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RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

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Ourselves

Because of the Postal Strike we regret we did not publish our last week's issue.

Manager

Calendar of Events

- December 8 :
Bible Sunday.
- December 11 :
Service in memory of Mrs. H. P. Sittambalam at the Araly Church at 8 a.m.

THE 21st CAROL FESTIVAL

People said it was the best ever.
The Town Hall was overflowing on Wednesday, November 27, at the 21st Carol Festival by the Youth of the North. Mr. Marcus Narayanasamy conducted; Miss Vimala Rajagunadaran was the pianist; and the arduous, demanding and multitudinous arrangements were made by the Rev. L. E. Arulachandran, and Mr. Jayasingh David.

The choir which contributed special songs were: the Point Pedro school, Pandaripattu, Vembadi, St. Theresa's Convent, Nuffield School, Udulivi, the Y. M. C. A., Jaffna College, Udupidai, Tellipalai, the William Mather Memorial Women's Centre, Central College, the Holy Family Convent, Chundikul and St. John's. New this year was a medley of Christmas carols played on recorders or pipe organ from Chundikul. Handel's 'Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring', by the orchestra, was directed by Mrs. Saverimuttu.

Notable this year was the continued quiet attention throughout the entire two-hour programme. It was hot, for every seat was taken, and the fans had to be turned off so as not to muffle the voices, but there was no disturbing buzz of conversation.

As usual the festival ended with "All hail the power of Jesus' name", sung by a thousand voices. Father Bennett Constantine pronounced the benediction.

JAFFNA INTER-COLLEGIATE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The 44th Annual Social and General Meeting of the J.I.C.C.F. was held on Tuesday, the 19th of November, at Union College, Jaffna.
The Social, a Film Show on 'The Life of St. Paul', and the Fellowship Service at the Tellipalai Church were the special features of the programme for the day. The Rev. (Sveak) I. T. Yousayam was the preacher at the service.

The J.I.C.C.F. expressed its gratitude to Mr. J. S. David and Mr. C. A. Anandaraman, both of St. John's College, Jaffna, for all their service in the past year in their capacities as Secretary and President respectively.

The following Office-bearers were elected for the New Year:

- President: Mr. E. T. Ramanathan, A. M. Eng. School, Kankesanthurai.
- Vice-President: Mr. G. Rajasingam, Jaffna College, Vaddukodai.
- Secretary: Mr. J. J. Appatharajah, Manipay Hindu College, Manipay.
- Student Secretary: Ms. T. Tambipillai, Hartley College, Pt. Pedro.
- Asst. Treasurer: Ms. N. Kadigamar, Jaffna College, Vaddukodai.

LECTURE ON HISTORY OF THE TAMIL BIBLE

The Rev. Dr. S. Kulandran, Bishop of the Jaffna Diocese, C. S. I., delivered a public lecture on 'The History of the Tamil Bible' at the Jaffna Public Library on Thursday, the 28th November, at 8 p.m. The Municipal Committee, at 8 p.m. The Municipal Committee, at 8 p.m. The Municipal Committee, at 8 p.m.

JAFFNA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

After the elections held last Tuesday, the 3rd inst., the new Municipal Council will be constituted by 15 Independent, 5 from the Tamil Congress, 2 from the Tamil Party and 1 from the L. S. S. P.

VISITORS FROM THE "HOPE"

Five doctors and five nurses from the Hospital Ship "Hope" paid a brief visit to Jaffna. They stayed at the Blue Ribbon, met their opposites among the specialists at the Civil Hospital and exchanged information. They were very happy over their cordial reception here in Jaffna.

The one non-medical person in the group was Mrs. Pamela Woods, wife of the thoracic surgeon. She and her husband enjoyed Thanksgiving Day dinner at the E. G. Lockwoods on November 28. They attended the Carol Festival. Then on Friday the 29th, Mrs. Woods called at the Civil Hospital, the Ashram, the Women's Centre, and lunched with Miss Parmaniam at Udulivi. At the Women's Centre, she discovered that three months after the graduation from Wellesley College, in Massachusetts, Dr. Indirajayam arrived to teach for a year on an exchange programme. Small world!

A CORRECTION

We are very sorry that a bad mistake crept into the news item, which appeared in our issue of the 10th November, under the title of 'News of Dr. Barker's Funeral'. The item said that the first wife of the Rev. Wilfred Scopes, who has now taken over the work of Dr. Barker in the C. O. B. W. M. Mission, had been away from the staff of Udulivi Girls' College and that she had died. It was her sister, Elsie, that Mr. Scopes had married, and who died some years back. The former Miss Fred. Hacker is now very much alive as Mrs. Boot. She visited Ouyon in 1966, and later went back to England from Australia where her daughter lives. She now lives in England and keeps in touch with several of her Old Girls of Udulivi and friends.

OBITUARY

Mr. G. Crossette Thambyah

The death occurred at his residence in Colombo on the morning of the 27th November of Mr. George Crossette Thambyah, G. M. G. (retired District Judge), aged 68 years. Son of the late Mr. Robert Crossette Thambyah, he had his early education at Jaffna College, Vaddukodai, and later joined the Odette University for his higher studies, from which he secured his B.A. Honours degree in 1931. On his return to Ceylon he joined the Law College, Colombo, for his professional studies. He was enrolled as an Advocate of the Supreme Court in 1938, and for several years enjoyed a lucrative practice. He was later appointed to the Bench and served as District Judge in Trincomalee, Battaramulla, Colombo, Kandy and Jaffna till 1948.

He functioned as a member of the Law Commission to revise laws relating to mortgages and Credit facilities in 1945; a member of the Special Tribunal (Avoidance of strikes and lockouts cases) 1945-47; a member of the Appellate Tribunal (Control of Textiles) 1946-48; Commissioner of War Compensation 1948; a member of the Second Commission to Delimit Parliamentary Constituencies for the 1952 election; in 1954, the Third Delimitation Commission in 1959, the Industrial Tribunal from 1959 to 1962, and the Bribery Tribunal in 1962; Chairman of the Tribunal of Appeal under the Employers' Provident Fund Act in 1960 and of the Tribunal of Appeal under the Education Ordinance in 1961; and a member of the Local Government Service Commission and of the Income Tax Board of Review and Wages Board (Tea and Rubber Growing and Manufacturing Trade). He also served on the Mortgage Commission and was engaged in the reorganisation of the Fiscal Department. In addition he served on the Board of Directors of Jaffna College for several years and as its Chairman for a period.

He leaves behind: Dr. and Mrs. E. W. Jayaraman, Dr. and Mrs. E. J. Jayaraman, Dr. and Mrs. S. Ponnambalam, and Dr. and Mrs. V. N. Thiruvaharan (sons-in-law and daughters); Balaraj, Dr. Selvaraj, Jayalaxmi and Willy de Silva (nephews); Monica (daughter-in-law); and many grand and great-grand children, and a large number of friends and relatives who will miss him.

ASIA-SOUTH PACIFIC CONGRESS ON EVANGELISM MEETS IN SINGAPORE

By KENNETH J. SOMANADER

One thousand one hundred Christian leaders, drawn from 24 countries, met recently in the new Conference Hall of the state of Singapore for the Asia-South Pacific Congress on Evangelism sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Outside, on the front of the Hall, in huge brilliant red letters on a 160-foot-long banner, was proclaimed the theme of the Congress: "Christ Seeks Asia". On the left of the banner was an illustrative symbol drawn in blue and brown by local Chinese artist, Adrian Tian, featuring a dove (the seeking Holy Spirit), the Eastern Hemisphere (with two-thirds of the world's people), and rice (the ripening harvest).

The Congress began without the presence of its Honorary Chairman, Dr. Billy Graham, whose physicians had recommended that he spend a month on a limited schedule and avoid extensive travels. In a message to the Congress, Evangelist Graham said that about 99 per cent of the people in Asia and the South Pacific were still without Jesus Christ. God had no other instruments for the evangelization of Asia and the South Pacific except the believers in those countries. But a new thrust was needed, a new dynamic. The early Church had its Pentecost which provided the dynamic that sent them into all the world. He hoped that this Congress would be to the 20th century Church in Asia what Pentecost was to the early Church.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Chandu Ray, Bishop of the Anglican Church in Karachi, West Pakistan, in his opening address, called for a "new unity" with all Christians in the evangelisation of Asia. "The time has come when we in Asia must bind ourselves in a fellowship for the sake of evangelism," he declared. "We must find a new unity for this great cause."

Bishop Ray said that the Church in the world today was the Church among many nations and races and that all Christians everywhere were called to tell their nations about Christ. He added that all Christian groups belonged together as those bound by this call of a common task. "We cannot divide this common task of proclaiming the Gospel and do it separately," he told the Congress. "The task is indivisible, since the nation and the life of a nation is indivisible."

The participants came from as far North as "the land of the rising sun" to as far South as the countries "down under", and East to the mid-Pacific, India, with

Mr. E. R. Abraham

The death occurred in Colombo, on 26th November, 1968, of Mr. Edwin Rajasingam Abraham, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Abraham, of Nallur South, Jaffna.

The funeral service in the home and at the grave were conducted the next day by the Ven. J. A. R. Navaratnam, Archdeacon of Jaffna and Ryde, Miss and Rev. Mr. S. Michael and All Angels, Polwart.

He leaves behind three brothers: Messrs. W. Rajasingam, S. Rajasingam and W. Rajasingam, and two sisters, Mrs. S. Rajasingam and Mrs. M. Rajasingam, all of whom are in the service of the Church.

some 110 representatives, had the largest representation at the Congress, while three of the South Pacific islands had one each.

The intention of the Congress was to discover ways of implementing the proposals of the 1966 World Congress on Evangelism (held in Berlin, November 4-13, 1966) in an area challenged by an exploding population and social upheaval. Define Biblical evangelism with emphasis on personal conversion that leads to membership and participation in the life and mission of the Church; Expound the relevance of the Christian evangel and stress the urgency of its proclamation to the two billion people living in this region; Study the obstacles to evangelism inherent in the diverse cultures of Asia and find specialised methods which will effectively overcome them; Share in discussion the tools and techniques of evangelism which may more successfully be employed to cope with the unique problems and opportunities in Asia today, i.e. the growing influence of youth, rapid urbanisation, poverty and economic needs, the primary role of the family, etc.; Evaluate existing evangelistic programmes and policies in the light of contemporary conditions, and explore ways of vitalizing the programmes and updating the policies; Summon the Church corporately and its members individually to recognise and accept the priority of evangelism; Challenge the churches and Christian organizations to a bold co-operative programme of evangelism and missionary outreach.

The Rev. Philip Tong of Hoog Kong, who shared the morning Bible Study with Dr. Marcus Loane, Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, Australia, said, "It is impossible to think about evangelising the masses of Asia unless we are courageous enough to consider ways in which we can unite to do it."

Speaking on "The Theology of Evangelism", Dr. Akbar Abdul-Hayy of the U. S. A. reminded Asian evangelists that the part of the world they would be dealing with "is inalienably religious in its outlook on life". He said that in this regard it stands in contrast to the West, where science and material values have become normative of all truth while spiritual values are being discarded as irrelevant for everyday life.

Dr. Haqq added that "Asia is the cradle of all the major religions of mankind. The contemporary scene in the Orient is seething with renaissance Christian religious among which Christianity exists as a small irreligious minority". He defined evangelism as "a proclamation of the highly existing news of God who was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself" (II Cor. 5: 19). He stressed that though the exigencies of culture or society might differ, "the fundamental idea behind all these is the telling of news to people who have not heard it before".

The Rev. Dr. Jong Sung Rhee, Professor of Systematic Theology and Dean of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Seoul, Korea, in a paper on "Theological Dilutions which Hinder Evangelism" said that if their guilt-conscious western friends could not stand firm against the danger of religious syncretism which was infiltrating Christian minds so rapidly in recent years, Christians in Asia would be in a bad way. He said that in non-Christian countries, Christians should stand over the battle.

ORDER NISI IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF COLOMBO

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 24280.

In the matter of the Intestate estate of Samuel Gunaseelan Thambapillai (nee Marthar) of 20, Vivekananda Road, Wellawatte, deceased.

and

In the matter of an application under Chapter XXXVIII of the Civil Procedure Code (Cap. 101),

Eliza Sionthangsechi Thambapillai (nee Marthar) of 20, Vivekananda Road, Wellawatte, Petitioner.

vs.

- 1. Rose Vasuki Thambapillai of 20, Vivekananda Road, Wellawatte a minor appearing by her guardian, ad litem
- 2. Samuel Jegasothy Duraisamy of 20, Vivekananda Road, Wellawatte, Colombo 6.

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before A. Vythilingam Esquire, Additional District Judge, Colombo on the 30th day of September 1968 in the presence of Messrs. Marugase and Kularatne, Proctors on the part of the Petitioner above named, and the Affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 24th day of September 1968 having been read:

It is ordered that the 2nd Respondent be and he is hereby appointed Guardian ad litem of the minor the 1st Respondent above named, and the Affidavit of this action unless the Respondents above named or any other person or persons interested shall on or before the 7th day of March 1969 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

It is further ordered that the Petitioner be and she is hereby declared entitled as widow of the above named deceased to have Letters of Administration to the above estate issued to her accordingly unless the respondents above named or any other person or persons interested shall on or before the 7th day of March 1969 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the Court to the contrary.

Sd. A. VYTHILINGAM, Additional District Judge, 30th day of September, 1968.

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Dr. Rhee's remark was greeted with loud applause.

He said: "Modern Christianity, particularly in the West, seems to have a sort of guilt consciousness in regard to other religions because Christianity under colonialism joined the white exploiters in conquering other countries and suppressing other religions".

(To be continued)

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE of HARRIET PONNAMMAH SITTAMBALAM

will be held at THE C. S. I. CHURCH, ARALY, on Wednesday, 11th December, 1968, at 9 a.m.

All friends and relatives are cordially invited.

46

ORDER NISI IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. T/2200

In the matter of the Intestate Estate of the late Edward Manikkam Tharuvavathan of Chavakachcheri who died in the General Hospital Jaffna, Deceased.

Arulammah widow of Edward Manikkam Tharuvavathan of Chavakachcheri, Petitioner.

vs.

- 1. Tharmavaran Arulrajah
- 2. Arulselvi daughter of Tharmavaran
- 3. Arulselvi daughter of Tharmavaran
- 4. Tharmavaran Arunesan (minor)
- 5. Arulrajah daughter of Tharmavaran (minor) all of Chavakachcheri
- 6. M. E. Manikkam of Alaveddy South

Respondents.

This matter coming on for determination before K. E. Kathirgalingam, Esq. Acting District Judge, Jaffna on the 4th day of March 1968 in the presence of Mr. V. Canagasabay, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the Affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 4th day of March 1968 and her Petition having been read:

It is ordered that the above named 6th Respondent be and he is hereby appointed Guardian ad litem over the 4th and 5th minor Respondents for the purpose of watching their interests in these proceedings and that Letters of Administration to the Estate of the above named deceased be granted to the Petitioner above named as the widow and sole heir of the said deceased unless the Respondents above named or any other person or persons interested in the above said Estate appear before this Court on the 7th day of June 1968 and show cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

And it is further ordered that the 6th Respondent above named do produce the aforesaid 4th and 5th minor Respondents above named before this Court on the said date.

The 4th day of March 1968.

Sd. R. Paramaguru, Additional District Judge.

Drawn by Sd. V. Canagasabay, Proctor for Petitioner.

7-6-68 Time to show cause extended to 27-6-68

Sd. K. E. Kathirgalingam, Acting District Judge.

7-6-68 Time to show cause extended to 25-10-68

Sd. I. M. Ismail, District Judge.

25-10-68 Time to show cause extended to 13-12-68

Sd. I. M. Ismail, District Judge.

46 & 47

1968 Subscriptions of Rs. 15 due now Manager

The Morning Star

6TH DECEMBER, 1968.

THE STRIKE SITUATION

The Government led by its Acting Head, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, acted right when it declared some of the public services essential and compelled strikers to return to work and prevented others from striking. This is just what the public at large wanted and expected the Government to do under the circumstances. There was no other alternative before it, when it found that the public servants refused to listen to the pleading of the Prime Minister to wait for another six months for practical steps to be adopted to meet their demands for salary increases. The Premier, after a most careful and understanding hearing he gave to the public servants in their interviews with various deputations from them, agreed with them that there was reason behind their grievances. That common agreement between him and themselves should have assuaged their feelings. And he explained to them fully just why an increase in their salaries could not be granted at this time. To meet their demands the Government would have to find immediately a sum of nearly 229 millions. This was altogether impossible. And Mr. Dudley Senanayake was perfectly right when he refused to do anything that would set back the restoration of the economy of the country for which he had taken meaningful steps, which were already bearing fruit. He also reminded them that an increase in their salaries would have consequential repercussions on the private sector with employees in it demanding similar increases. Granting all these would naturally result in the already high cost of living rocketing very much higher. This would cast an intolerable burden on the vast majority of the population. Therefore, one would have expected the public servants to call off their strike and wait for six months more before they contemplated further action. But they refused to do so and went on with their strike almost holding a pistol at the Government. Then again the strike, which they professed would be quite peaceful and was not politically motivated or engineered, soon began to gather violence and political significance. The Government could not have been expected to remain passive when the workers at the Government Press, while going out on strike, caused wanton destruction to property. If Public Security measures had not been adopted then, as they were, by the Government, one shudders to imagine just what further damage and riot and danger would have resulted. Hence, the public really welcomes the action of the Government.

Mr. J. R. Jayewardene showed again the right attitude toward the public servants when he assured them that there would be no victimisation of the strikers when they return to work, and that the Government was prepared and willing to continue negotiations with them after all of them were back in their posts. He also promised the Postal strikers that the Post and Telecommunications Department would be removed from the list of essential services once all of them returned to work. It is to be hoped that all strikers would see reason and accept the assurances of the Government and return to work. They must have by now realised that the Government is determined to remain resolute in its plan to deal with the strike and in that it has the backing of the public, with the exception of those politicians who would exploit the present situation to advance their own interests.

HERE AND THERE

On Strikes

Till about the middle of the 19th century all countries in the world were agricultural. About that period industrialism had just got started in the West; and the workers were often victimised. Strikes were, therefore, legalised to enable workers to get their legitimate grievances redressed. It was not foreseen at that time that in legalising strikes a weapon of tremendous potency was being forged for an industrialised society.

The potency of a strike in an industrialised society consists in the fact that workers in industries can bring life to a standstill by refraining from work. Its advantages against other and older forms of coercion are three: it is effortless, the workers simply staying at home; it is peaceful; and the workers can choose their own time and cause for striking. It was Leon Trotsky who realised the political possibilities of the strike (outside Russia). He pooh-poohed the idea of striking for economic reasons and wanted strikes to be used for paralysing the government (outside Russia).

But strikes have their disadvantages as well for the striker; because he has got to suffer as much from the effects of a strike as those who do not strike. He is at both ends of a strike; he strikes, but he is also the victim of a strike. If the Postal or the Railway system, or the buses, or the electrical or water works do not function, he suffers just like anybody else. So we have a suspicion that not merely the general public but the strikers themselves must have appreciated the prompt intervention of Government in the recent strike.

What we would like to know, however, is why, if Government is willing to see, where it is concerned, that strikers can be misused and to see that employees also can be at fault, it does not see that the same thing can happen in the Private Sector as well. Why should all Labour legislation and arbitration assume that the labourer is always right?

Rather Clumsy

The newspapers in Colombo like to bait the Tamils so often, that I think they thoroughly enjoy the experience. Some days ago, I was surprised to see headlines saying that Mr. Wilmot Perera had warned the youth of Jaffna against Federalism. Wondering how a public man of such standing could so lightly heartily tilt against the creed of a political party in the constituency and the home-town of the party's leader, I started reading the actual speech. Evidently Ceylon newspapers believe that while headlines are free, speeches are sacred (at least some times). The text of the speech showed that what Mr. Perera had done was to warn students against those who wanted a separate state. Mr. Navaratnam of Kayts wanted a separate state, and he has been expelled by the Federal Party. To construe a discredited creed as the accredited creed of the Tamils strikes me as clumsy.

The *Times of Ceylon* a few days ago showed the Tamil community as a helpless man, each of whose hands was tied to a rope and each of them being pulled in opposite directions by Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam and Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam. It did not strike the cartoonist that why a similar picture could not have been drawn of the Sinhalese community because two hands more would have been required for the ropes to be pulled by Mr. Dudley Senanayake, Mrs. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Dr. N. M. Perera, and Mr. Pieter Kenneman.

In the case of the Sinhalese, the existence of political parties is to be looked upon as a healthy functioning of Democracy; in the case of the Tamils, it has to be looked upon as ruinous disunity.

The Sangha and Sinhalese Unity

While the newspapers would suggest that the Tamils as a political force could be dismissed because of their dis-

unity, many Buddhist priests seem to think that something urgent should be done about the Tamil menace. It was recently reported that urgent moves were being made by some of them to bring the U. N. P., and the S. L. P. P. (and the L. S. S. P. ?) together. When Pakiatan asked India to join in a material defence, Mr. Nehru asked, "A Defence Pact against whom?" The Pact sought for now cannot be against China, Japan or America; it is obvious against whom the Pact is being sought.

The political influence of the Buddhist priests over the two main parties in Ceylon is well-known. It is also well-known how, brought up on the Mahavamsa with its record of the continuous struggle between the Sinhalese and the Tamils, they still live in a by-gone era. It is not for us to comment on the influence of the priesthood of another religion over its fellow religionists or on its intellectual outlook. But it is altogether another thing to attempt to persuade us that we can live without fear or misgivings where such an outlook is the major influence.

A Prognostication and Diagnosis

Mr. Dix Gregory, a famous Negro actor in America, has said that he sees no chance of Richard Nixon being able to assume office as President on the 18th. of January. His firm opinion is that the President-elect is sure to be assassinated before that date. His reason is that American society is very sick and, therefore, murder comes to it naturally.

Chief Justice Earl Warren in his report on the Kennedy assassination declared that it was humanly impossible to prevent a President from being assassinated. When a person as important as a President of the U. S. A. has to appear in public so often, the chance of somebody shooting at him is ever present, and when it is ever present it sometimes materialises.

Those who think that by killing President or other public figure they are solving any problem are making a big mistake. Instead they create more problems. In the Southern States found to their cost, when Lincoln was assassinated. Why then do Presidents and other public figures get killed in America more than in other countries?

Is it because, as Mr. Dix Gregory says, America is a sick country? Such a view cannot long be held by any person who sees American life first hand. On the other hand, it speaks very highly of American life that so far more people are not killed. In most States in America anybody can buy and keep any number of guns, pistols and other firearms without any question being asked. (An American's home seems to be his arsenal). It is surprising that one of the places in America where you buy guns is a Sports Goods store. When the opportunities for using firearms are so unlimited and the wherewithal for doing so is so plentiful, the wonder is that assassinations do not take place more frequently. The temptation is usually resisted and seems to get the upper hand only very occasionally.

The European Currency Crisis and its Ironies

Some days ago world business circles were thrown into a state of uncertainty and alarm by reports of a possible devaluation of the Franc (the French unit of currency) and its possible repercussions on the British Pound sterling. According to the current rate of exchange, 13.68 French Francs or 11.20 West German Marks are equivalent to a Pound sterling. The innate worth of a unit of currency is the amount of goods and services it can command in its own country. West Germany is making such rapid progress that its Mark is able to command more and more goods and services.

This situation has the effect in neighbouring countries of people seeking to buy the German Mark. Such buying makes the Franc an unwanted currency and, therefore, undermines its worth. France, therefore, earnestly desired West Germany to put up the exchange price of the Mark, so that those who wanted to exchange Francs for Marks, might be discouraged.

But it would have increased the value of the Mark. It would have increased the value of the Mark. It would have increased the value of the Mark.

THE TOWN OF THE MANGER

By A. C. Forrest

Editor, 'United Church Observer', Canada who is travelling in the Near East.

Although ninety percent of the people in this part of the world are Muslims, Bethlehem is a Christian town, and has been since Crusader times.

And of course the shopkeepers cater to the tourists, the major Catholic and Orthodox faiths are represented by churches or chapels within the great old churches. And the souvenirs sold are of olive wood, jewellery with Crusader's crosses and stars of Bethlehem, and Bibles with mother of pearl covers.

The great shepherd's fields stretch away over the hills, and at night the stars shine down, apparently bigger and lower than anywhere in the world.

Although Bethlehem is a symbol of peace to the world, it has known little peace, and

have discouraged countries importing them. In these circumstances, the world expected France to devalue the Franc, so that those who wanted to buy Marks would have had to pay more Francs for them.

But the devaluation of its currency is something that no country is willing to do except in the last extremity, since it would reduce the purchasing power of wage-earners, wipe out a good part of savings and increase the size of payments to other countries. General De Gaulle has decided that the last extremity has not been reached and that, therefore, the Franc need not be devalued. After all ten years ago he had increased the value of the Franc more than hundredfold and brought it to its present position.

What is ironic about the situation is that, in the first place, it is only a little more than a year ago that De Gaulle was seeking to undermine the currencies of England and America by buying up their gold. If he had gold he thought he was unshakable; now he has been shaken badly, because the gold itself disappears when there is an imbalance of trade. In the second place, Germany is a country that was badly defeated in the last war. After defeat a country's economy and, therefore, its currency get utterly ruined. So the Allies had to pour billions of money to set Germany on its feet. Now the Allies are in the curious position of seeing their own currencies threatened with ruin by an economic recovery which they themselves had brought about.

An Incomplete Demand

An interesting example of the wide-spread modern revolt against all authority is a demand of the students of the State of Bihar in India to the effect that cheating at examinations be made legal. In this demand it strikes me that the students were rather self-interested, narrow-minded and did not truly represent the bigger phenomenon of revolt against all authority. Therefore, this demand in itself was extremely incomplete.

If the students had wanted fearlessly to stand for the rights involved in that revolt, they should have asked that the action of pickpockets who might relieve them of their fountain pens in the bus, that of the restaurant manager who might refuse to serve lunch after getting their money, that of thugs who might knock them on their heads on their way back, that of burglars who might walk into their homes and get off with all their valuables, after disposing of their parents, might all be legalised.

The students could have carried the revolution into the intellectual realm and wanted that hereafter wrong answers should be declared right answers and vice-versa, that the earth was flat, that a triangle was a circle or that light travelled in curved lines. They could have demanded that the legislature of Bihar should declare that Patna, the capital of Bihar, was the capital of Kerala and that Madras was the capital of Bengal.

The trouble with modern students is that they do not want to go far

through recent centuries, it has been occupied most of the time by foreigners as it was at the time of Jesus' birth.

But it did enjoy a measure of peace and growing prosperity for a few years after the 1948 division of Palestine when it became part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. And every year it permitted Arab Christians from Israel to cross through the Mandelbaum gate for Christmas Eve services in the Church of Nativity and other churches round about.

During these years, however, its life has been marred for all purposes by a sense of compassion, because of the great number of refugees who live in camps outside the town or in crowded rented rooms within.

Armed Truce

The "No room in the Inn" memory has long been relevant here. And the walls, barbed wire, and armed truce between Israel and Jordan have made the Holy Land a frightfully unholly place.

Then in June, 1967 the "Six Day War" was waged and the little town of Bethlehem was occupied by Israeli forces. Christian pilgrims and tourists stopped coming here, and Jewish tourists began to flock to see what the Israeli travel agencies call "the new territories".

"How is business?" I asked a shopkeeper in Bethlehem who specialises in olive wood carvings. He shook his head, "I don't sell many shepherd's fields or managers, but I sell a lot of Rachel's tombs." For Rachel's tomb, outside the city long inaccessible to Jewish pilgrims is now their chief attraction to Bethlehem.

"My income is down and prices are up," the people in Bethlehem keep saying. Recently the "Jerusalem Post" carried an article headlined "Kents sky-rocketing." The Israeli officials say things are getting better; but the Arabs, Christians and Muslims alike, say they are getting worse.

Perhaps by Christmas things may be more cheerful. But with only a few shopping days left I found in Bethlehem, the birthplace of all the Christmas cheer, the shopkeepers idle, shoppers gone, the local people impoverished.

Hope in the United Nations has been given up by most. Another war, perhaps within the year, seems almost inevitable.

The Arabs say there can be no recognition of Israel and no peace without justice. That means the restoration of their property and return to their homes. The Israeli say no peace without recognition and a signed settlement. So there it is.

As Christmas 1968 approaches I find Bethlehem marked with broken faith, lost hope, and no real peace.

— W. C. C. Information

Letters to the Editor

CEYLON CHURCH UNION SCHEME

Sir,

In the new Ceylon Church Union Scheme, it is proposed that each Pastorate Sessions (the equivalent of the present Church Committee) will have elected as well as nominated members. Although the principle of nomination is in vogue in the present Diocesan Council of the C.S.I., it does not appear in our Church Committees. To us, brought up in the democratic tradition, this system of nomination appears obnoxious. Why should we introduce it into areas where it did not exist in the past?

I would suggest to the authorities of the C.S.I. that, while accepting the Scheme, we should suggest to the Inaugural Committee that the system of nomination to Pastorate Sessions be made optional. I find that in things which do not conflict with, or affect, the main principles of the Union, each denomination is to be allowed to continue its present practice.

V. NALLIAH

Gavakachcheri.

RECENT UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Dear Sir,

Permit me to bring to the notice of your readers the recent appointments against the Selection Boards of the University of Ceylon, Colombo, and tolerated by the Board of Regents. Take, for example, what took place in the selection for the Chairs of Sinhalese and History. In the case of Sinhalese a candidate who had a B. A., 1st Division; M. A. (with distinction); Ph. D. in the appropriate field of Studies, D. Lit. including Sinhalese was rejected because he had a Second Class (Lower Division) at a B. A. Honours Examination which was not in the field of studies relevant.

In the case of History the selected candidate had only a simple Second Class. He was selected for appointment in preference to a scholar who had a First Class and a distinguished record of research publications. Further, it must be pointed out that men who know nothing of the subject sit on selection boards and silly questions are put to scholars of repute. They had considered a thesis on Sinhalese with historical references to Sanskrit as not suitable for Sinhalese as against a thesis on Sinhalese done from second hand material. The first and original edition of a Sinhalese text was not scientific when compared with the re-edition of a poem, a text that had been edited and published several times before. The arguments on research were similar in the case of History. The selectors did not know how to evaluate research, and the University has lost the services of two outstanding Ceylonese scholars of international repute.

Is this fair-play in the interest of Higher Education? All this warrants a Public Enquiry.

Yours faithfully,
W. WEERASEKERA

Nugegoda.

FROM FAR AND NEAR

ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

The 200th Anniversary of the Britannica was celebrated in London with a Banquet at the Guildhall attended by over a thousand guests representing the top men in British Universities and the world of education. Prime Minister Harold Wilson was the guest of honour. He recalled that the Britannica originally appeared as a weekly paper in Edinburgh two hundred years ago. "Where else," he asked, "could you find on successive pages a mass of information on Primates, Prime Ministers and Primitive Man?" He then told the tale of Faith All, who became Shah of Persia in 1797. He was presented with a set of Britannica and was so delighted that he set down and read the 15 volumes (as they were then) from cover to cover. On completing this task, he decided to add to his already long and illustrious titles the words "Encyclopaedia Lord and Master of the Encyclopaedia".

President Robert Hutchins, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Britannica, formerly Chancellor of the University of Chicago, said that in Britain had some reason to regard America as a major for old passenger lines or bridge down bridges. But indeed the Britannica had more influence in the new world than in the old. He mentioned that George Washington tried to win a set in a lottery, but drew a blank. The first World War was a hard time for the Encyclopaedia Britannica. Sears Roebuck & Co., a Chicago mail order firm, came to the rescue and became the promoter of the Britannica in the new world. The new editor, William Benton, who was for some time the Vice-President of the University of Chicago, acquired the common attack of the Encyclopaedia in 1948. The University became the contractual beneficiary and during the last 20 years the Britannica had yielded \$30,000,000 to the University funds.

The English connection has now been restored. Sir William Haley, former Editor of the Times and more recently Master of Wadham College, Oxford, was appointed this year as Editor-in-Chief. He came from Tokyo University has been set up to advise on Asian subjects and contributors.

In a special article which appeared in the Times to mark the bi-centenary of the Britannica it was stated that a letter that was sent to Mahatma Gandhi to write on Passive Resistance was returned by him. The letter was returned by the Britannica in India without the previous being allowed to see it.

Reproduced from "London Letter", in "The Guardian, Mysore".