chance for Hitler and he grasped it. We have here taken republics as examples of the failure of democracy because in this form of Government democracy ought to show itself at its best. The United States of America may be pointed to as a success. If so, it is an exception and the exception proves the rule.

### WHICH IS CATHOLIC?

Some people will ask you with a shrug of their shoulders: What is in a name? But oftentimes there is everything in a name. For instance, last week the Anglican Bishop of Colombo addressing his Diocesan Council referred to us as Roman Catholics and Roman Christians while Church of Ceylon he styled the Catholic Church pure and simple. He also anticipated the union of the various protestant denominations in Ceylon and hailed it as the Union of Christendom. We are well aware that in speaking of us as Roman Christians and Roman Catholics in contradistinction to the Communion over which he presides, His Lordship meant no offence and in what follows, we too have not the slightest intention to say anything to hurt. But when the need arises for historical facts they must be given in order that the public may not be in the dark. First of all, let us say that in English speaking countries we are required for official and legal purposes to pass as Roman Catholics. We do not mind. The qualifying word "Roman" in our sense is not restrictive so as to imply that there are other Catholics who are not Roman. For us the words 'Catholic' and 'Roman' are of equal extension in their combination. From the earliest centuries the word Catholic has been applied to the Church in Communion with the Pope. St. Cyril of Jerusalem of the 4th century in his catechetical discourses says: "And if ever out sojourning in any city, inquire not simply where the Lord's house is

for the sects also attempt to call theirs the house of the Lord; nor merely inquire where the Church is, but where is the Catholic Church." St. Augustine in the 4th century insisting upon the consensus of the Christians, in the use of the word 'Catholic' wrote: "Although all heretics wish to be styled Catholic yet if any one asks where the Catholic place of worship is none of them would venture to point out his own conventicle." We feel we must stress this point because the strongest Note of the true Church is its Catholicity. It was the primary intention of Our Divine Lord in founding His Church that it should be spread throughout all nations; that His Gospel should be carried to every people; that it should break down conventional distinctions of country, race or nationality and leaven and sanctify the whole human race. Hence, the Church was jealous of this title which from the earliest centuries up to the time of the so-called Reformation was exclusively her guarded possession. No doubt, attempts were made in the 4th and 5th centuries by sectarians to usurp the title but they signally failed.

The Church of England was part of the Catholic Church before the love affairs of Henry the VIII gave rise to a totally new policy. Henry got the Parliament to pass an Act making him and his heirs and successors head of the Church of England. Later, other changes followed and thus in the Government, Creed, and Liturgy a radical transformation took place. John Henry Newman, the leader of the Oxford Movement, who tried his best to prove that the Church of England as by law established was the same as the pre-Reformation Church had to confess to his great regret that the new Church of England was not only not the Catholic Church of old England but could not make a legitimate claim even to be a branch of it. It was this conviction that brought him into the Catholic Church. The people of England got gradually reconciled to the idea being Protestants. They offered the Crown to William, Prince of Orange, a Calvinist. He became the King of England and head of the Church of England while remaining a Calvinist. The same thing happened when the Georges were brought over from Hanover. They were Lutherans and while being Lutherans they were also Head of the Church of England as by law established. The reason was that Englishmen realising they were Protestants did not care to which sect their sovereign belonged so long as he was a Protestant. In the early part of the 19th century the Oxford Movement tried to Catholicize Anglicanism by introducing Catholic practices and in that attempt many of the leader with Newman at their head submitted to the Catholic. In spite such attempts the Church of England remains Protestant and the King of England, the head of that Church when taking his coronation oath must declare himself a faithful

Protestant on pain of losing his Crown.

## A Heroic Priest

Fr. Robert Jacquinet, S.J., world-famous one-armed China missionary, who saved hundreds of thousands of lives during the Sino-Japanese War through his safety zones at Shanghai and Hankow, died in Berlin, where he was working with the Papal Relief Mission. He was 68. Decorated five times by the French and Chinese Governments, Fr. Jacquinet risked his life many times during his mercy work. When saving the Holy Family nuns and their 1,100 pupils from Chinese revolutionaries in 1927 he was hit by sharpnel and received two bayonet wounds. Ten years later he was wounded by a shell-burst which killed his companion.

The Japanese threatened no fewer than 50 times to bayonet him. Undismayed, he went ahead with his relief work and actually persuaded the Japanese army authorities to make him a grant. He then went to Japanese naval headquarters, told of the army's generosity, gently suggested that the navy might not wish to 'lose face' by failing to be equally liberal, and came away with a considerable sum.

Fr. Jacquinet's Shanghai zone, founded in 1937 with the help of a mainly non-Catholic committee, housed and fed about 250,000 refugees. Both Japanese and Chinese recognised it as "neutral" territory and guaranteed its inmates immunity. The Hankow zone was established within a year. When the Chinese retreated from the burning town, Fr. Jacquinet was appointed mayor. His intervention with the Japanese saved countless lives.

At Chapei, in 1932, he successfully urged a 24-hour armistice to enable Chinese refugees to escape. By 1940 after the Japan-China War had raged for two years, even the Japs had to admit the humanitarian work of the "admirable friend of our enemies." They awarded him the first annual prize for humanitarian work instituted by the Shanghai Japanese newspaper, "Tairiku Shimpo."

After the fall of Hong Kong Fr. Jacquinet passed through the Japanese lines to organise relief work on the island. During the occupation of France, he was in Paris helping British and American prisoners. Though the Germans constantly threatened him and imprisoned several priests in the same house, Fr. Jacquinet escaped arrest. When the Holy Father formed an international committee to help the millions of newly freed and stranded prisoners and deportees in Germany and Austria, Fr. Jacquinet was appointed a member. He came to England in April last year to arrange the formation of an English section of the work.

Born in Brittany, Fr. Jacquinet worked for about 40 years in China. He was a professor of mathematics and chemistry at Shanghai's Jesuit University when the Civil War started him on his career as a diplomat and relief organiser. He lost a hand during an explosion in his chemistry laboratory. When rescuing a Chinese boy, he lost his right arm.

## LOCAL & GENERAL

**Our Bishop.**—His Lordship Dr. J. A. Guyomar, O.M.I., is expected to arrive in Colombo on Sunday the 3rd November. The Very Revd. Fr. Administrator has gone to meet him.

**S.V.P. Jaffna.**—The third quarterly meeting of the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul Society, Jaffna, came off on Sunday last at 5-30 p.m. in St. Aloysius' Confraternity Hall with Mr. R. J. Paul, the President, Particular Council, in the chair.

The quarterly reports and accounts of St. Joseph's, St. James', St. Nicholas', Mount Carmel and St. Joseph's (Junior) Conferences were submitted. The Hon. Secretary of the Particular Council commenting on the Reports said that Stranded Cases should henceforth be referred to the Particular Council. He stressed that when money is advanced for purposes of trade, the members should see that the money is being properly utilised for that purpose. He said that poor non-Catholics living in the

area of the Conferences should not be denied the benefit of their help. He also suggested how X'mas collections could be better made. The President requested the Conferences to get going with their X'mas collections. The meeting terminated with the usual prayers.

**The Third Order of St. Francis.**—The monthly meeting of the Third Order of St. Francis will take place at 6-00 p.m. in St. Aloysius' Hall on Monday the 4th of Nov. 1946. Plenary Indulgences can be gained on these dates:—2, 13, 14, 16, 19, 26, 28 and 29. Conditions:—Confession, Communion, Visit to the Cathedral and prayer of the Pope's Intentions.

**Remembrance Day.**—His Excellency the Acts. Governor has accordingly decided that Sunday, November 10, should be observed throughout the Island as a Day of Remembrance for those who have fallen in these wars and that a two minutes, silence should be observed on that day at 11 a.m.

The Minister of Home Affairs joins with His Excellency in commending to ministers and members of all religions and denominations in Ceylon this observance.

**A Requiem.**—A Requiem sung Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Mr. M. S. Rajakarier was celebrated at the Church of Our Lady of Refuge on Tuesday last.

**Jaffna Wants Loan.**—The Jaffna Urban Council at a special meeting with Mr. C. Ponnambalam, Chairman, in the chair, decided to accept the recommendation of the Local Government Service to grant a temporary allowance to all employees of the Urban Council with retrospective effect from April 1, 1946.

The sum involved will be nearly Rs. 50,000 per annum.

The Council also decided to apply for a loan of Rs. 75,000 from the Central Government to cover these expenses for the years 1946 and 1947.

**Seven Arrests in Rail Disaster.**—Seven railway workmen have been arrested by the Police in connexion with the Anuradhapura railway disaster on Oct. 18th when four people were killed and several others injured.

They are:—Kinigama, President of the Local Railway Workers' Union; K. G. Dias, Secretary; Rodrigo, Treasurer; and G. N. Perera, V. Davith Singho, Samson and Wijeratne.

They were produced before Mr. N. Krishnadasan, Magistrate, at his bungalow and remanded.

Originally, the Police arrested four men, and a "confession" by one of them, Amalias, led to the arrest of the others. The police have found a crowbar and two spanners in the jungle near the scene of the accident.

The men under arrest had all been recently transferred to Anuradhapura from Ratmalana.

**Rations Cut.**—Because of the low stock position there will be no flour ration until further notice. Nor will substitutes be issued.

From Monday the ordinary ration is one measure of rice or two measures of paddy where paddy is available. It may be possible to increase the rice ration in the second week of November.

The "Glenbank" arrived in Colombo on Sunday and the "Inverbank" on Monday morning each with 8,000 tons of flour. The "Panamanian" with 3,400 tons of flour arrived on Monday.

This will make no difference to the cut because the next consignment is not expected until the middle of December.

**Personal.**—Mr. P. J. Constantine of Jaffna Town has retired from the Excise Department after serving for a period of thirty years. Of these he worked for two years in the Emergency Branch of the Jaffna Kachcheri having been seconded for service during the Emergency period. Presently he is employed as the Manager of the Thaladyay Co-operative Fishing Society.

**Japanese Textile.**—Japanese competition in textiles abroad is not to be stifled. Sir Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade, made this clear in the House of Commons on Monday in reply to a question about the Japanese textile industry. He said the British Government did not consider it practicable to reduce or eliminate Japanese competition in the export market by yet another surgical operation on those of her export industries which had no direct war potential.

**Information Bureau for Missionaries.**—A special Office of Technical Knowledge has been established at Dese, in the Netherlands, which missionaries will be able to use as a species of "Information Bureau" on all kinds of technical problems. Several hundreds of Catholic students and specialists have volunteered their services for this work, and advice will be obtainable in such a variety of subjects as tropical diseases, sanitation, carpentry, plumbing, electricity, diet and transport.

**Catholic Press in U. S. A.**—Catholic newspapers and magazines throughout the United States have a combined circulation of 12,734,325 copies, according to an estimate made last month at the thirty-fifth meeting of the Catholic Press Association in San Francisco. The newspapers account for nearly three millions of this total.

**Spain.**—General Franco has announced that an agreement was reached with the British, U.S. and French Governments, concerning German public properties in Spain. Details of this agreement have not yet been disclosed.

**OBITUARY**

A Requiem Mass was said at the Cathedral on 25th morning, and the bell tolled thereafter and again in the evening when the funeral took place at Colombo where Mr. F. A. Tisseverasinghe Bar-at-Law and brother-in-law of Gate Mudr. Rajah practised for 50 years and had an admittedly unique success. A gamut like career his: 1st Proctor, then Advocate and then he went to England in 1911 and passed out as Barrister. On his return he appeared before Judges like Justice Walter Pereira who more than once complimented him for his methodical and clear conduct of cases. With the late Sir Ambalavaner Kanagasabai, K.C., he attended the historical Tamil Sangam at Madras. The Knight selecting Mr. Tisseverasinghe because of the latter's sound knowledge of the Tamil language. His was not a rushful mature. With the approbation of the Knight and the late Dr. Bailey Mylvaganam P.C.N.O., Madras, he choose Miss Casimi Sundaramba for his partner in life whose father was a leading Vakil there.

His religiousness may be summed up in the words daily Mass failing not even a single day, and meditation thereafter for three quarters of an hour. Very Revd. Fr. Long got him down when he organised the Jaffna Catholic Diocesan Union and congratulated himself more than Mr. Tisseverasinghe for the splendid inaugural speech he then made.

The chief mourners are the widow, Mr. E. B. Tisseverasinghe, Acting Salt Commissioner, Mr. Cyril X. Martyn, District Judge, Avisawella and Mrs. Martyn Misses M. R. and K. Tisseverasinghe daughters, Leslie Regi and K. T. sons and Gate Mudaliyar and Mrs. Rajah, brother-in-law and sister.

Revd. Fr. Gueguen, O.M.I., who administered the last sacraments to Mr. Tisseverasinghe officiated at the obsequies service at the Kannata Cemetery, Chapel and graveside, assisted by the choir of All Saints' Church, Borella, which would now miss one of its daily and devout worshipper at Holy Mass.

Mr. Justice Nagalingam, Messrs. H. V. Perera, K.C., H.H. Basanayake, K.C., P. Saravanamuttu, E. W. Perera and C. Vellavaran acted as pall-bearers. R. I. P.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. A. Gnanapragasam, Post-Master, Puttalam, the father of Mr. G. A. Thuraisingham, of the Police Dept., Dematagoda, brother of Mr. P.S. Nicholas of C.G.R., Kandy, cousin of Mr. R. E. Marshall of Gordon Frazer & Co., and Mr. B. A. Retnasingham of Wakefield & Co., on the 21st of Oct., 1946, at No. 11, Fernando Rd., Wellawatte. The deceased who was ailing for sometime was treated by Dr. Ramnathan, D.M.O., Jaffna, and on his advice was removed to the General Hospital, Colombo where he was treated by Dr. Gabriel. The deceased showed no signs of improvement and was taken to his cousins place at Wellawatte and after three days he passed away, fortified by the last rites of the Church. The remains were brought to Jaffna the next day, and the funeral took place the same evening attended by a very large gathering including a number of his relations and friends.

Revd. Fr. Alfred Benjamin, O.M.I., (a cousin of the deceased) officiated at home, at the church and at the graveside assisted by Revd. Frs. L. A. Singarayer, J. Vedanayagam and L. Anthonypillai. The pall-bearers were Drs. St. John Puvirajasinghe and A.B.C. Doray, Mubandiram F. J. R. VikramaSankam and Mr. A. B. Chinakone, Physical Instructor.

He leaves behind his wife, three daughters, four sons, his only brother and a number of relations and friends to bemoan his loss. R. I. P.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**A Leaf from the Recent Past**

Dear Sir,—There appears to be a certain amount of misunderstanding in the minds of some persons regarding the attempt that were made at the unofficial conference of State Councillors held sometime prior to the advent of the Soulbury Commissioners with a view to arrive at a settlement of our communal differences. It has been stated that one who took a prominent part in the movement for constitutional reform and had identified himself with the cause of the Tamils and the minorities, namely Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, was responsible for the failure of the Conference in that he is alleged to have rejected certain terms of settlement, which if accepted would have solved the communal and constitutional problems. To my mind, such attribution of blame is without justification. On the other hand, Mr. Ponnambalam's action at that time is worthy of commendation for several valid reasons.

At the Conference some members of the State Council belonging to the Sinhalese community appear to have inquired in their individual capacity whether a certain number of seats in Council for the minority communities including a certain number for the Northern and Eastern Provinces would be acceptable. This offer, or rather inquiry, on the part of certain individuals, who were by themselves alone not in a position to deliver the goods, was in the circumstances and conditions under which the Tamils were working for a reform of constitution entirely unacceptable at that time for reasons which to my mind appeared to be on the lines set out below:

(a) The political demands put forward by the Tamils were directed not towards the wresting of a few more seats for themselves but towards something broader and higher namely the establishment of the principle of racial non-domination and its corollary, Balanced Representation. (Different interpretations were given by different persons to the expression "Balanced Representation" and these differences in interpretation led to different courses of action on the part of the individuals concerned, including some of the State Councillors).

(Continued on Page 4).

**Fruit Trees Cultivation in the North**

Revd. Editor,

Some years back you had kindly published some of my notes in the *Guardian*, will you please allow me to revert to the same subject and show the advantage and profit which will accrue to our people if they apply themselves to fruit trees Cultivation. There is much more reason to do so now, during the present hard times, than 10 years ago when I was writing on the same subject to your readers.

To-day I'll speak only about that excellent and productive fruit which grows so well in these parts—the Papaya. Of late a number of cultivators in Jaffna, it is known, have taken to its cultivation, and are selling its fruits with great profit in the local markets, and export them to Colombo. It is however not sufficiently known and appreciated.

The papaya fruit contain *Papain*—that milky juice which possesses not only digestive properties, and make it of great value in the diet, but it contains also vitamins found in eggs, milk and oranges. It is, moreover, one of the few fruits allowed by Doctors to

their diabetic patients. To-day I speak only about its great value, next time I intend giving practical informations about the culture of Papaya.

The rainy season has just come in, it is the very time to begin, anywhere in large or small gardens. E. G.

**Do You Know Series II of CATHOLIC DOCTRINE**

1. When is the Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour?
2. Who wrote the Song of Bernadette?
3. To whom was the Sabbatine Indulgence promised?
4. Who dedicated the month of October to the Holy Rosary?
5. When was the Immaculate Conception declared a Dogma of Faith?
6. What is the name of the good thief?
7. In what year was the Society of St. Vincent de Paul founded?
8. What feast of Our Lady is celebrated on September 15?
9. When was the death of Venerable Father Joseph Vaz?
10. What are Catacombs?

For Answers See Below

1. June 27th.
2. Franz Werfel.
3. Pope John XXII.
4. Pope Leo XIII.
5. 8th December 1854.
6. Dismus.
7. 1833.
8. The Seven Dolours of Our Lady.
9. 16th January 1711.
10. Underground caves and cells in which were deposited the bodies of the martyrs.

**Do You Know Series II**

Voices from Purgatory 30 cts.

**Auction Sale of Rice Bran**

The undersigned will sell by public auction two hundred and fifty (250) bags of rice bran at the Forage Store, Bankshall Street, Jaffna on Saturday the 9th November, 1946 at 10 a.m.

M. SRIKHANTA, A. G. A. (E) Jaffna.

The Kachcheri Jaffna, 28th October, 1946.

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## Russia in the Middle East

(Continued from page 1)

influence towards the Persian Gulf would much improve her position in Asia Minor as well as threatening British communications. The talk of Russia's offer to help the Lebanese should they want to oppose the Anglo-French settlement in the Levant, lends colour to this line of thought.

In the second case—that of the Arabic-speaking peoples of the Middle East generally—the objectives are more general and the means employed more varied. In the Lebanon the "religious plan" is at work among the Christians; and, in view of the further development of this in Palestine, it looks as if Russian policy was to ingratiate the Arabic-speaking peoples by appealing in different ways to their respective religious allegiances. Under the Ottoman Empire religion and nationality were practically synonymous terms. Hence Russia opposes a greater Syria in which the Maronites of the Lebanon would find themselves a small Christian minority, though this must incur Moslem opposition owing to the favour it confers on Christians. But the Maronites have long been the proteges of France, and are therefore perhaps a sweet morsel for which Russia is prepared to pay by incurring some local Moslem disfavour in the *suks* of Damascus and Cleppo.—*The Tablet*.

## CORRESPONDENCE

(Continued from Page 3.)

Not only were the Tamils working for their legitimate share in the scheme of things in Ceylon, but they were also striving to establish a suitable constitution based on the principle of racial non-dominance. It was not a question of a few seats more for the Northern and Eastern Provinces; it was something more vital affecting the whole of Ceylon—namely the good government of the country based on just and sound principles. In the circumstances, it might not have been possible for those who were espousing this ideal to accept a mere increase of seats in the Council for the Northern and Eastern Provinces in lieu of a principle.

(b) One of the demands put forward by certain Tamil leaders was the recognition and grant of the rights of Indians in Ceylon. The terms of settlement regarding seats in the legislature suggested by the well-intentioned Sinhalese Councillors did not include or refer to this important matter of the rights and status of the Indians in Ceylon. One need hardly say that it would have been unfair and improper on the part of such of the Ceylon Tamil leaders as had espoused the cause of the Indians if they had at that stage and under those circumstances accepted and increased number of seats for the Northern and Eastern Provinces without obtaining the recognition of the status and rights of Indians, especially in view of the fact that several Ceylon Indian leaders had identified themselves with the Ceylon Tamils in respect of the demands put forward by the latter.

(c) There was no provision in the terms of settlement suggested by the Sinhalese Councillors for the representation of the minorities or the Tamils in the Executive. A mere increase of seats for the Tamils in the Legislature without an adequate share of Executive power for the Tamils and the other minorities would have been valueless. My own view, if I might say so, was that some provision should be made by statute to enable the Tamils and the other minorities to exercise their legitimate share of power in the Executive of the Country.

Since these three essential requirements were not met or provided for in the terms of settlement suggested at the Conference it was deemed not proper or advisable to accept the suggested settlement. We would do well to bear in mind that for a correct understanding of the position the important thing is to avoid judging the actions and course of conduct adopted by the respective Tamil Councillors under the conditions prevailing at the time of the Conference on the entirely different basis of the altered circumstances obtaining today. At that time some of us were working for a particular form of government and

before the promulgation of the constitution when the subject was under discussion we pressed for the embodiment of certain fundamental principles in the constitution. The course of conduct of the Tamils therefore at that time would necessarily have been different from what they might be expected to follow under the present circumstances, now that the new constitution has been granted and the Tamils along with the others have undertaken to work it.

It cannot be disputed that up to now both the Sinhalese community and the Tamil and other minority communities had ultimately to look to the British Government to effect the necessary changes in the constitution as the position under the constitution and in law was such. Since the Tamils have failed to have their political demands embodied in the statutory provisions of the new constitution they should strive now to achieve these objectives by working the new constitution and arriving at some equitable arrangement both among themselves and with the other communities in the Island. The leaders of the Tamil community including the Tamil State Councillors will do well at this critical juncture to lay aside their reflections on the failure of the constitutional demands of the Tamils, bury their past political differences, and co-operate among themselves and with the leaders of the other communities and thus render effective and fruitful service both to the Tamils and to the Country.

Yours truly,  
S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM,  
156, Hultsdorf, Colombo,  
23rd Oct. 1946.

## Stalin Calls Churchill Warmonger No. 1

Stalin has, according to Moscow broadcast on Tuesday, described Mr. Winston Churchill, Britain's war-time leader, as a warmonger. He made this statement in reply to a questionnaire submitted to him by an American News Agency.

Questionnaire was broadcast by Moscow Radio on Tuesday morning. Questions put to Stalin and his answers were:

(1) In your opinion which is most serious threat to world peace at present?—The warmongers, first among them Churchill, and all those in Britain and United States who think like him.

(2) If such threats should arise, what steps should be taken by nations of the world to avoid another war?—Mongers of such a new war must be unmasked and restrained.

(3) Is U.N.O. guarantee for security of small nations?—It is hard to say yet.

(4) Do you think economic administration of four Occupation Zones of Germany should be unified in near future so as to restore Germany's economic unity and alleviate weight of Occupation resting upon four Occupying Powers?—Not only Germany's economic but also her political unity must be restored.

(5) Do you think it possible, at present moment, to set up a kind of central administration, operated by Germans themselves but under Allied control, which would enable the Allied Council's decisions to work out a peace treaty for Germany?—Yes I do.

(6) Judging by elections which have been held in various Zones of Germany during Summer and Autumn, are you convinced that, politically, Germany has progressed sufficiently on road to give rise to hopes that she may in future be a peaceful country?—So far, I am not convinced.

(7) What should be done, in addition to present programme, by Four Powers to prevent Germany from again becoming military threat to peace?—Remnants of Facism in Germany must be completely removed and Germany must be democratized.

(8) Can German nation be allowed to reconstitute her trade and industry so as to be self-sufficient?—Yes.

(9) Do you think that Potsdam Conference decisions are being carried out?—Potsdam decisions are not always carried out especially as far as demobilisation of Germany is concerned.

(10) Do you agree with opinion expressed by Byrnes last Friday that tension between United States and Soviet Russia has increased?—No.—(Reuter.)

## Viceroy Appeals to Indians

Field-Marshal Lord Wavell, Viceroy of India, in a broadcast over New Delhi Radio on Monday—the first day of the Autumn session of the Assembly meeting with the All-India Cabinet—appealed to the country to end the strife "which now poisons life and disfigures the fair name of India."

The Viceroy said: "It is my desire

and hope that all elements in this Government will work together in harmony, both in dealing with the present pressing problems of India, and in furthering the formation of a new Government, which would enable the British Government to complete the transfer of power to India.

"But India cannot go forward to her destiny, and we cannot devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the great work that lies ahead of us all, when our minds are filled with constant anxiety and apprehension."

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