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

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How to Make Converts— We Can Learn from the Americans

While it would hardly be true to say that as a whole the Catholics of America are more convert-minded than we are, it is a definite fact that in many places highly successful experiments in bringing about conversions are taking place.

An outstanding memory of a recent stay in the States is that of a meeting with Mgr. Charles H. Helmsing, Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in St. Louis. Although ordained only about 12 years this zealous priest has led 500 people into the Church.

He admits that his present zeal for convert-making arose as the result of the Kenrick Missionary Society—an extra curricular activity of the students of the great Kenrick Seminary, which could well be copied by seminaries all over the world. But the opportunity to use his zeal came only later when, being "on supply," the young priest discovered the value of the convert class. The next step was the exploitation of the opportunity provided by the class. Every avenue had to be approached to bring knowledge of "The Inquiry Forum" to non-Catholics.

Advertisements were inserted in the popular press; announcements were made from the pulpits in as many Catholic churches as possible; posters were displayed; but, above all, personal invitations were distributed to non-Catholics by members of the Legion of Mary. By means of the work of the Legionaries, Mgr. Helmsing has applied to American life the method of the foreign missionaries who use the catechumenate for the class instruction of their converts.

Similar work is being done in the parish of St. Sabina, Chicago. In 1943 the converts received in that large city parish were about a dozen. In 1944 the Pastor suggested that a Praesidium of the Legion of Mary be formed, and it was, consisting of six men and eight women. During the course of their visitation the Legionaries, as was to be expected, came across many non-Catholics. What could be done for them? The answer was the St. Sabina Inquiry Class.

At first 32 non-Catholics came to it, of whom 24 entered the Church at the conclusion of the course of 26 lectures. The apostolate of personal approach carried on by the Legion has been supplemented by pulpit appeals, placards, advertisements, invitations through the post, and so on.

THE INQUIRY CLASS

Before me, as I write, is a copy of the invitation delivered by the Legionaries and made available for other Catholics who felt it could be advantageously used. Addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Non-Catholic, it begins by asking: "Are you interested in Religion?" Two possible answers are suggested: "No—Well, that is not unusual these days; but have you ever stopped to think that it might be because you have never known real religion? Yes!—That's fine; but are you sure you have the right one! You must realize that out of the thousands of present-day religions only one can be God's own, for one God and one human race, add up to one religion. Whether you answer: Yes or No, you owe it to yourselves to

investigate the Catholic Church's claim to being God's own." Readers are then told not to rely on hearsay or gossip, but to get the truth from the St. Sabina Inquiry Class, of which details are given.

It is then explained that the class is for non-Catholics, and that therefore no one need feel embarrassed at attending. Any motive at all for being there is acceptable, even antagonism. Attendance does not imply any commitment. This is an "Inquiry" class; not a "Convert" class. Numbers attending previous courses are given and it is affirmed that "tolerance, charity and respect for other religious opinions will be the predominant note of the lectures," which are meant to be informational and not controversial.

The results so far have been that in the four Inquiry Classes to date 190 people were instructed and 93 have already entered the Church.

In the diocese of Brooklyn convert-making is officially organized under a diocesan director. At 50 centres throughout the diocese priests, appointed as associate directors of the apostolate, conduct a five months' series of weekly instructions for interested non-Catholics. A diocesan convert's confirmation ceremony takes place each year at the end of the course at which the bishop confirms those instructed at the centres. This ceremony is held in a different church each year.

In the past ten years 5,850 converts have been received into the Church through the work of this apostolate and at least 2,000 other non-Catholics have been given a better understanding of the Church's teaching.

THE INFORMATION CENTRE

One very hot day I betook myself to the Catholic Information Centre, New York. It is a corner shop, with attractively dressed windows. Closing the door one finds oneself in a comfortable reception room, lined with books of special interest to the inquirer. Beyond are two offices and a small lecture room. I asked the director, a Paulist Father, to tell me something of the work of the centre. "You see that chain store," he said, pointing to an attractive shop across the avenue; "that is selling shirts and cigarettes. We want to sell religion. He advertises; so do we. He tries to get people into his shop; so do we." And the results?

In the first year 42 inquirers were received into the Church: in the second year 62; in the third 110, and in the fourth 120. In addition to the converts received, 132 lapsed Catholics have returned to their duties in four years as a result of calling at the Information Centre.

The most significant development, which must soon come in our own country, is the Catholic Inquiry Centre. It is evident that as the result of the establishment of these, more and more converts are being won in America with every passing year. The same could be the case in Great Britain.

The method universally adopted at these centres is based on the fact that controversy and argument must be avoided at all costs. To give positive information is the one aim. "Win an argument and you lose a soul," writes Mgr. Fulton Sheen, and it is often only

Monastery Gate Led to Freedom

Each morning at 2 o'clock during the occupation of the Low Countries, the bells sounded in the Trappist monastery at Achel and all but one of the 135 monks went to the chapel.

The other monk went to the Dutch side of the monastery. He opened a gate. Through it passed escaped war prisoners and refugees, led there by the "underground chain organization," on their way to France and Spain.

The monastery is not far from the Belgian-German frontier. Through its vegetable garden runs the Belgian-Netherlands border.

The "chain organization" operated efficiently in Belgium, where the German occupation was not so strict as in the Netherlands.

It was three years before the Germans suspected anything unusual at the monastery. By that time many English and American fliers and persecuted Jews had escaped through the grounds.

In January, 1943, the Gestapo took over the monastery and closed it.

The monks were told they could take their personal belongings and must leave within two hours.

But there is no such thing as personal belongings among Trappists and when the two hours were up, the monks,

some without coats, left the monastery in driving rain.

The Gestapo leader was an apostate monk. In a moment of kindness, he allowed one of the priests to use an official car to take the Blessed Sacrament to a neighbouring church.

A short time later, a few brothers were allowed to return to work on the monastery farm.

They found that the Gestapo had pillaged the monastery.

During the British and American advance in 1944 the Germans used the monastery as a fortress and the building was heavily damaged.

Reconstruction work started immediately at the end of the war.

The Belgian Government issued a special stamp series to help with the cost, but instead of the expected 10,000,000 francs, only 2,000,000 so far has been raised.

One of the four stamps depicts the proposed new monastery now about half completed.

Since the end of the war there has been a marked increase in the number of men entering the community, many of them former soldiers.

The story of the monastery's part in the war was told by Abbot Columban Tewes, who is visiting U. S. Trappist houses.—*The Universe*.

The Church in Eastern Germany

Catholics among the expellees from Eastern Germany, some 4,000,000 of whom now reside precariously and hopelessly in the solidly Protestant districts of the country, make one of the biggest headaches for Catholic charity organizations in Europe. Since the war some 2,500 new Catholic parishes have been set up in sectors which have not seen Catholic worship since Luther's day. Protestant ministers often make their churches available to Catholics, but the priests may not keep the Blessed Sacrament there and provisions for daily Mass can be made but rarely. In some instances the priests use their own

modest living room as an emergency chapel, and in that same room they sleep, eat, teach the children, do their cooking—all in the presence of the Holy Eucharist. There are other problems, such as finding altar linen, oil for the altar lamps and even light bulbs. The latter are hard to find; often parishioners set up guards to keep hard-won bulbs from being stolen. Sacred vessels are at a premium.

too true. "There are three rules in dealing with converts," says this great instructor of so many of the most eminent amongst them. "Firstly kindness; secondly, kindness; thirdly, kindness."

THE INQUIRY CENTRE

In attracting inquirers to the centres the principle to be remembered and acted upon is that every possible means of approach must be used. Faith is God's gift, and it is not for us to judge as to the suitability of individuals to receive it. The more contacts, the more conversions is a rule that has been proved to be true in practice. Personal invitation is a hundred times more effective than impersonal publicity.

It is vital that the help of the laity be enlisted in the effort to bring the Inquiry Centres to the notice of those for whom they are intended. But little success will come unless they are organized. In America it has been demonstrated beyond question that the Legion
 (Continued on Page 4)

In the Soviet zone particularly, Mass is frequently said without candles, because these cannot be obtained. Wine is scarce and priests must get along with a few drops. By special Papal indulgences may be purified with water because of this. Some priests care for as many as 30 villages each, and trudge for long stretches every Sunday on foot, carrying their heavy Mass kits and sometimes even their altar stones. Considering their meagre sustenance the effort is considerable. Most of these "dispersal" priests, like their parishioners, have lost a great part of their personal belongings. Indeed, these servants of the Lord share the lot of missionaries in the wilderness even though they are assigned to their own homeland and to their own countrymen. In the diaspora districts of the Soviet zone there is an average of 4,500 Catholics to every priest, as against 1,000 per priest in the Western zones. The possibility of assigning newly ordained priests to the Soviet zone for a "diaspora year" is now being considered by some of the Western bishops, but there too, the needs are great and men cannot be spared. The situation is not likely to be relieved for many years.—*The Examiner*.

MADHU

The feast of the Holy Rosary will be celebrated as usual on the 7th of October.

Administrator,
Madhu Church.

NOTICE

Until further notice all correspondence about School matters must be addressed to the Acting General Manager, Very Rev. Fr. G. A. Gurusamy, O.M.I., Bishop's House, Jaffna.

Church Calendar

SEPTEMBER 1948

THURS....30 S. Jerome.

OCTOBER 1948

FRI. ... 1 S. Remy.
SAT. ... 2 Guard. Angels.
SUN. ... 3 20 P.—S. Theresa I. J.
MON. ... 4 S. Francis As.
TUES. ... 5 S. Placidus.
WED. ... 6 S. Bruno.
THURS.... 7 H. ROSARY.

The Catholic Guardian

SEPTEMBER 30TH 1948

THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

October is now at our threshold and those of us within the household of the faith are getting ready to do our Mother honour.

Honour is the first note the October celebrations strike. We honour her who alone of the human race was found worthy to be entrusted with such a sacred charge as that of being God's Mother. We see her revealed in God's plan, in the first message of hope to man after the fall, as one power with her Son against Satan. 'The woman and her seed' anxiously awaited through centuries of anticipation became part of authentic history when the great divine intervention in men's affairs we know as the Incarnation took place: we see Mother and Son together at Bethlehem, in Egypt, at Nazareth, on Calvary; and in the great vision of heaven with which the Bible concludes we see her and her Son jointly honoured for the victory over Satan.

We honour her then for the power God gave her, the power quasi-divine of her humility. The phrase has been daringly coined: 'the humility of God'; of that humility the Incarnation is compact. Mary's humility as one of her modern saints has put it almost annihilated her, so profound was her sense of her own nothingness and it was her humility that made her in God's eyes the instrument He was seeking. And from the depths of her humility she could say with a divinely inspired assurance that all nations would call her blessed for what God was doing through her.

Her prophecy has been, is being realized in the history of individual souls, countries and in the church at large. And at no time does He who is mighty do greater things through her than at periods of crisis in the world's history, and through no other devotion so potently as through the Holy Rosary.

The humility of God and of His Blessed Mother shines forth especially here. The beads against the Marxists! There is a quality of divine irony in the juxtaposition: the beads against the big battalions. Yet history, unquestionable history, is there to show that this is precisely how He does the great things through her. We can understand then her insistence in all her recent revelations, on the daily Rosary.

For the worldly-wise a puzzle, a stumbling block. It was Tertullian, we think, who said that when we pray we are like children joining hands in a circle round a Father. That is the secret of the Rosary. We join hands in a circle round our Mother and in union with her divine Son we call her, 'Mother'! the single word that on His lips for 30 years expressed His complete acceptance of the Father's will.

The Rosary then belongs to our essential, intimate spiritual life. Children, the aged, those unversed in prayer and the saints in their mystic union with God are all equally at home with the beads. And when that intimacy characterizes our family devotions, when the whole family finishes each day on its knees in the quiet, fervent recitation of the Rosary, great things are again being done in us and for us through her who to-day as ever is God's instrument in bringing Christ to us, keeping us loyal to Him and in crushing the serpent's head.

BOOK REVIEW

A Companion to my Rosary

BY

REV. FR. P. J. SEBASTIAN, O.S.B.

We welcome and we recommend to our readers this sensible, compact and instructive manual. It gives all that is necessary for a solid, well-informed grasp of the Rosary. Coming just at the beginning of the Month of the Rosary it is particularly welcome. The author is stationed at the well-known shrine of St. Antony at Wahacotte.

St. Michael, the Archangel (September, 29th)

St. Michael is one of the principal angels. His name which means "who is like God?", was the war-cry of the good angels in the battle fought in heaven against Lucifer and his followers. St. John speaks in the Apocalypse of the great conflict at the end of time, which reflects also the battle in heaven at the beginning of time. The Fathers say, he was the cherub who stood at the gate of paradise, "to keep the way of the tree of life," the angel through whom God published the Decalogue to His chosen people, and the angel who routed the army of Sennacherib.

Following these scriptural passages, Christian tradition gives to St. Michael four offices: (1) To fight against Satan. (2) To rescue the souls of the faithful from the power of the devil, specially at the hour of death. (3) To be the champion of God's people, the Jews in the Old Law, the Christians in the New Testament; therefore he was the patron of the Church, and of the order of knights during the Middle Ages and (4) To call away from earth and bring all to judgement.



Farewell to Dr. S. F. Chellappah, D.M. & S.S. and Mrs. Chellappah

The members of the Clinical Society and Officers of the Medical Department, Northern Division, entertained Dr. S. F. Chellappah, Director of Medical and Sanitary Services and Mrs. Chellappah at a garden party on the eve of his retirement from public service at the Jaffna Hospital grounds. There was a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen of the general public and Members of Parliament including the Minister of State, Mr. C. Sittampalam.

Dr. S. Subramaniam, J.P., presided. An address was read by Dr. C. Gurusamy, Medical Superintendent, Jaffna and speeches were made by Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, Senator, Dr. C. Candiah, retired Medical Superintendent, Northern Division, Messrs. S. Vadivelu and P. Nadesan.

Dr. Chellappah answering the speeches showered on him said: I am overwhelmed by your kindness and cordiality towards my wife and myself. I thank you most warmly for this almost affectionate demonstration of your good will and appreciation of what ever I may have achieved with the opportunities placed at my disposal during my career in the public service. I have been averse to demonstrations of this nature. When I was appointed D.M. & S.S. such demonstrations were suggested but I set my face against them as I felt that people who took part might do so through compulsion rather than regard. Today when I am laying down the reins of office there will be no question of fear of possible consequences or compulsion. I have accepted your demonstration today only as a mark of your appreciation of what I may have contributed to the welfare of the country in general and to the Peninsula in particular. When one retires from the public service one's satisfaction is in looking back on what one has accomplished and what one has contributed towards human happiness.

According to St. Thomas, St. Michael is the prince of the Angels. The early Christians thought him the patron of the sick. At the place he was first venerated, in Phrygia, he was the Patron, and healer of all the sick. Tradition relates that he caused a medicinal spring to emerge where all the sick who bathed there, invoking the Blessed Trinity and St. Michael were cured. Several hot springs throughout the world were dedicated to St. Michael and several Churches were named after him.

In art, St. Michael is represented as an angelic warrior, fully armed with helmet, sword, and shield, standing over the dragon. He also holds a pair of scales in which he weighs the souls of the departed, or the book of life, to show that he takes part in the Last Judgement. Michaelmas Day, in England is one of the regular quarter-days for settling rents and accounts. His feast was once a day of obligation.

C.W.M. Series.

When I look back on my work I can divide my period of service into three decades. During the first decade my work was devoted to the supervision of epidemics. The second decade was devoted to the laying of the foundations of modern health works, the results of which we are reaping today. The third and the last decade with which you are all familiar was the building up of a good hospital system and the unifying of the preventive and curative sections of the medical service. I am firmly convinced that this is necessary but I have not been able to achieve it for reasons, over which I have had no control. In administrative work loyalty and co-operation are necessary. When these are lacking, work is made extremely difficult. During the first two decades I was able to secure both loyalty and co-operation but in the third decade these were lacking not in the many but in a few who did me and my work a good deal of damage. This was the most unfortunate period of my career. I need not dwell on this any further as it is common knowledge but what I would stress is that loyalty in a man is a very fine trait. During my period of service I always endeavoured to be fair and honest in all my dealings. I have been accused of being communal and the charges brought against me were matters with which I had nothing to do. For example I was charged with packing the grade of Apothecaries with Tamils. The applications to train as Apothecaries are received by the Registrar of the Medical College, the entrance examination is held by the Education Department, and the only time I saw the selection was when it is presented by the Registrar on the results of the examination, at the meeting of the Medical College Council, at which I presided. The other charge was that I packed the Sanitary Inspectors' Grade with Tamils. The charge was not made when I did the selection personally but only when the selections were made by a Committee of which I was not a member. Such were the charges made. The charge has been made that I favoured the Tamil medical officers. All that I have done to them has been to see that their claims were not overlooked just as I did in the case of all officers.

I am very happy to see the Clinical Society flourishing; the existence of such a society should have a beneficial influence on the welfare of the people. I think the Society should from time to time review the health and medical needs of the area and put up constructive proposals. The people should realize that in the Society they have a body of medical men on whom they could rely to look after their medical needs.

The Jaffna man is hard to convince. He is conservative and at times obstinate. By his opposition he turned away a health unit, he refused a tuberculosis Hospital which he needed very badly

in spite of sound advice given by the Clinical Society. 'Once convinced he goes all out, but sometimes it is too late to get what he wants. I trust that he will benefit by his mistakes and be guided in health and medical matters by the advice of those who are his kith and kin, who know what is good and who are interested in his welfare.

The biggest public health problem in the peninsula is tuberculosis. According to the decision of the Minister of Health and Local Government you will have 350 beds for tuberculosis. Make the best use of them. In fact you will soon find when intensive work is carried as is contemplated the number of beds will be insufficient for all the cases in the area.

While the usual control measures will take decades to achieve active tangible results, there is B. O. G. vaccination which is to be commenced in Colombo on 1st November, a very potent weapon in the control of the disease which while not being hundred percent effective will be at least 50 per cent as has been shown in the countries where it has been practised for years. Let not the people put up an agitation against it but rather demand that it be commenced here as early as possible. It would be the salvation of the people of the peninsula.

I would like to say a word about nursing. We have with us here the warden and the Deputy Warden of the Nurses' training School in Colombo. They are here as part of their study tour of representative institutions in the Island to enable them to get a grasp of the organization of Medical and Health work and to study the facilities available for training nurses and the scope of their training. Jaffna could not be left out with its old mission institutions at Inuvil and Manipay. Without a visit to them their education would not be complete. They are university women with academic qualifications in nursing and public health. They would not be gracing the noble profession of nursing if there was in it anything degrading. I would appeal to the educated girls of Jaffna to turn to nursing as a profession. It provides a great opportunity for service as well as a living wage. There are very few Tamils who take to nursing.

Now about the Jaffna Hospital. A commencement has been made with the rebuilding of the Hospital. We should proceed with the programme without interruption. This requires funds which can be secured only by the interest and initiative of the Member for the area in Parliament. The louder his voice the greater the chance of being heard. With funds provided for the whole Island being limited the earlier the request the greater the chances of being provided with some of them. It was your last Member Mr. Mahadeva who was responsible for securing the funds for the Maternity Ward, the Kitchen and O.P.W. We should complete the O.P.D. by getting the Eye and Dental Clinics built and then proceed with the construction of the Operation Theatres and the Wards. Now with your Member in a Ministerial chair it should not be difficult for him to secure the necessary money. Unless you ask you will not receive. It may not be out of place to make mention of the agitation that is going on as to my permanent successor. The Doctors on the curative side who are 5/6 of the Doctors of the dept. are clamouring for one from their group to be the head of the department. They are like the boy in the soap advertisement—they will not be happy till they get what they want. I have made suggestions to meet the situation. Harmony and co-operation are needed for an organization to function properly. Our Minister is a man of clear vision. He will meet the situation competently.

Politics and Municipal Elections

The decision of the Tamil Nad Provincial Congress Committee not to nominate candidates for the Madras Municipal elections is to be commended, and we hope will be followed by other local Congress bodies. The importation into civic bodies of members chosen for their political services has

not been conducive to the interests of the bodies in which they had a seat. They had necessarily to take their lead from the political bosses to whom they owed their seats, and the interests of the municipality were forgotten, when political issues came to the fore. The civic body became a body which lost itself in national politics. Further, there are a number of people who would gladly serve in a civic cause, but who feel themselves out of their element in the political tangle, with their groups within groups, and wheels within wheels. The services of these men were lost to the municipalities by the coming in of men chosen on the party ticket. Civic administration is quite different from politics, and the two should never have been mixed together. But Congress wanted to oppose the British Government on all fronts, and municipalities were also made a fighting platform. Now that the British Government has gone, with them has gone the motive for capturing the local bodies. We are glad that citizens will now have a chance of choosing their representatives on their personal merits, and not for their political labels.—*New Leader*.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Two New Priests.—We are glad to welcome to the diocese Father Georges Lorson, O.M.I. from Verdun and Father Jean Marie Couchouron, O.M.I. from Quimper.

The Third Order of St. Francis.—Monday the 4th October being the Feast of Our Holy Father St. Francis of Assisi all the Brothers are kindly invited to be present at the Holy Mass said for them at the Cathedral at 6 a.m. There will be General Absolution after Mass. The usual monthly meeting, will be held at St. Aloysius Hall at 5 p.m. Finally the Feast will come to a close at 7 p.m. with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. One Brother will make his Profession and three will be received into the Novitiate. Plenary Indulgences may be gained in October on these dates:—2, 4, 5 (2), 6 (2), 9, 11, 12, 19, 26, 30 and 31 (2). Conditions:—Confession, Communion, Visit to the Cathedral and prayer for the Pope's Intention.

Inter-House Dramatic Contest at St. Patrick's College.—On Saturday the 25th inst. there was an exhibition of dramatic talent by the various Houses of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna. In spite of only a short notice of two weeks the students of the College put up a really good show under the guidance of their House Masters. His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna, the Rector of the College and Rev. Fr. Matthews acted as judges and Dunne House was adjudicated the best.

Selvathi Nursing Home.—We commend to our readers' notice and practical patronage this nursing home, the first of its kind to be started for the poor in Jaffna. Dr. Rajanayagam who is in charge is capable and trustworthy and is assured of the services of several non-residential doctors.

Women Labour Inspectresses.—For the first time in the history of labour in Asia, women have been recruited to the Labour Department as labour inspectresses.

The women selected are Miss K. Abamath of Wattala, Miss M. B. C. A. Goonetilleke of Galle, Miss W. Rajapakse and Miss M. Chinniah of Colombo.

They will carry out the same type of duties as labour inspectors though their work will be restricted mainly to the field of women's activities.

If the Labour authorities find the first group of women inspectresses efficient, they contemplate recruiting more.

Govt. Awards Four Scholarships.—The Government has awarded four Scholarships in the United Kingdom on the results of the last Final Examinations of the University of Ceylon.

These Scholarships are tenable in the United Kingdom for three years.

Science:—J. Chanmugam B. Sc. Hons. (Chemistry).

Arts:—G. G. D. S. P. Gunatillaka, B. A. Hons. (English).

Mathematics:—G. G. Thevadason B. Sc. Hons. (Maths). and

CHUNDIKULI SELVATHI NURSING HOME

CROSSETTE'S LANE, KACHCHERI-NALLORE ROAD, JAFFNA.

OPENED BY

Dr. S. Subramaniam J. P. Retired P. S.

on 5th Sept. 1948.

A TRAINED, EXPERIENCED MATERNITY ASSISTANT IS IN CHARGE.

SEVERAL RETIRED GOVT. MEDICAL OFFICERS HAVE CONSENTED TO ATTEND ON PATIENTS WHEN REQUIRED.

SPECIALLY INTENDED FOR MATERNITY CASES WHILE OTHER CASES ARE ALSO ADMITTED. THERE IS A NURSE IN CHARGE. THE PRESENT NURSE IS MRS. FAITH SOLOMONS WHO WAS FOR SEVERAL YEARS HEAD NURSE OF INUVIL HOSPITAL.

Oriental Studies.—E. A. S. Goonasinghe, B. A. Hons. (Oriental Languages.)

Teachers Want Time Limit Extended.—There is much discontent among teachers in English schools over the manner in which they are permitted to exercise their option to retire in the event of their being unable to teach through the medium of the mother tongue, states Mr. A. E. Tamber, President of the All-Ceylon Union of Teachers.

Mr. Tamber says that the Amendment 6A to the Pension Rules published in December, 1947, permitted teachers in schools complying with the School Grants (Revised condition) Regulations, 1945, the option to retire if they were unable to teach through the mother tongue and the option had to be exercised before September 30, 1948.

As the School Group Regulations, 1945, enforced the mother tongue only in Primary Classes, the teachers in Post-Primary Classes did not take much notice of it. Further, teachers in the fee-charging schools who made inquiries were informed that the Regulations applies to teachers in the Free Education Schools only.

Thus there was considerable doubt in the minds of the teachers as to whether the amendments were applicable to all classes of teachers. Clarification was sought by individual teachers and by the All-Ceylon Union.

"Aqua Queen's" Mysterious Disappearance.—The Minister for Commerce and Trade Mr. C. Suntheralingam, who is responsible for merchant shipping, has directed that an inquiry be held by the Principal Collector of Customs into the mysterious disappearance of the vessel "Aqua Queen" which is now believed to be lost.

The "Aqua Queen", a reconditioned minesweeper, left Colombo 42 days ago to help the Norwegian freighter "Thalatta" which ran aground off the Maldives.

Skipped by Capt. N. J. Asquith, with seven Ceylonese members among her crew, the vessel's disappearance is said to be unique in the Island's shipping.

All efforts to locate her by her Agents who chartered the vessel have proved futile so far.

Gold and Diamonds Seized in Singapore.—The newspaper "Straits Times" reported on Sept. 26 that Singapore Customs officials had seized gold and diamonds worth £125,000 from one of the crew of a Dutch plane, on its arrival here from the Netherlands East Indies.

The haul included six kilograms of gold and five packets each containing 400 diamonds, which the man had in a body belt, the paper said.

A Customs official was reported by the "Straits Times" as saying that the man had tried to avoid the normal customs routine, but was called back and searched. He was alleged to have carried papers, which might uncover a gold and diamond smuggling ring between Java and Singapore.

The Pope's Jubilee.—Preparations for the Holy Year in 1950 have put rather out of focus the fact that on April 2nd, next year, the Holy Father will celebrate his golden jubilee as a priest. The Central Committee of the

Holy Year is, however, keeping this jubilee in sight and is already making some preparations.

Why Chesterton Became a Catholic?—When people ask me, or indeed anybody else: "Why did you join the Church of Rome?" the first essential answer, if it is partly an elliptical answer, is: "To get rid of my sins." For there is no other religious system that does really profess to get rid of people's sins. It is confirmed by the logic, which to many seems startling, by which the Church deduces that sin confessed and adequately repented is actually abolished; and that the sinner does really begin again as if he had never sinned. Well, when a Catholic comes from Confession, he does truly, by definition, step out again into that dawn of his own beginning and look with new eyes across the world to a Crystal Palace that is really of crystal. He believes that in that dim corner and in that brief ritual, God has really remade him in His own image.

HYDERABAD

[The State of Hyderabad has been looming large in the news of the world. For the information of our readers we reproduce below an extract from the Madras "Hindu" of Sept. 21, 1948 giving full details of the State, its people, resources and Government.]

Hyderabad consists of 16 districts 175 taluks embracing 22,500 villages of the 82,698 square miles of the State's territory. The Nizam owns 8,000 square miles or nearly a tenth of the entire area of the State as his personal estate, yielding an annual income of one and a half crores. In addition, he allows himself a civil list of Rs. 50 lakhs per annum from the general revenue.

The State language is Urdu, the mother-tongue of only 13 per cent of the population. Excepting in departments like the Railway, Electricity and partly in the Public Works Department, business is transacted in Urdu. The village records, however, are maintained by the patwaris or karnams in the regional languages. There are three such languages in the State, namely Telugu in eight, Mahrathi in five and Canarese in three districts. The medium of instruction except in the primary classes is Urdu.

According to official estimates, 75 per cent of the civil services and 95 per cent of the Police and Military services are manned by Muslims. There are five lakhs of Muslim immigrants who have entered the State during the past few months from the Central Provinces, Mysore and Madras and are now housed in Hyderabad city. The worst trouble-makers, an official spokesman said, were the 15,000 Arab hill tribes known as Chavoosh and 5,000 Pathans and Rohillas who have entered the State during the past decade. A thorough overhaul of the Police and Revenue Departments, the spokesman said, would naturally come up for attention from Indian administrators as a matter of first priority. The import and export trade of the State is considerable, the average for the past five years being Rs. 30 crores annually.

How to Make Converts

(Continued from Page 1.)

of Mary is the most suitable organization for this great work.

But even the formation of numerous Praesidia of the Legion is not in itself sufficient. Every means must be taken by which our Catholic people as a whole will be made sensitive of their obligations towards those outside the Fold as well as conscious of their opportunities to bring them to the Inquiry Centre. The full momentum of the entire Catholic body is required if worth-while results are to be achieved. Hence, the ardour of our congregations must be aroused and strengthened by frequent instructions and announcements on their apostolic duties and opportunities. This can be done most effectively in connection with the Inquiry Centre.

If numerous Inquiry Centres are established, if the laity are mobilized to work in conjunction with them, if every means of approach to non-Catholics is exploited and if the spirit of controversy is completely banished an ever-increasing stream of converts will come into the Fold of Christ, and the accusation that we English Catholics as a body only convert such as come to us, will be silenced for ever.—By Fr. Francis Ripley in the *Catholic Herald*, London.

Role of English in Free India

Commenting on the *Daily Telegraph's* criticism of the decision of the Government of India to discontinue the use of English in higher education, Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri said in an interview, "As far as I can judge, English will remain a compulsory subject of study until Hindustani is ready to take its place and for a time even after that stage is reached, as an alternative vehicle of thought and expression within India itself. For international intercourse it will remain a subject of study (perhaps not compulsory) for all time."

Emphasizing that English could not become the common language of India, Mr. Venkatarama Sastri continued: "Indians fully recognize the great service that the English language and literature have rendered to India. English has been an element in our culture. English, it will be conceded, cannot become the language of the Indian people. I recognize the difficulties in the way of Hindustani becoming the language of the people in a much more intimate sense than English. Nevertheless, the desire to adopt one of the Indian languages as the common language of the Indian Union should not be unintelligible to the *Daily Telegraph*. No independent nation would, for all time, choose to conduct its education and all its public affairs in a wholly "foreign tongue."

Referring to the place of English in the new set-up of India, Mr. Sastri said: "However, let me say this: English will remain so long at least as another language which we can wield with as much facility as English, is not ready to take its place. As I visualize things, English might for a time remain even after Hindustani takes its place, as an alternative language in the courts and legislatures. English under the new system, is the third language, but is a compulsory subject of study, and I expect it will remain so for long.

"Though English will cease in course of time to occupy the prominent place that it has occupied so far, it will be cultivated extensively for international purposes."

Mr. Venkatarama Sastri concluded: "The diminution in cultural contact between East and West apprehended by the *Daily Telegraph* will not result. India's independence far from being the beginning of isolation from the large world currents of thought and action will be one of awakening into a brighter and an ampler day with the manifold activities that it must bring with it."—*Globe*.

IS THE SPELLING OF "MALAKKA" WRONG?

Malakka or Malacca is situated on the South-Western coast of the large peninsula, lying South of Siam, and it belongs to the Straits Settlements. The exact date of the foundation of this town is unknown but it is supposed to have taken place in the fourteenth century. Nor is anything known of the first years of Malakka's life; we know no more than that Ludovigo Barthema was the first European to visit this place (in 1502). Of later times we have more definite news; first of all from Diego Lopez de Siqueira who sailed to Malakka in 1508. Though at first Siqueira was received in a friendly manner, later on friction arose between the natives and the Portuguese which resulted in hostilities. As a consequence d'Albuquerque conquered the town in 1511, after which it remained a possession of Portugal's for about 130 years. Then, from Malakka as a starting-point, several voyages of discovery took place in the Malayan Archipelago. From 1821 to 1824—with an interruption of a few years—Malakka was in the hands of the Dutch. Afterwards it definitely became a possession of England's.

For a time, Malakka itself and its environs were dreaded because of paludal fevers. Some pessimists even asserted that as a matter of fact the name of the town was due to an error in writing. The town was supposed to have been originally called "malaria"; later on, by illegible writing the "r" and the "i" had been taken for double "k"; and so the name "Malakka" came into being. By draining some marshes, but especially by the introduction of a regular use of quinine, however, the occurrence of malaria has been put a stop to.

The very expert Malaria Commission of the former League of Nations remarks on page 125 of its report which was published in 1937 (English edition) that among antimalarial remedies quinine still ranks first because of its dependable efficacy and the almost complete absence of toxic qualities, combined with a wide-spread knowledge of its usage and dosage. The prescribed doses for prophylaxis and treatment are severally: 400 mg a day during the whole malarial season and for some time after, and 1—1.3 grammes a day for 5—7 days. As a result of the quinization of Malakka, a great extension of this town has become possible.

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CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY NOTICE

The Railway Level Crossing at 53 miles 35 chains 37 links, Northern Line Railway, between Potuhera and Kurunegala Railway Stations, on the Kurunegala—Potuhera P. W. D. Road, will be closed for vehicular traffic as follows, for effecting repairs:—

Partially from 6.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. on 2-10-48. Totally from 10.00 p.m. on 2-10-48 to 3.30 a.m. on 3-10-48. Partially from 3.30 a.m. to 6.00 a.m. on 3-10-48.

During the periods of partial closure, vehicular traffic will be assisted over the crossing. During the period of total closure traffic may proceed via Colombo—Negombo—Kurunegala P. W. D. Road.

M. KANAGASABAY,
Ag. General Manager.
P. O. Box No. 355,
Colombo, 23-9-48.

VACANCIES

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Application written in candidate's own handwriting should reach the Hon'y: Secretary, N. D. Co-operative Federation Ltd., Jaffna, before 11-10-48, accompanied by at least three recent testimonials, one of which should be from the Principal of the school where applicant received the major part of his education.

Canvassing in any form will be a disqualification.

A. ARULAMBALAM,
Hon'y: Secretary,
N. D. C. F.

N. D. Co-op: Federation,
Jaffna, 25-9-48.

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders will be accepted by the undersigned for the supply of the following seed materials:

Seed Kurakkan	500 bushels
Seed Maize	25 "
Seed Green Gram	25 "
Seed Mustard	25 "

Tenders close at 12 noon on 16th October, 1948. Intending tenderers should deposit Rs. 25/- at nearest Kachcheri or Treasury receipt.

For further particulars, please apply to the undersigned.

M. SRIKHAṆṬA,
Asst. Govt. Agent
Puttalam and Chilaw Districts.

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY NOTICE

The Railway Level Crossing at 2 miles 42 chains 48 links, Kelani Valley Railway, between Cotta Road and Narahenpitiya Railway Stations, on the Model Farm Road leading from Borella to Colombo Golf Club Road, will be closed for vehicular traffic from 6 00

p.m. on Saturday 2-10-48 till 6 a.m. on Sunday 3-10-48 for effecting repairs.

During the period of closure, vehicular traffic will be assisted over the crossing.

M. KANAGASABAY,
Acting General Manager.
P. O. Box No. 355,
Colombo, 23rd September, 1948.

TENDER NOTICE CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., MacCallum Road, Maradana tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, October 15, 1948 for the construction of a Bungalow for the Station Master and two Bungalows for the Officers in-charge at the Kalawewa Railway Station.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 24th September 1948.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,
Chief Engineer.
Way & Works Office, C.G.R.,
MacCallum Road, Maradana.

TENDER NOTICE CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., MacCallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday October 8, 1948 for the construction of a bungalow for Booking Clerk at Kekirawa.

For further particulars, please see the Government Gazette of 17th September, 1948.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.,
Way & Works Office, C.G.R.,
MacCallum Road, Maradana.

TENDER NOTICE CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., MacCallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, October, 8, 1948 for the construction of two Bungalows for the Railway Staff at Chinabay.

For further particulars, please see the Government Gazette of 17th September, 1948.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.,
Way & Works Office, C.G.R.,
MacCallum Road, Maradana.

The Jaffna Apothecaries Co.,

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CHEMISTS OF REPUTE.

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