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## How Nazi Ex-Ambassador Helped to Save Rome

Nazi extremists' plans to abduct the Holy Father after Rome had been declared an open city in 1944 and to take him to Germany or a neutral country were blocked by Baron von Weizsaecker, then German Ambassador to the Holy See, it was stated by the former German Elite Guard General Wolf at the baron's trial in Nuremberg.

Other testimony in defence of Baron von Weizsaecker—who is a non-Catholic—is given by Mgr. Tardini, Assistant Papal Secretary of State, and many priests and religious, who affirm that the former Ambassador helped to save Rome from destruction and saved many hunted or condemned people from death.

It was revealed during the trial that the German evacuation of Rome was decided in the face of strong opposition by Nazi leaders who argued: "If Berlin is being destroyed, why should Rome be spared?"

The defence claimed that Baron von Weizsaecker's true motive for continuing in office under Hitler was "to fight for peace and to mobilize all counterforces against the growing danger of war."

### 'SAVED DOCUMENTS'

Mgr. Tardini's letter, dated February 18th last, states that Baron von Weizsaecker.

"1. Took an active part in the negotiations to make the demilitarization of Rome an actual fact and to get certain places, such as Sienna, Assisi and Chieti, recognised as hospital cities;

"2. Assisted the direct efforts to bring to places of safety historical biographical and artistic prints and documents, especially in the region of the province of Lazio;

"3. Helped to get several death sentences pronounced by the German military tribunals commuted and to induce the German military authorities to issue protective documents to religious institutions in Rome, to the personnel of the Pontifical departments and to members of the Palatine Guard."

Other signed testimony was submitted

by Fr. J. Hermes Turwitt, Superior General of the Congregation of Franciscan Tertiaries of the Holy Cross, Fr. Paul Berghaus, former Assistant Minister General of the Franciscan Capuchins, Fr. Anton Weber, of the German St. Raphael Association in Rome, and Sister Maria Adolpho de Sion, Superior of the Convent of Our Lady of Sion.

### HELPED THE POPE

These documents state that Baron von Weizsaecker strongly supported the efforts of the Holy Father to save thousands of Italian and foreign Jews from deportation and death.

He obtained immunity papers from German authorities, it is affirmed, and in that way protected Catholic institutions, where the Jews were hidden, from search by the Gestapo.

Other affidavits support the claim that Baron von Weizsaecker considered it his mission, in co-operation with the Holy See, to bring the war to an early end.

Field Marshal Kesselring asserts that it was due to Baron von Weizsaecker that many priests, court-martialled for anti-Nazi activities, are still alive.

Defence counsel Warren Magee, of Washington, said the evidence to be introduced by the defence will show how the defendant unceasingly "and under circumstances which would try an ordinary man's soul made use of every opportunity to preserve world peace," and how he made many efforts "under circumstances involving grave personal danger not only to himself but to his family to give timely and urgent warnings to foreign Powers so that they might take steps to prevent the outbreak of another war."

Baron von Weizsaecker was "bitterly opposed to Hitler's excesses and seized every opportunity to help the persecuted.

"In secrecy, he collaborated with the late Papal Nuncio to Germany, Archbishop Orsenigo.

"The evidence will establish that the world owes a debt of undying gratitude to this defendant."—*New Leader*.

## Pilgrimage to Fatima is not a Bed of Roses

Local estimates place the number of pilgrims who went to Fatima on May 12 and 13 for the 31st anniversary of Our Lady's appearance to the three peasant children, at 400,000.

Let us be very conservative and call it a quarter of a million. The numbers are not so important, it was the quality of the pilgrimage which mattered and impressed.

Fatima pilgrimages are hard pilgrimages—they are the pilgrimages of the people—of the poor. I recall the bleeding knees of the poor black-mantled woman who walked on her knees in the stones and dust from the church to the chapel where Our Lady appeared.

Her husband or son was supporting her, and she could hardly put her poor knees to the ground. What she did, hundreds of other peasant women, in their strange, almost Arabic, clothes did.

It is absurd to talk of one's own slight inconveniences in the face of these penances of the faithful, but it helps to convey the picture of the kind of place Fatima is.

We were armed with every kind of official pass, every sort of priority, yet our car took three hours to jerk its way the last six miles up the winding mountain road that crosses the rocky range of hills in the midst of which Fatima lies.

A policeman in our car could not get us through the mass of vehicles, buses, cars, mule and donkey carts, men and women and children laden with provisions—some of them had been walking for six days. One party for whom every possible provision had been made, had to sleep in an inn, three in a bed! One mentions this to give some conception of the discomforts the hundreds of thousands who came to Fatima had to endure. No Pullman Pilgrimage this!

### ROCKY COUNTRY

Our Lady chose the most inconvenient place in Europe to appear in 1917; but it is not an ugly place, as it has been described. It is wild, rocky country, studded with pines and olive trees, and vineyards in the valleys. Blue green and grey—the geographical centre of honoured Portugal, itself a great garden of scenic beauty.

The sun was setting in a haze of gold, with the crescent moon shining, as we neared at last the cross of light on the spire of the new church at Fatima on Tuesday evening.

The walking peasants, in their heavy dark clothes, with their little Franciscos, Jacintas and Lucias (how amazing even in the natural order that three such unlettered children could have started such scenes), were trudging along leading their laden donkeys alongside the endless line of great American cars. Many were squatting by the roadside, making their last meal of the day. Our first view of Fatima was of great shadows filled with streams of twink-

collapse may have added to my bewilderment."

Young Bormann sat there, in the principal's study and talked quietly. Perhaps he looked a bit too serious for a lad of his age, yet he was entirely at ease and willing to answer all questions,

ling lights—thousands upon thousands of candles massed around the great steps leading to the lighted church and filling the shallow cup of earth bordered on two sides by the great hospitals, behind by a wall and gateway, in front by the church itself.

When we arrived the procession of the candles had started, and the soft sounds of the Ave! Ave! were carried across the still air, while the lights moved slowly up one slope and down another.

Acres of encampments of every description lay all about. The dark brown faces of old men and women around us were caught in the light of their candles like pictures by Rembrandt. Eastern water jugs, Western pots and pans, lanterns, awnings, rugs, baskets, littered the ground.

### CLOUDLESS SKY

After midnight we found our way to a village where we (the privileged) were supposed to sleep. Next morning we returned under the cloudless sky and blazing sun. Everyone (except ourselves) seemed to have great black umbrellas in whose dark shadows they walked. It might just as well have been pouring with rain.

In the bright light I realised that the name "Fatima" had real meaning. It was not a Western pilgrimage at all; it was just as much Eastern.

The encampments, the faces, the dresses, the manners, they might have been "East of Suez." It was a meeting of East and West, international in character, if not in actual composition.

The peace of the world! the invasion of the East! (Not very far away there is a seaside town called Nazare which we visited on our way. It might have been the Nazareth of Palestine on the borders of the lake. By some strange miracle, time there has stood still. Women like black crows sit on their doorsteps, men stand on the shore mending their nets.)

Now at least one saw the ground of the apparition, spoilt no doubt by the new buildings, the Italianate church with its tall spire, the porticoed edifice in the centre where the water comes through many taps—but not yet badly spoiled.

One could still imagine the original wildness—and the actual spot where Our Lady appeared has been kept simple and humble.

### ON KNEES

It was there, amidst the throng of men and women, old and young, boys and girls, babies in arms, all seeking to have their rosaries touch the foot of the statue, that the women were crawling on their knees, thus painfully pushing their ways through the dense crowds.

The sun grew hotter, the black umbrellas grew darker, the crowds thickened, the dust rose. Loud speakers screamed prayers and announcements in incomprehensible Portuguese. At last I realised that the hundreds of thousands of people were reciting the Rosary.

Here there was no question of the devout female sex only. Soldiers, (Continued on Page 4)

## Seven Children of Hitler's Deputy Have Embraced the Faith

Seven of the eight sons and daughters of Martin Bormann, Hitler's deputy—a bitter enemy of the Church—have become Catholics. The eighth, a son, is still pondering the matter.

Eighteen year-old Adolf Martin Bormann is hoping to become a missionary priest.

In the last days of the Hitler regime, Hitler's Deputy disappeared. It is not known whether he is alive or dead.

Max Jordan, NCWC special correspondent, met Adolf Bormann at a Catholic boys' high school in Ingolstadt, Bavaria.

Fr. Heinrich Hofbek, the principal, let Jordan speak freely to him.

"He is one of my best pupils in the religious class," said Fr. Hofbek. Jordan writes:

Young Bormann was in a Nazi school on Lake Starnberg in Bavaria when the war was close to its end.

With a group of SS troops he escaped to Austria, but the soldiers left him behind on a Tyrolean farm.

### AWAKENING

"One day," he told me, "I picked up a booklet in my host's living room. It was a Catholic pamphlet and I read it just because there wasn't anything else to read. It aroused my interest.

"One of the maidservants of the farm had brought the booklet from the Church book-rack and now I wondered whether all I had been taught about Catholicism by our Nazi teachers wasn't a distortion of the facts. "The shock of Germany's sudden



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**Church Calendar**

JULY 1948

THURS. ... 1 PRECIOUS BLOOD.  
FRI. ... 2 VISITATION.  
SAT. ... 3 S. Leo II.  
SUN. ... 4 7 P.—SS. Pontiffs.  
MON. ... 5 S. Ant. Mar. Zac.  
TUES. ... 6 S. Palladius.  
WED. ... 7 S. Cyril.  
THURS. ... 8 S. Elizabeth.

**The Catholic Guardian**

JULY 1ST 1948

**THE NEW FINANCIAL  
REGULATIONS**

A few days ago the *Times* had a clever cartoon: the Premier flinging at his adversaries a boomerang which however returns to him with full force. We wonder whether the Minister of Finance has in the financial regulations recently enforced, only flung out a boomerang. This is not to condemn the regulations dogmatically, because we are not in possession of all the relevant data; the purpose of this is to present certain aspects of the question so that our readers may consider whether we have prematurely rushed into measures which finally will aggravate the very ills they were meant to heal.

When a country makes financial regulations to prevent the normal flow of capital into other countries, the reaction in others is to make counter regulations to safeguard their own capital. Ceylon is one of the smallest nations on the globe and far from self-sufficient. In a struggle of this nature, it can only come out second best. The world can do without the exports of Ceylon; but to us our export trade is our life blood. What if our life blood dries up?

Experience has taught again and again that when a country is heading towards Leftism or Communism its nationals begin to lose confidence in its financial stability and capital secretly flows into other countries. Hence one of

the first measures of a leftist government is to impose a ban on the flow of capital outside. It is really an admission of financial weakness. But when the government of a country is stable and truly democratic, the tendency is for capital abroad to flow in. Now with a Premier eminently practical, far-sighted, a stalwart bulwark against the forces of disruption, Ceylon is not drifting into Communism—not for the next four years. Although a more recent dominion than India or Pakistan, Ceylon is believed to have a more stable government than India or Pakistan. Given a continuation of the present status, the tendency will probably be for investors in less happy countries such as China, Burma, Malaya, to invest in Ceylon. Then why this change?

Complicated regulations such as those introduced with plenty of red tape and plenty of formalities to go through are bound to impose intolerable hardships on the thousands of common folk who have to send remittances outside. To give a pertinent example; the poor Indian labourer has a duty to support the dear ones he has left behind and a right to send part of his earnings home. Each time he has to send he will be put to vexatious delays and must go through formalities which he cannot master. Already relief is being promised to aliens. Is there any hope for Ceylon's nationals?

**JUNE THOUGHTS**

VI

31. In the garden of Gethsemane—in His agony, Our Lord distinctly foresaw all the sins which each of us would commit, after all His sufferings and such a bitter and ignominious death.

32. He foresaw, specially the horrible insults which men would offer to His Eucharistic Heart. Yet all these insults did not prevent Him from leaving us this pledge of His love.

33. He has a hatred for sin; but still it seems as if His love for us had overcome this hatred, since He was content to permit these sacrileges rather than to deprive our souls of this divine Food.

34. Shall not all this suffice to make us love a Heart that has loved us so much? Ungrateful that we are shall we still leave our Lord forsaken on the altar, as the majority of us do?

35. The Heart of Jesus remains there, burning with love for us; and shall we not, in His presence, burn with love for Him?

36. It is pity for our miseries that induced Him to live among us. We were not born when He lived in Palestine, and so that He may keep us company, He remains with us.

37. In order to obtain the pardon of our sins, He suffered and died for us, that by His sufferings and death He might satisfy for the chastisement that our sins have deserved.

38. He is the compassionate Father who, though He sees Himself despised by His son, yet if that son is truly repentant, He forgets all the injuries He has

received: "I will not remember all his iniquities."

39. Thou dost pardon the penitent sinners and does not refuse to give Thyself to them in Holy Communion. Where, then, is there to be found a heart so amiable and compassionate as Thine?

40. As members of the Church, we should thank the Sacred Heart for all that He has done for us. Let us make good use of His Presence on our altars and make reparation by frequent and even daily Communion.

—THE END—

**PRAYER****For the Success of the Congress.**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the heart of Blessed Virgin Mary didst prepare a worthy dwelling for the Holy Ghost, stir up our hearts to prepare her ways into our midst so that armed with her intercession, we may be shielded from all hindrances, and participate in her festivities with purified and joyous hearts.

Through Christ Jesus  
Our Lord. Amen.

(100 days' Indulgence)

✠ THOMAS COORAY, O.M.I.,  
Archbishop of Colombo.

Imprimatur:

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

(50 days' Indulgence).

**Minister for Education  
at St. Patrick's College**

Major E. A. Nugawela accompanied by Mrs. Nugawela, Miss S. Jayasuriya, his Private Secretary and Mr. S. U. Somasegaram, Education Officer, Northern Division paid a visit to St. Patrick's College, Jaffna on Monday the 28th ult. at 11 a.m.

The party was received by Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long, O.M.I., Rector and the Very Rev. Fr. J. Emilianus Pillai, O.M.I., Vicar-General and General Manager of Schools. The Minister and party first had coffee with the students of the Arts Association. Among the students the Minister was happy to meet one from his own constituency. Then the Minister was shown round the classrooms and Laboratory with which he was pleased.

At last he was taken to the hall at the entrance of which he and the Education Officer were garlanded and Mrs. Nugawela presented with a bouquet. Then the Minister was led to the stage amidst jubilant clapping of hands by the 1,500 boys who had been shoe-horned into the hall.

In welcoming the Minister the Rector gave a brief outline of the immense difficulties under which St. Patrick's College was doing the work of training citizens for free Sri Lanka. Without mincing words he said that during 1947 alone St. Patrick's had been spending Rs. 31,000 to keep education at St. Patrick's above a shoddy level. Free Education gave a despicable dole of Rs. 5,000.

The Minister in reply said that the Rector in his address had raised a point of controversial value in his speech. As Minister for Education it was his duty to see that Education moved away from the controversial plane. A few months ago when he assumed duties as Minister he had to enter upon a special mission of good will. That was a feature of his work for the past eight months. It was a spirit of comradeship for all denominational schools. That spirit was absent during the last years of his predecessor's tenure of office. That mission of good will had helped him tremendously. At the present time for a mission of good will and conciliation, he had to preach the gospel of patience.

Continuing he said that out of the 198 schools that had entered the free

scheme 119 were from Jaffna. He has previously acquainted himself with the conditions prevailing in the schools. He desired to clear a misunderstanding. Fr. Long had said that he could not wait. He would assure him he need not wait for a long time. Government had given him two directions. The first was with regard to schools that had entered the Free Scheme and whose finances had been adversely affected. The second was the postponement to those who had not come into the Scheme till May 1950. Fr. Long had mentioned that he had lost Rs. 26,000 a year. He (the speaker) could not give him a definite promise to pay him all that, but he would do his best.

Hitherto Government and Denominational Schools ran on parallel lines. They never met. Government and Denominational Schools had one common object. They could not afford to go on separately. They should no longer be competitors but partners in a common enterprise. Continuing, he said what was the object of education for a free country? What was needed was character. Character could not be formed unless there was a real foundation laid in the school. The soul of the country had to be free. No true freedom could be given without religion. He was going to appoint a staff officer to see that in all Government schools religion was taught. Ceylon's freedom was gained without bloodshed and bitterness. Their past had been great. It was for them to see their future was worthy of the past.

**Fr. Le Jeune:  
50 Years a Priest To-day**

On June 25 the old boys of St. Joseph's College greeted Father LeJeune in celebration of the golden jubilee of his priesthood (writes the Rev. Fr. Justin Perera in the *Times of Ceylon*). Many a Josephian heart will thrill at the mention of his name. But far, far beyond Darley Road and Beira, the name of LeJeune is held in benediction.

Father LeJeune must surely be one of the most popular men Ceylon has ever known. There are those who are well-known because of their political position, of their wizardry on the field of sport. But for popularity born of sheer goodness and sympathy and charm of personality LeJeune is certainly hard to beat.

The infirmities of old age compel him to live in retirement. But whilst he was "on active service," who was there who did not know him? Government officials and business men, schoolboys and fishermen, Christians and Buddhists and Hindus and Muslims, they all knew and loved LeJeune.

They all knew this diminutive Frenchman with the magnanimous heart, but bling over with cheerfulness, sparkling with Gallic wit, overwhelming you with affection.

More than any other single man, perhaps, he has helped to make St. Joseph's known. He was a classical scholar in a great tradition, a linguist, a clear and entertaining speaker, a musician and singer of no mean distinction. Here surely was the quintessence of French culture.

He acted his Latin and Greek texts as he explained them; he led his armies into Gaul with Caesar, and with Xenophon he saw the sea at the end of the weary march and shouted Thalassa! Thalassa!

He was a wizard at mnemonics and various other ingenious memory-aids; thus he would speak of Caesar's legate as "Caesar's leg who was also his right hand!"

But by far the greatest thing about LeJeune was the spiritual and human consolation he brought to the countless people who flocked to him with their troubles and miseries.

I remember an Indian politician who had spent some years in Ceylon telling me: "I do not know much about your Roman Catholic Church, but if it can produce a man like LeJeune there must surely be something to be said for it."



## LOCAL &amp; GENERAL

**Welcoming Relief.**—The one hour of rain which we had on Monday evening (June 28) was really welcome. During the fortnight before that date Jaffna was experiencing the wildest outbursts of the South-West Monsoon with a simoom of dust.

**The Archbishop on the Training of Teachers in a Fitting Way.**—Addressing a meeting in the new lecture halls of the Sri Lanka Catholic Training College, Bolawalana, soon after he opened them, Dr. Thomas Cooray, O.M.I., Archbishop of Colombo, said that the training of teachers was of the utmost importance to a country.

On the teachers, he explained, depended much of the character-formation of a country's future citizens and the Church had, therefore, always laid stress on the proper training of teachers.

His Grace added that by striving, as much as possible, to ensure this, the Church had lessened the burden of the Government in the educational field.

Appealing for funds, he said that the stage had been reached when assistance was required by the Church to help her in what had so far been a single-handed effort.

**The Rotarians Bid Farewell to their Secretary.**—The Rotarians and their guests mustered strong at the Co-operative Officers' Club, Jaffna on Monday the 28th of June at a dinner to bid farewell to their energetic Secretary Mr. P. A. Sandrasagra, the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies who is going on promotion to Colombo.

The Secretary delivered a comprehensive talk on Co-operation tracing its beginnings from the time of the Industrial Revolution, its growth in different parts of the world as well as in Ceylon and he stressed the fact that Co-operation and Co-operative effort in all phases of life were the vital factor in the economic upliftment of the Jaffna man who differed from his Sinhalese brother in the South in having an essentially domestic type of economy whereas the Southerner benefited by an international economy.

Mr. R. R. Selvadurai, District Judge and President of the Rotary Club in Jaffna outlined the progress the Club had made with Mr. Sandrasagra as its Secretary and expressed to him his personal appreciation of the work done by him and said that he and the members were deeply grateful to him for all he had done for the Club.

**Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, K.C.**—We are glad to learn that Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, M.P. for Jaffna is to be made a King's Counsel. Hailing from Alway, in the Pt. Pedro division, Jaffna, Mr. Ponnambalam had his early education at St. Patrick's College, Jaffna. Getting his final touches at St. Joseph's College, Colombo he proceeded to England on a scholarship. Having obtained his Master's Degree at Cambridge Mr. Ponnambalam returned to the Island as a Barrister-at-Law and has had a highly lucrative practice on the Criminal side. Taking to politics he has made his mark therein. As reported elsewhere he is one of those selected to represent Ceylon in the Empire Parliamentary Conference. It is a pleasure to congratulate him on donning the silk.

**Ceylon's Crime Wave.**—The year 1947 produced no fewer than 561 cases of homicide. During the three months March, April and May, 1948, the number of murders totalled 148, making an average of 592 a year. In addition, there were 958 cases of knifing in the same period, 559 cases of grievous hurt, 1,514 instances of burglary and 1,932 of theft. For an Island with a population of under seven million these are shocking statistics, and emphasize the urgency for an all-out offensive against the law breakers.—*Times of Ceylon.*

**2,000 Bags of Flour Lost in Jaffna Warehouse Fire.**—It is feared that 2,000 bags of flour, estimated at Rs. 8,300 were lost when a fire broke out in No. 3 Customs warehouse last week.

Police and Food Control officers who arrived on the scene on receipt of an urgent summons from the watcher on duty at the warehouse fought the fire, which was brought under control after three hours.

The police are investigating the cause of the fire.

**A New Orange Cordial.**—After persistent efforts to make an Orange Cordial the Uva Orange Farm is putting one on the market at last. Owing to very delicate flavour and aroma of the fruit and its peculiar tendency to become oxidized on exposure to the air the problem was not an easy one to solve.

**Lorange,** the new product has that flavour of the fresh fruit which is so much sought after. Both as a soft drink and as a mixer it stands comparison with any similar imported Brand. It has an Analyst's Certificate of Purity.

**Rice Imports Increase.**—For the first five months of this year Ceylon imported 3,148,765 cwt. of rice, valued at Rs. 89,452,036 as against 2,995,192 cwt., valued at Rs. 41,374,057 for the same period last year.

In May alone Ceylon imported 1,480,585 cwt. of rice, valued at Rs. 40,885,152, as against 371,284 cwt. valued at Rs. 5,145,450 in May, 1947.

Burma and Egypt have been the principal sources of the supply of rice, the imports from these countries being: Burma 2,177,278 cwt., valued at Rs. 57,786,493, and Egypt 981,484 cwt., valued at Rs. 31,665,480.

**Ceylon at the Empire Parliamentary Association Conference.**

—The Ceylon branch of the Empire Parliamentary Association, selected three members to represent Ceylon at the Empire Parliamentary Association Conference in October—one of them, Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, M.P., Jaffna.

The other representatives selected were Mr. A. F. Molamure, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Leader of the House of Representatives.

Already arrangements have been made for their passage and their stay in London. It is likely that they will leave by the "Orion" on September 7 and reach Southampton on September 24. They will visit Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Germany.

**Bid to Close Port is Opposed.**

—The proposal to close down the port of Valvettiturai is causing much concern to the people of Jaffna Peninsula, especially, to residents of Valvettiturai and Point Pedro.

From ancient times there has been much commercial intercourse between India and the North Ceylon. The closing of some of the Northern ports will reduce the trade connections and recently there was a campaign for the re-opening of the Jaffna port at least to passenger traffic.

Mr. T. Ramalingam, M.P. for Point Pedro, it is understood has submitted a memorandum on the subject strongly opposing the closure.

**A Controller of Visitors.**—As a result of the recent incident in which a stranger walked into the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs and occupied the Prime Minister's chair, a special officer, known as the Controller of Visitors has been appointed to check on the credentials of all those who come to interview staff officers of the Ministry.

This officer, Mr. T. N. Wijeysekera, a clerk in the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs, will summon the police if he has reason to suspect that a visitor may create mischief.

Generally, however, more tactful methods are used to get rid of those who come to the Ministry merely to waste the time of staff officers. Recently there was the case of a "crank" from Jaffna who wanted to see the Prime Minister for some trivial reason.

**Three on Study Tour of Australia.**—A Press communique issued by the Department of External Affairs, Canberra, says that the three Ceylon Divisional Agricultural Officers (Mr. C. R. Karunaratne, Mr. S. K. Thuraisingham and Mr. P. T. Jinendradasa) have arrived in Australia on a six-month study tour of agricultural areas, particularly the sub-tropical districts of Queensland.

**Excess Revenue is Rs. 97 Million.**—The excess of revenue over expenditure for the first eight months of the current financial year (October 1947 to May 1948) was Rs. 97,018,368, according to a Treasury statement.

This figure, though given as the excess of revenue over voted expenditure, is however not a surplus because the Government has incurred other expenditure on token votes, etc., in the way

of food subsidies and as losses on the Railway, etc. These figures are not included in the total expenditure figures.

**Sanskrit Called Wonder Tongue.**—Professor Betty Heimann, of the University of Ceylon, addressing the prize-day assembly at Ramanathan College, on June 25 on "The Significance of Sanskrit", said that Sanskrit was the model for the study of all Indo-European languages.

"As the eldest daughter of the Indo-European mother-tongue, she still reveals all the linguistic formations for Number, Cases and Modes of Verbs with a completeness which has been lost in all other languages of the same family, even in Classical Greek and Latin, and more so in modern Indo-European languages, which have simplified their grammars for the sake of ease of intercourse," said Prof. Heimann.

Sanskrit poetry showed a unique richness of poetic expression.

**The Late Mrs. G. S. Puvirajasinghe.**—A Requiem High Mass was sung on Monday the 28th June at 6.15 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral, Jaffna for the repose of the soul of Mary Rasamma wife of Mr. G. S. Puvirajasinghe. The Very Rev. Fr. G. A. Gurusamy, O.M.I., Superior officiated assisted by Revd. Fathers James, parish priest and Asirvatham, assistant parish priest. The Seminarists and the Cathedral choir rendered the singing under Rev. Fr. Chovan. The Nuns of the Immaculate Conception and a large number of the faithful approached the Holy Table. The absolution was pronounced at the catafalque, assisted by other priests. In memoriam cards as Souvenir of the occasion were distributed after Mass.

**St. Sebastian's Reading Room.**

—A New Reading Room was opened last week on the eve of Press Sunday, by the Rev. Fr. P. T. James, O.M.I. Parish Priest, St. Mary's Cathedral for the benefit of his parishioners of St. Sebastian's Church, Beach Road, Jaffna.

Fr. James made an appropriate speech. He was garlanded and thanked by Moopu Kaithan. Children sang songs. Mr. B. J. Benedict and Catechist Vincent were present on the occasion. The children were entertained to tea and at the end a member of St. Antony's Confraternity spoke a few words of advice to them.

**Value of True Education.**—Mr. O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar, Premier of Madras, when declaring open the Devanga High School on the Palm Grove Road, Coimbatore, on June 21, made a stirring appeal to the people to sink all communal rivalry and jealousy and to work for the general uplift of all communities. They should not consider academic education as a mere passport for Government jobs but as an equipment to serve the country in the industrial, commercial, scientific and other spheres.

**Non-Catholic's Estimate of the Pope.**—"I have spoken with almost all the major leaders in the world to-day but I have never found anyone who understands so exactly and treats so clearly the great international questions, without prejudice, and in such a superior way, as Pope Pius XII." This statement was made by a famous English artist, David Waddington, who is not a Catholic, in an interview which he granted the *Quotidiano*, the daily newspaper of Catholic Action in Rome.

**"Emperor of India" Title.**—The King has relinquished his royal style and title of "Emperor of India" by proclamation in the "London Gazette." This step, forecast some months ago, is one of the changes following the transfer of power to India and Pakistan. The title was one of the few remaining links with British rule in India. The effect of the proclamation will be to exclude the words "Emperor of India" from British coinage, documents, medals and possibly some stamps. The King will no longer sign himself George R. I. (Rex Imperator) but simply George R.

The change, under the Charter of Westminster, required the assent of the other Dominions and Eire, which explains the length of time.

**Singapore New H.Q. of Pacific Fleet.**—The Commander-in-Chief of the British Pacific Fleet is to move with his headquarters from Hong Kong

to Singapore "to facilitate inter-Service co-operation in the Far East."

Army and Air Force commanders are already stationed in Singapore.

Hong Kong will remain the operational and training base of the Far Eastern Fleet.

**Louis Turns to Politics.**—Joe Louis, voluntarily ending his 11-year ring as World Heavy-weight boxing champion with an eleventh-round knockout of challenger Joe Walcott, has decided to enter politics, he told reporters. He refused to say what party he would support.

Ten thousand Negro admirers mobbed the champion when he arrived at his hotel in the Negro district of New York after his victory. It took 30 policemen 35 minutes to clear a path from his car to the door of the hotel.

## St. Alphonsus' Guild

## RED MASS

The Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Judges, Advocates and Proctors of St. Alphonsus' Guild was held at the K.C.Y.M.A. Hall, Kotabena, on Sunday June 20, 1948, after the Red Mass at St. Lucia's Cathedral celebrated by His Lordship Dr. Ignatius Glennie, S.J., Bishop of Trincomalee.

Rev. Fr. J. B. Gregory, O.M.I., Spiritual Director presided. The following Office bearers were elected:—

Spiritual Director:—Rev. Fr. J. B. Gregory, O.M.I.

President:—Hon. Mr. V.L. St. Clair Swan.

Vice-Presidents:—Messrs. Victor Rajakarier, D. A. Liyanage, Louis V. B. de Jacolyn and Basil R. G. Wijeykoon.

Hony. Secretaries:—Messrs. Valentine S. Perera and J. F. Fernandopulle.

Committee:—Messrs. Cyril E. S. Perera, J. M. Caderamanpulle, L. G. Weeramantry (Colombo), R. Francis Perera (Kegalle), C. W. L. Perera (Kurunegalla), C. M. Fernando (Negombo), D. M. L. Mendis (Moratuwa-Panadura) and Francis A. Silva (Kalutara).

Speeches were made by His Lordship Dr. Ignatius Glennie, S.J., Bishop of Trincomalee, Hon. Mr. V. St. Clair Swan and Mr. S. J. C. Kadrigamar.

There was a large attendance at the Social that followed.

## NEW BOOKS FOR THE MARIAN CONGRESS

## "Marian Devotion in Ceylon"

by Rt. Rev. Dr. Edmund Peiris, O.M.I., Bishop of Chilaw

A historical survey of devotion to Mary in Ceylon.

## "A Bonjean Digest"

being cullings from the gifted pen of Archbishop Bonjean,

collected by D. J. B. Kuruppu, Esq.

at the

## CATHOLIC BOOK DEPOT

St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah

and at

## THE MARIAN CONGRESS

Colombo from 8—11-7-48.

## THANKSGIVING

My grateful thanks to the Most Holy Face and Blessed Martin for a miraculous cure.

"Perlyn," T. J. J.

3rd Cross Street,

Jaffna, 28 6-48.

## AUCTION SALE

250 logs of palu and satin will be sold by Auction on Saturday, 10th July, 1948 commencing from 9 a.m. at the Forest Department Timber Depot, Jaffna Customs, Jaffna. Further particulars of the sale can be had from the Divisional Forest Officer, Northern Division, Jaffna.

H. E. C. LUSHINGTON,  
Conservator of Forests.

Colombo, 25th June 1948.



## Pilgrimage to Fatima is Not a Bed of Roses

(Continued from Page 1.)

smartly dressed (but this morning unshaven and dirty), young men, ochre-faced peasant lads—these seemed to outnumber the women.

The sick were being carried on stretchers, and my guide overheard conversation about miracles. In the church Holy Communion was being given all the morning from dawn.

### WHITE FLOWERS

At last, at mid-day, the great moment was approaching. The purple of prelates could be seen bobbing in the thick crowds near the place of the apparition. I edged my way quite close.

A great gold platform covered with magnificent white flowers (sent by air from Holland, I was told) swayed over the umbrellas and black heads. It was gently lowered, and the statue was taken from the chapel and placed upon it.

Banners fluttered in a rising and welcome breeze—A great Ave! Ave! rose from the hundreds of thousands of throats and the procession started.

Then perhaps the loveliest sight I have ever seen occurred. The acres of massed pilgrims filling the great bowl like a black carpet with soft decorations of crimson, yellow and blue scarves and rugs changed, as though by magic into the fluttering of million of white doves. It was the thousands upon thousands waving their white handkerchiefs to welcome Our Lady of Fatima.

For three quarters of an hour as the procession climbed one side of the bank and came down the centre and up the church, these handkerchiefs waved in greeting. It was a scene that never could be forgotten. Pilgrims who know Lourdes well said that never had they been so moved.

Hymn after hymn was sung. Slowly the statue moved over the black masses. The sky had become almost colourless in the heat.

Aeroplanes crossed the sky. Dipping in salute twenty-five planes, flying in the shape of a Cross, passed over to the delight of the crowds. Tons of flowers, flown from Holland, were lightly tossed in offering to Our Lady so that the statue itself, as it passed, was seen through a coloured haze.

### SIMPLE GRAVE

At one o'clock the statue in its bed of flowers was deposited by the open air altar, and the Cardinal Patriarch began Mass.

The crowds, so many of whom had already heard Mass and received Holy Communion, began to move away, for leaving Fatima is almost as difficult as getting there, and many had many miles of journeying before them. Many too had stood all the morning fasting. My own guide collapsed and had to be restored.

But of all the wondrous scenes, I am not sure but that I shall carry away, as the most moving, the most vivid memory, the simple little grave of Francisco and Jacinta in the cemetery of white-walled Fatima village itself, to whom as the lettering so perfectly says "Our Lady appeared."

### SIMPLICITY

Despite the crowds, despite the fuss, despite the beauty, the keynote of Fatima remained simplicity, humility, penance. The spirit of those innocent peasant children was the spirit which Our-Lady loved.

Fatima remains unspoilt. It calls to the whole world to become again one with the faith, the love, the devotion of the peasantry of Portugal. Armed with that spirit, Our Lady will conquer the Powers of the over-civilised and decadent world.

### Postscript.

That morning at 9 o'clock there was celebrated a marriage. A Dutch soldier had vowed that if he came safe through the dangers of the war he would marry his girl at Fatima. This wedding was an exceptional and very beautiful mark on that day of the protection of Our Lady of Fatima.—By Michael De La Bedoyere, in the Catholic Herald.

## Letters to the Editor

### Kayts Ferry Service

Dear Sir,—“Ceylon Observer” dated 18th June, 1948 and Mr. Sockalingam's correspondence little reveal the hardships the inhabitants of Kayts undergo in spite of the fact that the Kayts Customs contribute a good amount to the revenue of this island and one will be shocked to find the deplorable condition of the ferry service between Kayts and the mainland. Kayts being the business centre of the islands, its approach must be made easier and not annoying to the visitors and the permanent residents. In the twentieth century one is surprised to find that tolls are being collected as in mediæval times; this kind of additional taxation must be got rid of.

At the present moment huge bridges like the 'Kotelawela Bridge' are being built in Ceylon and with the engineering skill already acquired a modern bridge modelled on the Mannar Bridge can be built over the strip of water which is only 550 yards. The expenses incurred on such an enterprise will be very small indeed in comparison with those of the 'Kotelawela Bridge.' In the meantime the government must call for tenders for ferry and boat service by mechanized power only and must operate free of tolls.

Every day, a car has to wait for more than two hours to cross over the channel. Though the renter at this station is by law expected to provide a free boat service, such service is conspicuous by its absence; private boat-owners monopolize the transport and reap a handsome income.

It is high time that something worthy be done by the powers-that-be to afford relief to the unfortunate islanders.

Thanking you for the space.

I beg to remain,  
Yours truly,  
G. S. MARIATHASAN.

“Mangala Giri,”  
Slave Island, 21-6-48.

### The Patron of the Missions at Chilavathurai

The annual solemn commemoration of St. Francis Xavier at Chilavathurai was observed, as announced in this paper, from the 10th to the 19th inst. As the shrine of the Patron of the Missions is situated in the midst of non-Christians, the festivity was made the occasion, like last year, for prayers for the spread of the faith and for the public manifestation of this faith. The pilgrims from far and near pleaded with St. Francis for individual favours and thanked him for favours already received. But besides individual prayers all joined in a common appeal for the conversion of sinners and of non-Christians and for the increase of apostolic vocations in our midst. This common appeal was made daily during the novenas before the Blessed Sacrament exposed; then on the eve of the feast, our Eucharistic Lord was honoured by a solemn feast of Corpus Christi. At the start of the procession in the evening the pilgrims were reminded again of the purpose of the observance: namely a public and solemn appeal to the Lord of the vineyard for conversions and vocations.

On the 19th morning the feast Mass was offered by Rev. Fr. Pomykol, O.M.I., assisted by Rev. Frs. Villavarasingham, O.M.I. and Karunakarar, Mis. Ad. During the Mass the pilgrims were reminded (1) of their duty to propagate the faith God had given them and to achieve it by prayers, sacrifices and by fostering apostolic vocations in their families and among neighbours; (2) that the accomplishment of this duty was what St. Francis asked from each pilgrim in imitation of himself and as a sure means of receiving his favours.

Mass over, the statue of the saint was taken in procession, at the end of which a new large statue of the saint was blessed and raised to its place at the facade of the church. Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament and blessing with the statue ended the solemn religious observances.

### Construction of Agricultural Road to Lots 56 & 51A in Supplement 1 of I.S.P.P. 4 Karachchi Irrigation Scheme, N.P. & Bridge over Nai Aru

Tenders under sealed cover will be received by the Assistant Government Agent (Emergency), Jaffna, up to 12 noon on Monday, July 12, 1948 for the above work.

2. Tenders should be made on forms obtainable on application from the Kachcheri (Emergency), Jaffna.

3. Tender forms will be issued up to 12 noon on Friday, July 9, 1948, only on production of a receipt for

Rs. 25 deposited for each form at the Jaffna Kachcheri.

4. Further particulars can be had from the Kachcheri (E), Jaffna.

E. J. RAJARATNAM,  
A.G.A. (E), Jaffna.

Kachcheri (E),  
Jaffna, 24th June, 1948.

### NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that a portion of Rakka Road between Kachcheri Nallur Road and Temple Road will be closed for vehicular traffic from the 1st till the 10th July, 1948 as the Bridge has to be repaired.

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

## 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. 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 all be 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.

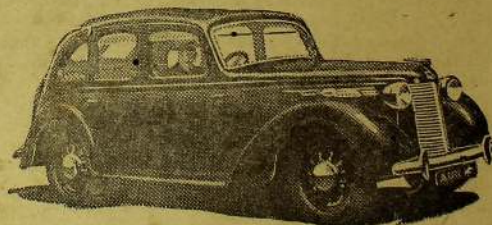
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