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"Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem frustra vigilat qui custodit eam."

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## A Factory of Faith

A question that is often asked by the embittered or the disillusioned—who were happy enough before the disillusionment—is, why do the apparently worst people seem in so many cases to thrive and prosper most?

In business, in the professions, in politics, it is a frequent experience—let the fact be faced—that the unscrupulous schemer has a way of beating his more conscientious rival to the goal. In short it appears to be the case, in the obvious worldly sense, that conscience is often a drawback and that virtue is not its own reward.

That particular challenge to good sense deserves to be examined, for upon examination it yields one of the glorious, if at first sight paradoxical, truths of our earthly circumstance.

The challenge itself most startlingly presents itself in the international field. In our time, we have had an orgy of horrors. The Kaiser, Hitler, Stalin, have in their turn led the world to a dance, each of them a megalomaniac, an unscrupulous aggressor, unlovely, terrifying to the normal healthy children of God.

They have each appeared to prosper in the first instance. The Kaiser's Germany kept the world at bay for four years. Hitler crippled the world. Stalin is shooting ahead without pause or opposition in a madman's attempt to impose Godlessness upon God's creatures.

Now the man who at this moment attracts the troubled attention of every human being throughout the world, who has been able to annex to his sway, without being gainsaid, all the countries of Eastern Europe: Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia; who is engaged in annexing Finland; who threatens Italy through Venezia Giulia and Trieste; whose henchmen succeed in getting themselves into key positions in the British trade unions; who contrives to disturb and in part to undermine economic and industrial life in France and the United States: this man, powerful and successful enough to spread darkness over the earth, is a plain manifestation of evil, one possessed of a devil. Millions of good people who live in the fear of the Lord seem to be powerless and at his mercy. Why?

The question is both reasonable and logical. If God be omnipotent, if the faithful seek His help and protection through the channel of the Church and through the means of prayer, why is it that the marauder can laugh in his sleeve and desecrate the Church so easily?

It is little consolation to reflect that in the end the marauder is himself brought down, as was the Kaiser, and Hitler, and as Stalin infallibly will be. The puzzling thing is the harrowing meanwhile. To an omnipotent God a miracle is commonplace and normal; why then is it not used with a saving promptness?

How many people during the recent war wondered why Hitler could not be afflicted with a permanent disability, or quietly removed from the face of the earth, by supernatural means; or why even that the assassin's bomb, though it exploded so near him, liquidated others, yet not him? How many people were induced to something like despair by

the cruel irony which enabled Hitler to get up thereafter and quote his deliverance as another proof of God's protection for his ungodly work?

The instances of an apparent perversity in the working of God's providence could be multiplied *ad lib.* What then is the answer? There are many answers, even though in one sense it is impertinent and foolish to try and probe a mystery.

One of the answers touches the very heart of the mystery. It is simply this, that our experience on earth is a factory and a test of our faith. "Although He should kill me, I will trust in Him" is the remarkable ideal.

If mathematical calculation were possible in the moral and spiritual field, if virtue were obviously, tangibly its own reward in a material sense, what virtue would there be in faith?

Any rogue, who knew in a crude material sense that by being a good boy, he would get what he wanted as a reward, would cease to be a rogue because roguery would obviously be a waste of time and an unnecessary risk.

If the offer of Christianity was the prompt, unailing, unequivocal material well-being of those who professed and practised it, then Christianity would be a ramp, not the hardest adventure known to mankind. It is even arguable in reason that faith can be nurtured and sustained only if the appearances be all against it; only if what we believed appeared to be wrong, not right.

The mystery consists in this, that the belief is right though it appears to be wrong, and that as faith is clung to and strengthened by the grace of God, its triumph becomes evident in the appearance itself, which to our gratification and vindication simplifies itself, and is seen after all to be quite simply, truly, and obviously right.

If Stalin troubles our short passage on earth, his challenge is to our faith as manure is to the plant. Evil is thus seen to be a necessary factor in the product of faith, which else might die of inanition. In other words, if we are simple enough, if, that is, we believe, in our own helplessness, that God is omnipotent, wholly good and wholly to be trusted, and if we do thus wholly trust Him and disbelieve the mundane appearance, then all is well both in the substance and at the last in the appearance also.

It may need a highly developed sense of humour to regard Stalin, the blackguard aforesaid, as a means of faith. But it happens to be true. A sense of humour is one of the gifts of God, one of His most invaluable gifts.

It is this very gift which prevents any misunderstanding of what is implied in the left-handed role of Stalin (one of the roles he does not even know he fulfils) as a factory of faith, operative even as he talks his rubbish about atheism.

The misunderstanding would emerge if we failed to appreciate the incidental truth that evil can be used as an instrument of faith only if it be resisted. It is in the resistance that the nurturing process is developed. While therefore we should not over-estimate the importance of Stalin in the endless sweep of eternity, we should equally not under-

## Two Defects in Practical School Plan

By the Very Rev. Fr. Peter Pillai, O.M.I.

When the Special Committee on Education pointed out the excessive uniformity of our education and proclaimed the necessity for diversifying it by the introduction of some form of practical education, there was universal applause. But there was not the same measure of agreement as to the suitability of the proposed remedies which were somewhat vague and lacking an experimental basis.

The State Council made confusion worse confounded by making those proposals still more unpractical, but chaos reigned supreme when the new schools established by Government ostensibly to implement the State Council decisions almost totally ignored the Special Committee's recommendations and State Council decisions on the division of schools into practical and secondary.

No one now seems to know what should be done or even what is going to be done.

It is urgent that a committee or commission of experts be appointed to report on this vital problem. Their report will have to be comprehensive and should include not only guidance as to what the practical school is to be like and where, when and how it is to be established, but also proposals for its staffing.

In my opinion the recommendations of the Special Committee are vitiated first by the lack of any experimental basis and secondly by the failure to relate the proposed practical schools qualitatively and especially quantitatively to the actual demands of our agricultural and industrial community.

When the Special Committee on Education pointed out the excessive uniformity of our education and proclaimed the necessity for diversifying it by the introduction of some form of practical education, there was universal applause. But there was not the same measure of agreement as to the suitability of the proposed remedies which were somewhat vague and lacking an experimental basis.

The Butler Act drew upon this knowledge and generalised the system. In our country however no such comparable experimental foundation existed for the highly theoretical educational pattern now sought to be imposed on the schools of the Island.

The other defect has been the omission to have an accurate picture of the world into which the school child is going to be thrown at the end of the school career. An estimate should have been made of the capacity for absorption by various trades, industries and occupations of the school leaving population.

The nature and extent of the practical school could then have been determined and the present educational waste arrested. This task the proposed committee or commission will have to undertake if its labours are not to suffer the same fate as those of the old Special Committee.—(From a recent speech.)

## The Russian Net Being Stretched Round the Middle East

The latest development in Palestine has seriously complicated the whole Middle East issue.

In considering the spread of Communism under Russian influence in the Middle East it is as well to disregard the idea common to so many westerners that Islam is the natural barrier to this political ideology. Islam to-day has, with few exceptions, a fast diminishing influence on the peoples of the Middle

East countries. In Turkey, it no longer has any place in public life and is to all intents and purposes excluded from the curriculum of education, though an attempt is now being made to reintroduce religious teaching as a counterpart to the materialism which is stifling the national life.

In Egypt and Iraq as well as in Persia and the Levant States there is a widespread tendency to "emancipate" the masses from the grip of "reactionary" traditional religious authority. Thought is becoming secularised, and tradition is suffered impatiently until such time as it can be thrown over for "modernist" ideas. The code of Islamic teaching is being found inconsistent with the demands of the new life.

This secularisation with its corresponding effect on the code of public morals is an important contribution to the efforts of those who seek to exploit the appalling economic conditions which are attendant upon the lives of the majority of the peoples of the Middle East. There is every excuse for radical change in the method of government in most of the countries, especially Egypt, Iraq and Persia, where corruption is rife and the misery of the people is consciously exploited to maintain the

(Continued on Page 4)



## SINNA MADU

The feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary will be celebrated as usual at the shrine on the 5th of August. His Lordship the Bishop will preside and many Priests will attend to the spiritual needs of the Pilgrims. Candles will be sold by the Parish Priest only. Shopkeepers must obtain the permission of the Parish Priest to erect stalls, stating the nature of their business.

THE PARISH PRIEST,  
Naranthani, Kayts.

## Church Calendar

JULY 1948

THURS....29 S. Martha.  
FRI. ....30 Ss. Abdon and Sennen.  
SAT. ....31 S. Ignatius L.

AUGUST 1948

SUN. ... 1 11 P.—S. Peter's Chair.  
MON. ... 2 S. Alphonsus.  
TUES. ... 3 S. Stephen's R.  
WED. ... 4 S. Dominic.  
THURS.... 5 Our Lady of Snow.

## The Catholic Guardian

JULY 29TH 1948

### THE BUDGET SPEECH

The last echoes of that long expected speech soon died in the daily press because it had an unforgivable demerit: it was not sensational. There was nothing in it which the opposition could seize as a fresh proof of the depravity of the party in power. To our mind the level-headedness and the moderation of the minister are the very qualities which will reconcile all thinking citizens to his proposals.

With a logic and an orderliness worthy of a theological joust in a medieval university, he describes first the agricultural and industrial potential of the country and gives brief figures of the various occupations of the Ceylonese whose duty it is to develop that potential. We fully agree with his statement that a good government must look ahead and order its activities and finance so as to provide the necessities of life and the blessings of modern progress to as many citizens as possible. At the same time, in truly Churchillian style, he declines to promise a feather bed for all, because our country—together with many others—is in the grip of forces beyond its control.

The first reform government aims at is to make us provide our own food. Before the war we ate 18,000 sacks of rice daily and produced 3,000. It is proposed to wipe off that shameful and extremely dangerous discrepancy between production and consumption first by improving methods of agriculture. There is certainly room for a strenuous effort when one remembers that the Italian goya compels his field to yield him 4,000 lbs. of paddy per acre whilst his opposite number in Ceylon hardly extracts 520 lbs. from the same area. The next mighty effort to produce food will be to tackle the problem of flattened tanks and destroyed bunds and restore the dry zone to the productivity which caused it to be called

the "Granary of the East" in the pre-Portuguese days. The minister's description of various restoration and irrigation schemes is certainly tantalising.

The fly in the ointment is that, in the list of 16 names of places to be reconquered from the jungle tide, we fail to see the name of any place lying North of Anuradhapura. The minister's silence about the future system of land tenure also seems a little ominous to us. All Tamils cherish the dream of one day possessing a farm. Of the 131,000 acres, which are going to be reclaimed, we wonder how many will be allotted to the people of the North and how many will ultimately become the property of farmers. Or will government copy the Soviet method of running collective government farms in which the farmers—the backbone of every country under the sun—will be reduced to a state of semi-serfdom?

The government is also alive to the need of improving animal husbandry. It is not pleasant to read that the Ceylonese consumption of milk per capita is the lowest in the world, viz: 1.7 ounces per day. No detail however is given of the methods proposed to be adopted to change that dismal state of things.

We have no space to discuss the minister's proposals concerning the Port of Colombo, trade and commerce, public works, etc. He mercifully slurs over our melancholy railway leaving us the hope that the specialist who is soon coming from India will find some magic formula for renewing its vitality and ending its insolvency.

We must congratulate government on its intention to spend eight million rupees (instead of two last year) on charity pure and simple. We hope that the department responsible for that largesse will put all its cards on the table and that the public will be allowed to suggest the names of deserving persons and institutions as is done at the meetings of charitable societies. We fear that the minister is not fully informed when he states that organised charity was able to provide only Rs. 140,000 in one year. We could easily collect reliable figures to show him that one single religious body's charity reaches ten times that total annually.

The brightest feather in the government cap is that notwithstanding the lack of doctors, of equipment and of drugs, the general death rate which was 20 per thousand in 1946 was brought down to 14 in 1947. Similarly the infant death rate came down—during the same period—from 141 for a thousand live births to 101. All honour to Doctor Chelappah and his indefatigable colleagues. The slogan that "education should be free and that it should increasingly be through the mother tongue" has been repeated *ad nauseam* by every minister since the last election. It has been shouted from the house tops to justify the spending of 113 millions on patching up the Nessus shirt left to the Cabinet by Mr. Nugawela's predecessor. It is also symptomatic of the uneasiness of the ministers—who

had they been consulted—would never have perpetrated the cruelty of indiscriminately throwing immature English education to the mutually antagonistic races and castes of Ceylon. They shout in a chorus "free education and our mother tongue" to brace up one another's courage as they foresee the day when they will have to water down all the implications of that slogan.

These and many other considerations which space does not allow us to mention seem to justify the ministers in asking us to provide them with 675 million rupees to enable them to carry on the work of good government. Of that amount 203 millions will be paid out in salaries to 200,000 public servants. "The public therefore, whose servants these people are, expect loyal and devoted service. We, who are also the servants of the public, are pledged to see that service is rendered and we shall endeavour to fulfil that pledge." Well and pointedly said! We the humble tax-payers are anxious to see how government keeps its promise and makes the public servants yield us 203 millions worth of service.

## Government Will Help Those Who Help Themselves

A very large and representative gathering of ladies and gentlemen was present at "Lake View Villa", Beach Road, Jaffna on Friday the 23rd inst. when the Hon. Mr. A. Ratnayake, Minister for Food and Co-operative Undertakings laid the Foundation Stone of Ceylon's First Co-operative Cottage. The Hon. the Minister who was accompanied by Mr. G. de Zoysa, the Commissioner of Co-operative Development and Mr. C. P. de Silva, the Land Commissioner was received at the entrance by the Vice-President of the Jaffna Teachers' and Public Servants' Co-operative Building Society Ltd. Mr. V. C. Canagaretnam and Mr. Cosmas W. D. Alwines the Hon. Secretary, who garlanded the Minister. The Hon. the Minister was then shown the Blue Prints of the Bungalows to be erected and the Architect's Pictorial View of the Bungalow when completed. Senator Mr. C. Coomaraswamy was also present. The Chairman, Mr. Canagaretnam in welcoming Mr. Ratnayake said that it was his pleasant duty in the absence of the President Mr. S. R. Williams to welcome the Hon. Mr. Ratnayake. Everybody knew the services Mr. Ratnayake had rendered Ceylon. He was the Architect of Free Education in Ceylon. The Society was deeply indebted to the Hon. Minister for coming over to lay the Foundation Stone, of the Society's and Ceylon's First Co-operative Cottage, Mr. Canagaretnam then called upon Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long, O.M.I., Rector of St. Patrick's College to address the gathering.

Rev. Fr. Long said that he was happy as Rector of St. Patrick's that the idea of a Co-operative Building Society had come from St. Patrick's which had on its staff many of the members of the Society. It was a pleasure to thank and congratulate Mr. Alwines who had put in so much brain and brawn into the scheme. He was happy as a citizen to see the new proof of the wisdom of government in its method of tackling the social problem. It might very well be that the historian of the future would regard the work of Mr. Ratnayake's Ministry as the most significant of all the Ministries. It was not for the Central Government to dictate but it was the highest wisdom to help the people who were prepared to help themselves. Help every citizen to acquire a stake in the country—that was the only sane policy.

He was not very happy as a school master under the Free Scheme. Mr. Ratnayake had been called "the architect of Free Education." Was that title a misnomer? Some of those within the Free Scheme could not help feeling that its architecture was wonky, as it seemed to be based on the principle of raising the ceiling by lowering the floor. If Mr. Ratnayake would extend his visipin and see in the Schools within the Free Scheme the finest body of co-operators in the country, then he would see that what the Denominational Schools were getting at the moment was not in the best interests of education, the country and least of all of the principle of co-operation, and should be generously rectified. He appealed to the Co-operative Minister for a square deal for those deserving Co-operators. It should not be said that government had been guilty of a breach of faith in their regard. The Hon. the Minister was then invited to lay the Foundation Stone. Mr. S.S. Nadarajah, one of the Contractors, garlanded him and Mr. Sethurajah Chetty the other Contractor presented him with a Silver Trowel with which the Minister placed the mortar on the stone.

The Hon. Mr. Ratnayake addressing the gathering said that he was happy to be there that evening. A short while ago he had laid the Foundation Stone of the Co-operative Central Bank and now he had laid the Foundation Stone of the First Co-operative Cottage in the Island. Speaking on behalf of the Government, he would say in the words of Fr. Long that Government was ready to help those who helped themselves. The Government was doing all in its power to improve the lot of the common man. The Karaiyur Reclamation Buildings right across the road, the multipurpose Gal Oya Dam capable of irrigating thousands of acres in the Eastern Province, the Hydro Electric Scheme, the various industries that Government had sponsored were all with the one and only aim of raising the standard of living of the people. They depended for their prosperity on three products, tea, rubber and coconuts. The future of these three industries was not very rosy. If these industries collapsed, the country would be in a bad plight. How were they going to stave off disaster? If they scrutinised their import figures they would find that in 1947 they imported nearly 500 million rupees worth of food into the island. A good portion of these foods could be grown in Ceylon. It was to help the people of the Island to grow these foods that Agricultural Products Co-operative Societies were being started. He appealed for help and co-operation. He had been referred to as the Architect of Free Education. In 1931 when the Education vote was raised to 11 million rupees, everybody said that the country was going bankrupt. He saw the vote rise to 16 millions, then to 25 millions, then to 90 millions, and the new Budget was having a vote of 113 millions—and still the country had not gone bankrupt. It was in one sense good to have this idea of bankruptcy looming large on the horizon. In 1934 when the Government was unable to balance the Budget and a cut on the salaries of Public Servants was made, the death of Lord Inchcape had given the Government a windfall of 4 million rupees. Ceylon was really a fortunate country. The war had impoverished other parts of the world. Ceylon enjoyed a measure of prosperity during that time. Other countries had been depleted of man power, millions had been killed during the war. In India 3 million people were killed by famine. In Ceylon the death rate had been reduced and the birth rate had increased. Fr. Long had referred to the lowering of the floors. He would tell him that in order to give every boy and girl equal opportunities with the rich in the matter of education, sacrifices may have to be made. Some of the extra floors of the privileged may have to be reduced to give bare ground floor and in some places even roofs to schools that had no roofs. Jaffna had done much for the Co-operative movement and he eagerly looked forward for more and more co-operation from the people of the North.

Mr. Ratnayake then handed over a Certificate and a Prize to the architect Mr. M. Joseph Silva of the P.W.D., Kandy.



The Hon. Secretary Mr. Alwines in proposing a vote of thanks said that that day was unique in the history of Ceylon. That day marked the culmination of eighteen months of hard co-operative effort and endeavour on the part of a loyal band of workers. That day was the realisation of the dreams of several. For the speaker it was the realisation of a dream of a quarter of a century. A little rivulet was coming down the mighty mountains of co-operative endeavour. That rivulet would soon be a mighty river giving the motive power to co-operative towns, co-operative hospitals, co-operative nursing homes. Nothing great was done in the world unless the young men saw visions and old men dreamed dreams. He thanked the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies Mr. F. A. Sandrasegra whose initiative and inspiration had enabled them to realise their plans. If the speaker was the engine of the co-operative train, Mr. Sandrasegra was the driver. Any other driver would have derailed that train, even while shunting. He thanked the contractors Messrs. Sethurajab Chetty & Nadarajah who had promised them 100 per cent support to make the bungalows model bungalows which the owners would be proud to live in and prouder to own. The Society was also indebted to Mr. G. S. Puvirajasinghe, retired Engineer of the P.W.D. who had consented to be Supervisor of the buildings at a nominal monthly allowance.

He thanked the large gathering for their presence. He would assure them that in 1949 August the new bungalows would be ready and the Society would be happy to see them at the formal opening.

## Continue With English

Ahiliya writing in the "Times of Ceylon" Monday July 26 says:

"The only way to communal harmony and world peace is to continue with English as the medium of instruction; but set up a very high standard for the vernacular so that the child has equal chances of mastering two languages.

"Literary and dramatic associations, poetry circles, and debating societies are various forms of improving the vocabulary of the child in his own vernacular. These also give great scope for cultural and social development.

"Parents can co-operate with teachers by conversing with the children only in the mother tongue.

"Another way of encouraging a child to appreciate its own language and culture is to introduce oriental dancing and music into the curriculum. The idea that one language and one culture is more important than another should never be encouraged for this invariably leads to communal and national ill-feeling."

## LOCAL & GENERAL

**Ecclesiastical.**—His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna who has been away in Colombo in connection with the Marian Congress Celebrations has returned to Jaffna with the Vicar-General.

**The Fraternity of the Sacred Heart.**—The monthly meeting of the members of the Fraternity of the Sacred Heart, S.P.C. Branch, Jaffna will be held on Sunday the 1st August at 5-30 p.m. in the College Hall.

The Rev. Fr. B. A. John, O.M.I. will address the meeting on "Communism". The meeting will be open to visitors.

**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 Friday the 30th of July, 1948. Plenary Indulgences can be gained in August on these dates:—2 (each visit), 4, 7, 9, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 25 and 27. Conditions:—Confession, Communion, Visit to the Cathedral and prayer for the Pope's Intentions. There will be General Absolution in August on these dates:—12, 15, 22 and 25.

**Inter-House Sports at St. Patrick's College.**—The Annual Inter-House Sports Meet at St. Patrick's was worked off with the usual precision

we expect at such meetings. The special feature this year was the presence and the active interest taken in the meet by the sole living Patron of one of the Houses. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nagalingham presided and gave away the Cups and Certificates to the winners. In his speech he stressed the fact that sports have come to be a vital part in the life of students and held out hopes of jobs for good athletes in the army, navy and air force.

The Houses were placed as follows in order of merit.

Abraham House	98 pts.
Matthews	81 "
Bonjean	42 "
Dunne	17 "

### Vatican's Intercourse to India.

—The *Osservatore Romano*, the semi-official paper of the Vatican, has announced the appointment of Most Rev. Dr. Leo P. Kierkels, Apostolic Delegate to the East Indies as the Intercourse to the Holy See in India. Mgr. Vagnosi is appointed as the *Charge d'affaires* in New Delhi.

**"Excellent Influence" of Catholic Schools.**—The large number of non-Catholics seeking admission to Catholic Schools, indicated the "excellent influence" these schools had in the country, declared Mr. A.M.K. Cumaraswamy, Registrar, University of Ceylon, addressing a gathering of parents and old boys at the prize-giving at St. Joseph's School, Grandpasse on Saturday. Continuing Mr. Cumaraswamy said that he hoped "the well founded fears of denominational schools" would soon be dispelled.

Mr. Cumaraswamy congratulated the Brothers of the Christian Schools on the splendid success they had made of their schools.

In the course of his report, Rev. Bro. Vincent, the Principal of the school, expressed his regret that free schools that had been struggling for existence for three years, owing to the total inadequacy of the equipment grant had been by-passed. "The Minister for Education, we learn, intends to review the whole field of financial assistance to schools shortly. We trust that schools of our type will receive his consideration and attention."

**A Patricians' Success in England.**—Information has been received by Mr. F. A. Sandrasegra, Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies to the effect that his brother Dr. A. P. Sandrasegra has passed the F.R.C.S. Examination of the University of London with a Diploma in Ear, Nose and Throat diseases. Dr. Sandrasegra, F.R.C.S., D.L.O., will return to the Island in September.

**Value of Co-operation.**—"Co-operation surmounts the barriers of nationality, race, creed and colour that divide mankind. It stands for the association of all classes and all nations under the principle of one for all and all for one," said Mr. A. Ratnayake, Minister for Food and Co-operative Undertakings, in his opening address at the annual Northern Division Co-operative Conference, which opened on July 23 at the Regal Theatre hall, Jaffna.

In the world of today, Mr. Ratnayake explained, when no country could claim to be fully independent, at least in the economic sense, when interdependence was so obvious, when import and export trade constituted the means by which most of the ordinary needs of the people were satisfied—national organisations found themselves obliged to engage in international trade. They could not, by the very nature of things, restrict their activities to their own frontiers. The need for an international alliance to connect and unite their activities thus arose in a manner entirely natural.

**Textile Price Control Over.**—Price Control of Textiles was lifted from July 24, according to an announcement by the Acting Controller of Textiles, Mr. M. F. de S. Jayaratne.

The Price Marking Office, Colombo and all outstation offices will be closed from July 31.

Dealers will be entitled to sell their goods immediately on clearance from the Customs and no Release Orders will be required.

**Stop Hooliganism.**—A stern warning to university students, applicable particularly to certain "irresponsible elements," has been issued by Professor

A. W. Mailvaganam, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Ceylon University, following an incident at a recent freshmen's debate when a girl undergrad was struck on the head with a test tube, believed to have contained tear gas, and had to be removed to hospital, where she was under observation for some time.

Dr. Mailvaganam says in his notification: "The university authorities are determined to put an end to such irresponsible behaviour."

"This sort of thing has been going on for some time not only at freshmen's debates but also at meetings of undergraduate societies."

**Patricians' Success at the University of Ceylon.**—Mr. A. Thambiahpillai has secured a First Class Honours in Physics and Mr. N. P. Jeganathan has been successful at his Final in Arts.

**Increase in Indian Labour.**—There has been an increase of 19,004 in the Indian labour population on estates in Ceylon last year, according to the report furnished by the Registrar-General on the vital statistics on Indian labourers.

The average Indian labour on estates was about 721,000 in 1947 as against 693,000 in 1946.

**Andre Marie Elected Premier of France.**—The French National Assembly after a day-long discussion on Saturday elected 50 year-old Radical Andre Marie as the new Premier by 352 votes against 190—40 more than the constitutional minimum.

**Sulpha Drug for Cure of Leprosy.**—Newly discovered methods of treating Leprosy, particularly by Sulpha drugs, give promise that the disease may be conquered. Dr. Robert G. Cochran, of the Christian Medical College Vellore, India, reported to the Fourth International Congress on Tropical Medicine on May 17.

He insisted, however, that the cost of treatment will have to be reduced, if satisfactory cures are to be effected among the disease's many victims.

**A Knock at the Door.**—A deaf old lady went to live near one of the naval ports. Shortly afterwards, a battleship fired a salute of 10 guns. The old lady, who lived alone, got out of her chair, smoothed down her dress, patted her hair, and said sweetly, "Come in."—*The Hindu*.

**Non-Catholic Papal Academician.**—A British scientist, Sir Edward Appleton—a non-Catholic—is one of the six new members of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences appointed by the Holy Father.

**Parents Claim Right.**—Sixty-five thousand six hundred Catholic parents in Berlin have signed a declaration protesting against the coming into force of the School Act adopted on November 17, 1947, by the City Council. The declaration stated that the School Act, which establishes a State school monopoly, violates the right of parents to determine the education of their children. It states that the Catholic parents demand the right to establish denominational schools.

**Japan and the Vatican.**—That Japan will soon be represented with the "forty nations that now have their envoy at the Vatican," was the hope expressed by Mr. Hitoshi Ashida, Prime Minister of Japan, when he attended a reception given in honour of Cardinal Spellman in Tokyo. "May we also express through Your Eminence," said Mr. Ashida in an address of welcome, "our great admiration for the inspired leadership of His Holiness the Pope in a greatly troubled world. We feel that the Catholic Church with its centuries-old tradition, its lofty doctrine and world-wide connections stands for the ideals of world brotherhood that we so sorely need."

**America's "Catholic Mother."**—Mrs. Richard T. McSorley of Philadelphia, who has 14 children, eight of whom are in religious life, has been selected as the Catholic Mother of 1948 by the National Catholic Conference on Family Life. Mrs. McSorley is the wife of a prominent Philadelphia attorney. They have been married for 35 years. They had another child who died in infancy.

**Catholic Papers' Drive.**—Weekly Catholic information articles are now being carried into 2,470,387 homes by

249 secular newspapers through the growing agency of the Narberth Movement. 22 Catholic groups are sending Narberth leaflets by mail to more than 10,000 people, among them known opponents of the Church, persons who have expressed an interest in the Faith, and professional men.

**Antiquity Discovered.**—Workers dug up a leaden Papal seal, of the time of Pope John XXIII (1410-17), besides St. Patrick's Church, Murlog, Co. Donegal. It is the third found in the country.

**Former Consul is now Melbourne Priest.**—Rev. Francis Brennan, who is now assistant priest at St. Peter's church, Toorak, Melbourne was for several years British Consul at Algiers, from which place he was heard regularly as Northern African speaker on the B.B.C. and contributed frequently to the London "Times." He resigned from the consular service to study for the priesthood and was ordained from the Beda College, Rome in 1941. He served for many years in the Indian Army, and as a member of the diplomatic service, was stationed at Sarawak and other places in the East. He was born at Hampstead, London, and after his ordination was attached to the diocese of Nottingham, where he was for some time assistant to the Bishop of the diocese.

**Right to Divorce Opposed.**—A proposal that the right to divorce be inserted in the Declaration of Human Rights were opposed during the United Nations discussions at Lake Success by Miss Catherine Schaefer, International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues representative, and Mr. A. Vanistendael, representing the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions.

Miss Schaefer, who said her organization comprises 36,000,000 women in 120 countries, described the proposal as "offensive to our conscience and contrary to our deepest convictions of the real freedom, dignity and good of individuals, the family and society." Mr. Vanistendael said that a declaration on the right to divorce would assume a norm for moral guidance to which Christians could not agree.

**Vatican Daily.**—*L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican City daily, is described as "the world's foremost international newspaper," with an influence equal to that of a half dozen of any other newspapers in the world, in an article entitled "The Pope's Newspaper" in the May 1948 issue of *National Monthly*, published in New York. The author is newspaper and magazine correspondent Irving Wallace. "To day, more than ever before in its vigorous history" it is stated, "the *Osservatore Romano* is being called upon by its backers to use its global prestige, as well as its own powers of invective, to spearhead the greatest fight the Catholic Church has faced in half a century. The principals in this struggle, according to Pope Pius XII, are Christianity on one side, and on the other, Communism."

According to Mr. Wallace, the Kremlin gets three copies of *Osservatore* each day through the Russian Embassy in Rome. Others of its 60,000 daily copies, he writes, "will turn up in Paris, Moscow, Ankara, Chicago, Saigon, Nanking and Durban; in Mozambique, Senegal, Tibet and Tierra del Fuego."

**Death Penalty in Britain.**—The House of Commons have voted by 307 to 209 to retain the death penalty for certain categories of murder. Earlier on July 15, the House rejected the House of Lords' decision to throw out the original Commons motion to suspend the death penalty for murder entirely for an experimental period of five years.

The measure prescribed five categories of murder, for which the Court would pass the death sentence if the Jury found the murder was committed with "express malice." This was defined as "intention to kill or maim in such a way as might exceptionally be expected to endanger life."

In other cases the penalty for murder would be a sentence of imprisonment for life.

Among the types of murders that would carry a death sentence were a second murder, murder of a prison officer, systematic poisoning and murder while resisting arrest.



## The Russian Net Being Stretched Round the Middle East

(Continued from Page 1.)

high standard of life of the ruling classes. The impact of Western ideas has prompted a consciousness among the lesser educated, and a sense of the existing injustices is gradually finding its way into the remotest peasant districts. The tragedy is that this awakening has not been fostered by moderate reformers. Indeed, in most Middle East countries the absence of true-spirited reformers has been the cause of a distorted outlook on the all-important problem of human welfare, and the agitator with the ulterior motive has stepped in to pose as the leader of the oppressed masses. The cause for Communism has been, and is, as real in the Middle East as in other parts of the world where the rights of humanity have been discarded in favour of partisan gain.

### TAKING CHANCES DUE TO OTHERS' NEGLIGENCE

In the last few years Russia has lost few chances to follow up the mistakes of others. Her methods have not always been obvious, but to the competent observer her influence has been apparent in all countries from Persia to the northern shores of Africa, and south to the Arabian Peninsula. Russian aid, moral and material, has enabled Leftist movements to make good headway. Nationalist sentiments have been fostered; such as in the case of the Kurds, among the younger members of whom Communist agitators have met with some success. In Egypt and Iraq Communist influence has been evident behind strikes and demonstrations. The authorities in these as well as in other countries, are worried to a serious degree because the Communists are jumping at the chances which inept and corrupt government has offered to them.

In every untoward happening the hand of Communism is seen, whether in fact it has been operating or not, and in Egypt, Iraq, Syria and the Lebanon, as well as Persia, Communist parties have been banned. This action has driven agitators underground: it has tightened their security even though it may have temporarily restricted their activities. They are tending to emerge in more reasonable colours, but allied to the same evil intentions. In Persia there is great fear of Russia, the fear of physical interference, whereas in most other Middle East countries the fear is mainly political influence. In the Arabian Peninsula there is perhaps little real Communist activity, but Moslem pilgrims from Russia are known to have visited the Holy Cities. How they proceed after circumambulating the Ka'ba is not difficult to imagine!

### PALESTINE, THE MOST DANGEROUS AREA

Perhaps the most dangerous of all areas is Palestine. While it is possible that Zionism is opposed to the Communist conception of life, and its large capitalist stature is odious to Russia, there is no doubt that Communism has strong allies in the miserable illegal immigrants, thousands of whom have found their way to the country during the past few years. Russia's backing of the Jewish cause in the Palestine dispute is not for any love of the Jew. The Jew is a better medium for the transport of Russian propaganda. The way of life of the Jewish settler in Palestine is in a sinister way akin to the Communist ideal of community life. It is curiously devoid of real moral foundations, and is based on a purely materialistic conception of existence. Consciously or unconsciously it provides a solid foundation for a Communist State.

Palestine is the front door to Communism in the Middle East. From the Jewish State it will be the simplest thing to pass propaganda and agents to other parts. And Arab Communists will not be found unwilling to co-operate and to compromise with their nationalist feelings just as Englishmen and Frenchmen and Poles have been found willing to sell their countries for the sake of this powerfully attractive ideal.

It would be unwise to object that Middle East Nationalisms coupled with Islam can withstand what more highly organised countries have failed to oppose. True, most countries that have fallen to Russia's influence have been those impoverished by war, destroyed in mind and body. But Russia is not so unwise and inexperienced as to hope for Middle East converts before they, too, have been drawn down to a level so hopeless and low that they will scramble to welcome the olive branch of Communism. This is the state of affairs that must at all costs be avoided. Russia is working now in every Middle East country encouraging the weakening of the people, doing nothing very obvious to oppose the rule of the Pasha, but watching and hoping for the opportunity when it comes.

### LOSS OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN INFLUENCE

The diminution of foreign influence, especially British and American, is part of Russia's plan. The surrender of Palestine fits in well with this plan. The troubles in Egypt and Iraq between the British Government and the local government is just what is wanted to strengthen the Russian net which is gradually being stretched round the whole of this part of the world. War between Arabs and Jews involving other Arab States will add to the turmoil, and the blame for whatever miserable conditions accompany it will be laid at the feet of Britain.

The Middle East is the natural extension to the strong perimeter of States which Russia has since the war organised along her European frontier.

We are forced then to ask: Can the Middle East resist Communism? The answer is yes, but only with the strong backing of Britain and the United States.—*Catholic Herald*.

## Scholarships for Study of Languages

The Secretary of the Madras University Students' Information Bureau writes:

The Treasury Committee of Britain awards a limited number of studentships extending from three to six years for the study of languages and culture either in Britain or elsewhere. The studentships are for *bona fide* students who intend taking up a career of research or teaching.

The applicants should be sponsored by the Faculty of the Board of Studies or the University or the college or by the senior teacher of the studies chosen by the applicant. This should be done in special forms obtainable from the Secretary, the Treasury Committee for Studentships in Foreign Languages and Cultures, Treasury Chambers, Great George Street, London. The candidates are expected to hold a first-class honours degree. The sponsors should also submit a scheme of studies along with the candidates' applications.

The studentships are of two kinds: Junior and Senior. The first consists of payment of fees and a maintenance allowance. The second awards allowances at higher rates. Further allowances are made for clothing, travel, and other contingent expenses.

Awards will not ordinarily be made for candidates under 21 or over 27. However, those who are in the universities (as teachers) may be allowed to apply before July 1, 1949 if they are not above 35 years of age.—*The Hindu*, July 2.

### TRAFFIC NOTICE

NALLUR KANDASAMY TEMPLE ANNUAL HIGH FESTIVAL—1948

In connection with the above festival the following roads are closed for all vehicular traffic from 10th August 1948 to 4th September 1948.

(a) That section of the Point Pedro Road between Anaipanthiaddy Junction and Chetty Street Junction.

(b) That section of the road from Somasundaram Lane—Old Store Road Junction to Brahmanakutti Kulam Lane.

Traffic desiring to proceed from Jaffna to Point Pedro will be deviated from

Anaipanthiaddy Junction via Navanturai Road, Chetty Street to Point Pedro and traffic coming from Point Pedro and wanting to proceed to Jaffna will be deviated vice versa.

Traffic coming from the direction of Kankasanturai along Chemmani Road and desiring to proceed to Point Pedro will be deviated at Arasady Junction at Point Pedro Road via Wyman Road, Navanturai Road, Chetty Street and traffic proceeding from Point Pedro to Kankasanturai or Jaffna will be deviated vice versa except lorries and buses which will be deviated via Anaipanthiaddy Junction.

Sgd. R. E. BLAZE,  
Superintendent of Police,  
Northern Province.

Police Office,  
Jaffna 24th July 1948.

## SALE NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

In the matter of the Estate of  
(1) Ponniah Balasubramaniam  
(2) Wijayaledchery daughter of Ponniah (3) Rajaswary daughter of Ponniah (4) Pushpavathy daughter of Ponniah. —Minors.

Guardianship }  
Jurisdiction } No. 323.

Theivanaipillai widow of A. E. Ponniah of Chankanaai.

—Guardian & Curatrix.  
Vs.

1. A. E. P. Nadarajah
2. A. E. P. Ratnagopal
3. A. E. P. Somasundram

- Minor 4. Ponniah Balasubramaniam  
" 5. Wijayaledchery daughter of Ponniah and 2 others  
" 6. Rajaswary daughter of Ponniah  
" 7. Pushpavathy

—Respondents.

The following land belonging to the said minors 4—7 abovenamed and the 1—3 Respondents abovenamed shall be sold and intending purchasers shall forward their offers to the Secretary District Court, Jaffna or to the Proctor for

curatrix to the undermentioned address quoting the number of this case and the price per lacham V.C. or in its entirety as per deed within 21 days of this publication. The tenderer of the highest price shall be declared the purchaser subject to the approval of Court.

NOTE:—The major Respondents 1—3 are also willing to sell their 3/7 shares to the purchaser approved by Court.

### THE SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

ABOVE REFERRED TO:

All that piece of land called "Cholakaperiya Valavu" alias "Cholakaperumal Valavu" in extent 4 lms. V.C. & 13 lms. situated at Chundikuly in the Parish of Chundikuly in the division and district of Jaffna Northern Province and the said extent is bounded on the East by a property of Nicholas Tisseveeringhe and sister, North by the property of Reginald Alagacone, West by the property of Arunasalam Vythialingam and shareholders and South by Moolai Road with Well cultivated and spontaneous plantations and other appurtenance belonging thereto. An undivided 4/7 shares belonging to the minors.

V. SIVASUBRAMANIAM,  
Proctor S.C. & Notary Public.  
"Navalar Kottam,"  
Vannarponnai, Jaffna.

### TENDER NOTICE

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Mac Callum Road, Maradana tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 13-8-48 for the construction of a Tiffin and Rest Rooms for the Electrical Maintenance Depot at Maligawatta (Colombo).

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 16th July, 1948.

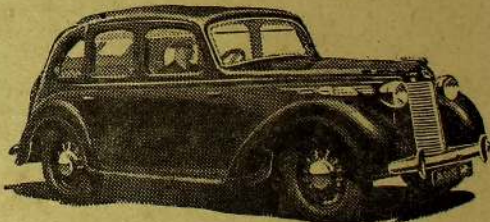
Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.  
Way & Works Office, C.G.R.,  
Mac Callum Road,  
P.O. Box No. 370, Colombo.

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**WALKER, SONS & CO., LTD.**

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