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## The Oblate Centenary in Ceylon

A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE PAST CENTURY

[BY D. J. B. KURUPPU]

### 1. UNDER MGR. SEMERIA

The Oblate Vicariate in Ceylon was erected in October, 1847, by the Founder of the Congregation Mgr. de Mazenod, in response to an urgent appeal for missionaries made by Mgr. O. Bettachini, O.P.N., the first Vicar-Apostolic of Jaffna. The first Oblates arrived in Jaffna in February, 1848. They numbered four: three priests and one Lay Brother. Fr. John Stephen Semeria was their Superior.

Fr. Semeria, though at the time only thirty-five years of age, was an experienced missionary who had worked with remarkable success among the dock labourers of Marseilles and the turbulent population of Corsica. He was also a man noted for his tact and prudence and especially for his equability of temper, his amiability and his gifts as a peace-maker. Mgr. Bettachini found him of invaluable assistance to him in dealing with the many disputes that arose in parishes in those early days.

Fr. Semeria was appointed Coadjutor to Mgr. Bettachini in 1856. The latter died in the following year and Mgr. Semeria became Vicar-Apostolic of Jaffna. He governed the Vicariate until his death on 23rd January 1863.

### A PIONEER BISHOP

#### MISSIONS

Mgr. Semeria was the first to preach regular missions in Ceylon. He adopted this form of apostolate as the only means powerful enough to bring about that spiritual revival of which the whole vicariate stood in sore need. He inaugurated the work in the very year he took charge of the vicariate—in Sept., 1857. The first series of missions was preached at Kayts, Valikamam, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Mantotte, Chilaw, Bolawatte, Wennappuwa, Mat-takkotuwa, Katuneriya and Mannar. The entire circuit covered a period of over three years. No single mission lasted less than one month; one was carried on for 68 days. The missionaries not only preached and heard confessions (and each confession was a miniature mission); they also catechised old and young, settled disputes and squabbles, reconciled life long enemies, visited the sluggards in their homes, and they would persist in their work until the last wandering sheep had been brought back to the fold. The Bishop's two coadjutors were Frs. Bonjean and Chouaŕel, two names which were to become familiar in every Catholic home in the land. The local clergy gave their co-operation. More than once the Bishop fell ill, but the work would go on, directed by the Bishop from his bed of illness.

The spiritual revival effected by these missions surpassed even the expectations of Mgr. Semeria.

#### SCHOOLS

St. Patrick's College, as being the continuation of the Jaffna Boys' Seminary, is perhaps the oldest of the Catholic-English schools in Ceylon that have survived to this day. This school was founded by Mgr. Bettachini in 1849 or 1850. But it was Mgr. Semeria who gave it a permanent home, who obtained a grant for it from Government, who added a boarding department to it, and who raised it to a higher standard of

efficiency by placing it in charge of Irish Oblates. The recognized school—the new buildings with the new teachers—was inaugurated early in 1860 by Mgr. Bonnard, Apostolic Visitor, who imparted to the new institution a special blessing on behalf of the Holy Father.

The Holy Family School, Jaffna the first Catholic English school for girls to be opened in Ceylon was still more indebted to Mgr. Semeria. Mgr. Bettachini started it (the Girls' Seminary) at the same time as he did the "Boys' Seminary" but it was Father Semeria (as he then was) who made a promising start possible by securing, through Mgr. Bravi of Colombo, the services of a competent lady teacher—Mrs. Mary Ann O'Flanagan, the widow of an Irish officer, who gave one of her daughters and her only son to the service of God in religion and the priesthood and who herself devoted the rest of her life to the cause of Catholic education and charity in the vicariate of Jaffna. Finally it was Mgr. Semeria who guaranteed the future of the school by placing it in charge of the Sisters of the Holy Family.

Other English schools, due to the initiative of Mgr. Semeria were: two at Trincomalee (one for boys and one for girls), and one each at Chilaw, Mannar and Kurunegala. Under his administration the number of village schools rose to 35, and the number of Catholic children attending Catholic schools to about 1,500.

#### FIRST CONVENT

Mgr. Semeria also established the first Convent in Ceylon. The Sisters of the Holy Family, six in number, arrived in Jaffna on All Souls Day 1862, and took charge of the girls' school at the commencement of the following year—Mrs. O'Flanagan going to Trincomalee to open a girls' school there. The Sisters were first housed in temporary quarters. The convent on the present site was begun in May, 1864, by Mgr. Semeria. It was to be finished two years after his death.

#### CEYLONESE RELIGIOUS

It is to the credit of the European Missionaries, to whatever Order they belonged—Oblates, Silvestrians or others—that they were prepared almost from the very day of their arrival, to admit willing and deserving Ceylonese youths into their own ranks as priests and religious. In October 1858, Bishop Bravi, the Silvestrian Vicar Apostolic of Colombo, sent to Italy two or three Ceylonese youths for their religious and ecclesiastical training. In the following month, in Jaffna itself, Mgr. Semeria invested with the habit of an Oblate novice Paul Pourey, a Sinhalese gentleman of Kotte, who had been working as a catechist in Kandy. Pourey was 35 years old and he knew no Latin. It was accordingly intended that he should be admitted as a lay brother. But in the course of the next couple of years he made such good progress in his studies that Mgr. Semeria with Mgr. de Mazenod's hearty approval decided to prepare him for the priesthood. Death, however intervened. Bro. Pourey died in 1861 after taking his perpetual vows as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate.

(To be Continued)

## QUEEN OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

We all love to reminisce, and our Lady, though most truly celestial, is still very tenderly human. When we take our beads in hand, gently calling her by name, she must give full attention, because we are touching on something she delights to recall, the love-story of the Rosary. Those tiny beads with their stories in prayer bring back memories, memories of her Heaven on earth.

Once again she hears the Angel speaking, "Hail, full of grace!" and her virgin heart trembles anew with its first fears of maidenhood. Then quickly her thoughts are carried away by our fervent whispers to those joyful days of infinite peace that immediately followed, when she walked the paths of Nazareth with her God in her bosom. Before she realizes it, she has Him once again as a tiny Babe in her arms, crooning Him lullabies in the chill cave of Bethlehem. And as more Aves slip away, a tear comes to her eyes with a quick intake of breath—she has found the Child after He had been lost for three days, found Him teaching the hoary heads of Jerusalem in the sacred Temple.

So she recalls His childhood and His youth, and all Heaven is quiet while its Queen meditates. Along the bitter ascent of Calvary once again she climbs as in a dream, and all the Angels wonder as their Queen looks sad. Finally come those glorious days of the Resurrection, that set her heart beating faster; then at the blessing and the tucking of the rosary back in the pocket, she is once again in Heaven crowned with glory. We have re-lived her life for her, opened again the sacred secrets of the past—and her heart is now ours. We may ask what we will. No wonder our Lady loves the Rosary; no wonder she has enriched men with so many blessings through its devout recital. It tells the story of her life on earth, it repeats the reasons for her glory in Heaven.

Aside from these facts, it makes us think of her Son—and we all know that the closest thing to Mary's heart is Jesus. As the decades of the Rosary slip by, it is our Lord Himself who takes the forefront. Mary is always smiling near, but never deliberately comes forward. Mystery after mystery builds up the life of Jesus and His great love for men. Bead after bead tells of another reason why He should be loved and followed.

So Mary loves the Rosary and delights in its recital, because it is really her Divine Son's. Like all mothers, her greatest joy is in her Son. She knows she too receives honour and a great tribute of love, but only through Jesus. She realizes we are telling her we love her, lauding her graces and blessings, paying her honour and praise, but only because she is the Mother of Jesus, the loving daughter of the Father, the beloved of the Holy Spirit. That is why she seeks in it her delight—no glory for Mary unless through her Son.

We ourselves may say that our Lady loves the Rosary because in it we constantly speak to her of those dearly-loved reasons for her glory in Heaven. We continually call her "Mother of God"—Mother of the One she loved and served from her childhood, to whom she consecrated her life, to whom she owed her very being. And the "little

handmaid of the Lord," even though she is now far beyond earth's borders, must pause and think when we so lovingly address her.

Filled with the Beatific Vision and lost in its love, she knows far better than we why that precious title is so truly hers; but does not this increase her love, deepen her gratitude, make her soul more lowly still? She is face to face with His omnipotence, she is inundated with His love, and yet she is His Mother—Mother of her God! What a gift is hers! What "great things" the Lord has done! May He be praised forever!

In order that she might receive this wondrous gift, He had endowed her with her greatest privilege. That she might become a worthy dwelling place for Him who had resided from all eternity in the bosom of infinite Purity itself, she must approach the holy splendour of the bosom of the Father—she shall be conceived Immaculate. "Thou art all fair, O Mary, and there is in thee no stain of original sin."

Thus must she ponder when we lovingly call her "Mother of God." All the pain and sorrow that her Divine Motherhood brought upon her she remembers too; and loves it because it brought her to the foot of Calvary, and there she became Mother of us all. How completely were her maternal longings fulfilled! The pure, mother's heart of Mary embraced all the world. Mother of God and our Mother, and that title is as dear to her as it is to us. So, all through the Rosary we are ever appealing to Mary with the most precious thoughts, we are touching her heart in its tenderest spots.

Why should not our trust and faith in the most Holy Rosary of the Mother of God be without limit? We could receive nearly all for which we prayed if we said our Rosary with the devotion and boundless trust that it really demands. We know the nearest and most accessible approach to the Sacred Heart is through His Mother, and one of the best ways to reach the heart of His Mother is through her Rosary—her love-letters.

We take her back in spirit down the roads she loves, we live her life once again for her, bringing back sweet memories of joy and sorrow. All that we mean to her, all that we have cost her, is tenderly placed before her. The love of Jesus for us in all its unfathomable depth is pleadingly repeated for her in the language of the Aves, while we her children gather closely round to hear the answer. And that Mother, who has a mother's heart, when still under the magic spell of the Rosary—once again walking through the green hills of Nazareth, once again just Mary, the Mother of Jesus—to any petition sent up to her will answer "Yes."

Yes, our confidence in its powers should be without bounds. We should make it a part of our lives. There are many, many exigencies in our daily lives that demand supernatural aid, and there will be many more. Why not keep in close contact with the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, who is so powerful in Heaven, and draw down her assistance by those tiny beads she loves? By using them we show our thanks to God, who has given us this

(Continued on Page 4)



## NOTICE

## May Festival at Madhu

The May Festival at Madhu will take place on the 9th of May, preceded by 4 novenas beginning on the 5th of May.

Administrator of Madhu Church.

## SINNA MADHU

Feast of St. Louis Marie de Montfort  
25-4-48

This feast will be celebrated at the shrine for the first time with Vespers on the 24th and High Mass on 25th. The relics of the Saint will be exposed for the veneration of the pilgrims.

All clients of Our Lady are welcome to take part in it and pray to the great Apostle of the Rosary.

The Parish Priest,  
Sinna Madhu, Kayts.

## Church Calendar

APRIL 1948

FRI.	...23 S. George.
SAT.	...24 S. Fidelis.
SUN.	...25 4 E.—S. Mark.
MON.	...26 S. Cletus.
TUES.	...27 S. Peter Canis.
WED.	...28 S. Paul of Cross.
THUR.	...29 S. Peter M.
FRI.	...30 S. Cath. of Sien.

## The Catholic Guardian

APRIL 23RD 1948

THE POSTULATES OF  
'FREE'DOM

A Sunday paper recently published what purported to be the equipment grants the Minister of Education was prepared to pay some of the bigger assisted schools in the South if they came into the Free Education Scheme.

For the moment we are not concerned with whether the news was completely authentic or an intelligent anticipation. We are interested in it for other reasons. Firstly it is interesting as evidencing the conviction that the assisted schools that have already 'gone free' have had a raw deal: how raw will be apparent when we point out that the annual equipment grant for all the Northern Grade I schools does not amount to what is now considered necessary for a single Southern school. Clearly there has been something radically wrong with those much discussed equipment grants. The obvious question now is, what about making good to the schools that have 'gone free' the financial losses they have incurred in the cause of 'free'dom. There can be no question of putting a premium on mere reluctance to come into the Free Scheme.

The second point that arises is so obvious that we shall touch on it only briefly. It is the fact patent to all that the New Minister is concerned with getting down to the job of providing education for all and is so concerned with it that he welcomes every competent auxiliary. That way lies sanity and constructive statesmanship.

We should like to think that the New Minister takes the Head-

masters' Conference into his confidence. This body of men competent to speak for the whole of the country could give him valuable advice and such trust on his part would go far towards allaying the fears, hitherto alas! not without foundation, that education has become very largely a political issue.

We should welcome a pronouncement from the Conference as there is a genuine need for the Cabinet and the country at large to be put in a position to gauge the situation dispassionately and as a whole. There should be no legitimate reason for even a remote fear that a solution should be arrived at that might in practice work to the detriment of a particular type of school or the schools in certain areas or even certain classes in society.

We are not convinced that the solution featured in the Sunday paper under discussion has been sufficiently ventilated. We should welcome authentic information and competent direction. The solution we desiderate is a non-discriminatory and therefore an equitable one acceptable to all. And no such solution is possible if there is any tendency towards burking discussion.

## Christian Democrats' Clear Majority in Italy

## 'Salvation from Stalin Dictatorship'—Churchill

Christian Democrats hold a clear majority in both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate according to the final official results for the Italian general election.

Almost half of Italy has voted for the Prime Minister, Signor Alcide de Gasperi's Christian Democratic Party, and nearly one-third for the Communist-Socialist Popular Front, for both Legislative Houses, according to the practically complete figures disclosed on Wednesday.

The official results for the election to the Senate were:

Christian Democrats: 47.9 per cent.  
Popular Front: 31 per cent.  
Socialist Unity (Socialist supporting the Government): 7.  
National Bloc: 6.1.

## Pope's Address to Parish Priests of Rome

The Holy Father in his address to the parish priests of Rome on Italy's general election told them that they cannot remain silent at a moment of such great consequence. Addressing 300 parish priests on March 10 the Sovereign Pontiff observed:

"It is your right and duty to call the attention of the faithful to the extraordinary importance of the next election and to the moral responsibility which derives from it on all those who have the right to vote," said His Holiness.

"Undoubtedly the Church intends to remain outside and above political parties, but how can we remain indifferent to the composition of a Parliament to which the Constitution gives the power to make laws in matters which affect so directly the highest religious interests and the conditions of life of the Church itself in Italy?

"Other questions, including economic problems, are of the temporal order and should be left to others to study and

## MARY'S MISSION

Programme of the Pilgrimage of Prayer and Penance in our Town Parishes

## At the Place of Reception:

1. The people assembled in their Parish Church about one hour before the scheduled time of the arrival of the Statue go in procession towards the place of reception.
2. When the Statue reaches this point, all kneel and recite a decade of the Rosary with arms out-stretched.
3. The Parish Priest incenses the Statue and sings the Versicle, Responsary and Oremus of the Holy Rosary.
4. The Director of the Mission removes the Mission Cross and hands it over to the Parish Priest.
5. One of the Priests gives an address of welcome to Our Lady.
6. The Prayer of Welcome is then said.

## The Procession to the Parish Church:

1. Where the congregation is large, the procession will be four deep, otherwise two deep.
2. The main prayer along the route will be the Rosary. Hymns may also be sung.
3. The faithful will, it is hoped, decorate the route in a fitting manner, and are kindly requested not to light crackers, etc., as the procession is one of prayer and penance.

## Ceremonies in the Church:

1. The Statue is placed on the special dais prepared for the purpose.
2. The "Acclamations" are read by one of the Priests and repeated by the congregation.
3. A Sermon on Confession follows.
4. Between the end of the Sermon and 10 p.m. the faithful may make their Confessions or pray before the Statue of Our Lady.
5. From 10 p.m. to midnight the Rosary will be recited solemnly with the mysteries explained.
6. 12 midnight—The Holy Sacrifice of Mass is offered while a Priest gives a commentary on it.
7. After the midnight Mass is over other Masses will follow.

## The Following Morning:

1. A Solemn High Mass or Low Mass is offered at a time fixed by the Parish Priest at 6.30 or 7 a.m.
2. From then on till the appointed hour of departure of the Statue, the faithful may make their private devotions to Our Lady.

## The Departure:

1. At the time fixed (about half an hour before the appointed time of departure) the Rosary is recited, and the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is given.
2. The Director having incensed the Statue, reads the Solemn Act of Consecration to Our Lady holding a lighted candle in his hand.
3. The Mission Hymn is sung and the departing procession forms.

deal with.

"But the present situation enforces two conditions, which are:

"1. In the present circumstances it is strictly obligatory for whoever has the right, men and women, to take part in the election.

"He who abstains from it especially through indolence or through cowardice, commits thereby a grave sin, a mortal fault.

"2. Everyone has to vote according to the dictates of his own conscience.

"Now it is evident that the voice of conscience imposes on every sincere Catholic the duty to give his own vote to those candidates or to that list of candidates which offer truly sufficient guarantees for the protection of the rights of God and of the soul, for the true good of individuals, of families and of society, according to the laws of God and Christian moral doctrine.

"When from the pulpit you fulfil the high and holy office of preaching the word of God, guard against descending to the petty questions of political parties, which irritate the soul, accentuate discords, weaken charity and harm your own dignity and the efficacy of your sacred ministry."

## ROUTUE OF PROCESSION

April 26th to May 2nd  
1948

## Monday 26th April

2.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Kopay—Point Pedro-Jaffna Rd.—4th ml. to Kondavil junction—Pallai-Jaffna Rd.—Tinnevely junction—Tinnevely Rd.—St. Francis Xavier's Church.  
3.30 p.m. Halt at St. Francis Xavier's church.  
4.00 p.m. St. Francis Xavier's church—Kaikula market—Mutturaisanthai Rd.—St. Benedict's church.  
5.00 p.m. by Stanley Rd. and Chivatheru Rd. to Holy Rosary church.  
6.00 p.m. to 8 p.m. Columbuturai Rd.—Arialai Jaffna Rd. to St. Anne's church, Pandianthalvu.

## Tuesday 27th April

4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. St. Anne's church by Main Street to Chundikul junction—Maravakulam Rd.—New Rd.—Eachchamoddai Rd.—Punkankulam Rd.—Beach Rd.—3rd Cross Street—New Rd.—to St. Antony church Passaiyoor.

## Wednesday 28th April

5.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Punkankulam Rd.—Beach Rd. to St. Joseph's Institute, Colombogam.

## Thursday 29th April

7.30 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. Chetty Street—New Chetty St.—Eachchamoddai Rd.—Maravakulam Rd.—Moolay Rd.—Press Rd.—Kandy Rd.—Hospital Rd. to St. John's church.

2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Hospital Rd.—Thevarikulam Rd.—Main Street to St. Martin's Seminary. Main Street to Immaculate Conception Convent—Main Street up to Holy Family Convent.

5.15 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. Thevarikulam Rd.—Hospital Rd.—Second Cross St.—Chapel St.—1st Cross St.—Main Street—3rd Cross Street to Our Lady of Refuge.

## Friday 30th April

5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. 4th Cross Street—Beach Rd.—Mudaliyar Rd.—Main Street to St. James' church.

## Saturday 1st May

3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. Bankshall St.—to church of Our Lady of Miracles to Mt. Carmel—Kondodi Rd.—Beach Rd.—David Rd.—Cathedral Rd. to Cathedral.

## Sunday 2nd May

5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. Seminary Rd.—Main Street—3rd Cross Street—Beach Rd. to Reclamation Grounds.

## LOCAL &amp; GENERAL

**The Pilgrim Queen in her Insular Empire.**—Having toured the Northern section of the Jaffna Peninsula effectively preaching a life of Prayer and Penance the Statue of Our Lady of Madhu is at the moment visiting her faithful in the Archipelago fringing the Jaffna Peninsula. The reception to Our Lady at distant Delft, it is said, is worthy of record.

**The Third Order of St. Francis.**—The monthly meeting of the Third Order of St. Francis will take place at 5.30 p.m. in St. Aloysius' Hall on Monday the 26th of April, 1948. Plenary Indulgences can be gained in May on these dates:—17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 27, 30, and 31. Conditions:—Confession, Communion, Visit to the Cathedral and prayer for the Pope's Intentions. There will be General Absolution on the 16th, 23rd and 27th of May.

**More Junior Schools.**—The crying need educationally in the Eastern Province is the establishment of Junior Schools.



This is the conclusion reached by Mr. E. A. Nugawela, Minister of Education, who has just got back to his office in Colombo after a nine-day tour of the Eastern Province, addressing as many as seventy meetings, sometimes in remote and inaccessible villages.

Speaking of "the thirst for education" in the Province, Mr. Nugawela told a "Daily News" representative on the 15th inst. that he proposed to set up 32 schools in the Province.

**Heavy Rain in Colombo.**—Colombo and the suburbs experienced on Sunday one of the wettest days for some time. From early morning continuous rain fell, punctuated by streaks of lightning and blasts of thunder. The sun failed to make its appearance throughout the day.

Sunday workers in the City and the travelling public braved the blinding rain at times and crossed the drenched streets, strewn with wind swept foliage.

**Ministers' Expensive Missions.**—The numerous special missions of Ministers in recent months have had their effect of the special vote of Rs. 100,000 allotted for this purpose.

It has now been decided by the Ministry for External Affairs and Defence to have a "Special Mission Vote" in the 1948-49 budget estimates, adequate to meet the demands of these missions.

During the last three or four months there have been four missions on which Ministers of State have gone.

**Communism Will Lead to "Domination."**—Mr. C. Sittampalam, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs and Fisheries and Industries, who presided at the National Day celebrations held at the Stanley Government Central College grounds, Ariatalai, Jaffna, warned the gathering against the so-called internationalism of the Communists.

He added that that kind of "internationalism" would bring in the domination of Russia.

**Separate Ministry for Fisheries.**—A resolution requesting that a separate Ministry be created to deal exclusively with Fisheries was passed at general meeting of the Fisheries Advisory Board held on Saturday.

**Animal Sacrifice Motion Deferred.**—At the monthly meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council one of the items on the agenda was the following motion in the name of Mr. R. C. Manmatharayan:—

"This Council do take immediate steps to prevent sacrifice of animals in Hindu temples in the urban area."

When the item was reached, Mr. Manmatharayan requested the Council to defer the consideration of the motion in his name for the next monthly meeting.

The Council agreed to the deferring of the motion.

**Another Indian Team to Visit Ceylon.**—His Highness the Rajah of Pudukkottai is expected to bring a cricket and hockey team to Ceylon. They will be here for about two weeks. His Highness and his two brothers are keen sportsmen and they will be members of the team. Accompanying the party is Mr. Ratnavel Tevar, of Trichinopoly, who is a friend of Mr. P. Saravanamuttu, Chairman of the Tamil Union, and who has in the past readily assisted our visiting teams to India.

**Death Penalty in Britain.**—Britain is to abolish the death penalty for murder, for a period of five years as "an experiment." The House of Commons on April 14 voted by 245 to 222 a new clause embodying this in the Criminal Justice Bill.

The new clause supported by members of all parties, was proposed by Mr. Sydney Silverman, a Labour solicitor, who described the death penalty as "barbaric." Its seconder was a Conservative, Mr. Christopher Hollis, who took up the cudgel against George Bernard Shaw for being against abolition.

The Bill has passed the first reading in the House of Lords.

**Vaccination for Tuberculosis.**—At the request of the Indian Government, the World Health Organisation is sending to India a medical team headed by Dr. W. Gellner of Geneva to introduce vaccination against tuberculosis.

This is an extension to Asia of a programme already being carried out in Europe through co-operation between the International Children's Emergency Fund and the World Health Organisation.

Dr. Gellner's team is expected to arrive in Madras during the second week of May.

**Manufacture of Atom Bomb.**—The U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. James Forrestal, told the House Armed Services Committee on April 14 that Russia knew how to make the atom bomb but did not have the industrial capacity to produce one now. He said that he got this information from Dr. Vannevar Bush, Chairman of the Nation's Research and Development Board.

**Colour Bar in London Hotel.**—The Food Minister, Mr. John Strachey, said on April 12 that he took a "particularly grave view indeed" of an incident of racial discrimination in which a London restaurant refused to serve a meal to an unnamed coloured man, described as "an extremely distinguished lecturer of London University, well-known in his own part in Africa."

Mr. Strachey said he had already told Parliament that he considered that the interests of the British Commonwealth were most seriously injured by an example of racial discrimination such as this appeared to have been. "I am investigating the incident to take appropriate action", he said.

Mr. Thomas Driberg (Labour) who raised the matter in the House of Commons, said this "grossly un-Christian and undemocratic action," offensive to many millions of British subjects would have "very grave repercussions in our African colony."

**Dr. Joad Fined.**—Dr. C. E. M. Joad, author and broadcaster, who became during the war Britain's No. 1 exponent of popular philosophy, was on April 12 fined £2 and ordered to pay £21.5s. costs after he had pleaded guilty to travelling on a train without a ticket.

He was charged with travelling from London to Salisbury, Wiltshire, with intent to avoid payment of the 17s. 1d. fare.

**Journalist in Cardinal's Shoes.**—A poor Catholic journalist who received a pair of used black shoes here from War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, is prouder of them than of any pair of shoes he ever purchased. They were formerly worn by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York. When the journalist tried on the shoes he found a little card inside one of them with the inscription: Cardinal Spellman.

**Mussolini's Widow Writes a Book.**—It is reported in Rome that Donna Rachele Mussolini, the widow of the Duce, has finished a book entitled "My Life with Benito." The book will probably be published in the United States, and instalments will appear in newspapers in many countries.

**Compilation of Tamil Encyclopaedia.**—The Government of India have, it is learnt, promised an annual grant of Rs. 75,000 for four years for the Tamil Encyclopaedia.

The Encyclopaedia Committee which met on April 14 unanimously adopted a resolution thanking the Government of India for their contribution.

The Committee also adopted a resolution requesting the Government of Madras to increase their contribution to "double the amount collected by the Committee, not exceeding Rs. one lakh annually for five years" instead of contributing "an amount equal to the collection."

The Committee decided to bring out a specimen volume showing the print, form and get up of the Encyclopaedia for public criticism.

**Trichy-Colombo Air Service.**

—It is learnt that arrangements have been completed in Trichy for the operation of the air service between Colombo and Trichy. The service which will be run by the Ceylon Government is expected to start in the first week of May. The service will be thrice weekly to start with, and will be extended if necessary later.

**Gandhi Memorial Fund.**—The Congress President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, said at a Press Conference on April 14 that the Gandhi Memorial Fund would be utilised to bring about lasting benefit to the people, particularly to the poorer classes and the masses. He said it was proposed that the major portion of the Fund, about 75 per cent., as he thought, would be spent in the Province where it was collected. The remaining 25 per cent. would go to the Central

Fund and weaker areas would be helped out of this amount.

Dr. Prasad said that the purpose of the Fund was two-fold. The first was to further the constructive programme of Gandhiji and the second was to arrange the publication of his speeches and writings in various languages. The second would not make a heavy demand on the Fund, which would really be devoted mostly to the first object, namely, the furtherance of constructive work on the lines indicated by Gandhiji. Gandhiji had left in his writings indications of what he had actually meant by constructive work. It was a very comprehensive programme that he had in his mind. He had also enumerated some 23 items. That was not an exhaustive list but it was only illustrative and other things could be added.

To sum up, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said that the programme really meant general upliftment work for the masses, namely, educational work, development of villages, home industry, work amongst backward classes, backward tribes and Harijans and upliftment of women. It covered all kinds of social work. "We have definitely ruled out things like statues, and buildings, or roads to commemorate the memory of Gandhiji," he added.

## Situation in Czechoslovakia

The tragic consequences of the Communist coup in Prague are related in a letter just received in Vienna from an American eye-witness. It had been previously reported that the Premonstratensian Order's estate would be among the first of the Church lands in Czechoslovakia to be expropriated. Much of the land, which will be divided among the peasants, is forest, and will be useless to them. Church authorities have repeatedly stated that they had no objections to a division of land but argued that the policy under which these lands are administered already benefits the peasantry. They say, rightly, according to observers, that the people will suffer under the new scheme.

Meanwhile, an eye-witness of the Communists' coup in Prague and its tragic consequences, has sent a letter which describes the Czech peoples' reactions. If every Czech who thinks and dreams about crossing the tightly-sealed borders of his Communist-ruled country could actually escape, the population would "decrease by 70 per cent," the uncensored letter states. In the opinion of the writer, students are the hardest hit among any group of the population. They are at the mercy of the Communists, because they were the only ones to make any show of resistance to the Communists' grab of power. All these students are "wanted." Forced labour will be their lot, he says. "Every atom of open opposition is destroyed. Every means of expression is controlled. Communism is the only idea allowed to live unharmed, unarrested. Every effort is made to bring the people in line. All Catholic newspapers and reviews have been stopped. The newspapers of the 'purged' political parties are in the hands of action committees. They decide what is to be printed. If you want the news and want it first, you read *Rude Pravo*, official organ of the Communist Party. It always has the news a day earlier than any of the other controlled newspapers."

**IRELAND'S HERITAGE OF FAITH**

"We watch with anxiety the menacing ravages of Communism, that corrosive heresy of the modern world," said Mr. John Costello, Eire's Premier, in a St. Patrick's Day broadcast. "Ireland may still have a duty to fulfil and yet another contribution to make in the re-birth of Western civilization. Poor as we are and impotent as we may be, judged by material standards, we are rich in our Christian heritage and strong in our spiritual armour. At this dark hour in the history of Europe, when countless multitudes sit parleying in the Valley of Indecision, we are proud to proclaim to the world our ancient Faith. We are encouraged by the thought that the Governments and people to which I speak are willing to defend the threatened institutions of Europe."

**WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING**

The Russians are appointing Com-

munist officials as "priests" in charge of Lithuanian parishes. A newsletter issued by the Lithuanian legation in Washington says two Soviet parishes exist—one at Vilnius and the other at Rokiskis. When the priest of a parish disappears, whether by deportation to Siberia or otherwise, the Government, "by public demand" appoints a successor not known to anyone. The people suspect they are not priests but Communist officials who have learned the ritual. Communists and Government officials are urged to attend these churches in great numbers to maintain the fiction of "freedom of religion."

Two thirds of Lithuania's population of 3,000,000 are Catholic—*The Examiner*, April 3, '48.

## OBITUARY

B. L. AMIRTHANATHAPILLAI

Fortified by almost all the consolations that the Holy Mother the church offers her dying children, consoled by the prayers of his wife and all his children around his death bed, and above all, heartened by the special privilege of having his own son, a priest, to offer up the set-prayers for the dying, at his bedside, Mr. Loppupillai Amirthanathapillai of Mathagal, Jaffna, passed away peacefully to his eternal reward on the 6th of April at the residence of one of his sons in Colombo. It was only a few days before his death that Mr. Amirthanathapillai had gone to Colombo to recoup his health after a brief illness in Jaffna, but he took ill again suddenly and in spite of all the careful and generous medical attention and efficient nursing he succumbed to his illness.

The burial took place at the Madampitiya Cemetery the following morning, after a Requiem High Mass sung by his son, Rev. Fr. L. A. Singarayar, O.M.I., B.A., Principal, Colombogam Training College, at St. Lucia's Cathedral "corpore praesente."

The funeral was largely attended and it was noteworthy that a number of devoted pupils of two of his sons took an active part in seeing to the efficient execution of the details of the funeral arrangements. From the cemetery gates to the grave side the coffin was borne by four sons and two nephews of the deceased preceded by a solemn colourful procession led by the choristers and altar-boys of St. Lucia's Cathedral, some Brothers of the Borella Seminary, a few Christian Brothers and a number of the deceased's grandchildren carrying flower wreaths.

Rev. Fr. Singarayar, assisted by the Rev. Frs. Martin, O.M.I., and Francis Fernando, O.M.I. officiated at the grave.

The late Mr. Amirthanathapillai was the leader and father of his community in his native place and had done much for the betterment of both of his people and the village as a whole. The Church found in him an ardent supporter and his exemplary Catholic life and forceful character was a source of inspiration to many who came in contact with him. In his early days he carried on a prosperous ocean-transport business covering an area extending from Karachi in the west to Rangoon in the east, and consequently became a wealthy land owner. His early education in Tamil which he received at Trichinopoly, enabled him to publish a book containing a number of canticles chiefly in praise of the Blessed Mother besides also editing a small journal printed in his own press. In fact his last effort was a song of praise in honour of our Lady of Madhu to be chanted on the privileged and historic occasion of the visit of the Madhu Statue to Mathagal.

He leaves besides his wife, five sons: Rev. Fr. L. A. Singarayar, O.M.I., A. L. Rajaratnam, Retired Pensioner, F.M.S., A. Gnanapragasam, L. A. Arulanandan of the tutorial staff of St. Benedict's College, Colombo and L. A. Joseph, Co-operative Inspector, two daughters, Mrs. S. A. Fernando and Mrs. G. E. Arokiasamy, and a large number of grandchildren to bemoan his loss. He was 78 at the time of his death.

May he rest in Peace.

## WANTED

Wanted immediately lady graduate or Pundit in Tamil. Apply Mother Superior, Convent, Kandy.



## Queen of the Most Holy Rosary

(Continued from Page 1.)

intimate blessing of the Rosary—a blessing we will never fully appreciate till the shades of death come slowly down. Then we will thank Him from our hearts for the Rosary clenched in our hands. We will thank Him for the Mother whose aid and love it has won. We will thank her for the help she has always given us and is giving us, as our last "now and at the hour of our death" slowly fades away.—*Messenger of the Sacred Heart, America.*

### FOR SALE

Austin Saloon 15.9 H.P. late X Series—in excellent condition—reasonable offers. Can be seen at "Ratnagiri", Araly North—Vaddukodai.

### TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited by the G.A., N.P. Jaffna up to 12 noon on 8th May, 1948 for:—

(1) supply of naar baskets, ola mats, palmyrah olas, vadali olas, palmyrah stalks, palmyrah posts alambal and cad jans whenever required at Chiviatheru Salt Pans, Karanavai and Wellaparavai Lewayas and at Tondamannar Salt Stores.

(2) collection of naturally formed salt at Karanavai and Wellaparavai, weighing, bagging, transporting to Tondamannar Salt Stores, unloading, weighing heaping and covering with material supplied by the Asst. Salt Supdt.

Tender forms can be had from the Govt. Agent, N.P., on payment of a tender form deposit of Rs. 50.

Further particulars will be supplied on application.

Govt. Agent, N.P.  
Jaffna 16th April, 1948.

### TENDER NOTICE

TENDERS will be received by the Government Agent, Northern Province, up to 12 noon on Tuesday, May 4, 1948 for the construction of a Flood outlet channel for Vengirayan Veli fields to the lagoon with masonry regulator, in Mirusuvil North village, Tenmaradchi Divisional Revenue Officer's Division, N.P. 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, May 1, 1948, only on production of receipt for Rs. 25 deposited for each form at the Jaffna Kachcheri.

TENDERS will be received by the Government Agent, Northern Province, up to 12 noon on Tuesday, May 4, 1948 for widening and regrading the tail channel of Tenniyankulam in Punakari-Tunukkai 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, May 1, 1948, only on production of receipt for Rs. 25 deposited for each form at the Jaffna Kachcheri.

### PUBLIC AUCTION

#### LORRIES FOR SALE

Two Ford Lorries bearing Nos. CE-837 of 30 H.P. and H-1033 of 24.03 H.P. belonging to the Jaffna Urban Council will be sold by Public Auction at this Office on Saturday the 8th May, 1948 at 10 a.m.

Permits are not necessary to purchase these lorries as the Commissioner of Motor Transport has authorised me to dispose these lorries to any one without permits.

The lorries are in running condition and were licensed and used by the Council during the year 1947.

The lorries can be inspected at the Council's workshop between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily except on Sundays.

C. PONNAMBALAM,  
Chairman, U. C., Jaffna.

April 17, 1948.

### TENDER NOTICE

#### CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way and Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 28th May, 1948 for the construction of Six sets of Workmen's Dwellings at Nawalapitiya.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 30th April, 1948.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.

Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works, C.G.R.,  
Maradana.

### TENDER NOTICE

#### CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 28th May, 1948 for the construction of One Set of Workmen's Dwellings at Manampitiya.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 30-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.

Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works C.G.R.,  
Maradana.

### TENDER NOTICE

#### CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 18th May, 1948 for the construction of Three Sets of Workmen's Dwellings at China Bay.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 30-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.

Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works, C.G.R.,  
Maradana.

### TENDER NOTICE

#### CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 28th May, 1948 for the construction of Two Sets of Workmen's Dwellings at Valaichchenai.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 30-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.

Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works, C.G.R.,  
Maradana.

### TENDER NOTICE

#### CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 21st May, 1948, for the construction of Three Sets of Workmen's Dwellings at Dehiwala.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 23-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.

Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works, C.G.R.,  
Maradana.

### TENDER NOTICE

#### CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 14th May, 1948 for the construction of Eighteen Sets of Workmen's Dwellings at Nawalapitiya.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 15-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.

Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works, C.G.R.,  
Maradana.

## GROTTO AT MANTHAI

Dear.....

There was in 1658 a large church at Manthai—a village on the 6th mile from Mannar on the Pooneryn Road which enshrined the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Madhu. To save the statue from the Dutch vandals who were doing their work on the island of Mannar in 1670, her devotees round Manthai removed the statue reverently to the jungles of Madhu. The large church unfortunately lies razed to the ground for the last 300 years.

It is not our wish to rebuild the ancient church in that very spot. But to defeat the purpose of the Dutch persecutor at least partly and to commemorate her in that place in which the persecutor thought her name will be wiped out for ages, it is our desire to honour her at least with a Lourdes Grotto.

Therefore Dear.....

We are sure we will not count in vain on your kind generosity to assist us with a liberal donation towards its erection. Contributions be they so small will be all acknowledged by us personally. You will be encouraging us also, immensely with your kind words of advice on the matter.

Looking forward anxiously for your timely gift in honour of Our Lady of Madhu and in union with prayers.

Yours sincerely in Xt.,  
Fr. John Singarayer,  
Parish Priest.

Adampan, 23-4-48.

I bless the appeal and recommend it.

23-4-48.

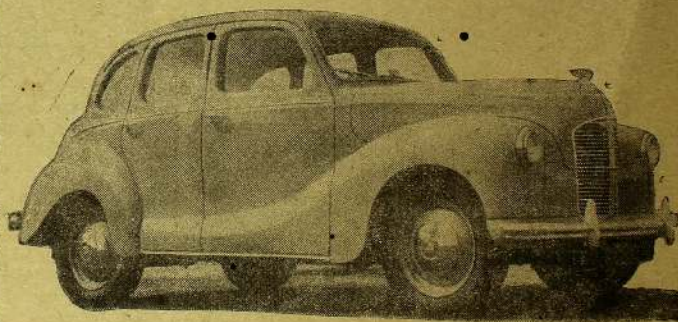
✠ J. A. Guyomar, O.M.I.,  
Bishop of Jaffna.

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