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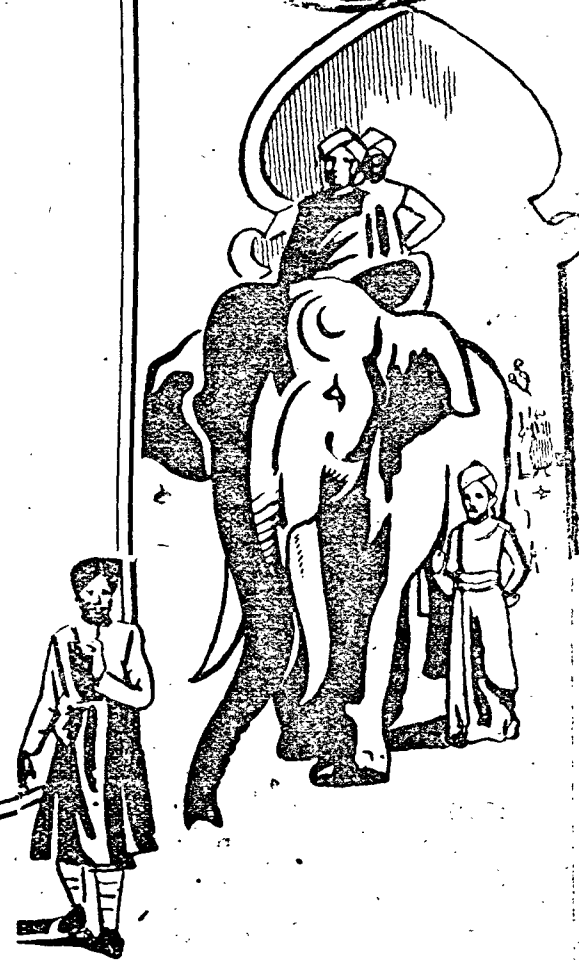
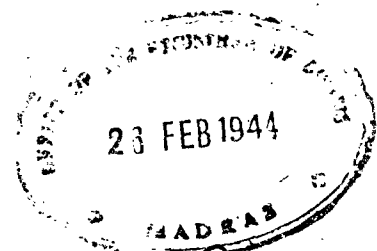
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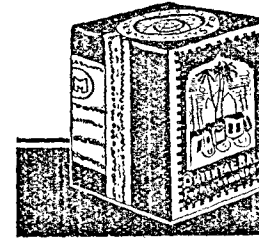
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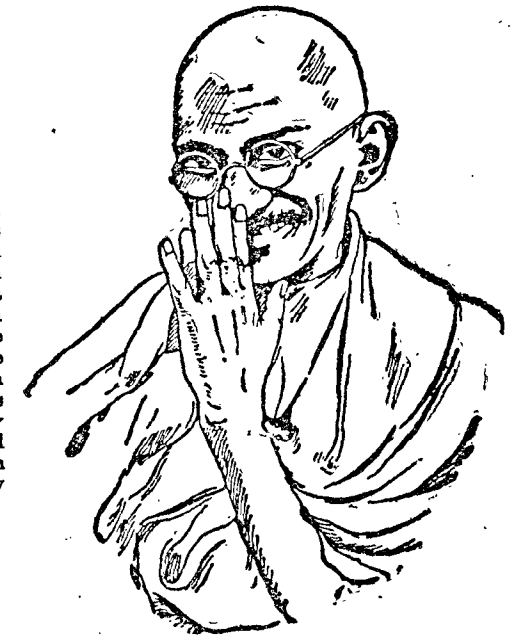
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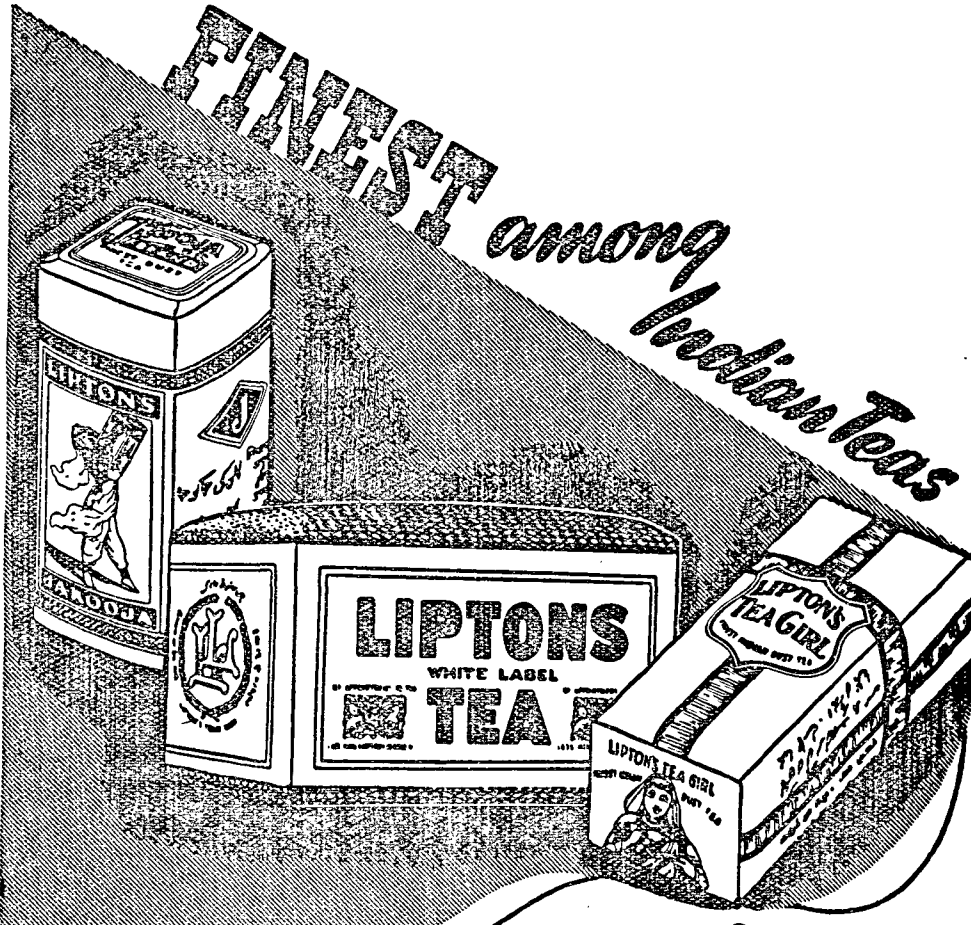
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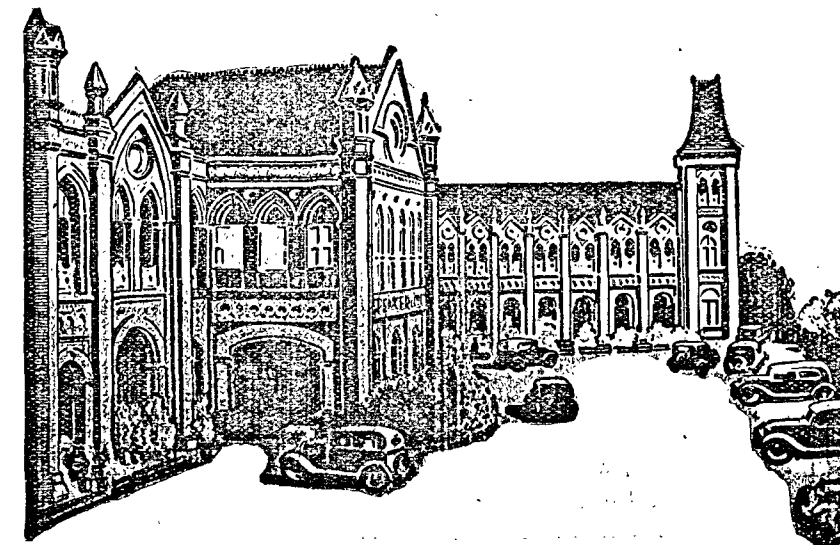
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Edited By Mr. G. A. NATESAN

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FEBRUARY 1944

No. 28

28 FEB 1944

Parliamentary Government in India

BY HON. SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR, C.S.I., C.I.E.

TO the growing volume of literature on the development and working of the Indian Constitution, Sir B. P. Singh Roy's "Parliamentary Government in India"* is a notable addition. A student of Constitutions, a front rank liberal in active politics, a Member of the Bengal Legislature for more than 20 years and a Minister there for over a decade, the author combines in himself an equipment in constitutional theory and a prolonged experience in Parliament and in office which ought to compel attention to whatever he has to say on the results of his study of the evolution and functioning of our existing governmental system. Whether, as a piece of constitutional machinery, this system is delicately poised or not, there cannot be the slightest doubt that it has thrown up a number of conundrums in Parliamentary democracy. In several fundamental respects, particularly in the number and complexity of the impediments it has placed in the way of speedy and smooth progress towards full responsible government, it is almost unique in constitutional history.

The book marshals, in a compact form, the facts relating to our constitutional history since 1857 and should prove of value to students, politicians and statesmen. It draws prominent attention to the problems that are ahead and, in correctly appreciating and tackling these, the author's presentation and appraisal of the history of what has happened up to date and his exposition of the relevant constitutional principles should be of great help.

* "Parliamentary Government in India" by the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh, K.C.I.E., President, Bengal Legislative Council. Thacker Spink & Co., Calcutta. Rs. 9.

Dominion Status, the right of secession and the Statute of Westminster are amongst the interesting constitutional issues referred to in the chapter on "India and the British Commonwealth". The discussion reveals the author's intimate acquaintance with the voluminous literature that has accumulated on these subjects during the last quarter of a century which may, in part, be responsible for his visualising the prospect before India in the following words:

On the side of the allied Powers the War is being fought with the avowed object of vindicating democracy. India may, therefore, reasonably expect that, in spite of the present deadlock, for which both we and our rulers must share the responsibility and the reluctance of Britain to part with power, it will not be easy on the termination of the hostilities in favour of the Allies to resist India's claim to be admitted as a full-fledged member of the British Commonwealth of Nations with option to secede from the Empire. For all practical purposes, it is difficult to foresee anything beyond this consummation.

This is in conformity with the creed of a large body of Liberals in the country. Though the ideal of the larger and more influential political organisations in the country is independence, there are not a few amongst their members who would be content immediately with Dominion Status if legal or constitutional provision could be made for declaring and placing beyond doubt what some people have led them to believe, namely, that the right to advance to full independence is included in Dominion Status. Writing to Mr. Polak in January 1937, Mahatma Gandhi said that "so far as I am concerned, if Dominion Status were offered in the terms of the Statute of Westminster, that is the right to secede at will, I would unhesitatingly accept it." The view held by constitutionalists in England until the

outbreak of the present War was that the Dominion Status promised to India by Lords Irwin and Willingdon was subject to her continued membership of the Empire. Speaking in Bombay in January 1940, Lord Linlithgow, however, declared that the policy of His Majesty's Government was the attainment by India as soon as possible after the War of full Dominion Status "of the Statute of Westminster variety." The draft declaration brought by Sir Stafford Cripps in March 1942 describes the political status of India after the War in terms of the status of a Dominion in accordance with the Resolution of the Imperial Conference of 1926. In expounding the content and implications of this status, Sir Stafford Cripps further committed himself to the statements

(a) that the proposed Indian Union would be entitled to disown its allegiance to the Crown and that, for removing all doubts in this connection, the War Cabinet had deliberately inserted the following words in the last sentence of paragraph c (ii) of the declaration: "but (the proposed treaty) will not impose any restriction on the power of the Indian Union to decide in the future its relation to the other member-States of the British Commonwealth"; and

(b) that the Indian Union will be completely free either to remain within or to go without the Commonwealth.

It is doubtful whether the words quoted in the latter part of clause (a) above would justify the inference in the earlier part or that in clause (b). But Sir Stafford's interpretation has not so far been authoritatively contradicted. Even Professor Coupland has not questioned its correctness; on the other hand, he has founded on it the observation that "thus the distinction so long made by the Congress between Dominion Status and complete Swaraj was bereft of any practical importance." The Congress Working Committee was apparently not unimpressed by this exposition of Sir Stafford and in its resolution on the draft declaration conceded that "future independence may be implicit in the proposals," but feared that the other limiting conditions and restrictions in the scheme might obstruct the implementing of the right of secession and might, therefore, render the attainment of real freedom, an illusion. One finds it difficult, however, from the strictly constitutional standpoint to appreciate all

this touching faith in the value of a present formal recognition of the right of secession. The Statute of Westminster concedes neither expressly nor by way of necessary constitutional implication any right in any of the Dominions to which it applies to secede from the Empire. According to Professor Keith, there is an element of unity which characterises the relations *inter se* of members of the Commonwealth. He apparently is prepared to lend his support to the view of the British Government, which was virtually endorsed by the Imperial Conference of 1926, that these relations are not relations governed by international law but are constitutional in character. The British Commonwealth of Nations has, therefore, to be treated as a political entity and must be deemed to have a constitutional existence. The Statute of Westminster assumes naturally the continuance of this entity and declares and defines "the established constitutional position" amongst the members of the Commonwealth and, in respect amongst other matters of the alteration of the law touching the Throne, the Royal Style and Titles as also in respect of the exercise of the legislative jurisdiction of the Parliament of the United Kingdom over the Dominions. Secession involves the severing of every constitutional link that now exists between the Dominion on the one hand and the Crown, Government and Parliament of the United Kingdom on the other. When a Dominion does take steps to implement a decision to secede from the Commonwealth, it will be doing something which amounts in effect to revolting from, and repudiating, the essentials of the Constitution by which, so long as it was a member of the Commonwealth, it was bound. It has been contended that, under the letter of the Statute of Westminster, there is nothing to prevent a Dominion which has adopted its provisions in full enacting a law seceding from the Commonwealth. But even so, in order to make such a decision legally complete and implementable, it would probably be necessary to enact an Imperial measure as also to obtain the concurrence of the other Dominions thereto. Such a merely legal exploitation of the

letter of a Statute would not necessarily make it a constitutional proceeding. The decision of a Dominion on so grave and fundamental a change in its political status should, if at all, be effected by constituent machinery with the support of the large mass of the people of the Dominion. When the decision is so taken, it will, for the Parliament and Government of Great Britain, be a problem in political expediency as to whether they should acquiesce in that decision or should thwart it by refusing to pass the necessary complementary Imperial legislation or resort to force or other extra-constitutional measures for preventing its being carried into effect. Recent history indicates that, in the case of the existing Dominions, the British authorities will probably prefer the alternative of acquiescence in the Dominion's secession. In this connection, Sir Bijoy has quoted Professor Keith's statement that "if the Free State should determine to declare itself a Republic, the British Government would not make war to prevent such a result." Mr. Bonar Law expressed more than 20 years ago the same view in more general terms when he said that "no Government in Great Britain would ever use force to compel a Dominion to do anything which the mass of its citizens were unwilling to do." If and when, in the best interests of India and with the support of the large mass of her citizens, we decide to go out of the Empire and our position and strength *vis-a-vis* the world and the Empire are such as to make it unlikely that any Government in Great Britain would, or could successfully, use force to compel us against our will to remain in the Empire, we shall be able successfully to exercise this inherent right in all sovereign peoples whether it is now incorporated in a Statute or not. The right to secede is, under existing conditions, merely a question of academic interest and the discussion of the question of its embodiment in specific terms in any Statute conferring Dominion Status on India in the British Commonwealth of Nations would seem to be mere waste of time.

Even less defensible than in the case of the members of a loosely bound association of practically sovereign Governments like those included in the British

Commonwealth of Nations would be the statutory recognition of a right of secession in favour of any of the units of a closely-knit unitary or federal state in which the Centre or the Federation has of necessity not merely to shoulder supremely essential governmental tasks which the units cannot, and it alone can, discharge, but to exercise over the units supervisory, controlling and co-ordinating jurisdiction in legislation and administration with a view to ensure the successful functioning of disciplined, democratic self-government among them. The Constitution of the U. S. S. R. is a notable exception to what *prima facie* is a sound constitutional principle; but the exception is only apparent, the right conferred by the Soviet Constitution being merely on paper. Any agitation to exercise it will be at once denounced as "counter-revolutionary" as being in conflict with the interests of the Revolution and Socialism and "no break-away will be tolerated". There is no mention of any right of secession in the draft declaration brought by Sir Stafford Cripps. The right proposed to be granted therein is rather one of non-accession or, to use the words of the declaration itself, "the right of any province of British India that is not prepared to accept the new Constitution to retain its present constitutional position, provision being made for its subsequent accession if it so decides". Sir Bijoy points out, not without force, that this concession would render the Constituent Assembly meaningless, his contention being that the very presence of a unit in the constitution-making body should make the decision of that Constituent Assembly binding on it if such an assembly is to function as a plenary body clothed with full power to negotiate and sign a treaty with His Majesty's Government. The insertion of this clause in the draft declaration was a weak, though deliberate, concession to communal clamour. The Congress Working Committee was, however, perhaps no less weak when, after laying emphasis on Indian unity and on the supreme need, especially in the modern world, of not permitting any breach in that unity, it expressed its inability to "think in terms of compelling the people in

any territorial unit to remain in an Indian Union against their declared and established will."

Sir Bijoy's examination of the content and working of Provincial Autonomy under the Acts of 1919 and 1935 merits careful study in view of the personal experience and first-hand knowledge he has brought to bear on it. On the main theme of the book, however, his chapters on Responsible Government in the Provinces and on the Party System are perhaps the most important. They are of more than ordinary interest at the present juncture when a radical reversal of the policy first announced in the Montagu declaration of August 1917, embodied in the Act of 1919, confirmed after elaborate investigation in the Act of 1935 and re-affirmed in subsequent authoritative pronouncements, is being canvassed in influential quarters. Mr. Jinnah's stand on this question is unequivocal, *viz.*, that experience of the working of the Act of 1935 has already established that it is impossible to work a democratic parliamentary government in India and that majority rule based on the party system is unsuited to this country. According to Mr. Amery, the conditions do not exist here for the framing of the type of constitution in which parties are the machinery for the expression of differences on specific public issues; neither the Muslims nor the Princes could ever be persuaded to submit to any Central Government for India in which the executive is directly dependent on a parliamentary majority and, as there are many forms of free Constitutions, the Constitution for India should be framed afresh in consonance with the conditions peculiar to her. The results of Professor Coupland's critical study of the working of the existing constitution do not exactly bear out entirely these somewhat rash pronouncements. Part III of his Nuffield Report on the Future of India, which is not yet available in this country, may possibly throw more light on whether he advocates the unqualified rejection of any system of parliamentary democracy for India or whether he contemplates merely radical re-adaptations of the British model of single party parliamentary rule in its application to

this country. There has so far been only the vague indication that that volume will contain suggestions as to possible ways of devising a system of government both for the Provinces and for India as a whole in which "the twin principles of freedom and unity are balanced and combined." A recent cable from London attributed to him, however, the statement that "the Government of India Act, 1935, is dead and further advance is not possible in that direction. The Act was based on two wrong assumptions: firstly, that India is a Nation and, secondly, that parliamentary government is possible in India. Both these assumptions must be abandoned." Apart from the detailed analysis in Parts I and II of the Nuffield Report itself, Sir Bijoy's book contains a wealth of material which should knock the bottom out of these somewhat over-confident and extravagantly worded assertions, if they were really meant to convey more than that the orthodox British system of parliamentary democracy cannot be bodily transplanted at once into this country in all its purity. If, with communal electorates and with the whip-hand in the governance of India still in the hands of the Parliament and Government of the United Kingdom, some of the fundamental conditions of parliamentary rule as practised in Great Britain have been absent, and it has been found necessary in the provincial sphere to deviate from certain vital conventions of the British system, it would seem hardly right to shut one's eyes to what has been accomplished with the existing Constitution even under the depressing political and communal conditions that have prevailed almost since its inception and to suggest that the progress already made towards responsible government should be rolled back and a new and different scheme now devised for fresh experiment.

Summing up his review of the working of the 1935 Act in the non-Congress provinces, Professor Coupland has himself said:

Despite the disturbing, perverting influence of communalism within and the pressure of all-India forces from without, the twin policies of the new Constitution—Provincial Autonomy and Responsible Government—have so far not broken down. They stand firmly in the Punjab. They stand somewhat

ess firmly in Bengal. They have been twisted but they have not failed in Sind. They failed but were shored up again in Assam. They have recently been erected rather shakily in Orissa. And in all the circumstances, this is a notable achievement. Whatever the future may have in store, students of politics must needs be impressed by the fact that a parliamentary type of democracy has now been tried out for the first time in great Asiatic countries, peopled all together by many millions and, in the two more prosperous and advanced of them, at any rate, it has for nearly six years successfully survived the trial.

The resignation of the Ministers in the Congress provinces towards the end of 1939 and their remaining out of office thereafter were part of all-India political tactics. Whether this policy was wise or unwise, it is irrelevant to an estimate of the work they did in the provincial sphere during the period they were in office. To the high standard of the work they did then, there has been ample testimony. Professor Coupland has acknowledged that the ministries in the Congress provinces had more stability than those of any of the non-Congress provinces except the Punjab, that, with few exceptions, the Congress Ministers proved themselves capable and tireless workers with a high sense of public duty and responsibility, that they maintained the accepted principles of public finance, that their activities in the field of social and economic betterment were bold and remarkable and that the legislatures which they guided and were responsible to were well conducted, hard-working and businesslike.

The Congress Ministries were party governments whose entire personnel was drawn from a single political party with an absolute majority in the legislature. The ministries in the non-Congress provinces were coalitions of two or more parties—not necessarily all political—no one of which had, except in the Punjab, an absolute majority. These two types of executive are of common occurrence in parliamentary government, but require for their success the active functioning of parties based on political and economic issues. Attempts have been made to develop such parties cutting across communal cleavages. Separate electorates on a communal basis for constituting the legislature have, however, been their enemy.

To quote Sir Bijoy, "Political creed is sacrificed to give weightage to communal opinion and as such political parties move on communal lines. It is the curse of political India!" The intensification of narrow communalism under ostensibly political labels is perhaps the most distressing feature of Indian politics since 1937. Communal minorities, not being able to look forward to converting themselves into majorities, have openly denounced the principle of majority party rule and have insisted on their claim for inclusion in governments and sharing power with the majority. There is nothing inherently untenable in this position. Professor Coupland thinks that the evils of communal schism in obstructing the development of parliamentary government could have been tempered if the major communal organisations in the provinces had combined to form coalition governments. The coalition cabinets, of which Sir Bijoy writes as being normally the consequence of emergency conditions, are obviously not coalitions of the type formed in the non-Congress Provinces but what would, in these days, be more usually described as "national" governments. He urges that "in the absence of political parties pledged to work the Constitution on political and economic issues and in the presence of a foreign Power in our midst, which is not a normal condition favourable for the working of parliamentary institutions, the willing co-operation of all representative groups and interests in the national life of the country should be brought together in the service of the motherland". The setting up of national governments on these lines, led and dominated by ministers who command the largest numerical support in the legislature is a variation from the practice of the last seven years but is well worth trial as an antidote to further intensification of communal schism. The criticism against a mere coalition of two or more political groups, that it will lack the strength required for efficient executive administration, cannot be levelled with the same force against such "national" executives and their constitution will involve no breakaway from the essentials of responsible parliamentary government.

[On the eve of the All-India Red Cross week we think it opportune to publish this succinct review of the origin, the work and the triumph of a great international movement which is one of the few humanitarian concepts in history that ever became a reality. ED. I.R.]

THE primary purpose of the Red Cross is to care for the sick, the wounded and prisoners in time of war of all the belligerents, irrespective of their colour or creed. The development of the Red Cross movement, especially since 1919, has shown a world-wide tendency to regard the alleviation of human suffering, whatever its causation, as falling within its province.

The motto of the Red Cross is "In darkness there is light." And even as the miseries and the horrors of the Crimean War gave the world Florence Nightingale, and the organized nursing of the sick and wounded, so did the agony and "the indescribable neglect" of the wounded and prisoners in the Battle of Solferino (Italy 1859) indirectly give the world the blessing of the Red Cross. A young Swiss Banker called Henri Dunant, when in London, said:

Though I am known as the founder of the Red Cross, it was an English woman to whom all the honour of the Geneva Convention is due. What inspired me to go to Italy during the war of 1859 was the work of Miss Florence Nightingale in the Crimea.

THE OBJECTIVES

Stabbed and horrified by his recollections of Solferino, Henri Dunant, the businessman, had firmly resolved to dedicate his life to the struggle against the horrors of war. He said:

A Congress must be held to lay down an international, stipulated and sacred principle, which once accepted and ratified, can serve as the basis for the unions of relief for the wounded in the different countries of Europe. Humanity and civilization imperiously demand a work such as this.

All the basic ideas of the Red Cross were covered in a few points—the idea of preparation in advance, the neutralisation of nurses and doctors, the uniform emblem,

the extension of its activities to include natural catastrophes such as famine, disease, and earthquakes.

THE GENEVA CONVENTION

From 1859 until 1864 Dunant worked ceaselessly for his cause. On August 8, 1864, the conference which was to frame the Geneva Convention met, and on August 22, the treaty was signed by the plenipotentiaries of twelve Governments, agreeing that the wounded were to be respected, military hospitals to be regarded as neutral; the personnel and material of the medical services to be accorded protection; and the symbol of this protection to be a white flag bearing a red cross—the flag which, with the Turkish variant of the Red Crescent, has now become the emblem of the Red Cross throughout the world. Almost all countries have now adhered to the Geneva Convention—some of them—those responsible for the deliberate bombing of hospitals, hospital trains and ships in China, Abyssinia, Great Britain, Spain and Greece—alas, only in name.

The Convention was revised and completed on July 6, 1906, by a new diplomatic conference. The conferences held at The Hague in 1899 and 1907 extended to sea warfare, the principles of the Geneva Convention of 1864 and the revised Convention of 1906.

The World War of 1914—18 saw a great increase in the activities of the Red Cross, and as a result, new conventions were signed at Geneva in 1929. After each battle a truce was to be proclaimed to allow for the removal of the dead and wounded. The treaty of The Hague of 1906 was amplified in regard to a belligerent's duty to the fallen, emphasizing the importance of a reciprocal communication of casualties and wounded, ensuring the authorised ceremonies of burial and respect for enemy graves. A further article enforces the formation of a central investigation bureau for prisoners of war, to be housed in a

neutral country, in order to simplify the complex system of communication between national bureaux and foreign powers.

THE JOINT WAR ORGANIZATION

The expression "Indian Red Cross", when referring to the Joint War Organization, should be avoided because the Indian Red Cross Society, which is a statutory body, continues its peace-time work independently. The objects on which the funds of the Indian Society may be spent are:—

1. The care of the sick and wounded men of His Majesty's Forces, whether still on the active list or demobilised.
2. The care of those suffering from tuberculosis, having regard in the first place to soldiers and sailors.
3. Child Welfare.
4. Work parties to provide the necessary garments, etc., for hospitals and health institutions in need of them.
5. Assistance required in all branches of nursing, health and welfare work, ancillary to any organizations which have or may come into being in India, and which are recognized by the Society.
6. Home Service Ambulance Work.

It may be pointed out that the Indian Red Cross Society is an essentially Indian Society, about 96 per cent. of its members being Indians. Like other Red Cross Societies, the Indian Society has never lost sight of its primary obligation, to act as an auxiliary to the Army Medical Service in case of war. The greater part of the Society's income derived from its capital, Rs. 3 lakhs per annum, is, however, spent on its peace-time programme.

The Indian Joint War Organization has developed gradually, expanding to meet the needs of each new situation as it emerged. The Indian Red Cross has provided cover for the link between the Joint War Organization and the International Red Cross in Geneva. The most important financial provision of the Organization's

Mobilization Plan necessitated by the outbreak of the war is that "the war expenditure should be met as far as possible from war collections."

PRISONERS OF WAR

The most humane as well as dramatic part of the Organization's work is helping the prisoner of war and tracing the missing. It is the responsibility of the enemy Government to furnish information as to where the soldier taken prisoner has been imprisoned. In the case of those German and Italian hands, the enemy Governments have adopted a system of "capture cards" which the captured can send to their next of kin and which generally arrive in about two to three months after they are taken prisoner. As regards procedure followed by the International Red Cross in reporting casualties, in accordance with Article 77 of the 1929 Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, official bureaux created in various countries send the Agency official lists of the soldiers who are taken prisoners or who die on enemy ground. As soon as they reach Geneva, these lists are photographed and copies are sent to the official bureau of the enemy country. By December 31, 1941, the Agency had forwarded 470,000 pages of the photographed lists to the various International Bureaux. On an average, the Agency sends out 80,000 communications a day.

The Japanese Government has, however, failed to fulfil its obligations and we still have little information about the welfare of our men. Nor has the Japanese Government arranged for capture cards. The only communications reaching India from prisoners in the East, have filtered through, either by the diplomatic exchange ships, or through the prisoners of war postal route which is long and traverses war zones en route, or finally through the Government's monitoring of enemy broadcasts. When we recall that the Japanese themselves received very great aid and comfort from the American Red Cross after the Japanese earthquake and fire which razed Tokyo and Yokohama in 1923, Japanese Government's hostile attitude towards the humanitarian work of the neutral Red Cross becomes all

the more heinous. It is, however, praiseworthy that, despite all these hindrances, the Red Cross had already (June 1943) sent off for prisoners of war 6,300 tons of bulk supplies by means of diplomatic exchange ships, of which the bulk is believed to have been distributed to camps in Singapore and Hong Kong. For Indian prisoners of war in Europe, the Indian Comforts Fund in London pack and send weekly food parcels on behalf of the Joint War Organization, for which the Indian Red Cross and St. John pay. Up to the time of the fall of Tunisia, they have been sending as many as 20,000 such parcels every week, each weighing 10 lbs. Each parcel costs 10 shillings, including tobacco, and the cost to the Organization's funds is consequently heavy. The British Red Cross also sends out to Geneva bulk shipments of warm clothing for every prisoner of war, whether British, Dominion or Indian.

As for correspondence with the prisoners of war, letters to Europe get through fairly well, but those for the Far East present greater difficulties owing to the long distance involved, *via* Basra, Oranburg (the U.S.S.R.), Vladivostok and Tokyo. They have, furthermore, to be sorted and censored in Japan and then find their way to the individual address which again may take a very long time as the route passes through the war zones.

The Red Cross has gladly accepted an offer made by the Counter-Propaganda Directorate in Simla to pass on to the relatives concerned, under authority of the Indian Red Cross, any news which might reach them through their monitoring of enemy broadcasts.

TRACING THE MISSING

Relieving the anxieties of wives, parents and those who are officially known as the next of kin is one of the most welcome services provided by the Joint War Organization. Times without number has the Red Cross and St. John lifted the load of anxiety of those described in rather a prosaic way as the next of kin.

The tracing of men who have been missing since the fall of Singapore, or

evacuation of Burma is far more difficult than tracing men missing in European or African theatres of war, owing to the enormous numbers involved and the loss of records. In April, 1942, it was decided that the Red Cross War Organization should assist the official organization in so far as allied personnel or members of local non-regular units were concerned; the Adjutant-General, whilst retaining his responsibility in regard to all missing members of the military forces, would particularly cover the tracing of regular soldiers. The searcher organization set up in May, 1942, has succeeded in locating a number of the missing but owing to the difficulty of getting searches with the necessary qualifications and lack of sufficient data, the organization has not been a success.

In addition to the above method, it should be of much comfort to the thousands of people who anxiously await news of their missing relatives that inquiries are also made from comrades in the field, sick and wounded in hospital, convalescent depots, etc., and simultaneously parallel inquiries are pursued through diplomatic and Red Cross channels. The Red Cross is a human service which understands human anxiety, and which spares no pains to alleviate it. . . .

In India the Joint War Organization of the Red Cross has still great work to do. With the prospects from the Indian base of a big drive against the Japanese, its obligations and work will be even larger than they were in the past years. The traditions of the Red Cross, which works in war for those stricken by it and in peace endeavours to raise the standard of public health and in many other ways lessens the world's burden of suffering, are a guarantee that our prisoners of war and the wounded will not go neglected. Meanwhile for the public here enjoying comparative peace and security the thing to remember is that in the words of Clara Burton "The soldier is really not begging for alms when he asks for a handful of lint, but for the payment of a debt."

THE FAILURE OF FASCISM

By MR. KANWAR JOGINDRA SINGH, M.A. (Hist.), M.A. (Econ.), LL.B., F.R. Econ.

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ONCE Mazzini, the great Italian patriot, wrote about the rulers of his country: "A medley of opportunists and cowards and little Machiavellis have led themselves be dragged behind the suggestion of a foreigner. I sought to call up the soul of Italy, and I only see its corpse". This is more true of Benito Mussolini than any ruler of Italy who some three years back had told Italians in a grandiose speech from the balcony of the Palazzo Venezia that the hour of Fascist destiny had struck and that how in a few weeks he would be carrying such booty as he wished from the carcass of France and even from the Empire of Britain. Little did the original Fascist dictator, the first Marshal of the Italian Empire, the Caesar of the Brenner Pass and the Protector of Islam realise that his dragging Italy at Hitler's chariot wheels will not only mean the ruin of the Italian Empire but also his catastrophic downfall that will compel him to run away from the seat of his political artistry. The spotlight, these last few weeks, has been on Mussolini's exit which is read to mean a significant change in enemy regimes from within, a speedy occupation of Italy by the Allies and the opening of a much promised second front against Berlin for establishing 'the pattern for the ultimate defeat of the Axis' as President Roosevelt called it. Whatever the political consequences of the present happening in Duce's land, there are grounds for believing that the Italians are dissatisfied and perturbed over the course of the war in which they have never had their heart and if they think they see a way out of it, they will not be held back by the love of their Allies. This attitude of Italians is mainly the result of disintegration amongst themselves caused by the failure of Mussolini and his Fascist party in the realm of the country's economic affairs. It is this economic failure that reflects the basic failure of Italian Fascism in the political sphere and has turned the Italian nation into a congeries of disgruntled individuals; all fiercely engaged in the day-to-day struggle to get food—

and supremely indifferent to their past glory, present partnership with Germany, and imperialist claims they are being offered instead of bread. Why has Italy, once nearly self-sufficient in foodstuffs, become an under-rationed territory of German Europe? Why are the Italians losing whatever cohesion, strength of purpose and national enthusiasm the frantic Fascism of the last 21 years had managed to pump into them? Why has the Mussolinian edifice crumbled all of a sudden? The answer is provided by the bitter hardships that have come upon the country on account of the complete collapse of her economic structure, since her entry in the present war.

Italy started planning her war-time economy not only on German lines, but as a 'joint' action under Berlin lead and within a very short time became increasingly dependent on German collaboration in respect of her entire economic organization. According to Dr. Funk, German-Italian trade, which amounted to Rm. 650 millions in 1939, rose to Rm. 2,000 by March 1942. Owing to a continuous passive trade balance with Germany Italy, according to agreements, has been compelled to send increasing quantities of agricultural products to the Reich by resorting to a rationing which extends over almost the whole range of foodstuffs. As all foodstuffs and raw materials go to feed German war machine, the schemes of rationing have imposed real hardships on the Italians. Per capita consumption of alimentary paste, the major item of consumption in the Italian diet, which was 40.58 kilograms in 1938, has since 1941 been reduced to 24 kilograms per year, the reduction being specially felt by low income groups. Difficulties in the administration of the various commodity controls are indicated in the publication during July 1941 of a law imposing heavy penalties (the death penalty in extreme instances) for hoarding, for destruction of goods or of the means of production and for non-observance of fixed prices. Owing, however, to dwindling supplies of vital necessities, the food situation is growing more and more alarming. While the German needs do

not allow Italy to keep her foodstuffs for herself, it is not possible to import them from anywhere partly because of the blockade and partly because of German agreements with other European territories for prior delivery of their goods to the Reich only. As rationing has proved singularly ineffective, the worse the situation grows, the more blatant is the scramble of wealthy Italians to corner what stocks there are. Much legislation has been passed but due to inept handling of schemes, the difficulty lies in securing its application. The profiteering of shopkeepers, the determination of the peasants not to sell their produce, the maintenance of black markets by the rich and especially by the Blackshirts—all these factors have led to serious food offences throughout the country. There is considerable evidence of open enmity between woe-ridden Italians and the German soldiers. Hitler's Gestapo men—of whom fresh reinforcements always arrive as soon as there is some rising against Lebensraum—are however there to see that starving Italy delivers the goods, in spite of social discontent and apathy.

Next to the food problem is the growing shortage of labour. Since the beginning of the war, Italy has been forced to place at Germany's disposal all her man-power. Within 18 months of belligerency a quarter million Italians became prisoners, half a million were drafted by the Duce for work in the land of Nazis and another half a million were absorbed somewhere in Greece and Russia. Starvation at home has led Italians to accept low-paid work in German factories. Italians are, however, told that the wages sent by these workers now exceed the sum of Rm. 1 million daily and that these accounts are going to play an important part in the German-Italian clearing system. Recently Signor Gayda urged his countrymen to go to the Reich in still greater numbers and to assist the mighty German industry. Food and labour are not the only shortages. Nearly everything else is in short supply—fuel, soap, clothing. Prices are skyrocketing as a result and a worst type of inflation is already threatening to bring down the entire economic structure of the

Fascists. The economic picture is unquestionably one of terrible hardships, shared most inequitably between the rich and the poor. It clearly indicates the failure of Fascism economically as well as politically. It was Mussolini's notorious compatriot, the Chicago gangster Al Capone, who gave the true verdict of political science on his master's creed when he said of the Duce's "March on Rome" and the setting of a Fascist state "Gee, it's great racket, so long as you can keep the boys together". The 'boys' remained together on the spoils of Abyssinia, Spain, Albania and Greece but had to bow down and quit their places before Hitler, the master of their master and the destroyer of the power and property of their own country.

The failure of Fascism should not, however, be interpreted to mean that Germany is down and out. Italy is still a German colony; the Reich is still the arbiter of what are Italy's needs and what is most important. Italy is still dependent on Germany and cannot turn elsewhere. To get Italy out of the war would be an enormous psychological victory and a very substantial real convenience. But it is not Hitler's way to surrender a valuable position and if, permissible, he allows Italians to make terms with Allies, the United Nations should know where the catch is. The problem of Italy is now at the centre of Allied strategy and they should see that the Italians should get what they have been longing for so long—security from Fascists as well as from Nazis, bread, clothing and above all their individualism under a peaceful Government. With a view to achieving all this for Italians, the Allies should demand an unconditional surrender of Italian Government. Negotiations at this stage of favourable turn of tide either with Badoglio or with any other hurriedly produced substitute would be like bribing a way through a door which stands half open and might even, as already pointed out, further the concealed designs of Nazis who at present appear to be quite willing to hand over their useless and almost dead Ally to the care of others.

The Red Army: Origin and Early Development

BY DR. MAHMUD HUSAIN, PH.D.,

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THE Red Army has been for some time very much in the news, and rightly. It has performed great feats of military glory. Its recent advances point to the liberation of the whole of Russia in no distant future. It is not necessary to give a detailed account of Soviet resistance. Let us, however, mention the main facts. On the 22nd June, 1941, began the Russo-German War. There was, in the words of Professor Namier, "a boastful challenge to History and fate in the choice of this date", for Napoleon also had chosen June 22nd for the invasion of Russia. During the first days of the war, the German advance was sharp and quick. In the north, in the centre and in the south hundreds of miles were traversed within a few weeks until the German troops reached the outskirts of Moscow, besieged Leningrad, occupied the whole of the Ukraine and entered the Crimea. It seemed that all was lost. But it only seemed. All was not lost. The Germans thought they had won the war in the East. The Russians did not quite agree. Then came the first winter of the war and with it came German retreat. Winter over, the advance began once more but the advance was largely limited to the south, until the Germans reached Stalingrad. They actually occupied a part of it though it did not quite fall. In the meantime arrived the second winter of the war and the Germans were made to capitulate. This was in January, 1943. The defence of Stalingrad was a definite turning point in this gigantic struggle. Stalingrad decided once for all that Russia could not be conquered or subdued. There was, however, one intriguing question. How long was this game to go on—Germans advancing in summer and Russians pushing them back in winter? The summer of 1943 gave the answer. During this summer there was no further German advance. Indeed the boot was now on the other leg. The Russians, instead of the Germans, launched the summer offensive. The Russian advance made it clear that, however important a part winter might have played in the Russian War, winter

alone was by no means the decisive factor. Winter, by itself, could not have helped Russia had there been no efficient fighting forces to take advantage of Russia's climate and space. Through their great tenacity and extraordinary courage, their burning love for their socialist commonwealth and what has been described as their "psychic resistance to defeat", they have been able to withstand successfully the greatest and most efficient military machine that was ever made by man.

In this brief review, we shall try to describe the origin and early development of the Red Army whose fighting qualities have won the admiration of friend and foe alike.

The first soldiers of the Bolshevik Revolution consisted of Red Guards. From the very beginning, the leaders of the Revolution recognized that Russia must have a regular army. The old army was in a state of disintegration. The creation of a new army, which would defend the new order, could not be postponed for long. Conscription was not considered advisable at this stage as the Russian people were sick of war and the Bolsheviks had all along been promising peace. The new army could therefore be only raised on a voluntary basis. The conditions of recruiting were laid down in a Soviet decree published in January, 1918, and within two and a half months more than 100,000 recruits were enlisted. But as a fighting force this army was no good. Its efficiency was below the average. All sorts of uniforms were put on by its members; some even wore civilian clothes. This was perhaps not so important. What was really bad was that the soldiers lacked proper discipline. They did not receive even the most elementary military training and were distinguished by complete lack of organization. The soldiers behaved exactly in the way as if they were workers in a factory. They held meetings, questioned the validity and suitability of the orders from above and made all sorts of demands with regard to food and clothing and pay. "Either give us", said a delegate to a conference of

soldiers in March, 1918, "300 rubles a month with food, clothing and lodging or we will show the Council of Peoples' Commissars that we are able to defend our interests." Many bandits and criminals also joined the Red Army. No wonder, whenever opportunity arose they took to looting and plundering. Their behaviour was making the Soviet Government itself unpopular in Russia. These forces might be useful against the anti-Soviet Russian troops but against the regular armies of the Germans in the Ukraine and the Czechs in Siberia, they were totally helpless. A radical reform of the army was necessary if the Soviet regime was to succeed against its powerful enemies, external and internal. The Bolshevik leaders, especially Trotzky, the War Commissar, were not blind to the weakness of their army. They recognized that Soviet Russia should possess first-class armed forces organized on the principles of modern warfare. But these could be built up only with the co-operation of military experts. Trotzky took up this question of reorganization in all seriousness. He succeeded in creating a new army. To begin with, on March 1st, 1918, a Supreme War Council was created. This was followed by the establishment in April 1918, of territorial commissariats in the provinces, districts and towns which were responsible for the military training of the people. Then, by a decree of April 22, conscription was introduced for all workers and peasants of 18 to 40 years of age. The propertied classes were excluded although they could be made use of for difficult and dirty non-combatant tasks in the rear. The practice of electing officers was abolished and strict obedience was enforced. With the stabilization of the Soviet regime the principle of conscription was extended to the whole population, although the formerly well-to-do classes were still forbidden to bear arms.

The Red Army on August 1st, 1918, numbered 331,000, but the number increased to 800,000 by the end of the year. This army, however, was too small for the tasks ahead. And Lenin decided to have an army of 3 million. This figure was reached by January, 1920. The number went on increasing until by the end of 1920 it came to 5½ million. But the army still suffered from shortage of arms and

equipment. Large-scale desertions were not uncommon. Even more serious was the problem of getting politically reliable officers. Trotzky thought that the Soviet Army could not do without the old officers and this view was ultimately accepted. Weapons of propaganda and terrorism were employed to ensure the loyalty of the officers who numbered about fifty thousand.

Apart from officers of the old army the Red Army included a large number of graduates who came out of the Soviet military schools. Many of them distinguished themselves, particularly in the later stages of the civil war.

Intensive educational propaganda was a characteristic feature of the Red Army. Opinion was moulded by lectures, posters and pledges. Every soldier was expected to take a 'socialist oath' which included the following: "Before the working classes of Russia and of the whole world, I vow to bear this name (i.e., warrior) with honour, to study military affairs conscientiously and to guard the people's and military property, as the apple of my eye, against spoiling and theft. . . . I vow to come out in defence of the Soviet Republic against all dangers and attacks by all its enemies at the first summons of the Workers' and Peasants' Government, and in the struggle for the Soviet Republic, for the cause of socialism and brotherhood of peoples, not to spare either my strength or life itself. . . ."

The war in Russia produced many a hero but all these are overshadowed by the extremely colourful personality of Trotzky. Himself without any military experience, he produced a first-class fighting force really out of nothing and led it to victory. No one would suggest that he never committed any mistakes, but he more than made up for his mistakes by his remarkable capacity for organization. He was a man of abounding energy. His special train carrying among other things a library, a radio transmitter, a telegraph station, a printing press and a small garage was constantly on the move and from here he guided the conduct of the civil war and finally succeeded in bringing the whole of Russia under the Red flag.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

BY MR. ALLAN KNIGHT

IN an article in the *New York Herald Forum* (mentioned in Indian newspapers of November 19, 1942), Mr. Wendell Wilkie stated:—

I tell you we cannot fight this war in silence, whatever our experts say. In order that we may win real victory, we must encourage to the utmost the amount of discussion among ourselves and with our Allies.

Most people will agree with this view. No commander, having surrounded a place, looks at it from one side only when planning his assault. He looks at it from every angle and nowadays from on top also—from an airplane. So must the United Nations do. They must debate every point if they are to be prepared for all eventualities. And it is only when one has faced the worst squarely that one's morale does not crack come what may.

The United Nations must try and prevent the circumstances which may force on them the supreme test and the frequent meetings between Roosevelt and Churchill are no doubt directed to this end.

Now that the tide has turned in favour of the United Nations and we are strong in every way, we can contemplate the worst with greater courage. Apart from actual defeat—which is now out of the question—the worst that can happen is the prolongation of the war.

This aspect of the matter has not been kept hidden. Mr. Churchill has always sounded the warning that we must be prepared for a long war. In his world-wide broadcast on November 29, 1942, he uttered a note of caution and warning that a hard struggle was ahead. Again, in his broadcast on March 21, 1943, he stated he could not share the optimism that the war would soon be over. On this occasion he said: "Speaking under every reserve and not attempting to prophesy, I can imagine that some time next year—but it may well be the year after—we might beat Hitler." The war can, however, become a much more protracted affair.

The question of the length of the war brings us to the crucial point which has to be considered whether it is palatable or unpalatable. This aspect of the case

has been brought to the front of the declaration by Russia that she does not want a long war and by Russia's insistence that a proper second front be opened immediately by the Anglo-American forces. By the landing on the mainland of Italy, Roosevelt and Churchill have visibly demonstrated that they mean to follow up, without delay, the grand victories in Tunisia and Sicily. What they will do, apart from the landing in Italy, is not disclosed; but no doubt it will be plain for all to see very shortly.

Unfortunately the idea has already gained ground that the morale of the Germans is already cracking. This is a dangerous notion; for its psychological effect is that there may be something less than an all-out onslaught on German might. Nothing less than hurling the entire mass of Anglo-American forces against the Germans will do. The Tunisian and Sicilian affairs have been, after all, for the Germans, nothing but sideshows. Much more than these achievements, marvellous as they have been, is necessary if the minimum requirements laid down by the Russians are to be satisfied. Russia has been fighting since June 22, 1941, on a huge front. The Russian forces have been driven back hundreds of miles. All the horrors of conquest by an enemy, at once mighty and barbarous, have been experienced by millions of the Russian people. Germany may be tiring of the struggle against the Russian bear, but the Russian bear, with many wounds, is also tired and is crying loudly for help.

This picture is a very gloomy one. While it is not probable, it is possible, and, being possible, it is one which must be faced. We have induced Italy to make a separate peace. The Germans can follow similar tactics with regard to Russia. If Germany and Russia were to make a separate peace, the period of the war would be extended a long way beyond what Churchill's speeches contemplate. To overcome the whole might of the German war machine would indeed be a long and arduous task for the British and Americans. To us in the East, this picture is all the more serious and frightful; for, after struggling over a

long period with the whole of the German might, would there be the strength and the will to fight the tenacious Japanese, the Axis partner to whom most of the increased raw materials have accrued?

Speaking at the 45th Anniversary of the Carnegie Institute of Technology at Pittsburgh on October 8, 1942, Lord Halifax, British Ambassador in the United States, condemned "too much easy optimism over the control of the raw materials." He said:

In 1939 the Axis powers had no rubber apart from the accumulated stocks and synthetic product. To-day they have 91 per cent. of the world supply. They had 25 per cent. of bauxite. Now they have 66 per cent. They had 7 per cent. of the world's iron ore. They now have 44 per cent. They had 9 per cent. of the tin ore. They now have 74 per cent. They had 10 per cent. of manganese ore. They now have 35 per cent. They had 8 per cent. of the lead ore then. Now they have 21 per cent. They had 6 per cent. of the world's flax. They have now 36 per cent.

With this access of raw materials, the resisting power of the Axis is strengthened. These additional resources are a factor working for the prolongation of the war. Stalin knows this and if he is faced with insufficient co-operation on the part of the Anglo-Americans and at the same time is

presented with generous peace offers by Hitler, he will be greatly tempted. Russia sorely needs to be relieved from bearing the full weight of the German attacks. Despite her recent victories, so badly does the situation appear to her, that she has gone to the length of indicating the number of German divisions that should be engaged by the Anglo-American forces. Hence it is that the pressure on the Russians must be relieved at once by the opening of a proper second front in Europe. To do this efforts must be unsparing and all the efforts of Britain and America must be strained to the utmost. There must be an all-out attack. Churchill, in his wisdom and foresight, has realized all along that half-measures will not do and that is why he is inclined to deal with Germany first—while Russia is still in the field. If a proper second front is opened immediately, Russia will not retire from the fray, the worst will be averted and Japan's day of reckoning will be brought nearer. Let us accept Wendell Wilkie's advice and not remain silent at this crucial time but back up Churchill in his plans to put first things first.

FREEDOM IN THE VEDIC CIVILIZATION

BY DR. C. KUNHAN RAJA, M.A., Ph.D.

THE earliest record of the codification of law in India is found in the Kalpasutra literature, which forms one of the six adjuncts to the elucidation of the Vedas. There are three divisions in this literature. The first, namely, the Srautasutras, deals with the propitiation of the gods through sacrifices. The second, called the Grihyasutras, deals with consecration of man or the domestic rituals like initiation into study and marriage. The third deals with civic life. This last bears the designation of Dharmasutras. But the entire Kalpa literature directly deals with Dharma, including both the religious and the secular obligation of man.

For the sacrifices and the domestic rituals, there is plenty of material available in the Vedic literature itself—the Samhitas or the basic texts and the Brahmanas or the commentaries thereon.

For the Dharmasutras, the writers had to depend on convention (Samaya) and the conduct of representative men (Achara). Just as the sacrifices and the domestic rituals are directly traceable to the available Vedic texts, the conduct prescribed in the Dharmasutras are held as traceable back to the Vedic age without a break, and as based on texts which must have existed but which were then lost. Representative men carried on the tradition. Thus Vedas prescribe man's entire Dharma.

Most of the actual texts of the Veda prescribing rituals take the form of "one shall do this" as in "one desirous of attaining heaven shall perform the sacrifice called Jyotishtoma". It is in the form of an injunction. Some of the texts have the form "one does this" as in "one offers milk in the fire." Here the indicative mood is interpreted as having an injunctive

significance. According to Mimamsa, which is the system of Vedic exegesis in its Dharma aspect, such an injunction is the main feature of the Vedas; any portion of the Veda which is not directly an injunction, has to be related to an injunction as a subordinate adjunct. There is no part of the Veda which can be completely dissociated from an injunction.

From this it would appear that man's entire life is dominated by an inexorable authority, that man lives in a gloom from which there is no escape, that he is oppressed by incessant terrorism. It would also appear that the Vedas with their inevitable "shall" hold complete sway over the whole nation and that the Brahmins as the custodians of the Vedic lore, had the life of man and his destiny after death under their mercy. It is no wonder that one hears much of authoritarianism, of Brahminical tyranny and submission to the inevitable as conspicuous features in Hinduism. One also hears with a sense of relief of the liberation of man from this slavery by Buddhism.

But one has to realize that language has its limitations. Language means what it is taken to mean. There is nothing absolute in the relation of words and meanings. The exact meaning of the term "shall" must be known from the interpretation put on it. We have no right to translate a Sanskrit term in an arbitrary way into English and then to read the significance of the English equivalent so chosen into the Sanskrit original. In Sanskrit we have a verb in the injunctive mood. The English word "shall" is not identical with it. The meaning of the Sanskrit injunctive mood must be understood from the interpretation of it in Sanskrit itself.

The dominant note in ancient Indian thought is that of freedom, freedom of the individual. Courage in facing facts, fearless adhesion to truth, unequivocal statements of what are ascertained as true, and strength to readily accept the consequences of such devotion to truth—these are all some of the rare qualities acknowledged as unique in the Indian intellect. Therefore the meaning of the injunctive mood in Indian Scripture must

be explained as falling in line with the general atmosphere in Indian thought, indicated in Sanskrit literature itself.

The system of Mimamsa, which is mainly concerned with the interpretation of the Vedas as authority for man's Dharma, considers the injunctive mood in the Vedas as the most important point deserving close scrutiny. The Sastra itself begins with the passage, "then, therefore there is the desire to know Dharma." Dharma means both law and also conduct in conformity with law. Such a law must be known by all. The Vedas are the source books for law and as such the study of the Vedas is obligatory on all citizens. This implies that higher education, without which the study of the Vedas is impossible, is also obligatory on a citizen. It is not enough if a citizen conducts himself in conformity with law. He should know that his life conforms to the requirements of law and it is only in this way that he would have discharged his obligation to the State as a worthy citizen. Conformity in conduct with law as imposed on an ignorant or submissive citizen is not enough for a really civilized life, according to the Vedic notions of civic responsibility. And here, it is not a mere knowledge of law that is meant. Jijnasa, which is the word used in the beginning of the Mimamsa, literally means the desire to know; it means also knowledge after careful consideration and examination; it means discriminating knowledge. He should know not merely what he should do or what he should not do as a citizen; he should also know why it is so. A State can function efficiently only if there is the willing and discriminating co-operation of all its citizens in an orderly civic life.

It is true that the opening passage in the Mimamsa prescribes only the study of the Vedas as an obligatory duty for sacrifices. But it must be recognized that the Vedas prescribe not merely the religious obligations of man but also his secular obligations, in so far as the Dharmasutras (dealing with civic duties) are as much a part of the literature forming an adjunct of Vedic exegesis as the Srouta and the Grihyasutras (the literature dealing with sacrifices and domestic rituals). Thus

whatever is stated in reference to man's religious duties has also equal reference to his secular duties. Therefore if the Vedas are to be studied as a matter of obligation for his religious life, the secular law also must be studied by a citizen as a matter of civic duty. The study of both are equally obligatory. This is implied in the opening passage of the Mimamsa.

There are certain things which a citizen should do as a matter of course; he has no choice in the matter. There are certain other things which every citizen should do under certain specific conditions. There are still others which the citizen is at liberty to do; he can do them if he desires a particular benefit. Thus Dharma—conduct according to law—comes under the three classes of *nitya* (obligatory), *naimittika* (obligatory under specific conditions) and *kamya* (optional). Law under these three heads apply to all.

Man is assumed to be good by nature, and if he knows what he should do as an obligatory duty or as an optional choice, he will do it as a result of his innate good nature. It is not necessary to prove that a good thing is really good. Man, being good by nature, has a natural aptitude to understand a good thing as good and he does what is good. Thus it is not necessary that law is proved to be right. Law is taken as right as a matter of course. It is only defects in law that must be pointed out and remedied. Law, what one must do, has application to all and it is the duty of every one to know what the law is.

There may be a few who are tempted to do what is not good through some defect in them, either because they do not know that it is a bad thing or because they hope for some advantage by doing it even after knowing that it is bad. In the case of those few exceptions among the citizens, statements of what should not be done are also needed in a code of law. Such prohibitory statements have application only to the few who may go wrong. For this reason, prohibitory statements (*nishedhas*) are relegated to a subordinate position in Vedic law. They do not assume the prominence which the ten commandments or the Panchasila (five vows) have in other religions. It is

only a positive good that constitutes virtuous life; abstinence from evil does not make a man virtuous. This is quite manifest even in the Gayatri which the Hindus recite daily. Here the prayer is not to guard the mind against wandering into evil channels. The Gayatri prayer is to guide the mind along the path of good deeds and to inspire the mind to do what is good.

It is the essence of a virtuous deed that is prescribed by a law that in respect of that deed an individual is absolutely free to do it or not to do it or to do it in some other way. Law is only law and gets its authority and sanction only from itself. There is no god to reward the virtuous or to punish the wicked. Rewards and punishments are within the law itself. Law does not reflect the divine will, nor the will of the wise men nor even the will of the majority. Law does not operate in any such capacity. Law is an eternal and immutable factor in this universe. A divine incarnation or a wise man can see the law; but they cannot make or alter the law.

The individual has a free will. He can act in conformity with law; he can abstain from activities in conformity with law; he can act in his own way not conforming to law. The fundamental fact in law is that an individual must have the capacity to do what the law prescribes. If a man can only do and has no liberty to abstain from doing or to do in his own way deviating from law, we cannot reasonably speak of his ability to do it. Ability necessarily presupposes choice, freedom to do or not to do or to do in another way. If a man obeys law it is simply because he knows it is law; he has the freedom to do it and also the ability to do it. There is no agency that can compel him to obey law.

When man is good there is no need for such an outside agency to enforce law. The fact that Vedic law does not postulate a god or any such external agency to enforce law indicates the high civilization of the age. Men were enlightened; they were free. In the hands of such a civilized community, law operates by itself. Man is by nature good and when he knows what is good, there is

an inner urge to do that which he knows to be good. The only factor that prompts a man to act according to law is his knowledge that it is law—whether the act prescribed by the law is obligatory or optional. In the case of the latter, namely, acts prescribed by law as optional, there is a definite fruit also. But in what is prescribed as obligatory, there is no such specific fruit. Even in the case of such an obligatory act, the individual is free to do or not to do or to do in another way. If he does not do, there will be some evil consequence. In doing it, he gets nothing specific. The only fruit is that he is recognized as conforming to prescribed ways. Thus the inner urge or the sense of civic responsibility is the only prompting force in the obedience to law.

There is another school of thought—perhaps a later development—according to which what prompts a citizen to act in conformity with law is a knowledge that such a conduct would bring him some benefit. According to this school, the fruit is a vital factor in law as prompting the individual to conform to law.

In this way there are two interpretations of the injunctive mood in the Vedic prescriptions of right conduct. According to one interpretation, an injunctive mood conveys the idea that the statement is a statement of law as distinct from a statement of facts. According to the other school, the injunctive mood conveys the idea that the verb denotes an action that is capable of generating a beneficial result. Either, a feeling that it is law creates an urge in the mind of man to act in conformity with law; or, a feeling that there would be some beneficial result generated by acting in conformity with law leads to an activity which conforms to law. But no school of interpretation accepts an outside agency that compels obedience to law, that has a sanction to punish those who violate law; the absolute freedom of the individual in the State is the basic principle in the interpretation of an injunction according to all schools of Mimamsa.

It is true that according to the Logicians (the Nyaya school), the Vedas derive their authority from being the expression

of the divine will. God prescribes rewards and punishments for good and evil deeds. But the interpretation of law is not a vital thing in the school and the Vedas are accepted as authority only in so far as the Vedas are there. According to this school, man's reasoning faculty is self-sufficient and the Vedas are superfluous. When we speak of law, we must take into consideration that school of thought in which Vedic interpretation is the chief item. And this school is the Mimamsa school. According to this school, man is absolutely free, unhindered in his life even by a god. This absolute freedom of the individual in the State, as much as his freedom in his religious life, is the fundamental doctrine of the Vedic civilization as preserved in the Mimamsa.

BUDDHA AND SUPRIYA

"Who among you will take up the duty of feeding the hungry?" Lord Buddha asked his followers when famine raged at Shravasti.

Ratnakar, the banker, hung his head and said, "Much more is needed than all my wealth to feed the hungry."

Jaysen, the Chief of the King's army, said, "I would gladly give my life's blood, but there is not enough food in my house."

Dharmapal, who owned broad acres of land, said with a sigh: "The drought demon has sucked my fields dry. I know not how to pay the King's dues."

Then rose Supriya, the mendicant's daughter.

She bowed to all meekly and said, "I will feed the hungry."

"How!" they cried in surprise. "How can you hope to fulfil that vow?"

"I am the poorest of you all," said Supriya, "that is my strength. I have my coffer and my store at each of your house."

Rabindranath Tagore.

STANDARD CLOTH

By MR. V. G. RAMAKRISHNAN, M.A.

THE standard cloth scheme was first mooted by the Commerce Department of the Government of India in view of the acute cloth shortage and abnormal prices. It was first proposed that the standard cloth at 93½ per cent. below the market price should be made available to the public. It was also believed that 5 per cent. of the looms in the country would be exclusively reserved for the production of standard cloth and then gradually production would be stepped up by increasing the percentage reservation to twenty. The possibilities of enlarging the scope of the handloom industry were also engaging the attention of the Government of India.

According to the plan, standard cloth will consist of *dhotis*, *saris* and *shirtings*. It will be sold at a price giving a small margin of profit to the manufacturer and to the distributor. The selling prices will be revised periodically in order to adjust them to fluctuations in the cost of production and will be uniform throughout the country. A central organization for the production and distribution of standard cloth was set up in Bombay on the lines of the Textile Advisory Panel. This body will place indents with the manufacturers for the production of standard cloth and allocate quotas to the consuming Provinces on a population basis. A standard cloth commissioner was appointed with headquarters at Bombay. The Provincial Governments were given the choice of undertaking the financial responsibility involved in the marketing of standard cloth or entrusting to a guaranteed broker or agent who will be given a commission of 1 per cent. on all sales. The retail sellers will be paid about 8 per cent. on sales *plus* Rs. 50 per shop per month for expenses. It will be the duty of the retail seller to keep a record of the names and addresses of the persons who buy standard cloth from the shop. The standard cloth commissioner is assisted by a standard cloth panel and will advise the Government of India on all matters concerning the manufacture, transport and distribution and sale of standard cloth and the fixing of prices for the purchase and sale of such

cloth. Provincial Governments interested in the development of handloom industry—Madras and Bihar—have taken active steps to increase handloom production.

The scheme of the Government of India to manufacture and supply standard cloth has been still further developed to meet the varied tastes. Over 100 varieties are now being manufactured by the Indian cotton mills under the standard cloth scheme of the Government of India. The Provincial Governments have completed arrangements for the distribution of standard cloth. The scheme was launched in April, 1943, with an initial order of 25 million yards comprising 33 varieties and this was followed in May, 1943, by another order for 150 million yards of 66 varieties. Now under the revised scheme of the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, evolved in June last, the number of varieties manufactured has been increased to 100.

The working of the standard cloth scheme has created important problems both in regard to the manufacture of standard cloth goods and their distribution. The mills have been grouped in 8 panel areas according to their location. These are Bombay, Baroda, Central India, U. P., Bengal, South India, Ahmedabad, Punjab and Delhi. The standard cloth commissioner is collecting data in respect of their respective maximum capacities to manufacture particular varieties. This information will enable Provincial Governments and Indian States to distribute their orders over the various varieties without delay and loss of efficiency and will facilitate quick despatch of the cloth and prevent piling up of stocks in the manufacturing centres. The standard cloth has become increasingly popular with the poor consumers, particularly in our Province, and with more varieties on the market shortly, sales are expected to be very brisk. Some of the Provincial Governments and Indian States have been selling the cloth through Government agency. In the Province of Bombay, besides Provincial Advisory Committees constituted to advise Government, District Magistrates have been asked to set up non-official committees to advise

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them on distribution. Distribution of the cloth has been arranged through official and non-official agencies, such as 'fair price' shops, taluka development associations, rural development boards, and co-operative institutions. As supplies are increasing, District Magistrates have been asked to utilize the services of retailers for the purpose of distribution and standard cloth is to be sold up to a limit of 15 yards a person.

In our Province the scheme for the production of handloom standard cloth to supply cheap and durable cloth at reasonable prices to the public is now completed. Under the present scheme, yarn is obtained from the mills at concessional prices and distributed to the collective weaving centres and weavers' societies in the Presidency to be converted into cloth (mainly *dhotis* and *saris*) which is marketed at controlled prices through co-operative stores and emporiums. But the present marketing arrangements have been found from experience to be inadequate and unless the marketing organization is greatly improved, the scheme which depends for its success on a rapid turnover of the cloth produced, cannot be made to produce appreciable quantities of the cloth. But this scheme is only complementary to the mill-made standard cloth scheme and it is recognized that in addition to existing co-operative agencies, arrangements must be made for sale of handloom standard cloth through normal trade channels. In order to give necessary impetus to the sale of handloom standard cloth, the personal interest of the Collectors in the districts is essential for the success of the scheme. The handloom standard cloth in Madras is slightly more expensive than mill-made standard cloth but it is more durable and caters more exactly to the requirements and tastes of the people of the Province and is offered on a variety of colours and border designs. The production of handloom standard cloth will not only meet the needs of consumers but it is also the best method under the present conditions of providing continuous employment and fair wages for the largest number of handloom weavers.

A dealer in handloom standard cloth, unlike the dealer in mill-made standard

cloth, can sell any quantity at any time and also give credit to buyers. A dealer in mill-made standard cloth can also undertake the sale of handloom standard cloth provided he sells them in separate shops. While a commission of 3 per cent. on the ex-mill price is allowed to a mill-made standard cloth dealer, a commission of 3 per cent. on the retail price is allowed to a dealer in handloom standard cloth.

When the Government of India first contemplated the production of standard cloth, the Madras Government openly expressed their great concern for the welfare of the handloom weavers in the Province where the handloom industry is the main occupation of as many as 15 lakhs of people. But later on the Government changed their attitude and it was decided that Madras also should have a major quota of mill standard cloth, though it was promised at the same time that the handloom weavers will not be excluded from the scheme of producing cheap cloth. When the question of actual production of cheap cloth had to be tackled, the scheme, as far as it concerned handloom weavers, was entrusted to the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society, Limited, in which the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Director of Industries, the Provincial Yarn Commissioner are ex-officio Directors with two non-official representatives for the working of the scheme of handloom cheap cloth. To start with, the primary weavers' societies were required to take up the production of cheap cloth on terms dictated by the Provincial Co-operative Society. In the early stages, the several primary weavers' societies referred to the varying wage-rates in the different localities and it was suggested that their differences should be fully taken into account. But the Provincial Society proposed to obtain yarn at panel rates—which were then much lower than the market rates—from the South Indian Mills, to allocate a portion for the production of cheap cloth and to utilize the balance for the production of normal cloth by selling yarn to the primary societies at rates a little less than the prevailing market rates. By so doing, the Provincial Society expected to earn huge profits through the sale of yarn for producing normal

cloth and its monopolistic production and sale of cheap handloom cloth.

The appointment of the Textile Control Board and the cotton cloth and yarn control order totally upset the yarn and cloth market. At this stage, the mill standard cloth began to be dumped into the market at rates much cheaper than those of handloom cheap cloth. The public who were imagining that the mill standard cloth will be of very poor texture and finish were obliged to revise their opinion when they actually saw the mill cloth with its calendering effects. While the mill standard cloth is thus pushing through the market, no satisfactory arrangements were made for the distribution and sale of the handloom cheap cloth. The public began to complain that the handloom cloth was inferior to the mill standard cloth in texture and finish and its price is higher than that of the mill standard cloth. The stocks

produced began to accumulate in the primary societies and in the emporiums for want of adequate arrangements for their release. Most of the weavers' societies have begun to feel diffident whether their stocks of cheap cloth could be sold at all. The handloom cheap cloth has fallen into disrepute not only on account of its unattractiveness but also its high price which is the direct result of the high panel prices at which yarn is supplied by the mills to the weavers through the Provincial Handloom Weavers' Society. It is not possible for the handloom weavers to compete with the mills in the production of cheap standard cloth so long as the yarn is supplied to the weavers at such high prices. In order to enable the handlooms to sell the cheap cloth at rates equal to, if not lower than those of the mill standard cloth, the panel prices of yarn supplied to the weavers should be adequately reduced.

WIN THE WAR AND WIN THE PEACE

BY MR. S. DAVID MICHAEL, M.A., L.T.,

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A REVIEW of the recent achievements of the United Nations and the war situation to-day calls for a spirit of thankfulness for the past. Having lost Bougainville and New Britain, the Japanese feel that their strength is being whittled away. The German African Corps has been pounded up and the enemy does not hold an inch of territory in that continent. The U-boat menace has been overcome, ending with the destruction of the Scharnhorst. Our fight in Italy has been stiff and successful, though not speedy and sensational. Bulgaria is more Pro-Russian than ever, and longs for succour from without. General Tita and Premier Ribar of Yugoslavia are getting substantial aid from and keeping close contact with the Allies. Pre-war Poland is covered by the Red Army assisted by the Polish guerillas. The most significant is the Russian dash for a break through to be followed by a rush to the Baltic shores. The German armies are reeling and retreating. Their great towns are tottering beneath the

blows of our Allied Airmen. The news of the Second Front team rallying together is a further indication of what is in store for Germany. Indeed "the hour of reckoning has come for the Germans." Even as Dr. Faustus before the advent of Mephistophiles, Adolf Hitler must be maddened in a diabolical mood of despair and horror.

In this war, the part that our Indian Fighting Forces have played has been universally accepted as "magnificent." In the Middle East theatre, they were the mainstay of the Allies. They have successfully fought the battle of Africa from Sidi Barrani to the glorious Tunis, and brought Italy to her knees. They are holding Syria, Iraq, and Persia—and the line of communication open right into European Russia. Another stream of our Veterans is pouring into Italy, and they will not stop their onward march till they are the first to lay their hands on the walls of Berlin and hurl "the beast of Europe" from his infamous cave!

At home, the war against selfishness and social injustice, demonstrated in hoarding and profiteering and so forth, has not been less successful either. These have been combated by a drastic policy of Price Control, Rationing and Savings Drive which have all met with a ready and sincere response by the peoples at large. We are indeed grateful to the Almighty for so much mercy and love.

What about the future? "*Si vis bellum, para pacem*" is a Latin obiter dictum—"If we want a victorious war, we must already foresee peace." We must win the war; but let us also spare no pains to win the peace. Post-war reconstruction is foremost a problem of justice. It is true alike in the national and inter-national order.

The dictatorship of a mere majority is as odious as the Axis Totalitarianism. What is essential for a just and stable social order is the application of the principle of integral humanism—no over-emphasis on any aspect of human nature. Only that will ensure just and equitable relationship between man and man, group and group, government and people, and state and state. All that is possible only in a spirit of compromise both within and outside a Nation. I hope and trust that young India, imbued with that spirit, in the times to come will effect a political harmony, "never deserting the vision of a better world, more humane society, and self-mastery in the warfare of the soul."

CHANDRAGUPTA VIKRAMADITYA

THE HARUN AL RASHID OF HINDU TALES

BY MR. K. S. P. IYER

THE period of the imperial Guptas to which Chandragupta Vikramaditya belonged is looked upon in Indian history as the Golden Age of Hinduism. It was during the Gupta period that India emerged from her dark ages of obscurity into that of prosperity and glory.

The seed for the Golden Age was sown by Chandragupta Maurya of the Maurya dynasty and sprouted during the time of Chandragupta I of the Gupta dynasty. The actual stage for glorification and splendour was set by Samudragupta, Chandragupta I's son, who according to the promise to his father, carried on *digvijaya*, the conquest of the four quarters, a task imposed by tradition on all Kshatriya rulers who aspired for greatness.

The empire created by a father was well consolidated by the son and the Golden Age actually reached its zenith at the time of Chandragupta II's (Vikramaditya) reign, in whose memory celebrations will come off in the first week of April.

At his accession to the throne Chandragupta II styled himself *Vikramaditya* (Sun of Valour) and is known more by this name. And he fully substantiated the honour by his magnificent achievements.

The capital was changed from Pataliputra to Ayodhya of the Ramayana fame.

Chandragupta Vikramaditya not only inherited an extensive empire from his father, Samudragupta, but himself conquered and annexed great territories, including Kathiawar and Gujarat and the important seaports of Broach and Cambay which afforded him opportunities to renew trade intercourse with Egypt and the west.

The empire actually stretched from the modern boundary of the Punjab in the north-west to the Ganges delta in the east and from the Himalayas southwards to the line of the river Narmada, but excluding Sind and most of the parts of Rajputana. Thus it was the greatest consolidated Hindu empire that India has ever known.

It was during the reign of Chandragupta and his son Kumaragupta that Hinduism achieved in literature its classical age. Ujjain, which grew in importance due to the increase in volume of trade with the west, and where the King held his court for most of his reign, also became the seat of learning and literature. To-day Ujjain is famous as a place of pilgrimage on account of the sacred river Shipra and

though once the zero meridian of Hindu geographers, its observatory still supplies important data for Hindu almanac-makers.

Kalidasa, the greatest of all Hindu poets and dramatists and who is more known as the Indian Shakespeare adorned the Age, composing many poems and plays, such as the *Ritu Samhara* (Cycle of Seasons), the *Megadhuta* (Cloud Messenger) and the dramatic masterpiece *Sakuntala*. There lived also the well-known author Bhartrihari who wrote the *Sringara Sataka* (Century of Love). There were many other well-known writers who far excelled in literature.

In science the Age was not at all lacking. Aryabhata maintained then that the earth rotated on its axis while Brahmagupta held the later Newton's theory that "All things fall to earth by a law of nature".

The Gupta Age is of unique importance to India as it was during this time that Sanskrit was adopted as the language of the educated classes and the first period in which writing came into general use in place of oral tradition.

The Gupta Era again marks the triumph of orthodox Brahminism as the rules and principles which govern and guide the Hindu conduct were established and crystallized. So to say that the great mission of the well-known Brahmin, Kautilya (Chanakya), author of the Great Artha Sastra (Political Science) and who caused the overthrow of the Nanda dynasty—the Nandas exterminated the Kshatriya kings of the time and Kautilya took revenge and re-established the Kshatriya Raj—and inaugurated the Kshatriya rule by consecrating Chandragupta of the Maurya dynasty as king, was quite fulfilled. The Mahabharata, which in its original oral form was an Indian equivalent of a Homeric epic, was recast so as to give it more religious value and for the first time the great celestial song of Shree Krishna—The Bhagavad Githa—was incorporated in the Mahabharata. The Hindu Dharma Sastras were compiled and codified and a special code entitled the Law of Manu was drawn out defining the different duties and acts to be observed by different castes.

Even in architecture the period had advanced a lot inasmuch as the secret of massive stone building was fully discovered. The famous iron pillar at Delhi testifies to the marvellous iron works of the age which still remains a marvel.

As to the administration side it was fully commended upon by the famous Chinese pilgrim, Fa Hien, who entered India during the time of Vikramaditya by the dangerous route over the Pamirs and Hindu Kush with the object of studying the Indian conditions and collect whatever manuscript available. He stayed from 405 A.D. to 411 A.D. Fa Hien very vividly described the conditions of the time as follows:—

The people are numerous and happy; they are not to register their households or attend to any magistrates and their rules; only those who cultivate the royal land have to pay a portion of the gain from it. If they want to go they go; if they want to stay on, they stay. The King governs without decapitation or other corporal punishment; criminals are simply fined lightly or heavily according to the circumstances. Even in repeated attempts at wicked rebellion, they only have their right hands cut off. The King's bodyguard and attendants all have salaries.

And again Fa Hien says that apart from the dangers likely to be encountered from wild beasts, there was no sort of any molestation. This forms a glowing testimony to the fact that the land was well policed and the people well trained citizens, law abiding and exemplary in their mode of behaviour.

Chandragupta Vikramaditya ruled from 380 A.D. to 415 A.D. Like his father, Samudragupta, he was a great warrior king and a man of action showing the qualities of a true Kshatriya king. He was also a wise ruler, a great lover of arts and literature and patronised artists and great scholars who flourished in his country.

Chandragupta is known as the Harun al Rashid of Hindu tales. It is fancied that in all probability the "Raja Bikram" of the Hindu legend at whose court flourished the "Nine Gems" of literature should be no other than Chandragupta Vikramaditya.



The WORLD of BOOKS



(ONLY SHORT NOTICES APPEAR IN THIS SECTION)

THE HISTORY OF BENGAL, VOL. I, HINDU PERIOD. Edited by R. C. Majumdar. The University of Dacca, Dacca.

Well printed on good paper and beautifully bound, this finely produced volume, the first of three in which the history is to be carried down to 1757, reflects great credit on the University of Dacca which has not allowed war conditions to put off the execution of the scheme started as early as 1935. This is a history of Bengal by the scholars of Bengal; but it is written throughout in the best tradition of modern scientific historical writing, and the reader seldom comes across any chauvinistic attempt to establish the particular superiority of Bengal to the rest of India, or to deny the facts of history; in fact foreign conquests of and raids into Bengal are sometimes admitted on what appear to be somewhat inadequate evidence.

The plan of writing strikes a happy mean between the heavy scholarly monograph, and vague popular writing without reference to sources, and the narrative in the text is throughout clear and generally holds the interest of the reader. Copious references to sources are given in the notes which contain discussions of rival views, while specially important or knotty questions are relegated to special Appendices to the particular chapters touching on those questions. The political history occupies the first nine chapters, the rest of the book being given to a study of Administration, and social life, including literature, religion, art, industry and trade. Brief select bibliographies are provided for each chapter and there is an excellent index. The plates contain nearly 200 illustrations of architecture and iconography calculated to aid the easy understanding of the chapters of the text on these subjects.

Altogether a comprehensive, scholarly and readable volume; we hope its successors would follow soon and the whole design completed according to plan at an early date.

A STUDY OF THE INDIAN MONEY MARKET. By Bimal C. Ghose. Oxford University Press. Rs. 7-8.

The economic conditions and problems of India have been studied from various angles by Economists; but studies relating to the Indian Money Market are very rare and it is for this reason that we welcome this descriptive and critical account of the Indian Money Market in general and of Calcutta Money Market in particular. Mr. Ghose has managed to give a clear and simple account of the functions and operations of the Money Market in India. The book is divided into three parts. The first part is a survey of the existing institutions of both organized and bazaar sections of the Money Market. The second part is devoted to the constitution and working of the Reserve Bank as the chief controlling agent of monetary credit in the country. It also describes in some detail, the working of the Money Market in Calcutta. The third part examines the long-term Capital Market and estimates the resources available annually to Calcutta Capital Market.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE. By Marjorie Sykes. Longmans, Green & Co., Ltd., Madras. Paper Edn. Re. 1-4. Cloth board Edition. Rs. 2-8.

In the fifteen chapters that comprise this book, we have a running account of the life and career of the great poet, interspersed with choice passages from his works. Designed for the young student and the general reader, it attempts to present Rabindranath as a man, a thinker and a poet and to present him in such a way as to awaken our desire to know more of the man and the poet. There are some striking portraits of the poet, taken at various stages of his life. The author has evidently been helped in the preparation of this work by the poet's son Rathindranath and other inmates of Santiniketan to whom the publishers desire to express their indebtedness.

POONA RESIDENCY CORRESPONDENCE.
Vol. II. Daulat Rao Sindhia's Affairs,
1804—1809. Edited by N. B. Roy.
Government Central Press, Bombay.

The relations of the British with the Sindhia State were complex and the diplomatic correspondence with that State is schemed to cover 5 volumes, of which this present book is the fourth; and deals with the fortunes of the unfortunate Daulat Rao Sindhia in the critical years from the Treaty of Burhanpur to the fateful combination of his ministers, Ghatge and Ingle in 1809. In the first years of this period, Daulat Rao recovered a portion of his lost power and presumed on an unlimited freedom of operations in Rajputana and Central India, producing in the sequel, the heart-rending tragedy of the barbarous immolation of Princess Krishnakumari of Udaipur. Sindhia's purposeless interference in the confused politics of his powerless neighbours led to no good for him. The letters have been carefully edited with brief summaries and a clear chronological table at the end. They reveal the varying views and capacities of the British Agents with the Sindhia, who was hastened on by them to the crippling end. The letters of Resident Close containing some acute observations are very revealing of the real condition of the Sindhia State at the time.

GANDHI ERA IN WORLD POLITICS. By Y. G. Krishnamurti. Foreword by Sir S. Radhakrishnan. The Popular Book Depot, Bombay. Rs. 3-12.

This book attempts to place Gandhian philosophy in the setting of present-day world politics. Political power joined with ethical power, says the writer, "is the hope of the human race. Gandhi has made a supreme effort to enact that union without ceasing to be realistic". The book is enriched with a foreword from the pen of Sir S. Radhakrishnan.

The coloured pictures of Gandhi and Nehru are an attractive feature of this study.

THE REVELATIONS OF SAINT MEIKANDAR.
By Mr. Shuddanda Bharati. Anbu Nilayam, Ramchandrapuram, Trichy Dt. Rs. 1-8.

The author, who is familiar to the discerning public as an earnest writer on hagiology and other religious subjects, has produced a brief commentary on the aphorisms of Saint Meikandar, the founder of the body of thought known as 'Siddhanta', "the other dynamic system of philosophy, which is the great heritage of India", as he describes it after referring to the more well-known 'Vedanta'.

The twelve aphorisms treat of the soul in relation to God, mind and body. As always in Hindu systems, they indicate how this soul is to attain salvation, the feet of the Lord.

The exposition is enthusiastic and knowledgeable. The book is a valuable addition to the corpus of South Indian hagiology.

BOOKS RECEIVED

THE SACRIFICE OF SITA or the Essence of the Ramayana. By N. V. Thadani, Hindu College, Delhi.

PARAMOUNTCY AND INDIAN STATES. A study of Merger Plan. By a student of Politics. The Topical Series, Walker Road, Nagpur.

CONVENTION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY. By Jagdish Prasad Gupta, B.A., LL.B. Issued by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene in India, Delhi.

NATIONALISM vs. COMMUNALISM. By Narayan Sadashiv Bapat. Published by G. S. Bapat, Karne Road, Poona.

A GUIDE TO PRACTICAL BANKING. By A. N. Khosla and B. V. Krishniah. Post Box 239, Lahore.

THE FLUTE (Second Edition). By P. Sambamoorthy, Indian Music Publishing House, 4, Bunder Street, Madras.

CITIZEN TOM PAINE. By Howard Fast. International Book House, Ltd., Bombay.

PAKISTAN AND NATIONAL UNITY. Ed. by G. Adhikari, Peoples' Publishing House, Bombay.

MAKERS OF NEW CHINA. By S. S. Batliwala, Peoples' Publishing House, Bombay. Rs. 2-4.

THE CRY OF DISTRESS. By K. Santanam. A first-hand description and an objective study of the Indian famine of 1943. With numerous illustrations and Shankar's cartoons. Hindustan Times, Delhi. Rs. 2.

SOME EMINENT GARHWALIS. By Shyan Chand Negi. Vidya Mandir, Ltd., New Delhi.

DR. SIR P. S. SIVASWAMI AIYAR

BY MR. G. A. NATESAN

THE celebration of the *Satabhishekam* on the 26th January of Sir P. S. Sivaswami Aiyar recalls to one's mind the story of a singularly beneficent life.

As a student, Sivaswami Aiyar showed academic abilities of a high order. As a practising lawyer, he set an example to the members of his profession by his uprightness and fairness in presenting a case. As a Member of the Legislative Council and later of the Central Assembly, he has shown how one, though enjoying the reputation of being a Moderate, can present the case for the people as against the Government, in forcible and convincing language, and be unsparing in his denunciation of Government's policy when he has been convinced that it has deserved it. One has to remember in this connection, his memorable indictment of the Martial Law outrages following the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. One might also recall at the present moment, his strong condemnation of the short-sighted policy of the authorities in not affording facilities to the children of the soil for equipping themselves in the task of the defence of their motherland. As a Member of the Executive Council of the Government of Madras, he gave signal proofs of his talent for sound and efficient administration. As a citizen, in his own quiet and unostentatious manner, he has been participating in all movements that make for peace and progress, and has set a high standard of integrity in public life. Of him it can truly be said that on all questions affecting the interests of the country, he has spoken and written what he has always genuinely felt. With him there can be no compromise between right and wrong in any manner. To know him is to be irresistibly drawn to him by the silken tie of affection and respect. In him we have the finest embodiment of Eastern and Western culture.

It has been my good fortune to have known him for over four decades, and latterly to know him intimately. I can claim not only his friendship but his affection as well, which I have ever highly prized. An up-to-date student of the classics of the East and the West and of politics, religion and philosophy, he always has something

interesting to present to those who seek his company. His wise learning, his great culture and his travels abroad, have endowed him with a breadth of vision which very few in our generation can lay claim to. His depth of understanding easily marks him out as a superior man. There is a singular dignity in the method and manner of his speech.

But the outstanding feature of his great and noble life will always be his well-conceived and well-planned benefactions. Only those that have come into intimate contact with him can testify to his burning desire to devote his large and well-earned savings amounting to several lakhs to the cause of the education of our boys and girls. The Tirukkattupalli High School which he has founded and fostered is one of the proofs of his discerning benefactions. Nearer home in the City of Madras, the National Girls' High School, Mylapore, is another gift of his. The scrupulous care which he has taken in rearing up these two institutions, the minute attention he has paid to laying down the plans for their efficient working, the way in which he has constituted their governing bodies, and the active interest which he even now continues to take in the day-to-day administration of both the institutions, is a rare sight indeed! Constantly thinking of his advancing age, he has been anxious day and night, to see the completion of his charities in his own lifetime. May he live long, and may the institutions he has brought into existence, thrive for ever.

CONTRIBUTIONS

THE Editor solicits contributions on all topics of general interest, and in particular on subjects bearing on the political, commercial, industrial and economic condition of India. Short articles on topical subjects are preferred. Contributions accepted and published will be duly paid for.

It may be stated that a page of the Review takes in about 700 words.

All contributions and books for Review should be addressed to Mr. G. A. Natesan, Editor, *The Indian Review*, G. T., Madras.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BY "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference

THE third session of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference, which met at Madras on the 10th January under the presidency of Mr. S. A. Brelvi, Editor of the *Bombay Chronicle*, was attended by a strong contingent of journalists from all over the country.

Mr. G. A. Natesan, Editor of the *Indian Review*, welcoming the delegates referred to the significant part which Madras had played in the history of the Press in India. Discussing measures which had been imposed for the control of the Press, Mr. Natesan pointed out that

there was no justification for the suggestion that any section of the Press was hindering the war effort. On the contrary, their relations with the Government had been characterised by a spirit of unstinted co-operation. It was far from their intention to create difficulties for the Government or to impede the war effort. But they insisted that a free Press with a full sense of responsibility should be allowed to function, unhampered by the constant pinpricks which had in the case of some newspapers, led to grievous misunderstandings.

Speaking of the Press Advisory system in the Provinces and at the centre, he said that much still remained to be done.

Mr. Brelvi, in his presidential address, declared that

there was nothing in the present political situation in India to warrant restrictions on the Press, except those necessitated by purely military considerations.

On the contrary, the situation demanded that the Press should be absolutely unfettered to ventilate legitimate grievances, regarding for instance, the treatment of prisoners and detenus.

Mr. Brelvi expressed the opinion that the greatest good that the Conference and its various committees had done was

the fostering of the feeling of comradeship among editors throughout the country. The Conference had also engendered a feeling of comparative security among them, inasmuch as the Advisory System had served as a check against hasty, ill-considered and sometimes vindictive action by the executive against individual newspapers.

In this connection and to improve working conditions, why, he asked, should not there be a Journalists' Charter?, and who was in a better position to formulate it than a Conference of Editors.

The Conference was in session for two days and adopted a number of important resolutions touching the freedom of the Press in India, and its relation to the Government in these trying times when war conditions have imposed severe restrictions on its freedom of action. The natural leaders of the people are in prison and most of the popular legislatures are under a sentence of suspension. The Press in India has therefore all the more need to be vigilant and it is in the light of this responsibility that the Conference adopted some significant resolutions.

The Indian Issue in Parliament

The Indian cause seems to be steadily gaining ground in England. Not that there is any immediate prospect of a definite turn in the direction of Indian affairs. For as yet the authorities seem determined to be adamant. But the continuance of the deadlock and the general criticism of British policy in India are naturally having their reaction on the public mind of England. Even a Tory stronghold like Skipton in Yorkshire, which for over a quarter of a century has been the bulwark of Conservative opinion, has returned a Commonwealth Party candidate Mr. Hugh Lawson who fought the elections and won it primarily on the Indian issue. His election address was as follows:

We fight for democracy and freedom. We should give that for which we are fighting to the Indian people. Only when we have removed from power men who have opposed even the modest demand of the Indian people, will it be possible for Indians to believe in our good faith! The social and economic problems of India can never be solved by a Government which is not Indian.

Interviewed by the United Press of India, Sir Richard Ackland, leader of the Commonwealth Party, said:

I want Mr. Gandhi and other Congress leaders to be released and the establishment now of a provisional National Government having the confidence of the Indian people. The Skipton people have given a clear verdict on the Indian issue.

This result may not have any dramatic effect on British policy but it undoubtedly shows which way the wind blows and it may not be all smooth sailing for the advocates of drift in Indian policy.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

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Mr. Casey as Governor of Bengal

For aught we know, Mr. R. G. Casey who has been appointed Governor of Bengal may be a very estimable person. A man who has caught Mr. Churchill's eye and who has been raised to responsible positions in the Middle East is not likely to be deficient in tact and we have no doubt that Mr. Casey means well when he says that he brings an open but sympathetic mind to his new task. But the appointment, as Mr. Kunzru reminds us, raises an important question of principle and his qualifications are not exactly relevant to the appraisal of the policy involved in the appointment.

Mr. Casey comes from Australia, a Dominion, which has imposed restrictions on the entry and residence of Indians in the Dominion. . . . Before the war, while a quota was fixed for Germans and Italians, not a single Indian was allowed to settle down permanently in Australia.

If Indians are not fit for Australian citizenship, the appointment of Mr. Casey, however eminent he may be, cannot but be taken strong exception to by us.

That explains the Indian attitude to the appointment which certainly must be embarrassing to Mr. Casey: and it is significant that Mr. E. J. Ward, the Australian Minister for External Territories, reacted to the criticism in the only way that the better mind of Australia could do. While appreciating the objection raised by Indians to Mr. Casey's appointment, Mr. Ward admits

that the arguments about Mr. Casey's wide experience are far-fetched since his knowledge of Indian affairs cannot be compared with that possessed by a great number of educated Indians.

The Late R. S. Pandit

R. S. Pandit, who died last month, was an unobtrusive worker. As scholar and linguist of note, he achieved a great reputation in literary circles. As President of the Rural Development Committee during the Congress regime in the U. P.; he worked diligently to improve Indian labour at its roots. His death at the comparatively early age of 52 is a severe blow to his family and a wide circle of friends. We offer our sincere condolences to his widow Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit and the members of his family, in their great bereavement.

Indian Scientists and the Royal Society

Indian scientists met in Conference early last month at Delhi under the presidency of Dr. S. N. Bose of the Dacca University. Sir Maurice Gwyer, in his welcome address, declared that science knows no politics, but he could not resist asking "who knows whether they (the scientists) may not even be able to solve the most intractable of all problems, India's constitutional problem." The President himself made a thinly veiled reference to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and his National Planning Committee. Lord Wavell in his opening address appealed to Indian scientists to co-operate in the development of India's great resources in agriculture and industry. The scientists' reply to this appeal was voiced by the President when he complained that the reports of the National Planning Committee had unfortunately become inaccessible to men of Science.

The opening proceedings of the session were marked by a unique function in which the Congress converted itself into a special meeting of the Royal Society—the first meeting of that body ever to be held outside England. Prof. A. V. Hill, Secretary of the Society, who had been elected Vice-President for the occasion, conveyed greetings and goodwill from the Society to scientific men and women in India and read messages from the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, Field Marshal Smuts, Sir Henry Dale, President of the Society, and Sir Richard Gregory, President of the British Association.

On Prof. Hill's invitation, Dr. Homi Babha and Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, two Fellows of the Society who had not yet been formally admitted, signed the obligation on parchments which will be incorporated in the Society's Charter Book.

INDIAN SCIENTISTS. Sketches with an account of their Researches. Contents.—Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, Sir Jagadish C. Bose, Sir Prafulla Chandra Ray, Dr. Sir C. V. Raman, Professor Ramachandra and Srinivasa Ramanujam. Price Rs. Three only. To Subscribers of the "Indian Review," Rs. 2-8. G. A. Natesan & Co., Publishers, Madras.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By "CHRONICLER"

The Leningrad Blockade

L ENINGRAD is now completely freed from the German blockade. The Russians have captured Tosno, a district centre of the Leningrad region. They have also captured the railway junction of Volosovo, 25 miles west of Gatchina. In an Order of the Day addressed to the troops of the Leningrad front, sailors of the Baltic Fleet and the workers of Leningrad on January 27. General Govorov says:

Troops of the Leningrad front as a result of 12 days' stubborn, tense battles broke through and overcame along the entire front at Leningrad the strongly fortified and deeply staggered long term important defence key points and support points at Leningrad the towns of Krasnoye Selo, Ropsha, Uritsk, Pushkin, Pavlovsk, Mga, Ulianovka, Gatchina and others and successfully developing their offensive liberated more than 700 inhabited points and repulsed the enemy from Leningrad along the entire front for a distance of 65 to 100 kilometres.

To mark the victory and in honour of the complete raising of the enemy blockade of Leningrad, the City of Lenin saluted the valiant troops of the Leningrad front with 24 salvoes from 324 guns.

The Italian Front

Nettuno, a town and harbour on the Italian west coast, south of Rome, is in Allied hands, it is officially announced. It is also stated that effective enemy opposition has so far not developed in the area of the Allied bridgehead.

The announcement of the occupation of Nettuno leaves it to be assumed that Allied troops have also occupied the port area which is called Anzio lying just north of Nettuno itself. Latest reports say that Allied landing troops have advanced 4 miles inland and are meeting only very slight opposition.

This advance puts them only 8 miles from the Appian Way—the main coastal road to Rome—which is under shell-fire from the advancing troops and within range of war ships lying off shore. At Nettuno the landing troops are 75 miles as the crow flies from the 8th Army.

Polish Graves Near Smolensk

The special Soviet commission investigating German atrocities in Klin Katyn forest has issued its report with the following conclusions: "Polish prisoners of war were shot by the Germans not only at Katyn but at other places. The object was (1) to wipe out their enemies, (2) to place the blame on the Soviet Union, and (3) to swell the statistics of enemy casualties".

The graves were opened in the presence of the Special Commission and coroners. Over 11,000 corpses were discovered in the graves clothed in Polish military uniforms.

Anglo-Irish Relations

General Richard Mulcahy, one of the principal figures in the Anglo-Irish struggle, which led to the treaty of 1921, which he accepted, was unanimously elected leader of the Fine Gael Party to replace Mr. Cosgrave.

He made this statement on behalf of his party.

We stand unequivocally for membership of the British Commonwealth. The country should decline to allow fear or differences, to interfere with the determination to take the greatest possible advantage of the British market.

End of Mandate in Syria

The first act under the new Syrian constitution, from which all mandate reservations have been removed, took place recently when the President of the Republic and Members of Parliament took the oath of loyalty to the constitution. Hitherto reservations resulting from the mandate had prevented this ceremony. The oath was taken at a big ceremony attended by high diplomatic representatives of Allied and of Arab Powers.

The European Theatre

It is officially announced that General Dwight Eisenhower has assumed command of the European theatre of operations, United States Army, in addition to his duties as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



THE NINE GEMS OF AKBAR'S COURT

Rao Bahadur G. S. Sardesai's paper on "The Nine Gems of Akbar's Court", prepared for the Akbar centenary celebration, is published in a recent issue of the *Modern Review*. The conception of the nine gems patronized by a monarch is purely Aryan, he says, and receives its first mention after the reign of Vikramaditya of Ujjain as having been a lover of arts and letters in whose court the poet Kalidas, the mathematician Varaha-Mihira, the grammarian Vararuchi, the physician Dhanwantari, the lexicographer Amarsinha, the astronomer Brahma-Gupta, the architect Shanku, the astrologer Kshapanaka, and the magician Vaitalk are said by popular tradition to have flourished. Tradition hardly cares for historical accuracy and it has now been proved beyond doubt that these great worthies were not all contemporaries but lived and worked during widely different periods in the past; nor does the figure nine signify a literal sense. This figure has a peculiar fascination over the popular mind. The expression "nine gems" therefore conveys what great progress in the various branches of knowledge had been achieved by the Aryan brain during olden days and represents types in the advance of civilization all round.

Similarly the expression "nine gems" as applied to Akbar was equally a creation of popular fancy, started after his death, possibly by Hindu Pandits of Shah Jahan and Darashuka's Court like Jagannathrai or Kavindracharya, who therein commemorated the advancement of learning during Akbar's rule so close to their generation.

When a ruler achieves phenomenal success in his craft, popular imagination soon invests him with a glow of praise and gathers round him a list of conspicuous personalities that had shared his toils. It is obvious therefore that neither the actual names, nor the exact number of these gems or helpmates of Akbar can be accurately set down. During his long reign various workers and officials stuck to him through weal and woe and were afterwards profusely rewarded by him, of whom tradition enumerates the following nine or ten:

1. Bairam Khan, 2. Abul Fazl, 3. Abul Faizi, 4. Raja Mansingh, 5. Raja Todar Mal, 6. Raja Birbal, 7. Mulla Do-pyaza, 8. Tan-Sen, 9. Hakim Humam and 10. Badayuni.

A careful student of Akbar's reign can easily add to this list many more names of generals, architects, painters, etc. But

these are sufficiently representative of the various activities and interests of the Great Emperor.

Of these Todarmall, Mansingh, Birbal and Tan Sen are four Hindus and the others Muslims. We may be sure, however, that Akbar entertained many more gems of similar character in various spheres of his vast empire, to whom all in fact he owed his greatness.

All these worthy comrades of Akbar's life died before him and awfully saddened his last years. But these nine gems with the central figure of Akbar form a complete picture with varied shades and charming colours. Akbar alone without them will look bald and insipid. Likewise these human gems scattered about without their patron to string them together will appear lifeless.

HINDUISM: A WAY TO RIGHT LIVING

Writing on Hinduism as a way to right living, Dr. Radhakumud Mookerji observes in the course of an article in the *Aryan Path* for January that in its essence and fundamentals, Hinduism

is not a body of doctrine and practices to be followed by a particular community. It lays down the principles of self-culture, the way of life for all seekers after salvation (*Mumukshu*). It views religion as a code of conduct by which its principles are to be realised and applied to life. Supreme Knowledge, the Knowledge of the Atman or the Brahma as the sole Reality, is the fruit of Karma, a life of discipline and Brahmacharya.

Religion, he goes on to say, is a process of self-expansion or self-fulfilment. It means the progressive approach of the Individual towards the Universal by his steady cultivation of the cosmopolitan outlook and of the widest sympathies which must be assimilated as part of his nature.

This widening or purification of the heart can only be achieved by co-operation of both head and heart. The mind must aid in the purification of the heart. It must cease to think in terms of individual objects to which it must not be attached by the senses. The contact of mind with matter contaminates and materialises the mind and tends to destroy its inner essence. A materialised mind manifests itself in materialism. The only escape from this debasement is to free the mind from the clutches of matter by training it to detachment from objects, as explained above. Such detachment can be achieved only by the practice of Yoga and its various regulations, physical, moral and mental.

THE GRIHASTHA ASHRAMA

The forty-ninth annual number of the *Prabuddha Bharata* is enriched by an article from the pen of Dr. M. H. Syed, who discusses the meaning and purpose of the Grihastha Ashrama. He writes:

It was not without reason, that the life of the householder was religiously enjoined on every Aryan in the olden days. He learnt a necessary lesson in life by marrying and having children. He was considered an incomplete man unless he married and had one or two children. Manu says that a man is equal to man plus wife plus child. A man living an individual solitary life cannot possibly realize not only the joys of matrimonial life that rouse and deepen his emotional nature but also that added sense of responsibility that raises his moral level and infuses in him fresh vigour and vitality to fulfil his vocation in life.

If regard for others, self-denial, self-sacrifice, unselfish devotion to a loved one, are considered truly virtuous and laudable aspects of one's moral nature, surely family life is their nursing ground. It affords ample opportunity for every householder to learn and cultivate these all-important virtues, without which no one can evolve morally.

A bachelor thinks only of his own welfare and is self-centred and insular,

whereas the same man as soon as he is wedded breaks the spell of isolation and begins to think more of his better half and his child than of his own comforts in life. It is in family life, where he has to deny himself in ever so many ways, that he learns the first lesson of unselfishness.

It is said that the Hindus are selfish; they care only for their individual well-being and liberation, and not for the welfare of their fellowmen and the amelioration of their social, political, and moral condition.

Nothing could be farther from the truth than this unauthorized statement. Practically all the schools of Indian philosophy believe in the common unity and divinity of the Self. They are repeatedly enjoined by all the spiritual teachers to love their neighbours, and every creature (Sarvabhutani), as much as their own self, because they share one life. They are mutually interdependent upon each other.

Besides, one of the paths to union with God is Karmayoga, union with God through action.

If an active and energetic man of the world desires to tread the path of spiritual perfection, he is not expected to renounce the world and cease from active life, as is wrongly supposed by some people who do not understand clearly the Hindu view of life.

Without learning to live in the lives of others, one cannot proceed on this path of spiritual realization.

ALUMINUM

The world of to-morrow will be a world of aluminum splendour, ease and efficiency—a world lightened and brightened by this silvery metal, writes Mark Kingsley in the *Magazine Digest*:

By the end of 1943, plants in the United States will be producing aluminum at a rate of seven times that of the nation's greatest peace-time year. This means that annually, 2 billion, 100 million pounds of aluminum will be produced. In other words, there will be enough to construct 8,400 twelve-car streamlined trains, or to provide a 60-piece cooking utensil set for every one of America's 34 million homes.

But astonishing as is the tale of the scope of aluminum in this war, it is only half the story. For it promises to do more than bring victory to the Allied cause. Aluminum is the most versatile of metals.

From freight cars and speedboats, trains and destroyers, to superchargers which permit our planes to fly higher than those of any other nation, and the almost invisible powder used to combat the dread disease of silicosis, there is almost nothing for which aluminum cannot, in some measure, be used. And its present usefulness more fully foreshadows the wonder-working new aluminum products waiting for us in the post-war world.

Use of lightweight, high tensile aluminum in naval vessels foreshadows a great new field in post-war economy.

Huge, fast merchant ships of the glamorous metal, capable of speeds undreamed of in merchant fleets and promising remarkable economies in both operation and gross ton freight revenue, are envisioned.

Railroad, freight, tank, and hopper cars may be made from alloy aluminum, thus permitting faster and better freight service.

Aluminum has already invaded the textile field. The ever expanding production of rayon and nylon require more and more aluminum.

MYSINDIA

The Mysindia Annual, which has just been issued, is a magnificent number with many attractive features. It teems with articles on a variety of topics—politics, art, education, industry, and aviation. There are pen and pencil sketches and coloured plates of striking interest well worth framing. We congratulate the publishers on the sumptuous fare afforded in its 64 pages of very interesting matter. The cover design is a symbolic representation of *Kerala Putri* in black and white set in a background of green and mauve.

THE FUTURE OF INDIAN STATES

Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, the Dewan of Baroda, in the course of an article on "Indian States in the Indian Polity" in *The Asiatic Review* has the following to say regarding the future of Indian States:

It is impossible to forecast this at present. Much will depend on how long the war lasts and the forces released by it. One thing is certain—that there will be a drastic reconstruction of society immediately after the war. States cannot escape the effects of these forces and will have to readjust themselves in response to them. In the meantime, they feel they can usefully devote themselves to the immediate measures of reconstruction, the need for which is recognised. In the first place, it is felt that much greater progress should be made than in the past with schemes of co-operation and consolidation of medium States and with the schemes for the joining of "estates" to parent and other states. It is difficult to say how far this process of consolidation should go, but with demand for higher standards of living among the people, present ideas on the subject have to be revised.

Secondly, all States are convinced that they should make a steady effort to offer to their people a much higher standard of living than exists to-day and a much higher standard of social services generally.

A larger proportion of the revenues will have to be devoted to these ends. This will mean a great drive for rural improvement and also that States should play their part in the increased industrialization of India.

Lastly, there is the problem of the re-orientation of the relations of the States with British India.

The States have made it clear, beyond all doubt, that they share with British India the desire that India should attain "Dominion status"—i.e., equality with Britain—without delay, and that they would be prepared to readjust their relations with the new India on terms which would be equitable to all interests concerned. There need be no doubt that these readjustments will be effected in a spirit of give and take and of mutual understanding.

THE INDIAN HOME

The Indian Home Magazine (edited by Mohan V. Raj, Sir Pherozeshah Mehta Road, Fort, Bombay) now in its seventh year is a monthly periodical devoted exclusively to the family in India. In the issue before us (December), we have a number of articles on Home Hygiene and kindred topics bearing on parenthood, education and home life. Indian home problems are discussed with sympathy and understanding and the issue is replete with topics of special interest to ladies.

EXILE AS AN INSTITUTION

Writing in *The Political Science Quarterly*, R. G. Caldwell stresses the part that exile has played in the lives of many South American heroes and politicians, like Bolivar; colonies of Latin American exiles have always flourished in great centres like Paris and New York for over a hundred years. Exile had long been a Spanish legal custom, easily transplanted to the new soil of independent Latin America. Exile was imposed both as an executive precaution and as a judicial penalty and was easily applied not only to priests and foreigners, but also to leading citizens. Political exile came to have well-recognised forms in the 19th century. The Brazilian penal code still retains banishment as a penalty for any direct attack on republican institutions. The Venezuelan President is given the right to expel citizens or aliens, the former to return when the reasons for exile have ceased to exist. In Mexico and Central America, the custom has been more persistent and important than elsewhere. Banishment of political malcontents, though not effective as a deterrent, could not be abandoned. A corollary of the institution is the right of asylum in a friendly legation and safe conduct to the port of departure. This is not countenanced by the U. S. A.

INDIA IN PERIODICALS

THE ICY HOME OF THE GANGES. By Swami Apurvananda. [*Prabuddha Bharata*, January 1944.]

NON-OFFICIAL EUROPEANS IN INDIAN LEGISLATURES. By Dr. H. C. Mookerjee. [*The Modern Review*, January 1944.]

MILTON AND INDIA. By K. Mukherjee. [*The New Review*, January 1944.]

THE MUSIC OF INDIA. By B. R. James. [*The Twentieth Century*, December 1944.]

DR. AMBEDKAR AND POST-WAR INDIA. By Economics. [*Indian Sociologist*, December 1944.]

THE FUTURE OF INDIA. By Sir Frederick James. [*Mysinda Annual*.]

THE NEAR EAST AND THE INDUS VALLEY. By P. Joseph. [*Journal of the University of Bombay*, January 1944.]

REHABILITATION OF THE INDIAN WAR-DISABLED. By M. Vasudeva Moorthy. [*The Indian Journal of Social Work*, December 1943.]

DIARY OF THE MONTH

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- Jan. 1. Petain promises loyalty to Hitler.
—Constitutional reforms for Jaipur announced in Maharaja's Proclamation.
- Jan. 2. R. A. F. bombing Berlin.
—Hitler's chancellery destroyed.
- Jan. 3. Viceroy opens Indian Science Congress at New Delhi.
- Jan. 4. Coup d'etat in Bulgaria: Pro-allied leader overthows government.
- Jan. 5. At the Science Congress, Mr. Sargent explains his plan of educational reconstruction.
—Mr. Jinnah defines Pakistan as League's condition for settlement.
- Jan. 6. *Pravda* rebukes Mr. Willkie for his "Baltic States" plan.
—Russian thrust into Poland.
- Jan. 7. Labour deputation meets Mr. Amery.
—Allied landings in Yugoslavia.
- Jan. 8. Mr. Suresh Vaidya of the American *Time* and *Life* returns his call up papers on the plea that only a free India could have the right to conscript him.
- Jan. 9. Mr. Brelvi addresses Madras Journalists.
- Jan. 10. All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference meets in Madras, Mr. S. A. Brelvi presiding.
- Jan. 11. A German News Agency reports execution of Count Ciano.
- Jan. 12. Russians capture Sarny.
—Fighting in Arakan.
- Jan. 13. Death of R. S. Pandit at Lucknow.
- Jan. 14. Jap plane over Vizagapatam.
—Mr. Churchill is recuperating in Morocco.
- Jan. 15. Soviet landing in Kerch.
—Mr. Churchill confers with Gen. de Gaulle.
- Jan. 16. H. H. Nawab of Bhopal elected Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes.
- Jan. 17. Russia rejects Polish offer.
- Jan. 18. U. S. Government offers mediation between Russia and Poland.
—Mr. Churchill back in London.
- Jan. 19. Sir Jogendra Singh, Education Member, outlines 450 crore scheme of education.
- Jan. 20. Sir Firoz Khan Noon nominated to War Cabinet.
- Jan. 21. Rau Committee for codification of Hindu Law revived.
—Leningrad offensive: Nazis in retreat.
- Jan. 22. Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey assumes office as Governor of Bengal.
- Jan. 23. Allied landings south of Rome.
—India demonstration in Birmingham.
- Jan. 24. Congress members of Legislatures meeting in Madras urge formation of All-India Legislators' Convention to resolve the deadlock.
- Jan. 25. Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy's statement on rationing in Calcutta.
—Jap counter-offensive in Burma.
- Jan. 26. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, on arrival at Lahore, served with a notice not to talk to press or address meetings.
—Birmingham meeting demands exit of Amery.
- Jan. 27. Replying to questions in the Commons, Mr. Amery says no reliable figures are available re. deaths from starvation.
- Jan. 28. Leningrad freed from blockade.
—Heavy battle south of Rome.
- Jan. 29. Pre-censorship imposed on *Hindustan Times* and *National Call*.
—Berlin raided.
- Jan. 30. Russians capture Chudovo.
—Hitler broadcasts his hopes of British fight against "Bolshevik Colossus."
- Jan. 31. Sir Chimanlal Setalvad urges Government to allow leaders to review the situation.

INDIAN STATES

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Hyderabad

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

The Hyderabad Municipal and Town Committee's Regulation provided for the reconstitution or establishment in the districts, ilaqas and jagirs of municipal and town committees and enlargement of their powers and function. It marks an important step in the direction of development of local Government institutions in H. E. H. the Nizam's Dominions under the scheme of constitutional reforms.

Under the Regulation, Government has to notify every town with a population of 15,000 or more to be a municipality and every other town with a population of 5,000 or more to be a small town. It may, however, constitute under special circumstances a municipality or a town committee for areas with lesser population. Government has also the power to exclude or include areas from or in municipalities and town committees. Pending the constitution of a municipality or town committee, the Regulation authorizes the establishment of interim bodies for carrying on the duties of local Government institutions.

LATE RAJA KAJA PERSHAD

The news of the death in Bombay of Raja Kaja Pershad Bahadur, eldest son and successor of the late Maharaja Sir Kishen Pershad Bahadur, came as a sudden shock to the people of Hyderabad. Only a fortnight before this tragic event, the Nizam had issued a *firman* according formal sanction to the Raja Saheb's succession to his father's *jagirs*. The Raja Saheb was the only son of the late Maharaja Bahadur by his Hindu wife. It may be mentioned that the family is one of the oldest Hindu noble families of Hyderabad and the only one in which the head held the hereditary title of "Peshkaf". The family, which traces its descent from the celebrated Todar Mal, has supplied the State with Chief Ministers, the most eminent of them being Raja Chandulal, a historical figure. With the death of Raja Kaja Pershad at the early age of 30 years, direct succession to the *jagir* has come to an end.

Mysore

MEDICINE INSTITUTE IN MYSORE

"No one can deny that many indigenous drugs are potent and valuable, but the days of blind belief in the authority of the written word are gone and any system of medicine must stand scrutiny by the searching eye of accurate observation and experiment," observed His Highness Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, Maharaja of Mysore, laying the foundation stone of Sir Jayachamarajendra Institute of Indian Medicine at Bangalore on December 11.

His Highness was glad that the proposed institution was not merely to train pupils in the use and preparation of the Ayurvedic and Unani medicines but it would also be a centre for organised research on modern scientific lines into the actions and uses of indigenous drugs. He hoped that an earnest attempt would be made in this institution to find out simple and inexpensive substitutes within the reach of the poorest class of patients for the costly allopathic medicines now being imported. His Highness advised that the preparation of indigenous medicines should be standardised.

RELEASE OF DETENUS

In pursuance of the decision of the Government, nineteen detenues, including Mr. T. Subramanian, President, and Mr. K. T. Bashyam and Mr. N. C. Thimma Reddi, members of the Working Committee of the State Congress, were released from the Bangalore Central Jail. There are no more detenues and political prisoners in the State convicted under the Defence of India Rules.

FREE KITCHENS

The Mysore Government have passed orders directing Deputy Commissioners in each district to open free kitchens wherever necessary, including rural areas, where cooked food will be distributed free to a specified number of really deserving people.

Recently, H. H. the Maharaja ordered the opening of a number of free kitchens in Mysore city.

Baroda

BARODA CONFERENCE

A vigorous plea for the introduction of the mother tongue as the medium of education in schools and colleges and for the establishment of an independent university in Gujarat at an early date was made by Lady Vidyagauri Nilkantha, presiding over the 15th session of the Gujarat Sahitya Parishad (Literary Conference) at Baroda on December 27.

In the unavoidable absence of His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar, the inaugural address, on his behalf, was read by Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, the Dewan.

Lady Nilkantha declared that the study of English as a compulsory subject, even at the risk of having more than two languages in the courses of studies, was very necessary in order to maintain contact with the outside world.

A resolution urging that immediate steps be taken to examine the scheme of a Gujarat University in all its details was passed at the Conference. The resolution was moved by Diwan Bahadur K. M. Jhaveri and seconded by Mr. Justice Divatia. Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, the Dewan, said at the conclusion of the session, that the Baroda Government was keen on promoting all literary and cultural activities.

Bharatpur

POST-WAR PLAN FOR BHARATPUR

A provisional Post-war Development Plan for Bharatpur State has been announced by a Government Order. Four committees have been appointed in charge of Public Works, Trade and Commerce, Agriculture and Social Service respectively. Each committee consists of no less than 16 members drawn from various walks of public life of the State, and is expected to meet at least once a month. These committees will have to investigate each item and work out details and prepare necessary plans and personnel for various works of development.

Travancore

SIR C. P. ON CENTRAL CONTROL

"Food" loomed large in the deliberations of the Travancore Legislature both in the Sri Mulam Assembly, which adjourned *sine die* on January 11, and the Sri Chitra State Council, which met on the 12th, the Dewan-President Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, presiding.

The President pointed out how as against Travancore's annual requirement of 600,000 tons of rice the quantity allotted by the Government of India and the local stocks aggregated to only one-half, and the remaining half represented the annual deficit.

The Dewan proceeded: "We could not maintain ourselves unless there was active support and encouragement by the Government of India, and that support, if it was to be implemented, must involve firstly control to be exercised by the Government of India over all surplus provinces and reciprocal co-operation on the part of deficit areas to tighten their belts and co-operate with the Central authorities."

Despite threatening letters received by him from several parts of the country in respect of his advocacy of a central and unified control, he had insisted that while for political purposes he had no immediate quarrel with those demanding two or more sovereignties in India there must be a single central control and authority whose orders would be obeyed by various units at least in economic and trade matters.

COIR INDUSTRY

The Supply Department of the Government of India and the Governments of Travancore and Cochin have, in mutual consultation, formulated a scheme which, while ensuring supplies for coir and coir products at reasonable prices to the Supply Department for war purposes, will regulate production and supply of coir and coir articles in the Travancore and Cochin States, and help the coir industry out of the depression caused by the loss of its export markets, says a press note.

Orders for coir products, which may probably amount in value to Rs. 44 lakhs, will be available with the Supply Department up to the end of the year 1944.

Jaipur

JAIPUR REFORMS

Constitutional reforms for the Jaipur State were announced in a Proclamation made by H. H. the Maharaja, on January 1.

A Legislative Council is established consisting of 51 members with an elected majority and with the Prime Minister as President. Thirty-seven of these members are to be elected and the remaining fourteen will consist of Ministers and nominated members, both official and non-official. Of the elected members, 25 will be returned by territorial constituencies and in recognition of their special position in the State, Sardars will be entitled to elect nine members. Three members will be returned by special constituencies representing respectively trade and industry, women and labour.

A Representative Assembly is also to be established consisting of 125 members, of whom 89 will be elected by territorial constituencies, 25 by the Sardars and two each by the special constituencies of trade and industry, women and labour, and the remaining five seats to be filled by nomination.

On the question of Muslim representation, the proclamation says: "Happily, communal discord has not disfigured the history of Jaipur. Politically, the interests of the Muslims and the Hindus are identical; and in spite of the Muslim demand for separate electorates, the outcome of new-born political consciousness, it is my firm conviction that, given the mutual confidence which has been a marked characteristic of my people throughout the years, the Muslims do not stand in need of any special statutory protection. I have, therefore, decided that my Muslim subjects should seek election to the Legislature on the basis of joint electorates. Nevertheless, to ensure the return of an adequate number of Muslims, I consider that four out of 25 general seats in the Legislative Council and 11 out of 89 general seats in the Representative Assembly should be reserved for the Muslim community. I trust that my Muslim subjects will recognise the fairness of this decision."

Pudukottah

THE RAJA'S INVESTITURE

Pudukottah was *en fete* on January 17 on the occasion of the investiture with full ruling powers on H. H. Shri Brihadamba Dasa Raja Rajagopala Tondaiman Bahadur, Raja of Pudukottah, ninth in succession from Ragunatha Tondaiman, the founder of the ruling house.

His Highness succeeded to the Musnad on the death of H. H. Shri Martanda Bavna Tondaiman on May 28, 1928, and was proclaimed Raja on November 19, 1928.

In view of His Highness' minority, the Administration was conducted till March, 1929, by his brother, Rajakumar Vijaya Raghunatha Dorairaja, as Regent, assisted by a Dewan, Rao Bhadur O. K. Kunhunni Menon (October 25 to December 15, 1926) and for a short while, during leave by Mr. G. Ganapati Sastriar.

From 1929, a Council of Administration, composed of a President, the Dewan and the Chief Judge as *ex-officio* member, was constituted.

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INDIANS OVERSEAS

Ceylon

NEED FOR INDO-CEYLON AMITY

Speaking on 'Indo-Ceylon Relations' at a public meeting held under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A., Madras, on January 5, Dr. G. C. Mendis of the University of Ceylon observed that Ceylon could not do without India, nor could India afford to be without the help of Ceylon, and urged the Indian public to realise that the problem was not one-sided.

Mr. Mendis said that though the question was bristling with difficulties, he wished to point out that the large majority of the Ceylonese were eager to establish good relationship with India, and they had appreciated much the standpoint taken by Pandit Nehru when he visited Ceylon to study and solve the question. Ceylon and India were bound up culturally for centuries, and without India's help, Ceylon could never have enough food supply. Ceylon was the first line of defence of India.

Proceeding, Mr. Mendis said that Indians in Ceylon were not treated as they were treated in South Africa or Australia, and it was wrong to say that Ceylon was anti-Indian. In the University of Ceylon the study of Oriental languages, particularly Sanskrit, was coming to have a prominent place. Large properties were owned by Indians in Colombo and there was no discrimination in social life between the two communities. In the passing of certain laws for the benefit of the local self-government administration, Indian interests might have been affected, but the laws should not be characterised as anti-Indian legislation. The laws were intended to protect the agricultural interests of the villages. He hoped that every effort would be made by both the countries to see that good relationship prevailed between them.

Rao Bahadur G. A. Natesan, who presided, stressed that Ceylon could not claim to have established good relationship with India unless the Indian labourer there got the same rights as the Ceylonese enjoyed.

South Africa

INDIAN TEACHERS IN NATAL

The necessity to import qualified teachers and preachers in Tamil and Sanskrit was stressed at the 38th anniversary (Congress) of the Hindu Young Men's Association, which is the premier Indian educational, social and religious organisation in Natal. A large sum has been provided for this purpose. The President, Mr. V. K. Pillay, said efforts were being made to secure the guidance and co-operation of Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, the management of the Annamalai University, and Sir Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The scheme also includes the sending of several young South African Indians to India for a five-year training in Tamil, Sanskrit and Indian culture. The sponsors of the scheme expect that when the students return after completing their studies, they will be able to help keeping alive the language, traditions and religion of their ancestors and retain cultural contact with India.

MR. SHAIKH AHMED

The death has occurred of Mr. Shaikh Ahmed, a well-known member of the Pretoria Indian community. He founded the Pretoria Islamic Society, and was President of the Pretoria Indian Congress. The death occurred while Mr. Ahmed was touring the Cape Province, organising branches of the Cape Indian Association, of which he was the president.

America

GOVIND BEHARI LAL

Among many Indian scientists now working in the United States is Mr. Govind Behari Lal, Science Editor of International News Service and the Hearst chain of newspapers in the U.S.A. On Lal falls the important task of reporting the progress of science and medicine in America, and he is read by millions of people.

Born in Delhi in 1890, this able Indian journalist made history by winning America's Pulitzer Prize in 1937.

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS

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DEPARTMENTAL

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NOTES

QUESTIONS OF IMPORTANCE

A FIFTEEN-YEAR PLAN FOR INDIA

A plan of economic development which would revolutionise living conditions in India within 15 years has been prepared by a group of influential Indian industrialists. A memorandum outlining the plan has been published over the signatures of Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Mr. J. R. D. Tata, Mr. G. D. Birla, Sir Ardesbir Dalal, Sir Shri Ram, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr. A. D. Shroff and Dr. John Matthai.

The memorandum envisages three five-year plans, as a result of which the total national income of India would be trebled. Allowing for the growth of population meanwhile this would mean a doubling of the per capita income. A feature of the plan is that the whole problem is viewed from the angle of national needs in the sphere of (a) food, (b) clothing, (c) housing, (d) education and (e) medical relief.

The plan would result in the present predominantly agricultural economy of India being transformed into a more balanced economy, 40 per cent. of the national dividend accruing from agriculture, 35 per cent. from industry and 20 per cent. from services. The plan envisages far-reaching agrarian reforms which will place agriculture on a basis of self-sufficiency and a tremendous growth of small-scale industries alongside the development of heavy industry.

The total cost of the plan is estimated to be Rs. 10,000 crores over a period of 15 years.

The authors point out that the execution of such a plan calls for the fullest measure of co-operation between the State and the masses of the people of India and that such co-operation can only be forthcoming if a democratic National Government is established in this country.

UTTERANCES OF THE DAY

MR. BRELVI ON A FREE PRESS

"I am one of those who believe that from the Freedom of the Press you can get other freedoms more effectively than otherwise. I want also freedom from want, freedom for worship and freedom of organisation and other freedoms. But if you only preserve the freedom of the press, other freedoms will follow. It is true you as representatives of the people can do much for this", observed Mr. S. A. Brelvi, President of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference, replying to a civic address by the Madras Corporation on January 13.

Continuing, Mr. Brelvi referred to political power being monopolised by vested interests which would jeopardise freedom of the people and said, "If you have a powerful free press, it would be able to save people from all dangers accruing from monopolistic domination or totalitarian regime".

SIR CHIMANLAL'S INDICTMENT OF BRITISH RULE

In the ultimate analysis, it would be found that it was the British Government who were responsible for the present state of things in India, declared Sir Chimanlal Setalvad at the conclusion of the 24th session of the National Liberal Federation of India at Bombay.

Nobody, Sir Chimanlal said, was prepared to take the promises and professions of the British Government at their face value because of the distrust created by their past actions in the minds of Indians. . . The British never did the right thing at the right time. All the same Indians had to look to the best interests of their country and it behoved them to come together and bring united pressure to bear upon the British Government "to give independence to this country at the proper time".

MRS. SAROJINI'S STATEMENT

At a press conference in Delhi on January 25, lasting for nearly 2 hours, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the only member of the Congress Working Committee, who is outside prison, and who, in spite of ill-health, has had an opportunity to study the developments in India, made an authoritative statement re-affirming the Congress position.

She emphatically repudiated the suggestion that the outbreak of violence in India was in accordance with Congress plans and that the Congress and Mahatma Gandhi were pro-Japanese.

If anybody has the audacity to continue saying it, it will be scurrilous, it will be a lie. I can tell you authoritatively, as the only member of the Working Committee outside jail, that far from being pro-Japanese, we have been consistently against any form of foreign aggression, no matter what label it may bear. We would be anti-anybody that tried to invade us. There are no two opinions among us on this.

LIBERAL FEDERATION'S PLEA

A resolution disapproving of the policy of the Government of India in continuing to detain in prison without trial well-known and popular leaders and in refusing to allow any approach to be made to Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress leaders in incarceration was passed by the National Liberal Federation of India at its open session at Bombay on December 30.

The resolution at the same time asked the Congress to treat the August (1942) resolution as a dead letter. It appealed for the co-operation of all leaders of parties to co-operate in forming national composite Governments at the Centre and in the Provinces.

MR. SASTRI'S ADDRESS TO JOURNALISTS

The Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, addressing the members of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference, following a tea party which he gave them at Gemini Studio, Madras, appealed to them to consider it their foremost duty to give no rest to the Government until they released our biggest men, Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in order that, when the whole world met at the Peace Conference, the voice of India might be raised in defence of the future, not only of India but of the whole world.

ALL-INDIA EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Education is an essential element in the true conception of democracy as a spiritual force, as a habit of life and not merely as the particular method of political machinery, said Sir Maurice Gwyer in his presidential address at the 19th annual session of the All-India Educational Conference at Jaipur on December 27.

Indicating the main principles on which Mr. Sargent's scheme is based, Sir Maurice said: "The fundamental conception is that it is the obligation of Government to provide all citizens without exception with a minimum preparation for citizenship in the form of free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 years."

He referred to the importance of free and compulsory education at the secondary stage, the importance of the university education, the supply of properly trained teachers, the impracticability of the scheme being introduced without a preliminary period of some five years and the necessity of a Central Education Department. One of the first tasks for a self-governing India would be the creation of a wholly new administrative machinery.

Sir Maurice added that a national system of education would be launched with far greater prospects of success if there was at the same time an up-rising of the national conscience and a determination to destroy once for all evil things.

DR. R. SHAMA SASTRY

We regret the sudden death of Artha Sastra Visharada Vidyalkara Panditharaja Sahitya Vidwan Dr. R. Shama Sastry, at the age of 76, at his residence in Chamundipuram, after a brief illness. The late Dr. Shama Sastry was a great Sanskrit scholar of international reputation and was part-time Professor of History in the Mysore University and Curator of the Oriental Library. He retired as the Director of Archaeology in Mysore and he was for sometime post-graduate lecturer in the Calcutta University.

"C. R. DEFAMATION CASE"

At the Madras High Court on January 18, Mr. Justice Kuppuswami Iyer quashed the conviction of Mr. P. Balasubramania Mudaliar, Editor of the *Sunday Observer*, a local English weekly, and Mr. Baquir Hussain, printer and publisher of the paper, in what is known as the "C. R. Defamation Case."

On a suit filed by Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, ex-Premier, for alleged defamation in respect of an article entitled "Gandhi—the fountain source of Evil", published in the paper on October 4, 1942, the Chief Presidency Magistrate had convicted the editor and the printer and publisher of the paper with the offence of having made defamatory statements against the complainant and had sentenced them to pay a fine of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 500 respectively. Against this conviction, the present appeal was preferred in the High Court.

Setting aside the conviction, Mr. Justice Kuppuswami Iyer observed:

Though the defamatory imputations in question made against the complainant were baseless and incorrect, still as they were made by the first accused (Mr. Balasubramania Mudaliar, editor) only as a matter of opinion in good faith and for public good after taking due care and caution, the appellants are protected by exception (9) to Section 499, I. P. C. I, therefore, find the accused not guilty and set aside the conviction and sentence.

CODIFICATION OF HINDU LAW

The Joint Committee on the Hindu Intestate Succession Bill recommended revival of the Hindu Law Committee with a view to the codification of all elements in the Hindu Law not embraced by the Hindu Intestate Succession and Marriage Bills. A resolution embodying a similar recommendation was adopted by the Council of State on August 5, 1943. The Central Government have accepted this recommendation and have decided to revive the Hindu Law Committee with the following personnel:

Chairman: The Hon. Mr. Justice B. N. Rau, Kt., C.I.E., Judge, Calcutta High Court.

Members: (1) Dr. Dwarka Nath Mitter, (2) Mr. J. R. Gharpure, and (3) Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri, C.I.E.

ANTI-FIRE PROPAGANDA

The insurance profession (which is really a full-size industry) has reason to thank the Government, observes the London correspondent of *Capital*. While the anti-fire propaganda put out by the offices themselves has not yielded the results expected, the definite policy of the Supply Departments in adopting increasingly strict measures against fire in the factories has borne good fruit. The official statement that the implementation of the heightened precautions had reduced fire outbreaks in these factories by 40 per cent. is at once a justification of the offices' decision to launch their own campaign, since it emphasises the preventability of most fire loss, and a criticism of the actual publicity programme, which has yet to yield substantial benefits.

In October, 1943, the better record of 1943 as compared with 1942 was continued, the estimated loss being £512,000, as against £675,000 in October, 1942, and £650,000 in September, 1943. The comparison of the ten-monthly 1943 total of about £7½ millions with the figure of over £10½ millions in the corresponding period of 1942 owes mainly to the operation of officially-inspired schemes of precaution.

PREMIUM ON WAR RISKS

That the question of lowering the premium on war risks insurance of goods and factories should depend entirely on the war developments during the next quarter was the general opinion of the members of the War Insurance Advisory Committee who met in Bombay recently under the presidentship of the Commerce Member. A vigorous plea was made by some of the members for lowering the premium.

During the discussion, it was pointed out that the premium on war risks insurance of goods had been already brought down to As. 2 per Rs. 100 for the quarter beginning from the October 1 and the question of the rate being lowered down still further should depend on the war developments during the next quarter. As regards the rate of premium on the war risks insurance of factories, it was thought that the position could be reviewed at the beginning of the year since the current period of insurance has still about six months to run.

CIPLA

Addressing the Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of "Cipla" (The Chemical, Industrial and Pharmaceutical Laboratories, Ltd.), held at Bombay on December 28, Dr. Hamied, the Chairman and Technical Director of the Company, said:

The present industrial boom in India should not be regarded as an index of post-war development. India will have to face a serious competition from Allied and non-Allied countries. Not being masters of our own country, we are not in a position to put tariff walls against imports and dumping from other countries in order to build our own industries as has been done by other countries who have thus become leaders of industries. Unless Indian industries are well planned and well managed so as to avoid all internal competition, we cannot face foreign competition. I would, therefore, suggest to our industrialists and business magnates to meet together and work out a plan for industrial development whereby duplication of industries is avoided and factories are established on regional basis for all the important commodities for which raw materials are available in India. There is no scarcity of technical experts in our country. With the experience I have of educated labour in India, I can claim that the technicians of our country are second to none in the world. Given genuine support and impetus by the Government, Indian industries can have a bright and sure future.

The Cipla products are becoming popular and are available in the market all over the country.

INDIA'S STERLING HOLDINGS

The *News Chronicle* has published its correspondent, Stuart Emeny's interview with Mr. G. D. Birla, in which he stressed the need for post-war Indian industrialisation. "We will welcome British help and capital if they are forthcoming; otherwise we can get them elsewhere", he said. "India must industrialise with or without Britain." British post-war planning for British prosperity was based on keeping India unindustrialised. The hope of Indian industrialists to use Indian sterling balances for post-war reconstruction of Indian economy was likely to be futile, since plans were being made to repudiate or otherwise write off the British sterling debt to India. One plan almost certain of execution was to fund sterling balances to finance post-war British exports to India, thus holding India in economic bondage.

WOMEN AND PROHIBITION

Miss Mummery of the London Mission writes from Salem:—

Many women of Salem are deeply distressed to hear that toddy shops are to be opened again. If they are allowed within the municipal limits, the state of the town will be deplorable. We have, therefore, collected nearly a thousand signatures of women to the above protest.

We hope that the public spirit of the people of the areas specially concerned and of people in other areas, will be strong enough to influence the Government and prevent this step of abolishing a reform: and that, too, before there has been opportunity to put forth adequate effort to carry out the prohibition order faithfully.

I have personal experience of the amelioration in the lot of many women in Salem since the Act became law. After all, in spite of illicit distilling, there are a majority of "law-abiders" in the land.

Dr. ANIMA CHOWDHURY, M.D. & H.S.

Lady Doctor Mrs. Anima Chowdhury, M.D. & H.S., in "Chowdhury Villa" of Kurigram (North Bengal), having undergone considerable experience in Homœopathic science, has this year, secured the first class first diploma of D.Sc. in Homœopathy from the Chicago Medical College, of Homœopathy which is incorporated with the Post-Graduate College of Hahnemannian University of America. She is the first lady of Bengal to receive the highest diploma and become the first Doctor of Honour. She has been curing many hopeless incurable chronic female and children patients with free distribution of medicines for a long years past.

WOMEN JURORS

The Bombay High Court has made history by amending the Crown side rules so as to enable women to serve as jurors in the Criminal Sessions. From next Easter for the first time in India women will function as jurors.

JOURNALISTS IN CONFERENCE

The formation and the strengthening of journalistic organisations throughout the country on the lines of the British Institute of Journalists and the National Union of Journalists was advocated by Mr. K. P. Viswanatha Iyer, Assistant Editor of the *Hindu*, in his presidential address at the Tamil Nadu Journalists' Federation Conference held at Madras.

Mr. Viswanatha Iyer, at the outset, said that revolutionary changes had occurred in the position of the Press since he entered the profession in 1910. In relation to society, it was not merely the fourth estate, its highest role then; it had now become one of its essential appendages as important as the railway and the telephone; it rendered mass production and the substance of immense populations possible by widening markets. "Paralyse it", he said, "and not all your D. I. Rules will serve to prevent the growth of public alarm and despondency."

Mr. BRELVI'S TRIBUTE TO S. INDIANS

Mr. Syed Brelvi, Editor, *Bombay Chronicle*, speaking at Madras, paid a glowing tribute to the prominent contribution of South Indian journalists to the growth of the Indian Press. The South Indian took to the journalistic profession like a duck to water; and as one who had been in close contact with journalists all over the country, without hesitation he could say that the South Indian journalist did his job very efficiently and in a manner which reflected the glory of the profession.

You find that wherever there is a newspaper in India there is inevitably a South Indian journalist, from Lahore to Karachi, from Delhi to Lucknow, from Bombay to Nagpur and even in Calcutta, where non-Bengalis are not very much welcomed!

PRESS ADVISORY SYSTEM

The All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference has passed a resolution noting with regret that the consultative machinery devised to secure the cordial co-operation of the Press with Government has not been "uniformly helpful in all provinces" and that complaints still come in from several provinces

that the Press Advisory Committees are often-times not consulted at all and where their advice is sought, it is sometimes ignored without sufficient justification.

THE LATE Mr. V. R. SHINDE

We regret to record the death, which occurred in Poona, of Mr. V. R. Shinde, a leading social worker in the Deccan, at the age of 68. After graduating from Bombay University, the late Mr. Shinde joined the Manchester College. He was one of the founders of the Depressed Class Mission Society and had been actively associated with the movement for the eradication of untouchability ever since 1906. He was also a leader of the Brahma Samaj in the Deccan.

Mr. Shinde's name will be for ever associated with the uplift of the untouchable classes for the amelioration of whose condition he laboured incessantly for the last 40 years.

THE LATE SRI MOWNANANDA SWAMIGAL

His Holiness Matathipathi Rajarajeswari Peetathipathi Sri Mownananda Saraswathi Swamigal of Dattatreya Mutt, Courtallam, breathed his last on December 28, at the age of 84.

Dewan Bahadur V. N. Viswanatha Rao, District Collector, read the Will of the Swamigal in the presence of a large crowd. The Will provides that a Committee of six persons, with the Collector as President, should manage the properties of His Holiness and the Mutt. The Committee is empowered to select his successor from Andhradesa, who should act according to the wishes of the Committee.

SIR S. S. BHATNAGAR

The honour done to Sir S. S. Bhatnagar by the Society of Chemical Industry in electing him as its Vice-President is unique. At the India House, the Press Officer pointed out that Sir S. S. Bhatnagar takes the place of Sir Robert Robinson as Vice-President.

On behalf of the Society, Mr. William Cullen has written to Sir S. S. Bhatnagar: "You are the first Indian who has ever held office in our Society. I think you know already that you were the first Honorary Member for India in our Society which is making a serious attempt, together with others, to bring the chemical fraternity within the Empire into closer relationship with one another."

ALL-INDIA MEDICAL CONFERENCE

Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, inaugurating the 20th All-India Medical Conference at Ahmedabad, on December 28, declared:

The State has done practically nothing for our health-building services and in the absence of a well-developed industrialisation of the country, the average Indian is one of the poorest in the world. Whether we want or not, both in the scheme of preventive relief that we want to plan for the future, and in our day to day treatment of disease, this central fact of our poverty must stare us in the face.

Rai Saheb Dr. S. N. Kaul, who presided over the Conference, said:

The food problem does not look to have been solved though it is more than six months when the death roll began to pile up, and both with the starvation and the cold season amongst us, the conditions are sure to deteriorate further. Epidemics of cholera, malaria, dysentery and other infectious diseases have already made their appearance from Chittagong in the far east of the country to Karachi in the far west. The present situation in Bengal should be taken as a warning for immediate handling of the food problem in other provinces, lest it should be a prelude to a greater tragedy all over the country.

DR. KRISHNAN ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

In his presidential address to the Section of Medical and Veterinary Sciences of the Indian Science Congress, Dr. K. V. Krishnan dealt with the subject of medical education in India and made suggestions for improvement in certain directions. On the standard of medical education reached in any country, he said, largely depended the soundness of the medical men, the efficiency of the medical service provided by Government and its usefulness to the community.

In India, said Dr. Krishnan, they had a dual standard of medical education, medical schools turning out licentiates who are men of a lower standard and medical colleges producing university graduates who are men of a higher standard. With the exception of India and Russia, there was no other country in the world which retained this dual standard.

SIND MEDICAL COLLEGE

Sind will have its own medical college from the academic year. This decision was taken by Government recently and orders have been passed to extend the medical school buildings at Hyderabad to house the new college.

PHYSICAL WELFARE OF CHILDREN

The irreducible minimum for the physical welfare of children, is, according to the report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education, England:—

1. That every child shall periodically come under direct medical and dental supervision, and, if found defective, shall be "followed up";

2. That every child found mal-nourished, shall, somehow or other, be nourished, and every child found verminous shall, somehow or other, be cleansed;

3. That for every sick, diseased, or defective child skilled medical treatment shall be made available;

4. That every child shall be educated in a well-ventilated school-room or classroom, or in some form of open-air school-room or class-room;

5. That every child shall have daily organised physical exercise of appropriate character;

6. That no child of school-age shall be employed for profit, except under approved conditions;

7. That the school environment and the means of education shall be such as can in no case exert unfavourable or injurious influence upon the health, growth and development of the child.

HEALTH PLANNING COMMITTEE

The appointment of a Central Medical and Health Planning Committee with Provincial Committees to consider questions of prevention of disease, promotion of health, medical education and relief was urged by the Twentieth All-India Medical Conference, which concluded at Ahmedabad, on January 1. The Conference also urged the immediate introduction throughout the country of rationing of all foodstuffs, including vegetables and milk, and recommended Government to make the country self-sufficient in the matter of food.

ALL-INDIA NUTRITION BOARD

Under the auspices of the All-India Nutrition Board, the executive committee have planned the production and publication of a series of scientific as well as popular material bearing on the different problems of nutrition and food in India. This problem has already come into the forefront.

INDIA'S STERLING ASSETS

Speaking on 'India as a creditor country', at the Rotary Club Dinner held at Madras on January 4, at Connemara Hotel, Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetti urged that Britain must repay the sterling debt she owed to India by sending machinery and plant for India's industrial development.

The lecturer explained how the sterling credits had accrued during the war and how it had led to inflation within India.

He emphasised that the present credit position of India was not an index of her prosperity or profit-making capacity but was solely due to the great sacrifices she had made in contributing materials to the Allies for the prosecution of the war. The question they had to consider was, how England was going to repay the money, which now amounted to Rs. 853 crores. If England was going to dump her manufactures in India, what was to happen to goods produced in India? India's industrial and agricultural production must be improved if the present low standard of living of her people were to be improved. If England would repay the debt in the form of plant and machinery necessary for India's industrial progress, then the sacrifices India had made during the war might prove beneficial to her. Whether the creditor position of India would be a blessing or otherwise would be determined by the trade relationship that would be established between the two countries after the war.

GEORGE VI COINS

There is a misapprehension among the public, says a Madras Press Note, that nickel four-anna pieces with corrugated edges and quaternary George VI half rupees and quarter rupees of the Mintage of 1940 with plain milling, i.e., without the security edge and all silver quarter rupees have ceased to be legal tender. This is not the case. All genuine quarter rupees are legal tender and should be accepted freely by the public. The quaternary half rupees (1940 issue and onwards) also continue to be legal tender, whether they have plain milling or security edges. Only George VI silver half rupees which are of eleven-twelfths standard fineness (i.e., those issued before 1940) have ceased to be legal tender.

STATE MANAGEMENT OF M. & S. M. & S. I. R.

The Railway Standing Finance Committee held a two-day meeting on 15th and 16th December, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Zahid Husain, Financial Commissioner of Railways.

The Committee approved of the advance allotments for general purposes stores, which have been found necessary primarily as a result of the scheme of rationalisation introduced by the Supply Department, and the manufacture of bolts, nuts and rivets undertaken by the G. I. P. Railway in its own workshops.

The Committee were also informed of, and approved, the course of negotiations for the premature termination of the M. & S. M. and S. I. Railway's contracts.

It was explained to the Committee that under the terms of the contracts with the M. & S. M. and S. I. Railways Companies, the Government of India have the option to terminate the contracts and take over the lines under State management on the 1st January, 1946, or on the 1st January of any succeeding fifth year, by giving the Companies 12 months' prior notice in England. On the contracts being so determined, Government will be required to repay to the M. & S. M. Railway Company their Share Capital amounting to £5 million, and to the S. I. Railway Company the Share Capital amounting to £1 million, and also to take over the outstanding 4 per cent. debentures amounting to £2,318,248.

B. B. & C. I. RAILWAYMEN

Presiding over the annual meeting of the B. B. and C. I. Railway Employees' Union at the Bhandari Hall, Dadar, Bombay, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta said, that in the post-war reconstruction plan of the Railway Board, dearness allowance for workers should not be reduced. He pleaded for the formation of an inquiry committee to deal in cases, where employees were discharged without proper reasons. He wanted that the railway should throw open its provident fund to workers also.

Mr. G. C. Laughton, General Manager, B. B. and C. I. Railway, called upon the workers to join the Employees' Union in large numbers and make it a powerful organisation.

THE FASCINATION OF INDIAN ART

It is the task of the art historian to examine the works of art for their merit, their historical development, their value, their perfection, said Dr. C. L. Fabri, in a broadcast from Bombay. Here again India has a great deal more to do than some of her more fortunate sister-nations. The fact is that although the ancient Indians left us a few books dealing with the arts, the so-called *Silpa-Sastras*, yet in the whole literature of ancient India, there is not a single book on art history. This is a very sad fact. We do not know the name of any great artist at all; though one or two sculptures seem to bear the name of the stone-carver. Even where it seems that we have got hold of the name of a sculptor, all that we know about him is his name. There is not a single date, not a single word of information about him, his times, his development in any book. How much more lucky are the ancient Greeks, the Romans, the Italians of the Renaissance period! Here we have contemporary accounts of all the great masters, their lives, their chief works, often with wonderful detail. All that has to be found out still in India. Art history in India is in its very infancy. An enormous amount of work in this field remains to be done; and it is again the future generation of young Indians who will have to do it.

TRIBUTE TO ROSHANARA BEGUM

At the conclusion of Miss Roshanara Begum's music recital at the Music Academy, Madras, Sangeetha Kalanidhi Harikesanallur Muthiah Bhagavathar expressed the appreciation of those present in a felicitous speech. He referred to the perfect technique, sweet voice and the high scientific skill of Miss Roshanara Begum and declared that her performance was a pre-eminent example of music that transcended all barriers of language, for most of the listeners were ignorant of Urdu or Sanskrit in which she sang, and yet they had all derived indescribable pleasure from the ceaseless flow of melody. The artiste laid little or no stress on the language of her music. He called her the "Skylark of Hindustan."

INDIA'S PLACE ON THE CRICKET MAP

Will India at the end of the long war, be in a position to challenge the England-Australia supremacy in international cricket? This question was put by the Associated Press cricket correspondent to two Indian veteran cricketers of eminence.

The answer of both Colonel C. K. Nayudu and Prince Duleepsinhji was in the negative, and they gave their reasons why.

Prince Duleepsinhji said: "We have batsmen in plenty and very good ones too, who could hold their own amidst England's and Australia's best, but what we lack sorely is class bowlers and you cannot win matches in international cricket with batsmen only however good. At present, India has not got a really good pair of opening bowlers—for example, a pair like Amar Singh and Nissar, who in their time, were the best opening bowlers in the world."

"The only good bowlers in India at present are slow, leg-break and googly bowlers," added "Duleep," who also pointed out that there is lot of room for improvement in fielding. "Until we show a great deal of improvement in these two departments, we will never produce a real Test team to challenge the might of England and Australia," he concluded.

Colonel C. K. Nayudu, in answering the question, said: "We must build up a cricket side for international cricket and I see no earnest effort made in India to really build up such a complete team."

Then "C. K." dwelt on the poverty of many good Indian cricketers who can neither afford the luxury of first class cricket nor find the time for it. And thus many a promising cricketer was lost to the country. "I wish there was some all-India organisation whose function would be to find 'ways and means' to keep such promising cricketers 'free from want' and then provide them with opportunities for cricket. Unless we take cricket seriously and 'really build up' from right now, the potential all-India XI, we cannot hope to challenge the supremacy of England and Australia at cricket."

INDIAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

The 13th annual conference of the Indian Mathematical Society met at Annamalai-nagar on December 29, Dr. F. W. Levi Hardinge, Professor of Higher Mathematics, Calcutta University, presiding.

Referring to the place of mathematics in daily life and in the training of the young in schools and colleges, Professor Levi said, the debatable topic was whether some knowledge of mathematics above the level of elementary arithmetic was necessary for a well-educated man. One might expect that the rigorous form of mathematical conclusions would sharpen the critical sense and stiffen the students' mental self-discipline. Moreover, his experience that he was able to check the correctness of mathematical investigations himself by logical considerations alone was likely to enhance his self-confidence.

Mr. S. V. Ramamurthi, Adviser to H. E. the Governor, declared open the Mathematics Exposition, which was a special feature of the conference. The Exposition consisted of about 2,000 exhibits, big and small, arranged under 12 heads, including Mathematics in India, Mathematics and Biology, Mathematics and Art, Mystery of Numbers and Symbols, the Story of Mathematics, Mathematical Physics, Statistics, Puzzles and Recreations, Mathematics and Modern Life and Mathematics in War.

SCIENCE PORTFOLIO

Sir J. C. Ghosh, addressing the National Institute of Science of India at Delhi on December 30, said it would be a great advantage if research in all branches of science and industries were made the special responsibility of a member of the Viceroy's Cabinet and the proposed National Research Council with its constituent research boards were set up under the member.

CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS' ASSOCIATION

A general body meeting of the Chemists and Druggists' Association, Madras, was held in December last. Mr. S. Lalchand Dadha was unanimously elected President for the coming year and Mr. K. Venkatapathi Naidu and Mr. Wilfred Pereira, Vice-Presidents. Mr. Bashyam, the Deputy Mayor and Mr. R. S. K. Swamy were elected Joint Secretaries. An executive committee of eleven members has also been formed.

FARADAY IN THE FILM

Michael Faraday is now the central figure of a film on the Royal Institution which George E. Turner has produced with John Curthoys as director, for the British Council. The film begins with Faraday as an old man—he was born in 1791 and died in 1867—talking over past days to a small boy. His voice, remembering the great experiences of his life, forms the commentary as the screen unfolds his story.

In the film we see him deliver the message about a coal-mining disaster which results in Sir Humphry Davy's invention of the Davy lamp. We see his marriage, his election as Director of the Royal Institution, and we see some of his experiments. It was as a chemist that Faraday first made his name—by his special study of chlorine and his experiments on the diffusion of gases.

Faraday's greatness lies in his work as a pioneer of electricity. A commentator of to-day in this film of Faraday's life says: "From Faraday's development of electricity man derives light, heat, energy, even health itself. . . ."

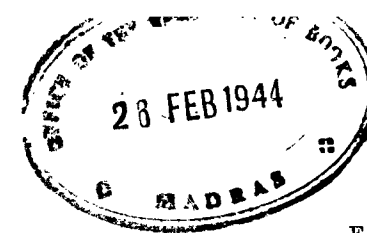
A SCISSORED FILM

The Governor of the United Provinces notifies that the film entitled 'Sangam' after the excision of the following pictorial and sound portions, and as now recertified under the Madras Board of Film Censors' Certificate shall be certified in the whole of the United Provinces.

- (1) the shouts of "Mahatma Gandhi Ki Jai" wherever they occur in the film;
- (2) the exhibition of the full size photo of Mahatma Gandhi; and
- (3) the exhibition of the photo of Subhas Chandra Bose on the bag carried about by the hero in the opening portions of the film.

DOCUMENTARY FILM OF KHARKOV TRIAL

Moscow Radio says that a documentary film of the Kharkov trial has been completed. It shows the atrocities committed by the Germans, and records the interrogation of the accused, the depositions of the witnesses, the speech of the State Prosecutor, the passing of the sentence, and its execution. The newsreel will be released shortly.



MANUFACTURE OF CARS IN INDIA

It is learnt that the manufacture of motor cars and trucks in India may be a possibility in the near future.

It is understood that Birla Brothers, who have already acquired the assembling plant and other machinery, are going to establish a motor car plant as soon as circumstances permit. An application has already been submitted to the Government of India for the increase of the capital of the Hindustan Motors, Ltd. Expert staff is being recruited from England and the United States.

The Company intend manufacturing medium size motor cars and light trucks which are expected to meet the growing requirements of the country.

TYRE RATIONING ORDER

The tyre rationing order, 1944, published in the *Gazette of India* prescribes conditions under which new or used tyres and tubes may be acquired. The order, among other things, lays down that any person wishing to dispose of an unserviceable tyre or tube shall deliver it or despatch it by goods train "freight to pay" to the nearest Government scrap rubber depot, which shall pay for it at such rates as may be fixed by the Central Government in this behalf. No person other than a recognised reclaim manufacturer shall have in his possession any unserviceable tyre or tube for more than 10 days after it became unserviceable, nor is he to dispose of it except in accordance with the provisions of the order, or destroy it except with the Rubber Controller's permission.

MOTOR TRANSPORT CONTROL ORDER

An order called the Civil Motor Transport Vehicles Control Order issued last month prohibits the sale or acquisition of certain specified motor vehicles except under orders of the Provincial Motor Transport Controller. The order applies to Chevrolet and Ford cars of certain specifications which have been or may hereafter be released for civil use under orders of the Central Government, including all vehicles to which the Lease-Lend Vehicles Control Order 1943 applied immediately before the commencement of this order.

PLAN TO CRUSH AXIS AVIATION INDUSTRY

The authoritative air magazine *American Aviation* reported that Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt decided at Quebec and Cairo to oust all trace of the aviation industry from the Axis countries after the war. The ban would apply to national air lines and civilian flying. It was added that the necessary air service for these countries would be established by the Allies.

"It is known definitely" the magazine said, "that there will be no formal United Nations Aviation policy conference until after the war or until other post-war problems are ready for formal consideration. President Roosevelt is understood to favour a wide latitude and freedom of transit for planes of the United Nations, especially in the use of air ports built for war purposes. He is stated to be opposed to monopoly for the United States international air transport, feeling that the field is too large for one company to handle alone."

TATA AIR LINES

Mr. S. K. Kooka, Traffic Superintendent, Tata Air Lines, Bombay, who went on a visit to Ceylon told *The Times of Ceylon* that from 1944 quicker and improved facilities would be provided for civilian air traffic between Ceylon and India.

The single-engined planes operating certain of the Bombay-Colombo, Colombo-Bombay Service would be withdrawn and this sector operated by larger and new twin-engined aircraft equipped with wireless, which had been released to his company by Government. This, he stated, would enable civilian passengers to secure easier accommodation.

Mr. Kooka added that a sixth weekly service would also be introduced shortly.

CIVIL AVIATION IN INDIA

India's first claim to the development of civil aviation is obvious, India being a country of vast distances, an unequalled Empire potential for industrial, agricultural and market development, writes Mr. A. James Payne, in *Great Britain and the East*. By air transport every principal town in India can be linked by a daily service.

INDIAN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

Rao Sahib Dr. B. V. Narayanaswami Nayudu (Principal and Professor of Economics, Pachaiyappa's College, Madras), presiding over the 26th session of the Indian Economic Conference, which met at Madras on December 30, observed:

"We must see that peace conditions do not wipe out industries in India that owe their origin to war. But industrial reconstruction does not appear within the purview of any of the committees (organised by Government) for reconstruction work. . . . What war has given, the Government should not take away."

Dr. Nayudu urged social reform as a pre-requisite to agrarian reform, and pleaded for protection of the Indian grain-grower against overseas competition. He advocated production of more goods as the "real remedy" against inflation.

About 50 delegates from all over India attended the Conference.

Professors of Economics and Politics from almost all the Colleges in the Presidency attended the Conference.

Important papers on economic and kindred subjects were read at the session.

SUGAR AS COTTAGE INDUSTRY

A complete sugar-making plant on a cottage industry scale has been designed at the Sugar Research and Testing Station, Bilari, working under the Director of Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology. Consisting of an improved "kolhu", two pans, four crystallisers and a pedestal centrifugal, the plant deals with 25 to 30 maunds of cane per day.

The plant can be worked by a grower with the help of his family members and bullocks. At a demonstration arranged at the Badaun Exhibition, cultivators and zamindars saw the plant manufacturing improved quality of sugar. Besides yielding a higher return for the labour involved, the sugar manufactured with the help of this plant is free from excise duty as no motive power is employed in its working.

COTTON MILL PRODUCE

During May, 1943, cotton mills in Bombay City produced 41,508,000 lbs. of yarn and 33,354,000 lbs. of woven goods and those in Ahmedabad produced 20,051,000 lbs. of yarn and 16,714,000 lbs. of woven goods. The total production of cotton yarn and piecegoods for the whole of the Province amounted to 71,471,000 lbs. and 55,959,000 lbs. respectively.

SEEDLESS TOMATOES

Tomatoes, America's number-one victory vegetable, can be induced to form seedless, more solidly meaty fruits by being treated with the fumes of a growth-promoting acid at or before the time the flowers open. Important horticultural developments may result from tests performed at the experimental station of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Beltsville.

Use of growth-promoting chemicals to induce formation of seedless tomatoes and other fruits had already been reported by other researchers. However, their methods involved the use of sprays, or even direct application by hand. Getting similar results merely by subjecting plants temporarily to self-distributing fumes from a few milligrams of acid obviously saves a great deal of time and labour.

The Beltsville researchers placed a number of greenhouse tomato plants in a closed chamber, so that the exact concentration of the fumes could be measured. They used 250 milligrams (1/120 troy ounce) of betanaphthoxyacetic acid per 1,000 cubic feet of room space, evaporating it on a hot glass plate over an electric heater. After overnight exposure to the fumes, the plants were taken back to the greenhouse, where an equal number of untreated plants were placed with them for comparison purposes.

As the flowers opened, both treated and untreated plants were all carefully hand-pollinated. When tomatoes matured, they were compared for flavour, vitamins, and total mineral content. Except for the fact that tomatoes from the treated plants were nearly or altogether seedless, no difference could be detected between the two lots.

LOANS TO RYOTS

The Government of Madras have empowered District Agricultural Officers to grant loans to individual ryots up to Rs. 75 instead of up to Rs. 50 in all districts except Nilgiris for the purchase of manure or improved variety of seed as the prices of these have increased because of the war. In the case of the Nilgiris, Government have directed that cultivators be granted loans up to Rs. 250 for the purchase of manure and seed potatoes.

FEDERATION OF LABOUR

The phenomenal growth of the Indian Federation of Labour, the mobilisation of the Indian working classes under its lead in support of the prosecution of the war and plans for the securing of a proper share for Indian labour in the post-war settlement were reviewed at the first annual conference of the Federation held in Bombay recently under the presidency of Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta. The conference was attended by 281 delegates from all over India, representing 332 affiliated unions and a total membership of 337,132.

Messages from prominent leaders and officials who could not attend were read at the conference. Sir Reginald Maxwell, Home Member, Government of India, wishing the conference success, stated:

I am aware of the valuable lead which the I.F.L. has given to the Indian working class in support of the prosecution of the anti-Fascist war. Those who have given such support have the best title to participate in the benefits of the peace.

A message from Dr. B. R. Ambedkar stated:

I hope this effort of the Federation will succeed in educating labour not to be enmeshed in the narrow particularism of the trade unions, nor to be deceived by the false and outworn slogans of a fraudulent nationalism whose primary object is to exploit labour.

Miss M. Kara, Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcomed the delegates.

BONUS FOR TEXTILE WORKERS

An agreement has been reached between the Millowners' Association and the Textile Labour Association regarding the payment of bonus to the workers for the year 1943, whereby workers earning less than Rs. 200 will be given a bonus equal to one-fifth of their earnings in 1943, irrespective of whether they are at present employed or not. The earnings will not include the amounts received by employees by way of dearness allowance, bonus or other emoluments and will only mean the wages or salaries as the case may be. The workers who have worked for less than 75 working days and more than 32 working days will be granted a bonus to the extent of 50 per cent. and employees who have worked for less than 33 working days will not be paid any bonus.

ORIENTAL CONFERENCE

Welcoming the delegates to the twelfth All-India Oriental Conference, which met at Benares, the Chairman of the Reception Committee, Sir S. Radakrishnan said, in the course of his speech:

In our country to-day the Oriental Conference can be of immense value. By a scholarly appreciation of India's historical culture, by a proper estimate of the interaction of the different races and religions we can bring about a renaissance based on the integrity of Indian culture. To-day we have to reckon with the stresses, conflicts and confusions and build fresh schemes with originality and freedom and in the strength of the legacy of ancient wisdom. In the spirit of our tradition which is one of comprehension and not withdrawal, let us move forward into the border realm of responsibility for the whole community.

Rao Bahadur Dr. S. K. Belvalkar of Poona, delivering the presidential address, dwelt at length on the research work carried on in different parts of the country on Indology and complained that what had been achieved so far and was likely to be achieved at the present rate of progress and the present methods of work was very small compared with what they had still to accomplish in almost every branch of study.

The Conference was opened by Maharajahadhiraja of Darbhanga. The session was attended by about two hundred delegates, representing almost all the universities and research institutions in India, a Chinese delegation, a Ceylonese and a Polish representative.

Mr. P. V. Kane of Bombay was elected President of the next session of the All-India Oriental Conference.

The programme of the Conference included a variety of entertainment, music, dances and scenes from Swapna Vasavadatta and Sakuntala and a popular lecture by Dr. H. M. Krishna on "Hoysala Architecture".

MR. FISCHER'S ARGUMENT

Mr. Louis Fischer, one of the most ardent American advocates of India's independence, who visited India last year and stayed for a week with Gandhiji, eloquently sums up the arguments against British rule in India in a small book entitled "Empire". His main argument is that Britain will gain economically by granting India freedom. However, the author himself realises that the argument will carry little weight with Mr. Churchill,

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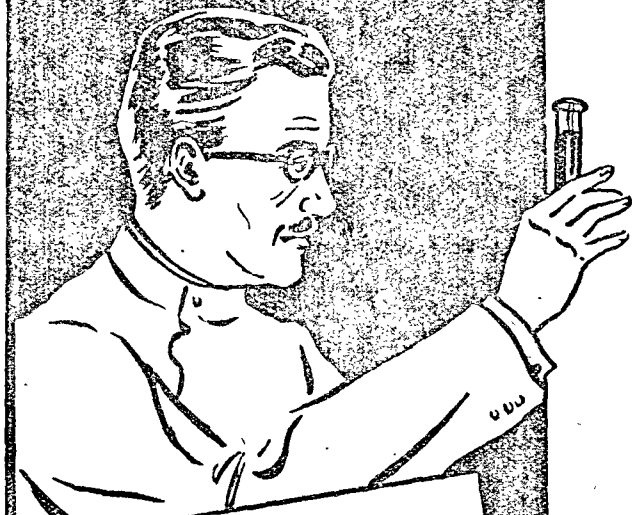
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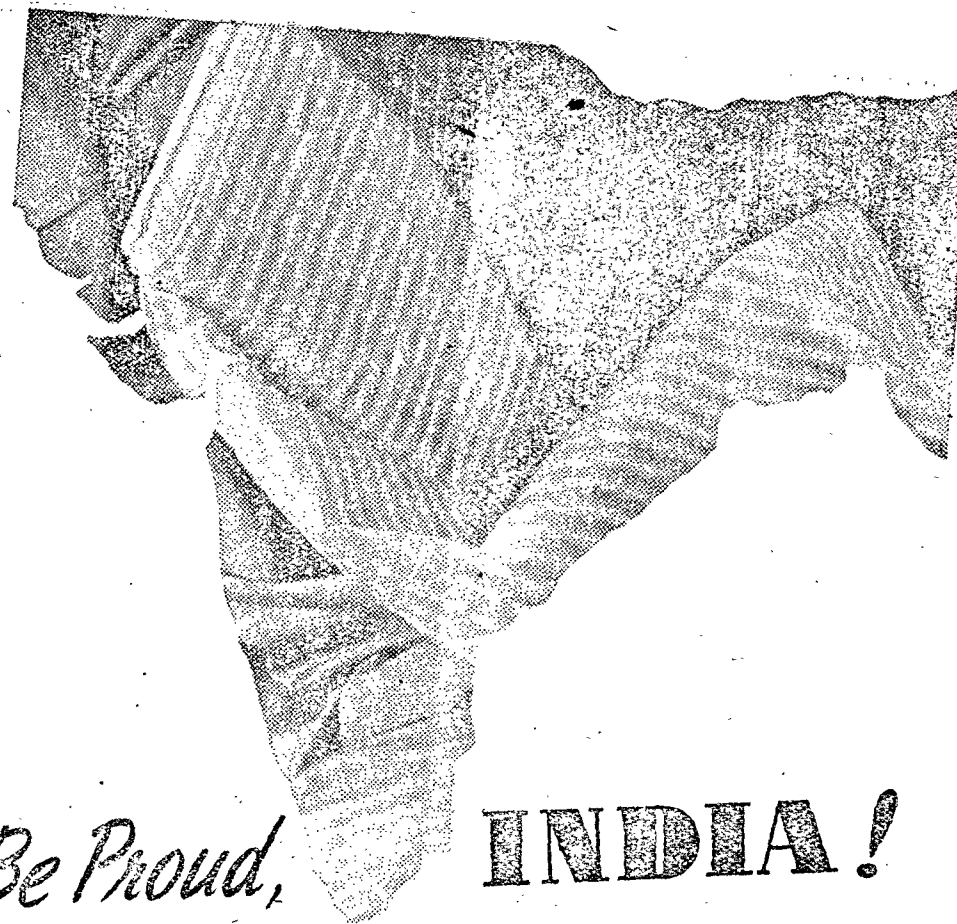
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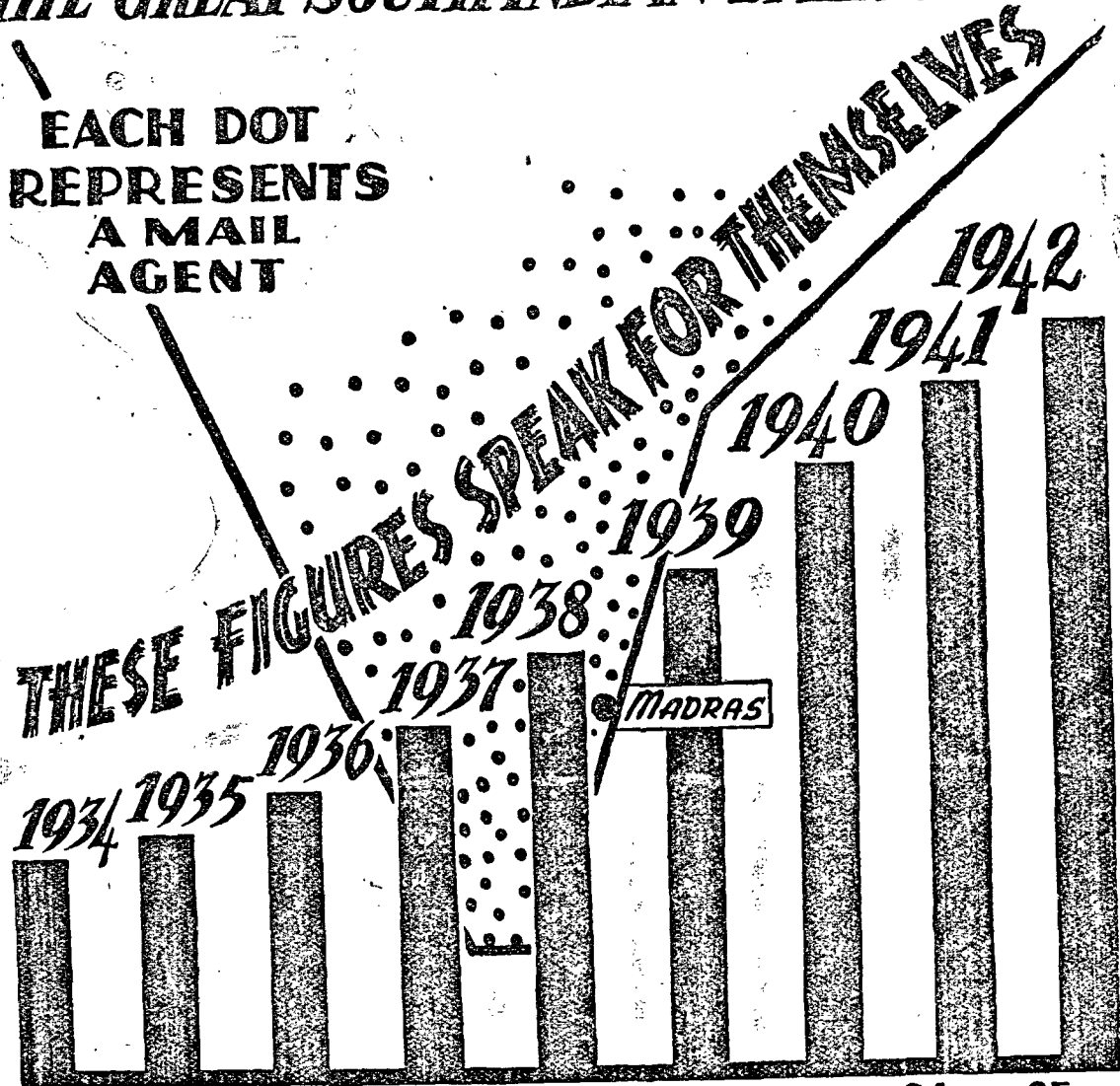
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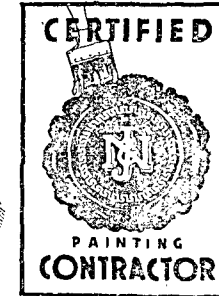
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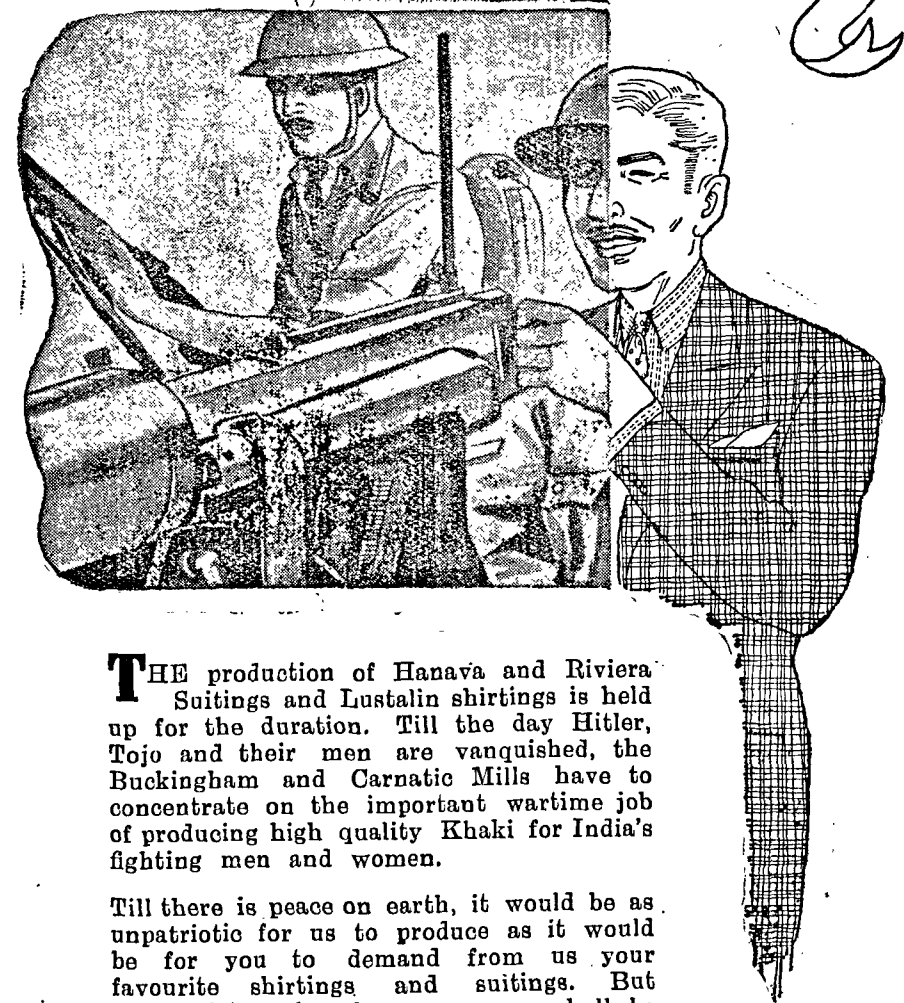
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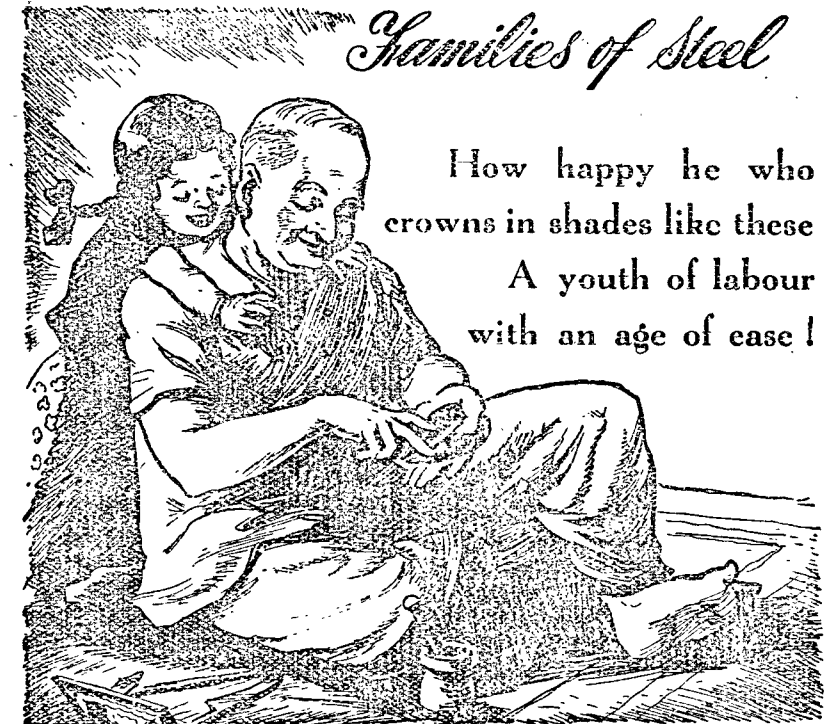
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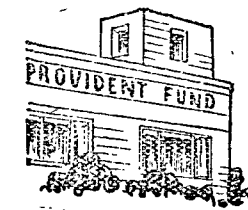
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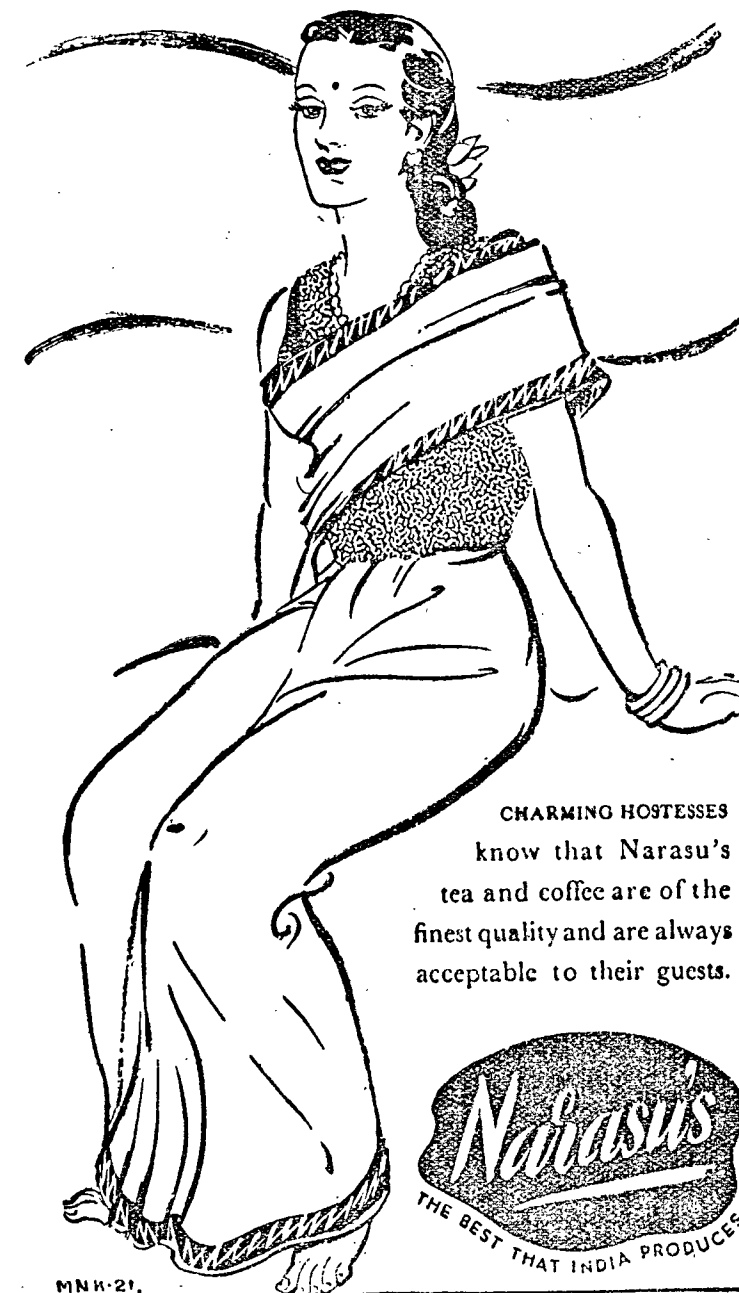
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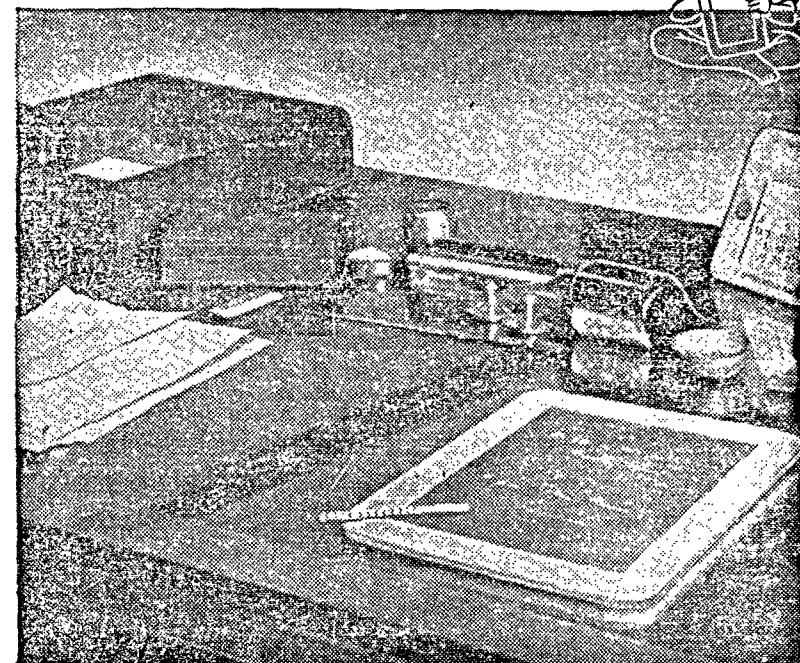
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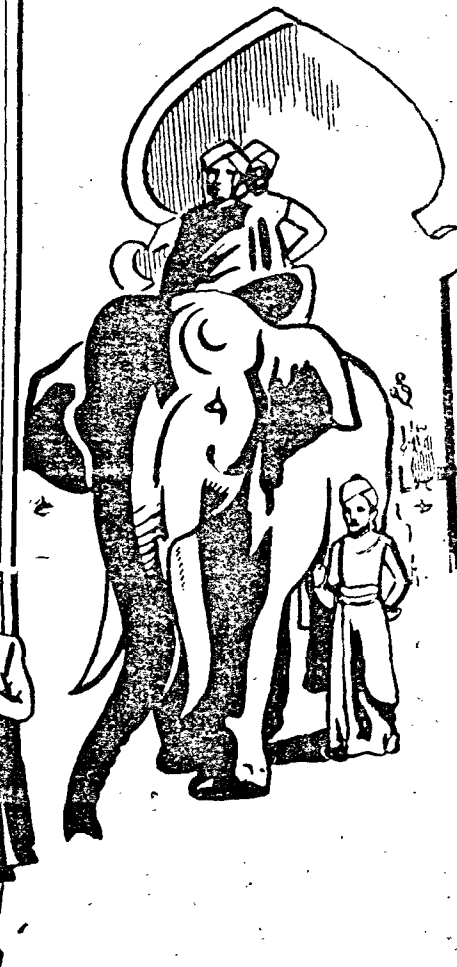
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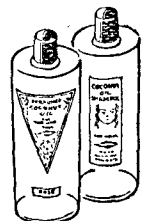
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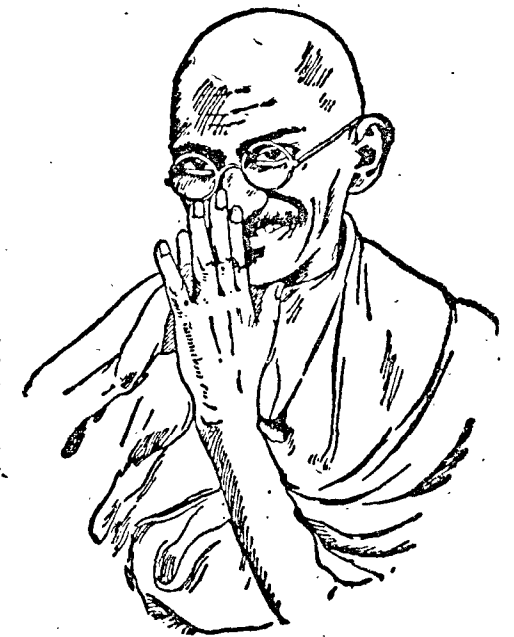
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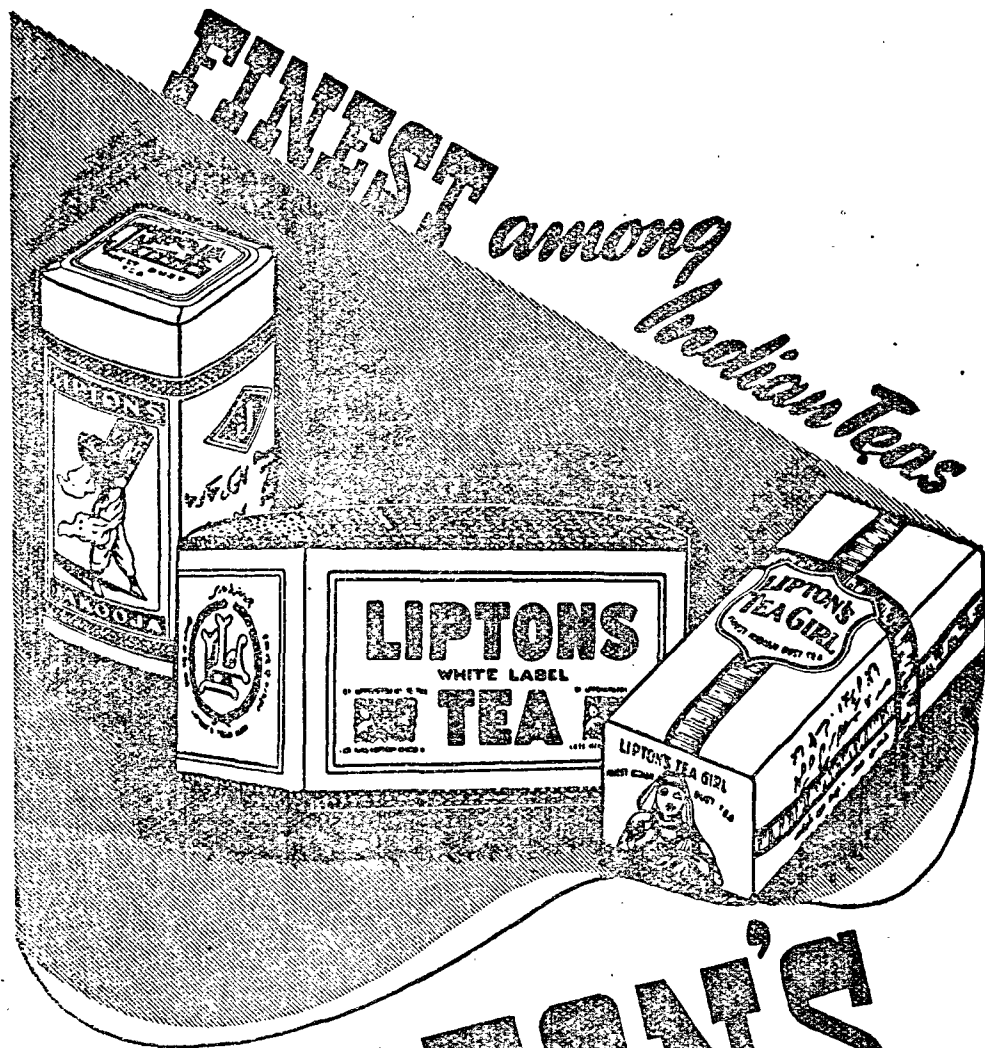
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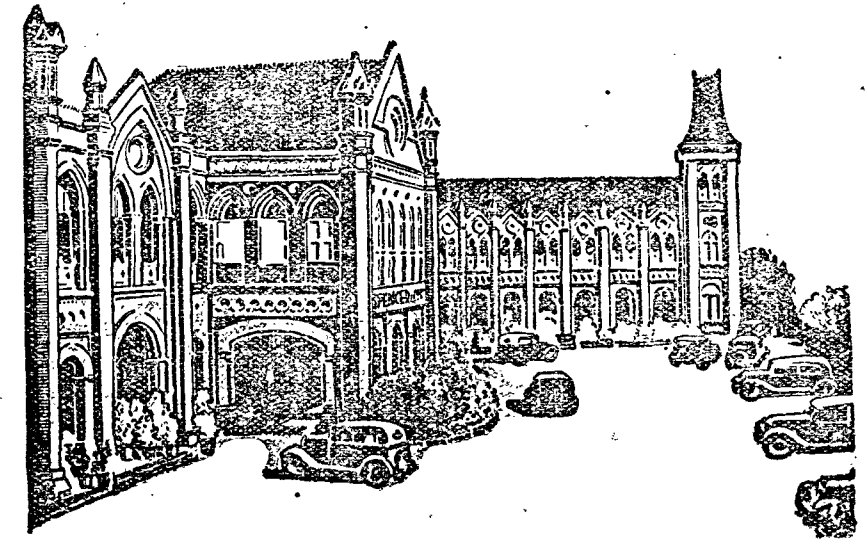




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Edited By Mr. G. A. NATESAN

Vol. 45.]

MARCH 1944

[No. 3.

THE FIFTH YEAR

BY SIR ROSS BARKER

IN the fifth year of war, the country is unanimous in its determination to defeat Hitler and in its conviction that it will do so. It is completely divided in its answer to the questions "When?" and "What then?"

As to when the estimates vary from a few weeks to thirty years. After all, we once had a Hundred Years War. It is the question which is discussed whenever two people come together, and everyone is looking for signs and omens. To hope for illumination from those who ought to know most is vain. If there are any signs of depression, the politicians predict an early and glorious victory. Unfortunately this leads the workers to believe that they need not work any longer. So the politicians come in with prophecies of a very long and bloody war. Sometimes we get the two prophecies in two places at the same time, the cheery one when people are not cheery enough, and the grim one when they are too cheerful. This is mere propaganda. The fact is that no one knows enough about conditions in Germany to form any sort of opinion.

As to "What then?", there is great diversity of opinion, and the only common feature is apprehension. It is significant that there is a slump on the Stock Exchange whenever there is a rumour of an early Armistice. To mention Germany first:

the country is divided acutely between those who believe that some Germans are good, and those who believe that all Germans are bad. To act on either belief brings with it a threat of a new war within a measurable distance. If we leave the good Germans in peace to work their will on Germany, they will soon be ousted by the bad Germans, as happened after the last war, and we shall have another war. If, on the other hand, we assume that all Germans are bad Germans, we shall have to indulge in repressive measures which cannot permanently be continued and which must ultimately end in a war of revenge. Pearl Harbour should have taught us the possibilities of sudden and deadly war by aeroplane, and whatever measures we take it seems impossible to deprive Germany ultimately of aeroplanes and the power to make them.

The problems of Germany, however, are nothing to the problems that will confront us in other parts of Europe. The Versailles Treaty peppered Europe with a number of independent countries, based mainly on nationality. The present war has shown that they are all strategic impossibilities. They are incapable of defending themselves and we are not in a position to defend them. All these nationalities will clamour for a revival of their independence, and it is doubtful in several

Tea,

thou soft, thou sober, sage
and venerable liquid!

(The Lady's Last Stake. Act. I.)

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cases whether the Allies are unanimously in favour of their revival. There remains the problem of reconstituting France, and the history of French disagreements during the last few years holds out no very hopeful prospect.

At home we have a senile House of Commons elected in 1935, and since then mainly recruited by nominees of the Party Caucus. Many of its members are on war service of various kinds and a large proportion hold Ministerial office. The residue seem to have found something better to do than to attend its sittings. Recently, on several important occasions, there have not been thirty Members in the Chamber. Members seem to have lost interest in the House, and the country has lost interest in them. The Prime Minister and Lord Woolton are the only Ministers who have succeeded in exciting any popular enthusiasm. In the circumstances, a suggestion that Members should be paid £1,000 a year, instead of £600, has not evoked any support.

As in the House of Commons, so in the country, the vast majority of the population are absorbed in war work and the difficult problems of daily life. The talking is left to the aged, the cranks and the theorists. They are vocal enough, but whether they represent any views except their own is open to question. Their favourite subject is "the brave new world" since they have not had an opportunity of showing their bravery in any other direction. They are eloquent on the horrors of the social system as it existed before the war, horrors of which most of us were previously unaware. They have come to the conclusion that money does not matter, and advocate a reckless expenditure in

every conceivable direction. No doubt there are some directions in which social expenditure is desirable, but it will be a matter of the gravest difficulty to carry out even a minimum of the things which require to be done. We shall be burdened with a colossal National Debt and an immense liability for pensions; we shall have to keep up a large Army, Navy and Air Force, and probably shall have to do much Police work in Europe; we have to provide food for the countries overrun by Hitler; we must replan London and other large cities; we shall have a vast re-housing problem and we must do our best to keep agriculture on its legs. All this expenditure means necessarily a rise in the cost of living and a rise in the cost of production. It is common ground that since we must import so much to live, we must increase our exports; and it is difficult to see how we can sell them if our costs go up, especially as other countries are either poor or increasingly industrialised. Much of the agitation for the brave new world proceeds from those who hope to get brave new jobs, and who are looking for safety first. The prospects for the hordes of Public Servants who at present infest the Government offices are extremely bleak if the war ends and their sheltering Ministries are disbanded. They are all trying by hook or by crook to justify their continued existence by undertaking new functions which are detestable to the country at large. Only to-day we are told the Ministry of Food is to survive in order to tell us what vitamins or other horrid stuff we are to consume. As against these functionaries, there is a growing feeling that the sooner we dispense with them and all their plans the better

Government control in some directions will be necessary for long after the war, but control is thoroughly unpopular. One of the effects of the war has been to denude the rich of their surplus wealth, and to create a vast new capitalist class, covering nearly the whole country and deriving their income from invested war savings. The last thing this class desires is to see its dividends disappear under staggering taxation and spent on wild cat schemes of reform. At present there is a race between different agitators who wish to be the first to dip their hands into the public purse, knowing that if they are not first they will find the purse empty.

To come to more domestic matters, we are, thanks to the Merchant Navy, adequately, though sometimes nastily fed; and that is a thing to be thankful for, which overrides all other discomforts. And there is no doubt that we are desperately uncomfortable. The longer we have the black-out, the more we dislike it but in these days it is only the exceptionally conscientious or timid man who carries a gas-mask. England is overcrowded with soldiers, evacuees, aliens and Government officials. In London it is a matter of the greatest difficulty to find a lodging or housing accommodation, and there is much complaint about the high charges. Food is almost as great a difficulty, mainly owing to the number of people who eke out their rations by taking meals in restaurants. One commonly sees queues of a hundred people or more waiting for admission to popular restaurants. Buses and trains are almost invariably overcrowded, and many services have been discontinued. When there is fish, which is not always, every fish shop has a long queue, and the

same is true of cake shops. Fruit has always been very scarce or non-existent. Adults are rationed to 2 pints of milk ahead a week!

Matches are very capricious. In large towns it is generally possible to get one box by visiting about ten shops; but in the country villages are without matches for days together. Whisky and gin (at over 25/- a bottle) are very scarce; beer rather more plentiful. There is no difficulty at all about tobacco. The result is that if you have time you can generally get what you want, and the article which is unprocurable in nine shops proves to be procurable in the tenth. But it wastes a desperate lot of time, and it is a puzzle how people who work all day are able to market at all, with the shops opening at 9 a.m. and closing at 4 p.m., and closing for an hour for lunch. Food prices are generally controlled and therefore low, but fancy prices are charged for luxury goods, partly owing to the purchase tax and partly because the shopkeeper recoups himself by overcharging for luxury goods, since he has to undercharge for controlled goods. Domestic servants are of course rapidly disappearing, and are very expensive. Most houses are servantless and bishops have to do their own washing up and make their own beds. This is probably a very good thing for them, but the situation presses very hardly on the aged and infirm, and on wives overburdened with public work and the care of children. It is impossible to foretell the ultimate issue but it is clear that if domestic servants cannot be obtained, most of the houses in the West of London will become untenable.

We worry very little about bombs. The chance of being hit is at present very remote, and bombs do not cause nearly as many deaths as motor-cars, though occasionally there is a big disaster. I hear our alert almost daily, but it is so seldom that anything emerges from it that I pay no attention.

The population seems to be curiously excitable. At the moment the war is being carried on in distant theatres, and people seem to be more concerned about sheer trivialities than about the war. Columns of the papers have been filled with silly talk about the release of Sir Oswald Mosley (as if it mattered!), some nurse who was discontented with her hospital, a naughty boy who was birched, and a man who said he advocated birching (recently a small boy set fire to a school and did £ 60,000 damage), about another boy who was told to go down a mine, and a member of the Home Guard who was punished for disorderly conduct. Men go out on strike by hundreds for

quite trivial reasons or for no discoverable reason at all. All this represents a very dangerous revolt against authority, but the fault lies rather with the authority than with the rebels. The fact is that there are so many authorities at the present time, and many of them so bad, that revolt is intelligible, if not excusable. The symptom shows the advisability of returning as soon as possible to a less autocratic form of Government.

To sum up, it may be said for the present that though we have much to grumble about, our grumbles are not very serious, and they are quite overshadowed by our thankfulness to the Forces—Army, Navy and Airforce, the workers in factory and shipyard, and above all the Merchant navy, for seeing us through so many perils and bringing us to a not too distant sight of peace. Perhaps it is not too much to hope that the wisdom which has brought us so far through the war will preserve us through the peace.

THE MUSIC OF THYAGARAJA

By Mr. S. V. RAMAMURTI, C.I.E., I.C.S.

: O : ———

SOME two years ago, when I opened a Thyagaraja festival, I said that if Thyagaraja could deliver a message, I could imagine him to say: "I attained God through music. There are many ways of reaching Him. But music is so sweet a way." These are the words he would say if he could send a message to-day too. These words express both the spirit and the form of Thyagaraja's

art. Art needs unity for its vehicle. Unity may be reached at various levels. We who are at the periphery of life, perceive unity in the atoms and quanta of physics, in the units of arithmetic and in the unity of the individual. But saints like children are near the core of life. Both are near to God. While children come from God, saints reach into God. The unity that saints perceive unites

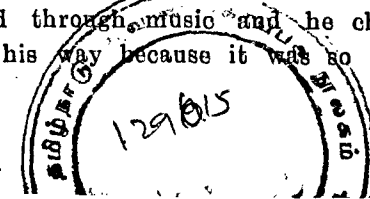
and not also divides. It is amazing how deep into life saints have delved. It is the glory of scientists that behind all the varied appearances of matter they have been able to perceive equal and undistinguishable atoms, and behind them, electrons and protons. But atoms, electrons and protons are many. The atom of spirit is but one. Hence science while seeking the one yet continues to encounter the many. Saints seek and find the One. Saints, indeed, are the supreme artists. They cannot, even if they would, lose touch with unity. The problem of existence is simplified for the saint. Like the problem of two bodies which Newton has solved, there are only two beings for a saint—himself and God. Art is the integration of thought, emotion or action. If the saint thinks, he can but think of God. If the saint feels, he can but feel God. If the saint acts, he can but act God. Art for the saint then is union with God in its three forms of Gnana, Bhakti and Karma Yoga. Not only is the art of a saint pure and simple, it is all embracing. He feels not a sense of emptiness but of fullness. His "Neti Neti" ends not in rejection but in fulfilment. In the silence of his mind, he hears the hum of the world that is and the worlds that may be.

I have peered into the mind of a saint to know wherefrom came the Rama laden melody of Thyagaraja's music. Thyagaraja thinks of Rama, sings of Rama, longs for Rama and searches for Rama, because he knows no one else. But to him, Rama is none else but all the universe. This is the quality not only of Thyagaraja's music, but of all Indian art—be it music or dance, painting, sculpture or architecture. A deep and abiding sense of God is the root

of Indian life. Art in India is the flower of that sense.

A few days ago I heard the story of the life, rather the lives, of Jada Bharata in the Mahabharata with the verses in Bhagavad Gita which contain the spirit of the story. To Bharata, consciousness of God in all that he saw was real and intimate. Sometime ago, I saw the film of Bammara Pothana. Pothana fed the unbidden guest, returned good for evil and loved all. His actions look contrary to the springs of modern action. But a deep-laid instinct in us tells us, as we see the film, that Pothana's conduct was right. To many in the present day, India looks a race enslaved to the idea of God. On the contrary, for her very belief in the One of the universe, India is among the elect of the earth. Any one who seeks to barter the permanent values of religion for temporary material gain is like the aborigine who bartered gold and ivory for beads of glass.

Truth, beauty and goodness are the qualities of art. If truth is beauty and beauty truth, so are they both goodness. Evil is wrong because it is ugly. The saint is the salt of India. The saint is good. Therefore his life is true and beautiful. The value of Thyagaraja's music springs primarily from his saintliness. Art finds its craft as the ideal is embodied in the real. The quality of Thyagaraja's saintliness is seen in the mellow sweetness, in the sweet simplicity of his music. Sweetness is indeed the essence of his craft. Thyagaraja attained God through music and he chose music as his way because it was so sweet.



as that word has now come to be interpreted in England. Gandhiji is dynamic and not static: he represents and guides to a very great extent the inchoate ideas and aspirations of India's submerged and still static millions: and for their souls the race between materialism and spiritualism is on. Gandhi is the unrelenting enemy of power, wealth, aggression and industrialisation: he is the greatest living exponent of the creed of love.

I believe, as I have said, that his doctrine of non-violence might appeal, for India's cause at least even to the world-war strategist: I would add how strangely it seems that Christians, and in particular Christian ministers lip-serving in their churches and repeating the words "Blessed are the peace-makers: for they shall be called the Children of God," can view with indifference and even approval

the incarceration of Gandhi by the Pilates of to-day.

Gandhi, laughing in jail at 73, while America and Britain hasten to hustle India into modernisation, may not live to see anything but the apparent failure of his mission, as other prophets have done; but an idea which is right is more enduring than panzers or politicians.

I have a notion that the legend of Gandhi may yet be a flaming inspiration to the millions of the East, and perhaps to those of the West. But it is for the time being at least, the East which provides the fruitful soil because the East has not yet fallen prone, as the West has done, before the Golden Calf. And it may be for the East, once again, to show mankind that human happiness does not depend on that particular form of worship, and that the conquest of materialism is also the conquest of war.

TO INDIA

I do not claim thee as mine own
When loud the stranger world applauds thy mystery:
The lure intangible, the hidden power
That draw men to thee in the frightened hour
Of fading life. For these I love thee not.
Alas! I know thee not.

But when the stranger looks aghast at thee,
At filth and hunger, crying poverty,
When stunned with sight of endless sluggishness
He turns away in civilised dismay,
Ah then! I know thee as thou art—
A woman plunged in misery; an anguished heart,
An aching body rent today with cry
Of starving hollowness.
Then to retreating worlds let me proclaim
That I am thine and that I bear thy name.

M. DA C.
in *Mysindia Annual*.

Some Thoughts on Post-War Development

BY MR. S. P. AGRAWAL

THERE is much ado about post-war planning and reconstruction everywhere in view of the hopes of an early cessation of hostilities. The attention of the Indian commercial community and the Government of India is also focussed on the problem and there is no doubt that the betterment of the Indian economic conditions largely depends upon a proper and adequate tackling of the issue.

For the West, reconstruction is a change from war to peace: for the Westerners, it is only a task of repairing the damages resulting from war or in other words to set aright the ravages of the war: for the Western countries all that is to be undertaken by them in the matter of reconstruction after war is to replace and restore the solid foundations of industries and to construct a superstructure on the foundations already existing.

The problem of reconstruction for India is difficult, different and more fundamental in character. There is no denying the fact that India stands the greatest need for post-war development than any other country of the world. We in India have yet to seek, re-search, make and establish our foundations nearly in all spheres of life, agriculture and development. We have to restore our national life on more efficient and sound footing. The war has shaken India's economic fabric to its very foundations. No doubt India has seen a speck of industry during the last decade, but economic life since has considerably deteriorated. All our reconstruction and development must aim at the welfare of mankind in all their aspects and this can only be possible if policies economic, fiscal and financial are

drawn up now, otherwise the issues to come as a result of the war will leave us in a fix and our development will be jeopardised.

From the setting up of Reconstruction Committees by the Government of India and the Government of Provinces as also by the speech of the Viceroy at the Annual Meeting of the Associated Chambers, the interest shown by the Government is apparent. There is no doubt that the Viceroy hit at the very core of the problem by stressing the need for agricultural improvements, and this can be materialised only if proper investigation into the development of irrigation, communication, hydro-electric and power schemes and scientific research relating to agriculture is undertaken. With agricultural advancement, which requires revolutionary changes in the post-war period, industrial expansion is bound to come. This, however, does not visualize that this important factor should be overlooked at this stage. But, on the contrary, it suggests that preparation of proper and systematic schemes for post-war industrial development should be undertaken, which may not remain schemes on paper, but should have possibilities of being materialized. Along with agricultural development in the country, industrialization is unavoidable for economic emancipation as in the words of Sir Homi P. Mody: "In this country agriculture, industry and handicraft must go together and create an India in which the spectre of chronic hunger, squalor and disease may disappear and in which a vigorous peace-loving nation can make its own contribution to the

progress of mankind". The majority of people in India live under conditions which no civilized mind can tolerate. One has only to cast a glance at human skeletons, clothed in half-rags and living in mudwalls which stalk across the length and breadth of the country. It is a problem of "jobs houses and rest" in the words of Mr. Churchill and for all on an equal footing. This must be the aim of all reconstruction and development for the planners of reconstruction in India.

1. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

India is very much deficient in its production of food requirements, which is mainly due to low yield. Greater food production is also necessary in view of the rapid rate of increase in her population. At least the production should be doubled to provide the Indian masses the bare minimum of their food requirements. In order to increase production, agriculture should be planned on scientific basis with all the machinery and irrigation facilities. The recommendations of Foodgrains Policy Committee should be implemented and extensive cultivation should be undertaken. Important reasons responsible for the low yield are excessive pressure on land, uneconomic holdings, rural indebtedness, lack of irrigation facilities, paucity of up-to-date agricultural implements and manure, poor quality of seeds, and therefore it is necessary that steps should be taken—

(1) to educate the villagers and train them for applying scientific methods to agriculture;

(2) to adopt measures to eradicate conservatism from the villagers;

(3) to provide better housing, better sanitation, health and all equipments of village comforts;

(4) to improve ill-balanced diet of the people;

(5) to provide better seeds and better manure;

(6) to prevent fragmentation of holdings;

(7) to bring more area under cultivation and to relieve the existing pressure on lands;

(8) for intensive cultivation;

(9) for increasing the supply of fertilizers;

(10) for creation of new irrigation supplies; and

(11) for intensive research work to enable increase in yield per acre, by eliminating uneconomic methods of production and use of modern implements, fertilizers and improved seeds, etc.

2. INDUSTRY

To have a true approach to the subject of Industrial Planning in post-war period, it should be split up as follows:—

(a) Investigation and preparation during the war period by (i) thorough research work into the resources of the country, (ii) making a list for the demands of machinery and plant for utilization of the resources in order to make the country economically strong and self-sufficient;

(b) thorough insight into post-war requirements for capital re-equipment of industries necessitated by the fact that most of the industries are working multiple shift to meet the requirements of the war;

(c) long range planning;

(d) arrangement to sustain war-time industries on the cessation of hostilities.

The efforts of the planners should be directed towards the possibilities of erecting and starting key industries, like locomotive, machine tool industries and engineering industries with a view to supply plant

and machinery for industrial expansion in India, and also towards projects like Hydro-electric schemes on large-scale, as the assuring of cheap power for all the industries and public is of utmost importance. A thorough search for raw material and mineral wealth should be undertaken and heavy chemical industries, viz., Soda Ash, Sulphuric Acid, Caustic Soda, Ammonia, Nitric Acid, Magnesium Sulphate, Magnesium chloride, Bleaching Agents, Dyes and Pigments, Dying Agents, Commercial solvents, oils, alcohols and acids should be started. The coal industry should be organized as to ensure easy and constant output. With all the industries vouching for industrial expansion, we should not lose sight of industries for consumers' goods. It is absolutely necessary that public benefit and daily necessity industries be started in abundance in the post-war period. India's sterling assets have reached the mark of over Rs. 700 crores and these are still estimated to increase to one thousand crores, by the end of the war. With the purchasing power thus acquired by us combined with natural resources at our command, we can hope for a successful industrial development after the war, if the Government works in close co-operation with Indian commercial and industrial interests.

3. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

The problem of transportation and communication will grow much more important than now with industrial and agricultural developments. The need for adequate distribution of food, for providing better marketing facilities for the agriculturist and the industrialist both, it is very necessary that transportation and communication is organized and developed on scientific lines. The only means of

transport now available is railway, and motor service, but it is so inadequate that it cannot possibly cope with the increasing demand. Improved communication is absolutely essential and must precede agricultural and industrial development in order to enable the latter to be successful. In this country huge areas are completely cut off from the market, which has resulted in economic backwardness. Marketing, commercialisation and sales on scientific basis can only be achieved if first-class means of communication are available. This will reduce the importance of the middleman from all spheres of business and life. Communication should be planned on a basis which may make India one for all and within reach of everybody, without which no planning or reconstruction can succeed.

There are many more aspects of reconstruction besides raising the productive capacity of India—industrial and agricultural—but in this short note it will not be possible to deal with the subject in its entirety. However, an attempt is being made to enumerate at least some of them.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH

Sanitation, and municipal administration for public benefit is of utmost importance. Every family has the right to have a decent house in a decent locality: Every one has the right to have proper medical care and ordinary recreation facilities and every one has the right to earn enough for food and clothing. It is of utmost importance that the planners must aim at providing every citizen a minimum healthy and balanced diet, adequate medical relief and healthy surroundings along with comfortable housing problem, thereby making the public health of every citizen

of India at least tolerable which at present is utterly neglected. To attain this object, improvements in medicine and surgery should be effected; under expert medical supervision welfare clinics for healthy city life should be started.

5. EDUCATION

The provision for minimum education to make every one a good citizen is of course necessary but the need for technical education is no less. The labour should be technically educated to make the rapid industrialization possible.

6. UNEMPLOYMENT

With the termination of hostilities, the problem of unemployment will confront itself with all its gravity and it will endanger social security as well. The problem of employment can be dealt only by adopting expansionist productive policy, raising the potential wealth of India and by utilizing the vast resources of the country economically and efficiently.

In any scheme of planning the need for raising the per capita income—the national wealth of the country by economic utilization of its resources, and social security cannot be denied, and the aim can only be achieved, by increasing the purchasing power of the masses of the country and which in turn can alone be rendered possible by increasing production both in agricultural and industrial field.

The Fifteen-Year Plan issued by Sir Purushottamdas and others is the first complete economic plan presented to the public and the Government which aims at revolutionizing the living conditions in India by trebling the total national income and doubling the per capita income. Some may call it Utopian but this is one which gives us a basis to think that our hopes can be materialized. It meets the practicability of utilizing the ideal resources and potentialities for planning provided by India and envisages the raising of the per capita income and meeting the shortage of the consumers' goods.

THE "SAVE AND LEND" CAMPAIGN

BY MR. RAMCHANDRA N. DESAI, M.A., LL.B.

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THE "Save and lend" campaign launched by the Government of India with a view to withdraw the surplus purchasing power from the hands of the people deserves far greater attention of the economists of the country than what has been paid to it hitherto. This is especially so, when the Government themselves do not show more zeal for the same except by way of wide publicity. The campaign has been started to check the chief evil tendency of inflation, viz.,

the soaring prices of commodities. It is a commonly accepted economic doctrine that other things being equal the price level goes down as the volume of currency in circulation is contracted. The amount of currency notes in circulation in India has sky-rocketed to more than 850 crores leading to a soaring price level. The inflation can be checked root and branch only if the present financial arrangement between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government is revised in

such a way that it may not be necessary for the Government of India to put more currency into circulation.

The alternative method of checking the inflation is to simultaneously follow deflationary methods. The Government of India realising, though somewhat late the evil of inflation have tried to devise measures for checking "the price inflation" by adopting deflationary measures, and appointed a special officer for the purpose. These measures are to borrow crores of rupees from the people. The Provincial Governments as well as the Central Government have floated loans as part of this "Save and lend" campaign. The amounts of these loans being limited, they are subscribed no sooner than they are advertised. The amounts of these loans being small do not touch even the fringe of the vast problem of withdrawing the ever-growing surplus purchasing power. From October, 1943, the Government have launched a new offensive in this "Save and lend" campaign by issuing national savings certificates through the Post Offices, and also by increasing the rate of interest on postal savings. The rate of interest on these certificates is slightly lower than 4 per cent. In order to realise this rate of interest to the fullest extent, the investor has to wait for a period of twelve long years during which he is not sure how the price level would alter. Such a low rate of interest would not attract the people to invest their surplus money. The rate of interest for the postal savings as well as the Defence Savings Certificates

(which were issued before the National Savings Certificates came to be issued) has been on the whole very low, and consequently during the war-years money seems to have been diverted from the Post Office to war-time industries most probably. The following table* clearly shows a gradual decline in the amount held in Post Office Savings Bank and Post Office Certificates:—

The decline in postal investments as shown above may be to a great extent due to the inclination of the middle class and poor people to invest their surplus money in higher interest-bearing alternatives. Some of the investments which may seem profitable at present may ultimately prove futile as soon as the war comes to an end and so it is necessary that middle class and poor people should be induced not to fritter away their resources but to preserve them in such forms which may give them adequate security as well as adequate returns. This would be possible if the Government can make their "Save and lend" campaign successful by giving up the "cheap money" policy and by deciding to pay higher returns on loans as well as postal investments.

The above suggestion may, perhaps, be objected to, on the ground that sufficient money may not be available in future for industrial finance. This objection can be regarded as baseless, firstly, because the currency media in circulation is already so large that even if about 300 crores are withdrawn (which does not

* FIGURES IN CRORES OF RUPEES

Year	...	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	REVISED ESTIMATE.	BUDGET ESTIMATE.
Post Office Savings Bank	...	81.88	78.32	59.51	52.18	50.33	53.53
Post Office Certificates		59.57	57.03	49.28	43.37	39.37	38.37

seem likely) by the "Save and lend" campaign, an amount far more than that will still be available for industrial finance in the post-war period. Secondly, the Government have to carry out vast schemes of construction and reconstruction as envisaged in scores of reports of the Central as well as Provincial Governments. As recently stated, the Government would require about 450 crores for a proper development of communications and about 300 crores for the spread of education and possibly a similar amount for the promotion of the health of the nation. The huge amount of money required by the Government for the various plans of post-war reconstruction should be got by borrowing at present when people have surplus purchasing power. This borrowing programme, the "Save and lend" campaign will be very successful if the Government abandon the policy of "cheap money" and offer a somewhat higher rate of interest. The Finance Member, Sir Jeremy Raisman, in his Budget Speech in March, 1943, rightly stated: "It may well be said that in the context of a war economy, a public loan is twice blessed; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes. To the State it spells an indispensable aid to victory while to the investor it means not only a precaution against the perils and uncertainties of the transition from war to peace after victory has been gained, but also a potent preventive against the economic and social disorder which may arise from the uncontrolled exercise of purchasing power in relation to limited or diminishing stocks of consumable goods."

Heavier borrowing for financing the war will obviate the necessity of high

taxation which has already nearly doubled during the war period. A very high taxation is incompatible with the low national dividend and consequently a very low taxable capacity of the people. Borrowing is the only way to alleviate the great hardships from which the people suffer. In England the Excess Profit Tax withdraws the war-profits of the industries to the extent of 100 per cent. In India it is not possible to increase Excess Profit Tax as it would adversely affect the industries of the country. Further taxation in form should not be resorted to. The alternative method of borrowing will help the Government to finance the war measures and the post-war schemes if the Government would induce the people to invest their surplus purchasing power in Government loans, defence bonds, postal savings, National Savings Certificates, etc., by offering them *higher returns* for such investments. The Government should not feel obsessed with the classical idea that the tendency of the rate of interest is to fall. On the other hand, the Government should induce the people to lend to Government not by mere advertisements and passive propaganda, but by taking the active step of granting substantial returns on the amounts which the people might part with. Interest is, after all, the price of abstinence, and so, if this price is small, the people will not be inclined to practise necessary abstinence. As to what should be the adequate price, *viz.*, the maximum limit of the rate of interest, it can be well decided by the Finance Department in collaboration with the Reserve Bank in such a way that the Government get adequate finance for the war and the post-war purposes.

THE PUBLIC LIFE

BY MR. T. S. RAJAGOPALA IYENGAR, M.A., LL.B.

PUBLIC life is used by me in the popular sense which limits it to politicians. Many generations have said, probably in haste, that the Legislature is no longer a fit place for gentlemen to sit in or politics a becoming occupation for them to pursue.

Before democracy or dictatorship, in the sense it is understood now, was prevalent, a time existed when political power was bought and sold to the highest bidder. The average politician counted for little, except when the spoils were distributed. The great majority attached themselves to their patrons. Most of them represented either close burroughs, which were the properties of territorial magnates or rotten burroughs, which were for sale or purchase. It was a time when tickets for State Lotteries were sold to members of Legislature in parcels of 500 and resold by them at a profit of £ 2 a ticket. Government loans were subscribed for by the friends of Government at par and then thrown on the City at a premium of 7 per cent. and 11 per cent. There were favourable contracts for honourable posts and pension. Private morals, of course, were in keeping with the ideas of public duty. For the great majority, public life was a mere incident in the life of pleasure and fashion with no duties and obligations.

How private and furtive was the process of Government may be gauged from the fact that one Wilkie was thought to have done a novel and dangerous thing in printing the names of ministers in his *North Britain*. But the Industrial Revolution, the French Revolution, the

Declaration of the Rights of Man, the American Declaration, the Reforms Bills in England and the writings of the political philosophers of the day, they all changed the atmosphere and democracy came to stay. Gladstone once said that the mechanics of foreign policy concerned people rather than Sovereigns or diplomats and mass meetings were as good judges as the Chancellories and the Cabinets. So we pass to a new kind of public life.

The star performer no longer reserves himself to election times but is all over the country at all times obeying the call of whips and party managers. When the politicians came into the open, the press followed them from Parliament to the platform. We are seeing the new order and the new politics. We are supposed to be ruled by public opinion. At certain intervals, regular under systems like that of the U.S.A. and irregular under the Parliamentary systems, the ordinary busy citizen is asked on a given day, to sit in judgment upon his rulers. He is to exercise his vote.

The butcher, baker, banana-seller, beedi-walla, barber and the banker, in addition to being wise about his own personal affairs has also to be wise about everybody-else's as well. He is to judge the affairs of the world and to become a statesman dealing with extremely difficult and complex subjects. These complex matters, often of war and peace, which must necessarily be settled casually and hurriedly can only receive a spare time attention. Yet the beedi-walla or the banana-seller is usually very positive and dogmatic in his political opinions. People would be impatient if the candidate seeking election

wants to reason out the intricate and unexciting economic problems to be tackled. The audience would get fidgety and consequently he would lose the vote. If, on the other hand, he were to say that the Government should have done this, done that, that it has miserably failed, that people are unnecessarily harassed, etc., he would certainly get the vote. Did not people, immediately after the last war, vote for the candidates who said "I am for hanging the Kaiser", I am for making Germany pay the whole cost of war, etc., in preference to others who wanted to argue. History repeats itself.

Public passion and public ignorance play a part in the world of which he who aspires to lead a democracy must take account. In 1852, Palmerston said that it was an outrageous calamity to fight Russia for upholding Turkey, but in 1854, he said that to fight Russia had become a solemn obligation of honour. In between this interval nothing had happened except a certain metamorphosis in that elusive thing, public temper, which Palmerstone only followed.

The democracies are worked through party systems, and the parties, in their turn, are controlled and stage-managed by a few people—the party caucuses and bosses. Others will be counted if they implicitly obey what their leaders say; otherwise, they would be nothing. In our own State we see this phenomenon working. People, devoid of learning, simply because they happen to belong to a majority community and can afford to contribute to the coffers of the party, become leaders of leading parties. We, the rank and file, to survive "the onslaught" of party discipline, have to obey every mandate that comes from them or

through them, and also to be flattering them in and out of season. We dare not offer any suggestion, as it would be construed as an affront. In the name of the great organisation, they openly plead for what they call "Communal justice" but we have to keep quiet, as it is the leader that could intimate and interpret and none else. They may give directions to set up a Muslim leaguer or a novice of their rank. Nobody dare whisper.

Not a small part of the qualifications for the public life is the power to bear one's misfortune with dignity. The disappointed man must be first to congratulate his successful rival. The excluded office-seeker must go about with the air of having expected nothing and if he is wise, be exceptionally careful in supporting his part as least for a time. Many an excellent man ruined himself by displaying his wounds or endeavouring to retaliate by ineffective pin-pricks. A Subhas Chandra Bose or a Rajagopalachari may have his tit for tat, but an ordinary man must smile and look pleased.

Another of the difficulties of public life is that a man's real competitors are not his opponents, but his friends.

Compared with other careers, the political is liable to an immense number of unforeseen chances and mishaps. A man may lose his seat just at the most critical moment in his career and be thrown out of public life for a long time, in which he may be almost forgotten. Unless he is one of the few who have a public behind them, he will be extraordinarily at the mercy of the individual fancies and preferences of the great man whose favour is indispensable. Character also counts in public life. Politicians can no longer rail off one-half

of their existence and call it their private life, with which the public has no concern. The picture of the public man, which is formed in the public eye, is built of thousands of little details which may have nothing to do with his political action. He chooses voluntarily the life of publicity and he cannot escape its liabilities. Public life requires sacrifice of privacy and convenience.

To make a success in public life, one needs capacity, industry, character, a moderate degree of backing and a little luck. But it is understood that the politicians are in chains to the party bosses. They have to be consulted about everything, as otherwise one would not be allowed to come back to the Legislature. One has to get on with all sorts of queer characters. Even otherwise there is no security of term for men of proved ability and experience under the present system of voting. Baldwin could not secure a seat for Mr. McKenna when he wished him to be the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1922. In 1933, Macdonald could not find a seat for his Solicitor-General. The Liberals could not guarantee a seat to Sir Donald Maclean. One of our own ministers could not succeed in the first election.

Thus in some cases men of proved ability would not like to enter the public life, as they would least like to dance to the changing public opinion; some others, even though they like, would not easily come in, due to public eccentricity; yet in other cases, even though they get in, they will be the tools in the hands of mediocres, who would boss the show. Thus intelligence and experience would be at a discount. This will be ruinous in public life.

A man must vote with his party and stifle his conscience if it tells him that he is doing wrong. He may have to put up with the tyranny of the party machine, the corruption of the bosses, the evils of the spoils system and honours system, etc. If his triumphs are great, his disasters are in the same scale, and the same enormous publicity attends his downfall as his exaltation. His struggle to win power is long and arduous and his enjoyment of it brief and precarious, and not seldom he has to depart from the scene when his fortunes are at their lowest. It is said that the public men are never really in favour with the public except for a short period before they are returned to power. When that summit is gained, the reaction sets in and he almost immediately finds himself battling with hostile currents which will finally submerge him.

Hence the paradoxical conclusion that Government hardly ever, and oppositions almost always, represent the majority in the country; and that a minister is never so little, in favour, as when he is in power. The fatigue of it, the wearisome publicity, the increasing controversy, the stumping and electioneering, the heavy penalties for slight mistakes, the inherent friction with friends, the intrusions on their privacy and reflection on their character—these certainly make a man disheartened and not a few have died young or retired broken men. With all these liabilities, the public life is still the most envied of the careers. It alone carries with it what is called power, fame and greatness. But alas, lucky are the few who attain them!

INDIAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS*

BY SIR MANILAL B. NANAVATI

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THE basic weakness of our economic system manifests itself in increasing population, an uneconomic land system which includes increasing landlordism, the declining size of holdings with their growing sub-division and fragmentation, decreasing productivity of land and low incomes, the chronic indebtedness of the peasantry, the decay of rural industries, the comparative backwardness of large-scale industries, lack of heavy capital goods and key industries, etc. . . .

The war aggravated these weaknesses. The stoppage of imports, the increase in exports, the larger consumption in India by the troops, prisoners of war, by evacuees and by people engaged in heavy war work, all these increased the pressure on our limited stocks. The continued inflation of currency in spite of warnings and protests from different parts of the country has undermined the purchasing power of the poorer section of the community and aggravated the mal-distribution of wealth, so that the process of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer has been accelerated by the war. The Government of India somehow failed to understand the true significance of all these forces and let matters drift for too long a time. The efforts to "grow more food" have not yielded the results expected, and it is only when the situation is nothing less than desperate that the Food-grains Policy Committee has recommended a small import of 1 million tons of food-stuffs, while the fact is that we have a deficiency of at least 5 to 10 million tons of food and the prices have reached so

high that they are beyond the buying capacity of the small cultivator, the landless labourer and the lower middle classes whose wages and incomes have not risen correspondingly. . . .

So far our administrative machinery has failed and the co-operation of the people with the Government in this crisis is, to say the least, inadequate. India presents before the world a very sorry spectacle of a rich country with poorly developed and inefficiently organised economy. The rise in population as indicated by the last few censuses was at one time hailed as a sign of the fulfilment of the British Rule in India but this self-delusion has been exposed, and at a terrible cost, too. The problem is, therefore, not only to import sufficiently large quantities of foodgrains to be able to restore confidence among the population but also to make the same available to them at prices within their reach in the immediate future and to plan on a comprehensive basis for a long run. . .

What is wanted, first of all, is therefore a change in outlook, a new orientation of policy and a new drive to reach the farthest village and the lowest strata of the people. This means that the initiative must come from the Government of India who alone can afford to employ the best experts and to find the larger funds necessary for research and reconstruction. . . .

The most urgent problem for India is to increase the productive capacity of the country. For that purpose, we have to deal with the enormous problem of the already existing large surplus of population on the land. This surplus has been estimated at about 30 per cent, of the

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population now subsisting on the land. As our population increases and the process of de-industrialisation continues, this problem becomes more and more acute as large-scale industries fail to absorb the increasing numbers and the small-scale rural industries continue to decline and decay. The result is too much pressure on the land, uneconomic cultivation, rural indebtedness and a de-vitalisation of the rural population. In order to solve this problem, it is necessary to bring more land under cultivation by making use of as much as possible of the 110 million acres of area classified as cultivable waste other than fallow. A large capital expenditure will undoubtedly be necessary before these lands can be reclaimed, cleared and made fit for human habitation. It is for the State to devise a scheme which would answer these needs. Possibly the use of the demobilised soldiers after the war affords the best opportunity to launch land reclamation schemes with army machinery, so that these soldiers and others may be settled on lands so recovered. On the whole, however, the scope for extensive cultivation in this country is limited, for much of the area which is at present fallow may not be really suitable for cultivation. It could

be possible if all the processing of agricultural products is done on the farm itself and if the purchasing power of the rural masses is increased through rural industries to create a much larger scope for employment in the villages than we have at present. The development of large-scale industries can open numerous avenues for employment in the towns for suitable classes and although the total employment we can thus create may appear small as compared to the numbers to be employed, it is improper to ignore the fact that the process of industrial growth is cumulative and as it proceeds, it creates new avenues of employment which were not originally dreamt of. In the main, however, we must rely on small and medium-scale industries in the towns and throughout the rural areas to absorb the surplus population on the land and also the new entrants into industry as a result of the increase of population. India's resources are vast. We have hardly begun to exploit them on a systematic scale. There is a vast amount of work to be done by way of engineering, housing, sanitation, social services, etc., all over the country and if only we devise a proper plan, we could find employment for our enormous human resources.

OUR NATIONAL FLAG SONG

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

OUR National Flag song is on a par with national song. The implications of our national song have been already placed before the readers of the *Indian Review* (August issue, 1939). Every civilized country has its national song, so, it has its flag song. Both of them exert the same influence in awakening

the national sentiment. At times the national flag itself serves as one of the most powerful sources in the composition of national songs. "The star-spangled Banner", which is the national song of U.S.A., can be cited as an illustration in this respect. Francis Scott Key, an American statesman and attorney, was

* From a paper on Agricultural Economics.

once held overnight during the action of bombardment by the enemy. In the morning when he saw the American flag still flying, he was inspired by the intense feelings of that hour and wrote the first national song of U.S.A.—"The star-spangled Banner." National flag has thus a close relation with national song; for it finds an expression of its influence in the latter.

The rising generation has to maintain unsullied the honour and prestige of the flag that was unfurled and kept aloft by their illustrious ancestors. Under it rallied round the Motherland's sons and daughters with single-hearted devotion to her cause and determined not to be parted either in weal or in woe. There is no room for factions; for all are striving to achieve the common goal. The flag is indicative of and inspires the supreme ideal of unity, peace and prosperity for the nation. It cannot but be a symbol of the aspirations and feelings of an awakened nation. The flag songs thus naturally form part of patriotic literature and hence it is intended in this article to give a brief outline of our national flag songs.

From very ancient times the people of this country have been familiar with the flag made of red ochre colour, or popularly known as the Bhagawa flag. This is the colour of Tyaga—Renunciation, self-sacrifice—which is the only panacea for all evil forces of disruption, hatred and tyranny. In Tyaga lies the seed of freedom. This Bhagawa flag with religious sanctity about it for hundreds of years past was also the national flag of the Mahrattas and in this capacity it held its unabated sway till their mighty empire came to a close.

This does not, however, imply that this Bhagawa flag has since then been discarded. Far from it. It does occupy a distinct and exalted position even at the present day; and the All-India Hindu Mahasabha in its 18th session held at Lahore in 1936 has recognised this flag as the national flag of Hindusthan with the inclusion of Kundalini, Swastik and Kripan (sword of the Sikhs), as representing spiritual bliss, peace and material prosperity. The idea of rejuvenating the flag in its modern form originated with Barrister Savarkar. Himself a man of wonderful poetic genius, he has composed a flag song called the victorious flag, which thrills with vigour from beginning to end. In it he recalls the glory of this land over which the banner was raised high and upheld right up from the times of Shri Ramachandra and Chandragupta down to the days of the Peshwas. He makes a stirring appeal to the people of Hindusthan to uplift and unfurl it once again and under its shelter to struggle for their emancipation.

Side by side with this Bhagawa flag, there arose into prominence in this country the tri-colour flag of the Indian National Congress. With the advent of British rule in India, new and varied forces came into the Congress fold to be welded in common understanding and in harmony of thought and action. Their new outlook gave rise to the idea of a tri-colour flag. This flag with three colours marked on it is perhaps after the model of the tri-colour national flag of France though the colours on the latter are not identical with those on the Congress flag. This new tri-colour flag was regarded as the symbol of unity in diversity. The Hindus were represented

by crimson, the Muhammadans by green and other communities together by white stripe on the flag. Senapati P. M. Bapat, an ardent nationalist and a poet, testifies to this fact in his song—"The new Banner of Hind." "Let us", he says in it, "be bound under it, in fraternal unity with the purpose of laying the foundation of democracy or "Lokashahi" with the result that the whole world will feel reverence for it." He then sings of the implications of the three stripes with different colours, which symbolise the Hindus, the Muhammadans and the rest. The song was composed about twenty-five years ago; but in course of time the principle of determining the colours on the basis of communities was given up, in favour of a broader interpretation. The colours no longer were to represent any communal aspect; they were to have purely qualitative aspect. In the light of the recommendations made by the National Flag Committee it was resolved in 1931 by the All-India Congress Committee that the crimson stripe on the flag was the emblem of courage and self-sacrifice, the green one was that of valour and devotion and the white stripe represented peace and truth. It was at this time that a picture of the spinning wheel was drawn in deep blue in the middle of the flag and it was regarded as the ray of hope for the poor. This tri-colour flag in its renovated garb was publicly unfurled on 30th August, 1931.

Senapati Bapat has composed his flag song in Marathi. There are also some excellent flag songs in Gujarathi and Hindi, as they are in Marathi. Sneharashmi, an eminent Gujarathi poet, sings of the glory of the tri-coloured flag. To him it is "the dispenser of India's destiny" and the precursor of India's freedom. It inspires

us with a new life; it fills our hearts with devotion and animates us with valour. We heartily bow to it. It is raised high up in the sky and the whole atmosphere is exhilarated with the hymns of liberty. In its shade we are vomiting the poison that was tormenting us for years and now with renewed vigour we are prepared to face the odds, howsoever terrible they may be. We will never retrace our steps. We will march on with undaunted courage. To the down-trodden and the depressed the flag is the main-spring of hope and relief; so we are bent upon achieving salvation, beneath the unfurled banner.

The Tri-coloured Flag Song or "The Zenda-Geeta" is a Hindi song composed by Shyamlal Gupta, an earnest political worker endowed with the vision of a poet and philosopher. As a flag song its popularity is as immense as that of Bande Mataram, the national song of India. The enchanting and melodious notes of this celebrated flag song elevate the audience to sublime thoughts. In it the poet avows that this victorious tri-colour flag shall be held high. This banner is a source of perennial strength and love. It is a fountain of joy to the heroes of the land. It appeals to them to dedicate their body, mind and soul—to the cause of their Motherland's freedom. Under its kind protection all their fears and worries are done away with. Under it they stand fearless, with an unshakable resolve to win freedom. Its glory is beyond description. It cannot be comprehended even with the sacrifice of life.

This is the message of the two main flags of India, namely, the Bhagawa Flag and the Tri-colour Flag. They are like the Ganges and the Jumna that carry their "sweet mercy" day and night. The pleasure of a dip in either is the same. We cannot overlook one at the cost of the other; for, both have a place

in national psychology, both have made history and above all both of them convey to the masses the same message of happiness, peace and freedom for all. But we cannot help referring to a still third flag which, though not so outstanding as the other two, is capable of exercising potential influence. The story of this Indian National Flag was shrouded in mystery for about three decades of this century. Curiously enough, the birth-place of this flag was not India but a foreign land. We mean the Flag led by the Indian revolutionaries in Europe. It was for the first time in the year 1908, publicly demonstrated as India's National Flag, by Madam Cama, a Parsi lady, who sympathised with India's aspirations. It was the occasion of a meeting of Socialists at Stuttgart (in Germany). The flag was prepared by a Bengali revolutionary and painter by name Hemachandra Das. It bears at the top a design containing eight lotuses indicative of eight provinces in India. Moreover, the lotus is an emblem of purity. In the middle of the flag the letters "Bande Mataram" are drawn in Devanagari script and below them there is another design containing the pictures of the sun and the moon, as representing prosperity and peace, duty and eternity. *Bande Mataram*, the title of our National Song, written on it, is the symbol of devotion. With this banner raised by her side, she appealed to all lovers of freedom all over the world "to co-operate in freeing from slavery the fifth of the whole human race". In the year 1937, that is, after a lapse of about 30 years, the flag was sent to India by Mr. Ranaji, a friend of Madam Cama. The entry of this flag into this country is an outcome of the efforts of Barrister Savarkar and Mr. G. V. Ketkar, Editor of the *Mahratta*. An excellent ballad eulogising the glory of this flag is composed by Govindswami Aphale.

By way of comparative survey, mention may be made here of some of the prominent songs of foreign countries. "The Star-spangled Banner" composed by Francis Scott Key is already referred to. It is the first Flag Song as well as the first National Song of the United States of America. In it the poet says that it waves

in triumph "over the land of the free, and the home of the brave." England's spirited flag songs are, "the Flag" composed by Mr. Rachel Henslowe and "Liberal Song of Victory" by Mr. E. H. Jeffs. In these simple yet brilliant songs, the poets sound the clarion call of the nation's Freedom and Victory, and glory. Jeneval, the author of Belgium's Song *The Brabanconne*, sings of their ancient standard which stands for "King and Law and Liberty." Besides these and other national flag songs, there are international flag songs, for instance, "Lift up the People's Banner" by Joseph Whittaker, and "The Red Flag" by E. J. Connell. But these also, like the national flag songs, aim at the amelioration of the sufferings of the oppressed, protection of the weak and at freedom from bondage. The fundamental basis for national as well as international songs is the same though the structures built upon them differ in size. The international flag songs, irrespective of any nationality, rise to the dizzy heights of cosmopolitanism and consider the whole world to be a fraternity in which the oppressed and the down-trodden are with one mind getting rid of their shackles, throughout the world wherever they live.

A comparison between India's flag songs and those of other countries reveals to us a gratifying similarity in their train of thoughts. We also realize how from very ancient times the national flag has been universally recognized as the simplest yet the most effective and tangible device for the manifestation of national feelings. No other concrete device is found to have a greater hold on the masses in maintaining their courage in times of acute reverses. They rally under it and guard it as their sacred trust. The lowering of the flag is a foreboding of evil—of loss of national honour and prestige. On the other hand, the upholding of the flag signifies the glory of the nation.

Thus in brief is the survey of our flag songs. It is hoped that it will create among the readers a desire to study and appreciate the songs in their original as they, like the national songs, form the very breath of our patriotic literature.



The WORLD of BOOKS



(ONLY SHORT NOTICES APPEAR IN THIS SECTION)

TALKING TO INDIA: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., London. 7s. 6d. net.

This is a collection of broadcast talks addressed specially to the Indian people. What with E. M. Foster on "Edward Gibbon", George Orwell on "The Re-discovery of Europe" and Wickham Steed on "The Press", they read extremely well indeed. Surprisingly enough, the collection includes a verbatim transcript of a broadcast by Subhas Chandra Bose from Berlin—a typical example of Axis propaganda to India. Evidently the publishers hold that the absurdity of Subhas Bose's specious pleas on behalf of Japan and Germany must carry its own condemnation. In this they are wise, for Subhas only manages to make a ludicrous exhibition of his perversity. But it carries a lesson with it; if Britain should justify her interest in India, her methods must be above reproach; they must be completely free from the taint of domination or exploitation which are the obnoxious features of Axis rule over conquered countries.

One of the talks provides a caustic commentary on the action of the Government of India in interning the Congress leaders and Mr. Amery's repeated justification of malignant propaganda against the defenceless prisoners. For the talk made as long ago as 1942 fully exploits the opposition of Gandhi and Nehru to Fascism. It was just the time when the Jap menace was acute. The B. B. C. spokesman truly observed:

Very much, therefore, turns upon Indian popular support and the efforts of Nehru may turn out to be a thorn in the Japanese side. There is no doubt that the Axis propagandists are well aware that Mr. Nehru, Mr. Azad and the other leading Congress personalities are heart and soul against them and it will not be long before they once again begin libelling them as the agents of British Imperialism.

As it unfortunately turned out, it was the British Press and propaganda machines, says a shrewd observer, which soon after began suggesting that these very men who were "heart and soul" against the Axis Powers in April when Japan's menace was greatest who suddenly turned pro-Japanese when this menace had declined and Allied victory became more hopeful!

PAKISTAN AND NATIONAL UNITY. Edited by G. Adhikari. People's Publishing House, Bombay 4.

This book outlines the Communist's solution to the problem of Indian Unity. In times like this one welcomes any attempt to provide a solution for the major problem of India, but it is doubtful if Comrade Adhikari tells anything new or takes us anywhere nearer to the solution. He seeks to justify the Pakistan demand *a la* the Soviet method of providing autonomy for the several nationalities. Com. Adhikari emphasises his opinion that the conceding of Pakistan by people like Sjt. Rajagopalachari on grounds of political expediency without any real faith in the claim of the several nationalities and cultural units in India, to exercise the right of self-determination is a bourgeois approach to the problem and is therefore the wrong approach—which appears to be a distinction without a difference. His solution is the recognition of the inherent right to autonomy of the several language areas in this country and thereby he seeks to satisfy the Muslim League's claim to Pakistan, a claim which is based not on language but on religious affinity. While it is doubtful if the metaphysics of this philosophy of self-determination will stand scrutiny, it is equally doubtful if the Russian analogy has any validity in this instance, considering that in the case of Russia the decision to concede this right of self-determination was entirely in the hands of a supreme Dictator, i.e., Lenin, a circumstance that finds no parallel in India today.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF THE MEDIEVAL BENGALI EPICS. By A. Bhattacharyya, M.A. University of Dacca—Book House, Calcutta.

This book deals with the narrative poetical literature of Medieval Bengal, only loosely termed epic. The author shows how a study of the Mangal Kavyas reveals the merging of the Brahmanistic faith into the popular creeds of the country in Bengali environment and the glorification of the popular deities of the Sakti cult. The *Dharma Mangal Kavyas*, reminiscent of the Buddhists' worship of Dharma, are peculiarly associated with *Radha* (W. Bengal). These *Kavyas* crystallised into a definite form only about the fifteenth century. Even the Vaishnavas were forced by the strength of this element, to stamp their literature with the impress of Sakta influence. The writer does not give the status of an epic to *Chaitanya Bhagavata*, nor to the *Mymensingh Ballads* which are romantic in tone and lyrical in form. Muhammadan poets had also contributed to the later epic literature of medieval Bengal.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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POONA RESIDENCY CORRESPONDENCE. Daulat Rao Scindia and North Indian Affairs, Vol. VIII. Ed. by Sir Jadunath Sarkar and Vol. IX by Maharaj Kumar Raghubir Singh, M.A. Govt. Central Press, Bombay.

TOMORROW IS OURS: A Novel of the India of Today. By K. Ahmad Abbas. Popular Book Depot, Bombay.

THE PAKISTAN ISSUE. Being the correspondence between Dr. Sayyed Abdul Latif and Jawaharlal Nehru, Sarojini Naidu, Abul Kalam Azad, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, M. A. Jinnah, Mahatma Gandhi and connected papers. Edited by Nawab Nazir Yar Jang Bahadur, Sh. Muhammad Ashraf. Kashmiri Bazar, Lahore. Rs. 3-12.

A DIRTY, LITTLE REBEL—THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE, LITTLE MAN. Punkul Publishing House, 46, Cowasji Patel Street, Fort, Bombay.

INDIAN POLITICS 1936—1942. Report on the Constitutional Problem in India, Part II. By R. Coupland. Oxford University Press, Bombay.

PROGRESS OF GREATER INDIAN RESEARCH 1917-1942. By U. N. Ghoshal, M.A., Ph.D. Published by Greater India Society, Calcutta. Rs. 4.

"BHASHA". By Mr. Shahid Pravin. Record Publishing Co., Calcutta.

Mr. Churchill advocated in his address to the University of Harvard, the virtues of Basic English. But the linguistic problem confronting India is vastly more difficult. There are 179 languages and 544 dialects in this country, and the choice of a common language has already been beset by the most bitter and unreasonable of all passions, the communal and the political. Mr. Pravin recommends, as his solution, the adoption of the Roman script for all the languages, but without the historical accretion of English phonetics. "The future generation would be taught the alphabets of their own languages in the same way as they are taught at present, with the difference that the characters would be in another shape." This the author has prepared in a chart showing the adaptation of the common script to the alphabets of the various Indian languages.

The virtues of the Roman script are obvious, but it is strange it should be regarded as equivalent to a new language.

INDUSTRIALIZATION AND TRADE. The changing world pattern and the position of Britain. By A. J. Brown. The Royal Institute of International Affairs. Oxford University Press, Bombay.

INDUSTRIES IN BOMBAY CITY, THE RAYON INDUSTRY, AND DISTRICT INDUSTRIALIZATION DRIVE. All-India Manufacturers' Organization, Bombay.

THE WOMAN UNDER THE HINDU LAW OF MARRIAGE AND SUCCESSION. By Hansa Mehta Pratibha. Publications, Bombay.

ARYABHIVINAYA. The Sandhya and the Havana English Translation of Swami Dayanand Saraswati. Published by Thakur Datta Sharma, Dheshmath Trust, Lahore.

THE LAW RELATING TO WATER RIGHTS with special reference to the generation of Electric Power—A Record of Proceedings in Periyar Water Rights Dispute. By C. R. Pattabhiraman, B.A., B.L. With Foreword by Sir Maurice Gwyer. Government Press, Trivandrum.

FOUNDATIONS OF A SUCCESSFUL CAREER. By K. M. Banerjee. With an Introduction by Nalini Ranjan Sarker. Industry Publishers, Ltd., Calcutta.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

By "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

Lord Wavell's Address to the Legislature

IF with the rest of India we express disappointment at the Viceroy's much expected address to the Central Legislature, it is due in no small measure to the hopes that he himself had done not a little to foster. In his speech at the Pilgrim Luncheon, soon after his appointment, he went out of his way to declare that he fully realized

the great weight of opinion, both here and in India, in favour of loosening as early as possible, the present deadlock.

And then he contented himself with a brief message at the opening of the Central Legislature, deferring the customary address to a later occasion as he had not studied the situation sufficiently to enable him to make any useful contribution to the problem. It was therefore something of a surprise to all concerned that after four months as Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell should have made a speech which in effect leaves the situation, much worse than before. It is not surprising that enlightened opinion, both in England and in India, should call the speech "barren" and purposeless.

The fact is, Lord Wavell has made no new contribution to solve the deadlock. He has merely echoed the story repeated *ad nauseam* by his predecessor and Mr. Amery.

Unless and until some other form of Government can be established with general consent, the present Government of India, mainly an Indian Government, will continue to carry out to the best of its ability—and I am satisfied that it is a very good ability—the primary purposes of any Government—the maintenance of law and order, the duties of internal administration and the preparation for the work ahead at the end of the war.

This is in effect not different from the Maxwell formula of police rule that the King's government must be carried on without reference to the wishes of the people.

Though disappointing, there are elements in the speech that cannot be ignored as altogether unpromising. The portion touching the unity of India will prove a tough poser to Pakistanis. "You cannot alter geography", said Lord Wavell decisively.

His repetition that the Cripps offer stands is an old theme but it is in refreshing contrast to Maxwell's crude hymn of hate. Said His Excellency:

There is an important element which stands aloof. I recognise how much ability and high-mindedness it contains; but I deplore its present policy and methods as barren and unpractical. I should like to have the co-operation of this element in solving the present and future problems of India.

But I see no reason to release those responsible for the declaration of August 8, 1942, until I am convinced that the policy of non-co-operation and even of obstruction has been withdrawn not in sackcloth and ashes—that helps no one—but in recognition of a mistaken and unprofitable policy.

What sort of co-operation does His Excellency desire with this important element indefinitely in jail? In the words of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru:

The consequences of their continued detention without trial must be a perpetuation of dissatisfaction in the country and the feeling that Government are shirking the consequences of an open and impartial trial. Already justice has received many rude shocks and the average man is not prepared to treat executive pronouncements regarding guilt as equivalent to judicial pronouncements by independent judges.

Sir Chimanlal's Call to Government

Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, the Liberal leader, cannot be said to be partial to the Congress. He has never hesitated to criticize Congress leaders or Congress methods on many an occasion and has said some hard things about them. He has not spared the Mahatma either. Yet he tells the readers of the *Times of India* that the Congress hold on the people has increased, if anything, by the continued incarceration of the leaders. The belief that Congress representatives being out of power has lessened their hold on the country and that the Congress for the moment is practically dead, he says, is a gross misconception. "I have no doubt in my mind", he declares

that if general elections to the legislatures were held, the Congress would sweep the polls and would acquire greater influence. This is indicated by what is happening at various municipal and local board elections. It is patent, therefore, that it is neither in the interests of the Indian people nor of the British Government that the present deadlock be allowed to continue any longer.

The Increase in Railway Fares

The Railway Estimates presented by Sir Edward Benthall, the War Transport Member, in the Legislative Assembly forecast for 1943-44 a surplus of Rs. 48 crores (in round figures) and Rs. 52 crores for 1944-45. But of what avail is all this surplus if rail fares of all classes are to be increased by 25 per cent. from April 1 next, "so long as present conditions exist"? We cannot say how long these conditions will continue, and this abnormal and unexpected increase in train fare, added to the frightfully growing cost of living, will break the back of the people, already groaning under the weight of many burdens in the shape of taxation, direct and indirect. No wonder that members of the Central Legislature expressed themselves in vehement terms against the increase which falls so heavily on the whole population, irrespective of their capacity to bear the burden.

Already the ordeal of railway travel has been increasingly felt owing to terrific congestion and the absence of ordinary amenities which make travel in other countries a pleasure. To increase the fares without affording compensating advantages is to add insult to injury. No doubt the exigencies of war demand a certain amount of sacrifice which the people are ready and willing enough to acquiesce in, but the way that things are managed seems to show the utter callousness with which civil needs are sacrificed to the so-called military necessities.

The Transport Member justified the increase in these terms:

There are three good reasons for increasing fares to-day, the effect that such an increase may have on reducing passenger travel, the deflationary effect owing to the immobilisation of a substantial volume of currency, and the opportunity of taking the first step towards building up a fund for post-war reconstruction purposes.

The whole speech is keyed to this theme. It almost looks as if the Government had already made up their mind to increase the fares and subsequently searched for plausible reasons to support it. The idea of deflating inflation in this way is seriously scouted by economists. The dream of post-war amenities can be no substitute for

actual present suffering. As for reducing passenger traffic, one can only say, it is a piece of cynicism, for the poor do not travel, least of all in India, for the mere pleasure of it. As the *Statesman* put it:

To offer such bad service at so high a price will be an insult even during the war. It brings public service as a whole into bad repute.

The only people who may not feel the strain are the new rich which the war contracts are creating and the State officials whose expenses are borne by the Treasury.

No wonder that no less than five cut motions were carried against the Government during the three-day debate on the Railway Budget in the Central Assembly.

Mrs. Gandhi's Death

Kasturba's death is the greatest personal loss that Gandhiji has suffered in recent years since the passing of Mahadev Desai. But the circumstance of her death while under detention adds to the poignancy of the grief with which the whole country has heard the news. Her matchless endurance, courage and devotion to Gandhi during these many eventful years of trials and hardship have been the theme of countless tributes. Gandhi himself has made many touching references to her remarkable patience and self-sacrifice. Indeed her whole life was one long epic of service and devotion to Gandhi and the causes he espoused. To millions in India, the passing away of this good "mother"—as she is often addressed—has come with the shock of a family bereavement. Gandhi himself may be able to bear the loss with characteristic resignation, but every Indian heart and the hearts of many outside India go out to him in respectful sympathy at the passing of one who for sixty years had been his companion and helpmate sharing his sufferings and ministering to his needs as only a Hindu wife could. Mrs. Gandhi, though practically unlettered, knew like Jane Welsh Carlyle, what it is to be the wife of a man of genius, and with child-like faith trod by the side of her illustrious husband, with firmness and intrepidity, through all the phases of trouble and exaltation in equal measure.

The Ban on Mrs. Sarojini

Quite as expected, one of the first moves of the non-official members of the Central Legislature, on the opening day of the session was the motion for adjournment of the House in connection with the gagging order on Mrs. Sarojini. It is significant that even in an attenuated house, shorn of its Congress members, the motion was lost by a bare majority of two. The trend of the debate and the nature of the voting definitely show that though the Government scored by a narrow majority, the moral victory lay with the opposition.

Since the arrest and detention of the Congress leaders in August, 1942, there has been a deluge of propaganda, both in this country and abroad, to misrepresent the Congress position in regard to the war and to discredit the Congress leaders. The propaganda has missed fire, particularly because it attempted too much. But it is odd that after all this flood of propaganda, Government should still grudge to give the other side a chance to express its view. The gagging order on Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, forbidding her to communicate with the Press or address any public meeting is an attempt to stifle completely any expression of the only authoritative Congress view of the situation now available. For Mrs. Naidu, as a member of the Working Committee which took part in the discussions preceding the August debacle, was in a position to impart first-hand impression of the situation. And what after all did she say? There is nothing in what she said which could at all be construed as offending the law or even the Editors' agreement with the Government. There is no incitement to violence or illegal activity, and absolutely nothing to impede war effort. She only supplied facts which definitely proved that the Congress was wholly and irrevocably anti-Axis. Is that a "prejudicial act" for which she must be gagged? The real reason is that she has pricked the bubble of Government propaganda so completely as to put Government absolutely in the wrong in the eyes of impartial observers.

The Central Budget

Introducing the Central Budget for 1944-45 in the Central Assembly, the Finance Member disclosed a revenue deficit of Rs. 92'43 crores for the current year and a prospective deficit of Rs. 78'21 crores next year on the basis of existing taxation.

The Finance Member announced the following proposals for new taxation, which are expected to yield Rs. 23½ crores:

He proposed three new excise duties to be levied, namely, on tea, coffee and betel-nuts at two annas a pound.

The existing emergency surcharge of 20 per cent. on Customs Duties will continue for another year. In the case of tobacco and spirits, the surcharge will be increased from 1/5th to ½.

Tobacco excise is being increased to yield ten crores of additional revenue.

Under Income-tax relief is proposed to be given to persons whose incomes are below Rs. 2,000 by raising the taxable minimum from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000.

There will be no change in existing incidence on incomes upto Rs. 10,000 but on the slab from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 the central surcharge is to be increased by two pies from 16 to 18 pies over the basic rate of 24 pies; and on the balance above Rs. 15,000, surcharge will be increased by four pies from 20 to 24 pies over the basic rate of 30 pies. This latter rate will apply to companies and in every case where the tax is to be charged at the maximum rate.

Under proposals for compulsory deposits is a provision for a pay-as-you-earn scheme under which an assessee has the option to pay income-tax in advance quarterly, such advance payments carrying 2 per cent. interest.

Under Super-tax there will be an increase of half an anna in the central surcharge on slabs between Rs. 35,000, and Rs. 2 lakhs.

The total estimated revenue from the new proposals will reduce the prospective revenue deficit from Rs. 78'21 crores to Rs. 54'71 crores.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By "CHRONICLER"

Mr. Churchill's Review of the War

ADDRESSING the House of Commons on February 22, Mr. Churchill expressed confidence in final victory for the Allies.

The whole of the air offensive constitutes the foundation on which our plans for an overseas invasion stand. . . . The idea that we should fetter or further restrict the use of this prime instrument of war will not be accepted by the Governments of the Allied nations.

Discussing the Russo-Polish situation, Mr. Churchill said:

I have intense sympathy for the Poles—but I also have sympathy for the Russian viewpoint. I cannot feel that the Russian demand for reassurances about her western frontiers goes beyond the limits of the reasonable or the just. Marshal Stalin and I are agreed upon the need for Poland to obtain compensation at the expense of Germany both in the North and the West.

Speaking of the battle in Italy, he declared:

Leaders are confident of final success. I can say no more than what I have said, for I would not attempt to venture on over-confident prediction, but our leaders are confident and the troops are in the highest spirit of offensive vigour.

After explaining what "unconditional surrender" meant in reference to Germany, Mr. Churchill expressed the hope "that the generous instincts of unity will not depart from us in these times".

The Burma Campaign

Indian and British forces of the 14th Army have inflicted a major defeat on the Japanese in the Arakan. This is the result of the operations which have been in progress in the heat and dust of the jungle from the first week of last month. It is announced that the big Japanese force of about 8,000, which sought to cut the 14th Army's communications and destroy them by an enveloping movement, has itself been largely destroyed. About 1,500 dead Japanese have been collected and buried, representing about a quarter of the flanking force, and the number of their wounded may reasonably be taken to be twice the number of their dead. Only two small parties of any significance, totalling a few hundreds, are now left to be dealt with. When they are eliminated, enemy casualties will swell. Our casualties have been relatively light.

Russian Successes

For more than a year the Red Army has been conducting a successful offensive, routing armies of the German invaders and sweeping them out of the Soviet land, observes Marshal Stalin in an Order of the Day issued on the eve of the Anniversary of the Red Army.

The Red Army has fought its way forward 1,700 kilometres (about 1,020 miles) at some points and cleared the enemy from nearly three-fourths of occupied Soviet soil.

In three months of the winter campaign our valiant troops have won the greatest of victories on the right bank of the Dnieper, completed the liberation of the Kiev, Dnepropetrovsk and Zaporozhe regions, liberated the whole of the Zitomir region, practically the whole of the Rovno and Kirovograd regions and several districts of the Vinnitsa, Nikolaviv, Kamenets-Podolsky and Volyn regions.

A great victory was won by Soviet troops at Leningrad which completely freed the city from the enemy's blockade and barbaric shelling. Soviet fighting men are completing the liberation from the Fascist monsters of the Leningrad and Kailin regions.

In the unfavourable conditions of the current winter, our troops have cleared the invaders from about 200,000 sq. kilometres (125,000 sq. miles) of Soviet soil. The Red Army has reconquered from the enemy more than 13,000 inhabited localities, including 82 towns and 320 railway stations.

It must be now clear to every one that Hitlerite Germany is moving relentlessly towards a catastrophe.

New Zealand and Statute of Westminster

Speaking at the opening of the twenty-seventh New Zealand Parliament at Wellington, on February 23, the Prime Minister, Mr. Peter Fraser, intimated that the question of adoption of the Statute of Westminster will be submitted to Parliament by the Government. The enactment of the Statute by New Zealand would remove doubts in the eyes of the foreign Powers about the sovereign status of New Zealand and would also have the practical effect of removing the existing legal conscription and administrative difficulties in New Zealand and the United Kingdom.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



BIRTH-PLACE OF THE EMPIRE

One of the monuments that attracted the attention of the Governor of Bombay during his recent tour of Gujarat was the "old English Factory" at Surat.

Despite being told, writes Mr. H. D. Mistry in *Blitz*, that the place is an old, dilapidated building situated in an unwholesome corner of the city of Surat, and occupied by an old woman, "His Excellency" and Lady Colville insisted on visiting the place.

The building, which has been known for centuries as the "Old English Factory" at Surat and which in itself forms part of the original English Factory at Surat built in 1618, stands as an old, forgotten monument. It is the building where early English traders, under the East India Company traded.

This Old English Factory at Surat is now the private property of the well-known Indian family of Cooper. It has been so since 1878.

Lord Curzon, Lord Kitchener, Lord Reay, Lord Sandhurst, Lord Lamington, Lord Willingdon, are a few of the celebrities, who have visited this monument before.

On entering the building, the Governor read out loudly the inscription upon a tablet placed at the front door.

The English Factory originally built in A.D. 1618, under a treaty made with Prince Khurram (Shah Jehan), son of the Emperor Jehangir through the ambassador Sir Thomas Roe, it withstood a siege by the Marathas under Shivaji in A.D. 1664, and was again attacked by the Marathas in A.D. 1703. It ceased to be used for its original purpose after Surat was annexed by the British in A.D. 1800.

After Sir John finished reading the inscription, the party went up the steps, stood on the upper gallery, walked on to the verandah, entered the Central Hall, crossed the partition and went to the last big room overlooking River Tapti.

"What nice, cool, big, airy rooms," said Lady Colville. "How nice to stand in the building where our forefathers stayed three centuries ago," joined in Sir John.

On leaving the place, Lady Colville said, "Of all the places we have visited, we found this ancient monument the best and most interesting."

SIKHS AND HINDUISM

A controversy has gone on for some time past whether the Sikhs can be called Hindus. The true relations of Sikhism to Hinduism is set forth in a recent article in the *Triveni* in which Prof. Pritam Singh holds that

Sikhs are reformed Hindus As a matter of fact, Sikh reform, as inaugurated by Guru Nanak, was a replica of the Bhakti movement sponsored by the medieval saints like Ramanuja, Kabir and others. *Granth Sahib* also contains the hymns of Jaidev, Namdev, Ramdas, Pipa, Sadna and Farid. The sacred books of the Hindus are mentioned in the *Granth Sahib*. . . . As a matter of fact, the Sikh scriptures reinterpret the Hindu sacred books in the popular language of the people of those days. Dr. Banerjee says, "It appears that there is no satisfactory evidence to contend that Guru Nanak denounced almost everything that he had found in existence, and that it was his object to build an entirely novel structure on the ruins of the old. (*Evolution of the Khalsa*)."

The writer dismisses the story of Guru Nanak's visit to Baghdad and Mecca as unhistorical. The third Guru Amar Das visited Kurukshetra and Hardwar, and at the time of his passing away, instructed his disciples to perform Hindu rites.

In *Japji* of Guru Nanak we read: "The Guru is Shiva, the Guru is Vishnu and Brahma; the Guru is Parbati, Lakshmi and Saraswati." (*Japji V*) . . . There is the belief in the doctrine of transmigration. . . . Monotheism and pantheism merge into the Sikh movement as they do in Hinduism. . . . We are, therefore, Hindus and will always remain Hindus. . . .

The Hindus are ready to recognise all those as Hindus who call themselves so, and these latter are doubly welcome when they swear by the Hindu scriptures and stand by the Indian culture.

AMERICA AND INDIA

Miss Elsie Weil, the Managing Editor of *Asia and the Americas*, writing in the monthly, urging Americans to contribute to Indian famine relief, says: "All the grim and tragic aftermath of the famine is a humanitarian challenge as well. Countless American troops are now in India. How Indians feel towards us now and after the war will be judged on the basis of our active and vital friendship and not by empty speeches and flourishes when they need help."

THE BENGAL FAMINE

The ugly fact about the Bengal famine, writes *Observer*, London, is that it should never have happened. The Burmese rice lost by the Japanese advance is less than a twentieth of all India's rice consumption. No reserves had been built up. Inevitably, there was individual hoarding against shortage and famine prices, and the proper technique of opening boards by causing prices to fall in anticipation of imports (hindered, of course, by the inflow of money for war finance coupled with scarcity of all civil goods) was left to be discovered by the recent Committee of Inquiry.

Indignant denunciation of black market merchants was in order, but buttered no parsnips and produced no grain, rice, or wheat. Indian distrust of British administration and British importers deepened. The same cross-purposes that wrecked the Cripps Mission last year have bedevilled famine measures.

Now the goods are being delivered. Wheat is on its way overseas to tide over until the next rice harvest. But the damage has been done, the credit lost, the old story repeated—Indians intransigent, suspicious, unreasonable; Britons slow, ponderous, ineffective. Lord Wavell has a heroic part to play on this stage.

SOUTH INDIAN ESTATES

The sale of British-owned rubber plantations in South India to local Indian syndicates is still going on, writes the *Manchester Guardian* financial editor.

It seems to suit both sides very well. In view of the uncertain prospects of the rubber industry after the war, some shareholders in this country consider the prices offered attractive for the estates, which are not very productive and have high working costs. On the other hand, Indian friends tell us they risk little as they can probably work the plantations more cheaply and would be able to change over to other products if rubber growing ceased to pay.

Land in crowded South India has, moreover, a permanent capital value if the money income fails for a few years.

The Teekoy Rubber Estate, Limited, has accepted an offer of £150,000 for its property in Travancore. The concern has an issued capital of £ 74,000: the shareholders will thus receive more than £ 2 per share in repayment.

The estate consists of 1,752 acres, of which 1,379 acres are planted and 1,213 acres mature. The capital is equal to £54 per acre and the purchase price amounts to over £ 100 per acre, a good price for an "area yielding not much over 400 lb. to an acre and with a rather high production cost.

In a circular letter to shareholders, the Directors point out that much money has been spent on property from revenue, apart from the dividends which averaged $7\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. over 27 years. They point out to the uncertainties of the political situation and rise in local taxation as reasons for the sale.

One might add that the competitive position of natural as well as synthetic rubber is still undecided, but that low-yielding areas and high cost producers will certainly have little chance of survival after the first post-war demands are satisfied. This is made certain by the abandonment of the rubber restriction scheme.

ECONOMICS OF PAKISTAN

If Pakistan were established, India would cease to be one of the greatest internal free trade areas of the world. This conclusion is reached by *Indian Affairs*, published by the India-Burma Association, in an article on the economic implications of Pakistan.

The article points out that the Punjab is the least developed industrially of all the major provinces in India, less developed even than the Central Provinces, which has big cotton mills and very important manganese and less important coal mines.

There can be little doubt that the new rulers of Pakistan would regard this as a reproach to be met by high protective duties in certain directions.

Pointing out the responsibilities of a Pakistan State for defence, the article says, "Punjabis, who have till now formed the backbone of the Indian Army will no longer be soldiers in that army but in the army—if any—of Pakistan.

That means their pay and pensions will have to be paid by Pakistan and not from the revenues of all India. Much of their pay in peace-time is spent within the Province as are all pensions and even in war-time there must be large remittances home. This very valuable source of income from outside must entirely cease with the creation of Pakistan and one cannot but feel that its cessation is bound to have a serious effect in lowering the standard of living in the Province where it has for a long time past been higher than in any part of India.

SOVIET REFORMS

The exact purpose of the Soviet proposal is not yet very clear, says the *Economist*, but it may be taken for granted that Marshal Stalin is not interested in any real dispersion of his present central control. One must distinguish between constitutional forms and realities.

There are probably many reasons for the present proposal. One, though probably quite minor is, to stake the claim for representation at future international gatherings at least equal to the British Commonwealth.

Another is to secure some administrative devolution of the execution of foreign policy.

The U.S.S.R. has immensely long frontiers with a great number and variety of other states; in these conditions problems can be both local and international.

Another purpose is probably to smooth the path for acceptance by the outside world of incorporation within the U.S.S.R. of territories which did not belong to it in 1938.

But the journal does not think the reasons include a desire to permit sixteen Republics to act in any important matter against the Kremlin's wishes: thus decentralisation would involve, so to speak tactics of military or foreign policy, while strategy for the whole Union will be decided centrally, whereas it is precisely in matters of grand strategy that the Canadian Prime Minister claims the fullest freedom of action.

Marshal Stalin and Mr. Molotov have their eye on realities. Their sixteen Republics will hang together for reasons invisible to the constitutional lawyer. It would be the height of foolishness to deny ourselves what the Russians will certainly enjoy. Where association is truly free and good neighbourly and where members are champions of a world order, it can surely do nothing but good.

MARTIAL TRADITION IN INDIA

In the *Modern Review*, Sir Jadunath Sarkar contributes an article on "India's Military Decline in the 18th Century." He says:

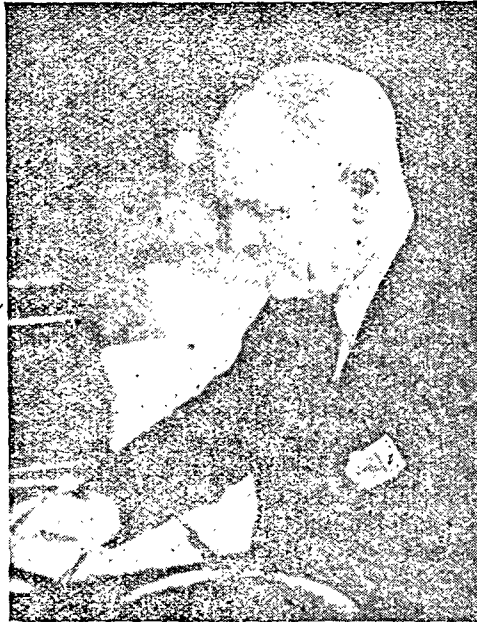
In the second half of the 18th century it became the rage of the Indian Rajahs and Nabobs to maintain European-trained sepoys of their own in addition to hiring private European military adventurers and white deserters from the East India Company's army and thus forming a Feringi company, especially of artillery. Each defeat of the old system only enhanced the prestige of the new. The

most extensive and effective use of such European trainers and separate corps was made by Mahadji Sindhia and Daulat Rao Sindhia and Tipu Sultan, and to a lesser extent and much later by Holkar. Such forces in the services of the Peshwa and the Rajput Rajahs were negligible in number and practically worthless in the field. Before the Treaty of Paris (1763) disarmed the French in India, the European auxiliaries hired by the Indian princes were the regular troops of the English and French East India Companies and they fought as subsidised allies and not as servants of the Indian Powers. After 1763, the only European soldiers in Indian services were private military adventurers.

The rock on which the modernised army of the Indian States in the 18th century broke down, was the lack of Indian officers of sufficient education and experience in training the men and using modern tactics in battles. Except for the Brahman caste (and a very few Prabhus) among the Marathas, all over Hindu military officers were illiterate and they prided themselves on this defect! Hence, they could learn nothing from books, nor increase their knowledge from the results of Europe's advance in science and the thoughts of the masters of the military art there. The best Indian officers of our Rajahs' drilled sepoy battalions in the 18th century were but imitations of the European officers under whom they had served,—such as as Ibrahim Khan Garde, an ex-captain of Bussy's army,—and usually deserting black captains from the English or French Company's army in India. A very large proportion of the foreign officers in Indian State armies were not pure Europeans by birth, and very few of them had exercised even the lowest command in any army in Europe. In fact outside the British Indian army, the sepoy battalions were commanded mostly by men of mixed Indo-European parentage from Goa or Pondicherry, and even by pure Indian Christians from the Portuguese colony. These men may have had some European blood, and something of the European spirit, but were without a tincture of European education, and indeed of any education worth mention.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

- Feb. 1. Earthquake in Turkey destroys a whole town.
—Sir B. N. Rau appointed Prime Minister of Kashmir.
- Feb. 2. R. A. F. raids Berlin.
—Fighting begins in Dalmatia.
- Feb. 3. German counter-offensive.
—Street fighting in Cassino.
—Changes in Soviet constitution announced.
- Feb. 4. Marshal Rommel is reported to be directing German strategy in Italy.
—Air raid on Vizag area.
- Feb. 5. Enemy plane over Orissa.
—U. S. success in the Marshalls.
- Feb. 6. Christian Council demands release of leaders and formation of National Government.
- Feb. 7. Central Assembly session begins.
—Quake tragedy again in Turkey.
- Feb. 8. Financial agreement signed between British Government and the Free French Committee.
—Enemy air-craft over Ceylon.
- Feb. 9. In the Central Assembly a resolution on the release of politicals is lost without a division.
- Feb. 10. Merger of States Bill to be introduced in Parliament is published.
- Feb. 11. Pandit Malaviya's move to summon a Leaders' Conference.
- Feb. 12. Desperate battle on Anzio Beach for capture of Rome.
- Feb. 13. W. C. Bonnerji centenary celebration in Calcutta.
—Pravda attacks emigre Polish Government in London.
- Feb. 14. Luga, eighty miles south of Leningrad, is captured by Soviet forces.
- Feb. 15. Allied success in Arakan.
—Allied forces occupy two islands in S. W. Pacific.
- Feb. 16. Railway Budget discloses 25 per cent. increase in fares which is meeting with strong opposition.
- Feb. 17. The Viceroy addresses the Central Legislature, explaining Government's attitude to the deadlock.
- Feb. 18. H. E. The Viceroy and Lady Wavell arrive in Madras.



HIS EXCELLENCY LORD WAVELL

- Feb. 19. Stalin expounds his aims—no intention to expand into Central or Western Europe.
- Feb. 20. Natal Indian Conference meets at Durban.
- Feb. 21. Germans pushed back at Arazio.
- Feb. 22. Mrs. Gandhi passes away.
- Feb. 23. Natal judge upholds Indians' claim to practise as Attorney.
- Feb. 24. Assembly protests against increase in Rail fares and carries a cut motion by 51 to 46.
- Feb. 25. Russians invite Finnish Political and military delegation to Moscow.
- Feb. 26. Russo-Finnish armistice published.
- Feb. 27. Russian advance on Baltic front. Germans fall back on Pskov.
- Feb. 28. Jap withdrawal in Arakan.
- Feb. 29. The Finance Member presents the Budget to the Assembly.

INDIAN STATES

Hyderabad

ALL-INDIA CONFERENCES

Two conferences of all-India significance took place in Hyderabad. The ninth annual meeting of the Indian Academy of Sciences was held under the Presidentship of Sir C. V. Raman and the fifth All-India Surgeons' Conference under the chairmanship of Dr. N. C. Joshi of Delhi. Sir C. V. Raman was re-elected President of the former body for the period from 1944-46 and Dr. R. N. Cooper (Bombay) was elected President of the latter body with Dr. D. P. V. Menon (Madras) as General Secretary. It was also announced that the sixth conference of the Association of all-India Surgeons will be held in Lahore in February next year.

ADVICE TO HYDERABAD GUJERATHIS

Advice to Gujarathis to take to industries and not confine themselves to the commercial field was given by Sir Parshotamdas Thakurdas, laying the foundation stone of the Gujarathi Free School.

The local Gujarathi community has raised Rs. 32,000 towards the establishment of the school in addition to providing land.

Mr. Ghulam Mohammed, Finance Member, the Nizam's Executive Council, who also spoke on the occasion, said that a scheme for the introduction of the B. Com. course in Osmania University was under consideration. Government were also making arrangements for scientific research and scientific education.

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

The State of H. E. H. the Nizam of Hyderabad has given a contribution of Rs. 10,000 to meet the expenses of the Industrial Research Committee that has recently been appointed to make a complete survey of the facilities for the scientific and industrial researches existing in India, including the Indian States.

HYDERABAD STOCK EXCHANGE

Raja Pannalal Pitti has been elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hyderabad Stock Exchange, in place of the late Nawab Kamal Yar Jung Bahadur.

Mysore

RETROCEDED LANDS

The Government of Mysore have promulgated an Act to provide for the application of State laws to the lands retroceded to the Maharaja of Mysore by His Excellency the Crown Representative. The area includes the lands occupied by the Bangalore City Railway station, that portion of Bangalore-Hindupur section of the Mysore Railway which lies between the frontier of the Mysore State and the Bangalore City station and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, lands lying between the boundary of the Bangalore Civil and Military Station and the City Railway station.

COMPANY PROMOTION ORDER

The Government of Mysore have, under the Defence of India Rules, ordered that no company whether incorporated in Mysore or not shall, except with the consent of the Government, make an issue of capital in Mysore. The Order further states that no person shall issue in Mysore any prospectus or other document offering for subscription which does not include a statement that the consent of the Government has been obtained to the issue.

PRICES OF STANDARD VARIETIES

The Government of Mysore have fixed maximum ex-factory prices for the standard varieties of cloth and yarn of dimensions and counts specified against each of them under Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order 1943. The maximum prices at which the cloth and yarn of varieties specified above may be sold in retail shall not exceed a total gross margin of 20 per cent. over the ex-factory price in respect of each variety of cloth and yarn.

WARNING TO DEALERS

The Government of Mysore have issued a warning that any dealer in cotton goods in the State who is found with unstamped cloth in his possession will, whether he is prosecuted or not and in addition to any penalty which the courts might sentence him to under the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, lose his Dealer's Licence, if any, issued by the Additional Textile Commissioner in Mysore.

Baroda

BARODA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

An assurance that the well-being and interests of his people throughout the State had always been nearest to his heart and that he would spare no pains to ensure a due measure of happiness, contentment and prosperity for his subjects was given by the Maharaja Gaekwar inaugurating the Baroda Assembly session on February 15.

Referring to the food problem, the Maharaja said: "You are aware of the fact that Baroda is a deficit area, but I am now happy to observe that as a result of the prompt measures adopted by the Government, coupled with the spontaneous co-operation extended by the people, Baroda's food problem is now on a sound and satisfactory footing. The Government is further trying to give more facilities to the public in obtaining grains at cheaper rates".

Referring to the administration of the State His Highness observed: "No major decision is ever taken without my express approval. It has always been my policy to keep myself fully informed of the local conditions irrespective of my presence or absence from the State". He announced his decision to include one more Councillor to the Executive Council which is now composed of three Councillors.

BARODA MINISTER'S TOUR

Mr. Manibhai Vasanji Desai, member of the Baroda Government in charge of local self-government, who is on a tour of Navsari district, met members of various panchayats at Navsari, to discuss local problems. He assured them that Government were prepared to give financial aid for rural development provided there was systematic planning.

Bharatpur

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE

A fund of Rs. 10,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Bharatpur Cottage Industries Committee, constituted by the Bharatpur Government with the Financial Secretary as the Chairman. This fund is to be utilised for the development of Home spinning, weaving and other village industries and also to arrange for the marketing of their products.

Travancore

SANSKRIT-TAMIL CONTROVERSY

"The literature of devotion in Tamil is immense in extent, it is intense in quality, and it is splendid in its poetical form. Why should there be a comparison between Sanskrit and Tamil as media of expression and why should there be any controversy? I trust that this association, if it does nothing else, but bring home to our people the inner unity of the culture of India by welding Tamil and Sanskrit in the religious and musical sense would have rendered a great and conscious service," observed Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Dewan of Travancore, presiding over the annual celebration of the Tirupugazh-manimanthira Permananda Sabha at the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum.

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar said: "It is a matter of some grief to many of us, who are very deeply devoted to the tenets and to the principles of our great faith, that there should arise any distinction, any dispute or contentiousness between the vehicle of expression of one's thoughts and one's dreams and yearnings. This controversy that is going on between the southern tongue of Tamil and the northern tongue of Sanskrit, whether in the matter of music or in the matter of literature or religion is, I consider, one of the most suicidal and wholly unnecessary aspects of our present-day life."

HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT

Quoting from a paper before the Indian Science Congress by an acknowledged expert, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Dewan of Travancore, said in the course of his address at the inauguration of the head-works of the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme at Munnar that the production of metallurgical coal in India was expected to continue at high speed only for 30 to 50 years. That meant that unless we developed hydro-electric power, India would be in a bad way.

The Dewan added that the importance of hydro-electric development was now being brought home to us in regard to the solution of the food problem. Without the extension of cultivation and irrigation by utilising electrical energy, we should be in an even worse position than we are to-day.

Kashmir

SEEDS FROM KASHMIR

Kashmir is about to make its debut as a major vegetable seed producer as a result of recently completed plans, and the State is expected to supply about 5,000 maunds of seeds of European vegetables worth about Rs. 35 lakhs. This quantity will be most important in filling up the deficiency caused by the absence of imports of such seeds.

The new supply has been developed owing to the co-operation of the Kashmir Durbar and the Government of India. After carrying out experiments on Kashmir seeds, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research financed a seed production scheme and 250 acres were devoted to the work, as a result of which Kashmir was able to supply to the rest of India seeds worth about Rs. 2 lakhs.

SIR B. N. RAU AS PRIME MINISTER

H. H. the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir has been pleased to appoint Sir B. Narasingh Rau, C.I.E., as Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir State.

Bikaner

BIKANER RULER'S PROCLAMATION

The first anniversary of the accession of His Highness the Maharaja was celebrated in the State on February 2.

Apart from the abolition of certain taxes and levies, His Highness announced the establishment of a fund of Rs. 40 lakhs to finance schemes of water-supply and drainage in the capital and other towns and rural areas and to finance an intensive programme of rural uplift and development, in addition to an annual minimum provision of Rs. 1 lakh for digging wells, tanks, etc. A college for women is also announced to be established.

Cochin

COCHIN COUNCIL'S TERM

His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin has ordered that the term of the fifth Legislative Council be further extended for a period of one year from July 13, 1944. This extension is subject to the condition that the Council may be, however, dissolved at any time within the aforesaid period, if necessary.

General

MERGER OF STATES

A Bill to legalise the attachment of a number of smaller States in Western India to larger States, such as Baroda for administrative purposes, was published on February 11.

When the Government of India, with the concurrence of His Majesty's Government, proposed in the interests of the inhabitants of smaller States, to give them the benefits of the administration enjoyed by larger States, the legality of this proceeding was questioned. The necessary authority for it is contained in the new Bill, which is entitled "India (Attachment of States) Bill, 1944."

HIGH COURT FOR DECCAN STATES

Nine out of the 18 full-powered Deccan States are contemplating to have a joint High Court for their group. These include Phaltan, Jamkhandi, Jath, Miraj Senior, Miraj Junior, Kurundwad Service, Mudhol, Savnur and Akkalkot (which is expected to join the group). They have secured the services of Dr. M. R. Jayakar to draft a scheme, which will be sent to the Government of India for sanction.

THE CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, Ltd.

(Established—December, 1911)

HEAD OFFICE—Esplanade Road, Fort, BOMBAY.
205 Branches and Pay-Offices throughout India.

Authorised Capital	Rs. 3,50,00,000
Subscribed Capital	Rs. 3,36,26,400
Paid-Up Capital	Rs. 1,68,13,200
Reserve and Other Funds	Rs. 1,49,67,000
Deposits as at (30-6-1943)	Rs. 72,27,68,000

DIRECTORS.

Sir Homi Mody, K.B.E., Chairman, Ardeshir B. Dubash, Esquire, Haridas Madhavdas, Esquire, Dinshaw D. Romer, Esquire, Vithaldas Kanji, Esquire, Noormahomed M. Chinoy, Esquire, Bapuji Dadabhoy Lam, Esquire, Dharamsey Mulraj Khatau, Esquire, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Kt. H. F. Commissariat, Esquire.

LONDON AGENTS:—Messrs. Barclay's Bank, Limited and Messrs. Midland Bank, Limited.
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Banking Business of every description transacted on terms which may be ascertained on application.

H. C. CAPTAIN,
Managing Director.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

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Ceylon

CEYLON INDIANS' RIGHTS

A fervent appeal to the Board of Ministers in Ceylon to revise their attitude on the vital question of franchise and rights of citizenship for the Indians in the Island was made by Mr. M. A. Hasham Premji, a prominent member of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, and a former member of the Ceylon Indian Delegation, in the course of a statement to the Press.

In the struggle for independence of Ceylon, the Indians have played a vital part and have made great contributions to the economic development and prosperity of the Island. This and their vital connections in the economic structure of Ceylon entitle them to a place of responsibility in the body-politic of their Island. It is indeed a matter of great regret that on such important and vital questions affecting the future position of nearly nine lakhs of Indians in Ceylon, the Board of Ministers should think that the questions of franchise, rights of citizenship and such other questions for Indians are internal matters and as such need not find a place in the scheme which is being framed for submission to the Secretary of State for Colonies.

This has justly created a fear in the minds of the Indians that the question with regard to their future status, position, their representation, franchise and rights of citizenship in Ceylon under the new Constitution will be ignored and it would not be wrong to say that it will constitute a grave breach of all political laws if the Ceylon Ministers try to trample the inherent rights of Indians in Ceylon under some pretext or the other. This may have serious consequences on the good relations existing between the two countries which are geographically, ethnically and historically so greatly allied to each other.

East Asia

INDIAN PRISONERS IN JAP HANDS

"I have grave news to tell the House", said Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary in a long statement about the treatment of British prisoners and internees in Japanese hands.

Among the growing list of cases of brutal outrage on the prisoners, civilians as well as soldiers, was one in which a number of Indian soldiers captured in Burma had their hands tied behind their backs and were made to sit in groups by the road and then systematically bayoneted from behind in turn, each man apparently three bayonet thrusts.

South Africa

INDIAN'S CLAIM UPHELD BY NATAL

JUDGE

An ex-parte application by Mr. Abdul Hamid Ismail Mulla, Natal Indian, for admission as Attorney-Notary was granted in the Supreme Court, Pretoria, by Judge-President Barry.

Granting the application, the Judge-President dealt with an affidavit by the Incorporated Law Society of Transvaal, wherein it was pointed out that when the applicant's articles were tendered to the Society for registration, he did not disclose the fact that he was then a prohibited immigrant to Transvaal. Had this fact been disclosed, the Council of Law Society would have objected to the registration.

The Judge-President said the applicant had complied with all the conditions entitling him to admission. He was a British subject and appeared to be a fit and proper person. The question was, whether he was a fit and proper person to carry on practice as an Attorney. The Court was not concerned whether or not he was a prohibited immigrant. "This is the only opposition by the Law Society and I do not think there is any ground in the objection. The applicant is entitled to admission as an Attorney."

Great Britain

INDIANS AND WAR SERVICE

The Committee of Indian Congressmen has issued the following statement:

The Committee fully supports and appreciates the attitude of those Indians who in strict obedience to the Indian National Congress or on clear political grounds have consistently refused to serve in the armed forces of Great Britain.

The Committee feels that such an attitude should be adopted from the very outset and the persons concerned should abide by it till the end, whatever the consequences to them, the Committee of the Indian Congressmen pledges its loyal support.

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS * DEPARTMENTAL * NOTES

QUESTIONS OF IMPORTANCE

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL'S DEMAND

The National Christian Council of India met at Nagpur under the presidency of the Bishop of Dornakal, to consider the letter addressed by the Conference of Missionaries of Great Britain. The letter, it is understood, expressed concern over the political situation and wanted elucidation as to why the Cripps Offer was rejected and invited suggestions for ending the impasse.

The Council, it is learnt, drafted a letter in reply, setting out its views on both questions. For resolving the deadlock, the Council demanded the unconditional release of Congress leaders, with a view to the early formation of a National Government, renewal of the Cripps offer with certain modifications to satisfy Indian public opinion and declaration by the British Government in unambiguous terms that the Atlantic Charter will apply to India.

Dealing with the position of Christians in India, the Council asserted that no external impositions or safeguards were necessary and that the community would be content with safeguards that will be obtained with the willing consent of the majority.

INDIANS AND BRITISH ARMED FORCES

The Committee of Indian Congressmen has issued the following statement:

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In conclusion, the Committee wishes to make it clear that persons who either supported the war effort in some shape or form or who sought exemption from military service on grounds other than political and conscientious, or have submitted to medical examination to test their fitness for military duties fall outside the category of the persons whom the Committee of Indian Congressmen is pledged to support.

UTTERANCES OF THE DAY

THE VICEROY'S SPEECH

Addressing a joint session of the legislature on February 17, H. E. Lord Wavell declared:

Nearly two years have passed since the Cripps draft declaration was made public but it stands forth to-day as the solemn pledge of H. M.'s Government that India shall have full control of her own destiny among the nations of the Commonwealth and the world.

H. E. added:

The Cripps offer was an offer to India of full Self-Government, of the right to frame her own constitution and even of the right if she so desired to sever her partnership with the British Commonwealth."

Lord Wavell said that the offer of co-operation in the Government on this basis by the leaders of Indian opinion was still open, to those who had a genuine desire to further the prosecution of the war and the welfare of India.

But the demand for release of those leaders who are in detention is an utterly barren one until there is some sign on their part of willingness to co-operate."

Referring to the main problem of Indian unity, the Viceroy said:

You cannot alter geography. From the point of view of defence, of relations with the outside world, of many internal and external economic problems, India is a natural unit. What arrangements you decide to make for two great communities and certain other important minorities as well as the Indian States to live within that unit and to make the best use of its wealth and opportunities, is for Indians to decide.

He referred to the examples of England and Scotland, Canada, Switzerland, the United States and Russia, each of whom had solved racial and communal differences within their borders.

These examples are before India for her constitutionalists to study. It is for her to say which will most nearly fulfil of her own needs. But no man can alter geography.

The Viceroy continued:

We cannot settle the future of this country without the full co-operation of the British and Indian peoples and the co-operation within the Indian people of Hindus, Muslims and other minority groups and of the Indian States.

"PAKISTAN, A COUNSEL OF DESPAIR"

"The Pakistan Scheme adopted by the Muslim League is a counsel of despair. It is nothing but a temporary phase which does not offer a permanent and effective solution of the Hindu-Muslim problem. The scheme, in its attempt to solve the minority problem, has complicated it all the more", said Mr. Syed Badruddoja, Mayor of Calcutta, at a press conference in Lahore.

Examining the Pakistan scheme, Mr. Badruddoja said that the sponsors of the scheme started from a wrong position forgetting that unless there was a free India there could not be any Muslim India. Further, under this scheme, the position of Muslims in minority provinces would be worse than at present as they would have no protection and the communal question was apt to become more intensified. The Eastern Pakistan would be isolated from the rest of Muslim India and surrounded by Hindu States and hence it would never be safe.

FREEDOM COMMITTEE'S CALL

The Indian Freedom Campaign Committee, in London, issued a statement on the Telieran Declaration, in which they suggest that "the test of British Government's sincerity will be its treatment of India."

The statement, signed by the Independent Labour Member, Mr. Fenner Brockway, novelist Mrs. Ethel Mannin, Mr. Reginald Reynolds and Mr. Arthur Ballard, says: "If Mr. Churchill is concerned to extend democracy, he can start with India at once. He can release thousands of Congress prisoners, remove the ban on the Congress, recognise India's right to independence, and accept a National Government responsible to the people of India. The Governments of America and Soviet Russia have also signed the declaration. We hope they will also insist on its immediate application."

SIR R. ACLAND ON SOLUTION OF DEADLOCK

Sir Richard Acland, Leader of the Commonwealth Party, in the course of a "Political Brains Trust" session in London on February 9, stated that the Indian deadlock could be solved only by a Government "which was resolutely determined to get out of India politically and militarily at the first possible moment."

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

A graduated national system of education, estimated to be given complete effect to in not less than forty years, and to cost Rs. 277 crores annually, when in full working order, has been drawn up by the Central Board of Education for submission to the reconstruction committee of the Viceroy's Executive Council.

This plan of post-war educational development, which is based mainly on Mr. Sargent's scheme, embodies in its suggestions for basic education many of the ideas contained in the Original Wardha Scheme.

Taking into account all aspects of education, the total annual cost of a national system of education, when in full working order, will amount to Rs. 277 crores. As for the actual carrying-out of the scheme, the Board thinks that even if all the funds required are available, it would be impossible to give complete effect to the proposals in a period of less than 40 years. It is suggested, therefore, that the first 5 years should be devoted to planning and propaganda. Therefore, the carrying out of the scheme should be divided into seven five-year programmes, during each of which an area or areas should be fully dealt with.

C.R.'s ADDRESS TO HYDERABAD GRADUATES

"We should not confound religion or religious practices with culture. The culture of India, with all its varieties, is in fact one. It is single and indivisible, even as the climate of India is one with all its varieties", observed Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar in the course of his convocation address to the graduates of the Osmania University on January 27.

He pointed out that the Osmania University was unique in All India in scientific education, as well as the teaching of the humanities, were done through an Indian language, "the rich joint product of Muslim and Hindu contract."

There is no University that has made Hindi as such the medium of instruction qualifying for degrees in sciences and humanities. Hyderabad has rendered signal service to the *lingua franca* of India by its bold and successful experiment in Urdu. The name Urdu should not be a cause for underrating this achievement.

DETENTION OF LAWYERS

The Central Assembly passed by 43 votes to 42 on February 9, an adjournment motion moved by Mr. Kazmi to discuss the "misapplication" in the provinces of the Defence of India Rules as exemplified in the arrest and detention of lawyers like Mr. Pardiwala and Pandit Baijnath who were defending accused in political cases. This was the first adverse vote sustained by Government during the session. The Congress members, Muslim League, Nationalist and Independent members voted for the motion. The result of the vote was greeted with loud cheers from the Opposition and cries of "resign", "resign". Speaking on the motion, Mr. Frank Anthony put in a vigorous plea for the protection of the bar against the encroachments of the executive.

To safeguard the rights of Advocates and legal practitioners who are penalised for expressing political opinions is the object of a Bill to amend the Bar Councils Act and Legal Practitioners Act which Mr. T. T. Krishnamachariar, Member of the Central Assembly, has tabled.

The statement of the objects and reasons of the new Bill says:

An amendment to the Bar Councils Act and the Legal Practitioners Act has been made necessary by the action taken by certain High Courts in striking off the names of Advocates from the rolls of the Bar Councils because of convictions by criminal courts for political opinions held by such Advocates and for acts committed by them in the course of giving expression to such opinions. It is felt by responsible members of Bar Councils that in the face of the present wording of the Bar Councils Act and the Legal Practitioners Act nothing can be done to prevent High Courts from taking such actions. The inequity of a person being deprived of livelihoods for political opinion held by him is understood by all people in this country and in order to obviate the difficulties experienced by the members of the legal profession, this Bill has been sponsored.

TERMS OF MADRAS JUDGES

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint the Hon. Mr. Justice Kuppuswami Iyer and the Hon. Mr. Justice Shahab-ud-Din, I.C.S., to be Additional Judges of the Madras High Court for a further period from February 1, 1944, to July 15, 1944, says a press communique.

SECTION 107 OF INSURANCE ACT

The Federal Court has upheld the validity of section 107 of the Insurance Act in the case in which Kunwar Raghir Singh and two others appealed against their conviction and sentence of 6 months' R.I. and fine of Rs. 500 each, imposed by the lower Court.

It was contended on behalf of the appellants that section 107 of the Insurance Act was *ultra vires* as it contravened the provisions of section 49 (2) of the Government of India Act in so far as it sought to delegate power to sanction the institution of proceedings under the Insurance Act to a provincial officer, namely, the Advocate-General of a province. Their Lordships, in their concurrent judgment, held that there was no bass in the suggestion that merely because an offence is created by an enactment of the Central Legislature, the provincial authorities have no power to enforce criminal law or institute prosecution for such an offence. They also held that under section 124 (2) of the Constitution, the Central Government have the power to impose the duty of sanctioning prosecution on a provincial officer.

WAR INJURIES COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Under the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, contractors, like ordinary employers, have to pay compensation to the workmen employed by them and are therefore required to take out a policy of insurance from the Central Government to cover all liabilities imposed on them by the Act, says a Press Note.

The contract may be by lending or on hire, the services of workmen or executing some work for a principal employer. The War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act makes it clear that in all such cases the liabilities of the contractor cannot be transferred to the principal employer. The principal employer is only required to obtain from the contractor the name of the agent of the Central Government with whom he intends to insure and to report to that agent the existence of his arrangement or contract with the contractor.

U.N.R.R. RELIEF TO INDIA

The House of Representatives passed an amendment to the U.N.R.R.A. Bill providing for the inclusion of India in the areas eligible for relief and rehabilitation.

The House then sent to the Senate the amended Bill, which authorises an expenditure of upto 1,350 million dollars for the relief or war distressed peoples.

The President of the India League of America, Mr. J. J. Singh, commenting on the U.N.R.R.A. amendment, said: "In my opinion, the passage of this amendment is an expression of sympathy and understanding of the seriousness of the situation in Bengal and Assam."

INDIA-SOUTH AFRICA TRADE

The opinion that future years would see a great development in the trade relations between India and South Africa was voiced by the High Commissioner, Sir Shafaat Ahmad Khan, addressing a meeting of Europeans and Indians.

Sir Shafaat stated that it was hoped to appoint a Trade Commissioner for India in this country, and with the projected industrial development of South Africa after the war "a golden bridge" would be built as a result of durable trade relations. This would forge yet another lasting link in the development of goodwill and friendly relations between the two countries of the British Commonwealth.

The High Commissioner spoke of India's contribution to the United Nations' cause in volunteers, equipment and munitions and stated that India would play her full part under the inspired leadership of Lord Louis Mountbatten driving the Japanese out of the countries in the East she had filched in recent years.

DISPLAY OF CONTROL PRICES

Dealers in bicycle and bicycle parts and in wines and liquors, wholesalers and retailers, are directed, according to notifications issued under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance and published in the *Gazette of India*, dated February 5, to exhibit prominently a price list in their shops showing clearly the retail selling prices of their articles as already fixed by the Central Government,

TRAINED NURSES IN INDIA

"The alleged failure of the nursing profession to appeal to the right type of women in India is due far more to the attitude of the authorities responsible for the maintenance of hospitals and to the conditions in which, too often, probationers are trained and nurses expected to work, than to the alleged reluctance of educated Indian women to undertake the care of the sick." Major-General J. B. Hance, Director-General, I.M.S., declared this as his conviction, in the course of a speech welcoming Lady Wavell to the annual general meeting, of the Trained Nurses' Association, and in inviting her to open the meeting, he said: "As long as trained nurses are regarded, paid and housed as menials, it is not reasonable to expect that large numbers of Indian ladies will come forward to dedicate themselves to this work."



• THE LATE KASTURIBHAI GANDHI

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, which has completed the 160th year of its existence, held its annual meeting on February 7. Prof. A. V. Hill, Secretary, Royal Society of London, and Sir Don Baron Jayatilaka, representative of the Ceylon Government in India, who were present, were elected special centenary members of the Society.

The President, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, said in the course of his address that the total strength of the Society's Mss. in Sanskrit languages was about 27,000 representing a variety of subjects. At least 10,000 Sanskrit Mss. still remained uncatalogued and undeciphered.

Similarly, in the Islamic section, they had more than 6,000 Mss. covering an equal variety of subjects. Some of the Mss. apparently formed part of the rich collections of Mughal Emperors whose autographs they bore. More than 1,200 Islamic Mss. still remained to be catalogued.

Sir S. Radhakrishnan was awarded the Sir William Jones Memorial Medal of the Society for his conspicuously important research in Indian philosophy.

The Barclay Memorial Medal was awarded to Sir U. N. Brahmachari for important contributions to medical or biological science with special reference to India. The Indian Science Congress medal was awarded to Dr. S. P. Agharkar for his services to the Indian Science Congress Association as its General Secretary from 1924 to 1935.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was re-elected President of the Society for 1944.

A DAILY FOR S. E. ASIA COMMAND

"A newspaper in battle dress" has made its appearance in Calcutta early last month. It is "S. E. A. C." the daily newspaper of S. E. A. C. Asia Command.

Lord Louis Mountbatten, writing the "Birth Notice" of the paper in the first issue, dwells on the importance of a free press. "Let us make no mistake about it", says Lord Louis. "We are fighting two Fascist Dictatorships. One of the first acts of Fascism in each country has been the suppression of the free press."

MRS. NAIDU'S TRIBUTE TO W. C. BONNERJI

Tributes were paid to the memory of W. C. Bonnerji, who was the first President of the Indian National Congress, by speakers at a public meeting held at Calcutta on February 13, in connection with the centenary celebration of his birth. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee presided.

In a message to the meeting, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu said: "It is but right and seemly that we who are heirs and beneficiaries of his brave and noble labour should render due honour to this great patriot of the national renaissance who brought to the service of his country the varied and splendid gifts of his vigorous intellect, his dominating personality and the breadth and clarity of his political vision."

PANDIT JINNAH

Once Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, who is known to be an eminent scholar of Urdu, Persian and Arabic, and Mr. Jinnah were appearing in a law court in Hyderabad on rival sides, says *Forum*. The case arose out of the interpretation of certain parts of the Quran. In arguing his case, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru read the particular couplets of the original Arabic and duly translated them in English. When Mr. Jinnah started his arguments, he was asked by the court to read in Arabic the particular couplets from the holy scripture of Islam on which he wished to rely. Mr. Jinnah felt extremely embarrassed. He accepted the offer of Sir Tej Bahadur to translate the couplets for him and agreed to rely on the English translation for his arguments. In reporting the proceedings of the case, a Hyderabad paper came out with the tell-tale headline: "Maulana Tej Bahadur Sapru translates Quran for Pandit M. A. Jinnah."

MR. SURESH VAIDYA

A sensation has been caused by an incident arising out of the refusal by Mr. Suresh Vaidya, former Secretary of the Swaraj House and member of the editorial staff of the American *Time and Life*, of army service. Mr. Vaidya, who has returned his call-up papers—the first Indian to do so—is stated to have given the reason. "As a son of India, I feel only a free India Government could have the moral right to conscript me."

DR. B. C. ROY'S DISCOVERY

The problem of shortage of quinine seems to have been considerably simplified by the results which Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy has obtained from a mixture of quinine and a powder of the bark of a tree which grows extensively both in Bengal and elsewhere known as *Sapthaparna*.

Tablets made in accordance with Dr. Roy's instructions and containing a small quantity of quinine have, it is claimed, proved extremely efficacious in a large number of cases of malaria. Further experiments are being carried out in several of the Bengal districts where voluntary medical organisations are working under Dr. Roy's supervision. Should these establish the results already obtained, it is likely that even without much further extension of cinchona cultivation in India, the problem of malaria may be tackled with confidence.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

An examination for the membership of the Royal College of Physicians of London will be held in India in May this year, says a Press Note.

From candidates who wish to sit for the examination 100 military and 40 civil medical men will be selected by a preliminary written examination of M. R. C. P. standard to be held in March at selected provincial centres. Further details will shortly be supplied to military candidates, while civil candidates will be furnished with information on application.

NEW SYPHILIS TREATMENT

Drs. David H. Goldstein, Abraham Stolman and Arthur E. Goldfarb, of the New York University College of Medicine, and Bellevue Hospital, have announced that a chemical derived from lemon peel may be useful in a rapid, safe treatment of syphilis. Chalcone from lemon peel offsets the damage to capillaries of the brain produced in some patients by mapharsen (the arsenic derivative used in rapid treatment of syphilis) without lessening the ability of mapharsens to kill spirochetes. Experiments also show that chalcone itself may have some germicidal effect.

HEALTH PROBLEMS

A co-ordinated preventive and curative health service throughout the country more particularly for the rural population, is understood to have been among the subjects discussed at the recent meetings in Delhi of the Health Survey and Development Committee and its five sub-committees. The promotion of medical research in India, the organisation of central control and the development of research activities in medical colleges and teaching hospitals, the training of health personnel, such as public health engineers, sanitary inspectors, pharmacists and dentists; and problems relating to malaria and tuberculosis were also considered. The sub-committees have issued questionnaires, and in the light of them will discuss during their tours the various problems of public health with Provincial Governments, organisations and individuals.

VITAMIN C FROM GREEN TOMATOES

Vitamin C in green tomatoes does not increase perceptibly through ripening. When pulped as for chutney 92 per cent. of the vitamin C may be destroyed in seven minutes, whereas in red ripe tomatoes only 27 per cent. is lost. Unripe tomatoes, therefore, when being made into chutney should not be sliced too finely and should be put immediately into strong vinegar and the sugar added without undue delay. No tomatoes should be discarded merely because they are small or unripe.

TEA AS A WHOLESOME DRINK

In his book entitled "A Treatise on Food," Dr. Louis Lemery, Regent Doctor of the Faculty of Physik, Paris, wrote:

"Tea is very wholesome since it produces many good effects and few bad ones. We see some who will drink 10 or 12 dishes a day without any hurt at all. It is good for disorders of the brain and nerves. It refreshes the spirits."

CHILD HEALTH DIPLOMA

A twelve months' course for a diploma in child health has been instituted by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Bombay. The course has to be taken at a recognised children's department of a general hospital.

INDIA'S WAR BURDEN

The following figures of Revenue and Expenditure of the Government of India for five years tell their own tale:

India's military expenditure during this period was Rs. 1,641 crores, of which Rs. 715 crores was on India's own account and Rs. 926 crores on British account.

Of a total expenditure of Rs. 1,005 crores, the normal expenditure was Rs. 426 crores, extra military expenditure Rs. 484 crores, and extra non-military expenditure Rs. 95 crores.

Of a total Indian revenue of Rs. 727 crores, the normal revenue was Rs. 423 crores, and extra revenue through war-time taxation Rs. 304 crores.

This suggests that India has financed in excess of her revenue to the extent of Rs. 1,204 crores, Rs. 278 crores being in excess of Indian expenditure over revenue, and Rs. 926 crores being war expenditure to the account of the United Kingdom.

GOLD PRICES

The volume of official sales of gold in the Bombay market is beginning to make its effect felt, writes the *Economist*. The price quoted in the market has broken again, although the fall is only from Rs. 71'2 to Rs. 71; it is significant owing to the relatively long period of stability which preceded it. The daily off-take in Bombay has slightly declined during recent days and fallen below the average of 40,000 tolas maintained during the last five months.

It is estimated that since August 17, when the official selling programme became a decisive factor in the market, some 3,500,000 tolas have been sold through the Bombay market at prices ranging from Rs. 87 to Rs. 71 per tola. The proceeds of these sales must amount to an equivalent of about £20,000,000.

STERLING LOANS PURCHASE IN INDIA

Remittances from India in 1943 for the purchase of sterling war loans, inclusive of savings by the forces under the active service scheme through the post office savings bank and under the outright purchase scheme, amounted to £2,428,125.

THE RAILWAY BUDGET

Passenger fares, except for suburban season tickets, will be raised by 25 per cent. from April 1, 1944. The additional earnings are estimated at Rs. 10 crores, declared Sir Edward Benthall, War Transport Member, introducing the Railway Budget in the Central Assembly on February 16.

The estimates forecast for 1943-44 a surplus of Rs. 48'77 crores Rs. 1'30 crores less than last year, but Rs. 7'78 crores more than the original estimate, and for 1944-45 a surplus of Rs. 52'21 crores.

BUDGETS AT A GLANCE

(ALL IN CRORES OF RUPEES)

	1943-44	Revised Estimate	1944-45
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Gross Earnings	150	178'5	192
Working Expenses	88'14	108'58	114
Net Surplus	36'04	43'77	52'21
To General Revenue	27'10	32'27	31'37

INDIAN RAILWAYMEN AND WAR

Indian railwaymen in khaki are playing a vital part in the war effort. There are more than 40,000 men in railway units of the Indian Army. A large proportion of the officers are from the Indian railways and are now commanding construction, operating and workshop companies. They are helping to speed military priorities through from the bases to the forward areas, building bridges, new lines and depots, repairing breaches in the lines and doubling railway tracks. In the transportation units of the Indian Engineers there are about 3,000 railwaymen, including over 300 officers, of whom about 20 per cent. are Indians. These units are serving in the Middle East, Iraq and Persia, and some of them, now back in India, have had experience of Burma in war-time.

M. & S. M. RAILWAY

It is understood that the contract between the Madras and Southern Maharatta Railway and the Secretary of State for India will terminate on March 31 and that the Government will take over the railway from April next. It is also stated that Government will guarantee the existing permanent staff their rights under their service agreements with the Company up to December 31, 1945.

MRS. NAIDU ON THE THEATRE

"One of the most vivid and far-reaching channels of education for the people is through the medium of the theatre", observes Mrs. Sarojini Naidu in the course of a message to the Indian People's Theatre Association, Delhi, on the occasion of their staging a variety show.

Mrs. Naidu continues: "Since the earliest time the theatre has been the peoples' university and the natural interpreter of life. The themes may vary with the changing needs and growing experience of every generation. To-day it is essential in India as in other lands that great lessons of unity should be presented to the eyes and hearts of the people and that they should understand their own history of yesterday, to-day and to-morrow in the right perspective and that the realities of their circumstances should be presented to them in a manner that it brings virtuous conviction.

MUSIC CONGRESS

An excellent exposition of Karnatic music was rendered by Kokilagana M. S. Subbalakshmi, the well-known South Indian artiste, at the All-India Music Congress held at the University Convocation Hall in Bombay. Her melodious songs and the *alapana* of *Kalyani* and *Sankarabaranam* Ragas were highly appreciated, and the feeling of their appreciation was expressed by Mr. C. G. Mody, Chairman of the Working Committee of the Vikramaditya Celebrations Committee which organised the Congress, in a short speech. Other musicians who entertained the gathering, included Pandit V. Patwardhan, Prof. Sundaram Iyer, Prof. Vilayat Khan and Prof. Vilayat Hussein Khan.

ALL-INDIA MUSIC CONFERENCE

H. H. the Nawab of Rampur performed the opening ceremony of the All-India Music Conference held at Delhi on February 13, under the auspices of the Hindustani School of Arts and Music. His Highness spoke of the importance of music and criticised the standard of music of the All-India Radio. The Nawab announced a donation of Rs. 2,500 to the School.

PROFESSIONALISM IN INDIAN CRICKET

That the Board of Control for Cricket was seriously tackling the issue of building a first-rate all-India eleven of Test standard was disclosed by Dr. P. Subbarayan, President of the Board, in a press talk, at the Cricket Club of India, Bombay. Messrs. De Mello, Jasdanwalla, Homi, Contractor and K. S. Ranga Rao of the Control Board Executive were present.

Dr. Subbarayan said that the Cricket Club of India have a tentative scheme for the recruitment of a number of "ground staff" for coaching young cricketers and who would also be available to other provinces for coaching their players.

Talking of professionalism in cricket, Dr. Subbarayan said that it was the view of the Board to have a number of players who would be bound by the discipline of the Board and who would coach young people. The Cricket Control Board was seriously considering measures to train up as many good young cricketers as possible. There was plenty of talent available and what was needed was judicious coaching. To get enough coaches, they must encourage professionalism and such players should be paid adequately. The Board would give recognition to professionals as in England but professionals would enjoy the same status as amateurs in matches. There would be no discrimination or distinction between them.

COMMUNAL CRICKET

"It will do a great service to Indian cricket if we drop communal cricket and stick to the Ranji Trophy," said the Nawab of Pataudi speaking at a function held at the Maharashtra Mandir, Poona, under the auspices of the Maharashtra Cricket Association on February 8. The function was held to honour Vijay S. Hazare for his brilliant achievements during this season and other cricketers who participated in the festival match, which concluded that day.

The Nawab added that one of the main reasons for his not participating much in Indian cricket was that cricket in India had so far developed on communal basis. He congratulated Hazare on his brilliant batting performance in the festival match.

A NEW KIND OF GERMAN BOMB

Details of a new type of German radio-controlled and glider bombs are disclosed by the *Army and Navy Journal*. "Glider bombs," it writes, "are propelled by liquid fuel jets and released by a plane flying parallel to its target a few thousand feet high and three to five miles away. A radio-controlled bomb has large fins which have caused it to be confused with a glider bomb. It is released from well above 20,000 feet (over three and a half miles). Radio control is designed to improve accuracy. Both glider and finned bomb leave smoke trails so that the bombardier can follow their course.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

At a meeting of the Governing Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, on February 1, the Hon. the Resident was elected Chairman of the Council for the year 1944-45 and Dr. N. R. Dhar was nominated to serve on the Finance Committee of the Institute.

The supplementary budget for the period, 1st April to 30th June, 1944, was approved. The Council thanked the Government of India for according sanction to a sum of Rs. 8,900 towards payment of dearness allowance to the employees of the Institute and the Government of Bombay for the payment of Rs. 12,117, being the grant-in-aid for the year 1942-43.

STUDY OF COSMIC RAY PARTICLES

A group of University of Chicago physicists went to a laboratory on the top of Mount Evans, Colorado, for six weeks of study, at high altitudes, of the production of mesotrons, which are highly penetrating cosmic ray particles. The study may yield valuable information about the forces which hold together the crores of atoms, where more than 99 per cent. of the energy of the universe is concentrated.

AUTOMATIC WEATHER MAN

A radio transmitter, which automatically sends out weather reports from wherever it is placed, has been developed for the U.S. Army Signal Corps. The size of a steamer trunk, the new device, can be secretly buried in enemy territory, where it will transmit regular reports on temperature and humidity as long as three months.

MEHBOOB IN TAQDEER

Taqdeer is said to have broken *Kismet* record in first week collections, and its exploitation rights have been sold at quite a fabulous price approximated to Rs. 7,00,000, writes *Forum*.

This *Taqdeer* is another land-mark in Mehboob's career. Indeed when people went to see *Najma*, their expectations were based on Mehboob's reputation as a director, and they thought that in *Najma* director Mehboob had done his best and emerged out as a successful producer. This success seems to have brought about a great change in Mehboob. For the enterprising, socially conscious Mehboob of *The only way*, *Woman*, *Bahen*, *Roti* and *Najma* has yielded place to 'Showman' Mehboob. No longer he seems to be worried about the real problems of Society, no longer he seems to have the urge to depict the gruesome reality in his pictures or even to portray graphically the feudal society of Nawabs as in *Najma*. Instead, the showman Mehboob following the footsteps of the showman Mukerjee is counting on gags, dances and songs and trying to put them as much as is humanly possible in *Taqdeer*. The only thing he has retained is his love for spectacle.

The result is, *Taqdeer* has no central theme and hardly any story. It is primarily designed to entertain people and as such it is crammed with gags, punches, songs and dances—and it is set against the spectacular background of stage and 'high' society.

SALARIES IN FILMLAND

The Bombay Talkies have nearly trebled Producer Amiya Chakrabarty's salary, from Rs. 900 to Rs. 2,500; doubled that of star and studio controller Devika Rani to Rs. 2,700; doubled also music director Anil Biswas's salary to Rs. 1,400, writes the Bombay correspondent of the *Screen World*.

This is after *Hamari Baat*, but the thanks are probably due to Sushil Majumdar who insisted on Rs. 2,000 for himself, so how could Devika Rani and Chakrabarty be paid less?

MOTOR VEHICLES FOR CIVIL TRANSPORT

"With the help of the United States and Canada", said Sir Kenneth Mitchell, Controller of Road Transport, in a broadcast talk from Delhi, "we are now getting new civil vehicles in considerable numbers, although not as quickly as we could wish. It is now possible, however, to replace much of the wastage and it will, I hope, shortly be possible to go some way to meet the growing demands for passenger and goods transport. Obviously, the capacity of our roads and of the road transport which we are likely to get will be limited. Compared with a broad gauge railway wagon which can carry thirty tons, a lorry can only carry four. To replace a goods train of 35 wagons would need 175 lorries, and if these were spaced only twenty-five yards apart the equivalent road convoy would be about a mile long. But the greater speed and quick turn-round of the lorry gives it, if properly used, a far greater relative transport capacity, and I hope that, both for goods and passengers, the effect of the new vehicles which we are now getting will be apparent before long. But this additional transport cannot be run without fuel and if we were dependent upon petrol only we should have merely eased transport troubles in one way by aggravating them in another, that is, in the carriage of large additional quantities of petrol to India in tankers and in India by railway. Petrol, its transport and distribution, are together one of the key things of war and we must not use one gallon more than is absolutely necessary. Therefore, the War Transport Department is pressing and will continue to press for the greatest possible use of producer gas in transport vehicles, which used intelligently, is a very good war substitute."

FORD'S PLANT

No civilian motor-cars are being produced in America to-day. And since America entered the war, Henry Ford's industrial empire has been turned into an arsenal for the United Nations. All the Ford plants in Detroit have been converted to the production of tanks, guns and munitions. And now at Willow Run, Ford's genius for mass production is being turned to the manufacture of heavy bombers in the biggest arsenal of all.

F/LT. SUKTHANKER

The first Indian Officer in the Royal Air Force to win the Distinguished Flying Cross F/Lt. Shailendra Eknath Sukthanker has just returned to his home in India after an absence of more than four years.

F/Lt. Sukthanker is the only Indian Officer who has been awarded the Path Finder badge—a badge worn by aircrews of the aircraft which go ahead of the main bombing force in order to mark the target.

He has led R. A. F. bomber crews in heavy raids on Germany, Czechoslovakia and Italy. Essen, Dortmund, Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne, Munich, Pilsen, Nuremberg, Augsburg, Bremen, Turin, Genoa and Spezia are a few of the towns he has located and on which he has dropped "target markers" for the main force of bombers. The "pathfinder" technique has increased the accuracy of night bombing enormously.

F/Lt. Sukthanker has now joined the Indian Air Force. "I like life in the Air Force and would love to make it my career," he says.

SOUTH ATLANTIC AIR HOP

The hop of 1,970 miles across the South Atlantic from Natal to Africa was made by a fleet of 35 twin-engined American transports, the Douglas Aircraft Corporation announced. The planes then went on to India to open up the Burma road air route to China. When they reached India some flew to Myitkyina, in Burma, and evacuated the wounded and women and children victims of the Japanese northern push. The planes were D C-47 standard cargo carriers. Each carried 1,623 gallons of fuel, a crew of four and enough equipment to keep the plane operating for two years.

DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT

Plans for the development of air transport services in India were expected to be submitted in the near future before the Post-war Reconstruction Policy Committee, said Sir Gurnath Bewoor, Secretary, Posts and Air Department, in reply to a question put by Mr. K. C. Neogy. Plans for the ground organisation and the associated services required were under preparation, he added.

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

In accordance with the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, a committee has been appointed, composed of the following members: Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Chairman), Sir Jhanendra Chandra Ghosh, Lt.-Col. S. S. Sokhey, Seth Kasthubhai Lalbhai, Prof. S. K. Mitra, Prof. M. D. Qureshi, Mr. J. J. Ghandy, Dr. K. A. Hamied and Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, who will be the Secretary.

The terms of reference are as follows:

(a) To make a survey of the facilities for the scientific and industrial researches existing in India, including the Indian States—in the universities and research institutions and laboratories attached to industrial and other concerns; (b) to report on the steps and measures that should be taken to promote, direct, control and organise industrial and scientific research by private firms, research institutions, States and other research establishments; and (c) to report on such other steps as may be taken towards further industrial and scientific researches in post-war India.

SCHEME FOR RURAL INDUSTRIALISATION

A three-point programme of rural industrialisation, which would double the production of commodities in the country in less than seven years has been chalked out by Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

The industries enumerated in the scheme include manufacture of agricultural implements, fruit-growing, poultry, dairy farm, biscuits and canned food, weaving, leather goods manufacture, jewellery, pottery, various occupations connected with house-building, carpentry, cultivation of vegetables, animal husbandry, etc. Under the scheme contiguous villages and hamlets are grouped into small units which ultimately go to form a unit area known as district. The groups of villages are to have their own controlling agencies and staff undertaking the work of co-ordination and collection of money to help the villagers to start new industries and spreading the message of industrialisation. The area councils or controlling agencies of the district known as a 'unit area' will automatically become, it is claimed, self-sufficient working units.

INDIA'S WAR ECONOMY

A drastic curtailment of the acreage under principal commercial crops; an opposite trend in respect of the major food crops; increase in the prices of almost all commodities; favourable conditions for industrial development; improved industrial profits and firm industrial prices; downward trend of money rates; increased Defence and Civil expenditure of the Central Government and improvement in provincial finances; and more favourable trading conditions and increased merchandise balance of trade. These were the main features of India's war economy, according to the "Review of the Trade of India in 1941-42".

All commercial crops from which the cultivator normally derived the greatest profit ceased to be remunerative to the same extent as before and throughout 1940-41 and the major part of 1941-42 the cultivator was faced with large surpluses of these crops. But the reduction of cultivation in these crops in the latter year was largely responsible for arresting the downward trend of prices which had prevailed in the former.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Speaking at the meeting of the Agricultural Development Conference at Cairo on February 9, the Indian delegate, Khan Bahadur Afzal Hussein, ex-Vice-Chancellor of the Punjab University, criticised non-recognition by the Universities of Britain and America of research work done by Universities in the Middle East and India. Mr. Afzal Hussein also advocated the setting up by Universities all over the world of agricultural research stations. Research work done in different countries should be recognised by other countries, he said.

THE WHEAT POOL

At the concluding session of the International Wheat Councils Bi-Annual Meeting, it was agreed that Canada's contributions in wheat to the starving people of Greece, which has been shipped at the rate of about 13,000 tons monthly for some time, will be credited against the Dominions quota of 2,500,000 bushels contribution to the Relief pool set up under the International Wheat Agreement.

T. U. C. EXECUTIVE'S RESOLUTION

Resolutions demanding the release of detenus and political prisoners and protesting against the action of Government in permitting women to work underground in coal mines were passed by the General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress at its meeting held at Bombay on February 1. Mr. S. A. Dange presided.

The Council characterised the Government of India's permission to women to work underground in mines as "retrograde in principle, uncalled for by circumstances, not calculated even to achieve the object aimed at, and involving a breach of international agreement".

The Council, after drawing attention to the low wages of miners and welcoming the proposal for establishing a statutory miners' welfare fund, stated that with a view to removing the shortage of coal in the country, the Government should compel the mine-owners to maintain production at the necessary level or take the mines under their control where the mine-owners failed to do so and that they should enforce a substantial increase in the wages of the miners so that not only would the miners get full compensation for the increased cost of living, but that their pre-war sub-standard of wages would be brought to the proper living standard or at least to the standard of wages in other organised industries in the province.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN INDIA

The total number of workers employed in factories in India rose from 21,56,377 in 1941 to 22,81,563 in 1942, according to the annual report on the administration of the Factories Act, 1934, for the year 1942.

The increase was prominent in Government and Local Fund factories which employed 299,729 workers during the year under review as compared with 220,086 workers in the previous year. The report also shows that the number of workers in factories other than Government and Local Fund factories had increased from 19,86,291 to 19,81,834, the increase being prominent in the Cotton Textile Group, i.e., Spinning, Weaving and other factories. In this group the number of workers employed increased from 593,707 in 1941 to 608,975 in 1942.

CENSUS OF BURMA EVACUEES

About 120,535 Burma evacuees are now in Bengal. This is revealed in the preliminary census figures compiled on behalf of the Central Government in November-December, 1943. Of this approximate figures, 28,033 are women. The district of Chittagong claims the largest number with 65,210 evacuees, of whom 9,025 are women.

Two evacuee settlement camps have been opened by the Government of Bengal, one at Rangpur and the other at Dinajpur. No fewer than 20,506 persons, of whom 9,787 are women, have joined the Rangpur camp while 5,240 evacuees, including 2,670 women, are at the Dinajpur camp.

Famine and disease have taken a heavy toll of life among the evacuees in Bengal and the death roll is estimated at 25 per cent. of their total number. It is noted that Satkania in Chittagong district has been the worst-affected area, in this connection.

TRANSFER OF ITALIAN PRISONERS

Several thousands of Italian war prisoners in India have been moved from the country. This information was given during question time in the Central Assembly on February 6 by Mr. C. M. Trivedi, War Department Secretary, who said: "It has been decided that Italian prisoners of war with certain exceptions should be transferred from India. It is Government's intention that only those employed on work essential to the war effort should remain in India. H.M.'s Government have consented to the proposed transfer and it is hoped that they will shortly arrange for further transfers, several thousands of Italians having already been sent from India."

LAUNCHING OF H. M. I. S. "QUETTA"

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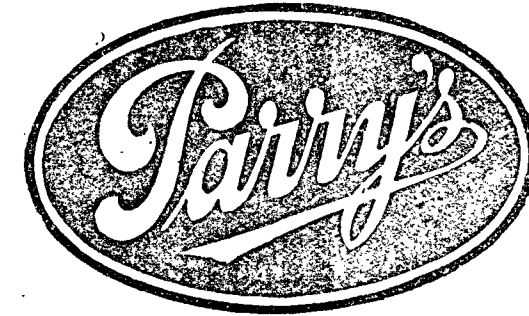
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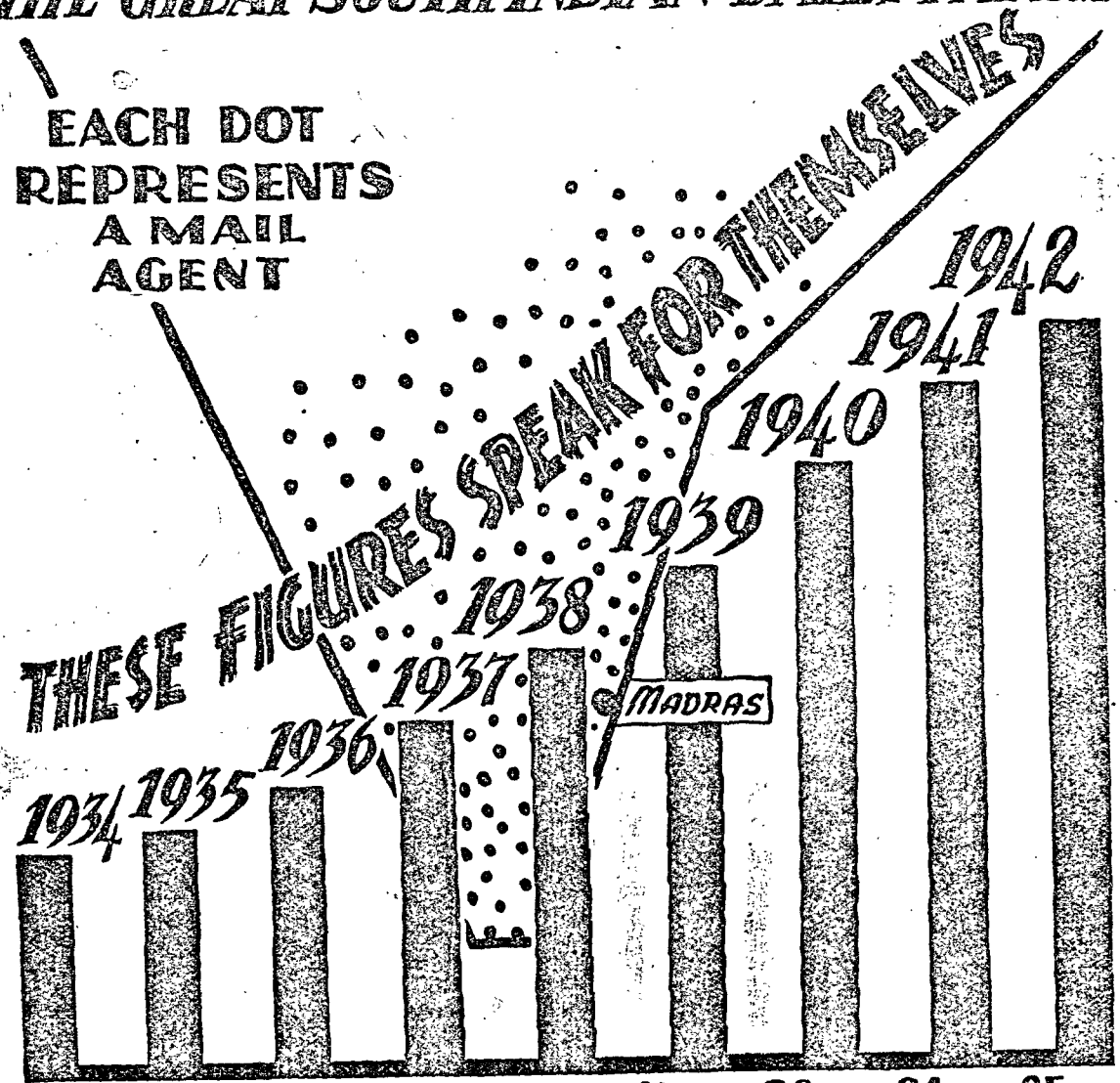
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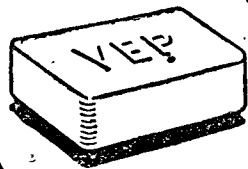
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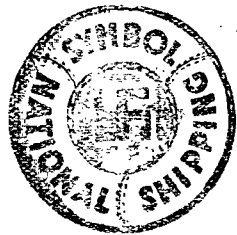
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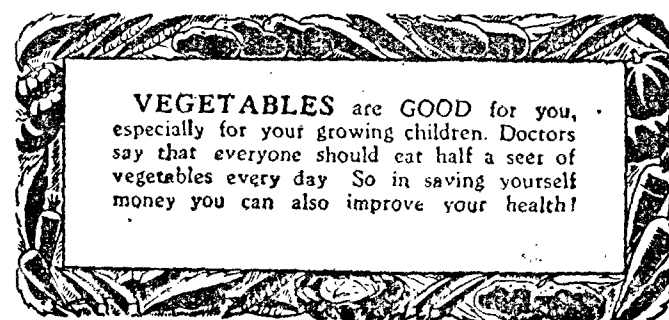
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