

The Catholic Guardian

ESTABLISHED AS A FORTNIGHTLY, 1876; ISSUED AS A WEEKLY, 1878.

Telegrams: "GUARDIAN", JAFFNA.

REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON.

Telephone: NO. 100.

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

Vol 69, No. 3.

JAFFNA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1944.

PRICE: 10 CENTS.

"BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS"

OUR APPEAL FOR PEACE

This anniversary of that horrible war which was launched the most formidable, destructive and devastating war of all times—a war which involved everyone who has a heart and human feelings.

Foreboding this universal disaster, which then menaced the great human family, when but a few days separated us from the outbreak of hostilities, on August 24th, 1939, We addressed to rulers and peoples a fervent appeal and a suppliant warning. "Nothing," We said, "is lost by peace; all can be lost by war." Our voice was heard, but it failed to enlighten the intellect or penetrate to the heart. The spirit of violence triumphed over the spirit of concord and agreement. But that triumph was a defeat.

To day, on the threshold of the fifth year of war, even those who then counted on speedy military achievements and on the rapid conclusion of a triumphant peace, as they cast their glances on the scene within and without their own country, feel only sorrow and contemplate only ruins.

For many who remained deaf to Our appeal the sad experience and the spectacle that meets their eyes today show how closely Our warning and Our forecast corresponded with the reality that was to be. Our words on that occasion were inspired by impartial love for all peoples without exception, and by a vigilant anxiety for their welfare. The same love and the same anxiety move Us in this grave and troubled hour, and bring to Our lips a message which is meant to be of benefit to all, and hurtful to none, as We earnestly implore Almighty God to open the way for it to the hearts and counsels of those men whose hands hold the destinies of afflicted humanity.

Through colossal struggles the external issues of the war are approaching and converging on their climax. Never was the scriptural exhortation: "Receive instruction, you who judge the Earth," more invoked or more urgent than in this hour, when the tragic reality of things speaks to all. Everywhere men are entering into themselves to meditate, their eyes fixed on the ruins. It is true wisdom to encourage and to assist them in their trials. To discourage them would be fatal blindness.

In every land men's minds are turning from the cult of violence as they see in the horrid harvest of death and destruction its deserved condemnation. In all nations there grows an aversion to the brutality of the methods to total war, which tends to pass beyond every just limit and every form of divine and human law. More tormenting than ever, there comes to soften the minds and hearts of men the doubt whether the continuation of hostilities—and of such hostilities—is and can be said to be still in conformity with the national interests, or reasonable and justifiable in the light of the Christian and human conscience.

After so many violated treaties, after so many outraged agreements, after so many broken promises, after so many contradictory shifts of purpose and action, confidence between the nations has fallen so low as to weaken and discourage every generous resolve.

Therefore, We turn to those whose concern it is to promote meetings and arrangements for peace, and, with an appeal that comes from the depths of Our sorrow-stricken heart, We say to them: real strength need not fear being generous. I always has the means to secure itself against any misrepresentation of its readiness and will to make peace, as well as against every possible repercussion. Do not shatter or smother the people's yearnings for peace by acts which, instead of promoting confidence, rather give new life to the fire of hatred, and stiffen the will to resist. Give all nations the well-founded hope of a worthy peace, which will not offend either their right to live, or their sentiments of honour, and see beyond all possible doubt that your conclusions flow honestly from your principles, that your acts conform wholly to your declarations for a just peace.

Only thus will it be possible to create a serene atmosphere in which the peoples less favoured at a given moment by the fortunes of war can believe in the birth and growth of a new sense of justice and comity among the nations, and can draw therefrom the natural consequence of greater confidence in the future, without having to fear lest they compromise the survival, the integrity or the honour of their country.

Blessed are they who, with disinterested resolution, help to prepare the soul in which may sprout and flower, grow and ripen, a sense of international veracity and justice.

Blessed are they, to whichever belligerent group they belong, who with their gaze fixed on the reality, collaborate to overcome the deadlock in which the vital balance of war and peace is held.

Blessed are they who keep themselves and their peoples free from the restrictions imposed by preconceived ideas, by inordinate selfishness, by unlawful thirst for power.

Blessed are they who hearken to the compliant appeals of the mothers, who give life to their children that they might grow up in faith and in generous endeavours, not that they should kill and be killed.

Blessed are those who listen to the anguish-laden pleading of families stricken to death by forced separation, to the ever more insistent cries of the common people who, after so much suffering, privation and mourning, ask for nothing more for their lives than peace, food and work.

Blessed, finally, are they who understand that the great task of a new and true order among the nations is not possible without raising Our eyes to God and keeping Our gaze on Him Who is the ruler and guide of all human events, as the supreme source, guardian and judge of all justice and all right.

But woe unto those who, at this tremendous moment, do not attain full consciousness of their responsibility for the fate of the peoples; who foster hatred and conflicts among men; who build their power upon injustice; who oppress and torture the unarmed and the innocent. Behold, the wrath of God will be upon them.

(Continued up.)

AMERICAN CATHOLICS AND THE TRADITION OF ISOLATION

BY CHRISTOPHER HOLLIS IN "THE TABLET"

The great importance of the American Catholics in an election year is their power to turn the election in a number of key States.

Americans of Irish or of German origin have almost all the Bishopsrics, in an unwritten two-to-one ratio in favour of the Irish-Americans. The third largest group are the Poles, with five millions, and the fourth the Italians, with four. They are politically divided, but the large majority are in the Democratic Party.

The full text and fuller information about the pronouncement of the American hierarchy are still awaited in this country. The Bishops among other things express their concern at some of the decisions of the Moscow Conference. Some of these decisions, they say, in one important passage of which the text appears at the end of this article, "do not dispel the fear that compromises on the ideals of the Atlantic Charter are in prospect."

Such a sentence as this raises a question for the full answer to which from the other side of the Atlantic we must most eagerly wait. Few can be so optimistic as to imagine that, when this war ends, it will not end in a world of great confusion, and leaving power in the hands of statesmen of very varying philosophies and ideals. Whatever the precise shape that the post-war world may take, none can surely doubt that it will contain many features that we dislike. We shall all of us have to face the ungracious but necessary question of how much evil we are willing to tolerate in order to escape the worse evil of a renewed world conflict. Phrases about "not shaking hands with wickedness" are easy to the tongue. In a world in which we are all of us united only in the possession of original sin, the practical question where the intolerable begins is by no means easy of solution.

May it please our Divine Redeemer, from Whose lips went forth the cry, "Blessed are the peacemakers," to enlighten those in power and the leaders of peoples.

May He direct their thoughts, their sentiments and their deliberations.

May He give them in body and in soul the vigour and strength to overcome the obstacles, the lack of trust and the dangers which lie strewn on the path of those who would prepare or achieve a just and lasting peace.

May their wisdom, their determination, and their lively sense of benevolence succeed in diffusing a ray of comfort on the blood-stained and tear-stained threshold that leads us into the fifth year of the war, and give to the surviving victims of the cruel conflict, as they bend beneath their overpowering burden of sorrows, a happy hope that this year may not pass stamped and blackened by slaughter and destruction, but may mark the opening and dawn of a new era of brotherly reconciliation and peaceful reconstruction.

In this trust We impart on all Our beloved sons and daughters of the Catholic world, and on all those who feel themselves united to Us in love and work for peace, Our Paternal Apostolic Benediction.—The Tablet.

It would be foolish, then, to shut our eyes to the possibility of the emergence among Americans—and perhaps among American Catholics in particular—of an isolationism that is moral rather than strategic. American isolation has always had a strong moral tinge to it, as indeed have all American political programmes. That is to say, there have been in America a few hard-boiled isolationists who have been content to argue that America should remain isolated simply because it is not to her interest to become involved in other people's quarrels. But there have always been others who have admitted the abstract desirability of world unity and world action, but have argued that Europe's diplomatic and political traditions are so hopelessly correct, Americans so naturally simple-minded, that the only effect of American intervention would be that Americans would be dragged down to the European level. America, argue isolationists of this school, can only co-operate when other nations have risen at least a little way towards American standards. The question that we obviously have to ask ourselves is, what is the likelihood of a recrudescence of this line of argument if unfortunately, under the compulsion of *force majeure*, some of these things that we least wish to happen should happen in the post-war Europe?

There is obviously one very strong reply to all such lines of argument—the reply of the logic of facts and of the record of history. Europe, unpleasant as she may be, does, it seems, explode once every generation, and America, whether it be desirable or undesirable, does become involved in those explosions. Therefore, it might seem, it would be wise for her to play her previous part in preventing those explosions. And indeed there seems evidence that the very great majority of American opinion is thinking along those lines. Therefore, although there is in American life in general, and in American Catholic circles in particular, a strong tradition of isolation, it is highly unlikely that it will prove either possible or desired for America to return to complete isolation. But, if she does not so return, the world will wait veay eagerly to see what meaning will be attached, if any, to declarations on world morals, both in the hierarchy's pronouncement and in other similar declarations, whether Catholic or non-Catholic. "No nation," for instance, the hierarchy says, "has under God authority to invade family freedom, abrogate private ownership or impede, to the detriment of the common good, economic enterprise, co-operative undertakings for mutual welfare and organized works of charity sponsored by groups of citizens." What, then, happens if some nation does do this?

The hierarchy denies that "national rights and national sovereignties, rightly interpreted, must be surrendered to a world Government." But, if no such surrender is made and if at the same time isolationism is eschewed, there are critics who argue that the only third possibility is that of American imperialism, basing itself, of course, as do all imperialisms, half-sincerely and half-insincerely, on moral premises. It is

(Continued on Page 4.)

NOTICE MANNAR-MULLAITIVU SEAT

I hereby announce my candidature for the Mannar-Vavuniya-Mullaitivu seat in the State Council.

I stand for the following policy:—

- (1) The early amendment of the constitution directed towards the achievement of Self-Government for Ceylon and embodying a scheme of Balanced Representation in which no single community would be in a position to out-vote a combination of all others.
- (2) The recognition of equality of Political and Civic Status for Indians resident in Ceylon.
- (3) The obtaining of a minimum of three seats for this constituency—with one for the Muslims.
- (4) The general uplift of the Farming and Fishing Industries in the Constituency.
- (5) The continued maintenance of the present system of denominational schools in the educational framework of the Island.

J. TYAGARAJAH.

Church Calendar

JANUARY 1944

- FRI. ...28 S. Peter Nol.
SAT. ...29 S. Francis de Sales.
SUN. ...30 4th Sunday after Epiphany.
S. Martina.
MON. ...31 S. John Bosco.
FEBRUARY
TUES. ...1 S. Ignatius.
WED. ...2 PURIFICATION.
THURS. ...3 S. Blase.
FRI. ...4 S. Andrew, C.

The Catholic Guardian

JANUARY 28TH 1944

FINANCES OF THE URBAN COUNCIL

Our Urban Council has set to work in earnest. What is now worrying it is its depleted coffers. The Chairman at its second meeting during the month brought this fact to the notice of the members and he was asked by them to prepare a memorandum on the subject for consideration on the 21st inst. Mr. C. Ponnambalam submitted a comprehensive statement of the financial position of the Council, how the year 1943 closed with a large deficit, the totally inadequate financial provision that had to be made for the current year and the impossibility of carrying on if the Council is made to pay the war allowance out of its own funds. He pointed out that the war allowance to employees apart from their salaries and wages amounts for the present year to Rs. 71,652. He then suggests certain ways of increasing the present revenue but concludes that "even if we increase our assessment rate from 10 to 12½ per cent., increase electricity revenue as suggested and increase the tax on vehicles, we cannot meet the cost of paying war allowances to our employees. Perhaps if we increase the assessment rate from 10 to 15 per cent. and increase the other sources of revenue as suggested above, then we may be able to meet the cost of paying war allowances. But then this is out of the question?" What then is the solution for this impasse? The Chairman, says if we obtain grant from Government to meet the cost of war allowance incurred and to be incurred by the Council there is no immediate necessity to find fresh sources

of revenue. Now, the war allowance may be obtained from Government in either of two ways—by raising the assessment rate or putting up a stout fight in association with all the Urban Councils in the Island to get the grant of war allowance without raising the rates. The Board of Ministers' condition is, if the Urban Councils are prepared to raise their assessment rate 30 per cent. above pre-war rates they will be granted money to pay war allowance. We do not see the justice of this stipulation. The central Government imposes a double obligation on the Councils. These must pay the war allowance as fixed by Government and must find the money to do so by raising the rates and taxes. If the cost of living has gone up so high and along with it the war allowance Government is partly to blame. The central Authority pays its employees war allowance from the general Exchequer while the local bodies which had no part in fixing the amount to be paid as war allowance are ordered to pay it from their own funds. It has been the fashion during the last few years to treat the Urban Councils as if they could be ordered about. No doubt, they hold a subordinate position but they too have their rights. There comes a time when even a worm will turn. That stage appears to have been reached and all the Urban Councils in the Island have decided to take concerted action to get the Minister and Executive Committee to accede to their request. If they fail, it may be the Councils will force the Authorities, to dissolve them which extreme step Government will not be in a hurry to take. We will watch developments with great interest.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Malabar Famine & Cholera.

Pundit K. N. Kunzru after the completion of a tour from Malabar to Travancore says: "It makes one shudder to think that about ten million people should be living in a state of semi-starvation." Referring to Malabar he states that "it suffered from a severe cholera epidemic in the latter part of last year which carried away thirty to forty thousand people, which was believed to have been due to a shortage of food and maldistribution." We quote the testimony of the Pundit whose statement comes from Calcutta because it exactly corroborates what was said in the letters of Father Caironi published in this paper. We then made the remark that although the letters revealed a most pitiful state of things equal to that in Bengal, only a few thoughts of coming to the help of those stricken people while lakhs of rupees were being sent for the relief of distress in Bengal. True charity embraces all in suffering and does not look for popular applause. The vast majority of sufferers in Malabar were Muslims and Hindus and the subscribers to the Malabar Relief Fund with a few notable exceptions were Catholics and Catholic institutions. Now that

we will be closing this Fund we must say that all who have contributed to and worked for it have indeed done well and their charity will not go unrewarded.

"Reform Talks."—A paragraph in the *Times of Ceylon* of the 26th writing on the work of the Ministers in this connexion says that some of the minority representatives in the State Council have completely dissociated themselves from the plea of balanced representation. Who, and how many they are, is not stated. Perhaps the above statement is by way of propaganda. Our information is that the case for balanced representation even on the ground of number of its supporters in the State Council was never so strong as now. Although the Board of Ministers cancelled the round table conference, the minority representatives met and decided on their course of action.

Summary of the Memorandum of the Catholic Hierarchy on the Special Report

On the 18th inst., the Members of the Catholic Hierarchy of Ceylon met at the Archbishop's House, Colombo, to consider certain aspects of the Report of the Special Committee on Education. Their Lordships welcomed the effort now being made to reconstruct the country's educational system, and decided to co-operate with the Government in any scheme that will be for the realisation of the legitimate aspirations of the people and for the advancement of their intellectual and moral well being.

The Special Committee had wisely recommended the continuance of the system of Assisted Denominational Schools, which have hitherto done great service to the country. The Hierarchy was confident that the above recommendation would be upheld by the guardians of the liberties of the people. Any contrary decision, would, of course, be intolerable to Catholics because of their obligations of conscience.

As a necessary corollary to the Denominational system, the Committee had also very reasonably recommended that the denominational bodies should continue to train their teachers in their own training schools, provided, of course, that these schools maintained the standard of efficiency required by the Government. The Hierarchy, however, thought it reasonable that the minimum number of students required for the establishment of a training school be fixed at 100 instead of 150.

As for free education, the Hierarchy saw no reason to oppose it as a matter of principle, provided, however, that the country was able to finance it, even in times of depression, and further it was not made a plea for excessive State control. But it was clear that the provisions made in the Report for staff and equipment were inadequate to maintain the present high standard of many of the schools of the island. Therefore, it was essential that the fee-levying grant-in-aid schools should be allowed to continue as an integral part of the national system of education. As a matter of fact, no valid reason has been adduced for the abolition of this type of school, which has contributed much to the progress of the country. In order that deserving students may not be deprived, on account of poverty, of the opportunity of receiving the best possible education, they should be assisted by a liberal provision of scholarships both by the Management and by the Government. The system of free schools, if thought necessary, could, however, exist side by side with the fee-levying grant-in-aid schools.

It was the opinion of the Hierarchy that the proposed Trust Ordinance could violate the rights vested in them

by the law of the land and impede the fulfilment of the responsibilities laid down on them by the law of the Church.

As regards the proposed salary scale, the Hierarchy thought that the basic salaries were too low, especially of non-graduate teachers, and that some provision was necessary to cover the case of teachers in unhealthy and malarial areas.

Comment of the "Daily News" on the Bishops' Memorandum

The Catholic Hierarchy of Ceylon have expressed their corporate opinion on the report of the Special Committee on Education. Their views are, as would be expected, characterised by an insight into the subject and a practical approach which should be welcomed by all who wish to see a big step forward in educational reform. The Bishops are not in their insistence on the rights of the denominational school systems, but they are determined to co-operate in any workable scheme that would ensure maximum educational opportunity to the youth of the country which the national resources would permit. The many-sided activities of the Roman Catholic mission in the fields of general and technical education are such that the proffered co-operation of the Hierarchy would be a very valuable asset in the success of any comprehensive reform. Although the statement issued by the Bishops does not go into details, it lays down certain principles which will be endorsed by a much wider public than their own flock. The principle that no child should be denied a good education simply because its parents cannot pay for it is recognised. That surely is the root of the matter. The times are propitious for a wide extension of the educational facilities which are now the privilege of a favoured few. But it would be madness to destroy the best features of the existing system, built up with much patience and unswerving devotion by many generations of men and women. The maintenance of these features and the extension of free education are not mutually exclusive.

It is clear that one of the chief snags of the Special Committee's scheme is the future of the fee-paying schools. The argument that those who can afford to pay fees should not be denied that obligation, or luxury, is not, in our view, a very strong one. Those who can afford to pay will always be contributing to Government revenues in many ways. A rich man in a town does not pay more for his water than a poor man. School fees are a serious burden to many middle-class families who live on a marginal level. Their plight should not be ignored. The majority of professional men and public servants have come from homes where the cost of education was felt as a serious charge on the family income. The point has been made that the best jobs and the most favourable opportunities for advancement in life go to a mere ten per cent. of the population which includes the middle class to which we refer. The removal of these anomalies is no unworthy task. But it cannot be performed without a good deal of thought and preliminary work. In a certain type of school it will be much more practical to increase the number of free places than to abolish fees.

With so much common ground in ideals and ultimate aims, it would be a great pity if the State Council did not endeavour to carry through a scheme generally acceptable to the entire body of educationists. There are matters on which compromise is not possible. The exponents of a hundred per cent. system of State schools and the representatives of denominational bodies will never agree. But there need not be any such dispute. The Special Committee has wisely avoided a conflict on such issues. The expressed views of the Catholic Hierarchy provides a good basis for a far-reaching reform. If the State Council rashly passes the Select Committee's scheme in its entirety it may leave an uneavable legacy to its successor. If the scheme is proved to be unworkable because it is too expensive,

or because there are not enough teachers or because quality is sacrificed to quantity or because the denominational bodies which have shouldered a great deal of the responsibility for education in the past do not fit into the Government scheme, the last state of education in Ceylon may be much worse than the first. Or the scheme may become a dead letter. After all it is men and women who live for their work and not a bureaucratic system that will produce the best results in education.

OBITUARY

We regret the omission to mention that the Revd. Fr. Ph. Nicholas, O.M.I., will be very thankful for prayers for the repose of the soul of his mother who died recently.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Our Lady of Miracles.—The purification of Our Lady's National Feast of Our Lady of Miracles, Jaffna, began on Sunday, 22nd instant and the Feast will be celebrated on Wednesday, 28th of February with High Mass and the blessing of candles at 7-30 a.m. and Vespers, Procession and Benediction at 5-30 p.m.

A.S.P. on Trial.—The Additional District Judge of Jaffna, (Mr. L. W. de Silva) was one of the witnesses for the defence in the case in which Mr. S. G. de Zoysa, A.S.P. and Sergeant Arulapab stand charged with conspiring to hurt two Brahmin priests and with conspiring to fabricate false evidence.

To-day is the fifteenth day of the trial of the case before Mr. James Joseph, D.J., Jaffna.

When the case for the prosecution was closed the Judge called the first accused for his defence. Counsel informed court that he was not calling any defence.

The Judge then called on the second accused for his defence.

Messrs. A. Homer Vanniasingham, T. C. Rajaratnam, C. Kulaverasingham, Proctors and some others also gave evidence for the defence. The case is proceeding.

Critics of Savings Movement Answered.—"I have heard it said by critics that the Savings Movement is encouraged by Government for their own benefit. This opinion of theirs cannot be sound if they realise that the Savings Movement is a stabilising measure and an essential one. For it not only promotes the habit of saving but also helps in the defence of their country" said Mr. C. Thiagarajah, Chairman, Manipay Savings Committee, presiding at a meeting on the War Savings Movement held at Manipay on Tuesday 25th inst.

Mr. R. Y. Daniel, Commissioner Savings Movement, addressing next paid a glowing tribute to the Chairman and members of the Manipay Savings Committee for their success in the last Savings Week. He wished to know the opinion of the Manipay Savings Committee as to when they should organise another Savings Week in Jaffna. The opinion of the meeting was that a Savings Week should not be held in the near future as the people had only recently been taxed. However, the meeting was of opinion that another Island-wide Savings Week be held during the year. Mr. R. M. Davies, G.A., N.P., also agreed on that point.

Mr. S. V. Alagaratnam proposed a vote of thanks.

Personal.—His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. R. Rajaratnam, Co-operative Inspector, Northern Division, as Temporary Asst. Registrar of Co-operative Societies with effect from 1st Dec. 1943.

Death of Cardinal La Puma.—"The Examiner" reports the death of Cardinal Vincenzo La Puma, Prefect of the S. Congregation of Religious, in Rome on Nov. 3, aged 69. He was a Sicilian, born at Palermo, and was a Professor of Canon Law in Rome when he was made a Cardinal Deacon in 1935.

There are now only 44 Cardinals, with 26 vacancies in the Sacred College,

World President of S.V.P. Society Dead.—M. Francois Louis Marie Joseph Veillot, President-General for about 25 years of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, died in Paris at the beginning of Oct. last. It is now learned.

M. Veillot was for many years one of the leading French Catholic writers and journalists. For some time he was Vice-President of the Catholic Writers' Corporation. R.I.P.

New Guinea.—Dutch missionary Fathers of the Sacred Heart, returning to their posts in wake of the Allied Forces in New Guinea, are helping the Dutch Government to rebuild Merauke and other parts damaged by enemy action, reports Mr. Charles van der Plas, head of the Dutch East Indies Commission, who has returned to Melbourne.

"Their work and assistance are beyond praise," he says. "The closest co-operation exists between the priests and the Government officials."

The priests and nuns were captured by the Japanese when they overran the island and their fate is unknown. Those who escaped are now returning everywhere to their old missions.

The priests have complete charge of education in New Guinea, where the Dutch authorities subsidise 163 of their schools. They also help to control the native villages in the heart of the jungle.

Though some of the natives are still uncivilised, the missionaries travel entirely unarmed.

Mgr. Perosi.—Mgr. Lorenzo Perosi, the greatest living Catholic composer, lately celebrated his 70th birthday. The Pope sent him a little Latin prayer for peace, which Perosi then set to music.

Famous Lady Archaeologist.—Mrs. Arthur Strong, C.B.E., noted archaeologist and historian, who had resided in Rome for the past 34 years, died there in Sept. The Holy Father sent her a special blessing. Mrs. Strong received C.B.E. in 1927, was honoured with a life fellowship at Girton College, Cambridge, and was an honorary doctor of several universities and leading member of international archaeological and historical organisations. She did much important work in the excavations of ancient Rome and was for 16 years Asst. Director of the British School in Rome.

CORRESPONDENCE

Late Mr. Gnanamuttu

The Editor, "Catholic Guardian," Jaffna.

Sir,—When happy memories of the triumphal election of Mr. Gnanamuttu were still alive in our minds, comes the most shocking and sad news of his tragic death. It was as if yesterday to me that late Mr. Gnanamuttu stepped into the vestibule of the Vavuniya Kachcheri with a benignant smile, having beaten hollow Mr. Suntheralingam, a smile that signified that better things were ahead of us. The great interest and enthusiasm that he evinced since his entry into the State Council assured us that he was trying his utmost to do whatever possible for the neglected Mannar-Mullaitivu Electorate. He was certainly a God-sent to us and his election merely paved the way to the Minority Community. When our minority leaders were between Scylla of a homogeneous board of ministers and Charybdis of a Tamil candidate quite apathetic to the minority cause, who had as a Job's comforter, late Mr. Gnanamuttu rose to the occasion and came as a Messiah to gladden the hearts of all who had the welfare of the country at heart. He was really a panacea to the pessimism of the minority leaders whose fight for a better representation appeared but a wild goose chase. His success promised great things—it promised a better representation—it foretold an amelioration of the neglected state of this electorate—it shadowed a future never known in the historical annals of this electorate—but—but—it is a long BUT that this man of principles, this enterprising man, this philanthropist, a true David to every one of our Jonathan, should die before he sees his great task done. He began his career as a M.S.C.

well. He moved for a Treasury at Mullaitivu—better accommodation and convenient travelling to the passengers stranded at Madawachchi—war allowances to poor widows and neglected orphans—and the best of all—the tree tax. These initial efforts made everyone of us proud of him—even those who had expected him to be too old for political life.

He is dead and it may be said of him that he died in Mannar and for Mannar. I could remember him addressing a meeting: "I have come here in your midst and I'll die here." What a remarkable coincidence!

Though he is dead yet his spirit is alive. His piety, goodwill, strong faith and unblemished character will certainly find him a very good place. Late Mr. Gnanamuttu could have said with Scott:

"I have corrupted no man's morals, I have unsettled no man's faith."

May the Almighty give his soul eternal rest.

Yours faithfully,

Vox POPULI.

Mannar, 24th Jan. 1944.

Bengal Fund

Sir,—I shall be obliged if you can be kind enough to give publication to the following details in the news columns of your esteemed paper.

Yours faithfully,
S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM,
Secretary Vivekananda Society.

Ramakrishna Mission—Vivekananda Society Appeal for Bengal Distress Relief

A sum of Rs. 31,137-01 has been collected for the relief of distress in Bengal by the Ramakrishna Mission and the Vivekananda Society. A further sum of Rs. 5,000 has been remitted to the Ramakrishna Mission Headquarters, Calcutta, making a total of Rs. 30,000 sent.

Jaffna Urban Council

Minutes of the meeting of the 21st. Present:—All members of the Council.

1. The Minutes of Proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Council held on the 12th day of Jan. 1944 copies of which had been previously furnished to each member of the Council were taken as read and confirmed.

2. Pursuant to notice Mr. V. S. S. Kumaraswamy moved:—

"This Council recommends to the P.W.D. the urgency of building the road edge to that section of Chemmani Road lying to the West of Arasadi Junction i.e. the extreme eastern end of the Chemmani Road."

Mr. K. V. Sinnathurai seconded—Carried.

3. Considered papers regarding sanction of a re-vote of Rs. 165-83 to pay compensation to land owners in connection with the opening of the Thallalai Channel and it was decided to sanction a re-vote of Rs. 165-83 under head "E 1 (h)."

4. It was decided to defer consideration of papers regarding fixing of wages to scavenging labourers.

5. Considered papers regarding sanction of a supplementary vote of Rs. 90 under head "J 2 (a)" for clearing the Power House premises of rank vegetation and it was decided to sanction the supplementary vote and to request the Chairman to scrutinize before payment.

6. Considered letters from the renters of Small Bazaar and Sengunthar Market regarding non-notarial agreement.

It was decided to allow the renters to enter into non-notarial agreement without prejudice to the Council's right to call for notarial bonds from them.

7. The Chairman read out his memorandum regarding the financial position of the Council.

Mr. S. Patanjali sought the permission of the house to leave at this stage and requested the Chairman to take the public into confidence by circulating the memorandum to the public.

After discussion in which Messrs. P. Mortimer, S. A. Sabapathy, V. S. S. Kumaraswamy, K. V. Sinnathurai, P. Casipillai and S. P. Nadarajah participated it was decided on the motion of

Mr. S. A. Sabapathy to authorize the Chairman to request the Minister and Commissioner of Local Government to contribute as grant-in-aid of war allowance paid and to be paid by Council's employees.

Mr. S. P. Nadarajah moved and the house accepted the following motion:—"That this Council requests the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration to contribute Rs. 50,000 as subsidy for maintenance of roads within the Jaffna Urban area."

It was further decided to appoint a committee consisting of Messrs. K. V. Sinnathurai, V. S. S. Kumaraswamy and P. Mortimer with power to co-opt to explore all possible methods of effecting retrenchment, and increasing revenue and report to the Council before 11th Feb. 1944.

8. It was decided to defer consideration of papers regarding allowing on agreement, the building application of Mr. V. Chellappah.

9. Considered papers regarding purchase of Colas and it was decided to authorize the purchase of 5,130 gallons of Colas from the Shell Company of Ceylon Ltd.

10. It was decided to place Rs. 8,000 (provided in the Budget for 1943 as Reserve for Depreciation) in fixed deposit in the Bank of Ceylon for a period of one year.

11. It was decided to renew the fixed deposit of Rs. 25,598 together with the interest accrued thereon for a period of six months in the Bank of Ceylon.

12. It was decided to authorize the Chairman to purchase 270 gallons i.e. 3 months supply of lubricating oil immediately.

Malabar Relief Fund

	Rs. cts.
Previously acknowledged	1,442 06
Mount Carmel Confraternity	2 00
Vathiry Parish	5 00
Rev. Fr. Chas. S. Matthews, O.M.I.	10 00
Anonymous	10 00

Total 1,469 06

Previously sent and acknowledged	1,000 00
Sent by cheque on 28-1-44 to the Bishop of Calicut	200 00
Balance	269 06

P. SAVERIMUTTU,
Hon. Secy., Particular Council,
S.V.P., Jaffna.

A.R.P. JAFFNA

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

Applications are invited for the following vacancies:

Telephonists male 2
female 1

Qualifications: English Junior Certificate or higher examination.

Conditions of Service: According to Defence (A.R.P. Services, Regulations. Selected candidates should reside within 2 miles of the Report Centre, Chundikuli and be prepared to work both day and night. The appointments are temporary.

Salary Rs. 50 per mensem without any allowances.

Applications giving age, qualifications and particulars of previous experience supported by copies of recent testimonials should reach the Officer-in-Charge, Communications Service, D.I.T.'s Office, Jaffna on or before the 10 Feb. 1944. If called up for interview all original certificates should be produced.

CHAS. S. MATTHEWS,
A.R.P. Controller.

Jaffna, 23-1-44.

NOTICE

Distribution of Subsidiary Foodstuffs in Jaffna District.

Arrangements have been made to distribute red onions at 4 ozs. per coupon holder not attached to a co-operative store from Monday 24th to 30th inst. (both days inclusive).

2. Consumers are advised to draw their ration of the above commodity along with their ration of other commodities.

(Sgd.) E. B. TISSEVERASINGHE,
for Deputy Food Controller, N.P.
Jaffna, 22-1-1944.

American Catholics and the Tradition of Isolation

(Continued from Page 1.)

sufficiently evident that there is a certain danger, or if the more neutral word be preferred, prospect of this. That being so, it is most important and most fortunate that we are able to set beside the pronouncement of the hierarchy the recent declarations on the principles of world order, signed by 144 Catholics, Protestants and Jews. Among those signatories are 47 Catholics, and as the 47 include 10 Archbishops, we may conclude that we are fully entitled to interpret the one document by reference to the other.

Therefore, as documents of practical politics, a pronouncement in which leading Catholics are able to associate themselves with Protestants and Jews has an obvious importance above that of a solely Catholic document in so far as it is more likely to exercise influence on the political authorities. Now this document is a great deal more outspoken in its support of collective security than was the pronouncement of the hierarchy. The document agrees with the hierarchy that "the moral law must govern world order," and goes on to enumerate in language of a similar type to that of the hierarchy what are the demands of the moral law within the political scheme. But it is much more definite how obedience to those demands is to be obtained. "International institutions to maintain peace with justice must be organized," it says. "An enduring peace requires the organisation of international institutions which will (a) develop a body of international law; (b) guarantee the faithful fulfilment of international obligations and revise them when necessary; (c) assure collective security by drastic limitations and continuing control of armaments, compulsory arbitration and adjudication of controversies, and the use, when necessary, of adequate sanctions to enforce the law." There is good reason to hope that this will be the path upon which American opinion will encourage its Government to tread and upon which that Government will in fact tread.

WAR REVIEW

By Dr. R. V. Burns, on Sun. 23rd

So many events have taken place during the past week that I cannot possibly review them all in the next fifteen minutes. I propose, therefore, to touch on only a few of the principal ones.

Mr. Churchill is back in London again safe and sound after his recent illness—but without his cigar so it is reported. You may remember that he left London about two months ago to attend conferences with Mr. Roosevelt and Chiang-Kai-Shek in Egypt and with Mr. Roosevelt and Marshal Stalin in Persia. The next big moves for winning the war have already been planned; in fact they were all decided upon during the recent conferences between the leaders of the United Nations. Mr. Churchill made a point of meeting the military commanders in the Mediterranean Area during his trip to the east so that he is now very familiar with the conditions on all fronts. Every one is glad to see him back in London again in good health. He received a wonderful ovation in Parliament.

The moves that were planned during Mr. Churchill's recent tour appear to be taking shape already in Russia, Italy, the invasion of the Continent, the Air Offensive, the Burma Campaign and the war in the South West Pacific.

In Russia the Germans are being pushed back all along the 1,000 mile front from the Baltic to the Black Sea. During the week we heard of several important towns being recaptured by the Russians the most important place being Novograd which was used as a sort of base of supplies in connection with the long range shelling of Leningrad. The capture of Novograd was a surprise to the Germans who had converted the place into a fortress. The Russians have made remarkable progress in pushing the Germans back in the Leningrad area. It is reported that 40,000 Germans were killed by the Russians in this area during the past week. Further South in the Pripiet

Marshes Area the Russians have also taken several towns. Fighting continues to be very fierce in the Ukraine Bulge where the Germans are continually counter attacking and throwing in their reserves. The Germans realize all too well that if they do not hold the Russians at this point the German armies in the Black Sea area may be completely cut off and the Russians may then push on to Rumania and take over the oil wells which supply the motive power to keep Hitler's armies in the field.

In Italy the 5th army continues to push on to Rome. The bridge heads across the Garigliano River and Rapido River are being held while the enemy is putting up a terrific stand from his well prepared "Gustave" defense line. Fresh landings have now been made behind the German Lines on the West Coast of Italy by our troops not far from Rome. This was a real surprise for the Germans. The progress in Italy is bound to be slow as the enemy is well dug in in a very strongly fortified line from which it will be difficult to dislodge him.

Preparations are well in hand for the invasion of the continent from the West. The commanders have been appointed. The organization is being perfected and it looks as if it will not be long now the fireworks will start. The Germans are getting ready too as they have evacuated several areas near the North Sea and the English Channel in readiness for the expected attack. Rommel has been inspecting the defense positions all along the coast. When the tide does turn the slaughter of the German armies by our forces and by the people of the occupied countries will be terrific.

The softening up process by Air Fleets still goes on. During the week our planes were over Germany and occupied Europe day and night.

During the past year British bombers dropped 136,000 tons of bombs on Germany whereas the Germans dropped only 2,500 tons on Britain. The United States Air Force dropped 53,000 tons of bombs on Germany and occupied Europe. Allied planes have been very active in Italy; the Airfields, roads and Railways being severely pounded. The production of planes in the United States last year reached a total of 86,000. Probably the production in the British Commonwealth was about as large.

The activities of Burma and South-east Asia generally have brought this area into the spotlight during the past week. The 14th army has now advanced into Burma and fighting is going on near Maungdor and the Mayu Range. General Stilwell's Chinese troops are advancing from China into Burma. Our bombers and fighters have been covering targets all over Burma as well as Bangkok in Siam. If we can supply the Chinese with the tools of war they will do a great deal to finish the war in the Southeast Asia. It seems imperative that we should open up the Burma Road and get supplies through to China as quickly as possible.

In the Southwest Pacific the Japanese are very much occupied these days. The Japanese feel that they have won the war in the East. They are now fortifying the places they have taken. The longer they remain in possession of the territories which they have occupied the more difficult it will be to throw them out. During the past week our bombers have been pounding their ships, barges and bases as well as their ground forces. Several of their planes were shot down, but they still have many left. General Mitchell says that although 350 Jap planes have been shot down recently they have all been replaced.

The tempo of the war seems to be increasing on every front. London was bombed during the week by 30 German raiders and eight of the raiders were shot down. This is probably part of the German reply to the raids on Berlin and other cities in Germany. It has now come to light that Spanish troops have been fighting with the Germans against the Russians. French troops are now fighting with our 5th army in Italy and are doing very well too. The satellite countries of Austria, Hungary, Roumania and Bulgaria are now starting to feel the effects of the war. Sofia has been evacuated. In Yugo Slavia, Albania and Bosnia guerilla warfare has never stopped. The Russo-Polish front

question has flared up again, but it seems that this question can be amicably settled.

It looks now as if the real test of strength is about to begin judging from the reports which come in from all parts of the world. The liberation of Europe from the heel of the Nazi jack boot is on the way.

When the war in Europe is over the war in the East will begin in earnest. It seems now that the problem connected with feeding the hungry and Post-War Reconstruction will keep the world fully occupied for many years to come.

Vatutin Versus Manstein

The great battle for South Poland and East Rumania is steadily moving towards its climax like a masterly constructed drama. While it is true that stage metaphors tend to become heavily overworked in the hands of writers describing the war, in this case the analogy between strategy and drama is very apt. As "the plot" unfolds, the growing majesty of the theme entralls the observer with its heightening tension. The action moves forward, awe-inspiring and inexorable as fate, but with the outcome balanced as on a knife-edge between the huge opposing forces and contending personalities.

BATTLE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

No event in the history of the war (or in the history of any form of human activity, for that matter) has ever been "inevitable." What we are now witnessing in West Ukraine is not simply the clash between two war machines whose weights and movements can be calculated with mathematical precision, but a duel between two minds, each coloured by its own personality and influenced from outside by a complex and fluctuating combination of ideas emotions and material circumstances—the one German, and the other Russian. None of the developments which have taken place during the next week appear to invalidate the framework of the situation as tentatively outlined in previous issues of this comment. The German army within the Dnieper Bend has now lost control virtually of the whole northerly railway system which links Krivoi Rog, Kirovograd, Mykola and Berdichev with Rovno (or Rovno) across the Polish frontier. The Germans are accordingly dependent on the trunk line from Odessa through Zhmerinka & Tarnopol to Lwow for their supplies from Germany, and as the sole remaining railroad for their own withdrawal to defend South Poland.

The Russian advance has now come to within about thirty miles of this vital railway, and Manstein is following the expected course of covering its most exposed sector (between Zhmerinka and Proskurov) by making a heavy concentration in the region of Vinnitsa. It is just possible he is doing so by drawing reserves from across the Polish frontier, but it seems unlikely for they are urgently needed to meet Vatutin's thrust westward. The only other source is the army defending the sagging perimeter within the bend.

IS MANSTEIN WITHDRAWING UNDER COVER?

If Manstein gets the bulk of his divisions with their equipment and stores out of the bend behind the front line screen, carrying out a controlled withdrawal, he will serve a triple purpose. He will extricate his army from growing dangers and safeguard its exit, and at the same time provide himself with a powerful concentration of force where he needs it most; for the region between Zhmerinka and Tarnopol is a critical area for manoeuvre upon which his forces must pivot either in withdrawing to defend South Poland or if forced, must wheel south and cover Roumania.

The theory that Manstein and the German High Command are already carrying out a controlled withdrawal from the Dnieper Bend behind a screen of fighting troops appears to be supported by the sudden surge forward of the Russians on the sixty mile front beyond Kirovograd. Apparently the screen was too thin to withstand the pressure of massive concentration. If one could leave it at that, a fairly clear picture would emerge, of German rearguard

divisions under orders to carry out a sort of Caucasian retreat adhering to a strict time-table of withdrawal, and of General Koniev (commanding the second Ukraine Army) delivering concentrated blows in order to dislodge the enemy from key-points before the allotted time-limit and so turning the retreat into disaster.

OR STAYING PUT?

That would make sense but unfortunately some of the pieces do not quite fit as they should. At Kirovograd the Germans gave every indication of expecting and intending to remain in their place and no less than five divisions in its neighbourhood allowed themselves to be surrounded, and then they lost eight thousand killed in a last stand. It may be answered that the swiftness of the Russian enveloping movement took them by surprise, but to an onlooker the handling of the German forces in and around Kirovograd indicates a "Stalin-grad" rigidity of mind much more than a mobile defence based on the principle of a rearguard screen "in being." It may well be that Kirovograd was such an important railway and supply-centre for the German still further eastwards in the Krivoi Rog sector that the local command was under orders to hold it at all costs. But why hand on to the most easterly (and therefore most dangerous) sector of the entire Dnieper when other sectors of the German screen, two thousand miles further west, are being forced inwards? If there is a time-table for a controlled and graduated withdrawal it must be an extraordinary one.—Air News Letter.



NOTICE

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS

WANTED men for training as CLERKS, STOREKEEPERS and DRIVERS in the R.A.S.C. Good pay and prospects and OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR PROMOTION TO COMMISSIONED RANK IN THE R.A.S.C. Candidates should be between 19 and 40 years of age, physically fit and willing to serve overseas. Those to be trained as Clerks and Storekeepers should be educated up to the 6th Standard in English while those wishing to become Drivers are only required to speak, read and write English.

Proof of age may be required by the Recruiting Officer. Family allowances will be issued only after marriage and birth certificates of children are produced.

Daily rate of pay on enlistment is Rs. 2.00 per day and family allowances. Maternity Benefits will be paid in all cases under usual conditions.

CEYLON ROYAL ARTILLERY FOR SERVICE IN CEYLON

English educated youths are wanted for this Unit. Large numbers of such men are now serving the guns defending our own coasts.

MORE ARE WANTED

We require a satisfactory standard of English which is not high. Daily rate of pay on enlistment is Rs. 1.33 per day with family allowance. Candidates should be between 11 and 35 years of age with a minimum height of 5 feet 3 inches.

Applicants for the above units should apply personally at the Central Recruiting Office, 399, Galle Road, Colpetty, on any week day between 8.30 a.m. and 12 noon, bringing with them their RICE RATION BOOKS.

Chief Recruiting Officer, Ceylon.