

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. 70. No. 14.

JAFFNA, FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1945.

PRICE: 10 CENTS.

FRENCH OPPORTUNITY FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF SMALLER NATIONS

General de Gaulle made, on February 5th, the first speech to come from liberated Europe in which the effective independence of the small nations has been insisted upon as the essential prerequisite of enduring peace. The newspaper headlines focussed attention on what he said about the Rhineland, but he also specifically included "the independence of the Polish, Czechoslovak, Austrian and Balkan nations" among the "conditions which France deems essential." He looked forward to

"A world peace organization in which the United States will be foremost, and which will promise to each State the supreme guarantee of life and development in the society of men."

The French have been antagonized by what they regard as the slighting way they were treated over the Crimea Conference, particularly by the Americans; and General de Gaulle had declined an invitation from President Roosevelt to a meeting in the Mediterranean. Yet the decisions taken offer considerable responsibilities to them. They are invited to take a zone of occupation in Germany, and to participate as a fourth member of the Control Commission, having an equal voice in the determination of the zone they shall occupy. They have been invited to sponsor invitations to the San Francisco Conference jointly with the Big Three, and the vital question of voting in the proposed Security Council is not to be finally settled until they have been consulted. It is expressly hoped that they will associate themselves with the Declaration on Liberated Europe. Clearly it is open to France to play a role of which the importance is increased by her geographical presence on the continent of

Europe. These opportunities will be accepted, and France will become a Big Fourth in European affairs.

If France begins on cold terms with the other three, this may not prove a bad thing, for the main effect will be to make her, at San Francisco, rather the spokesman for the smaller European nations, expressing the misgivings of the Netherlands Government when, at the meeting in the Crimea began, it circulated its observations on the Dumbarton Oaks proposals. The Dutch declared that the 150 millions of the smaller nations of Europe and the 100 millions of the smaller nations of Latin America are entitled to an adequate voice in the councils to be established, and said:—

"If exorbitant special rights were granted to Great Powers, virtually placing them above the law, the Dumbarton Oaks plan would be of little avail, as a return of the world to anarchy would not be prevented."

It may prove that the treatment accorded to the French was a diplomatic *felix culpa*, helping to bring to the decisive meetings a vote in the interests of the smaller nations. We very much agree with what Philippe Barres wrote the other day in *Paris Presse*:—

"It is not only the prestige of our country which is at stake, but the success of the Allied peace policy. The Allies themselves, and especially the British and Americans, are showing a definite tendency towards conducting the affairs of liberated Europe on their own, appealing as little as possible to the initiative of the great continental Powers. They could (Continued on Page 4.)

RUSSIA ADVANCES

Nonetheless, as it seems to us, there should not be, as regards our victorious Ally, an abdication of all normal critical judgment with a consequent complete disinterest in the future of Europe after the defeat of Nazi Germany so largely through the physical strength of the Russians.

The simplest legitimate interest in the future of our own country and of countries closely bound to us by traditional and geographic ties must prompt us to view with some apprehension the rapid rise of an overwhelmingly powerful Empire, able by the sole weight of its force to determine in decisive measure the future course of European history.

Even if Soviet Russia had in fact always acted in conformity with the political standards we cherish, it would still have been right for our people to be worried by the emergence of a Power whose very size and strength must endanger either a balance of power or a system of collective security. After all, though Germany has time and again sought to abuse her strength, the fundamental cause of European distrust of her since 1870 has been the realisation of the lack of balance caused by a State so much stronger on the Continent than any other.

Russia's behaviour cannot in honesty hide the truth that this new Power has already used its strength to exercise

wholly illegitimate pressure on its neighbours.

For Christians there are added and even graver reasons for legitimate apprehension—reasons which throw a much stronger light on the possible consequences to Britain, Europe and the world of the political methods of the great Soviet.

Soviet Russia, we dare not forget, is an empire built on an outlook which totally denies and rejects the spiritual foundations of Christian Europe. Whether it still holds to its doctrinal professions of ideological Marxist materialism or whether it is now content with a materialist opportunism (the creed of any go-getting adventurer) may be in doubt—but the doubt is of secondary importance to anyone who believes in God and the primacy of the spiritual. In either case there is reason to fear the behaviour of a very strong power denying the principles that safeguard society.

Nor can one be reassured by the argument that all the great Powers are much the same in the last resort. They are not. There is all the difference between a country which still professes a spiritual ideal, yet too often practises a materialist one, and a country which openly professes the overthrow of the values towards which civilisation has been striving.—*Cath. Herald, London.*

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONNAIRE ISSUED BY THE CONCILIATION COMMITTEE BY M. RUTHNASWAMY, ESQ., C.I.E.

I
In addition to any general fundamental rights that might be incorporated in the constitution, I as a representative of a religious minority, the Indian Christians, would pray that the following be added.

Every religious community shall have:

1-a. The right to profess, practise and preach their religion in private and in public,—including the right to convert other people to their religion, and comprising protection to be afforded by the State to Churches, Cemeteries and other religious and charitable foundations; the right to build Churches and other religious establishments which shall not be subject to the will and pleasure of Governments, but shall be subject only to the requirements of peace and order.

b. The right to expect and obtain provision for the proper religious education for their children in State schools and to provide it themselves in their own private schools. State grants in aid to such schools shall not be withheld by reason only of such provision for religious education in such schools.

c. The right to representation on all public bodies and public services, Civil, Military, Judicial, Local, Provincial and Central, to a minimum extent proportionate to their population.

d. The right to have their view (to be ascertained from their recognized authorities or representative organizations or by a 2/3 or 3/4 majority of their representatives in legislatures) prevail in all matters of legislation or administration in which their religion or culture or special rights or liberties are liable to be affected.

e. The right to an apportionment to them of an equitable share of public grants for educational, religious or charitable purposes.

f. The right to have their personal law, regulate their marriage, family relationships and other matters of personal life which are influenced by the religious or moral ideas that prevail among them as a religious body.

II
That with a view to these rights and liberties being realised be it also enacted that:

a. The head of the State in Provinces, Indian States or in India be charged with the "special responsibility" of seeing that these rights and liberties are enjoyed and not interfered with.

b. That these rights and liberties, their exercise or denial, shall be within the province and jurisdiction of the courts of law from the District and High Courts to the Federal Court.

III
(a) I think that the Constitution should provide for the proper and adequate representation of the different communities of India—for the division into communities is the social division of India and should be frankly recognized as a reality and as a foundation on which the constitutional structure of India should be built—in the different branches of Government.

i. In the Legislature: by means of special electorates, for the minority communities in addition to the general electorates for all. That is to say members of the minority communities would have two votes each, one in the general electorate and one in their own special

electorate. This would combine the advantages of common electorate with the security and weightage that minorities, because they are minorities, require. In the case of large minorities concentrated in particular places like the Muslims in the Punjab and Bengal the constituencies may be local. But in the case of smaller minorities like the Indian Christians local constituencies would make the electorates unreal and inorganic. The electorates ought to have had common organic life and activity before they are called upon to elect their representatives. It would be best therefore to get representatives of the smaller minorities elected by organized associations which are representative of the communities concerned. Similarly Labour and Landed interests should be represented by men elected by Labour and Landlord organizations. Only active living bodies dealing with public affairs can really elect representatives, not inchoate collections of people having no common life or activities to bring them together.

ii. In Executive Governments: To expel the fears of domination and tyranny that the Congress trial of one party—Cabinets had given rise to—and which is the *fons et origo* of the cry of Pakistan—Provincial and Central Cabinets should be so composed that the communities would be well and justly balanced. At the Centre and in Provinces where the Muslims form a considerable minority these Cabinets should be composed in the following proportion—Hindus 33 1/3%, Muslims 33 1/3% and other minorities 33 1/3% with a bigger proportion for the scheduled classes than of other minorities and with necessary local modifications—thus there would be no representation of Sikhs elsewhere than at the Centre and in the Punjab, and no Christian representation in the N.-W. Frontier, Orissa, while there would be at least one representative of the scheduled classes at the Centre and in every province.

(To be Continued)

Science its Own Reward

A gust of wind, says the "Daily Sketch", was probably responsible for the discovery of Penicillin, greatest life-saving discovery drug for a century.

Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of Penicillin, was opening the lid of a culture dish when he noticed the growth of a mould which slowly cleared a wide area of the bacteria that was being cultivated on the dish. The unknown quantity that caused the change was believed to have blown through the window. The scientist stuck an aluminium wire into a tube of mould-growing liquid and found that even when diluted 800 times it was capable of clearing the bacteria. Experiments soon proved that it had a remarkable effect in riding septic wounds of the deadly pus-producing staphylococci.

This Ayrshire born farmer's son, who went to school in Kilmarnock and studied medicine at St. Mary's Hospital, London, recently admitted that he had not received a penny for his work. But he will go down in history as one of the greatest benefactors of his race. As a result of his discovery thousands of soldiers who would have died from their wounds have been saved.

Church Calendar

APRIL 1945

FRI.20 S. Agnes.
SAT.21 S. Anselm.
SUN.22 S. E. S. Caius.
MON.23 S. George.
TUES.24 S. Fidelis.
WED.25 S. Mark.
THURS.26 S. Cletus.
FRI.27 S. Peter Canis.

The Catholic Guardian

APRIL 20TH 1945

CHRISTIANS AND THE SAPRU CONCILIATION COMMITTEE

Space did not permit us last week to refer to the Sapru Conciliation Committee's report which deserves to be given wide publicity. After eliciting opinion from the leaders of the different communities with the view of finding out a *via media* that would satisfy all those concerned, the Committee made its report. Elsewhere in this issue will be found the answers to the questionnaire given on behalf of Indian Christians by Mr. M. Ruthnaswamy, President of all-India Catholic Association and Vice-Chancellor of the Annamalai University. Mr. Ruthnaswamy has written much on constitutional questions and only last week it was learnt that he had been appointed by the Mysore Government to be their Constitutional Adviser while continuing to hold his present position as Vice-Chancellor. It will be interesting to compare the claims he puts forward for the Christian minority in India with the memoranda submitted to the Soulbury Commission on behalf of Christians in Ceylon. Mr. Ruthnaswamy openly states that division into communities being the social division of India, it should be frankly recognised as a reality and as a foundation on which the constitutional structure of India should be built. Needless to say that this is true not only of India but also of Ceylon. When the Indian National Congress was in power and its leaders were planning to draft a Constitution for India they expressed themselves as quite willing to embody in its provisions all safeguards considered necessary to protect Christian interests. Now that the Conciliation Committee has gone to extreme lengths to placate the Muslims there should be no difficulty to yield to the just demands of the Christians whether in India or in Ceylon.

Mr. Ruthnaswamy in his answers does not confine his attention wholly to religious minorities. His views on the Executive should receive special attention in this country as the composition of the Cabinet is one of the subjects of dispute here. He is against the British model and is wholly in favour of a Composite Cabinet. He writes: "To expel the fears of domination and tyranny that the Congress trial of one-party-Cabinet had given rise to, which is the *fons et origo* of the cry of Pakistan, Provincial and Central Cabinets should be so composed that all the communities would be well and justly balanced." Accordingly he recom-

mends the following proportion where the Muslims form a considerable minority. Hindus 33 1/3%, Muslims 33 1/3% and other minorities 33 1/3% with modifications where modifications become obviously necessary.

Now we pass on to the question of representation in which the Sapru Conciliation Committee must have given a tremendous shock to old-fashioned thinkers whose idea of democracy lay in the counting of heads. When the 50 : 50 ratio of representation was advocated for this country with the sole idea of bringing into existence a machinery of Government which will command the confidence of all and will give to every community its legitimate share in the Government, that proposal was denounced as something frightfully unfair and unreasonable. But the Conciliation Committee goes much farther in order to promote national unity and offers to the Muslims who are only 80 millions the same number of seats as to the Hindus who are 190 millions. Thus in the Central Legislative Assembly having a total of 160 seats Hindus are to have 51 seats, Muslims 51 seats and the other minorities and interests, 58 seats. It is to be hoped that these recommendations will be accepted and the deadlock ended. Thus what has remained unsolvable will at last find a solution by this eminently generous and statesmanlike compromise which cannot fail to arrest the attention of the Soulbury Commission which is now engaged in drafting our Constitution wherein also the thorniest part is the question of representation both in the legislature and in the Executive.

EDITORIAL NOTE

What Has Happened ?—

Reuter cables to say that Mr. Churchill has thought it necessary to postpone the statement he intended to make on Russo-Polish relations and the war situation owing to serious changes in the world position since the meeting of the Big Three at Yalta. What has happened? Of the war situation we are being kept daily informed. If anything serious has taken place it must be in regard to the Russo-Polish relations. It was reported that some Polish leaders were invited to Moscow guaranteeing their safety and safe return. They are said now to be missing. Who kidnapped them and what can be the objective? In the meantime Stalin is trying hard to have his Lublin Government represented at San Francisco Conference. This Lublin Government has already found supporters in this country. Such is the efficiency of Communist propaganda. But no amount of propaganda will justify the decisions arrived at Yalta in regard to Poland. How the late Mr. Roosevelt came to affix his signature to that document must remain one of the inner secrets of this war. After Yalta the late President was a sick man due, no doubt, to physical fatigue no less than to mental trouble. One of the reasons given for the parti-

tioning of Poland is the splendid military assistance given to the cause of the United Nations by Stalin. But the following paragraphs from the London *Tablet* show how far he is indebted to the industrial power of America and Britain for his victories in Eastern Europe. The Nazis would certainly have crushed the Soviets had not America and England sent in time enormous quantities of war materials of all kinds. So that the Soviets have more reason to be thankful to the two allied nations than these to the Soviets:

The past few weeks have seen two particularly impressive demonstrations of the power of the United States. One is in the scale of operations against Japan, with the great campaign in the Philippines and the mass bombing of Tokio being carried on with the utmost vigour while the war in Europe is still at its height. The second is the account given by Mr. Leo T. Crowley, Foreign Economic Administrator at Washington, of the extent to which the Soviet onslaught in eastern Europe is made possible by American supplies. The key to the Red Army's mobility is the fact that up to January 1st, 1945, the United States had sent more than 345,000 motor vehicles to the Soviet Union, with 3,205,000 sets of tyres and tubes, millions of accessories and spare parts, and more than 30,000 motor-cycles. The Russian railway system likewise has been given indispensable assistance: hundreds of thousands of tons of rails, wheels and axles, more than 1,000 locomotives, thousands of wagons. If the Red Army moves largely on American wheels, so also it marches in American boots and eats vast quantities of American rations. Eleven million pairs of Army boots have been sent to it from the United States, and more than 200 million yards of cloth. A Briton recently returned from Poland by way of Moscow said at a Press Conference the other day that the Red Army, with which he had had the closest, if limited, contacts depends on American supplies for 90 per cent of its rations; but that figure may be excessive. The figures of American guns, aeroplanes and arms of all kinds in Russia are proportionately great and better known.

To all these have to be added what is sent from this country. We read in a recent article in the "Yorkshire Post":

" "Pravda," in acknowledging the material help of the Western Allies last June, gave certain interesting details.... On balance, British Lease-Lend supplies of ready-made weapons were of the same order of magnitude as those furnished by America..... Great Britain led in the delivery of power plant equipment and electric motors, while Americans were first with metal-cutting lathes and heavy machinery. In the matter of food-stuffs and clothing the United States, with comfortable surpluses, made the bulk of the contribution, though even here British and Canadian deliveries of food items totalled respectively 138,000 and 209,000 tons. America's aid was made on the basis of the Lease-Lend Act. Of British supplies, armaments of 319,000 tons were dispatched as military aid without payment and they proved Russia's life-savers, in that they were ready-made arms."

Within a fortnight of the invasion of Russia we began, and when Zhukov, who is now attacking Berlin, was the defender of Moscow in the Red Army's darkest hour, made all the difference between life and death. Britain and Canada nourished the Red Army through those precarious days when American war industry was not yet fully mobilized and Russian war industry was not yet in top gear in its new sites behind Urals. As the Red Armies recovered, recoiled and drove the invader back, the United States helped to reconstruct industry in the scorched areas of the Donetz basin which had been the battle-fields. Sixty "power-trains," complete power-generating units mounted on railway bogies that can be moved from factory to factory as occasion demands, went from America to turn the wheels in factories which had depended on the Dnieper dam that had been blown up in

August 1941. This is not the place to give the details of the vast American assistance. No one will wish to belittle the scale of Russia's own production, but the fact remains that it is the industrial power of Britain and America which has made it possible for the Red Army to reach the Oder, and for the NKVD to reach Warsaw.

Fr. LeGoc and the Literature Movement

(By I. V. FERDINANDUSZ)

It is just over a month that Father LeGoc was laid to his rest. It is yet hard to believe that this dynamic personality, this man of many parts and varied talents with a genial and radiant smile ever on his face and cheerful greeting for all around him is no more with us.

It is accepted that the country has lost an outstanding educationist, a practical agriculturist and a trained botanist; the University of Ceylon and the Education Department a trusted counsellor and examiner, the Natural History Society a devoted student of Nature, the Orchid Circle a valuable judge and adviser, the Astronomical Society an authority on heavenly bodies & the general public a skilled dialectician, a suave writer and a controversialist of no small ability.

But the loss to the Catholic Church in this country and to the Archdiocese in particular is irreparable. His Grace the Archbishop has been robbed of a mature Counsellor and an illustrious ambassador or companion on many a public occasion, the Catholic Union of Ceylon and the Diocesan Union of Colombo a stalwart Champion of the Church whose advice was sought on various subjects, and the Catholic Literature Movement a pioneer worker and a Literature propagandist of great enthusiasm.

IN THE CATHOLIC UNION

Fr. LeGoc was first elected to the Central Council of the Catholic Union in October, 1916, and continued to serve it till his death. In the Diocesan Union of Colombo he was a nominee of His Grace for a number of years, the Director General of Catholic Associations and the Chairman of the Literature Committee for about quarter of a century. He saw the beginnings of the Literature Movement in 1919, led it through difficult and strenuous times, and when the work was decentralised and handed over to the different Dioceses in 1941, obtained the present premises for the Catholic Book Depot at Pettah, and continued to evince a keen interest in the dissemination of Catholic Literature, and in all the work undertaken by the Committee right up to the end. One still remembers the prominent part played by Fr. LeGoc in the Conferences and Rallies organised by the Literature Movement, the papers read, the sermons preached, the lectures delivered.

LECTURER AND WRITER

Father LeGoc has lectured in different parts of the country on diverse subject viz. 'Rome', 'Lourdes', 'Pasteur' (often illustrated by lantern slides), 'The Primacy of Rome', 'The Orthodox Church', 'The Lay Apostolate', 'The Dignity of Labour', on Educational Problems, on different aspects of Church History, apart from several lectures on Science, Astronomy, Natural History, etc.

As regard 'Lourdes' Fr. LeGoc was an early propagandist of Our Lady's apparition at Massabielle—he sang for us the song of Bernadette long before the immortal work of Franz Werfel was on the screen.

Ceylon audiences learned a good deal about the Solar System and the Sun Dial, Microbes and Pasteur, Guinea Grasses and Orchids from this erudite priest and scholar. He had a facile pen which he wielded with masterly ease. Among his Catholic publications are *Chrysanthus and Daria*, *Facts of Lourdes*, *Unity of the Church*, *General Councils*, a *Series of Apologetics and Sketches in Church History*. His books on Botany and Astronomy find a place even beyond Catholic Schools.

Over the Radio too his voice was familiar, those 'Epilogues' and 'Talks'

were intensely popular. On last Press Sunday, which was hardly two weeks prior to his death, he not only sent several of his books for sale in the Parishes, and leaflets on the 'Cures of Lourdes' and 'Bernadette' for free distribution, but at the end of the day delivered a broadcast talk on 'Good Reading.' Those who heard Fr. LeGoc that night could never guess that it was to be the last occasion on which that familiar persuasive voice was heard on the Radio.

It is sad to recollect that his death occurred while the Literature Committee of which he was Chairman, was holding its Annual Retreat, at St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah. He wrote to the Committee as follows on the eve of his death: "I shall make it a point to be present and to preside at the closing ceremony at 4.45 p.m. (Saturday) His Grace the Archbishop regrets not to be able to be present as he has left for Nuwara Eliya....." Less than twenty-four hours before the appointed time, the sad news flashed all over the Island. The Revd. Preacher of the Retreat, who was to conduct the 'Holy Hour' that evening dwelt feelingly on a different subject which cast a gloom over all those present, there was an indescribable anguish in every heart, the Church bells tolled, for our dear Father LeGoc, the Vicar-General was dead! Everybody spoke not as if a great Church dignity was dead, but as if some indispensable person in his or her family circle was rudely snatched out of this mortal world.

CONTROVERSIALIST

As a controversialist, Fr. LeGoc will be remembered even by non-Catholics who did not agree with him, but who could not help admiring him. In 1921 that eminent scholar and anthropologist, Dr. Dvans Wentz was on a visit to Ceylon studying folk-lore. In his letters to and interviews by the Press he dwelt on the ancient belief of the Druids and maintained how a belief in rebirth still survived in Brittany. The learned Doctor was not aware that there was in this country an eminent Breton who had also studied Celtic folk-lore. One day the 'Ceylon Independent' flashed the news "The chief Roman Catholic Scholar in Ceylon enters the Controversy"! By his letters to the Press and from the public platform, Fr. LeGoc refuted Dr. Evans Wentz and his arguments from Christianity and Science to prove the Doctrine of Rebirth. Other distinguished Divines like Fr. Verstraten, S.J., Revs. Highfield and Noble of the Wesleyan Mission soon joined in the discussion.

(To be Continued)

LOCAL & GENERAL

S. V. P. Society, Jaffna.—The quarterly meeting for the year 1945 of the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul Society, Jaffna was held on Sunday 15th inst. at St. Charles' School Hall at 5.30 p.m. with Revd. Fr. Louis Joseph, O.M.I., in the chair. After the usual prayers and spiritual reading every conference, (St. Joseph's, St. James' St. Nicholas' and St. Patrick's) presented a report of their activities and a statement of their accounts. Then the Secretary of the Particular Council, Mr. P. Saverimuttu delivered an instructive lecture on the 'Greatness of Poverty.' He illustrated with ample quotations from the New Testament how the life of Jesus is closely associated with the lives of the poor. Mr. Francis of Mary proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer and Mr. M. Saverimuttu seconded it.

The meeting terminated with the usual prayers.

Governor's Visit.—A public meeting was held last Monday at the Town Hall, Jaffna to consider arrangements in connexion with the first official visit of His Excellency the Governor to Jaffna on May 30th.

His Excellency would be staying in Jaffna for three days.

A representative Reception Committee with Messrs. T. Arumayayagam & S. P. Nadarajah, as Secretaries, were elected to make the necessary arrangements.

Mr. C. Coomaraswamy and Mudaliyar S. K. Appadurai were elected President and Treasurer, respectively.

Mr. Huxham to Retire.—It is understood says the "Times" that Mr. H. J. Huxham, Financial Secretary, will shortly retire from Government Service. He is at present on medical leave.

New Financial Secretary.—The Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, K.B.E., C.M.G., Auditor-General, at present functioning as Civil Defence and Food Commissioner, to succeed Mr. Huxham.

Owing to the change in the war situation it is not considered necessary to retain the post of Civil Defence Commissioner any longer and inter-departmental arrangements are being made with effect from May 1st for carrying out the duties formerly performed by the C.D.C.

Lunch for 15 cts.—Arrangements are to be made to provide employees in Government workshops in Colombo and Ratmalana their mid-day meal at a cost of not more than 15 cts. apiece.

Chief Headmen.—Chief Headmen below the retiring age who are being retired on the abolition of office have applied to Government for their retention in Government service.

The Board of Ministers, it is learned, considered this question at length at one of their recent meetings. They have no objection to the employment of these officers as land and colonisation officers, but they are opposed to their being employed in or attached to Kachcheries.

Recent Strikes.—The Board of Ministers, after a consideration of the reports of the respective government departments on the recent strikes by their employees, has appointed a committee to investigate fully the causes that led to the strikes and to make recommendations.

The committee consists of the acting Legal Secretary, as chairman, and the Deputy Chief Secretary and the Deputy Financial Secretary.

Higher Post for Ceylon Lawyer.—The Secretary of State is understood to have offered Mr. J. Homer Vanniasingham, Advocate, Assistant Legal Draughtsman, the post of Legal Adviser to the Governor of the Seychelles.

We learn with pleasure that he has accepted the offer. His contract will be for three years. The date of departure has not yet been finally decided upon.

Hospitable Ceylon.—Lord Soulbury, interviewed by "The Evening Standard", says he, Sir Frederick Rees and Mr. F. J. Burrows had to eat their way through Ceylon!

"We took evidence all day and went through the equivalent of the London Season at night. The courses were endless, the dishes strange and succulent. As we dined the people staged their wonderful posture dancing for our entertainment.

"Nowhere have I seen more hospitable people. This was their way of showing their loyalty."

Personal.—Dr. N. M. Vanniasinghe, has also been conferred the Degree of Doctor of Laws by the International University (U.S.A.) on a Thesis on Law. He has also been admitted to the Inns of Court, London, prior to being called to the English Bar, as Barrister.

New Dutch Cabinet.—Four Catholics are included in the newly-reconstructed Dutch Cabinet. The inclusion of the four Catholics broadens the basis of the Cabinet by giving representation to the liberated areas of Holland, which are overwhelmingly Catholics.

Catholic Mayor of Bombay.—Dr. Alban D'Souza has been unanimously elected Mayor of Bombay.

Cardinal Hlond Freed.—Cardinal August Hlond, Primate of Poland, and a prisoner of Germans for the past 21 months arrived at an aerodrome near Paris on April 8th, having been freed by American advance into Westphalia.

The Cardinal, who is in excellent health, spent the past seven months in a convent of Sisters of Charity in the town of Widenbruck.

Missionaries in Mandalay Rescued.—Twenty-five missionaries, priests and 60 nuns, have been rescued in Mandalay and evacuated. The majority of the priests were Irish, with a few New Zealanders, Australians and Frenchmen among them. The nuns included Irish, British and Australian nationals.

Nuns in charge of an orphanage in Mandalay, which was damaged in the fighting, have been evacuated with the children to a Buddhist monastery in a village near the city. The nuns were led from the orphanage to the Allied lines by the Catholic chaplain to the 19th Division, who braved snipers' fire to reach them.

New Official English Version of N. T.—The "Universe" March 2nd brings the glad news that Mgr. Knox's new translation of the New Testament has received official approval by the Hierarchy of England and Wales. An official edition is in course of preparation and will be published by Messrs. Burns, Oates and Washbourne with a preface by the Archbishop of Westminster.

Explaining in the "Universe" how he went about the work Mgr. Knox said: "I translate on to a typewriter, trying to forget that anybody has ever translated the Bible into English before. It would give only an ugly, piebald effect if one tried to make a hash of the versions other people have done. My aim is to produce a translation in English (not colloquial but literary English) which is current to-day, and at the same time to avoid words and turns of phrase which were not equally current in the 17th century. The idea is that you want a kind of timeless English."

Chief Rabbi Baptised.—Vatican Radio announces that Prof. Israel Zolli, former Chief Rabbi in Rome, and his wife were baptised on February in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels.

Prof. Zolli took the names of Eugenio Maria.

Monte Cassino Abbey Rebuilding Move.—A plan for rebuilding the celebrated Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino is to be drawn by a small committee of experts, says the Rome correspondent of "The Times", London.

The Abbot, Bishop Gregorio Diarmare, O.S.B., received this information on February from the Public Works Minister, Signor Ruini, who added that orders have already been given that an immediate start be made on the reconstruction of one of the abbey buildings. This would enable the first group of monks to return.

200 Empire Doctors See the Pope.—The Holy Father on February received in private audience nearly 200 leading British and Dominion master surgeons in the Forces who were attending a special conference in Rome.

They included well-known names in British, Canadian, Australian, South African, New Zealand and Indian medical circles. American, Polish and French doctors were also present.

"You will bring to the sick-room and the operating table something of the charity of God, of the love and tenderness of Christ, the Master Physician of the soul and body," His Holiness told them.

Case Against "La Croix" is Dropped.—The legal proceedings which had been started against "La Croix", of Paris, biggest objectively Catholic daily newspaper in the world, have been stopped, says Reuter. Charges against M. Alfred Michelin, its editor, have also been dropped.

As every French newspaper that continued to appear during the German occupation, it was closed down recently for six months to be tried during that time for collaborating with the enemy. Once cleared of those charges the paper would automatically have the right to resume publication, a right which "La Croix" will no doubt use, if it can secure the necessary paper ration.

Driven out of Paris by Nazi interference early in the occupation the paper was printed for four years at Limoges, until, conditions becoming too irksome, it stopped all together early in 1944, re-appearing again for a short time at the liberation.

During that time, as the "Universe" Paris correspondent showed a few weeks ago, its staff did all they could to give as much of the truth as possible to the French people, while at the same time helping the underground resistance movement.

Air Field in Vatican State?—According to the special Rome correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" the Pope has asked engineers to report to him on the feasibility of constructing a

small airfield within the Vatican State. He wishes to make it possible for Prelates to visit him without passing through Italian territory.

Vatican and War Criminals.—In the House of Commons on March 14th, Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, answering a question about the Vatican and war criminals said the Vatican was included in the approach to neutral States in 1943, to which he referred on Dec. 6th, when he said that the replies received were broadly speaking not unsatisfactory. A further reply to an inquiry last September, in connexion with certain Press reports, showed that there was no foundation for a rumour that asylum had been offered in the Vatican to leading war criminals.

Penicillin for Missions.—Within a month, penicillin, the remarkable drug which effectively combats deadly infections, will be available for distribution to hospitals and dispensaries in foreign mission fields, according to information received on March 2nd by the Revd. Fr. E. F. Garesche, S.J., president of the Catholic Medical Mission Board in New York City.

Franciscan Claim Upheld.—The Franciscan Guardians of the Holy Places in Jerusalem have had their right of veneration of the Thirteenth Station of the Cross restored to them by a decree of the Palestine Government, after the Orthodox clergy had tried to stop this ancient custom. The Catholic claim is that priests celebrating Mass on Calvary at the Altar of Our Lady of Sorrows—the Thirteenth Station—may pass and genuflect before the Place of the Crucifixion. Pending a decision, the right was temporarily suspended while an exhaustive search of old records was made.

A Tragic Royal Family.—At the end of the nineteenth century King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, although a Catholic, had both his sons baptised in the Greek Orthodox Church to secure the support of the Russian Tsar—for which he was excommunicated by Pope Leo XIII. But how little did Ferdinand or his sons profit even in temporal affairs from this apostasy. King Ferdinand lost his throne after the last war; King Boris was murdered during this war; and only lately Prince Cyril has been executed as a "War Criminal" by the present rulers in Bulgaria!

DOUBLE

THE SUM

ASSURED

AND

DISABILITY

BENEFIT

are special privileges of

"TRUST"

Assurance Policies.

The privilege of admitting a liability of double the sum assured on a death claim for the first time in the history of Ceylon is shared by us.

INSURE YOUR LIFE WITH

"TRUST"

FOR ADVANTAGEOUS POLICY CONDITIONS SECURITY AND PROMPT ATTENTION.

A VARIETY OF POLICIES OFFERED TO SUIT EVERYBODY'S POCKET.

THE

Trust Co., Ltd.

P. O. Box 208, Tel: No. 2587, 83, Chatham St., Colombo.

Particulars from:

L. S. RAJANAYAGAM, AGENT.

13, Saverimuttu Mudlr. Road, JAFFNA.

French Opportunity for the Leadership of Smaller Nations

(Continued from Page 1)

not do without Russia, for obvious reasons, but they relegated France to the background. Unfortunately for the Allies and for Europe, the British and Americans, whatever their merits, have neither the material means, the competence, nor the authority necessary to bring about Europe's successful re-birth."

Only to consort with America and Russia has been a mistake for Britain, revealing the limitations of the opportunist, the hand-to-mouth expedient of the mentality directing a foreign policy too little considered in its larger implications. Sir Eyre Crowe, in that 1907 memorandum which has its lasting place among the statements of British policy, wrote:—

"England, more than any other non-insular Power, has a direct and positive interest in the maintenance of the independence of nations, and therefore must be the natural enemy of any country threatening the independence of others, and the natural protector of the weaker communities."

For over four years we have had the Governments of seven of the European countries as our guests and allies in London—Poles and Greeks, Czechoslovaks and Yugoslavs, Norwegians, Dutch and Belgians—in addition to what we always and rightly believed was the nucleus of the next Government of France. No other Power has had such an opportunity for leadership; but when history asks what Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden made of it, the answer will be that they made nothing of it at all.

The French lack military power at the moment, but they have offered to them a great chance of leading the nations of the mainland towards that European unity which each new development of the war, the German problem and the Soviet policy in Europe, all alike have made so imperative. General de Gaulle was not invited to Yalta, and so is now the chief among the great company of the excluded. The less wise Frenchmen are those who want France to be what Italy was at Versailles, the fourth of a Big Four, always at a disadvantage. The wiser see that France can make of her very weakness in material force today a source of strength, if she speaks for all peoples who, whether their material weakness is transitory or permanent, have all the same right to independence and the same interest in creating an international body which will safeguard the independence.

CRISIS OF EXTRAORDINARY GRAVITY

The nature of the crisis is obscured because official spokesmen has to obscure it in maintaining the coalition against Germany. But it is crisis of extraordinary gravity. It is the attempted liquidation of the basic political idea on which modern Europe has been built, the idea of political sovereignty and obligation. Catholics everywhere in Europe know very well that it was an aberration ever to have elevated national sovereignty to the heights to which it was elevated, so that the sense of a common community and a common law was increasingly lost. But this was an exaggeration of something genuine and valuable—the idea of the continuity and inviolability of States, of the reality of national life and national claims. The arbitrary violence of Napoleon, when he extinguished Venice, for example, was rightly felt by his contemporaries to cut at the foundations of Europe, and the settlement which followed his fall was careful to recover continuity with the past. But today in every country we find men prepared to apply a new test, and not to consider that a foreign people can be entitled to any life or institutions of their own. With one voice the rights of man are proclaimed, and then in the next breath they are taken away from all political opponents as "fascists."

At the moment the same words—"democracy," "freedom-loving"—are used to mask the conflict of opposites and to give a spurious impression of a common

outlook between the heirs of the Liberal tradition of the West and those whose whole purpose is to destroy that tradition. Men say with truth that France since the Revolution has been the home of a capitalism much less moderated and counterbalanced by effective social legislation than the capitalism of Britain or most Western countries. This was the defence for M. Blum's Front Populaire programme nine years ago, as it is the defence for the strong language which certain French Catholics, including Cardinal Suhard, are using now. But it must also be recognized that this capitalism expressed and answered to a very strong part of the French character, without which the French would never have made of themselves and their country the leading centre of civilization which they have become.

Less than any people will the French reconcile themselves to pretending that one-Party rule is freedom, or to surrendering the genuine freedom to form parties and write and sell newspapers, the freedom of opinion which they have known to the full. And if the principle of variety is fought for and established, as the essence of democracy, there is no doubt that everywhere in Europe, from Finland to Portugal and from Norway to Greece, that variety will be overwhelmingly a manifestation of variety in unity, of political parties differing over, for instance, nationalization or the greater or lesser measure of State control in education, but all at one in their opposition to the despotic "swindle-democracy" which seeks to crop upon them. The English, not being immediately threatened themselves, are supine and unintelligent on this great threat to the continent; but the French know all about it, and, not for the first time in history, a great battle will be fought and, we believe, won, in France for all Europe.—*The Tablet*.

St. Mary's College Old Boys' Association, Nawalapitiya

The Annual Re-union of the old boys of St. Mary's College, Nawalapitiya held on 2nd April, 1945 was well represented by old boys from various parts of the Island. The Holy Mass and Corporate Communion held at St. Mary's Church at 7 a.m. for old boys was followed by a Cricket Match played between the old and the present boys. The old boys team was captained by Mr. M. A. Salaam while the present boys were led by Mr. C. Kanagaratnam. The match ended at 1 p.m. with victory for the present boys after a single innings was played by either sides.

The old boys Lunch commenced at 1 p.m. with Revd. Fr. D. P. Poulucci, O.S.B., the Manager of the College as the chief guest. At the conclusion of the lunch the Revd. Manager and Mr. U. I. Perera, Principal of the College and President of the O.B.A. proposed and seconded respectively the toast of the old boys, and Mr. V. Gomez and Mr. M. B. Deen proposed and seconded the toast of the School. Mr. Deen one of the oldest boys present at the lunch recalled many remarkable and humorous incidents connected with his career at St. Mary's College and said that he would always remember St. Mary's as "The Best School of All."

After tea at 4.30 p.m. the Annual General Meeting commenced. The chief item in the agenda was to read and approve the draft constitution submitted by the Committee, and the house approved the draft constitution after a few amendments were moved.

A successful Re-union aided by the prevalent bright weather at Nawalapitiya ended with an impromptu concert by the old boys.

At the inaugural meeting of the Association held on 27th Dec. 1944 the following were elected office-bearers for the year 1945.

Patron:—Revd. Fr. D. P. Poulucci, O.S.B. (ex-officio), President:—Mr. U. I. Perera, Principal, College, Vice-Presidents:—Messrs. W.H.F. Attapattu, M. B. Deen, V. Gomez, T.A. Shahabdeen and R.S. Perera, Hony. Secretary and Treasurer:—Mr. A.M.M. Shouketh, Auditor:—Mr. G. Atton. A Committee of 15 members was also elected.

Telegraphic Summary of News

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S SUDDEN DEATH

President Roosevelt died suddenly of cerebral haemorrhage on Thursday the 12th inst. at Warm Springs, Georgia. Senator Harry Truman, Vice-President, has taken office as President.

Dr. Bruen announced that "massive cerebral haemorrhage" caused the death. He said he saw the President this morning when he was in excellent spirits. He was sitting in a chair while sketches were being made of him by an artist. He complained of a very severe pain in the back of the head. Within a few minutes he lost consciousness.

ROOSEVELT LAID TO REST

Mr. Roosevelt was laid to rest on the morning, April 15th in the garden between his family home and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, in the presence of his family, a large delegation of officials and massed ranks of servicemen.

A mound of flowers from thousands of public and private persons, including General Eisenhower, was banked near the grave, to which the casket was carried from a private train, which brought the late President from Washington. Three small boxes of earth from Haiti, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, flown here, were placed in the grave by the Consuls-General of those nations. The Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, came from Ottawa by train to attend.

Before the casket was lowered into the grave, a twenty-one shot salute was fired by three 75-millimetre guns placed in front of the library, which becomes a national shrine as Roosevelt's gift to the nation.

STALIN ANNOUNCES FALL OF VIENNA

Vienna has been captured, announces and Order of the Day (April 14) by Marshal Stalin. The Austrian capital, which is a strategic strong point covering approaches to Southern Germany, fell after stubborn fighting.

On Permit? Out of Stock? Profiteering?

Visit us to-day
They're Gone!

SAVE WHILE YOU BUY

AT

PREMIER STORES,

MAIN STREET, JAFFNA.

FOR SALE

Land situated at New Road leading from Maravakula Road over 30 lms. in extent, half of it planted with bearing coconut trees, one fourth of it with high class mango trees and one fourth paddy field.

For further particulars apply to:
M. A. RASIAH,
Martyn Road, Jaffna.

ANNOUNCEMENT

USE YOUR COUPONS FOR NEEDED TEXTILES?

JUST UNPACKED

at

DAYARAM'S

- * Cotton Suitings
- * Cotton Shirts checked & striped
- * Cotton Sarees No. 100x100 for Home & evening wear
- * Vesties and shawls with lovely borders
- * Sarongs etc., etc.

Be quick as the stocks are limited.

54, Main Street, JAFFNA.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

In the matter of the estate of the late Daisy Eleanor Kanagamma Retnanandam of Chundicully, Jaffna.

Deceased.

Testamentary Jurisdiction } No. 396

Joy Kathiravelu Retnanandam of do Petitioner

Vs.

1. Anandaram Retnanandam of do
2. Gnanasothy Kanagamma Retnanandam of do and
3. Peter Mortimer of do

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before H. A. de Silva Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 4th day of April 1945 in the presence of Mr. J. A. J. Tisserasinghe, Proctor for Petitioner and the affidavit of Petitioner having been read:

It is ordered that the 3rd Respondent abovenamed be appointed Guardian-ad-litem of the 1st and 2nd Respondents abovenamed and that letters of Administration to the estate of the deceased abovenamed be granted to the Petitioner abovenamed as widower of the said deceased unless the Respondents abovenamed show sufficient cause or objection to the contrary on or before the 15th day of May 1945.

This 4th day of April 1945.

Sgd. E. WIJEYAWARDENE,
Addl. District Judge.

Absolute or Discharging Order Nisi Declaring Will Proved etc.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

In the matter of the estate of the late Puvilipillai widow of Vaithampillai Manuelpillai of Karayur deceased of Karayur.

Testamentary Jurisdiction } No. 369

This matter coming on for final disposal before H. A. de Silva Esq., District Judge, Jaffna on the 6th day of March 1945 in the presence of Mr. V. A. Moses, Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner and of witnesses to the Last Will having been read:

It is ordered that the order of this Court made on the 6th day of March 1945 be made absolute and that Probate of the Will of the abovenamed deceased be issued to Pavulu Chellappah of Anaikoddai, Manipay and Mariampillai Emmanuel of Karayur.

(Sgd.) H. A. DE SILVA,
District Judge.

Vitto is not an Experiment.

It is a healthy Beverage Prepared with
Scientific Advice with
Wholesome & Pleasant Ingredients.

When you Speak of Soft Drinks Say VITTO
And Nothing More

THE VITTO PRODUCTS Co

Telegrams: "VITPRO" Dehiwala

RETAIL DEALER:—L. S. RAJANAYAGAM,

No. 13, SAVERIMUTTU MUPALIYAR ROAD, JAFFNA.