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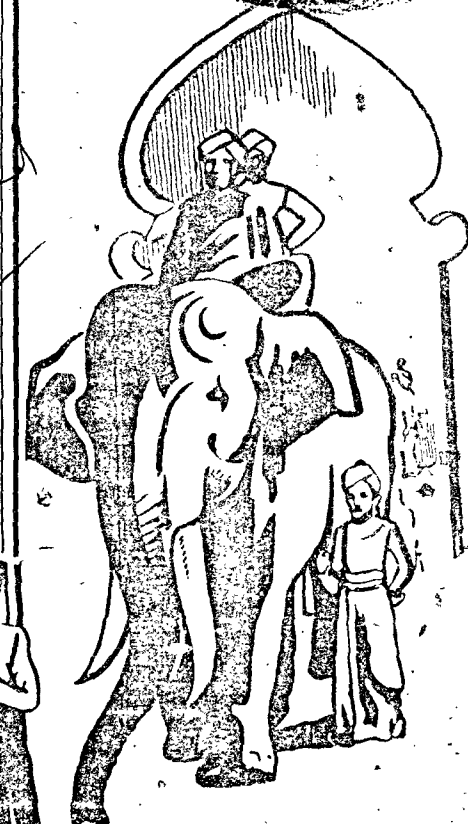
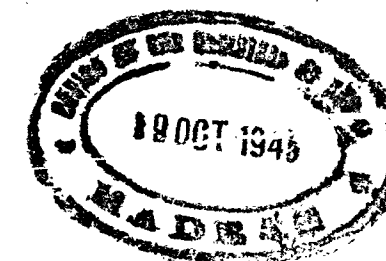
EDITED BY MR. G. A. NATESAN.



1945
40. OCTOBER No. 10.
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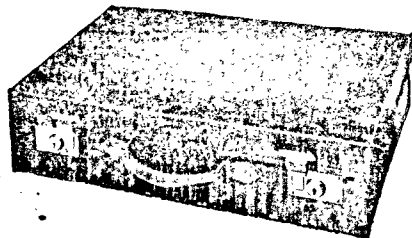
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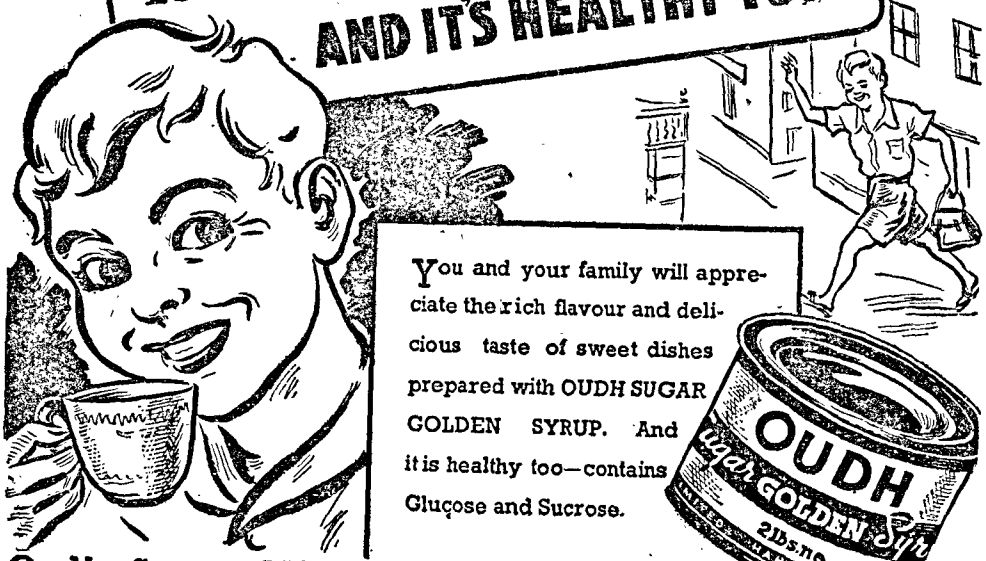
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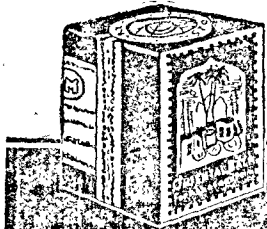
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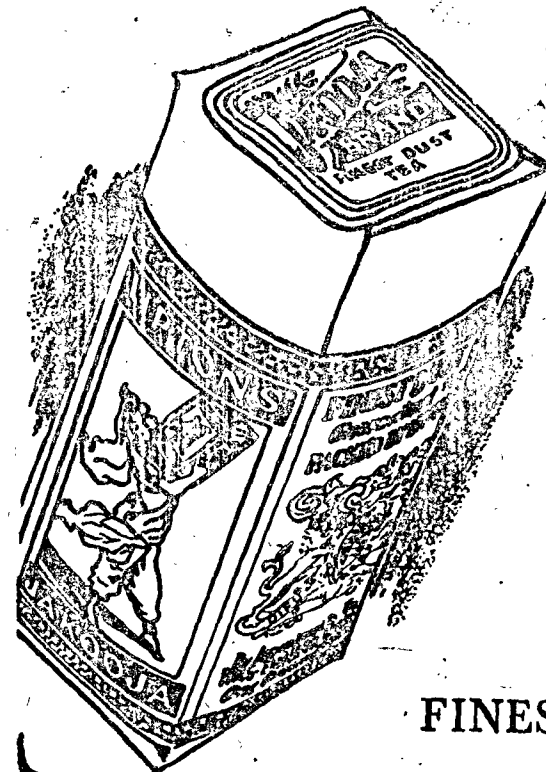
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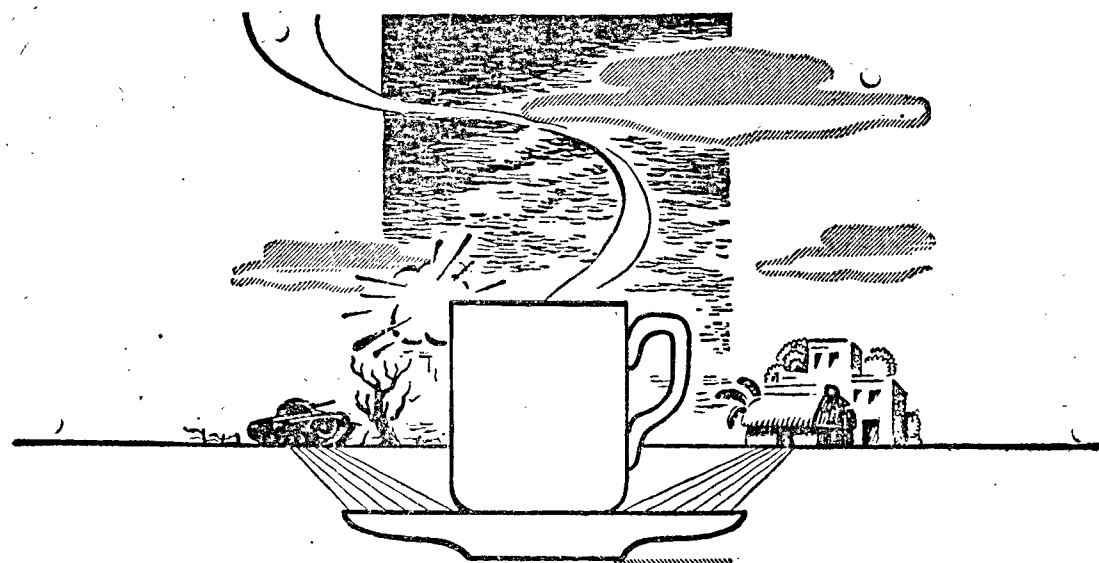
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Edited By Mr. G. A. NATESAN

Vol. 46.]

OCTOBER 1945

[No. 10.

BURMA'S RIVER HIGHWAY

BY SIR HUBERT SAMS

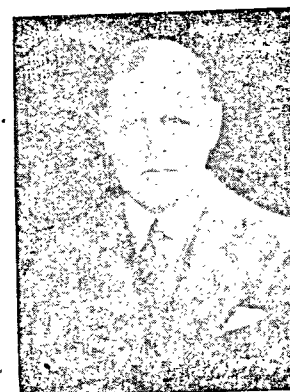
AS the Fourteenth Army has battled its way down from Northern Burma,* the names of place after place, as they have come into the news, have conjured up for some of us retired 'Thakins' vivid

the Burmese skipper, camp-clerk, bearer, cook, orderlies and a bicycle or two.

The pleasantest time for this dustless and almost motionless travel was of course the Cold Weather, when a pull-over was welcome up to breakfast-time; that was the season of pearly sunrises and of misty evenings, when, as the Horace of Burma sang--

The swift and welcome gloaming
Hides the palm-trees and the huts
And the cattle homeward roaming
Loom like ghosts across the ruts.

It was the season when the water was at its lowest level and when from the steamer's deck we saw little more than the sides of the banks. Even so, there was always the thrill of the many stopping places, each one a vivid scene of activity and colour, of brightly dressed lugaleys and dainty mingaleys crowding onto or off the steamer. In the Cold Weather we could comfortably travel upstream from Mandalay; but the white skipper or wheat-coloured serang would have to keep his eyes open to avoid striking a sand bank and being marooned, till several months later the Rains came to wash the steamer off. This catastrophe once happened to the skipper of the newest and most up-to-date vessel of the Flotilla Company: he had to



SIR HUBERT SAMS

memories of happier days in Burma's green and pleasant land, days when the Pax Britannica seemed to be unbreakable. These place names recall chiefly Burma's great waterway, the mighty Irrawaddy, up and down which we used to travel so frequently and with so much enjoyment either in a well-found steamer of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company or, if we were senior enough, in a Government launch, which took oneself,

*The article was written at the time of the reconquest of Burma, bit by bit, by allied troops.

endure the gibes, mostly in broad 'Cljdeside', of his luckier colleagues as they steamed arrogantly past him. Some wag suggested that the Company might make the best of a bad job by converting the ship into a hotel for honeymoon couples or hunters of game.

On the way up-stream some of us would disembark at Thabetkyin, whence there was a motor-bus service to Mogok of the Ruby Mines, where in the bazaar you could buy all the precious stones mentioned in Revelation and a good many more besides.

Others would go on to Bhamo. It was worth doing in order to enjoy the rugged scenery of the Second Defile and to have thrill after thrill, as the serang seemed to court destruction one second and the next skilfully to avoid it. Those who wanted to go on to Myitkyina ('by-the-great-river') would disembark at Katha and take the train from there. Bhamo is so near the Chinese Province of Yunnan that it is almost as much Chinese as it is Burmese. We often wished that we had the opportunity of penetrating even a short distance into the great realm of China.

In the Rains it was better to journey down-stream. Then the Monsoon blows in one's face cool and strong from the south, strong enough to bear up-stream against a swift current the gallant Burmese craft, their sails bellying to bursting point. These graceful ships were always a delight, as were the large rafts of logs felled in the lumber camps of the north. In the middle of the rafts would be a log cabin to shelter the Burman in charge, his wife and family, all floating happily down-stream to the Delta.

For our Rains tours we used to come down from Maymyo ('May's town'), that lovely station in the Shan Hills, beloved of Governors and their Secretariat, where in the Rains you could play golf or get a

game of Rugger in a temperature of only 80° in the shade. We would spend a few days at Mandalay, the big city only a few hours away down the hill, to renew our acquaintance with the Fort and the red lacquer of the Royal Palace, now a blackened heap. In the early days the Thakins used it as a Club and looked after it, until Lord Curzon, with his archaeological sense of what was fitting, evicted them and made them build a Club outside the precincts of the Palace. We would climb the hill to the north of the city to visit the Abbott UKhanti in his corrugated iron Phoongyi Kyaung.

Our business or pleasure at Mandalay finished, we would slip down-stream, past Sagaing and its glowing avenue of gold mohurs, past Ava, Burma's ancient capital. And so we would reach Pagan, yet another old capital, the city of pagodas, of which there are several thousand in various stages of neglect and ruin. It was at Pagan that one would buy, to send home as presents, the beautifully lacquered wooden boxes and the finger bowls made of lacquered horse-hair, so flexible that the opposite edges can be pinched together without breaking the wafer-thin material or even cracking the lacquer. It was from Pagan that our troops recently marched across the Dry Zone to Meiktila, that once pleasant and peaceful lake-side station, and to Thazi, the junction of the Rangoon-Mandalay Railway with the mountain line up to the Southern Shan States and the pretty little hill-station, Kalaw.

Further down-stream we would come to Ye-nan-gyaung—'Water-smelly-stream', the centre of the great oil field, where dereks take the place of pagodas.

And so, steaming down stream by day and tying up by night, one would reach Henzada, where the hurried would disembark and entrain for Rangoon, while the more leisured, continuing the journey between the Mangrove-lined banks of the Delta, would in time emerge into the Rangoon River and be welcomed by the golden gleam of the great Shwe Dagon Pagoda.

THE A. I. C. C. MEETING

WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

THE Poona Session of the Congress Working Committee was looked forward to with more than usual interest as it was the first time the Committee met after a lapse of three years during which the members were in internment and Congress organisations were all under a ban. Apart from that, important questions touching the political future of the country had to be decided and the Congress High Command was expected to give a lead to the people in respect of many momentous issues confronting the nation.

The Committee met on the afternoon of September 12 in a specially erected tent, in front of Gandhiji's residence in the Nature Clinic. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, President of the Congress, presided. All the members of the Working Committee were present as also C. R. and others specially invited by the President. For six days the Committee discussed various questions and resolutions were adopted in respect of many urgent problems.

GENERAL ELECTIONS

The Committee unanimously decided to plunge into Elections for both Provincial and Central legislatures. The decision was reached after ten hours' discussions. We are told that Gandhiji's one hour talk converted the opposition group led by Mr. Nehru.

Lord Wavell had not returned from his mission in England when the Working Committee met in Poona. To leave the door open for negotiations upon any offer that the Viceroy might yet announce, a "nevertheless" declaration comes at

the end of a 2,000 word statement, drafted by the Committee for the A.I.C.C. The resolution on elections starts with an expression of suspicion about the manner and circumstances in which the election announcement was made and a protest against the continuance of the old imperfect rolls, and holding it under 1919 Act and under the present constitution which both of are 'completely out of date.'

CONGRESS AND THE LEAGUE

A heated discussion about the issue of self-determination and the League's demand for Pakistan occupied a great deal of the Committee's time. The Working Committee, warned by repeated failures, decided definitely that it will not approach the Muslim League any longer for a settlement as they have given up hopes of reaching any agreement with Mr. Jinnah. The position is re-iterated in the following resolution:

As declared by the A. I. C. C. at its meeting held in Allahabad in May, 1942, the Congress cannot agree to any proposal to disintegrate India by giving liberty to any component State or territorial unit to secede from the Indian Union or Federation. The Congress has been wedded to Indian freedom and unity and any break in that unity especially in the modern world when people's minds inevitably think in terms of ever larger federations, would be injurious to all concerned and exceedingly painful to contemplate. Nevertheless, the Committee also declared, it cannot think in terms of compelling the people of particular units to remain in an Indian Union against their declared and established will. While recognising this principle every effort should be made to create conditions which would help the different units in developing a common and co-operative national life.

THREE MORE RESOLUTIONS

Three other resolutions were adopted defining the position of the Congress in respect of three vital matters. One was a resolution urging the release of officers and men and women of "the Indian National

Army." The resolution also appealed to Government not to carry out sentences of death already passed on any Indian soldier or civilian in connection with any activities pertaining to the war. This resolution was placed before the All-India Congress Committee.

WARNING TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Another resolution warned the United Nations and all others concerned that any commitments of the present unrepresentative and irresponsible government of India will not be binding on the people's representative government.

THE ISSUE OF SELF-DETERMINATION

The Congress Working Committee in a resolution on self-determination stated that a Constituent Assembly should prepare the future constitution of India, federal in nature but with the residuary powers vested in the Provinces.

Emphasizing that the Congress cannot agree to any proposal to disintegrate India by giving liberty to any component part to secede from the Indian union, the Committee declared, however, that it cannot think in terms of compelling the people in any territorial unit to remain in the Indian union against their declared and established will.

The Committee assured that each territorial unit should have the fullest possible autonomy consistent with a strong National State.

Thus the three resolutions passed by the Congress Working Committee, in the words of the Congress President, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, represent the considered view of the Indian National Congress, on the political situation in the country, on

the political objective of the Congress, and the method and steps the Congress intends to take to achieve that objective.

BOMBAY SESSION OF A.I.C.C.

The All-India Congress Committee met at Bombay on September 21, amidst scenes of great enthusiasm in a specially erected pandal, exactly on the spot where it met three years ago on August 8, when the session was interrupted by the sudden arrest of the members. Over 25,000 people turned up to greet the leaders. Maulana Azad, Congress President, speaking in Urdu, said:

At this moment, every one of you must be thinking of an incident which took place more than three years ago. Events pass by but they leave an imprint which even the passage of time cannot wipe off. The last meeting of the A.I.C.C. took place in this city and on this very spot. The story of these three years has two aspects, one of trials and tribulations and the other of the forces which have been created by these conditions. The power of nations springs from such hardships. An Arabic proverb says; "Hardships have the same effect on life as fire has on gold."

Owing to terrific rains and the failure of the loud speakers, the session had to be postponed for the next day. The only item disposed of related to the constitution of the Congress which was last revised in 1939. A committee was set up to recommend changes in the light of recent developments, and consequential changes were made in the dates and procedure relating to elections to various bodies in the Congress.

THE NATIONAL STRUGGLE

The first resolution moved was that on "The Struggle of 1942 and after," which Pandit Nehru discussed for 50 minutes. It reviewed the incidents of the last three years and the resistance of the people and concluded:

The A.I.C.C., reiterates its national and international objectives, laid down in its resolution of August 8, 1942 and its conviction that the independence of India is essential for world peace, and must be the basis for the freedom of Asiatic and other dependent nations. The independence of India must be unequivocally recognised, and her status among the United Nations must be that of an independent nation, co-operating with others on an equal basis for the establishment of a world order of peace and freedom.

Moving this resolution, Pandit Nehru declared that the spirit of the nation was never higher or their determination to follow the lead of the Congress stronger than now. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel called for a "Quit Asia" policy, as an advance on the "Quit India" policy, and after Acharya Kripalani had moved the resolution of Congress Policy speaker after speaker urged a policy of "no negotiations." They urged that the Congress should be strengthened so that they would be able to compel the transfer of power to the people.

NON-CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTIONS

Sunday the 23rd opened with the adoption of three non-controversial resolutions touching "sterling balances," Indian interests in Burma and Malaya and application to the Congress of the Anuma-e-Watan of Baluchistan.

INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru then moved the resolution on "The Indian National Army," urging that

in view of all the circumstances prevailing in India, Malaya, Burma and elsewhere at the time of the formation of this Army and subsequently, these officers and men and women should have been treated as combatants and prisoners of war, and discharged at the conclusion of hostilities. It would be a tragedy if these officers, men and women were punished for the offence of having fought, however mistakenly, for the freedom of India.

A DEFENCE COMMITTEE

The Committee also appointed a Defence Committee to look after the interests of the men on trial.

In view of the forthcoming trial by court martial of some officers and men belonging to the Hindustan Azad Fauj (Indian National Army) formed in Burma and Malaya, the Working Committee resolves that a Defence Committee, consisting of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Messrs. Bulabhai Desai, Kailas Nath Katju, Jawaharlal Nehru, Asaf Ali (convener) and Raghunanda Saran, with powers to co-opt, be formed to take all necessary steps for the defence of the officers and men and women of the I.N.A. or of like forces, who may be brought up for trial.

THE NATIONAL DEMAND

The A.I.C.C. concluded its session after passing the main resolution of the session declaring that India and the Congress would accept nothing short of complete independence, and that the proposals made by the Labour Government for a constitutional settlement in India "are vague, inadequate and unsatisfactory."

The A.I.C.C. has carefully considered Lord Wavell's and the British Prime Minister's broadcasts on the steps proposed to be taken by British authority in India. These proposals repeat, with certain unimportant variations, the offer made in March, 1942 by Sir Stafford Cripps, on behalf of the British Government, an offer which was not accepted by the Congress. Neither the end of the war, nor the change of Government in Great Britain appear to have resulted in any real change in British policy towards India, which seems to be based on delaying every advance and in attempting to create new problems and fresh complications. It is significant that there is no mention in these broadcasts of the independence of India.

Nothing short of independence can be acceptable to the Congress, and the country. The proposals now made are, in the opinion of the A.I.C.C., vague, inadequate, and unsatisfactory, etc.

After having expressed disapproval of the British Government's new proposals, the Committee directed the Working Committee, in spite of the several handicaps placed in its path, to prepare the country to contest the forthcoming elections, both to the Central and Provincial Assemblies, in order to "demonstrate the will of the people" on the issue of Indian freedom.

The Congress High Command put up two of its last "Parliamentary bosses" to pilot the resolution through Sardar Vallabhai Patel,

Congress Parliamentary Chief, and Pandit Govind Vallabhai Pant, Deputy Chief of the Congress Parliamentary Party. Though many amendments were moved, all except two were withdrawn after a speech by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru opposing all amendments. The two amendments of Dr. Ashraff and Mian Istikharuddin received very meagre support, only seven in a House of 283 voting in favour of them. The amendments being rejected, the House carried Sardar Patel's resolution without a division amidst continued cheers.

One point that emerged from the debate was a declaration made both by Pandit Nehru and [Sardar Patel], that the Congress would make no further approaches to the Muslim League leaders, but would make a direct approach to the Muslim masses.

"We have done everything humanly possible to conciliate the League," said Mr. Nehru. "Much against my inclinations, I went to Mr. Jinnah. So did many honoured leaders of the Congress.

All that we got in return were insults. It is one thing to ask us to placate the Muslims, meet their legitimate grievances and serve them. It is quite another thing to placate the Muslim League. We are done with that. There will be no more placating. This is war. We will face the League and fight it out."

Pandit Nehru declared that he proposed to tour the Muslim areas in his own Province to demonstrate the hold the Congress had on the Muslim masses.

The main resolution having taken the major part of the session, the President finished the rest of the agenda by moving other resolutions from the chair.

PRESIDENT'S CONCLUDING REMARKS

The session ended late in the evening amidst enthusiastic scenes. The President, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, in his concluding speech, declared:

The fire that was kindled in the minds of the masses in 1942 in their urge for freedom is still burning, and I have no doubt that the country is now on its march to the goal of independence. No power on earth can now stop India's march towards her cherished goal.

CONVERSION AND DIVORCE

BY MR. K. B. GAJENDRAGADKAR, B.A., (HON.), LL.B.

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THE recent decision of the Calcutta High Court in *Ayesha Bibi V. Subhodh Kumar Chakravarti* (49 C.W.N. 439) has set Hindus deeply thinking. The facts show that the Plaintiff Ayesha who was actually a Hindu had duly married the Defendant Subhodh Kumar Chakravarti according to Hindu rites in July 1941. Both were Hindus then and the husband is still a Hindu. The Plaintiff's case, shortly, was that her married life was unhappy and in July 1943 she was driven out of her husband's house and since then

she had been living with her father. She was nearly 19 years old. On 12th September 1943, she of her own free will and after due deliberation became a convert to Islam. The Plaintiff after her conversion called upon the Defendant-husband, more than once, in writing to embrace Islam and to cease to be a Hindu; but he had not done so and he remained a Hindu still. The Plaintiff filed a suit against the Defendant claiming a declaration under Section 12 of the Specific Relief Act that the marriage

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between Plaintiff and Defendant be dissolved and that the Plaintiff was not the wife of the Defendant.

The learned Judge held in favour of the Plaintiff. In the opinion of the Judge, Hindu Law governed only a Hindu and as the Plaintiff has ceased to be a Hindu, Hindu Law has no control over her. The learned Judge also pointed out that by reason of the act of the Plaintiff in getting herself converted, none of the rights of the Defendant-husband over her would have been effective, *i.e.*, the husband could not have co-habitation with her, as it is not allowed under Hindu Law, that the Plaintiff can no longer perform any religious sacraments, that the Plaintiff can no longer take any part in the preparation of the Defendant's food and that the Defendant was under no liability any longer to maintain the Plaintiff.

The learned Judge further pointed out that the conversion of the wife, the husband remaining a Hindu, placed the latter in no better position than the marriage had been dissolved. The Judge therefore passed a decree as prayed for by the Plaintiff and declared the marriage dissolved under Section 12 of the Specific Relief Act. It should be noted that this is not the only solitary instance of this kind. Such cases are occurring now and then, especially in the educated class of wives who are harassed by their husbands. The two other cases in the Calcutta High Court were of the same nature. In one case, the wife was married at the age of 14. Her marriage life was very unhappy. She was an M.A. of the Calcutta University. She was at present engaged in the Research Work on Sociology. She was

driven by such unhappiness and lack of social sympathy to seek any solace in a different social system based on different ideas, religious and social. In October she openly became a convert to Islam and called upon the Defendant-husband to embrace Islam and to cease to be a Hindu. But he had not done so. Her marriage was declared dissolved by the Court. There is also another case of the same High Court exactly of the same type. These are cases from Bengal. Quite recently there occurred a case of the same type in the Telugu District of the Madras Province. The girl who was of a high class Brahmin had been married with the customary rites in her childhood, but her marriage life broke up unhappily at the very beginning and the parties lived separately ever since. She continued her enforced freedom however, for educating herself at the father's expense, until she became a double graduate and a LL. B., and started to do an educational service to her caste as Professor of Mathematics in Women's College in Northern India. About two years ago, she became a convert to Islam. Her husband of course, had in the meantime taken another wife and was leading a happy life. In order to make her own legal position clear, she notified him of her change of religion and gave her option to claim her, if he so wished, by accepting Islam which of course he refused to do. She thereupon filed a suit for a declaration that her Hindu marriage with the husband stood dissolved under the law of her adopted faith and she was no longer his wife. Following the Calcutta ruling, the Court decreed the

suit in her favour and declared her marriage dissolved.

The effect of these decisions would be far-reaching indeed. The Hindus consider marriage as indissoluble. They always believe that death is the only circumstance that cuts the marriage knot. Christians permit the dissolution of marriage under certain cases of hardship. But here no decree can be passed at the instance of a defaulting party as no one can take advantage of his or her own wrong. The judgments in these cases placed the Hindu Law in this respect on the much lower level than the law governing sister communities. Now taking an hypothetical case, suppose a Hindu wife does not like her husband, does not carry out her duties towards him and desires to get rid of her marriage bond. A Christian woman would have under such circumstances no remedy at all as she cannot take proceeding for dissolution of her marriage, but a Hindu woman may change her religion to that of Islam and then call upon her husband to likewise change the religion and on the husband not doing so, get a declaration from the Court that the marriage had been dissolved. Her cause of action in such a suit would be that she had changed her religion and that her husband had declined to be likewise converted. Her past conduct whether she was fulfilling her obligation to her husband as his wife, the motive of her conversion, etc., would be irrelevant.

No doubt there is a rule that when the party to the marriage is non-Muslim and one of the parties embrace the Mahomedan faith he or she can call upon the other to come and adopt the same religion and in case of refusal the Kazi is authorised to separate the parties. Really speaking, this rule of law cannot be made applicable to the facts of the above case as under Section 37 of the Civil Courts Act, it is necessary that both parties must be Mahomedan before the Mahomedan Law can be made applicable.

Further this rule must be taken to be Mahomedan Law and can be obeyed only in a country where Islam is the State religion. As remarked by P. K. Mukherjee J. in 1939 Cal. A.L.R. 430, "These are undoubtedly matters of serious considerations."

No thoughtful Hindu can view such conversion with equanimity, however keen may be his philosophical sense of the oneness of all religions and however clear may be his vision of the utter vanity of religious divisions and antagonisms. These conversions cannot certainly be held as examples of Hindu Social Reforms.

The whole position is anomalous. Hindu Law does not allow Hindu wife to have recourse to divorce. Therefore she has to take recourse to this method of embracing to Mahomedan religion, and then calling upon the husband to change his religion. When he does not do so, she gets her marriage dissolved. After the dissolution of marriage she can enter into Arya Samaj and get herself re-converted to Hindu and then marry again any person of the Hindu religion she likes. Her former husband then cannot claim her as his wife. In this way she does achieve by conversion and re-conversion what she cannot do under the provisions of the Hindu Law as is administered today. In fact this is exactly what was done by the Second Maharani of Baroda.

It is a pity that the draft Hindu Code should receive opposition from the leaders of the Hindu community. It is a matter of wonder and grief too that by opposing the salient provisions like those of Divorce in the Code, they are in a way indirectly responsible for such cases of conversions and driving woman out of the Hindu Fold. These conversions, it must be regretfully said, are an inevitable fruit of our own harsh family law. It is very high time and looking to the modern aspirations of the educated Hindu girls, some provision may be made to redeem their grievance and hardships.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

BY SIR B. J. WADIA, Kt.,

Vice-Chancellor, University of Bombay.

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MR. K. V. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR, an advocate of the High Court, Madras, and a leading member of the Madras Bar, delivered in 1940, under the auspices of the Bar Council of Madras, a course of lectures on professional conduct and advocacy. The lectures were meant for the apprentices-at-law of the year, and were first published in 1940. The volume under review* is the second edition of this publication, with two forewords, one by Sir Maurice Gwyer, formerly Chief Justice of India, and another by Sir Lionel Leach, Chief Justice, High Court, Madras. It retains the main scheme of the original lectures, but has been thoroughly revised and substantially enlarged.

Opening the series with a discussion about the legal profession and its responsibilities, the equipment of the lawyer, and the course of his training, Mr. Aiyar proceeds to discuss how an advocate should deal with clients, how he should prepare his case and draft pleadings, how he should examine witnesses, and, what is most important, how he should conduct himself in Court. The author proceeds to discuss certain principles of professional conduct in general, indicating the duty of the advocate to the Court, to his opponent, his client, and the witnesses. He devotes a special chapter to "Duty to Yourself" and another to "Duty to the Public and the State". The privileges of the advocate are next discussed, and the lectures conclude with an attempt to analyse the future of the legal profession in the light of the changes in our social and political environment.

* PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ADVOCACY. By K. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar, Oxford University Press.

The lawyer is indispensable in many ways, but is still not a *persona grata* with the public. People generally begin by abusing him. They speak of his tricks of the trade and his juggling with words. Shakespeare makes Jack Cade, the rebel, who claims the crown of England, say to his followers—"the first thing we do, let us kill all the lawyers". The worst thing about lawyers was, however, said by Dean Swift. He bluntly referred to them as men who were out to prove that white is black or black is white "according as they are paid". Much of all this is mere exaggeration. No society has been able to do without the lawyer. The oldest written code is that of Mammurabi, King of Babylon, over 2000 B.C. and there were lawyers even in his time. There can be no government without order, there can be no order without law, and there can be no administration of justice under the law without the help of lawyers. There are black sheep in every profession, but the dishonour and the malpractices of the few are no excuse for blaming the rest.

Throughout Mr. Aiyar's book there is a sustained effort to bring home to the reader the great obligation that lies upon the advocate to possess high ideals befitting a liberal profession. He rightly insists on a high sense of honour, unflinching courage, and a wide outlook on the world. Brimful as the book is of information and advice of great practical value, it is also marked by a note of lofty idealism which makes no less a man than Sir Maurice Gwyer call it "a most admirable book". After reading it through the impression remains on the mind that in spite of all that has been said 'the profession is still that of gentleman, and now with the changing times, of the lady too.'

THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

BY MR. L. R. SETHI

THE Canadian Federation came into being to solve Canadian difficulties. These difficulties were racial, religious and economic. To understand them and the remedy proposed, a brief reference to the land, its people and its history will be helpful.

The Dominion of Canada is the largest self-governing unit of the British Commonwealth of Nations—a vast tract of 3,000 miles stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The population is about 12 millions and is a mixture of races—Anglo-Saxon, French, Canadian, Italian, German, etc. But the bulk is composed of the English-speaking Protestants and the French-speaking Catholics. The latter are about one-third and constitute an accepted minority. The French-Canadian—*Canadien* as he is called—is mostly settled in the province of Quebec. He is the descendant of the Frenchmen who originally settled in the Province of Acadia which, with its population of 50,000 people, was handed over to the British after the Seven Years War, in 1763. He lives a life simple, domestic and medieval. Andre Siegfried speaks of him as 'serious, virtuous, industrious, as well as prolific.'

The English majority is the descendant of those who immigrated from the British Isles or moved up from the American Colonies at the time of the Revolt. They are mostly Protestant by faith and progressive in views—specially those in the West whose tempo of life is determined by their physical environment and also by the influence of the United States of America. When the English-speaking Canadian looks abroad, he looks to London or to New York; the French Canadian looks more perhaps to Rome than to either, but more to London than to Paris. The English-speaking Canadian looks to the State for welfare, the French Canadian to the Church. The two races live side by side but have not merged. Each feels in the other some measure of rivalry and

at times bitter quarrels flare up into flames—though it would not be correct to refer to them 'as two nations warring in the bosom of a single State' as Lord Durham did in 1839.

Acute differences led in 1791 to the creation of two separate provinces and the deadlock of 1864 led to the formation of the Canadian Federation. Federation was no longer a constitutional curiosity. The Founding Fathers of the United States Constitution had transformed it into an efficient instrument for the government of a modern State. But it would be entirely wrong to believe that the American Federation had acted as a model for the Quebec Conference which met in 1865 to draw up a federal constitution for Canada. Far from it, the United States of America at this time were in the throes of a Civil War and, as such, hardly an example to inspire imitation. In fact, the two main aims before the Conference were (a) to avoid the defects of the American Federal System; (b) to fashion their institutions on the constitution of Great Britain.

In order to pursue the first objective, three provisions were made: (1) The Chief Executive was to be nominated and not elected. (2) The theory of Separation of Powers, which was a prominent characteristic of the U.S. Constitution was not put into practice. The Executive was made responsible to the legislature. (3) The Central Government, unlike the Federal Government of the United States, was to be given strong powers. This was achieved by: (a) giving the residuum of powers to the Central Government; (b) by investing the Central Government with power to disallow provincial laws within one year of their passing; (c) by allowing the Central Government control over Lt.-Governors with regard to their appointment and dismissal and finally by conferring the power of nomination of the Senators of the Crown on the advice of

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the Dominion Prime Minister. Thus it would appear that the architects of the Canadian Constitution were not wedded to any narrow conception of federalism. The other aim was to copy British institutions and to make the pattern as close as possible to the original. Not only were the institutions and conventions adopted but even the nomenclature.

The twin aims of avoiding American defects and of copying British institutions, coupled with the desire to maintain the individuality of the federating units, governed the deliberations of the Quebec Conference. Seventy-two resolutions were passed and subsequently given a statutory form in the British North America Act of 1867. This Act, with the amendments, gives the written basis to the Constitution. The unwritten element—which forms the flesh and blood of the framework of the Constitution—is supplied by constitutional usages and conventions, such as Cabinet Government, ministerial responsibility and the obsolete nature of the royal veto—to mention a few. The Constitution, as it stands today, provides for a double set of Government—Central and Provincial.

The Central Executive is formally vested in the King but is actually exercised by the Governor-General appointed by the Home Administration on the advice of the Canadian Cabinet. His duties are substantially the same as those of the King of England. Since 1878, the Governor-General has never refused assent to any Bill passed by the House of Legislature. There is just one exception. In 1926, Lord Byng refused to dissolve the House of Commons on the advice of the Ministers.

The real executive power in Canada as in England is wielded by that extra constitutional body—the Cabinet. The Prime Minister is the keystone of the arch. He chooses his colleagues. His task is both difficult and delicate. He must choose his colleagues to provide not merely able administration but a proper representation of races, regions and religions. Woe betide a leader who overlooks the requirements

of a particular region. The local political board of strategy feels incensed and the local press raises a lament long and bitter. The effect of federalizing the Cabinet has unfortunate effects. It results in the passing over of able men to placate regional or racial demands. The Cabinet is responsible to the Legislature or strictly speaking to the House of Commons.

The Canadian Legislature is bicameral—the two chambers being the Senate and the House of Commons. The Senate is a nominated body of 96. The Canadian Senate is a weak chamber. The very nature of its composition makes it so. It is not only a second but a secondary chamber and like the House of Lords perhaps its strength lies in its weakness. This nominated 'house of the aged' exerts little political influence and hardly attracts attention.

The House of Commons bears a close resemblance to the American House of Representatives. The members are elected for a term of 5 years. Any British subject 21 years of age or over, male or female, is entitled to vote after one year's residence in Canada provided he or she has resided in the constituency for two months. Any qualified voter can stand for election.

Amendments to the Canadian Constitution are effected by the Imperial Parliament after it has received an address passed by the two Houses of the Canadian Legislature. The Imperial Parliament, as a rule, passes the proposed amendments without debate. In the Provinces, the power of amending the constitution, except those provisions that relate to the Lieut.-Governor, are vested in the Provincial Legislature.

The power of the Imperial Parliament to amend the Dominion Constitution, and the practice of sending final appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council are the two self-imposed limitations on the sovereignty of Canada. They were imposed to placate the articulate French Canadian minority who do not consider themselves safe in the hands of the Dominion.

Such, in outline, is the constitution of Canada. It would be interesting to explore its working. It had set out to reconcile the interests of minorities and to unite a nation. It has partially succeeded in both aims. The two races no longer "war in the bosom of a single State" but accept each other, probably as necessary evils. National unity has been achieved. The two wars have amply demonstrated it. During the last war, the celebrated Atlantic Cable assured the Allies of 'the last dollar and the last man'—and during this war it took Canada only 7 days to declare war on Germany. Her contribution from all sectors has been magnificent. But it would be futile to believe that the federal system so devised has been perfect or even that it has always worked smoothly. The functions and jurisdiction of the component units and the Central Government have been the subject of much litigation extending over three-quarters of a century.

It is a matter of special interest that the problems of Canada are not dissimilar to those of India. India is also a vast sub-continent, inhabited by people with different

languages, diverse customs, strong local patriotism and varying degrees of political development. Federation alone can solve her problem—possibly a federation of the Canadian type with considerably more powers at the Centre. Canada's helplessness against the powers of the component units has retarded her progress. India's past history and future necessity would demand a strong Centre. Federations are established to effect a compromise—to reconcile national unity with local autonomy—the long-term aim being the creation of one nation. Under modern conditions, federations with weak Centres mean inefficient administration. The tempo and stress of present-day economic and industrial life puts a great strain on the Centre. It should be resilient enough to withstand that strain. The future of India as a powerful social service State, to a large measure, depends on the powers the Central Government will actually enjoy. It should not be content with mere residuum of powers, but should be in a position to deal with national emergencies not only of war but also of peace.

—Broadcast from Delhi.

Poverty, Food Supply and Overpopulation

By PROF. SUKUMAR RANJAN DAS, Ph.D.

IN course of a debate in the House of Commons, Mr. Amery, the Secretary of State for India, stated that one of the principal factors of the food scarcity in India and the terrible famine of Bengal was overpopulation and for this he laid the whole blame on the Indians. The same statement was repeated from various platforms by many eminent British statesmen and even scientists like Prof. Hill were not free from this biased conception. Mr. Amery's statement considered from all points of view leads one to think that the food scarcity is going to stay in this country, and unless the supply is supplemented by

foreign imports of food-stuffs, India will not be able to provide adequate provisions for her children. A more lamentable admission of the failure of the administration of Indian affairs cannot be imagined.

The whole question of food supply and overpopulation should be considered not only from the point of the existing economic and political conditions of the country, but also from the point of the possible improvements of the country's resources under a better and more sympathetic system of Government. Whenever there has been a controversy regarding poverty of India, the official view in England has been

in favour of the theory that overpopulation is a potent cause of Indian poverty and by that the administrators try to wash their hands off any responsibility in this matter; Indian politicians, on the other hand, have always gone to the other extreme and have generally opposed the theory, but after that they have not exerted further.

E. Cannan, in his work on "Wealth" (pp. 68-69), has given the following definition of overpopulation:

At any given time, knowledge and circumstances remaining the same, there is what may be called a point of maximum return, when the amount of labour is such that both an increase and decrease in it would diminish proportionate returns. . . . Just as there is a point of maximum return in each industry, so there must be in all industries taken together. If population is not large enough to bring all industry up to this point, returns will be less than they might be, and the remedy is increase of population. If, on the other hand, population is so great that the point has been passed, returns are again less than they might be and the remedy is decrease of population.

In the light of this definition overpopulation means a departure from the optimum, in the direction of an excess in population. From the point of view of this optimum overpopulation is a relative term and is affected by many causes which are not stable but vary from time to time with the changing circumstances. Statistics of various countries will also show that prosperity does not always vary inversely as the density. The density of population in India is 195 per square mile which is much less than that in England and Wales where it is about 685 per square mile. It is, therefore, not possible to draw any inferences about the economic position of a country from average density.

If the period of the last fifty years is considered, it is found that the actual increase in the Indian population has been very slow from decade to decade. The reason, as found from the vital statistics, is that although the birthrate is high, the deathrate has almost kept pace with it. The survival rate is lower than that in Europe. From 1881 to 1931, the increase in the Indian population is from 253.89 (millions) to 352.8 (millions). In the decade

1921-1931, the rate per cent. of real increase in the population is 10.6. Indeed, one of the symptoms of overpopulation is a high birthrate accompanied by a high deathrate, specially infantile deathrate. Although poverty and disease are the main causes of this high deathrate, they are not the only causes. Certain social customs and habits in India are also responsible for this deplorable state and these can be improved through village uplift work, namely, rural sanitation and rural education.

A comparison of the growth of population in the western countries and that in India is not warranted by various factors, the chief of them being the high marriage-rate in India. In India marriage has always been almost a religious obligation. On the other hand, there is lower fertility in India arising from inferior fecundity among the upper classes and from prolonged separation between husband and wife among certain labour classes. The deliberate preventive check by means of contraceptives, which is so widely prevalent in the western countries, does not affect the masses in India, but there are certain customs and habits among the people which check the growth of population, namely, prolonged suckling, hypergamy, etc. Thus it is found that the natural tendency towards an increase is to a great extent balanced by circumstantial and social factors so as to minimize the apprehensive character of overpopulation in India.

Scarcity of labour both in agriculture and industry in India is a general complaint. This is surely an argument against overpopulation. Increased population means increased labour power, which generally results in an addition to the total wealth. Industrial resources have been very little tackled in India and one of the main items of the post-war reconstruction is the rapid development of small-scale and large-scale industries. This will require much increased industrial labour all over the country.

The above arguments will lead one to think that there is no need to be

apprehensive of India's growing population and it should be considered more an asset than a liability. Nature has prescribed a law of population which takes care of itself. So the first thing that should be proceeded with is to improve the social and economic conditions of the country. This statement may run counter to the prevailing official view, but it is one which deserves coherent exposition and careful consideration. The whole problem must be considered in the light of India's existing resources and potentialities.

When a given population shows signs of increasing in such a manner as to cause a diminution of income per head, it is a tendency to overpopulation. When there are reasons for expecting that if a certain diminution in existing numbers were to occur to lead to an increase of income per head, it is a state of overpopulation. How can this theory fit in with the prevailing conditions in India? The calculation of national income shows that there is a steady increase in the income per head. The standard official statement is that for the persistent poverty the people are to blame for high breeding. But this is not a safe deduction from the statistical data available. Even if the truth of the above statement is admitted, it is no credit for the Government who have been mishandling things for the last 150 years. Government have not exerted at the right moment to accelerate economic development and now they cannot escape the blame when no effort has been made to remedy the poverty of the people so often stressed by the Government statement. It is everywhere admitted that increase in wealth by industrial development is an indirect but powerful remedy of disease and poverty.

The most vital point connected with the growth of population is the adequate supply of food-stuffs. The official argument in favour of overpopulation has always been based on food scarcity. The last famine in Bengal and the shortage of food supply in India were generally

ascribed to the abnormal increase in population. But various statistics would lead one to think that there were many other factors for the development of this regrettable situation. From 1920-21 to 1931-32, population has increased by about 10 per cent., whereas agricultural production by 16 per cent. and industrial production by 51 per cent. From 1900 to 1931, population has increased by 19 per cent., agriculture developed by 29 per cent. and industry by 189 per cent. From these data Dr. P. J. Thomas has concluded that population has not outstripped production and India is not, strictly speaking, suffering from overpopulation. It is now generally believed that hoarding through private and official agencies and the denial policy of the Government were the main causes of the acute food scarcity prevailing in this country.

Dr. Radhakamal Mukherji, in his excellent work on "Food Planning for Four Hundred Millions", concludes that food deficiency is only 12 per cent. Dr. Mukherji is very careful about this conclusion from an unbiased collection of data; but even his deduction of 12 per cent. food deficiency may be somewhat modified from the consideration of the members of the population as consumers of commodities and the consideration of the consumption demand varying with age. Dr. E. C. Snow suggested a scale representing the average equivalent consumption demand for persons in different age groups, taking unity as the maximum consumption demand for persons aged about 30. He suggested the average consumption demand of children under 15 as. 19, that of persons between 15 to 29 as. 81, that of persons between 30 to 44, as. 95, that between 45 to 59, as. 68, that between 60 to 74 as 32 and that of persons over 75 as. 06. The equivalent consumption demand units required will be much less than the actual population. If all these points are considered, the actual food deficiency will not be much and should

not give rise to food scarcity of the nature prevailing in various parts of the country.

Even if there is a small amount of food deficiency, there is no need of apprehension. There is much scope for production in India, for food supply must increase along with better shipping, better means of transport, better irrigation, and better distribution. There are also great possibilities of agricultural development by improved manuring and introduction of scientific methods and by the principle of co-operative holdings, etc. The unscientific and stereotyped methods of agriculture in this country have been the main causes of the low yield of food-stuffs. The average yield per acre in India is 881 lbs. rice and 662 lbs. wheat, whereas in Japan the yield of rice is about three times and that of wheat is twice per acre. The first step towards the improvement of agriculture should consist in the abolition of the fragmentation of land and the introduction of economic holding. The second step should be overhauling of the irrigation policy throughout India. The third step will be the application of scientific methods.

From the Agricultural Statistics for British India, 1936-37, it is found that only one-third of the land available for cultivation is sown and about one-fourth more is cultivable and still not cultivated. This is, no doubt, great abuse of good resources. Distribution of agricultural labour and better arrangement of irrigation can increase food supply by more than 50 per cent. It has been found from experiment that some of the uncultivated land, if cultivated, produces good results.

Other methods suggested by economists for the increase of national wealth, which is a powerful remedy, for poverty and disease, are economic development, industrialization, distribution of population and emigration from places highly congested. In the case of food scarcity in a particular part of the country, emigration is a powerful

remedy. Inter-provincial migration has solved some of the most acute problems of food consumption and accommodation in many places and this method should be adopted in India as far as practicable. Relief from emigration is most helpful from various points of view. In the United States of America emigration played a great part in the adjustment of the country's wealth. Not only the masses but also the upper strata of the people should be interested in emigration, otherwise there will be maladjustment instead of proper distribution.

India has, no doubt, been an agricultural country, but there existed various small-scale and cottage industries to supplement national wealth. Early British Rule in India was responsible for the destruction of these Indian industries for the benefit of the then British mercantile classes. These industries must be revived on more scientific lines through co-operative organizations.

To effect all these improvements, special attention must be paid to public health and sanitation. Rural sanitation is the first step which leads to a better type of agriculture. This is a vital part of rural uplift work and for its success a comprehensive scheme of rural education should be adopted. This education should be based more upon the natural interests and activities of young children and less upon book learning. The principle of educating children through purposeful activity leading on to productive work is peculiarly suitable to village conditions and requirements. Nature study of plant and animal life, education with special reference to local subsidiary industries, physical and boy-scout training and lessons in first aid will increase the vitality of the agriculturists, minimize sickness and disease and facilitate better production. For the improvement of agricultural training in the villages, Sir M. Visvesvaraya suggests, in his work on "Planned Economy for India", permanent agricultural museums by the co-operative method. Better living and better

farming are so vitally inter-related that one is not possible without the aid of the other.

Besides rural education for better living will be necessary establishment of new industries, particularly of minor or cottage type, the extension of the existing ones also, and the increasing productivity of both agriculture and industry resulting in the restoration of balance between them. Industries must include the manufacture of agricultural implements, fruit-growing, poultry, dairy-farming, canned foods, weaving, leather-goods, cultivation of vegetables and husbandry, all possible in the villages.

The success of the scheme of better farming depends on a right policy of marketing and adequate food supply in the country depends on equitable distribution. With this end in view, village organizations, on the lines of the ancient village societies should be started through the panchayat system. The last havoc wrought by food scarcity was largely due to the lack of competent village organizations to deal with the situation centralisation and want of distribution facilities brought about a terrible collapse in the natural food supply in the villages resulting in the villagers rushing to the cities and creating a scene of hungry beggars dying of starvation in the open streets. When mismanagement and corruption were rampant in the centre, the villages were bound to suffer. The whole stock vanished from the tillers of the soil through fair means or foul and not the slightest portion returned to feed the hungry mouths of the villagers. Had there been village organizations, active and sincere, to deal with the food situation, they could have prevented the disappearance of the food grains by stocking them in their own granaries (*dhanyagolas*) and could have distributed the amount fairly when the necessity arose. This would have saved the villages from the heartless conspiracy of the hoarders and profiteers. This is apparent from the fact that when

millions died for want of food, thousands of maunds of rotten rice and wheat are being thrown away to the detriment of the health of the locality.

It is, therefore, necessary that the disappearance of food grains must be stopped with strong hands through competent village organizations formed by the real panchayats. Food grains should be stocked in granaries when they are gathered after the harvest and should be equitably distributed in times of distress. For proper distribution contiguous villages and hamlets may be grouped into small units. Group villages should have their own controlling agencies and adequate staff for the work of co-ordination, collection and supervision. The unit areas should be autonomous as regards their internal administration, but a central advisory council in the district towns may be formed with the representatives of the village units to guide the general policy. Even a provincial board may be constituted with representatives of the district councils, local legislature and experts to give advice and to modify the policy as circumstances change. The whole system should be so arranged that it may not be too heavy. Centralised policy in food distribution is bound to fail as it has been demonstrated in Bengal with disastrous results.

It is evident that, with proper distribution of food grains, the growth of India's population is not a matter of apprehension. India's high death rate comes from ignorance of sanitation. Disease is more or less prevalent for want of proper education. Food scarcity arises generally from mal-adjustment, profiteering propensities and incompetent management. Nature has liberally provided the Indians with enormous resources and when these are properly tackled for the benefit of the country, poverty and food scarcity will not be a perpetual handicap in their progress and the nightmare of overpopulation will at once vanish.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION: SOME ASPECTS

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It is worthwhile examining the origin of what is called Municipal Government. We know that a certain unit of population with defined geographical boundaries possesses identity of interest, communal, political, financial, economical, cultural, etc., and has common ambition for all its components and this is known as a State. The State, by its very existence, connotes that its primary and fundamental function is to govern. Every such State consists of smaller homogeneous community units for the purposes of administration. For instance, in India, we have a village and a town as the distinctive administrative units in the body politic of the State. Put in more general terms, there are rural areas and urban areas. It is not possible in the very nature of things that the Government of the State, to be called Central Government, can efficiently manage and effectively control the local affairs of these units. And, as such, a need necessarily arises for setting up an administrative machinery which may be best fitted to deal with local problems which are confined to these smaller units. Sagacious statesmen devised that machinery to be called local government and created local authorities to administer the areas within a well-defined sphere of activities, exclusively pertaining to those respective areas. Broadly speaking, such local governments fall under two nomenclatures, *vis.*, Rural Authorities and Urban Authorities. Municipal Government is a synonym for the Urban Authorities.

As a result of our political relationship, systems of Municipal Government obtained in India are more or less a copy of the English pattern. And usually, it is believed this is the only form of Municipal Government. But that is not so. I had the privilege to study in 1934 Municipal Governments in half a dozen countries of Europe, namely England, France, Belgium,

Holland, Switzerland and Italy, when I was deputed by the late Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad as a Baroda State delegate to the International Conference of Municipalities in France. Municipal administrations have different forms in different countries.

Prominent features of the English system are:—

- (a) All local authorities are elected councils.
- (b) The work of the local authorities is carried out mainly by committees consisting of elected members as well as of co-opted non-members.
- (c) Officials are under the direction of the municipal council. They are appointed and are dismissible by it.
- (d) Any person can vote irrespective of sex, who is above the age of 21.
- (e) All Local Government powers, whether legislative, administrative or executive are vested in the elected council.
- (f) Local authorities have various forms, *e.g.*, Rural District Council, Urban District Council, Borough, County-boroughs, etc.

In France the unit of Local Government, whether for a small village or for a big city, is the commune; qualifications for voting are 21 years of age and of *male sex* and qualifications for membership on the commune is 25 years of age and must not be a *woman*. You will thus observe that in France a woman does not enjoy equality of even civic status. A Mayor is elected and such functions as are obligatory are imposed not upon the Council but on the Mayor, who consults the Council and acts subject to their control. The Prefect who is akin to our District Saba has very considerable powers of control over these bodies, their Councils and Mayors. He has the power to suspend or cancel orders of the Mayor, to suspend Deputy Mayors and Councillors, to cancel resolutions, approve municipal taxes, etc.

In Belgium the form of the local authority is the same as in France with this difference that the head of the Municipal Council is

called the Burgo-Master, who is a representative of the Crown and appointed by the King for 6 years. Here the Executive consists of the Burgo-Master, Aldermen and Secretary. There is an appreciable control over expenditure exercised by the State. All budgets, taxes and loans require the King's approval.

In Holland the form of the Local Body is the same. The system of Burgo-Master and Aldermen as the Executive exists here as well. All the Councils and Executives are under a permanent control of the State.

In Switzerland communal organization, which means municipal organisation, is thoroughly democratic. Supreme authority is the Communal Assembly of male members of 20 years and above. This body has control of all affairs. There is hardly any control over the communes so far as municipal powers are concerned.

In Italy, just the reverse is the case. By a decree of 1926, the whole system of representative local government throughout the country was swept away and was replaced by a system which was described in Italy as one of "Autarchy". Under it, Podesta, an official appointed by a Royal decree for 5 years, was the responsible authority. He was assisted by a council, which was summoned at his discretion and it had only to give advice on matters referred to it. The Podesta himself was the sole executive. He was personally responsible for any loss caused to the commune by his action or negligence. He was expected to carry out a definite programme during his regime.

It will thus be seen that municipal governments have special features of their own in each country. Similarly the degree of authority enjoyed and powers vested in them vary within wide limits from the absolute "autarchy" of the Italian Podesta to the nearly full liberty of Swiss authorities to do any act coming under the phrase "the benefit of the community."

Though such differences of form, constitution and methods of governance exist,

the subjects comprised under the control of municipal authorities and the public services administered by them are mostly the same. They are: (1) Public Health; (2) Education; (3) Highways; (4) Public Assistance; and (5) Police. The one outstanding qualification common to all municipal governments is the high degree of efficiency shown by them in the discharge of their duties. Take any town, English or European, you find the streets scrupulously kept clean, gardens well-trimmed and decently arranged, parks neat and well-maintained, litter receptacles provided at short distances and convenient places for the waste material to be put in, instead of being thrown at random, systematic and pure water-supply; very perfectly-managed sewerage system; children's clinic provided, baths and wash-houses constructed and maintained for the use of the public; medical examination of children; administration of medical relief; maternity arrangements, play grounds for children, etc.

Let us now turn to examine our conditions. Whatever favourable attitude we may take, we do find that municipal governments in our country with few fortunate exceptions do not compare favourably with the picture I have given. It becomes necessary to find out the 'why' of it. When the sphere of activities with which our municipalities are concerned is very much less and limited and secondly when the authority and powers vested in them do not compare unfavourably with the conditions in Europe, is it not a surprisingly gloomy circumstance that we should have such a sorry rendering of accounts?

Whether by choice or by compulsion, we have chanced to adopt the English form, which is based on principles of democracy. Democracy, to be successful, requires an intelligent electorate, conscious of its duties towards society and as a zealous guardian of its rights. Do-nothing-democracy is more or less dangerous in its result. Democracy demands for its success responsible public opinion and

highly developed civic sense in the people. It should become a part of their character itself. Traditions need to be established in the spirit of public service. But this very fundamental is absent from us.

The one thing which is of prime importance is, therefore, intelligent citizenship. All our talk of reform, all our endeavours for improvement and progress are of no avail, unless we secure the prime essential of an efficient civic government *viz.*, an interested and informed community. Participation of the public in their own administration to-day stops at the election of councillors. Public interest should be continuous and critical. Men cannot register their minds at the polls unless they have minds to register and the voter who makes up his mind without information is no source of strength or wisdom to any government.

How can this be done? The reply is: *By More Publicity.*

The publicity can be in many ways and through different agencies. Firstly the newspapers:—This is a source from which most people get their data. Secondly, by explaining to the public the work of the municipal administration through the issue of bulletins. Thirdly, the American method of 'Open House' is very tempting and effective. It consists of inviting the general public to attend when the head of each department of the municipality explains the special branches of administration. This in my opinion will prove extremely popular, educate the public and make them the better judges of their elected representatives.

I would venture to put forth one more suggestion, *i.e.*, voting in municipal elections should be made compulsory. Vote is a certain power delegated to a person holding it. It is meant to be used, and if not used or cared for, the person having it proves himself unfit to hold the power which the right to possess a vote entails. It is better not to have an electorate rather than have a

careless, indifferent and callous one. It is, therefore, logical that voting should be made compulsory. Non-use should entail its confiscation. This rule is found to work well in Belgium.

Now to turn to another point, starting with Baroda as an illustration. It is well known that the Baroda Municipality is primarily a sanitary authority. There are two sides of public health-questions—curative and preventive. The two are quite inter-related and inter-dependent. The first is a province of the medical world while the latter is a municipal responsibility. From my past experience of the municipality I feel convinced that a better and a closer co-operation and collaboration on problems of city's public health will certainly bring out more fruitful results. I think an attempt to establish a Citizens' League for public health consisting of Municipal Health authorities and Members of the Medical Profession to jointly deliberate on problems of public health will provide a desired organisation for the purpose.

My experience of years of contact with the working of the municipal bodies shows that our municipal members need to enlarge their vision and broad-base their ideas. There is a distinctive tendency to be observed that the municipal bodies are very touchy on questions of their power and status. Much of the useful energy is wasted in fighting out many unfruitful or academic causes at the cost of work for public. This mental attitude is traceable in its source, to a historical reason. The local governments of which municipal government is a part, came to be established in India in their modern forms, in 1880 during Lord Ripon's Viceroyalty. They were designated as Local self-Government, and one of the objects underlying their creation was to give people a sort of preliminary training in the art of administration so as to equip them better for greater association with the work of Government. The term "Local self-Government" has done greater harm to the evolution of these institutions

than anything else. People have always looked upon these bodies as a school for political training and have subordinated the spirit of social service and duties and responsibilities, which they owed to the community as in charge of affairs of these local bodies. The result to-day is that the political schooling is still in its infancy even after 60 years of experience while real duties have been neglected and responsibilities to the mass have not been shouldered properly. Municipal Councillors should fight this idea out and consider betterment of municipal affairs all round as their main concern.

Another suggestion in relation to municipal government is that every municipality should have a scientific survey and systematic planning of its areas for prospective improvement; what would make the city or the town an ideal one? How is it possible to expect any permanent improvement in any area unless we know first as to what we want? There is no intention to run down municipal administrations, but I mention this only as a fact that in the absence of such survey and plans, city-fathers come to municipalities and go after every stated period and waste their time in pure day-to-day routine of work and local politics arising out of it. They have nothing before their mental vision for constructive work and they go as they come without having contributed anything to the permanent weal, and well-being of the people, who returned them as their trustees. The need, therefore, of such an exhaustive scientific survey and planning is of first importance.

Once, the peremptory need of survey and plan is accepted, the next important question relates to its execution. In this connection one cannot too much emphasise one principle that all such facilities, amenities or improvements as are of a permanent nature should be made available to all the inhabitants at one and the same time. I shall explain what I mean. Supposing the plan to make a city dustless is to be undertaken. The work of

asphalting all the roads of the city should be undertaken at the same time. If this is not done it means doing injustice to part of the taxpayers by giving preferential treatment to others whose areas are thus improved. Take Baroda city. Asphalting of roads was undertaken as a programme in 1936. Some parts of the city have asphalt roads while others have not; we need not enter into the question why this is not done. What is the result? One part of the tax-payers enjoys better amenities than the other. This is unfair. The same applies to recreation grounds, parks and gardens, opening out congested areas, provision of sewerage etc. I am emphatic that such programmes should be taken up for the whole area so that every tax-payer is given an equitable treatment which he is entitled to and which he can claim.

This necessarily leads to the consideration of the question of finance. It is usually argued that it is not possible within the means of the municipal income to undertake huge expenditure of this kind all at once. The argument is only plausible. If the means at the disposal are not enough to meet a scheme of any particular improvement, funds must be secured by creating liabilities. And there is every justification for this step. If the nature of the benefit to be conferred to-day is of a permanent or semi-permanent nature so that the generations of the future will share in its enjoyment, it is but just that they should be sharers in this burden in the same way as the present generation is enjoying benefits conferred by its predecessors and shouldering liabilities created by them. There should be constructive imagination and bold execution in these matters.

This prompts reference to a common weakness of municipal governments on the score of finance. My experience tells me that the usual tendency of city-fathers is towards making savings even at the cost of making improvements. Certainly wasteful expenditure must needs be avoided. But a mere attachment to the idea to fill up municipal treasuries by savings from the

yearly revenues is obnoxious on the very face of it. The income of municipalities is perennial and taxes are levied with a view to see that citizens receive benefits in return proportionately. If mere saving is the ideal, it should be interpreted to mean two things. First, that all avenues of progress are satisfied, all amenities of civic happiness are provided and, therefore, there is no more need of so much taxation. Second, that if this is not the case then the municipality is incompetent and inefficient and, therefore, does not deserve to be in possession of

funds which she cannot utilise to any better purpose. The tax-payers would certainly be sufficiently justified in asking for reduction in taxation if accumulation of reserves without any planned idea to spend them is the goal.

In the domain of the municipal governments all individuals have a part to play directly or indirectly as tax-payers or managers. If every one tries to make his little nook of God's creation more healthy and beautiful, our little municipal world will be happier in the sum total.

CHINA AT THE CROSS ROADS

BY PROF. S. B. MOOKERJI, M.A.

THE war is over. It is yet premature to say whether the years immediately following will be years of preparation for another war more disastrous and devastating in its consequences than any before.

The shape of things to come has been engaging the attention of all serious-minded persons. While we in India have our own problems, we cannot be blind to the world at large, particularly those near our home.

China is our neighbour. In a sense, hers has been the most magnificent role in the tragedy the curtain on which has just been rung down. She has emerged victorious from a blood-bath with few parallels in recorded history.

What next? What China will become is a question that is asked by every serious-thinking man. A China peaceful, prosperous and united with her industrious millions and her natural resources is sure to play a beneficent role in the life of Asia and of the world in years to come. A China divided and disunited on the other hand will be a threat to world-peace, will disappoint her friends and may become once again the victim of some aggressive nation or nations.

There are those who point out that China will never pull together as a

Republic and that a Civil War in China is in the offing. Has not, they argue, the friction between communists and the Kuomintang survived during all these years of a life and death struggle? Do not the financial difficulties raised by the war almost defy solution? Are not her provinces unwieldy in size and disparate in characteristics and development?

Taking all these for granted, we should not, for a moment, lose sight of the tremendous distance covered by China since 1911. The Manchu Throne collapsed in that year like a house of cards. The revolutionaries, who had engineered the collapse, had no well-defined plan for governing the country, and to make confusion worse confounded, no means of executing it, even if they had one. This is the basic cause of the dictatorship of Yuan Shi-Kai, the rise of the Tuchuns and the disappearance of the last vestiges of all orderly government.

The pulsation of a new type was unmistakable nonetheless in the decade between the Washington Conference and Japanese seizure of Manchuria in 1931 when chaos and misgovernment were at their worst. The fire of Japanese invasion has forged a very tough steel, unity in resistance of the disconnected elements of class and

clan. The spectacle has won the admiration of the world. This conscious vitality might not have been attained but for the writings of previous generations of reformers, recent and remote, K'ang Yu Wei, Liang Chi-Chao, Dr. Hu Shi and James Yen, aided by thousands of returned students from Europe and America.

A national public opinion that went far beyond the passive resistance in which Chinese public opinion had traditionally expressed itself was created and assumed a creative form for the first time. Visible in the policy and achievements of the Nationalist Government during the period of 1931-37, this has been stimulated by the Sino-Japanese War. The Chinese are determined to prove the falsity of the prophecy of foreign cassanders that they will never evolve a genuinely democratic government.

It is necessary, in this connection, to realise and explain the almost magic spell on all classes of Dr. Sun Yat Sen's "Three principles of the people." (San Min Chu I.) Every step towards reform in China is tested by its harmony with "San Min Chu I." Even the communists, who are at daggers drawn with the Kuomintang, have clamoured from the outset for government "in accordance with the principles of Dr. Sun Yat Sen." Though there is a wide divergence of opinion as to what is in conformity with the wishes of Dr. Sun, there yet seems to be a fair prospect that the different schools of thinkers will be given the fullest opportunity to state their views in a way that may facilitate an agreed solution. One illustration will suffice. The Committee for promoting the Realization of Constitutional Government set up in 1943 to pave the way for the National Assembly to meet one year after the war to adopt a constitution is composed of Kuomintangites, Communists, 1 Muslim, 1 Tibetan, 1 Woman and 4 representatives of semi-illegal parties.

Of the "Three principles of the people", National Sovereignty, Democracy and the

people's livelihood, the first was achieved when Great Britain and America gave up extra territoriality and kindred rights in China in 1942. This renunciation put an end to what Dr. Sun Yat Sen called the 'Semi-colonial' status of China and acknowledged the full sovereignty of the Chinese at home. Many a knotty problem, however, still awaits solution. Many delicate questions have to be handled before China is on her feet again.

To turn to the second of the Three people's principles—Democracy. Though the ideal has yet to be realised, it cannot be gainsaid that China's advance towards the democratic ideal in the years of war—has been more definite than in the more than a quarter of a century from the year of the Revolution. The people's political council at Chungking is not a mere bulking machine. It has the right to be consulted as well as to advise and criticize. The net-work of provincial assemblies and of town and village corporations, which cover the country too, take their duties seriously.

Now that the war is over, the Draft Constitution produced at Nanking in 1936 is to be adopted. According to U.S. Constitution, the National Assembly is to be composed of 1,200 members—665 elected regionally, 380 representing occupational groups, the merchant guilds and the landed gentry, for example, and 155 representing Chinese overseas, Tibetans, Manchus and Mongols. The Assembly, to be elected every six years, is to meet once in every three. Its place will be taken by the Legislative Yuan during the intervals. The latter will be a sort of continuation of the present people's political council, to make laws and sanction budgets. Very wide powers have been given to the President. Thus, he alone has the powers of declaring war and the cessation thereof. He is the Commander-in-Chief of all the armed forces of the nation. He represents China in external affairs. He may issue emergency orders in times of crisis, can send back a measure to the Legislative Yuan for reconsideration and in case of a divergence of opinion between

him and the Yuan, can refer the dispute to the National Assembly. The highest appointments in the State are to be made by him.

There is, however, a check on the President's power in this direction. The Examination Yuan will first decide who are fit for official positions and the President must make his choice from among them. The President, moreover, is subject to the National Assembly in all matters. Meeting at such long intervals as the latter will, the check seems more nominal than real. But the village assemblies, it is expected, will continually express public opinion which will be transmitted to the Central Government through the provincial assemblies.

The question of questions to-day, so far as China is concerned, is the future relation between the Communists and the Kuomintang. Vital differences notwithstanding, the two united to ward off the peril from the East. General Chu Teh has claimed on behalf the Communists that "Communist troops had engaged 69 per cent. of Japanese troops in China and 95 per cent. of Puppet troops fighting for Japan." According to Stuart Gelder, "they have liberated 320,000 square miles of China and have brought freedom to 90,000,000 people of 200,000,000 people in occupied territories." Strange as it may sound, instances of armed clashes and angry disputes between the two even in the years of war have been by no means rare. One very serious clash occurred in Anhui. The press reported another only the other day.

What are the causes of the quarrel? The Communists have continually pressed for 'total war' against Japan. They wanted weapons being put in the hand of every peasant. This the Kuomintang did not do. The Communists further accuse Chungking of withholding from them even available supplies of arms and ammunitions. Chungking's counter-allegations are that the Communists illegally increased the strength of their army (the 8th Route Army) and even

traded with the enemy. It is interesting to recall in this connection, that the Times Correspondent in North China reports that the Central Government actually, blockaded adjacent areas under Communist control—(*The Times*, Nov. 11, 1943).

What impedes the unity between the two? It is perhaps the suspicion lurking in the mind of the older party that the younger may create a state within the state too powerful to be effectively controlled by the Central Government.

That the future in China belongs to the progressives is indisputable. Communists alone, by the way, are not meant by "progressives." The days of one party dictatorship while the Kuomintang rule is, are fast drawing to a close. That party must admit this and must listen to what others have got to say. The very idea of constitutional government implies this and "it is the inescapable outcome of the war, and of the widely enlivening effect it has had on the minds of all Chinese even in the lowest strata." (The story of China's Revolution by O. M. Green, p. 115).

The success of everything in China, or for the matter of that in all countries, hinges on the third principle of Dr. Sun Yat Sen—Livelihood of the people. The Government realises this and is determined more on raising the standard of living of the people than on anything else.

China is at an advantage in comparison with most other countries. The Chinese can do things for himself and has not to wait for the bureaucracy's long delays. When, for example, a Chinese requires a house, he will not wait, while in England as in many other countries different Ministers will wrangle as to the sort of house he should have, the place where it will be built and who shall be allowed to build it. China's power of recuperation is uncanny so to say. Let us take an example. The city of Hankow was thrice burnt down and thrice re-built during the Taiping Rebellion. The same city was again a victim of incendiarism during the

1911 Revolution. But all traces of the disaster had disappeared by 1913. It is therefore not unreasonable to expect that Cinna badly suffered as she has, will be the first of all the nations to recover from the war's ravages.

Agriculture employs four-fifths of the Chinese nation. But this alone cannot bring to fruition the Livelihood of the people. Hence the determination of the Government to industrialise the country. A Ten years' plan has been drawn up already. It aims at the development of roads, railways and water-traffic, of coal and iron mines and other minerals in which China is rich, such as wolfram, manganese and antimony and of mills and factories. In spite of the war much headway has been made. The terra incognita of former days, Sikiang, between Tibet and Szechuan, is now humming with industry. North China too has its share of attention. West China is the region where abuses in general and landlordism in particular are, most deep-rooted. Yet West China can never again become what she had been before the war, a scene of the paradox of the people perishing in the midst of plethoric plenty. Burma has been re-opened. When the proposed railway links up Burma and Chinese systems, the great natural wealth of the West and South will find a natural outlet adding thereby considerably to China's prosperity and political balance.

The Co-operative Societies have given a supplementary occupation to the Chinese peasant who is no longer absolutely dependent on the caprices of nature. The movement is rapidly spreading and will continue to do so. But China requires mills and factories because all industries are not within the scope of cottage workers. Hence the supreme need of industrialization. China will, however, do well to eliminate as far as practicable the undesirable consequences of industrialization.

Wages and the standard of living must be raised. New industries must be created. The time-honoured tea, silk

and two or three others will not do. China must learn to utilize her wealth beneath the surface as well as those above. Exporting countries may be alarmed by the prospect of China as a large exporter which she has to be if she wants to balance the budget and to realize the people's livelihood. The former will do well to bear in mind that though China as a market for cheap cotton goods and patent medicines belongs to the past, yet for many years to come she will have to depend on others for high quality goods, machinery, surgical, optical and scientific precision instruments and countless other articles from abroad for which her appetite will grow with the means of satisfying it. A richer China does not, therefore, mean the impoverishment of the exporting countries, rather the reverse.

There is, however, one "if". A richer China will mean a richer world provided there is a better and more equitable distribution of goods so that there is not a wilful destruction of wheat or throwing back of the fish into the sea in one part of the globe while millions perish of starvation in another and stave off famine with bark and leaves in yet a third.

Many undoubtedly are the obstacles in the path of the realization of the principles of the people. But in the long ordeal from 1937 to 1945, a new China has been born—a China with faith in herself and in her leader. Under the sturdy blows of a ruthless enemy has been forged the tough steel of a nation's character.

The war has produced great changes full of promise. One very important is the decline of the influence of the family. The war has taught the Chinese people to think as they never thought before. It has freed their minds from petty parochial issues which "once bounded their horizon" and has taught them to think in terms of the nation.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS.

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[The proposals broadcast by Lord Wavell, on his return from London, have been criticized as inadequate and disappointing not by the Congress only but by other parties as well. The Rt. Hon'ble M. R. Jayakar, Kunwar Sir Jagdish Prasad and the Hon'ble Sir N. Gopalswami Iyengar, criticizing the new Attlee-Wavell move in a joint statement, say:— ED. I.R.]

THE British Government's whole object seems to be to postpone a decision on all crucial questions for seven or eight months at least and then, when there is a renewed deadlock, to hold up their hands in pious horror and pretend that all their sincere efforts to hand over power to the Indians have been foiled by disagreement among Indian leaders.

"The Viceroy's latest broadcast, cold, curt, uninspiring, was in depressing but unmistakable contrast to the warmth and friendliness of the broadcast that preceded the summoning of the Simla Conference. There has been a distinct hardening of tone and a deplorable deterioration of policy. Political tactics have now taken the place of statesmanship. As the Muslim League demands have stiffened after the failure of the Simla Conference, the British Government's attitude towards the other political parties has become less and less friendly. Everything has been thrown into the melting pot; interim Government at the Centre, replacement of Section 93 by Responsible Government in the Provinces and even the summoning of a Constitution-making body.

CONSTITUTION-MAKING BODY

To take the last first, preliminary consultations are first to take place, after the Provincial elections, between the Viceroy and the representatives of the elected members of the Provincial Legislatures as to the acceptability of the Cripps proposals and the form of the constitution-making body.

The 'great issues involved and the delicacy of the minority problems' are the excuse for this resiling from the position taken up in the Cripps Declaration. Mr. Jinnah will not look at any proposal for a

constitution-making body, unless Pakistan is agreed to first. Is this preliminary conference intended in reality to give the Muslim League an opportunity for raising this issue and thereby creating a deadlock even at that initial stage? Have the British Government no mind on this question? If they have, why do they evade giving public expression to it?

It is pompously declared that the elections must be held first, so that the will of the Indian electorate might be known. Will on what? This is left delightfully vague. Surely, the Viceroy and the Labour Government must be fully aware that the elections on a very limited franchise by separate communal electorates will not settle the question of Pakistan. The British Government's whole object seems to be to postpone a decision on all crucial questions for seven or eight months at least and then, when there is a renewed deadlock, to hold up their hands in pious horror and pretend that all their sincere efforts to hand over power to the Indians have been foiled by disagreement among Indian leaders.

The Cripps proposals suggested a workable scheme for a constitution-making body. That proposal is now to be examined *de novo*. The scheme of Federation was shelved in 1939 and, after nearly seven years the question of whether and how a constitution-making body is to be formed is to be the subject of fresh consultations. It would indeed be a miracle if anything but complete fiasco results from these consultations, judging from the manner in which they have been conducted in the past, with nobody, not even the Viceroy, owing the responsibility for reaching decisions and implementing them.

It is then, in connection with an interim Government at the Centre, that the very

ominous declaration is made that the new Government can only come into being if it has the support of the main Indian parties.

Has the lesson of the Simla Conference and its sequel had no effect on British policy? Why should the British Government speak with mental reservations so painfully transparent? Will they continue the *status quo* after May next also, if one of these Indian parties is again unreasonably obdurate? Again, why should the installation of a new Government at the Centre await the completion of the Provincial elections except it be that opportunity should be given to the Muslim League to increase its strength? The possibility of forming a new Government will apparently depend on Mr. Jinnah's pleasure. Perhaps, the Viceroy has doubts as to what Mr. Jinnah's pleasure will be. Others, less wise, have not.

POLITICAL RECONSTRUCTION

The latest conception of our rulers seems to be to dig up everything by the roots to see how their democratic system has fared in Indian soil. And what has happened to those manifold problems of post-war reconstruction, which figured so prominently when the Simla Conference was called and for the solution of which Indians, more representative and with adequate political backing, were considered so necessary. Has the cessation of the war dissolved these very urgent problems into thin air? Or has a feeling now grown that, with questions of such vital concern to Britain, as the sterling balances, the Indianisation of the officer ranks of the Indian Army, the stoppage of British recruitment to the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police, the regulation of tariffs, the rapid industrialisation of India, especially the establishment of heavy industries and the like, it is wiser to rely on the present tried and safe team than to take risks with politicians who might, with inconvenient foolishness, place the interests of the country above their

own? A humdrum Government functioning in a routine way; playing with planning for reconstruction and for a better standard of life and having, for this purpose, a limitless faith in committees and conferences on road communications, agriculture, public health, food and what not—how soothing this to the nerves of empire-sustainers compared to the unhealthy excitements of a Government that would talk of independence first and everything else afterwards! India is asked to play her full part in working out the new world order. Surely, the present Executive Council can be implicitly trusted with this task under British guidance. What should it matter if the Peace Conference and the first General Assembly of the World organisation will have met months before the bringing into being of the new Executive Council? The car of State is now in reverse gear going rapidly to the rear. Can it be halted in its backward progress? Is there any hope of its ever moving forward?

Gandhiji's 77th Birthday

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in a message to the Press on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 77th birthday, says:

The 2nd October has become a significant date in India, for that day was Gandhiji's birthday 76 years ago. Whatever the day of the month or year, Gandhiji is ever present in our minds for he has dominated the Indian scene, moulded our national life and intimately affected innumerable private lives. What we are to-day, nationally or individually, we are largely because of him, whether we realise this or not.

So to-day, on his 77th birthday, we offer our homage to him and the love and affection which flow to one who has not only been a very great leader but, at the same time, much more than a leader—a friend, a comrade, a guide and sure haven in time of trouble and distress.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

By "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

Lord Wavell's Second Plan

It is not surprising that the British Government's new plan for India has been condemned as disappointing and unacceptable by spokesmen of all parties. People were certainly led to hope for something better as a result of the Viceroy's consultations with the New Labour Government, but the proposals do not envisage any appreciable change from the Cripps Offer. Labour, which for England meant a refreshing change, has not proved to be quite so for India.

"Homa" of the *Hindustan Standard* put the position neatly in rhyme:

Labour or Tory
It's the same story
Keeping imperialism hoary
For Empire glory
Making every proposal
Without the will to disposal
And wanting to sit
When we say quit.

Dr. Jayakar and the non-party leaders in a statement published in another page, rightly draw attention to the cold and frigid terms of the Viceregal broadcast and the Prime Minister's comment. It all looks like a deliberate attempt at dilatory tactics. While the crying need of the hour is prompt and immediate transfer of power to a truly national agency to stamp out corruption and tackle problems of reconstruction, the Wavell plan postpones all action for about a year.

It envisages the convening of a constitution-making body and as a preliminary step to it, the Viceroy proposes to call, after the elections are over, representatives of the provincial Legislative Assemblies and also of the States to ascertain whether the proposals contained in the Cripps Offer are acceptable or whether some modified scheme is preferable.

And while the constitution-making body goes on with its work, which may take years, the Viceroy proposes to reconstitute his Executive Council with the help and support of India's main political parties.

That is not all. For the Viceroy once again lays stress on Indians "reconciling their differences." When is this reconciliation to be realised and when are we to get the freedom we ask for? Once again it is merely creating fresh opportunities to play up the differences to hide Britain's unwillingness to part with power.

And yet, in spite of all these defects, the country has wisely decided to contest the elections, if only to vindicate the national urge for freedom and power.

Travancore Education Policy

Since the days of Gokhale, it has been the dream of patriotic Indians that elementary education should be made free and compulsory. Attempts made by local bodies and private philanthropy have got nowhere. It is now well recognised that it is only the State with its infinite resources in finance and personnel that could cope with anything like efficiency in such a venture.

One would have thought that the Travancore Government, in embarking on such a scheme, has given the right lead to the country—in wisdom and courage. But strangely enough, this beneficent scheme has provoked a bitter controversy, sponsored, of all people, by the Catholic Mission who have themselves done so much for the cause of education and to whose services the country has always shown high appreciation. It is a pity they are on the wrong track in this matter.

For what after all does the scheme envisage? The Government have set out to banish illiteracy from the State. To this end they assume responsibility for running all primary schools. These schools are attended not by Catholic Christians only but by pupils of all religions. How could the State be partial to one creed only, and inflict on non-Christians teachings which they may reject? The Dewan put the case effectively when he pointed out:

Supposing the Nayar Service Society or the S. N. D. P. Yogam insisted that Christian or Muslim students coming to their schools should necessarily read the 'Bhagavad Gita' or the Ramayana or the sayings of Sri Narayana Guru in the course of their instruction, what would be reaction of the Muslim and the Christian community. The difficulty of the problem is realised the moment it is stated in that fashion. Why should one community alone consider that there is any victimisation in this matter: and is there, in truth, any victimisation at all?

Nor can it be said that Government embarked on the policy rashly or with precipitancy. They appointed a Commission presided over by a competent educationist, Mr. Papworth, to examine the whole question. The Report of the Commission was placed before the Legislature whose approval was duly obtained. Thus fortified alike by expert opinion and the support of the State Legislature the scheme has all the *imprimatur* of democratic sanction. Where then is the point in the fantastic cry of "religious neutrality in danger"? As the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, no mean judge of things educational, has truly observed:

The Sachivottama is on firm ground. His measures have been formulated in accordance with public opinion as expressed in the two Houses of Legislature. He is on the highway of educational progress in India and in other advanced countries of the world. He has no need to falter or turn aside. The progressive forces in the country give strength to his arm.

The Bombay Riot

It is unfortunate that a communal riot should have broken out in Bombay—a city seething with a mixed population. The cause of the fracas is yet unknown but the result is painful enough. Many people have been injured and some dead while the loss of property has not been negligible. Police had to open fire to keep order while traffic and the peaceful avocations of the people have been greatly disturbed. In spite of police vigilance, tension prevails in the affected areas. The worst of it is, in such fracas, it is the innocent who suffer most. It does no good to Hindus or Muslims while the hooligans of either community are creating conditions in which they could carry on their nefarious

activities. Average people, of whatever community, do not go about, deliberately intent on killing their neighbours. Evidence of friendly and neighbourly conduct is never wanting. The trustee of a burnt mosque—one Hajee Mohammad Kadwani—is reported to have told the A. P. A. correspondent:

Our neighbours are Hindus. They are our friends. They help us to feed the poor people who come here.

Why then this violence among the people? Pandit Nehru, who is in Bombay, has no hesitation in putting the blame on the Police and the City toughs. He declared:

There would be no riots if the Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police were told that they would be dismissed if a communal riot broke out.

Now that the Elections are nearing, the Police can't be too careful.

Government Publicity

The Government of India are apparently determined to continue that huge mammoth organisation for official publicity which came into being as an expensive side-show of the War. There may have been some need and therefore some excuse for such publicity work in war time, if only to induce the people to put up with an unpalatable situation. The rigours of ordinances, the strain imposed by want and high cost of living and the need to endure them for the duration, might possibly require iteration to keep up the morale of the suffering people, but we should have thought there was no need to continue this top heavy business when once war is over. But from what Sir Sultan Ahmed, Member for Information and Broadcasting said, it would appear that even the good work the Government may do has to be constantly advertised. Good work must speak for itself and Sir Sultan's plea that we must advertise our wares and convince our clientele that these wares are good, is something far fetched and can hardly carry conviction.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BY "CHRONICLER"

Failure of the London Conference

THE Conference of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the "Big Five" Powers, which began on September 11, and which ranked second to the meeting of the "Big Three" ended on October 2, and has failed.

The laconic *communiqué* announcing the termination of the Conference said: "The Council of Foreign Ministers met twice today. M. Molotov presided in the morning and Dr. Wang in the afternoon. At its second meeting the Council decided to terminate its present session."

The Soviet Foreign Commissar, M. Molotov—one of the four of the Big Five Foreign Ministers to explain just why the Council failed—bluntly told a huge gathering of Pressmen in the Soviet Embassy: "No decisions have been adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers."

But he sprang a surprise when he said that Britain and Russia had reached an agreement on a treaty with Finland, and that a number of questions on treaties affecting Italy, Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary had been settled by Britain, Russia and the United States.

The Mikado meets Gen. MacArthur

H. M. the Emperor of Japan called on Gen. MacArthur, the Supreme Allied Commander, at the U.S.A. Embassy in Tokyo on September 27. This is a unique event in Japanese history.

Reuters special correspondent reveals that the Emperor personally thanked General MacArthur for the way in which he had carried out the occupation "without a single incident." "General MacArthur, in turn, expressed the opinion that the smooth occupation was really due to the Emperor's leadership."

Occupation of Germany

Almost every aspect of German life for many years to come is affected by a proclamation issued on September 26, by the Allied Control Commission.

The main provisions include the possible payment by the Germans of the cost of occupation and control of mass expulsion of Germans from territories inside and outside the 1937 frontiers.

All military formations and organisations, including the General Staff, are completely and finally abolished, and any group which might develop military characteristics will be banned.

The German authorities are told that they must furnish all information and documents for the trial of Nazi leaders and comply with Allied orders concerning the property rights and titles of persons affected by racial or political discriminations enforced by the late ruler.

The production and acquisition of war material and possession of aircraft is forbidden and the Germans must hand over all gold, silver and platinum stocks as well as foreign notes and gold.

Annamese-French Agreement

The month old "War" between Annamite Nationalists and Allied troops in Indo-China ended on October 3, under an agreement signed between the French authorities and leaders of the Annamite independence movement. The news of this "Cease fire order" was announced at Seac Headquarters. It was added that pending the arrival of French reinforcement in Indo-China, British and Indian troops, with one company of French local regiment and local levies, are holding key areas and vulnerable point in Saigon. Saigon has been relatively quiet recently, but large bodies of Annamites holding positions outside the city have been involved in several clashes with Gurkha troops.



The WORLD of BOOKS



(ONLY SHORT NOTICES APPEAR IN THIS SECTION)

THIS INDIA. By D. F. Karaka. Thacker & Co., Ltd., Bombay. Rs. 6-14.

Mr. D. F. Karaka, the author of "Out of Dust", "Just flesh" and a number of other well-known publications, hardly needs any introduction to our readers. Not long ago, we reviewed in these pages his brightly written account of the doings of the Fourteenth Army in Burma. "This India", his latest book, deals with a variety of topics such as journalism, sample of administration, love, sex and morals, politics, and character sketches of well-known political leaders under the title "Some people". The publishers describe the book as "essentially a human document" and so it really is. Packed with facts, anecdotes and autobiographical details, it gives the story of a highly sensitive observant Indian in his early thirties—an Indian who was educated and who distinguished himself at Oxford. It is certainly a brilliant piece of provocative, journalistic prose, typical of the author. As the accredited correspondent of the *Bombay Chronicle* for over six years, Mr. Karaka had abundant opportunities to study men and movements. He came into close contact with many leaders, got into tough even with the inner workings of the Congress, the League and the politics of the country in general. The book is therefore full of pungent and forceful observations, pleasant and unpleasant, and will amply repay perusal.

THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA. By P. B. Balsara. Oxford University Press, Madras.

We get a concise and readable account of the salient, economic and political facts about South Africa, a vast country with a thin population of which a small fraction is white. The whites dominate the land and labour power and exploit its wealth and resources. Full development of the country could be done only if it is industrialized with the co-operation of native labour and the grant of equality of status for the coloured race, that in essence is the South African problem viewed from the author's angle.

FRENCH STORIES FROM ALPHONSO DAUDET. Translated by Indira Sarkar. (Chackerverty & Co., Ltd., 15, College Square, Calcutta. Rs. 4.)

The stark realism, sensibility, the pathos and humour of the gifted French novelist, Alphonso Daudet is revealed in these eight short stories rendered into English in this slim volume. They strike an exclusively provincial note and present vignettes of French life in all its vivid phases. Each story is an exquisite piece and displays remarkable descriptive powers of the writer. Special mention may be made of *The Pope's Mule*, *The Stars*, *The Old People* and *The Agony of the Semillante*.

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THE WORLD OF BOOKS

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REBUILDING LIBERATED RUSSIA. By Prof. N. Voronin. A practical guide to reconstruction in India. Kitab Mahal, 56-A, Zero Road, Allahabad. Re. 1-8.

In the reconstruction and rebuilding of the many ruined, destroyed and devastated cities and villages, Soviet Russia offers the planners of a new civilization, a supreme example of a determined and courageous nation bent upon harnessing its rickety and depleted resources for a new and better social life. This grim and gigantic effort of the Russians is detailed in these stimulating pages by Prof. N. Voronin in all its several features. More, it provides a clue to the reconstruction of social life in India in the field of industry, agriculture, art, architecture building and machinery.

THE SIMLA TRIANGLE. By Ashoka Mehta and Kusum Nair. Padma Publications, Ltd., Bombay.

Here is the story of the failure of the Simla Conference narrated in the words of those who participated in it. It may be useless to discuss it at this length of time when events are moving fast, but the book will serve as a reminder of the efforts made to solve a baffling problem and how they failed to reach the desired end owing to reasons with which our readers are not unfamiliar.

A perusal of this record of day to day events in that Simla drama will reveal at once the strength and weakness of the freedom movement in this country.

The inclusion of the text of the Cripps offer, C. R's. formula and the Desai-Liaquat Pact appended to the volume make it a useful book of reference for the future.

BOOKS RECEIVED

BRITISH TRADE UNIONS. By Mary Agnes Hamilton. Oxford University Press, Bombay. As. 6.

TILLY OR THE FROG WITHOUT A JUMP. By Isabel M. Mathews. Thacker & Co., Ltd., Bombay. Rs. 2-8.

THE GRAND INQUISITOR. By F. Dostoevsky. Translated from the Russian by H. P. Blavatsky. International Book House, Ltd., Bombay.

AN APPLICATION OF THE POETRY OF NAWAB SIR NIZAMAT JUNG BAHADUR. By P. V. Sharma. M.A. Madrasa-i-Aizza, Hyderabad (Dn.)

MOMAMMAD AND TEACHINGS OF QURAN. By John Devenport. By Mohammad Amina, Sh. Muhammad Ashraf, Kashmiri Bazaar, Lahore.

SOME MORAL AND RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS OF AL-GHAZZALI. By Syed Nawab Ali, M.A. Sh. Muhammad Ashraf, Kashmiri Bazaar, Lahore.

DEATH UNDER THE MOON. By Archie Joscelyn. Thacker & Co., Ltd., Bombay. Rs. 5-8.

YOUTH'S BURDEN. By Jawaharlal Nehru. Foreword by P. A. Wadia. Hamara Hindustan Publications, 23-2, Meadows Street, Fort, Bombay.

A SHROUD AS WELL AS A SHIRT. By Shameas Frazer. Thacker & Co., Ltd., Bombay. Rs. 6-14.

THE MEANING OF DOMINION STATUS. By S. M. Bose. Oxford University Press, Madras and Bombay.

THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND EMPIRE. With a Foreword by the Earl of Clarendon. Longmans Green & Co., Ltd., London and Madras.

THE AESTHETICAL NECESSITY IN LIFE. Three lectures delivered under the Sir George Stanley. Foundation for lectures in Aesthetics in the University of Madras, Kitabistan, Allahabad. Rs. 3-12.

SEARCHLIGHT. By His Highness Rajji Maharaj, Kitabistan, Allahabad. Rs. 3.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH INDIA. By Sir Albion Raj Kumar Banerji, Allahabad. Rs. 3.

BURMA AND THE JAPANESE INVADER. By John L. Christian, Messrs. Thacker & Co., Ltd., Bombay. Rs. 16-8.

CHRISTIANITY CHALLENGES CAPITALISM. By W. M. Ryburn and Clarence Folk. Published by Dr. M. S. Vairanapillai, Forman College P.O., Lahore.

BRITISH PEOPLE SERIES. University Students and English Villages. 1sh. net each. Longmans Green & Co., Ltd., London.

OUR YOUTH. By Kamaladevi.

OUR AGRICULTURAL PLAN. By D. S. Derby.

REBUILDING LIBERATED RUSSIA. By Prof. N. Voronin. Kitab Mahal, Allahabad.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

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- September 1. Dr. Hubback enthroned as new Metro-politan of India.
—Andamans not to be used as penal settlement.
- September 2. Japs sign Instrument of Surrender.
- September 3. Temporary Agreement between Chiang and the Communists reached.
—U. S. troops move into Japan.
- September 4. The Mikado asks his people to observe commitments faithfully.
—Spain asked to evacuate Tangier.
- September 5. Akali leaders decline to negotiate with Muslim League on basis of Pakistan.
- September 6. M. Ps. appeal for full civic liberties and free elections in India.
- September 7. Press censorship ends, though advising is to continue.
- September 8. Non-party leaders condemn Government's surrender to League.
- September 9. Birla's startling statement regarding Governments behaviour in respect of Textile Industry.
- September 10. C. R. comes back to Congress fold; and is invited to attend Working Committee meeting at Poona.
- September 11. Gen. Tojo shoots himself to avoid arrest.
—Round up of Far East War Criminals.
- September 12. Congress Working Committee meets at Poona.
- September 13. Gandhiji advises Congress to contest elections.
- September 14. Congress Working Committee decisions published.
—Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose and Lala Sankarlal released.
- September 15. Lord Wavell back in India
- September 16. Mr. Bhulabhai replies to League Leader *re* Desai-Liaquat Pact.
—The Big Five decide that Italy should forfeit her colonies.
- September 17. Plans for demobilization of Indian Army announced.
- September 18. Mody-Matthai report to Sapru Committee released.
- September 19. Nationalist Muslims decide to fight the League in the elections.
—Italy's Colonial Empire liquidated.
- September 20. U. S. honour for Viceroy and C. in C.
- September 21. A. I. C. C. meets at Bombay.
—Congress Working Committee demands freedom of all Asiatic countries.
- September 22. A. I. C. C. reiterates its objectives. Committee formed for defence of I. N. A. men.
- September 23. Deadlock in Foreign Ministers' Conference in London.
—Transport strike in Calcutta.
- September 24. World Trade Union Congress meets at Paris.
—Sardar Patel initiates Election Campaign in Bombay.
- September 25. Maulana Azad's correspondence with Viceroy during Simla Conference released.
- September 26. Hindu-Muslim riot in Bombay.
—Mr. Aney attacked in the State Council, Ceylon.
- September 27. Emperor Hirohito calls on MacArthur.
- September 28. New Government of India 3 per cent. loan announced.
- September 29. British land in Java to restore order.
- September 30. Central Akali Dal decides to co-operate with Congress in Punjab Elections.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



HUMAN FREEDOMS

Prof. S. V. Puntambekar, writing on the above subject in the *Modern Review* for September, points out that great thinkers like Manu and Buddha have laid emphasis on what should be the assurance necessary for man and what should be the virtues possessed by man. They have propounded a code as it were of ten essential human freedoms and control of virtues necessary for good life. They are not only basic, but more comprehensive in their scope than those mentioned by any other modern thinker. They emphasize five freedoms or social assurances and five individual possessions or virtues. The five social freedoms are:

(1) freedom from violence (Ahimsa), (2) freedom from want (Asteya), (3) freedom from exploitation (Aparigraha), (4) freedom from violation or dishonour (Avyabhichara) and (5) freedom from early death and disease (Amritatva and Arogya).

The five individual possessions or virtues are:

(1) want of intolerance (Akrodha), (2) Compassion or fellow-feeling (Bhutadaya, Adroha), (3) Knowledge (Jnana, Vidya), (4) freedom of thought and conscience (Satya, Sunrita) and (5) freedom from fear and frustration or despair (Pravritti, Abhaya, Dhriti).

Human freedoms require as counterparts human virtues or controls. To think in terms of freedom without corresponding virtues would lead to a lopsidedness of life and a stagnation or even a deterioration of personality and also to chaos and conflict in society.

This two-sidedness of human life, its freedoms and virtues or controls, its assurances and possessions have to be understood and established in any scheme for the welfare of man, society and humanity. Merely the right to life, liberty and property or pursuit of happiness would not do, nor merely the assurance of liberty, equality and fraternity would help.

We in India, concludes the Professor, also want freedom from foreign rule.

Foreign rule is a damnable thing. This land has suffered from it for hundreds of years. We must condemn it whether old or new. Then we must have self-rule in our country under one representative, responsible and centralised system. Then alone we shall survive.

BOMB AND CIVILISATION

In an article on "Bomb and Civilisation" in the *Glasgow Forward*, Lord Bertrand Russell writes:

"The prospect for human race is sombre beyond all precedent. Mankind is faced with a clearcut alternative. Either, we all perish, or we shall have to acquire some slight degree of common sense. A great deal of political thinking will be necessary if utter disaster is to be averted. If men have wisdom to make use of the few years, which will remain open to them, there is another better possibility. Either war or civilization must end. If it is to be war that ends, there must be an international authority with the sole power to make new bombs. All supplies of Uranium must be placed under the control of an international authority, which have the right to safeguard it by armed forces. As soon as such authority has been created, all the existing atomic bombs and all plants for their manufacture must be handed over to it. And, of course, the international authority must have sufficient armed forces to protect whatever has been handed over to it. If this system is once established, the international authority would be irresistible and wars would cease.

United States won't consent to any pooling of armaments and no more will Soviet Russia. Each will insist on retaining the means of exterminating the other on the ground that the other is not to be trusted. If America were more imperialistic, there would be another possibility less Utopian and less desirable but preferable to total obliteration of civilised life.

It would be possible for Americans to use their position of temporary superiority to insist on disarmament not only in Germany and Japan but everywhere except the United States,—at any rate, every country not prepared to enter into close military alliance with the United States involving compulsory sharing of military secrets."

IMPORTANCE OF UNITY

Sir Sultan Ahmed, - Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, in an article in *The Concord*, a Calcutta weekly, writes, that "a joint Hindu-Muslim-British unity is the logic of Indian history".

Elaborating this thesis, Sir Sultan Ahmed says:

Our outlook should be clear. Hindu-Muslim unity is for us the initial stage in our evolutionary march to the great goal of human unity, and Indo-British unity is the next immediate stage on our path. Britain has her ideal of a British Commonwealth of Nations, which will be her great contribution to the still greater World Commonwealth of the future. It is for India and Britain to decide whether they would tread a common path to the realisation of this supreme end. Britain has got to help her to be so.

Sir Sultan Ahmed traces the failure of unity talks and conferences in the past to the lack of love between the contracting parties.

All that these conferences have tried for has been an adjustment of the material interests of the various groups, separated in heart from one another. Attention has been focussed on what one party could get out of the other, but never on what one should give up for the sake of the other.

What we want very badly, Sir Sultan Ahmed writes, is a community thinking on things that are common and to take a firm stand on it.

There must be a meeting ground where men and women of all camps may, for a while leave politics alone in order to appreciate and enjoy the common good things in their arts and traditions, to give and take their cultural values, and to get a glimpse of their common destiny as children of a common Motherland. Thus, with the rediscovery of our cultural communion, moving along non-controversial topics, a new sweetness will be introduced in our human relation, and a new harmony will dawn on the horizon of our rival politics.

Sir Sultan Ahmed concludes:

Political independence is necessary to India principally because it will give her a status to deliver to the world her message. India feels that the time is ripe when the world needs it. For the ills of the modern world cannot be fully cured by 'patent' remedies and economics alone. The West has made wonderful progress in the domain of Science and material values, while in the realm of the spirit and culture, India, the heir to all the great traditions of the East, has much to give. And this she cannot give as a subject nation. For, who in the modern world could listen to a people who do not rule themselves?

THE MESSAGE OF THE VEDANT

How before he decided to go to the World Parliament of Religions at Chicago, Swami Vivekananda was assailed by doubts and how his Guru appeared before him in a vision and ordered him to go, is related by Swami Atulananda in the *Prabuddha Bharata*.

The conquest of the Western thought-world by young Sanyasin from the East was a gigantic undertaking. The Swami, then only 28 years old, was fully aware of this. Still, this enormous task that faced him. And when this was accomplished, his attempt could not be called successful. No wonder a mighty tumult agitated the Swami's mind. Should he go to America or not go? That was then the question.

Sometimes for days, his soul struggled with a definite conviction about his mission.

Was it his own ambition that sometimes thrilled him with anticipation, or was it God's command that made him so restless? Was it his duty to extend the scope of his work and to gather experience in foreign lands, or was he influenced by the enthusiasm of his friends and admirers.

Intuitively, the Swami felt that it was his duty to go, that he had a message not only for his country but for the world. But he was not satisfied to trust to his own conviction. He wanted more tangible proof.

And so the Swami spent days and weeks in prayer and contemplation. Then, at last the command came. It came in an unexpected, mysterious way.

One night, when this all-important question kept him awake for hours, he at last fell into slumber. And in this state of half sleep he had a dream and vision.

He saw a vast ocean. And on the seashore he saw a figure. The figure was pacing up and down, evidently immersed in deep thought. Then suddenly he halted facing him. A shock of delight went through the Swami, for there stood before him Sri Ramakrishna, his own beloved Master. There was sadness in the Master's face. But this sadness made room for a smile so sweet, so gentle, so loving, that it thrilled the Swami to his deepest being. The Master beckoned him, and turning around walked away upon the waters of the ocean. The Swami wanted to jump up and follow him. But then he awoke.

It was enough. Sri Ramakrishna had called him, had beckoned him to follow across the ocean! There was the command from above. The Swami's doubts were laid,

THE ELEMENTS OF INDIAN MUSIC

Describing the Indian Raga as a mould for melody, having a definite emotional significance in *rasa*, a writer in the *Asiatic Review*, Dennis Gray Stoll, observes that in South India

there are about 500 types of individual raga, each a melody-mould of distinctive scale or model pattern, as we might view the matter. The primary ragas are significantly called Lords of Melody, a striking indication of how Indians see them. They number no fewer than 72, and from these 400 odd secondary ragas are formed by combining in various ways five or more of the notes used in the primary ragas under which they are grouped.

The classification of raga in the South differs from the North, where most musicians use what might be described as a family system of six principal ragas, each having a number of *raginis* or melody-mould wives, and *putras* or sons. The general principles that apply to southern ragas apply to the north also. Much of the difference is in name only.

The instinct to embellish a melody is as universal as music itself, yet nowhere is it so pronounced as in the non-harmonic music of India. Melodic ornaments are natural and necessary to all systems that employ no harmony. The delicate brush-work of the Indian *gamakas*, grace notes, limns the light and shade of a picture in sound, just as the consonance and dissonance of harmony do in western composition.

Gamakas are as integral a part of Indian melodic expression as the lips are to the face.

Without them a melody cannot smile. *Gamakas* are never imposed upon a tune; they grow there as the spontaneous expression of emotion, an indication of spiritual emphasis. Fox Strangways rightly insists that: "There is never the least suggestion of anything having been 'added' to the note which is graced. The note with its grace makes one utterance."

Instrumental *gamakas* vary from a kind of wail, produced by deflecting the wire of a vina, for instance, to elaborate fingered phrases.

Some of them seem to require an aural microscope for our unaccustomed western ears to grasp them in detail. Indian ears make hairbreadth distinctions, sensitively attuned as they are to a highly evolved art of pure melody.

COMMUNAL DIVISIONS

"These communal differences of which we hear so much are largely invented by Indian politicians for their own purposes", writes Professor A. V. Hill, in an article in the weekly, *Picture Post*.

Pointing out that far fewer people were killed in India in communal disturbances than in Britain, with its much smaller population, by road traffic accidents. Mr. Hill adds: "My own expectation is that this initial failure of the Simla Conference may do good in the end by convincing sensible Indians of what the real needs of their situation are. With time for reflection, a growing sense of national purpose and an increasing realisation of what national responsibility must mean will bring people together."

Claiming that, "if we washed our hands of the whole business and cleared out of India, it is more than likely that faction and disorder would set in", Mr. Hill states that, nevertheless, India must have independence—the expression "Dominion Status" is not used in the article—for two reasons. "Firstly, because no country can really take part wholeheartedly in its own development unless the responsibility is its own or as long as someone else can be blamed for all the inevitable mistakes and failures and secondly, because Britain is bound by honour and obligation to hand over control to an Indian Government as soon as Indians are reasonably agreed on who and what that Government shall be."

The tasks of defence and development would become impossible, writes Mr. Hill, if faction and division were to lead to Balkanisation of Indian India. Britain's duty is to ensure that authority is gradually handed over to Indians. That is Lord Wavell's idea. He is not a party politician but a man who has the vision and humanity to put first things first. He knows that it is vital that Indians should take responsibility themselves, should plan and strive for the welfare of their own people and for the unity and glory of their country."

TOKYO THE CAPITAL OF JAPAN

Tokyo, scene of the signing of surrender terms by representatives of the defeated Japanese nation and the victorious Allies, is a city whose 217 square miles house a population of 7,100,000 persons.

It is the third largest city in the world (first is London, area 693 square miles, population 8,700,000; second is New York, area 310 square miles, population 7,450,000). Located on the main Japanese island of Honshu, it is the seat of the Japanese government, and one of Japan's largest industrial centres.

Before concentrated U. S. air attacks crippled its industries, it was estimated that Tokyo district produced 12 per cent. of Japan's pig iron, 18 per cent. of her steel, and 18 per cent. of her rolled steel products. Nearly 50 per cent. of Japan's oil refining capacity was concentrated in eight plants on the Tokyo waterfront.

Lying in the midst of the extensive Kwanto plain, the city itself is built upon more than 100 hills, varying in height from 50 to 130 feet. The social organization of the city follows the topography—the wealthy on the hills, the middle class on the slopes, and in the hollows, the masses.

Near the centre of the city, on an eminence surrounded by moat and medieval castle wall, stands the Imperial Palace. Since no one must look down on the Emperor, there are no high buildings near the palace.

The city is intersected by the Sumida river and its many tributaries. The main thoroughfares are broad and paved; off them the streets become alleys or flights

of stone steps. Tokyo's transportation system includes buses, 126 miles of trolley or tramways, 25 miles of subway and 40 miles of elevated trains that circle and bisect the city.

After the great earthquake and fire of 1923, when an estimated 100,000 lives were lost, the city was partially rebuilt. Six new avenues, 120 feet wide, and 120 new streets, 36 feet wide, were cut through the city. Modern fireproof and quakeproof buildings replaced many of the destroyed buildings in the principal business districts and fireproof apartments and business blocks were constructed elsewhere.

But 98 per cent. of the buildings in Tokyo are still Japanese-style structures of wood and paper. Even so, it is by far the most modern and most fire-resistant city in Japan.

In climate, the city is unfortunate. It is subject to blightingly hot summers, bitterly cold winters. Typhoons are not infrequent, and earthquakes occur in cycles of six or seven years throughout the islands.

Tokyo is the heart of Japan's railway communications, and 41 tracks connect it with the most important cities on the main island, and with the heavily industrialized east and south coast urban belt. Since its harbour is too shallow to admit large vessels, Tokyo's commercial port is Yokohama, 18 miles to the West. Its naval port is Yokosuka, where elements of the Allied fleets are now anchored.

INDIA'S CASE FOR FREEDOM

Prof. Harold Laski, Chairman of the British Labour Party, in an article in *Collier's Magazine* states that "the Labour Party is hostile to Imperialism in all its forms. The Labour Party has always been a vigorous critic of political Imperialism which, as in India, has subordinated the will of Indians to be a nation, to a tradition which has always become obsolete once a people was determined upon the right to govern itself."

INDIAN STATES

Hyderabad

NEW CONSTITUTION FOR HYDERABAD

"Members of certain political organisations in the State have been sponsoring the idea of setting up a Legislative Assembly under the new constitution by means of nominating prior to holding elections," says a Press Note issued by H. E. H. the Nizam's Government.

The local Press has also commented upon the different aspects of the proposal, and with a view to avoiding a possible misunderstanding, the Government wishes to make it clear that the Reforms Secretariat has been doing its best to see the elected Assembly and local bodies start functioning as early as possible. It may be mentioned in this connection that provisions to franchise has already been published, and the work of preparing electoral rolls, concerning various interests, is proceeding apace and the drafting of the electoral rules is receiving the fullest attention. It would not therefore be desirable to constitute a nominated assembly at the present moment.

Moreover, it is presumed, that persons who might be nominated would themselves not desire to be nominated for such a short period.

TRADE UNIONS ACT

It is reliably learnt that H. E. H. the Nizam of Hyderabad has sanctioned the enforcement of the Trade Unions Act which provides facilities to workers to organise and aims at giving legal and corporate status to the Worker's organisation and invest them with immunity from civil and criminal liability in respect of legal strike.

This piece of legislation will give great impetus to the Workers' organisation for developing it on healthy lines and will greatly assist in the further improvement of relations between employers and works.

Mysore

EXCESS PROFITS TAX FOR MYSORE

The Mysore Government have, by a Gazette extraordinary, promulgated the Excess Profits Tax (Emergency) Act, 1945, which in the main follows the British Indian legislation. The Act, which comes into force at once, shall remain in force for a period of six months.

Under the Act, except under certain circumstances, a tax equal to 60 per cent. of the excess of profits over the standard profits earned by any business concern to which this Act is made applicable, has been imposed.

The tax shall not be levied on any profits, which are under Section 4 of the Mysore Income-tax Act exempt from Income-tax and profits from life insurance business.

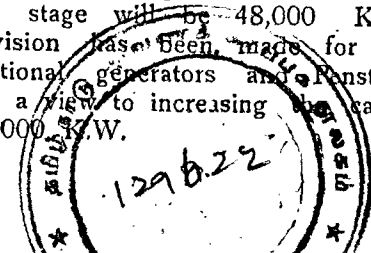
The Act shall apply to every business of which any part of the profits made during a chargeable accounting period is chargeable to Income-tax. The standard profits shall be taken to be Rs. 36,000. The profits accrued from July 1, 1944, will be subjected to tax under this Act.

ELECTRIC POWER FOR MYSORE

At a meeting of the Executive Council of the Mysore Government, held at Bangalore on September 12, the Dewan presiding, matters relating to the post-war electrical development and particularly the Jog Power Scheme were discussed.

Besides the Ministers, Sir Henry Howard, Consulting Engineer and the Chief Electrical Engineer were present.

The first stage of this scheme is expected to be completed by the middle of 1947, though some power may be released by about June next year. The generating capacity of the plant at the end of the first stage will be 48,000 K.W. But provision has been made for installing additional generators and penstock lines with a view to increasing the capacity to 120,000 K.W.



Baroda

SCHEME FOR SMALLER STATES

Addressing the Baroda State Legislature the Dewan reiterated his belief that the only solution to the problem of small States in India was the attachment of these with their bigger neighbours. "It would not be out of place," he said, "if I mention briefly what the Baroda Government has done in this connection. Their aim is twofold: amelioration of the condition of the people in the attached areas and furtherance of the education of the sons of the Chiefs and Talukdars with a view to make them fit for their responsible position. For securing the first object, His Highness has constituted a fund called "The Shri Maharaja Pratapsinha Gaekwar Attached Areas Development Fund" enabling the expenditure of one lakh of rupees on the development of the attached areas by providing school buildings, hospitals, etc. As for the second item, Government has placed at the disposal of their special officers a sum of Rs. 10,000 for scholarship to the sons of Chiefs and Talukdars for higher education."

BARODA IRRIGATION GRANTS

The construction of 800 irrigation wells and the improvement of existing wells in Baroda State at a cost of Rs. 12 lakhs will form part of the "Grow More Food" campaign for 1945-46. Provision has been made in the State budget for distribution of high quality seeds at a cost of about Rs. 3,00,000, while an equal amount has been earmarked for interlining of cotton cultivation with food crops. More than Rs. 2,00,000 has been allotted for manuring subsidy and composite making.

A total expenditure of Rs. 29 lakhs has been provided for in the budget for the "Grow More Food" campaign in the coming year.

Travancore

CONTROL OF PRIMARY EDUCATION

The announcement that the Government of Travancore have decided to take over control and management primary education in the State was recently made in a Gazette Extraordinary. The Director of Public Instruction has accordingly been instructed to formulate detailed proposals on the basis of a ten-year programme for implementing this decision.

The Government of Travancore declare that, having bestowed their anxious consideration on the subject, they have come to the conclusion that the responsibility of imparting education throughout the State devolves upon and has to be shouldered by them, and they have accordingly decided to assume control and management of primary education with the definite object of making such education both free and compulsory within as short a period as practicable, and they have instructed the Director of Public Instruction to formulate detailed proposals on the basis of ten-year programme for implementing this decision.

After announcing the decision to assume control and management of primary education, the Government make a number of points clear:

Private agencies now conducting primary schools in buildings and premises belonging to them will not be called upon to surrender those buildings and premises to the Government, nor will the Government take any steps towards the closure of such schools, so long as they conform to the general standards of primary education and the general curriculum that will be formulated in the course of implementing the decision of the Government.

FERTILISER PLANT

A synthetic fertiliser plant to cost 7,000,000 dollars will be built in Travancore by Edward C. Pawley and Lewis C. Magarty, President and Vice President of the Inter-continental Corporation

Maharatta States

JOINT HIGH COURT

The Crown Representative has instructed the Resident of the Deccan (Maharatta) States that a joint High Court for all the States should be constituted for the benefit of all those States which are willing to join the scheme. Kolhapur has been approved as the venue of the High Court.

It is likely that those States which do not agree to accept the joint High Court at Kolhapur will be allowed to make their own independent arrangements, so long as they prefer to do so and will be allowed to come into the joint scheme when they desire.

Bhopal

RAJA SIR O. N. BISARYA

A Bhopal "Gazette Extraordinary" announces the retirement at his own request of Raja Sir Oudh Narain Bisarya, President of the Bhopal State Executive Council, after 40 years of State Service, in the course of which he held charge, at one time or another, of almost every department of the Government.

The Raja Sahab took active interest in the Indian States affairs and was one of the States' delegates to the Third Round Table Conference.

Kashmir

FOREIGNERS ORDER

The Government of His Highness the Maharajah of Jammu and Kashmir have directed that para 10 of the Jammu and Kashmir Foreigners Order, 1936, requiring that no Foreigners shall remain in, enter into or pass through the territories of the Jammu and Kashmir State, unless he

(i) is an Afghan or Nepalese subject, (ii) is a Chinese subject entering from or proceeding to, Chinese Turkistan, or (iii) has obtained permission in writing in that behalf from the Government, shall be deleted.

2. A foreigner does not, therefore, now require a permit to enter Kashmir.

Patiala

REFORMS FOR PATIALA

His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala has announced his decision to introduce important constitutional reforms to bring the administration of the State in line with modern and progressive administration.

A committee consisting of officials and non-officials is to be appointed to frame a constitution for the establishment of a legislative body in the State. Secondly, municipal and small communities with elected majorities will be established throughout the State.

In announcing these measures, His Highness reiterates his resolve to improve the standard and efficiency of the civil services and to continue the effort that is being made for the industrial and agricultural development of the State. At the same time, he expresses his desire to associate his people more directly and closely with the administration by introducing the system of representative Government.

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INDIANS OVERSEAS

S. Africa

DESHMUKH'S CALL TO INDIANS

Calling on Indians to live in harmony with the population of South Africa, the High Commissioner, Mt. Deshmukh, declared at a reception to Sam China Cup Inter-Provincial Soccer players in Johannesburg, that India with her own difficulties could only to a limited extent look beyond her boundaries.

Indians must not depend on India for their future, but make the rulers of South Africa realise that their future lies there.

"We don't want to interfere in the affairs of this country. All we want is that we be treated decently and be given rights that belong to every human being, no matter in what country they be. I am here to advise you to treat this country as your own and live with the rest of the population. Let us not think when India speaks on behalf of Indians here that she speaks in an offensive nature".

Mr. M. John disclosed that a committee had been appointed to negotiate more Indian football tours in South Africa and investigate the possibilities of sending a South African team to India.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NATAL

Approximately 17,600 Indians were employed in the Province of Natal, South Africa, during 1944 as compared to 26,000 employed in the previous year. The total number of male adult Indian Immigrants in the Province was 43,218, according to the Annual Report of the Protector of Indian Immigrants, who explains that many of the immigrants are farming on their own account and carrying on other trades.

The housing accommodation, according to the Report, still leaves much to be desired. But there were no complaints of ill-treatment by employers. No immigrants returned to India during the year.

The health of the Indian population was good during the year, but the deathrate from tuberculosis was still very high. The total population increased to 217,549 from 210,107 in 1943. The total number of children attending Government, and Government aided Schools during the year under review was 32,875, showing an increase of nearly 2,000. Still there were many Indian children who were receiving no education owing to there being no room for them in schools.

Burma

ENTRY OF INDIANS INTO BURMA

The view that no constitutional limitations like those referred to by Dr. Khare, Overseas Member of the Government of India, in his speech to the Madras Muslim Chamber of Commerce, were in existence and nothing could prevent the free entry of Indians into Burma was expressed by Rai Bahadur Maneklal Kapadia.

Rai Bahadur Kapadia explained to the Associated Press of India that Burma was a part and parcel of India. When Burma was separated an assurance that no restrictions will be placed on the rights of any British national entering Burma was included in the Government of Burma Act, 1935. Mr. Kapadia thought that, if British nationals were not to be prohibited from entering Burma. Indians could not be restricted and that whatever constitutional restrictions were placed on the unskilled Indian labour immigration into Burma by the Bajpai Agreement they were now void, as the agreement itself had been declared a dead letter.

Malaya

INDIA'S AGENT IN MALAYA

Mr. S. K. Chettur, I. C. S., has been appointed the Government of India's Agent in Malaya. After three months' stay in Delhi, he will proceed to Malaya.

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS

DEPARTMENTAL

NOTES

Questions of Importance

BRITISH PLAN FOR INDIA

LORD WAVELL'S BROADCAST

The Viceroy, in a broadcast announcement on September 19, authorised by H.M.G., said:

It is the intention of His Majesty's Government to convene, as soon as possible, a constitution-making body, and as a preliminary step they have authorised me to undertake, immediately after the elections, discussions with representatives of the Legislative Assemblies in the Provinces, to ascertain whether the proposals contained in the 1942 declaration are acceptable or whether some alternative or modified scheme is preferable.

His Excellency said that discussions would also be undertaken with representatives of the Indian States with a view to ascertaining in what way they could best take their part in the constitution-making body. The Viceroy added:

His Majesty's Government have further authorised me, as soon as the results of the Provincial elections are published, to take steps to bring into being an Executive Council which will have the support of the main Indian parties.

After making the announcement, Lord Wavell said that it meant that H.M.G. were determined to go ahead with the task of bringing India to self-government at the earliest possible date. He made it clear that it was not possible to undertake any major alteration in the franchise system as that would delay matters for at least two years.

MR. ATTLEE'S COMMENT

The British Premier, in a broadcast from London, assuring that the British Government would do their utmost to give every assistance, said that the British Government were giving their immediate consideration to the contents of a treaty with the India Constitution-making body, as envisaged in the declaration of policy towards India made in 1942, which "stands in all fullness and purpose."

Mr. Attlee declared that the treaty would not seek to provide for anything incompatible with the interests of India.

He referred to the splendid part India played in the war, and stressed that victory had come essentially from unity. He urged all Indians to follow this great example, and join in a united effort to work out a constitution which the majority and minority communities would accept as just and fair.

MODI-MATTHAI REPORT

Sir Homi Mody and Dr. John Matthai in a memorandum prepared by them on the economic and financial aspects of Pakistan, say that the division of India into separate sovereignties would spell stagnation and probable disaster unless some effective and continuous form of co-operation in matters relating to Defence and economic development is accepted as an indispensable pre-requisite to any scheme of separation and as an organic part of it. The signatories sum up their conclusions in two main propositions.

1. Judged solely by the test of ability to maintain existing standards of living and to meet budgetary requirements on a pre-war basis, but excluding provision for defence, separation would appear to be workable on economic grounds.

2. If, however, provision is to be made for future economic development on a scale sufficient to raise the general standard of living to a reasonable level and for measure of defence, which may be considered adequate under modern conditions, any scheme of political separation which may be contemplated should as a necessary pre-requisite, provide for means of effective and continuous co-operation between the separate states in matters affecting the safety of the country and its economic stability and development. If such co-operation did not exist, the position of both Pakistan and Hindustan might be seriously jeopardized.

Mr. N. R. Sarkar and many others, however, contend that even for economic and administrative reasons, the Pakistani Provinces cannot afford to be self supporting.

PROF. LASKI'S PLEA AT T.U.C.

The importance of self-government and freedom for India and of the "liberation of the Spanish people from their Fascist prison" was stressed by Prof. Harold Laski when he addressed the 750 delegates representing over 6,500,000 workers at the Trade Union Annual Congress at Blackpool on September 10.

Prof. Laski described himself as a "harassing phantom to the Prime Minister and his colleagues". They would like him as Chairman of the Labour Party to set an example to the rank and file of silent devotion. If they did not insist upon his being deaf, they thought it his duty to be dumb.

I am unable to share that view. The life of the democratic movement is in discussion and there is no discussion more helpful than that which comes from friends.

The Labour Government's task was to transform political democracy into a genuine socialist democracy, Prof. Laski said. There were powerful interests anxious to see Labour fail. They had first of all to meet the grave and growing problem of demobilisation, then housing, pensions, and last but not the least, self-government and freedom for India.

The first two Labour Governments failed mainly because they were more anxious to secure approval from their opponents than to secure enthusiasm from their friends. They never attempted anything more than half measures.

This moment is the parting of the ways for the Labour Party. Either it convinces the people that democratic socialist principles are valid in practice or it will give way to men ready for some other experiment, which will not be democratic. The age of capitalism is drawing to a close and it rests upon us now to inaugurate with this Government the age of capitalism drawing to a close and it rests upon us now to inaugurate with this Government the age of democratic socialism in Britain.

PT. NEHRU ON ELECTION

"Quit India will be the Congress election cry," said Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru discussing the Congress election programme at a Bombay public meeting on September 26. Explaining himself, Pandit Nehru said that it did not mean the physical departure of Britishers but meant complete recognition of Indian independence on the part of the British Government.

The Congress, he said, would leave no stone unturned to smash all opposition to Congress candidates in the elections both to the Central and Provincial Legislatures. It was silly, he added, for a non-Congress candidate to hope to win any seat in the general constituencies; he would only lose his deposit.

As regards Muslim constituencies, Pandit Nehru said that the Congress would contest the elections wherever possible. "But", he said:

Congress will not split votes by entering into a three-cornered fight to benefit any Muslim League candidate. Wherever a non-Muslim League candidate has chances, the Congress will lend him all support to defeat the League candidate. The Congress stands for a United India and any Muslim who stands for the ideal of a United India will get the support of the Congress.

MR. BOSE ON INDIA'S DEMAND

Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, addressing a Press Conference, at Bombay, on September 25, said that the British Government's offer to India was unacceptable to the country. Mr. Bose declared that he would be satisfied with nothing less than Complete Independence. The words "substance of Independence" did not satisfy him. He disagreed with those who thought Lord Wavell's offer showed a change of heart.

Taking into consideration all the facts since 1939, we will be well advised not to look to London for anything at all. We should take immediate steps to rally the people, and for creating a situation which will attract all our workers to the Congress ranks, to strengthen the fighting elements in the Congress, and to make every preparation necessary for the next struggle which, I have no doubt, will come much sooner than we are anticipating at the moment.

MR. ASAF ALI ON PAKISTAN IDEA

"I earnestly hope that the Indian Muslims will not be carried away by mere slogans but will demand a clear, definite and detailed statement from the propagandists of Pakistan about (1) the proposed constitution of the so-called Pakistan areas which has not seen the light of the day since 1930, although it was promised by the Lahore Resolution; and (2) a full list of benefits expected to accrue from the proposed separation of Pakistan from India," says Mr. Asaf Ali, member of the Congress Working Committee, in a statement.

Crores of Muslims permanently living in the Hindu majority provinces cannot afford to think in terms of far off Pakistan. They should formulate their demands as a minority and seek constitutional safeguards for their vital interests.

In the absence of anything definite in shape of a draft as contemplated by the Lahore Resolution, I do not see how the electorate can intelligently appreciate the implications and consequences of a vague term.

Whichever way one may look at it, one cannot see how stable sovereign States can be established in the north-west and the north-east without fully satisfying the powerful minorities which reside in these areas. Nor has it ever been made clear how these sovereign States can function in the modern world without entering into treaties with the neighbouring States.

No indication of the recommendations of the Pakistan Planning Committee is available and the masses of the poor Muslim peasants, labourers, artisans and even lower grade public servants and masses of unemployed have a right to know by what scheme and policy their poverty and wretched conditions will be improved. Vague theories can be no substitutes for clearly worked out blue prints.

THE DODUMA DISPUTE

The Government of India have appointed Sir B. N. Rau to enquire into the points of dispute between the Governments of Madras and Orissa regarding the fixing of boundary limits for the two Provinces at Doduma.

CHRISTIANS AND COMMUNALISM

"The Indian Christian community stands for the political freedom of this country and would be happy if India is placed in the position of a self-governing dominion within the British Commonwealth," says Dr. V. K. John, M.L.C., in a letter to the Secretary of State for India, conveying the greetings of the Indian Christian Community in his capacity as Leader of the Madras Legislature Indian Christian Group and President of the Federation of Indian Christians.

Dr. John adds:

Indian Christians are not communal-minded and look anxiously forward to the day when communalism will be rooted out from the public life of this country. Indeed the object of the Federation of Indian Christians is to eschew communalism from the political, social and economic life of this country and to safeguard the interests of the Indian Christian community so long as communalism prevails in the major communities. The community, however, regrets that communalism prevails generally in the major communities and the interests of Indian Christians need protection.

The British Government introduced in the past separate electorates, and this only accentuated communalism in the country, and the present policy of the Government apparently is to balance the major communities and ignore the small ones, in particular the Indian Christian community. We request you to reverse this policy. . . .

It is also our earnest request that you will devise a scheme which will root out communalism from the public life of this country instead of perpetuating it.

SIKH LEADERS AND PAKISTAN

"The Sikhs will shed the last drop of their blood to prevent the establishment of Pakistan in the Punjab", declared Sardar Bahadur Ujjal Singh, M.L.A., presiding over a well-attended lecture in Hindustani by Principal Ganga Singh on "Position of Minorities in Pakistan" arranged by the Young Men's Sikh Association, Delhi and Simla, at the Kalbari Hall, Simla, on Sept. 12.

ADVANCED STUDIES IN U. S.

Mr. M. S. Sundaram, Educational Liaison Officer for the Government of India, told administrative heads of the University of California at Berkeley that India's Government hoped to place 400 graduate students in American Universities to take advantage of advanced courses for future expansion of Indian agricultural, industrial and cultural arts.

Mr. Sundaram was the guest of the Faculty Club, presided over by Mr. John D. Hicks, Dean of the Graduate Division.

Mr. Sundaram hopes to place a minimum of 25 students at the University of California, specialising in agriculture and industrial sciences. If housing facilities can be arranged, another ten will come. He disclosed that arrangements were completed with Dr. Don Trsiddler, President of the Stanford University at Palo Alto to admit 19 graduate students there. They will study engineering, biology, aeronautics and chemistry. Representations are now being made to the American State Department to obtain transport so that students may enter the autumn terms at both Universities.

MILITARY ACADEMY FOR INDIA

In connection with the establishment of a Military Academy as India's National War Memorial, it is understood that the Government of India are deputing Mr. John Sargent, Educational Commissioner, Government of India, and Dr. Amarnatha Jha, Vice-Chancellor, Allahabad University, to visit America's West-Point Academy.

Their mission is specially connected with reporting on the general educational facilities, curriculum and standard of teaching being followed at West-Point.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION SCHEME

An advance step in their post-war educational programme has been taken by the Government of Madras, particularly in the direction of compulsory elementary education in the province.

The Government are introducing compulsion in certain areas in each district selected for the purpose and have suitably amended the age-limits so as to bring as many children as possible under compulsory instruction even in the first year.

This preliminary step is designed to bring one among every 24 children now not attending any school under the compulsory education scheme.

A sum of Rs. 20,00,000 has been provided for the purpose in the current year's budget.

The Director of Public Instruction has already selected villages in which compulsory education is to be introduced in consultation with the District Board authorities concerned and the new schools will be maintained by the local bodies with grants-in-aid from the Government.

MARRIED STUDENTS AT MICHIGAN

Marriage can promote culture, at least, so it would seem at the University of Michigan, where it is reported, the United States Government has made a loan of 23,775 dollars for the planning of apartments for married students.

CENTRAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Governor-General-in-Council has nominated Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur as Members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India for a period of three years with effect from August 18, 1945, says a Press Note.

RELEASE OF INTERNEES

With the effective surrender of the Japanese at Singapore, it has become unnecessary to keep any longer in custody a number of persons, including Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, and certain members of his family, who had been detained by order of the Central Government to prevent them from acting in a manner prejudicial to the defence of British India and the efficient prosecution of the war, says a Press Note. They have accordingly been released.

Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, who arrived at Calcutta on September 17, in an interview said that nine days after his arrest (when he was in the Presidency Jail) he had sent a communication to the Government of India challenging them to prove the charge made against him in the official *communiqué* issued at the time of his arrest that he had contacts with the Japanese. So far no reply has been received, he added.

PRESS CENSORSHIP

Following the signing in Tokyo of formal surrender terms and the occupation by Allied forces of strategic points, Press censorship in India has ceased.

Simultaneously, "Press instructions, for war" lapse, with the exception of certain clauses which have been communicated to Editors through Provincial Press Advisers.

Censorship of postal and telegraphic communications and censorship of documents carried by travellers also cease forthwith.

MR. AZAD'S DEFENCE OF I.N.A.

"If combatant enemies receive the benefits of the International Law and custom, the nationals of the country under a foreign rule are morally entitled to nothing less," says Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Congress President, in a statement to the United Press of India.

A MARATHI NOVEL

The contents of a Marathi novel, "Shakuntala" were read over and over again before a full bench of the Bombay High Court when their Lordships heard a petition by the author of the novel. Prof. N. S. Phadke, challenging the Government's order of forfeiture of the book and demand for a security of Rs. 1,500 under the Indian Press (Emergency) Powers Act.

Their Lordships, Mr. Justice Divatia, Mr. Justice Chagla and Mr. Justice Rajadhyak came to the conclusion that the tendency of the book was clearly to discourage people from taking up commissions in His Majesty's forces and dismissed the petition with costs.

Their Lordships said that it was difficult to get away from the conclusion that there was in the book a steady under-current that it was wrong for the heroine's husband to have taken a commission in the armed forces.

SIR S. VARADACHARI'S ADVICE

Addressing the members of the Tanjore Bar on September 16, Sir S. Varadachari, Judge, Federal Court, stressed the need for lawyers being up-to-date and in touch with the latest developments in law, and urged them to acquire more and more of knowledge, so that they might be able to take advantage of the opportunities that were likely to occur to them in the future. Adverting to the introduction in India of the dual system of law as in England he said that in view of the peculiar position of lawyers in this country, it should be on a voluntary basis. The lawyers in India were not only agents of their clients, but they even fulfilled the function of officers helping in the administration of law, he said.

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEMES

The Government of India are engaged in preparing three schemes of social insurance for the benefit of seamen, coal miners and industrial workers. Legislation for setting up a Statutory Corporation for taking over the administration of the schemes is contemplated. The medical arrangements will be left to the provinces, but the direction in regarding to their standard will rest with the Centre.

The scheme meant for benefiting the seamen will cover sickness, unemployment, injury and old age. It is at present in the preliminary stage and will be put in its proper form by the end of this year. The Government of India have invited Dr. Miss Laura Bodman, an expert attached to the International Labour Office, to study the question. The draft of the scheme will be later placed before the organisation of seamen and shipping companies before the proposals are finalised.

In regard to the scheme for social insurance for coal miners, it is learnt that it will provide for maternity benefits also. The scheme is almost ready and the finishing touches will be given to it after the views of the Tripartite Labour Conference are elicited.

Considerable progress has been made in regard to the social insurance plan for industrial workers. The scheme was originally prepared by Prof. B. P. Adarkar and was later amended in the light of the recommendations made by Mr. Stack and Mr. Rao, two experts of the International Labour Office. It was further revised in the light of the discussions between the Government of India and the interests affected.

WAR RISKS INSURANCE

Following the cessation of hostilities with Japan, the Government of India have decided to terminate the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme with effect from October 1. The War Risks (Factories) Insurance Scheme has been already terminated with effect from September 1. Government's decision on the question of the War Injuries Scheme is expected to be out shortly.

It has been decided that in spite of the termination of the goods and factories schemes, investigation of cases of evasion detected so far or pending should be completed and offenders brought to book. For this purpose, powers will be retained to enable the investigating officers to inspect premises, call for information, compound offences and to generally carry out their duties till the final winding up of the schemes is completed. No entirely new cases of evasion or default will, however be taken up.

EAST AND WEST INSURANCE CO.

"The short-cuts to fortune shall not tempt us," declared Dr. Rm. Alagappa Chettiar, the newly-elected Chairman of East and West Insurance Co., Ltd., addressing the Annual General Meeting in Bombay.

Dr. Chettiar declared: "Before the interests of the policy-holders and shareholders are substantially set right, I shall not take any remuneration for the service I render to the Company. I shall take the last place in the queue of those who want to make money out of the Company."

The Chairman assured that the "extra cost at the top" would be brought to nil. He advocated voluntary (and, if necessary, Legislative interference) establishment of an expenses ceiling.

COMMERCIAL RECIPROCITY

Arrangements on a reciprocal commercial basis are understood to have been entered into between an industrial combine of Indian commercial concerns and its counterpart in the United Kingdom.

Under this arrangement, it is stated, certain important British industrial interests will give facilities for the manufacture of motor-cars, aeroplanes, radio-sets and other goods in India, as part of post-war industrial development.

The relations between Indian and British interests are said to be entirely on "unorthodox lines." Thus the Indian combine will not only have joint Indian and British capital in India, but will have capital interests in Britain with the concerns who have joined hands with them.

TRADE PACT WITH ENGLAND

"India should negotiate a Trade Pact with England, so as to ease the position of the supply of capital goods, and stop the further accumulation of Sterling Balances." So declared Mr. G. D. Birla, a member of the Indian Industrial delegation which toured the U.K. and the U.S., speaking at a luncheon party given in his honour, and Mr. N. R. Sarkar, another member, by Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce at Calcutta on September 24.

Mr. Birla added: "I was rather astonished to find that there are responsible people even in Government circles in Washington who are seriously suggesting that India's Sterling Credits should be scaled down."

"Of course, the U.S. has selfish motives behind such a demand, because she feels that if India is a creditor to England, she would automatically make large purchases from the United Kingdom, rather than from the U.S."

"But even selfish motives should not inspire such a big nation as the U.S. to suggest that England should immorally refuse to discharge her solemn obligation.

"I hope and I have no doubt in my own mind that England will not accept any such advice, which is bound to be strongly resented by Indians."

AMERICAN LOANS FOR INDIA

Sir Chintaman Deshmukh, Governor, Reserve Bank of India, speaking in Bombay, held out the hope that Indian post-war industrialisation could be aided by American loans in the sterling balances remained frozen.

"I do not see any insuperable objection to the United States granting a fair amount to India in advance to be repaid in instalments", he told the American Association of Western India, suggesting that loans might be obtained on the basis of India's trade surplus which could not be divulged at present.

Sir Chintaman thought it possible to find a solution to the American-British-Indian triangle which would result in U.S. loans, should the Bretton Woods plan fall to go through.

Sir Chintaman reviewed India's attempt to loosen her sterling balances, which he put at approximately Rs. 1,400 crores. India needed assets totalling Rs. 750 to 800 crores during the next ten or fifteen years, he estimated.

BRITISH WOMEN M.P.s

"Although the number of women in the new House of Commons has risen from 14 to only 24, I believe that Women are going to play a much bigger part in this Parliament than in any previous one," writes Barbara Castle, who at 33, is one of the youngest Members in the new Parliament. She is also a Councillor at St. Pancras. "For the first time we shall cease to be something of an oddity and be accepted as ordinary, hard-working members. This is what we want, even if we lose some glamour in the process."

For we have come to Parliament to do, what for want of a better word I might call, a "man-sized" job: in short, to represent the interests of all people, men and women, young and old, in our constituencies. Any one who expects us to concentrate on a few domestic issues will have some surprises.

Women have been elected this time for every type of area from London to Tyneside and from North Lanark to Norwich. We have in our ranks a barrister, a journalist, teachers, economists, local councillors and students of international affairs.

We shall raise every type of problem in the House. By our work in this Parliament, I prophesy we shall end once and for all the idea that women can be sent to Westminster to represent only "women's interests."

AIM OF WOMEN'S EDUCATION

The real object and aim of women's education must be to train them to discharge their special responsibilities which they alone can discharge owing to the natural, biological and functional differences between men and women. The mission of women in life is to be good mothers, healthy wives and to build up a cultured home," said Dr. B. B. Dey, Director of Public Instruction, Madras, declaring open the new building of Girls' High School at Tuticorin.

UPLIFT OF VILLAGE WOMEN

Mahatma Gandhi, addressing the Maharashtra Provincial Kasturba Memorial Fund at Poona, said:

"Kasturba was born in a village. She was fond of villages and lived all her early life in a village. This Fund, which is collected in her memory, must, therefore, as I have said from the beginning, be spent in villages for the uplift of village women and girls. If it is spent otherwise, it will make me sad."

"Women in the villages are ignorant and lead a pitiable existence. The burden of the whole family falls on the woman. Her life is a drudgery from morning till night. She has to feed the husband and children and look after their wants. She may sometimes have to walk two or three miles to fetch drinking water and carry it on her head. That water is only sufficient for drinking. There is no question of bathing which is impossible for her for days together. Sanitation does not exist. Dwelling places are hovels. And yet the woman's world is her village home. It is to bring light and health and cleanliness into these homes that the Kasturba Memorial Fund has been founded."

FUTURE OF W.A.C. (I)

I hope the W.A.C. (I) will go on after the war. I can't say now that it will but if I have anything to do with it I shall do my best to see it is kept on as part of the fighting forces after the war," said the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, in an address to recruits at the W.A.C. (I) training centre, Ahmednagar.

Addressing officers who had recently been in Burma, General Auchinleck said: "You and others like you have done a wonderful job. People in England and America and other parts of the world have realised that the war in Burma is just as tough as even the war in Germany or Italy or Africa."

DR. PATTABHI'S HISTORY OF THE CONGRESS

The official history of the Indian National Congress, written by Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya in 1935, is to be brought up-to-date. Dr. Pattabhi has now completed a second volume of 1,200 pages covering the period from 1935 to 1945 which, in Dr. Pattabhi's own words, "is full of memorable events". This new publication will shortly be before the public.

Dr. Pattabhi is also publishing another book "My Study Window in an Unknown Fortress". This book is a day-to-day record of anecdotes and thoughts during his jail life in Ahmednagar Fort and later in Vellore Central Jail.

VAGARIES OF ENGLISH SPELLING

A professor at London University recently speaking on spelling reform suggested that "fish" should be spelt "ghoti". This, he went on to explain quite seriously, was justified because according to ordinary pronunciation 'gh' was the sound of 'f' as in 'rough' 'o' in 'women' sounded as 'i', and 'ti' in 'nation' was the same as the 'sh' in 'fish'.

But then a student at Oxford asked his professor what 'ghoti' spelt. Of course, said the professor, it spells fish. But the student retorted that 'ghoti' is not a word at all, because all the letters are silent—'gh' as in 'though' the 'o' as 'journey' and the 't' as in 'castle'.

A NEWSPAPER CURIOSITY

A newspaper with editorial offices in two capitals, *Paris-Bruxelles*, is a journalistic curiosity of the war. This paper appears in two capitals, Paris and Brussels, and describes itself as "a daily evening international." Its leader writers are French and Belgian, and the leader follows the most important question of the day in either capital, giving preference to the subject-matter for the time being of greatest importance to both capitals. *Paris-Bruxelles* was founded four months ago.

C. R. & THE CONGRESS PRESIDENT

The following correspondence between Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, former Premier of Madras, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Congress President, on Mr. Rajagopalachari's rejoining Congress, will be of public interest:

In a letter, dated August 12, to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Congress President, Mr. Rajagopalachari says:

I write this in pursuance of our conversation at Simla. Now that the points that compelled me to seek freedom of expression of my views through resignation of my membership of the Working Committee have ceased to be in controversy, I desire to serve the Congress duly enrolled as a member. The organisation not being in working order now, I write this to you to declare my acceptance of article 1 and my membership may be recognised in the normal way by you as President. Needless to say my services are ever at your disposal if you deem them to be of any value.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad replied from Gulmarg on August 19 as follows:—

I have just received your letter of the 12th August. I note with the greatest pleasure that you have become a member of the Congress anew. The time of separation was neither pleasant to you nor to us. It has, after all, come to an end and we are forgetting it for ever.

On the invitation of the Congress President, C. R. attended the meetings of the Working Committee at Poona and the A. I. C. C. meeting at Bombay.

MAULANA AZAD AS JOURNALIST

"Azad" is the pen-name of the Congress President, Maulana Saheb, which he took when he started the celebrated political journal *Al Hilah*, "the Crescent", one of the few papers in the history of Indian journalism that exercised influence. At the time of its violent death at the hands of the Government, its circulation had mounted up to 25,000.

U. S. HONOUR FOR VICEROY & C-IN-C

The President of the United States has conferred the Legion of Merit (Degree of Chief Commander), on H. E. the Viceroy, Field-Marshal Lord Wavell, and H. E. the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck. This is the highest honour that can be awarded to non-Americans.

OIL CURE FOR CANCER

Professor Mikhail Nevyadomsky, a young Soviet scientist, has discovered a new method of treating cancer tumour with special fat emulsion obtained from oil.

"In 1930" says Nevyadomsky, "I discovered that naphthalene oil, obtained in Baku, destroys malignant tumours on animals. My experiments showed that hydrocarbons of certain substances of naphthalene oil destroy the nuclei of cancer cells. Rats, in 90 out of 100 cases, were cured of cancer in this way."

"This result, obtained in experiments made on more than 800 animals, induced me to try naphthalene oil on humans."

"In order to avoid embolism of vessels as a result of the injection of the oil, it should be injected in an emulsified state, with the drops of oil small enough to pass easily through very thin capillary vessels. We obtained such an emulsion with the help of ultra sound waves produced by oscillation of a metal rod or quartz at a rate of more than one million oscillations per second."

"As a result of intravenous injections, out of 489 serious cases of cancer of the internal organs which could not be operated upon, we registered improvement in 93 per cent. of the cases."

MILITARY HOSPITALS FOR CIVILIANS

It is learnt that the Government of India are considering the suggestions put forward recently by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. B. C. Roy asking the military authorities to hand over military hospitals for civilian benefit and have circularised the Provincial Governments in this connection.

It is learnt that the Government of India have also asked their Surplus Goods Disposal Board to get into touch with the American Liquidation Commission in the same connection.

The American Military authorities, it may be mentioned here, have built during the war 13 hospitals all over the country with 8,975 seats.

CURE FOR COLD

No one whose tissues are perfectly clean and healthy can catch or develop a cold, writes Dr. Harry Benjamin in "Health for All." The sooner this is realised the better. Colds are pre-eminently the outcome of wrong feeding habits that have led to clogging of the tissues with toxic waste. Any sudden lowering of the bodily vitality (getting wet through, run down, etc.), is a contributory cause. Addictedness to colds is invariably an indication of a state of general toxicity, due to wrong habits of feeding and living. When, however, having studied their diet more carefully people begin to eat more sanely, there will be an automatic diminution in the incidence of colds, without any help or aid whatsoever from medical science. Few will doubt that by far the greatest proportion of the food eaten to-day is starchy and sugary food made from white flour and white sugar, and it is these foods that are the cold producers!

A fast of from one to two or three days—or even longer, if the cold is a severe one—is the surest and quickest way to cure a cold. During the fastest period, either water or fruit juices may be taken, or both. It is also essential that a warm-water enema or douche should be used daily in order to assist the eliminative action via the bowels. A hot bath is also a very valuable aid and can be taken every evening or every other evening, as desired, while the cold is present.

PATIENT AND REST

Rest in bed for convalescent patients sometimes defeats its own purpose, says the *British Medical Journal*.

"Whenever we put a patient to bed," it writes, "we should ask ourselves what we hope to achieve; and it must be something more than a convenience for examination or a substitute for a convalescent room. In every illness, we should ask ourselves how the individual patient reacts to rest in bed. For many, it is a sheer delight, but for others, it is a tedious ordeal which produces a continual mental strain and is much less restful than a discreet amount of activity."

RESERVE BANK AND SCHEDULED BANKS

The Reserve Bank of India has issued the following *communiqué*:

The Reserve Bank has recently issued a circular letter to scheduled banks on the subject of making payment of cheques in cash after normal banking hours. Such a practice, according to the Reserve Bank, is undesirable as it not only involves unfair competition between banks which follow the normal course of business and observe banking hours and those which do not but imposes a heavy strain on the banks staff and leads to delay in the balancing of books.

The Reserve Bank considers it advisable that the depositing public should expect repayment of bank deposits only during usual banking hours. It is also doubtful, from a strictly legal point of view, whether payment of cheques after office hours is payment "in the ordinary course of business" and there is, therefore, a risk of such payments losing the protection provided by Section 85 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. The scheduled banks have therefore been requested to refuse to encash cheques, etc., after the normal banking hours.

THREE PROVINCIAL LOANS

Three Provincial Governments—Madras, the Punjab and the United Provinces—have floated 3 per cent. (1960) loans of the total amount of Rs. 8½ crores. The issue price for each loan is Rs. 99-8.

The proceeds of the loans of the Governments of Madras and the Punjab, of Rs. 3 crores each, will be used for productive capital expenditure, namely, Electricity schemes, Irrigation works, industrial development schemes and advances to local bodies and agriculturists.

The United Provinces loan of Rs. 2½ crores will be utilised for the repayment of an equivalent portion of the consolidated debt due to the Government of India.

NEW ELECTRIC TRAIN SERVICE

A giant scheme costing several crores for the laying out of an electric train service between Mysore and Bangalore (80 miles) is under consideration by the Government of Mysore.

It is learnt that the major reason underlying the above scheme is to obviate the present acute coal shortage and utilise Mysore's abundant electric energy, for the industrial and economic progress of the State.

E. I. RAILWAY

The East Indian Railway proposes to provide eighteen additional trains shortly with a view to improving passenger service. Announcing this at a Press Conference in Calcutta, the Chief Operating Superintendent of the Railway stated that four of the additional trains would be introduced from September 15 and the rest from October 1. The administration would be able to give further relief to the travelling public only when the rolling stock requisitioned for military purposes was released.

RESTORATION OF TRAIN SERVICES

The General Manager, M. and S. M., in the course of a statement, says there is no immediate prospect of restoring the trains which have been withdrawn but that it is hoped that by November some partial restoration may be possible, due consideration being given to those sections of the line where the need is greatest.

N. W. RAILWAY'S LEAD

The North-Western Railway has decided to start 40 new train services on the main and branch lines as from October 1, 1945.

This is the first instalment of restoration of services which had been cut down owing to the exigencies of the war.

RAILWAY EXTENSION IN S. INDIA

As a result of discussion with the Madras Government, the South Indian Railway authorities, have decided to push ahead with plans for the construction of the following lines: Arantangi-Karaikudi; Tanjore-Pattukottai; Dindigul-Gudalur; and Kollangode-Trichur.

ZAINUL ABEDIN A MUSLIM ARTIST

Zainul Abedin, says a writer in *Mysindia*, is a Bengali Muslim of Mymensingh who studied art in the Government Art School in Calcutta and had a distinguished career. In 1943 he evacuated to Calcutta during the general exodus from Burma and stayed on during the entire period when the spectre of famine haunted that unfortunate Province. He must have suffered intensely. It must have been an effort to him to bring himself to sketch what he saw, just as it is an effort for us to believe our eyes when we see the specimens of human skin and bone he has drawn. The urge to sketch must have been insuppressible and excruciatingly painful. But the result is the truthful record of the Bengal famine in a form "more eloquent in its poignant appeal than the most eloquent and impassioned word." The Woodhead report will perhaps be a document only of secondary importance.

CHITTAPROSAD'S SKETCHES

A collection of sketches by Chittaprosad has recently been brought out by the People's Publishing House, Bombay. These depict scenes of famine in Calcutta and in rural Bengal, specially in Midnapore district, witnessed by the artist himself. "I should call them drawings, considering the careful finish of the chiaroscuro in most of them and the dependence on light and shade for plasticity of form. I miss the direct and telling lines of Zainul Abedin. Details are no doubt worked out with greater care in all their gruesomeness."

TWO FAMINE ARTISTS

For a short time during the early stages of the Bengal famine some leading dailies came out with photographs of conditions in that stricken land. Later on, however, for some mysterious reasons these illustrations were discontinued. Then only stray pictures were seen in North Indian dailies, until sketches and drawings by Zainul Abedin and Chittaprosad came into prominence.

PRINCE DULEEPSINHJI AND CRICKET CLUB

Prince K. S. Duleepsinhji Cambridge University and Sussex cricketer, has been appointed Secretary of the Cricket Club of India, Limited. He succeeds Mr. A. A. Jasdenvala who has been Honorary Secretary for the past seven and half years.

Mr. Jasdenvala in an interview with a representative of the Associated Press of India said: "For more than two years I have thought that the Club should have a whole time Secretary, and I consider we are extremely lucky to get such a world-famed cricketer as Duleepsinhji to undertake this task."

"The Club was opened in 1937 and I was appointed Honorary Secretary in March 1933, during which time the Club was about Rs. 13 lakhs in debt. Since then with Sir Homi Mody as President we have wiped out this debt, and the Club is now on a sound financial basis."

GAMA CAN BE BEATEN

Gama's claim to be the world's wrestling champion is questioned by Jeji Goldstein, the well-known all-in wrestler. Referring to a recent challenge by Gama, Goldstein said:

"In India to-day there are several wrestlers who could defeat Gama in a few minutes, but out of respect for the "Old Master" they are reluctant to accept his challenge. Everyone will agree with me that Hamida, who is related to Gama, is the best Indian wrestler to-day."

Goldstein adds that most of Gama's pupils, namely, Hamida, Imam Bux, Mansoon Hussain and Chota Gama are unbeatable in India.

WOMEN'S WORLD RECORD FOR 400 METRES

Mademoiselle Claire Bressoles beat the women's world record for 400 metres, running this distance at Carcassones in 61.9 seconds on September 22. The previous world record was held by the Swedish runner Anna Larsen, with 62.9 seconds.

A NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY

An important step will be taken in equipping India in the matter of scientific and industrial research when the recommendations of a Committee appointed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research finally take shape.

The Committee met at Bombay under the Chairmanship of Mr. Ghulam Mohammad and the following members were present: Dr. Wali Mohammad, Dr. H. J. Bhabha, Dr. Nazir Ahmad, Dr. K. S. Krishnan, Prof. G. R. Paranjpe, Dr. R. M. Chaudhri with Dr. K. N. Mathur as Secretary of the Committee.

The Committee examined the final report on the possibility of establishing a national physical laboratory following the lines of similar institutions in the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. The tentative proposals of the Committee had been circulated to the universities, scientific bodies and eminent scientists abroad and in India. It is stated that these proposals have found whole-hearted support both in India and abroad from eminent scientists and others.

It has been decided to locate the proposed national physical laboratory at Delhi at a site already acquired for the purpose. The building and equipments are expected to cost about Rs. 40 lakhs, while the recurring expenses are estimated to be about eight lakhs annually. It is proposed that the laboratory should have eight sections, including weights and measures and optics.

ARTIFICIAL WEATHER BY ATOMIC BOMBS

One immediate possibility for the atomic explosive is the creation of artificial weather. This should be possible by firing special shells into the upper atmosphere to create vast regions of high and low pressure which might vary the weather as desired. If atomic energy can be controlled, it should replace coal, oil and water as power sources.

PROPAGANDA FILMS

Now that the war is over the production of propaganda films should be dropped and the compulsory exhibition of such films in picture houses should be abolished, said Rai Bahadur Chunilal, President of the Indian Motion Picture Producers Association, in an interview in Bombay.

Speaking of the post-war prospects, Mr. Chunilal thought that the war had made people more cinema-minded. There was need for enlarging the exhibition side. More touring cinemas could be got up.

Mr. M. A. Fazalbhoy said, "I appeal to the producers to have control over our film production in view of our limited studio facilities and the dearth of artists, so that the quality of our films may be maintained. At the same time, we cannot ignore new people anxious to come in the production line. A joint appeal must be made by all concerned in the industry to the Central and local Governments to grant permission to construct more sound stages and cinema houses as also to import adequate equipments to meet the industry's needs."

FILM EQUIPMENT FOR INDIA

Indian films may soon be shown in Britain and the United States. Mr. K. Shorey, of Lahore, one of the four Indian film experts who have spent some weeks studying the British film industry, said that he soon intended to make a film in English and Hindustani of the life of Omar Khayam.

"It will be made in technicolour. One part of it will be produced in Britain with the co-operation of British film studios, and the other part in India", he said.

FILM OF EISENHOWER

Sam Goldwyn is going to film the life of General Eisenhower.

Eisenhower will devote the profits from the film to a foundation to further the cause of the United Nations, while Sam Goldwyn will devote his profits to a foundation to combat intolerance—which leads to war.

MAKING OF CARS AND RADIOS IN INDIA

Arrangements on a reciprocal commercial basis are understood to have been entered into between an industrial combine of Indian commercial concerns and its counterpart in the United Kingdom.

Under this arrangement, it is stated, certain important British industrial interests will give facilities for the manufacture of motor cars, aeroplanes, radio sets and other goods in India as part of post-war industrial development.

The relations between Indian and British interests are said to be entirely on "unorthodox lines". Thus, the Indian combine will not only have joint Indian and British capital in India, but will have capital interest in Britain in the concerns who have joined hands with them.

ASSEMBLY OF MOTOR CARS IN INDIA

The Studebaker Motors, Limited, have entered into an agreement with the Hindustan Motors, Limited, providing for manufacture and assembly and distribution of Studebaker passenger automobiles and trucks in India, Burma and Ceylon.

Hindustan Motors is the 15-million dollar company organised by Birla Brothers, Ltd.

Studebaker initially will ship a complete set of components for assembly by Hindustan Motors. As quickly as possible, the latter will undertake to manufacture various components and later manufacture complete automobiles and trucks.

"HINDUSTAN" CARS

Mr. G. D. Birla revealed that, as a result of his deal with Lord Nuffield for the manufacture of automobiles in India, the first "Hindustan" (as it will be called) will be on the market in about six months' time.

Altogether about 1,000 such cars will then be on sale with the price slightly below that of imported cars. Later, as more "Hindustan" cars are produced, the price will be still less, he said.

AIR TRAVEL MADE SAFE

Safety of peace-time air travel all over the world will be improved from the new methods of fire-fighting in mid-air evolved from the war-time experience of the Royal Air Force.

Many aircraft failed to return from missions against the enemy because of engine fires caused by fuel or hot oil escaping from damaged tanks or pipe-lines. The fuel, it was proved, was usually fired by the ignition system of a still rotating engine.

To combat this, aircrews were instructed in a revised fire drill. The extinguisher system was placed under the voluntary control of the pilot and an automatic warning light indicated to him the presence of fire in the power plant.

As a result of the improvements, it has been demonstrated that not less than 90 per cent. of power-plant fires can be extinguished in flight if the pilot applies the recommended drill.

CALCUTTA—AIR JUNCTION OF THE WORLD

Calcutta will become one of the busiest air junctions the world over if plans of the United States Air Transport Companies mature, says the *Daily Mail* Air Correspondent. United States Companies want Calcutta to be the terminus of their Pacific as well as their Atlantic routes.

The United States State Department have opened negotiations with the Government of India seeking landing rights for American air liners in Calcutta and elsewhere.

NEW YORK—INDIA AIR SERVICE

Four officials of the Trans-Continental and Western Air Lines have left New York for Foryness, Eire, to survey bases and facilities along the recently authorised New York-India air route.

Mr. Thomas B. Wilson, Chairman of the Board of Trans-Continental and Western Airways, said that service to India would start as soon as six transport planes could be transferred from the War Department for conversion into 40-passenger planes.

INDUSTRIALISTS' REPORT

The Indian Industrialists Mission in a report on their visit to the United States and United Kingdom say that prospects are anything but bright about the availability of capital equipment in the immediate future. In both the countries, the market is primarily a seller's market and buyers will have to take their turn. The position, they say, is probably least satisfactory in regard to textile machinery, for which India's need is perhaps the most urgent. There appears to be no chance of getting any for a long time from America while deliveries from England cannot be expected under two years.

The mission consisted of Mr. J. R. D. Tata, Mr. G. D. Birla, Mr. N. R. Sarkar, Mr. A. D. Shroff, Sir Sultan Chinoy, Mr. Laik Ali and Mr. Ajaib Singh.

SHIP-BUILDING IN INDIA

Now that hostilities have ceased and materials will easily be available from foreign countries, the ship-building yard of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company at Vizagapatam will start building ships in the near future.

The keel of the first ocean-going cargo vessel to be built in India will be laid there towards the end of this year. The vessel will be of 8,000 tons and its length will be between 400 and 415 feet and the beam between 52 and 56 feet. The vessel is estimated to cost about Rs. 32 lakhs.

Enquiries made with the Scindia authorities at Bombay reveal that an order for the machinery needed for building of the ship had already been placed in America and its import into this country is awaited.

CESS ON INDUSTRIES

The Central Government, it is learnt, are thinking of levying a small cess on Industries on the basis of hands employed. The fund will be utilised for technical training of workers and for welfare activities of labour particularly housing.

RIVER AND WELL IRRIGATION

The 15th meeting of the Research Committee of the Central Board of Irrigation concluded in Simla, under the Chairmanship of Mr. F. H. Hutchinson, President of the Board. Delegates from various Provinces, Indian States and Ceylon attended.

Welcoming the delegates, Mr. Hutchinson stressed the importance of the work being done by Research Officers in India, and stated that it was very desirable that the recommendations made by the Research Committee, from time to time, be brought to the notice of the Engineer in the field, to ensure that the most economical methods of design and construction were employed in the post-war period.

He further stressed the need to publish an historical account of the research work done in India in connection with waterways and general irrigation problems, a sphere in which a very large contribution to knowledge had been made in this country.

The Committee discussed the subject of "regeneration and absorption in rivers."

-AGRICULTURAL INCOME-TAX BILL

The Agricultural Income-tax Bill, it is understood, has been dropped for the present by the Madras Government.

The Bill which proposed to levy a tax on every person, whose total agricultural income in the Province is not less than Rs. 5,000 per annum, was published in March 21 this year for eliciting public opinion.

Following its publication there were strong criticisms of the measure by the Press and the public.

Sir Alladi Krishnaswamy Aiyar, commenting on the Bill, sounded a note of warning to the Adviser regime. He said: "A measure of this far-reaching importance ought to be undertaken by a popular Government and not by an Adviser regime. 'No taxation without representation' is an elementary principle of the British Constitutional law and usage".

BONUS TO AHMEDABAD MILL WORKERS

The Industrial Court at Bombay in an award in the dispute between the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and the Textile Labour Association of Ahmedabad regarding the payment of bonus to the textile workers of Ahmedabad Mills declares that employees earning less than Rs. 200 per month are entitled to receive one-fifth of their earnings in 1944 irrespective of whether they are at present employed or not those 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 are not entitled to any bonus under the terms of the award.

The court lays down certain conditions under which the bonus will be paid to the workers. The bonus, under the award, will be paid in two instalments and the quantum of bonus to be paid to contract labour is left to the discretion of individual mills. The quantum to be paid to employees who receive more than Rs. 200 per month has been left to the discretion of the individual mills by the court.

VICTORY BONUS FOR MILL WORKERS

The cotton mill workers in Bombay will get a victory bonus equivalent to one-twelfth of their respective total earnings, exclusive of the dearness allowance, during the year ended August 31, 1945. The payment on this account will be approximately Rs. 62,00,000.

This decision was arrived at the urgent general meeting of the Mill-owners' Association, Bombay, recently. The resolution passed at the meeting stated that the bonus should be paid to all workers whose names stood on the muster rolls of the member mills on August 31 and who would continue to be in service until October 15, the date of making the payment.

BEGGARS IN INDIA

The number of beggars in India is about 14 lakhs of whom 6 lakhs are blind, $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs deaf and mute and 1 lakh insane. This was revealed by Mr. J. Barnabar, Organising Secretary, Social Services League, Lucknow in an address on the Beggar Problem.

Analysing the growth of beggary in India, he said that the main factors behind it were unequal distribution, social disorganisation, blind belief in fate, indiscriminate charity and disease. Beggary of the modern type, the speaker observed, was not a legacy of ancient India as many imagined. In the "Varnashrama" system of life mendicants came into being who begged only for themselves, and their "gurus". Beggary was considered a form of discipline of oneself and not a public nuisance.

INDIAN ACHIEVEMENTS IN FAR EAST WAR

The gallantry of Indian troops had saved India, declared the Lord President of the Council, Mr. Herber Morrison, when he spoke in London last month.

Mr. Morrison said that the 14th Army which held the Japanese on the borders of India was a largely Indian army.

"Out of the total strength of just over 1,000,000 the figure given for all our forces in Burma, over 700,000 were the British-Indian Army (predominantly Indian soldiers).

"Indian divisions fought in North Africa, Tunis, Sicily and Italy, but it was in the Far East that her soldiers made their greatest contribution to the victory and it was there that 20 out of 27 Victoria Crosses won went to the men of the Indian Army."

ACHARYA KRIPALANI'S WARNING TO GOVT.

That re-occurrence of another famine in Bengal would be the greatest tragedy for the whole country and that the Bengal Government should take concerted measures to check the disaster was the opinion expressed by Acharya J. D. Kripalani, General Secretary of the Indian National Congress, in an exclusive interview to the United Press.

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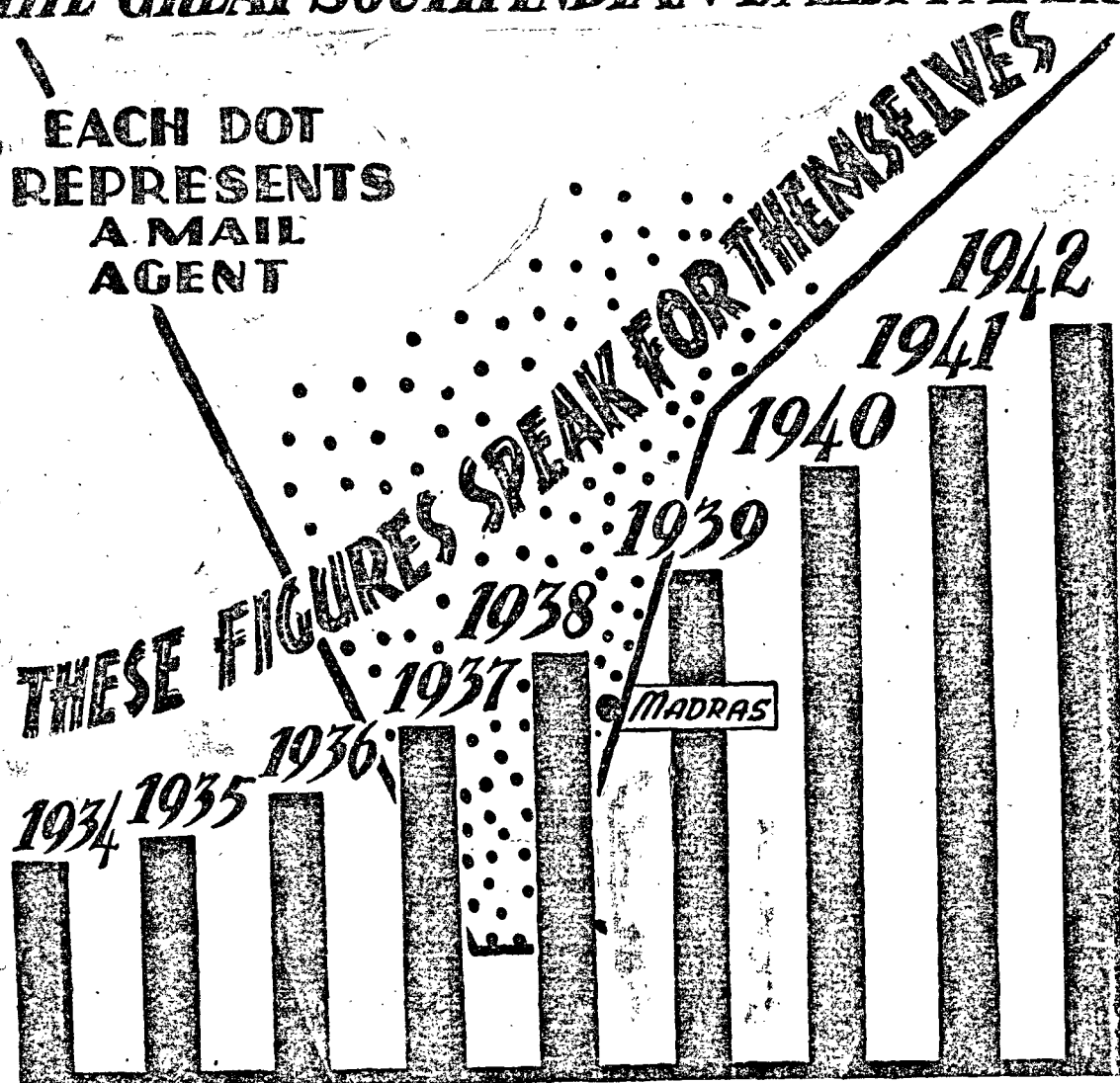
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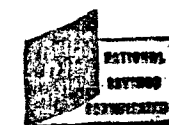
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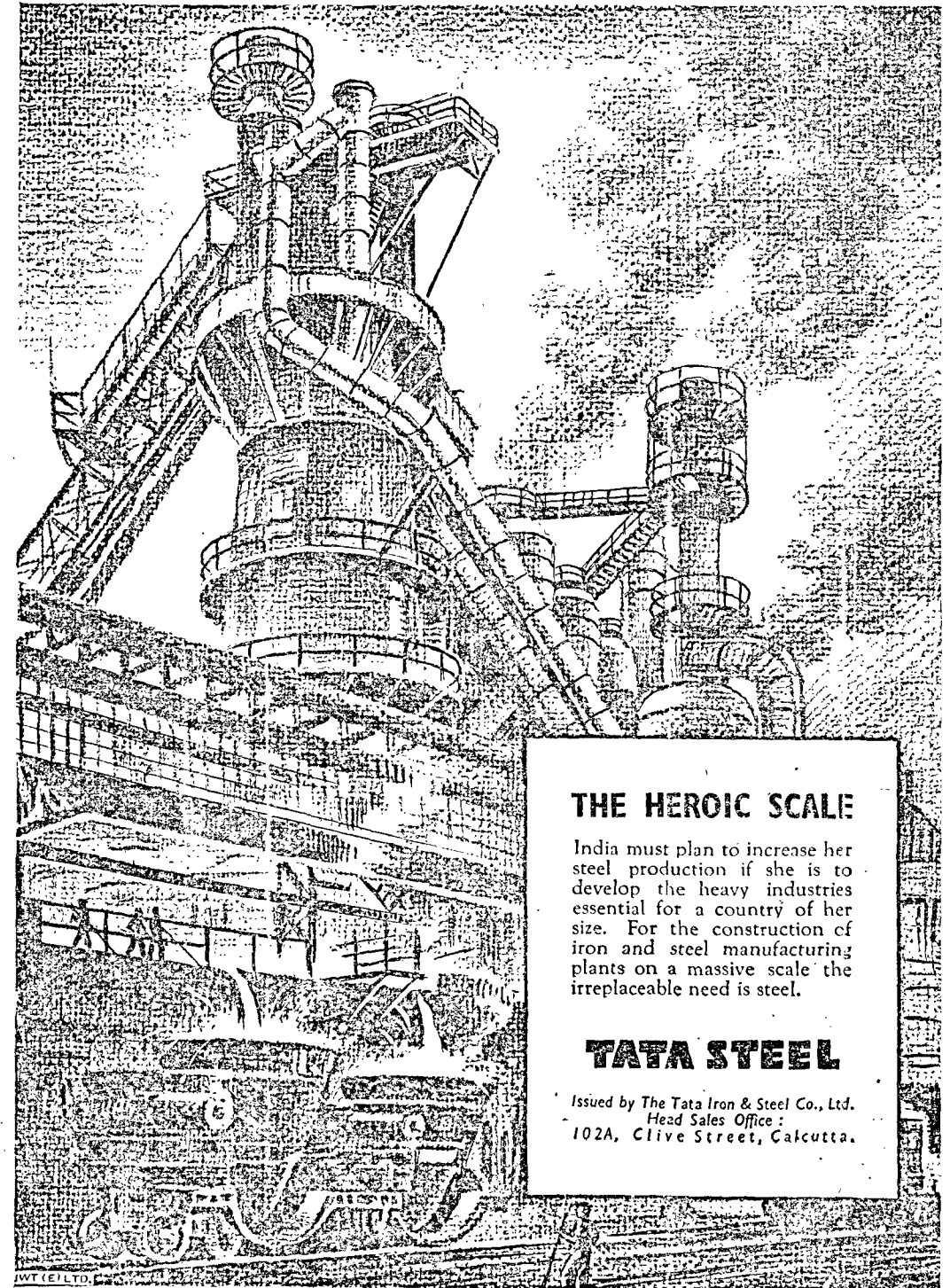
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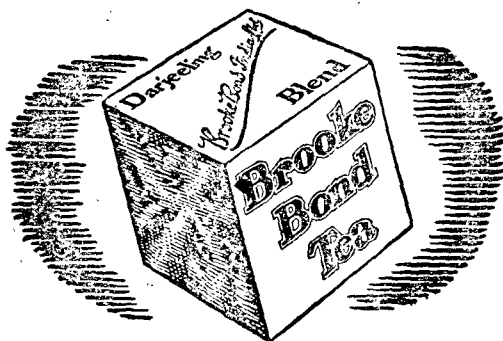
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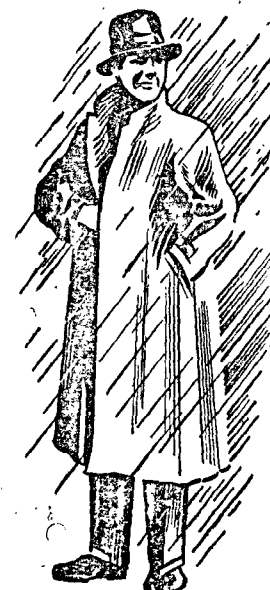
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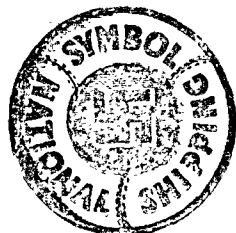
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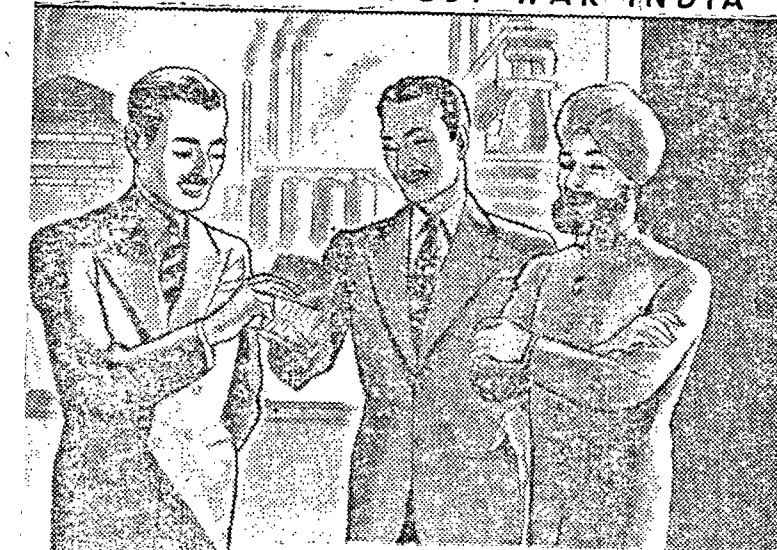
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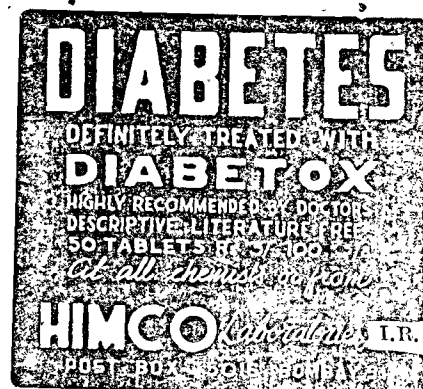
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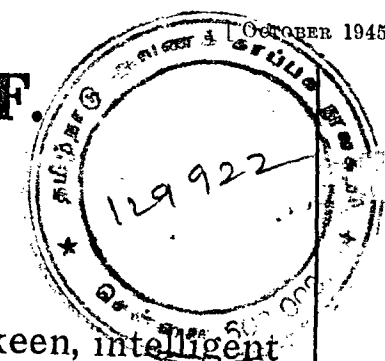
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