

The Catholic Guardian

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

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RIGHTS OF MINORITIES NOT A CONCESSION BUT A MATTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Addressing a very large gathering of Catholics assembled in the compound of Holy Redeemers', Palakurai, on January 14, Mr. S. J. Ratanasami, President of the Trichy Branch of the Catholic Indian Association of the Madras Province stressed the need for safeguarding the religious, political and cultural rights of the faithful. He observed:

There was no justification for the noninclusion of any Catholic representative in the Sapru Conciliation Committee when even at the Round Table Conference in London Indian Catholics were represented by the late Sir A. T. Pannirselvam and Protestants by the late Mr. K. T. Paul. At long last the omission had been made good by the nomination of Mr. M. Ruthwasami, Vice-Chancellor of Annamalai University and President of All-India Catholic Union and the Catholic Indian Association of Madras Province. One of the greatest students of constitutional law and politics with varied administrative and legislative experience he will be a very real asset to the Committee.

The Indian problem has really come to be the communal problem. We have had in the past All-Parties' Conferences and others to debate the framing of a Swaraj constitution for India. The question is how to harmonize the clashing communalist interests in the country, primarily how to meet Muslim communalism.

THE CRUX OF THE PROBLEM

The real problem is whether minorities just because and merely because they are minorities should suffer; whether the implied injustice is of the essence of democracy and whether therefore, democracy itself is not wrong? Most of us feel that democracy is right; but we also feel that there is something wrong if minorities *ipso facto*

must suffer. But rational analysis will supply a solution of the apparent dilemma—merely injustice to minorities or impossibility of democratic rule. Catholics have been always opposed to State absolutism, of an Omnipotent State further armed with all the weapons of Omnipotence, taken out of the arsenal of the Socialists and the Communists. Religion being the deepest and most important of man's interests, religion of course was made the main battle-ground, on which this question of State's apotheosis was fought out during the period of the Reformation and thereafter.

But in modern times religion is universally admitted to be a man's private affair and India, certainly is the last country, where the State's interference in the individual religion would, at least consciously, be tolerated. Since India is pledged to State's non-interference in religion, since human interests such as religion lie on a different plane altogether than the State's, a double allegiance to Church and State should be accepted as legitimate. If the two planes intersect at times then clear definition and regulation of the points of contact of the relative functions of the two entities will become necessary. Not only our rights, liberties and interests connected with the exercise of our religion should be safeguarded but full freedom should be accorded for the development and spread of Catholic Culture. Mr. M. Ruthwasami has in his masterly presidential address at Tanjore, placed before us the problems that lie ahead of us. It ought to form the social and political catechism of every member of the association and every educated Catholic in India.

He has made it plain that "rights of minorities are not a concession but a matter of fundamental rights."—*The New Leader*.

THE NAZI ANSWER TO 'UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER'?

What is Hitler going to do? It is a puzzling and very important question. It is said by German prisoners that Hitler remains a true patriot, a father of his people, and that he himself would not add to the ruin of Germany by prolonging a useless resistance in the hopes of somehow saving his own reputation or his own skin. We think this is possibly true. Hitler, like most agents of an attempted national renovation, is probably a much better person than the majority of his immediate followers. Three points, however, suggest themselves. First, is Hitler convinced that the war is irretrievably lost; second, does Hitler believe that it is possible to keep the Nazi movement in being, and, if so, what are the best means of promoting its future; and, three, is Hitler still able to direct the political fortunes of his country?

Many times during the war Hitler has made grave military mistakes apparently in the belief that Providence was on his side and therefore that a great risk could be taken. That is the

sort of conviction which is not lessened by a series of undeceptions. Most of all would he cling to it in the supreme hour of his country's destiny. And if he looks at the Allied political relations he cannot be wholly without tangible hopes. Obviously he would see his chance in the rising differences between Russia and the Western Allies. Disregarding the various rumours of German peace feelers to Russia through Japan and to the Allies against Russia, an observer could be forgiven for nothing that the Russian plan of campaign seems to be conditioned by political considerations Russia such an observer would point out, stands at the frontiers of Germany, hesitates at the heart of Poland and sweeps through the Balkans by a combination of military and political pressure. While the correct interpretation of these phenomena is doubtless the quality of German resistance, Hitler may hope that it is symbolic of Stalin's consistently held view that Russia fights primarily for the ejection of

(Continued on Page 4.)

PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION BEFORE REFORMS COMMISSION

BALANCED REPRESENTATION AND 2ND CHAMBER

A Joint deputation from the Planters' Association of Ceylon and the Ceylon Estate Proprietary Association, led by Mr. Gordon K. Newton, Chairman of the P.A., came before the Soulbury Commission this morning. The other members of the deputation were: Mr. R. C. Scott and Mr. H. J. Temple (representing the P.A.), and Mr. D. F. Ewen, Mr. R. Mann and Squadron Leader R. P. Gaddum (representing the C.E.P.A.).

The P.A. and its sister association, the C.E.P.A., represent proprietary interests which are predominantly British, totalling 421,018 acres of tea, 280,025 acres of rubber, 17,737 acres of coconut and 15,671 acres of miscellaneous products, making an aggregate of 734,451 acres. The Associations are representative of some 86 per cent. of the tea estate areas and nearly 60 per cent. of the rubber estate areas.

Lord Soulbury: The percentages you have given, do they represent European owned estates?

Mr. Gaddum: Quite a fair percentage of Ceylonese are also members of the P.A. A large percentage of the estates are European owned.

Lord Soulbury: Is there a decrease in the number of European owned estates?

Mr. Gaddum: I think there has been an appreciable decrease during the last two years.

Mr. Gaddum said that he would provide the Commission with statistics in due course.

The deputation submitted that the tea and rubber industries had provided the Island with approximately 80 per cent. of the value of its total exports over a long period, and their importance from the point of view of revenue derived from taxation, could not be over-emphasised.

Lord Soulbury inquired whether they had figures of Tamil and Sinhalese labourers on the estates.

Mr. Temple replied that the very latest figures were not yet available. In 1943 there were 379,000 Tamils and 67,000 non-Indians on tea estates, 61,000 Tamils and 53,000 non-Indians on rubber estates. A large percentage of the non-Indians were Sinhalese.

Lord Soulbury: So on the rubber estates it is nearly 50-50.

Mr. Temple: Yes, sir. Asked why there was a preponderance of Tamils on tea estates, Mr. R.C. Scott said that the Sinhalese did not appreciate working under such conditions. They had in the past tried to get Sinhalese to work on Up-country estates but they always left after some time.

The deputation submitted that they were of opinion that experience had proved that the grant of universal adult franchise was a fundamental error, as it had tended to exacerbate communal feeling rather than achieve the hopes of the commissioners that only by the abolition of communal representation would the various and diverse communities develop together a true national unity.

Mr. Scott said that the Donoughmore Constitution was experimental and would have been reasonably successful had this fact been realised more generally.

The Sinhalese, according to the deputation, had secured a dominating number of seats in Council and by "packing" the second Board of Ministers, placed the minorities in political subjugation and facilitated the passing of bills which were discriminatory and led to administrative actions which had been prejudicial to their industries.

The deputation advocated balanced representation, and with that object suggested an initial delimitation of electoral constituencies on a territorial basis which should each contain an overwhelming majority of either Sinhalese or Tamils. In addition to the territorial constituencies they were of opinion that communal electorates should be provided for those who constituted minorities in such areas and that their weightage should be adjusted so as to secure the requisite balance.

If the Sinhalese were sincere in their claims, the deputation continued, and they had no intention of abusing their power, they would be forfeiting nothing by accepting the principle enunciated by the Duke of Devonshire that in the legislature "no single community should be able to impose its will on other communities".

The deputation was in favour of a second chamber. They felt that the critical and possibly restraining influence of a second chamber, mainly elected by voters possessing a relatively high franchise qualification, would be particularly beneficial in Ceylon as it would act as a filter in respect of proposals made by the Council of State.

Lord Soulbury: What kind of election would you have? By province representative institutions...?

Mr. Temple: Going on the assumption that the first chamber should consist of 60 members we suggest that the second should consist of 30. Twenty members should be elected territorially and the other 10 on vocational or occupational basis.

They supported the recommendations contained in sessional paper XXVIII of 1938, wherein the Governor had advocated the appointment of a Principal Secretary, a Financial Secretary and Adviser and a Legal Secretary who would be advisers both to the Cabinet and himself. Such officers should have access to all state documents and to members of the Public Services.

Defence should be entirely in the hands of the Governor.

The deputation submitted that if it was feasible, the franchise might be restricted to those possessing literacy or property qualifications sufficient to ensure a greater measure of responsibility.

In order to remove abuses of the existing electoral law and procedure they suggested inter alia that the present system of registration should be amended so as to compel a voter to make personal application for registration on a prescribed affidavit to which was attached a photograph of the applicant.

They also suggested that heavier penalties should be prescribed for impersonation, sale of ballot papers, bribery and intimidation or violence.

(Continued on Page 4)

THANKSGIVING

My grateful thanks for the Sacred Heart of Jesus Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joseph, St. Philomena and St. Bernadette for many favours received.

M. R.

"Aria Lodge"
Jaffna, 3-2-45.

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The Catholic Guardian

FEBRUARY 9TH 1945

NOTICE CONCERNING LENTEN REGULATIONS

We notify the faithful of the Jaffna Diocese that owing to the present economic conditions, food rationing, enhanced prices of foodstuffs and other hardships affecting their daily lives, dispensation from Fast and Abstinence for the whole time of Lent with the exception of Good Friday, and for the rest of the year is hereby granted to all. It is to be observed however, that the spirit of penance which is the characteristic of this holy season ought not to suffer from this general relaxation. The faithful will make up for it by accepting cheerfully the privations imposed on them by present circumstances, by reciting the Rosary more frequently, by performing the devout exercise of the Stations of the Cross, by attending with greater fervour and regularity the spiritual exercises of the Annual Retreat in their parish, by almsgiving according to their means etc., so that they may derive from Heaven all the graces they need for a more perfect accomplishment of their duties as Christians.

✠ J. A. Guyomar, O.M.I.,
Bishop of Jaffna.

UNANIMITY IN VITAL POINTS.

Deputations have one after another gone before the Reforms Commission and placed their views which were listened to with immense patience. These views were many and diverse and in some cases conflicting. The Commission has the task of separating the substance from the chaff and recommending a Constitution that will bring contentment and prosperity to the people of this country through good government. The Commission's task has been lightened by the remarkable unanimity on vital points in the evidence submitted. It is in these that the Donoughmore Commission went astray and became the object of reproach. By vital points we mean first,

Balanced Representation and secondly, the Second Chamber, both of which this paper has all along advocated. Balanced Representation makes sure that no single community will be in a position to dominate all the other communities combined. In other words, the combined votes of the minorities in both the legislative and executive should not be swamped and made void by the votes of a single community. This is what is meant by Balanced Representation symbolised by the formula 50-50. It was remarkable that all the official deputations, so to say, from the minority communities were unanimous in this. And the reason is the conviction that without this provision, internal self-government for Ceylon, inhabited as it is by five distinct communities, will be a mockery. It may be well to add that the formula 50-50 is employed to denote the ratio that should exist between the number of representatives of the major and minor communities. It does not mean that the number of representatives should be increased to 100. We had already stated that with adult franchise and the present mode of elections, the quality of the elected members would be such as to make the meetings of the legislature a pandemonium. But against the mass of illiterate voters we have said nothing. They are ignorant and helpless and in their helplessness they become an easy prey to unscrupulous election agents of all sorts whom a General Election lets loose in the country. With a hundred members, the number of these agents would be multiplied tenfold and the new legislature, that is to be would be worse than the present. Quality rather than quantity should be the aim. The deputation from the Planters' Association suggested 60 which, if necessary, may be increased to 65 or 70. This ought to be sufficient to make the maximum number. Ceylon is a small country and its governing machinery must not be made unwieldy or lumbering. With so many members, prompt settlement of business must become difficult. Further, facilities of communication now provided remove the necessity of reducing the size of many of the electorates.

Against balanced representation Lord Soulbury raised this objection: "I am only thinking", he said, "of the practical difficulties of any government when parties are so equally balanced and I am still unable to see your proposal would obviate the difficulty of domination by one party" if this party, in return for substantial positions, gets to its side a very small minority. But this difficulty is more speculative than practical. The major community will not oppose balanced representation as it does now if it believes it can nullify its effect in every case by the means suggested. Besides, it is very seldom, as Mr. Mann put it, that the House would be so divided as to have the Sinhalese against the rest. But the minorities are fighting for a principle that if the Constitution grants self-government to the people of this

country in internal affairs, the minorities must have an effective share in that government so that no legislation could be enacted which meets with their combined opposition.

PRESS SUNDAY

Press Sunday this year falls on the eighteenth of the present month. I would request the Rev. Fathers on that Sunday to draw the attention of their faithful to the benefits of good reading and to their duty to support the Catholic Press. Many read secular papers but are unacquainted with Catholic manner of life and with Catholic news here and abroad, because they neglect to read Catholic books and subscribe to a Catholic newspaper. And yet, Catholics, by the very fact that they are Catholics have wider interests than other who merely look at human affairs from the stand point of economics or politics. The story of the Church in our times, her progressive march through the world, the torch she bears aloft to light the path of her faithful and that of countless others, are considerations which cannot leave Catholics unmoved. It is, the story of the mystic body unfolding itself and growing in extension under our eyes. Such a story ought to affect us vitally.

Our Catholic Guardian (English and Tamil) deserves more sympathy and support than it has received in the past. It is a great pity that its circulation among our Catholic population is so limited. I hope that in their efforts to propagate good literature, magazines, books and pamphlets, our missionaries will remember the claim of our Catholic Press and especially the prior claim of our diocesan newspaper.

✠ J. A. Guyomar, O.M.I.
Bishop of Jaffna

Bishop House,
Jaffna 9th Feb. 1945.

LOCAL & GENERAL

First mass in Jaffna of Fr. Anton Rajakarier.—Rev. Father Anton Rajakarier of the Arch-Diocese of Pondicherry, son of Mr. & Mrs. Regis Rajakarier of our Town is on a visit to his parents for the 1st time after his Ordination to the Priesthood. He will celebrate Mass on Sunday the 10th inst. in his Parish Church of Our Lady of Refuge at 7-30 a.m.

Friends and Relations are Cordially invited to be present at the mass.

Jaffna Diocesan Union.—At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Jaffna Diocesan Union held on Sunday 4th inst at 6-30 p. m. at the Catholic Club, presided over by Chev. S. Arulananthan, a Vice-President, the following were elected office bearers for the current year.

Jaffna Diocesan Provident Society Ltd. President: Mr. S. James, (re-elected) Secretary: Mr. A. J. Selvadurai, Treasurer: Mr. V. E. Cherubim.

Committee: Messrs. Regis Rajakarier, A. Vital Moses, S. A. Alagaratnam, J. Patrick, W. B. Canagaratne.

Internal Auditor: Mr. J. G. Aloysius
Assessors: Messrs. N. Cherubim, Em. Tiruchelvam, S. F. X. Annasampillai.

Literature Committee Secretary: Mr. P. Saverimuttu.

B. A. London Pass.—In the list of London B. A. Passes we have pleasure to note the names of Messrs P. Saverimuttu and M. Pavilupillai. Mr. P. Saverimuttu is a Trained Teacher

at St. Patrick's and Mr. Pavilupillai a student in the same College and a Seminarist of St. Martin's. We have pleasure in congratulating them on their success.

Relations Between Vatican & France.—The Pope has appointed Mgr. Angelo Guiseppe Roncalli, Titular Archbishop of Mesenbria as Papal Nuncio in Paris. This appointment restores full normal relation between the Vatican and France. The new Papal Nuncio has held the posts of Apostolic Delegate to Bulgaria, to Turkey and Greece and Administrator of the Apostolic Vicariate in Constantinople. During the present war, he presided over the distribution in Greece of food sent by the Pope.

St. Vincent de Paul Society, Jaffna

Annual Report for 1944

The Particular Council of the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul Society, Jaffna has pleasure in submitting its Fourth Annual Report.

The year just gone whose activities are briefly given below has been one of many difficulties, particularly due to the economic conditions of the times. It may be mentioned that finding the funds to furnish the poor with food and clothing has been extremely difficult.

The Council begs to thank all the benefactors of the various Conferences for their kind contributions and generous donations totalling about Rs. 4,325, without which the temporal distress of the poor could not have been alleviated. May they continue to be more and more generous to the poor!

The Members and the Spiritual Directors have to be specially thanked for their zealous sacrifices to brighten the lives of the poor as is shown by the numerous visits either in their Homes or in the Hospital.

The good God had been generous to us in a marvellous degree during these four years of our existence and we look forward to the future with that confidence and hope which have never failed us in the past.

Number of Conferences	4
Active Members	54
Honorary Members	68
Benefactors monthly	143
Meetings held	168
Average attendance	36
Families assisted	102
Persons in Families assisted	358
Visits to Homes of Families	6,808
Visits to Hospitals	3,361

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

CONTRIBUTIONS	
	Rs. cts.
Honorary Members	170 76
Active Members	96 63
Benefactors	1,016 15
Donations	3,312 08
Particular Council	65 00
	4,660 62

EXPENSES	
Cash to the Poor	2,678 92
Clothes	581 26
Burials Helped	50 50
Repairs to the Houses of the Poor	75 50
Grant to start a Trade	38 05
Other Expenses	574 49
Balance	361 90
	4,660 62

For and on behalf of the Particular Council,

P. SAVERIMUTTU,
Hony. Secy. Particular Council.

On the eve of the conference between Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt, Cardinal Villeneuve, Archbishop of Quebec, issued a statement deploring the atrocities to which the people of Poland have been subjected. Almost simultaneously it was announced in Ottawa that a similar statement protesting against the systematic extermination of the civilian population of Warsaw had been signed by the Cardinal, the Primate of the Church of England in Canada, the Moderator of the Free Churches, the Chief Rabbi and leading lay Canadians.

The signatories said that German authorities must be warned that they will be held to strict account for the

lives of the innocent people who have been treated in an "utterly inhuman" fashion in the "infamous concentration camp" at Pruszkow.

The Cardinal's statement reads: "Following the Sovereign Pontiff and in union with the various Bishops of the Catholic nations, the Cardinal Archbishop of Quebec, in the name of the Archbishops and Bishops of Canada and of all the clergy and the Canadian faithful, raises his voice to protest strongly against the unprecedented atrocities and against the spoliation of her most natural rights of which the Polish nation has been made victim.

"Not only in the beginning of the war in the invasion of her territory, but also since then and now, the people of Poland have been persecuted in body and soul; and it will be to the glory of the victorious Allies to give her life, liberty and national integrity which she has, more than all others, merited by her heroism and the blood which she has shed in all theatres of war in Europe."

OBITUARY

The late Mr. Philippillai Swampillai

There passed away to his eternal reward, on the 23rd of January, Mr. P. Swampillai, widely known and respected among the Catholics of the Jaffna Town. With exemplary Christian resignation, he bore all his sufferings consequent on old age and illness, and died at the ripe old age of 81, fortified by the last Sacraments. The spiritual help, lovingly rendered him, during his last illness, by his nephew Rev. Fr. J. F. Xavier, O.M.I., parish priest, Lady of Refuge, consoled him greatly. After Mr. Swampillai had been the Catechist of St. James for very many years, he entered the field of business, from which he retired several years ago, to spend his time in prayer and in preparation for death. To render Christian help to all men, at all times was his motto in life, and so he was immensely popular among all classes. His funeral was attended by a huge gathering of friends and relatives, from all quarters of the Town, and from Sillalai, his native place. Revd. Frs. J. F. Xavier, O.M.I., E. Forzy, O.M.I., and A. S. Singarayer, O.M.I., officiated at all the funeral rites, from his daughter's home to the Cemetery. The chief mourners were his wife Mrs. Rabeca, Swampillai (a sister of Mr. Gnanapragasam, office Asst., Kachcheri, Galle), Mr. S. Philips (Son) of the C. T. O., Colombo, and family; Mr. S. Joseph (Son-in-law) of the C. G. R. and family; Sister Mary Aquinas of the Anuradhapura Convent (daughter) and Mr. S. S. Mutturasa (son).

R. I. P.

Chapel Street, Jaffna.

Farewell to the Revd. Fr. J. F. Xavier, O.M.I.

The parishioners of the Church of Our Lady of Refuge, Jaffna, assembled in full strength on the grounds of the Church premises, on Wednesday, the 7th inst. to accord a fitting farewell to the Revd. Fr. J. F. Xavier, O.M.I. who for well nigh sixteen years, was their parish priest, having succeeded the Revd. Fr. H. Perrussel, O.M.I. who completed the new stately edifice, seats were arranged in tete a tete fashion for a 'social'. The Revd. Father was led to the grounds by leaders of the different 'novenas' and having taken his seat refreshments were served. Songs specially composed for the occasion were sung by the choristers, followed by speeches in English and Tamil by Messrs Regis Rajakarier, Advocate, and R. J. Paul, B.A., LL.B. Rtd. Judge. The speakers extolled the great services of their revered parish priest stressing on his qualities of charity and goodness to one and all, and of his endeavours to beautify the House of God by so many embellishments being added to that already beautiful Church.

Fr. Xavier replied feelingly by at some length and thanked his parishioners for that great manifestation of their love and esteem. Amidst cheers he announced the gift of Rs. 3,000 by Mr. L. B. Emmanuel retd. Civil Servant, in me-

mony of his late mother who was a devoted member of the church. He further stated that he had Rs. 600 which the members of the 3rd 'novenas' had contributed long ago, which sum together with Mr. Emmanuel's donation, were earmarked for the purchase of new bells for the church.

Then more songs were sung, and the meeting broke up with Mr. F. J. R. Wickramasingam calling for three hearty cheers. It may be mentioned that a purse was handed to the Revd. Father for and on behalf of the congregation, by Mr. Em. Tiruchelvam. A large size enlargement of the priest will be unveiled in the Joseph Vaz hall as soon as it is ready. Thanks are due to Messrs A. J. Selvadurai, J. Santiapillai P. Alexander and others who spared no pains to make the function the great success it was.

Prior to the farewell function of the parishioners the association of the Ladies' of Charity of the parish met the Revd. Father who is their director, in Fr. Jos. Vaz Hall, and the president of the association, Mrs. R. Rajakarier read an address and Mrs. Em. Tiruchelvam one of the Vice-presidents garlanded the father. A very large number of Act. and Honorary members were present. The Revd. Fr. Director, thanked the members heartily, exhorting them to continue to carry on their labour of love towards the poor with the same ardour and unselfishness under his successor. He finally blessed the gathering and the meeting broke up. —Cor.

The Anniversary of the Sillalai V. V. C.

The first anniversary of the Sillalai V. V. C. came off on Sunday the 28th ultimo. It was celebrated on a grand scale and was considered a unique event in the village.

The function started at about 9 a. m. with a Sportsmeet which included several interesting items for the old and young. This was followed by the judging of the best home garden and paddy field for which prizes were awarded later on.

In the evening Mr. C. Cumaraswamy, G. A., N. P. Mr. H. C. Cocks, the Information Officer, Rev. Fr. Chas. S. Matthews, D. F. O. Jaffna, and Mr. C. Thiagarajah, District Organizer N. P. were taken in procession to the venue of the meeting. Mr. N. James the president of the V. V. C. received them and led them to the Public Reading room. The members of the executive committee of the V. V. C. and the chief residents of the place were introduced to the visitors by the president. A garden party followed.

A public meeting presided over by Mr. C. Cumaraswamy, G. A., N. P., started at about 6 p. m. About 2000 people including men and women were present. Mr. N. James in his welcoming speech said that the members of the V. V. C. at Sillalai also functioned as a social service body supplying the facilities needed by the people to lead a fuller life. He said a public reading room for the village, a textile centre, a free milk centre, a co-operative store, a central dispensary at Pandaterruppu and a post box were some of the fruits of their labour in that direction. In conclusion he said that the members of the centre had a sense of moral responsibility and they were determined to translate their faith into practical service. Then Dr. S. R. Athanasiyar the secretary read the progress report of the centre for the year 1944. Distribution of prizes by the Govt. Agent followed. Mr. Cumaraswamy said he was very much impressed by what he had seen and heard there. He congratulated the centre on having done so much for the progress of the place within so short a time. The Information officer who spoke next thanked the members for their active and whole hearted co-operation and said that centre was one of the very active centres doing useful and constructive work. He promised to let them have a radio set as early as possible. Rev. Fr. Chas. S. Matthews O. M. I., Mr. C. Thiagarajah, District Organizer N. P. and Pandit S. Hamuruganar also spoke on subjects in which the centre was interested. Mr. M. Francis, the secre-

tary of the Sillalai Farmers' Union in his remarks referred to the pressing needs of the farmers and appealed for an early redress. A vote of thanks was proposed by Rev. Fr. H. Geslandes O.M.I., the parish Priest and was seconded by Mr. S. Ignatius, Art Master St. Henry's College, Ilavala. The function came to a close with a Variety Entertainment.

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY NOTICE.

The Railway Level Crossing at 116m. 431/2c.-Main Line, between Talawakelle and Watagoda will be closed for vehicular traffic from 8-30 p. m. on Friday, 16-2-45 to 3 a. m. on Saturday, 17-2-45 for effecting repairs.

Traffic will be assisted over this crossing from 3 a. m. to 7-30 a. m. on 17-2-45.

W. G. HILLS
General Manager.

17th Jan. 1945.

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY NOTICE.

The Railway Level Crossing at 6m. 28c. 50 links between Mahaiyawa and Katugastota-Matale Line will be closed for vehicular traffic from 7 p. m. on 19-2-45 to 6 a. m. on 20-2-45 for effecting repairs.

During the period of blockage traffic can be diverted through Malabar Street.

25th Jan. 1945.
W. G. HILLS
General Manager.

Distribution of Subsidiary Foodstuffs to Schools for Mid-day Meals

All schools now providing a free mid-day meal and which require subsidiary foodstuffs or wheat for the purpose should apply to me at the beginning of each month giving the average number of school fed children during the preceding month. This should be certified by the Manager or Inspector of Schools.
E. GUNARATNE,
Asst. Govt. Agent (E), Jaffna.
Jaffna, 26-1-45.

Sale of Pea-husk

There is a quantity of pea-husk (about 45 cwts) available for sale to members of the public, who are owners of cattle, at the Forage Store, Jaffna. Intending purchasers are requested to apply through the Chief Headmen of their Division.
E. GOONARATNE,
Asst. Govt. Agent (E)
Jaffna, 3rd Feb. 1945.

Which is the most fashionable Drink
Some say Claretta
Others cocktails.....but lately there has been a definite revival of that old favourite VITTO FRUIT WINE SYRUP it is zestful appetising drink—and it is good for you
THE VITTO PRODUCTS Co.
Telegrams: "VITPRO" Dehiwala

THEY ARE HERE!
IN THEIR BEST—
IN ANOTHER NEW RANGE!!
REAL DAZZLING BEAUTIES—from INDIA'S "MOST POPULAR FASHION-CENTRE"
They are Glamorous—all so lovely—
So charming—They are ULTRA-MODERN.
They will captivate your heart—and hold your eye
Come have a Glimpse at these—and you are sure to buy more than one.
IF IT IS FOR A MODERN GIRL—OR FOR A 'BRIDE'—
WE HAVE THEM—IN QUITE A GOOD SELECTION—
NOT FEW—NOT TEN OR TWENTY—BUT IN HUNDREDS!
SAREE FOR ANY OCCASION—
SAREE FOR THE BRIDE—
SAREES AT ASTOUNDING PRICES!
THE ENTIRE NEW RANGE—
CONSISTS OF—
THE FINEST YET IMPORTED!!
See this latest creation:
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Plantation Association

(Continued from Page 1)

C.E.P.A. VIEW

Mr. Newton asked permission for Mr. Mann to speak and Mr. Mann said:—"May I refer to one other point? That is the *quid pro quo* which the Ceylonese must surely be expected to give to Britain and her citizens or nationals if Ceylon expects to have the advantages of remaining within the British Commonwealth of Nations. I would refer in particular to defence.

"Supposing Ceylon did not have any outside protection and the Sinhalese treated unfavourably, say, the Indians in Ceylon, it is reasonable to assume that India with her rising spirit of nationalism would at least use her power to adjust the grievances of her nationals. We—and our Indian labourers—are just as much a part of Ceylon as the Sinhalese—whose forefathers, incidentally, are said themselves to have invaded Ceylon from India—and not with the object of adjusting grievances.

"If Britain is to protect Ceylon, surely it is her duty towards her own nationals, whom she encouraged to come here, to see that there is no deterioration in their rights or position. Many of their kith and kin would again be defending these shores in the event of trouble.

"If the British Government's attitude is to be otherwise, there should be several years of public notice or warning so that those who wish to do so might make or change their plans accordingly.

"This they might well wish to consider having regard, for example, to the Sinhalese proposals whereby they would have power to prevent our non-Ceylonese labour—or our members or their staffs—returning to this Island once they leave it.

"Quite apart from the benefit which our members and their labourers claim to have brought to Ceylon—disproportionate to their numbers compared with the Sinhalese—we contend that mere numerical inferiority should in these circumstances not be a disability."

MR. TEMPLE'S SUBMISSION

Before concluding Mr. Temple made two submissions. The first was in regard to legislative procedure.

He said:—

Bills other than finance bills may originate in either chamber and must be passed by both Houses. If after a bill has been passed by one chamber and sent to the other chamber the bill is rejected by the other chamber and more than six months lapses from the date of the reception of the bill after it has been presented to the Governor for his assent the Governor, may, unless the bill has lapsed by reason of the dissolution of the House, notify the chambers by message if they are sitting or by public notification of his intention to summon a joint sitting for discussing and voting on the bill. If it is then passed in joint sitting the Governor may (1) withhold assent, (2) reserve the bill for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure, (3) return the bill for reconsideration and (4) assent to it.

Money bills must originate in the first chamber and its decision must go to the second chamber and the above course followed.

The other submission was in regard to the amending of the constitution.

To make amendments in the number of chambers, franchise etc. the legislature, on motions proposed in each chamber, by a minister on behalf of the cabinet, may pass a resolution recommending such amendment. Then the legislature, on motions proposed in like manner in each chamber may present to the Governor an address for submission to His Majesty praying that His Majesty may be pleased to intimate the resolution to the Imperial Parliament. The Governor when forwarding it to the Secretary of State must transmit his opinion on the amendment and in particular his opinion as to the effect which it would have on the interest of any minorities together with a report as to the views of the minorities likely to be effected.

The Secretary of State must place it before the Imperial Parliament.

The deputation in their memorandum requested that the Commissioners' report in respect of constitutional reforms might be published in the form of a White Paper in order that all concerned might have the opportunity of considering their recommendations, and that they should also form the subject of a full parliamentary discussion before a decision was finally reached.

Muslims Deputation

A deputation from the All-Ceylon Muslim Political Conference Committee appeared before the Soulbury Commission this morning. It consisted of Sir Mohamed Macan Markar (leader), Messrs. T. B. Jayak, Y. M. Naina Marikar, M. A. M. Sulaiman, A. H. M. Ismail, M. A. S. Marikar, C. B. Meedin, H. S. Ismail, P. S. Abdul Cader, S. M. H. Mashoor, and Dr. M. C. M. Kalseel.

They made the following six demands:—

A minimum of 12 Muslim seats in a Council of 100 members under a scheme of balanced representation.

A cabinet, with an appreciable number of Muslims and other minority representatives if the committee system is replaced by the cabinet system.

A bi-cameral system if necessary, provided that in the popular chamber the Muslim community is adequately represented.

Reservation for the Muslim community of 10 per cent. of appointments in all government and municipal services.

Fundamental rights—safeguarding Muslim religion and culture.

Such other changes as will ensure the progress, happiness and the prosperity of Ceylon.

Sir Mohamed said that he was in favour of a larger council.

He told the Commission how he took his chance and came to be elected one time Minister of Communications and Works. In that Committee there were three Sinhalese, two Europeans and one other member, excluding himself.

When he was drafted to the committee he never hoped to be a minister. However, when he came to know that the three Sinhalese members wanted to be chairman he felt that his chance had come. As a matter of fact he was supported by the Europeans and another. So he took his chance and won.

Lord Soulbury: I have no doubt that the choice was a happy one—Thank you, my lord.

Sir Mohamed added that if there was a larger council there would be fewer "chance" elections.

He explained how and why the homogeneous board of ministers was formed.

Sir Mohamed in the course of further remarks stated that some ministers had held office from the inauguration of the first State Council, for nearly 14 years, which was unheard of anywhere else.

NOT REASONABLE

The Ministers' proposal to substitute the cabinet system for the executive committee system was neither reasonable nor convincing. The conference would favour a sort of coalition government.

He did not think of the second chamber as a safeguard for the minorities but as a check on hasty legislation.

Regarding appointments for the Muslims, Sir Mohamed said that they asked that a Muslim should be given a chance if he had all the qualifications even if the candidate came lower down in order of merit.

Lord Soulbury pointed out that in competitive examinations only the best men were chosen. Sir Mohamed said that the individual's efficiency might develop later on. Mutual assistance was necessary.

MRS. CLEMENT J. BLACK

Mrs. Clement J. Black presented herself before the Commission at 11 a.m. She was the first woman to give evidence and Lord Soulbury thanked her for placing her views before the Commission. She said that she believed there were two or three other women who had been returned to urban councils, but she was the first European woman to be elected.

She said that ten or twelve years ago she would not have thought of 50-50, but the political situation of the country had deteriorated to such an extent during the last few years, she said, that it had made the minorities apprehensive. Could they wonder, she asked,

when statements had been made to the effect that it would be "the happiest day in our lives when the Englishmen leave the country." A minister once stated that he would be a happy man when the last Indian left these shores. It had also been stated that "Sinhalese domination will now begin". The statements, she said, were not mere heresy—they were all recorded.

She submitted a scheme of representation taking the hypothetical case of a house of 100. She favoured the fifty-fifty principle. Of the 50 seats for the minorities, 10 should be interchangeable among the minorities. The remaining 40 seats, she suggested, should be allocated as follows:—24 for Tamils and Malayalees, three for Indians, six for Europeans, three for Burgbers and four for Muslims and Malays. The 10 interchangeable or floating seats could be called coalition seats.

The object of her scheme was firstly to abolish communalism among the minorities and secondly that all seats would later become general.

Lord Soulbury: What about the 50 remaining seats? Are they to be for the Sinhalese?

Mrs. Black: I see no objection. I leave that to the constitution makers.

Mrs. Black said that it would be very unlikely that minorities would be returned to those 50 seats if the electoral areas were demarcated as at present by the new delimitation committee. She agreed that it would be unfair if minorities were returned to some of those 50 seats. However, she left that matter in the hands of the constitution makers.

Lord Soulbury pointed out that if Mrs. Black's scheme of 50-50 was put into operation, the Sinhalese 50 could attach to themselves a part of the minorities—say the Muslims—and then form a permanent majority.

Mrs. Black admitted that risk had to be taken. It could operate both ways.

If perhaps there were no political differences between the five "races" in the Island, all of them would give rise to a "nation".

Mrs. Black considered that it would be highly beneficial to restrict the franchise. It would tend to diminish and perhaps later to banish communal anxiety and distrust. With a restricted franchise much less racial and religious discrimination would be shown in the candidates elected, and more of the better types of men or women would be returned than at present, she thought. The franchise should be wide enough to include clerks, bungalow servants, etc.

If there was no restriction of the franchise then the establishment of a second chamber was highly desirable. Its members should be elected on a very carefully restrictive franchise wherein the risk of election malpractices and appeals to mass feeling could be greatly reduced, if not eliminated. She proposed that members of the upper house should possess high qualifications and property, and business or professional responsibilities of reasonable size. The number of the second chamber should not be more than half that of the first and should as far as possible reflect its communal proportions.

Mrs. Black's suggestions for modifying the franchise (without depriving anyone over 25 years of some voice in elections) were, briefly, as follows: that voters be divided into individual voters and group voters; that every voter should have reached the age of 25 years. It was suggested that individual voters should possess one of the following qualifications: literacy, land or other property to the value of Rs. 750, monthly salary and allowances of Rs. 30 (or over), regular daily paid work at Rs. 2 per day and over. Those not falling into any of the above categories might join voting groups. Groups were to consist of not less than 10, nor more than 50 members, and these groups were to be registered with the list of members. Individual voters would have to apply for registration with proof of identity and qualification.

Regarding Mrs. Black's suggestion that the vote should be given to those over 25 Mr. Burrows asked: What virtue is there in making it 25? Do people become wiser at 25?

Mrs. Black: Large numbers of people in Ceylon do not know their ages and if the limit was raised to 25, they would come within the limit. You may be fairly sure that they may be at least 21 years. They are certainly more mature at 25 although the advance is not very much.

Nazi Answer to Unconditional Surrender

(Continued from Page 1).

the enemy from Russian soil, the control of lands needed for Russian defence and the creation of arteries of trade according to the totalitarian idea of carefully-planned State trading. Still, the hour has surely come when even a Russian reluctance to maintain a wholly united front with the Western Allies could not affect the military fate of the Reich. The Allied superiority in the West is now so overwhelming that it could only be a question of time—but time of course is what Hitler needs.

THE ANSWER TO "UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER"?

Hitler, we think, would not entirely dismiss the possibilities suggested by such reflections, though he must be realising that all this is a dim chance with Russia likely to build its security on the destruction of Germany. He will have to look elsewhere. Could he by prolonging resistance save his Nazi movement so that one day it might start the fight again? Consistent with the belief that this is possible is the present policy of making every German citizen fight and killing off any possible leader of an alternative German regime. And this policy squares with the Nazi reaction to the recent attempted military revolt. This plan involves the answering of "Unconditional Surrender" by "We shall never surrender." Its effect would be the virtual destruction in Germany of all sources of political and social life, aggravated by a wealth of destruction, both directly military and punitive, as in the case of the burned village. Germany as a political and cultural entity would temporarily disappear—in fact, go underground still as the Third Reich. As a consequence the victors would be forced to undertake tasks far beyond their natural peacetime resources or desires. And from the resulting anarchy anything might arise, not excluding the virtual restoration in time of the essentials of Nazism. It is an appalling conception, but it cannot be denied that it would be a heroic answer to "Unconditional Surrender"—and the most embarrassing. Are the Germans capable of it? Would Hitler consider the incredible sacrifices to his people worthwhile? Where Hitler might be doubtful Himmler would surely be certain that it was the only way. And it is the word of a desperate Himmler with absolutely nothing to lose which may be the last one in the Germany of to-day. Those among us who still imagine that the policy of "Unconditional Surrender" and the virtual elimination of sixty millions of Germans from the concert of Europe was a wise one may have some very painful re-thinking to do in the next few months and, for that matter, during the next ten years or so.

DISTRIBUTION OF SUBSIDIARY FOODSTUFFS

The undermentioned commodities will be issued in the Jaffna District to all consumers except those served by Co-operative Stores on the basis of the rations given below for the period 29th January, 1945 to 25th February, 1945.

Kasaly Dhall	2 ozs
Blue Peas	3 ozs
Toor Dhall	1 oz
Split Lentils	½ oz
Green Split peas	½ oz
Dried Peas	1 oz
Corriander	½ oz
Cumin Seed	½ oz
Turmeric	½ oz
Tamarind	3 oz

(Sd.) E. GOONARATNE,
Asst. Govt. Agent (E).
Jaffna, 31st Jan. 1945.