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# The Catholic Guardian

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## HUMBLED BY LANKA'S CULTURE LORD LISTOWEL'S MESSAGE

"I felt extremely humble when I thought of the culture and skill your ancestors possessed when mine were still barbarians. I believe that Ceylon will continue to teach the world as she has done in the past," said Lord Listowel, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs in Great Britain in a broadcast message.

Lord Listowel said: —  
 "I am most grateful for this opportunity to say a few words of thanks and congratulations for myself and the rest of my party, to your Prime Minister in particular, and to all who have welcomed us during our stay here. I am no less grateful for the truly magnificent hospitality with which Ceylon has entertained her official visitors.

### FAR-SIGHTED STATESMANSHIP

"It is an experience that comes only once in a lifetime to be present at the very moment when a people achieves its freedom and to share with them the happiness and rejoicing they feel at gaining the highest-prize in the life of a nation.

"That the goal of your endeavour has been reached at this time, and without any impairment of your long friendship with the United Kingdom, is largely due to the bold and far-sighted statesmanship of your Prime Minister, Mr. Senanayake, and to the support he had received from a loyal and patriotic Cabinet. It has been a special privilege for me to make the acquaintance of some of the Ministers who have rendered this great service to Ceylon.

"A new chapter in the history of our relations with Ceylon has opened. Your attainment of equal and independent status in the Commonwealth, is the

start of a different and more fruitful partnership. My Secretary of State has sent you his good wishes for the future, in which I, and all who have served you in the past in my Department, would wish to join.

"I do assure you that the United Kingdom, like the other Commonwealth countries, gives a heartfelt welcome to this addition to the family, and that it will continue to do its utmost at all times to serve Ceylon, whenever its services are required.

### SPLENDID WELCOME

"I feel that my thanks are also due to the warm hearted people of Ceylon for the splendid welcome they have given to the visitors from overseas and for the many kindnesses I have received from them. I admired particularly the patient and orderly behaviour of the crowds which gathered in the streets of Colombo and Kandy—an example of self discipline that augurs well for the future of your country.

"I shall not forget the matchless beauty of your hills and forests and lakes, and the relics of a great civilisation now extinct, which I saw during a far too brief visit to Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa. I felt extremely humble when I thought of the culture and skill your ancestors possessed when mine were still barbarians. I believe that Ceylon will continue to teach the world as she has done in the past.

"I carry away with me many pleasant memories of your lovely island, of the friendliness of its people, of the beauty of its scenery and its ancient monuments. I wish you all a happy, and a successful, and a prosperous future."—  
*The Ceylon Daily News.*

## A WORD OF WARNING

A reader draws our attention to a report that a group of Women's International Democratic Federation will arrive in Bombay in order to visit India. Nothing could appear more innocuous than a democratic federation, an international one to boot, and a women's one above all. But the art of camouflage is highly developed. In the *Clergy Monthly* of March 1947 there is more than a word of caution against the W.I.D.F. which we reproduce here for the benefit of our readers.

"We must not be astonished that the leaders of International Communism, always wide awake to any possibility of furthering the cause, should be trying might and main to have the women of the world under their power. The Women's International Democratic Federation (W.I.D.F.) is one means towards this end. The tactics are known. The millions of women belonging to the various national organizations are of course not all Communists or even inclined towards Communism. To have these organizations back their claims and to permeate them with their ideas, it would be enough for the Communists to get some of their capable women workers into the most important positions of these organizations. Somehow the comrades always seem able to find or to form these capable workers, endowed with conviction, initiative, loyal-

ty to the Party, and ready for hard work even under the most trying circumstances. The qualities of these persons, it is said, together with the need for devoted, capable leaders and the difficulty to find them elsewhere, are responsible for putting the direction of so many organizations into the hands of the Communists and thus under direct Communist influence. The influence is first camouflaged, later on open, as opportunity requires—witness the experience of so many of the Indian workers' unions, peasant organizations, etc. The same tactics have been used in the world's women's organizations and led up to the thoroughly dominated W.I.D.F."

The most important post in the Federation, that of General Secretary, is held by a Frenchwoman, Mme. Marie Vaillaut-Couturier, who has been elected a Communist delegate to the French Constituent Assembly.

After giving an account of the foundation of the W.I.D.F. and its work the article in the *Clergy Monthly* concludes: "Not a few of the publicly avowed aims of the W.I.D.F. are truly commendable; others look quite innocent. But Catholics will not be led by the nose. They remember what Pius XI wrote about Communist trickery under various forms, hiding the real designs behind ideas that are in themselves good and attractive. Some of the aims of the

## The Pilgrim Virgin —Her Message to us—

In the past few numbers of the "Catholic Guardian", both English and Tamil, there has been a good amount of literature written about the Pilgrim Virgin who is about to visit us in the course of the next few months. Since she is anxious to visit us, it will be of interest to us to know what she has to tell us and to keep her message clearly before us.

Her message is no other than that she has already given to the three little children at Fatima and desired to be published and practised the wide world over.

In the third apparition she granted to the three little children on the 13th of July, 1917, she revealed to them three secrets two of which have been already released to us by Lucia the oldest of the three children.

The first secret is about the horrid vision of hell. Lucia says that they saw a bottomless pit, very wide in extent, filled with surging flames, absorbing all the souls falling into it, vomiting sparks everywhere and surrounded by heavy clouds of dark smoke. The devils themselves assumed hideous forms of the most ravaging animals, the like of which have never before been witnessed in the world. "Had it not been for Our Lady who had promised to give us eternal bliss and who supported us at that moment that hideous sight of hell would have been more than enough to kill us, though it lasted—but a moment."

The second secret was about the establishment, in the world, of a true devotion to Her Immaculate Heart and the consecration of the world to the same heart. Listen to Lucia: "After the vanishing of the horrid sight of hell, Our Lady looked very sad and told us 'you have now seen the sad plight of the damned souls. Almighty God in His great mercy towards the souls in the world, desires to save them by establishing a real devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If this is done and the people repent of

their faults, souls will find a great peace of mind, will save themselves from eternal damnation, and the present war (World War No. I between 1914-1918) will terminate very soon. If this is not done and the people continued to offend His August Majesty, another war, (World War No. II between 1939-1945), much more terrible in its ravaging effects will very soon follow in the wake of the first one. God will punish the world with a severe famine, the Church will be persecuted and many nations will perish. However my Immaculate Heart will at the end conquer and another lease of existence will be given to the world."

To realize in ourselves, in a practical manner, this message of Our Lady, what are we to do? In the first place, let us, learning a salutary lesson of fear from the horrid picture of hell, avoid going thereto. It is a life of holiness that will keep us from hell: if we have sinned, let us repent of our faults and do penance for our sins. This is in the fitness of things. Our Lord Jesus Christ came all the way from Heaven to this miserable earth to atone for our sins which He took upon Himself. If the mere taking over has cost Him His Precious Blood and Death to expiate them, how can we, who have really committed them, escape going to hell without suffering and without doing penance. Deliberate commissions for their expiation require voluntary penance.

Let us in the second place be devoted to the recital of her Holy Rosary which we ought to recite daily with greater and greater fervour; let us consecrate ourselves individually and in common to Her Immaculate Heart which we ought to honour side by side with the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us receive Reparatory Communion on the first Saturday of each month consecutively for five months in accordance with the desire of Our Lady.

Let us be watchful over ourselves and pray at all times that we may not enter into temptation. The time of Lent is a very holy season during which let us prepare ourselves in a worthy manner for the visit and the message of the Pilgrim Virgin, so that during her visit we may gain a meed of her favours.

new Federation and the past records of its most important leaders show clearly that once more we have here an organization which, though professing not to be Communist, is established with the purpose of carrying Communist ideas into quarters otherwise inaccessible."—  
*The Examiner.*



Sacred to the Ever Loving  
Memory of

**Samuel Rajamuttiah  
Eliyatamby**

DIED 4TH MARCH, 1947

A Requiem Mass will be said for the repose of his soul on the 4th March, 1948 at 6-15 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral, Jaffna.

151, Main Street Jaffna.

## Church Calendar

FEBRUARY 1948

FRI. ... 27 S. Gabriel C.  
SAT. ... 28 S. Romanus.  
SUN. ... 29 3 Lent.—S. Oswald

MARCH 1948.

MON. ... 1 S. David.  
TUES. ... 2 S. Simplicius.  
WED. ... 3 S. Marinus.  
THURS. ... 4 S. Casimir.  
FRI. ... 5 S. Roger.

## The Catholic Guardian

FEBRUARY 27TH 1948

WELL DONE

The article published on page four of this issue contains welcome news. The Co-operative Building Society has arrived, appropriately in Jaffna.

This is definitely a step in the right direction. It is much more than an attempt at solving the problem of housing shortage, it is the only rational solution: it means that Government is going to help those who are prepared to help themselves; it envisages a future when each man will own his own house and land; it is at least implicitly an advance towards that distributist philosophy and economy that is increasingly being recognized as the only sane solution of our social ills.

Experienced observers have more than once remarked that the most salient feature of 'Colonial' Ceylon was that it was the most governed section of the Empire with an apparently omniscient Civil Service. Government did everything and was ready to take on anything so that when the least hitch occurred anywhere, the cry arose 'why doesn't Government do something?' That centripetal tendency had to be checked if anything in the nature of true democracy was to emerge. It would have left us completely at the mercy of the planner at the centre, at the expense of individual and local enterprise.

Implicit also in the idea of Co-operative Building Societies is the release of the 'small man' from the greedy clutches of the capitalist and from the racket of Building Societies trading on the ignorance of the poor. The best legal and technical advice is at the service of the Co-operative Building Societies.

It will involve also, we take it, granting some measure of priority for building materials to such societies at least as long as the present stringency obtains, and some measure of relief from the exorbitant rates the middleman exacts. The alternative would be the freezing of

material by the capitalist building societies or in favour of the wealthy individual.

A movement capable of indefinite and beneficent expansion has been launched. It is based on the soundest principles, it has the finest talent at its disposal and the ablest backing. It cannot, it must not fail. Our heartiest congratulations go to all concerned, and especially to the Assistant Registrar who has already to his credit such a fine record in co-operation.

We have pleasure in announcing to our readers that His Holiness the Pope's Day falls on the 7th day of March, 1948.

## The Late Rev. Brother E. Groussault, O.M.I.

The Don Bosco of Jaffna  
(By S. A.)

The Don Bosco of Jaffna is gone. The diocese mourns today the demise of Rev. Bro. E. Groussault, O.M.I. Thousands of Catholic hearts, particularly among the labouring classes, bleed in sorrow, for the passing away of one who had been to them, for well nigh half a century, their friend, guide, guardian, comforter, Brother, Father, Teacher and Apostle. Verily he was one of the most saintly sons of De Mazenod, and one of the greatest of the Missionary Oblates, sent by Providence, from far off Apostolic France to labour in this corner of the vineyard of Christ.

The life of Brother Groussault, as lived in our midst during the last 60 years is a glowing illustration of what a single saintly soul, blessed with singleness of purpose, can accomplish by way of ordering the lives of thousands of the neglected and the depressed to live the Gospel of Christ.

What he has done for the Jaffna Catholics cannot be adequately described in an account of this nature. Yet something must be said.

As a young lay brother, his deeply sympathetic heart and his burning apostolic zeal had noted with concern and sorrow the deplorable condition of youth among the labouring classes of Catholic Jaffna. His heart yearned towards them and towards the poor. From his humble cell he began quietly seeking ways and means to reform them. He closely followed the example set by the early French and Irish missionaries. He made a thorough study of our ways, manners, customs and language. He loved us and gladly and completely entered into our lives. His charity too was eminently discerning and practical. A beggar at the door of the rich, a ministering angel in the homes of the poor, God absorbed, Christ-centred, youth-ridden, he became all things to all men.

Marvellous is the transformation he has brought about among the youth of Jaffna. He founded no less than Ten Conferences and Confraternities which did really transform hundreds of wolf-cubs into lambs of Christ. There are many hundreds of Catholic families in Jaffna, comprising hard working and loyal citizens, and sturdy and uncompromising Christians—families that owe their spiritual all to the guidance of this holy man. His care of and compassion for the poor were really Christ-like. Of rest, he knew very little. Unremitting toil for the happiness and salvation of others was the order of his life. Poverty, austerity, simplicity and a spirit of prayer marked his daily life. If 'Life has been given to man, to make an act of Love,' verily then, his life was one act of Love.

He did all that was possible for him to do to glorify God. He attempted nothing extraordinary. But the ordinary things he did so excellently that the result was always extraordinary. He was 'great in his littleness, sublime in his simplicity, towering in his unassuming sanctity.'

The name Groussault will live in the hearts of generations to come. In fact

the noblest monuments he has founded are so many excellent Catholic families. The death of men like him is only an apparent death. They die, to live in the remembrance of multitudes. 'His memory will be like the composition of a sweet smell... his remembrance shall be sweet as honey.' Said one man 'I did kneel by his bier to pray for him... found it difficult... because it was so easy to pray to him.'

St. John Bosco performed thousands of miracles. The Jaffna Bosco too did; only they lie hidden in the thousands of hearts of young men, women and children.

R. I. P.

## MARY'S MISSION

MARCH 15TH—MAY 2ND

## 'Reds Failed in Italy and France'

Says Bishop of Chilaw

Under the auspices of the Chilaw Catholic Association, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Edmund Peiris, O.M.I. Bishop of Chilaw, delivered a public lecture on "Europe—Then and Now," in St. Mary's College Hall, Chilaw. There was a large gathering present to hear the bishop after his recent tour of Europe. The Rev. Fr. Roland Perera presided.

Dr. Peiris recalled his previous visit, to Europe during 1933-1937, and the conditions then prevailing, especially in England and the Western European Countries, and contrasted them with conditions in 1947.

He said the present unrest especially in France and Italy, was caused by Communist agitators directed from Moscow and was of opinion that the Communists had suffered a severe set-back as a result of the failure of the attempted general strikes in those two countries at the end of last year.

Although the Communists were continuing their efforts to create trouble wherever possible, he said that even those who had been sympathetic to the Communist cause earlier were now beginning to realise that the Communists were merely guided by the foreign policy of the Soviet Government.

Dr. Peiris also recalled his attempts to obtain the Lion Flag and other Ceylon banners from the Chelsea Hall in 1935 and in 1947. In 1935 he had been told that the banners could not be returned but in 1947, when he went in the company of Ceylon's High Commissioner (Mr. G. C. S. Corea), he found that the banners were unrecognisable and in tatters as a result of bad handling during the war; it would have been frivolous to make any attempt to get them in that condition.

Mr. P. W. Ranasinghe proposed a vote of thanks.—*Times*.

## Rome Elections

The result of Rome's municipal elections last month generally considered to be a valid barometer of Italy's political climate, was hailed in press comments as an "important and significant victory" for the Christian Democratic Party and a setback for the Communist-dominated People's Bloc. The Christian Democrats have almost doubled their vote compared to last year's election. "There can be no question," writes the independent daily "Il Mes-

saggero," "that one-half, perhaps more, of the ballots were cast by independent voters who wished first of all, and above all, to vote against Communism. Public opinion, which has turned decisively anti-Communist, desired to make a powerful and significant affirmation, which was not subject to equivocation and doubtful interpretations." In almost doubling their vote the Christian Democrats have picked up thousands of votes from splinter parties. Their gains are interpreted by "Il Messaggero" as an expression of faith on the part of the voters in the "equilibrium, moderation and equanimity" of Prime Minister Alcide de Gasperi, whom they wish to rise above his own party. "Il Messaggero" points out that despite the Christian Democratic gains, the leftist People's Bloc has maintained its position intact. The paper terms this aspect of the result an "evil" ome for the country, since the existence of two opposing left and right blocs must lead to an intensification of the political struggle. "Despite the grand victory of the Christian Democrats, the deepest wishes of the people have remained unfulfilled: the downfall of Communism and, at the same time, the rise of a strong government party which is able to combine the heritage of the old Liberal Party, the unifying tradition of the Risorgimento, respect for religion and the Church and the needs for social justice, and which is also able to work loyally with Christian Democrats," the paper writes.—*The Examiner*.

## LOCAL & GENERAL

**Press Sunday.**—His Lordship the Bishop has fixed Sunday June 13 to be observed as Press Sunday in the Jaffna Diocese this year.

**The Supreme Court.**—The first sessions of the Supreme Court for the year commenced on Monday the 23rd inst. with the Hon'ble Chief Justice Sir John Howard presiding. There are 19 cases in the calendar for the Northern Assizes, nineteen of which are for murder.

**Cabinet Minister Loses Seat.**—Mr. George E. de Silva, Minister for Industries, Industrial Research and Fisheries was unseated on Tuesday the 24th inst. by Mr. Justice Windham on certain charges framed against him in the two petitions challenging his election to the Kandy seat in the House of Representatives. The inquiry into the two petitions began on December 15 last year.

The Judge held the election to the Kandy Seat to be void. His Lordship also ruled that Mr. de Silva would become liable to all the incapacities consequent on the finding.

**Company Law to be Reviewed.**—The Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Commerce and Trade, has appointed a Commission to review the law in Ceylon relating to companies.

The Commission comprises Messrs. L. M. D. de Silva, Chairman, H. N. C. Fernando, G. T. Hale, F. B. Lander, and K. Satchibananda.

Messrs. E. C. S. Paul, Acting Deputy Director of Industries, and W. M. Selayah, Acting Registrar of Companies, have been appointed Secretary and Asst. Secretary respectively to the Commission.

**Jaffna Honours Gandhi's Ashes.**—On Saturday the 21st inst. the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi were carried in a procession through the Main Street, Jaffna by Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, M.P. (Jaffna) and deposited in a specially constructed canopied dais in the Town Hall. Throughout the night streams of visitors went in orderly batches of tens and hundreds to pay their homage to the ashes of the man of the century. On Sunday morning the procession left the Town Hall and the ashes were taken to Keerimalai on what seemed to be a triumphal march. The crowds kept on swelling in numbers and in orderliness till the ashes were confined to the waters of the high sea at Keerimalai by Mr. K. Kanagaratnam, M.P. (Vaddukoddai). The day ended with the feeding of the masses. Choirs of school children and others kept on singing Gandhian hymns throughout the whole celebration.

**No-Confidence Motion.**—A no-confidence resolution moved on the Chairman, Jaffna Urban Council by Mr. K. V. Sinnadurat and amended by Mr. P. Mortimer was adopted by seven votes to five. The Chairman in his reply to the charges preferred against him of "weak and partial administration" expressed his surprise that such a charge should be levelled at him four years and two months after he had assumed office.

**Social Services on National Basis.**—The Labour Minister, Mr. T. B. Jayah hopes to be able to engage an experienced officer from New Zealand to be the head of the newly created Department of Social Services.

The Social Services Commission, in its report issued last year recommended the maintenance or establishment of the following social services if financial resources were available:

(1) A Health Insurance Scheme for all employed persons financed by contributions from employers and employees.

(2) An Unemployment Insurance Scheme for all employed persons, financed by contributions from employers and employees, and when necessary from the State also.

(3) A National Provident Fund Scheme for all employed persons, financed by contributions from employers and employees.

(4) A Children's Allowance Scheme for the children in each family after the age of five to 14 inclusive and in attendance at recognized schools, financed wholly by the State.

(5) An Orphans' Allowance Scheme for orphans living with a parent or with near relatives, financed wholly by the State.

(6) An Old Age Pension Scheme for men aged 70 or over and women aged 65 or over, financed wholly by the State.

(7) A Blind Persons Pension Scheme for all blind persons aged 5 or over, financed wholly by the State.

(8) An Unemployment Assistance Scheme for unemployed persons who have not qualified for insurance benefit or who have exhausted insurance benefit financed wholly by the State.

(9) A Poor Law System operated as a residuary service by local authorities in the urban areas and by Revenue Officers in the rural areas.

**Personal.**—Mr. R. C. Manmatharayan, Member for Ward No. 6, Urban Council, Jaffna has been elected Vice-Chairman of the Council by a majority of 3 votes. Mr. Manmatharayan is an old boy of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.

**Fireworks Factory Explosion.**—A fireworks factory situated at Ettitigoda blew up on Tuesday the 17th inst. with grave loss of life. The factory normally employs 90 men and women. At the time of writing the number of dead is known to be 30. It is feared that there may be many bodies buried under the ruins of the shattered building. The magisterial inquiry has begun and the owner of the factory has been allowed bail in Rs. 1,000.

**Blessing for Gandhi.**—Mr. C. H. Z. Fernando, who presided at a lecture entitled "Catholics and Social Service", delivered at St. Peter's College, Wellawatte last week, said that when Mahatma Gandhi visited Ceylon some years ago, he wanted to visit a Catholic Church.

Mr. Fernando took him to a Church, where a large gathering had assembled to meet the Mahatma.

As soon as the Mahatma met the Priest in charge, he knelt down and asked the Priest to bless him, "as the representative of the toiling masses of India."—"Ceylon Observer."

**Exit of Valera.**—After 16 years of Premiership in Ireland Mr. Eamonn de Valera has been ousted from office by Mr. John Costello, a 57-year-old barrister of the Fine Gael Party. Mr. de Valera, the leader of the Fianna Fail Party becomes the Leader of the Opposition.

**Is India Becoming Socialistic?**—Explaining the Industrial policy of the Government, Pandit Nehru, the Prime Minister, told the Dominion Parliament that one of the primary aims before the country was greater production. Other factors were important but production had to come first.

The Economic sub-Committee of the All-India Congress Committee has reported that leaving the existing industries as they were, the domain of

nationalisation ought to be enlarged in other specified fields. Whatever might happen to the existing sources of production new and vital sources of production must be in the hands of the State.

**Ceylon Students in India Celebrate.**—The colony of sixty Ceylonese undergraduates at the Annamalai University, South India, celebrated Ceylon Independence Day on Feb. 15 with a public meeting in the Convocation Hall of the University, followed by a variety of entertainment and dinner at which covers were laid for about 150 persons.

The Vice-Chancellor presided at the celebrations and in his address referred to the age-long relations between India and Ceylon and the peaceful and constitutional manner in which Ceylon had attained its independence. On behalf of the Indian members of the University, he wished Ceylon a great future.

Speaking on behalf of the Ceylonese, Rev. Fr. X. S. Thaninayagam thanked the speakers and the Indian undergraduates for the good wishes that accompanied the achievement of Ceylon's Independence. Though Ceylon was a small island, he said, "our right to live as a nation, to have a place in the sun is not founded on the extent of our territories or the strength of our armies. It is based on the sacrosanct laws that give equal rights to nations, large and small."

"Countries small in territorial extent and numbers like Crete, Greece, Switzerland, Holland and Ireland, have played a big part in history. It is such a part that Ceylon played in the days of her departed glory and it is such a part that we hope and trust she will play in the future."

The Secretary, Mr. K. Sivaramalingam, proposed a vote of thanks.

The entertainment consisted of scenes from Ceylon life and folk dances contributed mostly by the women students.

**America at Present Unable to Help the Missions.**—The Archbishop of Bombay in his Lenten Pastoral writes: "The world, as you know, has become dependent on America to the extent of a rampart of dollars against the chaos of Communism exploiting starvation. The American Catholics, besides his tax contribution to those thousands of millions, is besieged by private applications from all parts of the world. Bishops and priests told me of forty or more begging applications a month, many of them for needs more urgent than ours—missions literally in ruins. Moreover, though America keeps half of the money collected under the auspices of the Propagation of the Faith, she needs vastly more than that for the spread of religion in her own mission dioceses; we are apt to remember only the comparatively rich dioceses of Eastern States and forget the immense territories of the West and South where Catholics are, in places, fewer in relation to the whole than in India or China. It did not need the assurance given me by one of America's most mission minded prelates to convince me that the present is the worst possible time for begging in the United States."

**Half Round the World in "Flying Convent."**—When a privately chartered Lockheed Lodestar plane carrying ten Cabrini nuns touched down at EsSENDON airport, Melbourne, Australia, on January 24, it was probably the first time in the history of the Church that an entire community of Catholic nursing Sisters had travelled halfway round the world to found a convent. The Sisters, who took up residence on the day of their arrival at St. Benedict's Hospital, Malvern, will help to relieve the hospital and nursing shortage in Melbourne.

The Superior of the community knew Mother Cabrini personally and attended the canonization ceremonies at St. Peter's in July, 1946.

## ANURADHAPURA

### THE U.C. CHAIRMAN FETED

Mr. R. V. Kandasamy, the new Chairman of the Urban Council, Anuradhapura was accorded a cordial reception by the staff and students of St. Joseph's College, Anuradhapura on Friday the 5th inst.

On his arrival Mr. Kandasamy was welcomed by the Principal, Rev. Fr. B.

Deogupillai and introduced to the members of the staff. He was then conducted to the stage where he was garlanded amidst the applause of the students. Welcoming the guest of honour he said that it was a privilege for St. Joseph's College to see one of her old pupils Chairman of the U.C. He pointed out that Mr. Kandasamy was the first Old Boy to become Chairman and that he was the youngest Chairman in the whole of Ceylon.

Mr. S. A. Mariampillai, the Senior Master recalled very happy and pleasant memories of Mr. Kandasamy whom he had taught for many years.

A senior student speaking on behalf of the boys gently appealed to Mr. Kandasamy his quondam schoolmate to come to the help of his Alma Mater in her present needs.

In reply Mr. Kandasamy thanked the Rev. Fr. Principal, the teachers and students for the warm reception they had accorded him and remarked that his present success was all due to the sound education, moral as well as intellectual he received in St. Joseph's College. He promised to stand by his Alma Mater in all her needs. Finally Mr. Kandasamy very generously invited the staff and students for a free show at the Sittampalam Talks. The function ended with light refreshments being served to all those who were present.

### SILVER JUBILEE

Mr. S. A. Mariampillai has completed his 25th year of Teaching in St. Joseph's College, Anuradhapura. To commemorate this event he will be "At Home" to his old pupils and friends on Saturday the 28th inst. from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Ad Multos Anos!

## OBITUARY

### MISS TRIXIE NICHOLAS

The death occurred on Tuesday afternoon, the 17th inst. at the General Hospital, Colombo after a brief illness of Miss Trixie Nicholas of the Tutorial Staff of St. Peter's College, Bambalapitiya. She was a daughter of the late Mr. F. X. Nicholas and of Mrs. F. X. Nicholas of 41, Mary's Road, Bambalapitiya and grand daughter of the late Proctor J. E. Nicholas of Kaly Estate and of Mudaliyar S. M. P. Vanderkoen of Mary's Road, Bambalapitiya.

The funeral took place on Wednesday the 18th inst. from the residence of her mother and was very well attended. The coffin was borne by members of the staff of St. Peter's College up to the Galle Road and St. Mary's Road was lined on either side by the lower school of St. Peter's College.

Before the funeral, a short service was held at the house at which Rev. Fr. Dionysius Phillipupillai, Mis. Ap. officiated. At the cemetery chapel and at the graveside Rev. Fr. Thomas Paris, Mis. Ap., assisted by Very Rev. Fr. Basil Weeratunga, O.M.I., Rector, St. Peter's College, and the Rev. Fathers Dionysius Phillipupillai, Martin Guneratne and C. T. E. Peries.

The pall bearers were Dr. Brito Muttunayagam and Messrs. P. O. Fernando, Joseph Martyn, Foster Stave, Alex Weeratunga and Jayawardene.

She leaves behind her mother, a sister Mrs. A. M. Philip and several close relatives. R. I. P.

## Letters to the Editor

### The Lesson of the Ashes

Sir,—The bringing of the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi to Ceylon and their immersion at five sacred spots in the Island is a historic event in the annals of our country. It has also its own significance and can be turned to good purpose by the translation of the ideals of the Mahatma into action by the people of this country, which along with other countries of the East owes a great deal to this noble personality, the like of whom we may not see again for many years to come. *Going in processions, making speeches and immersing the ashes are utterly insufficient for the occasion and they will turn out to be a hollow mockery and fraud if they are not supplemented by the people of this country attempting to follow some of the Mahatma's principles and working for some of the causes for which he*

laboured and died. The Mahatma lived and worked among other things for the welfare of the common man, the removal of untouchability, the political sovereignty of all nations, the spiritualization of politics, the ideal of one-world, the unity of all religions, the principle of Ahimsa, and the Supremacy of God. It was inevitable that in striving for these high ideals he had to work for the elimination of communalism, and he met with his death as a result of his attempt to remove communalism from the body politic of India.

Sometime ago he made a statement at one of his prayer meetings that communal organizations, meaning thereby *uni-communal organizations, have no place in a secular state like India except for internal purposes.* I quoted this statement of the Mahatma at that time and invited the people of Ceylon to translate into action this piece of advice. In doing so I particularly appealed to the Tamil people, a section of whom are supporting the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress to accept the Mahatma's advice. I suggested that the Tamil Congress could divest itself of its parliamentary activities, and enable the Tamil community to join or form inter-communal political organizations and permit the Tamil Congress members of Parliament to desist from functioning as a communal Parliamentary bloc and join either the Government or the Opposition and act according to their individual political conscience. It might be noted that both the present Indian Government and the people of India view the existence of all uni-communal political organizations with marked disfavour.

It is trusted that the Mahatma's ashes taken to the Northern and Eastern provinces will cause the Tamil people to celebrate the occasion by bringing about the necessary reorientation in their political philosophy and conduct, by at least divesting the Tamil Congress of its parliamentary activities if not of its political activities entirely. I have not made any special reference to the Sinhala Maha Sabha and the Muslim League, in view of the fact that they are now politically dormant in pursuance of their publicly expressed intention to join and function through an inter-communal organization. It is, however, desirable that these two bodies also should formally renounce all political and parliamentary activities by resolution.

The arrival of Mahatma Gandhi's ashes in the Island and the attendant ceremonies provide a *suitable occasion* for the people of Ceylon to give thought to and *adopt practical measures* for the pursuit of the ideals for which the Mahatma fought and sacrificed. *Today is the time for action and not for mere lip-service to a departed leader.* If we Ceylonese fail to respond to the spirit of the Mahatma's teachings and ideals for which he died, the whole purpose of the celebrations will be defeated and it would in fact amount to an expression of disrespect to the Mahatma and an act of disservice to the country and to humanity at large.

Yours faithfully,  
S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM.

156, Hulstsdorf,  
February, 1948.

## Hand Book of Tamil Grammar

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### TOLL RENT

Tenders will be received by the Government Agent, N.P., Jaffna at the Jaffna Kachchery up to 12 noon on Tuesday the 9th March, 1948 for the purchase of the Keerativu—Sangapiddy Ferry on Mahadeva Causeway Toll rent for the period 1st April, 1948 or the date of proclamation of the ferry which ever is later to 30th September, 1949.

Further particulars can be had on application to the Govt. Agent, N.P., Jaffna. Jaffna, 17-2-48.

## Ceylon's First Co-operative House Building Society

### Jaffna Hits the Headlines

The North has always set the lead in the development of the Co-operative Movement. The first Co-operative Central Bank, the first Tobacco Exporting Society, the first Co-operative Hospital all began in Jaffna. The latest development is Co-operative Housing. For a long time there has been much talk and propaganda about solving the housing problem. No practical turn was given to all the talk. The brazen wheels of Government machinery revolve very slowly.

Last week the first Co-operative House Building Society was registered under the name of The Jaffna Teachers' and Public Servants' Co-operative Building Society Ltd. This was the culmination of nine months' intensive work by a group of some of the best organisers in the North, under the initiative, enterprise, and inspiration of the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Northern Division, Mr. F. A. Sandrasegura. The Society has already acquired a plot of 24 acres off Beach Road, one of the best residential sites in Jaffna, for its first unit of 9 bungalows.

Being the pioneer Building Society the organisers had no model to follow. They had to evolve one. The Society has to provide for the future, and if one goes through its by-laws, one will see that the objects of the Society are very, very ambitious. The objects run into sub-sections (a) to (i). Just to give the reader an idea of the comprehensive nature of the By-laws, one has to look at sub-section (b) "To lay out land to suit the requirements of the Society in the shape of roads, parks, playgrounds, schools, hospitals, waterworks, markets, post offices and other social amenities."

The way to own your house while you pay your rent, is briefly as follows:

A would-be member contributes the cost of the land, which is bought in the name of the Society. If he has a piece of land, he transfers it to the Society. The Society then applies to Government for a Grant and erects the house. The member goes into occupation and pays the cost in 240 monthly instalments. How very easy and simple and yet how long has it taken to evolve such a Society! And where was the Government inspiration for it? Where was the propaganda for it, though in Sweden and England Housing Societies are in existence for the last quarter of a century?

Jaffna needs more houses, better houses, houses which are not jerry built structures, dark and damp, with sprawling verandahs, hot in the morning, with the sun beating in through the outer verandah, hot in the evening with the sun beating in through the back verandah. Windows more for show than utility, walls thick enough for a gun emplacement, an oven owing to the flat calic tiles and want of proper wall ventilators, these have been the Jaffna houses.

It will raise a laugh if I say that the designer, architect, and builder of a Jaffna house is often the mason. The conservative Jaffna man thinks it a waste of money to ask a good architect to plan his house. And house-building is reckoned in years not in months and weeks as in modern times. The original estimate is doubled and trebled by the time the house is ready for occupation.

The Society is planning to build houses for light and air, and good living. The houses will be built for beauty as well as convenience, fine, sensible houses that will make the occupant proud to live in them. The houses will have all sanitary amenities, which are almost unknown in most houses.

In launching this scheme the organisers have had the support and advice of the Hon. the Minister of Health who has promised all the technical advice of his Departments free. The Hon. the Minister of Co-operative Undertakings has promised to set aside the necessary moneys for building houses. The Town Planner, Mr. Oliver Weerasinghe is taking almost a personal interest in helping the infant Society. The Secretary interviewed him recently and asked him

to plan the lay-out for the first Unit of nine houses. This unit of nine houses is being judged as a single composition, as a single picture—and a picture demands composition, unity and balance. Mr. Weerasinghe is also planning for ideal landscape gardening with trees suitable for the Jaffna soil and climate.

House-building in Ceylon is far behind the times. Power equipment and production-line methods, the basis of superior efficiency, are almost unknown. Just to give an example. In America a trenching machine can cut the foundation for a house in 27 minutes. How many days does it take in Ceylon? It is said: "on account of the lack of scientific knowledge we drag 100 tons of material to the site of every house when less than 5 tons could produce a house."

House-building societies alone can set the standards in house building. Technical advice which will be too costly for an individual or a private contractor are easily obtained by a society.

Jaffna's lead will soon be followed by other towns in the Island especially in Colombo and Kandy. The Jaffna man pioneered and opened up Malaya. He has pioneered and set the pace in house-building for the rest of the Island. The organising Secretary, Mr. Cosmas W. D. Alwines, teacher, St. Patrick's College, Jaffna is only too willing to help and advise any group of persons who wish to organise a Co-operative Building Society.

## THIS IS JUSTICE

The following is a summary of Pope Pius XI's encyclical on "THE SOCIAL ORDER."

### Reform of the State

In days gone by all men who were concerned in work of the same kind joined together in associations. These associations governed the work and wages of the men who worked in the associations.

The state did not govern the work and wages of the men who worked; the state controlled the associations, and the associations governed the work and wages of all the men who were concerned in the same kind of work.

But now the associations of men who are concerned with the same kind of work have been destroyed.

Who now governs the work and wages of the men who work?

The state now governs the work and wages of the men who work.

The state has now too much to do. Because the state has too much to do, the state cannot do it well.

The state needs reforming.

The state should leave to smaller groups the task of governing smaller things such as work and wages.

If the state left to smaller groups the task of governing smaller things then the state would not have so much to do, and the state could attend to its chief work—helping its people to live together in harmony.

### Vocational Groups

The smaller groups which the Pope suggests should govern smaller things are called vocational groups. The state must be reformed by establishing

vocational groups.

All men have the right to form vocational groups and to govern them.

Without vocational groups men are divided;

the workers want one thing, the owners want another, and so they quarrel.

If vocational groups were established, all men in each group would have the same purpose.

The owners in the group would want the group to flourish. The workers in the group would want the group to flourish.

The owners in the group and the workers in the group would want the same thing.

If the owners in the group and the workers in the group all want the same thing, they will not quarrel.

If vocational groups are established, there will be unity between the workers and owners; the common good will be helped.

(To be Continued)

## State Education Should Not Wipe out Private Munificence

In a message to the Muslims of Ceylon read at the Prize-giving function at Zahira College with Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike presiding, Lord Soulbury, the architect of Independent Lanka has driven home some truths very often lost sight of by many. We quote the message in full from the "Times of Ceylon" Sunday Illustrated of the 15th inst:

"In my country, as in yours, the State has assumed most of the responsibility for the provision of education. This is inevitable, but it would be a sad thing for us, and for you, if private munificence and co-operation with the State were to be discouraged.

"The most lasting benefit that the older generation can confer on the younger is the furtherance of their education. Your community has already greatly enriched the culture of mankind, and I myself, having been brought up in the classical tradition of Hellenic culture, shall always recollect with gratitude the notable contribution made by Muslim Scholars in the past to the preservation of the influence of the great Greek philosophers; and you have made the whole world happier by some of the loveliest poetry that has inspired the thoughts of men.

"With such a rich culture as yours, the prospects of the future are surely bright—but the responsibilities are

heavy. 'Mankind', General Smuts has said, 'has struck its tents and is everywhere on the march'. The scope and compass of knowledge is expanding almost hourly, but can it be said that wisdom is keeping pace?

"It is not enough to know; it is the use that we make of our knowledge that matters, and I feel certain that by giving the first place in your thoughts to the great truths of religion, you will ensure that the pursuit of learning is never allowed to obscure 'the higher and greater responsibilities of life.'"

## TENDER NOTICE

Tenders will be received by the Govt. Agent, N.P., up to 12 noon on Tuesday, March 16, 1946, for clearing and levelling Karanthan Channel in Chankanai in Valikamam West Divisional Revenue Officer's Division, Northern Province. Tenders should be made on forms obtainable on application from the Kachcheri, Jaffna, where all particulars can be obtained. Tender forms will be issued up to 12 noon on Saturday March 13, 1948, only on production of receipt for Rs. 25 deposited for each form at the Jaffna Kachcheri.

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