

The Catholic Guardian

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

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THE ARRESTED FIFTEEN POLES SOVIET JUSTICE

The fifteen Poles who are imprisoned in Russia, charged with "diversionary activities" against the Red Army, are the leaders of the Polish Resistance.

For six years they have been the mind, intelligence and morale of the 'maquis' of Poland. During the German occupation they led the Polish Underground Movement, and were responsible for the whole underground administration and armed struggle waged by the citizens of the eastern republic. They enjoyed the full confidence of the people, who strictly followed the instructions which were issued in close consultation with the Polish Government in London.

The most distinguished prisoner is the Polish Vice-Premier and delegate of the Polish Government, Dr. Jan Jankowski.

THE FACTS

Facts available relating to their transportation to Moscow are as follows: Early in February the leaders of the Polish Underground were invited, through General Leopold Okulicki, last commander of the disbanded Polish Home Army, to join in talks with the Russian General Ivanov. A Soviet Colonel Pimenov brought guarantees of the safety of the Poles if they were prepared to accept the invitation. Solemn pledges were given that they would be given transportation to England if they felt that the result of their talks demanded consultation with their superiors in London. The Russians kept these moves secret from America and Britain, thus breaking the Yalta Pact which stipulated that all negotiations be made jointly, the "Big Three" acting together.

Presumably at this point the Moscow talks opened. After some reports of success, emanating from Russian inspired sources, the veil of mystery descended on the fifteen delegates. They disappeared.

During the past month repeated assurances of the safety of the Polish leaders were requested by the British and American Government. Ambiguous replies were made by the Russian Government. In press conferences newspapermen have been assured of their safety, of their disappearance or of Russian ignorance of their whereabouts.

British newspapers and journalists, among them Mr. A.J. Cummings, of the "News Chronicle", have assured their readers that stories of the disappearance of the Polish leaders were London Government inspired rumours.

THE CHARGES

In May the Soviet Government announced their imprisonment and the accusation of "diversionary activities."

Two specific charges emerge from the Soviet.

First of all the charge of activities against the Red Army. This can be answered quite simply. The Polish Home Army has been disbanded by the order of the London Government. The Polish Government has no longer military forces at its disposal in Poland. All Polish armies in the field are in the West commanded by General Eisenhower.

The charge of possessing illegal radio communications is clever.

It is not generally known in this country since the publication of the British press has endeavoured as an unofficial but vociferous ally of the Soviet Ministry of Propaganda, to effect the first Soviet edition of the sale banning of all radio sets. It therefore follows that any person who can be arrested in possession of a wireless set is other than Soviet issue—one that includes within its range a station other than those which had received the Kremlin's imprimatur—can, and will be, charged with "diversionary activities."

THE MEN

The men imprisoned in Russia are leaders of the four Polish political parties. Besides the Deputy-Premier they include four members of the Polish shadow Cabinet and Dr. Puzak, chairman of the Council of National Unity. Only one member of the Polish delegation has been freed. He is Mr. Wincenty Witos, former Prime Minister of Poland and leader of the Peasant Party, the party of Mr. Mikolajczyk, who it was reported at the week-end was "ready to leave for Moscow." His departure has been postponed. Mr. Witos is over eighty years of age.

OTHER RECENT EVENTS

Meanwhile the following news has emanated from Poland and a radio which presumably is occupied in "diversionary activities" (sending news of Russian "Liberation" to the Western Allies).

Regardless of the fact that men of the Polish Home Army have registered with the Soviet authorities, they are continuing to be arrested.

A few days ago in the main street of Cracow, Colonel Wiatr, commanding officer of the Polish Peasant's Regiments of Galicia, was shot.

Dr. Kiernak, a Polish Cabinet Minister before the Pilsudski regime, and Mr. Gajoch, Chairman of the Peasant Party in Cracow, have been arrested.

Property confiscated by the Germans in Western Poland has not been returned to its owners. All saving and capital exceeding 500 zlotys (£10) has been confiscated.

Those who have received strips of land under the so-called agrarian reform scheme have been forbidden to erect homesteads and farming buildings. Agricultural implements have been held up by the Soviet authorities. Only one explanation emerges from the agrarian policy; in restraining the peasants from developing their own small farms the Russians are preparing the way for agricultural collectivisation.

With the coming of warm weather many thousands of people are leaving the Polish cities. They find shelter in the forests.

WHAT WE THINK

We think also of the tragedy of Poland whose national day was last Thursday. Instead of the joys of victory and deliverance the Catholic people of Poland remain exiled from their homeland or submitted within it to an occupying Power and the dictatorial rule of a puppet administration. Many lie in gaol and many have been deported

LEFT JOURNALIST'S DARK PICTURE OF U.S.S.R.

From Arthur Koestler, former Communist, famous novelist, intellectual and journalist of the Left, and writer of "Spanish Testament", literary onslaught on General Franco, comes this week perhaps the most devastating criticism of Soviet internal and foreign policy ever offered by a Marxian writer.

Koestler bases his judgments on Stalinism, for the most part, on Soviet documents. His attack comes in the third part of his latest book, "The Yogi and the Commissar," published in May (Cape, 10s. 6d.)

Here is Koestler on the internal organisation of the Soviet State.

TRADE UNIONS

"The crystallisation of the Stalinite bureaucracy in the second half of the 'twenties brought a radical change in the function of the Trade Unions. With the beginning of the first Five Year Plan they became integrated in the State Bureaucracy: their task was no longer to protect the interests of the workers but to strengthen labour discipline and to promote maximum efficiency."

LABOUR CONDITIONS

"Since 1940 unauthorised quitting of one's job and even lateness, idling, etc., are punished with forced labour; each offence has to be tried within five days by a single judge (instead of, as previously, by a judge and two lay advisers); judges and managers are threatened with heavy penalties for showing any leniency. Health insurance and other insurance benefits were made dependent on length of employment in any one job. Thus workers get no sickness allowances during the first six months of work in a new job, then the allowance rises gradually to reach the full amount only after ten years of service at the same working place. A change of employment means starting again at the bottom of the scale.

"At the same time the six-day week and seven-hour day were abolished, piece rates cut and norms of output raised, so that despite a 15 per cent.

under conditions of cruelty. Yet it was for Poland that we began the fight. Until Poland is delivered from the oppression of our own Ally victory carries a canker within it—a canker whose rottenness may infect the whole world.

We think also of the seizure of the free democratic Baltic States, one of which has been named the Eastern outpost of Catholic Christianity. There are no bells of joy for their peoples; there are no cheers of deliverance from an enemy yoke. Instead there is continuing darkness, continuing sorrow—the more bitter for the fact that they have no champion to defend their rights and to offer them hope of victory one day.

We think also of millions upon millions who, whether through defeat or through the policy of continued aggression are without the means of living, without roofs over their heads, separated from their loved ones, and, under God, without expectation of a normal human life for months or years to come.

May God protect all, whether allied, neutral or ex-belligerent, for whom today there is no victory.—*Cath. Herald*, London, May 11.

increase in working-time, the average wage remained the same, with deductions imposed on workers unable to fulfil their individual production quota—which 32 per cent. of the workers were unable to fulfil. Protective legislation in favour of women and adolescents (preventing their employment on night work and overtime) was abolished. It should be emphasised that all this refers to pre-war days; since December, 1941, all branches of Soviet industry and transport directly or indirectly connected with the war were placed under martial law; absenteeism, idling and carelessness became capital offences."

STANDARD OF LIVING

"The average standard of living in Russia had risen from the Revolution to 1929 by 54 per cent. and had by 1937 dropped to a level of 32 per cent. lower than pre-revolutionary standards."

"Food consumption per head has fallen from 1929 to 1934 by 30 per cent. This figure, according to Polanyi, stands 30 per cent. below that found by Sir John Boyd Orr for the worst-fed 10 per cent. of the British population."

These figures are based on standard of living estimates, and Koestler comments on his findings. "To the best of my knowledge no Soviet or Communist authority has so far either attempted to refute these figures or to publish different standard of living estimates."

CRIMINAL LAW

Koestler quotes from a Soviet decree of April 7th, 1935. "Young people from 12 years of age caught at theft, violence, infliction of bodily injury, mutilation, homicide or attempt at homicide are to be brought before the criminal law courts and punished in accordance with all measures of the criminal code." Koestler comments: "A law which treats a child of twelve as a grown-up in the criminal court has no parallel in the legislation of any civilised country—or for that matter any uncivilised one."

In regard to the family under criminal law, Koestler again quotes the Soviet Code. "In the event of flight or escape abroad of a military person the adult members of his family if they have in any way assisted the preparations of the commitment of the act of treason, or even if they have known about it without bringing it to the knowledge of the authorities, will be punished with five to ten years imprisonment with the confiscation of their property.

"The other members of the traitor's family, living with him or being his dependents at the time of the treason, are deprived of their electoral rights and deported for five years to the remote regions of Siberia."

Koestler comments: "The decree revives the primitive responsibility of the family or clan (blood-guilt)."

FOREIGN POLICY

"The Soviet bid for European domination will take shape only gradually, both in the intensification of her hold over her zones of influence and expanding these zones. Most of the intermediary steps will be camouflaged as internal developments within the small States concerned. The technique of

(Continued on Page 4.)

Co-operative Wholesale Establishment

TRANSPORT & LABOUR CONTRACT KAYTS BRANCH DEPOT

Tenders will be received by the Commissioner for Co-operative Development for transport by boat of foodstuffs and other goods consigned to the Branch Depot of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment at Kayts.

Goods will be transported in Departmental Lorries up to Karainagar and the service advertised for involves:

1. Unloading from lorries at Karainagar.
2. Transport from Karainagar to Kayts.
3. Unloading and stacking at the C. W.E. Depot at Kayts.

Rates quoted should be per cwt. or per package.

Tenders should be in sealed envelopes marked on the left hand top corner "Tender for Transport Contract Kayts."

The closing date for tenders is the 9th of July, 1945.

C. RAGUNATHAN,
for Commissioner of Co-operative Development.

P.O. Box 444, Colombo.

Church Calendar

JUNE 1945

FRI. ...29 Ss. Peter & Paul,

SAT. ...30 S. Etheldra.

JULY 1945

SUN. ...1 6 P. PRECIOUS BLOOD.

MON. ...2 VISITATION.

TUES. ...3 S. Leo II.

WED. ...4 SS. Pontiffs.

THURS. ...5 S. Ant. Mar. Zac.

FRI. ...6 S. Palladius.

The Catholic Guardian

JUNE 29TH 1945

THE BRITISH ELECTIONS

Before the next issue of this paper is out, British voters will have gone to the polls to decide the complexion of their next government. Every one is interested in the outcome of this giant contest because, Britain being a world-power, every other country might for good or ill become affected by the character of its government. Who knows if there had been a more far-sighted and wiser foreign policy the disasters which had befallen mankind might have been avoided. Hence, it must be the concern of every one that the United Kingdom should have a government which while working for the prosperity of its country would indirectly promote the peace and prosperity of other nations. That is a responsibility which a world-power ought to assume. The electoral contest that will be fought out next week promises to be an historic struggle between the two major parties—the Conservative and Labour. The protagonist of the Conservatives is Mr. Churchill in whom they pin their hope of victory more than in the party's policy. He is said to be following the example of the late Mr. Lloyd George in his whirlwind speech-making election tour but the deceased Premier had this advantage that he appealed to the country as a victorious war Premier supported by the colleagues of his coalition Ministry. Mr. Churchill tried to do the same. He wanted his coalition to stick together until the Japanese war was over but in that attempt he badly failed. Whether that was through dislike of Mr. Churchill or of his Conservative friends it is hard say, "England does not love coalition", said Disraeli

many, many years ago, and that is true. Englishmen, temperamentally democratic, will not put up with a coalition which is foreign to the spirit of democracy except in a time of crisis. And it may be well in passing to point out, that a democratic form of government is not strong enough to face an emergency. Democracy is a game of parties safe only in time of peace. Hence, when the emergency was over, Mr. Churchill's coalition collapsed and, the parties separating, each is making a vehement appeal to the electors to be returned to power. To know the final results one has to wait with patience until the 27th July owing to the votes of the Services. The surmise is the Conservatives are likely to win but whether they will have a working majority large enough to carry on for the next five years is quite uncertain. In a booklet written a few months ago, its author, a Liberal M.P., a bitter enemy of the Conservatives urges all the non-Conservative parties—Liberal, Labour, Commonwealth, Communist—to combine in order to defeat the Conservatives. They must combine, he says, because none of them has a hope of winning alone. And this opinion from a violent opponent shows the chances the Conservatives have of being returned to power. But they must come with a majority over and above the Labour and Liberal members combined. Otherwise the Liberals whose sympathies are with Labour may be in a position to turn the scales. But whatever party wins it will have before it tremendous problem to solve. Will it be equal to the task. That, after all, is the question.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Complaints from Pilgrims.—Complaints from Madhu pilgrims have reached us of nasty treatment by Government officers and these complaints are confirmed by a letter appearing in another column of this issue. Many pilgrims unable to get railway tickets travelled all the way to Madhu on foot. As they went along they bought their foodstuffs and the surplus they reserved for their few-days' stay at the Sanctuary. But on the alleged ground that they had with them more rice than the meagre quantity allowed them by the emergency regulations, the pilgrims, who are said to be mostly poor, were arrested, their rice was confiscated and they were heavily fined beyond their capacity to pay. Who is directing these heartless activities we do not exactly know but if he were somewhere in the South he would be made to realise quickly enough his folly. We have had a cartload of these emergency regulations but they are intended to be enforced with common sense. It may be, some of the pilgrims have gone against the latter of these regulations but these are clearly not cases for deterrent punishment. Allowance must be made for the peculiar situation in which the pilgrims are placed. Let us hope better counsels will prevail and all untoward incidents will be avoided.

Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Revd. Fr. B. Abraham

The Parishioners of St. Sebastian, Karampan, Kayts, celebrated the Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Revd. Father B. Abraham, their devoted Parish Priest for wellnigh eight years, on Saturday the 9th inst.

A Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. B. A. Dominic was responsible for all arrangements.

The festive day was ushered in by the peeling of bells and booming of canons. The Solemn High Mass was sung by the Jubilarian at 7 a.m. assisted by Revd. Frs. Thaninayagam and Deogupillai. This added much to the solemnity of the occasion, and the attendance at Mass testified to the devotion, the parishioners had to their Pastor.

After Gospel, Revd. Fr. Rasanayagam preached a sermon, dwelling on the dignity of the Priesthood and said that while he was a pupil at the College under the Jubilarian when not yet a priest he austere and business struck him so that he longed for the day when he would be able to serve at the first Holy Mass of his Jubilarian.

On the parents the high respect for bringing up the children in the fear of God so that they may be blessed with the fruit of serving our Lord in His vineyard.

In the afternoon, the celebration committee entertained to lunch, the clergy who had responded to the invitation and graced the occasion by their presence.

All paths led to the Mission House all throughout the afternoon. The visitors included both Catholic and Hindu well-wishers and friends from far and near. By 5 p.m. the Mission House and Church premises were gay and filled to the overflowing with the gathering throng of devoted parishioners and admiring friends.

After Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Thanksgiving Revd. Father Abraham was brought in procession to the accompaniment of music from the Mission House to the decorated pandal erected in front of the church.

The Jubilarian was garlanded on arrival at the pandal by the veteran Udayar, Mr. S. Soosaiappai and songs of welcome were sung. Revd. Fathers Desloges and Sebastian were accommodated on the platform. Mr. B. A. Dominic read an illuminated address on behalf of the parishioners. He was followed by Mr. S. Santhiapillai, retired Maniagar, Islands Division, who spoke of the Jubilarian as a Priest ever ardent for the redemption of souls, as a social worker and reformer. He dwelt at length on the qualities that made the Jubilarian a stern administrator and at the same time a man in whom charity was an inborn quality.

Dr. S. Ariaratnam, D.M.O. Kayts, who spoke next pointed out that what struck him—a Hindu—was the Jubilarian's habitual austerity of living and the natural asceticism of manner. Mr. N. Chelliah—also a Hindu—next spoke of the work of the Jubilarian in the Parish as a social worker and reformer among Catholics as well as Hindus and of the devotion which Fr. Abraham inspired in all those who came into contact with him. Many, he said, did not see eye to eye with him, and the dissident disagreed with him amicably or agreed with him devotedly.

Mr. S. Adaikalamuttu spoke next of the qualities of the head and the heart of the Jubilarian.

Mr. S. Santhiapillai then presented a purse on behalf of the parishioners.

Revd. Fr. Abraham, who rose amidst thunderous cheers, replied thanking the assembled friends, well-wishers and the parishioners and hoped that they would all help him to realize one more hope of his i.e. the rebuilding of the church as fitting to the growing town of Karampan. He said that he would launch on this campaign immediately.

Mr. B. A. Dominic thanked all those who had helped to make the function the success that it was, and those who had kindly responded to their invitation and graced the occasion by their presence.

The day was brought to a close with a Variety Entertainment.

May the Jubilarian be given grace and strength to carry on his labours and live to celebrate his Golden Jubilee also, is the prayer of his parishioners.—Cor.

A Public Reception

A grand reception was accorded to Mr. A. Gardiner by the public of Atchvely on Friday the 22nd inst. on his visit after his appointment as Moopu of St. Joseph's Church, Atchvely. He was taken in procession to the accompaniment of native music to a specially erected pandal in the church premises. The visitors seated on the platform were Very Revd. Fr. F. M. Bizien, O.M.I., Revd. Fr. G. A. Gurusamy, O.M.I., Revd. Fr. William Jesuthasan, O.M.I., Mr. R. Murugesampillai, D.R.O., Messrs. S. A. Alagaratnam and P. Saverimuttu of S.P.C., Jaffna.

A welcome address was read to him by Mr. B. Sinnappu, the retd. Udayar on behalf of the public of Atchvely in which glorious tributes were paid to his kindness and generosity, his popularity both in and out of Ceylon.

Revd. Fr. G. T. Balasundaram, O.M.I. next speaking thanked Mr. Gardiner for having graciously turned up for the occasion in spite of his other important engagements. One thing he would mention viz. Mr. Gardiner was all out to help any deserving cause and as the people of Atchvely were very much in need of his help he was ready to help them with a hospital, convent and other facilities.

Mr. S. A. Alagaratnam next spoke of the admirable qualities of the old boy of St. Patrick's who has proved himself second to none in business in Ceylon. He requested the New Moopu to work heart and soul to improve the lot of the labourers by introducing some sort of industries into the village.

Mr. T. Thambimuttu, the Chairman of the V.C. next speaking said that he had known the Gardiner family for a very long time and admired them for their piety and generosity and said that though rich men usually stray away from God that new appointment would keep him in closer touch with God and his country.

Mr. Gardiner rising amidst great applause said that he was thankful to them for the reception they gave him and the good things they had said about him and said that he looked upon any land as his own land and any person as his own brother. He requested them to sink all differences of caste and creed and to work for the common good. He said that he would do as much for Atchvely as he could because it is usually what is given away in charity etc. that stands a person in good stead in the next world.

After this there was a variety entertainment given by the children of the Atchvely school in his honour.

Reception After Investiture

Mubandiram F. J. R. Vikramasinkam of Jaffna is the son of the late Chev. V. F. Thampu, Knight of the Order of St. Sylvester, a reputed Journalist and Scholar of the North. He is the Chief Clerk of the P.R.C., N.P. and D.R.C. Jaffna, was acting as Maniagar of Chavakachcheri and Pallai from 1937 to 1940. He is a social worker and a member of several charitable institutions and a member of the Managing Committee of the Jaffna F.I.N.S. for the past 25 years. He is also the Secretary of the O.B.A., S.P.C., Jaffna. On his arrival after investiture he was given a rousing reception at Chavakachcheri, Jaffna and Kayts. On arrival at Chavakachcheri railway station he was received with garlands and music and taken in procession to the Resthouse where a party was held in his honour. In the evening the Mubandiram was met at Jaffna on the Main Street and taken in procession according to oriental fashion under a canopy with Nilapavada to his residence with music. The Mubandiram was heavily garlanded en route by Sinhalese, Muslims and Tamils and cheered. At the entrance to his house he was received and garlanded by Sir Waithilingan Duraiswamy, Speaker of the State Council and was conducted to a specially erected dais. The Mu-

handiram and wife entertained the guests to a party after which the Speaker and Revd. Fr. S. Vanderkone, O.M.I. on behalf of those assembled felicitated the Muhandiram and wished him many more honours. The Muhandiram feelingly replied.

On the 20th inst. a reception was accorded to the Muhandiram at Kayts. On arrival the Muhandiram was taken in procession with music to St. Peter's School Hall at Naranthanai where he was accorded a public reception at which Dr. S. Ariyaratnam, D.M.O., Kayts, presided. Mr. A. Maruthanair Chairman V.C. Velanai and Mr. S. Adakalamuttu spoke in praise of the services rendered to the community by the Muhandiram and the members of his family and the Muhandiram suitably replied.

From the school he was taken again in procession to his residence where his father-in-law and mother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Arulanandam Santhiapillai held a social which was largely attended.



OBLATE NECROLOGY

- Died ??? aged 57, Revd. Fr. Thomas Foley of the Province of Anglo-Hibernica (Dublin).
- Died Dec. 13, 1944, aged 71, Revd. Fr. Ludovici Weislinger of Domo Generali (S. Jean-de-Luz).
- Died ??? aged 38, Revd. Fr. Adolphi Boecker of the Province of Germanica (in bello).
- Died Feb. 4, 1945, aged 31, Lay Bro. Ludovici-Philippi Fortin of the Province of Canadensi (Cap-de-la-Madeleine).
- Died Feb. 23, 1945, aged 74, Revd. Fr. Ludovici Girard of the Vicariate of Grouard McLennan).
- Died Feb. 15, 1945, aged 78, Revd. Fr. Thomæ-Patricii Murphy of the Province of Sti Petri New Westminster (New Westminster).
- Died Feb. 27, 1945, aged 70, Revd. Fr. Henrici of the Vicariate of Windhoek (Windhoek).
- Died Feb. 29, 1945, aged 29, Revd. Fr. Mauricii Lachapelle of the Province of Canadensi (Sherbrooke).

LOCAL & GENERAL

Confraternity of the Sacred Heart.—The monthly meeting of the members of the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart, S.P.C. Branch, Senior Division will be held on Sunday the 1st July at 6 p.m. at the College Hall.

The Revd. Fr. S. Nicholapillai, O.M.I. will address the meeting on "the Reality of the Catholic Church."

Old Boys' Association.—The inaugural meeting of the O.B.A. of Sacred Heart College, Karaveddy, was held on 8-6-45 at the college. The Principal made a short welcome speech in which he expressed his delight at the realisation of his wish, the inauguration of the O.B.A. He also dwelt briefly on the various needs of the college: a good playground, a reading room and an adequate science laboratory.

Later the following office-bearers were elected:—Patron: His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna. Ex-officio president: Revd. Bro. P. Pakianather, S.S.J., Principal. Vice-presidents:—Messrs. V.K. Sithampalam and P. Kanapathypillai. Hon. Secy: Mr. N. Melchior. Asst. Secy: Mr. A. Nadarajah. Committee members: Messrs. L. R. Alagaratnam, T. Sebastiampillai, S. Arokianather, S. Meikandathevar, V. Navaratnam, B. Arulappu, S. K. Santhirasekare, C. Thamotherampillai and P. Vincent.

A special committee consisting of Revd. Bro. Principal, Messrs. J. Edward and N. Melchior was also formed, for drafting the constitution of the O.B.A.

Mr. S. Tisseveerasingham thanked the Old Boys, in the name of the present staff and students, for their ready response to and co-operation in the inauguration of the O.B.A.

The following resolution, was passed: "That the O.B.A. wishes to place on record, the great financial help rendered

by Mr. V. Nalliah to the Institution by the generous donation of Rs. 1,000.

Church of Our Lady of Refuge.—A general meeting of the Parishioners of Our Lady of Refuge, Jaffna was held on Sunday the 24th inst. at the school hall with the parish priest, presiding. The president explained to the meeting the urgency of certain protective works for the church. On the suggestion of Mr. S. James, Proctor, a committee of 19 representing the various novenas was elected to collect the money necessary for the purpose. Messrs. Regis Rajakariar and P. Q. Christy were unanimously elected joint secretaries of this finance committee. It was also decided to discuss the estimate on 1-7-45 and start the work before the rains set in.

The Third Order of St. Francis.—The monthly meeting of the Third Order of St. Francis will take place at 7 p.m. in St. Aloysius' Hall on Monday the 2nd of July 1945. All the Brothers are cordially invited to be present.

Press Communique.—A telegram has been received from the Governor from the Secretary of State for the Colonies stating that Singapore on July 8th, will be observed in a similar manner throughout Great Britain as a day of thankful remembrance of work done by the Royal and Merchant Navy, the Air Force and the Royal Air Force, and the vigilance we owe to them from our front and the safety of our Forces to so many parts of the world. All congregations in Great Britain will therefore be asked to refer to them especially in their prayers and all church collections on that day will be sent to the King George's Fund for Sailors.

The Minister for Home Affairs joins with His Excellency in commending a similar observance of the day to leaders and members of all religious bodies of every creed and denomination in this Island and in reminding the public that all subscriptions to and collections for the King George's Fund for Sailors should be sent to the Bank of Ceylon, 41, Bristol Street, Colombo, who are the Hon. Treasurers of the local branch of the Fund.

University of Ceylon Awards.—Two old boys of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna have been awarded a Scholarship and an Exhibition in the last Entrance Examination in Arts. They are Mr. J. G. A. Amirthanayagam (scholarship) who left St. Patrick's to join St. Joseph's at the end of last year. Mr. N.P. Jegannathan (Exhibition).

Census in 1946.—H. E. the Governor has gazetted a proclamation ordering that a census be held in 1946 for the purpose of ascertaining the social civil and economic conditions of the inhabitants of Ceylon.

The census will relate to the population, agriculture (including animal husbandry), labour, industry, trade and commerce, hospitals, nursing homes and other medical organisations, charitable institutions, and prisons and other penal establishments.

Soulbury Report.—The Soulbury Commission's Report, cables the "Daily News" London correspondent, is believed on good authority to have been completed and delivered to the Colonial Office, which refuses to confirm or deny and states: "We can say nothing."

Enhanced Price of Copra.—The purchase price of copra will be Rs. 99 per candy from Wednesday.

Mr. Corea said: "As a result of my negotiations with the Ministry of Food I can now announce that in spite of much opposition I succeeded in persuading the Ministry of Food to increase its purchase price for copra from Rs. 64 to Rs. 99 per candy, which means that the price of Rs. 59 paid to the producer under the existing contract will be raised to Rs. 93 per candy."

"There is thus an increase of Rs. 34 per candy of copra to the producer. Taking the total exports of oil and copra at 800,000 candies per year, this increase means that coconut producers will get an additional income of Rs. 28 million a year."

The Board of Ministers recorded a vote of appreciation of Mr. Corea's successful mission.

North-Ceylon National League.—His Majesty's thanks has been conveyed to Dr. N. M. Vanniasinghe, the President of the North-Ceylon National League and the members for their cable message of loyalty and congratulations

sent on the 9th of May last on the occasion of the cessation of hostilities in Europe.

J.C.C. Boy wins "Dr. Hewavitane Prize."—K. V. S. Kathirgamanathan, student of Jaffna Central College and son of Mr. K. V. Sinnadurai, Proctor S.C., and Member U.C., has won the "Dr. Hewavitane Prize" awarded to the best candidate at the S.S.C. 1944 Examination.

Anaicottai.—For the benefit of the Anaicottai Central Reading Room a musical entertainment took place at the Manipay Hindu College Hall on 19-6-45 at 7 p.m. under the patronage of the G. A., N.P., Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, by Pundit N. Sanmugaratnam and party. At the end a vote of thanks was proposed by the President of the Reading Room Mr. V. Chuntharampillai. The company broke up at about 10-30 p.m.

Brazil Retains the Crucifix.—The objection of certain sects to what they call "the entronement of images in Brazilian public establishments by the Roman Church" have been dismissed and an official ruling given that the Crucifix is an indestructible part of Brazil and her people.

This legal opinion, given by Marcondes Filho, Secretary of Labour and Acting Secretary of Justice, has been accepted by President Vargas.

CORRESPONDENCE

Situation at Madhu Camp

Dear Sir,—The Madhu Festival is in full swing. This year, a large crowd of pilgrims, to avoid apparently the traffic regulations, arrived early in the camp. Many came walking from Jaffna by the Pooneryn-Mannar Road, carrying with them provisions for their stay at Madhu. All went well until the 23rd when suddenly rumours spread of people being arrested for carrying rice and heavily fined—mostly poor people—as they entered the camp. Seven barriers surrounded the camp and many of the pilgrims were searched 4 or 5 times within the space of a few miles. Then news came that the camping ground of the pilgrims was going to be searched and, actually, a beginning was made with some of the boutiques.

The reason given for this procedure is (1) that it is the law of the land, (2) that Mantote is short of rice this year and that rice should not be removed—and many other reasons that I cannot give here.

A sort of deadlock is in prospect. Will government help to ease the situation we do not know. It is the first time I believe that such a situation has arisen at Madhu.

A little more than 15 thousand people are in camp but fresh arrivals continue. Fortunately, the pilgrims are orderly and go through their rounds of devotions as usual. May the Blessed Virgin help them.

CORRESPONDENT.

Madhu, 26th June 1945.

Water Famine at Kayts

Dear and Revd. Fr.—Owing to the abnormal heat that is being experienced to-day in this island of Leyden and owing to the failure of the monsoon the few existing wells that supplied the needs of the place have gone dry. The water famine is being felt so keenly that already families are migrating from this island to distant parts on account of this distress. The people are now drinking muddy water. The existing little water at the bottom of the well is hardly sufficient for drinking purposes. No water for washing and bathing is available, cattle are dying as the ponds have gone dry. A great calamity is befalling the agricultural population on account of the deaths of the cattle. We fear that dysentery and other illnesses may break out if this plight continues. The prospects of rain are very remote. Everyone is talking of the impending danger. Will the Government and Councillors come to the rescue of the people of Kayts for expediting the pipe borne water supply scheme which has already been sanctioned without the least possible delay and thus alleviate the chronic trouble. The sanitary town of Kayts is the greatest sufferer in this respect.

S. P. XAVIER NESAM.

Kayts 26-6-45.

St. Anthony's Shrine, Pottuvil

In the little village of Pottuvil some 67 miles down south of Batticaloa amidst silvan surroundings stands St. Anthony's Shrine, Pottuvil, facing Pottuvil-Moneragalle, Pottuvil-Batticaloa and Pottuvil-Arugas Bay roads the last of which leads on to the Yala Game Sanctuary Surroundings. This modest edifice is little known to many outside a limited circle of devotees, friends and benefactors. It owes its existence to the untiring efforts of the Revd. Fr. W. M. Lambert, Mis. Ap., and to the financial assistance of His Lordship the Bishop of Trincomalee, the Catholic members of the planting community in the Uva, the generous donations of the Baratha community, business men in Colombo and other friends and well-wishers in the Island. This Church serves as a spiritual store house for the resident Catholics, the Catholic visitors to the Arugas Bay Resthouse and to travellers between Uva and Eastern Province via Moneragalle. Some time back it was a delightful sight to see servicemen in the vicinity serve at Mass in this little church when the priest turned up on his visits.

More than all, the shrine has turned into a popular centre of pilgrimage to the devotees of St. Anthony in Batticaloa South. The annual festival for the year commenced on the 9th inst. with the usual novenas. On the 16th night Vespers were sung and the festival sermon preached by the Revd. Fr. George E. L. Wambeek, Mis. Ap. of the Kalmunai Catholic Mission who was conducting the novenas. The feast was celebrated on the 17th inst. with High Mass being sung by the same priest; and the glorious proceedings of the week came to a close on the 17th after the feeding of the poor or the 'Virtunthu.' Under Fr. Wambeek the activities at Pottuvil received fresh impetus. Pilgrim sheds were erected to accommodate the pilgrims. Singing at the devotions were varied and excellent. This attracted even Muslims and Hindus to the spot. These will be glad news to the numerous benefactors, friends and well-wishers of St. Anthony's Shrine, Pottuvil.

Anuradhapura

At the monthly meeting of the A'pura Catholic Association held last Sunday evening at St. Joseph's College Hall, Mr. T. Quintin Fernando, District Judge, gave an inspiring lecture on "The Immortality of the Soul." No object, he said, that this world contained could bear any comparison with the soul. So immense was its intrinsic value that it was incumbent on all to do everything possible to save their souls from hell. After a brief description of the supreme happiness one would enjoy in Heaven, he gave a harrowing description of hell and exhorted all present to wage a relentless war against the snares of Satan and lead virtuous lives.

Mr. J. A. V. Sylvester proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer offered some useful comments on the lecture. Mr. S. Pancras seconded.

Mr. Sylvester took the opportunity of paying an eloquent tribute to the Very Revd. Fr. T.M.F. Long, O.M.I. for his sterling ability, galvanic energy, untiring zeal and wonderful organising capacity and added that Fr. Long had many achievements to his credit, chief of which being the phenomenal success that attended his efforts in organising Carnivals for the Fighter Plane. The establishment of the St. Patrick's College O.B.A. in Colombo in 1922 despite discouraging circumstances was another feat of Fr. Long which deserved special mention. As Rector of St. Patrick's he had lent grace and dignity to the College which had made rapid strides during his regime. In conclusion Mr. Sylvester moved that the Association should place on record its deep appreciation of Fr. Long's distinguished and invaluable services to the Jaffna public in general and the Catholic community in particular and that the Hon. Secy. should convey to the Very Revd. Father the warmest wishes and felicitations of the Catholics of A'pura on the happy completion of a quarter-century of fruitful priestly life. Mr. S. Pancras seconded and the motion was carried with acclamation.

Left Journalist's Dark Picture of U.S.S.R.

(Continued from Page 1)

vassalisation will be perfected, and the speed and rhythm of events adapted to the patient's pulse. A series of quick, brisk surprise blows may be followed by prolonged lulls of idyllic tranquility, diplomatic shock treatment by soothing periods of convalescence spread over several years. *Fait accomplis* will alternate with tokens of goodwill, tensions with relief and new pressure. All this sounds like rather sinister prophecy, whereas it is simply the projection of past experiences in power politics into the future."

POLAND

"And how is a country Sovietised? Here, says Koestler, was Poland from February, 1940 to June 1941. "Mass deportations on a scale hitherto unknown in history were the main administrative method of Sovietisation in Eastern Europe during the two years from the Russian invasion of Poland to the German invasion of Russia.... The number of persons actually deported from Eastern Poland amounted roughly to one million, but the number earmarked according to the categories of the deportation plan was considerably greater; the execution of the plan had to be interrupted—or rather postponed—owing to the Russo-German war..."

"After the war, when Russia will have uncontested mastery in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the world may witness, among other surprises, mass dislocations and forced migrations on an unprecedented scale, carried through with the efficiency and total disregard of the human factor which characterises the Soviet regime's treatment of its own people."—C.H. London.

Catholics and Educational Reforms

"With many of the resolutions passed by the State Council we have no quarrel whatsoever. With some of them we are sincerely in full agreement," declared the Revd. Fr. Chiriatti, S.J., Rector of St. Aloysius's College, Galle, at the prize-distribution of the College on last Saturday. "We welcome free education, provided, however, careful provision be made to maintain the high standard of our schools. We agree that the introduction of the vernacular as a medium of instruction in the primary school is a step in the right direction.

"We feel happy that schooling is to be made available to all children of school-going age and that compulsory education is to be enforced effectively. We hail with distinct pleasure the advent of a variety of post-primary schools to suit the needs, abilities and temperament of individual children.

"But among the glittering gold we discover worthless tinsel and not a few of the so-called gems are found to be mere glass. Indeed some of the resolutions if implemented, would rob us of fundamental liberties which we hold sacred, and which, as free citizens in a free country, we claim as our inalienable birthright. We are not prepared tamely to accept this situation. Catholics, I believe, profess an instinctive regard and respect for authority; but there are occasions when to remain silent is to acknowledge weakness and to acquiesce meekly is tantamount to connive at the evil.

MUST PROTEST LOUDER

"The time has come for the 500,000 Catholics in Ceylon to protest loudly and unmistakably against the unconstitutional attempt to render impossible or unpracticable the continuance of our existing Catholic schools—save perhaps under penalties—and to prohibit the opening of new schools of various types where such are deemed necessary—to protest against the exclusive privilege of the State to open central schools—to claim the right to have our Catholic schools unhampered by harassing regulations to demand for the parent the right to choose on religious or other reasonable grounds the school in which his child is to be educated.

"These essential demands we have reiterated again and again. Their justice has not failed to impress the fair-minded even in the opposing camp. Yet, our hopes are being frustrated. Already

before the last battle is fought our opponents exult over the great victory they have won—the victory of responsible elected representatives of the people who are ready to sacrifice the just claims of an important section of the community to their own pet ideas in matter of educational policy. There are those who would attribute to our opponents dubious, if not sinister motives. We would only say that, being the servants of the people, they ought to have found and adopted a formula acceptable to all which would have safeguarded the legitimate interests of all.

"It is not suggested that the proposed reforms explicitly impose on Catholic schools disabilities other than those binding non-Catholic denominational schools. Yet, from the nature of the case Catholic schools are bound to be adversely affected worse than other schools. Indeed, it must be clear to everyone as it evidently is to the sponsors of the objectionable recommendations that many of our schools must sooner or later, die a peaceful, natural death. The problem of minorities once more, now in the sphere of education, appearing in the most hideous and offensive form of legislation based indirectly at least, on religious considerations. Catholic Schools are threatened with extinction because they are Catholic—officially, of course because they are not fulfilling the numerical condition laid down in the new scheme."

JUDGE'S VIEWS

Mr. Justice Soertsz, who presided said that education to be complete and worthy of the name, must have a religious background. That was precisely where the proposed reforms in the education system of this country failed. It seemed to him that the purpose of the proposed reforms was to eliminate everything that had made for success in the past.

These reforms, if adopted, would really mean the destruction of education as they knew it and desired it to be. But he felt that the future would not be as gloomy as it appeared to be. He could not bring himself to believe that those authorities in whose hands the question of reforms ultimately lay would be so fanatically shortsighted as to overlook the contribution the denominational schools made to the welfare and well-being of the country.

The Lanka Ayurvedic Medical College and Siddaka Institute, Jaffna

EXAMINATION RESULTS

The North-Ceylon Board of Indigenous Medicine has declared the following candidates to have passed in the Annual Examinations held in March 1945.

The order is according to merit :—

Final year D.A.M. course		
Nil		
Third year I.A.M. course		
S. Subramaniyam	1st Division	
P. Arulappu	IIIrd "	
K. Murugesu	IIIrd "	
Second year I.A.M. course		
K. Sivasubramaniyam	IInd Division	
A. Thirunavukarasu	" "	
M. Navaneethamayam	IIIrd Division	
P. Sithamparanathan	" "	
S. Tharmalingam	" "	
S. Ratnavael	" "	
S. Antonipillai	" "	
First Year F.A.M. course		
K. Namasivayam	IInd Division	
K. Kumarasamy	" "	
K. Thampapillai	IIIrd "	
S. Ratnavael	" "	

Telegraphic Summary of News

TWO BIG NOMINATION DAY SURPRISES

There will be 1,672 candidates fighting in Britain's General Election on July 5th. This does not include three men who were returned unopposed on Monday—Nomination Day—and who therefore are first members of the new Parliament.

The candidates are fighting for 637 seats. There will be a record number

of women at the poll, the total nominated being 88.

There were rather more nominations than was originally expected. This was due to a number of last-minute candidates, some of whom are fighting under strange labels which have never before appeared in any parliamentary contest.

But the total is not a record. In the 1929 General Election there were 1,728 candidates for the 615 seats in the old Parliament. At the 1935 election there were only 1,348 in the field.

A big surprise is that only three men—all former Members of Parliament—have been returned unopposed to the next Parliament which meets on August 1st. Thus they are the first members to be elected to the new House of Commons.

CHURCHILL'S OPPONENT

Another big surprise in the nominations is that Mr. Churchill will, after all, be opposed in the Woodford Constituency, although both the Labour and the Liberal Parties are standing aside there. The man who has come forward to challenge Mr. Churchill, on ground which Mr. Churchill has held for more than 20 years, is Mr. Alexander Henderson, a 70-year-old farmer who is financially independent.

WAITES LEOPOLD'S NEXT MOVE

King Leopold is awaiting the next move from King Leopold who is in the Austrian town of Salzburg, the Communist newspaper "Drapeau Rouge" on Monday warned the King that "a rising of Democrats and a general strike by workers" will be the result if he carries out his reported intention of choosing M. Van Der Meersch, as his Premier. M. Van Der Meersch, chief of the Belgian Military Judiciary, is at present on a visit to the King at Salzburg. Declaring that the King could not choose a better way of showing bad intentions, the newspaper says: "The Belgians do not want a police government—the precursor of Royal Fascism."

PROTEST FROM LONDON POLES

The Polish Government in London in a declaration handed on Tuesday to all the Allied Governments except Russia has made a formal protest against the new Polish Provisional Government of National Unity. The declaration says the "so-called Provisional Government of National Unity is illegal," and the Polish Government in London declares that it will hand over its authority only to a Government which has been formed on free Polish soil and one which reflects the will of the people as expressed in free elections.

The Polish Government says that despite its protests and contrary to international law and the solemn declaration of the United Nations, "a Committee composed of a Foreign Minister of a country that has annexed nearly half of the whole territory of Poland and the Ambassadors of Great Britain and the United States has been authorised to sanction a pseudo-Government imposed on the Polish nation, which is at present under the occupation of an alien army and alien political police."

It declares that a Provisional Polish Government has been created "while the whole of Polish territory is occupied by the Soviet army and at a time when the Poles are deprived of the elementary right of man and citizen.

HISTORY'S GREATEST ALLIANCE FOR WORLD PEACE SIGNED

"Millions now dead would be alive if the world had had the new Security Charter a few few years ago—and, above all, the will to use it," said President Truman in San Francisco on Monday in his address to the closing plenary session of the United Nations Conference.

Calling the Charter the "great instrument for peace and security and human progress in the world", he said: "If we should falter in the future in our will to use it, millions now living will surely die."

SIGNING CEREMONY

Delegates of the 50 United Nations

began signing the Charter at noon (San Francisco time) on Monday.

They were led by Dr. Wellington Koo (China) who with a bamboo brush painted China's signature in ancient Chinese characters on the historic document.

After Dr. Koo the Argentine delegate followed—and then the 150 others—in a ceremony which lasted several hours.

CHARTER MARKS HISTORY'S GREATEST ALLIANCE

Leaders of the 50 United Nations, at a midnight meeting, approved the Charter on which the future peace of the world will depend—a charter which, unlike the Covenant of the old League of Nations has "teeth" in the form of armed forces with which to stop aggression.

At the same time, the plenary session accepted the Statute of the Court of International Justice and the establishment of a Preparatory Commission.

This great alliance in history—an alliance against war—involves the creation of comprehensive machinery for its prevention by judicial, economic, diplomatic and (if necessary) military means.

INVASION FLEET REPORTED 150 MILES FROM JAPAN

While Admiral Chester Nimitz (Cin-C., Pacific) has been called by President Truman for a conference in the United States, the Tokio Radio announces that Allied forces are attempting a new landing on an unspecified island halfway between Okinawa and the Japanese mainland.

TENDERS

Co-operative Union Hospital, Ltd.
Moolai, Chulipuram

SURGICAL BLOCK

Tenders are called for the erection of the Surgical Block. Plan and specifications can be seen at the Secretary's office by the contractors between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tenders will be closed before 12 noon on the 23rd July, 1945. Forms can be obtained from the Secretary on a payment of Rs. 10 as deposit. Unsuccessful tenderers deposit will be returned.

Apply to the Secretary,
Co-op. Union Hospital Ltd.,
Moolai, Chulipuram.

CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB (Jaffna Branch)

All old members of the C.B.C. who have paid their annual contribution of Rs. 24 are kindly requested to send me their names and the receipts (if possible) together with a list of books they have so far been supplied to enable me to give them other books allowed by the Club.

All monthly subscribers and intending members are requested to send me monthly their subscriptions of Rs. 2 the receipt for which will be sent along with the books issued for the month.

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

Unicorn Series
Practice of Daily Communion
Lives of Individual Saints
White Fathers Diary
Glories of Mary Part I
Veeramamunivar (Tamil).
P. SAVERIMUTTU,
Local Hony. Secy. C.B.C.
St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.

Campaign for the Diffusion of Catholic Literature

A MILLION pamphlets must be sold before this year closes. 10% commission is allowed to ALL CATHOLIC ACTIONISTS interested in the diffusion of CATHOLIC LITERATURE.

The war will be over soon and your income will quickly dwindle. Families can supplement their income by earning this commission on the sale of our literature.

Write at once to the Hony. Secy., CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB (Ceylon Branch), AMPITIYA, KANDY.