

The Catholic Guardian

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JAFFNA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1945.

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THE MEDICAL APOSTOLATE CONVENTION OF CATHOLIC HOSPITALS' ASSOCIATION

The Fourth Convention of the Catholic Hospitals' Association held in Nagpur on November 14th was attended by delegates from 21 places, viz: Jaffna (Ceylon), Theni, Madras, Salem, Kumbakonam, Trivandrum, Mysore, Bangalore, Kurnool, Guntur, Lallagudda, Waltair, Kurela, Jabulpore, Patna, Indore, Benares, Teresapore, Mymensingh, Rawalpindi, Nagpur. Delegates from six other places wrote or telegraphed that they had intended to be present at the Convention but were prevented by circumstances.

PRESIDENT, SISTER MARY OF THE SACRED HEART, M.D.

The delegates attended a Holy Mass celebrated in the Cathedral by H. E. the Bishop of Nagpur, who afterwards opened the Convention. Catholic doctors and nurses attended the opening and closing functions. His Excellency struck the keynote of the meeting in his admirable description of what a Catholic hospital should do.

THE WORK OF ST. LUKE'S GUILD

Dr. D'Costa, I.M.S. (retired) gave a splendid address about the St. Luke's Guild and told the gathering what it has done and can do for Catholic doctors. His remarks were endorsed by the Very Revd. Fr. Hicky, C.S.S.R., who pointed out that the Guild of St. Luke will enable Catholic doctors to solve difficulties that may arise with regard to the morality of medical practice and will moreover be a strong support to those who find themselves in a difficult position.

THE PROPOSED CATHOLIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

Sister M. Laetitia reported what is being done to further the establishment of a Catholic Medical College. One of the visiting doctors suggested that the proposal to found a Catholic Medical College would antagonise the Government and result in the dismissal of Catholic students from the existing Colleges. In reply the President said that she was pleased to learn that there were many Catholic Medical students in Bombay. In the Madras Presidency there are four Medical Colleges as a result of a recent inquiry, we could only discover four Catholic medical students. In Mysore only one Christian student (Catholic or Protestant) is admitted to the Medical College each year.

Sir A. L. Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University stated in a public address that 19 more Medical Colleges are required to supply the needs of the Madras Presidency. Far from meeting with antagonism the proposed Catholic Medical College has found a welcome. Lt-General Hance, D.G., I.M.S., who is a Patron of the C.H.A., has given great encouragement. Major-General J. Huban, Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras has accepted nomination as an honorary member of the Catholic Medical College Committee and has promised to give all the help in his power. Sister Laetitia, added that the Inspector General of Medical Services in Bihar has expressed his readiness to give 4½ lakhs to a Catholic Medical College Hospital and 20 lakhs for a Catholic Medical College in Bihar.

The President read a paper which had originally been prepared for an International Catholic Medical Congress held in Vienna in 1936. The topics appointed for discussion at that Congress were Euthanasia, Sterilization and Eugenics. It was pointed out that Catholic medical students and Catholic nurses require instruction in Catholic principles relating to the morality of medical and nursing practice. An animated discussion followed. Difficult points were raised by some of the experienced doctors present. There were admirably answered by Sister M. Leonie, M.D., a member of the Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, Rawalpindi.

Other topics discussed at the Convention were: The training of nurses and nursing Brothers; the training of Health Visitors; the urgent need of Catholic doctors and nurses in mission hospitals and ways and means of raising funds.

EIRE & THE BRITISH ELECTION

To us the British Premier is not a Tory, nor a Socialist: he is England's spokesman. Nevertheless, it would be idle to pretend that our detachment was so perfect that we were unaffected by the news of Mr. Churchill's emphatic rejection by the English people.

A few weeks ago we had put the memory of the Black-and-Tans from us, and his treatment of our delegates in 1921. We respected England for her honourable observance of our neutral rights, and we credited her leader accordingly. Then, however, came Mr. Churchill's unworthy attack upon us, and his attempt to drive a wedge between Irishmen and their own chief: with that our fears of this hostile personality revived, and therefore many of us were as much relieved by his defeat as if a loaded pistol had been taken from a mischievous child.

THE IRISH VOTE

It is remarked by many Irishmen home on holidays from employment in Britain, that the Irish vote contributed

not a little to the defeat of the man who had threatened Ireland. This is borne out by the fact that a third of a million copies of the Irish reply to the Churchill broadcast were bought in Britain—so much did the Irish there and their English workmates resent the unwarranted attack on Ireland's honour.

An interesting comparison could be made between the Election results as they were, by the English system of election, and what they would be under the Irish system. If Proportional Representation were in operation in Britain, both Labour and Conservatives would have won fewer seats. Labour would hold, not 154 over the other parties combined, but a margin of a few seats over half the House and it would need support from other groups to be strong. The Liberals, on their present poll, would have between 60 and 70 seats, and minor groups would have perhaps 40 or 50 seats. Such is the nearest one can judge from the imperfect figures available at the

NEWMAN DECIDES "INTO PORT AFTER A ROUGH SEA"

Under the above caption, "The Times Literary Supplement", London, writes as follows in its issue dated Oct 6:

The reception of John Henry Newman into the Roman Catholic Church on October 9, a hundred years ago has not lost its importance; it has had lasting consequences for the Church he left, for the Church of his adoption, for the religious life of this country and indeed for Western Christendom. Nor has his personal religious history lost in interest. There could not be a more convincing example of continuity in spiritual growth through changes of allegiance than Newman's. The end to which he came was perhaps inevitable, but he found his way step by step, cautiously and conscientiously; in the strictest sense it was "one step enough for me."

In 1828 Newman succeeded Hawkins as Vicar of St. Mary the Virgin and was to minister there for fifteen years. Besides his occasional turns as university preacher, he preached regularly at the afternoon parochial service, and soon drew large numbers of senior and junior members of the university. There are many familiar descriptions of his preaching, but a less known one is that of Elizabeth Sewall, the novelist, who was taken by her brother, William Sewall of Exeter, to St. Mary's. In later years she related the effects of the preacher's personality:

His absolute earnestness, the stillness of his manner, his low tones; he spoke as in the presence of God, and with an utter forgetfulness of everything but the message, the warning and advice he had to give.

His Oxford sermons were seldom controversial, but they rested upon an assured hold of Christian doctrine, from which he was principally concerned to draw the moral implications. With piercing insight he laid bare the intricacies and hidden motives of the heart, so that his hearers were helped to know themselves. There was also considerable skill shown in holding their interest. In a sermon to which he gives the

title, "Religion a Weariness to the National Man," he addresses the young first and at once takes it for granted that they find it so:

I am not at present going so far as to reprove you for it, though I might well do so; if I did, perhaps you might at once turn away, and I wish you calmly to think the matter over, and bear me witness that I state the fact correctly.

Then he analyses the many reasons why the natural man finds the interests of the world more interesting, and at the end can counsel them that we must "begin to love the things we naturally do not love."

Another gift which he exercises is that of presenting the case against himself or the cause he advocates with such daring frankness that a hearer who does not share his view will at least allow that the preacher understands the difficulties of faith. It is well to stress the sternly ethical and intensely religious character of Newman's sermons. As Church says, "The movement had its spring in the consciences and character of its leaders. To these men religion really meant the most awful and most seriously personal thing on earth." They were deeply concerned at the worldly tone of much that passed for religion, the threat to faith by attacks from within as well as from without, and the compromising connexion of the Church with the State. There was a determined attempt to bring about a revival of religious life without the framework of the Church of England before it was too late: "O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years, make it known." Newman threw himself into the work, bearing far the larger part in the Tracts for the Times. He was the leader, not of his own seeking, but because others, and especially the younger men, sought him out.

A TURKISH VIEW OF RUSSIA

Those who may consider the English Catholic press to be too outspoken about Russia may be interested to read the views of the Turkish journalist Yalchin, who writes in the daily paper "Tanin":

"Who stirred up this danger of war in the Balkans and the Near East? Bolshevik Russia. Who, in China and the Far East, wants to repeat the Polish tragedy of which the English

moment of writing, but the estimate cannot be far out.

[The actual figures according to the Proportional Representation Society are: Labour, 299; Conservative, 288; Liberal, 57; (if Liberals had contested 600 seats it would probably have been nearer 100).—EDITOR.]

This fact will teach the observer, whether he prefers a Labour landslide or a "P.R." balance, that Irish election results ought to be reported more scrupulously than is usual in some newspapers. For almost every Irish election of recent years would have shown a landslide total like English Labour's, if we used the English electoral system.—Cath. Herald, London.

Liberals speak? Bolshevik Russia. Conservatives, Liberals, all England are agreed that international relations are extremely strained. We are not spreading false alarms. We are simply doing our duty in showing our country the world situation as it is. It is those people who benefit by concealing the truth, who want to scare us by accusing us of being Fascists and reactionaries. But who are these people? Once again, they are the Bolsheviks. At the time of the Balkan Entente these regions were the calmest and safest in Europe. What has made them adopt a threatening attitude towards each other, raising the danger of another war? It all springs from the fact that the Bolsheviks have set foot in the Balkans. A free Rumania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, free to express their own will and to live in amity among themselves no longer exist."

Yalchin points out that the Soviets are also fanning territorial ambitions in China and concludes: "These problems are so serious that it contains within itself the seeds of conflict which might result in a new war in the Far East. And why? Because Russia wants it so."

THE GUARDIAN DIARY FOR 1946

(A page for a day)

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St. Joseph's Catholic Press,
JAFFNA.

Catholic Union of Ceylon

Annual General Meeting

The forty third Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Union of Ceylon will be held at St. Joseph's College, Borella, on Sunday the 16th December, 1945.

Notice of any resolutions to be placed before the meeting should reach the undersigned not later than the 2nd December, 1945.

C. M. G. DE SARAM,
Hony. Secretary.

Negris Building,
York Street, Colombo.
19-11-45.

Church Calendar

NOVEMBER 1945

FRI. ...30 S. Andrew.

DECEMBER 1945

SAT. ...1 S. Candida.

SUN. ...2 1 A.—S. Bibiana.

MON. ...3 S. Francis Xavier.

TUES. ...4 S. Peter Chry.

WED. ...5 S. Chrispina.

THURS. ...6 S. Nicholas.

FRI. ...7 S. Ambrose.

The Catholic Guardian

NOVEMBER 30TH 1945

A CALL FOR UNITY

There has occurred a regrettable split among the Tamils on the question of whether the Tamil members, and particularly the Tamil Congress members acted honourably in voting for the acceptance of the White Paper proposals. Some Tamils think they did, but a large majority following the Tamil Congress condemn their action. This matter has become a mere controversial topic. Letters on the subject will continue to appear so long as space is allowed them in the papers. But people cannot be convinced if they do not want to and continued recriminations will only widen the split. Already "Nationalist" Tamils have begun to emerge from their dug-outs. What is needed at this juncture is unity and to secure unity there must be a resolute will to resist the temptation to exploit the present situation for personal ends.

The Tamil Congress has lost in a fair fight, though it deserved to win. It made no extravagant claim. Critics may do well to remember that all the delegations from the minorities to the Soulbury Commission with perhaps the possible exception the Burgher's asked for balanced representation. Strangely enough, in a *resume* of the Constitutional Reform published by the Ceylon Government as Gazette Extraordinary one reads: "The scheme of balanced representa-

tion is not, however, supported by the remaining minority communities, who are primarily anxious that they should secure adequate representation in whatever new Legislature is set up." This is not correct, if it means that minorities other than the Tamils did not support balanced representation. In any case those who stood for balanced representation are right in thinking that although the spirit in which a democratic system is worked is all-important still the mechanism by which the objects of government are achieved is no less important. The machine must be so fitted up as to enable it to fulfill the aspirations of all the people and to satisfy their sense of justice. So in our view the Tamil Congress was engaged in a fair fight but in strategy it was at fault. While it professed profound loyalty and its eagerness for British connection, the Sinhalese demanded Dominion Status bordering on independence as their right, used strong language and boycotted the Reform Commission. The Labour Government, new to their job, became uneasy. Unwilling to concede the demand for Dominion Status they felt that this party must be placated somehow and did so at the expense of the minorities. Post-war world has become familiar with such political expedients which, far from ushering in peace, have created unrest and discontent throughout half the world. Political arrangements based on expediency are never final unless in their working they happen to prove a success. It remains to be seen whether the White Paper Constitution is going to be a success. When the mechanism itself is defective you want an exceptionally skilful man to work it. But it must not be said that any ill-success in its working is due to lack of co-operation on the part of the minority communities. All must try honestly to co-operate and if, in spite of their endeavour, the machinery breaks down there will then be a good reason for seeking to mend it. Let the Tamils of the Northern and Eastern Provinces, who chiefly stand to lose by any acts of discrimination, be absolutely united and speak with one solid voice and they would make themselves a power even as the Irish members once did in the British Parliament.

EDITORIAL NOTE

An Indian Proteus.—Our readers will have heard of the intolerant policy of the present Dewan of Travancore who has elaborated plans for suppressing Christian schools on the plea of enforcing free, compulsory education much in the same way as Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara is trying to cripple our schools here. But the Dewan's antagonism against Christians must be of comparatively recent development and the reason for it must be found in him and not in the people. For instance, though both the Catholic Church and Catholics have received many tributes of praise from those outside the fold the Dewan's testimony is one of the best we

have come across. What he says of the Catholic loyalty and of the stability which the Church gives to political and social order is perfectly true and he was honest in his acknowledgments. However, he wants now to suppress Catholic education which plays such an important role in the life of the Church. We quote his tribute of praise to show what reliance could be placed on the fair words of politicians. At Ernakulam in 1941, March 26th, he said:

"It is true that Travancore and Cochin have no more loyal, law-abiding and enterprising and industrious portion of the population than the Catholics. This is not the first occasion on which I have made that observation and I know that it will not be the last. It has been the characteristic of the Catholic population to have observed literally and in spirit those words which fell from you in the course of the address, which need iteration and reiteration very often in these days";—yea! in these very hours!

"The Catholic Church has always stood for what you have called constitutional authority. On occasions and at times when the foundations of society are in jeopardy, when practically every idea and every ideal is being examined and re-examined, it is something that there exist like the Catholic Church, organisations, persons and groups that stand for stability, that stand for concord, that stand for conjoint action and that stand for those hierarchies and sanctities without which the world and life in the world would be meaningless and without significance."

Catholic Union of India

The Managing Committee of the Union met at St. Xavier's College on the 27th and 28th October, with the President, Mr. M. Ruthnaswamy, in the Chair. Members representing Madras, Hyderabad, Mysore, Bombay, Sind, Rajputana and Central Provinces attended the Meeting. Members from Bengal, Travancore and Cochin were unable to attend.

The President gave a brief review of the organization of the Union, which showed that the Union was effective in practically the whole of India. The Committee decided that steps be taken early to start local associations or branches of the Union wherever required.

Considerable discussion arose on various important points of the policy and constitution of the Union, and Mr. A. Soares, the Secretary, was asked to draw up an amended constitution for the Union in the light of the views expressed by members, to be placed before the Annual General Meeting to be held in Hyderabad (Deccan) in Feb. next.

The Committee considered a draft of fundamental rights by Mr. Soares, and decided to appoint Mr. Ruthnaswamy, Mr. C. M. Lobo (Karachi), and Mr. Soares to study the constitutional problems of India with Protestant representatives of the Joint Committee and to formulate proposals for the Constituent Assembly.

The Committee was in favour of separate Indian Christian representation on the Constituent Assembly, as well as of a proposal to increase the utterly inadequate representation of Christians in the Central Legislature.

The President and the Secretary reported on the action taken by the Union on the Travancore Educational policy, and after discussion the Committee passed the following Resolution:—

RESOLUTION ON TRAVANCORE

The Committee of the C.U.I. having carefully considered the Education Act passed by the Travancore State, notes with satisfaction that the Act admits private and denominational schools being on the approved list of primary schools, provided no fees are charged and religious instruction is given outside school hours.

The Committee, however, regrets that

the Act makes no provision about aiding with adequate grants the schools so approved. As it is plainly impossible for the private schools which are prevented from charging fees, to maintain themselves without adequate grants from the State which is responsible for the new Act, the Committee strongly urges the State authorities to accept the principle of grants-in-aid to all schools which accept the principles of the Act and conform to the general education pattern of the State, thus putting an end to a controversy which has engendered communal bitterness and strained the good relations that have existed between the State and the Catholics of Travancore.

The Committee emphatically declares that the protests made by Catholics of Travancore and other parts of India were directed at a decision of the Travancore Government which vitally affected their interests, and were not aimed at the Hindu community with which Catholics have no quarrel. The Committee, therefore, deeply regret that the Hindu Mahasabha should have tried to give the Catholic agitation a communal colouring, thus unnecessarily and unwisely adding to the communal tension in the country. The Catholics hold that in the stand they have taken in this matter they should have the sympathy and support of all parties and communities, which stand for religious tolerance and freedom of India.

The Committee of the C.U.I. urges that, in view of the public appeal made by the Dewan of Travancore to the Christians in the State to seek a solution of the problem created by the new Education Act through discussion, the leaders of the Kerala Catholic Congress should, after consultations with the ecclesiastical authorities, enter into negotiations with the State authorities with a view to arriving at a satisfactory settlement which will fully safeguard the rights and legitimate interests of Catholics in the State.

REPATRIATION OF MISSIONARIES

By another Resolution the Committee deeply regretted the decision of the Government of India to repatriate missionaries of ex-enemy countries who have been under detention, and earnestly appeals to H.E. the Viceroy to revise the decision and allow these missionaries to resume their work for the benefit of both the country and the Christian Community in India. The Committee would point out that by this decision Government are depriving the Christian community in India of the spiritual ministrations which are their right, and seriously affecting the humanitarian and evangelizing work of the churches in India.

The Committee have no doubt that these missionaries have no intention of engaging in political activities in India, but will confine themselves to their mission work.

CATHOLICS AND THE ELECTIONS

The Committee by another Resolution urges Catholic Associations to organise the Catholic vote effectively for the coming legislative assemblies. While leaving Catholic voters freedom to vote according to their political leanings or affiliations, the Union stresses the need of Catholic votes being cast for men of character and constructive ability of any party or community, as men of that stamp are the great need of the country in the legislatures. The Committee urges Catholic voters to seek and obtain assurances from all candidates for the rights and legitimate interests of Catholics.

Silver Jubilee of Very Rev. Fr. P. T. James, O.M.I.

On the 16th inst. at 7 a.m. children from Ilavai and the neighbouring parishes filed in their hundreds into the central Parish Church of Ilavai. Black robed nuns and novices, white clad maidens from the convent and the girls' schools, gallant lads from St. Henry's College and the Boys' schools, and twenty priests headed by the Administrator of the Diocese filed to overflowing the nave, the aisles and the sanctuary of the spacious church of St. Anne's, to thank God in union with Revd. Fr. P. T. James, O.M.I., on the 25th anniversary of his priesthood.

In their midst, Fr. James sang the Solenn High Mass, assisted by Revd. Fr. B. Philip, O.M.I., and Revd. Fr. L. A. Singarayer, O.M.I., while Revd. Fr. G. T. Balasundaram, O.M.I., preached a soul-stirring panegyric. After Holy Mass a group photograph was taken and all the children entertained to tea. At 10 o'clock Fr. James was taken in procession in the grand oriental way amidst music to the decorated Tamil School where the teachers and pupils offered him their wishes in an illuminated address and presented him with a purse. In the evening St. Henry's College had a garden party in his honour at which were present among others several Priests and numerous relatives of Fr. James, who had come from Jaffna and Kayts. A grand concert organised by the College, with item from the Convent and the Tamil schools, brought the celebrations to a close.

Ad multos annos.



OBLATE NECROLOGY

Died 7 November 1944, aged 48, Revd. Fr. Lorenz of the Province of Germany (Stettin).

Died 8th March 1945, aged 53, Revd. Fr. Caroli Gruhl of the Province of Germany (Saint Nicholas).

Died 30th June 1945, aged 57, Revd Fr. Pauli Andtes of the Province of Germany (Ursberg).

Died 20th August 1944, aged 44, Revd. Fr. Rudolphi Pomerleau of the Province of Canada (l'Enfant Jesus de Beauce).

This morning news was received by wire of the death of Revd. Father G. Goonewardene, O.M.I., of the Archdiocese of Colombo.

LOCAL & GENERAL

A New Church.—The Revd. Father H. Gesland, O.M.I., Parish Priest, Sillalai, encouraged by the generous response he has received for his appeal, is inaugurating a new church—the erection at present temporary—which will be the first church dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at a well-known and historic site called "Irasa Murukkadi." Father Gesland is sure that the friends of the new shrine will daily increase in number and will enable him to build a fine church on the spot. Here is the programme of inauguration:

Sunday 9th of December at 3 p.m. the statue of the Immaculate Heart will be blessed at Sillalai, then taken in procession by the children of the Legion of Mary to the site of the new church, Pandateruppu. A sermon will be preached by Revd. Fr. N. S. Nalliah, O.M.I., and the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will follow.

Monday 10th at 7 a.m. a High Mass will be sung for the benefactors of the new Church.

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 at the College Hall on Sunday the 2nd December at 5.30 p.m.

The Revd. Fr. J. C. Selvaratnam, O.M.I., will address the meeting on "Your Mass Your Live."

The Third Order of St. Francis.—The monthly meeting of the Third Order of St. Francis will take place at 6 p.m. in St. Aloysius' Hall on Monday the 3rd of December 1945. All the Brothers are kindly requested to be there in time. Plenary Indulgences can be gained on these dates:—8, 9, 12, 15, and 25. Conditions:—Confession, Communion, Visit to the Cathedral and prayer for the Pope's Intentions.

Anuradhapura has been made a

centre for the Govt. Senior Certificate Examination for the first time this year. Great credit is due to our most popular and energetic Member of the State Council Mr. P. B. Bulankulame Dissawe, who was instrumental in getting this concession from Government. It is hoped that A'pura would from now on be a centre for all important Examinations and that the Member would make available other facilities so long denied to North Central Province.—P. de Saram B.

Charity Football Match in aid of the X'Mas Treat for the Poor, St. Patrick's 1st XI vs. Combined Jaffna Team on Saturday 1st December, 1945 at 4.45 p.m. in St. Patrick's Grounds. Seats cts. 25. Buy a Ticket and help the Poor.

Ratmalana Air-Port.—It has been officially announced by the Civil Aviation Department that after 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 1st, no aircraft will arrive at or depart from the aerodrome at Ratmalana.

All services that have been using the Ratmalana aerodrome will in future use the aerodrome at Negombo, and arrangements have been made accordingly.

Promotion.—His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to order the promotion of Mr. Gabriel Thomas Puvimannasinghe, District Traffic Inspector, C.G.R., Kandy, from Class II to Class I of the Inspector's Grade. Mr. Puvimannasinghe is the eldest son of the late Mr. J. S. Puvimannasinghe, Head-Master, St. Patrick's College, Jaffna. We offer him our congratulations on his well-merited promotion.

Inter-Collegiate Soccer Competition.—The final match in the Jaffna school soccer competition which was played on Saturday the 17th inst. between St. Henry's College and Jaffna Hindu College ended in a draw each side scoring 1-1, and became Joint Champions for the year 1945.

Alleged Visions Discredited.—"There is no proof in the case of Pierette Regimbald." This is the terse verdict of a diocesan court of inquiry that has ended sensational publicity about the claims of a 13-year-old girl of Val d'Or, Quebec, to have seen apparitions of St. Francis of Assisi. The court's decision was promulgated by the Bishop of Amos, in a pastoral letter, which says that thousands of people had lent a credulous ear to strange reports on the child's pretensions.

Italian Workers Report on Soviet.—A delegation of Italian workers recently visited the U.S.S.R. Among them were two members of the Christian Democratic Party. These two Catholic delegates said that there are only four Orthodox Churches open in Moscow and Leningrad, frequented by about 200-250 worshippers, mostly old women, apart from a few youths and men. The priests told the delegates that baptisms totalled 40-50 per week, and religious celebrations of marriage 100-350 yearly. There is only one Catholic church open in the whole of the U.S.S.R.—that belonging to the French Embassy in Moscow, where the teaching of the Catechism is not allowed. Even the Orthodox Church, the only one which enjoys any sort of liberty, is not allowed to make propaganda or give religious instruction, nor may it do any pastoral work outside its churches. For this reason, the two delegates said, one could not talk of religious liberty in the U.S.S.R., since the first and essential condition was liberty of religious instruction.

Pope's Advice for New Italy.—In a message to the 19th Catholic Social Week which opened in Florence on Oct. 22nd, and which was to discuss Italy's future Constitution, the Pope says: "Present and future generations must be assured of a fundamental basis for the State which is not in opposition to healthy religious and moral principles, but derives vigour and inspiration from them." His Holiness warns that novelties in law are not always conducive to public well-being. "To remain faithful to the best and well-tried spiritual and juridical traditions does not mean hostility to the social transformations for the common good. A good social order cannot be founded on class hatred and egoism, but on mutual Christian charity."

Justice: 1945.—Belgrade Radio begins its report of the trial of members of Mihailovitch's Committee with the following account of the spirit in which justice is approached in the new Yugoslavia:

"The great hall of the Juridical Faculty, where the trial is taking place, was completely filled. When the accused were brought in, there were shouts of: 'Death to the butchers!' 'Traitors!' 'To the gallows with the murderers!' and 'Down with the occupiers' hirelings!' The hall rang with exclamations: 'Hang them!' The appearance of the members of the Military Tribunal aroused enthusiastic cheers: 'Long live the People's Court!' and applause. After the shouts had died down, the chairman of the Tribunal read the names of those accused."

The Jaffna Progressive Association

At an Executive Committee Meeting of the Jaffna Progressive Association held at its Office room on the 14th inst., presided over by Mr. R. C. Proctor, Retired Deputy Registrar, Supreme Court, Jaffna, the following resolution proposed by Mr. R. Sinnadurai of Sandilupay, seconded by Mr. C. N. Deva Rajan of Manipay and supported by Mr. E. Tiruchelvam of Jaffna Town, was unanimously passed:—

"The Jaffna Progressive Association enters its emphatic protest against the continuance of the present State Council which has already run nine years. It has lost its representativeness. Its conduct has been a subject of enquiry by Commissions and decisions given were derogatory to its honour and credit. The Councillors have clung to seats in circumstances under which the British Parliamentary Conventions would not have them. Public opinion is decidedly against the State Council continuing in office. Its further continuance is a menace to the infant democracy. The reform of the Constitution is a matter of fundamental national interest. To hold a General Election upon proposals to reform laws of fundamental national interest has come to be recognised as an indispensable act of political procedure in democracies.

"Wherefore this Association urges the immediate dissolution of the present State Council and that consideration of reform proposals be placed before the New Council."

It was also resolved that copies of the above resolution be forwarded to H. E. the Governor and the Secretary of State for the Colonies for their kind and favourable consideration.

Mr. P. Q. Christian has been elected Additional Secretary to the Association.

OBITUARY

The death occurred on Saturday morning the 24th instant at the Civil Hospital, Jaffna of Mr. George Philipiah, retired Inspector of Schools. The remains were immediately removed to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Gunaratnam, "The Agricultural Bungalow", Tinnevely. The funeral took place the following morning (Sunday).

There was a large attendance at the house and at the burial ground. The Service at the house was conducted by the Venerable Navaratnam, Archdeacon of Jaffna. The Archdeacon spoke appreciatively of the high Christian character of the deceased, his benefactions to the church and his services to the St. John's College, when he was a teacher there. Mudaliyar S. Candhiar, retired Divisional Inspector of Schools and Mr. A. R. Subramaniam, the ret'd. District Judge also spoke commending the example of the deceased's character and integrity.

The funeral cortege left Tinnevely at 9.30 a.m. and burial took place at the New Cemetery, Jaffna Town.

At the service there the Venerable Navaratnam was assisted by Rev. J. T. Arulanantham, the Principal, St. John's College.

The deceased was 72 years of age and was a bachelor. He leaves behind Mrs. Gunaratnam, his niece, and her husband Mr. Gunaratnam, 4 nephews, a grand niece and a grand nephew, as chief mourners and a host of relatives.

Cathedral Corner

(1) It is interesting to record that St. Mary's Cathedral Church—whose early disappearance we long to witness—was started a hundred and fifty years ago. From some old archives it appears to have been blessed and opened for service in 1796.

There is a sister church in Alexandria, Virginia, U.S.A. which also celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. The land on which it stands was donated by a protestant Marylander. The plans were drawn up in the house of Colonel Fitzgerald, aide-de-camp to Gen. Washington, who attended the meeting and contributed to the building fund.

In the case of our own Cathedral Church it is difficult to say whether the church was started under the Dutch or under the British Government, and, if under the Dutch, what was the attitude of the authorities towards the new building. It is not likely that—as in America—the head of the State and non-catholics contributed to the purchase of land and the erection of the building.

September 28th, 1795 was the day when Jaffna surrendered to the British and, therefore, when our forefathers felt that their chains were broken and they could worship God in their own way. On December the 3rd 1795, Jaffna got its first Government Agent (or Collector, as he was then styled) in the person of Mr. John Jarvis.

We should be glad to know whether the agitation for a new church and the beginning of the building took place before the arrival of the British or after. If the answer to this historical riddle is in the affirmative, it shows that the Dutch knew that their days were counted and that it was not safe to antagonise popular feeling any longer.

(2) "Suema" staged at St. Patrick's College on Saturday the 24th by the young ladies of the Ilavai Training College, was a roaring success. It had to contend against several handicaps. A population accustomed to cinema shows, where the films exhibit hot-stuff from Hollywood or India, were not likely to appreciate a sensible, literary play in five acts, in classical style. There was also the fact that the play was staged at the end of the month, when funds are low, especially as two concerts had taken place in the same hall that week. The weather was unsteady and may have frightened some well-wishers away. The gross takings however amount to Rs. 757-00 which have been credited to the Cathedral Fund. Great credit is due to the heroine of the play and her mother whose parts were long and difficult and whose acting drew much applause.

Four interludes, two songs and two dances, were supplied by the girls of the Jaffna Holy Family English School and were much appreciated.

C. S. M.

The Western Division Tamil Teachers' Association

A deputation from the Western Division Tamil Teachers' Association met the Controller of Establishments on the subject of Salaries revision on the 24th November, 1945 and pressed its case for the provision of better scale of salaries to the Swapasha teachers.

It submitted for consideration among other things the following proposals, viz:

(1) A salary scale in relation to that provided to other services.

(2) A salary of Rs. 600 per annum for the uncertificated teachers.

(3) Provision of Widows and Orphans Pension to the teachers.

(4) Payment of extra allowance to teachers in schools in Municipal areas.

(5) Payment of one year's salary to a teacher who dies whilst in service after completing 5 years' teaching.

V. NADARAJAH,
K. S. LEONIS FERNANDO,
Joint Hony. Secretaries

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2. Tenders should be made on form 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 any Kachcheri and a receipt produced for the same before any form of tender is issued.

E. GOONERATNE,

for Deputy Food Controller, Jaffna.
The Kachcheri,
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