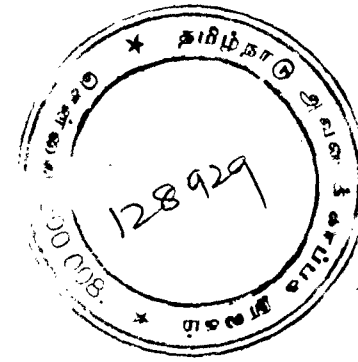




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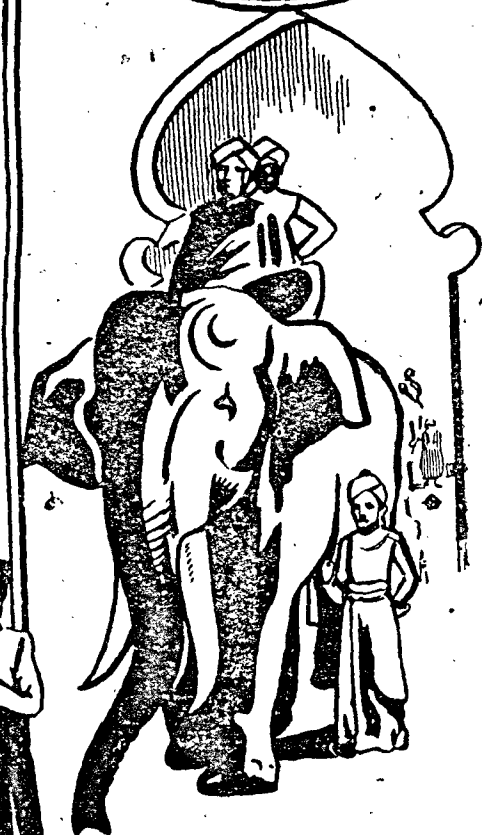
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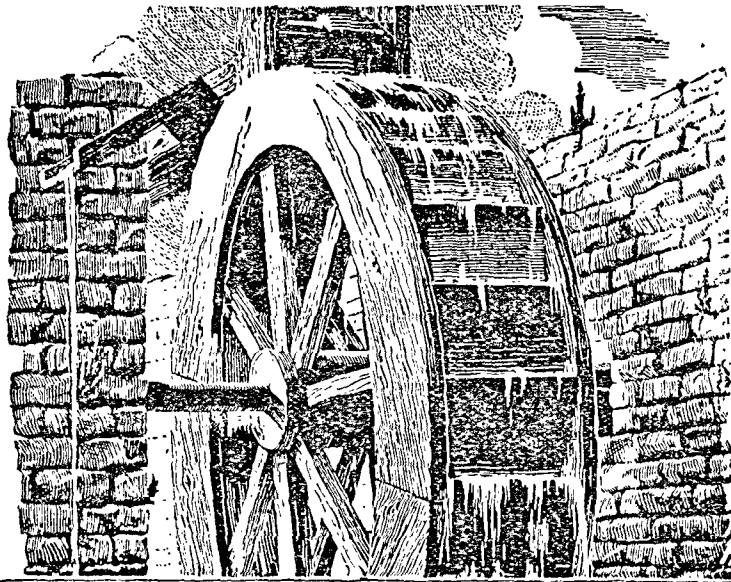
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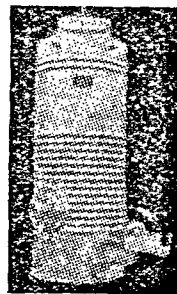
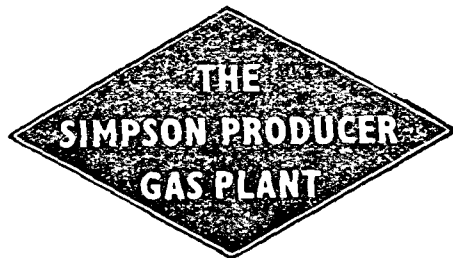
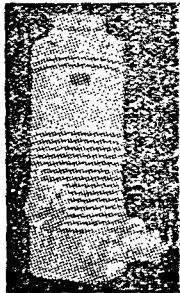
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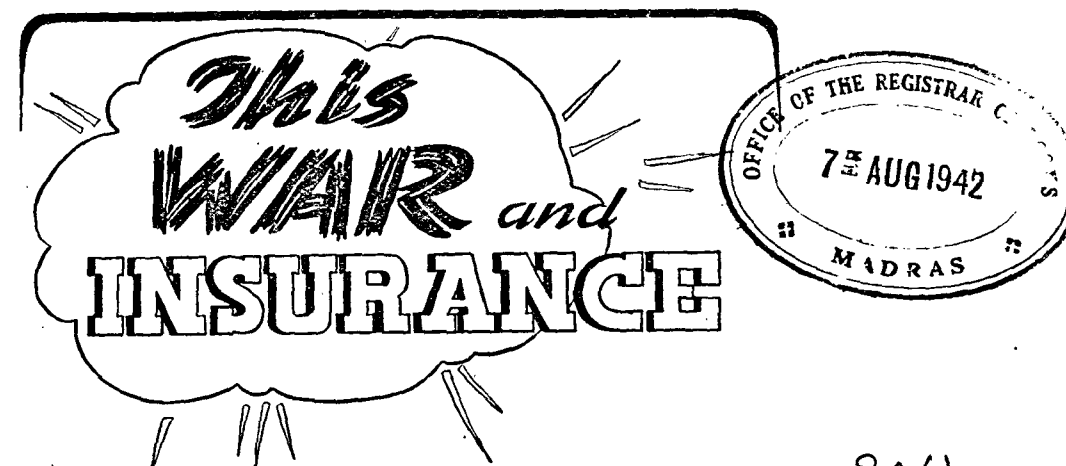
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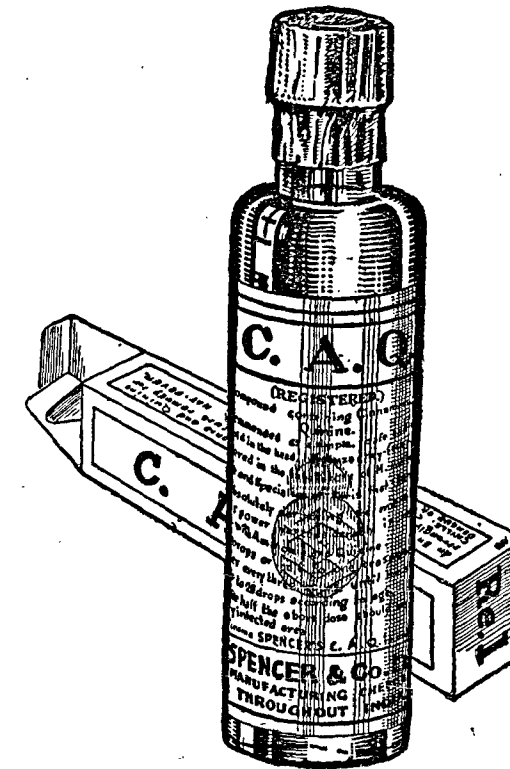
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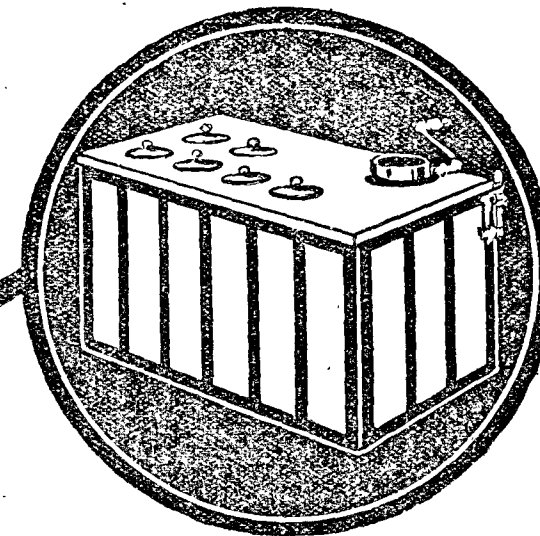
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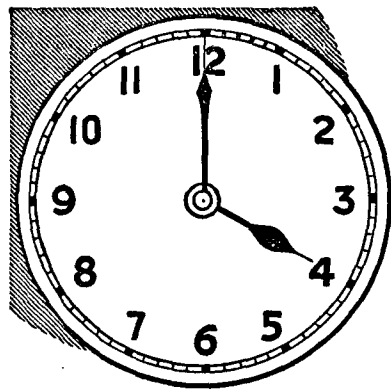
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Vol. 43.]

AUGUST 1942

[No. 8.

MOBILISE THE VILLAGE FOR VICTORY

BY MR. M. K. NAMBYAR, LL.M. (Lond)., BAR-AT-LAW

ON a holiday in the country, far from the madding crowd, I have been idling about in a coastal village, switched off from all work. The village folk are simple, free and straightforward. It does not take long to know their minds. What do these people think and feel of the war? What are their reactions to this grave crisis in human history?

It is not as though the man in the village is of no consequence in this great struggle. India is of the Indian masses; and the masses are the villagers. The Indian peasant is the backbone of his country. His life and thought preserved India's culture through ages and moulded her history. His apathy and indifference made India a prey to invasions. After a hundred and fifty years of unbroken peace, another invader is pounding at India's gates. What is the Indian peasants' answer? Must history repeat itself?

What the villager knows of the war is indeed precious little. His meagre store of information is largely made up of scraps of rumours, none too true, gathered at fairs or festivals, or from folk who are in remote touch with newspaper readers. Not having the necessary background, he cannot possibly envisage the various fronts, or follow the fortunes of the armed forces operating in the different

theatres. But he has heard of Russian successes, also of British reverses.

Again, having enjoyed peace for generations, he is unable to visualise the horrors of war. His notions are yet extremely hazy, elementary. He has neither seen, nor read nor heard of the ravages of a modern war, and he cannot bring to his mind's eye anything of its colossal destruction. To him, the war is only a topic for talk, a remote unpleasant dream, which the Gods would somehow avert from coming true. The only reality he has felt is the pinch of the rise in prices of food-stuffs, which he prays will not last long.

Just of late, two things have happened to make him sit up and think. At nights, in the scare week of April, when a landing was feared at Madras, he has been listening to the drone of flying planes overhead. Close on this came the enforced blackout in the villages filling him with dark forebodings. At last it seems to have dawned on him that coming events cast their shadows before.

It was interesting to ascertain as to what the villagers would do in case enemy aircraft dropped bombs or parachute troops, or in the event of a land attack. Such disturbing questions had really not crossed their minds at all. With a

helpless look came sometimes the answer: "What could one do? perhaps run and hide and take refuge."

Of his loyalty there is not the slightest reason to suspect. He has no predilections in favour of the invader. He wants the Government which has preserved all these years the peace of his country, secured him the crops of his fields and the fruits of his trees. Any prospect of a change fills him with alarm. He is no lover of adventure. He prefers the known to the unknown, the existing order to the threatened disorder. The niceties of political philosophy have hardly affected the contours of his reactions to the war. The recent political currents have left him untouched.

It would, however, be a grievous error to assume that the Indian peasant is wooden and incapable of any sustained effort for his country. He is emotional by temperament. He has been known to make immense sacrifices for his religion. And the history of the last decade has shown that he can also be roused to participate in the political movements of his country. What can spur him to action is the greatness of the cause, and the strength of its appeal to his feelings. Being illiterate his understanding is limited. Being ignorant his vision is cramped. But if he is made to comprehend fully and clearly the issues at stake, the course of his conduct will cause no surprise.

It must be frankly recognized that no serious efforts have been made hitherto to harness the villages for war. So long as the outposts of Indian defence were safe and inviolable, there was some justification for letting the peace-time machinery of administration run its

routine course. But Singapore has fallen. Burma is no longer our buffer state. Indian ports and towns have been raided. Whatever the secrets of the enemy strategy be, the threat of invasion is no longer an illusion. It is but prudent that the country must be keyed up to meet all eventualities. No one will deny that the war of today is nothing like the wars of old, or even the last world war. The traditional difference between combatants and non-combatants, between the civil population and the military forces, commenced to crumble in 1914, and has now totally disappeared. The war of today is a total war, waged by entire populations and not merely by armed forces. Production of supplies and distribution of commodities are as essential to the conduct of war as land or naval engagements. It is as effective to shoot the enemy soldiers dead, as to starve the enemy population to death. A war could be won not only by vanquishing the enemy forces, but also by breaking the morale of its civilian population. That is why the Radio has become a more potent weapon of war than the aerial bomber, and the Director of Information of a belligerent state holds as important an office as its Commander-in-Chief. What is necessary to realize is that the home front is as much a matter of vital concern as the fighting front.

It is in this aspect that the organization of the villages in India becomes an imperative necessity in the organization of the country for war. A total war must be fought with total methods, embracing in extent the total area of the country. To concentrate only on the cities of India is merely to tackle the

fringe of the problem. The heart of India lies in its villages. It is the village that is the nucleus of Indian life, and of India's resources, both of man-power and materials.

Two essential objectives have to be kept in view. Each village must be organized both as a home front and also as a potential fighting front. As home front, it must be the base of supplies of food-stuffs, and other commodities. There are thousands of acres in each village lying fallow, uncultivated, which with the right technical advice and help can be made to yield the appropriate food-grains or other essential raw materials for war. The policy of drift, leaving production entirely in the hands of the ignorant peasant must be replaced by a few years war plan in which the state must direct and regiment the natural resources of the country. Again the man-power of the villages is vast, almost unlimited. It is no use indulging in recriminations over the past policy of a government which could never envisage a people's war as of today; nor need one shed tears of despair. When the American Civil War started, the strength of the armed forces on either side was almost next to nothing. Yet it proved one of the longest and bloodiest wars in history. So too, on the Japanese invasion in July 1937, China had no big armies. But for five long years her Generallissimo has lacked no men to carry on her valiant fight against a much superior foe. Men will rush to arms in numbers once they know that what they hold dear in life is in peril.

Nor would it be wise to ignore any village as a possible target of attack. India is so vast, that it may not be humanly possible to predicate the precise

choice of the enemy thrust. But every village must be prepared for attack by sea, by land, or by air. Every villager must know what exactly he should do in the face of any eventuality. He must learn to aid and assist the defence of his village, and to save the life and property of himself and his family when in peril. His movements must be planned in advance. It may be that at the last minute, military exigencies might necessitate different dispositions. But it is better to plan ahead and change than never to plan at all. The lessons of recent events cannot be forgotten. Refugee crowds in France rushing before the advancing invaders hampered the movements of the defending forces, and spread panic and dismay in their flight. And these contributed no little to the fall of France. "One of the chief difficulties which Japanese bombing in Burma caused us," stated General Alexander, explaining the withdrawal from Burma, "was that the civilian social structure largely collapsed under the effect of the bombs. It was quite different from the way people in England took the air raids. Numbers of the local population on whom we depended packed up and went back to their homes in the jungle". The people in England knew where exactly they had to turn to in an air raid for refuge. The defences there were as thorough and complete as the resources of a great nation could make. In Burma things were different. What sustains one's morale in danger is not only character but also the feeling of strength and confidence. The Burman, it is evident, would not have sought the perils of the forests if he had been assured earlier of less hazardous avenues of safety. The Indian

villager is as ignorant and illiterate as his Burman brother. He must not be left in the grip of fear or with feeling of helplessness. To leave him to himself is to leave him to the enemy.

No doubt the Cripps' mission has failed. But the danger of invasion still persists. All parties and leaders unanimously avow the paramount need of repelling the enemy. India must not submit to aggression. She will not bend her knee to the invader. But while stressing the common aim, their support to resistance is conditioned by the compliance of their demands. The Muslim League insists on Pakistan, and the Congress on a Swaraj regime as the price of each party's adherence to the country's defence. But the enemy is at the door. The outposts of India's defence have already been torn down and trampled under foot. Is it not time to realize that all this wrangling and squabbling will lead not to Pakistan but Axisstan, not to Swaraj but slavery?

Whether a political settlement is reached or not, the country must be saved. Obviously the only course left is to

contact the masses directly. No man will view with unconcern at this juncture the very grave danger to life and property, to the home and the country, to the honour of the women and to all that one holds dear in this world. Nor can the villagers fail to grasp when explained the great ideals for which the United Nations are waging their war, and the peril to the attainment of Swaraj in the event of an Axis success. What is then imperative is to dispel the villager's ignorance, explain and improve his understanding, and instil in him courage, confidence and the will to win. The villager will then feel that he too is the architect of his country's fortunes. He will gird up his loins, and not shrink from any sacrifice. He will then vibrate with the melody of that magic hymn:

He hath sounded forth the trumpet that shall
[never call retreat.

He is sifting out the hearts of men before
[his judgment seat;

Oh! be swift my soul to answer Hiw; be
[jubilant my feet;

Our God is marching on!

Once this is achieved, Victory will follow.

FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA

BY DR. SURESH M. SETHNA, M.Sc., Ph.D.

OF the various diseases which take a heavy toll year after year in this country none is so prevalent as malaria. It is estimated that it takes over a million lives in this country every year and that the number of persons attacked by malaria is over a hundred million. The burden on the ryots caused by this disease is over Rs. 400 million. The fight against this disease is therefore a

major problem of this country and no one can afford to connive at it, for the millions of people who are attacked by malaria year after year are left weak, emaciated and anemic and this in its trail brings about a seamy outlook on life and an apathy towards the various activities in life. It breeds a spirit of resignation and poisons the streams of corporate life. It is therefore necessary

that every one of us has at least the rudimentary knowledge about malaria and how it can be prevented and having acquired that knowledge to see how in our own little way we can help in the eradication of this fell malady.

It had been known since many centuries that malaria was generally associated with marshy districts and its damp marsh air. In fact the name 'mala aria' is the Italian term for "bad air". By about 1890, various workers had contributed their share to the elucidation of the malaria problem and it was known that the cause of the disease was the presence of parasites in the red blood corpuscles; but, the part played by the mosquito in the transmission of the disease was yet unexplained. In 1892, Ronald Ross (Later Sir), then in the Indian Medical Service, commenced a long series of investigations and after numerous trials and failures he found answer to the two questions, the kind of mosquito which carries the parasite and the form and position of the parasite within it. Ross found at Secunderabad on 20th August, 1897, that the mosquito was Anopheles and that the parasite lives in or on its gastric wall. He thereupon traced the development of the disease in all its details and now we know that the disease is due to a parasite with a complicated but fascinating life story part of which is spent in human blood and part in the body of a mosquito. Only the female mosquitoes are concerned because the males in this species at least, never suck blood. Let us take a look at the life story of the parasite.

When a mosquito bites a man she injects in the tissues a drop of saliva which contains the parasites. Each of

these parasites then invades a red blood cell and fed on this it grows bigger and bigger until it nearly fills the latter. Then it begins to divide itself and gives rise to 10 or 15 little parasites. The exhausted red cell then breaks liberating the parasites which are known as the asexual forms of malaria parasites. These then invade other red cells and feed on them and so on. It is when the red cells break up that the victim gets fever due to the poisons liberated in the system. The parasites and broken down red cells may actually plug up his capillaries in the brain or the heart or lungs and give him various local symptoms in addition. The increasing destruction of red blood cells leads to anemia. After a time the fully grown parasites, after perhaps they have caused sufficient damage, instead of dividing further, convert themselves into what are known as sexual forms—male and female. These cannot develop further and they mostly perish, but, if by chance, one or two of these are sucked up from the host's blood by another mosquito, they start their activity once again in the stomach of the mosquito. The females undergo some transformation and prepare themselves for fertilisation and from the males active spermatozoa emerge which fertilise the female cells. In a week's time a mass consisting of some hundreds of delicate sickle-shaped individuals is formed. This bursts in another three days and its contents are let out in the blood stream of the mosquito from where they find their way into the salivary gland of the mosquito and are ready for injection into the blood of a human being—and so the cycle repeats again and again carrying ill-health and death.

Fortunately for the human race of about 1,700 known species of mosquitoes only about 170 are anopheline and of these latter perhaps less than 10 per cent. are dangerous carriers. In a particular locality only one or two may generally have to be dealt with. If the infected blood is sucked up by any other kind of blood-sucking insect, the parasites are digested at once. One more interesting thing about the parasites. There are three distinct species of malarial parasites. One takes just two days to grow in the red cells, another one takes three days, so the fever in the first case comes every second day and is known as tertian malaria and in the case of the second every third day and is known as quartan malaria. In the case of the third species the growing is irregular, some growing faster than others and producing a continuous or irregularly recurring fever.

Attack on malaria is along two lines (i) by preventing the breeding of mosquitoes by improvement in sanitation and (ii) by prophylactic measures to eliminate the parasites from human blood. Wherever the conditions are favourable for the breeding of mosquitoes, the malaria is likely to spread. Jungles and marshy regions are favourable for their growth. When work has to be carried out in such areas, anti-malarial measures should be taken and it should be seen that within, say an area of about a mile from the site of the work, no breeding of mosquitoes is allowed. There are other man-made factors responsible for malaria like proximity of irrigation canals, wet crops like those of sugar-cane and rice, railways which prevent natural drainage, defective drainage in the cities, presence of stagnant pools, wells and so on. These

require to be dealt with and mosquitoes must be destroyed in the larval stage which is the weakest point in its life history; if they are found breeding in such places, by the use of disinfectants. Defective drainage must be set right, useless pits and stagnant pools filled up, and unused wells closed down. Coming to the prophylactic measures, we find that various drugs are at present in the market but none has been so cheap and easy to administer as quinine. Cinchona bark was introduced into Europe about 1639 A.D. by the Countess d'El Chincon after it is said that she was cured of a fever she contracted while residing in Peru with her husband who was the Viceroy over there, by taking Cinchona bark given to her by some native of that place. In 1820, Pelletier and Caventon isolated quinine from the bark. The extensive use of quinine led to its cultivation in the various countries of Europe and in 1852 the Dutch successfully cultivated it in Java. In about 1860, cinchona trees were planted in India in the Nilgiri hills and a few years later at Mungpoo, in the Ranghi Valley, and also in the Karen hills of Burma. There are different species of cinchona and the percentage of quinine and other alkaloids is different in each of these. Amongst the synthetic drugs, the two well known are Plasmochin and Atebrin. The shortage of quinine supply during the last war led to experiments at Bayer-Meister-Lucius Research Laboratory at Elberfeld with the object of finding a synthetic drug which could be used in its place and plasmochin was the result of that search. Later came the discovery of Atebrin. Both of these are powerful drugs but they are costly and require expert supervision for their

administration as they are toxic. There are a few other anti-malarial drugs but they are hardly of any great importance. The cost, the difficulty of administration and the difficulty in their large scale manufacture in this country leave out both Plasmochin and Atebrin in any application of wide-spread prophylactic measures in this country. Quinine, therefore, remains the only drug which can be liberally used and so let us see in brief what is the position of India with regard to her quinine supply. One can do no better than refer to Dr. K. S. Ray's Presidential address to the 17th All-India Medical Conference held some time in December, 1940. Said he:

... the following table recently prepared by Prof. K. V. Krishnan of the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, admirably sums the position with regard to manufacture and consumption of quinine in India:

Number of sufferers from malaria	100 to 200 millions
Minimum quantity of quinine required	600,000 to 1,250,000 lbs.
Quantity at present consumed	210,000 lbs.
Quantity imported from outside	140,000 lbs.
Quantity manufactured in India	70,000 lbs.
Number of acres available for Cinchona cultivation in India	38,000 acres
Quantity of quinine that can be produced in that area	6,840,000 lbs.

From the table, observes Dr. Krishnan, it will be evident that India can produce hundred times the amount she is producing or ten times the amount she actually needs.

Further, in criticism of the Government of India's quinine policy, Dr. Ray said:

In our memorandum to the Drugs Inquiry Committee in 1931, we had pointed out that the total cost of manufacture of quinine sulphate in our country did not exceed Rs. 9 per pound and yet all these years it has been sold here at the prohibitive rate of Rs. 18 per pound. This has been done at the instance of the Government of India who, it would seem, had agreed to abide by this price arrangement principally to help the interests of the Anglo-Dutch Plantation Co. and the Dutch Combine—the *Kina Bureau*. War must have now fairly doubled this price, thus placing quinine very much beyond the reach of those by whom it is most needed in India. The Government should immediately revise their quinine policy.

The cinchona plantations take 7 to 8 years to mature and if quinine is to

reach the masses of India, the cultivation of cinchona should be taken in hand without delay; for no synthetic drug has so far been prepared which has the triple qualification of being cheap, effective and easy to administer nor is there any reason to believe that such a drug will be available in the near future. A partial solution of our quinine problem lies in the fact that apart from quinine, cinchona also contains other alkaloids which have some anti-malarial activity. If, therefore, the total alkaloids are used, they will be cheaper than if only quinine by itself is used.

Malaria, cholera, plague, tuberculosis and many other deadly scourges are eating into the vitals of this country. Can we not put up a concerted effort to relieve the country from these demons of destruction carrying away year after year numerous of our countrymen and those whom they do not carry away they leave devitalised, weak and emaciated? Let me refer to only one other disease, *viz.*, tuberculosis and the havoc it plays in India. I can do no better than quote Dr. Ray once again on this point. Said he in his address:

... the incidence of tuberculosis in India is fearfully on the increase and the figures of mortality, which must exceed 3 lakhs on the lowest computation are daily ascending by leaps and bounds. And strange as it is national consciousness does not seem to have been roused to appreciate the magnitude of the danger that threatens us. How vast the problem is and how pitifully inadequate has been our effort to meet it, will be evident from even a superficial comparison with what the Soviet Russia has already done in the matter. There are in Russia today 500 special tuberculosis hospitals, nearly 5,000 dispensaries and clinics dealing with early and diagnosis treatment, 16,000 sanatoria; 11,000 convalescent homes and one labour prophylactorium on the Papworth model in each industry. If this is what has been done by Russia with a population of 183 millions only, how much more needs to be done by India with a population of nearly 400 millions?

Major-General Bradfield, Director-General of the Indian Medical Service, informed the Annual Conference of the National

Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in London in 1938 that according to one authority there were about two million cases in India, but in the entire country there were only 77 clinics and 39 sanatoria.

Each disease can be taken and it can be shown how inadequate is the fight that we are putting up against it. Can our national institutions not give an impetus to a social awakening in this matter? Funds, of course, will be required, and huge funds to free the country of these maladies but funds alone will not be able to do much where the spirit of social work is lacking in the population. Let each village have its own organisation to deal with the problem of health. Let it look after its wells, its sanitation, its medical aid and wherever none exists, let this organisation either provide for them from its own funds or carry on an agitation till the authorities provide them. In a very interesting article in the *Asiatic Review* for July 1941, Sir Alfred Chatterton discusses the problem of malaria in India and describes the work of the Anti-malarial Societies of Bengal. These are affiliated to the Central Co-operative Anti-malarial Society Ltd., which has for its aims and objects the organisation of a network of autonomous Co-operative Anti-malarial and Public Health Societies throughout Bengal to take measures to eradicate epidemic diseases such as malaria, kala-azar, cholera, small-pox, tuberculosis and leprosy and to make sanitary improvements. Over 2,362 rural societies have been established under its guidance. The pioneer of this movement was Dr. G. C. Chatterjee and he started the first society of this kind in 1914. Such organisations can be started in other provinces and immense good will accrue out of these efforts.

The Malaria Institute of India opened in 1927 is doing good work. It carries out original investigations, assists in anti-malarial measures, undertakes clinical work on malaria including treatment, teaches and trains officers and others in practical malarial work, publishes original work, useful bulletins and so on, but one institute in the country will not be able to achieve much in the application of anti-malarial measures throughout the country. What is needed is a nation-wide awakening and a nation-wide effort by official and non-official agencies, health organisations and by people themselves. Let us not forget that a population which is ill-nourished and prone to infection can never get whole-heartedly interested in political or cultural activities. The ill-nourishment cannot be done away with so easily, as this will necessitate the raising up of the economic level of the masses of India, but as far as the diseases other than those which are nutritional in character are concerned, they can be greatly checked by the maintenance of proper hygienic conditions.

I venture to make a suggestion here and it is this, that the 20th August of every year be observed as the 'Mosquito Day'. Sir Ronald Ross himself used to call 20th August, the anniversary day of his great discovery, as the 'Mosquito Day'. When in this country so many days are observed for political and religious ends, why not one more day the significance of which is vital to the country? Let the message of health be carried on this day to the nook and corner of India. Let an intense effort be made on this day by means of lectures, films, exhibitions, radio talks and other means of propaganda to educate the public how to fight against malaria and other diseases whose menace is hanging heavily on the length and breadth of this country.

THE PROBLEM OF FOOD SUPPLY

BY DEWAN BAHADUR D. ANANDA RAO, B.SC., I.A.S. (Rtd.)

WHEN Japan overran the South-west Pacific, it did not invade territories like Abyssinia and Libya but countries whose wealth in oil, tin, tea, rubber, sugar, rice and many other products the United Nations could ill afford to lose at any time, much less at this time of total war. At the same time, one cannot overlook the fact that the scorched earth policy adopted in these countries would tell upon them in the event of their being reconquered in the not distant future. The civil population has borne the brunt of the ordeal in this war. It has not only suffered the loss of personal property but has had to put up with privations of diverse kinds including shortage of food.

With the loss of Burmese imports of rice, this shortage has already had repercussions on India. The problem has become more acute since the arrival into this country of many thousands of evacuees from Ceylon, Burma, and even Malaya. There are, therefore, many more mouths to feed while the quantity available is less than normal. Therefore, the supply of food to the country's millions has come to be of such a stupendous urgency. But, why in a country which is so pre-eminently agricultural, 70 per cent. of whose population is directly engaged in agriculture?

The British India comprises of 687 million acres; of this 22 per cent. is totally unfit for cultivation, 13 per cent. is covered with State forests, 7 per cent. is current fallow and 35 per cent. is under arable farming. In spite of the fact that 80 per cent. of the cultivated land is put down to cereals, practically

all of which is consumed internally, the country is by no means self-supporting. Besides, 23 per cent. of the land is not cultivated though cultivable. In spite of a fairly adequate annual rainfall of 37 inches, there is a general inadequacy of it, because all rainfall is not conserved. Irrigation systems are by no means adequate—only a fifth of the cultivated land being protected by them. Nor is this all. The fertility of the country after centuries of cultivation without sufficient manuring has become so poor that it is poor comfort to know that it cannot become much worse. In short, three dominating facts emerge from this: the land has not been exploited for agricultural purposes to the maximum, water supply is precarious and the soil is thoroughly impoverished.

One cannot face with equanimity the fact that in a famine-ridden country, 23 per cent. of the land still awaits being brought under the plough. The powers-that-be have done little to improve the situation, because obviously there has been no demand from the people themselves. At a time like this when every acre should be made to grow its maximum quantity, it should be the bounden duty of a responsible Government to give every facility to ryots to cultivate such lands by furnishing information as to where exactly these waste lands of the country lie, what percentage of them could be immediately brought under cultivation and whether it is possible for the ryot, within the means available to him, to quickly reclaim such land. But one would think that such lands would have been brought under cultivation long ago, had

the ryot found it economical to do so. Therefore, as an earnest of their concern for the increase of food crops and their desire for its early fulfilment, the Government should at least now bring such lands to a fit state of cultivation and hand them over to willing ryots and where necessary lend money to start on the venture. But, at this juncture to ask ryots themselves to bring such lands into cultivation is, indeed, not only a counsel of perfection but is an attempt to shut one's eyes to the realities of the situation.

If water supply has to be made adequate for the needs of a full crop, the present rules and regulations in regard to irrigation need radical alteration. To take a few instances: we are told that only if an irrigation project is capable of yielding a profit of 6 per cent. on the capital invested within 10 years of its completion, can it be undertaken. This rule hampers all progress in irrigation works and should be made far more elastic. When a ryot pays water rate for his paddy, he feels he has a right to use whatever quantity he can get and not what the crop really needs. This leads to considerable waste of water. To obviate it, water should be measured before issue and charged according to the quantity consumed. There may be practical difficulties in the way of giving effect to this suggestion, but they are by no means insurmountable as several countries are adopting this method. When once the ryot pays his water rate, water is issued in small quantities throughout the season, altogether ignoring the needs of the crop at different stages of its growth.

Impoverishment of the soil has gone on for so long that there is no short cut for its rapid amelioration. It

should be the chief concern of the Agricultural Department to see that the ryot gets the fullest benefit of the technical knowledge the Department possesses by demonstration and propaganda; efforts should be directed towards making the manures available in time and at the doors of the ryot, sold at concession rates and paid by him in easy instalments at a time convenient to him. He will have to learn that soil preservation against erosion is as important as conservation of moisture, the importance of both of which he ignores at present.

It has been repeatedly suggested in the press and on the platform that ryots should at this time reduce the area under commercial crops. The suggestion is, no doubt, sound up to a point but the problem is not so simple as it looks. Take, for example, ground-nut, which apart from its importance as an oil-yielding plant, is an important source of cattle food in the form of oil-cake. If in response to this recommendation, growing of ground-nut is given up at least during the emergency period, the cattle of the country, which are already ill-nourished, will have to go without it, and what applies to ground-nut, also applies to gingili and other oil-cake producing crops. While restriction of the area under them is certainly recommended, the Government should suggest concentrating their cultivation only in areas which are ideally suited to them. When Government suggest restriction in the cultivation of commercial crops, they are, no doubt, aware that the ryot grows them because they are money-producing crops. Such being the case, do they suggest compensation for loss? For the ryot, with his proverbial narrow outlook and an innate

desire for satisfying his immediate needs, is not likely to change his farming methods to suit the present situation unless Government came forward with offers of relief. When millions are daily being spent on the war, is it too much to expect a beneficent Government to spend money on a problem which has arisen as a direct outcome of it? The Government of India seem to have set about the matter in a practical manner by making available a crore of rupees from the cotton fund for a "grow more food drive" and by promising to compensate any loss through change of crops under this campaign. But what about Provincial Governments?

In this drive for more food crops, there is the danger of growing crops in the wrong season, which affects the yield by 20-30 per cent. or even more. The "time of sowing" experiments conducted in several agricultural stations are classical examples, the lessons of which should not be forgotten at this time. If a crop in the wrong season is grown by the ryot under the advice of the Government, the latter should unhesitatingly be prepared to pay compensation. Off season cultivation is beset with another disability, namely, the large scale visitation of insect pests and diseases. Suggestions of remedies alone are not sufficient; in fact, they often come too late. In such cases also, compensation would be a real help.

In tackling the problem of food supply, one is apt to forget the needs of the poor. It is well known that a large majority do not have even one square meal a day. As food becomes scarce and prices soar high, unless wholesale rationing is resorted to, the well-to-do will anyhow get their requirements and the poor would be left in the lurch. If rice is not available, it becomes necessary to switch over to other grains of which there is fortunately a large variety. The Government should be able to provide for them facilities to meet their needs.

The Agricultural Department in giving effect to this drive should concentrate on this one problem, suspending for the time the normal propaganda activities and render practical assistance in regard to reclamation of land, grant of manure, seed, implements, etc., so that new areas are quickly brought under food crops. What is required at this juncture is not a repetition of the usual suggestions of the Department for increase of crop production, but the galvanising of all efforts to appreciably augment food supply of all kinds at once and not at some future period as, in this problem, time is an all important factor. Seasons do not wait till Government have had time to formulate their proposals and, as is well known, seasons in India are fickle. A bold and a well-thought out plan and a big drive to give effect to the scheme are essential.

Large scale production would need modern methods of disposal of produce. The present time seems propitious to start Co-operative Growers' Societies to eliminate the colossal waste of human labour, time and energy in transporting small quantities of grain, vegetables, fruit, and dairy produce, which is daily taking place between places of supply and demand. The Government might also through their Nutritional Experts give guidance to people on war-time foods and show how economies could be effected and wastage avoided in our domestic economy.

Regional self-sufficiency wherever possible, grant of subsidies, payment of compensation in cases of loss, provision of extra irrigation facilities, giving concessions in water rates, fixing reasonable prices for the grower, control of profiteering, etc., are matters of policy which Government alone could initiate. The problem is urgent, complicated and vast and to satisfactorily tackle it, men of action with vision are the need of the day.

As war becomes grimmer, nations have begun to discuss what the New World Order ought to be and how Freedom of Nations could be achieved. It is, therefore, not too soon to begin to plan for the future agricultural policy of the country.

PAKISTAN IN PARLIAMENT

By MR. P. KODANDA RAO

SPEAKING in the House of Commons on the 28th April last on his mission to India, Sir Stafford Cripps explained the policy of the British Government towards Pakistan. Though the immediate problem was one of securing the active and enthusiastic co-operation of the leaders of the principal sections of the Indian people in the prosecution of the war which had reached India's frontiers, the British Government had felt that some exposition of the future constitution of India was necessary as the future was inevitably linked with the present. As regards the future they were faced with definite and conflicting demands. It was, therefore, necessary for them to act as an arbitrator and not take sides and devise as fair a compromise as possible, which did not give either the Congress or the Muslim League all that it wanted. The Congress wanted an integrated India, the Muslim League insisted on Pakistan—"a territory made up of the rather vague congeries of areas in which Muslims are in a majority". The British Government further wanted that the refusal of co-operation by a large minority, like the Muslim, did not hold up the majority in their attainment of self-government. Accordingly, they made the offer contained in the Draft Declaration which, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, was the fairest possible solution. It aimed at and provided for a single united India, but admitted that if, in the last resort, the parties could not agree upon a form of Constitution which would enable them to work together, the Muslims should be allowed in those Provinces where they could get

a majority of the whole electorate to vote those Provinces out of the Union.

It may be noted that the Draft Declaration made no reference to the Muslims. It was general in character. It gave the right of non-accession to "any province", and not necessarily to the Muslim-majority provinces. But in his speech he conceded this right to Muslims only. He expressly denied it to other minorities, notwithstanding that the British Government had given undertakings to protect them also. In justification for the differential treatment, he said:

But once self-determination had been promised to India as was proposed in the Draft Declaration, it would be impossible for His Majesty's Government to impose terms in the new India Constitution. To do so would be the negation of self-determination. We have, however, in the past given undertakings to these minorities (depressed classes, the Sikhs, the Indian Christians and others), but in none of the cases other than that of the Muslims could these promises be dealt with by such device as non-accession. The minorities are not sufficiently localised or self-contained, even in the case of the Sikhs, to make that possible, assuming upon other grounds that it was desirable.

It will be noticed that the first reason was that once self-determination was granted, it was not open to the British Government to insist on Pakistan for the Muslims. Therefore the right of non-accession for the Muslims, irrespective of practicability, should be stipulated before self-determination for India came into operation. Once that was done, the other minorities would be told that they had no right of non-accession, even if desirable, because it was no longer open to the British Government to impose any terms, for it would be the negation of self-determination. It is not self-evident why the right of non-accession, if desirable, should not be guaranteed to all minorities

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generally before self-determination was granted to India.

The second reason for the differential treatment was that the other minorities, even the Sikhs, were not sufficiently localised or self-contained. These criteria for qualifying for non-accession have not been adequately defined. It may be said of Muslims too that they are not sufficiently localised or self-contained. Muslims are to be found all over India, though in varying proportions; they are not localised. They may be in a majority in some Provinces, in some districts, in some talukas, in some towns, and villages, in some wards or mohallas, and in some streets and lanes. The British Government's promises to apply to all Muslims all over India and not only to the Muslims in the existing Provinces where they are today in a majority. If non-accession is a protection to Muslims or the fulfilment of a British promise, are the Muslims in Provinces where they are in a minority to be abandoned without protection, or should the British Government not keep their promise in their case?

Several Indian States are not sufficiently localised. They are in scattered bits. Some of them, perhaps the majority of them, are not self-sufficient or self-contained enough to maintain the standards of administration prevalent in the British Indian Provinces next door. Even in British India, Sind and N. W. F. Province are not self-contained. As independent sovereignties, they would not be able to finance their defence. If these States and Provinces can survive as autonomous political units, there is no conclusive reason why minorities like depressed classes, the Sikhs and Indian Christians should not form separate political units

and be given the right of non-accession, if it was desirable.

It would also seem that if the Sikhs and other minorities were sufficiently localised or self-contained, the British Government would have preferred to give them protection by the method of non-accession if it was "desirable". Who was to decide the desirability? The British Government or the minorities themselves? The principle of self-determination would give the right to the minorities. But the British Government ruled out this solution because of its impracticability. Otherwise, in the opinion of the British Government, it was apparently the best solution, notwithstanding that it led to the Balkanisation of India. It was ruled out simply because it was impracticable. For Sir Stafford said: "Some other solution, therefore, had to be found." Regarding it, Sir Stafford said:

I have not the slightest doubt that these minorities, all of whom would have been represented in the Constitution-making body in accordance with their strength under the communal award, would have obtained ample protection under the Constitution from the majority. Indeed, the forces operating within that Constitution-making body would have tended very much in favour of the minorities.

Having thus made it clear that it was not necessary for the British Government to intercede on behalf of these minorities, he immediately proceeded to affirm that British intervention was necessary.

But in view of our pledges, we could not leave the minorities to rely upon this alone.

Consequently, the British Government stipulated that self-determination for India would come into operation only after a treaty had been concluded between them and the Constitution-making body for minority protection. While Sir Stafford professed at one time that Britain came in as an arbitrator between rival claims, who did not judge the merits of the

claims and champion the better, but merely sought a compromise, he subsequently said that Britain was a partisan and the champion of the minorities who needed no such championship.

II

In his scheme of Pakistan, Sir Stafford not only gave self-determination and the right of non-accession to the Provinces as they exist today, but he also insisted that the whole of the electorate, and not merely the Muslims in it, should exercise the right of deciding non-accession. He did not contemplate a re-alignment of the Provincial boundaries. Nor did he concede the demand of the Muslim League that only the Muslims should decide the question of non-accession. He did not explain the justification for accepting the existing Provinces as units for non-accession. If in the Muslim-majority Provinces of Punjab and Bengal a bare majority of the whole electorate decided on non-accession, the Hindu minorities would have to submit to it, though they would be large minorities. Apparently the British Government do not own any responsibility for them; in any event, they do not propose to give the large Hindu minorities in Muslim Majority Provinces the right of non-accession as the best means of protection.

Mr. Graham White was not content with the official proposal in this respect. He hoped that the possible reconstitution of the Provinces and boundaries of the Provinces may coincide with the communal reality.

Sir Stanley Reed was not happy at the suggestion of the reconstitution of the Provinces. He said:

I am rather horrified when I hear light-hearted talk about a re-distribution of the Provinces. . . . Let the House mark this that one cannot transfer a district, one cannot divide a district in any part

of India, however logical or illogical its attachment to a particular area may be, without bringing upon oneself a tempest of dissent. All I can say is that I should pity any man who attempted any form of considerable re-distribution of the provincial entities in India and of the systems of administration and communications which have grown up around the Provinces as they are at present constituted.

This might have been the reason why the Draft Declaration did not envisage a re-distribution of the Provinces to make them communally more homogeneous. But inasmuch as self-determination and non-accession were specifically intended to serve communal claims, the main purpose would be defeated if the Provinces were not re-distributed on communal lines, cost what it may in civil strife.

Sir George Schuster accepted as necessary that there might have to be some division of India into separate communities. But he was not happy about the consequences.

But when I read in the White Paper about 'contracting out', and plebesites, I am painfully reminded of the provisions that were made for dealing with Europe after the last war and of the sequel to these provisions.

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Reserve Bank and Co-operative Movement

BY MR. K. C. RAMAKRISHNAN

(University of Madras)

THE publications of the Reserve Bank of India have created a big (if yet academic) stir in the Co-operative Movement, which was not quite expected. The Reserve Bank of India Act provided for the creation of an Agricultural Credit Department in the Bank simultaneously with the Issue and Banking Departments. The Statutory functions of that Department are: (i) to maintain an expert staff to study all questions of agricultural credit and to be available for consultation by the Central and Provincial Governments and Co-operative Banks; and (ii) to co-ordinate the agricultural credit operations of the Reserve Bank and other banks engaged in that business. The Department has been in charge of an I. C. S. officer, who cannot be called an expert in the subject, though latterly he is "assisted in its research activities by a Director of Research". The strength of the qualified staff is not known; but it is said to keep "in close touch with the Co-operative Movement, and its officers avail themselves from time to time of opportunities for studying on the spot the special features of the movement in various parts in India". The Bulletins published as a result of such studies were mostly of a local character, from which it would not be correct to draw inferences or offer advice applicable to the whole of India with different social and economic conditions. The suggestions for reform like the creation of smaller banking unions, as well as the insistence on old 'principles' like 'one village one bank' and 'multi-purpose', were laid down in a rather dogmatic fashion, which provoked a lot of controversy in co-operative circles.

The Statutory Report of the Reserve Bank, issued in 1937, attempted a survey of the whole field of agricultural credit and indicated the lines on which the several credit agencies, including co-operative societies, could be improved and co-ordinated. Some of the suggestions such as the scaling down of debts and overdues and the separation of long-term and short-term loans, and the building up of strong reserves by keeping an adequate

margin between borrowing and lending rates, sounds platitudinous. Exhortation to co-operative banks to make use of commercial banks for investment and for borrowing and to co-opt professional bankers on their boards of management was not quite relished by many co-operators, as commercial banks were often rival institutions with an outlook different from, and even opposed to, co-operation. While the Reserve Bank rightly deprecated exclusive concentration of long-term credit by land-mortgage banks on liquidation of old debts, it did not seem to recognise adequately the importance of intermediate-term credit in agriculture. It was laid down rather peremptorily that village societies should restrict their loans to such sums as could be repaid out of the harvest and that loans for the purchase of cattle and implements repayable in two or three years should be limited to a comparatively small proportion (one-eighth) of the societies' business. No student of agricultural finance would accept this insignificant role assigned to inter-term credit. The Reserve Bank also made it clear that as the Central Bank of the country, it could only be a lender of the last resort and in emergencies and that co-operative banks should not expect it to supply normal finance or to act as the apex bank of the movement.

The Reserve Bank later on issued certain circulars prescribing the conditions to be observed by the Provincial Co-operative Banks for obtaining financial accommodation on the security of co-operative paper. The criteria of sound banking that it laid down for judging the credit-worthiness of co-operative banks were some of them declared to be too stringent by the Provincial Banks, especially the suggestions that only 50 per cent. of the deposits should be used in making advances and loans and that the rest should be invested in gilt-edged securities and cash, that loans for periods longer than nine months should be limited to the amount of paid-up capital and reserves, that deposits should not be accepted for longer than a

year or two at the most, and that the margin between borrowing and lending rates should be sufficiently wide to speed the building up of adequate reserves.

The Reserve Bank has not indicated what the margin should be. But it must be inconveniently wide for borrowers, in whose interests the banks are functioning, if they should not only provide for adequate reserves but also limit loans to 50 per cent. of deposits. Joint Stock banks, of course, work with a wider margin and also use a greater part of the deposits in advances and loans. The demand for the power of inspection by the officers of the Reserve Bank, as a condition of accommodation, was also resented and considered superfluous in view of the control exercised by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. It was also doubtful whether many sale societies to which loans had been advanced by the Central and Provincial Banks had warehouses of the pattern that would be approved by the Reserve Bank. Altogether, the feeling in co-operative circles was that the Reserve Bank gave too much of advice and too little of financial aid.

The latest publication* of the Reserve Bank attempts to give a bird's-eye view of the entire Co-operative Movement in India, to analyse present trends and indicate future possibilities. It thus goes beyond the province of agricultural credit assigned to it by law, and it reiterates its faith in all the phases of the Co-operative Movement, which "in spite of its past failures . . . can be developed so as not only to fulfil the narrow functions of finance hitherto assigned to it, but also to become the chief instrument of rural reconstruction in India". The Review, however, lays bare the limitations as well as the potentialities to help the public see the movement in proper perspective.

It is a compendious, useful account of co-operative activities in the whole of India (up to 30th June 1940), on which there is no official publication except a thin volume of dry statistics published by the Government of India. We wish these

tabular statements had been incorporated in the Review. The account is admittedly based on the annual reports of Co-operative Departments and the reports of special enquiries made in certain Provinces and States. No reference is made anywhere to, nor any inference drawn from, the mass of literature available in the *Indian Co-operative Review* and the Provincial Co-operative journals. Nor does the attention of the writer seem to have been drawn to the discussions and resolutions at Provincial Co-operative Conferences, which convey the non-official views on many questions based on ample experience of the working of societies. The Registrar is still the centre of the picture, and he is apparently expected to continue for ever the friend, the guide and the philosopher of the movement. It is admitted that "owing principally to the lack of continuity of tenure, not every Registrar finds himself able to fulfil the high standards set up by the MacLagan Committee or the Royal Commission on Agriculture". But instead of recommending a change in the system of appointment, a naive suggestion is made for the constitution of a "bureau of co-operative research consisting of a few outstanding officials working directly under the guidance of the Registrar and assisting him in taking stock of the progress of the movement". There can be no great future for such a subsidiary bureau of research.

The present position of co-operative societies, particularly of agricultural credit societies, is first analysed and their weaknesses are exposed. Pointed attention is drawn to the lack of rural deposits and to the fact that in India Co-operative credit is essentially a flow of funds from the well-to-do towns people through Provincial and central co-operative banks to the primaries and thence to its members who are ill-controlled. The set-back to the movement caused by the economic depression and by the spate of debt-relief legislation is recognised. But the central banks are blamed for "reckless over-financing of societies, inefficient supervision and disregard of sound principles of banking in conducting their business". The Registrars and their staff, whose duty it

was to organise, supervise and control, have been spared criticism. The central banks have in fact in most Provinces followed the rules framed by local Governments as regards the maintenance of fluid resources, etc.

We agree that it is better to scale down co-operative as well as other debts of agriculturists in accordance with their repaying capacity so as not to give a bloated appearance to the assets of societies. But we cannot accept the facile conclusion that the contraction of co-operative as well as other rural credit shows that "the real needs of the cultivator for credit are smaller than they had been imagined to be by many people". There can, in fact, be no redemption for rural India, not to speak of co-operative credit societies alone, unless the State takes active measures to assure reasonable prices for agricultural produce. This is well recognised in a later part of the Review.

The reorganisation of the rural societies on lines recommended by the Madras Committee on Co-operation has come in for some criticism in this Review, though the attitude adopted is more mild and cautious than in the Bulletins of the Reserve Bank. The belief is still held that unlimited liability is a matter of necessity and not of choice, though societies in several countries have been on, or have changed over to, limited liability, and the sacred unlimited liability principle was saved only by the casting vote of the Chairman at the 13th Conference of Registrars. Nor is it right to dogmatise on 'multi-purpose' under all conditions. It was tried in Germany and elsewhere. But limitation of functions to one or two purposes has been generally agreed to as the more practicable course in most countries. The cautious resolution passed at the 13th Conference of Registrars indicates poor support to the pure milk of Raiffeisen Co-operation in India. There is in the Review a recognition of this, as also for the first time, of the scope for agricultural banks with limited liability, each serving a number of villages and lending against real security, as well as for 'real Raiffeisen societies' with unlimited liability, each confined to one village and serving all purposes. But the latter type

alone is said to satisfy "the assumptions of co-operative finance" and serve the poor folk, while the former "openly abandons" them, and can only serve the well-to-do. This cannot be the last word in the definition of co-operation, which has assumed a variety of forms in the world.

The Reserve Bank's advocacy of banking unions, each serving a taluka in respect of supervision as well as finance, has not been well received in co-operative circles as the Review admits, on the ground that it would be too small a unit to attract adequate deposits or competent directors and trained staff. Central banks have generally succeeded better where they have had a wider jurisdiction, like a district. But they have yet to organise effective supervision, which is a dire need in view of the failure of supervising unions in most parts of the country.

The progress of co-operative marketing is reviewed briefly, and satisfaction is expressed at this 'welcome sign of health in the co-operative organisation' and its "orientation towards a more balanced and comprehensive treatment of the cultivators' problem than the mere credit society provided". This is too high praise for societies, most of which are yet in the region of promise than of fulfilment, as the figures of transactions would show compared with the total volume of trade in the areas. The most striking exception is the success of the large number of cane-growers' societies in the United Provinces and Bihar, thanks to the active support of the Government and the close co-ordination between Agricultural and Co-operative Departments. More moderate success has been achieved by cotton sale societies in Bombay and Madras. Some Provincial Co-operative Banks have lent at specially low rates for the purpose. It is in the sphere of marketing that the Reserve Bank can help most by lending to Provincial Banks for periods up to nine months, if consistent with safety it relaxes the rigour of its rules *re*: the warehouses. The State should do more than enact marketing legislation. Some form of stabilisation of prices is, as the Review says, "a major desideratum for the ordered progress of co-operation".

* REVIEW OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN INDIA, 1939-40, Reserve Bank of India, Bombay.

There is a chapter on urban co-operative societies, which one would think, was not the concern of the Agricultural Credit Department. Satisfaction is expressed at the working of urban credit societies in Bombay and Madras, as compared with rural societies. This comparative success is ascribed to the more regular employment and steady income of members of urban societies and to the different incidence of the economic depression in urban and rural areas. This is unfortunately not so true of the working classes among whom no form of co-operation has taken root in this country. Heavy and continuous borrowing is the rule with the vast majority of members of salary-earners' societies, the practice of thrift being confined to the upper few among them. The general urban societies cater to traders as well as others, which is a doubtful blessing from the point of view of consumers and small producers, for whose benefit the movement is supposed to function.

There is an appreciative note on the multiplication of consumers' stores in the Madras Presidency after the outbreak of this war, as a result of departmental drive. Their uneven development, and the closure of some of them since 1940, may not be known to the Reserve Bank. The obstacles to the development of

co-operative stores in this country are pointed out. Sale on credit and sale to non-members are not now tabooed in Europe; but in India they should be resorted to with due caution. The Medical Practitioners' Society in Bombay, which supplies drugs to its members, is a producers' and not a consumers' society. The hand-loom weavers' societies and milk supply societies deserve a longer treatment.

The importance of education of various grades for co-operative workers is emphasized: "there is no place in the co-operative field for the well-meaning amateur." But a "close and patient study of problems—social, economic, educational and moral" cannot be organised in the Government College of Co-operation recommended by the Madras Committee, or the Training Institute attached to the Agricultural College at Lyallpur, for reasons which cannot be gone into here. Much less can a 'Co-operative Research Bureau' be established and run efficiently under official auspices, as envisaged in the Review. Co-operative education and research, to be both efficient and independent, ought to be taken up, as in other countries, by the Provincial and All-India Co-operative Institutes, which must be financially strengthened, or by the Universities.

TWO PUNJABI MUSSALMANS

BY MR. AHMAD SHAFI

THE Mussalmans in the Punjab are torn between two conflicting political ideologies; one originated in the poetical fancy of the late Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal and the other took shape in the fertile brain of the late Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain. As the emotional and intellectual background of the two forces overlaps each other, it is difficult to record them in their exact chronological order.

The introduction of Montford reforms in the Punjab saw Mian Fazl-i-Hussain

installed as a Minister of State. By merit of his political sagacity, he built up for himself an unassailable position in the Punjab politics. He worked the reforms with an uncommon astuteness. The Mussalmans, who had lagged behind in several spheres of administration, were made to feel that in him they had found a champion. He determined definite percentages for their admission in the services while the performances of the previous governments had fallen short of

their profession. He fixed percentages of admission of Muslim students in Government colleges, both arts and professional. He devised a formula for the reconstitution of the local bodies, which enabled the Mussalmans to form working majorities in several of them. He made himself accessible to all and sundry, and for the first time people began to feel what relief a sympathetic representative in power could give them in their troubles. Punjab Muslims rallied round him and lionised him. He had also the outlook of a progressive politician. Whenever vested European interests tended to operate against Indian interests, he was known to cast his weight in favour of his countrymen. It was he who introduced several Indian officers of the I. M. S. in the Lahore Medical College, where professorship had been regarded as close preserve of the European Officers. It was in his Ministry that for the first time in the history the province was privileged to have an Indian Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals and an Indian Director of Public Health. His influence was felt even in the departments which were not in his charge. In short, he gave the Mussalmans a taste of the exercise of political power.

With his elevation to the Viceregal Executive Council, the niche which he had carved out for himself in the public life of the province remained unfilled and the void loomed all the bigger as the patronage which he had exercised tended to dry up. He rose still higher in the estimation of the Mussalmans in the province.

What Mian Fazl-i-Hussain wrought in the field of practical politics, Dr. Iqbal scored in the realm of ideas. He wrote and published poetry of exquisite beauty

and great merit and endeared himself to the heart of the Muslim India. By 1930, he had attained an eminence when he was asked to preside over the annual Sessions of the All-India Muslim League. He suggested in his presidential address that the problem of India would be solved if the Mussalmans could create a state of their own in the north and the Hindus another separate state in the south of the country. The idea was regarded as the innocent fancy of a poet who had strayed into political arena. The subjects committee of the League did not consider it worth while to adopt it in the form of a resolution and for the time being it hardly made any impression on the public life of the country. But the seed sown by him found a fertile soil in a young mind. About a couple of years later a young Punjabi Muslim, under-graduate of Cambridge Chaudhri Rahmat Ali, gave it a shape and a name. He thought that the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province, Kashmir State and Sindh should be brought together under one state and taking P from the Punjab, A from the Afghan territories, K from Kashmir and S from Sindh christened it Pakistan. The responsible leaders of the Mussalmans pooh-poohed the idea but the masses were unmistakably stirred by it. The Mussalmans are handicapped in their propaganda for want of live English dailies. Their ideas are ventilated through the Urdu dailies and weeklies which are mainly provincial and parochial. The rest of the country does not exactly know what thoughts are agitating the Muslim mind. At about the same time, Dr. Iqbal focussed his attention on an analysis of the concept of nationality in the light of Islam. In several pieces of excellently

written poetry, he again and again argued that there was no room in Islam for the exclusive nationality of the regional type which has grown and flourished in European countries. A nationalist Muslim divine, Maulana Hussain Ahmad Sahib, thought of stemming this tide. He publicly stated that Iqbal was wrong but unhappily for him he reckoned without his host. This is not the place to record the dialectical twists and turns of this discussion of a political subject conducted in a religious parlance. The skill of a lawyer, and the power of poetry over human mind, were in favour of Iqbal. In a few lines of poetry he gave the Maulana a retort which was accepted by the Muslim India as the last word on the subject. Iqbal's dictum was accepted as a matter of course and it proved one of the formidable hurdles in the path of united nationality in which the Mussalmans could merge themselves.

At about the same time, the Mussalmans were emerging from a period of alarms and excursions in the sphere of politics. The Muslim League had steadily lost ground; first to the Muslim Conference and later to the Ahrars. The Conference was created to formulate and guide the Muslim opinion through the gestation period of the Government of India Act of 1935. The Ahrars came into being in a period of vigorous reaction from the staid policies of the Conference. They attracted notice and gained popularity by adopting a progressive political programme. The new Constitution Act did not fulfil the hopes which had been raised. The communal award denied the Mussalmans the majority in the provincial legislature, which they had expected would be theirs. Just at this psychological hour a thin

pamphlet on the Punjab Politics was privately circulated. It skilfully exploited the difficulties that had come to the surface during the working of the Montford reforms in the sphere of politics and cleverly suggested another field of action where a closer co-operation between the two could be secured with profit to both. Desire to work for and to secure the economic well-being of both the masses and the classes, it argued, would serve to coalesce where barren political controversies had contrived to keep apart. It soon leaked out who was the father of this idea. The deft touches of Sir Fazl-i-Hussain's hand were clearly recognizable. The Punjab is an agricultural province. Naturally the agricultural interests would predominate in its legislature, but it has so happened that through a faulty distribution of the franchise, the urban classes have been allotted a smaller representation in the legislature than their population in urban areas would warrant. The rural Mussalmans welcomed the scheme as they saw in it a means of escape from the heavy debt which the agricultural classes were groaning and possibility of securing relief from the irksome features which the then existing agrarian legislation had developed through the interpretation which the law Courts had read into some of its provisions. The agricultural classes of the Hindus and the Sikhs also took the same view and joined hands with the Mussalmans who formed the majority. The urban Mussalmans remained quiescent, but the Hindus and the Sikhs grew suspicious. They saw in this new move an extension to economic sphere of the policies which Sir Fazl-i-Hussain had so successfully pursued in the political domain. It was under these auspices that the Unionist Party took its

birth. When the Unionist Ministry assumed office, it was found that the opposition was numerically ineffective. The Government proceeded on its way unappreciative of the interests represented by the Opposition. The legislative programmes and administrative policies of the party generated an impression that there exists a conflict between the rural and urban interests. To the familiar malady of the Hindu-Muslim trouble was added another malaise—the beginnings of a class war. The urban Mussalmans soon found out that they were not pulling their weight and that as a result the governmental power and privileges, which they had thought would flow in full measure by virtue of the majority of Mussalmans in the Unionist party, had practically dried up.

Now (1940) appeared the All-India Muslim League on the scene with its resolution for the establishment of

independent Muslim States in the North-west and the North-east of India. The imagination of the masses was fired. The rural classes remained indifferent at the beginning. The urban classes began to weigh the benefits of capturing full power in an independent Muslim State against the privilege of retaining their present share in a coalition government. For a time it appeared to them that the bird in hand was worth two in the Pakistan bush, but the vehemence of the Hindu and Sikh opposition, and the handicaps and drawbacks of the coalition government and the enthusiasm of the Muslim masses for the Pakistan have all combined in a manner to make it difficult for responsible Mussalmans in the Punjab to continue to keenly support the present position by cashing on Sir Fazal-i-Hussain's political credit. The poet is steadily seeping on the politician.

PAGANISM AND CHRISTIANITY

BY DR. T. M. P. MAHADEVAN

THIS book* contains four essays of Professor Murray—all of them well thought out and neatly presented in the classic style of the Greeks with which he is intimately acquainted. The subjects treated are: "Pagan Religion and Philosophy at the time of Christ," "The Stoic Philosophy," "The Conception of Another Life," and "What is Permanent in Positivism."

In the first essay, Professor Murray contrasts 'ancient philosophy' with 'the

Christian religion' and finds that the spread of Christianity in the early centuries was a consequence of the disappearance of the cultured class. He traces the development of philosophy from Plato and Aristotle onwards, sketches the systems of Ethics given by these two great philosophers and their interpretation by the Epicurean and the Stoic schools, and concludes that when culture decayed, mysticism and superstition took its place.

The ancient world, as civilization declined, was overburdened by the ever-increasing mass of superstitions, and its thought devitalized by a blind reverence for the past philosophy as well as religion could hardly find life, except through a process of which the first step was a vigorous

*STOIC, CHRISTIAN AND HUMANIST. By Gilbert Murray, D.C.L., LL.D., Litt.D., formerly Professor of Greek in the University of Oxford. Published by George Allen & Unwin Ltd. Price 5 Sh.

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denial of false gods. That step once taken, it is curious to observe how little of ancient philosophy has perished, how much has merely been taken over by Christianity, and how few new ideas in the realms of metaphysics or morals have occurred to the human mind since the fourth century before Christ.

In the second essay, Professor Murray gives an account of Stoicism 'the greatest system of organized thought which the mind of man had built up for itself in the Graeco-Roman world before the coming of Christianity.' There are two classes of religions—those for prosperity and those for adversity. A religion which is to be successful in the struggle for existence must share in the nature of both. Stoicism, like Christianity, was suited to circumstances of prosperity as well as adversity. Though primarily a religion for the oppressed, it had the requisite power of adaptation. Both a penniless slave and an emperor of Rome could find a consolation in it. It says: "Nothing but goodness is good; nothing but badness is bad. Pain, pleasure, health, sickness, human friendship and affection are all indifferent." At the same time, it asks its votary to work for the good of the world in the firm belief that man's true God is the helping of man. No wonder that Professor Murray finds this view "so sublime and so stirring that at times it almost deadens one's power of criticism".

In the third essay, the learned Professor deals with the conception of Another Life, which the commonest view places after death, but mystics and contemplatives believe to exist now in our own souls. In ancient literature, the conception of Another Life consisting of bliss and torments are always connected with the Mysteries which are simply Initiation Ceremonies. Even the mental pictures of

Heaven and Hell are based upon the actual ritual of the Mysteries. Not satisfied with such an external view of Another Life, the philosopher, especially the Stoic, turns to the inner life of man. The true life is the life of the soul. The outer worldly life is of no consequence. In the region of the inner life, the region of the free will, lies man's true heaven, quite other than the obvious life, independent of it, untouched by it. Professor Murray is attracted by the grandeur of this philosophy. But the humanist in him will not consent to regard the tribunal of a man's own soul as ultimate. "Our tribunal is not perfect; it only tries to see and to do right," he says, "for real full-blooded happiness, as for any satisfaction of our complete natures, we are thrown for good and evil on the realities of the outer social life and the turbid mercies of our fellow-men".

In the last essay, the author sets forth what he considers to be of permanent value in Auguste Comte's philosophy. Positivism finds on all theistic religions the projection of man's own desire and fears, what may be called man-thinking and wish-thinking. Any conception of the divine is bound to be anthropomorphic. We build our God out of what we take to be the best that we know or can imagine from our experience. And the fear of the great uncertainty that surrounds us makes us believe that there is 'a friend behind the phenomena'. But Comte thinks that even without such a belief man may be moral. Morality, according to him, does not depend on any system of false beliefs. It has its roots in human character. It is the *humanitas* in man that makes him altruistic. The true object of worship is not a far-off God, but the spirit of mutual help among all mortal beings. That is Comte's God—Humanity.

Greatly influenced by Humanism and Positivism as Professor Murray is, it is but natural that he should regard Comte's system as not only sublime but true.

THE 'PATRIOT POETS OF GUJARAT

BY MR. J. G. KARANDIKAR, B.A., B.T.

(Headmaster, Sulakhe High School, Barsi, Sholapur District)

PRIOR to the Gandhian epoch, the patriotic poetry of Gujarat was in its infancy. No doubt there were a few Gujarati poets who had already composed some patriotic songs. For instance, the poet Dalpatram (1817 to 1898 A.D.) and the poet Narmadashankar (1813 to 1886 A.D.), who shone in the latter half of the nineteenth century, express patriotic feelings in some of their poems. Dalpatram says that love of our country must now be Jana-Dharma, the religion of the masses. Narmadashankar, while describing the condition of modern India, says that the country cannot prosper without intense longing for her freedom. His inspiring song: "Hail the Great Gujarat" is very popular in that province. Barring these few exceptions, it can be said that the patriotic poetry of Gujarat did not shine with its full glory and brilliance until the great movement launched by the 'Mahatma' in the year 1920. This year opened a new age in the history of the patriotic poetry of Gujarat. Young poets animated with the love of their motherland wrote and sang All-India national songs, thrilling the masses and awakening them to their real situation. This wonderful upheaval was, however, already foreseen as many as fifty years ago by Narmadashankar with his penetrating poetic vision. He then observed: "I saw to-day some auspicious signs. My veins are overfull with enthusiasm; my blood is now invigorated with a new life."

These utterances made half a century ago were perfectly justified in Gujarat by the year 1920, that was a landmark in the history of India. The last two

decades gave rise to some young patriot poets in Gujarat, who kept the torch of devotion to motherland ever radiant with their patriotic songs.

Among the patriot poets of Gujarat, A. F. Khabardar ranks supreme. Parsi by religion, he has composed excellent songs in chaste Gujarathi that have immortalized his fame as a patriot poet of a very high order. He is not only intensely proud of India's past, but he has unflinching faith too in her sons and daughters who, he says, "with their spirit of heroism, self-respect and self-sacrifice will raise her to the pinnacle of the glory". In his poem "Amaro Desha" (our country) which is his master-piece, he admirably voices these feelings and implores the Almighty to give him and his countrymen the will and the strength to achieve the goal of freedom. He finds no other land in this world that can stand in comparison with Bharata Bhoomi, as regards her natural beauty and her illustrious history. He makes a vigorous appeal to the heroic spirit of the land in his celebrated poem "Devinic Khappar" (The alms-pot of the Mother) wherein he calls upon the inhabitants of Bharat (India) to offer the alms of their heads in the mother's alms-pot. He has also written some English poems, the collection of which is known as "The Silken Tassel". The poet, Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, speaks highly of this anthology. He says: "I feel, you have the gift of poesy which must naturally reveal itself in all its freedom and grace in your mother tongue, and I do not wonder that your books have attained distinction in Gujarathi Literature."

In addition to national songs he has also written some provincial songs of Gujarat. His "Gunawanti Gujarat" published in 1906 is almost a household song in that province and can be ranked with "Bande Mataram" which originated in Bengal. This great poet recently presided over the Gujarat Literary Conference—an honour which he fully deserves. The Conference has been blessed by Mahatma Gandhi, who is himself a devotee of Gujarati Literature, with his inspiring message to the Conference.

Another well-known modern poet of Gujarat is Nhanalal Kavi. A happy combination of grace and majesty of style is a characteristic feature of his poems. He has travelled to the nooks and corners of Gujarat and Kathiawar and he has, therefore, first-hand knowledge of the conditions of the masses. The study of different religions has broadened his intellectual vision. His national songs and folk-songs are full of vivid imagery and ardent emotion. He is, moreover, an excellent playwright. His poetical translation of the Bhagavad-Geeta marks him out as a scholar and philosopher. He was also one of those who took part in the Satyagraha movement launched by the 'Mahatma' in 1930. On the whole his position as a modern Gujarati genius is unique, because in him the pen and the practice go hand in hand.

Harilal Dhruwa is another patriot poet of Gujarat. He has written a number of poetic works out of which "Aryotkarsha" (the Glory of the Aryans) is one. His poems are kindled with patriotic spirit. His songs: "This land is mine" and "Devotion to my country" are his master-pieces.

Dr. Chandulal is a famous Gujarathi patriot. In the Bengal partition days he composed some national songs, which are popularly sung even now. He proceeded to England for specialisation in Dentistry. There he came into contact with the exiled Indian revolutionaries. But after his return he became a follower of Lokamanya Tilak. Since 1920, the doctor is always seen to be active in the freedom's battle. His songs breathe an air of patriotic sense which is wide in outlook and it is well expressed in his famous song: "Hail Hindusthan" in which he appeals to all communities to merge their private differences and to strive in harmony for the freedom of their motherland.

Meghani is another illustrious patriotic poet of Gujarat. He has written some excellent patriotic songs. His song "Age Kadam" (step forward) is a remarkable instance of his vigorous and suggestive poesy.

Professor B. K. Thakore is a profound scholar and holds a high rank among the national poets of Gujarat. His songs have popularized him with the youth of the province, and are deserving of All-India reverence when they are sufficiently known outside Gujarat. His songs with a discriminate choice of words, charming style and beauty of thought and expression are in no way inferior to the more renowned patriotic songs of the Bengalee literati. His song: "Hail my mother" composed in 1907 can be cited as an illustration.

The history of the modern patriot poets of Gujarat is thus put in a nutshell. A study of their works will not only afford intellectual pleasure but will also be a source of inspiration.

VICEROY'S COUNCIL EXPANSION

BY THE RT. HON. DR. SIR TEJ BAHADUR SAPRU

[For the second time since the outbreak of the war, the Viceroy's Executive Council has been expanded and reconstituted by the addition of six new members, *viz.*, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Sir E. C. Benthall, Sir Jogendra Singh, Sir J. P. Srivastava and Khan Bahadur Sir Mohammad Usman. Though on personal grounds some of the appointments are undoubtedly commendable, there can be no pretence that the new Council could in any sense be called a National Government. That demand remains as far from fulfilment as ever. Political power remains where it has always been. The so-called Defence Portfolio is bereft of most of the functions that go with that office in other countries. No wonder there is little enthusiasm for the step taken by Government after all this delay, and no party worth the name is satisfied with the way this important question has been handled. As pointed out by Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy, President of the Liberal Federation, the repeated demands for complete Indianisation and for making the Executive Council a completely non-official body functioning on the basis of Cabinet responsibility had been ignored. The present expanded Executive Council is, therefore, no substitute for a National Government without which a National War Front could hardly be effectively created. Apart from Indianisation or expansion, the only test of the adequacy of any new proposal is whether it would, in substance and effect, transfer the reality of power into Indian hands. No one could pretend that the new Council does this. In so far as it has failed to do so, it has failed in its immediate task of solving the deadlock and creating the atmosphere for a united and enthusiastic war front. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru makes an unanswerable point when he says that the control of the Secretary of State over the Executive Council has in no way been relaxed and that "it is no use looking up to the Viceroy under the existing circumstances as even a benevolent dictator".—Ed. I. R.]

IN my opinion the expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council, though it raises the number of Indians to ten, does not really betoken any change in the political and constitutional character of the Council or its powers. It is only the continuation of the policy of the declaration of August 8, 1940. Many of the Provinces are now represented, and I am glad that the Sikhs and the Depressed Classes will also be now represented in the Executive Council. All this might have been done two years ago, or at least a year ago.

Since then events have moved fast and far. It will be absurd for any one to imagine that the expansion is going to satisfy the two best organised bodies—the Congress and the Muslim League.

Sir Stafford Cripps, who had been admired so much in England, in my

opinion, bungled, and bungled hopelessly, as I can say from personal knowledge. He alienated all other sections of politicians by telling them that he was anxious to secure the consent of the Congress and the Muslim League alone. He failed in that. Do Mr. Amery and Lord Linlithgow seriously think that they are going to satisfy the Congress or the Muslim League? Perhaps it would be more correct to say that they fully realise that the changes effected by them will produce no impression on these two parties, but will they produce any impression on the despised others? If they think like that, they are greatly mistaken.

I take full note of the fact that a sort of Defence Portfolio, which was anathema in the beginning of the conversations with Sir Stafford Cripps, has been created. To the extent to which it makes

a breach in the citadel, I approve of it but I do not think we need attach any exaggerated importance to it. Side by side with that remains the fact that the Home and Finance Portfolios remain where they were—in British hands. In addition to that is the fact that the War Transport Portfolio also goes to a non-official British representative of Big Business.

As a debating point, it may be very well to say that Indians hold ten as against five portfolios, which will be held by the British. It would, however, be wrong for any one to think that the present change is anything in the neighbourhood of a National Government. It is not even a fully Indianised or non-official Executive Council. In ordinary circumstances the control of the Secretary of State over the Executive Council, which is invisible to the outsider, is very real and persistent. It cannot be less real or persistent in these days, particularly when a man like Mr. Amery is the presiding deity of the India Office.

The fact that it is invisible to the naked eye, or imperceptible to the average man, cannot make it the less objectionable. It is no use looking up to the Viceroy under the existing circumstances as even a benevolent dictator. He is nothing of the kind. Lord Morley once described the Viceroy of India as the Secretary of State's agent—a view which was contested by some writers at that time. The present situation has unfortunately justified the view of Lord Morley, though it was put in a different spirit. The true dictator now is Mr. Amery—the one man in the British Empire who is most distrusted by Congressmen, non-Congressmen and politicians of nearly every school.

It is impossible, in my opinion, to rouse a spirit of trust and confidence in this country or to fortify the position of those who honestly like to give any help to the British Government, as against Japan and Germany, unless there is a change of personnel and the first man to go should be Mr. Amery.

So far as the personnel of the new expanded Council is concerned, I am free to admit that some of them are very able and good men, but it is not able and good men that matter, it is the powers which they enjoy and the freedom which they enjoy from the paralysing control and influence of the India Office which alone can change the situation in India. Let there be no mistake about it. If trust begets trust, distrust also begets distrust.

GOKHALE'S SPEECHES

This collection of Gokhale's Speeches may claim to be fairly exhaustive, no important pronouncement of his having been omitted. The book contains four parts and an appendix. The first part includes all his Council Speeches; the second, all his Congress Speeches; the third, speeches in appreciation of Hume, Naoroji, Ranade, Mehta and Bannerji; the fourth, miscellaneous speeches delivered in England and India. Contains also the full text of his evidence before the Welby Commission.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

By "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

The Working Committee's Decision

ONCE again the Congress Working Committee, which met at Wardha and had prolonged discussions with Gandhiji and other leaders, has adopted a lengthy resolution pleading for the immediate withdrawal of the British power from India, so as to ensure effective defence against foreign aggression. The long-winded dissertation, though couched in courteous terms, cannot hide the fact that it is a virtual ultimatum without a time limit. In the event of non-compliance, there is definite threat of mass action. The logic of this demand for withdrawal at this grave crisis when the enemy is at our gates is certainly mystifying. No wonder that responsible bodies and individuals are alarmed at the dismal prospect that faces the country—threat of disorder within and aggression from without.

Congress spokesmen contend that only an independent India will give the necessary stimulus for patriotic action on a nation-wide scale. Gandhiji makes it clear that what is wanted is immediate action, not promises. Pandit Nehru explains that it is the only way to inspire the people to confront the Japanese menace, while the Congress President says that it has become quite impossible for Congress to wait and watch passively. Indeed, without subscribing to the "quit India" programme, leaders of other parties equally realise the inadequacy of the steps taken by Government to call forth the spirit of resistance in the fullest measure.

While it is deplorable to see that Government is still persisting in its old

ways, learning nothing and forgetting nothing from the lessons of the war, Gandhiji's own contribution is by no means calculated to solve the deadlock. His "quit India" slogan at such a time is positively embarrassing and is bound to impede war efforts and to create further dissension in our ranks. It will only make confusion worse confounded. For the courteous appeal to Britain to withdraw is followed by a warning conveyed though in the mildest terms possible. "If the appeal fails," says the Resolution, "Congress will be reluctantly compelled to utilise all its non-violent strength for the vindication of the political rights and liberty of India under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi." That is to say, in simple words, Gandhiji will declare civil disobedience and the country will be plunged in a mortal yet futile struggle. The consequences of such an action at a time like this are difficult to contemplate with equanimity, and we can only hope that better counsels will prevail and the deadlock will be resolved in ways more consonant to reason and with a sense of realism in assessing the situation that confronts the country.

Gandhiji's Warning to Japan

Ever since the outbreak of the war the people of India, irrespective of caste or creed or party, have emphatically declared in unmistakable terms their sympathy with the democracies and their determination to resist Axis aggression. The Congress, not to speak of other political organisations, has time and again reaffirmed its hostility to Axis ambitions. And yet it is common knowledge that Hitler and Mussolini and Tojo are carrying on a dishonest campaign

making it appear that India will welcome their advent to this country. Mahatma Gandhi has, therefore, done well to warn them against any such misleading ideas, and his clear rebuff is a timely warning. Our differences with Britain are a purely domestic affair, and it is fitting and proper that Mahatma Gandhi should make this clear in his letter "To Every Japanese":

You have been gravely misinformed, as I know you are, that we have chosen this particular moment to embarrass the Allies when your attack against India is imminent. If we wanted to turn Britain's difficulty into our opportunity, we should have done it as soon as the war broke out nearly three years ago.

Our movement demanding the withdrawal of the British power from India should in no way be misunderstood. In fact, if we are to believe your reported anxiety for the independence of India, a recognition of that independence by Britain should leave you no excuse for any attack on India. Moreover, your reported profession sorts ill with your ruthless aggression against China.

I would ask you to make no mistake about the fact that you will be sadly disillusioned if you believe that you will receive a willing welcome from India.

C. R. and the Congress

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari's resignation from all Congress bodies and the Legislature, though inevitable under the circumstances, is one of the saddest things in our public life. It means the severance of a link which has meant so much for the great institution during the last two decades. For over 20 years, C. R. has been a vital force in Congress politics, shaping its policies and guiding its workers on lines which his own initiative has done not a little to chalk out.

As the right hand man of Mr. Gandhi and as one of the "brain trust" of the Congress high command, his influence has always counted very much in nationalist circles. His fine intellect and high character combined to lend his actions and words an authority second only to Gandhiji's. It must, therefore, be a great wrench for him as for his colleagues to part company on a matter which is baffling settlement.

His devotion to the Congress during all these years was so complete that no service or sacrifice was too great for him. Add to this, his administrative experience and his brilliant success in office—we have some measure of his extraordinary ability and his commanding position in the counsels of the Congress. To be deprived of the leadership of such a man is a great loss, indeed, to the Congress. Without entering into the merits of the controversy, one may well despair of finding another who can adequately fill the place left vacant by C. R.

If after such long and intimate connection with the Congress C. R. has thought fit to resign, it must surely be under a compelling sense of duty and in the interests of what he deems to be a matter of principle and of supreme importance to the country. He said:

I want to convert the Congress and the chief purpose of my resignation is to secure greater freedom of action. My campaign regarding a Hindu-Muslim settlement cannot cease until it is attained. I am out of the Congress in body, but not in spirit.

Experience shows that if it is difficult to convert the Congress from within, it must be well-nigh impossible to do it from without!

The Central Legislature

The Governor-General has decided to extend the life of the existing Council of State and Legislative Assembly for a further period of one year from October 1, 1942. This means that till the end of the war, the present Central Legislature will not be dissolved.

Now the present Central Legislative Assembly is eight years old but the prospect of Federation and the actual outbreak of war have kept it alive. Legislatures exist for voicing public opinion. Surely in eight years problems have cropped up, on which the country has been sharply divided in opinion. If the old members still truly represent the country, Government will have the additional satisfaction of being confirmed in their view by the country's verdict in their favour. If not, they have no right to be there. As it is, there is no meaning in carrying on with a body whose credentials are in dispute. As a writer in the *Statesman* truly observes:

This is to reduce the Central Legislature to a farce. Elections to these two Houses are never a difficult affair and should not be so even in war-time. Political India should have been given a chance to send new representatives there. There are new issues and new personalities. The war is one issue, Pakistan another. As the Central Legislative organs of a yet unpartitioned India, the Assembly and the Council of State owe it to themselves to keep young and fully *en rapport* with the country's political thought. General Elections are a safety-valve even in difficult times. Denied them, public opinion seeks all manner of abnormal outlets.

The Provinces are taking a leaf from the Centre. The Government of Orissa under the Premiership of the Maharaja of Parlakimidi seems to be desperately out to preserve the make-believe ministry

intact. Says Maulana Azad, the Congress President:

A Ministry has been formed which lacks the support of the majority. The whole province is impatient to throw away this uncouth burden. As no constitutional method could be followed to support this unconstitutional procedure, all sorts of unclean tactics are being used to gain time to save the Ministry.

The Automobile Industry

In a recent speech at Madras, Sir Arcot Ramaswami Mudaliar put up a vigorous defence of the Government of India's attitude to the automobile industry. He said that the proposed scheme was very nebulous; it contemplated no more than a mere assemblage of plants; and that the Government rightly refused to finance it. Sir Visvesvarayya, who had from the beginning taken great pains to further the project refutes these charges. In a press statement, he says that "all this is a mis-statement". Quoting extracts from the relevant correspondence, he points out that the scheme was definite enough and was by no means nebulous. He goes on to say

that the scheme was an assembly plant was a pure invention on the part of some one who was opposed to the scheme. We then offered that if the Government had any reasonable objection to assembling, we were prepared to drop that operation.

Sir Visvesvarayya adds that "no loan was asked for". After refuting the Commerce Member's charges categorically, he says:

The truth seems to be that Government do not wish to encourage this industry. If they wished to help, they would not have been giving different reasons at different times in the manner they have been doing.

The Commerce Member has been critical about the scheme submitted by us. Government have never made a single helpful suggestion that if we proceeded in any particular way agreeable to them, they would help the industry.

Repeal the Arms Act

Now that war is almost knocking at our doors, the demand for arming Indians has become insistent. Not only the military classes but members of all communities are pressing the need for militarisation. There is a feeling that even this move is belated. It is interesting in this connection to recall how very old is this demand for military training. The repeal of the Arms Act was one of the repeated demands of the old Congress. As early as 1877, Pherozeshah Mehta took up the lead in the matter of Indians joining the Volunteer movement. At a public meeting in the Town Hall, Bombay, he confronted the Governor with an amendment to the resolution calling for European Volunteers. Pherozeshah Mehta got up and moved the amendment that "it is not advisable to resolve on the formation of a volunteer corps composed exclusively of Europeans in a public meeting of the inhabitants of Bombay". It was a brave thing to do at that time. Pherozeshah, indeed, held very strong opinions on the question of the formation of Indian volunteer corps and was definitely opposed to the Arms Act. At the fourth Session of the Congress at Allahabad, Sir Pherozeshah made a prophetic speech urging the need to repeal the Act, which has tended to emasculate the people.

You cannot, and ought not to, emasculate a whole nation. It may be said that the time may come in future when these restrictions will be removed. But remember that when once the Indian people become emasculated, it will be a very long time indeed before you can get them to recover their manliness and their vigour. That is my ground for supporting the proposition; and I say it is a practical ground. Perhaps, a good many of you remember the case of James II who, when in his hour of peril, appealed to the Duke of Bedford (whose son had been murdered by the King) for help, to whom the old nobleman

replied: 'I had once a son whom I could have sent for your assistance. But I have not got him now.' In the same way in some hour of need India might have to say something similar to England. I entirely recognize all the reasonable, and, to a certain extent, alarming difficulties which have been raised; but I say that, if you strive to follow a really far-sighted policy, you will realize from the lessons of history that it can never be wise to emasculate a nation.

How very prophetic are these words, which are so pat to the present times. Could anything add to the force of Pherozeshah's argument?

Farewell to Travancore Dewan

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyer's elevation to the Viceroy's Executive Council has necessitated a temporary interruption of his labours as Dewan of Travancore. For six years, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyer has devoted himself completely to the service of the Maharaja and State of Travancore, and it is but fitting that in felicitating him on his appointment, the Travancore Legislative Assembly should place on record its sense of his invaluable services to the State. The Dewan-President took the opportunity to explain that he would do his bit to bring about that unification of communities which is the crying need of the hour.

If at Delhi I can help the task of unification in any manner, taking advantage of the circumstances that I have not only been a member of the Congress myself, but also a non-official member of every type of legislature in India and in addition official leader of every kind of legislature in the country—if with the background of these circumstances or accidents, it becomes possible for me to try and bring all the apparently conflicting elements together and help His Excellency the Viceroy and my honourable colleagues to arrive at a concordat, I shall be grateful to Providence.

This is a great task and well worth doing by one of Sir C. P.'s rich experience, and no doubt his efforts in this direction will be watched with interest and appreciation.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By "CHRONICLER"

The Commons Debate on Libyan Campaign

IN the two day debate in the House of Commons on the Libyan campaign, Mr. Churchill showed himself still the master of the House. He has won an overwhelming numerical majority which is decisive. Public sentiment in Britain, and indeed throughout the Empire runs strongly in favour of his retention as war-leader.

Introducing the 'no confidence' motion on the Government, Sir John Wardlaw Milne vehemently criticised the central direction of war strategy from London. "The cause of our failure lies here rather than in Libya," declared Sir John, who added that it was a mistake to combine the offices of Prime Minister and Minister of Defence. Britain was producing weapons "almost completely out of date". He wanted to know whether the decision to abandon Tobruk was taken at Cairo in the battle-field, at London or at Washington. Sir Roger Keyes seconding the motion pointed out that Mr. Churchill's system of naval advisers was responsible for the immobilisation of the marine force in the Mediterranean, which had previously done great work in Libya. He called for a change at the Admiralty and said it was vital that Mr. Churchill should continue to lead the country as head of "a real National Government".

Speaking on behalf of the Government, Capt. Lyttelton defended the production programme and revealed that substantial reinforcements were on their way to Gen. Auchinleck's forces. He predicted they would shortly surpass the enemy in several important weapons.

When the debate was resumed the next day, Mr. Aneurin Bevin seconded Sir John Wardlaw Milne's no-confidence motion. He said: "Mr. Churchill wins debate after debate and loses battle after battle."

Replying to the debate, Mr. Churchill said: "The duty of the House is to sustain or change the Government. If it cannot change, it should sustain. There is no middle course in war time." Concluding, the Premier repudiated the suggestion that he had misled the House. "I will say nothing more about the future except to invite the House and the nation to face with courage whatever it may unfold."

The result was a foregone conclusion. The no confidence motion was defeated by 475 votes to 25.

The Position of Egypt

Egypt's sympathies are avowedly with the allied cause. The Government of Nahas Pasha has, however, preferred a state of non-belligerency in the present crisis. Egypt's complete trust in the treaty with Britain was made clear in a statement on March 7. "The present war," said Nahas Pasha, "is a sort of world revolution, and the best means of achieving Egypt's aims is to place our full trust in the Treaty, which we freely signed. . . . to safeguard our national independence. . . ."

The Anglo-Egyptian Treaty does not require Egypt to go to war in aid of Britain. The relevant clause runs as follows: "Should . . . either of the High Contracting Parties become engaged in war, the other High Contracting Party will . . . immediately come to his aid in the capacity of an ally. . . . The aid of H. M. the King of Egypt will consist in . . . furnishing to H. M. the King-Emperor on Egyptian territory . . . all the facilities and assistance in his power, including the use of his ports, aerodromes and means of communication."

It is clear that this clause does not bind Egypt to render armed assistance, and Britain, in accordance with her solemn undertaking, has not demanded armed assistance from Egypt.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

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- June 26. Over a thousand R. A. F. planes attack Bremen.
- June 27. Mr. Churchill back in England.
—Statement on Washington talks.
—U. S. offensive in South Pacific.
- June 28. Canterbury bombed.
—Allies at grips with Axis forces in defence of Nile Valley.
- June 29. Mersa Matruh is evacuated by the Allied forces.
—Hitler launches his summer offensive in Russia—with a plan to split red army into three sections.
- June 30. Sri V. Biswanath Das, ex-Premier of Orissa, is arrested.
—Heavy fighting in Egypt; Gen. Auchinleck takes command.
- July 1. Commons debate on Libya defeat.
—Heavy fighting east of El Alamein.
- July 2. Mr. Churchill replies to critics in the Commons debate: No confidence motion defeated by 475 votes to 25.
—Personnel of the Viceroy's Council announced.
- July 3. Hitler launches new offensives in Russia.
—Furious battle in the Kursk area.
- July 4. Allies' successful counter-attack in Egypt.
- July 5. Fierce battle on the Kursk-Kharkov front.
—Liberals' warning against civil disobedience and plea for complete Indianisation of Viceroy's Council.
- July 6. Congress Working Committee meets at Wardha.
—Lord Halifax flies home.
- July 7. Gandhiji explains his proposals to the Congress Working Committee at Wardha.
- July 8. Germans cross the Don.
—British forces occupy Mayotta.
- July 9. C. R. resigns from Congress.
—Gandhiji presents draft resolution.
- July 10. Germans enter Rossosh.
- July 11. Chinese re-take Nanchang.
- July 12. German drive in Don Valley.
—British Navy bombards Mersa Matruh.
- July 13. Italian press attacks Nahas Pasha.
—Sir T. E. Gregory is deputed to London to study post-war problems.
- July 14. Congress Working Committee releases a 1,700-word resolution, demanding withdrawal of British power from India.
- July 15. Madras Legislative Congress Party cancels Pakistan resolution.
- July 16. Duke of Gloucester's farewell broadcast to India.
- July 17. Nazi threat to Stalingrad.
—Sumner Willes cancels appointment with Vichy Ambassador.
- July 18. Indians repulse enemy attack in central sector at El Alamein.
- July 19. Jap troops move towards Siberia.
—German drive to Caucasus.
—Russians urge second front.
- July 20. Maulana Azad explains Congress decision.
—Canton bombed.
- July 21. Government lifts ban on Communist Party.
- July 22. Japs land in Papua.
—Battle for Caucasus begins.
- July 23. Cordell Hull's broadcast plea for beating Germany.
- July 24. Germans claim entry into Rostov.
- July 25. Gandhiji warns Japan.
—Sir Stafford Cripps' broadcast to America,



The WORLD of BOOKS



(ONLY SHORT NOTICES APPEAR IN THIS SECTION)

CIVIL DEFENCE IN INDIA. By Seth Danequer. Oxford University Press, Bombay. Re. 1-4.

As war is reaching our shores, civil defence has become the vital and immediate concern of us all. What is civil defence? Civil defence is defence of citizens by citizens or in other words protection of the civil population by its own efforts. Of course, the responsibility for defence falls on the military but the task of the civilian in times of crisis is by no means negligible. There are a hundred ways in which the civil population can help. And in the pages of this very informing treatise we are told of the ways in which the morale of the people could be kept up and the defence strengthened by judicious and patriotic participation of the people at large. Doubtless the blitz of London and the Rangoon raids afford very instructive lessons in self-defence, especially in the way of A. R. P. organisation, camouflage and the need for countering fifth column activities. After all, it is the morale of the civil population that is the backbone of all defence, and the book tells us ways and means of sustaining it in the teeth of adversity. It is wonderful how common adversity tries and brings the best out of common men. The author says with significant emphasis:

In three days of the blitz on London, class distinctions vanished utterly. There is no reason to suppose that they will not do so also in India under stress of aerial bombardment. In such a manner will good come out of evil and the better would we be if we all are striving for the sure foundation in mutual trust and mutual co-operation. In the trials of today lies the only hope for to-morrow.

CHINA AFTER FIVE YEARS OF WAR. The China Publishing Company, Chungking, printed at Calcutta.

This collection of papers is intended to show China's powers of resilience and recuperation in the face of the continuing terrible struggle with Japan. The writers have grouped their papers round the main subjects of government, military affairs, economic efforts, administration and education and society. They are all active participators in the grim struggle and they give us not only what has been done in the last five years, but what is promised in the future. We also get a sketch of some well-known battles of the war, including the recent fighting in Burma, along with a note on their strategy and significance.

TREATIES, ENGAGEMENTS AND SANADS. By K. R. R. Sastry, M.A., M.L., University of Allahabad.

The problem of the Indian States has cropped up at every stage of constitutional reform in India. Now that the whole constitution is as it were in a melting pot, the adjustment of their relation to the paramount power is of pressing importance. The need for integrating them in an All-India Constitution has been felt alike in the interests of rulers and subjects of States. Professor Sastry's analysis and interpretation of the documents on which the mutual relation of states and the paramount power is based, is therefore a timely publication. His researches into the historical background of old treaties, engagements and sanads and his interpretation of contracting obligations in the light of progressive thought offer helpful suggestions to the student of Indian jurisprudence.

THE SILK STOCKING MURDERS. By Anthony Berkeley: A Penguin Novel. (Copies can be had of Messrs. G. A. Natesan & Co., George Town, Madras. As. 8.)

This book deals with another Roger Sheringham case. A number of pretty young and unattached girls, most of them actresses, are found hanging in their flats by their own silk stockings. The first few cases pass off as suicides but the perfect identity of all the cases arouses suspicion and Roger Sheringham, a private detective, in collaboration with Scotland Yard attempts to unravel the mystery. Relatives and friends of the victims professedly thirsting for vengeance butt in and complicate the investigation. But Roger's ingenuity results in the exposure of the megalomaniac who, rich and impressionable, working on an absorbing suggestion of which he had been possessed, was responsible for ending innocent young lives in this morbid way. It is a thrilling novel with abundant, strong interest and unravels an absorbing psychology.

BOOKS RECEIVED

INDIA AND A NEW CIVILISATION. By Rajani Kanta Das, M.A., Ph.D. Published by R. Chatterjee, 120-2, Upper Circular Road, Calcutta.

THE INSTITUTIONAL THEORY OF ECONOMICS. By Dr. Radhakamal Mukerjee. Lucknow University, Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London.

MODERN POTTERY MANUFACTURE. By H. N. Bose, M.Sc. Ceramic Publishing House, 1, Church Road, Bhagalpur.

JAPANESE IMPERIALISM EXPOSED. The Secret Memorandum of Tanaka, Premier of Japan. Minerva Book Shop, Lahore.

A NEW SOCIAL ORDER. By Eddy Asirvatham. Foreword by Rt. Hon. Dr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri. Indian Christian Book Club, Kilpauk, Madras.

DEMOCRACY IS DEEMED USELESS. By "A Democrat". Allied Publishers, Bombay.

APAROKSHANUBHUTI OR SELF-REALISATION OF SRI SANKARACHARYA. Text in Devanagari with English Rendering and Comments. By Swami Vimuktananda. Advaita Ashrama, Mayavati, Almora, Price Re. 1.

The book under review treats primarily about the technique of self-realisation. Self-realisation for the Advaitin is through the knowledge of the Brahman and the negation of the world. In order to purify the mind, Sankara suggests the arduous practice of stern ethical life. Ethical excellence and ceremonial purity cleanse the soul and make it fit for self-realisation. Without knowledge of the Brahman, which is in the form of an experience, the spiritual aspirant cannot attain self-realisation.

The translation of the text is good. In the scholarly world there is a dispute as regards the genuineness of the authorship of this work being attributed to Sankara. There is no denying that this book is a good text-book for the student of Advaita.

GERMANS BEYOND GERMANY: An Anthology. Edited by Vilem Haas. The International Book House Ltd., Bombay.

RAKSHABANDHAN and other Poems. By Mohanlal Kashyap. International Book House Ltd., Bombay.

LIFE IN NATURE. By Monoranjan Das, Barpeta, Assam. As. 9.

SELECTIONS FROM THE MASTER-KEY GOSPEL. By Dr. K. B. Lele. Vidya Mandir, 389, Sadashiv Peth, Poona City.

HANDSHADOWS with text in English, German and French. By Dr. K. B. Lele. 847, Sadashiv Peth, Poona.

FUTURES TRADING AND FUTURES MARKETS IN COTTON. By H. L. Dholakia, Ph.D. New Book Co., Ltd. Rs. 10.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



JAPAN IN THE WAR

The intervention of Japan in the world war and her initial successes are thus explained in the recent issue of the *Round Table*.

Pursuing a literal policy of "defence in depth", the Indian military authorities had placed their troops in advanced position in Iraq and Iran, where they were linked with Imperial forces in Egypt, Palestine and Syria. To the East similar methods had been adopted, and Indian troops were in Burma, Malaya and Hong Kong, associated with British, Dominion and Colonial forces for the purpose of defending import and Imperial outposts. These dispositions proved that Indian military plans had been considered in relation to war both East and West, even although Indian eyes were turned to the Caucasus rather than to Singapore at the moment when the Japanese launched their sudden attack.

The tactical advantages, which the new enemy gained by starting war without a declaration, were, therefore, not wholly unexpected. Japanese intervention had the effect of showing the war in a new pattern. It was no longer struggle confined to Europe and North Africa; it became the world war which has been inherent in Axis policy from the first.

The ABCD alignments in the East became a new firing-line. Set-backs at this stage were inevitable, although their severity was intensified by the unexpectedly heavy blows which fell on Allied naval forces in Eastern waters. The early Japanese gains derived largely from their previous occupation of French Indo-China, which had already uncovered one flank of the strategic defences of the Philippines, the Dutch islands and Malaya. It was realised in Indian military circles when Indo-China was taken that the Japanese had provided themselves with new air and naval bases, from which attacks on neighbouring territory could be launched with secrecy and rapidity at close range. The occupation of Thailand enhanced the strategic advantages already obtained. It further outflanked the general defensive position to the south, and constituted a direct menace to Burma, which the Japanese quickly exploited by attacking Victoria Point.

There was nothing surprising in these developments except the first surprise of the actual moment of attack.

LEISURE AND RECREATION

The tone of any society depends largely on the quality of its leisure. In his article on the above subject in the *Indian Journal of Social Work*, Dr. E. Asirvatham points out the importance of leisure and the evils resulting from its improper use. He puts forward a plea for planned leisure time and recreational activities for the people at large.

The common people in our villages, towns and cities cannot be persuaded to make time for leisure and recreation till their bare human needs are met. Some of the indirect methods of meeting these needs are providing for free public education and public health, and an extensive use of State-aided insurance against unemployment, old age, accidents, premature widowhood, etc. The social services provided out of public funds should be so large and varied that one will be relieved of the necessity of devoting every minute of his time and every ounce of his energy to provide himself and those dependent on him the bare necessities of physical existence. Common property in the form of public parks, libraries, recreation centres, musical halls and the like should be so large and social services, such as free education, free medicine and subsidised housing should be so abundant that there will be no need for more than a limited amount of private property.

In order that common people may utilise their leisure hours properly, we need both positive and negative measures.

Government should compel every factory and mill owner to provide ample recreation facilities for his employees. The employees themselves through their recognised organisations, such as the Trade Unions, should supplement the efforts made by the employers. Non-sectarian and non-political organisations which aim at the improvement of the conditions of the people, such as the Servants of India Society, might be given every possible inducement to arrange a well-thought out programme of sports, outdoor and indoor games, moving pictures, and simple talks on civic rights and duties.

As for the negative measures, both the State and public opinion should co-operate in abolishing such evils as drunkenness, use of narcotics, gambling, and prostitution.

STATES & DOMINION CONSTITUTION

In the last number of the *Asiatic Review*, Sir Robert Holland discusses the position of the Indian States in a future Dominion Constitution for India. By the Act of 1935, an attempt was made to devise a system of Government for India which was expected to command the confidence of princes and people alike. This it failed to do. By devolution of responsibility to local legislatures, "the Provinces were to become practically autonomous, and by leaguering the Provinces and States in a Federation with a bi-cameral legislature, some measure of responsibility was to be infused into the Central Government. Provincial autonomy was in operation for a time, but Federation never came to birth, "because the British Government's scheme was disliked by the major parties and representative bodies in British India and failed to commend itself to the Rulers of the Indian States".

The Federal Scheme of 1935 is dead, but the British Government, says Sir Robert, is pledged to assist India to achieve Dominion Status with the least possible delay after the war is over. Till then the Central Government is to continue on the existing lines, though the writer envisages the possibility of some change in the spirit of the Constitution during the interim period.

What course are the Indian Rulers likely to follow in the interests of their dynasties and their States during this interim period?

They will certainly not take the initiative in the matter of framing a new Dominion Constitution. There is no such constitutional scheme before them, and none is likely to take shape for a considerable period. The Princes need not, therefore agitate themselves to continue the laborious search for safeguards and guarantees. When the Dominion Constitution is eventually hammered out, it seems

probable that no paper safeguards or statutory guarantees will avail to maintain inviolable the Rulers' treaty and other rights and the autonomy of their States. Irresistible forces will come into play when the machinery of a Dominion Constitution begins to revolve.

The Princes and the States will find their surest bulwark in prophylactic measures within their own territories

by constitutionalizing their monarchies; by paying more attention than ever to measures for the welfare and uplift of their peoples; by ensuring the ventilation of needs through representative systems in harmony with local traditions; by allaying the grievances and fostering the loyalty of jagirdars and sardars of the States; by curtailment of the privy purse; by insisting on integrity and efficiency in State Courts and administrative services; by preparing in conclave definite plans for amalgamation or absorption of the many small State areas which cannot individually support administrations of the kind now expected by the people; by collaboration of adjoining States for maintaining central institutions, such as High Courts, Universities, Police and other departments; by stimulating those States (still, unfortunately, far too many) whose administrations are in disrepute, to turn over a new leaf before it is too late; by studying the advisability of close association between particular States and neighbouring British Provinces; and, in short, by setting their house in order in every possible way.

THE REVOLUTION IN LITERATURE

There is a deceptive half-truth in many people's minds about poetry, writes Kathlene Raine in the *World Review*. Poetry, it is said, ought to be 'beautiful', and, therefore, things that are ugly—like Mr. Eliot's area pavements, W. H. Auden's landscape of industrial depression, and the less romantic aspects of death and sex should be excluded from literature.

Great art possesses beauty—true; but this is so because great art makes things beautiful, not because it makes mention only of beautiful things. The armies and bloodshed of Homer are not things in themselves beautiful. Nor are the circles of Dante's hell, nor the streets of James Joyce's Dublin. It is the genius of the poet to give these things their glory. Indeed, the more painful and unacceptable an experience is, the greater our need to assimilate it through art. Thus, truly understood, is the process of civilisation itself.

An ordinary man, seeing a pylon in a place of familiar landscape, is aware of an unwelcome change in his world. The presence of the pylon makes the trees, the fields, the flowers themselves look

different. He is looking at a new scene, and he must find new terms in which to understand it. The terms of the nineteenth century or the eighteenth, no longer quite explain the world, and the discrepancy between the world of reality and the world of language is bound, sooner or later, to become painful. Man never will live by bread alone, but by words—'by catchwords' George Bernard Shaw said—but that is malnutrition.

The landscape of the modern world is the least of the profound changes that have come about during this century. Mr. Eliot, and more recently W. H. Auden, among poets, and D. H. Lawrence also as a novelist, have best expressed this change. Thus Mr. W. H. Auden, the first outstandingly good satirical poet that we have had in England for a long time.

Consider this and in our time
As the hawk sees it or the helmeted airman:
The clouds rift suddenly—look there
A cigarette end smouldering on a border
At the first garden party of the year.
Pass on, admire the view of the massif
Through plate-glass windows of the Sport Hotel;
Join there the insufficient units
Dangerous, easy, in furs, in uniform
And constellated at reserved tables
Supplied with feelings by an efficient band
Relayed elsewhere to farmers and their dogs
Sitting in kitchens in the stormy fens.

This passage, chosen at random, is a fair sample of Auden's picture. He offers us simultaneously a landscape (clouds, a cigarette end in a garden, the plate-glass window of the Sport Hotel, music, a wireless-set, a farm kitchen) and its people (the airman: people in furs and uniform, 'supplied with feeling by an efficient band', a farmer listening to the wireless).

It is world so familiar to us that we hardly notice it; the world of news-reels and 'documentary' films, about which we are customarily either tough, or sentimental, but since war has made it dangerous, we have become correspondingly serious. Auden himself during the past ten years, has been both tough, sentimental and serious. It is sometimes difficult to see whether it is love or hate that drives Auden to describe with a clarity that is often itself destructive of what it creates. Really, Auden's ambiguity is simply man's deep attachment to life, that is by both love and hate. *Odi et amo* is the cry of one who is very much alive. A satirist is one who loves and hates, not one who only hates.

MODERN EGYPT

Egypt is now the scene of a gigantic struggle between the allied forces and the Axis. Dr. Taha Hussein, Professor of Literature at Cairo University, writing of modern Egypt in the *Asiatic Review*, observes:

The nation's independence has now taken firmer shape, and her relations with foreign countries have grown steadily and continuously. Egypt has regulated her economic, political and cultural relations with the other nations of the world. Never before did Egypt attain such a measure of prosperity, liberty, and independence as she now possesses. And, therefore, never before did she attain the vigour and vitality she enjoys in her mental life today. Never before in her long history did Egypt know a period when the law decreed that it was the obligation of the Government to teach her people free up to a fixed standard of education, while the people are themselves legally obliged to send their children of both sexes to the public schools. Never before did Egypt know an era in which all branches of learning were legally open to every citizen who wishes to study them; while the Government is compelled to grant the means of learning to all its people, and not to the rich alone. In every Egyptian village, there is now at least one primary school; and in every larger town there is at least one secondary school. In Cairo itself, besides the ancient religious university, the renowned and influential Azhar there now stands the modern Egyptian University, where the various branches of modern learning are pursued, and where the same modern standards and methods of research have been adopted that the Europeans use in their own universities. In addition, there are various technical schools, the numerous branches of the Azhar spread throughout the country, and, finally, the new Alexandria University, still in process of being organized.

Never before through the many long epochs of Egyptian history have such efforts been devoted to the pursuit of knowledge as now.

Egypt, admittedly, possessed the Library at Alexandria in the Hellenic age; she has long possessed the Azhar and other schools founded by the Sultans in Islamic times; but these, though extremely important historically, have been as nothing when compared to the schools and institutions outlined above, which already spread far and wide all over the country, and are, in fact, the very beginning of a grand and far-reaching programme.

Not even the great events that shake the world today have diverted Egypt from her task of bringing this programme to fulfilment.

A NEW GITA

Mr. S. K. George, writing in the *Aryan Path* for July, pleads for a new approach to the Gita. We go to ancient scriptures to find answers for our modern problems. But when we go to them, we ought not, he says, to seek somehow to wrest answers from them to suit our needs.

Now the Gita takes the legitimacy of war as granted. The main appeal is definitely to the sense of duty, the principle of Swadharma, accepted without question by Arjuna himself, the consciousness that it is his duty as a Kshatriya to fight for the preservation of order and good government.

But is not that very conception questioned and perhaps abandoned by modern thought? And that on two grounds. First, that the rigid classification of men into different classes or castes, whether on the principle of heredity or on that of dominant qualities, is no longer held to be unalterably valid. Not that such distinctions and tendencies do not exist; but that they are not irremediable. Both religion and education based on modern psychology seek to correct and to reform such tendencies and to make people conform to certain accepted ideals. The Buddha, for example, addressed his teaching of love not only to the sattvic but to all men in the belief that sattvic elements are present in all men. So too with Jesus. And Gandhi today refuses to despair even of Hitler, confident of finding some element of good lurking even in him. And the instances in which these saviours of mankind have redeemed and remade people who would ordinarily be condemned as tamasic and beyond redemption go to show that any rigid classification is wide of the mark. Modern education, based on sound psychology also aims at the correction of inherited qualities towards the attainment of a higher level.

Further, even Hindu thought, in spite of its apparent acquiescence in the varied levels of man's spiritual evolution, holds out certain things as desirable for all and would fain impose certain things on all.

Vegetarianism, for example, it would hold as right not only for the sattvic but as desirable for all; and would like to put a ban on cow-slaughter. How much more should it feel it a duty to impose a ban on the far more heinous crime of manslaughter, practised in modern warfare!

Thus the second argument is for re-thinking the whole of the Gita teaching on the subject of war.

War may have been a good thing, a necessary thing, in certain stages of man's evolutionary career. But war is definitely no longer such under modern conditions. It has long since ceased to be a conflict between trained combatants on either side, between Kshatriyas or Knights-errant, but involves today total destruction of whole populations. It is seen to be what it is, a mad folly, a preventable calamity. Can any one imagine a religious teacher today, much less an incarnate God, telling a bomber poised up in the clouds, about to rain destruction on the helpless people below, to do his duty as a trained bomber, regardless of consequences, because those helpless victims are not really slain, and that he is only an instrument to send them hurrying into the open jaws of God himself? No, we have gone beyond the sense of duty, the morality, implied in the Gita teaching on this subject; and religious insight today must speak in the light of that larger conception, that greater sense of human responsibility that we have arrived at. We need a new Gita today.

HOW TO DEAL WITH GERMANS

Our future dealing with Germany, says the Dean of Wells in the *Guardian*, must be based on full recognition of the real facts, and guided throughout by the highest standard of Christian justice.

The distinctive features of Christian justice are first, that it never condones evil or allows it to escape the punishment which it has deserved. Secondly, that it never loses sight of ultimate purpose, which is the re-habilitation of the offender. Our first step must be to lance the tumour of German conceit. But one practical suggestion may be put forward. The town of Essen must be destroyed. It must be occupied by our troops, and the population given some reasonable time, say, one week, in which to remove themselves and their personal effects. Any one who attempts to take anything from any of the factories to be executed on the spot. Then, acre by acre, the whole place to be blown up and burned. This ought to have been done in 1918. For three generations, at least, Essen has been the symbol of German power, and one of its principal sources. When it is a deserted ruin, which must be preserved on the analogy of the Kashmir Gate of Delhi, every German will see that war cannot profit him. Nothing less will make him understand that. Somehow the German people must be taught that they are not admired, envied or feared, but distrusted and despised by the entire civilized world. They have chosen to forfeit all title to respect, alike in victory and in defeat.

When they understand this, they will be in a position to begin the long, slow climb to that place in the comity of nations which they merit by their ability, but have forfeited by their character.

THE WAR AND CHURCHES

Whatever our religious conviction might be or even if we had none at all, there was no alternative open to honest men but to wage this war against Nazi Germany and all the forces of evil it represents, observes Mr. Frederick Grubb in the *Modern Review* for May.

There are a few convinced pacifists among us still—let them be honoured for their courage—who insist upon following the injunction of Jesus as to loving our enemies and who adhere absolutely to the non-violent teaching of Mahatma Gandhi. But these are as voices crying in the wilderness of hate and slaughter. Public opinion pays little heed to them, though within and without the Churches who cannot withhold a wishful respect for the advocates of non-resistance.

There is no doubt about the militant attitude of organized Christianity.

It preaches a twentieth century crusade against all who fight on the other side, and it does not scruple to bless, or at least to tolerate whatever methods are used to defeat the common enemy. The end would seem to justify the means, even in the eyes of many whose ethical standards are normally beyond reproach. Where everything is in the issue, religious scruples must take a back seat. Military necessity admits of no law but the law of force. There is no super-national authority in the world which can impose a just settlement upon the warring races of mankind. The struggle must be fought out to the bitter end, and we must trust the God of Battles to give victory to the allies (who alone deserve it).

Discussing the causes of the retreat from religion, so evident in all spheres of life in Europe, Mr. Grubb says that in our own day whole nations and races are turning to sheer paganism or communism; and for much of this apostasy, a distorted presentation of Christianity must be held responsible.

Perhaps, we shall have to wait for missionary societies in Asia to undertake the reconversion of Europe to Christianity.

Most people care nothing for theological disputations. Their absence from Church is sufficiently accounted for by sheer indifference. They are not conscious of a spiritual need or a spiritual world.

The Christian Gospel, for them, has no relation to the realities of life. They see nothing of God in the busy streets of our great cities, and they

cannot hear His voice in the subtler sounds of nature. They think Westminster Abbey does very well for a Royal Coronation or a State funeral, and St. Paul's Cathedral is useful for a Church parade. Of course, the conventions should be observed on occasions such as births, marriages and deaths, though the registry office threatens to supplant the Church in providing even for these ceremonies. If present tendencies continue, our cathedrals and churches may be reduced to the status of museums, or in the case of nonconformist institutions in residential areas, they look like becoming, in too many instances, little more than social clubs.

The Church as a whole is baffled by a situation in which the Founder of Christianity seems to be crucified afresh and the professed followers of the Lord are doomed to mutual slaughter according to their respective nationalities. We have yet to devise the means for putting an end to this tragedy of centuries.

MR. GANDHI UNDER FIRE

Mr. Gandhi's generous tributes to the spirit of the British people under the blows and disappointments war may seem unexpected to those who have forgotten some of the details of his earlier career, but his admiration for courage, both moral and physical, has been abundantly exemplified in the facts of his own life. Says the *Manchester Guardian*: "When in 1914, he offered his services unconditionally for ambulance work, and would have gone to France with the Indian ambulance unit which he organised if he had not been brought to death's door by sudden illness, he was only returning to a sphere in which he had served before. When he was in South Africa, he was on active service with an ambulance corps in the Zulu War and also in the Boer War. In the Boer War, he was often under fire, and carried Lord Robert's mortally wounded son out of action; in that campaign he gained a distinguished service medal. So when Mr. Gandhi of to-day salutes courage in others, his gesture is by no means that of a personally untested admirer of the virtue in question."

THE ESSENTIAL FRANCE

A writer in *Blackfriars* points out that in post-war reconstruction France must play her part in the revitalising of Europe. She must not be allowed to become a partner with the grasping paganism of Germany and Japan.

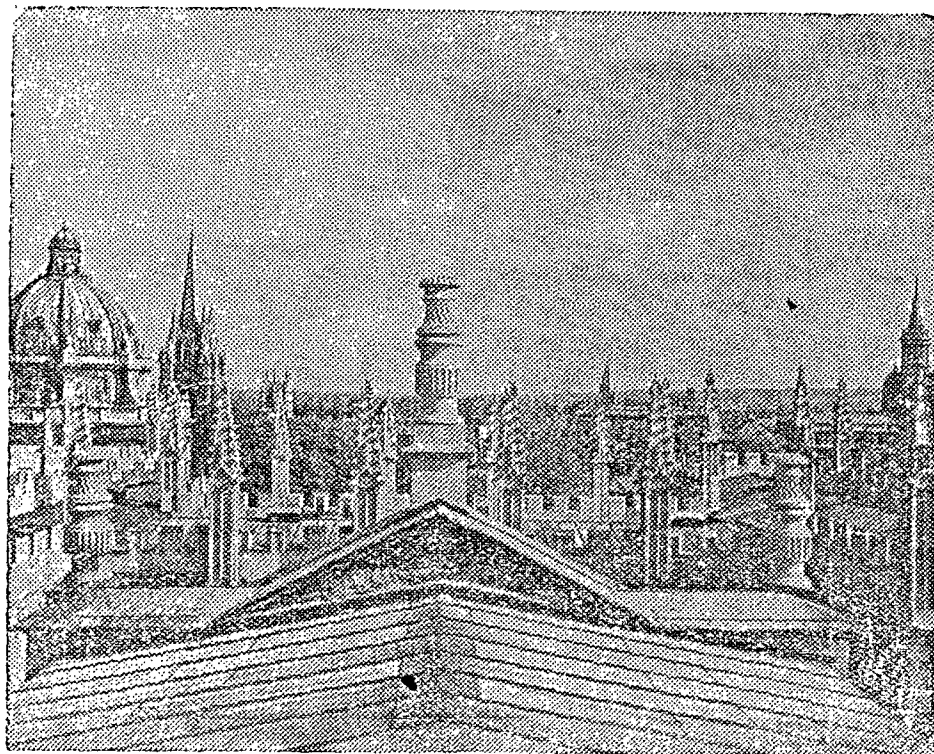
We mean, of course, that the spirit of the true France will contribute to the reconstruction of the future. This 'essential France', to use the phrase of the anonymous author of *A French Soldier Speaks*, has been overlaid by many evils directly anti-pathetic to peace and order in Europe—Masonry, Secularism, Communism and hopelessly corrupt politics. No good European could wish to revive that France, nor yet the self-centred, nationalist France that can think of nothing but *La Patrie*. Yet our policy must surely be to try to heal the divisions that corruption and defeat have produced. If, under the misguided aim of breaking off a section of French society to support our cause, we strike these wedges deeper into the living trunk of the

nation, we are merely weakening our position for the future.

There are many factions and hostile groups, inevitable in a defeated nation. It is tempting to blow on these smouldering embers to stir up a revolt. But that would only weaken the cause of peace and reconstruction on proper and enduring lines.

We ought to seek to heal those wounds, to close the fissures and reunite the French people.

It has been truly said that in all the centuries of her history, France has derived her radiance from the intellect of her philosophers and her scholars from the work of her writers and her saints, from her instinctive passion for beauty. This is what men call "the genius of France".



OXFORD THE CITY OF DREAMING SPIRES

Oxford, seen from its roof tops, is a pattern of domes, towers, and spires that crown the libraries and the lecture-rooms where the spirit of classic Greece has been kept alive for 2,000 years.

INDIAN STATES

Hyderabad

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

A joint meeting of the Scientific and Industrial Research Board, Government of India, and the Hyderabad Scientific and Industrial Research Board was held at Hyderabad on June 30, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, Government of India, presiding.

The Nawab of Chhatari, President of the Nizam's Executive Council, who inaugurated the meeting, read the following message from the Nizam:—

I welcome you to the Capital of my Dominions and wish your important deliberations great success, specially as industrial research in these days of war has a direct bearing on organisation and furtherance of victory.

The Nawab of Chhatari pointed out that this was the first time that a meeting of the Board was being held in an Indian State, and said:

The task you have before you is the most important and useful to the country as a whole. By trying to utilise to the fullest extent the vast economic resources of our country with the aid of scientific and industrial research and by assisting in the establishment and organisation of industries on a sound and scientific basis, you are not only helping in the successful prosecution of the war, which is our immediate objective, but you are also creating conditions which are essential to the prosperity and well-being of the vast masses of our countrymen in the years of peace to come.

THE MARSHIDARS OF HYDERABAD

H. E. H. the Nizam, by a *Firman* issued in a *Gazette Extraordinary*, has postponed until further orders the enforcement of the rules published on May 3, 1941, prohibiting Marshidars (persons having landed property by official grant) from taking part in political matters either inside or outside the Dominions. The object of the rules, says His Exalted Highness, was merely to guide the people of the State in view of the changing international situation. The Nizam hopes that there will be no necessity for reconsidering the matter.

55

Mysore

MYSORE BUDGET

The Mysore Legislative Council, in concluding the general discussion on the Budget, passed excess grants for 1940-41 and Additional and Supplementary grants for 1941-42. Mr. D. H. Chandrasekaraiah, President of the Council, occupied the chair.

At question time, Mr. K. V. Anantaraman, Finance Minister, stated that a sum of about Rs. 1,10,00,000 had been invested as capital for starting 11 major industrial concerns in the State during the last 15 years, that in no case had capital been obtained by the raising of loans, and that the total net profit earned through all the concerns amounted to approximately Rs. 2,37,000.

The Council voted Rs. 44,25,202 to regularise expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of voted grants in 1940-41 in respect of Iron and Steel Works, Railways, Special Reserve for non-recurring expenditure, Industrial Works, Civil Works and Communications and other expenditure chargeable to revenue. It then voted Additional and Supplementary grants for 1941-42 amounting to Rs. 1,00,10,100.

PROHIBITION IN MYSORE

A cut motion moved by Mr. A. R. Badri Narayan (Congress) that the demand for grant of Rs. 3,97,000 be reduced by one rupee to consider the question of gradual prohibition and the appointment of committee to recommend the ways and means of supplementing the fall in revenue caused by the total prohibition in the State was pressed to division and passed in the Mysore Legislative Council recently.

Baroda

FOOD CROPS DRIVE

In furtherance of the policy of encouraging cultivation of food crops in preference to market commodities, Government have sanctioned an advance of Rs. 2,00,000 through the Agriculture Department, for purchase and storage of seeds for wheat crop during the ensuing season. An advance of Rs. 20,000 is also sanctioned for purchase and supply of castor and ground-nut cakes to be used as fertilisers. Moreover, arrangements are made to provide for the supply of fuel and lubricating oils for the purpose of the tube-well irrigation scheme in Vijapur taluka of the Mehsana district.

If people cultivate Government waste land which is not reserved for any specific purpose for growing food crops only, no assessment or fine will be levied on such lands and no water charges will be levied if water from Government wells and reservoirs is utilised for growing food crops.

CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS IN BARODA

The Government have directed the Revenue authorities to encourage the opening of cheap grain shops, one in each taluka by private enterprise, substantially aided by Government on certain conditions.

For this purpose, the Subas of Baroda and Mehsana are to be given advances each of Rs. 12,500, the Navsari and Amreli Subas Rs. 10,000 each and the Suba of Okhamandal Rs. 5,000 from the Diamond Jubilee Trust Fund.

PROBLEM OF PRICE CONTROL

Government have issued instructions to overhaul the arrangements in the State regarding control of prices of foodstuffs, etc., according to which methods of persuasion and co-operation are to be preferred to those of coercion in dealing with shopkeepers and merchants.

Travancore

SIR C. P.'S. SERVICES

Warm tributes were paid to Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar for his great services to the State during his Dewanship by various speakers representing every class, interest and community to the Legislature on July 20, when the Travancore Assembly passed *nem con* a resolution moved by Mr. J. E. A. Pereira felicitating the Dewan-President on his appointment to the Viceregal Council. No less than half a dozen such motions were on the agenda.

Replying to the felicitations, the Dewan President observed:

His Highness has spared my services and His Excellency the Viceroy has given me definite work to do. The portfolio to which reference has been made, was definitely accepted by me. I have charged myself with the very difficult and supreme duty of reconciling differences, of trying to appraise my colleagues and Government of what I consider should be done about the working of various departments and of pointing out where the shoe pinches and how that pinch may be eased.

A PROSPERITY BUDGET

Adverting to the budget in his address to the Joint Session of the Travancore Legislature, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar said that although it was an emergency war budget, it was also due to various circumstances a prosperity budget. He referred to the significant fact that while, according to the budget in the first year of his Dewanship 6 years ago the revenue stood at 249 lakhs and expenditure at 251 lakhs, the figures showed a steady increase from year to year until during the current year the revised estimate of revenue was 301 lakhs and expenditure 277 lakhs. The State has now got a revenue of three crores and in this respect it stood only below Hyderabad and Mysore. There was an estimated revenue surplus of over 24 lakhs against that of 15 lakhs anticipated in the original estimate.

Cochin

SURPLUS BUDGET FOR COCHIN

A Press *Communique*, issued by the Cochin Government regarding the budget, states that for the current year revised estimates disclose a revenue of Rs. 1,27,56,000 and expenditure of Rs. 1,19,55,000, leaving a surplus of Rs. 8,01,000. Increased receipts are expected due to increased revenue under Salt, Customs, Interest, Railways and Income-tax. According to the budget for next year (1942 August—1943 August) receipts are estimated at Rs. 1,24,39,000 and expenditure at Rs. 1,21,61,000 which is a record for Cochin, leaving a surplus of Rs. 2,78,000. A special provision of Rs. 2,00,000 has been made for rural reconstruction and Rs. 1,50,000 towards dearness allowance to low-paid staff. Provisions have also been made for improvement of physical education, supply of noon-day meals to poor students and for agricultural and industrial instructions. A provision of Rs. 4,00,000 has been made for completing the Chalakudi-Anamalai Road and Rs. 1,50,000 for Chalakudi Diversion Scheme.

Kashmir

FOREIGNERS IN KASHMIR

His Highness' Government, Jammu and Kashmir, have directed that no foreigner shall remain in, enter into or pass through the territories of the Jammu and Kashmir State unless he is an Afghan, Nepalese or Chinese subject or unless he has obtained permission in writing.

GLASS FACTORY FOR KASHMIR

The Kashmir Government are establishing a glass factory at Sanjua near Jammu.

There is already a large demand for glassware in the State and it is thought that the factory will be able to meet the needs.

Jaipur

SIR MIRZA'S FIRST REFORMS

It is announced that as a step towards complete separation of the judiciary and the executive, the Chief Justice will no longer have seat in the Council of Ministers, the strength of which will be reduced from seven to five ministers. The Secretariat has also been reorganised so as to facilitate disposal of routine duties by secretaries and to enable ministers to give undivided attention to planning of new schemes and direction of policy. These are among the first reforms introduced by the new Dewan, Sir Mirza Ismail.

Gwalior

GIFT TO THE WOUNDED

H. E. the Maharaja Scindia has sent a further gift of Rs. 2 lakhs to H. E. the Viceroy to be utilized in providing comforts and amenities for Indian wounded soldiers.



"I hope Indians will realise the importance of patronising only Indian Insurance Institutions."

—Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Place your Life Business with INDIAN Insurance Companies only.

April '43.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

—(o)—

Trinidad

INDIANS IN TRINIDAD

Mr. M. R. Rampersad writes to the *Journal of the Benares Hindu University* of the condition of Indians in Trinidad. He says that:

In their mode of living very little change has taken place. The men have taken to Western dress but the women still maintain their own dress. They wear *saris* and *lahanga*.. They take both vegetarian and non-vegetarian food.

Their marriages are performed in the manner it is done in India. The Hindus marry as the Hindus of India marry, careful not to have inter-caste marriages. The Muslims too marry according to their own customs, but the Christians have taken to European customs of marriage.

There is little difference in their modes of living and one cannot distinguish between a Hindu, a Muslim and a Christian, which is which. They are so much alike.

The language that is mostly used is English.

The Indians in Trinidad live in economic independence, owning nearly three-fourths of the land and being the chief agriculturists of the land, their social unity and friendly relations with all the communities make life happy for them. They are respected by all the other communities as a people of prestige and thus there are seven Indians representing all classes in the Legislative Council. At the time of election there is no question of a candidate's community. All vote for a candidate according to his merit for the position he seeks to occupy.

In conclusion, the writer points out that some people here indulge in the false notion that Indians in Trinidad are deprived of political freedom.

I make this statement from my reading several times articles appearing in a few of the daily papers here, written by people who seem to have very little knowledge of conditions over there. And what they have too, is mis-interpreted information. Trinidad has a Colonial form of Government, unlike that of South Africa where

there are white immigrants as well. There is no competition and the superiority and inferiority complexes which are present in South Africa among the whites and the Indians. In Trinidad Negro slaves came first, then Chinese labourers and lastly Indians went. It is these people who are the citizens of the place. The small white population of businessmen and land-owners could not have the audacity to claim for themselves any special right. Thus the political life of all Trinidadians, be he of Indian, Chinese, white or negro descent, is the same. The law is for one and all the same. Yes! this is true, that each community is allowed to follow its own customs and religious beliefs without involving the Government laws. The Government does not allow any special concession to any particular community. Such a step would be very unwise for the Government. Surely it would be at the cost of the harmony which exists among the people.

Empire and Foreign

INDIAN NATIONALS AND THE WAR

Indian nationals who have been caught in the war zone are none too few as will be clear from the following statement published in the *Southern India Commerce*.

COUNTRY.	INDIAN POPULATION.	DATES OF ESTIMATE.
Hongkong	... 4,745	1931
British Malaya	... 754,849	1937
Fiji Islands	... 89,338	1937
Australia	... 2,404	1933
New Zealand	... 1,166	1932
British North Borneo.	1,298	1931
Aden	... 8,168	1937
British Somaliland	... 520	1931
United Kingdom	... 7,128	1932
Malta	... 41	1933
Dutch East Indies	... 27,638	1930
Thailand	... 5,000	1931
Indo-China	... 6,000	1931
Japan	... 300	1931
Iraq	... 2,596	1932

That takes no account of the 14 lakhs in Burma.

General

INDIAN ARMY ABROAD

India has sent overseas in actual and potential theatres of war armies totalling well over 200,000 men, while the strength of the Indian Army is rapidly approaching the million mark.

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS * DEPARTMENTAL * NOTES

QUESTIONS OF IMPORTANCE

CONGRESS W. C. RESOLUTION

After a week's discussion at Wardha, the Congress Working Committee released a 1,700-word resolution on the present political situation on July 14:

The resolution gives a brief resume of the stand the Congress has hitherto taken. It urges the withdrawal of the British power from India, pointing out that the Congress wishes to take no hasty step and would like to avoid so far as possible any course of action that might embarrass the United Nations and pleading to the British Government to accept the Congress proposal. If the appeal fails, the Congress will then be reluctantly compelled to utilise all its non-violent strength for the vindication of the political rights and liberty of India under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

On the withdrawal of British rule from India, responsible men and women of the country will come together to form a Provisional Government representative of all important sections of the people of India, which will later evolve a scheme whereby a Constituent Assembly can be convened in order to prepare a constitution for the Government of India acceptable to all sections of the people.

As the issues raised are most vital and of a far-reaching importance, the matter is being referred to the All-India Congress Committee for final decision. The A.-I. C. C. meets in Bombay on August 7 and subsequent days.

C. R. ON CONGRESS AND THE LEAGUE

"I am convinced that if the Congress accepts the principle of territorial self-determination that I have proposed in my A. I. C. C. resolution, we can make Mr. Jinnah and his League accept it and join the Congress in a united political front," observes Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar in the course of a statement issued to the Press on July 10.

UTTERANCES OF THE DAY

THE DUKE'S FAREWELL

In his farewell broadcast to India, the Duke of Gloucester said:

Lay aside your differences and stand together as one man and fight this fight out, by the side of your friends and allies. Fight for your homes, your prosperity and your culture.

He stressed the fundamental unity of India in this manner:

India is a country fashioned by Nature to be united. Divided against herself she would be very weak: united she can be great and powerful beyond measure. While uniformity is not to be expected in such a vast country, where there is room for differences of race, religion, language and custom, unity is a necessity; and it seemed to me that already there are strong influences at work, breaking down the barriers of division and emphasizing the fundamental unity of the country. Of these influences the strongest to-day is the war.

NEW SPIRIT IN THE EAST

Sir Bertram Stevens, who was Australian representative on the Eastern Group Supply Council at New Delhi, and who recently returned from India, said in a recent speech at Sydney:

If Japan defeated, a new Order in Asia is inevitable. The East will never return to its old quiescent subservient state. We must think of the Chinese, Indians, Malaysians and Javanese as friends of equal status. European prestige in the form in which it used to exist has been shattered. While the breach between many Indian political leaders and Britain appears to be widening, it is well to remember that India is definitely anti-Japanese and a close friend of China. India well knows that a Japanese victory would mean an end to the plans for Indian freedom.

PT. NEHRU'S EXHORTATION

"We don't want to be slaves of Japan or Germany. We would fight against any nation which wants to enslave us," declared Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru presiding over the District Political Conference at Aligarh.

"The German and Japanese radio," said Pandit Nehru, "announce daily that they are fighting to liberate nations and also want to give independence to India. I do not believe in it. We should never be misled by these announcements. We are ready to defend our country".

VICEROY'S NEW COUNCIL

His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Sir E. C. Benthall, Sir Jogendra Singh, Sir J. P. Srivastava, and Sir Mohammad Usman, to the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India.

The following appointments to portfolios have been made by the Governor-General:—

As Member in charge of Information Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, in succession to the late Sir Akbar Hydari.

As Member in charge of Civil Defence Sir J. P. Srivastava in succession to the late Dr. Raghavendra Rao.

As Members for War, Transport and for Post and Air respectively consequent on the appointment of Sir Andrew Clow, late Member in charge of Communications, to be Governor of Assam, Sir E. C. Benthall and Sir Mohammad Usman.

As Member for Defence Sir Firoz Khan Noon.

As Commerce Member Mr. N. R. Sarker, to succeed Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar (who will remain a Member of the Council) on his appointment as a representative of India at the War Cabinet.

As Member in charge of the Department of Education, Health and Lands in succession to Mr. Sarker, Sir Jogendra Singh.

As Member in charge of the Department of Labour in succession to Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

The portfolio of the Commander-in-Chief will in future be designated the War portfolio.

The new Defence Member will be responsible for the work at present discharged by the Defence Co-ordination Department, together with such other matters relating to the defence of India as are not included in the portfolios of War and Civil Defence.

CONGRESS ELECTIONS

At the meeting of the Congress Working Committee at Wardha on July 7, a resolution resolving that the general election of delegates to the Congress, which had been postponed for two years, be held this year by 31st October 1942 was passed.

NAMES OF UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA

Most of the Universities in India are named after the places at which they are located, writes Mr. Ananda Rao Joshi in the *Nagpur Times*. "Only a few of them derive their names either from the ancient or present name of the territory, or from the name of the person whose memory they perpetuate. It is needless to dilate upon the necessity and utility of having the same name for the university and its place of location. Hence I suggest that, with a view to effect this uniformity and convenience, these few universities should either be named after the place of location, or that the university colony should be named exactly after it."

CONCESSIONS FOR MEN IN THE FORCES

The Government have passed orders extending educational concessions granted to the children of soldiers taking part in the present war to the brothers and sisters of soldiers also. In the case of Marumakkathayam families, the order states, if the soldier himself had no children eligible for the concession, the concession might be granted to one nominee of the soldier, provided the nominee was a member of that Marumakkathayam family.

EDUCATIONAL CONCESSIONS

Educational concessions are being granted by the Government of Bombay to the children of men on the active list in the Naval, Military and Air Forces, whose terms of service include liability to serve overseas in a theatre of war. These concessions will be admissible to sons and daughters of all men, including soldiers in the Indian State Forces, domiciled in Bombay Province.

TECHNICAL TRAINING IN INDIA

There are now 18,000 men undergoing technical training in India, and some 5,000 have completed the course. This more than realises the first aim of the Government of India's Technical Training Scheme to train or have under training 15,000 men by March, 1942. The aim now is to train 48,000 men by March, 1943.

A MAGISTRATE'S INDISCRETION

Certain remarks against Indians made by Mr. K. D. Rogers, I.C.S., Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Pind Dadau Khan, in the course of a judgment to which objection was taken by the Sessions Judge, Jhelum, were ordered to be expunged by Mr. Justice Din Mohammad of the Lahore High Court recently.

His Lordship of his own accord also took objection to another passage in the judgment and ordered it to be expunged. The passage reads:

I have gone into this case in considerable detail, as it reveals many features which must be obviated if Indians are to develop that sense of general and civic responsibility and integrity which alone can entitle them to the right to be called a civilised people.

Commenting on the passage, His Lordship observed:

This evidently implies that in the opinion of this magistrate (1) Indians have not yet developed a sense of general and civic responsibility; (2) they are devoid of integrity; and (3) they cannot, in fairness, claim to be called a civilised people. These remarks to say the least are most ill-advised and most indiscreet. Even if he seriously entertained this view, experience alone should have taught him not to give expression to it in a judicial pronouncement, as it was likely to wound the feelings of millions of people who constitute one-fifth of the human race.

The passages in the judgment of Mr. Rogers, to which objection was taken by the Sessions Judge, are:

(1) Admittedly Indians are remarkably sensitive if one so much as looks twice at their womenfolk, but they should learn more *esprit de corps* in this connection.

(2) I have no doubt that honorary magistrates would be more inclined to dance to the tune played by the Municipal Commissioners and award suitable sentences.

LAW OF CONTEMPT

The Government of India, we understand, are consulting Provincial Governments regarding amendment of the Law of Contempt and are inviting their attention in particular to two points: Should judges, whose conduct has been impugned in such a manner as *prima facie* to justify proceedings being taken for contempt, try those cases themselves or constitute a Bench consisting of other judges excluding themselves? Secondly, should there be a right of appeal to High Courts in contempt cases?

WAR RISK OF FACTORIES

An ordinance amending the War Risks (Factories) Insurance Ordinance was promulgated on June 30, with the object of enabling the Government of India to undertake insurance against war risks of factories situated in such Indian States, French Establishments in India and Administered Areas as enact a law requiring owners or occupiers of factories in their territories to insure against war risks with the Government of India.

The Amending Ordinance further provides that premises which become a factory after May 29, 1942, must be insured against war risks before the commencement of the quarter next following that in which the premises have become factory.

PENSIONS FOR VICTIMS OF WAR INJURY

It is understood that the Government of Ceylon has formulated a scheme of pensions and allowances for payment to members of the public who are temporarily or permanently incapacitated by war injury from carrying on their usual occupations. Every salary or wage-earner is covered by the Scheme and uniform rate of pensions and allowances have been prescribed for all irrespective of status or income. The full rate, which is payable only in case of total incapacity, is Rs. 20 per month for men and Rs. 16 for women. Provision has also been made for the dependents of the injured person and for the widow and children in case of death of the wage-earner.

U. S. A. LIFE BUSINESS IN 1941

The report of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents shows that its 39 member companies obtained a total of \$8,331,638,000 new life business in 1941, an increase of 14 per cent. on the 1940 total. The member companies of the Association write between them the greater part of the life business underwritten in the United States. Of the 1941 total \$5,592,087,000 (an increase of 10.7 per cent. applied to ordinary assurance; \$1,71,06,20,000 (an increase of 8.1 per cent.) to industrial assurance) and \$1,02,89,31,000 (an increase of 51.5 per cent.) to group insurance.)

TRUST SECURITIES

As apprehension has been expressed in certain quarters regarding the possible effect of the war on Indian Port Trust, Municipal and Improvement Trust Securities, it has, says a Press *Communique*, been decided by the Central Government and the Provincial Governments acting together that they will stand behind these issues. They will not allow the finances of the issuing authorities to be so disorganized as a result of war developments as to prevent sufficient funds being made available for their service and payment on maturity.

In addition, the Reserve Bank, with the approval of the Central Government, will be prepared to buy such securities in cases of proved necessity at prices which will be based on the minimum prices already fixed for Central and Provincial Government securities after allowing for the differences which normally prevailed before the present emergency between the prices of the securities in question and similar dated Government securities.

INDIAN PURCHASING MISSION

Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty has for personal reasons resigned his office as head of the Indian Purchasing Mission in the United States of America, it is announced. The Government of India have accepted the resignation with regret and place on record their appreciation of the very valuable service rendered by Sir Shanmukham.

Mr. K. C. Mahindra, Member of the Firm of Messrs. Martin & Co., Calcutta, has been appointed head of the Indian Purchasing Mission in succession to Sir Shanmukham Chetty.

TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT

The Punjab Government have set apart a sum of Rs. 20,000 which they propose to spend during the current financial year in the form of grants to educated young Punjabis to help them in industrial careers. Grants are to be made to those who have received training in a particular industry with the object of enabling them to start that industry or business or an allied trade.

TRAINING WOMEN FOR HOME-MAKING

A note of caution that unless a true synthesis of liberal and cultural education with the training in practical subjects to fit women for their primal vocation of home-making was evolved, this country would witness a repetition of what has taken place in the Western countries—an extremely assertive feminism leading women to try in every way to fit themselves for man's world and man's work, competition by women for men's jobs, with consequent increase in male unemployment, decrease in the number of marriages, disruption in family life and the many evils that come in its train—was sounded by Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker in his address delivered at the Convocation of the Shreemati Nathibai Damodhar Thackersey Indian Women's University at Bombay on July 4.

Mr. N. R. Sarker pleaded that the ideals of the system of female education stand in need of being defined and viewed in the context of the economic and social realities of our national life.

He complained that co-educational colleges were nothing but boys' colleges where a sprinkling of women are admitted, while their special needs were neglected.

WOMEN HOME GUARD IN BRITAIN

Two hundred units have now been formed of "Women Home Guards" under the title of the Women's Home Defence Force, according to Dr. Edith Summerskill. She asked in the Commons that Government should provide training opportunities.

Replying for the Ministry of Home Security, Miss Ellen Wilkinson pointed out that there were ample opportunities for women in anti-air raid precautions. Invasion Committees would in emergency also provide local tasks for women.

WOMEN IN MINISTERIAL SERVICE

In the amendments to the Special Rules for the Madras Ministerial Service, it has been provided that no woman shall be eligible for appointment to the service or retention therein otherwise than as clerk in the Special Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department unless she is a spinster or a widow without children.

HARIJAN

"Let us see what *Harijan* is today" writes Gandhiji in his Weekly. "It is being published in English, Hindi, Urdu (2 places), Tamil, Telugu (2 places), Oriya, Marathi, Gujarati, Kanarese (2 places). It is ready to be published in Bengali, only awaiting legal permission. Applications have come from Assam, Kerala and Sindh. All but one edition have a large circulation compared to the other weeklies. I suggest that it is no small matter to suppress such a paper. The loss will be more Government's than the people's. They will incur much ill-will by suppressing a popular paper."

Let it be known too that *Harijan* is a newspaper as distinguished from a newspaper. People buy and read it not for amusement but instruction and regulating their daily conduct. They literally, take their weekly lessons in non-violence. It cannot pay the authorities to deprive the people of their weekly food. And *Harijan* is not an anti-British paper. It is pro-British from head to foot. It wishes well to the British people. It tells them in the friendliest manner where in its opinion, they err."

DESMOND YOUNG

Lt.-Col. Desmond Young, who is reported missing during an action in Cyrenaica, is it learnt, a prisoner of war in enemy hands. A high and well-deserved tribute is paid to his work as Indian Army Public Relations Liaison Officer in the Middle East by Brigadier Jehu, Director of Public Relations. Lt.-Col. Desmond Young was mainly responsible for bringing to the notice of the world the courageous exploits of the Indian army in the Middle East and was not daunted by the inevitable risks involved in the performance of his duty.

INDIAN SPECTATOR

We welcome the *Indian Spectator*, a new Weekly Journal of Indian politics and commerce, published by Mr. K. V. Venkataraman, B.A., B.L., from Delhi. The new weekly has some interesting features—Indian Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Indian States and Commerce, and a budget of weekly news—home and foreign.

Mr. JAWAHARLAL NEHRU'S OFFER

Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, expressing willingness to donate his blood, writes as follows in a letter to Dr. J. B. Grant, Organiser of the Calcutta Blood Bank:—

"I understand from your letter that you have already received the co-operation of many eminent Indians. I am sure, if the right approach is made to the public, many more will donate their blood for this humanitarian object. It would be a pity if political or other considerations came in the way of this kind of work, I hope you will get the co-operation of the Indian doctors in the various hospitals of Calcutta. If this is done any suspicion based on political grounds will largely disappear. For my part I would be glad to give my own blood for this purpose."

Mr. C. R. RESIGNS FROM CONGRESS

"In order to be absolutely free to carry on my campaign for converting the Congress from its present policy, I have decided to resign my membership of the Congress and to tender my resignation of Assembly membership at the meeting of the Party on the 15th July," wrote Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar in his letter to the President of the Tamil Nad Congress Committee in reply to the latter's communication, calling upon him to show cause why disciplinary action should not be taken against him.

FRANKLYN MEDAL FOR SIR C. V. RAMAN

A small but distinguished gathering was present at the Mysore Residency, Bangalore, on July 14, when His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Governor of Madras, decorated Sir C. V. Raman with the Franklyn Medal. The gathering included Lt.-Col. Fraser, the British Resident in Mysore, and Mr. J. C. Ghosh, Director of the Indian Institute of Science.

Mr. BHISWANATH DAS

Mr. V. Bhiswanath Das, ex-Premier of Orissa, was arrested at his residence, on June 30, by the Inspector of Police, Aska, and taken to Rasalkunda. The arrest, it is stated, was made under the Defence of India Rules in connection with a speech delivered by Mr. Das at Aska.

I. M. S. AND WAR SERVICE

Fifty per cent. of the permanent vacancies in the I. M. S. after the war, it is now announced by the Government of India, will be reserved for medical men who have held emergency commissions in the service provided they are qualified under the conditions then in force, says a Press Note.

This definite allotment follows the announcement that in making appointments to fill permanent vacancies after the war, preference will be given to emergency commissioned medical officers.

The allocation of these permanent commissions between British and Indian officers will depend not on previously laid down compositions of the I. M. S., but on such proportions as may be specially laid down after the war.

It is further announced by the Government of India that the composition of I. M. S. will be reviewed immediately after the end of hostilities.

A PHARMACEUTICAL SECTION

The trustees of the Sir Sorabji Tata Trust have offered to donate a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 for the endowment of a Readership to be named after Sir Dorabji Tata in the Pharmaceutical and Fine Chemicals section, which is proposed to be opened in the Department of Chemical Technology of the Bombay University. Mr. R. P. Masani, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, told a meeting of the University Senate that the University had already received from Miss Palankote a donation of Rs. 40,000 for equipping the new section. When the further donation of Rs. 2 lakhs was received, the University would be able to make a start with the Pharmaceutical section.

PROTECTION AGAINST TYPHUS

Russia has won a major victory over typhus, which killed off many soldiers and civilians in former Russian wars, writes *Reuter's* Special Correspondent. It is revealed that a method has been established for the cultivation of effective typhus antitoxin vaccine in such quantities that it will be accessible to millions. The discovery is the work of a Russian woman scientist, Prof. Maria Krontovskaya.

PROPER LIGHTING FOR COMFY READING

No one can read for any length of time in the brilliant sunshine of a midsummer day. The light on the page of your book amounts to about 10,000 candle power. It dazzles and hurts the eyes and, incidentally, is eight times as strong as full sunlight on a day in mild winter.

Move into the shade of a tree, and there you find that reading is comfortable. The light is down to about 1,000 candle power. Inside the house—we are still speaking of a summer day—seated near a window, the light is down to about 200 candles, but it is still amply sufficient for reading or writing.

Reading at night with a 100-watt reading lamp within three or four feet of your book, the light upon the page is only about 10 candle power, but is still enough to read in comfort.

In factories proper lighting is even more essential for good work than it is in an ordinary room, but it is only of late years that this has been realised. The advantages of good lighting have been proved.

In a type-setting room the result of increasing the light was even more startling. The output increased by no less than 25 per cent. and errors decreased by more than 50 per cent.

BRITAIN'S HEALTH

The nation's health after 1,000 days of war is in many respects better in peace time, announced Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health, presenting his annual report in the Commons.

The birth-rate at 15.5 in the first quarter of this year was the highest for any similar quarter in the last twelve years. The infant mortality rate at 61 was the lowest on record, while throughout the war period the infectious diseases rate had been below the average. Aerial bombardment had not increased mental disorders. The only dark spot was that the steady decrease in tuberculosis over the last 20 years had been interrupted due to black-out, overcrowding and other war-time conditions. Diphtheria was the most deadly disease for children killing more last year than German bombs.

ENCASHMENT OF BURMA NOTES

To prevent the possibility of Burma notes being smuggled into India by enemy agents, it has been decided that from July 15, 1942, Burma notes will be encashed only for genuine "refugees" at the following places in Assam:—Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Silchar, Margherita, Imphal and also at the offices of the Reserve Bank at Calcutta, Cawnpore and Madras. Permission to encash Burma notes will, therefore, depend on verification of the holders' *bona fides*.

PAPER CURRENCY IN HYDERABAD

According to the report for the year 1941 of the Paper Currency Department of the Nizam's Government, the circulation of currency notes in that State has been steadily increasing. Hyderabad is the only Indian State which issues its own paper currency. The average increase in the gross circulation since the commencement of the note issue has been estimated to be 77 lakhs a year. The net circulation during the year under review was well over Rs. 15 crores. The increasing use of paper currency is a sign of progress: and the people of the State of Hyderabad may claim to be as progressive in this respect as their neighbours in British India.

TWO RUPEE NOTES

It is learnt that two-rupee notes which are to be issued shortly will be issued by the Reserve Bank of India and not by the Government of India. The Bank is working out all the details in this connexion, but it may take some time before the notes are put in the market.

LONDON MONEY MARKET

The London money market enjoys immunity from the war. The Government is unexacting because borrowing on 2½ per cent. tap bonds is easy. The changes in employment support hopes of a bigger revenue. Early this month, there has been a rise in the funds. Money has clearly returned from the market for investment. The old war loan has gone ahead to £106 and 4 per cent. 1960-90 is higher on the week ending July 18 at 115½. "The previous week saw a gilt-edged set-back after a rise; this time the recovery has been rapid and complete," says the *Indian Finance*.

"TRAVEL LIGHT" APPEAL BY RAILWAYS

With a view to reducing the inconvenience now experienced by railway passengers by the inconsiderate practice of cluttering up compartments with unnecessary luggage, it is understood that the Railways will shortly enforce the rule that only luggage which can be conveniently stowed under the seat occupied by a passenger may be carried in a compartment, says a Press Note.

Now that the defence needs of India require that the number of passenger trains should be cut down to the minimum, the amount of luggage carried in compartments naturally affects the comfort of passengers.

"If you must travel, travel light," is, therefore, the latest appeal which railways are making to passengers in their drive against overcrowding in compartments.

LEASING OF RAILWAY LANDS

A Press Note issued by the Madras Government states:

In order to encourage the growth of food crops, the Madras Government have addressed the Railway Administrations of this Province to permit the cultivation of railway porambokes. The Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway have agreed to the leasing of such railway lands as can be cultivated without detriment to their interests. The leases will be granted by the Revenue Department of the Provincial Government for three years from fasli 1352 and will be for the cultivation of food crops and subject to a reasonable rental. Applications for these leases should be made to the local revenue authorities.

RAILWAY RECEIPTS

The total approximate gross Railway receipts for 1941-42 are Rs. 128'74 crores against the revised budget estimates of Rs. 127'00 crores, says a *Communique*. The receipts this year are Rs. 16½ crores more than those in 1940-41. After taking into account miscellaneous receipts and deducting working expenses and interest charges, the net surplus is approximately Rs. 27'56 crores against an estimated surplus of Rs. 26'20 crores.

J. J. SCHOOL OF ART

"The stress of circumstances improved by modern conditions of life cannot have failed to affect the artist, who finds it necessary to explore beyond his previous somewhat limited boundaries into new fields and fresh approaches," says the report of the J. J. School of Art, Bombay, which had an appreciable increase in the number of admissions during the year 1940-41. "The pioneer work in bringing the students out of the confines of the School into more intimate and vital contact with the daily life of the masses has progressed.

The possibilities of this new outlook are unlimited, but at the same time every effort has been made to maintain and improve the standard of fine arts. The practical application of art has not only been the means of finding employment for many students but has also inspired greater confidence in those who wish to take up art as a vocational study."

It is interesting to observe that there was a marked rise in the number of lady students in the Commercial Art Section. Many students exhibited their work in the various art exhibitions held in India and received well-merited recognition.

THE DANCE OF SIVA

Considerable attention has been bestowed in South Indian sculpture, painting and music to the interpretation of the cosmic dance of Siva as Nataraja. The mystic interpretation of the dancing figure and the idea it symbolises have been the theme of a vast song literature. Chidambaram, the shrine, where Siva is worshipped in this aspect, has attracted innumerable composers, the most important of whom was Gopalakrishna Bharati, the author of the "Nandan Charitram". Recently A I R Trichy broadcast, a sound picture of the Divine Dance and songs from Nandanar describing the Ananda Koothu or Dance of Bliss. Orchestral sound effects were provided by Trichy Vadya Goshti.

DIPLOMA IN PAINTING

The Allahabad University has decided to institute a diploma examination in painting from the next session. The duration of this course will be two years.

RUNNING EXERCISE

Apropos running, a correspondent writes to the *Statesman*:

"The railways in India employ trolley men to push trollies on the tracks. These trolley men are really wonderful examples of the results of combined breathing and muscular effort. They push their trollies at an average of seven miles an hour and daily travel a distance of over thirty miles without showing any signs of exhaustion. Two men holding the trolley-handle run along the rails gradually increasing their speed up to twelve miles an hour. Then they lightly jump up on the trolley, which moves along by its own momentum, the speed gradually reducing to about five miles an hour. Then the men jump off the trolley and push it till it has again reached the speed of twelve miles an hour."

The Correspondent also mentions the case of a trolley man who, without any effort, would push a trolley continuously for 10 and 15 miles without changing.

BRITISH AND RUSSIAN TEAMS MEET

Britain is not only cementing its friendship with the Soviet Union in the diplomatic fields but also on the field of sport. British and Soviet teams opposed each other in soccer and lawn tennis matches and it was, perhaps, fitting that each nation should win one contest.

Britain won the soccer match by four goals to one, her team of sailors being fitter than the Archangel eleven whose season has only just started.

The Soviet got their revenge in tennis. Each side won one of the singles but the Russians won the doubles for the match.

ROBIN CHATTERJEE'S FEAT

Robin Chatterjee, who was making an attempt to break the record with hands and feet tied, bettered the world record by 17 minutes at Lahore on July 20.

At 9-15 p.m. when he had bettered the previous world record of swimming with hands and feet tied by 17 minutes, Robin Chatterjee came out of the D. A. V. College bath to the accompaniment of band and loud ovation from a large crowd, which had assembled at the tank some hours before the time.

SIR C. V. RAMAN

The important contributions to science made by Sir C. V. Raman, the Indian scientist, are featured in the July issue of the *Scientific American*.

"The world was not slow in recognizing the importance of Raman's achievements," it says in a discussion of his life and discoveries. From his earliest youth, Raman was dominated by his interest in scientific research. He came from a family of small means, was largely self-educated, and conducted his first experiments without outside aid. Recognition came with his discovery in 1928 of laws of the radiation of light, known as "Raman Radiation" for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize. He became the Director of the Bangalore Scientific Institute, the most distinguished school of research in India, and is now working at the University of Madras.

"The discovery of Raman Radiation threw new light on many aspects of the problems of Physics and Chemistry," says the article. Several thousand papers have appeared on this subject.

HOW SCIENTISTS HELP UNITED NATIONS

A meeting sponsored by the Association of Scientific Workers was held in London to hear reports concerning scientific developments among the United Nations.

Dr. Martin Ruhemann instanced Russia as the only country, where before the outbreak of war scientists had been recognised as having a definite contribution to make to the social and economic life of the nation. Every Russian factory and farm had its own laboratory and results of small scale research were made available through a type of technical newspaper unknown elsewhere in the world.

Dr. N. Mukherjee said that the use of Indian scientists had become general since the outbreak of war when it became impracticable to import non-Indian research workers and when Government realised that in a people's war the widest possible use should be made of all types of workers. Under the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and with enforced development of industry, Indian scientists were being used on a much greater scale.

MANUFACTURE OF RAW FILMS

Needs of the cinematograph film industry were represented to the Hon. Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member of the Government of India, by a deputation of the Film Chamber of Commerce, who waited on him at Madras on the 7th July. A memorandum presented by the deputation stated that there was shortage of unexposed cinematograph films as imports had become irregular and uncertain and that, therefore, sufficient shipping space for films should be provided. Government should investigate the possibilities of manufacturing raw films, chemicals, etc., in this country. The Board of Scientific and Industrial Research might undertake this task.

Government has issued an order restricting the length of feature films to 11,000 feet and trailers to 400 feet. This order had taken the South Indian film industry unawares. Producers and directors were anxious to reduce the length of pictures, but the reform could only be introduced step by step. The Chamber also requested Government to supply sufficient quantities of crude oil and electrical energy for touring cinemas in the mofussil, especially because these cinemas carried on propaganda for war effort.

FILM OF MIDWAY ISLAND BATTLE

The motion picture industry hit a new record recently when John Ford, former Hollywood cinema director commissioned a naval commander and made a motion picture of the Japanese air attack on Midway Island. He filmed the attack from a vantage point in the power-house tower, which was one of the raiders' chief targets. His arm was wounded by a machine-gun bullet and he was forced to complete his camera work with one hand.

KALAIVANI FILMS

Kalaivani Films is the name of a new film concern started in Madras. It plans to produce two pictures: one in Canarese and one in Tamil.

The Tamil film is titled *Vichitramela*. The Canarese picture's title is not yet decided on but it will have the Mysore Gubbi troupe in its cast. The pictures will be produced at Kandan Studios, Coimbatore.

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Addressing a large gathering of the citizens of Madras at St. Mary's Hall, George Town, on July 12, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member with the Government of India and the Member-designate of the British War Cabinet, referred to the specific suggestions that have been made to the Government for encouragement of the automobile industry and explained the difficulties with which the Government were faced in accepting those proposals.

Referring once again to the proposal for starting an automobile industry, the Commerce Member said:

The proposal is merely one of assembling plants. Whatever may be said to the contrary, I assert here and now that for the duration of the war, it would have been an assembling plant. There are many other assembling plants in this country. There are assembling plants here in Madras. We had no intention of encouraging more of these assembling plants in the name of promoting automobile industry and get the undeserved praise from many of my countrymen.

Sir M. Visveswaraya, one of the promoters of Indian automobile manufacturing industry, has issued a statement in reply to the Commerce Member's allegations relating to the scheme of manufacturing automobiles in India.

He repels the charge that the proposals were nebulous.

In this connection, I may add that on August 27, 1941, I wrote to the Government of India that the statement that the scheme must be an assembly plant was a pure invention on the part of someone who was opposed to the scheme. We then offered that if the Government had any reasonable objection to assembling, we were prepared to drop that operation.

As early as May 31, 1939, the promoters had informed the Government that they contemplated establishing in Bombay a complete automobile manufacturing plant and not an assembly plant.

Sir Visveswaraya in conclusion says:

The truth seems to be that Government do not wish to encourage this industry. If they wished to help, they would not have been giving different reasons at different times in the manner they have been doing.

The Commerce Member has been critical about the scheme submitted by us. Government have never made a single helpful suggestion that if we proceeded in any particular way agreeable to them, they would help the industry.

AVIATION TECHNICAL TRAINING

The Government's Aviation Technical Training Scheme, which was inaugurated early in 1941, has already sent some 700 youths who have had twelve months basic training to the air force and about a hundred candidates have been absorbed by civil industry.

The training, it will be recalled, is designed to cover a period of 12 months and after the completion of a basic course of four to six months, examinations are held to determine the suitability of the trainees for enrolment in the air forces in the various trades. Those selected will be sent for advanced training to an air force technical training school where they are provided free of cost, with uniforms, accommodation, food, etc., and their careers from this stage become the responsibility of the air forces.

LAUNCHING OF THE EXCALIBUR

Excalibur, first of the fleet of three Flying Aces built for the American Export Air-lines by Vought-Sikorsky Aircraft, was launched recently by Mrs. Henry Agard Wallace, wife of the U. S. Vice-President. It is a huge big ship built to travel the greatest distance at the highest speed with maximum loads. It is the result of the combined effort of the three divisions of the United Aircraft Corporation—airplane by Vought-Sikorsky, engines by Pratt Whitney and propellers by Hamilton Standard. Tastefully furnished throughout the interior, the ship will prove a big expansion in a great international transportation system and marks a significant contribution to American Commerce in a world at war.

AIR TRAINING IN U. S. A.

The Commander of United States Army Air force, General Arnold, in his statement to a press conference, declared that the United States were turning out pilots at the rate of 24,000 yearly and that the number was being increased tremendously already. American units would be working in Britain side by side with R. A. F. units although they would have their own air-fields and own ground crews and communications.

BASIS FOR BIG INDUSTRIES IN INDIA

Reviewing his three years' stewardship of the Commerce Department of the Government of India at a meeting of the Madras Economic Association, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar claimed that though spectacular results by way of starting "big basic industries" were not achieved during the period, a number of "ancillary and auxiliary industries had been started, which would provide the base for basic industries". He said:

"I feel it is not merely by erecting a spectacular work here or there—which after all turns out to be an assembly plant of various parts imported from abroad—but it is by trying to start and organise a chemical industry here or a small engineering industry there, trying to have a research institute and making magnetic steel and aluminium—which is the basis for all aeroplane manufacture—by all these auxiliary and ancillary industries alone, a mighty industrial stream can eventually be made to flow in this country. This is the process through which the big industries of this country can be established."

On this, Sir M. Visveswaraya joins issue with the Commerce Member. In fact both Sir M. Visveswaraya and Mr. Walchand Hirachand, who have been the chief promoters of the automobile and shipping concerns respectively and who should, therefore, be in a position to confirm or contradict this version, openly refute it.

OUTPUT OF WAR FACTORIES

The report of work accomplished in one war-time ordnance factory somewhere in India for last year is an index of the great output in these factories.

Compared with the previous year (1940-41), says the report, growth has been 400 per cent. in terms of labour employed and 40 separate orders involving some 10,00,000 units were completed during the year and 46 further orders were on the books before the close of the official year.

The report also refers to the ingenuity shown by technicians engaged in this factory.

CONCESSIONAL RATES FOR WATER CESS

In order to encourage the growth of food crops, the Government of Madras have directed the levy of concessional rates of water cess for fasli 1352 in respect of areas irrigated by the Basavanna Channel, Roya channel and Kamarapuram tank in the Hospet taluk, Bellary District, as follows:—

(1) In areas newly brought under irrigation in fasli 1352 (1st crop) Rs. 6. (2nd crop) Rs. 3 (Paddy), Duffassa crop (Sugar-cane) Rs. 11-4.

(2) In other areas (1st crop) Rs. 7-8, (2nd crop) Rs. 3-12, (Duffassa crop) Rs. 11-4.

FOOD CROPS IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE LAND

Vacant land in the Government House Estate at Ganeshkhind (Poona) is being utilised to help the "Grow More Food" campaign.

All available land suitable for growing food crops is being cultivated. The area earmarked for cut flowers during the past season has been ploughed up for the growing of vegetables and virgin land is being opened up.

Altogether 26½ acres are being brought under cultivation. This area comprises: potatoes 1 acre; English vegetables 2½ acres; Indian vegetables 2 acres; fruit 1 acre; gram 20 acres, (Jowar 12 acres; maize 2 acres; Bajra 6 acres).

CONTROL SCHEME FOR BOMBAY

To ensure a good harvest even during famine years, a scheme for the construction of dams or Tal works (earth embankments with masonry weirs), with provision to drain off the surplus water through cross valleys or nallas has been in hand in the Deccan Districts of Bombay.

The construction of low dams has proved to be an effective and successful control measure.

BACKYARD CULTIVATION

The Government of Madras have granted additional concessions for backyard cultivation. No charge will be levied for cultivation of backyards whether attached or detached up to 25 cents. or for any area in excess of 25 cents. provided that the area in excess of 25 cents. is cultivated with food crops of vegetables.

HOLIDAY FOR WORKERS

Workers in non-seasonal factories in the country will enjoy annually a minimum period of a week's holiday with pay when the Bill drafted by the Government of India for the purpose is enacted into law.

The Bill (which extends to non-seasonal factories only) is now being circulated to Provincial Governments and Employers' and Employees' Organisations for eliciting their opinion.

Stipulating that the minimum of seven days' paid holidays must run in one block, the Bill lays down that the qualifying service for entitling any worker for such a period of holidays is one year and that the holidays cannot be accumulated. Further, the Bill provides that half the wages due for the period must be paid at its commencement. Workers are prohibited from undertaking remunerative work during the holidays. No provision has been made for the continuance or otherwise of local and other customary holidays at present given by individual employers, the matter being left for mutual adjustment between employers and employees.

GUJARAT WORKERS

A 25 per cent. increase in wages of all workers in all trades was demanded by the first Gujarat Workers' Conference held at Ahmedabad. The Conference was opened by Swami Sahajanand Saraswati, who said that to fight against Fascism was to fight for freedom. The Conference urged the establishment of a National Government for creating popular enthusiasm for the war effort.

POST AND TELEGRAPH LABOUR

The Posts and Telegraphs Department and the State-owned railways are the two largest employers of labour among the Government Departments in India. The Post and Telegraphs Department employs about 120,000 men and railways about 700,000.

TRADE UNIONS IN INDIA

There were 666 registered trade unions in India during 1939-40. The membership was well over 500,000 which is the highest yet recorded. There were 18,612 women members.

SHIP DIRECTORATE

It is announced that the Governor-General-in-Council has sanctioned a new office under the Supply Department to be known as the Directorate-General of Ship Repairs and Ship Construction.

This office will not form part of the Directorate-General of Munitions Production, but correspond directly with the main Secretariat of the Supply Department and be responsible to the Government of India, and in appropriate cases, through the Government of India, to His Majesty's Government, for all work connected with ship repairs and ship construction.

AID TO CHINA

India's textile industry has made generous response to Sir Homi Mody's recent appeal for aid to China. Bandage cloth and money to buy drugs and materials have been sent. In the 550,000 yards of bandage cloth were about 322,000 yards from Bombay mills and 180,000 yards from Ahmedabad. The mills also sent bales of shirtings and sheetings. These gifts have reached Chungking. In a cable to India, Marshal Chiang Kai-shek expresses warm appreciation.

SHIPPING LOSSES

According to calculations made in the 1941 report of the British Chamber of Shipping, British, Allied and neutral losses were at the average monthly rate of about 180,000 tons gross for the last six months of 1941.

The report also deduces that total sinkings from the outbreak of war to the end of 1941 were about 8,300,000 tons gross. Against this the enemy probably lost between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 tons gross.

THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippine Islands are nearly as big as the British Isles. The two largest Islands are larger than Ireland. The total area is 114,000 square miles. The population is over 12,000,000 which is nearly as much as the Hyderabad State in India.

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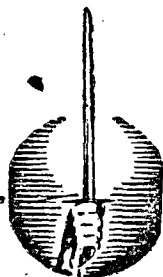
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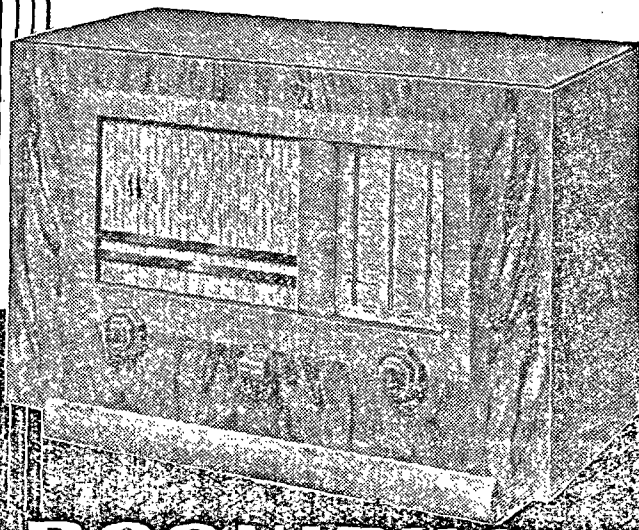
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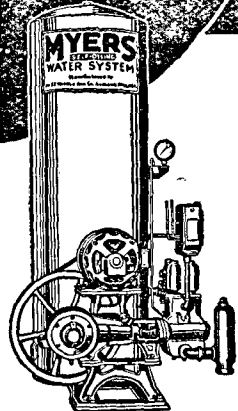
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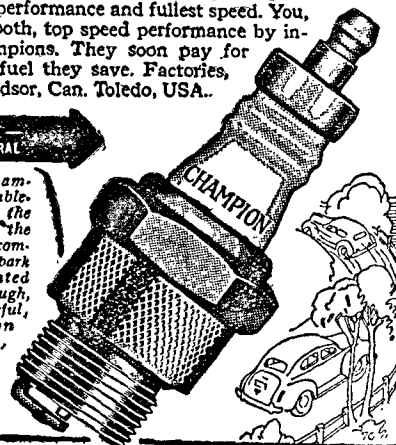
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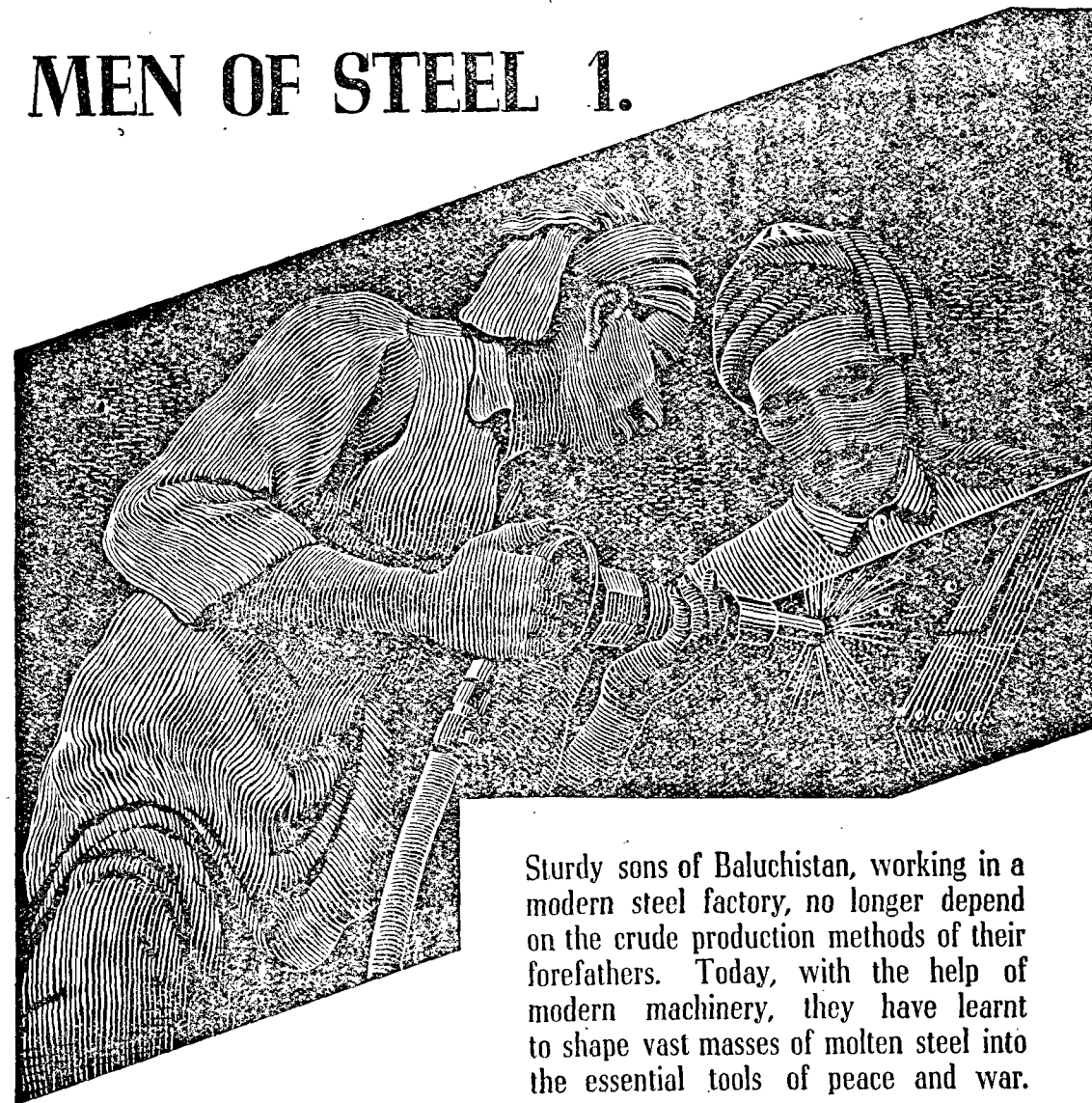
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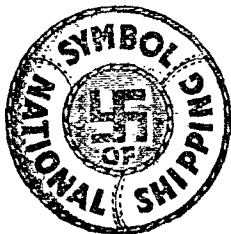
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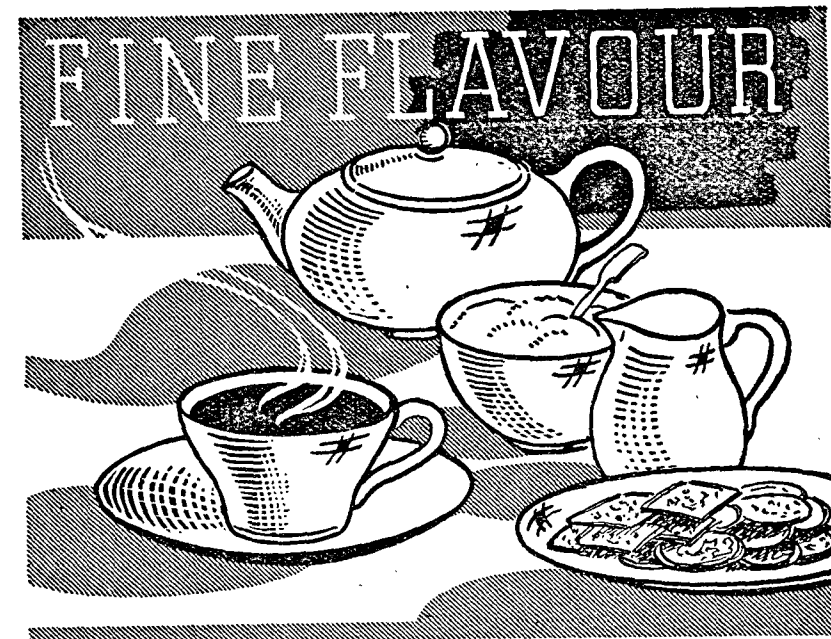
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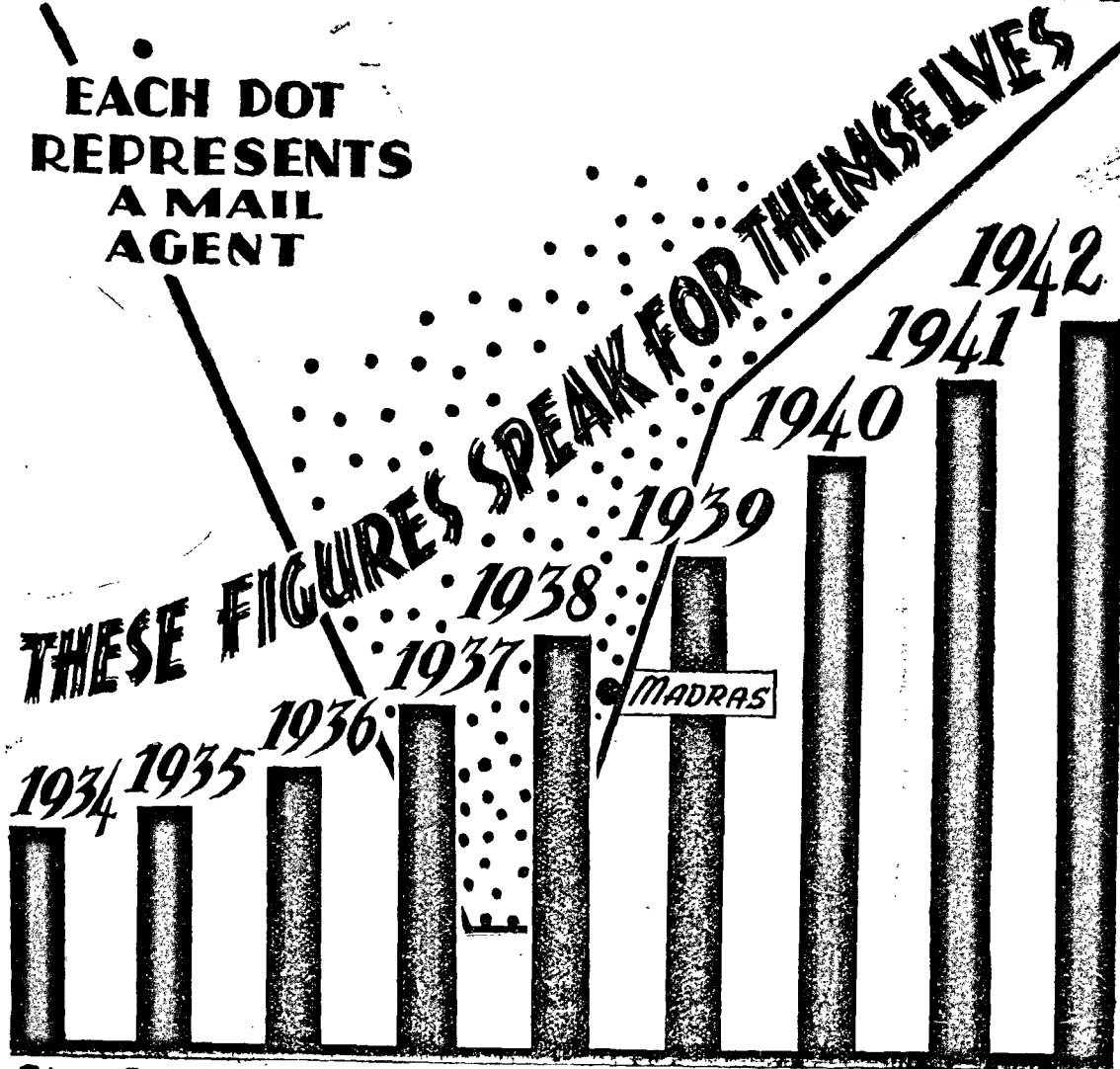
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It has now been arranged with the Civil Defence Department, Government of India, that Insurance Companies will provide a special scheme of insurance for vehicles whilst being used for Civil Defence purposes, and this scheme, which covers risks other than war risks, has been adopted by the majority of Provincial Governments. In the case of vehicles used for part-time Civil Defence work, the scheme provides for the issue of a special policy covering this part-time work at an annual premium of Rs. 25/-. These flat rates of premium apply to commercial vehicles, private cars, or motor cycles, and in those areas where the Civil Defence Authorities have agreed to participate in the scheme, the vehicle owner will be able to recover his premium outlay from the Authority. Application for the issue of the special Civil Defence Policy should be made by the vehicle owner to his ordinary Insurer. If the vehicle owner has no ordinary insurance cover, application for the Civil Defence policy may be made to any Insurance Company and in such cases the first annual premium is Rs. 37/8/- instead of Rs. 25/-.

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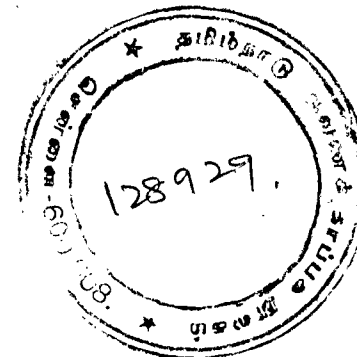
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