

# The Catholic Guardian

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## ALLIES SAY CONCORDATS ARE NOT VALID

The Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops of Germany are gravely concerned over an announcement by the Allied authorities that the Allies consider Concordats between the Holy See and Germany to be no longer valid, leaving the Church in Germany without any proper legal status.

All the Concordats are involved—those concluded with the Reich in 1933 and previously with a number of German States.

The Allied view is that with the defeat of Germany and the elimination of its Government, one of the partners to the Concordats had ceased to exist.

This was the outstanding problem facing the Hierarchy at their conference at Fulda, which ended on Thursday last week.

The Allied authorities, says Dr. Max Jordan, NCWC correspondent at Fulda, are understood to have given assurances that, in practice, they will continue to be guided by the provisions of the Concordats.

But the Bishops fear that the rights of the Church might suffer infringements at the hands of local German authorities, particularly in those States where Socialist parties have a majority and where, as a consequence, provisions may be included in the proposed new constitutions whereby parochial schools could no longer be maintained.

The problem was discussed at a special meeting between Capt. Dumont Kenny, religious affairs officer of the US Military Government of Greater Hesse, and the Bishops of that district, where the Socialists are now in power.

### COMPLICATION

It is a problem of first importance, since the whole issue of the re-education of the German people hinges on the reassertion of Christian principles in public education.

The Bishops concern for the future status of the Church in Germany arises at a time when the immediate problems of the day—reconstruction of Church life, spiritual and material care for hundreds of thousands expelled from the Eastern districts of the Reich and the Sudetenland, the fate of millions of Germans still detained as prisoners-of-

war—require tremendous efforts to cope at least with the most urgent needs.

It was the first time in the 79-year history of the Fulda meetings that an American Bishop—Bishop Muench of Fargo, recently appointed Apostolic Visitor to Germany—attended the sessions.

All the German dioceses—with one exception—were represented when Bishop Muench delivered the greetings of the Holy Father and the Church in the United States.

Mgr. Muench stated that he intends to visit all the German dioceses.

The only diocese not represented was Meissen in Saxony, whose Bishop, Mgr. Legge, is believed to have been unable to obtain the necessary travel permit from the Russian authorities.

### NO INTERFERENCE

Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, presided at the sessions. Cardinal von Faulhaber, Archbishop of Munich, and Cardinal von Preysing, Bishop of Berlin, were present.

The atmosphere at this year's meeting was decidedly less tense than last year, when the Bishops met only a few days after the collapse of Germany.

Contrary to last year, the American authorities did not assert the right to attend the executive sessions or to interfere in any other way with the deliberations of the Bishops.

Representing the US Military Government, Mr. Theobald J. Dengler, religious affairs officer with the US Element of the Allied Control Council, and Capt. Kenny went to Fulda to hold themselves at the disposal of the Hierarchy if they should need any particular information or bring any specific problem to the attention of the American authorities.

The French authorities sent six observers.

No representative of the British authorities was present.

The Bishops assembled for the first session immediately after the traditional Benediction and the singing of the *Veni Creator Spiritus* in the cathedral crypt at the altar where the remains of St. Boniface, Germany's English apostle, are enshrined.

## ORDEAL OF HUNGARY

We have received the following information about Hungary: The situation here becomes more tragic. The few weeks have been ones of calamity. The economic situation is deplorable, and belief in the outside world is dying. The nation is trying to make a last desperate stand for its independence. The leader is the elderly ascetic, Cardinal Primate Joseph Mindszenty. He is accepted as resistance leader by both Roman Catholics and Protestants. He lives on almost nothing, rises three times every night for prayer, works eighteen hours a day, has no oratorical gifts, but immense character. He fearlessly defies the powerful leaders of the tiny Communist minority, who wield power by Russian sanction and the support of a large Red Army. The clergy are circulating clandestine leaflets; the whole religious press has been suppressed. Several hundred priests and clergymen are in prison, several have

been executed, and more than twenty-five have recently died in the torture chamber of the political police. Denominational schools have been suppressed, and are likely to be abolished within a year. About four weeks ago the Cardinal preached a sermon inviting men only to Maria Remete to pray for the freedom of education. The political police did everything they could to stop the invitation from spreading. Maria Remete is two-and-a-half hours' walk from the centre of Budapest. There was no means of transport. When the Cardinal appeared on the appointed day he found about 240,000 men who had come on foot from Budapest. Amongst this vast crowd was almost the complete membership of several Protestant Churches headed by their clergymen. During his sermon on that occasion the Cardinal invited women to come for a service on the next Sunday at the Basilica, Budapest. About 400,000 turned

## PROTESTANT LEADER ON ISSUES WHERE CATHOLICS ARE MISREPRESENTED

Expressing concern at public clashes between prominent Catholics and non-Catholics, Dr. Everett Clinchy, Protestant president of the USA National Council of Christians and Jews, gave the truth about five major issues upon which Catholics are constantly misrepresented.

### "1. Catholics and Civil Liberties:

"Nothing more than the record of the Roman Catholics in the United States is needed to testify to the stand of American Catholics on civil liberties for Protestants, Jews and Catholics alike.

"Catholic support of the American Bill of Rights matches that of the Protestants from the time of Lord Baltimore.

### "2. Catholics and Patriotism:

"Catholicism is a Church. To the Church and to the Pope as its head, Catholics give spiritual loyalty; to the United States Government Catholics give complete national allegiance.

### "3. Catholics and Democracy:

"As demonstrated by Catholics in the United States Army, Navy and Marines who were 30 per cent. of our fighting forces, the acceptance of an authoritarian creed in the realm of faith and morals permits complete participation in political democracy.

### "4. Catholics and Political Influence:

"Every person who believes in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man takes his part in politics inasmuch as morality and conscience must have political expression.

"A Protestant official in Washington reckons that the Protestants and the Catholics lobby in about the same proportion as their population numbers.

"5. Mr. Myron Taylor at the Vatican:

"This need not alarm Protestants.

### NEWS CENTRE

"The Roman Catholic Church has historically developed official relations with State Governments. Through these sources and through the lay and clergy leaders in every land, the Vatican gathers valuable information which during the war Mr. Taylor has been able to relay to President Roosevelt and President Truman.

"On the other hand leaders in the Federal Council of Churches and other Protestant bodies have every right to take a perfectly dignified way to make known their conscientious convictions that our Government should not have a permanent official relationship with any church office. Their motives should not be questioned."

Commenting generally on relations between Catholics and non-Catholics, Dr. Clinchy said:

"These five misunderstandings illustrate why it is important that Protestants, Catholics and Jews confer on civic relations. Conference for them is as necessary as for nations to-day.

### KEEP MALICE OUT

"Freedom of speech must be preserved. Every group must learn to take friendly criticism but public attack is always and naturally resented. This provokes rejoinder, counter-accusations, and increases the fear between groups.

"It is my opinion that certainly the impugning of motives, name calling accusations based on a meagre foundation of fact, sarcasm and ridicule are always harmful."

## VATICAN RELIEF WORK

While during six years untold suffering was launched on the world by the warring nations, the Vatican was engaged unceasingly in the work of mercy that brought relief to thousands who, but for it, would have passed the years in an agony of suspense. The whole story of the Papal Relief work during the war is now revealed in "Charity Abounding," a little volume prepared under the direction of the Apostolic Delegation in Great Britain. An inconspicuous letter received from a Polish family in the autumn of 1939 begging the Holy Father to seek out news of a father lost in the whirlwind of the invasion was the start of the Vatican Information Service. It dealt with 1,840,350 incoming requests and

up. The Communists ordered the newspapers to suppress all news of these gatherings, but of course everybody has heard of them. The Communists now openly demand the arrest and execution of the Cardinal. Religious people have started greeting each other in the streets with "Long live the Cardinal." Communist meetings now wind up with "Death to the Cardinal." Mindszenty himself is convinced he will presently be arrested and killed, or secretly assassinated. He is just waiting. If he survives, and Hungary is liberated, he will be the uncontested master.—The Examiner.

sent out 5,630,214 messages, that is an average of over a million messages a year. Actually by the end of 1939, 439 messages were transmitted; in 1940, 58,000 were dealt with; by 1944, 10,000 requests were being brought in daily. The News Service was founded under the direction of Mgr. Alexander Evreinoff, Titular Bishop of Piona, to serve anyone in need with complete impartiality as to creed, race or condition. The number of languages in use multiplied with the spread of the war. Over 60 languages had to be dealt with, besides the European languages there were unfamiliar ones known only to missionaries.

The steady flow of information on the needs of soldiers, civilians and refugees was obtained through Nuncios and Delegates in all countries. At the Vatican a card-index system was established, and sometimes the search for persons went on for months before news could be found. It was always carried on until the facts of each case were established. "Defeat," says the report, "was inadmissible." The staff, largely unpaid, was increased to cope with the avalanche. By 1944, over 600 workers were employed. "Probably there are many families all over the globe who will never know that the message which eased their anxiety was due to the patient careful work of some Roman woman."

(Continued on Page 4.)



## MADHU

### OCTOBER FESTIVAL

Preparatory Novenas to the Feast of the Holy Rosary begin on the 29th of September. The Feast will take place on the 7th of October.

J. BROHAN, O.M.I.,  
Administrator, Madhu Church.

### VADDUKODDAI SEAT

I hereby announce my candidature for the above seat (Valikamam West Division) at the forthcoming Parliamentary Elections. I offer myself as an All-Ceylon Tamil Congress candidate subject to confirmation by the Congress.

K. Kanagaratnam.

Vaddukoddai,  
16-9-1946.

### Church Calendar

SEPTEMBER 1946

FRI. ...20 S. Eustachius.  
SAT. ...21 S. Matthew.  
SUN. ...22 15 P.—S. Thomas V.  
MON. ...23 S. Linus.  
TUES. ...24 O. L. Ransom.  
WED. ...25 S. Firmin.  
THURS. ...26 S. Justina.  
FRI. ...27 S. Damian.

## The Catholic Guardian

SEPTEMBER 20TH 1946

### A REPRESENTATIVE RATHER THAN PARTY CABINET

Those daily papers which denounce communalism with vehemence announced the award of the Delimitation Commission in communal terms. The Commissioners themselves in their report wrote that as a result of their decisions the Sinhalese would be able to return 68 members, the Ceylon Tamils 13, Indians 7, Muslims 4 and others 3. They also added that Colombo Central for which 3 seats have been allocated can return a Tamil and a Muslim. All these computations are based on the assumption that a Sinhalese is likely to vote only for a Sinhalese candidate, a Tamil, for a Tamil candidate, a Muslim, for a Muslim candidate and so on. Thus the election would take place on racial or communal lines. That means that the inhabitants of Ceylon do not yet constitute a united, organically integrated people to form a nation. This fact must not be ignored by those who want to impose upon this country British parliamentary methods in their up-to-date developments. In advertent to this we have especially in mind the party system. The people of Ceylon do not appear to be politically mature for it with voters more than half of whom are illiterate unable to judge things for themselves. "Plague on parties, peace to mutual strife, unity for the common cause," said the *Examiner* the other day and we say yes. Political parties create divisions and dissensions. The interests of the party go before the good of the country. Where parties had been scrambling for power they brought their countries to ruin by their rivalries. But what about England, we may be asked. Well, Englishmen are a peculiar people. They do not take politics seriously. To them it is like

one of their national games cricket or football which is played quite in earnest by the opposing sides but when the game is over the players become once more friends. But even there the party system more than once ran the country into danger for want of continuity of policy. It will be objected that the ruling party must have opposition to prevent it abusing its power. We quite agree, but there are other forms of opposition than party opposition. Just now in England the Labour Party is in power with a very large majority and is carrying out its socialist programme which the Conservative Party detests with all its heart but is powerless to prevent. The case was reversed when the Conservatives were in power. In every general election political parties each tries its best to make itself strong enough to break down opposition if it came to power. And an opposition party which cannot effectively oppose exists only in name. Further, the party discipline is so strict that members of a party vote regardless of the reasons however telling advanced by their opponents. Hence we are not convinced that party-opposition is so absolutely essential to parliamentary government since other means could be found to check its possible vagaries. But what is essential is the general contentment and the banishing of fears and suspicions and the feeling of frustration from the minorities by a representative Cabinet irrespective of party affiliations of good and able men with common sense to subordinate personal views so as to work unitedly for the common good of the country.

### EDITORIAL NOTE

#### The Fishery Department.

The criticism passed on the working of this department by members of the State Council when the vote for it in the Budget came to be considered is printed in another column. It will be seen that it bears out fully what we said last week about this department. It is clear it has not fulfilled the object for which it was established. It must therefore be reorganised or scrapped. Not knowing how to modernise the fishing methods and increase the catch and thereby benefit both the producers and consumers it has taken to trade in fish to the benefit of the fishermen, says the Minister Mr. Bandaranaike but speaking for the Jaffna fishermen we say to their detriment. But very wisely these have refused to have dealings with it. They far preferred to sell their catch to the ordinary traders than to the department which had the hardihood to ask them to part with their catch 40 per cent. less than the control price. If only a Committee of inquiry could go into the working of this department!! The Minister in his defence of its shortcomings gave as his considered view that catamarans cannot be improved upon and with regard to the large sums of money outstanding he said there had been no rampant dishonesty. Appar-

ently dishonesty does not seem to trouble the Minister provided it is not rampant!!!



### OBLATE NECROLOGY

Rev. Fr. Poulet Joseph Antony of the Province of Canada died at Cap de la Madeleine on the 6th of May 1946; Age 66; Profession 42.  
Rev. Fr. Cuvelliez Paul of the Belgian Province died at Barvaux-sur-Ourthe on the 12th of May 1946; Age 26; Profession 8.  
Scholastic Fr. Le Coz Peter of the 2nd Province of France died at La Brosse-Montceaux on the 16th of May 1946; Age 29; Profession 9.  
Rev. Fr. Jaffres John Louis of the 2nd Province of France died at La Brosse-Montceaux on the 24th of May 1946; Age 45; Profession 24.  
Rev. Fr. Thibaudan Joseph of the Province of Manitoba died at St. Boniface on the 30th of May 1946; Age 77; Profession 53.

### Minister of Agriculture Visits Mannar

The Public of Mannar availed themselves of the visit of Mr. D. S. Senanayake, the Leader of the House, to give him a rousing reception at St. Xavier's College Hall, Mannar on Saturday the 14th Sept. at 3 30 p.m.

The Minister was brought in procession along a decorated route from the Residency to the College Hall. On the platform was accommodated with the Minister, Mr. V. A. Alegacone, J.P., U.M., Mr. J. Tyagaraja, M.S.C., Mr. D. C. R. Goonewardena, C.C.S., Mr. N. Q. Dias, A.G.A., Mr. Athucorale, Sec. to Minister, Very Revd. Fr. A. Hustin O.M.I., Revd. Fr. A. J. B. Antoninus, O.M.I., Gate Mudr. S. Muttutambay, Mr. V. Ranganathan, O.A., Mudr. Abdul Casim Marikar and Mr. K.M. Kachu Mohamadu.

In welcoming the Minister, Mr. Alegacone appealed to him to win back the confidence of the Minority Communities by drafting some of their leaders into the new Cabinet.

Revd. Fr. Antoninus recounting the general needs of this District urged on the Government to sanction the Malvata Oya Scheme which with a tank of 60 ft. of water would irrigate 120,000 acres for three crops. He also pleaded for the encouragement of Co-operative Fish Canning Factory in Mannar as Mannar produced the largest supply of fish in the Island. Regarding the Co-operative movement, Fr. Antoninus remarked "personally I would like to see more of the Producers Co-operative Societies than Consumers Societies. It is the Producers Societies, Agricultural Producers Societies, Fish Producers Societies, Coconut Producers Societies and Co-operative Marketing that can save this District and even Ceylon."

Other speakers were Gate Mudr. S. Muttutambay who wanted an Officer of the Coconut Research Station be stationed here; Mr. Kachu Mohamadu who asked for Government help for traders; Mr. A. P. Tambiah wanted more water supply for the poor people; Mr. S. Barnabas complained about the neglect of the Fishermen by the Department and the absurd price given to them; Mr. Kabeebu of Erukalampiddy wanted a better marketing of fish; and Mr. Casim of Vidativu made a fervent appeal to the Minister to visit Vidativu and see for himself the hardships undergone by the people for want of drinking water.

Mr. J. Tyagaraja, M.S.C., also spoke setting forth the needs of the district.

The Minister in reply said that he was very happy to be among them and to know personally their needs. Regarding water supply he said that a Survey Scheme Committee was meeting shortly and after proper survey it is possible to construct a dam to hold about 60 ft. of water somewhere near Agathi-murippu. For this he said the shifting of two villages Kunchkulam and Peria-murippu to another would be necessary, so that the catchment area may be increased. In Ceylon he said we have not made provision for the dry season or the drought. He ex-

pressed the hope that Mr. Tyagaraja would be in the Parliament to see the Malvata Oya Scheme materialise.

About the traders he said that Ceylon needed traders but not traders who depended on Indian merchants who had advanced money to producers.

He was happy to hear about the progress of the Co-operative movement in Mannar and was always prepared to give full support to it. Two canning Plants had been ordered for. Possibly Mannar may have one.

The Minister then planted a Jak tree at St. Xavier's College. A Social given by the A.G.A. Mr. N. Q. Dias at the Residency ended with dance recitals.

### Criticism Passed on the Fishery Department in the State Council

Mr. H. de Z. Siriwardene (Negombo) said that the Director of Fisheries was not helping the fishermen but the traders. He was adopting a hostile attitude towards the fishermen's co-operative societies.

Mr. J. Tyagaraja (Mannar) said that severe strictures had been passed on this department by the Auditor-General. There were no accounts kept and the Auditor-General was not in a position to do any audit. It was a serious state of affairs.

Mr. Dahanayake said that the Department ought to be scrapped until the Minister and his Committee were liquidated.

Mr. Aluwihare said that he had often wondered whether it would not be possible for the Government to supply to the fishermen on a hire purchase plan some kind of power-driven vessels. That would bring new life and opportunity to the fishing industry.

Mr. Bandaranaike said that the Member for Bibile had talked of liquidating the Board of Ministers. He was, of course, an expert in that gentle art of liquidating as evident from what happened when he was in charge of the Municipality of Galle.

Continuing, Mr. Bandaranaike referred to Mr. Aluwihare's observations and said that the question of providing an improved type of fishing vessel had not escaped attention. They had been experimenting for a number of years on an improved boat for the ordinary fishermen's use. But he must say that for the particular type of fishing they had, it was extremely difficult to improve on the catamarans which they now used.

At a time when the Member for Bibile was moving votes of loyalty as the Mayor of Galle he (the Minister) had been waging a war against the capitalists and middlemen who were exploiting the fishermen.

Replying to Mr. Tyagaraja's comments, Mr. Bandaranaike said that the Fisheries Department in making advances to fishermen had perhaps erred on the side of leniency and generosity by not properly securing the advances. But there was very little loss incurred from failure to recover them. It did not mean that there had been rampant dishonesty.

### FISH MARKETING SCHEME

Mr. E. E. Spencer (Nominated) asked for information regarding the fish marketing scheme.

Mr. Bandaranaike said that the fish marketing scheme was one of the most valuable assistance they gave to fishermen because the Department was purchasing the fish from the fishermen off the shore at prices which they would never get if the fishermen were left to the mercies of the middlemen. The real point was not with regard to marketing but control of prices. His Executive Committee had come to the conclusion that the control of prices of fish should be removed and they had made that recommendation to the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. F. H. Griffith (Nominated) asked on what basis the Controller of Imports limited his issue of permits.

As regards control of imports, Mr. Corea said that there had been a great deal of relaxation recently and many articles could now be imported under open general licence. The import policy of this country had to be conditioned by the policy adopted in the United Kingdom. Their import policy



was connected with the exchange policy laid down by the Secretary of State and also governed by the dollar position. Imports were not permitted from countries where currency was difficult, and in those cases they had put forward the view that they should be permitted to import even from those countries and certain concessions had been made to relax the controls so that they could now import from dollar countries or hard currency countries provided similar articles were not available from the sterling countries, or that the imported article was essential to the life of the community. For considerations of shipping space they considered it not necessary to import articles that were available in this country. Import controls could not be stopped at once because of similar controls in exporting countries.

## Holy Father Leaves Rome : Canonisations Postponed

Vatican Radio announced that the Holy Father had left the Vatican for Castel Gandolfo and that the canonisation ceremony fixed for September 22 has been postponed until an unspecified date next year.

His Holiness drove from the Vatican in private, but a large crowd had assembled to greet him at Castel Gandolfo, where he was received by Cardinal Canali, President of the Pontifical Commission for the administration of Vatican City.

Soon after arriving, the Holy Father appeared on the balcony overlooking the public street.

The people were told that His Holiness wished his stay to be as private and simple as possible. He is to have as much rest as possible and will even cut down to a minimum contact with his attendants.

The Holy Father, now 70 years old, though much worn by his immense labours during and since the war, has impressed all his visitors with his physical as well as mental energy in spite of his rigorously austere mode of life.

Pope Pius XII's pontificate has been a period of unrelenting overwork even for one whose habit was to work and pray 16 hours every day.

Like Pope Pius XI, His Holiness is always conscious of "so much to do and so little time to do it."

Doctors who hoped to persuade him to rest have gradually resigned themselves to expect His Holiness to relax only when occasional attacks of influenza oblige him to keep to his private apartments.

His Holiness put an enormous strain on his health when, after the Allies had entered Rome, he held daily audiences for well over a million Servicemen.

In these and audiences for newly-married couples the Holy Father has been on his feet among the crowded halls as long as six hours at one time.

Private and special audiences have long been exceptionally numerous.

## LOCAL & GENERAL

**S.V.P., St. Joseph's Conference, Jaffna.**—The Members of St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Joseph's Conference, Jaffna, beg to invite their Benefactors and Friends to the Annual General Meeting which will be held in St. Charles' School Hall, on Sunday evening, the 22nd Sept. 1946 after the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

R. J. Paul Esq., B.A., B.L., Retired District Judge, Nagpur and President, Particular Council, will preside and Revd. Bro. N. Mariyadas, S.S.J., will deliver a lecture on "the Vincentian and Catholic Action."

**Confraternity of the Sacred Heart, S.P.C. Branch, Senior Division.**—The monthly meeting of the members was held on Sunday the 15th inst. at 5.15 p.m. at the College Hall. Revd. Fr. B. A. John, O.M.I., presided. There was a very large attendance of members and visitors. The Revd. Fr. Claude Lawrence, O.M.I., addressed the meeting on "The Social Reign of the Sacred Heart." Mr. C. W. D. Alwines proposed a hearty vote of thanks, Chev. S. Arulantham spoke in support. Fr. John highly commended the lecture.

Mr. P. Saverimuttu proposed a vote of thanks to their outgoing president.

**Senior Civil Servants to Retire**—Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, Government Agent, Northern Province, the most senior Civil Servant, has, it is learned, sent in his papers for retirement.

Mr. Coomaraswamy has been in the Civil Service for 36 years, having been appointed a Cadet in 1910.

He is 58 years old.

Another senior Civil Servant, who has sent in his papers, and is due to retire early next year is Mr. Edmund Rodrigo, Controller of Textiles.

Mr. Rodrigo, who is 57, counts 33 years' service.

**A Distinguished Scientist.**—Sir C. V. Raman, the well-known Indian scientist and Nobel Prize winner is in Colombo on the invitation of the Ceylon Association of Science and is giving addresses on scientific subjects at the Ceylon University.

**Ceylon Representative in the United Kingdom.**—Mr. G.C.S. Corea, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce will leave on Sept. 25 or 26 to take up his appointment as Ceylon Representative in the United Kingdom.

**Head of Jesuits.**—Revd. Father Giovanni Battista Janssen, a 57-year-old Belgian, was on Sunday elected the 27th Superior-General of the Jesuit Order—known throughout the world as the "Black Pope" because of the great authority attached to his position.

The voting by the 168 Jesuit Fathers was secret; a two-thirds majority was necessary and Fr. Janssen was elected in the first ballot, according to the Vatican Radio which later broadcast an account of the proceedings.

The result of the election was immediately reported to the Pope while the electors carried out an act of obedience to their new Superior-General.—Reuter.

**Constitution Maker.**—One of four priest brothers—two of them like himself, Jesuits—Fr. Jerome D'Souza, S.J., Principal of Loyola College, Madras, has been elected a member of the Constituent Assembly which will frame India's new Constitution.

Fr. D'Souza, who will represent the Madras Province in the Assembly is a brilliant scholar and speaker.

His Jesuit brothers are Fr. Boniface D'Souza, Rector of St. Joseph's College, Bangalore, and Fr. John D'Souza, professor at St. Joseph's Seminary, Mangalore. The third is Fr. Leo D'Souza, who works in the Mangalore diocese.

Their only sister is Rev. Mother Viola, superior of Ladyhill Convent and High School, Mangalore.

There is a precedent for Fr. D'Souza's role as statesman. His uncle, the late Dr. F. X. De Souza, was for many years the only representative of the Indian Christian community on the Indian Central Legislative Assembly.

**What is Beda.**—Many Anglican clergymen having decided that the True Church was the Catholic Church whose head was in Rome desired, on being received into the Church, to become priests. Being already of mature age they could not easily be trained in the ordinary seminaries, and Pope Leo XIII founded a special college dedicated to St. Bede, hence Beda. The college attracted others besides ex-parsons, after the last war some late vocations, and later newly-ordained priests who wished to pursue higher studies in Rome. During the war, in the absence of the staff and students, the college was looked after by one of the Vatican lawyers. To put the college to rights will cost about £1,500.

The Beda is to return to Rome in the autumn. During the war the Beda had been housed at Upholland, England. When the college reopens in Rome there will be between 40 and 50 students.

**Marists Superior General.**—Fr. Sylvester Juergens, the new Superior General of the Marists, is the fourth American priest in recent years to become the first citizen of his country to head a religious society with houses in many countries.

About a year ago, Fr. Valentine Schaaf was chosen Minister General of the Friars Minor. Later, Fr. Clementi Neubauer became Minister General of the Capuchins. The third Franciscan "family," the Conventuals, already had Fr. Bede Hess as their head. Fifty-two-year-old Fr. Juergens was

selected Superior General at the recent general chapter in Fribourg, Switzerland. Among the several books he has written is "Newman on the Psychology of Faith."

**A Huge Drug Factory for Kashmir.**—In partnership with Tatas the Kashmir Government propose to start a huge pharmaceutical and chemical drug industry in Jammu Province involving an initial expenditure of over rupees one crore. This project would be the biggest single unit of its kind in the British Empire.

## The Constitution—Its Nature and Quality

BY R. C. PROCTOR

The Constitution, known as the Salisbury Constitution is altogether an exotic Constitution. It is a replica of the British Constitution—and British Constitution has been known in all civilised countries to be one unique in structure and novel in form. World opinion has declared it to be racy of the British soil and reflective of the genius of the British people. The French and the Americans endeavoured to integrate some of its features into their own Constitution: in the one case, the attempt sank in blood, and in the other the effect deflected showing surprisingly untoward results (Col. Seeley). It is almost an inimitable Constitution. Marriott, no mean authority in political science has stated "political institutions do not as a rule bear transportation, save, of course, in the case of Colonies which carry into new homes the traditions of the older home."

The British Constitution is almost exclusively an *unwritten Constitution* and because it is so, it has been found possible to change, alter, amend or reform the Constitution as necessity appeared through the centuries without much ado and without major tragic upheavals. It is a flexible Constitution.

The British Constitution lies diffused in the British customs, traditions, conventions, common laws, statutes and legal precedents. It has been truly said by an eminent British statesman and lawyer that nothing in Britain could be unconstitutional without the same being unlawful at the same time.

If we should put up a show that we could work the replica of the British Constitution here it may be possible only at the sacrifice of honesty of conduct.

On the urge of "the Board of Ministers" of the time-expired State Council, whose members had no manner of right to claim to speak for the people, our Masters of the Downing Street declared that we should run our internal government on the plan of British Cabinet System.

The conditions essential for the working of the Parliamentary Cabinet System of government on the British model are the existence of (a) a nation or national consciousness (b) a two-party division of the nation on some principle of social or economic logic (c) an opposition in Parliament ready and willing to take over the government from the party in power when the latter has been found declining in popularity, and last but not the least, (d) an *enlightened public opinion*. Do these conditions exist in our distraught Island? (Continued on Page 4.)

## CORRESPONDENCE

### For Definition as a Dogma

Sir,—While glancing through the "Rays of Light" Vol. XVII. No. 9 of September, 1946, one is struck at the admirable zeal shown therein for the definition of the dogma of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady. Petitions for the definition of this dogma are being made everywhere and all the faithful are invited to sign these petitions addressed to His Holiness the Pope. A form has been given there to serve as a model viz:

"Most Holy Father, We, the undersigned, being members of the parish of.....in the diocese of.....do firmly believe that God, not allowing the most pure body of His Virgin Mother to see corruption, by a special privilege raised her up from the dead, so that now she reigns for ever in

heaven, glorious in body and soul. Humbly prostrate at the feet of Your Holiness, we earnestly pray that this doctrine of the bodily Assumption of Our Blessed Lady may, for the glory of God and the exaltation of His Holy Mother, be defined as a dogma of faith."

May I, through the courtesy of your columns, exhort all Catholics in this diocese of ours, to join in this worldwide move "for the glory of God and the exaltation of His Holy Mother."

Yours etc.,  
P. SAVERIMUTTU.

St. Patrick's College,  
Jaffna, 18.9.46.

## Proposed Cinema Theatre at Chundikuli

Sir,—A letter on the above topic appears in the "Hindu Organ" of 13th Sept. 1946. The amusing thing about the letter is that it is an Advertisement and hence one may not believe it wholesale as business advertisements often contain a certain degree of exaggeration in them. By the way, thanks to "Hindu Organ" for consenting to publish the letter only as an advertisement. That says a lot.

It is not my aim to contradict any part of it for the above reason but it must be pointed out that the writer seems to harping much on the "parochial cry." It is well worth remembering that the parish of St. Mary's Cathedral counts a congregation of about 8,000 Catholics. Further, a greater opposition has come from the C.M.S. authorities who live all around the proposed site and hence it is not the parish cry only that opposes the plan.

18.9.46.

ONLOOKER.

## Weavers Plight

Sir,—Please allow me the use of your paper to inform you, the general public and the authorities, of the hardships experienced by the weavers in the North for want of Yarn.

At present the yarn is distributed by the Director of Commerce and Industries to the registered loom owners, through the yarn depot of the Textile Union. At one issue each weaver is given 20 lbs. per loom if the count is 20s, and less if it is of higher counts. The period between one issue and the next is more than two to three months. The last issue was in the second half of April and it is four months have elapsed since the time of last issue and up till now there are no signs of the issue of yarn. On enquiry the Manager of the yarn depot says that he is not in a position to say when the next issue of yarn will take place.

What are the poor weavers to do with this quota of yarn given by the D. C. I.? Except through the D. C. I., there is no possibility of getting yarn from dealers. 90% of the weavers mainly depend on this handicraft to support themselves and their families. May I request you to be good enough to help the weavers by bringing pressure on the Authorities to issue yarn at frequent intervals or to give a larger ration if the intervals between issues remains the same.

Yours truly,

A WEAVER.

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## AUCTION SALE OF KHILLARI CATTLE

An auction sale will be held at Cattle Farm, Kilinochchi on Saturday the 12th of October 1946 when the following cattle will be sold:—

1. Ten Khillari bull calves.
2. Twelve aged Khillari cows.
3. One Scind Stud bull.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Manager, Cattle Farm, Kilinochchi.



## Vatican Relief Work

Into concentration camps in Germany bread and wine for their Masses was smuggled to priest slaves. Into prisoner-of-war camps in England and America, Japan, Switzerland, Italy and Germany tons of materials for the relief of imprisoned soldiers were poured. The Vatican packing stations were like a "colossal shop" with bales and packing cases filled with razor blades, soap, food, foot-balls, clothes, paper, pencils, rosaries and missals for despatch to the men.

The Vatican Radio was a boon to the News Service. A time table and wavelengths were sent to Papal Delegates and lists of names and addresses began to pour in. "It was exhausting work for both the announcer and receiver," says the book, "needing extreme attention and accuracy....." Culture, art, religious instruction, were all set aside and three quarters of the Vatican broadcasting was devoted exclusively to messages, which by 1944 had increased to 27,000 every month. Says Archbishop Godfrey in a foreword\* to this excellent little book: "Such a work of charity will ever shine like a precious stone in the crown of the pontificate of Pius XII."—*The Examiner*.

## The Constitution—Its Nature and Quality

(Continued from Page 3)

Mr. Senanayake says 'the nation is in the making' and points to the composite crew—his colleagues of the State Council, whom he has labelled for his parliamentary purpose as the "United National Party." The body is to denote both the "nation" and "party." It is commonplace occurrence for men exercising autocratic powers, like the kings of old time, to be surrounded by flatterers, sycophants and toadies and Mr. Senanayake appears to have a number of these people around him. These claim to carry the message of "the Leader" to the countryside. The two Indian members who declined to vote for the Soulbury Constitution shall be pushed to perdition. The All-Ceylon National Congress shall remain outside the pale of the blessed ones who shall come to wield the powers of Cabinet Ministers their "tails" and other ministerial officers under Senanayake, the Prime Minister, till its final doom.

We may take it that at present, there is little national consciousness and no "party" alignments. These could never be imposed from above.

However, we have to work the parliamentary cabinet form of government, since we have agreed to do so. The nation as John Bright once said live in the cottages.

The masses in Ceylon have the priceless gift of franchise. They are not learned in the intricacies of cabinet government. Most of them are illiterate and ignorant. But in all countries, it is a few that inspire the many. It is the duty of the educated to teach the people how they should use their votes and as to what dangers should follow if the voters should succumb to corrupt persuasions.

The voters should be tutored to judge for themselves and give their answers to formulated questions. At the elections of Great Britain in 1900, the voters were asked to answer the questions "Do you, or do you not, approve of the Ministerial policy towards the Dutch Republic, and of their conduct of the War?" There was no other issue. Nine voters out of ten answered the questions to their own satisfaction.

It is necessary that we should organise missionary work among our less educated and ignorant brothers and sisters to enlighten the latter on their responsibilities the suffrage has cast on them. The work should be taken up by our educated young people as a labour of love in patriotic zeal. The voters should weigh the pros and cons and answer the question: "Do you approve the administrative measures of the homogeneous ministry which carried on the government of the Island the last 11 years or do you not?" Were not the policies of the government responsible for the extortionate taxation we are under, defiant attitude of the people towards law and order, increase of crime, bribery and corruption in

public offices, misappropriation of public funds, embezzlements, thefts, nepotism, patronage of hooligans, poverty among farmers who were mulcted of the fruits of their labour through internal purchase scheme, mishandling trade processes and causing artificial scarcity of consumers goods, unsympathetic conduct of public officers? It would be enough if the voters could answer the questions according to the light of their own consciences and in their honest convictions.

Churchill who did so much for the saving of civilisation was refused by the voters a lease of a new term of office because of his dictatorial attitude. "Britons can never be slaves."

Let our voters be taught to follow the British example.

Jaffna, 16-9-46.

## The Case of Greiser

Some weeks ago it was reported that the Pope had intervened on behalf of Arthur Greiser, ex-Gauleiter of Poznan, who had been condemned to death. Moscow Radio declared that there was surprise in Warsaw at the Vatican intervention "in favour of a Hitlerian hangman who sent hundreds of thousands to their death." It stated that the Polish Press remarked that the Vatican never once rose in defence of the many thousands of Polish Catholics condemned to death by the Hitlerites. The "Osservatore Romano" states the following facts: The Polish Ambassador of the Warsaw Government to the Quirinal in Rome transmitted to the Holy See through the Nuncio in Rome the plea of Greiser who begged intervention for his pardon. The same Nuncio was immediately charged to communicate to the above-mentioned Ambassador the following reply: "Greiser condemned to death, has implored by telegram the august intervention of His Holiness. The said gentlemen, as is known, was a most bitter enemy of the Church, and he persecuted her severely. However, His Holiness, following the example of the Divine Master, Who on the Cross prayed for His executioners, has received the request of the condemned man, and so he addresses to the competent authorities his paternal prayer that the condemned man be saved....." Two points should be noted in this affair: (1) the Nuncio to the Italian Government acted as an intermediary between the Warsaw Ambassador accredited to the Italian Government and the Holy See, because there are no direct relations between the Warsaw Government and the Holy See; (2) The Holy Father's plea was made at the instance of the Polish Ambassador. Yet, no sooner was it made that all the organs of press and wireless propaganda controlled by the Polish Government began to attack in unmeasured terms the Holy Father for his solicitude.

The Vatican wireless station broadcast: "The intervention of the Holy Father, as is known, had its origin in the steps taken by the Warsaw Government and its Ambassador in Rome. Although Greiser had been a persecutor of the Church, the Pope, following the example of the Divine Master, interceded for his life. We are certain that the Moscow Radio and the Warsaw Communist Press would equally have attacked the Pope if he had not accepted the condemned man's petition. Their ignoble comments on the Pope's gesture are absurd and tendentious. They only seek to divert public opinion and especially that of the Polish people. They lie, for it is universally known how the Church worked to avoid the horrors, and the consequences of the war."—*Exam.*

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