

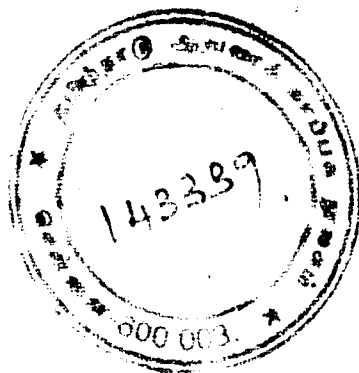
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INDIAN REVIEW
NO. 6

Vol. XXXV

JUNE - 1934





3-4 109

THE INDIAN REVIEW

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EDITED BY MR. G. A. NATESAN

XXXV.

JUNE: CONTENTS.

No. 6. 1934.

The Capitation Tribunal

BY DEWAN BAHADUR A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR, M.L.A.

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BY MR. T. R. VENKATARAMA SASTRI, C.I.E.

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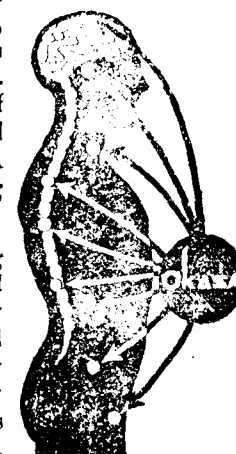


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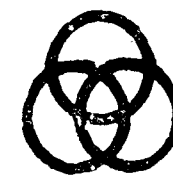
VOL. XXXV.]

JUNE 1934 :—DETAILED CONTENTS.

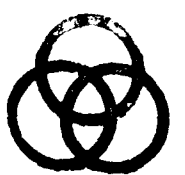
[No. 6.]

	PAGE		PAGE
THE CAPITATION TRIBUNAL. BY DEWAN BAHADUR A. R. MUDALIAR, M.L.A. ...	361	INDIAN STATES	
THE EASTERNMOST HINDU KINGDOM IN N. INDIA. BY HON. MR. K. L. BARUA. ...	366	Aviation in Hyderabad ...	404
INTER-GOVT. ECONOMIC CONFERENCE BY MR. P. R. SRINIVASAN, M.A. ...	368	The Match Industry in Hyderabad ...	404
CONGRESS AND COUNCIL ENTRY	371	The Mysore Forests ...	404
LORD READING BY MR. T. R. VENKATARAMA SASTRI	373	Economic survey in Baroda ...	405
BRINDABAN BY MR. S. S. JAIN	376	Prevention of Further Sub-Division ...	405
THE IDIOT'S WIFE : (A STORY) BY DR. N. C. SEN GUPTA, M.A., D.L.	377	Women in Travancore Services ...	405
THE RT. HON. SRINIVASA SASTRI BY MR. B. NATESAN	385	Sir Md. Habibullah on Education ...	405
EARLY HISTORY OF ASSAM BY "HISTORICUS"	392	Privileges to the Princes ...	406
INDIAN AFFAIRS BY "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"	393	The Sikhs in Kashmir ...	406
WORLD EVENTS BY PROF. A. J. SAUNDERS, M.A., Ph.D.	396	Gwalior Regency Council ...	406
TRADE AND FINANCE BY "SRIVAS"	398	The Military in Alwar ...	406
DIARY OF THE MONTH	400	INDIANS OVERSEAS	
THE WORLD OF BOOKS		Mr. Andrews on Colonization Inquiry	407
Indian Constitutional Development	401	Emigration to Malaya	407
Out of the Clouds	401	Mr. S. Ghoorunsingh, O. B. E.	408
Secret Service Operator 13	402	Indian Pilgrims to Mecca	408
Problems of Rural Reconstruction in India	402	Indians in Kenya Council	408
John Wesley and the Eighteenth Century	402	Indians in East Africa	408
An African Speaks for His People	403	TOPICS FROM PERIODICALS	
Groundwork of Teaching	403	Morality and Modern Life	409
Bali : Enchanted Isle	403	Art for Minorities	409
Revision Mathematics	403	China	410
BOOKS RECEIVED	403	After the Three Great Acharyas	410
		Assamese Literature	410
		The Park Movement in America	412
		The Lure of Individuality	413
		Significance of the Vedas	413
		Shivaji and Napoleon	413
		The Crime of Colour	414
		The Indian Navy	414
		The Control of the Army	414
		The National Government	415
		Manchuoko	415
		Taoism and Vedanta	416
		The New India	416
		Communism the Gospel of Slavery	416
		INDIA IN PERIODICALS	416

(Contd. on page 6)



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MON.	... 1 8 15 22 29 ...	... 5 12 19 26 ...	... 5 12 19 26 ...	... 2 9 16 23 30
TUES.	... 2 9 16 23 30 ...	... 6 13 20 27 ...	... 6 13 20 27 ...	... 3 10 17 24 ...
WED.	... 3 10 17 24 31 ...	... 7 14 21 28 ...	... 7 14 21 28 ...	... 4 11 18 25 ...
THU.	... 4 11 18 25 ...	... 1 8 15 22 ...	... 1 8 15 22 29 ...	... 5 12 19 26 ...
FRI.	... 5 12 19 26 ...	... 2 9 16 23 ...	... 2 9 16 23 30 ...	... 6 13 20 27 ...
SAT.	... 6 13 20 27 ...	... 3 10 17 24 ...	... 3 10 17 24 31 ...	... 7 14 21 28 ...
	MAY.	JUNE.	JULY.	AUGUST.
SUN.	... 6 13 20 27 ...	... 3 10 17 24 ...	... 1 8 15 22 29 ...	... 5 12 19 26 ...
MON.	... 7 14 21 28 ...	... 4 11 18 25 ...	... 2 9 16 23 30 ...	... 6 13 20 27 ...
TUES.	... 1 8 15 22 29 ...	... 5 12 19 26 ...	... 3 10 17 24 31 ...	... 7 14 21 28 ...
WED.	... 2 9 16 23 30 ...	... 6 13 20 27 ...	... 4 11 18 25 ...	... 1 8 15 22 29 ...
THU.	... 3 10 17 24 31 ...	... 7 14 21 28 ...	... 5 12 19 26 ...	... 2 9 16 23 30 ...
FRI.	... 4 11 18 25 ...	... 1 8 15 22 29 ...	... 6 13 20 27 ...	... 3 10 17 24 31 ...
SAT.	... 5 12 19 26 ...	... 2 9 16 23 30 ...	... 7 14 21 28 ...	... 4 11 18 25 ...
	SEPTEMBER.	OCTOBER.	NOVEMBER.	DECEMBER.
SUN.	... 2 9 16 23 30 ...	... 7 14 21 28 ...	... 4 11 18 25 ...	... 2 9 16 23 30
MON.	... 3 10 17 24 ...	... 1 8 15 22 29 ...	... 5 12 19 26 ...	... 3 10 17 24 31
TUES.	... 4 11 18 25 ...	... 2 9 16 23 30 ...	... 6 13 20 27 ...	... 4 11 18 25 ...
WED.	... 5 12 19 26 ...	... 3 10 17 24 31 ...	... 7 14 21 28 ...	... 5 12 19 26 ...
THU.	... 6 13 20 27 ...	... 4 11 18 25 ...	... 1 8 15 22 29 ...	... 6 13 20 27 ...
FRI.	... 7 14 21 28 ...	... 5 12 19 26 ...	... 2 9 16 23 30 ...	... 7 14 21 28 ...
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(Contd. from page 2)

	PAGE		PAGE
QUESTIONS OF IMPORTANCE	... 417	RAILWAYS	... 428
UTTERANCES OF THE DAY	... 418	ART AND DRAMA	... 429
POLITICAL	... 419	SPORT	... 430
EDUCATIONAL	... 420	SCIENCE	... 431
LEGAL	... 421	FILM WORLD	... 432
INSURANCE	... 422	AUTOMOBILES	... 432
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE	... 423	AVIATION	... 432
WOMEN'S PAGE	... 424	AGRICULTURAL	...
LITERARY	... 425	LABOUR	...
PERSONAL	... 425	HOBBIES	...
MEDICAL	... 426	WIT AND HUMOUR	...
HEALTH	... 426	PORTRAITS AND ILLUSTRATIONS	...
CURRENCY AND BANKING	... 427		

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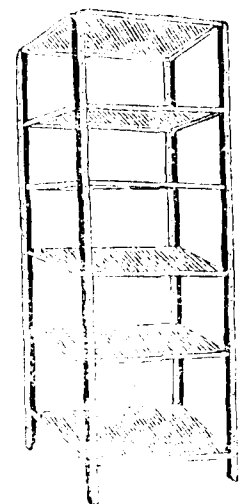
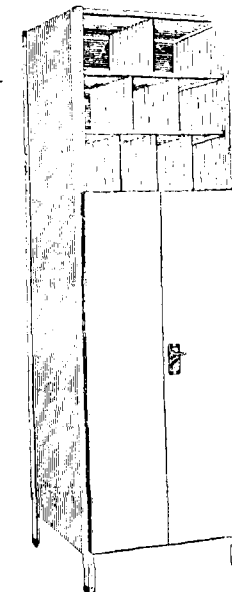
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Index to Advertisers in the "Indian Review"

PAGE	PAGE
Akbi Kishore Ram ... 26	Karachi Model Book Co. ... 27
Allianz Und Stuttgarter ... 23	Kashi Studio ... 22
Batliboi's Accountancy Training Institute	Kaviraj N. N. Sen & Co. ... 9
(BELOW READING MATTER)	Krupp Indian Trading Co., Ltd., Bombay
Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works 7	INNER CONTENTS
Bengal Traders Ltd., Calcutta ... 14	League of Nations, Bombay ... 19
Bhattacharya & Co., M. ... 22	Limaye Bros., Madras ... 14
Bird & Co., Calcutta BELOW CALENDAR	Madras & Southern Mahratta Railway ... 3
Biswas & Sons, Calcutta ... 26	Madras Type Foundry ... 20
Bombay Co., Ltd. INNER CONTENTS	Mahratta, Poona ... 29
Bombay Law Journal ... 18	Manufacturers' Life Insurance Co., Bombay
Bombay Life Assurance Co. INNER CONTENTS	INNER CONTENTS
Burn & Co., Calcutta INNER CONTENTS	Metropolitan Insurance Co.
Calcutta Chemical Co. ... 23	(BELOW READING MATTER)
Calcutta Review ... 17	Mohini Flute Co. ... 18
Cavalcade ... 29	Murty, Dr. A. S. ... 28
Central Bank of India, Ltd., Bombay	Muslim Review ... 26
(BELOW READING MATTER)	Nagappa, M. S. ... 25
Ceylon Independent, Colombo ... 10	National Call, Delhi ... 16
Ceylon Review, Kandy ... 30	National Indian Life Insurance Co.,
Chirological Society, Calcutta ... 18	INNER CONTENTS
Crown Life Insurance Co., Bombay	National Insurance Co. FACING CALENDAR
INNER CONTENTS	Neo-Komala Vilas, Madras ... 18
Curzon & Co., Madras ... 4	New India Assurance Co.
Daily News, Nagpur ... 24	(BELOW READING MATTER)
Davar's College of Commerce, Bombay ... 22	Oatine Co. INNER CONTENTS
Favre-Leuba & Co. (BELOW READING MATTER)	Okasa Co., Ltd., Bombay INNER CONTENTS
Fellowship Club, London ... 19	Oriental Government Security Life
Flit ... 9	Assurance Co. FACING 1ST READING MATTER
G. I. P. Railway ... 6	Paris Dental Hospital ... 29
Gannon, Dunkerley & Co. ... 7	Prabuddha Bharata, Calcutta ... 28
Godrej and Boyce Mfg. Co. INNER CONTENTS	P. & O. and British India Companies ... 15
Government of India Central Publication	Rane, Ltd., Madras ... 10
Branch, Calcutta FIRST COVER	Roy & Co., Bombay ... 20, 28
Government Soap Factory, Bangalore ... 17	Sakti Oushadhalaya, Dacca ... 11
Guardian ... 19	Sexual Science Bureau ... 20
India School of Accountancy ... 23	Simpson & Co., Madras ... 5
Indian Finance, Calcutta ... 27	Spencer & Co., Madras 4TH COVER
Indian Observer, Calcutta ... 22	"Sri" Works ... 27
Indian Views, Durban ... 19	Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada
Jalal & Sons ... 13	INNER CONTENTS
Jupiter General Insurance Co. ... 29	Surajmal Lallubhai & Co., Madras
Kalidas Motiram, Dr. ... 26	(BELOW READING MATTER)
	Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., Calcutta ... 2, 8
	Texas Co. ... 21
	Times of India Press ... 12
	Titaghur Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Calcutta
	3RD COVER
	Tomco Sales Dept. ... 25
	Tutorial Institute, Delhi INNER CONTENTS
	United India Life Assurance Co., Madras
	FACING LAST PAGE OF THE READING MATTER
	Vedanta Kesari, Madras ... 21
	Western Watch Agency, Ludhiana ... 27

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The Capitulation Tribunal

BY

DEWAN BAHADUR A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR, M.L.A.

THE report of the Capitulation Tribunal has been before the public for some time, and as its recommendations have been to a certain extent, misunderstood, it is necessary to explain the purpose for which the Tribunal was constituted, the questions referred to it for decision, and the nature of the 'Award' of the Tribunal. The Tribunal was constituted by the Prime Minister to consider various claims which were put forward by the India Office and the War Office. The essential questions were first the question of the contribution by India towards the recruiting and training expense in England of the British Army, otherwise known as the capitulation charges, and, secondly, India's claim for a contribution from Imperial revenues towards military expenditure in India. The suggestion of the Tribunal was put forward by Mr. Wedgwood Benn, when he was Secretary of State for India, early in 1931. The Finance Member, Sir George Schuster, consulted some of the members of the Round Table Conference at Simla on the desirability of establishing a Tribunal, and stated that the two questions referred to above would be placed before the Tribunal for decision. Many of the Indian members while agreeing to the question of the capitulation charges being referred to the Tribunal, took exception to the Tribunal adjudicating upon the question of the contribution which the British revenues should

make towards military expenditure. In spite of this opposition, both the questions were referred to the Tribunal, and their report has now to be examined.

CAPITATION CHARGES

Indian public opinion has, for several decades, protested against India being saddled with charges for the training of British Officers and soldiers in England. In the early days of the Congress, Dadabhai Naoroji, Prof. Fawcett, Sir Dinsha Wacha, Mr. Gokhale and other Congressmen objected to the payment on the ground that India was not liable to meet such charges. They argued that while the British recruit was trained for a few months in England, the same recruit was trained for a number of years in India at Indian cost, and as British soldiers serve only for a period of five years in India, the value of the Indian training accrues to Britain, when the regiments return to their home country. In fact, their case was that, so far from India being liable to pay capitulation charges for the somewhat summary training which the recruits get at the initial stages, Great Britain should pay a considerable amount to India for the benefits which the Officers and soldiers receive in training while in India. Alternatively, Indian public men argued that the amount of capitulation charges was excessive. The Welby Commission considered this point, and Dadabhai Naoroji and Sir William

Wedderburn, in their minority report, suggested that, even in case India was held liable, the capitation rate should not be more than £3-15-0 per head. Various other Committees and Commissions have examined this question from time to time. Despite the fact, however, that the Government of India had entered a caveat at an early stage, and even before Indian public opinion had begun to assert itself against this liability—in 1859—and had questioned the rate at which the capitation charges should be calculated in the event of the liability being accepted, the British Government neither accepted the contention of the Government of India nor referred the matter to a Tribunal. It is interesting to note that in the last years of the 19th century, the Marquess of Salisbury, the then Prime Minister, suggested the constitution of a Tribunal of a representative character, of which one Indian Judge at least should be a member, to give a decision on the issue. It took nearly thirty-five years for the British Government to adopt the suggestion of Lord Salisbury.

The issue regarding the actual rate of capitation charges arises from the different points of view which the Government of India and the British Government took on the period of training which a recruit should have. Since 1907, the Army Council have contended that twelve months is a reasonable period, and that recruits with less than twelve months' training cannot be sent to India, without impairing the efficiency of the army. On the other hand, the Government of India and their military advisers have held that, after six months' training, the recruit was perfectly fit to proceed to India, and that any further training could be had in India and that even in England the recruit of six months' training has been considered as a military asset to the Empire. The Tribunal admits that the War Office's contention that the recruit from the sixth to the twelfth month of his training is not a military asset, cannot be

sustained. The result is that if any period of training beyond six months is accepted, India will, in effect, be paying for a portion of the regularly trained military establishment of England. The claim of the War Office to charge India on the basis of twelve months' training, is the counter claim which the Finance Member and the Government's spokesman in India have referred to, and which, they feel, they have escaped from by the Award of the Tribunal. The Tribunal did not accept the decision of the Government of India, and have calculated that a nine months' training would be fair to both the parties. It is curious that this period of nine months has not been suggested by either of the contending parties, and there are no reasons assigned by the Tribunal why such a period should be accepted.

Sir Shadi Lal and Sir Shah Muhammad Sulaiman, the two Indian Judges, of the tribunal have both dissented from this recommendation of the majority of the Tribunal. They point out that this very issue has been considered by no fewer than five Committees or Commissions, and that the verdict has been, either expressly or impliedly, in favour of the shorter period. In 1861, the Tulloch Committee, which considered the question of capitation rate, adopted, for purposes of calculation, a period of 4½ months only for the infantry. In 1872, the Seccombe Committee held that India was liable to pay charges for six months' training. The same conclusion was confirmed in 1875 by the Bouverie Committee. The question was again examined by Lord Northbrooke Commission in 1892, and, after elaborate calculations, that Commission also adopted the period of six months as a legitimate period of training. The Welby Commission in 1900 again fixed the charges on the basis of six months' training, in spite of the War Office's claim for a longer period. I have already referred to the fact that the dissenting minority of that Commission did not accept this

view, and that the Marquess of Salisbury felt compelled to suggest the appointment of a Tribunal to decide the issue. This period of training for six months was accepted by the War Office for many years, and, as the Indian Judges point out, several high military authorities, including Lord Kitchener, Sir Beauchamp Duff, Lord Rawlinson and Sir Philip Chetwode, held that a period of six months' training is adequate in the case of men required for India. The Government of India have repeatedly declared, in their representations to the War Office, that even if it takes longer than six months to complete the training of a soldier, they are prepared, and indeed would prefer, to take recruits with only six months' training and complete their training in India in accordance with Indian requirements.

It is true that the Government of India have coupled the condition of six months' training with the condition that the recruit should have attained the age of 20 years. The War Office, taking advantage of it, pointed out that the age of recruitment varied from 18½ to 19½ years, and that if insistence was laid on this, the recruit must wait for a year in England before he can be sent out to India. But as the Indian Judges point out, 36 per cent. of the recruits enlisted each year are beyond the age of 19½ at the time of their enlistment, and "in these circumstances, the War Office, inspired as they must be by goodwill towards, and a desire to help, India, should not find it very difficult to supply the major portion of her requirements out of the men who, on completing their training for six months, are not under 20 years of age." The minority further elaborate the statement contained in the main report that, after six months' training, the recruit is, undoubtedly, of military value in England, is used, and has been used in the past, for regular military duty, for forming part of the expeditionary force, and that, in effect,

India will be paying, not for training the soldiers, but for their actual employment for military purposes in England. In 1926, the British Government compelled the Government of India to pay a consolidated amount as capitation charges on their own basis, and the result of the nine months' training, which the majority of Capitation Tribunal have held to be necessary, is that, in substance, the amount fixed by the British Government in 1926 must continue to be paid. In effect, it means that the Award of the Tribunal on the capitation charges has been, practically, entirely against the case of the Government of India. It is necessary to realise that a claim put forward by the Government of India, in the first instance, for a total exemption, and, alternatively, for a great reduction in the charges—a claim which has been pressed for over sixty years by military authorities and by Viceroy and in a series of dispatches from the Government of India—has been found to be completely baseless by the majority of the Tribunal. The entire claim of India, so far as the capitation charges are concerned, has been dismissed by the three Judges. And this is the decision over which the Indian Legislature has been asked to enthuse itself.

BRITISH CONTRIBUTION

The Tribunal was required "to examine India's claim that a contribution should be made from Imperial revenues towards Indian military expenditure from Indian revenues, and to report the basis on which any contribution approved should be assessed." As I have already stated, some of the Indian members who were consulted preferred that this question should not be the subject of adjudication by a Tribunal. In the first place, they felt that there were political implications which must be thoroughly understood, before a contribution from the British Exchequer is received by the Indian Government. It has been the case of Indians that a time must come when the entire British Force

should be substituted by an Indian Force, and that the military authorities should work up to a programme which will bring about the result. In fact, that was one of the conclusions adopted in the Thomas Committee or the Defence Committee of the first Round Table Conference. It was apprehended that the result of the receipt of a contribution would be to perpetuate a British army of occupation in India. In the second place, the question of a contribution by the British Exchequer for Indian military purposes, based on whatever grounds, had not been widely agitated in the country; public opinion had not been regimented on the subject; the basis of the contribution had not been discussed; and above all, the question whether it could form the subject of a juridical arbitration was seriously doubted. If such a contribution should be made at all, it is unassessable by a judicial tribunal, which could not possibly take into account political and military reasons far beyond its ken or purview.

The question having been referred, the decision of the Tribunal was that a certain amount should be paid as contribution by the British Government. The Tribunal did not assess the amount, but gave two reasons for their recommendations, and suggested that the assessment should be made by competent authorities on the grounds stated by them. The majority, in coming to the conclusion that a contribution from the British Exchequer is justified, have advanced the following two grounds:

(1) that the army in India is a force ready in an emergency to take the field at once, which does not exist elsewhere in the Empire, which is specially available for immediate use in the East, and which has on occasions been so used.

(2) That India is a training ground for active service, such as does not exist elsewhere in the Empire.

On this basis His Majesty's Government have come to the conclusion that a contribution of £1,500,000 annually, and no more than that, is justified.

The India Office case regarding the amount of

contribution which the British Exchequer must pay, will give an indication of the extent to which this Award has been favourable to India. The India Office suggested several alternative formulae on which the contribution might be based. These formulae were:

(1) A fixed percentage of India's total expenditure on defence; say one-half, about £18,000,000 per annum (suggested by some members of a Sub-Committee of the first Indian Round Table Conference); or, alternatively, some lower percentage;

(2) The extra cost of maintaining the British troops in India over the cost of maintaining a corresponding number of Indian troops; estimated at £10,000,000.

(3) The existing defence expenditure of India relating to the cost of British troops—say £16,000,000; or, alternatively, a percentage of this.

(4) The excess of India's defence expenditure over a certain percentage of India's assessable revenue.

The last suggestion of the India Office requires some explanation. Several colonies make contributions to the British Exchequer for the British Forces that are stationed in those colonies. Bermuda contributes £3,500, based on a rate per head of the local population. Cyprus pays a fixed sum of £10,000 a year. Mauritius 5½ per cent. of the Colony's assessable revenue. Ceylon pays three-fourths of the total cost of the garrison, or 9½ per cent. of the assessable revenue, whichever is less. The Straits Settlements and Hong Kong pay, respectively, the cost of the garrison, or 20 per cent. of the assessable revenue, whichever is less.

It will be seen that the four alternatives put forward by the India Office require a contribution from the British Exchequer varying from ten to eighteen million pounds sterling. The decision of the British Government to contribute £1,500,000, shows to what extent the India Office has been successful on this issue. Sir Shah Muhammad Sulaiman, in dissenting from the proposal, suggested what he considered an equitable basis for the contribution. "It might be related," he says, "in some way to the cost of the British troops, or, alternatively, the total military expenditure might be limited to a certain fixed proportion of the public revenue. Either

a fixed share of the costs of the British troops in India or the excess over a fixed maximum percentage of Indian revenues would be a fair and suitable way of fixing the contribution and would furnish the required basis of assessment, but the fixing of the exact amount or share or percentage is a matter of high policy." It need hardly be said that this suggestion has not been accepted by His Majesty's Government.

The implications of accepting the contribution have to be carefully borne in mind. Doubts have been entertained whether, by the receipt of such a contribution, any fixed standard of efficiency is required of the troops in India, apart from what is necessary for purely Indian defence purposes. On this point, at any rate, the reply of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in the Council of State to a debate on the Capitation Rate Tribunal, is extremely interesting. In the course of his speech Sir Philip Chetwode said:

Now, Sir, a matter has been mentioned here to-day, but it has been rather better put in another place on the same debate that we are having to-day, by Dewan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar. He asked these questions. Does it mean that any further commitments are involved, because we have received £1,500,000 from His Majesty's Government? Does it mean that the Indian Army is to be put up to a certain standard of efficiency? Does it mean that the programme of mechanization should be so adjusted that if the army is taken to Europe for Imperial purposes it must have that efficiency which is required for those purposes? Does it mean that we are thereby guaranteed that these troops will be equipped merely to the extent that is necessary for Indian defence purposes, whether that defence arises in India or in England, or could it be used for a European war apart from defence? I can answer all these categorically "No." The Indian Army and the Army in India are maintained at a standard of efficiency necessary for the defence of the Indian frontiers and for internal security, and not to the standard of European war. I will give a few instances. The British Expeditionary Force division was between 70 and 90 guns behind it. Your division has 48 behind it. British Expeditionary Force units have more machine guns than your units out here. British units have sections containing anti-tank weapons, which I do not consider necessary here. They have just started in British units a new trench mortar, a close support weapon. We are not going to follow them. I said they were of no particular assistance to me in our particular problem. In the Expeditionary Force they have tank battalions and even tank brigades. I have not. I have got a few companies of light tanks which we do consider may be of the utmost use to us in our particular problem,

but I have no intention of agreeing to equip the army out here with tanks to the extent the Expeditionary Force has. The same over transport.

The result of the decisions of the Tribunal and of His Majesty's Government may, therefore, be briefly summed up. India has lost all along the line, so far as the question of its liability to pay capitation charges is concerned. It has lost politically in the decision to pay a contribution towards Indian military expenditure; and it has lost financially because the amount actually decided upon bears no relation to the claim as put forward by the India Office itself. It does not appear on the whole to be a matter for either congratulation or supreme satisfaction that the Capitation Tribunal Award has resulted in the payment of a sum of £1,500,000 to Indian revenues, though in the existing circumstances of the Indian Exchequer, the Finance Member has welcomed this as a great relief.

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The Easternmost Hindu Kingdom in North India

BY THE HON. RAI BAHADUR K. L. BARUA

THE easternmost kingdom in Northern India mentioned in the Mahabharata was Pragjyotisha (Assam and part of Northern Bengal) ruled over by the powerful king Bhagadatta, who



THE HON. RAI BAHADUR K. L. BARUA

was an ally of the Kaurava prince Duryodhana. In the age of Buddha, about 500 years after the Mahabharata War, this kingdom, for some reasons, became quite insignificant, for the sixteen Mahajanapadas, mentioned in the Buddhist records, do not include Pragjyotisha. The Greek writers of the fourth century B.C. mention Prasioi and Gangaridai as the powerful easternmost kingdom in India. It seems that two kingdoms or two nations, viz., Prasioi and Gangaridai, combined to form one powerful kingdom. When the military resources of this kingdom were reported to Alexander in the Punjab, his soldiers, who had already experienced the stiff resistance offered by the Paurava king, refused to advance further towards the east. Scholars, both Indian and European, have held that Prasioi stands for Prachhya (eastern) and that it meant the kingdom of Magadha. There are, however, certain obvious objections to this theory which should be stated here. In the first place, we do not find it mentioned in any of our ancient records, that

the kingdom of Magadha was known as *Prachhya* or eastern kingdom. On the other hand we find that Yuan Chwang the Chinese pilgrim of the seventh century A.D., who spent a considerable time at Nalanda, placed Magadha within mid-India. The Greek writers must have recorded the names which they gathered from the populace at the time. It is hardly credible that the inhabitants of the Magadha country were then popularly called *Prachhyas*. In the second place, it is the kingdom of Pragjyotisha which is referred to in the Mahabharata as a Prag-desh (eastern country.) This kingdom, during the time of Bhagadatta, comprised Assam and the northern belt of modern Bengal and touched Mithila (North Bihar) on the west. If we take Prasioi as the Greek abbreviation of Pragjyotisha and Gangaridai (Ganga-rashtra) as the country on both sides of the Ganges (Bengal and Bihar) the two combined kingdoms would mean practically the whole of north-eastern India comprising modern Assam, Bengal and Bihar. It is very likely that the military resources of this vast kingdom actually frightened the Greeks. This would also explain the want of separate mention of Pragjyotisha in pre-Mauryan or post-Mauryan records prior to rise of the Guptas. It may be that this vast kingdom was founded by Mahapadma Nanda who was a conqueror and that it was inherited by his successors down to the time of Alexander's invasion. From the Greek records we find that the capital of this large kingdom was Palimbothra (Pataliputra). It seems that after the downfall of the Mauryas and the disintegration of their vast empire, petty kingdoms thrived in North-eastern India, for we find from the Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudra Gupta, of the fourth century A.D., the mention of Kamarupa, Samatata and Davaka as the eastern frontier kingdoms. It is quite possible that these three kingdoms, or at least two of them, arose out of the older and

larger kingdom known as Pragjyotisha. Whatever that may be, from that time onwards this easternmost Hindu kingdom came to be generally known as Kamarupa although its kings, from the fourth down to the eleventh century, described themselves, in their copper-plate inscriptions, as "Pragjyotishadhipati". From these inscriptions, we find an almost unbroken genealogy of kings beginning from Pushyavarman, who was evidently a contemporary of Samudra Gupta, down to Dharmapalavarman who reigned towards the end of the eleventh century or a period of about 800 years. All these kings called themselves *Bhauwas i. e.*, descendants of Naraka, the father of Bhagadatta. Two of these kings are well known in Indian History. One is Bhaskaravarman, eleventh in direct descent from Pushyavarman and a contemporary of Sri Harshavardhana and the Chinese pilgrim Yuan Chwang. The latter was, for some time, a guest of Bhaskaravarman in Kamarupa. According to the Chinese accounts Bhaskaravarman was the powerful king of Eastern India who ranked next only to Emperor Harsha. This description is borne out by the epigraphic record known as the Nidhanpur copper-plate charter which he issued from his victorious camp at Karnasuvarna, the capital of the famous Bengal king Sasanka. Historians believe that Bhaskaravarman, in conjunction with Harsha, defeated the Bengal king who then retreated towards the south. The next famous king of Kamarupa was Sri Harshavarman who flourished nearly 100 years after Bhaskaravarman. He was the father-in-law of the Nepal king Jayadeva whose inscription, on a stone slab in Nepal, dated 748 A.D. states that Sri Harshavarman was the "Lord of Gauda, Odra, Kalinga, Kosla and other countries." He was therefore the paramount king over the whole of North-Eastern India, his empire reaching as far as Ganjam to the South.

After the death of Sri Harshavarman the Kamarupa power waned and the Pala kings

began to rule over Gauda and Magadha. The rise of the Pala power checked the ambitions of the Kamarupa kings but still they ruled independently till the 12th century when a general of the Pala king, Kumara Pala, conquered the kingdom. On the death of Kumara Pala, however, this general, Vaidyadeva by name, threw off his allegiance to the Pala king of Bengal and founded a dynasty in Kamarupa.

Towards the beginning of the thirteenth century Muhammad Bukhtiyar Khilji, who is said to have conquered Bengal from the Sena king Lakshman Sena, with only a handful of soldiers, invaded Kamarupa with 12,000 mounted Turkish troops. Practically the whole army was annihilated in Kamarupa in the year 1206 A.D. and Bukhtiyar escaped with only a few followers. After this there were a series of Muslim invasions from Bengal but all were unsuccessful. The Bengal Sultans, in spite of renewed attempts, failed to effect a permanent occupation of the country.

During the thirteenth century the Ahoms, a Shau tribe, entered the country from the North-east. They quickly established themselves in the eastern part of the kingdom which came to be known as Assam after them. The last dynasty of kings in Kamarupa ruled with their capital at Koch Bihar. These kings were pressed by the Ahoms from the east and by the Muslims from the west. Ultimately the remnant of their kingdom was divided between the Ahoms and the Muslims. Then ensued a struggle between the Moghul power and the Ahoms for nearly 200 years. The Ahom kings, who had in the meantime embraced Hinduism, repeatedly drove back the Muslims. Moghul generals like Mir Jumla and Raja Ram Singh attained temporary success but eventually discomfited and Assam continued to be independent till 1826 when the Burmese having overrun the country the British had to intervene and by the treaty of Yandabu Assam was ceded to the British. This is, in short, the history of this easternmost Hindu kingdom. The early part of this history has been dealt fully in my book "Early History of Kamarupa"* and the latter part has been dealt in Sir Edward Gait's "History of Assam".

* A review of this book appears on page 392.

Inter-Governmental Economic Conference

BY MR. P. R. SRINIVASAN, M.A.,

Editor, "Indian Finance," Calcutta.

ONE achievement of Sir George Schuster, who retired from the Finance Membership early in May, is that he induced the most conservative of the governments of the world to flirt with some of the most advanced ideas of modern economics. In a speech at a farewell banquet given to him and Lady Schuster by Sir Homi and Lady Mehta, Sir George claimed credit for bringing about many improvements in India's finances by holding steadfastly to the principles of sound finance, for which his country has always stood. Few Indians can agree with Sir George either as to the extent of the improvement or as to the manner it was brought about. And it is also incontrovertible that the improvement in the credit of the Government of India flows directly from the abandonment of the gold standard in September 1931. But, whatever the worth of Sir George's work in other spheres, it is certain that the country should be grateful to him for bringing economic planning within the sphere of practical politics.

Sir George Schuster is the first Finance Member of the Government of India to relate the national budget directly to the state of the national economy. In every one of his budget speeches, except probably the first, he set the financial plans of the government against the background of the national economy, though it is also true that it seemed the worse for that setting. For if Sir George had given the economic conditions of the country their due weight, he would have been less prone to increase the burden of taxation and more enthusiastic in the cause of retrenchment of expenditure. But all said and done, it is to the credit of the retiring Finance Member that he was the first to make the economic progress of the country the concern as much of the Finance Member, as of his colleagues in the Commerce and Industries Departments.

He has also succeeded in persuading the Government of India as a whole to recognise this new responsibility. And during the last two years of his regime he was found to talk constantly of the necessity of economic planning.

It is not to be expected, however, that the Government of India could change over too abruptly to the idea of bringing about drastic changes in policy and objective. All that they can be expected to do is to expend some thought on the economic problem as a whole and to bring about some degree of co-ordination in the policies that are being pursued in the various departments of the Governments both at the Centre and in the Provinces. The Government recognised that behind the peculiarities of conditions in each Province there is a substantial identity in the problems with which the various Governments are now grappling. And that in any policy common to the whole of India, it were well that the representatives of the Central and Provincial Governments confer together as a preliminary.

In his farewell speech at Bombay Sir George attempted to expound the results of the inter-Governmental Conference, which had been already made public in the form of a Government resolution on the subject. Though Sir George did not add to the information that was available in the official publication he endeavoured to emphasise that the results of the Conference, though by no means impressive, were really the beginning of a common policy of great potentiality. It is, therefore, necessary to examine how far this suggestion of Sir George Schuster is borne out by the facts of the case. As mentioned already, the Conference did not address itself to the problems which are primarily suggested by the term "economic planning."

The object of the Government of India in proposing it, the report states, was not in any way

JUNE 1934]

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

369

to trench on the functions of local Governments in matters under their control, but to see whether by mutual consultation any common plan of action could be arrived at, and whether the Central Government could assist either by providing a clearing house for information or arranging for separate discussions, or possibly by helping to finance activities which would lead to productive results.

In this view, the Conference had to consider the following problems, rural indebtedness, crop planning, marketing of agricultural produce, the cottage industry, industrial research and economic survey and statistics.

The essential conservatism of the Government of India breaks out in the cautious restriction of the scope of the Conference. Even in so urgent a problem as rural indebtedness, they are content to explore without end. They aim at the gaining of "impressions." They pass pious resolutions to start land mortgage banks and make land more mobile for purposes of credit. As if the problem of rural indebtedness is still in the stage of a superficial trouble and not deep-rooted and widespread chronic disease!

One could understand the governments taking such steps, if our knowledge of actual conditions was incomplete. From the earliest days of British rule, rulers and ruled have talked of rural indebtedness. Committees and Commissions have enquired into the questions connected with it. The Labour Commission have made specific recommendations for safeguarding the workers' interests. The Banking Commission favoured a special rural insolvency law. And now after so much tall talk about planned economy, we are only to tinker with a problem, the solutions of which is the very basis of any economic reconstruction.

Not that land mortgage banks are not required or their foundation offers no difficulties. But how can banks function when the clientele is steeped in debt? Likewise, the easy alienability of land

may lubricate our economic machinery. But how will it help rural indebtedness? Are we prepared for the cultivators being dispossessed of their holdings? Time was when restraints on the alienation of agricultural land were thought to be a much-needed reform, in order that agriculturalists might be cured of their supposed thriftlessness; and now we seek to fly to the other extreme and try to reduce land to the position of a movable property.

The fact is that agricultural indebtedness is at the root a problem of relating the produce of land to the charges which have been heaped upon it. No matter how or with what justification the charges came to be incurred. Cultivation cannot be efficient, unless the cultivator is sufficiently recompensed for his trouble and is assured that any extra yield from the land will not go solely to the arrears of debt payments. The Inter-governmental Conference does not appear to have considered the ways and means of giving effect to the recommendation of the Central Banking Enquiry Committee in regard to rural indebtedness.

In other matters, however, there is comparatively more promise. The question of lifting agricultural prices is considered, and there is evidence that the governments were inclined to consider the question of distribution of crops. They have adopted the outwardly revolutionary term "crop planning". The Governments of Madras and the Punjab pressed for some steps being taken in regard to rice and wheat respectively; and a Conference of Directors of Agriculture and land revenue officials is to be held "at the earliest possible date" to decide on the measures which to be effective, must be put into operation before the next sowing season. It is to be hoped that we are not to have mere measures of restriction, in a country where the production of essential foodstuffs is by no means equal to the needs of the population.

The conditions are that the Party should adopt the national demand formulated by the Congress and press for the repeal of repressive laws and the release of political prisoners.

The Congress Working Committee would keep a watch over the Swaraj Party's activities to see that, while enjoying autonomy, the Party did not violate the Congress creed.

THE PATNA MEETING

Accordingly, the All-India Congress Committee met at Patna on May 18 to discuss and register its approval of the Ranchi decisions which had the full support of Mr. Gandhi himself. It was presided over by the G. O. M. of the Congress, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. Dr. Ansari's resolution expressing the Committee's acceptance of Mahatma Gandhiji's recommendation to suspend Civil Disobedience excepting in his own case, was passed without division, all amendments to it having been rejected.

Describing the resolution as one of historic importance, Dr. Ansari said that most of the leaders who had at first questioned Mr. Gandhi's decision, had eventually accepted it as a wise one.

The next day Mahatma Gandhi himself moved the important resolution on Council entry which was previously accepted by the Working Committee.

Inasmuch as there exists in the Congress a large body of members who believe in the necessity of entry into legislatures as a step in the country's progress towards its goal, the All-India Congress Committee hereby appoints Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and Dr. Ansari to form a Board with Dr. M. A. Ansari as President called the Congress Parliamentary Board consisting of not more than 25 Congressmen.

The Board shall run and control elections of members to the legislatures on behalf of the Congress and shall have power to raise, possess and administer funds for carrying out its duties.

The Board shall be subject to the control of the All-India Congress Committee and shall have power to frame its constitution and make rules and regulations from time to time for the management of its affairs.

The constitution and the rules and regulations shall be placed before the Working Committee for approval but shall be in force pending the approval or otherwise of the Working Committee. The Board shall select only such candidates as will be pledged to carry out

in the legislatures the Congress policy as it will be determined from time to time.

Explaining the resolution Mr. Gandhi observed that they were to consider in what shape they could adopt the Ranchi decisions.

This resolution permitted Congressmen to contest the elections and the Parliamentary Board would have the same autonomy as the All-India Spinner's Association, except that, as Council work involved political matters, the A. I. C. C. would exercise the right of developing ideas on which Council work should proceed. Otherwise the Board would be an autonomous body.

There were 14 amendments to the resolution but they were all outvoted and Mr. Gandhi's resolution setting up a Congress Parliamentary Board for contesting the elections was accepted. The socialist amendment was rejected by 86 votes against 35.

Gandhiji said the resolution did not want those who did not believe in the legislature to change their opinion and advocate the cause of Council entry. But as some Congressmen believed they could render service through Councils, the resolution permitted them to do so. Personally, he had no faith in such a programme.

It was an odd way of putting the case for Council entry; but Gandhiji, as ever, carried the day, the house having shown its full confidence in him by inviting him to draft the resolution himself. The resolution was so worded as to secure for it the maximum support of the house.

The Working Committee also approved that the next session of the Congress be held in Bombay in the first week of October.

The Working Committee has since set up a committee of twenty-five members to control the Parliamentary work of the Congress, including the forthcoming Assembly election. This decision, in effect, means that the responsibility for the Assembly election will be taken over by the Congress and there will be no separate Swarajist Party.

LORD READING

By MR. T. R. VENKATARAMA SASTRI, C.I.E.

THESE are lives and lives. There are biographies and biographies. There are those that make history. There are those that change the face of history. These are few and stand alone. There are others that do not make history but who pass into history. The centre of a biography is an individual. The centre of history is the community. According to some, the history of a community is really the history of its greatest men—a proposition which may require explanation at least, if not also qualification. The great men of a community being the products of the community, their history must start with the conditions of the community in which they are born. Even a divine incarnation or the advent of a saint or prophet has relation to the time and the place and the antecedent history. How large or small the contribution of material that a biography makes to history depends on the area, nature and quality of the contacts between the life and the community in which it is lived.

In each grade of biography the interest varies with the subject and the writer's mode of handling it. And some books go under the name of biography that are only such in a limited sense. A recent book on Lord Reading and His Cases* has only a limited value either as biography or as history. Such a book is more or less anecdotes calculated to amuse and occasionally even to instruct.

Lord Reading will be counted among those who have passed into history. His connection with the largest dependency of a great Empire, apart from any striking part that he played in it, must give him a prominent place in the history of India and the Empire. The book has, for some reason,

LORD READING AND HIS CASES: "The Study of a Great Career". By Derek Walker-Smith. Publishers: Chapman & Hall, Ltd., London. W. C. 2. Price 15s. net.

prescribed for itself a much smaller scope. The chapter of life that began with the Viceroyalty is avoided as too near for estimation and is probably also treated as not yet closed and therefore more fitly to be considered in a later and a fuller biography. It confines itself to Lord Reading and His Cases. Though the second title is "The study of a great career," it omits part of that career. Notwithstanding the first somewhat limited title confining the book to his cases, there are chapters devoted to his political career which advanced him to the position of Attorney-General and thence up to the supreme position he reached.

There is a very natural feature noticeable in the lives of great men. The greatness of after-life reflects back on the incidents of earlier life and the biographer, as much as the subject of the biography, invests trivial incidents, with a significance which they do not bear in reality. There must indeed be unity in a life in the sense that all parts of it must be congruous and connected but the connection is not always traceable by the limited vision of the human mind and it is no use attempting to establish a connection between the ultimate success of a lawyer with the advocacy of a cabin boy before the captain. There are besides many accidents and unexpected events that build up a life out of qualities that come out of the unseen depths in men. The author himself recognises it when he says of young Rufus Isaacs that the child steadily refused to be the father of the man.

The chief events of the life of one who became a Viceroy are likely to be well-known but a very short summary may re-call them. Rufus Isaacs was born in 1860 in a not unprosperous Jewish family. After some years of study, not very bright, he ran away from home when he was only fifteen and became a cabin boy. The boat touched Calcutta on this early trip and Lord

Reading re-called the fact in his first speech on the Indian soil. He gave up the position soon after and joined the Stock Exchange in which he failed, becoming unable to pay his debts at the age of twenty four though he repaid them all later on. He studied for law and was called to the Bar in the Middle Temple in 1887. In ten years he became a busy junior with heavier work than he could manage. He took silk in 1898 when he was scarcely eleven years at the Bar. He became Solicitor-General in 1910, and Attorney-General later in October of the same year and Lord Chief Justice in 1913. During the War his work as Chief Justice was interrupted by his frequent employment in diplomatic work and work as special envoy and High Commissioner in the United States of America. Shortly after his resumption of work as Chief Justice, on the termination of the War, he was appointed as Viceroy in 1921.

His first attempt to enter Parliament was unsuccessful in 1900 and from 1904 he sat in Parliament as the member for Reading on three successive elections.

His life had not a definite ambition. His party associations and friendships and the work that he did during the War took him on to the crowning event in his life. No one who had political ambitions or an eye on Viceroyalty would have side-tracked himself by the acceptance of a Chief Justice's place.

The estimate of the career of Lord Reading is worth quoting for their bearing on estimates to make nearer home.

He was not a great Judge, but there is reason to suppose that he would not have been one in any case. He was a good judge and a learned lawyer; but he was not in the class of Cockburn or Campbell. He had neither monumental legal erudition nor the literary ability to make judgments of the first rank. Of course, in being less good on the Bench than he had been in practice in the Courts, Lord Reading was not widely different from the mass of very successful advocates, who became judges; there are, however, notable exceptions to this rule such as Lord Russell of Killowen and Lord Birkenhead. But to have expected Lord Reading to have been as successful on the Bench as Rufus Isaacs had been in

the Courts would perhaps have been over-exacting. (p. 389).

The physical basis on which his intellectual eminence and professional success was built is described by the author in the very opening pages of the book. Those who have seen him would readily agree.

His stamina is of a calm, self-reliant quality, but it is tempered like true steel, keen and strong and unbreakable. His slim figure, upright and taut still in the seventies, his handsome chiselled features, his keen eye and lofty forehead, are the embodiment of distinction and intellectual prowess; they are their own passport and need no advertisement. (p. 2).

In more passages than one the author contrasts Lord Reading with his rivals at the Bar.

He had not the learning of Balfour or Haldane or Asquith. . . . He has not their interest in thought for its own sake; his mind had not busted itself, like theirs, with abstract issues.

He had not the dominating personality of a Carson, the soaring eloquence of a Marshall-Hall, the profound learning of a Sumner nor the masterly invective of an F. E. Smith.

A great legal career Rufus Isaacs' undoubtedly was. In range and extent it outstripped all rivals. Its greatness was wider than Marshall Hall's, stronger than Lawson Walton's, based on a firmer foundation than Sir Edward Clarke's. Even F. E. Smith, so greatly his superior in the House of Commons, never attained quite his position at the Bar. . . . ; of his contemporaries only Carson challenges comparison; these two, since Lord Russell of Killowen, reign supreme.

The difference in equipment reflects a distinction in personality. Carson was dominating and masterful while Rufus Isaacs was suave and courteous. Carson thundered, while Rufus Isaacs suggested. The keenness apparent in Isaacs was in Carson cloaked by brusquerie. The force apparent in Carson was in Rufus Isaacs cloaked in suavity. But fundamentally Rufus Isaacs would concede little to Carson in acumen and his own forcefulness was not so much behind that of Carson. Both had a comprehensive array of forensic weapons and both were experts in their use. They differed in many things but both had the aggregation of qualities that makes the great man of the Courts.

His strength was supple and resilient rather than forceful and assertive. His self-discipline enabled him to husband his resources and at the same time diminished the call on them.

This is sufficient as a description of Lord Reading the man, his mind, method and capacity.

Some lighter things may interest the public and the profession. His income at its highest was 30,000 guineas. It may satisfy the curiosity of all and lead one or two here to institute

comparisons and contrasts as to relative sizes of incomes made in England and India.

He often appeared in more than one case going on simultaneously, unlike Carson who confined himself to one case at a time and Marshall Hall who immersed himself in the facts of one case and no one can imagine his switching his mind off to the facts of another case. Few can achieve what the author calls the departmentalisation of mind. There is much to commend Carson's practice of one at a time, says the author. For original trial causes, that is a good rule. Appeals seem different but two complicated cases may easily confuse the mind if they required tackling at the same time.

It may interest our professional men here to know that counsel quarrel in England as we sometimes do here, though the temper and tone may show differences.

Duke made a correction of Carson as to date and immediately withdrew it saying "No; you are right": Carson sarcastically: "I am glad I am right for once": Duke in the same tone: "It is a phenomenon no doubt".

Lord Reading was not a great success in the House of Commons. The verdict of the author will find ready acceptance that he was greater as an advocate than as a judge, and as a lawyer rather than as a politician. His deficiencies as a political leader are described in the book in a manner that will interest the Indian aspirants for leadership.

Every lawyer who has attempted a speech from the public platform knows how different forensic speech to judge or jury is to a platform speech to the public.

Either passion and warmth introduced or the adornment of eloquence over a dry theme can commend a speech to the House of Commons. With neither of these requirements could he comply. He believed in the efficacy of argument too much to introduce feeling. Rufus Isaacs' speeches were not eloquent in respect of verbal felicity. Of verbal adornment and literary quality there is little trace. They are speeches to hear rather than to read—a vehicle for argument rather than a medium for literary expression. He had not the tempestuous imagery of a Bright or a Lloyd George

with its literary inspiration in the Bible nor the perfect classical periods of a Burke or an Asquith moulded on the orators of Greece and Rome.

In a democratic community the politician must be a platform speaker who can establish emotional contact with his audience; to do this he must employ either the eloquence of the Gladstonian period or the verbose tacturnity of a later day which consists in long speeches, calculated to assure the audience that the speaker is a proper representative of a tongue-tied nation.

I must leave it to the lawyer to study the cases and the way they are woven into the narrative. He will find some useful information as to the methods of advocates—of advocates that get round a judge, of advocates that attack judges and get into unpleasantness, of advocates that attack and over-awe judges, of soft and subtle and bullying cross-examinations, of the traits of good and bad witnesses, of the value of repetitions which the author commends in witnesses but which our advocates have discovered and extensively applied to arguments so as to tire and subdue judges, etc., etc.

Altogether the book will be found interesting reading by an Indian reader who is not after anything in particular. As much of what is set down here is in the author's own words, the reader will have a good idea of the author's style and manner also.

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BRINDABAN

BY MR. S. S. JAIN

HARDLY is there any city in this ancient land of saints and Rishis which can outvie Brindaban in its sanctity. Situated as it is in the heart of Brijmandal, bearing all sorts of local traditions about Lord Krishna's early gambols and miracles, the place abounds in sports which have a peculiar interest of their own. There is not a secluded grove, not an obscure corner of the neighbourhood and not a ghet of the holy Jamuna in the sacred precincts of the town which in the palmy days of the Creation had not been a scene of the sportive pranks of the Mighty Serpentkiller. There is indeed, something very assuring in the very sound of one's own footsteps here and the imagination at times runs so high that one may easily picture before oneself the bright and smiling face of Murli-Manohar, playing his merry tune on his favourite flute, standing under a Kadamb tree by which the river cheerfully glides along making a harmonious melody. Immense being the richness of the place in the legendary lore, no wonder if vast swarms of humanity flock to the place every year from the remotest corners of the country, especially Bengal and Gujrat.

According to the legends, when the Brahmanical period was at its highest climax, there was a dense forest evergreen with the thick grove of Brinda or Tulsi, where now stands the modern town of Brindaban. Thus the place derives its name of Brindaban. Its ever green suburbs, the modern temples with all their majestic and gorgeous arches, carved with beautiful and wonderful ornamentations—finest specimen of Indian architecture—the true spirit of Bhakti in its people, impresses on the mind of the visitor something supernatural and superhuman.

The fame of Brindaban is national and great European travellers like Father Tieffenthaler and Mons V. Jacquemont, the latter of whom regarded it as "Next to Benares, the largest purely Hindu

city he had seen." The number of temples is well nigh over one thousand and the remarkable temple of Govind Deva, which, as reported, has withstood the clemencies of the sweltering heat of at least 335 summers, is most impressive, and is considered to be the best edifice that Hindu art has produced at least in Upper India. One European traveller writing in his book "Indian Architecture" remarks about this temple as "one of the most interesting and elegant in India, and the only one, perhaps, from which a European architect might borrow a few hints. That monarch of monarchs the redoubtable Aurangzeb, endeavoured to change the name of Brindaban to Mominabad, but this sacred place is still known by its old name.

The temples of Gopinath, Jugal Kishore and Madan Mohanji are some of the finest monuments of the old style of architecture lording over the entire precincts. It is not possible in this short article to give our numerous readers the idea of the enormous sums of money that are daily spent upon them and are daily received as offering from thousands of the devotees. Suffice it to say that the temple of Rengji which is sure to make a lasting impression on the mind of the visitor, ranks highest. Seth Laxmichand, millionaire and his brothers built it, at a cost of Rs. 45 lakhs. There is a pillar of copper gild in front of the idol some 60 feet high and also sunk about 24 feet in the ground, all costing Rs. 10,000. Many important festivals are held every year, and they cost Rs. 5000 (five thousands) and above. There is an endowment for the maintenance of the temple of 40 villages, yielding yearly an income of 2 lakhs of rupees. The yearly expenses of the whole establishment range from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 70,000 and the main item of expenditure being over Rs. 40,000 of Bhog or food only which after being presented to Gods is partly distributed among priests and partly among those poor applying for it.

The best time for sight-seeing and Darshans of the temples of this famous city is the rainy season, especially the month of Shirawan, when vast hordes of multitudes are seen passing through the main streets. Actuated by religious fervour and animation, one can see, during these days, people from every part of India, making a wonderful combination not only of the East and the West but of the North and South as well,

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THE IDIOT'S WIFE*

BY DR. NARES CHUNDER SEN GUPTA, M.A., D.L.

VIII

TEN years thus passed away in litigation and even then the Privy Council appeal remained to be disposed of.

In the meantime many things had happened.

The first of these proved to Ramgati once again how the stars had made a dead set against him.

When Jogendra died, Ramgati had hurried to go and see his daughter. Ramgati met Narayani but could not talk business. He was, in a sort of way, sent about his business by her. Things did not look very promising to Ramgati.

But when Narayani definitely separated herself from her brother-in-law and the big quarrel was well afoot, Ramgati was delighted and with his mind bubbling with brilliant schemes, he soon came to Narayani, meaning to stay on.

Narayani received him dutifully, looked after him, fed him and made much of him in a sort of way. But in the end she quietly told him: "The car is ready father, you had better start betimes."

Ramgati was puzzled at first. He thought that Narayani was thinking of sending him to fetch her mother. He answered: "But I am not going now, you had better"—

"But you will go now," firmly reiterated Narayani.

"But how can I go now when your affairs so badly want looking after. I can't move till I have brought things to a decent shape."

"You need not worry about things here. I shall manage them all right. I don't want help," quietly retorted Narayani.

Ramgati was startled. But he showed no signs of moving.

"Father," Narayani said at last, "I never saw in you signs of all this kindness for me

* The first part of this story appeared in the April and the second in the May number of this Review.

when you had bundled me up and got me married to an idiot. And now you are bursting with kindness all because you hope to handle my wealth. I can do without that kindness. I can do my own work. I don't want help. I have no friend in the world, nor do I want any. I shall be quite happy and quite able to run my own show with my idiot husband. You may go now."

Ramgati fumed with rage and cursed his child, but he had to go away, never to come again.

After this Jatis Babu came. He had been consulted by the Dewan before the application for registration was filed. Shortly after the notice of the application was served, he came to see Narayani in the hope that now he would be able to arrange an amicable partition with Surendra. When he came, however, he found that the situation had developed with extraordinary rapidity. Nevertheless he tried to make one attempt at settlement and saw Narayani.

He found her no longer the quiet and amiable, though firm, young woman he had seen before. She now looked the image of fury. Her anger was flowing in torrents of fire from her tongue.

"I rather fear," said Jatis, "that you have gone too far. I wonder if you will be able to save the situation in the end. In any case I should like to make an effort to compromise."

"Compromise with whom, Jatis Babu?" she burst out. "I do not wish to say, nor do I wish anybody on my behalf to say one word to that scoundrel for a compromise. I would rather go begging to feed my husband than ask for the least little favour from that dog."

"No, mother, I won't beg any favour from him. But if a simple threat can succeed in bringing him to reason, why fight? I think I can frighten him into submission. Will you give me that Will?"

"I have not got it," answered Narayani.

"Not got it!" exclaimed Jatis, "what did you do with it?"

"I gave it to my brother-in-law and he has burnt it. Why, what do you want that Will for?"

"You have not done well. With that Will I could have frightened him. He would not have had the wit to find out the flaw in it."

"Why do you say that, Sir?" said Narayani. "I deem it a sin to use a falsehood even to frighten the wicked. It would be a mean trick. I am ready to fight to death with truth on my side. But I will not take recourse to falsehood. I should be doing harm to my husband by doing the least thing that is wrong. No one knows for what sins of a past life he is suffering in this. I do not want that he should suffer any more."

Jatis was silenced. The trait of character that these words displayed Jatis Babu had known before. It filled him with admiration.

After a while Narayani said: "But why do you say all this? Do you think we may fail in our suit?"

"I don't," said Jatis Babu. "I do not think that Satyendra can be disqualified as a born idiot."

"And in any case," added Narayani, "even if he is disqualified, my son inherited, and we are his heirs."

"Quite so," said Jatis Babu, struck by the cleverness and acumen of the young woman. "But still, you see, these quarrels ruin people. Great houses have fallen to pieces over such quarrels. It is always best to avoid litigation if we may."

At last Narayani said: "All right, I agree. You may go and try for a compromise. But you must promise me two things: You must not try to subdue him by any falsehood; and, you must never appeal to him to show pity or kindness or any the least favour by reference to my husband's helpless condition. That would humble me to death."

Jatis promised. He went to Surendra and tried hard to make him see reason, but Suren too was in a fury of rage and obdurate.

At last Jatis Babu said: "You are a fool to have quarrelled with your sister-in-law. If you had kept on good terms with her, you would have prospered beyond your wildest dreams. For, that girl has got wisdom such as ten of you together will never have. And she has a character which you will not have by lives of prayer and austerities. You know that, but for my negligence, your father would have left a valid Will giving the property to her. Where would you have been if the Will had been made? Even with that Will such as it was, she could have hauled you over the coals if only she cared to say one false word. But what did she do? The moment I told her that the Will was void, she threw it away. That, at least, should have opened your eyes. Even now you ought to fall at her feet and ask forgiveness for giving affront to such a goddess."

Vain speech! Surendra did not say anything to his face, but when Jatis went away he made a grimace and his would-be Muktear friend, now his manager, said: "That's how lawyers would talk for fat fees." Surendra laughed.

After this, Surendra's mother made one effort to end the quarrel but she went the wrong way about. She first tried to see Narayani. Narayani's heart was thoroughly poisoned against her on account of the last words she had heard from her. She would not see her. When her mother-in-law went near the gate of Satyen's house, Narayani from within, ordered her Durwan, in a voice which her mother-in-law could hear, not to let even a cat or a dog from the other house enter this.

After this, the mother went no further.

She then tried to get hold of Satyendra. Narayani kept such a close watch over him that she did not succeed. After days of watching the

mother learnt one day that Satyendra had gone to Gobindanath's house. She immediately hurried to Gobinda's house and there she clasped her witless son in a tight embrace and said: "My darling boy, would you kill your mother at the command of that witch?"

Satyendra was flabbergasted. He had not wit enough to gather the sense in these words of his mother. He simply stared at her.

"Don't you love me, darling?" she then asked.

"Why not?" casually answered Satyen.

With a little more coaxing she was able to induce Satyen to accompany her to the neighbouring house of the family-priest from whence she sent for Suren. She did not venture to take Satyen straight to her home, for she feared that Suren might do him harm. She wanted to make sure by a talk with Suren, that he meant no mischief before she took Satyen home.

Had she taken Satyen home, it would have been a great move against Narayani. For Narayani could not then have taken recourse to law to recover possession of her husband, as, to do so, she would have had to say that Satyen was an idiot and give away her case in the title suit. But as it was, the mother waited in the house of the family-priest.

In the meantime, Narayani had got news that her mother-in-law had gone to see Satyen at Gobinda's house. Forthwith she started with four armed guards for Gobinda's house and from there she rushed like a storm, burst into the priest's house, swooped down on her husband like a falcon and carried him away. For once, she turned back on her mother-in-law and roared: "A fine mother you have been to have laid a trap to kill your own child! I wonder how Death could have forgotten you so long!"

So saying, she rushed out with her husband. Satyen's mother simply rolled on the ground and tore her hair in a paroxysm of anger and grief. Suren who came immediately and saw her in this condition, went furious

at this violence and insult to his mother. "I shall have that woman whipped by a sweeper if I am Suren Roy," he swore and rushed after Narayani. When he did overtake her, Narayani was only a few feet from her own gate. Suren sprang on her like a wild animal and caught her by her long hair, shouting: "Now then, she-devil!"

Satyen sent forth a piteous wail; and Ram Singh, one of the guards, immediately gave Suren such a blow on his back with a lathi that Suren fell rolling on the ground.

At the sight of this, Suren's own *barkandazes* who were sitting at Suren's gate, rushed to his rescue, but in the interval Narayani rushed into the house with her husband. A great fight between the men on both sides followed, at the end of which Suren limped back home with his hand on his aching back and his men also fell back.

Each of the two sides prosecuted those on the other. A great litigation ensued. A vast amount of evidence was led. Narayani and her witnesses gave a wholly truthful version of what had happened at her gate. The other side gave their own version. But neither side gave any evidence about the occurrence at the priest's house. Gobinda had left out that part of the story because it would have harmed his case and made Narayani out as the aggressor. Suren's advisers also agreed to leave out the incident, as it might possibly establish a case of wrongful confinement. The Magistrate held a local inspection and found in the end that Suren's men were the aggressors. They were convicted and Satyendra's men were acquitted.

After this, the mother looked upon Narayani as a veritable demon in disguise, and Narayani looked upon her mother-in-law as her arch-enemy.

In this manner Narayani got detached from the whole universe. When Arjuna, during the trial of arms at Hastinapur, was pointing his arrow at a bird, and his teacher asked him what

it was that he saw, he answered that he saw nothing else in the world except the eye of the bird that he was to hit. In the same way the whole world was swept off Narayani's field of vision and her whole soul was fixed on the one point—her husband. She found it impossible to get on with other people. From the moment the quarrel with Suren started, she became extremely suspicious of everybody and very irritable. She suspected everyone who came near her and often she gave those who came, a bit of her mind in the plainest possible terms.

After the judgment had gone against her in the trial Court, the Guru of the family came to her and advised her to compromise the dispute, now that Court had given its judgment. Narayani suppressed her anger and quietly asked him what compromise he had to suggest. The Guru told her that Suren was willing to give her a house at Benares to live with her husband and a monthly grant of a hundred rupees for maintenance.

"Indeed!" she said, "very generous offer that! So, that is why you have come—fattened by the bribe from the other side to turn me from my duty to my husband and my promise to my dying father-in-law."

The Guru remonstrated. But Narayani was thoroughly roused and she gave him her mind in words that led to a bitter quarrel, at the end of which Narayani ordered the Guru to walk out if he did not want to be driven out by the guards.

When neighbour women came to her, she kept her ears pricked up to catch in their words any nefarious design under the interview. Her visitors also felt themselves on their good behaviour. Naturally, conversations on such occasions were seldom cordial and often turned very warm. By and by everybody shunned her, except when pressing business took one to her and those who came on business seldom stayed long.

It was not long therefore before she acquired a reputation as a virago equal to that of her mother.

Thus she passed her days isolated from the whole world. None too happy days, one would think! But Narayani thought otherwise. All her happiness was centred round Satyendra. The great joy of her life was to take care of him, to nurse him and pet him. The complete self-effacement and utter dependance with which her witless husband loved her, brought her rare joy. She could pass whole days and nights with him alone and never feel bored.

Her love for him was like the love of a fond mother for her helpless child. His very foolish blunders was a joy to her.

She had imposed strict restraint on Satyen's words and deeds in his intercourse with the world outside, but to her he had the fullest freedom to talk and act with utter abandon. The artless words that expressed his foolish mind she drank with all her soul and with intense pleasure. She would often tease him and make him play the fool and she would laugh with delight. One of her standing jokes was to tell him that she would die and Satyen would have a blooming fine little wife who would love and caress him. This would drive Satyendra into a mad concern for her. He would insist, with tears in his eyes, that she must not die and he made Narayani swear many times that she would not die. Narayani laughed and teased him more. But in the end she always swore with a kiss that she would not die. At times she would seriously think what indeed would happen to her pet fool if she really died before him. The thought filled her with sadness. At such moments when Satyen saw her sad, he would clasp her to his bosom and caress her in his own idiotic way, and Narayani would forget her sorrows.

This was the great joy of her life—to her it was heavenly bliss.

IX

When the High Court remanded the case, there was rejoicing in Suren's house. He celebrated his partial victory by, among other things, sending out men with tom-toms to beat near Narayani's gate.

Narayani's men got furious and itched for fight. Narayani, however, steadied them. Her anger was deep like the sea but it was not wild. When in the end the High Court gave a decree in her favour, Gobiada's son insisted that they must pay back Suren in his own coin by beating tom-toms at his gate. Narayani stopped him. She showed no signs of elation at her victory.

But Satyen was simply wild with joy, all because Narayani had won—though he could not realise what exactly the victory meant. It was evening when the telegram reached them. The Dewan had gone home. Satyen rushed out to the Dewan's house to tell him the joyful news. From there he went from house to house in an ecstasy of joy and he hardly knew that in the mean time a heavy shower of rain had fallen on him and drenched him to the skin. He came home late at night. He did not think of changing his clothes even then, but held a levee in the sitting room giving vein to his wildest ideas about the various ways of celebrating his victory.

Narayani was stupefied by the news of her success. It often happens that when one puts one's whole soul into the achievement of a great object, one madly works at it so long as the intoxication lasts. But when the end is attained after supreme effort, comes exhaustion. Narayani was feeling that utter exhaustion. Her mind seemed suddenly emptied of all content. She did not feel inclined to move but sat still in a sort of dull indolence. When Satyen went out she threw herself on a bed and dropped into a deep sleep.

When her maid timidly roused her, the night was well advanced. Satyen had come

back and was sitting in his outer room evolving his wild dreams of the coming celebration. The maid informed Narayani of this and told her that nobody could induce Satyen to come in and change.

Narayani sprang up at once, rushed to the outer room and brought Satyendra in. When she touched him, she was startled to find that his clothes were wet. "How's this?" she cried, "you are wet all over!"

Satyen then recollected that it had rained when he was out in the open.

Narayani quickly made him change, gave him some tea and laid him down in bed to warm him. She then went to prepare his food. When she came back, she saw that Satyendra had gone to sleep. Gently she touched him and was startled to find that Satyen had fever.

It was nothing but a slight fever, but it filled Narayani with gloomy thoughts. For some days past she had been feeling a strange ennui; she had been feeling as if she must cry. This causeless sadness, she now thought, was a bad omen. Why should she have felt so sad and cheerless the moment she got news of her success? Was it a shadow thrown out by a coming sorrow?

A half conscious thought stole over her mind, that all that she had been struggling for so long was not what was good for her. It was for that reason, she felt, that at the very moment of her success a great evil was threatening her. Would it not have been better to lose the suit? Who knows, she thought, what great loss was set off against this success in the great account book of the Fates.

With an effort she brushed aside these ugly thoughts from her mind. "It is a slight fever," she thought, "it is foolish of me to think of all evil things for this much!" But the thoughts would come. She felt herself frightfully depressed.

Next day the fever rose higher and Satyen began to cough. The doctor said: "The cold,

you see—it has caught the chest. It will take a little time." But his face told Narayani that he was fearing something worse. The doctor ordered great care in nursing.

No care was found wanting, but the fever rose higher and higher and pneumonia appeared in a violent form.

Narayani's heart was now thoroughly filled with fear. But she sat still like a wooden statue at her husband's bed-side and nursed him day and night without a thought of food or rest, with her eyes fixed steadfastly upon that dear little face.

Looking at his face, a world of thoughts would well up in her bosom. She went over her whole life since her marriage, over the history of her great love and her strange infatuation. Hundreds of little things in the life of her beloved were dug out of her memory. And she thought of that great separation—the merest name of which sent a shudder through her soul and benumbed it. She thought of Savitri and Behula who had revived their husbands by their love. Alas! if that were possible!

She would suddenly wake up from her reverie and brush aside these ominous thoughts. But the nightmare of this great sorrow came back to her again and again and started new chains of thoughts and fears.

What sin had she committed, she thought, that God would make her suffer so? She had but loved her husband and served him—that was all. She had never forsaken the path of righteousness, never done an evil thing that she knew of. Why should God punish her then?

That could never be. Then again she thought that in this world virtue is seldom rewarded and vice not always punished. Why else should there be chaste and loving women suffering widowhood, while unchaste women enjoyed the company of husbands and children and rolled in wealth.

But had she done no wrong indeed? she thought next. Perhaps the very excess of her love for her husband had led her to do wrong. Had she sinned in snatching away the son from the mother and in promoting quarrel between brother and brother? At this thought her mind felt a sudden shiver—she recollected that her victory in the quarrel had directly led to this illness of her husband. Could it be that her success had given the finishing touch to her great wrong in dividing mother from son and brother from brother and that had forthwith let loose the forces that would punish her. The mother's curse, she thought—even though it was the mother that was in the wrong—was a terrible thing.

Narayani was by nature extremely strong minded. Never before had such petty fears had the slightest influence on her mind. But to-day, under the shadow of the great disaster that seemed to threaten her, she felt herself overpowered by the very same fears which she had despised as weak superstition in others. She felt very uneasy and she prayed from the bottom of her heart to all the gods: "Punish me, O God!" she said, "drown me in Hell for wrongs that are mine. But save my husband—he is not to blame."

Three big doctors came from the town. A great specialist was requisitioned from Calcutta. Money was spent like water for the treatment of Satyendra. But the patient grew worse and worse. At last, when he lost his speech and it seemed that he wanted to say something to Narayani but could not, the stolid patience of Narayani gave way. She left her post at the bed-side she had taken up days ago, rushed to the next room and rolled on the floor in her agony.

She cried there for a long while and then she came back.

Satyendra had his eyes closed and he was breathing hard. Narayani could not judge whether he was asleep. For a while she stood beside the bed and gazed at her husband's face. Her eyes were again filled with tears.

Quietly she left the room again.

X

In Surendra's house the night meals were over. Surendra's wife Hemlata was lying on her bed putting her little child to sleep. Surendra was sitting on the bed chewing his betel.

"There is great pomp afoot in the other house, wife," said Surendra, "haven't you heard."

"For shame!" said Hemlata. "What pomp? Your brother is on his death-bed. And you talk of pomp!"

"That's where it is," said Surendra. "The pomp is in the treatment. Ten doctors have come. They have sent for a Kaviraj. They must have spent over a lakh. Could you do all that if I fell ill?"

Hemlata frowned as she said: "None but you could make fun of that! After all, he is your own brother. Didi,* a mere woman, is in such trouble. Why don't you even look in once to enquire after his health? What will people say of this?"

"Do you very much like to be a widow," said Surendra laughing, "that you ask me to go to that house. Do you think I shall come back alive if I went. You know what a tigress your sister-in-law is. If she finds me in her house she will simply gobble up my head."

Surendra looked back on hearing a sound and saw—Narayani!—not a tigress, but a sorrow-laden poor thing! Her eyes were swollen with crying, her face had been thinned by waking nights and days. Her thick crop of black hair lay dishevelled all over her!

She was no longer a queen—she was a beggar! No longer the spirited Minerva, she was, but the image of sorrow brought to life.

* Elder sister-in-law.

Narayani rushed to Surendra and fell in a heap on his feet as she cried: "Brother, save your brother!"

She could say no more but pressed her face on the feet of her brother-in-law and swelled with grief.

For one moment Surendra and Hemlata were stunned. At the next, Hemlata tenderly clasped Narayani to her breast and Surendra took hold of her hand. They raised her from the ground.

Narayani was weeping incessantly. Her sorrow brought tears to the eyes of Surendra and Hemlata.

"For shame, sister-in-law," said Surendra, "why are you so beside yourself? Why should you touch my feet?" and he took the dust of Narayani's feet.

He then said: "Come, let us go and see. Don't worry, sister, all will be well."

"Brother," sobbed Narayani, "forgive me. Forgive the wrong I have done you. Do not be angry with me any more. No one can be angry with the poor creature that I am now."

Surendra had started to go. "No more of that sister," he said, "I have not a shade of anger left in me. Come, let us go."

"Where is mother?" asked Narayani, "won't she go too?"

Hemlata took her to her mother-in-law. The mother was in her room, awake and thinking of Narayani herself. Her son was in death-bed, but Narayani would not let her go and see him. She was thinking of this and cursing the witch of a Narayani.

When Narayani entered the room she cast a glance at her and then turned round. All her stored up anger and sorrow welled up in her breast at the sight of the offending daughter-in-law.

Narayani fell at her feet and said: "Mother, you cannot forsake your son for my offence. Come and save your son, mother, and when you have done that, you may throw me out if you

will. But now, mother, now you must forgive me."

Narayani bathed her mother-in-law's feet with her tears. The mother too wept. All the tears that had been stored up in her all these years stormed down in torrents—she could not speak.

After a long while she took Narayani by her hand. After that she had no longer any shadow left on her mind.

Surendra sat at the bed-side of Satyen and nursed him for all that he was worth. Hemlata took charge of the household. The mother sat near Satyendra's head and prayed. Narayani kept restlessly running in and out of the patient's room. She was fit to do nothing else now.

But all the efforts and all the prayers of everybody proved vain and the Madcap at last closed his worthless life. Narayani saw him draw his last breath, as she stood beside his bed like a lifeless statue looking steadfastly into his face. At the next moment when every one shrieked out in agony, Narayani did not utter a cry—she fell senseless on the ground.

XI

When Narayani regained consciousness, she felt herself unusually peaceful. She had woken up from a happy dream. She felt as though all her suffering, worry and weariness of over two weeks past had been wiped away. She opened her eyes peacefully as if nothing had happened to her.

By and by everything came back to her mind. She then sat up and began to muse—but she did not cry. A strange vacuity had come into her heart; she did not feel herself capable of joy or sorrow. She was surprised to find that the terrible thing which she could not imagine two days ago without bursting with sorrow, could cause her no sorrow now. On the contrary she coolly thought that all must die some day or other. If her husband had died now rather than later, that was not a thing to make much of!

That was how she felt so long as everybody was quiet around her. But when Hemlata came in and cried out: "Didi, what is this that has happened to you," a hidden spring in her mind suddenly broke loose and she fell on Hemlata's neck and cried piteously.

A few days later, when he found Narayani quieter, Gobindanath came and said with

hesitation: "The land-revenue of Gobindapur will have to be sent from here. There has been little collection there."

Quietly Narayani said: "Go and tell my brother-in-law."

Gobinda was stupefied. After a little while he said: "The date for the Privy Council Appeal."

Narayani stopped him and said: "Please go and tell my brother-in-law."

Gobindanath thought that his mistress was not yet in her proper frame of mind. He quietly left the place.

Shortly after this, Surendra came and said: "Sister, I have wired to my lawyers to withdraw my appeal to the Privy Council. You will have no more worries from me."

"True brother," said Narayani, "I have nothing to worry about any more. All my worries have ended with the life of one man."

Surendra said: "There is great trouble at Gobindapur. I am sending the entire land revenue of that estate from here."

With a sad smile Narayani said: "Why do you keep on saying those things to me."

"Why shouldn't I?" said Surendra. "The property is yours!"

"Yes! my property!" said Narayani and mused.

Two days later she sent for Surendra. When he came, she handed over a deed to him. Surendra read it and found that by this deed which Narayani had got registered to-day, she had renounced all her inheritance and made a gift of all her separate property including her ornaments in favour of Surendra.

Surendra violently shook his head and said: "This can never be. I have done you great wrong, sister, but forgive me, I cannot make you a beggar now. I won't take your property."

"Dear brother," said Narayani, "it fills me with shame when you talk of my property! I have lost my all—and still I live. That is shame enough. To think of wealth or even of food and clothing after this would be unutterable shame. You don't know brother! My wealth, my food, my clothing, my ornament, my all—is—up there."

She pointed her finger to heaven and looked up as in a trance.

(Concluded).

The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri

BY MR. B. NATESAN

I claim not to have controlled events but confess plainly that events have controlled me.—Lincoln.

Politics are a field where action is one long second best and where the choice constantly lies between two blunders.—Morley.

WHAT is culture? Culture, like genius or personality, is difficult to describe. It is perhaps easier to say what it is not than



THE RT. HON. SASTRI

what it is. Culture, says a French writer, is not encyclopædism: the knowledge of everything; neither is it specialization: the knowledge of one thing. Indeed, it is not knowledge at all, he says, but knowledge transmuted into power. "Better a head well made," said Montaigne, "than a head well filled," and we have the nearest approach to a definition of culture when we are told that "it is what remains when you have forgotten everything".

And what remains?

The understanding quickened and deepened—a breadth of outlook—a catholicity of sympathies—a refinement of taste—an appreciation of beauty—a delicacy of feeling—a sense of measure—a modesty of judgment—a critical habit of mind—...—a proper and balanced conception of the various uses of life—of its graces as well as its utilities.

—Yes, I had almost said just those qualities that distinguish the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri. To my mind Sastri embodies all the sweetness and light we mean by culture. He must be judged by the highest standards. The question is not how far away he is from the tribe of the common politician, but how little divides him from the first men of his generation. With gifts of intellect and character such as his, the highest place must be within his reach: and it is an irony of history that men like Mr. Sastri's commanding talents should

waste their sweetness on the desert air.

* * *

There is about Sastri a subtle atmosphere of distinction, and this makes him the most fascinating figure in our public life. There are others with equal gifts of mind and morals. Dr. Sapru's contribution to the political thought of the country is at least as conspicuous as that of Mr. Sastri, and Sir Sivasawami Aiyar's career has been as singularly free from the "falsities of expediency". Yet neither of them could be said to have that elusive quality of personal distinction. Sastri has not the dominating personality of Mehta or Krishnaswami Aiyar. Who that has ever seen them can forget the spell of those two imperious men? Aiyar swept into the arena with the stride of a Colossus, his magnificent forehead shining like a "wrinkled marble floor" as he looked around with that quick, impetuous, eager glance, one eye lifted in lofty disdain and the other quizzed into kindliness. His rapid speech and vehement manner were in sharp contrast to the slow, deliberate and measured movements of Sastri. No, the fascination that Sastri exercises over those who know him is of a different order. I cannot conceive of Sastri as in a hurry to catch the train, nor deviating in the slightest degree from the proprieties of decorous speech. In this he is so like his great Master, Gokhale. He too gave up a position of security to plunge into the uncertain and hazardous career of public service. It was no small sacrifice to have risked his all at a time when such sacrifice was neither frequent nor fashionable. When Sastri joined the Servants of India Society, it was like one surrendering oneself to the discipline of the Satyagrahashrama. And who can say that Gandhi's Ashram is a bed of roses? No thought of reward; but the brave

acceptance of a life of service and sacrifice; and the glorious privilege of carrying the Master's message. It was an accident that Sastri's choice led to some comfort and honour, and the transformation of the schoolmaster into a statesman of world-wide renown. The mantle of Gokhale could not have fallen on more deserving shoulders.

* * *

Sastri's sanity is as unfailing as his courtesy. He reminds one of Balfour. I fancy he has the Balfour touch in everything he does or says: the same fine sensibility to the things of the mind, the same philosophic air of sceptical detachment, the same turn for contemplation rather than action. Like Balfour, too, he looks at the spectacle of this strange world, weighing all sides, doubting all things, balancing all judgments. Sastri is fastidious to a degree and will not shake hands too vigorously for fear of unsettling his shirt sleeves. As A. G. G. says of another great statesman:

No statesman ever came to greater distinction with less pushfulness and self-advertisement, or with a more deliberate avoidance of the arts of the demagogue.

He leaves the limelight to those who need it.

He has a wholesome scorn of limelight, and a dislike for all the insincerities and affectations that make for popularity. His public bearing is somewhat stiff and unsympathetic. It is the attitude of one who is always on guard over himself, who fears that geniality is only another word for weakness, and who refuses to wear his heart on his sleeve for daws to peck at. He does not invite enthusiasm nor easily respond to it, and if he makes a railway journey, he avoids wayside demonstrations and draws the window-blind of the carriage.

Though not born with a silver spoon in the mouth, he is by instinct an aristocrat (one of Plato's 'Philosophers') in the dignity of his bearing, his polite address and refined manners. His democracy is an attitude of the mind, an expression of his culture; not the joyous overplus of exultant enthusiasm. He has none of that surging passion that sweeps men off their feet. His passion burns low and reason holds up the guiding lamp. Yet he is not of those whom La Bruyere describes as being "made into sages by a certain natural mediocrity

of mind." Nothing trite or commonplace in him, none of that tiresome neutrality which easily passes for wisdom. He moves about with the grace and Attic simplicity of one with whom learning and virtue abide with ease. He is an intellectual with a bias for the graces and utilities of culture, making for a full and rounded life. Yet he has none of the æsthetic dilletantism of Balfour nor his love of mere subtlety. He weaves no metaphysical cobwebs. He is above all, the moralist in politics, continually struggling for light, and despairing of ever finding the ultimate reality in a world of relative values, he beckons you to the middle path as the way of wisdom and safety.

* * *

That is Mr. Sastri, calm and collected, with an air of abstraction as though he were communing with himself; his well shaped head (with its hair sprinkled with grey) resting on shoulders that seem to hang loosely on his limbs, his pallid face somewhat forward bent, giving the whole person a scholarly and thoughtful attitude. Sastri stands five feet eight, with broad forehead, rounded chin and earnest brows, and a face altogether as pleasant as it is mobile, expressive of a fine intellectual character. There is a sweetness and gentleness overspreading that face, whose marks of thought and feeling seem restrained under a sedate and solemn mien. Book-learning has given that mien a touch of gravity. Fruitless thoughts or baffled aspirations might have soured a less doughty spirit, but Sastri has cultivated the proud Roman virtue of equanimity, so valuable in public life. His steady, deep-set observant eyes lend to his face an expression of benevolence, 'as though he pitied men'. Sastri is a picture of dignity in repose and his countenance, somewhat melancholy as of all thoughtful men, is lit up occasionally with a tenderness that seems to tremble on his lips. In his black robes and white turban, his delicate features and gentle bearing,

Sastri looks like a Dean on the pulpit, and as his faultless accents fall, you seem to have your fill of spiritual content. Who has not seen him stepping unobtrusively from a back stair in the Gokhale Hall, quietly taking his seat at one of the back benches and when the call came for him, gliding in the dim afternoon light and breaking the suspense with measured phrases and counsels of moderation? It is a tumultuous crowd, often good-humoured, sometimes on mischief bent, but always interested in the one man who could speak out his mind, and speak in words of golden eloquence. That delicate irresolute mouth that seemed "so expressive of weakness" is not quite so weak or irresolute. He keeps his head cool as the storm is blowing and resumes as though he were only picking up a kerchief that has fallen on the floor. There is no gesture, no hoarse-throated attempt at reaching the farthest end, no sign of hesitancy, but a smooth, luminous on-flow of reasoned persuasion in a voice, musical and resonant, I had almost said "the most entrancing of voices, subtle, sweet, mournful". It is

An eloquence, not like those rills from a height
Which sparkle and foam and in vapour are o'er;
But a current that works its way into light
Through the filtering recesses of thought and of love.

At times there is a tear in that voice which gives his words a touch of noble pathos.

Sastri's eloquence is not in the mere manipulation of the voice. He is not an orator in the sense in which the late Mrs. Besant was one—voice and gesture adjusted to the exact requirements of the audience—now speaking in a whisper, then thrilling with tales of awe and mystery and, anon, coming down upon the audience with a clap of thunder. He has not the magic of the performer nor the sound and fury of the shouting politician who relies for effect on the power of his lungs. That vicious habit of mouthing words and syllables as if they were bones, is not his. The excellence

of his speech consists rather in his mastery of the subject and powers of lucid exposition coupled with a capacity for marshalling his arguments in a crescendo of eloquence. His slow, measured delivery gives him time to choose his words not only with a view to clearness and precision but also aptness and grace. His vocabulary is not prodigal, but always adequate and even the commonplaces of a political discourse are rounded off with the inevitable word, *le mot juste*, the word that is fitting alike in sense and in rhythm. All this, of course, cannot be extemporaneous and, like all true orators, Sastri takes trouble over his speeches. Perhaps his euphonious phrases and arresting imageries are coined in the meditative calm of his library or in the stillness of the starry night as he rambles leisuredly along the avenue that links "Swagatam"* with "Kaustuba".† But he does not, as is said of the late Lord Curzon, commit to memory every word of his oration. His master Gokhale, I am told, was in the habit of repeating his speech word for word, after it was delivered. His memory was extraordinary and he could pick holes in an adversary's argument with the same infallible weapon. Sastri's strong point is not in his vivacity, but in a rather languid, easy-going, style of eloquence.

* * *

But whoever has heard of conversion by argument? A picturesque phrase or a piquant thought may cajole the crowd for a moment but they remain as unconvinced as the speaker is unrepentant. When Sastri talked of the White Paper as a "grimacing anthropoid", the audience applauded but when he asked them to hug that ugly beast, they smiled in bewilderment.

And so has it always been. They cheered him when he gave ten reasons why

* The residence of the Rt. Hon. Sastri.

† The residence of his friend and neighbour Mr. T. R. V. Sastri.

the Congress-League Scheme should hold the field, but not all the fourteen reasons he gave in favour of the Montagu proposals could wean them from their implacable hostility to what in the canting phraseology of the old Congress was called "inadequate, unsatisfactory and disappointing". Intrinsically Sastri was right: for the Montagu scheme was, when all is said, a scheme, and had the elements of responsible government in it, whereas the Congress-League scheme was no scheme, but a petition for certain concessions. You may have all your grievances redressed and the demands for Indianisation granted, the army reduced and the military burden lightened, you may have more Indians in the Viceroy's Council or in the Council of the S. of S. and yet you will be as far away from responsible government as we are to-day. It is curious the Congress never tackled the problem as a constitutional issue touching the fundamentals of polity. I do not blame the veterans of the old Congress. Political thought in pre-War days could not transcend the phraseology of protests and prayers. As Sastri himself has acutely pointed out, not even the last will and testament of Gokhale himself envisages anything like the large sweep of ideas with which the post-War world is familiar. Sastri the scholar and statesman quickly grappled the new thought. But the multitude asked for consistency. They held that the sincerity of a new convert is no excuse for the vehemence of his former convictions. "Change of opinion," said Mr. Gladstone, "in those to whose judgment the public looks more or less to assist its own, is an evil to the country, although a much smaller evil than their persistence in a cause which they know to be wrong. It is not always to be blamed. But it is always to be watched with vigilance; always to be challenged and put upon its trial".

But one man with a belief, said Mill, is equal to ninety-nine persons who have only interests, and

the knowledge of Sastri's disinterestedness and the purity of his motives have steadily won over a public that has developed a tender regard for his wisdom and moderation. We believe in no man's infallibility, said Spurgeon, but it is restful, to be sure of one man's integrity.

It is the triumph of character over prejudice. It is not so much a reaction towards Liberalism as loyalty and gratitude to a career of selfless devotion to public causes.

* * *

In fact, Liberalism in India as in England is rather on the wane. Liberals may console themselves with the thought, that whatever the fortunes of the Party, their ideals are slowly gaining ground. More and more other parties will appropriate the elements of Liberalism; and a patriot to whom the substance is more than a name, will have no reason to bemoan. The incorporation of Liberalism into the sturdier elements of the country will give the nation a new faith and a radiant philosophy.

For when all is said, differences in a subject-country can only tend to demoralise society. What policy or programme could hold the field but the one programme and policy of united action for the recovery of the nation's freedom? All else is irrelevant. Anything that tends to divide the people on other issues is an anachronism. It has no place in the politics of a subject people pausing for its liberty. Until that liberty is won, we can have no patience with the trivialities that make up so much of our squabbles. While our politicians are wrangling over the connotations of Dominion Status—itsself for ever changing out of recognition—and the exact measure of responsibility that might be asked for with propriety and granted with safety—as if that measure were as inexorable as the law of gravity, it is bracing to find an Englishman sketch out the fundamentals of the problem with unerring grasp and trenchancy.

Here is no quibbling nor shirking of the fundamental issues involved, no make-believe or pretention. Says Mr. H. G. Wells in words that cannot be misunderstood:

Let us clear our best minds of cant. As a matter of fact no Indians really like British rule or think of it as anything better than a necessary temporary evil. Let us put the parallel case to an Englishman or Frenchman. Through various political ineptitudes, our country has, we will suppose, fallen under the rule of the Chinese. They administer it, we will further assume, with an efficiency and honesty unparalleled in the bad old times of our lawyer politicians. They do not admit us to the higher branches of the administration, they go about our country wearing a strange costume, professing a strange religion—which implies that ours is wrong—speaking an unfamiliar tongue. They control our financial system and our economic development—on Chinese lines of the highest merit. They take the utmost care of our Gothic cathedrals for us. They put our dearest racial possessions into Museums and admire them very much indeed. They teach our young men to fly kites and eat bird's-nest soup. They do all that a well-bred people could do to conceal their habit and persuasion of racial superiority. But they keep up their "prestige". You know we should not love them. *It really isn't a question of whether they rule well, or ill, but that the position is against certain fundamentals of human nature.* The only possible footing upon which we could meet them with comfortable minds would be the footing that we and they are discussing the terms of the restoration of our country. . . . *Everything else is humbug on the one side and self-deception on the other.*

* * *

Sastri, with his keen mind and sure grasp of principles, is not oblivious to this elemental fact of our politics. He realises it all. But he has to face a situation, ugly and venomous—"the un-blessed mother of a monstrous brood of evils" that centuries of foreign domination and the habit of subjection have left in their trail. I can almost hear him gently remonstrating with his friends in this wise: "There are interests whose very existence depends on the continuance of this unnatural situation. Any tampering with the existing order provokes hostilities in unexpected quarters. Parties grow up like mushrooms, and jealousy and self-interest feed fat on our dissections. There is an utter confusion of morals. Your own men turn against you. And in this wilderness of interminable, conflicting interests, how are you going to evolve a stable government? You are weak, disarmed,

disorganised. A rash step or desperate move will make confusion worse confounded. Let us be calm, and compose our differences. We shall advance step by step making sure that each foothold that we have won is secure. For there is danger ahead as well as behind. The government that looks so good humoured, may turn and smash you. It is a Frankenstein, pitiless, stern, overpowering. Let us not rush thoughtlessly and perish in the relentless flames. Look at Russia, Italy, Germany, Austria, everywhere those in power simply blow up their opposition with machine-guns. Indeed the whole of Europe seems to be lapsing before our eyes into a humourless ferocity unparalleled in history since the Dark Ages. The British people are not angels. Pressed to a corner they will behave no better. The justice and humanity of which they prate are not for universal application. They are a code of conduct among themselves. In fact there is a class of people in England who actually believe 'there ain't no ten commandments east of Suez'! And so beware!"

That is the method of a statesman who is wide-awake, keenly alive to our inherent weaknesses, comprehending every aspect of a situation, and anxious to handle it with tact and prudence, with caution and moderation.

But Sastri is not lacking in vision. He knows that this cold, calculating, even clear-eyed apprehension of things is not sufficient, that this eternal balancing of perils and possibilities only leaves you nerveless and abstracted. In human affairs you cannot expect all things to be as clear as the three sides of a triangle. Twenty centuries ago, before the dawn of a new faith over the Pagan world, a Roman philosopher said in words prophetic of the coming age: "Reason alone is not enough. We must take to us the power of a noble enthusiasm." That anchor holds. Where there is no vision the people perish. He knows too that sometimes our instincts are wiser

than our understanding, that courage and vision blossom out of human suffering, that there is a faith that can move mountains and it is such faith that galvanizes the nation and makes heroes out of clay. Yes, "the power of a noble enthusiasm"—at the touch of that power, behold, the dead bones of the valley become instinct with life!

Sastri's admonition to the Government is no less outspoken. On matters of national policy, or where the self-respect of the nation is at stake, Sastri speaks with unrestrained vehemence and indignation—the moralist in politics. I do not know, in all the literature of our political struggle, anything more cogent, forcible or unequivocal than Sastri's denunciation of the Rowlatt Bills, the Kenya policy or the White Paper. On all these he has spoken with a freedom and a sense of national feeling altogether becoming. Nor am I aware of any passage in all literature of eloquence, nobler or more inspiring than his tributes to the Mahatma. In one sense the Mahatma and his hectic doings serve as a handy weapon with which to chastise the bureaucracy! "Do you realise the consequences of what you are doing," he seems to ask the Government. "You must behave better, or else the Mahatma will be out with his legions!" ("Yes, but what of you?" calls a strident voice from the gallery.) That is about the tone of his awesome warning:

Although some of us have tried to dissuade him from the course, Mr. Gandhi has taken it up. Well I know how he will play his part; his character will be bold, blameless, perfectly white. I could only wish, Your Excellency, although I trust but faintly, that those of us who also have to write on this darkened page, his followers, the Government employees, we political agitators and detainees, that we could all say at the end of the business that we also wrote perfectly white.

Indeed on such grave occasions Sastri speaks with the authentic voice of all India and his sanity as his eloquence glows in incandescent colours. He typifies

The genius of the East
Resourceful, patient, undemonstrative
Luxurious, enigmatically sage,

and hence his wide appeal to a matter of fact world. He is the wise man of the East in far away Australia, in Canada, in South Africa. It was therefore a master-stroke of statesmanship that sent him to South Africa on a mission of peace. The Government of India could not have pitched upon a more respected representative of an ancient civilization. It was like the appointment of Bryce to the American Embassy. Both brought something of the culture and dignity of the old world to the bustle and distractions of the new. In either case it was a departure from the routine of appointing men brought up to a trade, a departure that justified itself by its success. "The sure way to make a foolish ambassador," said Coleridge, "is to bring him up to it. What can an Englishman abroad really want but an honest and bold heart, a love for his country and the Ten Commandments? Your art diplomatic is stuff—no truly great man would negotiate upon such shallow principles." "Love of country and the Ten Commandments"—yes, that is what made Sastri the supreme exponent of India in South Africa. Sastri is more honoured abroad than even at home, and his radiant sanity of outlook made him not only an ideal Agent of the Government of India, but a true representative of the culture and civilization of this country. The impress of such a personality on the race-scarred politics of South Africa could not have been negligible. And if our hopes for a new orientation of South African policy have any reality, it is in no small measure the result of the influence of men like Sastri. But the problem is still there, as puzzling as ever it was and if the truth must be told, it will persist so long as India herself is not free. Kenya lost, said Mr. Sastri once, all is lost. We might with greater truth say that the problem of Indians overseas will be solved automatically with the problem of Indians at home. We cannot have freedom abroad until we have freedom at home.

When the history of these times comes to be written, there will emerge a figure with a certain simplicity and aloofness not without a touch of pathos. And that figure, I think, will be Sastri. Gandhi will stand as the great exemplar of national resurrection, for ever failing, but for ever triumphant, like virtue. Against him are the forces of reaction, entrenched in the citadel of orthodoxy in religion and relentless bureaucracy in government. Between the two extremes would stand reformers like Sastri and Sapru, trying to reconcile the one with the other, Scipio-like, warning both of the perils of unreasoning persistence, lending a hand now to the one, now to the other, in a desperate attempt to avoid a catastrophe. It is a thankless task. For in attempting to help each side, they in turn court the wrath of the other. But Sastri knows, as Gokhale did, that we have to serve our country through our failures, and he goes about his work with the eternal cry of Hamlet:

O! cursed fate,
That I was born to set the crooked straight.

To him there is no reward beyond the satisfaction of duty done. He looks for no other. Is it nothing to have borne the brunt of public obloquy, to have chosen the unpopular cause when it is so easy to cry with the crowd? Sastri is not the kind of person to go jousting like a swashbuckler, but who will deny that it is courage of a kind to stand steadfast by one's ideals and methods in scorn of consequence? I honour the man, said Lowell

The man who is ready to sink
Half his present repute for the freedom to think;
And when he has thought, be his cause strong or weak,
Will sink t'other half for the freedom to speak
Caring naught for what vengeance the mob has
Let that mob be the upper ten thousand or the lower.

That is how we look upon Sastri. I am not here concerned to discuss those methods and ideals. But Sastri has maintained them with a courage and consistency which must be their own reward.

Sastri is temperamentally of those who would rather "sit still and contemplate" and browse over the things of the spirit in a wise passiveness. I fancy he will be more at home in

That blessed mood,
In which the burthen of the mystery,
In which the heavy and the weary weight,
Of all this unintelligible world,
Is lightened.

But politics are exacting and in the spirit of sacrifice he has forsaken the cloister for the forum. And now like the hero in Kipling's story:

He had used his wealth and his power for what he knew both to be worth; he had taken honour when it came in his way; he had seen men and cities, far and near, and men and cities had stood up and honoured him. Now he would let these things go as a man drops the cloak he needs no longer.

And what can be more felicitous for him than to return to his old love of books and writing? There await him laurels in authorship. Let us not discuss if the fame of an author or that of the statesman is more enduring. For it was not the love of fame that stirred Sastri to a noble act of renunciation when eight and twenty years ago he gave up a career in search of service. I would not have a scholar of Sastri's outstanding talents "lay down his pen to make sure of an auditor and mortgage the admiration of posterity for the stare of an idler."* I still look forward to a master-piece on Gokhale from his pen; for what with his intimate knowledge of the Master, his historic perspective and his matchless style a political biography of the kind that Sastri alone could write will be a lasting memorial to both and a source of inspiration to succeeding generations.

Next to the life of Gokhale, I would love to have Sastri's reminiscences. He is nearing the Psalmist's three score years and ten, and it looks somewhat odd, if not impertinent, that anybody should advise him as to what he should do. But that is the age when Morley wrote his Recollections, and I have often dreamt of

* Hazlitt on Coleridge.

reading Sastri's Revised Judgments of men and events of his time. That now unwritten work of his, I fancy, will be among the treasures of my bed-side companions. And who more competent to teach us the mellow wisdom of years in a style as fascinating and transparent as his own character? In a life of

varied activities, he has been everywhere, has read almost everything, and knows everybody worth knowing. And then that book, I know, will call to mind some of the most thrilling episodes of these tempestuous times, not unmingled with tenderness and a gentle pathos of memory.

Early History of Assam

BY "HISTORICUS"

ASSAM which has been described in Muhammadan chronicles as a land of mystery and witchcraft, has been but little known to the average student of Indian history. Its early history has been lost in the midst of tradition and legend. Its most ancient past was associated with Narakasura and goes back to the epoch of the Bharata War. Our author* who is a member of the Government of Assam and is the President of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Society, aims at presenting a connected history of the kingdom of Kamarupa from the earliest times till the death of the Koch king, Naranarayan, towards the end of the 16th century. He is of the view that the Aryan culture extended to these regions directly from Videha and Magadha long before Central or Lower Bengal was Aryanised. He maintains that Pragjyotisha as, the kingdom was called, was originally a Dravidian kingdom which was swamped by Mongolian hordes and subsequently revived by Naraka. Also he is of the opinion that Naraka's protection of the Kamakhiya shrine, so famous even at the present day, proves the great antiquity of the Yoni cult which was probably of pre-Aryan origins.

The heroic period of Assam represented by Naraka and Bhagadatta was followed by a long epoch of darkness from which we come into

light in the 4th century A.D. From this time the author is able, with the help of epigraphs, to trace a continuous line of rulers till the 12th century. He says that the kingdom of Kamarupa extended its power over northern and central Bengal after the decline of the Gupta power. He examines certain conflicting statements regarding the visit of the Chinese Pilgrim, Hiuen-Tsiang, to these regions. Later, he discusses the conquest of Assam by the Pala kings of Assam and by their successors, the Senas. He also traces in brief outline the several Mussalman invasions of the land till the end of the 15th century and remarks that, after 1255, Kamarupa enjoyed comparative freedom for two centuries. He then traces the development of the Koch kingdom which reached its zenith during Naranarayan's reign. He has given more than adequate treatment to the fortune of the Koch rulers and to the work of reform effected by the celebrated reformer, Sankara Deva, who removed the worst feature of Tantricism. The author writes with marked enthusiasm on the cultural and material progress of Kamarupa between the 4th and 12th centuries and he claims the dramatist, Visakhadatta, and also the reformer, Kumarila Bhatta, for his own province and his notices of Tantricism, Sahijia cult and the Kamakhiya worship are all interesting.

* EARLY HISTORY OF KAMARUPA. By Rai K. L. Barua Bahadur, B.L., Published by the Author, Shillong.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BY "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

The Assembly's Term

AT last we have the Government's *Communique* announcing the Governor-General's decision to dissolve the Indian Legislative Assembly. It is common knowledge that the Government of India had had protracted controversy with the India Office over the question of the dissolution and we owe it to the wise and firm stand that H. E. Lord Willingdon took on the matter. According to all accounts the Assembly had become an effete and ineffectual body; it had absolutely no moral prestige behind it. Any further lease of life to it would undoubtedly have been construed as a deliberate attempt on the part of the authorities to prevent Congress from being represented on it and that would have been "a dangerously timid attitude."

The Ranchi Conference

The Ranchi Conference aimed at resuscitating the old Swarajya Party as part of the Congress organization. As might be expected, the Conference had the blessing and guidance of the Mahatma himself who seems to have taken a by no means insignificant part in shaping its decisions. The Swarajya Party, according to the Ranchi decision, was authorised to function as the Parliamentary Party of the Congress and was to enjoy a certain amount of autonomy subject to the formulation of the National demand in pursuance of the Congress creed and adoption of the repeal of repressive laws and release of political prisoners as part of the party's programme. The Congress Working Committee, was to keep watch over the Swarajya Party's activities to see that while enjoying autonomy, it did not violate the Congress creed.

The Patna Decisions

The All-India Congress Committee which met at Patna to review the Ranchi decisions and register its views on Gandhiji's statement

suspending civil disobedience and permitting the Swarajists to contest the elections had a momentous session on the 18th. It was presided over by the veteran Pandit Malaviya. The two principal resolutions before the meeting were those on civil disobedience and the Assembly elections. Those who had imagined that Gandhiji's influence was on the wane should have been thoroughly disillusioned. For the momentous session of the A. I. C. C. was yet another demonstration of the commanding position Gandhiji holds in Congress circles. All the fourteen amendments to his resolution were negatived. The resolution on civil disobedience was moved by Dr. Ansari while that on the Assembly elections was commended to the house by Mahatma Gandhi himself. But Gandhiji spoke on both occasions. Indeed, the draftsmanship of the resolutions was entrusted to him. It was yet another mark of their confidence in his leadership and Gandhiji's draftsmanship on which hung the prospect of a united Congress carried the day. The Mahatma's explanation won over the recalcitrant section and the Congress itself went a step further than the mere passive acquiescence in the Swarajist programme of Council work. Hereafter Swarajists are no more the rebels from the central body of the Congress as once they were supposed to be. For the Congress itself, according to Gandhiji's resolution, will direct and control the Swarajist work in the Assembly. What is called the Congress Parliamentary Board consisting of not more than 25 Congressmen with Dr. Ansari as President will be in charge of this part of the Congress work. The Board itself shall be subject to the control of the A. I. C. C. and shall have the power to "frame its constitution and make rules and regulations from time to time for the management of its affairs." So the whole Congress is now committed to the Council programme and we have no doubt this is a step in the right direction.

WORLD EVENTS

BY PROF. A. J. SAUNDERS, M.A., Ph.D.

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

WE have been hearing a great deal about Political sanctions, and though they are important, it may be that Economic sanctions are even more important for recovery; at least that is what a group of the younger Fellows of some of the Oxford colleges think, for they have recently addressed a memorandum to his Majesty's Government in Britain discussing the nature of economic sanctions and the problems which they raise. Their main thesis is that the world has tried military force with doubtful success, now it is time to try something else, and they suggest an international organisation of economic sanctions, so that any aggressor nation would run the risk of not only incurring military opposition, but would also be subject to economic and financial boycott. It is urged that economic sanctions may become the substitute for war, because more effective and more humane than the old brutalities of fighting.

PEACE IN EUROPE

What impresses the student of modern Europe to-day more than perhaps anything else is the constant remark which one reads almost every week that Europe is drifting into war. Professor Einstein writing from America recently has been talking about facing reality in Europe—the reality is the possibility of war. He writes:—

"I now realise that the remnant of European democratic countries cannot afford to disarm so long as they have not succeeded in creating an effective international guarantee against assault, and as long as the regime in Germany makes that country a menace to its neighbours.

Nothing is more dangerous than to shut one's eyes in face of a horrible and menacing reality.

Real security requires the creation of an international force of superior power.

When security, through an international police force, has been achieved and has remained a reality for a certain length of time, then, and then only, will security be fortified little by little on a permanent basis through tradition, and it will be possible to decrease the police force. Complete disarmament is an impossibility.

GERMANY AND FRANCE

No agreement can be reached while Germany and France remain irreconcilable; Germany demands equality in the matter of armaments, and practically all the other countries are agreed on the policy of equality except France, and France demands security against German aggression, but cannot feel secure while Germany is rearming. Germany's greatest need at the moment is the good-will of the nations, but she is deliberately thwarting the sense of goodwill by her Nazi policy. Take for instance her attitude towards her foreign debtors; to refuse to meet her payments in foreign currencies is on the face of it to court criticism and ill-will on the part of the creditors, and yet the financial situation in Germany is still bad, as this statement from Dr. Schacht shows:

International trade, by which alone Germany could procure foreign currencies, had dropped to one-third. Three years ago the reserves of the Reichsbank amounted to three milliard marks, in gold and foreign currencies, but the reserves were now only 200 million marks, resulting in the present inability of Germany to transfer her debts in foreign currencies. Help could only come from an increase of German exports or from concessions made by creditors in regard to the rate of interest and postponement of amortisation.

JAPAN AND AMERICA

The arrival of the new Japanese Ambassador to the United States was the occasion of a statement of the foreign aims of Japan. The new Ambassador, Mr. Hirota said: "No question exists between our two countries that is fundamentally incapable of amicable solution."

I can state [said Mr. Hirota] with all the emphasis at my command that the Japanese nation makes it its basic principle to collaborate in peace and harmony with all nations, and has no intention whatever to provoke and make trouble with any other Power. It is the sincere desire of Japan that a most peaceful and friendly relation will be firmly established between her and her great neighbour across the Pacific, the United States.

There is another side, however, to this question, and Japan's recent statement of the "hands-off policy" in connection with China, or the Monroe doctrine applied to Manchuria is hardly

JUNE 1934]

WORLD EVENTS

397

in accordance with the statement above. Japan wants to be left alone, to pursue her own policy in Asia: she will not take interference or opposition from other nations.

AUSTRALIA

Australia is coming to realise that it will be to her commercial advantage to know more about and co-operate with her Asian neighbours. Since the War Australian exports to Asiatic neighbours have increased from 1/20 to 1/5 of her total exports, while Australian imports from Asia have doubled in the same period to about 1/10 of her total. Because of these facts a "Mission of Good Will" is being sent by the Government, headed by the Australian Minister for External Affairs—Mr. Latham, to the East Indies, Malaya, China and Japan to study trade possibilities, and to strengthen friendship. Much good is hoped to come to all the countries concerned by this visit.

AUSTRIA

The number of countries submitting to a DICTATOR has been increased by the addition of Austria which has turned Fascist, and a new constitution was promulgated on May 1st. It has been common knowledge for some time that Dr. Dollfuss, the Chancellor, has favoured following the example of either Germany or Italy. The recent trouble with the Nazis of Germany has evidently turned Austria away from affiliation with Germany, though that is Austria's natural field of co-operation, to Italy with which country Austria will probably have a greater sense of freedom to work out their own future. On Labour Day, May 1st. Austria officially became a Fascist State. Dr. Dollfuss's method of gaining official recognition was rather novel, but it was nonetheless dictatorial. Herr Hitler had to wait some time, and educate the German people up to Nazism, then he took a national vote. The Austrian Dictator assembled Parliament for the sole purpose of ratifying the new Constitution, and when that was done

Parliament was dissolved and ceased to be. We shall have to wait some time to see whether the new Government in Austria functions, and with what success.

AMERICAN DEFICIT

The United States is closing its year with another huge deficit well over £500 million, but despite the deficit indications are that recovery is setting in America. The Johnson Bill has been passed by the House of Representatives; it outlaws the bonds, securities and obligations of any foreign Government in default in the payment of its obligations or any part thereof. A recent decision of the Attorney-General has granted exemption to those who have made token payment in the operation of the measure. The country most hurt by this legislation will be Soviet Russia which has just been recognised, and as a result it was hoped that both countries would be benefited in trade exchanges.

ITALY'S NEW STATE

Reuter has cabled that "the parliamentary system will cease in Italy on July 1st, when the corporative state will be inaugurated." This means that parliamentary government will be superseded by government by corporations which will be under the direct control of Signor Mussolini. The Dictator will appoint the presidents of the corporations, tell them what they are to do, and have them wholly responsible to him for the policies and conduct of their business. There will be 22 corporations embracing all the country's production and distribution. Over these are to be seven confederations, two each dealing with industry, agriculture, and commerce, while a seventh one will control the professions. This is a new economic organisation which has tremendous possibilities, for it is intended to utilise experts in the whole economic life of the nation, and the whole organisation to be under the direct control of the Chancellor who will dictate not only the political policy of the country, but the economic life as well. We shall watch with much interest this new development in Italian fascism.

WORLD EVENTS

BY PROF. A. J. SAUNDERS, M.A., Ph.D.

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

WE have been hearing a great deal about Political sanctions, and though they are important, it may be that Economic sanctions are even more important for recovery; at least that is what a group of the younger Fellows of some of the Oxford colleges think, for they have recently addressed a memorandum to his Majesty's Government in Britain discussing the nature of economic sanctions and the problems which they raise. Their main thesis is that the world has tried military force with doubtful success, now it is time to try something else, and they suggest an international organisation of economic sanctions, so that any aggressor nation would run the risk of not only incurring military opposition, but would also be subject to economic and financial boycott. It is urged that economic sanctions may become the substitute for war, because more effective and more humane than the old brutalities of fighting.

PEACE IN EUROPE

What impresses the student of modern Europe to-day more than perhaps anything else is the constant remark which one reads almost every week that Europe is drifting into war. Professor Einstein writing from America recently has been talking about facing reality in Europe—the reality is the possibility of war. He writes:—

"I now realise that the remnant of European democratic countries cannot afford to disarm so long as they have not succeeded in creating an effective international guarantee against assault, and as long as the regime in Germany makes that country a menace to its neighbours.

Nothing is more dangerous than to shut one's eyes in face of a horrible and menacing reality.

Real security requires the creation of an international force of superior power.

When security, through an international police force, has been achieved and has remained a reality for a certain length of time, then, and then only, will security be fortified little by little on a permanent basis through tradition, and it will be possible to decrease the police force. Complete disarmament is an impossibility.

GERMANY AND FRANCE

No agreement can be reached while Germany and France remain irreconcilable; Germany demands equality in the matter of armaments, and practically all the other countries are agreed on the policy of equality except France, and France demands security against German aggression, but cannot feel secure while Germany is rearming. Germany's greatest need at the moment is the good-will of the nations, but she is deliberately thwarting the sense of goodwill by her Nazi policy. Take for instance her attitude towards her foreign debtors; to refuse to meet her payments in foreign currencies is on the face of it to court criticism and ill-will on the part of the creditors, and yet the financial situation in Germany is still bad, as this statement from Dr. Schacht shows:

International trade, by which alone Germany could procure foreign currencies, had dropped to one-third. Three years ago the reserves of the Reichsbank amounted to three milliard marks, in gold and foreign currencies, but the reserves were now only 200 million marks, resulting in the present inability of Germany to transfer her debts in foreign currencies. Help could only come from an increase of German exports or from concessions made by creditors in regard to the rate of interest and postponement of amortisation.

JAPAN AND AMERICA

The arrival of the new Japanese Ambassador to the United States was the occasion of a statement of the foreign aims of Japan. The new Ambassador, Mr. Hirota said: "No question exists between our two countries that is fundamentally incapable of amicable solution."

I can state [said Mr. Hirota] with all the emphasis at my command that the Japanese nation makes it its basic principle to collaborate in peace and harmony with all nations, and has no intention whatever to provoke and make trouble with any other Power. It is the sincere desire of Japan that a most peaceful and friendly relation will be firmly established between her and her great neighbour across the Pacific, the United States.

There is another side, however, to this question, and Japan's recent statement of the "hands-off policy" in connection with China, or the Monroe doctrine applied to Manchuria is hardly

JUNE 1934]

WORLD EVENTS

397

in accordance with the statement above. Japan wants to be left alone, to pursue her own policy in Asia: she will not take interference or opposition from other nations.

AUSTRALIA

Australia is coming to realise that it will be to her commercial advantage to know more about and co-operate with her Asian neighbours. Since the War Australian exports to Asiatic neighbours have increased from 1/20 to 1/5 of her total exports, while Australian imports from Asia have doubled in the same period to about 1/10 of her total. Because of these facts a "Mission of Good Will" is being sent by the Government, headed by the Australian Minister for External Affairs—Mr. Latham, to the East Indies, Malaya, China and Japan to study trade possibilities, and to strengthen friendship. Much good is hoped to come to all the countries concerned by this visit.

AUSTRIA

The number of countries submitting to a DICTATOR has been increased by the addition of Austria which has turned Fascist, and a new constitution was promulgated on May 1st. It has been common knowledge for some time that Dr. Dollfuss, the Chancellor, has favoured following the example of either Germany or Italy. The recent trouble with the Nazis of Germany has evidently turned Austria away from affiliation with Germany, though that is Austria's natural field of co-operation, to Italy with which country Austria will probably have a greater sense of freedom to work out their own future. On Labour Day, May 1st, Austria officially became a Fascist State. Dr. Dollfuss's method of gaining official recognition was rather novel, but it was nonetheless dictatorial. Herr Hitler had to wait some time, and educate the German people up to Nazism, then he took a national vote. The Austrian Dictator assembled Parliament for the sole purpose of ratifying the new Constitution, and when that was done

Parliament was dissolved and ceased to be. We shall have to wait some time to see whether the new Government in Austria functions, and with what success.

AMERICAN DEFICIT

The United States is closing its year with another huge deficit well over £500 million, but despite the deficit indications are that recovery is setting in America. The Johnson Bill has been passed by the House of Representatives; it outlaws the bonds, securities and obligations of any foreign Government in default in the payment of its obligations or any part thereof. A recent decision of the Attorney-General has granted exemption to those who have made token payment in the operation of the measure. The country most hurt by this legislation will be Soviet Russia which has just been recognised, and as a result it was hoped that both countries would be benefited in trade exchanges.

ITALY'S NEW STATE

Reuter has cabled that "the parliamentary system will cease in Italy on July 1st, when the corporative state will be inaugurated." This means that parliamentary government will be superseded by government by corporations which will be under the direct control of Signor Mussolini. The Dictator will appoint the presidents of the corporations, tell them what they are to do, and have them wholly responsible to him for the policies and conduct of their business. There will be 22 corporations embracing all the country's production and distribution. Over these are to be seven confederations, two each dealing with industry, agriculture, and commerce, while a seventh one will control the professions. This is a new economic organisation which has tremendous possibilities, for it is intended to utilise experts in the whole economic life of the nation, and the whole organisation to be under the direct control of the Chancellor who will dictate not only the political policy of the country, but the economic life as well. We shall watch with much interest this new development in Italian fascism.

Trade and Finance

By "SRIVAS"

THE NEW LOAN

THIS review falls to be written on what is undoubtedly the eve of this year's new loan. And the financial world in India is naturally engrossed in the problems relating to it. It is sometime now since the expectations raised by Sir George Schuster in his last budget were dispelled and Government and the market alike recognise that a loan of goodly proportions has to be raised this year also. The preparations for the loan were made from quite an early stage of the period under review. The first step in this direction was the suspension of intermediate treasury bills as from the last week of April. It was then believed that the suspension was due less to the desire of the Government to prepare for a loan than to the recognition that May was a month of very low maturities of treasury bills and that, therefore, there was no need for Government to borrow more from the market than could be had by way of the weekly auctions. Whatever that may be, the suspension of intermediates led to the second condition, namely, easier money conditions in the market. For the suspension of intermediates means that the volume of funds awaiting investment in the Government's floating debt was more than what the Government were prepared to take; and the law of supply and demand brought about a decline in the treasury bills discounts. During the week ending May 19th, the Government took a further step in the same direction by reducing the weekly auctions from Rs. 1½ crores to Rs. 1 crore. It is natural, therefore, that from the time intermediates were suspended, there has been a steady and rapid fall in treasury bills discount from Rs. 2-8 per cent. in the middle of April to Rs. 0-15-10 per cent. during the week just ended.

EXPANSION OF CURRENCY

The Government have also helped the onset of easy money conditions by effecting an

expansion of currency to the extent of Rs. 3 crores. This marks a significant departure from the traditional policy of deflation in all circumstances. It will be remembered that towards the close of the last financial year the Government effected transfers from the swollen Home Treasury balances to the Paper Currency Reserve to the extent of £8.9 million. But this access of sterling securities in the Reserve was off-set by a cancellation of *ad hoc* rupee securities; with the result that the note circulation stood practically at the same level as before these transfers were effected. This procedure caused considerable resentment in all sections of public opinion; and it is significant that the first act of deference to such opinion coincides with the landing of the new Finance Member at Bombay. If any conclusions are deducible from an isolated act which might after all be attributable to the ex-Finance Member, there is reason to hope that in some respects at least Sir James Gregg will prove more responsive to public opinion than his predecessor.

STATE OF GILTEDGE

It can be guessed that the gilt-edge market, which is far and above the more potent factor in the success or failure of a new loan operation, was shaped almost exclusively by the two factors of lower discount rates and expansion of currency. But unfortunately there has been no correspondence between the fall in money rates and treasury bills discounts and the price of gilt-edged securities. The behaviour of the market had been perplexingly strange at times, as, for instance, when the expansion of currency to the extent of Rs. 3 crores was actually followed by a decline of four to five annas in 3½ per cent. Paper. The market is yet to assert its independence of a generally bearish psychology and during the middle of the month a sharp set back was caused, in spite of the certainty that treasury

JUNE 1934]

TRADE AND FINANCE

399

bills rates would continue to show a sharp decline. The loss has not yet been made up, though at the time of writing, 3½ per cent. paper is quoted at about Rs. 89½. Now that treasury bills' discount-rate has come below the level of Re. 1 per cent. it is certain that the gilt-edge market will prove itself equal to the worst of bear raids and that the Government would not have much worry about the state of the gilt-edge market.

TERMS AND TIME

Speculations about the time and terms of the new loan are now rife. Government have already done enough to assure the public that the loan is not long in coming. Besides such significant measures as expansion of currency, suspension of intermediates and reduction of weekly off-take of Treasuries, they have also given formal notice to the holders of 1934-37 loan that payment will be made in full in August. As there can be no question of such re-payment being made from current resources, the new loan is certain. It is generally believed that the new issue will be for both conversion and cash, the 1934 and 1934-37 being available for conversion into the new issue. As the loan to be converted is on a 4 per cent. basis, it is only common sense that the new issue must bear a lower basis of interest. The choice is between a three per cent. short term loan at a lower issue price and a 3½ per cent. loan at a price of about Rs. 99. The balance of opinion in the market and informed circles is in favour of the latter. As for the time of the new loan, the circumstances that June is a month of very heavy maturities of treasury bills, makes it certain that the new loan will be announced in the first week of June, treasury bills maturing during the month being eligible as subscription to the cash part of the loan.

THE GENERAL STRIKE IN BOMBAY

In the world of industry and commerce the important topics of the period under review are the general strike in Bombay, the question of restriction of coal output and the restriction

agreement arrived at among the international producers of rubber. The general strike cannot be said to have been sprung on the mill-owners as a surprise. Labour in the Bombay presidency have long been restive, and the strike which broke out at Sholapur nearly two months ago gave the labour leaders not only an opportunity but a useful war cry. Opinion in favour of the strike was canvassed. And the Bombay mill-owners too played into the hands of the leaders by their open manoeuvres for a general reduction in wages. It is true that they ultimately decided that the mills were to act separately; but it was a common decision on the part of the millowners' Association and the mill-owners thought that such a move would force labour to take definite action. Merits of the questions on dispute between labour and capital in Bombay are still a matter for controversy and in a sense the whole question is *sub judice*; because as a result of the discussion in the Bombay Legislative Council on the Sholapur strike, the Government of Bombay appointed a Committee to enquire into the conditions of the cotton mill industry, with special reference to wages and costs of living. It is not clear yet whether the Bombay Committee would enquire into or try to appraise the changes in the productive efficiency of the operatives in the Bombay mills. But it is obviously useless to try to decide between labour and capital in Bombay without the material which the Government Committee will shortly be placing before the Committee.

COAL RESTRICTION

Though the coal industry has long been in need of a regulation of output, it is only during the last month that it found it possible to forward to the Government of India a definite scheme designed for the purpose. Even then the industry was unable to secure unity of support from the producers and the restriction scheme has also unfortunately had a bad press. The report of the reply of the Government of India to the Indian Mining Association turning down the scheme of restriction gave the impression that the Government of India were dead set against any scheme of restriction for the coal industry. But the contradiction issued by the Mining Association shows that Government would give the scheme their best consideration, provided certain defects, to which they had drawn attention, were removed.

Diary of the Month

Apr. 25. Sir Harry Haig is appointed Governor of U. P.
 Apr. 26. Germany refuses to sign the protocol of the Baltic countries.
 Apr. 27. The Police open fire on the strikers in the Bombay mills.
 Apr. 28. Sultan Ibn Saud meets with striking success in the Arabian War.
 Apr. 29. An International Agreement is reached with regard to world's Rubber restriction.
 Apr. 30. The Philippine Legislature accepts the Independence Bill.
 May 1. Austria becomes a Fascist State.
 May 2. Dr. Dollfuss appoints Prince Starhemberg as Vice-Chancellor of Austria.
 May 3. The Svajist Conference meets at Ranchi under the presidency of Dr. Ansari.
 May 4. Sir James Grigg, the new Finance Member arrives in Bombay.
 May 5. Sir George and Lady Schuster leave for England.
 May 6. The International Federation of Textile workers meets in Lucerne.
 May 7. World's Wheat Conference meets in London.



SIR JOHN ANDERSON

May 8. H. E. Sir John Anderson, Governor of Bengal is shot at, but providentially escapes.

May 9. President Roosevelt announces that U. S. A. stands for the collection of her War Debts.
 May 10. His Majesty the King receives Indian Orderly Officers.
 May 11. The A. I. C. C. office is opened at Patna.
 May 12. The Nepalese Mission leaves Bombay for England.
 May 13. Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto is appointed Minister of Bombay Government.
 May 14. Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Willingdon leave Simla for Europe.
 May 15. Bolivia threatens to bomb the Paraguayan capital.
 May 16. H. E. Sir George Stanley takes charge of his office as Viceroy and Governor-General. —The Hon. Sir Mahomed Usman assumes charge of the Governorship of Madras.
 May 17. All-India Socialist Conference at Patna passes resolution opposing the Swarajist Party.
 May 18. The meeting of the Calcutta Corporation, convened for electing a Mayor, ends in a fiasco.
 May 19. League Council decides to place an embargo on the supply of arms to Paraguay and Bolivia.
 May 20. The A. I. C. C. formally suspends Civil Disobedience.
 May 21. Dr. Ansari appeals to all Congressmen to co-operate in carrying out the A. I. C. C. resolutions.
 May 22. Sir B. B. Ghose who acted for some time as Law Member to the Govt of India during the absence of Sir B. L. Mitter is dead.
 May 23. Lord Erskine is appointed Governor of Madras.
 —Sir Abdul Quadir is appointed member of the India Council.
 May 24. Dr. Ansari sails for Europe from Bombay.



LANDMARKS IN INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (1600-1219.) By Gurumukh Nihal Singh, M. Sc., Professor of Political Science, Benares Hindu University. The Indian Bookshop, Benares City. (Available of G. A. Natesan & Co., Madras. Price Rs. 10.)

This volume deals with the origin and development of the British Indian Constitution as well as with the history of the national movement in the country. The first part of the book deals with the growth of the Indian Government under the Company's rule and serves "to make the picture complete of the political, rather constitutional, aspects of British rule." Herein stress is laid on topics like Parliamentary control over the Indian Government, the regulation of the press, the growth of opposition to the Company's rule both from English sources and among Indians and the Act of 1858.

The Second Part is far more elaborate and deals in detail with the growth of representative institutions as indicated by the three Acts of 1892, 1909, and 1919; and it also gives a summary of events of administrative and constitutional importance which formed the historical setting of each one of these Acts. Among these latter is noted the establishment of personal relations between the British Royal House and the Princes and people of India. The

development of local self-government from the epoch of the famous Resolution of 1883-84, the different phases through which the National Congress has passed, the rise of the school of romantic nationalism led by Tilak, Lajpat Rai and others and the manifestation of religious nationalism—these are all led to show the creation of a new life in the country and the pursuit of a double policy of repression and political reform, at one and the same time. It is a difficult task that the author has accomplished in steering a middle course between the blatancy of writers like Lovett on the one hand and the extremist manifestations of writers like Lajpat Rai on the other, and in presenting to the reader an informed and substantially true page of Indian national growth, both in thought and institutional development.

OUT OF THE CLOUDS. By Walter Clemow Launon. Messrs. L. N. Fowler & Co., London.

This is a Christian devotional book written by an International Lecturer consisting of twenty four sermons on religious subjects intended as helps towards the personal and immediate realisation of the Kingdom of Heaven within each person. The book is dedicated to Father Divine and its thesis may be summed up in the author's own words—Out of the Clouds of human Beliefs, Creeds, Doctrines and Religions is emerging the fourth dimensional consciousness—Heaven on Earth,

SECRET SERVICE OPERATOR 13. By Robert W. Chambers. D. Appleton Century Co., New York and London.

This thrilling story of love and war holds one's attention, developing one dramatic episode after another with startling rapidity. It is scarcely possible to believe that a young woman could survive the dangers and hardships voluntarily undertaken by the heroine in spite of the incredible risks people seem willing to take in times of war in the name of patriotism.

Aside from the thrilling story the book is well worth reading for the clear picture it gives of life and conditions in America during the Civil War and the terrible suffering endured when a great nation is split asunder by political differences and friends and even families take up arms against one another.

While the book is in no sense a history of the times or of the Civil War it probably gives the average reader a better idea of the conditions in America at the time and the bitter spirit in which the war was fought than would be gained by reading a history text book. The reader is left wondering if all that cruelty and suffering was really necessary to settle a political problem which clearly should have been settled by saner means.

PROBLEMS OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION IN INDIA. By F. M. De Mello. Oxford University Press. Re. 1.

The series of articles on the subject which appeared last year in the *Times of India* have been collected together and published in book form. The articles provide a sufficiently broad outline of the subject to serve as an introduction to the problems of rural reconstruction, which is of interest not merely to the student of economics or to the politician but to every thinking member of the public. The book will be of benefit to those who have not the time to go through the rich and varied literature on the subject.

JOHN WESLEY AND THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. By Maldwyn Edwards. George Allen and Unwin Ltd.

This is a short study of the influence of John Wesley, not on religious thought, but on the social and political development of his age. Like many religious leaders, he took a strong and not always very well-informed line in these matters, holding the high Tory view that the utmost liberty and privilege were enjoyed by those who had the good fortune to live under the British Constitution of the eighteenth century, and that any attempt to alter this constitution or to secure a more representative government was to be strongly condemned. In theory he had the highest respect for the governing classes, but in practice he had no very great opinion of them and much preferred the poor among whom he moved. His practice had more effect than his theory; the Wesleyan movement, which recognised no social distinctions in the religious life, did much to educate the people and to build up a class capable of wielding the political power which John Wesley would have been most unwilling to give it.

The influence of Wesley, though contemporaries mistrusted his enthusiasm, was one of the great steadying factors in eighteenth century England. The great force of religious feeling which he aroused and directed, made strongly for personal honesty and uprightness both in private and public life. Bribery was common everywhere, but no follower of Wesley was allowed to take or give a bribe, on pain of instant expulsion. Smuggling, too, was forbidden, and Wesley fought all his life against the great public evils of the slave trade and the press gang. But his campaign was always for individual righteousness; it was not for many years that the public conscience, which he did so much to arouse, was moved to collective action for the removal of social evil.

AN AFRICAN SPEAKS FOR HIS PEOPLE. By Parmenas Githendu Moreerie, with a Foreword by Julian Huxley. Published by Leonard and Virginia Woolf at the Hogarth Press.

Readers in India are familiar with the complaints made about the treatment accorded to Indians in the South African colonies. But all the time there has existed a more pathetic story, that relating to the injustice meted out to the native African. The British power has broken the vital points of African tribal organisation and substituted a farcical form of popular representation probably very much like what they have done in India. The Africans have been denied freedom of association and of speech. The British authority has acted oppressively in the application of industrial laws prohibiting for instance the making of sugar by the Africans, so that the Europeans might sell it to them at a high price. Even the policy of education as far as the Africans are concerned, has been grudging. Other European powers in Africa have been generous in teaching the Africans the Europeans languages and so helping them to be associated in the government of the states. The conditions in which African labour is maintained are again shocking to all sense of humanity. When an African receives a high English education and meets Englishmen on their own level, as the author of this book has done, we may hope that a beginning is made to bridge the gulf between the white and dark races.

GROUNDWORK OF TEACHING. By K. G. Warty M.A., B.T., Headmaster, High School, Gokak.

This is an elementary treatise on the subjects of the general methods in education and contains the minimum a teacher ought to know about the science and art of his profession. The book will be found useful by all young teachers.

BALI: ENCHANTED ISLE. Helen Eva Yates. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. 7s. 6d.

This is a chatty travel book, relating in colloquial style the authoress' impressions of a visit to the little island of Bali, near Java. Her Dutch friends there arranged interesting tours of sight seeing for her, and she records with lively enthusiasm what she was told of the customs and beliefs of the inhabitants. It is not in any sense a study; but it is a cheerful description, illustrated with numerous excellent photographs and will no doubt prove attractive to those contemplating a tour in the neighbourhood of Java.

REVISION MATHEMATICS. By L. Crosland. Messrs. Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London.

The collection of examples and exercises brought together in this book is intended to provide an instructive and helpful revision course for pupils who present themselves for the School Certificate examinations in England in Mathematics. The questions are grouped under the main heads of subjects in Arithmetic, Algebra and Geometry; and worked out examples precede each set to illustrate the general principles or operations involved. The book will be found very useful by all students who appear for the Madras School Leaving Certificate Examination.

BOOKS RECEIVED

SCIENCE AND THE SPIRIT OF MAN. By J. W. Friend and James Feibleman. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd.

MAIN CURRENTS OF MARATHA HISTORY. By G. S. Sardesai, B.A., Kamshet, District Poona.

ECONOMIC ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF GUSTAV CASSEL. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London.

THE RIDDLE OF THE WORLD. By Sri Aurobindo. Arya Publishing House, Calcutta.

THE A. B. C. OF CIVICS. By Dr. Beni Prasad. The Indian Press, Allahabad.

INDIA: WHAT NOW. By N. Gangulee, C.I.E., Ph.D. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London.

THE HARIJANS IN REBELLION. By C. B. Agarwal. Taraporevala Sons & Co., Bombay.

THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION: A SURVEY. By S. K. Lahiri and B. N. Banerjee. The Politics Club, Calcutta.

Hyderabad

AVIATION IN HYDERABAD

It is true that little progress has been so far made with the scheme of the Nizam's Government for the establishment of an Aviation Club at Hyderabad, for which Rs. 1½ lakhs had been sanctioned in 1933. It is due to the lack of a suitably situated landing ground, as two sites which were selected had to be given up chiefly because of the difficulties occurring in their acquisition. The Aviation Board have, however, at a recent meeting decided to select a site on the Dindigal Road which is conveniently situated a few miles from the city and have asked the Government of India for the services of an expert for examining the suitability or otherwise of the new site. Opportunity is also likely to be taken of the expert's visit to examine the proposed landing grounds at six district head-quarters so as to enable, simultaneously with the start of the Club, the inauguration of passenger and mail services in the Districts.

THE MATCH INDUSTRY IN HYDERABAD

The Nizam's Government are now levying an excise duty at the rate of Rs. 2-4 per gross box of locally manufactured matches.

This decision is the outcome of an arrangement with the Government of India, to which Sir George Schuster referred in his budget speech in the Assembly while announcing the decision to impose a similar duty on matches manufactured in British India. In this connection Sir George Schuster said :

In the first place it is essential to make arrangements with Indian States, as the manufacture of matches can be easily shifted, and it would be impossible to work it (duty in British India) effectively, unless a working scheme is applied throughout India. The proceeds of the tax levied in States where matches are manufactured go to a common pool along with the proceeds of the British Indian tax and the whole amount will be divided on an estimated consumption basis between British India and the States, who have entered into the agreement.

The indigenous match industry in Hyderabad, which is five years old, has made rapid progress

during the last three years, as is shown by the figures for the import of matches into the State. The imports of matches from British India between 1928 and 1930 approximated on an average to Rs. 14 lakhs annually, while for the three years 1930 to 1933, the imports fell to Rs. 8.09 lakhs, this decline being attributed mainly to the increased output of the two existing match factories of the State. The present annual output in the State is 4½ lakhs gross boxes or approximately one-third of the total consumption in the State. The imposition of the excise duty at this stage is, therefore, regarded as likely to act as a setback to the industry, but, "considering that the same burden will be imposed on imported matches also, it is hoped that the local industry will be able to maintain the progress made hitherto."

Mysore

THE MYSORE FORESTS

According to the Government review of the report on the Mysore Forest Department for 1932-33 the financial results of the Department are fairly satisfactory despite the prevailing trade depression. Out of the total demand of Rs. 28,91,423 (including previous year's balance) Rs. 24,74,904 was actually realised, Rs. 1,35,034 was written off leaving a balance of Rs. 2,74,485 at the close of the year. The total expenditure of the Department under Conservancy and works amounted to Rs. 6,91,814 and the expenditure on establishments Rs. 5,68,920.

There was a fall in the sale-proceeds of sandal oil from Rs. 11,05,030 of the previous year to Rs. 10,62,190 in the year under report.

Investigations were continued into the diseases and pests of sandal wood by the special staff in the agricultural laboratory. Special attention is being paid to the clearing of *lantana* and the eradication of prickly pear by the cochineal insect.

Baroda

ECONOMIC SURVEY IN BARODA

The *Socio-Economic Survey Reports*—published by the Baroda Development Board—comprises the economic studies of five villages which are deemed to be representative and useful in giving an approximately correct picture of the economic and social conditions of their respective districts. In 2 of these 5 villages there is a large amount of area occupied by non-food crops like cotton; in the rest practically 90 per cent of the cultivated area is under food-crops. There is a growing tendency on the part of the cultivators to let their holdings, which involves in many cases the displacement of a better type of cultivation by an inferior one. It is generally accepted that the exploitation of land by the owners is preferable, from every point of view, to that by the tenants. In 4 out of the 5 villages examined, the holdings are not only small, but very much fragmented. Most live just on the margin of subsistence and the greater part of their indebtedness is incurred for unproductive purposes. The editor of this report tackles the problem of subsidiary occupations for the peasants which will not take them away from their homes and will not need much initial capital and training.

PREVENTION OF FURTHER SUB-DIVISION

Rao Bahadur G. H. Desai gives in his book *Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings in the Baroda State* an account of the legislative action taken by the Government of H. H. The Gaekwar, with a view to stop fragmentation of agricultural holdings below a certain limit and to bring about a partial reunion of those already fragmented. He regards that the laws of inheritance form the main cause of the sub-division of agricultural holdings and holds that the cultivators are not prepared at present to

agree to any general scheme of restriping. The Committee appointed for the purpose in the State have made proposals from the prevention of further minute subdivisions and for the union of small and scattered fields. A permissive Act has been passed for the consolidation of all the holdings in a village; a Partition of Immovable Property Act has been passed; the Revenue rule 139, for prevention of further fragmentation, has been amended; the right of preemption has been given to owners of contiguous plots; the sale of co-parcenary shares and under conditional mortgage has also been amended. In all these measures Baroda is the pioneer as pointed out by Mr. Desai who supplements his note with an English translation of the Acts and Rules passed.

Travancore

WOMEN IN TRAVANCORE SERVICES

The Committee appointed to prepare a report on the Travancore Services recommends a Public Service Commission. The Commission should consist of an official President and five members, one of whom may be a woman. The duty of the Commission shall be the selection of candidates for appointments in the various departments of the public services according to the rules already laid down by competitive examination or otherwise.

Regarding the recruitment of women, the Committee says that women should not be debarred from entering or continuing in service except in the executive posts of police, excise, forest, P. W. D. and military.

SIR MD. HABIBULLAH ON EDUCATION

Sir Muhammad Habibullah, the Dewan in opening at Trivandrum on March 21 the Travancore Social Service League of which he is the first president said :

The aim of education is not to create what is called an army of unemployed which day in and day out bombards official fortresses but to train men and women to utilise their days of leisure in the service of their fellow citizens with the noble object of raising them to their own level.

Cochin

PRIVILEGES TO THE PRINCES

The Cochin Government introduced in the Cochin Council recently a Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation. This Amendment Bill was designed to exempt Cochin Princes from paying Municipal tolls for the vehicles kept for their own use. The strength of Cochin Royal Family exceeds a hundred. The non-officials expressed a slight dissatisfaction in the measure. A few of them drew the attention of the Government to the other taxes to the Municipality, which the Princes were paying and remarked that the measure would bring about a great loss to the several Municipalities.

The Bill was however referred to a Select Committee for adequate changes.

Kashmir

THE SIKHS IN KASHMIR

The Kashmir Government has issued the following *communiqué*:

It has been complained that Sikhs as a community have been declared to be non-agriculturists under the Land Alienation Regulation. The list of agricultural tribes under the aforesaid regulation has been published so far for the Jammu province only and, in conformity with the practice obtaining in the Punjab, the selection of these tribes has been based not on religious beliefs but on actual occupation. For instance, the Jat tribe consists of Sikhs, Hindus, and Muslims; Labanas include Sikhs and Hindus both. Both these tribes have under the regulation been declared to belong to the agricultural class in the Jammu province except Udhampur district where these tribes do not reside.

As regards Kashmir province, a committee has been appointed to go into the question of what castes constitute agricultural classes. The objection raised in the representations received from Sikh bodies appear, therefore, to be based on misapprehension.

Gwalior

GWALIOR REGENCY COUNCIL

The vacancy in the Regency Council caused by the resignation of the Maharaja of Dewas, Junior, has now been filled by the transfer of Col. Sir Hashmatulla Khan from the Commerce to the Home Portfolio. The Agriculture Portfolio having been amalgamated with the Revenue Department, Rao Bahadur Major Bapurao Pawar is appointed Trade Member.

Alwar

THE MILITARY IN ALWAR

An elaborate scheme of reforms and reorganisation has been introduced by Mr. F. V. Wylie, the Prime Minister of Alwar, in collaboration with Colonel Abdul Rehman Khan, the Commander-in-Chief of the State Forces, with a view to increasing the efficiency of the State Military Forces with British troops as the model.

The scales of pay for the military, which were formerly very low and much below the accepted standard, have been thoroughly revised and increased. A system of promotion from one rank to another has been evolved by prescribing a syllabus for military examinations for each rank.

Experienced and retired military officers from outside have been appointed in three military units of the State to command the local forces.

A number of cadets (local candidates) have been recruited to fill up the commissioned ranks and they are being given a regular military training by the State military officers.

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Indians Overseas

South Africa

MR. ANDREWS ON COLONIZATION INQUIRY

Mr. Andrews, like Mahatma Gandhi had refrained from giving expression to his views on the question of the controversy among South African Indians regarding the Colonization Inquiry. The Committee itself has now made its report which has only shelved the question to further enquiries. Indian opinion has expressed itself unequivocally against any scheme of colonization but a section of our countrymen abroad still seem to think that participation in any such inquiry is itself wrong. Unfortunately this controversy has divided our countrymen over there, rather sharply, and the Agent-General to the Government of India who himself gave evidence before the Committee discountenancing any such proposal, has been subjected to severe criticism. Disinterested observers are now convinced of the weight and value of the Agent's evidence. Mr. C. F. Andrews, than whom our countrymen abroad can have no more trusted friend and guide now gives his considered view of the controversy. Both on grounds of principle and expediency he is convinced of the correctness of the Agent-General's attitude:—

I feel that the Indian leaders are right, who have strictly adhered to the pledge which they gave at the time when the new Agreement was made at Capetown and ratified afterwards. That pledge is a sacred pledge, and it should be observed as such.

Even therefore supposing some hindrance were to come to the Indian community from keeping the promise made by Congress to the Union Government, this would not, in his opinion, settle the matter. The promise ought to be kept, at whatever cost.

I personally can see no hindrance coming to the Indian community at this stage, from keeping the promise made at Capetown, but on the contrary, distinct good coming from it instead of evil. For it ought to be possible for the Indian community, by sending a member to serve on the Committee of Enquiry, to prove by evidence once and for all to the Union Government, that there is clearly no place for any colonisation scheme abroad in the future and that the Indian community in South Africa to-day is solidly and unitedly against any such scheme.

Malaya

EMIGRATION TO MALAYA

The Government of India, after consultation with the Government of Madras and the Standing Emigration Committee of the two Houses of the Indian Legislature and with their consent, have decided to reopen non-recruited emigration to Malaya. A *communiqué* issued in this connexion by the Government of India in the Education, Health and Lands Department says:

Inquiries as to the need for fresh emigration to Malaya in order to supplement the supply of labour had been initiated on receipt of the request of the Malayan Government for the renewal of emigration in December, 1932. After the visit of the deputation from Malaya inquiries were also made from the Government of Madras as to whether there was any desire amongst the people of that Presidency to emigrate to that country.

These inquiries revealed both the existence of a demand for labour in Malaya and a desire for emigration from the Madras Presidency to those territories.

After consultation with the Government of Madras and the Standing Emigration Committee of the two Houses of Indian Legislature, and with their consent, the Government of India accordingly decided that non-recruited assisted emigration to Malaya should be reopened.

In order, however, to ensure that this does not lead to over-supply of labour with the consequent depressing effect upon the level of wages in Malaya and possible unemployment, they have also decided that emigration shall be subject to the following conditions:

(1) Fresh emigration shall be restricted to 20,000 in the first year;

(2) An emigrant shall be repatriated free at any time within two years of his arrival in Malaya on reasonable grounds, for example ill-health, unsuitability of work, ill-treatment and inability to find work at standard rates of wages. Even after the expiration of two years repatriation will be allowed if conditions justify this.

It has also been arranged that the Emigration Commissioner for Malaya in Madras shall supply the Local Government monthly reports regarding the conditions of employment and that statements of information supplied to intending emigrants be corrected as frequently as circumstances may require. By this means it is hoped that only those persons will emigrate, who consider the conditions of employment in Malaya to be adequate,

Mauritius

MR. S. GHOORUNSINGH, O. B. E.

The first Indian in Mauritius to be made a member of the Order of the British Empire, Mr. S. Ghoorunsingh, has been further honoured by being allowed the privilege by His Majesty's Government of retaining his rank after retirement.

Mr. Ghoorunsingh, who retired as senior Inspector of Police, rose from the ranks and holds the distinction of being the first Indian in the Colony to rise to the post of Inspector.

Arabia

INDIAN PILGRIMS TO MECCA

Indian pilgrims far outnumbered the pilgrims of other nations on this year's journey to Mecca.

Official statistics show that they numbered more than double the Egyptians, who are always staunch supporters of the pilgrimages.

The figures are :

Indians	... 9,815
Egyptians	... 4,170
Japanese	... 3,188
Syrians	... 2,316
Algerians	... 1,915
Sudanese	... 1,322
Aden	... 450
East Africa	... 163
Total	... 23,339

Although a number of hardy individuals still prefer to do the pilgrimage in the traditional style on a camel, most pilgrims prefer motor transport.

Kenya

INDIANS IN KENYA COUNCIL

For the first time in the history of Kenya, Indians participated in the general election, through the communal roll, for the five Indian seats in the Kenya Legislative Council. There were eighteen Indian candidates for the five seats. The following were declared duly elected :

Mr. J. B. Pandya, (Mombasa).
Dr. A. C. L. DeSouza (Nairobi).
Mr. N. S. Mangat (Nairobi).
Mr. Shams-ud-din (Nairobi).
Mr. Isher Das (Nairobi).

East Africa

INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA

"I do not know of any Indian political opinion in East Africa which contemplates dethronement of the European from his position of administrative paramountcy. All that is desired is that narrow and unreasonable racialism shall give place to colonial patriotism," says a loyalist writing in the *Madras Mail*. The writer advocates the appointment of a Protector of Indian Immigrants in East Africa, who must take the task of settling the existing immigrants and the incoming Indians on such suitable land as it is possible to secure on neutral ground, that is, outside of the Highlands and the Native reserves.

It is absolutely necessary to find accommodation for Indians in the agricultural life of the colony, which will mean removal of all distasteful reservations. East Africa is a vast country with a native population of six millions. Except for a certain portion of Kenya and Tanganyika, the country is not suitable for European settlement. There is room for at least two million Indians to make a living by agriculture.

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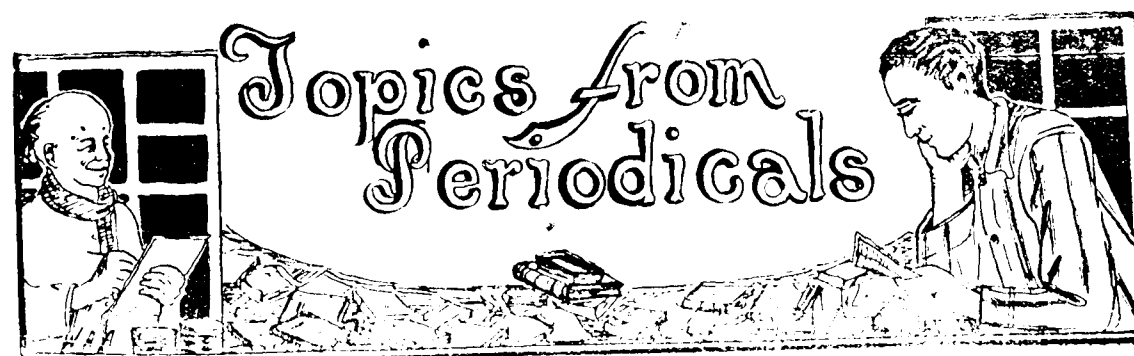
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MORALITY AND MODERN LIFE

In the course of an interesting article in the *Hibbert Journal* on morality and modern life and what the real temper of youth to-day is, Prof. W. G. de Brugh says that he can only judge from what lies to his hand, i.e., the aspirations and behaviour of the young. The opinions of youth, even on its own age, cannot be accepted at their face value.

But they are evidence at least of this, that the young are profoundly disillusioned with the established order of society. They are not prepared, as were their fathers, to take the universe as they find it. Age and experience, on their view, have been weighed in the balance and been found wanting. We have but to look abroad, to Soviet Russia, to Fascist Italy, to the German Nazis, to realise the strength of this determination, on the part of youth, to come into its own in the reshaping of European society.

The voices that arrest attention are those of poets and novelists, together with the host of journalists and lecturers who provide on varying levels of distinction, intellectual goads for a responsive public. The writer has in mind D. H. Lawrence and among living teachers Bertrand Russell and Aldous and Julian Huxley.

But it is not easy to gauge from these authors the real temper of present-day youth.

There is a wide gulf between appreciation and actual behaviour. Youth is always intolerant of conventions that outrage its sincerity of feeling and eager to respond emotionally to new ideas. The young to-day are almost morbidly anxious to escape the reproach of insincerity, and are far less hampered than were their fathers by reticence in speech or action. There is always, too, a temptation to claim credit as advanced thinkers by the avowal of views of daring unconventionality.

Prof. de Brugh analyses the more positive features in the outlook of the younger generation. What is most distinctive is their astonishing

exuberant vitality. This shows itself in their thirst for new and thrilling experiences, their passion to be ever on the move, in any direction and at any cost, so long as the change is rapid and gives scope for their unwearying energy.

The young to-day are at once more alive and more, far more, ignorant than their progenitors. In so far as they are not content to live wholly in the present, their eyes are turned towards the future. Their desire is not for erudition, but for experiment. Here science, which is so rapidly transforming the conditions of civilisation, points the way; if man can thus win control over Nature shall he not, by the same method, win control over his own life?

The youth is within his rights; he takes the burden on his own shoulders and is prepared to stand or fall by the result. If he fails, the error is readily condoned; rather, the rebel excites the sympathy of his fellows, as does a scientist who has been misled in his researches by the lure of an ill-fated hypothesis. In life, as in science, failure may well prove more instructive than success. The modern age shows a large indulgence towards the victims of moral aberration.

In conclusion the professor observes that what the young generation demands is the chance to make or mar their own fortunes free from parental restraint or social obloquy.

ART FOR MINORITIES

"Art is the concern directly of only a minority in any country, and it is for this minority that all the books are written, all the pictures painted and all the music made," writes Mary M. Colum in the *Yale Review*. She continues :

There is nothing strange about this—all high products of the human mind, whether science or philosophy or theology are for minorities, and only interest the majority as something that will either amuse them or help them with the difference that from science they demand some form of material help; from art or literature, as from religion or philosophy, some form of immaterial help; from the one something for the body; from the other something for the spirit.

CHINA

Mr. Edward Brennan writing in the *Catholic World* for April points out that the whole history of China is epitomized in the bricks and marbles and plastered walls of Peking. It was an empire of practically forty centuries' standing which was swept away in the revolution of 1911. Up to this point in her history, China had been steadily accumulating her precious treasures of art and literature. The writer draws our attention to the fact that

there was a strong conservative element which made it a simple matter to protect her heirlooms of the past. What China needs to-day is this same conservative element. Witness in proof of this statement the throat-cutting of her military leaders and the radicalism of her youth who do not know yet what they want but are fairly well agreed that it's not a return to the past. The doctrine of a communistic life, painted in such glowing colors upon the imagination of this infant generation, is far too nearly allied to anarchy to be a healthful influence and certainly is not amenable to conservative guidance. The steady patient conservatism of the Chinese is precisely what it wishes to overthrow.

And finally, what of the effects of Western industrialism which are making themselves felt in many parts of the Orient? asks the writer—

"Has not Japan, for example, after sixty years' imitation of the material aspects of our civilization, begun to doubt the ugly efficiency of Western machinery? 'Back to Asia' is her newest slogan, and it is a cry that symbolizes both a loss of faith in the West and a belief that the Oriental must hark back to ideas more in harmony with his nature if he is really to progress. According to the standards of an older China, the husbandry were second in importance only to the scholars. To-day the ill-fortune of the Chinese peasant has become a national calamity and one of the most acute social problems that China has ever faced."

All this has a bearing on the culture of China, and what happens to her culture cannot fail to be of importance to the world. Let us not forget that it involves the civilization of a people who constitute a fifth of the world's population.

"China must suffer her travail; she must have her doubtful leaders of a doubtful enlightenment. Already she has witnessed the passing of old things that are good and the coming of new things that signify chaos and destruction. The cross-roads are reached and she must make her choice."

AFTER THE THREE GREAT ACHARYAS

To the *Guardian* a new monthly magazine started recently at Madras, Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri contributes a very informing article on "Sanatan Dharma and Untouchability." After pointing out how incorrect and unreasonable is the attitude of Sanatanists in interpreting the principles of Hinduism Mr. Venkatarama Sastri rightly deplores the absence of any great religious movement in the South, particularly after the time of the Three Great Acharyas.*

Since the days of the three great *acharyas*, Sankara, Ramanuja and Madhwa there has been no great religious movement in the South. Whatever Sankara may have intended, his movement has fostered a certain intellectualism and attachment to strict Smriti traditional observances. It is not reformatory in tendency. Its iconoclasm was in that high altitude of speculative philosophy that its influence on conduct was easily put aside by a division of truths into those that apply to the work-a-day (*vyavaharika*) world and those that did not. Ramanuja's system had more place for emotion and his followers made attempts to uplift the lower classes in the social scale. It is difficult to say that Madhwacharya's *bhakti* school had the same urge of social uplift. Ramanuja's which had the most stress on uplifting social service by carrying the redemptive message to the depressed and the lowly, suffered by the overshadowing predominance of the *Smarta* School. It is ever the way in the contact of diverse schools. The weaker in influence—not necessarily the weaker in intrinsic quality, but the weaker in the place and at the time—grows apologetic and conformist by a process of interpretation. And there is also the familiar fact that on the death of *acharyas* with a new message the next generation slide back and interpret away the saving truth. The result is that so far as the South is concerned it has become intellectualistic and untouched by the higher human emotion. While the north has thrown out reform movements stressing human equality and the value of social service, the south remained self-satisfied, in love with its appraisalment of its own higher purity and contemplating with satisfaction on its own uncontaminated isolation. And the west coast has carried it to the logical extreme bordering on insane obsession. Probably the longer contact with foreign religions and the great exposure to their powerful challenge which the north has had also accounts for the greater aliveness and reaction to the challenge to be found in the north.

The South is so self-satisfied that it has actually located the next coming *avatar* in South India and in the southern most part of it, farthest away from the impure north.

* THE THREE GREAT ACHARYAS: Sankara, Ramanuja and Madhwa. Gives a detailed account of their lives and their philosophy. Price Rs. 2. To Suba. of the *Indian Review*, Re. 1-8. G. A. Natesan & Co., Madras.

ASSAMESE LITERATURE

In the course of a very interesting article contributed to last Number of *The Journal of the Assam Research Society* on the subject of "The growth of Assamese Literature in the sixteenth century" Mr. Boli Narayan Deka, M.A., B.L., points out:—

Literature is the sum-total of a nation. It not only transpires the civilisation, culture, mode of living, and manners and customs of the people but also mirrors the innermost nature of human beings. Therefore, the importance of it is very great for a country. Assam was not poor in possession of that wealth from time immemorial. Generation after generation contributed something to the main stock of it. Poets, writers, historians, biographers, and dramatists were not wanting in any period Assamese literature. But the most innumerable impetus came in the Vaisnavita period.

Speaking of Sankara Deva the writer observes:

Sankara Deva was the prominent figure who loomed large in that age. He was, as it were, a pivot round which the whole group of litterateurs revolved. His works were not only so many valuable documents in the evolution of his poetic genius or in the spread of his religious principles but also were in themselves works of extraordinary force and immense promise. Poetical works, dramas, descriptions, narratives, and songs—all were complete in his writings. Bhaktas find there the glory of God; laymen find there the solace in anxiety; linguists find there the command over language; prosodians find there the play upon prosody; literary men find there the beauties of poetry; and dramatists find there the characters of dramas. In short, his works afford manifold felicities to a reader. Even one, says an eminent writer, who wants to live away from an Assamese household must live with his eyes shut in a dense forest along with birds and beasts, and perhaps, living in that way also he cannot avoid the hearing of Sankaradeva's sonorous music that come floating from the voice of some unknown wood cutter in a distant forest. Such was our language-giver and literature-giver, Sankaradeva.

We next have an account of the contribution of Madhavadeva to Assamese literature.

Madhavadeva, the devoted and zealous follower of the Vaisnava creed was a true disciple of Sankaradeva. Born of a non-Brahmin caste he was well-versed in Sanskrit and bereft of all worldly happiness he spent his whole life in writing books and carrying out the behest of his revered Guru. His works were held in the same estimation as his preceptor's. Nam-Ghosh was a classic on the philosophy of religion otherwise known as Vaisnavism.

The author then proceeds to narrate the literary activities of the other writers of the age.

Rama Saraswati and Ananta Kandali were equally celebrated in the history of Assamese literature. Their contributions were as great as Sankar's and Madhav's. It is due to their labour that we are now reaping the fruit of the Assamese Mahabharat and the Ramayana. Bhattacharya was the precursor of prose literature. Thanks are due to him that Assam knew the use of

prose literature four hundred years ago when many of her sister provinces were just in the infancy of it. There were many writers, such as, Antiksha Kamsari, Gopal Misra, Rama Misra, Ramchandan Dinkur, Sarva-bhama Bhattacharya etc. whose contributions were not negligible, everybody gave something of his own to his country's literature.

It is pathetic to read the concluding paragraph:

Besides these, there were some writers who died un-noticed and un-honoured like flowers blooming and fading in an inaccessible jungle. Many a manuscript has been discovered to-day which bears evidence to that effect. But it is a matter of great regret that many of these manuscripts do not disclose accurately by whom and when they were written. However, these are a valuable addition to our knowledge of literature. But alas! these too for the disregard of the literate class and the callousness of the illiterate owners are succumbing to the natural process of destruction of which time and insects are the main agencies. Further, Assam was one of those provinces which were the worst sufferers by vis major and at the hands of invaders. So many of her records, history, biographies, poetical works, fictions, dramas, etc., were either destroyed or taken away. The invasions of the Mahomedans and the Burmese were the notable calamities that Assam had ever experienced. These together with great floods, outbreak of fire, earthquake and the removal of families due to adverse circumstances and the vicissitudes of fortune were the chief agents in destroying our old literary treasure.

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THE PARK MOVEMENT IN AMERICA

When the fathers of early American communities applied themselves to the laying out of their little towns, they paid special attention to the breathing spots. "The first town planners, who went to America from Spain, set the example by establishing the *plaza* to serve the public as a place for recreation and also upon special occasions to be made use of as a centre of culture and political life," writes Dr. J. M. Kumarappa in the *Field*, a sports monthly published in Madras.

Many of the Park Planning Commissions forecast a change of conditions in the big cities in the next few years. A decade back it was the smaller city that was best equipped for park acreage as compared with its population.

New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia all began park planning shortly after 1850; but none has ever caught up with its needs. Philadelphia is held to have made the best showing of the three. With a population of about 2,000,000, it has almost 8,000 acres in parks. Chicago, with about 3,000,000 people, has less than 5,000 acres set aside for recreation; but the programme upon which it has already entered for the development of a great outlying system of open spaces, accessible by automobile and trolley, will eventually make up for this scarcity within the city. The development of the great Cook County Forest Reserve, 31,600 acres, is said to exceed what has been done in any city in the world in recent times.

The writer characterises the importance of the Park Movement and also of the changes in the park junctions in America.

On the park properties of the country are now found club-houses, gymnasiums, field-houses, out-door theatres, band stands, conservatories and museums. There are grand stands, bath houses and dancing pavilions. Many of the parks have zoological gardens too. Besides, there are facilities for base-ball, foot-ball, soccer, horse-shoe pitching, basket-ball, field hockey, track and field events, volley ball, hand-ball and croquet. The most popular out-door games in America require a large amount of space and sufficient land available for such purposes cannot be found in modern cities. With the convenient means of travel, the Americans have, therefore, responded to the lure of distant places and have built up a pattern of recreation in which the values of neighbourhood play have largely been forgotten.

THE LURE OF INDIVIDUALITY

Everyone is anxious to preserve and assert his individuality. According to the modern conception the ideal man is one who has got individuality. So much so, every body is eager to develop this quality and it is considered a discredit to any man if he is told that he has no individuality of his own. Writing about this in the current Number of the *Prabuddha Bharata*, the Editor offers some interesting comments. People talk of individuality, but they have no definite conception about what individuality is.

"When they want to preserve their individuality, they desire only to have an opportunity to be self-assertive—right or wrong—and to have the satisfaction of wielding influence over a large number of people."

But if a man wants to have the satisfaction of wielding influence over others it can be done only through the building of character. The greater the strength of character, the greater the influence one will have over others.

Speaking philosophically, the writer observes that one does not know what constitutes 'individuality'. Man is eager to serve his own interest and develop his individuality but he does not know what he himself is.

"If a man analyses himself, he will find that neither his organs, limbs, mind, nor intellect—none of them separately or collectively constitute his real Self. His real Self is more than these things, and it is always unaffected by them. Man has got no separate existence from his neighbours, and in his desire to develop his own personality, he makes a vain attempt to live apart from the rest of humanity and, therefore, suffers."

But unfortunately, says the Editor, few are there who seek the real life. For,

"Man struggles and labours, fights and quarrels—though for what he does not know. Man fights for the preservation of his individuality, but does not know that his real individuality is found in losing himself in the One All-pervasive Reality."

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VEDAS

The newly started magazine *Kalyanakalpataru*, which hails from Gorakhpur and which has for its object the main work of the propagation of spiritual ideas and love of God, publishes an interesting and well-informed article on "The Vedas and their significance to us" by Sahityopadhyaya Batuknath Sharma who says that even the new off-shoots of Hindu Religion like the Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj and others have only turned to the Vedas for their ideas. For, the life of a Hindu, howsoever detached he may appear for all outward purposes, is bound up with the Vedas. The writer says:—

"It is simply impossible to solve the basic problems of the religious and philosophical history of India without a proper study of the Vedas. Even for a literary mind, the study of the Vedas is no less essential. None who knows anything can deny the fact that the Sanskrit literature, besides possessing other unique and incomparable merits, represents the full glory of India, and it is the place where the soul of this sacred land is vividly revealed. But without the Vedas, the Sanskrit literature is like a body without its inner head and heart. It is like a machine without its fly-wheel, like a drama without its first act, like a philosophy without a central idea."

If we fall off from our natural position, we shall cease to be Hindus and then there can be little hope, says Mr. Sharma, for this branch of the Aryan race and scarcely any better fate for this land of ours. In guarding this rich legacy handed down to us by our ancient fathers, all Hindus irrespective of Sanatanists and others are one.

"Sanatanists and Aryasamajists have always differed, and they are bound to differ in certain points; but there is a common ground where they can walk hand in hand. That common ground is their unshaken belief in the infallibility of the Vedas. The difference of language, colour, creed, or any other thing that matter, in any way does not affect our unity even in the smallest degree. As Astikas or followers of the Vedas—as Hindus we shall remain one against so many odds and in spite of so many bars and barriers."

SHIVAJI AND NAPOLEON

Comparing and contrasting Shivaji with Napoleon, Mr. A. V. Barve writes editorially in the *Prabodha* of Dhulia:

Napoleon's escape from Elba, and Shivaji's escape from Agra are equally the most romantic episodes in the lives of these two great men. But here the resemblance ends. In personal character Shivaji was a model Hindu, while Napoleon was no better than a profligate. While Shivaji lived and died for Hindulism and Swaraj, Napoleon made France a mighty nation which had conquered and subdued Corsica—Napoleon's mother country—and hated Corsican patriots. While nothing but imperialistic greed spurred Napoleon's conquests, the defence of Hindulism was the only inspiring motive behind Shivaji's aspirations. While Napoleon's life was full of condemnable personal ambition for power and glory, his end was equally pitiable. The pride of French soldiers but the terror of Europe for more than 15 years was conquered and closed in a distant island. He himself witnessed the rise and fall of his glory. If Shivaji had no conquests to his credit as great as Napoleon's Austerlitz, he had no Waterloos and Leipzigs also. While Napoleon, himself disgraced, abandoned a ruined France, Shivaji died at the height of his glory and left a kingdom which developed into an empire and lasted for a 150 years.

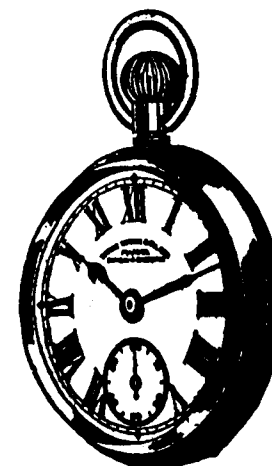
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THE CRIME OF COLOUR

Under the above title Mr. Nagendra Nath Gupta contributes an article to the May Number of the *Modern Review*. The writer says there is no meaning in the vaunted superiority of the white races over the coloured races of the human family. Curiously enough contempt for the coloured races never assumes an aggressive form in places where the white man actually depends for everything on the coloured man. Mr. Gupta says:—

The contemptuousness for coloured races never assumes that form for the colour of their money is quite good and entirely acceptable. Coloured people are despised by white people in books, in conversation and when they meet, but white races have no objection to trade with coloured races.

Since white races consider themselves superior to coloured races it may be reasonably expected that there should be no connubial relations but no such distinction has been observed anywhere.

Men belonging to white races have consorted indiscriminately with women of black, brown, yellow and red races, and white women have taken coloured men for their husbands. These men are not always the dregs of society, or wastrels and beach combers. It has been found necessary to issue strict orders prohibiting alliances between officers belonging to a white race and coloured women. Men of white races may be found living with coloured women in every part of the world.

Wherein then lies the superiority of the white races over the coloured races of the human family? The writer satisfies the readers as follows:—

True, several coloured races are at present ruled by white races, but that is merely a turn of the wheel of time. No race rules for ever, or for long, by virtue of its skin. Some of the most powerful nations of ancient times were not white-skinned and they often conquered white races and held dominion over them. In trade relations with coloured races white people have frequently shown that they have no commercial honesty, and they are notoriously lax in sex relations with people of coloured races.

The claim of superiority as put forward for white races in works of fiction and other books as well as the disparagement of coloured races, says the writer, are unfounded and untenable.

THE INDIAN NAVY

"The Indian Navy" is the subject of an interesting article in the April Number of the *Indian State Railways Magazine* by a writer who remains anonymous. The writer has freely drawn from Low's *History of the Indian Navy* and Government reports. The article gives a history of the Indian Navy even before the British advent. We summarise below the growth of the present navy after the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms:

Reforms in the Internal Government of India engendered a desire that the Indian Empire should have a Navy of her own, such force to be used for the purpose of the Indian Empire alone, except if a state of emergency be declared, when all or any of the ships might be placed at the disposal of the British Admiralty. In this scheme Indians became eligible as officers.

The formation of the new Navy was delayed in 1927, but the Government of India has proceeded with the organization of the Royal Indian Marine with a view to its conversion in due course into the Royal Indian Navy. In 1928 a British Rear Admiral was appointed to command the new force and the training of a few Indian officers was commenced.

The functions of the Royal Indian Marine now are the training of personnel for service in war, the organization of the naval defences at ports which are under the control of the Government of India, marine survey work and marine transport work. The force consists of four sloops, two patrol craft vessels, five trawlers, two survey ships, a depot ship, and the necessary ancillary craft.

The Flag Officer Commanding and Director, Royal Indian Marine, in his Report for 1930-32 was able to state that the *esprit-de-corps* was excellent, discipline particularly good and generally that the force was progressing excellently. The change to Royal Naval uniform for officers has been much appreciated.

Speaking in high terms of the Indian Mercantile Training ship *Dufferin* he said he saw a great future for the Indian youth "who joins this service with his heart in it."

THE CONTROL OF THE ARMY

"An example," says a writer in a recent Number of the *Saturday Review*, "of the insolence of their (Indians) demands is their claim to control of the army . . ." We suppose, says the *Leader*, that among others who have encouraged the Indians to be so insolent was the late Queen Victoria who, in her memorable proclamation, said that no person by reason of his caste, creed, etc.

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

MANCHUOKO

Mr. Austin Hopkinson, M.P., writing in the latest issue of *Fortnightly Review* refers to the Prime Minister as the "Supreme Paradox". There are really two Premiers in England, he says, the other one being Mr. Baldwin who has got a strong hold on his Labour colleague.

The pretence that the present Government is national and non-party need not be maintained, for it deceives no one. It is, and has been from the beginning, a Conservative Party Government, whose first care on taking office was to introduce a cut-and-dried scheme of Protection, of which the details had been lying ready in the party offices for some time before the General Election of 1931. The failure of Protection to restore prosperity to our industries, and the insuperable bar presented by the Ottawa Agreements to any rational system of international trade reciprocity have naturally given rise to a search for a scapegoat.

The writer goes on to observe that the Cabinet, as it is, certainly does not evoke enthusiasm and he pleads for one which will at least inspire confidence. He says that it will be difficult to account for the presence of Mr. J. H. Thomas in the Cabinet. Mr. Runciman, the President of the Board of Trade is the mystery-man of the Cabinet, full of inconsistencies and who "indulges very often in incomprehensible actions." There is the Minister of Health who has "conceived a strong distaste for our system of local government." Last but of great importance is Sir John Simon, the Foreign Secretary, "the policies pursued by whom have invariably failed—policies based on meaningless internationalism and bound to fail however much one strives hard to carry them out." And he concludes by warning thus:

Prophecy in political affairs is a dangerous occupation; but few who have studied the working of the political cycle in other countries can doubt that a Socialist victory at the next General Election will almost certainly start a train of events culminating in civil war. Hence the one criterion by which Ministers and policies must be assessed is clear. If the continuance in office of any particular Minister renders a Socialist administration more likely, he must be ruthlessly thrown aside. If the continuance of any particular policy has that same effect, it must be dropped. Above all, nothing should be done which in any way conduces to the growth of a lack of respect for Parliament.

"With a view to see justice being done to Japan" Mr. J. Morewood Dowsett contributes an article to the April Number of the *English Review*. The writer claims to base his knowledge on his own experience while travelling in the East and in his own words the sole reason for writing being his anxiety to show the genuineness of Manchuoko's claim to independence." He contends that the views expressed in the Lytton Report are more often than not inconsistent with the actual state of affairs that exist in Manchuria.

For instance it has been urged in the Report that the Manchurians are not greatly desirous of an independent Government. The writer disproves this allegation and summons to his aid the numerous mass meetings that were held throughout the country in the early months of 1932, wherein they expressed their feelings in unmistakable terms in favour of independence. The people were always in terror of bandits during the reign of the Changs. He quotes extensively from the proclamation issued by the Provisional Government which was formed in 1932 wherein it is said "the laxity of police administration afforded golden opportunities to the gangs of bandits that wandered about the country, while all sorts of crimes went unpunished." The terrified population preferred to submit to violence or death by starvation rather than bring forward complaints that would only have entailed summary retribution.

After all, what did Manchuria gain because of her unity with China? Mr. Dowsett says it resulted in "nothing but the privilege of participation in interminable civil wars." The parties that promised help to the State were corrupt to the core and nothing could be expected of them. Taking into consideration all these things it is quite conceivable he says that Manchuoko itself wanted independence and sought aid to fulfil its object and it so happened it was outside help.

TAOISM AND VEDANTA

Writing in the *Biosophical Review*, the organ of the Biosophical Institute of New York, Swami Jagadiswarananda compares the philosophy of Lao-tze, the oldest known Chinese prophet with the Vedanta. The fundamental principle and corner-stone of Lao-tze's philosophy is contained in the word Tao. Like Buddhistic *nirvana*, 'Tao' is called "Abyss of non-existence." Vedanta is the oldest religion of the world and its sacred scriptures, the Vedas are the most ancient known records of the human race. The Swamiji compares, as follows, the two great philosophies by pointing out the similarities between them:

Like the metaphysical ethics of Vedanta, the ideal of Lao-tze's ethics is that, through the Tao, the imperfect becomes complete. Thus the Tao resembles water, having no fixed form. It demands the surrender of personal ambition and all selfish striving. Virtue is nothing but the imitation of the Tao. In a word, the ideal of ethics consists in realizing the simplicity of the ineffable, nameless, or un-namable, Tao.

Lao-tze further defines his ethics as a wending home or reverting. "Returning is the Tao's movements," he says, and by reverting homeward is meant rest, quietude, stillness, tranquillity, peace and equanimity. To move and act like Heaven (Tao), unattached, is the ethical idea of Taoists. Vedanta also says that the ideal of ethics is to go beyond the pair of opposites.

Lao-tze declares that the sage is above death when he is one with Tao. In Vedanta, also, the knower of Brahman alone is the conqueror of death, and the master of fearlessness. Death and life cannot effect any change in the knowers of Tao. Though heaven and earth were to be overturned and fall, they would occasion him no loss.

The philosophy of the Vedas, otherwise known as the Vedanta, contains the highest truths of Tao-Teh-king and the Tripitaka, the Kabala and the Koran, the Talmud, and the Testament.

THE NEW INDIA

To the January Number of *The New Atlantis* Mr. J. R. Glorney Bolton contributes an article on "New India" which he concludes with the following suggestive remarks:

Knowledge shall teach us the ways of peace. All those who seek the ways of peace can learn from the New India. The modern world, says William James, is seeking "a moral equivalent for War". Suppose Gandhi's *Satyagraha* supplies this "moral equivalent"?

COMMUNISM: THE GOSPEL OF SLAVERY

The April issue of *Cavalcade* has an article on "Communism, the New Gospel of Slavery." Communism is defined as a "social theory which advocates the creation of a human society in which the community as a whole is sole proprietor of both labour and the fruits thereof." It is opposed to private and individual ownership.

The writer explains how liberty of occupation cannot exist in a communist state and this reduces one to slavery. Because everyone is a slave in such a country, one is not called as such. The whole theory of Communism is based on a hatred of the bourgeoisie and everything that pertains to it. N. S. S. R. is cited to us as an illustration of the author's proposition. Communism has been tried both by insects like the ants who are great "social biologists" and by savages.

The author next says that "the form of Society to aim at, should be that of a highly individualistic character, and for harmony should depend not on the system, but on the ethical, intellectual and physical excellence of its members." He says that communism is a "System by which the have-nots propose to avenge themselves on the more fortunate." And he concludes by pointing out how Russia is reverting to individualism.

INDIA IN PERIODICALS

THE NEW DELHI CONFERENCE. By Tauzan Ishibashi. [Contemporary Japan, March, 1934.]

LITERATURE, LEARNING AND LIBRARIES IN ANCIENT INDIA. By M. O. Thomas, M.A. Ph. D. [Journal of the Annamalai University, April, 1934.]

SOME MYSORE TEMPLES: BELUR AND HALEBID. By Lt. Col. R. W. Burton. [Indian State Railways Magazine, April, 1934.]

THE BEHAR EARTHQUAKE AND AFTER. By Norah Hill. [The Red Cross, April, 1934.]

LATER INDIAN METAPHYSICS: SAIVA SIDDHANTA. By K. S. Ramaswami Sastri, B.A., B.L. [Vedanta Kesari, May, 1934.]

PRALAYA IN THE LIGHT OF MODERN SCIENCE. By Ivor B. Hart. [The Aryan Path, May, 1934.]

INDIA IN SHACKLES. By Major Graham Pole. [The Modern Review, May, 1934.]

THE RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND OF THE INDIAN STUDENT. By Rev. J. Kellock, M.A., B.D. [The National Christian Council Review, May, 1934.]

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS

DEPARTMENTAL

NOTES

Questions of Importance

THE RANCHI RESOLUTIONS

The Swarajist Conference which met at Ranchi last month, prior to the meeting of the Working Committee of the Congress, passed a lengthy resolution touching the constitution and programme of the Swarajya Party. The following resolutions chalking out a definite economic programme were also adopted:

1. To follow a definite economic policy which would prevent the drain of wealth of the country and the exploitation of one class by another and in particular to prevent or oppose any form of Imperial Preference.
2. To organise the economic life conformable to the principle of justice to the end that every worker may be assured of a decent living.
3. To safeguard the interests of workers, industrial and agricultural and to secure for them by suitable legislation and in other ways a living wage, healthy conditions of work, limited hours of labour, suitable machinery for the settlement of disputes between employers and workers, landlords and tenants, protection against economic consequences or old age, sickness and unemployment and adequate provision for women during the maternity period.
4. To free labour from all serfdom and conditions bordering on serfdom.
5. To secure rights for peasants and workers, to form unions and to protect their interests.
6. To regulate currency and exchange solely in the national interest.
7. To secure relief from agricultural indebtedness.
8. To work for inter-communal unity.
9. To bring about the removal of untouchability and the raising of the so-called depressed classes.
10. To work for village organisation.
11. To acquire economic control of the country.

THE WORKING COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTIONS

The Working Committee of the Congress which met at Patna on the 20th of last month passed the following resolutions:

(1) The Working Committee sympathises with the textile workers, who are on strike in Bombay, Nagpur, Sholapur, Delhi and other places in the sufferings and privations which they have undergone, and are undergoing, and hopes that employers will take early steps to give them satisfaction and arrive at an equitable settlement with the workers.

(2) The Working Committee invites the attention of all Congressmen to the resolution of the All-India

Congress Committee adopted at Patna on May 18 accepting Mr. Gandhi's advice regarding the suspension of civil resistance, contained in his statement dated April 7, and calls upon all Congressmen loyally to abide by the said resolution.

(3) In modification of the instructions issued by the Acting President at Poona in July 1933, all Congressmen are hereby called upon to reorganise all Congress Committees for the purpose of carrying on normal congress activities.

(4) All Congress organisations are called upon to enrol members and complete the elections to the various committees before August 31, 1934. Newly-constituted provincial committees shall suggest to the Reception Committee to be formed at Bombay names for the Presidentship of the ensuing session of the Indian National Congress on or before September 15, 1934.

(5) Resolved that Seth Jammalal Bajaj shall act as Chairman of the Working Committee and exercise all the powers of the President till the ensuing session of the Congress.

THE CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY BOARD

The Congress Working Committee which met on the 20th of last month appointed the personnel of the Congress Parliamentary Board. The following are the members:

Dr. M. A. Ansari, Pundit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Dr. B. C. Roy, Messrs. J. C. Gupta, M. S. Aney, K. F. Nariman, T. A. K. Sherwani, Khaliqzaman, Govind Ballabh Pant, Gopchand Bhargava, S. Satyamurthi, T. Prakasam, Sri Krishna Singh, Asaf Ali, Govind Das, K. M. Munshi, Bhulabhai Desai, Abdul Kalam Azad, Sri Prakash, Muthuranga Mudaliar and Dr. Satyapal and Mrs. Sarojini Nayudu.

Dr. Ansari will be President of the Board and, in his absence, Pundit Malaviya.

General Secretaries: Dr. B. C. Roy and Mr. Bhulabhai Desai.

Secretaries: Messrs. S. Satyamurthi, Asaf Ali, Kiran Shanker Roy and K. M. Munshi.

The following will be the Sub-Committees of the Board:

Finance Committee: Dr. Ansari, Pundit Malaviya, Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, Mr. Khaliqzaman, Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar and Dr. B. C. Roy.

Propaganda Committee: Pundit Malaviya, the two General Secretaries and Messrs. Satyamurthi, Munshi, Asaf Ali, T. A. K. Sherwani, Govind Ballabh Pant and Aney.

There will also be a committee to frame the rules and programme and draft a manifesto.

DR. ANSARI ON SWARAJIST PROGRAMME

Presiding over the Conference of the Swarajists which met at Ranchi on the 2nd of last month Dr. Ansari said :

The purpose and policy we have in view demand that we should be in a position to claim all the prestige that the Indian National Congress commands in the country as the premier political organisation, and for that purpose we felt that the best course would be to secure the early recognition of our party as an autonomous parliamentary section of the Congress to implement the policy of the Congress in relation to work in the legislatures and other elective institutions in the country.

For the present the Swaraj Party, in my opinion, should concentrate just on one front, namely, the dual policy of the Government. I feel that it is one of the supreme demands of the present situation that we, on behalf of the Congress, should supply an effective reply to the repressive policy which the Government have relentlessly pursued to suppress the national spirit in the country and to register the country's verdict against the monstrous proposals which, in the guise of a representative constitution, are really intended to perpetuate the subjection of the Indian nation to Great Britain and a bureaucracy.

The opportunities we have under the existing electoral machinery to secure this result are undoubtedly extremely restricted in as much as the electorate to the Assembly is confined to about 1,500,000 people whereas the adult population of British India exceeds 130,000,000. I however, feel that, even through the limited opportunities we have we can achieve considerable results in reflecting the mind of this electorate in regard to the two definite issues I have mentioned.

That in itself will be an achievement which will be more easily understood in England and, at the same time, it will give us an opportunity of conducting a raging campaign throughout the country, which would be ineffectual if it were robbed of its logical consequence of defeating the election of those in regard to whom it is claimed by the Government that they speak in the name of the country in the Central Legislature.

MR. SASTRI'S WARNING

Addressing a meeting at Coimbatore recently the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri condemned the Swarajist tactics of wrecking the reforms by virtue of their majority. He said :

"If federation is not dented in the end it will at least be postponed indefinitely. And that is the thing that is going to happen. If, when the new Swarajya Party gets a majority, it uses the majority to reject the White Paper and to broach the idea of a constituent assembly the chain of untoward events which I am now saying to you drawn from my imagination will come several steps nearer to reality. Instead of a mere imagination it will become a first class actuality. The idea of your constituent assembly will be used for the very purpose of delaying and defeating the thing which you think to get without the co-operation, without the countenance, and without, it may be, the reluctant co-operation of the Government."

MAHATMAJI ON CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

In his speech on the resolution, which was carried without a division, suspending Civil Disobedience Mahatma Gandhi spoke as follows :

It is open to you to accept or reject the advice of your General. In a non-violent struggle it is not the General who can dismiss his soldiers; the latter can dismiss him.

This is no threat. In any case, I will continue to be a member of the Congress but will not claim to be its representative. What would it matter if a year or two more elapse before your faith in him is restored? The General in a non-violent struggle has no powers of punishment. He has no authority to compel obedience to his command. His authority rests on his power of persuasion alone.

To ask such a General to alter his course of action is to force him to act against his judgment. You are at perfect liberty to dismiss the General if his commands are obnoxious to you. I do not say it out of anger. If I were to be angry with you for rejecting my advice I should be unfair to the offer of civil disobedience. I claim to be amenable to reason.

Even children have shed all fear of me and have been able to bend me to their will. I have not harmed flies, even when pestered by them. Why should you be afraid to order such a man to vacate the place if that is your desire? I tell you it will not pain me. On the contrary I will thank you for your frankness; but if you decide to retain your General you should cease to demur and should follow his discipline.

It is open to you not to accept his discipline, but once you accept it you should feel yourself bound to obey his commands. One of the speakers has told me that spirituality is a thing I have newly introduced in politics on this occasion. A friend here reminds me of a resolution passed by the Working Committee on the eve of the Dandi march in 1930, and the preamble to that resolution contains the same thing as I have said in this statement. And it was there with the approval of the late Pandit Motilal Nehru.

The preamble lays down in clear terms that the struggle should be started and carried on by those who believe in truth and non-violence not as a policy but as a creed. And, therefore, I was authorised to start and carry on the struggle and Congressmen were ordered to assist in it.

What I say to-day is not far from what was said in that preamble. Of course, those who took up civil resistance as a political weapon came to the struggle, but they were expected to be loyal to the creed and the discipline required of them while they remained in the struggle.

I expected them to be loyal to it in the same manner as a jailor protects in thought, word, and deed, a prisoner who may be guilty of murder and is in his charge for the time being.

If you choose to follow my lead you have to accept my conditions. If not, you will leave me free to follow the course I consider best, no matter even if I am alone.

THE LIBERALS AND THE CONGRESS

A statement of his attitude with regard to the newly formed Swaraj Party was made by Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, Liberal leader, in an interview to the *Associated Press* on May 2.

Sir Chimanlal pointed out that Liberals had no intention whatever of merging themselves in the Congress or any other organization. They were determined to maintain their principles and their separate existence as a party, although they may, and would, gladly co-operate with any other party on any issue or occasion that might arise, if such co-operation was deemed desirable in the best interests of the country. He made it clear that such co-operation with the Congress would be possible if the Congress definitely abandoned civil disobedience and methods of direct action.

Sir Chimanlal, further clarifying the Liberal policy in regard to the issue of complete independence for India, stated that there could be no question of Liberals joining the Congress with the objective of complete independence. The Liberal Party had always stood, and would continue to stand for Dominion Status for India within the British Commonwealth, as they were convinced that India's interest would be better served by securing the internal freedom enjoyed by Dominions than by severing British connexion and losing all protection from foreign aggression that such connexion secures.

THE PRESENT ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly concluded its budget session in April last. In a message to the House read by the President, His Excellency the Viceroy told the Assembly that the question of extension of the term of the House was not decided then. He was in communication with White Hall on the subject. But later it has been decided by the Government of India to dissolve the Assembly after its Simla Session in July.

THE MAYORAL ELECTION IN CALCUTTA

The Calcutta Corporation has elected two Mayors and two Deputy Mayors, at what was probably the most farcical meeting in its history. The meeting opened with an unseemly dispute over the chairmanship and when, after much bickering, a chairman was eventually installed another dispute arose as to whether he had been chosen to preside over the proceedings for the election of a chairman or the election of a Mayor.

When it was decided to elect a chairman for the meeting, a new dispute arose as to whether the nominated members were entitled to vote.

With the nominated members voting a chairman was elected, but the supporters of Mr. Fazlul Haq, the dethroned Mayor, protested strongly.

Eventually, amid great confusion, two meetings were held by the supporters of the rival candidates, one group electing Mr. Fazlul Haq Mayor and Mr. S. C. Ghose Deputy Mayor and the other group electing Mr. N. R. Sarkar Mayor and Mr. B. N. Roy Chowdhury Deputy Mayor.

A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY FOR INDIA

The Swarajist Conference at Ranchi unanimously adopted Mr. Bhalubhai Desai's comprehensive resolution rejecting the White Paper proposal "as calculated to perpetuate political subjection and exploitation of the Indian people," and claiming for India the right of the self-determination which is to be exercised by convening a constituent assembly.

What is meant by the Constituent Assembly, which according to the Swarajist programme will draw up the national demand, is explained by Mr. S. Satyamurthi. He says :

What is meant is not a Constituent Assembly called, after a successful revolution, to assume the reins of Government, but an Assembly chosen on the widest possible franchise to formulate the national demand. For my purposes, the Lothian franchise giving the vote to about 35 million people is wide enough for electing such an Assembly, but if the Congress so wishes it can call a constituent Assembly through adult suffrage according to Mr. Gandhi's scheme under which village units will elect district representatives who, in turn, will elect delegates to the Constituent Assembly.

OUR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The Rt. Hon. Sastri was a teacher before he became a politician and his authority on matters of teaching and education has always been respected. Speaking at the ninth annual Conference of the Teachers of the Madras Presidency Mr. Sastri urged the need of consolidation and security of tenure in the profession on the lines of the system in vogue in Germany and France. In his opinion the best help for the coming generation was a well thought-out scheme of elementary education

"which should be compulsory to all boys and girls and should comprehend all classes in the country—poor and rich, Harijan and Brahmin alike."

What is the basis of elementary education? If private effort by itself is unable to tackle this huge problem in a country like England, it is not likely to be done in this land, torn piecemeal, by interest and minorities and communities. Therefore

"the State must find the money, the State must fix the minimum requisites and the State by its own inspecting agency see that full use was obtained for the money which it took from the poor in this country. No other solution was going to meet this problem of elementary education. The paramount duty of the State was to establish a comprehensive and thoroughly satisfactory system of elementary education."

Elementary education alone could hardly cope with the requirements of the situation.

"We want schools for Municipal Councillors, for District Board members; we want schools for politicians, for we have schools for teachers. We get trained in our profession but many of our people who sit over our heads and regulate our work remain un-educated in the fundamental and elementary things of their own subjects."

We should teach the pupils to consider the problem of local self-government not merely from the point of view of the rate-payer but

"from the point of view of the municipalities, from the point of view of the sanitation and from the point of view of the educationist, the engineer and so on."

AN EXHORTATION TO YOUTH

We commend Mr. N. S. Varadachari's exhortation to the Youth Conference at Madras for its clarity of thought and practical counsel. There can be no such thing as defeat or depression to youth.

An alertness in taking advantage of situations, a buoyancy of spirit, a certain resilience of mind, an enduring persistence in action and an attitude of irrepressible optimism towards life generally and its problems, ought to characterise the youth of any land.

Mr. Varadachari is a confirmed Satyagrahi and he held that the emergence of the Swarajya Party does not mean the failure of Gandhiji's lead. It is rather its fulfilment as the "Congress Parliamentarians" are fired by the same zeal for the emancipation of the country. He therefore put in a vigorous plea for the union of all ranks in the service of the nation and called on the youth of the country to go forward with the work of rural reconstruction. For obviously all cannot go into the Councils. The vast majority has to remain out and work among the people. And what a lot of work remains to be done?

The economic position is so distressing that the villager is virtually on the brink of ruin. The over-taxed peasant finds that cultivation has ceased to pay. The prices that he gets for his exertions are ridiculously low and give him less and less subsistence. His houses are in dilapidation, his health is in constant danger of being impaired, and his children are uncared for. Unless he is helped by getting his tax burdens reduced, he will sink in despair. His capacity for production must be raised in all directions. His products must be made to get better prices. He must be taught methods by which he will be enabled to grow two blades of corn where one grew formerly. He must be saved from the drink curse which takes more of his income as the depression thickens. It is the Government that must be compelled to take all steps in its power to promote his happiness and this cannot be until in him is developed the ability to resist tyranny and oppression. The so-called untouchable has to be lifted out of his low social position. The breath of dignity has to be imparted to his life. Congress forces must be distributed amongst these people that they will become the virtual spokesmen of their grievances.

In fact we should have what may be called a Village Service Corps and Mr. Varadachari suggests "a short-term recruitment," not to exceed two or three years for national service by youngmen.

THE LATE SIR DINSHAW MULLA

Yet another great name must now be added to the list of worthies who have left the country the poorer for their death. For the Rt. Hon. Sir Dinshaw Mulla had made a great name



SIR D. F. MULLAH

for himself as scholar and jurist and was undoubtedly one of the ablest lawyers in the country, who filled many important positions with distinction. As a Solicitor and Advocate of the Bombay High Court, as Professor and Principal of the Law School, as Advocate-General, as a Judge, as Law Member of the Government of India, as Member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the late Sir Dinshaw had made a great name for himself. Sir Dinshaw was a great authority on Hindu and Mahomedan law.

The Acting Chief Justice of Bombay Mr. Murphy, truly summed up the work of the late Sir Dinshaw when he said: "If few can be said to have filled each minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run he is certainly one of the few."

BENGAL ORDINANCE RULE

The *Hindustan Times* writes:

A man who was wanted by the police had been photographed in six positions and the pictures sent out to the district police. In a few days headquarters received this from a small-town chief: "I duly received the pictures of the six miscreants wanted. Five of them have been captured and we are on the trail of the sixth."

SIR SHADI LAL ON BRITISH JUSTICE

A reference to the working out of the traditions of British justice in India was made by the Chief Justice Sir Shadi Lal, in reply to tributes paid by the Bench and Bar of the Lahore High Court on the occasion of his retirement on the 7th of last month.

The essence of political liberty as recognised by British courts, observed Sir Shadi Lal, was that justice should be administered with complete impartiality and that those who were innocent should receive and enjoy freedom. Sir Shadi Lal mentioned a recent English case in which a Communist who had been convicted of a breach of the law, claimed damages against the head of the London Police on the ground that a bundle of papers which the police had lawfully seized had been detained longer than was justified. The case was tried before the High Court and he was awarded "for this ordinary mistake £30 damages." Sir Shadi Lal continued:

Would it be improper to ask, what would be thought of a judge in India who, imbued with the traditions of British justice, acted in a similar manner? Would he not thereby subject himself to disfavour and even resentment which would be manifested in no uncertain manner? These and other disadvantages have sometimes to be borne silently by a person who is true to the oath which he solemnly takes on accepting the office of His Majesty's Judge.

THE MADRAS CONSPIRACY CASE

Mr. Justice Pakenham Walsh presiding over the special sessions of the Madras High Court delivered judgment last month in the Madras Conspiracy Case in which 20 persons were charged with conspiracy to overthrow the Government, collect fire arms and to assassinate Government officials. Three accused—Sabapathy, Balureddy and Audiseshayya were found not guilty by the jury by 7 to 2, and agreeing with their verdict His Lordship acquitted them. The rest of the accused were convicted and sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment.

ORIENTAL'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

On 5th May last, the Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Company completed its sixtieth year and celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. The Souvenir issued by the Company shows a proud record of achievement in the decade since it celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1924. The number of new policies in 1933 was 38, 191 against 10,260 in 1924, the sum assured 7 crores against 24 crores and the premium income Rs. 219 lakhs against Rs. 79 lakhs. During the decade 2,42,120 policies were issued to the total value of Rs. 50 crores and the rate of progress compared to the previous decade fully justifies the hopes of the management that in the current decade both figures will be doubled. The Oriental is the First Indian Insurance Company and we not only congratulate it on its fine record but also hope that it will keep up its premier position in the world of Indian Insurance.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

The 63rd Annual General Meeting of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada was held in Montreal on February 13, 1934, when the Company's operations during 1933 were reviewed by Mr. Arthur B. Wood, Vice-President and Managing Director of the Company. The total assurances in force at the end of the year amounted to £560.5 millions. The total income for the year was £30.75 millions which exceeded the disbursements by nearly £5 millions. The total assets of the Company increased to £128.3 millions. The cash profits allotted to the policyholders during the year amounted to £3.3 millions. The Company has considerably increased its holdings in Government bonds. Its careful selection of lives was again reflected in the favourable mortality rate experienced during the year, the actual death claims being only 58 per cent. of the expected. Expenses of management showed a further reduction.

UNITED INDIA LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

The twenty-eighth annual general meeting of the Company which was held in Madras on the 14th of April last presented the report for the year 1933 which shows that the record for the Company's New Business during the Year was most satisfactory. As against 3,325 policies for sums aggregating to Rs. 49,65,750 issued during the Year ended 31st December 1932, the Company issued during the year under review, 4774 Policies for a total sum assured of Rs. 66,40,918-8-0 an increase over the previous year's business by more than 30 per cent. Considering the acute economic depression which continued throughout the year and the fact that the competition for business has been very severe, the Directors feel justified in considering that the results achieved are a striking proof of the growing popularity of the Company among the insuring public. In spite of the fact that the Company's payments during the year on account of claims, bonuses, etc. exceeded Rs. 3½ Lakhs, the Policyholders' Trust Fund had a net addition at the end of the year of nearly Rupees Six Lakhs. This is really a proud record.

MR. G. S. WADYA ON INSURANCE

Writing in a recent Number of the *Insurance World*, Mr. G. S. Wadya says that Indians, of all other people, must necessarily insure their lives. He gives his reasons below :

In India generally a man after his death leaves behind him at least 4 children along with his wife and asks the society (indirectly of course) to take care of them. If so many heads of so many families die, imagine then how many parasites they will leave behind in society. It is well and good if the society is rich enough to support them. But a sane man should not expect so much help from society. Parasitism is not only a danger but also a heavy burden to the society and the country cannot be called prosperous at all in which parasitism prevails. Life Insurance is a sure weapon against it. It will decrease parasitism and it will help society so much so that the latter may not feel the burden of the former. Thus life insurance is a social activity.

THE INDO-JAPANESE PACT

The initialling of the agreed drafts of the Convention and Protocol by the Indian and Japanese delegation on the 19th April marks the termination of protracted negotiation between the two Governments during the last seven months. The two delegations had in fact worked



SIR JOSEPH BHOKE

together in closest co-operation and hammered out an agreement safeguarding the interests of either of the high contracting parties. The credit for this goes to the fine temper and indefatigable industry and patience which the plenipotentiaries brought to their difficult and delicate task. As every one knows the difficulty over the interpretation of "the most favoured nation clause" was at last surmounted by the patience and skill with which the Indian delegation under the leadership of Sir Joseph Bhore urged the reasonableness of our case. The importance of the occasion cannot however be measured in terms of a commercial bargain. As Sir Maneckji Dadhabhai observed in the Council of State "Our pride is greater in that the negotiations with a foreign power were conducted for the first time

in India and that they were brought to a conclusion by the first Indian Commerce Member." In this respect it is certainly a landmark in our history. Of course no agreement could have been possible without good will and patience on either side but it was no empty rhetoric when H. E. Sawada acknowledged the part played by the Indian delegation in completing the negotiations and the tact and courtesy they brought to bear upon the momentous transaction :

Particularly I was very happy in having a very able collaborator in the person of the leader of the Indian Delegation, Sir Joseph Bhore. From the beginning to the end he conducted the negotiations in a spirit of fair play and accommodation in spite of many difficulties.

FABRICS MADE OF INDIAN COTTON

That the Lancashire Indian Cotton Committee's exhibit of fabrics manufactured in Lancashire from Indian cotton in the textile section of the Industries Fair had been an eye-opener to trade was the opinion expressed to "Renter" by interested circles on the closing day after a fortnight's exhibition. The diversity and quality of the fabrics included in the exhibit, which was a most comprehensive collection of yarn and cloth ever shown, had aroused the keen interest of the manufacturers and the immediate result was that they frequently sent technical experts from Lancashire. In fact, there was already a demand that the exhibit should be repeated at Manchester.

INDIA AND OTTAWA AGREEMENT

Evidence of the value of the Ottawa Agreement to British trade is afforded by the figures of India's imports prepared by the Department of Overseas Trade, states the *Daily Telegraph*. In nine months ended December 31, the total of India's buying was less than 1932, but the proportion of goods supplied by Great Britain increased 5½ per cent. which is a matter for congratulation. The majority of motor cars now sold in India are of British make and the market is capable of enormous expansion if cars for India's need are designed and supplied.

WOMEN AND LABOUR

The National Council of Women in India is interesting itself in labour welfare. It was in Bombay that in September last a Provincial Women's Conference on Labour was held under the Presidentship of Lady Vidyagauri Nilkanth of Ahmedabad. The Labour Group in the Bombay Council is outlining a programme which includes the following:

(1) To form a study circle in order to study labour problems, (2) to persuade the employers to engage educated women in place of the 'Nalkins' (Women-Jobbers) in mills with decent salaries, after a few months' training of the work, in order to create better atmosphere in the women's departments in the mills (3) to create public opinion in support of the Bill for reducing working hours in the factories and also to support other labour legislation and (4) to request the removal of liquor shops from mill areas with a view to diverting the attention of the workers to some better and useful attractions during their leisure time.

These activities will gradually form a very important branch of the Council's work.

WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE

The wisdom of women competing with men for positions in public life was considered recently in the Punjab Legislative Council, as a sequel to a resolution moved by the first elected woman member of the Council. The resolution was to the effect that the sex disqualification in respect of candidature for election to Municipalities and District Boards be removed. The Leader of the Opposition opposed the motion, while a male member emphasised that the proper function of women was to bring up children and maintain the home. Further discussion was adjourned.

MISS C. K. ROHATGI

Miss Chandrakanta Rohatgi is the first Hindu lady of the United Provinces to pass the M.B.B.S. Examination with honours in Midwifery and diseases of women. She got the first position in the whole of Bombay University. She was awarded quite a number of medals and scholarships. She is the daughter of Dr. Jawahar Lal Rohtagi.

SHRIMATI KRISHNABAI WAGH

Shrimati Krishnabai Wagh, senior Lady Investigator, Government Labour Office, Bombay, recently sailed for London for further studies in Social Economics and Labour, at the London School of Economics. She intends staying in Europe for a year and to visit the various European countries for studying Labour conditions and problems obtaining over there. Mrs. Wagh is, in fact, the first *deccani* woman proceeding to Europe for this purpose.

Srimati Krishnabai Wagh, says the *Mahratta*, possesses very liberal and rational views on social reform. Her love for originality is evident from the fact that she took up service in the Labour Office, not liking to follow the trodden path of either becoming a nurse, a midwife, a teacher, a doctor, a lawyer or a clerk, as other educated Deccani women are seen to be doing.

MRS. H. M. DESAI'S CHARITY

Mrs. Hirawatiben Mansukh Lal Desai of Bombay, has donated Rs. 50,000 from the trust left by her late husband to the Arya Kumar Mahasabha of Baroda for a Widows' Rescue Home known after the name of her husband Seth Mansukh Lal.

WOMEN AS BAR MAIDS IN BURMA

The Burma Legislative Council passed on Feb. 24 the Burma Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1934, permitting the employment of women in places where foreign liquor is sold or served under certain conditions subject to the approval of the Excise Commissioner.

DR. (MISS) SPIEGAL

Dr. Spiegel, Gandhiji's German disciple, who is staying in Sabarmati Ashram, has decided to devote her life to the cause of Harijans. She is learning Gujarati and looking after a boarding school for Harijan girls.

INDIA'S LANGUAGE PROBLEM

That language barriers have stood in the way of national unification has long been recognised in this country, and efforts have not been wanting in recent years to make Hindi the *lingua franca* of India. But claims of English and the Vernaculars can hardly be overlooked. South India has taken to English with surprising alacrity while the up-country is in favour of Hindi. At the recent conference at Delhi, H. H. the Gaekwar discussed the relative merits of the two schools of thought and expressed his own view in unflinching accents:

For Imperial Affairs	... English.
For Cultural Life	... English and Sanskrit.
For National Life	... Hindi.
For Home Life	... The Vernacular.

The Gaekwar rightly took into consideration the cultural value of our own classical and vernacular literatures, but then the demands of enlightened patriotism are no less insistent. He, therefore, pleaded for a national tongue and a universal script.

CAREERS

This is an English monthly of vocational guidance, edited by Mr. M. C. Mohan, B.A., Mohini Road, Lahore. *Careers* represents a pioneer to provide a link between the employers and the vast army of the unemployed to turn the activities of our young men to new, healthy and fruitful channels.

A section of the periodical is devoted to what is practically a service procuring agency as well as an unemployment directory. One commendable feature is its Business Forum designed for investors to evolve or develop, by exchange of views, commercial and industrial schemes as well as calculated to serve the interests of those who might be in search of profitable investments or gainful occupation.

JAPANESE JOURNALISM

According to recent travellers back from Japan, the Japanese reporter beats every one else in the world in the matter of journalistic enterprise. He boards incoming ocean boats with the port doctor, carrying a camera, and a basket of carrier pigeons.

The Jap reporter photographs the prominent passengers, interviews them, types the result, photographs it, reduces the whole to the dimensions of a postage stamp and fastens it to one of his pigeons. The carrier pigeon flies to the newspaper office in time to have the article published and sold to passengers as they get off the boat.

SIR ROMESH CHANDRA MITTER

A marble bust of the late Sir Romesh Chandra Mitter who was a judge of the Calcutta High Court from 1874-1890 and the first Indian to have the distinction of twice officiating as the Chief Justice of Bengal was unveiled at the High Court by Sir Philip Buckland, Acting Chief Justice. In requesting the Chief Justice to accept the bust and to unveil it, Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar said:—

"It was the constant effort of Sir Romesh to administer justice on broad and equitable principles. Even now when many years have passed since he is gone his decisions are cited by their lordships of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in terms of the greatest approbation.

The independence political or otherwise of the judicial Bench is one of the precious traditions of the High Courts of this country and Sir Romesh maintained those traditions in an eminent degree. He was a Judge of the most inflexible integrity. He had the peculiar felicity to combine in himself those contrary qualities so rare to be met in the same person, the mildest disposition with great firmness of mind."



The Hon. Rai Bahadur Promoda Charan Dutt, C.I.E.,
Judicial Member of the Government of Assam.

SIR HARRY HAIG AS GOVERNOR OF U. P.

A communiqué dated 24th April says that His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to approve of the appointment of the Hon. Sir Henry Graham Haig, I.C.S., at present Home Member of His Excellency the Governor-General's Executive Council, as Governor of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh in succession to His Excellency Sir Malcolm Hailey, I. C. S., who has been permitted to resign on or about December 1, 1934.

ARTIFICIAL HEARTS

The greatest danger in a blood-transfusion operation is the coagulation of the blood in the syringe. This results in the injection of a clot into the patient's veins which on reaching the heart causes sudden death.

A French doctor has now invented what he terms an "Artificial Heart." This artificial heart is a tiny electric pump which can be held in the hollow of the hand. Its speed can be so regulated that it is possible to pump blood from the volunteer into the patient's veins at exactly the same rhythm as the patient's heart-beat. The "heart" automatically stops when a sufficient quantity of blood has been injected.

It has even been suggested that it may be possible to drain a person's body completely in cases of serious intoxication of the blood, keeping the heart in motion and at the same time refilling the veins with pure blood by means of the artificial heart.

CURE FOR INFLUENZA

The opening of an apparently promising new line of attack on the Influenza problem is mentioned in the annual report of the Medical Research Council of England. A new hope for the ultimate solution of the problem is justified by the discovery of a virus, which acts as a primary infective agent in human influenza and can be transmitted to animals. Investigators at the National Institute of Medical Research have succeeded in conveying human influenza to ferrets, thus bringing it within the scope of experimental science. Recent work has shown how distempered viruses may be rendered non-dangerous by inactivation through exposure to the action of methylene blue in the presence of light and free oxygen.

"TEST TUBE" BABIES

The New York correspondent of the *Amrita Bazaar Patrika* cabled on April 30 as follows: "The birth of what is claimed to be the 'test tube' twins to a couple, living in Long Island has been brought to the attention of the public by two obstetricians, including a prominent woman doctor, who have been experimenting for some time with ectogenesis (birth without being carried in the womb for the full period beginning with conception). Impregnation was entirely scientific and, out of 13 experiments eight resulted in childbirth."

The doctors also claim that two prominent unmarried business women recently desired children by the new method. One has now a baby nine months' old and the other is expecting a "test tube" baby in a few months.

WAR ON MALARIA

There were 17,750 cases of malaria under treatment in one year, according to the report of the health section of the League of Nations which deals with the ten years of work in the prevention and cure of malaria.

The report adds that there are eight countries where malaria is an epidemic. It is estimated that the world requirements of quinine amount annually to 1,387 metric tons but owing presumably to the expense, the consumption of quinine is barely half that.

Quinine is still the best remedy but it is hoped, by a more rational use of the various alkaloids of Cinchona, to provide the drug cheaper than quinine and equally efficaciously. A course of treatment was begun in Singapore on April 30 to be followed by field work in Indo-China, Motherlands, Malaya and East Indies.

MEMORY

"A man's memory cannot be improved by sheer exercise," stated Dr. Cyril Burt, Professor of Psychology at London University, in a lecture.

"Memory," he said, "is not a muscle that can be enlarged by daily exercise. The old notion that you should keep a child doing mental gymnastics day by day is entirely erroneous, according to modern theories. Experiments and tests by ingenious devices show that memory, as such, never does improve."

He added that people could be trained, however, to make better use of what material they possessed.

CURE FOR BALDNESS

The Institute of Ray Therapy and Electro-Therapy, London, has conquered baldness by electric treatment. The conquest is described as follows:

One patient admitted to the institute has been bald for nine years, another for twelve years, and others for shorter periods. All these patients had tried every known form of treatment for baldness. Every one of those patients in less than nine months had a good growth of hair, and the majority had to have a 'hair cut.'

TREATMENT BY SUN BATH

A solarium for the treatment of various diseases, such as tuberculosis and rheumatism by sun bath is being constructed in Jamnagar. Its plan was originally devised by the late Prince Ranjitsinghji and it is being worked out by the present ruler with great care. He has called Dr. Sedmene from Paris to start the working of the solarium which is the first of its kind in India.

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK

While presiding over the Eightieth Ordinary General Meeting of the shareholders of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, held at London, Mr. Arthur Willis (the Chairman), in the course of his speech, said:

"The past year in India has been one of slow but steady progress due in a great measure to a more tranquil political atmosphere, and the financial position of the Central Government, though still requiring great care, is extremely sound. Recent statistics indicate that, taking the eight major Provinces together the fall in agricultural income at present, compared with 1928-29, is in the neighbourhood of 47 per cent. Bengal heading the list with 54 per cent. Shipments of raw and manufactured jute, raw cotton, rice and manufactured jute, raw cotton, rice and oil seeds have all shown advances in value, as well as volume, in recent months, a recovery which is satisfactory as far as it goes, but it is well to remember that India's favourable balance of trade is still very largely dependent on gold shipments, which have now reached the gigantic figure of over £135,000,000 since Great Britain left the gold standard. The releasing of these hoards has in effect been like the tapping of an unexpected gold mine; they have been an inestimable boon both to the Government and to the peasantry, but it is obvious that this source of potential export cannot continue for ever."

SIR M. DE P. WEBB ON THE RUPEE

Sir M. de P. Webb has republished at one rupee and under the title *India's Plight* the arguments used by him in the course of his recent tour around India, in support of an immediate de-rating of the rupee pending negotiations with the U.S.A. for the re-opening of the American and Indian Mints to the unrestricted free coinage of silver.

The latter he states is by far the more important reform to ensure India's speedy, and permanent recovery.

BANKING IN CEYLON

The Ceylon Government have appointed a commission to enquire into the condition of banking and the desirability of forming a State Bank in Ceylon. Mr. S. N. Poochkhawallah, Managing Director of the Central Bank of India, will be the chairman of the commission.

MR. C. S. RANGASWAMI'S LECTURES

Mr. C. S. Rangaswami, Editor of *Indian Finance*, Calcutta, has accepted the invitation of the Annamalai University to deliver a course of special lectures in July on problems of Indian finance and connected topics.

RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE

Sir Guthrie Russell, Chief Commissioner of the Railway Board, has addressed the Agents of different railways on the question of establishing closer contact between the railway administrations and commercial interests with the object of affording better facilities to the public in the matter of railway transport.

It is hoped by this to secure better co-operation and understanding between railways and public and proper appreciation by the railways of the need of commercial interests.

Sir Guthrie Russell's action is in harmony with the speech which he delivered at the last Road and Railway Conference in Simla, when he said that he was prepared to place at the disposal of the Provincial Governments all information concerning new railway projects.

Sir Guthrie also pleaded for a better co-ordinated transport system for India.

It was felt that the Railway Board should take concerted action through the medium of various railways in appraising the need of commercial interests.

As a result of this communication from the Chief Commissioner, the Agents of certain railway administrations have held private conferences at which both railway administrations and mercantile interests have put their views forward.

It has been found that in addition to meetings of railway authorities with local railway advisory committees, this new method of exchanging ideas with a view to exploring methods of better transport is also proving very useful.

Commercial interests have fully recognized the benefits of these conferences and are taking full advantage of the request of railway administrations for suggestion for the better and quicker transport of goods.

AGENCY CHANGES IN THE RAILWAYS

Sir Hugh Hannay, Agent of the E. I. Railways retired from service on April 29. He was succeeded by Mr. A. V. Venables, Chief Auditor, E. I. Railway.

Mr. Brayshaw, Agent, B. B. and C. I. Railway, has proceeded on six months' leave. Mr. Harrison, Chief Auditor, officiates as Agent.

Mr. H. N. Colam, Agent, M. and S. M. Railway, is also proceeding on six months' leave and Col. Stallard, Deputy Agent, will officiate as Agent.

Mr. Patterson, Agent, G. I. P. Railway, is proceeding on short leave from the end of this month and Mr. L. Wilson, Chief Engineer, G. I. P. Railway, will officiate as Agent.

MR. NEVINSON ON ART IN MODERN LIFE

Mr. C. R. W. Nevlinson, speaking on art in education before the London Schools' Guild of Arts and Crafts, said that the curse of this particular century had been that art had moved away from its function and become almost scientific in the study of ornamentation. Great art needed no education either from the creator or participant, and education in art should rather tend towards de-education. Our present education had built a gulf between the creator and the audience.

"It has been my bitter lot to experience that a great many of our artists and critics are more profoundly uneducated than the audience which professes nowadays to know nothing about art."

"I would like to see nothing taught in art schools except craft," said Mr. Nevlinson.

HINDU JAVANESE ART

A lecture on Hindu-Javanese Bronzes was delivered before the India Society by Dr. A. J. Bernet Kempers, Reader in Comparative Archaeology of Greater India in the University of Leyden. He explained that Hindu-Javanese art was created and developed by a people descended partly from Indians and partly from Indonesians. Consequently it contains elements from two distinct cultures. One of the most interesting problems of Javanese history is the study of the ways in which these elements became forged into a new entity. Compared with the abundance of Indian elements the Indonesian ones, which are found in some examples, are of little importance. The cause of the peculiar character of the ancient Javanese bronzes, therefore, is not the presence of Indonesian features but the fact that the elements inherited or received from India have been combined, changed, modified, and above all elevated into a perfect and harmonious fullness.

UDAY SHANKAR IN AMERICA

Uday Shanker, who is now touring America, had a delightful welcome at the Hollywood studios.

Shanker and party visited Van Dyke, the famous director at his studio, where he was directing the *Laughing Boy*, featuring Ramon Novarro and Lupe Valez.

There were many Red Indians too to lend a true colour, writes Mr. Rajendra Shanker from Chicago in the *Patrika*, and "we had an amusing conversation with them. We explained how we too were from India where Columbus was actually heading for."

"Ramon was very interested in our work and talked on with Shanker. Lupe was resting on a big divan, laughing and singing for no reason. She is one of those active, wild and impetuous persons who can never be quiet, and that is why she stays where she is."

SPORT

A SWIMMING RECORD

Mr. P. K. Ghosh of Calcutta, the world's endurance swimming champion, added to his already great popularity when he succeeded in swimming handcuffed for 24 hours in Cornwallis Square tank in Calcutta last month. There could not have been less than 20,000 people thronging the four sides of the tank when he completed his task and walked out of the tank seemingly none the worse for his experience.

It was, indeed, no great feat for the man who swam for nearly 80 hours in the cold waters of the Royal Lakes in Rangoon not many months ago. Doubtless the time limit of 24 hours was set as an experiment. Ghosh will probably be able to swim handcuffed for 50 hours or more in the near future.

MR. GHOSH'S FEATS AT GLANCE

1921—13 miles swim (2 hrs. 10 min.)
1922—440 yds. swim (4 min 49 secs.)
1924—13 miles swim (2 hrs. 19 mins.)
1924—110 yds swim (1 min 9 secs.)
1928—15 miles swim at Chittagong.
1929—28 hours' endurance swim (Calcutta).
1930—67 hrs. 10 mins. Endurance swim. (Calcutta).
1931—66 hrs. 18 mins.
1933—72 hrs. 18 mins. Endurance Swim. (Calcutta).
1933—79 hrs. 24 mins. Endurance Swim. (Rangoon).

PRIZE FOR FASTEST CENTURY

Like all good ideas, the wonder is that someone didn't think of a prize for the season's fastest century in first class cricket before.

The trophy and order for 100 guineas presented by Sir Walter Lawrence, the Hertfordshire cricket enthusiast, should find nothing but praise among cricketers (says a report in the *Daily Mirror* of May 2.)

"It should provide a big incentive to the 'brighter cricket' we are looking forward to this season.

Like the guineas for 6's offered our men Australia last year, the "Lawrence prize" will probably produce some big hitting and that, after all, is one of the best ways of pleasing the cricket crowd."

GAMES IN JAMSHEDPUR

The Governing Body of the Jamshedpur Sporting Association recently met and appointed a committee to consider the possibilities of starting a Workmen's Club with a view to discover new talent and to give players regular training and thus build up strong teams in hockey, football and cricket to represent the Tata Iron & Steel Company in the better known tournaments in Calcutta and elsewhere.

SCIENCE

DR. SIR C. V. RAMAN

Dr. Sir C. V. Raman, Director of the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore has been invited to deliver the opening of the inaugural scientific address at the First International Congress of Radiobiology which will be held in the historical palace of Doges in Venice on 10th September.

The Council of Indian Institute have sanctioned Sir C. V. Raman's services being placed on a special deputation out of India for this purpose.

Sir C. V. Raman will visit some of the chief centres where research work on the Atomic Disintegration is being carried on.

SYNTHETIC RADIUM

The manufacture of radio active substance from two simple substances like carbon and hydrogen is the latest achievement of atomic physics.

Three scientists of the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, found that when a piece of graphite was bombarded by atoms of hydrogen under an electric pressure of 600,000 volts, it was found to have abnormal radio-active properties. The intensity of the emanation diminished to one-half of its initial intensity after about 10 minutes.

LIVES OF ANIMALS

For the horse and the ass the extreme limit of life is about 35 years and for horned cattle about 30. For the dog it is given at 25 while sheep, goats, pigs and cats are grouped at 15. While a goose may live 30 years, a sparrow 25 and a crow as many as 100, ducks, fowls, and turkeys die of old age at 12 years. The distinction of greatest longevity is shared between the elephant and the parrot. Both pass the century mark.

THE AUTO-SWITCH

Mr. S. C. Roy Choudhury, Electric Inspector, Corporation of Calcutta, has invented a new type of switch, called the Auto-switch.

It is a novel electrical design by which the light is automatically extinguished. It has the advantage to keep the light burning so long as it is required by proper manipulation of a key attached to the switch.

A FREAK OF NATURE

A baby born with a curly tail, which has grown to a length of two inches, is attracting attention at a London hospital. According to Sir Arthur Keith, such a phenomenon, further proof of man's animal ancestry, is not uncommon.

SALARIES OF CINEMA STARS

For the first time an authoritative statement on the salaries paid to fifteen of the leading movie stars has been made by Mr. Samuel Goldwyn, who says that, although the fans will have some surprises there is no argument about it, because he has signed most of the cheques.

Here is Mr. Goldwyn's list of fourteen stars and their average weekly salaries based on a forty-week year which has been published in an American magazine:

	£
William Rogers	... 1,500
Maurice Chevalier	... 1,500
Constance Bennett	... 1,500
John Barrymore	... 1,300
Norma Shearer	... 1,200
Richard Barthelmess	... 1,200
Ann Harding	... 1,200
Wallace Beery	... 1,000
William Powell	... 900
Joan Crawford	... 800
Janet Gaynor	... 750
Edward G. Robinson	... 600
James Cagney	... 560
Clark Gable	... 500

THE VEL PICTURES

Work is proceeding apace at the studio of Vel Pictures Ltd., Madras, says a correspondent in the *Hindu*. Moulders are at work creating life-like statues and floral ornaments which will add a wealth and richness, unequalled so far, to their settings, the first of which serving as the opening scene has been completed at an enormous cost. So far as the dress is concerned, Vel Pictures are chalking out a new programme. They will discard the usual custom of using any kind of dress, but will create dresses to suit the personality of the wearers and in accordance with the dramatic requirements of the story. There is evident in every activity an attempt to go out of the beaten track and provide not only solid entertainment to cinema-goers but to raise the standard of Indian productions.

SCREEN BIOGRAPHY OF THE KING

British Newspapers state that a screen biography of the King opening with His Majesty's coronation and reviewing his varied life in peace and war is nearing completion and will be shown shortly. Mr. John Drinkwater, the famous poet and dramatist, has written the prologue in addition to the commentary, which he has written for the film.

MODERN MOTOR CAR DESIGNS

The meetings of the Society of Automotive Engineers, recently held in Chicago, discussed several points of interest to automobile manufacturers, particularly those relating to the modern motor car designs. The most noteworthy contribution came from Dr. Moos, of George Washington University, who made an eloquent appeal for greater attention being paid to health considerations in the designs of motor cars in the future. He laid special emphasis on the composition of the air inside the car, on the strain on the eyes of the driver and on his posture. He suggests a thorough examination of the carbon monoxide level at various positions inside the car as also the amount of the draught. Control of the temperature and humidity inside a closed car are equally important in the preservation of the health of the occupants of the car. Adverting to accidents, statistics reveal that they are more likely to occur after a long journey, which is attributed mainly to eye strain. Experimental tests carried out with various types and makes of cars show that continuous driving decreases the visual acuity considerably, decrease being pronounced after a drive for about 400 miles. Again, bodily posture is an important factor in the health and the safety of the driver. Dr. Moos has also provoked discussion and thought on the relative merits of hard and soft cushions, and cloth and leather upholstery. We are of opinion that attempts calculated to bring about improvement in these respects will amply reward the motor car industry.

SOLID MOTOR FUEL

The remarkable feat of running motor vehicles from London to Afghanistan without petrol has just been accomplished by four Englishmen.

Last autumn, two fully-loaded motor-vans left London for the East. These vehicles were fitted with a novel device by means of which cheap solid fuel, wood-charcoal, is used as motor fuel in place of petrol. The device is an English invention, and consists of a portable gas-generating plant operated by the motor engine; in fact, vehicles fitted with this equipment manufacture their own fuel supply as they run along the road. The operation of the gas generator is simple and consists of drawing air through incandescent charcoal, is then converted into gas.

The motor vehicles proceeded to Dover, thence from Calais to Marseilles. After proceeding by sea to Beirut they crossed the Syrian desert, and then made a thrilling trek across Iraq and Persia, and finally through Afghanistan to Kabul.

A WINGLESS AEROPLANE

We understand that a new type of *wingless* aeroplane which is claimed to make passenger carrying auto-giros a commercial possibility is being manufactured by a firm of British aircraft constructors. The Air Ministry has ordered one of these machines for testing. They have seating accommodation for four people in an enclosed cabin. They can fly at more than 100 miles an hour or hover almost stationary in the air and are practically "crashproof". An important feature is the simplicity of the controls, which consist of one hanging stick and a throttle. Revolving vanes provide the lifting power. The angle of these vanes determines the direction of the autogiro's flight. Although the Air Ministry are to test these autogiros solely for commercial purpose, it is thought that they may later be adopted by the Royal Air Force as a means of co-operating with the Army and Navy.

NEW AIR LINER

The world's fastest four-engined air liner has just passed its official Air Ministry flying trials.

The machine, which is a biplane and has a top-speed of over 170 miles per hour, has been built by the De Havilland Company for the Imperial Airways and the Quantas Empire Airways and will be offered in their tenders for extension of the Empire Air Mail from Singapore to Port Darwin and thence to the terminal at Cootamundra. Its 200 horse-power engines are arranged, two on each side of the body in which there is accommodation for ten passengers. The enclosed control cabin in the extreme nose of the aircraft is equipped with powerful wireless sending and receiving installations. It is capable of flying on any two of its four engines and with full engine power it can attain a height of nearly four miles, climbing to 1,200 feet within one minute of leaving the ground.

COST OF AVIATION IN INDIA

"The air force in India ought to be at least doubled," says the *Statesman* in an editorial, defending the speech of H. E. the Commander-in-Chief. Air defence of India, it says, is hopelessly inadequate.

There is only one prudent way to deal with the situation—to increase the air squadrons in India. We should like to see it at least doubled. That would only cost India about a crore, but it would be well worth it.

AIR TRANSPORT IN BRITAIN

A £1,000,000 scheme for the complete reorganisation of air transport in Britain is now being worked out in detail by a group of experts.

RURAL ECONOMIC PLANNING

A broad measure of rural economic planning was announced by the Government of India in a Resolution issued by the Finance Department last month.

The decisions are based on the recommendations of the provincial economic conference which was held in Delhi under the chairmanship of Sir George Schuster.

The main conclusions reached by the Government of India are:

- (1) Marketing surveys by the Central Marketing officer, just appointed, and by provincial marketing officers, to be appointed, to increase the cultivators' selling power;
- (2) Improvement of grade standards by special committees in respect of particular commodities, including dairying;
- (3) co-ordination of agricultural production;
- (4) appointment of additional Trade Commissioners abroad; and
- (5) establishment of a central bureau for industrial research.

Rural indebtedness loomed large in the discussions at the Delhi Conference and it was felt that legislation should be left to the initiative of the provinces. Some of the provinces have already legislated in the matter of usurious loans and the establishment of land mortgage banks. The Government of India have decided to appoint an expert officer to report on the functions of the agricultural credit department of the Reserve Bank.

DAMAGES CAUSED BY INUNDATION

The Calcutta High Court has upheld a custom prevailing in certain districts of the Bengal Presidency, known as *Hujabad* under which a tenant of agricultural lands is not liable to pay rent to his landlord for the year in which there is inundation. The Court held that such a custom was not unreasonable, having regard to the character of the lands let out, and to the fact that the true source of the wealth of the tenants is often sapped by inundations to which the lands are subject, and the tenants are left without any wherewithal to pay the rents. The Court also held that the custom had existed from "times immemorial"; and that "times immemorial", so far as India is concerned, would mean for all practical purposes the year in which Pitt's India Act—ordinarily known as the Regulating Act of 1773—was passed; or at any rate the year of the Permanent Settlement of Bengal, 1793.

INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

This *Survey* is the first result of an investigation undertaken by the International Labour Office, (Geneva) at the suggestion of the British Government, into the cost of social services in a number of countries which would cover different forms of social insurance and assistance services, excluding war-pensions and education. A meeting of certain members of the correspondence Committee on Social Insurance was held at Geneva in July 1926 in order to indicate the scope of an inquiry into the costs of social services and into the methods of comparing these costs internationally. It was of the view that any attempt to assess the economic value of social legislation would meet with insuperable difficulties and classified social charges according to their origin, like physical risks, economic risks and assistance to large families and according as they concerned the classes of wage-earners and persons of small means working on their own account. The scope of the national monographs on social charges incurred on these lines was next fixed, as being embodied in a kind of periodical year-book which should be of great value to administrative departments and associations of employers and workers.

The analyses of legislation and the statistics collected refer to the working of social services in 1930 and have been checked by their respective governments. These refer to 24 countries, including India whose material just covers ten pages. Reference is made to workmen's compensation, families relief, medical and maternity assistance, assistance for blind children, ship-owners' liability towards sick or injured seamen and regulations as to holidays with pay.

THE BOMBAY MILL STRIKE

The strike of textile workers in Bombay continues. The Municipal Corporation passed a resolution, asking Government to appoint a conciliation Committee, against the opposition of the Chairman of the Millowners' Association. The low standard of living and the much-abused caste and joint family systems, are enabling the workers to hold out against being starved into submission. They aver that they would rather die than submit. But it is not such a simple matter says the *Indian Social Reformer*. "A stage will be reached when the pressure of wife and children will oblige the men to pocket their pride and go to work on the terms of employers. But this will hardly improve either the efficiency or the stability of the industry which will continue to be on the verge of dislocation."

POSTAL TUITION

The India School of Accountancy, Calcutta, the premier correspondence school in India, was founded by Mr. S. L. Banerjee, F.I.C.A., in 1920, with a view to teach Book-keeping and Accountancy by correspondence. He was joined later on by Mr. J. L. Bose, F.I.C.A., at present of P. 138, Jatindas Road, Ballygunj, Calcutta. Postal Tuition was not viewed with favour at that time. Many were in doubt about the efficiency of the correspondence in India. Within the last 14 years of its existence, the India School of Accountancy has proved beyond doubt that the Postal Tuition is not only successful, but better than the class tuition in many respects. The subject of Book-keeping and Accountancy, is not to be studied by all the responsible officers of the Income-Tax Department, Railway accounts sections and also of the subordinate accounts service preparing for the department Examination, since the mercantile accountancy is now introduced into many Government establishments. It is by these officers, whose social position and time do not permit them to take their lessons in a class, this system is greatly sought after. There are also many students who live far from the towns, who are equally benefitted by this course.

We are glad to announce that this Institution will be celebrating its 15th anniversary in 1935 in the new building of the Founder Principal at P. 254, Rash Behari Avenue, Calcutta.

A GIRL'S 50-DAYS' FAST

A British girl, Miss Clifford, has just broken the fasting record by remaining without food for 50 days at a Fair at Gravesend. She was lying in a cabinet which was sealed, though there was free light and air in it. The previous record is said to be 47 days and for breaking it, she has been awarded a prize of £100.

WALKING AS A HOBBY

With the ambition of covering 52,000 miles on foot in four years, a Rajkot youth, T. M. Cassim, has undertaken a world tour starting from Calcutta. He has visited Bengal, Bihar, the Punjab, Rajputana and Guzerat. He wants to visit all European countries.

WORLD'S TALLEST WOODEN TOWER

The world's tallest wooden tower has just been completed at the Muhlacker broadcasting station at Stuttgart. It is 623 feet 5 inches high.

LITTLE TOMMY: "Father, I think I should like to get married."

FATHER: "And who would you like to marry?"
LITTLE TOMMY: I "I'd like to marry my grandmother."

FATHER: "Nonsense. Do you think I'd let you marry my mother?"

LITTLE TOMMY: "Well, why shouldn't I? You married mine!"

"Jimmy, I wish you'd learn better table manners. You are a regular pig at the table."

Deep silence on Jimmy's part.

Father, in order to impress him more: "Jimmy, do you know what a pig is?"

"Yes, Father!" replied Jimmy meekly. "It is a hog's little boy."

The following correction appeared in a small town paper:

"Our paper carried the notice last week that Mr. John Doe is a defective in the police force. This was a typographical error. Mrs. Doe is really a detective in the police force."

A PRISONER was giving evidence on his own behalf, and making a bad job of it.

At last the judge stopped him. "You are lying so clumsily," he said, "that I should advise you to get a lawyer."

LAWYER (DICTATING LETTER): "Sir, my typist being a lady, cannot take down what I think of you; I being a gentleman cannot even think it, but you being neither, can easily guess my thoughts."

"Dear Teacher" wrote little Bobby's mother, "Kindly excuse Bobby's absence from school yesterday afternoon, as he fell into the river. By doing the same, you will greatly oblige."

POLICE SERGEANT: "Is the man dangerously wounded?"

PATROLMAN: "Two of the wounds are fatal, but the other one isn't so bad."

DINNER: "I see that tips are forbidden here."

WAITER: "Lor bless yer, mun, so was the apples in the garden of Eden."

THE UNITED INDIA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

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Trustee: OFFICIAL TRUSTEE OF MADRAS

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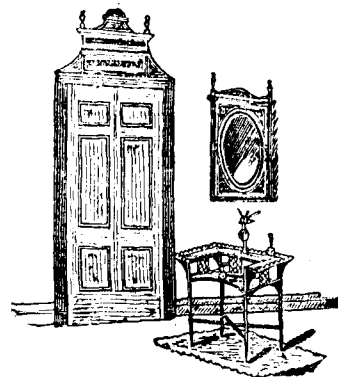
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E. May '35.

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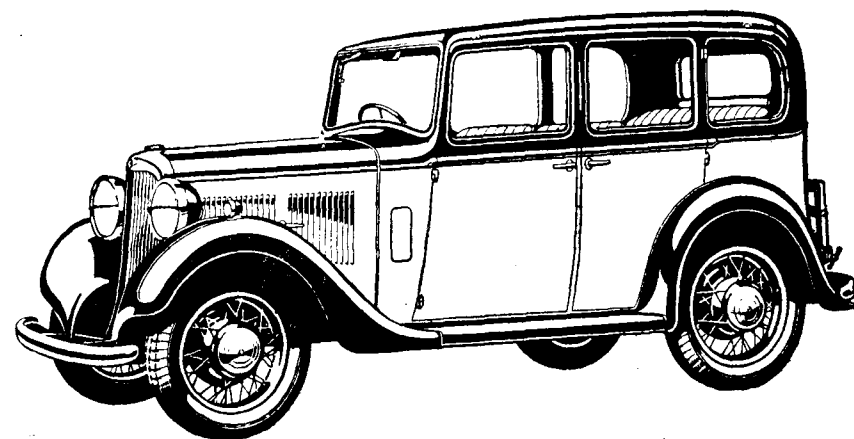
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BOMBAY, V. T.

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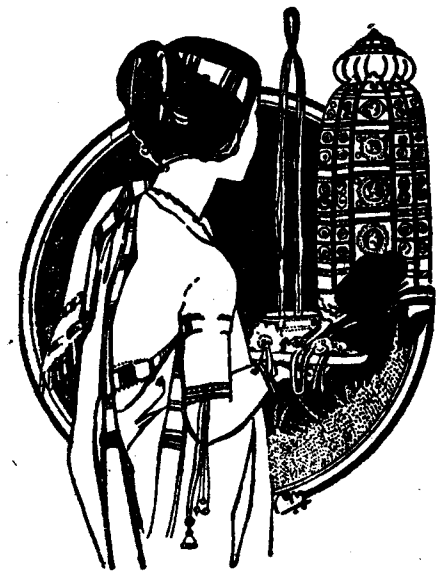
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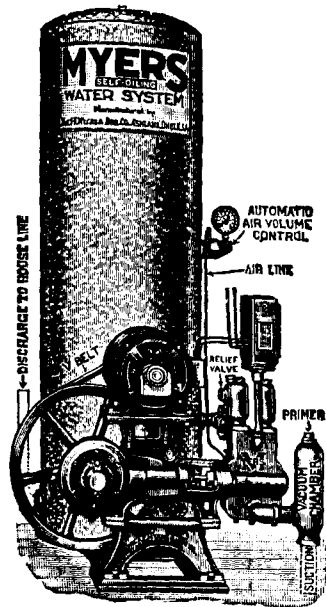
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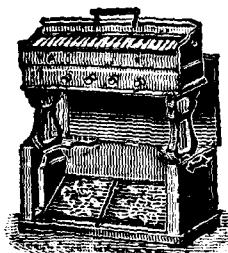
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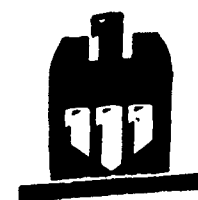
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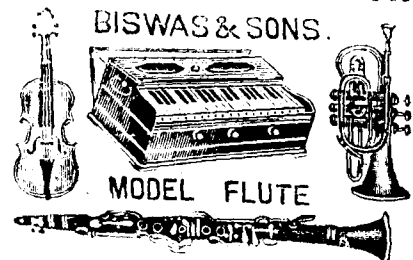
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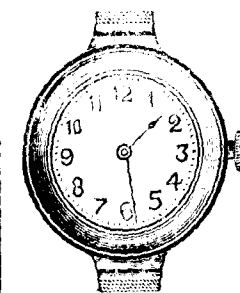
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