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THOUGHTS ON COMMUNISM

Communism, which has spread to every part of the globe in less than a century, did not make this phenomenal advance by any soundness of principle in its philosophy but by shrewdness of propaganda. Dr. Mary E. Walsh, assistant professor of sociology at the Catholic University of America, stated at the sixth annual Catholic University Convention held in Manhattan recently. Devoted talks on "Vital Phases of the Christian Communist Struggle," this year's forum featured three other speakers: Rev. Dr. William J. McDonald, associate professor of philosophy at the university; Dr. Alphonse H. Clemens, associate professor of sociology, and Rev. Charles J. McFadden, O.S.A., of Villanova College. When we think of the masses of population without the education necessary to analyse principles and to distinguish between the true and the false," Dr. Walsh said, "we realize that it is only through their life problems that they can be reached. The Communists are realistic enough to know this and hence they concern themselves with the grievances and resentments that arise in daily life problems, especially those of the social and political field." Declaring that there are groups of people in our country who are "suffering from an accumulation of bad social and political conditions," especially in the "blighted areas" of our cities, the speaker added: "If we Catholics really want to stop the spread of Communism we ought to turn our attention to these areas of social and political oppression and take the leadership into our own hands. This blighted area of the city is a missionary field of supreme importance and one that has scarcely been touched."

Speaking on "Communism, a Disguised Religion," Father McDonald asserted that Communism "is not merely a way of looking at life; it is also, and pre-eminently, a method of changing it." It is a gospel of action, a deceptive mysticism tinged with a redemptive fervour, he added. According to Communism, he observed, "only the players, not the spectators, see the game." Stating that the core of the present crisis is spiritual, a religious struggle "though couched in economic terms," the speaker added that Communism, although it regards divine faith as superstition, has attempted to manufacture a new social gospel on the basis of blind faith. It is a coerced creed and the willingness of so many to follow it is not based on a conviction regarding the rightness of the new order but on faith on a secularized desire for salvation, he said.

Dr. Clemens stated that while Catholicism and Communism often aim at the same social reforms, their essential difference is apparent from their contrasting concepts of the nature of man. Communism insists that man has no purpose other than to subserve the Collective State and that his nature is nothing more than a pure materialistic entity despoiled of any least spiritual implication, the Catholic University professor noted. "Catholicism, on the other hand," he added, "envisions man's high dignity in his lofty purpose of serving, not a 'Servile State,' but an

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

The introduction of legislation which would set up a Family Allowance Act, a project which long has been favoured by many Catholic leaders, is being contemplated by Senator Robert F. Wagner, of New York.

Senator Wagner has assigned a staff, headed by Joseph P. McMurray, his administrative assistant, to study the family allowance plans of a number of other countries, notably the Canadian system, which has been in operation since 1945, and to gather the reaction of U.S. groups to such a project. In his search for opinions, Mr. McMurray plans to canvass the nation's outstanding religious, labour, social welfare and kindred groups. A pamphlet entitled "Family Allowances," prepared by Rev. Dr. Edgar Schmiedeler, O.S.B., and published by the Family Life Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, embodies a study of the Catholic reaction to such a project. Fr. Schmiedeler's pamphlet points out the apparent necessity of gaining the support of organized labour for such a project. He says that "both in England and in Canada labour had for years held out against family allowances, but several years ago reversed its stand. Shortly after it did so, both countries passed National Allowances Acts." The pamphlet relates that in the United States organized labour has given the family allowance question but little attention, although its members have not spoken particularly against such a plan.

A survey has disclosed that 39 nations now have a family allowance plan in effect. Under the Canadian system, families with a yearly income of \$8,600 dollars or less are eligible for benefits. The first child of such a family receives a 5 dollars per-month allowance, a family with two children receives 7.50 dollars per-month allowance. Each addition to the family means an extra allowance. Senator Wagner's staff has learned that the principal effects of the Canadian system in its two years of operation, have included increased expenditures to doctors, dentists, opticians and others for care of children, increased sales in children's clothing and more children taking advantages of summer health camps and cultural opportunities.

omnipotent God; in the sublime destiny of, not a slave to the collectivity, but a participator in the beatific vision which is God."

Father McFadden emphasized that "American people must learn that successful opposition to Communism must be intelligent opposition—opposition based upon a thorough knowledge of the false principles which underlie Communist activity." Castigating those who would compromise with Communism's principles of materialism and atheism, he declared: "There is no middle or neutral ground. We act either like atheists or like children of God. We erect a structure of inalienable human rights upon the spiritual nature and destiny of man or we subject him to the whims of some tyrannical and absolute State."

Nineteenth Century Novelists on Christian Civilization

The Communistic Government of the "People's Republic of Slovenia" has forced all the nursing Sisters, numbering about 200, to leave their hospital posts, turning them out into the street at a few hours' notice without any pension or other provision for their future. Some of the Sisters had served for 40 years and more in the 12 hospitals affected by the measure. News from Trieste about the expulsion of the nuns depicts the brutality with which it was carried out. In one hospital the commissar told the nuns at nine o'clock in the morning to "get out" by one o'clock in the afternoon. "The hour of the Religious has struck in Slovenia," he said. When one of the dismayed Sisters asked him, "Where shall we go?" he answered cynically: "That's none of my business." In many instances, the Sisters were told by the commissars that they could continue to work in the hospitals "if they would take off that archaic habit and have no relations with their religious superiors." Patients in a hospital for incurables wept bitterly and pleaded that the Sisters be allowed to remain, fearing that the new "Partisan" nurses would do little to alleviate the pain of their last days. In another hospital the men patients violently cursed the commissar for expelling the Sisters. Since most of the houses belonging to religious communities in Slovenia have long been confiscated there was little room for the expelled Sisters and many of them have been obliged to return to their parental home. Special efforts have been made to accommodate old and sick Sisters in the few convents that still remain open.

Religious Emblems Restored in France

Last year's decision of the municipal authorities of the Seine and Oise—in Paris's "Red Belt"—to remove all religious emblems from hospitals, homes and orphanages under its authority was recently annulled by the Council of State—France's highest court—on the grounds that it violates the constitutional law guaranteeing freedom of religion. The local authorities—half of whose members are Communists—meeting after the council's decision, decided by 18 votes to 16 to restore credits for religious ministrations. The Communists, who voted against the motion, took revenge by ordering the police to search the quarters of Abbe Sucher, chaplain of a sanatorium at Mesnil Saint Denis, who had appealed to the Council of State. When the police found French and German guns and ammunition, the Communist Press announced discovery of "an anti-Communist, Fascist plot." Abbe Sucher soon cleared himself. Leader of a war-time resistance group, he had risked his life by hiding the group's arms in his house. Later he had captured German arms. After the liberation he informed the police of the presence of the arms. He was still waiting for the police to take them away when the search party "discovered" them.

Is Christian civilization in danger? Mr. Graham Greene and M. Francois Mauriac answered this question in the Granedes Conferences Catholiques in Brussels last month. Neither of these two outstanding Catholic novelists was specially optimistic. Graham Greene defined Christian Civilization as outside the realm of physical attack, and Mauriac made a fervent plea for European unity. Both by their complete preoccupation with modern society, by their moral value and their passionate sense of the salvation and redemption of man are admirable defenders of western civilization. M. Mauriac who spoke with a broken voice has kept intact the richness of the thought of the heart. He is one of those lucid and courageous Catholics who strip the mask from sin wherever it is to be found. Mr. Graham Greene has something of the bluff frankness of M. Bernanos and discovers the "eternal man" in beings and places where no one would think of going to look for him. Listening to him one thinks one is listening to a man who holds that the Christian ideal will never be realized, except from a long distance and that the man of yesterday is the pattern for the man of to-morrow.

He said that one cannot speak of Christian civilization as an organisation of human life. There could not be a world in which the Sermon on the Mount could be easily realized to the letter. That would be too easy. He said that Christian civilization is a thought, a state of the soul, a sense of perfection which divided man so that one part of him was always ready to be angry with the other. The history of Christian civilization, he said, is the history of great repentances, and it shows that Christianity can exist with the most hideous crimes.

In brief, Christianity is a sense of personal responsibility. This personal and individual view on Christian civilization, Mr. Graham Greene elaborated with the art of the novelist, playing God's spy in the year 2,000.

M. Mauriac spoke with complete frankness of the threat of the Red Army which if it started marching one evening would be in Brussels and Paris on the morrow. Of American aid, he said that used without spiritual arms this would be valueless, so seriously is the body of Western civilization threatened internally by Communism. The diplomacy of the West, said M. Mauriac, ought never to push the bolt on this side of the iron curtain and we should always be ready to welcome into the European community "Holy Russia." How is it, asked M. Mauriac, that in face of this new danger that Europe must again build up its Christian unity, for evil—which has always existed—is to-day good. In one sense there is no more a remedy for Communism than there is for our bad will or Christian hope. The cause of Europe is the cause of the redemption. In making Christendom we must have something positive to oppose to the classless Soviet State of slaves. This is, in fact, a war of religion and if obvious, sordid, and secular interests are mixed with it, we must remember that was true, too, of the Crusades.—The Examiner.

NOTICE

An Illustrated Magazine in English, Sinhalese and Tamil containing about 200 pictures and describing the work of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Ceylon during the past 100 years is now in the Press.

We respectfully request those of our subscribers and well-wishers who desire to buy a copy, to send us a P.O. or an M.O. for Rs. 3/- per copy. The magazine will be sent postage-free when ready.

St. Joseph's Catholic Press,
JAFNA.

Church Calendar

JUNE 1948

THURS. ...24 S. John the Baptist.
FRI. ...25 S. William.
SAT. ...26 Ss. John and Paul.
SUN. ...27 6 P.—S. Ladislaus.
MON. ...28 S. Irenaeus.
TUES. ...29 Ss. Peter and Paul.
WED. ...30 Com. of S. Paul.

JULY 1948

THURS. ...1 Precious BLOOD.

The Catholic Guardian

JUNE 24TH 1948

DEAD SEA FRUIT

The announcement of the new equipment grant is a very poor curtain raiser to the Minister's visit to Jaffna. We had hoped for so much, we had depended on his assurances. We are grievously disillusioned.

(1) We who have entered the free scheme to give of our best and to do our best by the parents in the North are in effect to continue to be the guinea pigs of the educational system of the country. Nobody should know better than the Minister himself how grossly inadequate the equipment grant has been. His proposed equipment grant burkes the issue and leaves us in the same miserable plight for at least 2 more years. The only beneficiaries are the primary vernacular schools.

(2) In effect he is setting a premium on abstention from the free scheme. He is again burking the issue by extending the date till May 1950 for the abstentionist schools to join the national scheme.

Either he wants the Free System to continue or he wants to scrap it. If he wants it to continue he should make its continuance possible: its continuance is impossible with the present equipment grant. If he wants to scrap the Free System let him be man enough to state it openly. We are tired of trifling.

This is a peculiarly Northern problem, because practically all the schools of comparable status in the South have stood out of the scheme.

(3) He will therefore find in Jaffna a considerable and influential body of opinion that is seriously considering the abandonment of the free scheme and the reversion to the grant-in-aid system.

(a) This course of action is dictated by the sheer inability

to carry on on the starvation diet allotted us. Every single one of the big free schools is being run on a huge annual deficit. Expenses, essential expenses, have to be curtailed so that our libraries and laboratories are suffering badly. And this at a time when owing to the formation and development of the H. S. C. classes equipment is urgently needed.

(b) We had hoped that before the end of the third year of the Free System it would have been made possible for us to conduct our schools without seeing them getting shoddier and shoddier every day. Our ray of hope was the Minister himself and that ray is very dim at the moment. Is he forswearing any and every resolution to come to our assistance *immediately*? He could have been under other circumstances such a magnificent ambassador from the South!

JUNE THOUGHTS

III

21. Jesus has no need of us; He is equally happy without our love; and yet as St. Thomas says, He loves us as much as if His felicity depended on man. This filled Job with astonishment, and He cried out: "What is man that Thou should set Thy Heart upon Him?"

22. It would have been a great favour, if God had only permitted us to love Him. But He demands our love: "Love the Lord, Thy God, with thy whole Heart." Again He asks: "My son give Me thy heart."

23. When by mortal sin, we drive Him from our souls and invite Satan therein, He does not depart, but stands outside the door of the heart and He calls and knocks to be let in: "I stand at the gate and knock." "Open to Me, My Sister, My Love."

24. He who loves, necessarily desires to be loved. Love seeks love. St. Bernard says that the reason why God loves us is that He might be loved Himself.

25. In the various parables Our Lord compares Himself to the Shepherd who having found the lost sheep, calls others to rejoice with Him. He tells us that he is that father who, when his lost son returns, not only forgives him, but also embraces him tenderly.

26. He tells us that if we do not love Him we are condemned to death, and on the contrary that if we love Him He will take us into His possession: "He that loveth not, abideth in death." "He that abideth in charity, abideth in God, and God in him."

27. Will not such invitations, such entreaties, such threats, and such promises move us to love God, who so much desires to be loved by us.

28. To contemplate the love of Our Lord, and to open our hearts in true reciprocal love, we must go to the Sacred Heart and look into it. There we see a love so mighty that it drew Him from Heaven to earth, and urged Him to assume human nature and to take the form of a slave.

29. It is impossible to consider how afflicted the Heart of Jesus was for the love of us and not to pity Him. He Himself says: "My soul is sorrowful even unto death."

30. The principal sorrow which afflicted the Heart of Jesus so much was not the sight of the torments and infamy, but the sight of our ingratitude towards His immense love.
C.W.M. SERIES.

(To be Continued)

Tamil Congress at Conference

A two-day conference of the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress General Council was held at the Town Hall on the 19th and the 20th inst. On the proposal of Mr. S. Sivagurunathar seconded by Mr. Alfred Swampillai a resolution of full confidence in the elected representatives was unanimously passed. Further the representatives were given a *blank cheque* of support in whatever course of action the representatives might take in the present political situation. Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam presided.

From the speeches delivered it was clear that the Congress had definitely set its heart towards being converted to co-operating with the Government, Mr. Chelvanayakam alone speaking *contra*. We give extracts from the speeches below:—

Mr. S. Sivapalan M.P. said: "I feel we have nothing in common with the Leftists and our material long-term interests can only be served by co-operating with the party in power."

Mr. T. Ramalingam M.P. said: "My contest in Point Pedro was not against the UNP but the Leftists. If invited by the party in power our attitude should be one of co-operation. The Leftists are for revolution. We are against it."

Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, M.P., said: "There can be differences of opinion among your representatives but there should be no difference in their patriotism or in their spirit of service. Acceptance of office or refusal to take office is, to my mind, a matter of minor importance. What is of paramount importance is the ultimate goal of the Tamil people."

"Under the Constitution the Tamils cannot be said to have freedom. The aim of the Tamil people must be to work for their ultimate freedom. At the General Election the masses of the North showed a determination to preserve their liberty. I cannot advise the Tamil people to do anything that would undo the result of the elections."

"The minority problem is a world problem. The twentieth century solution of this problem is to form some sort of division on a linguistic basis. That must be our goal. I do not want anything to be done to damage that aim. Provided we have a perspective and do not lose the spirit of resistance it will not matter to us what temporary part we play in the present Government of the country". Mr. Chelvanayakam advised that in the present circumstances, the Tamil Congress should not join the Government."

Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam said: "There was every possibility of a left-centre combination emerging as a cohesive group of at least 40 members in which group we could have formed an integral part."

The Leftists, among themselves, are hopelessly disunited and above all as far as we are concerned, not prepared to shed their programme of revolution and class dictatorship. Totalitarianism of the Fascist or Communist variety the Tamil community will never tolerate.

"I am deeply conscious of the tremendous weight of responsibility which the community has reposed in its Congress representatives in rejecting, at their bidding, older and trusted men. It is my considered view, in the present circumstances (and I offer that advice to the Tamil community) that the Tamils should accept the hand of fellowship that is offered without loss of honour or of self-respect."

Mr. K. Kanagaratnam, M.P., said that in the event of their assistance, and co-operation being sought in an honourable way, he felt the Tamils as a community should be prepared to accept such a position and prove their real political worth in the common interest of their motherland.

ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE 10 YEARS' PLAN FUND

With 6 months more for the end of the year the St. Patrick's College 10-year Plan Fund is practically a third of the way towards the target for the year of Rs. 30,000.

The collection campaign began on 6th February, 1948. The monthly progress since then has been:—

6th—March	Rs. 1,225-00
6th—April	Rs. 2,065 00
6th—May	Rs. 3,495 00
23rd—June	Rs. 8,975-00

This is a very encouraging situation—we have 235 promoters. Of these only 50 have so far sent in their collections.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Ecclesiastical.—His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna left for Madhu to-day to preside at the July Festival.

The Visitor Leaves.—Very Rev. Fr. J. Boekenfoehr, O.M.I., Assistant General of the Congregation of Mary Immaculate who was in Jaffna on his Visitation to the Clergy of the Diocese left by car to Colombo on Tuesday the 22nd with Very Rev. Fr. F. M. Bizien, O.M.I., the Vicar of Missions.

Welcome Home.—Rev. Fr. C. J. Matthews, O.M.I., the veteran Rector of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, has come back to his old College in the capacity of the Spiritual Director of the College. He handed over his stewardship to the present Rector in 1936 and since then had been A.R.P. Controller, Jaffna, Rector, St. Henry's College, Ilavallai and Rector, St. Xavier's College, Mannar. Wherever he went he left the Matthews' Stamp. We congratulate St. Patrick's College on her good fortune in securing the mature services of this moulder of character as her Spiritual Director in these days of shifting values.

St. Vincent de Paul Society.—The annual General Meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Joseph's Conference will be held on Sunday the 27th of June 1948 at 5-30 p.m. in St. Charles' School immediately after the Benediction. Rev. Fr. P. T. James, O.M.I. Parish Priest, Cathedral, will preside and Mr. F. C. Thuraisingham (S.P.C.) will deliver a lecture on "The Charity of the Spirit." All our friends, well-wishers and benefactors are cordially invited.

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 28th of June, 1948. Plenary Indulgences can be gained on these dates:—8, 9, 11, 14, 21, (2), 23, 26, and 27. Conditions:—Confession, Communion, Visit to the Cathedral and prayer for the Pope's Intentions.

The All Ceylon Nationalist Tamils Conference.

—A meeting of the Executive Committee of the All-Ceylon Nationalist Tamils Conference was held on Monday the 14th June, at the residence of Mr. S. Somasundaram, President of the Conference.

The following subjects, viz. National Languages and the National Flag were discussed. Further consideration of the latter has been adjourned for the next meeting of the Committee to be held on the 22nd instant. The consideration of certain matters relating to the adoption of Sinhalese and Tamil as National Languages, was also postponed pending the receipt of the Report of the Sub-Committee on National Languages appointed at the Sessions of the Conference.

A general survey of the political situation was made and it was decided to call a Conference in Jaffna by August. A propaganda Committee was also elected to concert measures to propagate the ideals of this Conference.

It was also resolved to place on the Agenda of the next meeting, the subject of the Trade Union (amendment) Bill and the Indo-Ceylon questions for discussion.

A Jaffna Catholic Licentiate in Music.—We are glad to record that Miss R. L. A. Annasampillai has passed the Licentiate of the Trinity College of Music, London (Teachers). Miss Annasampillai is the youngest daughter of Mr. S. F. X. Annasampillai, retired Town Headman and the present Coroner for Jaffna Town.

Examination Results.—The following boys from St. Patrick's College have passed the Technical College Entrance Examination:—C. Singaraja, C. S. Sinnadurai and S. Boniface.

Co-operators Fete the Asst. Registrars.—On the eve of their transfer to Colombo and Batticaloa, Messrs. F. A. Sandrasagra, the Asst. Registrar, Co-operative Societies, N.D., and R. Rajaratnam, the Asst. Registrar, Co-operative Societies, N.D., respectively, were given a farewell dinner by the Co-operative Officers' Club on Saturday the 19th June, 1948 at the Jaffna Town Hall and by the Co-operators of the North on Monday the 21st June, 1948 at the Jaffna Rest House.

At the dinner given by the Officers' Club, Mr. A. Arulambalam, the Hon. Secretary of the Northern Division Co-operative Federation Ltd., and the Vice-President of the Co-operative Officers' Club, presided. The toasts of the guests were proposed by the Chairman and supported by Messrs. V. Veerasingham, J.P., C. W. Alexander, T. Canagaraja, A. C. Nallaratnam and others. Covers were laid for one hundred and fifty.

At the dinner given by the Co-operators of the North, Gate Mudaliyar V. Ponnampalan, J.P., and President of the Jaffna Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., presided and there was a large and distinguished gathering present, including the Heads of Departments. Mr. V. Veerasingham, the President of the Northern Division Co-operative Federation Ltd., proposed the toasts of the departing guests and this was supported by Messrs. C. W. D. Alwines and A. Arulambalam.

Eloquent tributes were paid by the speakers to the guests of honour, special mention being made of the amiable qualities and able administration of these two Officers.

Women as Civil Servants.—The Government Parliamentary Group, at its meetings last week discussed the question of the entry of women into the Civil Service.

Senator Miss Cissy Cooray urged that women should be admitted to the Civil Service. Mr. J. R. Jayawardene, Finance Minister, was in sympathy with this proposition and the meeting supported Miss Cissy Cooray. Finally it was agreed that Senators Miss Cooray and Mrs. A. F. Molamure should discuss the matter further with the Finance Minister.

Security Service to Be Permanent.—The Railway Security Service is to be made permanent in recognition of the good work done by its members who comprised former personnel of the Fighting and Civil Defence Services.

Col. P. J. F. van Langenberg, who commanded a battalion of the C.L.I. during the war, is the Chief Security Officer, and now is in charge of four officers and 120 men.

Apostle of Ceylon.—Portugal is to issue postage stamps bearing the portrait of the Ven. Joseph Vaz, a Goan priest known as the Apostle of Ceylon.

Diplomatic Relations Between India and the Holy See.—It was officially announced on June 12 that diplomatic relations have been initiated between the Holy See and India, with the establishment of an Inter-Nunciature in India and an Indian Legation in the Vatican.

Sir Annamalai Chettiar Dead.—Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar of Chettinad passed away on the 16th inst. at Chettinad. He was keeping indifferent health for some time and his illness took a serious turn. He was aged 67. Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar was a Member of the Council of State from 1920 to 1938 and a Member of the Indian Legislative Assembly from 1936 to 1940. He led a delegation to England in

1935 with regard to the separation of India from Burma.

He founded Annamalai University at Chidambaram in 1929. He leaves behind three sons and four daughters and a large circle of friends to bemoan his loss.

Frontier Gandhi Jailed.—Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan who was arrested last week was sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment under Section 40 of the Frontier Crimes Regulations. He was tried at Baud Daudshan by the District Magistrate of Kohat.

The District Magistrate of Peshawar issued orders banning the carrying of arms within the limits of Peshawar city and cantonment from June 16 to June 30.

Khan Abdulwali Khan, son of Abdul Ghaffar Khan and two others have also been arrested.

German Professors at the Commons.—The ten German Catholic professors who are in Britain as the guests of the Newman Association were welcomed by Catholic MPs last week when accompanied by Bishop Myers, they visited the House of Commons.

They were addressed by Sir Patrick Hannon and Mr. Robert Mellish.

Letters to the Editor

An Earnest Appeal

Dear Editor,

Here is an earnest appeal from the General Secretary, St. Peter's Society for indigenous Clergy, Rome:—

The College of St. Peter is on the way to completion. On the Feast of the Epiphany the roof was finished and we hope to have the inauguration of the College by the Feast of St. Peter Apostle so that the new students from the Missions, may come in October. To build this College no monies were used that could have been sent to Mission Seminaries. Funds used were only those which could in no way have been sent to seminaries. The walls of the chapel which will be the centre and heart of the institute are now rising. For this we wish to make a special appeal for assistance from our National Directors in providing *Altars and Stations of the Cross*. These will cost one thousand dollars or Rs. 3,500 each. In the hope that our Directors will be able to assist in the matter, we are ready to send them designs of the Altars and Stations of the Cross. These will bear the name of the nation making offerings from them. In accordance with this request, do you not think Students from Ceylon and the East, who may go to this College, will be quite happy and thrilled, to see the Stations of the Cross and Altars donated by benefactors in Ceylon? Most assuredly some of our well to do Catholics will be able to donate a thousand dollars or Rs. 3,000 for this purpose. I am sure your readers will come forward to maintain the prestige of Catholic Ceylon in Rome, with their handsome donations.

Donations may be sent to the Diocesan Director or to the undersigned by the end of July 1948.

Yours sincerely in J.C.
G. V. IGNATIUS SAMA, S.J.

St. Joseph's College,
Bangalore, 1,
17th June, 1948.

Tamil Congress and Office Acceptance

Dear Sir,—Mr. Ponnambalam's decision to co-operate with Mr. Senanayake's government announced at the Tamil Congress Meeting in Jaffna last week is likely to meet with the heartiest approbation of every right thinking person within the Tamil Community and outside. The accredited Tamil party within the cabinet is a consummation desired greatly by us all. Critics there will be, mostly in the midst of the so-called progressives whose company Mr. Ponnambalam rightly spurns, who are likely to accuse Mr. Ponnambalam of breach of faith. We need not mind their criticism. Tamils who are inclined to find fault with Mr. Ponnambalam on this score would do well to remember one thing. It is no doubt true that opposition to Mr. Senanayake was the declared policy of the Tamil Congress during the elections. Had the Tamil Congress persist-

ed in that suicidal policy, the results would have been disastrous for the Tamils. This view was held by all the sane elements among the Tamils even during the election days. Now at long last the Tamil Leader has seen the light. He seeks, therefore, to repair the harm already done in the only way possible, viz by co-operating with the government. While commending his action wholeheartedly, one trusts that Mr. Senanayake will seize the hand of friendship extended to him by Mr. Ponnambalam.

The day the Tamil Congress enters the cabinet should be a red letter day in the history of Modern Ceylon. It should be the beginning of the end of communalism in this country. Happily absent in the early years of the century, communalism found its way into the political life of Ceylon paradoxically at a time when we were deemed fit for nationhood. It is not within the purview of this letter to discuss the causes that contributed to it, and the individuals at whose door the blame should be laid. These are episodes in our history, which in the words of Mr. Senanayake we would rather forget. The time has come when we must turn over a new leaf. Forgetting differences of caste, race and creed, we must unite our forces in order to fight the common enemy. What the Red Menace means to our country, and to all that we cherish dear, we perhaps do not realize sufficiently.

Earlier in the letter I stated that if the Tamil Congress entered the cabinet, it should be the beginning of the end of communalism. The phrase was used advisedly. The Tamil Congress cannot seek the alliance of patriotic and progressive section among the Sinhalese people, as long as it preaches aggressive communalism in the North. The contemplated alliance with Mr. Senanayake is bound to be shortlived, if the Tamil Congress continues to preach communal politics. Very soon it will have to prepare itself for liquidation as a political organization.

Yours,

M. J. A. JEYANATHAN.

293/17 Jampettah Street,
Colombo.

ANURADHAPURA NEWS

St. Joseph's College, Anuradhapura
Celebrates the Silver Jubilee of
Mr. S. A. Mariampillai

"Well done Mr. Mariampillai! You are 25 years a teacher in this College and not out. With your 25 years of service in this malarial place you have set up a record that will not be easily beaten. Many a Silver Jubilee of teaching in one and the same Institution has been celebrated in the healthier parts of Ceylon. But in the N.C.P. your achievement is truly unique." Thus remarked Revd. Father B. Deognipillai, Principal of St. Joseph's College in the course of his congratulatory address on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Mr. S. A. Mariampillai as a teacher in the above Institution.

The 1st of June 1948, on which day Mr. Mariampillai completed his 25 years of teaching, will remain a red letter day in the history of the College. In the morning a thanksgiving Mass was celebrated by the Revd. Fr. Principal. The Catholic teachers and students attended and prayed for the Jubilarian.

At about 10 a.m. a reception was accorded to the Jubilarian by the Staff and students. Having congratulated the Jubilarian the Revd. Fr. Principal remarked that this Jubilee coincided happily with the Golden Jubilee of the College and that, therefore, the College could in truth be said to owe half its life to Mr. Mariampillai. He thanked the Jubilarian for the services rendered to the College during the past 25 years and wished him many more years of fruitful service. He then presented him with a purse on behalf of the General Management of the College. The sentiments of the students were ably and eloquently expressed by Master L. Peter Perera of the Senior Form. Master M. Buhari spoke on behalf of the Sports department and thanked the Jubilarian for the valuable services he had rendered as Prefect of Games to the sports of the College. Master A. Velumirugan speaking in Tamil thanked the Jubilarian for the splendid work he

had done as Senior Tamil teacher and Moderator of the Tamil literary association to raise the standard of the Tamil language in the College. A presentation was also made by the students.

Rising amidst loud applause and cheers the Jubilarian thanked the Rev. Fr. Principal, the Staff and students for having honoured him on that day. He thanked also His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna, the General Manager of Schools and the past Principals for all the kindnesses of which he had been the object. In fact, one of the chief reasons for his long stay in this malarial station he said, was the kind help always given him by the Management. With three hearty cheers to the Jubilarian the function came to a happy close.

The day's proceedings ended with a lunch accorded by the Principal and the Staff to the Jubilarian and a group photo of the College with the Jubilarian as the central figure.

The Annual General Meeting of the Anuradhapura Catholic Association was held on the 6th inst. soon after Benediction in the Mission House.

In the absence of the President Mr. J. D. Slegers, vice-President took the chair.

1. The Minutes of the last General Meeting were read and confirmed. The accounts were read and adopted.

2. The Secretary gave a brief history of the activities of the Association during the past year.

3. The following were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year:

President:—Mr. A. M. S. Perera, C.C.S.

Vice-Presidents:—Messrs. J. D. Slegers, J. Miranda and R. Soysa.

Secretary:—Mr. S. Vanderput.

Asst. Secretary:—Mr. S. Devasagayam.

Treasurer:—The Rev. Fr. S. Emmanuel (Director).

A Committee of 15 was also elected.

4. After the Meeting a social was held on the Mission House lawn which was tastefully decorated and illuminated.

That charming little chapel dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua in the midst of the jungle of Mihintale surrounded by Buddhist shrines, presented a festive appearance, on Sunday the 13th instant when the Feast of that Great Saint was celebrated with piety and devotion.

Vespers were sung on Saturday the 12th evening by Rev. Fr. S. Emmanuel and on the following day—the 13th inst. High Mass was sung at 8 a.m. The Procession started after the Mass, with the statue of St. Anthony and wended its way round the Church and on its return Blessings were imparted.

The singing was ably conducted by the members of the Chrysostom family. Miss Mabel Chrysostom presided at the Organ. Special hymns were sung suitable to the occasion. The whole Feast was a grand success and an edifying sight to the non-Catholics, who were present there.

NOTICE

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

OPENING OF MADHU OUT-AGENCY

A Road/Rail Station will be established at the Madhu Church premises for through booking of goods, parcels, passengers and luggage for the forthcoming Madhu Church Festival which commences on 23rd June 1948 and ends on 2nd July 1948.

Business will be carried out as follows:—

PARCELS AND GOODS—19th June to 7th July 1948.

PASSENGERS AND LUGGAGE—23rd June to 7th July 1948.

The following passenger road fare authorised by the Commissioner of Motor Transport will be added to the Rail fare:—

Adults	75 cts.
Children (3 yrs. and under 12)	40 cts.
Free Luggage Allowance by road	increased from 28 to 70 lbs.

M. KANAGASABAY,
Ag. General Manager,
General Manager's Office,
Colombo, 16th June, 1948.

Fifty Years in Kandy

Fifty years from the allotted span of three score years and ten of one's life is indeed much; and that is what Father Leonard Vossen, S.J., has spent at the Papal Seminary at Kandy. On the 18th of May, 1943, the Pontifical Seminary was fifty years old and by December, 1947, Fr. Vossen could count fifty years of service for the Papal Athenaeum. To some extent, to recount the history of the Seminary is to sketch a biography of Fr. Vossen; while it would not be easy to write about him without mentioning the progress and development of the schemes visualised by its founder, Pope Leo XIII, and his able executive, Mgr. Zaleski.

Fr. Vossen joined the Seminary Staff in 1897, as a Jesuit Scholastic after finishing his humanistic studies and philosophy at the renowned Scholasticate of Louvain where he had the privilege, in his formative years, of coming under the influence of eminent professors like Fathers De Backer and Thirion. The contact with great minds left an indelible impression on his personality, since it enhanced the tremendous versatility of his character, which far from giving him a sinecure, has always brought him more than his quota of work. The superiors seemed to have realized well and assessed correctly his capacity, his aptitudes and above all his willingness for work of different types, that seldom could have been competently accomplished by an individual; hence they ever had recourse to his generosity, despite the fact that physically his lung power is very much lower than the average.

His activities in the seminary have been so very diverse, the posts he has held so varied and the subjects he has taught so many, that it is extremely difficult for anyone to say categorically what Fr. Vossen is, more so perhaps to say what he is not! All the administrative offices in the seminary, including that of Rector, he has held with his characteristic thoroughness & efficiency coupled with the courtesy and geniality that is native to him. His knowledge of art and architecture have contributed towards the embellishment of the seminary chapel. More than anything else his priestly virtue and scholarship have greatly enriched the spiritual and intellectual life of hundreds of priests who have passed through his hands at some time or other. His vast learning, culture and wide knowledge should not be taken for mere dilettantism, or as the saying goes; "Jack of all trades and master of none." In Fr. Vossen's case, he is master of his trades. He is a linguist of no mean repute, he is capable of discussing philosophy and theology and can proffer his opinion regarding the best manure for sweet potatoes and give the botanical name for the most insignificant herb under the sun. One may consult him about the intricacies of Greek grammar and in the same breath ask him what he thinks of the Beveridge Plan and Satyagraha. He is a spiritual guide to priests; at the same time his advice on love, courtship and marriage are commendable. He knows what he is talking about when he translates a Psalm from the Syriac Version. He is in touch with the Dons of Fleet Street and is fully competent to warn anyone against gentlemen of Grub Street. He is a connoisseur of painting, a critic of literature, who can be relied upon for his comments on the stage and screen.

With these accomplishments, at the age of seventy-five he is still in active service. At present his exercise consists in a slow walk round the seminary estate with the Rosary in hand or watering plants. In his room he is accessible to all irrespective of rank and class, where his venerable demeanour, gracefulness of manner and high sense of etiquette are seen to advantage. Counsel and advice may always be had gratis and is always ungrudgingly given. He seems to have time for everything and everyone excepting perhaps to give himself a holiday, which item he appears to have struck off his programme. Gifted with a keen sense of humour, he is able to suffer fools gladly; while on the other hand he has the gentle art of

calling a spade a spade without resorting to clubs; and he can appreciate diamonds, though certainly he has not set his heart on them.

To quote his own words, he is "One of those who have got accustomed to live." In his life, he has more than fulfilled Bernard Shaw's definition of a gentleman, as one who contributes more to society than he takes from it. He is a man of few needs and much charity, who believes with the late Fr. McNabb: "All man's life should be work or preparation for work. And all man's work should be not for himself but for others." For more than fifty years he has lived up to this ideal as a true son of St. Ignatius. May the Lord bless him more and more abundantly that he may have all the strength necessary to carry on the Good Fight and have the consolation of a dutiful life of labours of love undertaken in the service of the Master.

by F. B. ANDRADE.

Soviet "Plan" to Invade Europe

A Soviet "blue-print" to "invade" France, Italy and Scandinavia between August and September" which—according to the *Sunday Despatch*—has "come into the possession of Western Powers", is so detailed that it is believed the Soviet Government deliberately allowed it to fall into Western hands to create a fear complex which would lead to "Super-Munich" appeasement in Russia's favour.

After making this sensational statement, the *Despatch's* Diplomatic Correspondent reviews the report issued by the International Committee for the study of European questions detailing a huge build-up of Soviet armed forces in Europe.

Among the Committee's estimates are: Russian and satellite armies in Eastern Europe number two million men; German units have been formed in Russia from the ex-prisoners of war under Von Paulus, Von Seydlitz and other Prussian generals; Russia has the largest submarine fleet in the world numbering about 200 vessels.

The Diplomatic Correspondent adds that the total Soviet Air Force is now estimated at 12,000 machines including 500 jets and "the Russians intend, it is believed, to make up for technical deficiencies in pilot training by using masses of planes—steam roller methods applied to aerial attack."

The International Committee's report, however, adds, "In spite of appearances, war in Europe in the near future is not inevitable" and points out that Russia "knows herself to be inferior in atom weapons and bacteriological and meteorological warfare". The latter, it is explained, "consists in bringing about by chemical means great rainfall and thunderstorms in selected areas which would result in flooding. Also, air can be dried by chemical means so that people are unable to breathe."—*Hindu*.

Dignity of Work

"We can treat our work as something which is sacred and as something which will help not only us but our fellowmen," Cardinal Griffin recently told an audience in England. "In industry to-day we need this sense of vocation of work." Emphasising that the value of work should be assessed with relation to the personal dignity of man and the social value of man's labours, His Eminence pointed out that a man who works not only improves himself and develops his own personality, but brings benefits to society which will help his fellow-men. "I think I can explain this better by an example. I was watching a carpenter cutting out a window frame the lower section of which had been embedded in bricks and mortar. This section had been put in very badly, with odd strips of wood nailed together in an unworkmanlike fashion. The carpenter, who was not a Catholic, showed me this bad piece of work and said: 'The man who did that job could never have believed in God.'"

"Work, surely, has an added dignity since the coming of Christ. At baptism a man becomes a Christian and a son of God and the work he does is therefore the work of a Christian and of a son of God. As such it is due for reward far above anything merely natural.

Christ would have us realise that, provided what we are doing is not itself sinful, all our work, whatever its nature, can be done for Him. This, surely, is and improvement on the mere natural dignity of work, for work done by a Christian immeasurably increases the personal value of that work and helps socially by improving the world in a very real way. This is where religion can and must play its part in the life of the ordinary worker. Surely every work can be a vocation, since God has destined us to work and has determined that by our work and by a specific type of work we, as individuals, shall reach the fulfilment of our lives both here and in the next world. In other words, this very work on which I am engaged is the very instrument of my salvation and hence for me is a matter of extreme

importance and, indeed, of immense value."—*The Examiner*.

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY NOTICE

The Railway Level Crossing at 42 miles 27 chains, Kelani Valley Railway, between Getahetta and Eheliyagoda Railway Stations, on the Colombo-Ratnapura Main Road, will be closed for vehicular traffic from 10 p.m. on Saturday 3-7-48 till 6 a.m. on Sunday 4-7-48 for effecting repairs.

During this period, urgent traffic will be assisted over this crossing.

M. KANAGASABAY,
Ag. General Manager.

8-6-48.

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 would be wiped out for ever, it is our desire to honour her at least with a Lourdes Grotto.

Therefore Dear.....

We are sure we shall not count in vain on your kind generosity to assist us with a liberal donation towards its erection. Contributions no matter how 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 of prayers.

Yours sincerely in Xt.,

Fr. John Singarayer,
Parish Priest.

Adampan, 23-4-48.

I bless the appeal and recommend it.

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

23-4-48.

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