

The Catholic Guardian

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

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ATTEMPT ON POPE'S LIFE A CHAIND

The Holy Father refused to follow the Italian Police advice to close St. Peter's to the public for the beatification of Mother Marie Theresa De Soubiran to avoid a possible demonstration by anti-clerical Yugoslavs in Rome. His Holiness insisted that there was no danger. The beatification ceremony passed off without any incident.

Feeling among Rome's anti-clerical Yugoslavs against the Church and the Pope has been running high, reports the Rome correspondent of the "Universe." The Italian Police have for some time been rounding up suspects. One Yugoslav woman is being held in custody. The Yugoslav's hostility is directed largely against the Russian Orthodox Bishop—Bishop Melitze—his sister Abbess Mother Seraphim, and his secretary, who escaped recently from Soviet territory and are preparing at the Russian College to enter Catholic Church.

This arrest which contributed to the newspaper reports last week-end of the life of the Holy Father as he travelled from Castel Gandolfo to Rome to venerate the body of the new Beata. These reports were described by the commander of the Papal Gendarmerie as an "invention." "We learned the story from the newspapers," he said. "No special precautions were taken on the trip between the Holy Father's residence at Castel Gandolfo and the Vatican. Only the customary precautions were taken on the route with plain clothes men along the road. Gendarmerie was inside St. Peter's, Swiss Guards were near the altar and the Noble Guards were near the Pope—but this is usual."

"The Times" Rome correspondent attributes the rumour to the fact that the Holy Father drove to Rome in a closed car with blinds drawn.—*The Examiner.*

THE NEW CONSERVATIVE PURPOSE PAPAL ENCYCLICAL PHRASES

Mr. Churchill, addressing the Conservative Party Conference at Blackpool, censured the Government for its inept handling of British affairs, and for wrapping itself up in its doctrinaire Socialism to the prejudice not so much of human dignity and rights of the power and prestige of the nation; but he came at the end to the deeper level of ultimate objectives, and defined the aim of the Conservative Party as "to build a property-owning democracy"; to make "the people of this ancient island" not "a mass of State-directed proletarians" but "free, independent families." It is an essential aim of the party, he declared, not only to resist "the mischievous plans of doctrinaire Governments" but also "to defend the general public against abuses by monopolies and against the strength of trade and enterprise." Mr. Eden, on the first day of the Conference, had dwelt more on the high objective of building "a nationwide property-owning democracy":—

"We of the Conservative Party must maintain that the ownership of property is not a crime or sin, but a reward, a right and a responsibility that must be shared as equitably as possible among all our citizens..... We base ourselves upon the individual, upon the need to develop the individual personality."

These excellent phrases come with a familiar ring, but not because we are accustomed to hearing them from Mr. Churchill or Mr. Eden. When Mr. Churchill enumerated the main objectives towards which the endeavour of the Conservative Party is henceforward to be bent, he made the first "To uphold the Christian religion and resist all attacks upon it," but he did not make the Christian religion in an explicit and positive sense the source from which the fundamental principles now stated can be derived and by which they can be justified. It is good that he should defend the Christian religion in the name of the Conservative Party, but the time has not yet come to defend the Conservative Party in the name of the Christian religion, however frequently its speakers may catch the phrases of

the Papal social encyclicals. Yet an attempt has been made to re-state the Conservative position in a manner which can only command the assent of Christians; although in seeking a "property-owning democracy" it can hardly be called conservative at all, since the announced intention is to promote extremely far-reaching changes in the structure of our society, reversing, if a Conservative Government should be again returned and should take steps to implement what has been said by its leaders out of office, the whole trend of the past four hundred years.

Far from having ever been, in those four hundred years, a property-owning democracy, England is today a country overwhelmingly characterized not by property but by the propertyless wage-earners whose status Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden desire to change through as yet undeveloped systems of co-partnership in industry, which the Conservative Party has made the subject of a pamphlet. The time for instituting a return to ownership is propitious, however, for in every department save that of doctrinaire politics the tendency of the times, as Mr. Collin Clarke described in the articles on "Property and Economic Progress" which appeared in these pages at the beginning of last year, is in favour of small ownership and independence. An increasing proportion of the population is engaged in comparatively small-scale manufacture, and in what are called the service industries, as distinct from manufacturing industries, carried on of their nature to a large extent in small establishments and by individuals. Nor is the appetite for ownership yet diminished, despite Mr. Belloc's fears; on the contrary, all over the country newly-demobilized ex-Servicemen, now as twenty-five years ago, are filled with it, contending against all the odds to use their gratuities in establishing themselves as property-owners. The Opposition, at any rate has promised to speak to their behalf. Our only regret is that it has had to wait until it is in opposition before doing so. Others have done so in opposition

(Continued on Page 4)

WE ARE LOOSING THE WARM TOUCH

One of the oldest riddles of this age of good intentions and colossal wars is the marked contrast between its words and its works—especially its good works.

It is almost startling how the world's almost universal aspirations towards social goodwill goes hand in hand with a curious, chilly indifference to that most imperative of all requirements for true goodwill—human and personal service.

Our day glories in "astronomical" efforts for corporate amelioration yet, seemingly, fails to stir individual hearts into sparing half an hour to visit the sick or to undertake an act of neighbourliness.

As a friend grown grey but not sour in good works once put it with a twinkle of his eyes: "Yes, there never was a time in which so many were so ready to do any-thing for their fellows, provided they are not asked to do some-thing."

PLANS BUT NO ACTION

This, in fact, may be a day that will go down in history as an age rich in good intentions but poor in personal effort. People are ready to discuss, plan and support gigantic blue-print schemes of public betterment to attend public meetings and sit on committees concerning them—but not to walk half a mile in order to sit by the fireside of a lonely old soul hungering for a little human intercourse.

Indeed, for far too many of us, charity no longer begins at home so much as in Homes—Rescue, Aged, Council and Government Homes. Even many Catholics appear to think that a corporal work of mercy is something done by a city corporation or a parish committee, to which they are quite willing to subscribe and upon which they are even willing to sit as long as the "doings" are left to some other fellow.

Under the bureaucratic and rate-paid institutionalism of this committee man's Golden Age, the old Christian spirit of loving thy neighbour as thyself is withering. Men and women are tending to discard the lovely soul-strengthening virtues of personal effort, personal sympathy and direct help by brotherly hands, in favour of the Local Authority.

Should a modern Samaritan find a man fallen among thieves, he is more than likely to ring for an ambulance to take the stricken man to the Cottage Hospital and to go on his way rejoicing that modern conditions make it unnecessary for him to spend money on oil and alms or to interrupt his business trip.

He would, no doubt, be ranked wise in this generation. Yet without for a moment belittling the efficiency and excellence of our public institutions, it is plain that they are no substitute for personal humanity, and that such a Samaritan would lose personal virtue, replacing it with a growing sense of indifference which in time would become sheer callousness.

Indeed, it is part of the larger irony of our times that this is actually happening, and we can listen to people complaining of the soullessness of bureaucracy and its institutions while all the time they themselves are plainly hardening into the same dreadful impersonality.

It is as though the hearts of men were gradually congealing under a new Ice Age brought about through depriving themselves of their own human warmth of personal charity. In time the soul of such men must become atrophied of all those spiritual faculties that Christian charity gave us and our hearts hold most dear; then our Faith and our humanity will die under increasing State control.

And yet the needs which only Christian charity can meet with its more expansive kindness will remain.

Institutionalism, however neat, tidy and efficient, will never satisfy the human spirit so well as the human touch. There are so many things that can only be assuaged by personal action. That is why the world is so full of a loud crying out for the satisfaction of wants which no bye-laws can touch.

There are, for instance, those over-worked mothers who want the aid to be homely as well as in their homes (but not of the creche).

There are the sick and the bed-ridden who want visitors; the blind who want to be read to.

(Continued on Page 4.)

COMMUNAL RIOTS IN INDIA

Bombay, Calcutta, Noakhali and now Bihar! Inter communal disturbances far from lessening seem to be increasing both in intensity and extensity. Things in Bihar must be very bad indeed when Pandit Jawarharlal had to announce that the Government would have no mercy on the rioters and that they would be fired on and bombed from the air, if necessary. Incidentally, how far has the Pandit travelled from the days when he indicted General Franco for using bombs against his opponents during the civil war in Spain? Mahatma Gandhi, too, is perturbed over events in Bihar, and he has announced that the low diet he has maintained in Calcutta for reasons of health will be continued as penance for the Bihar tragedy, and even as a fast unto death if things do not improve. Whether the Mahatma has a right to fast for other people's crimes, at the same time announcing that "it would be wholly wrong and irrelevant for other persons to copy me" is a different question. The point is that things

in Bihar are very bad indeed. There the Muslims form only 14% of the population. It is the Hindus evidently that are to blame. Muslims by nature and training do not believe in *ahimsa*, but that the mild Hindus with *Om, Shanti, Shanti, Shanti*," on their lips should be guilty of the same inhumanity as that attributed to Muslims point to the depth of the inter-communal disturbance in North India. Acharya Kripalani has soundly rated the Bihar Hindus for their outrages against Muslim women and children, and pointed out that it will have dangerous repercussions on Hindus in other Provinces. It is significant that Mr. Jinnah with a personal contribution of Rs. 5,000 has started a fund for the relief of Muslims who have suffered at the hands of their Hindu brethren. No wonder frantic calls are being made by the Hindu leaders to Mahatma Gandhi to visit Bihar, and put an end to the excesses of the Hindus and restore the prestige of the Congress.—*New Leader.*

NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of the Jaffna Diocesan Union will be held at the Catholic Club, Main Street, Jaffna, on Sunday the 15th of December, 1946, at 10 a.m.

M. JACOB,
Hon. Secy., J.D.U.

Church Calendar

NOVEMBER 1946

- FRI. ...22 S. Cecily.
- SAT. ...23 S. Clement.
- SUN. ...24 24 P.—S. John of Cr.
- MON. ...25 S. Catherine.
- TUES. ...26 S. Leonard.
- WED. ...27 Mirac. Medal.
- THURS. ...28 S. James.
- FRI. ...29 S. Saturninus.

The Catholic Guardian

NOVEMBER 22ND 1946

ANTI-WASTE

We heartily commended the action of the present Government when it inaugurated the Savings Movement. It was started during the war to enable the people to subscribe to the war loans. But the movement was recognised to be in itself valuable to promote the well-being of the people, particularly of the wage-earning class, and Government rightly decided to continue the movement even after the war. It has set up a special department to foster and spread the habit of saving. This habit needs persuasion and encouragement. The natural instinct of man is to spend. Control is needed to check this proneness to extravagance. Not only control but examples are necessary of habits of economy. Example is better than precept is a well known saying. Hence it is not enough for Government Officers of the Savings Department to go about preaching thrift and distribute tracts and leaflets on the subject but Government itself which started this excellent Movement must set an example of economic administration of its affairs. It has been passing through "roaring years" which have brought into its exchequer an unprecedented accumulation of money and one evil effect of the easily won wealth is to spend it away with an unsparing hand regardless of the future. Ours has got the reputation of being a spendthrift Government with all kinds of ill-conceived schemes. Instances may readily be cited. The one that stares one in the face is the revision of salaries of Government servants to which we had already referred. It has landed the Authorities in a morass and how they will be able to extricate themselves is a problem. No one, of course, grudges a fair salary to the members of the public service. No one grumbled against the war allowance. It was approved by the public and it could have been adjusted according to the cost of living. Not only the revision but the careless manner in which it was done has done harm to Government. The ordinary man whose income and expense have not much changed has indeed cause to complain. This action of Government has greatly increased his cost of living. The principle is cer-

tainly wrong that special measures should be taken to safeguard any single class of persons against the onerous economic conditions of these times which the others must simply resign themselves to endure. Can we wonder that the resentment caused by this discrimination should show itself in restlessness and strikes? There are many more cases where Government has shown its lavish hand. The Board of Ministers have readily yielded to the idiosyncrasies of Dr. Kannangara and voted large sums of money for schools where they were not wanted. Then, again officers of Government are being sent abroad for very short periods to pick up information relating to their jobs. But little learning besides involving expense is a dangerous thing. If a Conference is held anywhere in the world delegates from Ceylon must attend it. Recently Mr. Jayasuriya, Deputy Director of Education left to attend the Conference of U.N.E.S.C.O. in Paris. What contribution he is able to make for its success or what benefit this country will derive by his outing is not known. We might close this list which might be lengthened indefinitely with the report true or false that close upon a million rupees will be spent in connection with the inauguration of the New Constitution and the Ceylon Parliament. But if Government wants the people to save, it must first set the example.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Roads in Jaffna.—The *Hindu Organ* wrote last week:—

"The cross-roads and the lanes which are under the administration of the local Urban Council are in a most disgraceful state. They are an eye-sore to the visitor; a veritable trap-hole to the unwary pedestrians in the dark nights and a continuous chain of "dug-outs" to the motorist, the carter and the cyclist. Most of these roads and lanes have not been repaired for years. Our City Fathers and the Chairman, U.C. owe an explanation to the rate payers for this sorry state of affairs. This is an urgent matter; and we call upon the members and the Chairman to do the needful to maintain these roads and lanes in the manner in which they ought to be kept."

We thought that only the roads of Ward No. 2 were in bad condition, but the complaint with regard to roads in Urban area is general. What is the Inspector of Works doing? One would like to know the sum of money voted for the maintenance of roads and how the money is spent and who checks the expenditure on repairs? Maintenance of roads is one of the chief duties of the Urban Council. The others are conservancy and scavenging and in this triple job consists Local self-Government in Ceylon! The recruiting, controlling and fixing the salary of their staffs have all been taken out of the hands of the Urban Councils or rather these local bodies themselves have foolishly surrendered their authority in this matter as being unfit to exercise this responsibility. The Jaffna Urban Council requires a smart, efficient and honest Superintendent of Works to put things in order. But all that the Chairman

can now do is to write to the Local Government Service Commission and await their good pleasure as he is waiting for the Superintendent of the electricity branch for months.

Just a few roads in Ward No.2 have been repaired after years of waiting with the money given by the Central Government for the roads damaged by war-service vehicles. One portion of one of them was tared: others were covered over with sand. The sand has been washed away by the heavy rains with the result that besides the pedestrians finding it extremely painful to walk on bare broken stone the roads would need repairs in a few months. If they had been tared no repairs will be needed for the next eighteen months.

Why This Hurry?—

The Local Government Service Commission revised the salaries of Council officers and other employees. These were received as war allowance in addition to their salaries. The revision was temporary and the local bodies were not compelled to pay according to the revised scale. But if the Urban Councils wanted to pay their officers the enhanced pay, they must find the money said the L.S. Commission. The employees naturally clamoured for the enhanced pay and the local bodies had not the money to pay them. The Board of Ministers said that if the Councils agreed to hypothecate their rates and taxes they might be allowed to take an overdraft on the bank of Ceylon. The Urban Councils in the South refused to do so by hypothecating their rates and taxes and demanded from the Central Government a grant, as the Government had not settled the question of the financial relations between the Central Government and the Local Government bodies. If the grant was not forthcoming, let the Central Government take over the administration of the towns: they would all resign, they said. That was the challenge those Urban Councils offered to Government. The Jaffna Urban Council should have followed suit for a united fight. Instead, it hurriedly wired to the Commissioner of Local Government that it would have an overdraft for Rs. 75,000 by hypothecating its rates and taxes. What do the townfolk who pay these rates and taxes say to this?

St. Joseph's College Old Boys' Union Dinner

This annual dinner took place at the G.O.H. and Very Revd. Father Peter Pillai, O.M.I., Rector, presided. Covers were laid for over three hundred and His Grace Dr. T. B. Cooray, O.M.I., the Co-Adjutor Archbishop of Colombo, was present as Chief Guest. He was received, on arrival at the hotel, by Mr. Ben F. Seneviratna, the Chairman of the Dinner Committee, Mr. S.P. Ranasinghe, the Vice-President, and Messrs. Andrew J.M. de Silva and Commander Royce de Mel, the Secretaries.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF COLLEGE

After the loyal toasts were proposed by the Chairman, Mr. C. C. A. Britto Muttunayagam, in proposing the toast of the Chief Guest, referred to the efficient record and achievements of St. Joseph's College during the past fifty

years of its existence, which had enabled it to produce eminent men who could preside over the Archdiocese with such acceptance as Mgr. Cooray. They must determine for themselves exactly the part that Catholics had to play in the future of this country. In these matters His Grace could give them some direction.

SELFLESS SERVICE

His Grace Dr. Cooray in his reply stated how grateful he was to St. Joseph's and its many great teachers who had given him his training. He paid a special high tribute among others to the late Very Revd. Fr. LeGoc for his many years of selfless service at St. Joseph's and for education in general.

Continuing, he said that nothing however was alien at St. Joseph's. In addition to the training of the entire mind and body St. Joseph's had always given that very essential training in forming character.

St. Joseph's he said, would, in spite of obstacles, continue to obtain results wholesome and worthy of its Traditions in the future as it had done in the past.

In conclusion he wished prosperity to St. Joseph's College in the years to come.

CONTRIBUTION TO CULTURE

Mr. H. Sri Nissanka, K.C., proposing the toast of the College and O.B.U., referred to the great contribution St. Joseph's had made to the culture and spiritual achievements of Ceylon. What they had done in the past, he said, they would no doubt continue to do in the future and in that task they were assured of the assistance of those who did not belong to their faith.

Dr. W. Balendra, who replied, referred to the broader aspects of Catholicism and the culture they received at St. Joseph's.

Mr. Edmund J. Cooray, proposed the toast of the Sister Colleges and other guests to which Mr. T. B. Jayah, replying, touched upon the present educational policy and the future of the country.

The Very Revd. Fr. Peter Pillai said they were gathered round to do honour to their Archbishop who was an old boy of St. Joseph's and specially because he was their pastor. They were very fortunate that they had an Archbishop who had passed out from the portals of that College. He would be able to appreciate their difficulties much more than others had done.

Continuing, he said that some speakers sound a very optimistic note and Mr. Jayah tried to tell them that the future would be rosy. He must definitely sound a note of warning. In the Education Ordinance that would come up before the State Council there would be several objectionable features.

The most obnoxious clause they were told was removed but there were still other features which they would have to reject.

Sometimes people might be inclined to think that in democracy they must have maximum individual liberty. If democracy worked well they could have liberty. If it did not it would be objectionable tyranny and they might have to fight for their rights and not be lulled into a false security—he did not want to be false to his charge. He also reminded the Old Boys about the endowment fund which was still stagnating at two lakhs.

The dinner was brought to a close with the Blessing given by His Grace the Co-Adjutor Archbishop.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Confraternity of the Sacred Heart, S.P.C. Branch, Senior Division.

—The monthly meeting of the members was held on Sunday the 17th inst. at 5-30 p.m. in the College Hall. The Revd. Fr. J. Nicholas, O.M.I., presided in the inevitable absence of the President. There was a large gathering of the Senior and Junior members and several visitors.

The Revd. Fr. H. LeCoutour, O.M.I. gave a very vivid and detailed talk of his experiences in France during the World War No. II where he did active service on the front line. Chevalier S. Arulanandam proposed a vote of thanks which was seconded by Mr. L. R. Alagaratnam. The chairman also thanked the lecturer and added his own quota of praise to him.

Obituary.—The Very Revd. Fr. Vicar informs us of the death of Lay Brother Thoraval John, who died on 17th Nov. at Maggona.

Ramanathan Statue.—This statue will be unveiled on Tuesday the 26th inst. We understand that people from all parts of Jaffna are taking part in the function.

Agriculture in Ceylon.—The field organisation of the Department of Agriculture is being rearranged in conformity with the new policy of regional research.

The Island has been divided into eight divisions corresponding to the areas assigned to the regional research officers.

The new divisions and the headquarters of the agricultural officers of the respective divisions are as follows:—

Northern Division, Killinochchi; North-Central, Anuradhapura; North-Western, Wariyapola; Central, Padeniya; South-Central, Bandarawela; South-Eastern, Tangalle; South Western, Horana; Eastern, Batticaloa.

Jaffna U.C. to Hypothecate Rates and Taxes.—At its monthly meeting held on Thursday last, the Jaffna Urban Council authorised the Chairman to obtain an overdraft of Rs. 75,000 on the hypothecation of its rates and taxes.

The overdraft would go towards the payment of temporary increases to the monthly paid officers of the Council and the increased cost of paying wages to all its labourers.

Death of a Cardinal.—Cardinal Camillo Caecilia Dominioni died on last Friday night aged 69. He had been ill since Nov. 8.

The Cardinal, who was born in Milan, studied at a seminary there where he became a close friend of Monsignor Ratti afterwards Pope Pius XI.

He was ordained a priest in 1899.

No Non-Indians to Civil Posts.

—Replying to an interpellation in the Central Legislative Assembly, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, the Home Member said that the Interim Government had decided that appointments of non-Indians to civil posts should be made only in exceptional cases and that also on contract for the minimum period necessary.

New Ordinance to Restore Peace in Bihar.

—Wide powers to levy collective fines, requisition of properties; declare illegal any privately organised military or semi-military groups and to control newspapers have been assumed by the Bihar Government who have promulgated a new Ordinance to deal with the communal situation in the Province.

Bombay to Develop Fishing Industry.

—To conduct research work for improvement of the fishing industry the Government of Bombay have requested the Government of India for assistance in securing the services of an expert fisherman from Japan. An aquarium and a marine-biologist station are shortly to be opened by the Bombay Government.

Soviet Diplomatic Relations with India.

—That the Soviet Foreign Commissar M. Molotov, had expressed his willingness to exchange diplomatic representatives with India and that this question would be further examined in Moscow next month, was disclosed by Pandit Nehru in the Central Assembly, on Nov. 12.

Relaxation of Tariffs Barriers.

—Addressing a Press Conference at Washington, on Nov. 10, Mr. William Clayton, Under-Secretary of State, said that America was prepared to accept in the case of some countries such as India with 'infant' industries the maintenance of lower tariffs or other protective barriers for a specific period.

Fr. Hugh Pope.

—Very Revd. Fr. Hugh Pope, the noted authority on the English translations of the Bible and a former pupil of Cardinal Newman, has attained the golden jubilee of his priesthood. He is the son of the late Richard Vercoe Pope, one of the group from the Oxford Movement which came over to the Catholic Church with John Henry Newman.

Persecution of the Church.

—Catholic delegates to the International Conference of Christians and Jews submitted to the plenary body that the Roman Catholic Church is being persecuted or denied natural rights in five European countries to-day. The coun-

tries named were: Poland, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Rumania and Northern Ireland.

Atomic Energy.

—Under the direction of Dr. Kenneth King, the first scientist to work on Uranium 235, a laboratory costing \$1,000,000 will be opened near Schenectady, New York, to make researches regarding the generation of power from atomic energy. This will be the first big Government sponsored laboratory for atomic energy research. About 50 scientists and 1,600 technicians will be engaged by the laboratory.

Turkey.

—According to agreement signed between Britain and Turkey the former has agreed to buy from Turkey, for India's need, 15,000 tons of cereals including wheat, barley and other products. In exchange Britain is to supply Turkey with tractors, trucks, ploughing implements and other industrial equipment. The agreement, it is reported, involves nearly £6,000,000.

Russian Converts.

—After escaping from Russia, Bishop Paul Melitze, his sister, Abbess Seraphim, and his brother, the Rev. Stanislaus Rocheau, have announced their allegiance to the Catholic Church and are now studying at the Russian College in Rome. Bishop Melitze will receive episcopal rank and will be appointed to an Eastern Rite diocese; Abbess Seraphim will enter a convent. The Rev. Rocheau will remain a student at the Russian College. Bishop Melitze, it is reported, was in the Holy Father's entourage when His Holiness visited St. Peter's to pray before the statue of the newly beatified Mother Marie Therese Soubiran.

This will be the second conversion in modern times of a Russian Orthodox Bishop. In September last year Mgr. Nicholas Avtonomov, former Orthodox Metropolitan in the Ukraine, was received into the Church in Rome. Mgr. Avtonomov, like Bishop Melitze, had to flee from Russia.

Symbol of Spain's Spiritual Re-birth.

—General Franco visiting Sigüenza for the re-opening of its Cathedral, destroyed during the civil war, said, "The re-building of this Cathedral, a symbol of our Faith, is proof to the world of Spain's spiritual re-birth."

Parliament Party and Cabinet Government

BY R. C. PROCTOR

(Concluded from our issue of 8-11-46.)

It is the allurements of power such as exercised by the Prime Minister and Members of the inner Cabinet of Britain that motivated our local *Cabal* to stretch itself to obtain from Whitehall the installation of the British model here. There is ample evidence that the people of England are profoundly dissatisfied with the present conditions of parliamentary development. It seems to be borne on them that the blood baths in the two great wars resulted from mismanagement of State matters and self-seeking of groups with vested interests. The portents seem to indicate a quick overhaul of the British parliamentary system. This is the time Whitehall has imposed on us the freak development of British Cabinet rule.

The British dual-party system of government has stood as a bulwark against parliamentary encroachments on popular liberty. We, in Ceylon, have no historic background for party government on the British model. Soulbury Commissioners have found (vide para. 286 of their reports) to quote their words "it is abundantly clear to us that no alignments of the Communities on party lines has yet emerged to take the communal divisions." The British Cabinet solely rests on the two-party props, and only when it is so supported, can it function for the general good of the State. When parties break up into groups, power would inevitably go into the hands of the dictator. There were periods in British history when parties subdivided into organised groups, but that on warning of 'The wrath to come' by such master minds as Gladstone and Beaconsfield, groups adhered on the basis of "fundamental issues" and thus

was party system saved. In British politics party system came into being as an accident of accident and it is maintained by accidental circumstances.

In England the two parties point to two divisions of fundamental principles of social and economic life of the people and two intelligible programmes of work; while in Ceylon no division on the fundamental principles of social or economic life is discernible. In the broad outlines of life, all are agreed. To attempt to divide the people and drive them into two political camps for political ends should prove dangerous to society and disastrous to the public peace. We have little background for party system of government of the British form. For over two millenniums our indigenous governments were carried on on the system of group-persons and co-operative federalisms. People lived in congeniality groups linked by neighbourly associations. Economic life was made happy and efficient and democracy prospered. Before the great wars, for years past, French and German Jurists, Gierke, Jellinek, Duguit have been exploring the place of the group-persons in the modern State. We should seek to integrate in our political system to-be the group system of our former plan of progress.

There is no necessity for us to divide the people into two parties. Even if there be necessity to do so, we have no materials to maintain the division.

In the latter part of the 18th century and the early part of the 19th, Britain carried on government with several organised groups each calling itself a party. There were the Irish party, the Welsh party, the fourth party, the secular education party, the temperance party, the socialist party, the labour party etc. On fundamental issues, these groups adhered on the principle of allegiance, each to its own *credo*, and voted and the results were not different from those of a dual system of government.

What seems desirable and possible at the present state of our politics is that we should return to Parliament members who would bear in mind that the super-imposed politics is unsuitable for our growth, and that, like the Irish members of the old British Parliament, our members too should aim to work to have the Constitution changed, or seek severance.

Our members should, by force of high character, integrity, qualities of leadership and generosity of conduct and amiability, be able to attract to themselves members of other communities in parliament and form alliances for political action; at least they should be ready to associate themselves with members who think and feel alike for purposes of advancing the ideals of good government.

We should not elect to the House of Representatives men who had lost touch with the cultural heritage of the Tamil race.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following letter appeared in the 'Daily News':

The Catholic Church & Strikes

Sir,—A front page article appearing in the "Daily News" of November 11, 1946, seems to have been due to some misunderstanding and appears to have caused still greater misgivings in the public minds.

It has been reported that "with the concurrence of the 'Hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church, a new island-wide labour organisation.....is shortly to be formed."

The impression created is that the organisation is to ostracise from the Church Roman Catholics who take part in strikes, and as such the Church is against redressing the grievances of the workers.

No one is so keenly interested in the redress of the grievances of workers as the Catholic Church. The Papal Encyclicals "Rerum Novarum" and "Quadragesimo Anno" are sufficient proof of this, as is clear to any unprejudiced reader. In our own Island the "Social Justice" was started to safeguard the rights and interests of the workers.

It is true Catholics, as all other good citizens, deplore the evil aspects of strikes that disorganise the entire public

life of the country and tend to create class warfare rather than to better the conditions of the workers.

As for the formation of an Island-wide Catholic Labour Organisation, the Catholic Hierarchy is unaware of such a movement.—Yours etc.,

JOHN HERAT, O.M.I.,
Private Secretary to the Archbishop of Colombo.
Colombo, Nov. 14.

Do You Know Series V of CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

1. When is the feast of the Holy Name of Mary?
2. What is the special devotion during the month of December?
3. Why is the Cross held in the highest reverence by the Catholics?
4. Which Pope refused to grant Henry VIII a divorce from his legal wife?
5. When was the doctrine of the Pope's infallibility declared?
6. Who wrote "the devil goeth about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour"?
7. Who composed the Tantum Ergo?
8. What lessons do we learn from the parable given in Mathew XVIII vs. 23-35?
9. What is the vulgate?
10. What is a crosier?

(For Answers See Page 4)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Mr. V. Suppiah, J.P., Dr. V. Duraisamy, Messrs. V. Rajaratnam, V. Rajasegaram, Revd. Fr. V. R. Tarcisius and Mrs. V. Mylvaganam, wish to thank all relations and friends who sent messages of condolence and attended the funeral of their mother V. Valliammaipillai. Tondamannar, Valvettiturai.

St. Theresa Tea Rooms

No. 80, Main Street, Jaffna.

The above Tea Rooms to meet the longfelt wants of Respectful Residents to enjoy a good cup of tea or coffee in privacy in Sanitary Rooms has been met by the opening of the above Tea Rooms by the Proprietor who have studied the needs of Respectable Residents.

Wholesome cakes, sweets and foods are available at moderate rates. Patrons are requested to give a trial and form their own judgment. Any special requests will be attended to. Our Motto is good service to the Patrons first.

Suggestions for improvements gladly welcomed.

M. V. A. SEBASTIAN,
Proprietor.

NOTICE OF SALE

The undermentioned commodities will be sold in lots by Public Auction on Monday the 25th November, 1946 at 11 a.m. at the Subsidiary Food Store, Bankshall Street, Jaffna:

- Dried Chillies—about 250 cwt.
- Dried Ginger — " 3 "
- Garlic — " 23 "
- Areacanut —12 lbs.
- Oroid —4 lbs.
- Empty Crate —100.
- Green Gram —About 5 cwt.

At least 25% of the purchase value should be deposited on the spot by the highest bidder if his bid is accepted.

M. SRISKHANTA,
for G. A., N. P.
Jaffna, 14th November, 1946.

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders will be received by the undermentioned at the Jaffna Kachcheri till 12 noon on 4th December, 1946, for the exclusive right of selling tickets at Kayts, Nainativu and Delft or in the Launch for the Kayts to Delft Motor Launch service from 1st January 1947 to 31st December 1947—both days inclusive. Tender forms can be obtained on deposit of Rs. 250. For further particulars, apply to the undermentioned.

M. PONNAMBALAM,
for Chairman, D.R.C., Jaffna,
21-11-46.

We are Loosing the Warm Touch

(Continued from Page 1)

SECOND-HAND

There are the growing masses of old people who want help and companionship in their loneliness.

Life is full of such intensely personal needs, all of which would blench and shrivel into deeper tragedy under the slightest taint of officialdom.

There are again the under-staffed hospitals calling for aid to get through their dreadful overwork; medical missionaries hampered by the needs of one or two helpers; there are hostels and clubs calling for the inspiration of sympathy and enthusiasm.

The important soul-saving work of prison visitation, of probation officers is starved for lack of Catholic workers.

So one could go on naming scores, hundreds of needs, all making a particular demand on personal service. None of them is great in the eyes of men, none calls for exciting committee work or grandiose blue-printing.....

Small things all, but of such small charities and quiet acts added one to the other, was the Kingdom of God upon earth built up and extended in those days of our fathers, when men set the love that Christians bore one another as the highest standard of human life. If that high standard is to be restored we must go back. We must do with our hands and our hearts what we now only do second-hand through committees and public institutions. We must put humanity back into humanitarianism; and only by doing so will we, ourselves, become truly human once more.—*The Universe.*

The New Conservative Purpose

(Continued from Page 1)

before, and the more emphatically the more they have doubted their prospects of regaining office.

How far the Conservative Party has been in the past from upholding and defending the rights and freedom of small owners everyone is sufficiently aware who can remember how much alone, and how far from the Conservative Party of Edwardian and Georgian England, stood Chesterton and Mr. Belloc when they taught in the pages of the "New Witness" and "G.K.'s Weekly", in books and pamphlets and lectures and debates, and in the Distribu-

tist League, what is only now accepted by that Party: that the wide diffusion of ownership offers the only means of stemming the advance towards a servile State. At the Blackpool Conference much was made of what Mr. Churchill called 'the tyranny and victimization of the closed shop,' and the issue of the closed shop is one that was brought into the forefront of controversy a few weeks ago by the declaration in favour of that principle by the London Passenger Transport Board; but it was a Conservative Government that was in office twenty years ago, with Mr. Churchill at the Exchequer, when the first steps were taken towards this last enthrallment of the men who operate the London buses, when the Government empowered the London General Omnibus Company, in the name of monopoly, to drive off the streets of London the small men who owned and operated their own buses. All through the 1920s and 1930s the distributists found much to denounce and little to praise in what successive Governments did, and were none the less searching in their examination of the industrial scene because they were themselves inclined to look for the fulfilment of their principles too exclusively in agriculture.—*The Tablet.*

Do You Know Series V

1. September 12.
2. The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady.
3. Because it is the emblem of our salvation.
4. Pope Clement VII.
5. 1870.
6. St. Peter.
7. St. Thomas Aquinas.
8. We must forgive others if we wish for God's forgiveness.
9. The Official Bible of the Catholic Church; the official Latin text of the Bible.
10. The Staff carried by a Bishop symbolising office of pastor of the diocese.

SWELL YOUR FUNDS

At your FANCY BAZAARS, CHURCH STALLS and CARNIVALS sell our 1947 SACRED ART CALENDARS at Rs. 1-25 each and earn 35% discount.

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- SPORTS GOODS
- Etc., Etc., Etc.

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நானே குற்றவாளி (I am Guilty)

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(2) THE MANAGER, St. Joseph's Catholic Press, Jaffna.

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2. Even in prolonged rain, oozeiness is comparatively negligible, thus a roof of these tiles without ceiling is not at all worrisome.
3. The covering capacity is automatically increased as the brims of these tiles are reinforced and widened.

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