

# The Catholic Guardian

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

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## WORLD COMMENT ON GOVERNMENTS SURRENDER OF POLAND

In the House itself out of twenty Members who spoke on the issue seventeen were critical. A noteworthy contribution was made by Mr. Ivor Thomas, M. P.

In America, despite the ambiguity of Government policy, the press has spoken out with forthright criticism either of the attitude of their own Government or on a basis of the Atlantic Charter. The American Socialists have flatly refused to associate themselves in any way with the Lublin Committee and in a cable to Moscow before the Churchill speech made their position clear.

### LABOURS SPOKESMAN IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. Thomas (Keighley), in a speech which was based solidly on moral issues, and entirely fair in its attitude to Russia, stated on the proposed Polish-Soviet frontier:

"I wish we could drop the name 'Curzon Line'. Why not call it the Supreme Council Line?

"It is claimed on strategic grounds that the Russian frontier should be extended to the West. But it makes nonsense of the Atlantic Charter. I thought the Atlantic Charter still stood for something in this country. I do not believe that the proposal will produce security, which must be based on a general organisation for peace and still more on confidence and mutual trust between the nations. In any case, if the Soviet Union is afraid of further aggression from Germany it is very hard that Poland should be the sufferer.

"We are entitled to a firm assurance that the British Government will continue to recognise the Polish Government (in London) as the only Government of Poland."

### U. S. A. PRESS COMMENTS

The New York World Telegram did not mince words in its Saturday editorial.

"Prime Minister Churchill's announcement that he has agreed to turn over Eastern Poland to Russia, despite the protests of the London Government in exile, would appear to isolate Churchill policy from the United States and other United Nations pledged to the Atlantic Charter. The action clashes with not one but three of Churchill's and Stalin's obligations under the Charter, which states their countries seek no aggrandisement, territorial or otherwise; that they desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of all the peoples concerned; and third, that they respect the rights of all peoples to choose the form of Government under which they will live, and they wish to see the sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.

"The intimation that the President was a party to a Churchill-Stalin deal has been made many times in this country but has been officially denied by him and his secretary. In his foreign policy speech of October 21, the President said: 'After my return from Teheran I stated officially that no secret commitments had been made. The issue then.....is my veracity.'

The New York Times, which seems to have much in common with its London progenitor, in the course of a conciliatory editorial languidly observes that the most troublesome aspect of the situation is not the frontier question but the unwillingness of the Russian Government to permit this question to be dealt with in common council."

### AMERICAN SOCIALISTS

But the attitude of the Socialist Party of the United States as expressed in an interchange of cables between the Lublin Committee and Mr. Norman Thomas, Leader of American Socialism, is perfectly clear.

From Moscow the Lublin Committee cabled greetings and good wishes to American Socialists in the "struggle against Fascism."

Mr. Thomas replied: "The recognised Polish Socialist Party, the voice of the Labour Underground, has its headquarters in London as well as in occupied Poland. It is headed by veterans of the workers' struggle in Poland, such as Arcizewski and Kwapinski. By whose mandate do you speak?

"All the world knows of the deportations and execution of hundreds of Polish Socialists and the shocking executions of their leaders. As far as we know you have not dissociated yourself from these executioners."

"The revolt of the Warsaw workers in 1944 is recognised as one of history's most glorious pages....Russia's betrayal of this struggle is one of the most shameful and tragic episodes of this war. We agree with you on the need to reconstitute the International Socialist Organisation, but this can only be done on a basis of democratic Socialism opposed to all totalitarianism, imperialism, and power politics. In such an organisation the recognised Polish Socialist Party will play its noble part."

Commenting on this message, which was signed by Mr. Norman Thomas and by the National Secretary of the American Socialist Party, the New Leader, Socialist journal, states: "The Lublin Committee serving Moscow as a puppet Government demanded recognition as the Polish Government. The ramp 'Polish Socialist Party' in Lublin is organised under G.P.U. auspices by Socialists who prefer to be Stalin's quislings rather than martyrs."

### PORTUGUESE PRESS

In Portugal comment has been very severe.

A Voz, after answering all the arguments in detail, attacks the speech roundly as a betrayal of the Atlantic Charter, while the official *Diario Da Manhã* indulges in ironical comment.

*Novidades*, a Catholic paper, describes the speech as "most sombre and grave which Churchill has ever made in the House of Commons."

All the papers express deep disappointment. *Novidades* adds that the prospects of a well-balanced world order after the war, are now much less bright than they were.

(Continued on Page 3.)

## TAMILS PRESENT THEIR CASE FOR REFORMS

The All-Ceylon Tamil Congress deputation, consisting of more than 100 members, led by Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, presented themselves before the Soulbury Commission. The crowd overflowed the hall, humanity bulging out of doors, windows, perching on chairs and window sills.

Mr. Ponnambalam was accorded an ovation when he entered the hall.

Lord Soulbury, addressing the gathering, said: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the audience today is a very large one and is welcome. It may be very difficult for a good many people at the back of the hall to hear what is said by the deputation and the Commission unless they keep markedly quiet and still. We will do our best. We do not want the deputation to shout nor do I wish to shout myself."

Lord Soulbury said that if those at the back could not hear, they would, he hoped, keep silent so that those in front at least might hear.

Mr. Ponnambalam introduced the deputation which, he said, consisted of State Councillors, ex-members of the Legislative Council, chairmen and members of the various urban councils where the Tamil population was concentrated, and chairmen and secretaries of the various district congress associations. There were more than 100 delegates.

Lord Soulbury: "What I propose to do, subject to your views, is to discuss certain aspects in the very detailed and admirable memorandum which you have submitted. Certain salient views arise from it, which subject to your views, we like to discuss.

Mr. Ponnambalam: At the outset, may I on behalf of the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress and generally on behalf of the Tamils, say that your visit is very welcome indeed and perhaps you will be so good as to convey to His Majesty's Government our thanks because our request has been granted. We hope that this will be a recurrent feature every 10 years in the matter of constitutional reforms.

Lord Soulbury: Thank you for the very clear, vehement and vigorous case which you have put before us. You say that the proposals are made on behalf of the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress and this Congress is a political and cultural body. When was the Tamil Congress formed?

Mr. Ponnambalam said that the Tamil Congress was the descendant of the All-Ceylon Tamil Conference. It was inaugurated towards the end of last year. It was formed partly of Ceylon Tamils and partly of Indians.

### DEPRESSED CLASSES

Questioned about the "depressed classes," Mr. Ponnambalam said that it was difficult to define the term. There were no vital statistics to show them as such. It was a wide and nebulous word. Figures too were vague but there were about 100,000 who could be said to belong to the depressed class in the strictest sense of the words.

The term "depressed classes" did not refer to Tamils alone but also to certain Sinhalese castes.

At this stage, the din caused by the crowd increased, and Mr. Ponnambalam apologised saying he was not responsible for the crowd.

Lord Soulbury: If you can hear and the Press can hear, it doesn't very much matter.

The din actually increased and at one stage it was so intense that it was impossible to hear the Chairman, Lord Soulbury, although he did his very best under the unanticipated conditions.

Mr. Ponnambalam said that his schedule of representation for all practical purposes allowed communal electorates in the areas where the Sinhalese predominated. The whole idea of the scheme was to carve out communal seats in territorial areas. The electors were to be confined to a particular community in a certain territory so that the disenfranchisement of the other communities would not arise. There could be, for instance, both a Tamil electorate and a Muslim electorate in one area. There could be electoral rolls for all communities. But for all practical purposes, the general electorate really disenfranchised a minority community where a majority community predominated, balancing again in other areas. A communal electorate would solve the problem. The apprehension of disenfranchisement was merely theoretical.

Asked by Lord Soulbury about the delimitation proposals in Sessional Paper 14, Mr. Ponnambalam said that the difference between his proposals and those were not only of degree but of kind.

The Congress' scheme, he said, was to give each individual voter weight. No single voter need be disenfranchised.

### NOT QUITE POSSIBLE

Some people believed that under the Ministers' scheme, the Muslims in, say, the Southern Province would be able to return a Muslim member. His analysis showed that even on the numerical quota in the scheme it was not quite possible. Certain sparsely populated areas were merely given more seats than they enjoyed under the Donoughmore Constitution.

Even with a "shoe-string" delimitation no one would have the courage to work out Muslim representation for the Southern Province.

Mr. Ponnambalam went on to say that the territorial representation of today was nothing short of communal representation. For example, the Western Province returned all Sinhalese, the Northern and Eastern Provinces returned Tamils, the Central Province with a large number of Tamils returned some Sinhalese, etc. The only exception was the North Central Province, which returned Mr. H. R. Freeman. In point of fact, therefore, the territorial divisions returned representatives of the same communal and racial body as the majority that inhabited those divisions.

Mr. Ponnambalam argued that the division of the Sinhalese as against the others was most manifest in the reform of the constitution. Certain measures had been passed in the State Council by a preponderance of the majority vote. In those circumstances those who were in a minority might as well be at home.

The deputation in their memorandum claimed that the minorities should have a minimum of 50 per cent. of the seats in the legislative assembly to be obtained.

(Continued on Page 4)



## Retreat for Catholic Women Teachers

3rd-7th of April 1945

The annual retreat for Catholic Women teachers will be conducted, as usual this year, at the Holy Family Convent, Ilavalai, commencing at 4 p.m. on the 3rd of April and ending on the morning of the 7th.

All facilities for Lodging etc. will be provided by the Rev. Mother Superior to whom those who intend to take part in the retreat are requested to communicate early. Women who are not teachers are also allowed to attend the retreat. Catholic women are earnestly requested to avail themselves of this opportunity.

REV. MOTHER SUPERIOR,  
Holy Family Convent,  
Ilavalai.

## The Catholic Guardian

FEBRUARY 23RD 1945

### WHICH IS THE POLISH ISSUE?

The *Ceylon Observer* is the cheapest daily and newsy paper has a wide circulation. It can boast of many readers in the North. This fact compels us in the interest of truth to assume the role of the censor in order not to allow its readers to go astray. Last week-end it had a short leader with the caption, "The Polish Issue", which was provokingly bristling with misstatements. Evidently, the writer is ignorant of Polish history. The whole article was vitiated by the assumption, a wholly false assumption, that the territory East of the so-called Curzon Line is Russian. Those, like this writer, who are so innocent of the history of Poland are invited by the Polish Government in London to go and see a map printed not anywhere in Poland but in London itself. It is dated 1630. They will learn from it what Poland was before her robber-neighbours began their plunder. Historically and culturally the part of Poland to which Stalin lays claim is Polish. From this part came her distinguished men such as St. Andrew Bobola, St. Casimir, St. Josephat and some of her greatest poets, musicians and warriors. Hence, the Poles never accepted the Curzon Line as their Eastern frontier. Their refusal was the cause of the war between Poland and Russia in which the latter was beaten. Peace was concluded between the two countries at the treaty of Riga in 1921 when the Eastern boundary of Poland was fixed. Stalin not only accepted this boundary but on more than one occasion professed his friendship to Poland and declared that he would respect her territorial integrity. But in 1939 there was a secret pact between Hitler and Stalin to divide Poland and when Hitler invaded it, Stalin came in for his own share. But Russia, on being attacked by Hitler, denounced all pacts and alliances with the Nazis and concluded a military agreement with the Polish government in which Mr. Eden acted as the intermediary. In August 1939 the Anglo-Polish Alliance was formed to rein-

force the existing political and military agreements between Great Britain and Poland. We mention these pacts and alliances to show that in these there was no question of any revising of the frontiers of Poland fixed by the treaty of Riga in 1921. After the lapse of 23 years in comes Stalin and forcibly takes Polish country, where he had gone as liberator, breaking all pledges and treaties and his conduct is approved!! But when Mussolini occupied Abyssinia, a semi-lawless country given up to slave trade, certain papers shrieked in horror at the injustice!! Is not this unblushing hypocrisy? Stalin is not merely appropriating half the country but practically the whole of Poland by setting up a communist government subservient to him. We shall have something more to say about this Lublin gang of adventurers who masquerade as the Provisional government of Poland. But the crime committed against that country, history can never forget whoever be the perpetrator and abettors.

### THE TAMIL LEADER'S EVIDENCE

According to newspaper reports, at the close of the evidence given by the President of the Tamil Congress, Lord Soulbury turning to Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam remarked that the case for the minorities could not have been put more fully and forcibly. This was said not as a mere compliment but to express a sober truth. We have read summarised reports of the evidence and have listened to the descriptions of what actually took place, given by members of that historic deputation and our idea is that it was a magnificent presentation of the minorities' case brilliantly performed. One can well understand Mr. Burrows saying that he had been hypnotised. But it is well to remember that the task entrusted to the Tamil Leader was an onerous one involving grave responsibility. His evidence it was that would mend or mar the constitution. With rare ability and bias for thoroughness he has acquitted himself marvellously. He had set to work, to analyze the constitutions of almost half the world, made a comparative study of them and had all the relevant facts at his finger-ends. His exposition was masterly. The minorities must congratulate themselves that they had one of Ponnambalam's calibre at this juncture who could rouse them to unity and put their case so persuasively. They owe him a deep debt of gratitude for spending himself lavishly on their behalf. Naturally enough, on account of his signal success attempts will be made to belittle and weaken his arguments saying that they were based on false analogy. But it is all the other way. It is those critics, who rest their claims on the strength of numbers and want a parliamentary democracy of the British model for this country, who are guilty of arguing on false

analogy, not realizing the composite nature of the population of Ceylon. The evidence so far given shows a great cleavage between the minorities on the one side and the majority on the other. With such a cleavage political progress is impossible. In Nov. 1937 the then Secretary of State for the Colonies wrote to the Governor of Ceylon; "I have, however, felt that selected changes such as have been suggested could not be expected to produce good results unless they were adopted with the general consent of all important interests in Ceylon". This same policy continues to have force even to-day.

## EDITORIAL NOTE

### How the Liberator Liberates—

The following report of what the Poles suffer from Soviet tyranny is from a quite reliable source. We have cut short the report for lack of space but there is enough to show the tragic situation of the "liberated" Poles.

"Under the last orders issued by General Bor the armies of the Polish Home Army were instructed to place themselves under Russian command and fight with the Red Army for the liberation of Poland. The army complied strictly with the order. In practically every instance the Poles have been arrested after their assistance had been accepted. After the battle for Vilna, the four brigades of the Home Army who fought with the Russians were stopped on the battlefield after victory had been won and restrained from entering their own city. More than 3,000 Poles fought in the battle for Lwow. Right throughout the whole summer and autumn campaigns the armies of Poland have been used and then imprisoned. On July 27, the Commander of the Home Army and the Government Delegate in Lublin were arrested and charged with Fascism and collaboration with the Germans. They will be tried for these crimes.

"It is known that Poles are being transported into Russia by the thousand. On November 13, 2,500 were deported from prisons and camps in the Warsaw area alone.

"The civil population suffers hardships which threaten to exterminate the whole Polish nation. It is estimated that 50 per cent. suffer from infectious diseases. Many villages have been destroyed, and the people have taken to the forests in fear of the threatened deportation to Russia.

"So far over 1,000 cases have been heard by the 'Special Tribunals' set up by the Lublin Committee. Most of the accused have been sentenced to death; many for the crime of being 'potential Fascists.'

### Christ-Day in Ramkrishna Asram

A CATHOLIC PRIEST  
ADDRESSES THE INMATES

(Continued from our last issue.)

Here brethren, let us think of the infinite goodness, mercy and condescension of the Incarnate God Jesus Christ. While being the Almighty God, He assumed the nature of man; the infirmities of man. Why? in order to redeem man from eternal loss, to show him the way to heaven, and to give the same. I understand that you are people given to the contemplation of divine things. Now then, on a day like this it will be profitable to contemplate the Almighty God born as a helpless child, lying there in the manger of Bethlehem, exposed to the rigours of that winter night. He was born poor. He chose a life of obedience and subjection, of labour and hardship, for full thirty years. Then His public life: three years spent in teaching and doing works of charity, curing vast multitudes of the sick and infirm, raising the dead to life and thus comforting the bereaved, instructing the poor and the ignorant, reproving and correcting the proud and the stubborn; then

at the end choosing a death of ignominy and torture, and finally coming to a glorified life again by His own power. Kindly recall to your minds these facts of the life of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I know that you read the Holy Bible from time to time; so you can easily bring to your mind the life of Christ.

Now, why did the Almighty God-Man choose a life of privation and suffering, of humility and subjection, of love and sacrifice? 'Peace to men of good-will,' was proclaimed at His birth. How has Christ bestowed peace on mankind?—By-the-by, in the beginning I said I would speak on the peace of Christ; so you should have been thinking that I have digressed far; but you will realize presently that I was only making my way clear.

So then, what is peace? I would define peace as 'the state of undisturbed exercise of one's faculties in due order towards the realization of their proper objects.' In man there are two substantially united parts, namely, the soul and the body. Of those the important and superior part, evidently, is the spiritual soul. The faculties of the soul are the Intellect and the Will. If we carefully study the workings of these faculties, we will see that their proper objects are perfect truth and perfect good, respectively. Now, the perfect truth and the perfect good are God only. So the best part in man will be at peace when the intellect and the will operate for the possession of their proper object, namely God! When the other faculties in man, that is, the senses etc., exercise themselves to attain their specific ends sub-ordinate to this supreme object of the soul, then there will be right order in man, and there will be peace.

But with the moral fall of mankind at the sin of the proto-parents the right order was disturbed. The sight of the supreme end, and the right values of life became blurred; and pride, lust and avarice began to dominate in man. Christ, the Redeemer, performed the required reparation mentioned before by His words of infinite merit, and thus the gift of eternal bliss was restored. He did not, however, restore the pristine order in nature. The disturbed state continues as a penalty for man's sin. But then, in this disturbed order, Christ has, by His teaching and example, showed us how to appreciate the values of life in their right perspective; how to subordinate everything to our superior end. This is the meaning of and the motive behind Christ's poor birth, His life of suffering and sacrifice, and His death on the cross. What he taught in His Sermon on the Mount that I heard you read here just now, He showed by His example. Honour, bodily pleasures, and material wealth are not the end of man's life. They are to be enjoyed only in so far as they subserve the primary end of man, namely, the attainment of God. That is the right perspective of the values of life. That is what Christ has taught us in His birth, in His life and in His death.

Here I have to make clear the Christian concept of detachment: It is not a complete and compulsory abnegation of the pleasures of life; but the due subordination of their enjoyment to the spiritual end of man. We can enjoy the pleasures of life in so far as they do not deflect us from God; in so far as they do not conflict with our duties towards God and to our soul. One may choose a life of complete abnegation; but that is only voluntary for greater perfection, not necessary for salvation.

To return to our point, if these right values of life are duly appreciated and make the rule of individual life, there will be peace in the individual. When there exists the aforesaid right relation between the intellect, the will, the senses, emotions and passions in the pursuit of their proper objects, then there will reign peace within that individual. That is the peace announced at the birth of Christ. That is the peace He wished His disciples time and again.

When there is this peace and harmony within all the individuals of a society, there will be peace in that society also. That is self-evident; for, when each and every individual in a society follows the right values of life, or in other words, when each and every individual is imbued with the spirit of Christ, where is the craze for honour, the thirst



for wealth, the inordinate passion for lust? And then, where is quarrel in that society? But that is an ideal state. As long as there is free-will in man, to be sure someone or other will abuse it; and there is the trouble.

One thing more I would like to make clear in this connection. From the fact that there is no peace in a society or a country we cannot conclude that the majority of the individuals of that society or country have no peace within themselves. It is not the majority that has the lead now, but the talented; and unhappily often those talented individuals happen to be men with a perverse estimate of the values of life. So, if in a society or country with a Christian majority there is no peace, it is no proof that Christianity is a failure.

Gentlemen, I have spoken to you how according to our faith Christ is God; how He so loved mankind that He became man and atoned for our sins; and how He taught the way to eternal life. I have explained to you the meaning of Christ's subjection, suffering, and sacrifice; What the peace announced at Christ's birth is, and how that peace may be obtained. If my words have been an occasion to a greater knowledge of, and deeper love for Christ, I am satisfied. What remains for me now is to offer my humble prayers for you all that you may advance in this knowledge and love. That I shall do most willingly.

I thank the Asramadhipathi once again for giving me this privilege to speak here, and all of you for your kind and patient hearing. Gentlemen, I have done.

## LOCAL & GENERAL

**Small-Pox**—During the last two and a half weeks as fresh cases have been reported in the urban area and the town has been declared a healthy locality.

**Judge Praises U.S. Bishops' Statement.**—"If I had my way I would have that document from first to last inscribed in letters of gold in every post-war Chancellory in the civilised world," said Mr. Justice Black in Dublin, referring to the American Catholic Bishops' statement on the principles which govern the post-war world order.

In the manifesto, he said, there was no abuse of any nation or people, and no suggestion of a post-war blood purge. There was no lust for blood. It was in his view a noble document.

**Con-Celebration of Mass.**—When a hundred or more priests gather for their annual retreat, it is often quite a problem to arrange for them all to say Mass. Recently a diocese in America adopted a different plan. The Bishop celebrated the Mass, and the hundred priests took part "not only by reciting the usual prayers and responses, but also by means of an Offertory procession."

**Chaplain Becomes Major General.**—Nomination of Mgr. W. R. Arnold for promotion to the rank of major general has been sent to the U.S. Senate by President Roosevelt. Mgr. Arnold has served in the Army Chaplain Corps since 1913, when he was commissioned a first lieutenant. He was appointed chief of Army chaplains in 1937 and promoted to the rank of brigadier general in 1941, the first chaplain to hold that rank. Mgr. Arnold is 63.

## World Comment on Governments Surrender of Poland

(Continued from Page 1).

### ARCHBISHOP GRIFFIN OF WEST MINSTER

The threatened dismemberment of Poland while her soldiers, sailors and airmen are fighting on numerous fronts to bring victory to the united nations has brought new and urgent appeals from Archbishop Griffin and Archbishop McDonald on behalf of Poland's freedom and independence.

Archbishop Griffin, preaching in London's Polish Church said: "Sympathy and admiration are but a poor response to Poland's suffering and bravery. We

have to see that Poland will remain a free, independent and sovereign nation.

"For this purpose we entered the war and for this purpose the Atlantic Charter was agreed upon by Great Britain and America, and later accepted and endorsed by the representatives of the Allied Nations, without exception, at St. James's Palace on September 29, 1941."

### HONOUR IN DANGER

Archbishop McDonald, of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, declares that "our national honour, the pride and cherished treasure of every English heart, is in danger of being ruthlessly flung on the scrap heap.

"Disguise the facts as we may, confuse the issues with as many persuasive periods as we please, the truth remains that the real reason for our policy is moral cowardice, fear of the big battalions."

"The result will be disaster. The very catastrophe our politicians seek to avert will follow close on the heels of this holocaust of our honour.

"Is it for this that the glorious manhood of our country has been sacrificed? Is it for this that the flower of our youth have poured out their heart's blood in the battlefield? Is it for this that we experienced God's intervention on the beaches of Dunkirk and in the Battle of Britain?

"We may conceal the truth from ourselves to-day, we may camouflage the facts and comfort ourselves with deceitful softsounding words now, but one thing is certain: those guilty of this crime, if it comes to pass, will be scorned and despised by future generations; they will justly be regarded with horror for all time as seared with the brand of Cain in the murder of a faithful ally and brother-nation in arms.

## The Apostleship of Prayer

In the United States, we learn, the Apostleship of Prayer is commonly called the League of the Sacred Heart. American papers put the total membership of the League throughout the world at some 35,000,000. In the United States there are over 6,000,000 members enrolled in 13,282 local centres. The U.S. Messenger of the Sacred Heart has a circulation of more than 300,000 each month and an estimated reading public of five times that number. A Sacred Heart Radio Programme "The Voice of the Apostleship of Prayer," is broadcast on many stations in all sections of the United States.

Writing in the *Universe*, Fr. Geoffrey Bliss, S.J., who has been for more than a quarter of a century editor of the English Messenger, and who incidentally is the uncle of the present Manager of the Examiner Press, gave this interesting account of the beginning of the Apostleship of Prayer:

"To picture the birth of what is now the great Apostleship of Prayer you must imagine yourself in the chapel of a religious house in a remote part of France, at Vals, in the foothills of the Pyrenees, 100 years ago. The day is the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the occasion the quite ordinary one of a 'domestic exhortation,' or community sermon, delivered by the Spiritual Father of this house of studies. The audience consists of more than 100 young Jesuits preparing for the priesthood. The preacher is Pere Francois Xavier Gautrelet, and the theme of his discourse is prompted by his knowledge of the great eagerness of these men who listen to him to 'be about their Father's business,' to be engaged in the various apostolic works for which they are destined. He tells them that there is a way by which they may begin forthwith that work for God to which they so look forward, that it is the way of prayer. He suggested that they should help one another's future labour by an agreement to pray in common for its success. Explaining that the monotony and trials of their present life could become the substance and force of such prayer, he made the practical proposal that they should agree to offer them each day, in the morning, to God for these ends. It was the 'Morning Offering.' The Apostleship

of Prayer was born, without anyone knowing yet that it had happened."

## Petrol Tin Church

A Catholic church, which must be unique in its method of construction, has been built by members of Coastal Command on a lonely, almost sub-tropical, island 'somewhere west of Africa.'

Feeling the need of some place of worship on their island, Flight Sgt. Heslop and his colleagues decided to build one. They had no materials, so these determined R. A. F. men built their church from empty four-gallon petrol tins filled with sand. When filled each tin weighed 50 lbs. and las Flight-Sgt. Heslop remarks in a letter home—"You will be able to imagine the energy man-handling these tins in a heat which was sometimes so terrific that it was possible to work only one hour per day. In addition, monsoons occasionally held up the work." When the exterior had been completed it was cement-washed to give it a grey stone colouring. The entire cost of the completed church was under £5, and Flight-Sgt. Heslop remarks that most of this was spent in providing tea and buns for those who laboured so hard for the five months that its construction took.

There is accommodation for approximately 200 Servicemen, and an organ has been acquired and services are now held regularly.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Mr. Suntheralingam's Sophistry

The Editor,  
"Catholic Guardian", Jaffna.

Sir,  
It is not surprising that Mr. Suntheralingam after having been defeated in the State Council elections twice within one year, each time by an overwhelming majority, should have clutched at even a straw to counter the efforts of the Tamils who refused to elect him as one of their representatives in the State Council. But what is surprising is that this emeritus Professor of Mathematics should have attempted to expose alleged half-truths by adopting methods worse than half truths, namely assumptions which are alien to mathematical reasonings.

Says this sophisticated super politician that forty of the forty two seats reserved for the Sikhs, Commerce and Industry, Land holders, Labour and Women would go to the Hindus and that an hundred out of the one hundred and twenty-five seats allotted to the Indian States would be captured by the Hindus. Will this eminent counsel for the majority community tell us whether there is not the possibility of non-Hindus capturing a large number of the 'general seats'? Even half truths may be permissible but fallacious reasoning based on assumptions to suit

one's own purpose will not be accepted anywhere. According to the India Act of 1935, the Hindus had to be content with a number of seats less than that to which they would be entitled on a basis of population.

The Royal Commissioners who are above party politics will be able to read between the lines and find out what urged a Tamil who had not quite recovered from the stunning political blows given him by his own community at the polls to rush to the press to expose 'half-truths'. What the All-Ceylon Tamil Leader tried to prove was that the number of seats statutorily allotted to the Hindus in India was less than that to which they would be entitled by reason of their numerical strength. In the 'Poonambalam Draft' the majority community has not been reduced to a minority but the minority communities have been given weightage, the majority community still retaining the largest share, namely half, while the minorities consisting of as many as five different communities sharing the other half among themselves. It is a pity that Mr. Suntheralingam's secret weapon has failed to explode even as many of Hitler's Vee weapons failed to produce the desired affect on the allies.

Yours etc.,  
R. N. SIVAPIRAKASAM

## NOTICE

The Deputy Food Controller, Jaffna, will receive tenders up to 12 noon on Tuesday, 27th February, 1945 for the Transport of foodstuffs.

2. Tenders should be made on forms obtainable on application from the Deputy Food Controller, Jaffna, from whom all particulars on the subject can be obtained.

3. A deposit of Rs. 100/- will be required to be made either at the General Treasury Colombo or at a Kachcheri and a receipt produced for the same before any form of tender is issued.

E. GOONARATNE,  
for Deputy Food Controller,  
JAFFNA.  
The Kachcheri,  
Jaffna, 16th February, 1945.

## Manager State Farm Kilinochchi

Applications are invited for the post of Manager, State Farm, Kilinochchi.

Salary Rs. 2/- to Rs. 3/- per day plus war allowance according to qualifications.

**Qualifications:**—Applicants should have experience in paddy cultivation, controlling labour and maintaining check rolls.

**Security:**—Applicants will be required to furnish cash security in the sum of Rs. 250/-

Applications close on February, 28, 1945.

A. GOONARATNE,  
Asst. Govt. Agent (E)  
Jaffna.  
Jaffna, February 16, 1945.

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

**BOON  
TO THE CUSTOMERS**  
Expected Shortly—Large Stocks

OF  
**CHEAP TEXTILES**  
SUITINGS, SHIRTINGS, SAREES,  
SARONGS, DRESS-MATERIALS,  
VESTIES, SHAWLS Etc.

AT  
**DAYARAM'S**

54, MAIN STREET,

JAFFNA.

Watch for the Date



## Tamils Present their Case for Reforms

(Continued from Page 1)

ained through territorial constituencies confined to the respective communities. The other 50 per cent. of the seats would be secured by general constituencies in all of which the Sinhalese would be overwhelmingly preponderant. They pointed out that the Sinhalese who were 65 per cent. of the population were able to capture 78 per cent. of the elected seats in the two general elections held after the introduction of the present constitution. Thus weightage was secured for a majority community: a feature without precedent, they believed, in any country in the world.

Mr. Ponnambalam said that divisions would show that the minorities would cheerfully vote with the majority, except where there was an election pledge or policy on the part of some member.

There was a marked deterioration in the calibre and education of members now returned. There was no necessity for the minorities to hang together because there was nothing worth hanging together for, except when it came to a proposal like the one to make Sinhalese the official language. He attributed such attempts at domination to mock heroics and cheap publicity.

The Free Lanka Bill, for example, was not worth anything. He could do much more useful work in assisting His Lordship.

The 50-50 scheme would be an automatic check for any attempt at domination by a single community in a country with a conglomerate population.

At 10.35 the Commission adjourned for 15 minutes.

During the interval some of the crowd came on the stage and sat on it. Policemen who came into the hall to clear the stage were booed and were forced to retire.

### FROM 1837 TO 1931

Mr. Ponnambalam resumed his remarks about representation after the interval.

He drew the attention of the Commissioners to page 99 of the report of the Donoughmore Commissioners where they made certain general observations as to why they recommended the abolition of communal representation. They stated, "communal representation in Ceylon has no great antiquity to commend." With due respect to the Donoughmore Commissioners he submitted that he could not conceive of a more inaccurate statement. He went on to say that from 1837 to 1931 the basis of representation was communal.

Mr. Ponnambalam quoted profusely from official documents including the Statutory Commission report and the Montague-Chelmsford report about communal representation in India.

The Donoughmore Commissioners might have done better to consult opinions of others who were as commendable as they themselves. In those circumstances the statement that was no antiquity to commend communal representation was wide of the mark because while in India the antiquity dated from 1906, in Ceylon it went back to 1837.

The cohesion of the 50 Sinhalese members would be five times as great as that of 50 members composed of five heterogeneous races. There was no attempt to turn the majority community into a minority.

They could not plant wholesale English parliamentary institutions in a country like Ceylon. It would be like wearing a fur coat on the plains of the Deccan. It was like planting an Arctic plant in the torrid zone. It might ultimately turn out to be a coconut or palmyrah plant. They should remove the possibility of the major community being in perpetual power, otherwise it would be better for the minorities to go home.

He referred to the statement made to the effect that Dr. Kaleel was returned by the Sinhalese electorate. That was a mischievous misrepresentation. The fact was that five or six Sinhalese contested him.

Mr. Ponnambalam said that if the Sinhalese majority vote was divided among five persons it could be an ac-

cident that a minority member was returned.

Sixty-five per cent. of the total population today would easily gain 80 per cent. of the seats. There was no possibility of the minority group exercising an influence on Government policy. No wonder then that there existed among the minorities a sense of political frustration.

Proportional representation was out of the question. The Burghers for instance would get one third of a seat! The Burghers and the Muslims were important elements in the population. The strength of their numbers, like that of the Indian population, lent weight to the majority community. All that the Tamils were asking, was that 65 per cent. of the population be given 50 per cent. of the seats.

A federal solution had to be resorted to when racial animosity sprang up between the English and the French in Canada. But in Ceylon they were being asked to run a unitary form of government.

Then Nevada and New York States, with large discrepancies of population returned an almost equal number of representatives to the legislature. A crude arithmetical majority could never be the fundamental basis of a working democracy.

### STALIN'S SCHEME

Mr. Ponnambalam referred to Stalin's scheme of communal representation in Russia. Stalin's scheme made the minority in Russia feel that the U.S.S.R. was as much theirs as any other Russians and that was why the Russians were able to stand together and fight against the Nazis hordes.

Mr. Ponnambalam said 50-50 was not a peculiar aberration of the Ceylon Tamils. It was merely the yearning of the minorities manifested in various countries, for equality.

England had accepted communal representation years ago in the case of Cyprus. Communal representation had to be created in Bohemia owing to the constant quarrels of Germans and Czechs.

Mr. Ponnambalam then went on to refer to the Ceylon National Congress and the Sinhala Maha Sabha. Before 1921 the Ceylon National Congress claimed a few minorities, but since 1921 there had hardly been a Tamil—not even a show body. The more candid and frank body, the Sinhala Maha Sabha was a communal organisation. He recalled how the Sinhalese leaders raised the communal cry at the Nuwara Eliya elections. They raised those communal clashes which did not make them very clear in previous times. In the up-country where there was a mixed population the communal cry was raised in the most virulent form.

In the matter of representation, he argued, the general principle was the contribution of a community to the welfare of the entire State. That point had to be taken into consideration.

At 12 noon there was another interval of ten minutes. The crowd by this time had swelled to such large numbers that there was hardly breathing space in the hall.

On resuming, Mr. F. A. Burrows remarked jovially that they were being encircled. Mr. Ponnambalam replied that it looked more like a pincer movement.

Mr. Ponnambalam asked whether British Government was going to tolerate the perpetuation of a permanent communal majority, a statutory majority, which was unalterable, irreparable, irremediable and irreducible.

What they objected to in the way of majority rule, he said, could best be illustrated by a reference to a passage in the book entitled "History of Freedom," by Lord Acton. Lord Acton stated inter alia: "It is best to be oppressed by the minority, but it is worse to be oppressed by the majority". He could give several other quotations but he did not wish to weary the Commissioners.

At this stage the Commission adjourned until the afternoon.

The following gave evidence on Friday, Feb. 16th: The Uva Kandy Association, the Medarata Mahajana Sangamaya and the Ceylon Tamil Congress.

## De Gaulle Declines to meet Roosevelt

Considerable perturbation has been caused in the highest French quarters by the leakage of a report that General de Gaulle has declined to go to Algiers to meet President Roosevelt. Authorised officials of General de Gaulle's entourage admitted that an invitation from Mr. Roosevelt had been received but not accepted.

The leakage is regarded in responsible quarters as a breach of faith. When giving the invitation to General de Gaulle, the U.S. Ambassador in Paris (Mr. Jefferson Caffery) at the same time handed over a highly secret memorandum from President Roosevelt containing the Yalta decisions. Mr. Caffery requested that the invitation as well as the memorandum should be treated as absolutely confidential.

The French authorities are all the more indignant about the leakage because they now feel that their position has been gravely prejudiced by a premature one-sided publication and they still do not feel free to issue a full statement of their side of the matter.

A high official of the French Foreign Office this morning called on the U. S. Ambassador and protested vigorously.

[Reuter adds that according to an earlier French report, the Paris correspondent of the "New York Herald Tribune" said that General de Gaulle had declined an invitation from President Roosevelt to confer with him.]

The Catholic man and woman in public life who can do three things is a most valuable asset. Here are the three: Get high office without hiding his faith, live up to it fully whilst in office, and not get "swelled head" when the honour of office is paid him.

### CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY. NOTICE

The Railway Level Crossing at 11M 02c., south end of Kandana Railway Station, Puttalam Line, will be totally closed for all vehicular traffic from 10.0 p.m. on Sunday the 25th to 1.0 a.m. on Monday the 26th, February, 1945 for effecting repairs. During the period of blockage traffic could be diverted via Rilaula-Bategama Road.

W. G. HILLS,  
General Manager.

3rd February, 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

**LATEST NEWS.**—Mr. D. Ramchand, proprietor NOVELTY SILK STORE, Main St., Jaffna, wishes to inform his patrons, customers and friends, that a small but selected consignment of Regulated Textiles such as suitings, shirtings, poplins, printed fabrics, furnishing materials etc., etc. have just landed at Colombo Port and shall be here in Jaffna within the next few days.

Finding much difficulty in obtaining such goods and in view of the acute demand in Jaffna for the same, Mr. "D. R." has contemplated a scheme of distribution of such goods accord-

ing to which, of course, first chance shall be given to his regular customers and then to middle-class people, ladies and school children etc.

All necessary care shall be taken to see that the goods are sold to the proper people in need.

A man has been set apart to book the names of such customers; and to avoid RUSH, dates shall be fixed and numbers allotted to them. Considerate arrangements and attention shall be provided for out-station customers.

A specified quantity of cloth shall only be issued daily.

## SILKS! SILKS!! SILKS!! 'NEW SILKS'—DIRECT FROM ENGLAND— ARE HERE ONCE AGAIN!!!

A small but selected consignment—  
in Striking Dainty designs—Just Arrived.

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| *PRINTED CREPE-DE-CHINES     | *CHARMEUSE SILKS    |
| *SILK SATINS                 | *LACQUERED TAFETTAS |
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| *PLAIN-SILK DRESS MATERIALS. | *BEAUTY SATINS      |
| *CHECKED-PATTERNED MOROCAIN  | *BRIDAL SILKS       |
| *PRINTED SILK-LINEN          | *BROCADES           |
| *PALACE CREPES               | *TISSUES & LAMES    |

ETC., ETC.

You will simply love to see these—  
All in glamorous designs and  
Attractive shades.

Silks suitable for any occasion—

For any dress, Frock, Underwear or Jacket.

**NOVELTY SILK STORE,**  
MAIN STREET — JAFFNA.

Printed and Published for the Proprietor by BASTIANPILLAI SANTIAGO PILLAI residing at 39, Main Street, Jaffna, at St. Joseph's Catholic Press, Catholic Mission Premises, Main Street, Jaffna, on Friday the 23rd February, 1945.