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THE INDIAN REVIEW

Edited By Mr. G. A. NATESAN

Vol. 48]

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Edited By Mr. G. A. NATESAN

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JANUARY 1947

[No. 1.]

THE FIGHT FOR A NEW EUROPE

By PROF. R. S. MACNICOL

THIS meeting here is more important than Paris in every respect," remarked Dr. Sih, Chinese Plenipotentiary at the Peace Conference, when he spoke at the Moral Re-Armament Assembly at Caux, Switzerland, this summer.

During the course of three months, some 3,000 delegates from over 30 nations attended the Assembly, bringing news of the advance of an inspired ideology which is matching the materialism of post-war Europe.

Among the delegates to the Assembly were members of six parliaments : ex-Servicemen of many nationalities, ranking from generals to privates ; men who have headed the resistance movements in occupied countries during the war ; industrialists, labour leaders, miners, newspapermen, students.

India was represented by both management and labour, and included Lord Sinha, Mr. Ruiker, member of the All-India T. U. C., Mr. Cedric Mayadas, Director of Agriculture in the U. P., and Mr. Lakshmipat Singhania of J. K. Industries, Cawnpore, Mr. and Mrs. Surya Sena came from Ceylon.

Mr. Peter Howard, former political columnist for Lord Beaverbrook, said, "Moral Re-Armament is democracy's inspired ideology. It is for everyone

everywhere. It offers people of good will the chance to become effective in history, to rise above party, class, race or viewpoint, to change, unite and fight with all the passion God can give for remaking the world.....It is not an organisation but an organism. It is the way we live, and the way we live together. Moral Re-Armament is not cosy revival, it is costly revolution and colossal renaissance."

Major-General Channer, who spent 30 years in India, defined Moral Re-Armament as "a passion to bring the world the inspired democracy designed by God and worked by everyone. This philosophy is that change is a fundamental law of life ; that new men and women are required ; that moral recovery is essentially the forerunner of economic recovery."

Many of the delegates brought news of this new spirit at work. A young Italian, formerly an ardent Fascist, spoke of how the fall of Italy had embittered him. He had wanted to leave his country for ever. "Moral Re-Armament has given me a new love," he said, "and now I want to stay and fight for a free Italy." For him, the new way of living meant an end to his black-marketing activities and the beginning of a spirit of teamwork in the hotel where he works.

From the Rhondda Valley of South Wales came one who has headed Communist activity there for 20 years. As a result of his change, and of teamwork developing between the management and the miners, production has risen, in spite of the shortage of men, from 10,000 tons to 16,000 tons a week. Similar evidence came from the collieries of Scotland and of Yorkshire. A miner from Doncaster said, "There are other ideologies on the march to capture humanity. It is up to millions of ordinary people like ourselves to outmarch them by living and fighting for democracy's inspired ideology throughout Europe."

Seven delegates, four of them labour and three of them management,—came from the great Oerlikon factory where electric locomotives are made in Switzerland, to find the solution for an urgent dispute in their industry. They all pledged themselves to bring the teamwork of Moral Re-Armament into their offices, their workshops and their homes.

A high-ranking Belgian officer came to the Assembly, bringing with him fifty-six officers and men. During their stay they heard some former Nazis from Germany speaking of the sufferings they had caused through their failure to take responsibility for the evils perpetrated by their national leaders. A Belgian whose father in the first war, and whose brother in second had been killed by the Germans, confessed his terrible bitterness, and spoke of how at last, at Caux, he had found the answer to it. He ended by expressing a wish that he might shake hands with the Germans present; and together they committed

themselves to taking this way of understanding back to their respective countries.

"I came here," said a young Frenchman, "with hatred for Germany as an article of faith. In view of what I have seen here and what I have heard this morning, I see that such an attitude is no longer possible."

The basic idea of Moral Re-Armament is men changing. As Dr. Frank Buchman, founder of the movement said in 1939, "we have tried thinking and living as we want. Now try thinking and living as God wants. Try living as we want the other fellow to live. Try living as we want the other nation to live. Then our nation will be the spearhead of a new world order."

And change begins when men begin to be honest with themselves and with each other, in obedience to God. A colliery manager accepted this step in response to the challenge brought to him by two of his miners. This led to the settlement of a serious strike which was holding up production during war time. A further step was taken when the manager agreed with the union leader that they should meet together regularly to plan their work in the best interests of the workers and the industry. Their insight and initiative is an illustration of what the ordinary man can have and can do when democracy is inspired by God.

In a sense there is nothing new in Moral Re-Armament. Its truths have been known to mankind for centuries. But it is one thing to know truths: it is another to put them into practice. The answer that was demonstrated again and again at Caux was that obedience to the voice of God generates a moral and spiritual force that

is strong enough to change human nature and transform human relationships.

Again, it is one thing to have this as an individual experience. It is another to relate it to the needs of the nation. In M.R.A. there are men and women who have given their lives to bring God's answer to national needs. In every nation there are people of goodwill who have no hate for other nations. But goodwill is not enough. Such people become the tools or victims of unscrupulous men who work for disunity and class-war. If we have no common plan of action, we have no answer to the plans of the materialists.

But to-day, Moral Re-Armament is bringing men everywhere into the great discovery that God has a plan; for every home, for every business, for every nation God has the over-arching Plan, and those who accept God's level of living on a basis of absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love, are becoming centres of harmony and creative living in the world to-day. In the words of Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, who saw the work of M.R.A. in San Francisco:

"I am confident that there is no problem facing my country to-day which could not be solved by men of statesmanship and vision inspired with this spirit."

COUPLAND'S PROPAGANDA

BY PROF. K. A. NILAKANTA SASTRI

INDIA is marching under omens not all favourable into an era much unlike any she has known in her long history. The second World War and her part in it have given a push to events which are moving at a pace hitherto unknown. For the first time books on India and her problems soon grow out of date, and for all the vogue and influence they commanded some time ago, the ideas Professor Coupland put forward in his *Report on the Constitutional Problem in India* strike one as curiously misplaced after the declaration of policy by the Cabinet Mission and the formation of the Interim Government. And the *Re-Statement** now under review, is but 'the gist of the *Report* reproduced in summary form.' However, it purports to be more, for 'the

* India: A Restatement. By Sir Reginald Coupland. Oxford University Press, 1945. Price 12s. 6d.

historical background is now sketched in, and more attention is paid to other than constitutional questions.' The reader will see that the new book is at once shorter and more eloquently written; but he will also note with regret that whatever is new in it is calculated propaganda which throws to the winds the deliberate restraint that marked the utterances in the *Report*. If discerning readers of the longer work suspected that behind the facade of objectivity, its writer entertained a feeling of active hostility to the Congress party and all that it stood for, their suspicions stand fully justified by the more outspoken expressions of the *Re-statement*. The author is never oblivious of the strength of the cause of the Congress; but this consciousness seems only to stimulate him all the more to use his great intelligence to devise ways of presenting it in the

worst possible light and to exaggerate the shortcomings of the leaders of the Congress and extenuate those of its opponents.

Coupland interprets India's past in the light of his present preoccupations, and his history ignores the factors of unity and stresses those of discord. 'India and China, . . . might well be regarded as continents in themselves, and India even more so than China' (p. 1). 'The main reason why the Moslems so easily obtained their hold in India was the failure of the Hindu Kingdoms to combine against them. In the Middle Ages, at any rate, Christian Europe did better in this respect.' (p. 6). Notice the stress on the easy conquest of India which is not a fact, and the contrast of Hinduism and Christianity in the second sentence. Again can anything be more mischievous as propaganda than the subtle colouring in the following estimate of the Mogul age. 'All in all, the Mogul age was the greatest age that India had known in modern history, and more than any other it made life tolerable for the Indian people. But its boons were bought at a price. For it was in the Mogul period that Northern India was finally submerged in the tide of Moslem Conquest which had ebbed and flowed for centuries past; and it was the greatness of the Mogul emperors that planted in the minds of Indian Moslems the conviction that while they now belonged to India, India now belonged to them.' (p. 8). It is needless to multiply instances. Mr. Coupland does not waste his words, and every word that he writes in the forty pages of the 'historical background' serves fully the purpose of setting

up Moslem against Hindu, and British India against the States.

The review of more recent events is also set to a similar key. No opportunity is missed to drag in old and forgotten speeches to emphasise the disunity of India, the unsuitability of representative government to Indian conditions, and the necessity of separate electorates to counteract 'the weakness of the Moslem position.' (p. 105, 180). The British Raj, it is pointed out, though not government by the consent of the governed, was certainly government with their acquiescence, and 'in stressing the want of political liberty, the value of civil liberty for the great multitude of ordinary folk is apt to be forgotten.' (p. 50). To realize the extent of civil liberty in India under the British, one is invited to think of Nazi Germany, and the reader is discreetly reminded that political liberty was but the pre-occupation of a small minority of the educated classes having little in common with 'the great multitude of ordinary folk'. 'The idea of a 'civil war' had been an almost inconceivable idea as long as British rule was still unquestioned, but now many Indians were saying it was coming.' (p. 187.) British obligations regarding defence and to the States and minorities are stressed. p. 202.) Both Mr. Jinnah and Mr. Gandhi were demanding that the British Government should deal with the Hindu-Moslem problem for them, and "by methods that were equally impracticable. 'Divide and Quit' meant imposing partition by force. 'Quit India' meant leaving her peoples to fight it out." p. 234.) That is Britain's dilemma, and Coupland is totally ignorant or

deliberately forgetful of the part of the Britisher in engineering its accentuation.

Here are some specimens of Coupland's estimates of persons and movements. B. G. Tilak was a Brahmin of Maharashtra, who headed the extremist movement in Western India, started a cult of Shivaji, the famous Maratha rebel against Mogul rule. Moslem to him were *mlechchas* or foreigners' (pp. 94-5). Gandhi is a 'small, frail, ascetic, subtle-minded evangelist' in whom 'Indian nationalism had obtained a most formidable champion,' who could easily rouse an ignorant and excitable Indian mob to defy the law' but 'not so easily impose on it the doctrine of *ahimsa*; and the turbulence and anti-British feeling he aroused was one of the causes of the outbreak in the Punjab which culminated in the tragedy of Amritsar.' (p. 118) Of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru we are told: 'A master of fluent English, he has been mainly responsible for the drafting of the long series of resolutions in which the Congress has expounded its policy to the world at large. He is personally devoted to Mr. Gandhi, but he does not share all his opinions. He is the leader of the Congress Left, a Socialist, an agnostic, and not a pacifist. He spoke of the imminent crisis in Europe as an opportunity for the Congress to attain its goal.' (p. 151.) On the morrow of their electoral Victory in 1937, many of the rank and file of Congressmen 'behaved as if they were a ruling caste, as if they owned the country,' 'which made a deep impression on the minorities.' (p. 175.)

One of the very few compliments to Hindu politicians which Coupland permits himself to offer is his praise of the Sapru

Committee for something which they did not do, but which apparently Coupland finds it suitable to his argument to claim that they did. Coolly ignoring the essential conditions with which the recommendation was occupied, he asserts that the Committee recommended that eighty per cent of the seats in the Central Assembly should be shared equally between the Moslems and the Caste Hindus, and hails it as 'its most striking recommendation for the permanent constitution.' (p. 269) In fact as every one knows the Committee suggested this only in case joint electorates were accepted by the League, and they added that if there were to be no joint electorates, the Hindus were to be free 'not merely not to agree to the claim for parity of representation but to ask for a revision of the Communal Award.'

Altogether, Coupland's sympathies are more with the Moslems and the League, generally against the Hindus and the Congress. There is a great deal of careful suppression and selection that marks the whole of his narrative from beginning to end, and one of his readers at least does not think that he has rendered constitutional progress in India easier by his advocacy of the fantastic ideas of an Agency Centre and a three tier constitution.

The book concludes with a moving appeal to Indians to remember the good and forget the ill that has come of the fate which has brought India and Britain together, and to continue that connection in some form in the future; while we may share the author's wish, we cannot say that his book makes a contribution towards its realization.

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

A Constituent Assembly for framing a suitable constitution for an independent India has been the dream of the Congress for many years past. So far back as 1922, Mahatma Gandhi made the demand for such an Assembly composed of the "freely chosen representatives" of the people of India. The demand was officially adopted by a resolution passed at the Faizpur Congress of 1936. Since then this method of constitution making has been accepted by the major political parties and leaders of the country. And when the British Cabinet Mission in May last propounded their scheme providing for such a machinery the Congress decided to accept it wholeheartedly in spite of its many obvious defects. The conditions embodied in the declaration were by no means satisfactory but the Constituent Assembly was the one dominating relieving feature to ensure a compromise settlement; and the Congress decided to work it for all it was worth for achieving an agreed constitution for India.

Meanwhile, every conceivable obstacle was thrown in the way. For some reason or other the Muslim League and those in authority attempted to delay the meeting, and in spite of definite assurances, efforts were made to sabotage the plan. When the Elections for the Assembly were all over and the very date of the meeting had been announced, fresh troubles were created and the scheme threatened to go awry. On top of all came H. M. G.'s statement of December 6, making confusion worse confounded. But the Congress stood firm and was determined that the Assembly should meet at the appointed day at any cost.

And so on December 9 the Constituent Assembly met at the appointed hour in the Council Chamber at Delhi. 205 chosen representatives, including 9 women, from all Provinces were present. The members of the Muslim League did not attend. But seldom has such a gathering of leaders

representing varied parties and interests met under the same roof to discuss and decide issues of such far reaching importance. It was a historic and momentous gathering in every way.

The first two sittings were presided over by Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha who was elected to temporary chairmanship because of his age and parliamentary record. Dr. Sinha is the oldest parliamentarian to take part in the Assembly, having entered the old Imperial Legislative Council at the inauguration of the Morley-Minto reforms in 1910. Installed by the Congress President Acharya Kripalani, Dr. Sinha delivered a learned address, after reading the deeply impressive messages from the Governments of the U. S. A., China and Australia. It was felt there was no such message from London.

Dr. Sinha in his inaugural address held up "a constitution reared for immortality" as the ideal before the Assembly and drew attention to the American Constitution which, it had been claimed, embodied this ideal, and said this Constitution was one which should be carefully studied by the Assembly, not necessarily for wholesale adoption but for judicious adaptation to India's requirements.

Pointing out that the American Constitution was based on "a series of agreements, as well as a series of compromises," he declared that reasonable agreements and judicious compromises are nowhere more called for than in framing a Constitution for a country like India.

The Assembly unanimously elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as its permanent Chairman. There were no other contestants, and the tributes paid to him by speakers from different blocs of the house were the most moving heard in recent times. Mrs. Sarojini and Sir S. Radhakrishnan and others bore eloquent testimony to the Chairman's fitness for the great task ahead of the house. Mr. Frank Anthony and Khan Ghaffar Khan spoke in a forthright manner

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THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

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which deeply impressed the house. Sir Sarvapalli's speech on the occasion was a classic performance alike for the dignity of phrasing and loftiness of thought (See page 42) He spoke of the gentleness, patience and fairmindedness of Rajen Babu and concluded with the hope that by his persuasive ability the Assembly's permanent chairman would be able to bring the Muslim League into the Assembly.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, after thanking the Assembly in Hindustani, in a brief and modest speech in English assured them all that the rights of every citizen of this country, to whatever community he belonged, would be guaranteed by statute. "We must struggle for the freedom to be free", said Dr. Rajendra Prasad, "and in that struggle whatever obstacles were encountered would be determinedly removed."

The session, in the absence of the League members and those representing the States, confined itself mainly to routine business, framing rules of procedure and appointing various special committees for negotiating with the States' representatives and other purposes. But the *piece de resistance* of the Session was Pandit Nehru's resolution defining the fundamental objectives of the proposed independent Sovereign republic. The Pandit's speech was a grand performance and those who listened to it were struck by its powerful and persuasive appeal. Even critics of the Congress like Dr. Jayakar and Dr. Ambedkar paid high tributes to the statesmanlike utterance.

The final draft of Pandit Nehru's resolution stood as follows:

"Wherein this Constituent Assembly declares its firm and solemn resolve to proclaim India as an independent, sovereign Republic and to draw up for her future governance a Constitution, the territories that now comprise British India, the territories that now form the Indian States, and such other parts of India as are outside British India and the States, as well as such other territories as are willing to be constituted into the independent sovereign India, shall be a Union of them all, and

"Wherein the said territories, whether with their present boundaries, or with such others as may be determined by the Constituent Assembly

and thereafter according to the law of the Constitution, shall possess and retain the status of autonomous units, together with residuary powers, and exercise all powers and functions of Government and administration, save and except such powers and functions as are vested in, or assigned to, the Union, or as are inherent or implied in the Union or resulting therefrom; and

"Wherein all powers and authority of the sovereign, independent India, its constituent parts and organs of Government, are derived from the people; and

"Wherein shall be guaranteed and secured to all the people of India justice, social economic, and political; equality of status, of opportunity, and before the law; freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, vocation, association and action, subject to law and public morality; and

"Wherein adequate safeguards shall be provided for minorities, backward and tribal areas, and depressed and other backward classes; and

"Wherein shall be maintained the integrity of the territory of the Republic and its sovereign rights on land, sea, and air according to justice and the law of civilised nations, and this ancient land attain its rightful and honoured place in the world and make its full and willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind."

Pandit Nehru exhorted the Assembly to look upon the resolution as a solemn pledge to their people which they should redeem in the constitution they would frame. Appealing to those who should rightly be present in the Constituent Assembly, but who were not, to participate and help in the task that lay ahead of them, Pandit Nehru said that in working for the freedom of India, none should function as a party, but that everyone should be above his party or group.

Pandit Nehru said:

We approach the world in a friendly way. We want to make friends with all countries. We want to make friends, in spite of the long history of conflict in the past, with England also.

Pandit Nehru made it clear that India's Constitution would be on democratic lines, and added,

I stand for Socialism, and I hope India will stand for Socialism, and that India will go towards the Constitution of a Socialist State.

A number of speakers followed supporting Pandit Nehru's resolution while there were others sponsoring amendments. Dr. M. R. Jayakar sought postponement of the

"declaration of objectives" to a later date so as to enable representatives of the Muslim League and of the Indian States to consider Pandit Nehru's resolution.

Dr. Jayakar's resolution moved in the form of an amendment to Pandit Nehru's resolution, stated:

"This Assembly declares its firm and solemn resolve that the constitution to be prepared by this Assembly for the future governance of India shall be for a free and democratic sovereign State; but with a view to securing, in the shaping of such a constitution, the co-operation of the Muslim League and the Indian States, and thereby intensifying the firmness of this resolve, this Assembly postpones the further consideration of this question to a later date, to enable the representatives of these two bodies to participate, if they so choose, in the deliberations of this Assembly."

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, supporting Dr. Jayakar's amendment had not the slightest doubt about the future evolution of the social, political and economic structure of this country.

"I know to-day", he said, "we are divided politically, socially and economically. We are in warring camps and I am probably one of the leaders of a warring camp, but with all this I am convinced that given time and circumstances, nothing in the world will prevent this country from becoming one, and with all our castes and creeds, I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that we shall in some form be a united people (cheers), I have no hesitation in saying that notwithstanding the agitation of the League for the partition of India, some day enough light will dawn upon Muslims themselves and they too will begin to think that a United India is better for everybody. (Cheers)."

One of the most significant contributions to the debate was that made by Sir N. Gopalaswami Iyengar who entered a strong plea for wholehearted support of Pandit Nehru's resolution and urged the house to adopt it within the course of the present Session.

Sir N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar observed that passing of the resolution was a necessary preface to all future noble efforts of the Assembly. Dwelling on the inherent powers of the House, he incidentally referred to the grouping question and declared:

"Going to the Federal Court is absolutely useless and so far as I can see, it will solve none of our troubles."

Earlier, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru supported Dr. Jayakar's amendment, but said: "We are prepared to take into account all that is reasonable, but we cannot agree in any circumstances to allow one party to decide the fate of this Assembly."

Rev. Nichols-Roy strongly opposed the inclusion of Assam in Group C. when he spoke in support of the motion. S. Biswanath Das and S. R. K. Sidhwa also supported the resolution.

An equally significant speech was Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer's. "Neither the Muslim League nor the Indian States would have a place in the Constituent Assembly", he said, "unless they subscribed to the principle of a single Indian Union in the terms of the Cabinet Mission's Statement."

Strongly supporting Pandit Nehru's resolution and opposing Dr. Jayakar's amendment Sir Alladi said it was inconceivable that any constitution could be framed without a directing objective and the resolution before the House formulated such a directing objective. In doing so it followed the practice of other Constituent Assemblies.

Indeed the consensus of opinion was in favour of the Pandit's resolution and adopting it at this very session. But in deference to wishes of some leading members, and with a view to pave the way for the League's co-operation it was decided to adjourn final consideration to the 20th January. The house, however, expressed itself in no uncertain terms against H. M. G.'s latest statement of December 6, which it felt had nullified the original declaration by its uncalled for interpretation or interpolation in total disregard of the spirit of the Mission's plan.

RAW MATERIAL OF INDIAN HISTORY

BY SIR MAURICE GWYER

FOR the very early history of India we have to rely on the archaeologists; and, valuable as their work has been, they themselves will tell you that they are only at the beginning of their task. But for the later periods, written records of all kinds are the raw material of the historian. Many of these are public custody, but there is also a great wealth of material to be found in the letters and memoranda of private individuals, and in local records.

The keeping even of public records has often left much to be desired but until the establishment of the Indian Historical Records Commission, there was no organization of any kind covering the whole of India which interested itself in the preservation of private manuscripts. The Commission was set up in 1919 and its contribution towards the creation of public interests in historical records and the stimulation of research has been very substantial. Nevertheless, there are still many Provinces which have no organized record offices: and even where these exist they often provide no facilities for research scholars by means of reference books, calendars and indexes. But one of the main objects of the Commission was to organize a survey of records of all kinds with a view to rescuing valuable manuscript records in private custody from the ravages of time, of insect pests and other destructive agencies, including, it must be admitted, man himself.

In 1942, the Commission was reconstituted and, at its meeting in that year in Mysore, it decided that regular machinery

should be set up throughout India for the purpose of salvaging documents in private custody. The World War was raging at the time and money was difficult to find for purposes more appropriate to times of peace. Hence no Provincial Government, except in the Punjab, found itself able to act on the recommendations of the Commission. The Commission, however, taking into consideration the great urgency of the matter and especially the dangers arising from the demand for old documents for pulping and remaking into paper, decided to set up temporary committees to carry on the work until the Provincial Governments found themselves able to take over the responsibility at a later date.

In 1943, ten *ad hoc* Regional Survey Committees were set up. These covered all the Provinces, Assam being grouped with Bengal for the time being, and Sind with Bombay. Many Indian States also showed themselves eager to assist, and committees were set up in a number of States, large and small including Hyderabad, Baroda, Mysore, Travancore, and no less than fourteen others.

As I have said, the Government of the Punjab was the first to establish a permanent committee; but the Central Government came to the rescue of the Commission by extending financial help towards the carrying out the work of the temporary committees in the other Provinces. Government have also been of much assistance to the Commission by enabling its work and that of the Provincial Committees to become more generally

known. This has been done through the agency of All India Radio and the Government's Press Information Bureau, with very valuable results.

The written records of every country, whether they are in public or private hands, form part of that country's national heritage. I do not suppose there is any country in the world where such records have not, at some period or other, been in danger of loss or destruction through ignorance or neglect; but as appreciation of their importance grows and people become more and more interested in their own history, organizations like the Indian Historical Records Commission have been set up in most civilized communities and for the same purpose.

The growth of a school of modern Indian historians has been remarkable, and comprehensive schemes for the writing of Indian history through the combined efforts of groups of historians are now being undertaken. But no historian can write true history unless the original materials are available and unless he knows where to put his hand upon them.

There are ancient and aristocratic families in India, as everywhere else, who have preserved valuable collections of important documents from generation to generation. Too often, however these have been found by the Commission to be ill-kept and ill-cared for, sometimes only preserved in wooden boxes, sometimes, merely tied into bundles and wrapped in cloth. It is to be feared that many documents have been lost or irretrievably damaged in the course of years; but many could still be rejuvenated

by the application of modern scientific processes.

The havoc wrought by white ants is familiar to all of us, but it is not so generally known that some insects which make their home among ancient manuscripts are not even visible to the naked eye and can only be detected by a microscope. Insect-life is indeed responsible for much destruction, nor has any race of insects yet been discovered which knows how to distinguish between a valuable manuscript and a worthless one. It is a not uncommon practice among some more prudent owners of manuscript to put "neem" leaves between the sheets of paper; but I am told that the research laboratory of the Imperial Records Office has satisfied itself that the insecticidal properties even of highly concentrated "neem" extract are not as effective as is commonly believed.

But it is not only living creatures which can destroy a manuscript. The direct rays of the sun have been found to be as injurious as inundation by water. Humidity promotes the growth of mildew and various types of fungus. The alternate absorption of moisture during the monsoon and its drying out during the cold weather causes brittleness and a steady deterioration of paper. In parts of India, where the climate is very dry, paper requires to be humidified at intervals; and where humidity is so great as to produce mildew and fungus, fumigation from time to time is required. In great cities there is the further danger of acids and gases present in the atmosphere,

In times past many valuable manuscripts of all kinds have been exported to foreign countries, because no legislation existed which would enable them to be preserved in the land of their origin; and it must be regretfully admitted that very often they have been far better looked after than in their old homes. With the growth of national consciousness, and one might also add, the national conscience in such matter, it is to be hoped that all measures taken by governments in India, both Central and Provincial, for the preservation and protection of these national treasures will receive an ever-increasing support from Indian citizens of every class and community.

There is a great deal of romance about collections of old manuscripts; and there must be many collections in India, as in other lands, in which a researcher can never be certain that he may not come unexpectedly upon some hidden treasure beyond all price. Let me give one or two examples of what I mean from other countries.

At the beginning of the last century, a German scholar discovered in the Vatican Library in Rome a manuscript of the Institutes of Gaius a famous work on Roman Law of the classical period, of which no copy had ever before come to light. About fifty years ago near the site of the old Greek town of Oxyrrhynchus in Upper Egypt buried heaps of town rubbish were discovered and preserved for fifteen hundred years by the dryness of the sand and were found to contain, among much of course which was quite worthless, very important and

hitherto unknown fragments of classical Greek authors; and also what might be described as the contents of numerous wastepaper baskets, including household bills and accounts, letters exchanged between friends, even invitations to dinner; in short, material from which an extraordinary vivid picture could be constructed of the domestic life and habits of the people of that particular region. And only last spring, in a private library in the North of England, a volume was discovered containing pirated copies of nine of Shakespeare's plays, all published during his lifetime, of which no other copy was known to exist in England, though I believe that there is one in the United States. This of course, was the case of a book, not a manuscript; but it shows how a rarity of great value (it has since been sold for Rs. 15,000) can lie hidden and unsuspected for centuries in private ownership.

Why should not similar discoveries be made in India also? The scholar and the archivist will always pray that such miracles will one day happen to him; and I think that it was the late Mr. G. K. Chesterton who once observed that the most remarkable thing about miracles is that they do sometimes happen.

I venture, therefore, as the Vice-Chancellor of a University and numbering scholars and historians among my friends not only in Delhi, but in other Universities also, to invite the attention of the public to the problems which arise in connection with the preservation of documents in private custody. I am perfectly certain that this generation will never be forgiven by the generations which come after if all these valuable national treasures are allowed to be lost or are damaged beyond repair by neglect or indifference.—Broadcast from Delhi.

CHINA IN THROES

PROF. S. B. MOOKERJI

WHILE the gaping wounds sustained during the 8 year blood-bath (1937-45) still bleed, China finds herself in the midst of a maelstrom far more harmful and devastating in its effects with the catastrophe referred to above.

The future of China is on the knees of the gods to-day just as it was in those dark days when the unrelenting pressure of the enemy from the East kept her armies almost perpetually on the retreat and threatened her sovereignty, nay her existence itself.

The Communist Kuomintang dispute after a period of quietus during the Japanese War reared its head after that War till at last it has developed into a full fledged civil war. Disagreement over fundamentals notwithstanding, the communists and the Kuomintang sank their differences in the face of a common enemy and made tremendous sacrifices for the preservation of national existence. General Chu Teh, one of China's top-ranking communist leaders, says, "communist troops had engaged 69 per cent of Japanese troops in China and 75 per cent of puppet troops fighting for Japan." According to Stuart Gelder the communists "liberated 320,000 square miles of China and have brought freedom to 90,000,000 people of 200,000,000 people in occupied territories."

That all was not well with China and that the gulf between the communists and the Kuomintang had not been bridged—gained currency even during the pendency of the Japanese war. Reports of major clashes between these two have also been heard.

Of the foreign powers some are pro-communist while others pro-Kuomintang in their sympathies. Reports from some quarters indicate that it is they who stand in the way of a satisfactory solution of the communist-Kuomintang problem. It was even alleged some months back that the Chungking representative of one of the Great Powers was primarily responsible for the failure of all attempts of solving the problem.

Such allegations may be true or may not. It is however certain that unless there is a satisfactory solution of the communist-Kuomintang dispute, we may have to hear in the not remote future of a 'Chinese Jinnah and a 'Chinese' Pakistan. The factors that have made such a culmination possible in India, exist in China as well.

While the war with Japan was still raging with unabated fury, reports from China indicated that rifts were visible in the lute of communist-kuomintang rapprochement. Thus, for example, the North China correspondent of the *London Times* reported in November, 1943, that the Chungking Government had blockaded the areas adjoining those occupied by the communist forces. Brooks Atkinson wrote in the *New York Times*, Oct. 31, 1944, "the Chinese Communists have good armies which are now fighting guerilla warfare against the Japanese.....the Generalissimo regard these armies (i.e., not the Japanese) as the chief threat to his supremacy.....For several years he has immobilised 300,000 to 500,000 Central Government troops to blockade the communists. . . . Th Generalissimo is determined to maintain his group of ageing reactionaries in power until

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he war is over, when it is commonly believed, he will resume his war against the Chinese communists without distraction." Two months later in December, 1944, Mr. A. Avarin indicted the same Government on the following counts:—

(a) that its policy was dominated by reactionary militarists and defeatists who 'play the role of a kind of Mikhailovitch.'

(b) that of the 800,000 puppet troops working for Japan 90 per cent were ex-Kuomintang army personnel whose generals were 'serving as 'Quislings.'

(c) that far from helping the people to develop China's resources, the Government tolerated "unrestrained "speculation."

(d) that Generals like Ho Yir-ching, who are in the confidence of the Generalissimo, insisted upon employing the best-equipped Kuomintang troops to blockade the eighth Route and New Fourth (communist) troops in North China rather than fight the Japanese.

(e) that high Kuomintang officials were sabotaging the war efforts by creating obstacles in the path of a communist—Kuomintang harmony and the establishment of a coalition Government.

The Kuomintang has not as yet officially repealed its anti-communist laws under which membership of the communist party is a capital offence. With the characteristic obstinacy due to shortsightedness of a totalitarian dictatorship Chungking fails to realise that during the eight-years of Japanese war the communists have gained an immense accession of strength. Its supporters—political and military—have greatly increased in number. Under most adverse conditions and without any extraneous help they have steadily gone from strength to

strength and considerably added to their territory behind the Japanese lines. They have organised millions of people with great reserves of trained manpower at a time when there was a steady deterioration in the morale and general condition of the kuomintang troops.

The communist demands during the war years can by no means be regarded as immoderate. They demanded the withdrawal of the military blockade, the distribution of the Lend-lease materials to the communist and Kuomintang troops on a basis of equality, the liquidation of the totalitarian dictatorship and the installation of an all-party government. But all their agitation in these directions have been cries in the wilderness.

The programme of the Chinese communist party is a very modest one indeed. Its name, Kungchintang, does not convey the same idea as the English word 'communism.' It should rather be translated as "Share-in-production party." From a historical point of view, the Chinese communist movement is the logical successor "to the many abortive peasant uprisings of the past century". The kungchintang, in the words of Edgar Snow, at the moment stands "upon a moderate agrarian-reform platform, with a Marxist colouration" (*The Pattern of Soviet Power*, p. 134). It wants equalisation and not collectivisation of land ownership, social ownership of heavy industries (Chinese railways and communications are already state-owned and all natural resources except the land; but with a scope for private enterprise and constitutional government with equal suffrage for all classes. Even under

ideal conditions the realisation of the programme would take at least one generation. There seems to be no reason therefore why the communist and the Kuomintang could not work together during the period of transition.

There is however a fly in the ointment. Both the rivals aim at political power and the civil war today is "a continuation of the long internal struggle for power." It is, in the last analysis, "a continuation of politics". A leading member of the Chinese Party told the American author and journalist Edgar Snow as far back as 1938, "We must struggle for leadership everywhere and at all times. We do not deny that. A political party that does not lead has no right for existence."

A chief obstacle in the path of communist-Kuomintang harmony is the communist-problem of the latter. They fear that given the opportunity, the communists will set up such a strong government in the areas occupied by them that it will not be possible for the central Government to control it. They say, and with truth, that once the anti-communist laws are rescinded and the legality of the party recognised on a constitutional basis giving it equal privileges with the Kuomintang, it would never be possible to suppress the communists. The Kuomintang people said, "After the war the communists will go on agitating and stirring up the mob to demand universal suffrage and popular elections and we shall never get rid of them."

A fundamental difference in policy and outlook separates the parties. In the words of Edgar Snow, "Chiang's nationalists differ from the communists in that they have

always sought ways and means of maintaining power by keeping the peasants out of politics—they have never held a popular election in even one county—whereas the communists perforce have had to find methods of getting the peasants actively into politics, of enlisting the mass of the people behind them in order to sustain and strengthen themselves" (The Pattern of Soviet Power, p. 133).

A lasting agreement between the Kuomintang Generalissimo Chiang-ki-shek and the communist leader Mao Tsetung seems possible on either of the two conditions, *viz.*, that the communists sign a self-denying Ordinance in the shape of surrendering their army to the Kuomintang and abandon their bid for leadership and ultimate power or that the Kuomintang give up its monopoly of power, enfranchise the people and permit them to elect a democratic government.

It is for the communist and the Kuomintang party bosses to decide whether national solidarity, the indispensable pre-condition of national greatness, is to be preferred to the interests of the party. The verdict of history will be for as against them according as they do or do not sacrifice the lesser cause for the greater.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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

LABOUR EXCHANGES FOR INDIA

BY MR. MAYARAM, B.Com.

THERE can be no two opinions about the fact that the methods followed in India for the recruitment of labour are defective in the extreme. There are a number of intermediaries between the two ends—the employer and the labourer. The most important of them is the 'Jobber' known in different names such as the Sardar Makaddam or Maistry. The whole work of recruitment remains in his hands. He is ubiquitous in the Indian industrial system. In plantations, labour is employed through contractors. Here it is not possible for the planters directly to recruit the labourers because their labour is drawn from very long distances. Then, the unhealthiness of tea, coffee and rubber gardens in a damp climate renders it necessary that labourers must be persuaded to reach the gardens. This work cannot possibly be done by the employers themselves. They have, therefore, in a way, of necessity, to depend upon the contractor or the Sardar who occupies a unique position in plantations.

Labour through contractors is not only employed in plantations and mines where, as we have seen, it is in one way necessary but also in other well organized industries such as the cotton and jute factories, engineering and metal works. In these industries the managements can easily secure labour at the factory gates in the industrial centres but still they employ contract labour to a very large extent. Many normal industrial operations are left to contractors to be done in addition to other work which can suitably and economically be done by

contract labour. This puts a premium on the position of a contractor and he becomes virtually a subordinate employer. Spare labour for filling the vacancies is also supplied by the contractor.

Now this system of recruitment is fraught with serious evils. In plantations, these intermediaries eat up a large portion of the advance which planters give them. The recruited coolies thus get a smaller amount. These contractors sometimes entice away unmarried girls and unattached women by false allurements and in this connection the use of liquor and drugs is not unknown. The recruited coolies on account of their ignorance and illiteracy do not know or understand provisions of law and think themselves to be slaves tied down for ever to a particular field or garden. Repatriation of coolies is always delayed and the provisions of law in this regard are entirely disregarded. When one or two Sardars are not able to cope with the demand for labour, the number of Sardars and therefore of evils, is increased. This leads to much higher costs of production than if the recruitment were free.

What is true of labour in plantations is only confirmed by Factory labour where jobber rules supreme. Bribery and corruption are rampant eager as the jobber is always of making money by any means fair or foul. Being vested with absolute powers of dismissal, punishment and of granting leave, he draws all the possibly thought of advantages from the labourers. He receives his 'Dasturi' from the labourers whom he recruits and

sometimes gets monthly payments from them. Dismissals in most cases are unjust and arbitrary and are mere sources of making money for the jobber. For him a case of re-engagement is an excellent opportunity of making money. For a post it is not the best man or the most qualified man who will be selected but the man who can either give him the greatest amount of bribe or happens to be the relative of the jobber. On account of the jobber recruitment becomes very expensive. Then, there is a larger turn-over of labour than would actually happen in the absence of the jobber. The evil of turnover will be larger or smaller according as the hold of the jobber is greater or lesser. The case of Jute industry is an illustration upon the point. There is no other industry in India where the jobber exercises such powers over the management, dismissal and promotion of operatives and here it is that the turnover of labour is the greatest. In one Jute industry the rate of turnover is calculated at 996 per cent per month or 1196 per cent for the year 1943. *. "Extensive bribery is prevalent in Jute mills, and petty exactions in the form of cash, ghee, vegetables etc. tell very heavily upon the recruit" †.

The larger turnover of labour brings in its train other evils and disadvantages. It leads to reduce efficiency and skill on the part of the worker. He loses the experience. 'A rolling stone gathers no moss.' It also means a reduced output

* R. K. Mukerjee: The Indian working class, 1945.

† R. R. Gupta: Business Organization.

for the industry. It also runs counter to any efforts that may be made for organizing the workers. As a body they lack solidarity. They are also deprived of the many advantages of continued employment such as leave, bonuses etc.

The lot of women under the jobber system of recruitment is specially worse. On account of the fact that they are prone to suffer any injustice in silence they are greatly tyrannized over by the jobber. Women jobbers also are no kinder. They are women of low morals and unscrupulous.

Nor is this all. The jobber in course of time comes to occupy a very strong position. The workers depending as they are always on his mercy, consider him to be the 'Provider of food'. They always flatter him. This strong position of the jobber is a threat to the management. Whenever the management wants to dispense with his services, he can foment successful, small departmental strikes. Or, when he goes from some place he draws a large number of workers with him causing scarcity of hands to the industry and making for still higher rate of turnover. "In one of the jute mills such was the power of the head jobber that a few years back during a trial of strength between him and the management, he caused a successful strike of the entire body of mill operatives wherefrom the management considered it worth while to send him out on pilgrimage to Mecca by giving his passage money with an additional bonus of Rs. 2000 *.

* The Indian Working Class,

The job of quarry workers, stone breakers, road menders and road builders is still sadder. Here the contractors give advances to the labourers at the time of recruitment and they do not let the worker come back unless they are repaid the money advanced to the worker. Sometimes it happens that the quota of work of the contractors is reduced, the workers have no work to do for months together and yet the contractor will not let them come, although they may die of starvation in that place. When workers are transferred to another contractor, the advances are exchanged and the worker remains always in grips of debt.

Sometimes these contractors and jobbers are in agreement with each other. If a worker leaves a particular contractor in search of better wages, he will not be offered job in any other factory and thus either must come back or starve. The latter perhaps he will not do and will return to the mill from where he goes away and can only be re-employed after giving some money as bribe. In this way contractors and jobbers try to reduce wages and pitch them down to the bottom level.

These ills that result from the methods of recruitment of labour at present call for immediate cure. The issues connected with recruitment have been recognized on all hands and some attempts have been made to change these methods. One of the methods adopted by several mills is the 'Badli Control System'. Under this system a full record of the badliwalla's engagement and quality of work is kept by virtue of which he may obtain priority in case of a permanent vacancy. Jute mills have started the Folder record system which renders the opportunity for bribery and favouritism to a certain extent. Certain mills have their own Labour and Employment Bureaus with their own labour officers in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour. Still others have begun recruiting labour at the factory gates.

This system operates in the Elgin Mills, Cawnpore. Here substitutes are given brass discs, and present themselves at the Mill gate every day and their attendance is recorded. When a permanent vacancy occurs it is filled from amongst those substitutes priority being given to the man with longest service.

But all such methods meet the evils only half way. The worker has to come to the mill office everyday. His time is therefore wasted and there may also be vacancies in other mills at the same time. Then, each industrial establishment has to maintain a larger body of surplus labour than is actually required. It leads us to the conclusion that all these evils cannot be fully weeded out without the establishment of Employment or Labour Exchanges. Labour Exchanges pool the supply of labour and keep themselves in constant touch with all industrial establishments and can distribute the labour supply most economically placing the right person in the right place. They will serve as the link between the worker who seeks employment and the employer who requires labour and in this way they can take the place of jobber who can be given other supervisory posts. Labour Exchanges will iron-out the seasonal fluctuations of employment. They will reduce the aimless wandering of the worker from place to place. All the evils of bribery, corruption and exploitation which are now rampant in the existing systems of recruitment will be expunged out of existence. For all these things, however, the co-operation of employers and employees will be necessary.

Labour Exchanges have been very useful in countries where they have been established. In the Western countries the evils of high turn-over and absenteeism are considerably reduced through the establishment of such Exchanges. In Japan also these Exchanges have rendered great services to industries especially Cotton textile and labourers. At present in that country there are 421 Exchanges.

All the unemployed workers get themselves registered with them. During the unemployment period workers receive certain concessions in state ferries, railways, etc. These exchanges are governed by seven Local Boards, which are in their turn under the supervision of the Central Employment Exchange Board, Tokyo. These days these exchanges are under the supervision of the Government. They are entrusted with the function of training and retraining workers. They also transfer workers from declining Labour to expanding industries.

In India unfortunately there is an utter absence of Labour Exchanges. There is

one in Cawnpore, for example, but even this is not given full co-operation by employers. If we want that the evils of recruitment which harm the worker as well as the industry should be combated, Labour Exchanges in all great industrial Centres should be set up and conducted by the Government under the Ministry of Labour on lines similar to those in Japan. They should definitely form a part of the industrial policy of each province. And this should be done as early as possible, specially in view of the fact of India's having ratified the unemployment Convention of the I. L. O. in 1921.

WAR POETRY

By MR. J. VIJAYATUNGA

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WHILE we distinguish poetry that has been written under wartime conditions and under the emotional stress of war as war-time poetry there is actually no distinction between great poetry of all time and war-time poetry as such if the poetry is of the highest standard. The only distinction in poetry is between poetry and minor poetry which includes limericks like Lear's, rhymes like those of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, and verse like Gray's elegy. Minor poetry forms a considerable part of English literature and is not to be despised.

If we apply Housman's test that great poetry is that which sends a shiver down one's spine then we must say of the war-time poetry that has been written so far during the last war, and since, that it is not great poetry. Introspection of an excessively pathological type has now become a substitute for thinking and contemplation

when the younger generation and those among them who are poetically endowed lack fluency and clarity of expression because of this. When we read our contemporary poets we get the impression that they are apostrophizing something that the surgeon has just cut out from their inside and put into a bottle of spirits. I mean stuff like this:

Under the flag of this pneumatic moon,
Blown up to bursting, whitewashed white,
And painted like the moon, the piracies of day
Scuttle the crank hulk of witless night
The great black innocent Othello of a thing
Is undone by the nice clean pocket
handkerchief

Of 6 a.m. and though the moon is only an old
Wetwash snotrag.

That is from a recently published book of verse called *News of the Phoenix*. The author is A. J. M. Smith, a Canadian, I believe. Or this, by Francis Berry:

To grapple with the fork
And spite the graised mutton
Errasticate the tortured meats. . .

These are only the milder specimens of what is known today as Modern Poetry and both examples can come under war-time poetry.

Let us turn to the acknowledged leaders of Modern Poetry and to their war-time poetry. Auden wrote on "Spring in Wartime," a quite Audenish poem if you like Auden.

Then Cecil-Day-Lewis published in 1941 a poem called *The Rebuke* which begins:

Down in the lost and April days
What lies we told, what lies we told!
Nakedness seemed the one disgrace,
And there'd be time enough to praise
The Truth when we were old.

Stephen Spender wrote a long poem called *Air Raid* the first verse of which goes like this:

In this room like a bowl of flowers filled
with light
The family eyes look down on the white
Pages of a book, and the mild white ceiling,
Like a starched nurse, reflects a calm feeling.

A less-known poet, William R. Rodgers (American, I think) has written a poem called simply *War Time* which I like. Here it is:

Now all our hurries that hung up on hooks,
And all our heels that idly kicked in halls,
And all our angers that at anchor swung
And all our youth long tethered to done-lines,
And all our roots that rotted deep in dump,
Are recollected. In country places
Old men gather the children round them now,
As an old tree, when lopped of every bough
Gathers the young leaves into itself,
a frilled stump.

Not all the specimens I have quoted are by writers who are moved by war while themselves are away from the horrors of the battle-field. So far no Rupert Brooke of this war has been hailed, but it is possible that one or even more than one Rupert Brooke will be discovered before long. Stephen Haggard who died in action and who was actor, novelist and

poet all rolled into one was supposed to have written some poems while in the fighting line. Alun Lewis, the young Welsh poet, who also died in action after he had been in India for a short time must have left some worth while poetry. Until their poetry is discovered we have to turn to older poets like Wilfrid Gibson who fought in the 1914-1918 war or to Walter de La Mare for more sustaining war poetry. "O Lovely England 1940" is the best known of Walter De La Mare's poetry.

Wilfrid Gibson has written two outstanding war-time poems, one called *The Bomb* and another called *The Shepherd*. The second verse of *The Shepherd* runs thus:

Shielding the light within his coat, he stands
For a brief idle moment hearkening
To that deep drone of death upon the wing;
Then turns to his own business, to bring
Innocent life to birth with tender hands.

I believe that had he lived G. K. Chesterton would have written the best ballad of this war. He was an impatient man who dashed off his bubbling thoughts even as they bubbled, and he was therefore best at the ballad.

In his report on the War to Parliament Mr. Winston Churchill, when he was Prime Minister, referred to "Famous and mighty London which has now been under almost continual bombardment for seven weeks. . . ." Apropos of this I am reminded of a reference in Lord Wavell's anthology *Other Men's Flowers*. Lord Wavell says of a poem by an unknown writer, a poem which he had read in an Egyptian paper, that as he flew from Cairo to meet Rommel's offensive, sorely tired in mind and body, he derived great comfort from these lines:

"I who am known as London have faced
stern times before,
Having fought and ruled and traded for a
thousand years and more. . ."

Research in English at the Madras University

BY PROF. P. R. KRISHNASWAMI

ON the 7th November 1946, the Madras University Senate passed a resolution moved by me that active steps be taken to promote research and establish a chair of English literature. First, it is necessary to realise the importance of the study of English. We should get rid of the misconception that English was imposed on this country by a Foreign government. When we examine the happenings of 1820 to 1830 roughly, we find that the East India Company had actually established schools for imparting education in Indian languages, but private persons, Raja Rammohun Roy among them, kept up an agitation for government establishing institutions to impart English education. A great awakening was taken place after the official inauguration in 1835 of English education. English was brought and knit together the people of the remotest parts of the country, besides bringing together the different peoples of the same province. Madras, founded in 1639 was the earliest settlement in India of the British, and it has accounted for a greater acquaintance with English in this province than in others. English has taken root in this Presidency. If Milton thought in Latin and later translated his thoughts into English, many of us in this country think in English and translate our thoughts later into the mother tongue.

There is no justification for cutting off this English. To state frankly, English has set up a high standard for Indian languages. Intellectually English literature is manifestly superior to Indian literatures. The study of English is a process involving great strain except for those who have a special gift for it. Taking English pronunciation by itself, we find a whole lifetime necessary for learning the right place of accent in English words. This very difficulty should appear to be the great attraction in English. The teaching of English is naturally even a greater strain than learning it. Teachers often lack the stamina to keep up their interest in it. They turn to Indian languages or they change to pure devotion. These

tendencies should not lead us away from the great ideals involved in the study and teaching of English.

Some are unfortunately of opinion that the study of English is detrimental to self-respect. We should get rid of this kind of specious patriotism. Literature and language are not the sole possessions of any particular country or community. English can belong to India as much as to England or America. I may go further and state that India may stand for English in a better sense than England herself. Owing to dialectal variations the uneducated native of the north of England is almost unintelligible to his counterpart in the south of England, while we in India know the Standard English which is common to all the educated people in the world. On the literary side, the material which is getting woven into modern English literature has shown signs of growing corruption. Dean Inge remarked some years ago that modern writers seem more or less to give their blessing to adultery not to speak of other vices. We in India should be able to breathe a purer spirit into what is composed in the English form. Innumerable foreigners have found their best expression in English, like Conrad, Tagore, Halide Edib of Turkey and Lin Yutang of China. Nehru has enriched English with the greatest autobiography of recent years.

Those who regard themselves as the custodians of the mother tongue get needlessly alarmed by greater attention paid to English. About thirty years ago the Indian language was no doubt not well established. The people were slavish perhaps in their outlook and adopted artificial ways. When I started teaching thirty-two years ago, there was in every college a decent number of students who could speak correct English while at the same time few could get up on a platform to speak in the mother tongue. The position is entirely reverse within the past fifteen years or so. Either in the Tamil country, in Andhradesa or in Malabar, I find every other student

competent orator in his mother tongue, capable of addressing huge audiences. This is natural. The press in Indian languages has developed enormously and books also have been published in increasing numbers. The study of the mother tongue and the study of English are two parallel processes which must go on for us. Every country has capacity for two languages easily. English has long been adopted as a second language in numerous countries of the world which are entirely independent of England. English has become essential for international contacts, in commerce, in science and in every other department of human life.

Once it is conceded that English is essential for the material and cultural growth of this country, it follows automatically that literary research in English should be actively encouraged. The universities of Dacca, Lucknow and Allahabad have all these years maintained a chair for English. Only Madras has not done this.

It will become the task of the professor of research to plan the topics relating to the works of great authors in which investigation may be usually pursued. We begin with Shakespeare and that one author affords numberless topics. Drama, poetry, fiction, the essay, biography and every other form of literature, are all capable of yielding endless topics. Besides the concrete works of authors, studies in style may also be carried on endlessly. Some seem to believe that manuscripts are indispensable for research. These may be needed for collation and for the elucidation of a satisfactory text of the work of old authors. But this is not the most fruitful kind of research needed for this country. Only literary worth in the most general sense is valuable to us in India. Indian universities will have to avoid all that smacks of pedantry in view of English being a foreign language. Indian universities may adopt as their watchword that only works of outstanding literary merit will be considered in their laboratories of research.

In the four lectures which I delivered under the auspices of the Madras University in 1929, I indicated a special line of investigation appropriate to this country. The Indian words which have been absorbed in the English language, and the Indian themes which have been embodied in English literature were dwelt upon in my lectures. In a lecture at the Madras Literary Society in 1919 I had brought out the details of South Indian history incorporated in Scott's novel, "The Surgeon's Daughter". In a lecture at the Mythic Society at Bangalore in 1923 (published later in the Empire Review, London in Jan. 1926, I traced the evolution of the Indian character as developed by English writers of fiction. Starting from the Indian interest in his novels I traced the originals of four characters in Thackeray's novel, "The Newcomes", and this process has definitely helped to throw light on the cynical quality of the novelist.

Nearly forty years ago Oaten published his account of "Anglo-Indian Literature". The Oxford University Press brought out in 1935 a book on "Anglo-Indian Fiction" by Professor Bhupal Singh. Lately quite a spate of anthologies and appreciations have appeared relating to Indian writers in English.

Side by side with literary research may be carried on educational research which should deal with the best methods of training students to acquire a mastery of English. The formation of special libraries, the methods of teaching composition, the importance of elocution and debating societies, and the special methods necessary for each form of literature will all come for research.

By the institution of research studentships which should lead to the higher post graduate degrees, by stimulating literary talent by the publication of papers, and by special lectures by competent persons, the spirit of research may be fostered, which should ensure an enthusiastic and careful study of English literature and the English language, so as to fulfil the ideal of gaining an adequate mastery of the language to use it as an effective vehicle of expression for all the purposes of the nation.

THE BUILDING INDUSTRY IN INDIA

BY MR. S. JAGANNARAYANAN

BUILDING industry will occupy a key position in the postwar India. Unlike in war devastated countries India has not suffered any damage due to bombing during the war. However it is important because of the arrears of normal building which have been piling rapidly during the war period. On account of the fiscal policy recently announced by the Finance Member the demand for industrial housing will be keen in the next few years. Sufficient care should therefore be taken to plan the industry ahead and to devise suitable means to maintain the demand for labour at the war time level during the post-war years.

In prewar India there was no doubt considerable increase in the level of building activity owing to the increase in population, the cheapness of some of the building articles and the state's large building programme during the thirties. Even with all the growing increase in the volume of building construction, the industry had not reached the desired level. For example, there were only 76,035,095 houses (occupied) for a total population of nearly 390 millions—nearly 195 out of every 1000 total population were living in occupied houses. The paucity of housing accommodation became manifest only during the war period. Especially houses in urban areas have become too dear for most of us to be willing or able to pay or have become overcrowded. Apart from the housing standards, we should not allow ourselves to rest content merely with catching up the number of houses required. In the post-war India the economic structure of the country will be vastly changed.

The correct way of assessing the need for houses in the post war period will not be merely on the basis of the rate of increase in the population. The statistical method is not the number of persons, but the number of households. It is not merely this. The need for housing

is also wrapped up with the recognition to remodel most of our existing houses which have become worse by five years of suspended building activity. Therefore any policy should take into account (a) the rate of increase in the number of households or units of family, (b) the normal replacement which has been suspended during war and (c) the avoidance of overcrowding.

So far about private buildings. What about industrial housing and public building? In normal days the decision to build or not to build constructions for the industrial workers has rested hitherto with businessmen, and not with the state. But even they cannot now keep quiet on account of the impact of social and economic factors. As regard public buildings, much depends on the nature of the state's interference in our social and economic life. We must however bear in mind one important factor. Nutrition, education, play grounds, art galleries etc. are equally important. But even in these things the boundary has been drawn not in terms of services as against commodities but in a way between things which private enterprise can supply at a profit and those which it cannot. Whatever way the problem is regarded it must be admitted that the poorer classes in our country cannot afford better houses or overcrowded houses without giving up something else which they do not want to give up. The state recognising these facts has therefore been driven into subsidised housing in modern days.

The local authorities who will have to be depended for this task are not competent or able to do this task themselves without proper aid and supervision. It is therefore necessary that the local bodies require to be extensively organised. For some time it would be sufficient that the local administration are saddled with the task of slum clearance only. For this purpose the state should help the local authorities

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in a number of ways. It is the task of the state to place borrowing facilities at the disposal of these bodies whose standing in the capital market is less good. These local bodies may be called upon to make a fixed contribution to the cost of houses but beyond this the state should foot the rest of the bill.

The great bulk of the post war building of houses should be private enterprise undertaken by special bodies established for the purpose. The obvious methods in which the state can render useful assistance are either that the costs of housing must be drastically reduced or housing should be heavily subsidised. In fact a part of the inflation of the building's costs is attributable to the scarcity of supply of building materials and profiteering. With a view to encourage the building industries it is suggested that an examination of the costs of the materials may be undertaken by the state and ceilings fixed wherever necessary.

The next question is to find out whether the state can finance adequately the building industry in the country in the post war period. For, the costs of housing have become enormous during the war years. We cannot expect any reduction in the costs of labour in the near future as this will depend on the general monetary conditions. Further the state's policy should be not how much an adequate policy will cost in money but how costs can be reduced in relation to any given programme based on an allocation of the real resources to the building industry. For this purpose a cheap rate of interest is necessary.

In the first few years of the post war period the supply of labour will set a limit to the development of the building industry. This shortage will be further accentuated when the state competes with the private builders in the labour market for the construction of godowns, irrigation schemes, the destruction of obsolete buildings etc. Moreover the loss of time

owing to the bad weather conditions and the frequent shifting of one job to another will increase our difficulty due to shortage of labour. In the circumstances the intense application of labour during good weather conditions and a general economy in labour by the substitution of better methods of construction are necessary. Further it may be necessary to recruit additional builders who will have to undergo training and apprenticeship.

If the state desires to take steps to overcome the shortage of housing accommodation in our country, there should be some special agency for carrying out the operations.

Generally speaking the state should help the growth of organisations and thereby cause general growth in the building industry in this country. The state's fiscal policy in the shape of low rates of interest and adequate supplies of credit is the most important factor. It is also the duty of the state to see whether the houses have been constructed for the convenience of the dweller or for the profit motive of the rentier. It is likely that with houses being largely subsidised or unsubsidised the result will be the erection of houses mainly for sale and letting. It is therefore necessary that in every locality there should be a supervising staff. While the need for new houses continues and till such time they are subsidised, rent control which has been introduced during the war has to be maintained. This will help to bring down the rents which is practicable to charge for new houses.

An attempt has been made to shed light of realism with a view to persuade the planners in our country to do their job in terms of means as well as ends. It is hoped that there will be a plan as part of and arising out of a general social and economic plan for the post war India. The foregoing deals with one aspect of such planning, but this aspect is of very great importance at this hour.

ART IN INDIAN LIFE

BY MR. P. RAJESWARA RAO

ART in India is neither a luxury nor a superstition, but a way of life. It sweetens the life and manifests itself in a variety of ways. The purpose of art in beguiling the tedium of labour is seen also in the field songs which are still sung in rural areas during the period of transplantation and reaping the crops. Folk art meaning thereby folk dance, music, drama and folklore, has its roots in the soil of the people and it is their most natural mode of artistic response to the environmental influence. It is generally subjective, simple and decorative. Their simplicity, their unsophisticated Philosophy of life, their religious life find beautiful expression therein.

Music has an exalted place in the Indian life: It is enshrined in 'Sama Veda.' According to an Upanishadic saying, which is also a common scientific truth, all motion is accompanied by Vibration, all Vibration is accompanied by a tone or a strain and all these things are the part of the Nada Brahman's activities in the universe. Some of these strains are within the range of the human ear and go by the name of noise, voice or music, instrumental or vocal. The world at large is filled with a pervasive subtle music that is part of the movement or vibration of the universe which as Kabir had put it, always swayed them, but which is not understood. It is essentially impersonal. It reflects an emotion and an experience older than the emotion or wisdom of any single individual. A well disposed group of notes in Music makes us sometimes weep and sometimes laugh. One can express the depth of all affection by those dispositions of sound. Music can give courage to the soldier, language to the lover, consolation to the mourner, more joy to the joyful, and more humility to the devout. At the same time its sorrow is without tears, its joy is without exultation and it is passionate without any loss of serenity. Therefore the best musicians in India were always Saints and Sages like Narada, Tyagaraja, Kabir and Surdas.

Dancing also is regarded as a sublime vocation. According to Bharata, Brahma framed the Natya veda, at the request of Indra and other Gods for a pastime befitting the inhabitants of the celestial region, from the several parts of the Vedas. From 'Rig Veda' he drew forth the words, from 'Sama Veda' the singing, from 'Yajurveda' the gesture and from 'Athava' Veda the flavour. Therefore 'Natya Veda' has all the sanctity and dignity attaching to the four Vedas. Brahma has virtually distilled the essence of the four Vedas into it. Hence it is also known as the fifth Veda. It is a divine art with the greatest Gods of the Hindu Pantheon as the fathers of the revival style of dancing. Of the Gods that originated the several styles of dancing the most prolific is the great Shiva and the most popular and the much beloved is Krishna, the eternal lover. During the period of Mahabharata, dancing was regarded as one of the most desirable and essential attainments among the members of the Royal family. From Virat Parva we find that Arjuna under the guise of Brihannala taught Uttara, the Princess, dancing and music for one year, (*i.e.* during the period of his hiding.) There are no doubt various styles of dancing prominent among them being the Bharata Natya of South India the Kathakali of Malabar, the Garba of Gujarat, the Manipuri of North Bengal and the Kathak of the United Provinces. Bharata Natya aims at unfolding a theme through the language of the 'Mudras' (Symbolic hand gestures) and of Abhinaya (facial expression.) This celestial art with its strict adherence to tradition for ages is confined to women 'chiefly 'Devadasis'. But it offers vast possibilities for individual expression by leaving its "lasya" or female aspect to women and males adopting the "Tandav" or Virile aspect. What is more, dancing is an excellent exercise to every part of the body. Further the distinction between 'Nritya' and 'Natya' is noteworthy. Nritya consists of sweeping movement, agile bounds and leaps and powerful jerks

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and darts—all at lightning speed and tempo. Whereas in 'Natya', the song is so sustained in the throat, its meaning is to be shown by the hands, its moods are evinced by the glances and the rhythms are marked by the feet.

Painting enabled Indians to live in close communion with nature, because it is the mantle of divinity and therefore of sacred import and spiritual significance. Colour and beauty is necessary to the soul as food is to the body. The Pictures of Ajanta are not only pleasing to the aesthetic sense with their flowing lines and harmonious colours and satisfying to the mind with their wealth of meaning, but they reflect in a great measure the idealism and sweet serenity of Indian life. The emotional effect, the design, the tone, the composition and the perspective enshrined in the Paintings at Ajanta are such as to be separately rare and wonderful in combination. Sensibility, tenderness, imagination and industry which are indeed the qualities that distinguish an artist have had full and free expression at Ajanta. Those frescoes are gems of colour and feeling where idealism blended with realism. Visitors to Ajanta are impressed by the atmosphere of peace and tranquillity that is radiated there. It is really a place of pilgrimage to all lovers and admirers of art.

There is need for understanding the pictorial language in assessing values. To understand the beauty of a picture contact with the concealed skill of the artist is essential. To make a picture vibrate with life, it requires a life long study and struggle endowed with confidence and sincerity. The range of the standard of beauty is so widely spread that its magnitude cannot be surveyed with a preconceived ideal or formula.

Later on both the Moghul and the Rajput painting tried to reflect the ideals of men with extraordinary intimacy—the actual and the dream world of two great oriental cultures at the most dramatic moment of their contact. Indian portfolio pictures are neither a branch of Persian art

nor an importation of the Moghuls. In this connection it is necessary to note that Persian art is essentially one of book illustrations in which brilliant colours and much gold are used. It has small variety of content. Fighting, drinking and flirtation are the usual motifs. Other elements such as portraiture are due as in India to Timurid (Moghul) influence. Moghul painting is pretty, beautiful, graceful, lyrical, exquisite in colouring and design. But it is never passionate. On the other hand Rajput Painting 'surpasses our conception of things' as Abul Fazal put it. All the self-restraint and the abandonment, the purity, the wild extravagance, the tenderness and fury of Hinduism are ably expressed in it. It is lyrical, religious and epic. It is the descendent of that art of temperate Paintings which are lost sight of at Ajanta.

Indian art is neither static nor isolated. They are not mere traditionists who are content to let their ancestors do their thinking for them. For them conservatism is not quietism but consolidation of what is good and wholesome in the national heritage. It did not refuse to be replenished by other influences. Indian art without losing its individuality has always been comprehensive, tolerant, catholic and all embracing. The confluence of the Indian and the Grecian art brought into existence the Gandhara School of art. Taj Mahal is the monument typifying the glorious blending of the Indo-Saracenic artistic endeavour. Indian art received a severe blow when the country came under the control of the British who are ignorant of our cultural traditions and national agencies. In spite of the revivalism brought about by the efforts of the Eastern and Western savants and scholars, Indian art still remains to be lifted up and resuscitated. As India is on the threshold of independence it is earnestly hoped that the National Planning Committee functioning under the chairmanship of Pandit Jawaharlal will take up the cause of art and see that it is restored to its rightful place in the national life.

THE PROBLEM OF IMMIGRATION IN ASSAM

By MR. NIRMALESWAR SARMA, B.L.

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THE voluntary mass migration of people from Bengal to Assam is a phenomenon unique in the modern age. During the last thirty-seven years a population which amounts to nearly a million has transplanted itself from Bengal to the Assam Valley Districts. The gravity of the situation brought about by this immigration will be realized by the following remarks of the Census Superintendent (1931) for Assam.

Probably the most important event in the province during the last twenty-five years—an event, moreover, which seems likely to alter permanently the whole future of Assam and to destroy more surely, than did the Burmese invaders of 1820 the whole structure of Assamese culture and civilization—has been the invasion of a vast horde of land-hungry Bengali immigrants mostly Muslims, from the districts of Eastern Bengal and in particular from Mymensingh..... What of the future? As far as can be foreseen the invasion is by no means complete. It is sad but by no means improbable that in another thirty years Sibsagar will be the only part of Assam in which an Assamese will find himself at home."

There is a popular misconception in other parts of India that Assam is full of waste lands. Of course at one time it was so. But now the wheel has turned round and a recent survey has shown that there are lots of local people in Assam who are without even a piece of land sufficient for the maintenance of their families. In an agricultural country like Assam people depend on land for food. To them land means food. But unfortunately the simple indigenous people are gradually being ousted from their lands by the more industrious immigrants.

In their anxiety to get land these settlers have at one time and another caused a good deal of friction by squatting in Government Reserves or forcibly occupying the land of the local people, from which they are not evicted without difficulty.

The present rate at which the population of Assam is growing has caused apprehension to all farseeing people that

the population of the province is rapidly approaching numbers which cannot be sustained at any reasonable standard of living upon the means of subsistence which Assam can produce for long. Some of the people who favour immigration demand more disforestation for the purpose of settling the immigrants, on the ground that Assam has a large number of natural forests. These people seem to forget that in that case it would be a case of killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. To quote a Government Report:

The forests in Assam are a most valuable asset and all projects for disforestation will require the most searching scrutiny by Government. In this Province the question is of particular importance because the denudation of forests undoubtedly increases the liability of certain areas to floods which are the cause of much distress to the people and of expenditure on the part of Government. Moreover it is the task of any Government to look to the needs of future generations by a wise conservation of forest produce.

The above considerations but mainly the pressure of public opinion had caused the outgoing League Ministry to formulate a scheme of gradual eviction: but the actual process of eviction became a farcial show owing to the apparent apathy of the Government. As regards eviction the present Congress ministry is only following the footsteps of its predecessor, but with the determination to make it successful. The task of the Ministry would have been far more easy if the Government of Bengal were to have volunteered to take the immigrants back. There are plenty of waste lands in Bengal upon which to settle them. In "A Plan for Rehabilitation in Bengal" published recently by the Statistical publishing Society, Calcutta, it is stated that there are 4.9 million acres of waste lands in Bengal. So this mischievous policy of sending out emigrants to Assam must stop for the peace and tranquillity of the country.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

By "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

The Irish Parallel

THE group plan in the Cabinet Mission's proposals has been interpreted in one way by the Congress and in another way by the League. The British Government who have so long kept discreetly silent have now burst a bomb shell, as it were, by their interpretation. Mr. Attlee's Statement favouring the League interpretation has, to Irish ears, all the ominous forebodings of the fateful years of 1924-25 in their own history. That was a calamitous period for Ireland when what may be called the boundary betrayal was accomplished. The paper recalls that the national territorial unity provisions of the Irish Treaty were given two meanings in the British Government-Irish negotiations, Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Collins (two prominent Irish leaders of that time) being told one thing, whilst Mr. Lloyd George announced another interpretation of the partition clause. Thus the Treaty was used to destroy the unity of Ireland and "the people were left powerless to prevent the most callous betrayal of history" The paper adds:

All who witnessed that piece of trickery will sympathise with Indians who now find at the eleventh hour—and it happens by a strange coincidence on the very date Ireland was betrayed—that what they accepted also had two meanings and that the meaning favouring the minority is that which the British Cabinet Ministers now pronounce to be the only valid one."

Verdict on South Africa

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit and her colleagues are to be warmly congratulated on their triumphant success in the U. N. O. Assembly in respect of one of the most crucial of contemporary controversies.

The Joint French-Mexican resolution asking both the South African and the Indian Governments to report to the next General Assembly of the United Nations on what measures had been taken in the matter of the treatment of Indians in South Africa received a two-thirds majority, with 32 for and 15 against and seven abstentions.

The S. African amendment, referring the Indian dispute to the International Court, was defeated by 31 votes to 21 with two abstentions.

After the clear verdict of the General Assembly, it remains to be seen whether General Smuts will revise the policy which, as Mrs. Pandit put it, has now been condemned by "the conscience of mankind." The resolution has declared that the "treatment of Indians in the Union should be in conformity with international obligations under the agreements concluded between the two countries and the relevant provisions of the Charter" and has called upon India and South Africa to report to the next session of the Assembly the efforts made to settle the dispute. The Assembly has thus recognised that the issue raised by India, viz., the treatment of Indians in South Africa on a discriminatory basis and the denial of fundamental human rights, is a matter of vital concern to it.

The Late Mr. Anantanarayana Iyer

Death has, of late, been busy taking its toll among our old friends: First the Rt. Hon. Sastri, then Sir P. S. Sivaswami Aiyar, and now Mr. S. Anantanarayana Iyer Retired Deputy Collector, at his residence in Mambalam. That they had all passed their three score years and ten does not make the loss less poignant. Mr. Anantanarayana Iyer was with the Rt. Hon. Sastri one of those who helped to plan this *Review* six and forty years ago. How the very project of starting the journal was conceived and discussed at a party under his own roof at Madurantakam early in 1899 was told in these pages by one of the sponsors Mr. K. B. Ramanatha Iyer himself with meticulous exactitude. Anantanarayana Iyer was a Government servant holding a responsible post in the Revenue department but like his friends his interests were manifold. In fact it was he who wrote the life of Dadabhai Naoroji, the first in the series of Natesan's biographies and it was issued on the eve of the great Calcutta Congress over which the

G. O. M. presided for the third time. Mr. Anantanarayana Iyer continued to take the same interest in the *Review* and in the publications of this firm for long. After his retirement, he in company with the late Mr. G. A. Vidyaraman and Dewan Bahadur C. V. Munuswami Iyer sponsored the scheme for the Mambalam colony—a scheme which has succeeded in converting that dreary water-logged waste land into a flourishing garden city with all the amenities of a modern suburb. We offer our sincere condolences to the bereaved family.

Pakistan Propaganda from London

Sometime ago Mr. Jinnah expressed a desire to go to London to conduct talks on the highest level instead of with "underlings." An obliging Government offered him free passage and hospitality. Unfortunately with a total lack of sensitiveness Mr. Jinnah used the occasion for an intensive propaganda for Pakistan. There are of course plenty of "friends" in England who would pat on the back any one determined to thwart the Freedom Movement in India. Poor Mr. Jinnah, he doesn't realise he is being used to serve their ends.

We do not grudge him his satisfaction, but it passes one's understanding why an Indian should go out of his way to vilify and jeer at his own countrymen for the delectation of foreigners. It is pitiful to see the leader of a great party using language against his countrymen, from which any sensitive man would shrink. At the meeting in London Mr. Jinnah is reported to have said:

"Is Britain going to stand with its bayonets and hand over authority to the Hindu majority? If that happens you will have lost every cent of honour, integrity and fairplay. Democracy is alien to Hindu society. Hindu society is caste-ridden and caste-bound. The untouchables have no place socially, economically or in any way at all." etc.

Having pointed the finger of scorn at the low level of his Hindu compatriots he drew attention to his own infinite superiority saying that he allowed even his chauffeur to

stand side by side with him at the Mosque. How condescending of him!

Hinduism has survived more formidable opposition; but one wonders where is the need or relevancy for this diatribe against his own countrymen?

T. S. Sivachidambara Iyer

The passing of Mr. T. S. Sivachidambara Iyer on Thursday 12th Dec. at the residence of Mr. G. A. Natesan removes an old and respected member of the staff of G. A. Natesan & Co., who for over 40 years was connected with the Printing establishment. Sivayyar, as he was familiarly known, was a simple and kindly person whose whole life was completely devoted to the service of this firm. A near relation of the Proprietors he joined the firm at its



very inception and retired only in 1942 when it was thought that continuance of such labour would impair his health which was showing signs of breakdown. He retired to his village in the Tanjore Dt. on a modest allowance but he never felt himself at home in unfamiliar surroundings. He longed to be back in Madras and his last years were spent in quiet and comfort at the hospitable house of Mr. Natesan where he found himself at home in familiar company. He died peacefully at the age of 71.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BY "CHRONICLER"

United Nations' Plan for Atom Control

THE United Nations' Atomic Energy Commission passed on December 30 the five-point draft plan for atomic control by 10 votes to two, Russia and Poland abstaining.

The plan embodies the U.S. proposal, recommending establishment of atom control by a treaty binding on all United Nations, and setting up of an international control authority, no power having right of veto to obstruct its works.

The plan now goes to the United Nations Security Council where it may, in view of Russia's stand, encounter the veto by M. Gromyko, the Soviet delegate.

The five-point plan proposes:

- (1) The treaty should set up an international authority to ensure use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only.
- (2) The veto power should have no relation to the authority's work.
- (3) No Government should have the right to obstruct, control or inspection by the use of veto or otherwise.
- (4) The treaty should provide for the disposal of the existing stocks of atom bombs and specify means of determining violations of its terms.
- (5) The treaty should establish punishment for transgressors.

China's New Constitution

China's revised draft constitution was unanimously adopted on December 25 by 1,485 delegates attending the final session of the 40-day-old National Assembly.

The draft constitution is a blend of western democracy and Sun Yat Sen's philosophy.

The constitution was duly promulgated on New Year's Day and will come into force on December 25, 1947.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek receiving the draft constitution from the veteran Kuomintang delegate, We Chi Hsei said:

The constitution is the result of 25 years of revolutionary history. The Government will faithfully carry out the constitution article by article.

Mr. Churchill's Forebodings

The British Government's announcement that it had invited Burman leaders to come to London to discuss how the pledges of self-government to Burma should be carried out, provided a lively debate in the House of Commons last month with Mr. Winston Churchill, the Opposition Leader, referring to "the decline and fall of the British Empire" and the British Empire "running off almost as fast as the American loan."

An immediate debate on a motion for adjournment was eventually forced by Mr. Churchill. Prime Minister Attlee announcing the Government's invitation said that Burmans would be a representative group from the Governor of Burma's Executive Council.

Major Wyatt's Advice to Britain

In an article in the *Evening Standard*, Major Woodrow Wyatt, Labour M. P., says the solution for the Indian problem is clear. If, he says, there is no compromise in sight within the next few months, we must in the words of Lord Linlithgow (Viceroy for seven years before Lord Wavell) re-shape our policy, renounce our pledges as being beyond our capacity to discharge, and having given a due date and due warning, march out.

That date, continues Major Wyatt, must be fixed at a point no further than twelve months ahead,

while we still have the power to go in our own time, at our own convenience, under our own arrangements and giving adequate protection to those of our countrymen who may request it.

The Outlook for 1947

The United Nations' Secretary General, M. Trygve Lie, in a New Year's message, declared:

There is more reason for hope and encouragement to-day than last year's day. As a result of the recent meetings of the General Assembly and the conference of Foreign Ministers, the prospects of lasting peace and international co-operation become much brighter. There is no room for easy optimism, but a sound foundation has been laid and I feel we may look to the future with sober confidence.



The WORLD of BOOKS

(ONLY SHORT NOTICES APPEAR IN THIS SECTION)



AMERICA—THE LAND OF SUPERLATIVES.
By Kamaladevi. Phoenix Publications.
Publishers, Bombay. Price Rs. 7.

America...the land of peace and plenty and Freedom and democracy spells almost a charm to us in India living in disgusting contrast, squalor and servitude. Pioneering in every direction, America has made such striking strides in progress that she is looked at by the other nations in the world with a feeling bordering on wonder and awe. She is the dream ideal to many and her story is as romantic as fairy tale. Kamaladevi gives us an intimate and authentic picture of the States being the result of her stay of ever eighteen months in all parts of the land, where she was given especial facilities to study all its aspects. With a wealth of details she gives one a picture of America as she struck her, an intelligent student of social affairs.

In contrast to the glowing accounts of the American industry and its stream lined civilization, we get a peep into the other side of the medal also...the labour and proletariat problems. The working class and youths there are now only slowly becoming socially conscious. The negroes are a big problem by themselves. It is the blackest blot on the fair name of America and the "kindly simple folk are still left with the indelible marks of suffering and oppression".

Kamaladevi concludes that the American people can yet become the liberating and democratising force in the world...but for this, they should first liberate themselves from the shackles which still weigh them down in their own country. The book, frankly but beautifully written gives us a vivid picture of America as she is to-day and should make infinite appeal to everyone.

RAMAKRISHNA—THE MAN AND THE POWER.
The Advaita Ashrama, Calcutta.

The life of Sri Ramakrishna is told simply and beautifully in this tiny volume of a little over hundred pages by his disciple Sri Gnaneshwarananda head of the Vedanta Society of Chicago. The book was first published as the Ramakrishna Centenary Memorial Edition by the above society in 1936.

How comes the man born in an obscure village of India, of poor parents, outwardly lived the humble life of a temple priest, to be worshipped and honoured as a god all over the world and why should people like Professor Max Muller and Monsieur Romain Rolland who seemingly have nothing in common with this obscure village priest, be drawn of their own accord to investigate into his life and teaching and to write volumes about them, are facts which indeed reveal only the great spiritual power of Sri Ramakrishna.

It may be said without hesitation, the book will be greatly appreciated by the reading public.

AN EXPLANATORY DICTIONARY. By H. Martin, M.A., (Oxon) O.B.E., K. & J. Cooper, Educational Publishers, Bombay.

This Dictionary, we are told, is designed specially for the use of students in our Schools and Colleges. It has some distinctive features which make it altogether attractive and useful for the young student to whom English is a foreign language. The words selected are those in common use; their explanations are given in simple and easy words; they are accompanied by illustrative sentences and phrases. In all these ways this Explanatory Dictionary is a welcome improvement on the "Oxford" or "Chambers."

JANUARY 1947]

THE WORLD OF BOOKS

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WITH LOVE AND BRICKBATS. By G. A. St. George, (Pictures by Denley) Thacker & Co., Ltd., Bombay.

The *Times of India* has made us familiar with the delightful verses of Mr. St. George—verses marked by lightness of touch and felicity of expression. *With Love and Brickbats* comprises a devastating commentary on some aspects of India's political life, together with some amusing verses on various topics of general interest. The satirist assails the foibles and conceits of some leading figures with a gentle touch and his verses are distinguished by technical felicity, embolished by wit and humour which seldom fail to amuse even the victims of his pen.

Mr. Gandhi.
Is no dandy;
To offset his nudist leaning
He clothes his thoughts in words of double meaning.

Gandhi is so straight and simple in his words as in his life that one may demur to this interpretation but who could dispute the truth of Mr. St. George's paradox on Jinnah.

Mr. Jinnah,
Is a persuasive word-spinner
And solemnly assures us all,
That divided we stand and united are fall.

ORGANIZATION AND ORGANIZATIONS. By C. M. Srinivasan, 10, Mount Road, Madras.

This stimulating study by a seasoned Secretary of a prominent insurance firm in Madras City outlines the essential requisites for organisations in social and political spheres. A sound and successful organisation according to the author is a system wherein a number of abilities are co-ordinated and worked with authority and responsibilities. If necessary adjustment in the light of new knowledge and relevant and up-to-date data is not available any organisation will decay and perish. The longevity of any organisation, says the author, will depend upon the moral resources that it can muster for it from time to time.

EPOCHS END. Tharashankar Banerjee Translated from Bengali Nove 'Manwantar' by Hirendranath Mukherjee Mitralaya 10, Shyamacharan De Street Calcutta. Price Rs. 8.

This sombre story dealing with some of the darkest aspects of Bengal famine the air raids on Calcutta and pestilence portrays the disintegration of the old social order and is a translation from the Bengali of a novel by Tarashankar Banerjee, who is introduced to us as one of the foremost Bengali novelists. The novel presents a vivid picture of political and social chaos. Besides the aristocratic hero who wanders aimlessly through the metropolis thinking about his family, his future, and the girl who loves him, we have many intimate and lively characters in the story like the political worker, and the journalist and his servant who constitute the very stuff of contemporary life.

BOOKS RECEIVED

THE TEACHER'S MENTAL EQUIPMENT. By R. R. Kumbia. Rai Sahib Gulab Singh & Sons Lahore. Re. 1-8.

MY LIFE'S PARTNER. By Motilal Roy. Translated from Bengali by D. S. Mahalanobis, Prabarta Publishers, 61, Bowbazar St., Calcutta.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF MUSLIM RULE IN INDIA. By A.B.M. Habibullah, M.A., Ph.D. Sh. Muhammad Ashraf, Kashmir Bazar, Lahore.

BACK TO SAMITY. A Study in human possibilities By Y. G. Krishnamurti, Basur Brothers 13 Hill Road, Bandra, Bombay Rs. 5-1

UNTIL BENGAL : POEMS IN WAR. By Harry Milne Susil Gupta : Wellesley St. Calcutta,

50 MODERN POEMS. By 40 Famous Poets. Sus Gupta, 1 Wellesley St., Calcutta Rs. 3.

A GUIDE TO THE COMMUNAL PROBLEM IN INDIA. By Nagarjuna—Himalaya Publications, Patna.

NOW SHALL LIVE. By K. R. Rao, Kitabghar, Rajko THE LIFE OF MAXIM GORKY. By A. Roskin Socialist Literature Publishing Co., Agra.

Padma Publications Ltd, Bombay;

THE INDO POLISH LIBRARY. THE ATLANTIC CHARTER. By Stanislaw Stronski.

THE WELFARE OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN. By Zofia Zaleska.

THE FACE OF POLAND. By Bernard Newman TWENTY YEARS OF POLISH INDEPENDENCE. By Zbignien Grabowski.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

- Dec. 1. "French-Mexican proposal *re.* India-South Africa issue passed at U.N.O. by 24 Votes to 19.
- Dec. 2. Viceroy and Indian delegation reach London.
—Gandhiji with Noakhali Muslims.
- Dec. 3. Sirdar Jogendra Singh passes away.
- Dec. 4. Congress and League Leaders meet Premier Attlee and Members of the Cabinet mission.
- Dec. 5. A Travancore notification announces Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer will relinquish his Dewanship on Jan. 14.
- Dec. 6. Statement by H.M.G. on the Congress-League issue.
- Dec. 7. Prime Minister Sidky Pasha of Egypt resigns.
—Mr. Asaf Ali appointed to U.S.A. Embassy.
- Dec. 8. Pandit Nehru and Sardar Baldev Singh return to Delhi from London.
- Dec. 9. Constituent Assembly meets in Delhi, Dr. Sachidananda Sinha presiding.
- Dec. 10. Constituent Assembly discusses Congress draft for declaration of Indian Republic.
- Dec. 11. Dr. Rajendra Prasad elected Permanent Chairman of the Consambly.
- Dec. 12. Commons debate on Cabinet Plan: Cripps' appeal to parties and Churchill's attack on Interim Government.
- Dec. 13. League majority in Sind Elections.
- Dec. 14. Trusteeship Council for Colonies, elected by U.N.O. Assembly.
- Dec. 15. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit arrives in Karachi.
—Princes' Committee protests against Consambly's declaration of objectives.
- Dec. 16. Pandit Nehru addresses Associated Chamber at Calcutta.
- Dec. 17. Mr. Leon Blum forms an all-Socialist Cabinet.
- In the Constituent Assembly Dr. Ambedkar appeals for postponement.
- Dec. 18. Dr. Amarnath Jha resigns his Vice-chancellorship of the Allahabad University.
- Dec. 19. Churchill announces in the Commons that he would sponsor a censure motion on the Labour Government charging it with "tyranny, conceit and incompetence."
- Dec. 20. Commons debate Burma situation.
—Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer defers resignation.
- Dec. 21. Earthquake in Japan.
—Constituent assembly appoints Committee to confer with Princes' Negotiation Committee.
- Dec. 22. Congress Working Committee criticises H. M. Government's Statement of Dec. 6.
- Dec. 23. Lord Wavell returns to India and resumes charge.
—Constituent Assembly adjourns to meet on Jan. 20.
- Dec. 24. Panthic Board demands safeguards for Sikhs.
- Dec. 25. Gandhiji blesses temple entry movement in South India.
- Dec. 26. States People's Conference appoints Committee to negotiate with Consambly.
- Dec. 27. Maulana Azad appointed Member, Interim Government in place of Mr. Asaf Ali.
—Hindu Maha Sabha meets at Gorakhpur, Mr. Bhopatkar presiding.
- Dec. 28. Congress leaders meet Gandhiji at Srirampur.
- Dec. 29. Russia opposes U.S. plan for Atom control.
- Dec. 30. Gandhiji replies to Smuts.
- Dec. 31. Abolition of Indian titles is announced in an official communique.
—President Truman's proclamation *re.* lapsing of emergency powers.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



BRITAIN AND INDIA

Even if the Labour Government betray Indian nationalism, "India will still have a card to play and it looks as if Nehru will play it. Indians don't intend, it appears, to ask to be recognised as a free nation but to become one in fact," says De Valera's paper, *Irish Press* in an editorial on "Britain and India."

The paper adds: "And it seems probable also the *fait accompli* will be accepted in London as well as in New Delhi. For, after all, Britain is not the only Power that is interested in India and however great her desire to please the Moslems she is not likely to risk any action that might end in throwing the Hindu majority into the arms of Russia."

Focussing its readers' attention on the Indian problem, "*Irish Press*" says: "In India a situation has developed in which a minority party, less than 25 per cent of the whole, refuses to take part in a working machinery set up by Britain for determining India's political future. In any country where 75 per cent. of the people agreed on a definite national policy, that would be considered final—to believers in democracy at all events. But in those countries which Britain has occupied it appears no majority of any size ought to be regarded as decisive unless British interests are served thereby. At any rate, that seems to be the opinion of Churchill and Simon. Both the Conservative and Liberal leaders have declared almost in the same words, in fact, that

to allow the 75 per cent. majority to determine India's form of Government is to establish Hindu raj or, in the meaning they attach to that term, a Hindu dictatotship. It has all along been clear Nehru and his colleagues have done all in their power to safeguard minority rights. They are ready to write into the new constitution any guarantees that are compatible with Indian national ideals".

The paper continues: "It is obvious of course, that if at this moment there was no interference from outside, Hindus and Moslems would feel themselves constrained to find a way out of the difficulty of preserving the rights of the majority and at the same time meeting the rights of the minorities. Not only is there outside interference, however, but Simon and Churchill have as much as informed the Indian minority they will back them through thick and thin and both have used language which almost calls for civil war if the Indian majority is to claim the right to decide the form of the Indian governmental institutions. And in view of the offices these speakers have held it must be assumed their words were not lightly spoken. Happily in this case they can claim to speak only for their parties—their minority parties. The Labour Government is taking a juster and from the British viewpoint a wiser course.

They apparently are going to recognise that the majority of Indians are entitled in their country to at least as much authority as Britain exercised there in the past".

INDIA'S PAST SHIPPING POLICY

The causes for the negligence of an adequate development of Indian shipping are many and perhaps have been discussed long enough. But there are certain points in the policy (or lack of it) of the Government of India which, in terms of the future, necessitate restatement, says *The Eastern Economist*.

The greatest disservice to the development of Indian shipping was done by the Act of 1850, which threw open the coastal waters of India for all shipping. Though this was said to be motivated by the conception of free trade then accepted by Britain, it in effect hit at the root of Indian shipping which found the odds heavily against it in its competition with the intruders. Ever since then India has been losing ground with the result that in 1938-39 the percentage share of British vessels engaged in foreign seaborne trade which entered at ports in British India was 66 of the total tonnage. The British Indian share was only 3.6 per cent and foreign 29.8 per cent. Similarly, the export trade was carried 66.6 per cent in British ships, 3.4 per cent in British Indian and 29.3 per cent in foreign ships. Even the coastal trade of India is largely in British hands, less than 25 per cent only being Indian. Apart from the strong financial position of the British shipping firms and the official patronage available to them through mail contracts and carriage of government stores, two ruinous practices indulged in by them deferred rebate and rate war, have virtually killed all attempts at the revival of Indian shipping. Nothing perhaps can now be done without first repealing that odious Act of 1850.

Yet another omission of the Government of India was its failure to act upon the findings of the Mercantile Marine committee in 1923. That Committee had *inter alia* recommended the reservation of coastal shipping for licensed coastal ships (in itself inadequate), granting of bounties to purely Indian shipping in respect of over-

seas trade and the establishment of a shipping yard owned and operated by Indians.

Except for the provision made to train cadets in the "Duffrein", nothing was acted upon. Again, two Bills were introduced in 1928 and 1929 in the Central Legislative Assembly to reserve coastal shipping to Indian ships and to put an end to the practice of deferred rebate. Both these were opposed by the then Government and action was shelved. And now, under the Act of 1935 (Sections 113 and 115) all actions against the British shipping firms are effectively forbidden. When in 1939 a resolution was moved in the Council of State to reserve coastal shipping to Indian companies the Government pleaded inability to do anything at that time, basing themselves on the provisions of the Government of India Act quoted above.

The Interim Government, therefore faces a formidable task if it is to attempt, as it must, a progressive policy towards shipping. The Shipping Policy Committee has, it appears, given a good lead in the matter.

It has not only defined Indian shipping for purposes of Government recognitions, as Indian owned and Indian managed but also recommended that 100 per cent. of the inter-coastal trade, 75 per cent. of trade with Ceylon and Burma and 50 per cent. of the distant trade should be reserved for such Indian shipping. If this is to be done within the next 5 to 7 years, it would need starting negotiations with the British Government almost immediately.

CHANGING INDIA

In the course of an article in the *New Statesman and Nation*, Mr. H. N. Brailsford, the well known British correspondent, recounts the changes that have taken place in India during the past few years. He says that social changes impressed him even more among Muslims than among Hindus, though caste is beating down at an accelerated pace.

Sixteen years ago, writes Mr. Brailsford, the leading man in the Muslim political world

of that day asked me to his house. "As I arrived, a closely shuttered car drew up at the door. The servants thrust me hurriedly into a side-room, but I caught a fleeting glimpse of some veiled figures mounting the stairs. This time, the same man's son invited me to dinner. His wife was out of *purdah* and so were her women guests and they behaved with an ease and poise which meant that a social revolution has been accomplished in a single generation. This is now usual among the upper strata of Muslim society in the bigger towns. This salutary innovation will percolate gradually downwards. There are other happy signs of change in the Muslim world, in spite of political incitements to fanaticism. In Bengal the younger and more progressive mullahs are beginning to preach in Bengali, instead of the Arabic which few understand. In Kashmir I found a hot but victorious struggle going on between the party of the Left and the conservative Muslims for the control of the mosques and their pious foundations. Led by Sheik Abdulla (who was on trial for sedition) they plan to use the surplus funds of these states to found an Arabic college; that is to say a theological college, which will give the clergy a modern social outlook and fit them to be pioneers and teachers in the benighted villages of this State. After all India is changing."

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF RACES

There is a challenging article by Ethel J. Alpenfels in the *Catholic World*, exploding the myth of the superiority of the white races.

Mr. T. T. Waterman has drawn up a challenging list of the first historical

appearance of certain inventions. Copper, bronze, wheat, the plow, the alphabet, glass, bricks came to us from the Egyptians. Wheels and weights came from the Sumerians. Codified law, coined money, the arch came from the Babylonians.

The Assyrians developed cotton, banks and postal system. The Chaldeans gave us astronomy, the week, the degrees of the circle; the Persians gave us monotheism, chickens, trousers. From the Arabs, we inherited calculus, algebra, Arabic numerals, the zero; from the Greeks came Euclidean geometry and the screw. And we are indebted to the Chinese for porcelain, gunpowder, silk, spectacles, printing press, mariner's compass, paper money.

We can congratulate ourselves on being the greatest adapters in history, but we should also have a correct view of the achievements of others. Many historians are convinced that civilization descended the Nile from "Negroland" to Egypt. Three great Negro kingdoms, Ghana, Mellestine and Shanghali, had already developed, in the Middle Ages, a civilization comparable to that in Europe at the time. We ought to know about the Negro university in Timbuktu, 800 years ago, which exchanged professors with the leading schools of the rest of the world. Ahmed Baba, black scholar, being led to his execution, mourned that he would not live long enough to collect as many books as some of his friends held. His library numbered 1600 volumes. This kind of intellectual activity was going on in "darkest" Africa, while our Nordic ancestors were worshiping before stone altars in the forests.

Stone altars? It is believed that the Negro developed the art of smelting iron and contributed more than any other race to the development of the iron industry. Being early in the field with iron tools, he reached a high degree of artistic skill in wood carving. His altars of the same period were the handiwork of a far higher culture.

At one moment of history one race appears to be "superior" because it is in the lead of what we call civilization. At another period another race leads. It is only the uneducated, who consider these conditions as evidence of God-given superiority.

A NEW ERA FOR INDIA

Dr. John Haynes Holmes, the celebrated American writer and thinker states in a recent special message to the *Amrita Bazaar Patrika*:

"In the darkness of these times, it is comforting and inspiring to see India lifting high the torch of Freedom. No breakdown here! No dimming of the fair vision by a liberated people! No compromise on the issue of national independence! I could wish that we Americans had such a struggle as now shakes India, if only for the sake of awakening and purifying our souls. . .

India, by her struggle for liberty, is opening a new era of Freedom, Justice, Brotherhood and Peace. Her cause is the cause of Humanity trodden by a new and dreadful bondage. Let India gain her freedom, as she must and will, and we shall all be saved. So do true men everywhere look to India this day as the turning point of a whole world's destiny."

PAN-ASIAN MOVEMENT

Pandit Nehru's concepts have always been imaginative and, in their range, they go far beyond India, *Time and Tide*. says: "His last effort in foreign policy is to start a Pan-Asian movement of his own. The conception is not a new one. Enver Pasha had a vision of it, the Japanese one is notorious. Pandit Nehru's differs from these in that he transcends race and religion and seeks to create a common Asiatic front against Western exploitation."

It is genuinely Pan-Asian, the paper says and optimistic enough to believe that all these races will sit down in charity and understanding together. "It is grandiose like all Pandit Nehru's conceptions; yet the thought of ulterior motive will intrude. Does Pandit Nehru feel that Pakistan might be tolerable in a Pan-Asiatic Federation? Does he think that with the vision of an Indian-led Federation dangled before him Mr. Jinnah might agree to unity? We do not know."

The weekly adds, Mr. Jinnah does. After consulting the Mufti of Jerusalem, he agrees with him that so long as Pandit Nehru continues to have ideas Muslimism is in danger."

"In the meantime, the Muslims might well take a leaf out of his book and revive Pan-Muslimism and Khalifatism and all the rest and snatch the leadership of Asia from his hands. In all this no one in Delhi seems to have thought of China, whose claim to leadership is secular. So far as that ancient State is capable of such an emotion it looks down on the Hindus and the Muslims with supreme impartiality."

INDIAN STATES

Hyderabad

SIR MIRZA ON THE SERVICES

"India is in the midst of a vast experiment in a new form of Government and the place in that Government of the different units, especially the States, has yet to be decided", said Sir Mirza Ismail, President of H.E.H. the Nizam's Executive Council, addressing the members of the Hyderabad Public services.

"The deciding factors are many and difficult to estimate", Sir Mirza continued, "but there are two about which there can be no doubt whatsoever, the efficiency of the administration and the contentment of the people. The States that are examples to others in these matters and that set models for others to copy will naturally be free from interference. Therefore, it behoves the services in Hyderabad to do their utmost to make it a State that must be preserved as a model for the rest."

"So long as I am Prime Minister of Hyderabad", Sir Mirza assured the services "I am going to do all I can to see that salaries are fairly adjusted having regard to the cost of living and the work to be done".

Explaining his attitude to alleged offences by public servants, Sir Mirza said: "Offences will be enquired into by departmental tribunals and those shown to be unfit for the Public Service will be removed from it".

HOUSING PROBLEM IN HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Government is pushing through a Rs. 2-crore scheme a constructing dwelling quarters in the city. The target figure is 10,000 houses for the near future. Four thousand houses have already been constructed and 162 houses are under construction.

An indication of the acute scarcity of houses in the city is given by the fact that about 4,800 applications are pending with the City Improvement Trust Board for the houses under construction.

Mysore

TOTAL PROHIBITION IN MYSORE

A non-official resolution sponsored by Mr. T. Hanumiah, (Congress-Depressed Class) recommending to the Government that "total prohibition be immediately introduced in the State" was passed unanimously at the session of the Mysore Legislative Council, on December 13 Mr. H. B. Gundappa Gowda presiding.

In moving the resolution Mr. Hanumiah referred particularly to the havoc caused by the drink evil among the poor Harijans and emphasised the need for introducing total prohibition without further delay.

Mr. J. B. Mallaradhya, speaking on behalf of the Government stated that the Government had every sympathy with the principle underlying the resolution. It would be wrong to suggest that the Government were not interested in prohibition. As a result of planned prohibition undertaken by the Government, the quantity of liquor consumed had fallen. In fact, the Government had taken every measure except total prohibition. The Government were considering the difficulties in the way of introducing total prohibition, and a committee had been appointed to examine the question fully.

RAYON FACTORY

A rayon Factory on a large scale estimated to involve a capital Rs. two crores is to be started near Kannambadi (R.R.S. Reservoir) by the Government of Mysore. Full details of the scheme have been worked out by Mr. B. G. Appadurai Mudaliar, Director of Industries and Commerce, and Dr. M. N. Ramaswamy, of the Forest Research Laboratory.

Intensive experiments conducted by Dr. M. N. Ramaswamy at the Forest Research Laboratory have proved that, with Mysore bamboos as the basic raw material, rayon of the finest quality can be manufactured.

Travancore

TRAVANCORE 'VARSITY'S SCHEME

The University of Travancore is going ahead with plans for affording special facilities for young graduates to get training in chemical engineering and other branches of technological studies. They propose to start a new course for training chemists in chemical engineering for employment in chemical industries in the State. The course will last one year and 20 students, of whom two-thirds will be Travancoreans, will be admitted to it and stipends not exceeding Rs. 75 per month will be given to deserving students.

The University is also giving ten scholarships of the value of Rs. 125 per month to be awarded for advanced study in research and six refresher courses tenable in Indian Universities and All-India institutes of professional studies. The branches of studies suggested are agricultural science, industrial technology, textile manufacture, dyeing and finishing, forest engineering, irrigation of canals and tanks, geology, mining, etc.

LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME

The Government of Travancore have been pursuing their policy of bringing as much land as possible under cultivation, and in this connection they have extended the limits of their electric supply lines to bring distant villages within the scope of their lift irrigation scheme. More pumping machines are on order which will be loaned or sold to the agriculturist at a nominal price. Further irrigation works at Okkenkara, Chengamanad and Puthuvaseeri have been sanctioned.

A NEW INDUSTRY IN TRAVANCORE

Negotiations are in progress between the Travancore Government and a Bombay industrialist who plans to start an entirely new industry within the State—extracting oil from the shells of cashew-nuts that have hitherto been discarded. The oil will be used in paints. The attitude of Travancore Government is reported to be helpful.

Baroda

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES WORKERS

Cottage industries workers in Baroda State will in future receive marketing facilities from the State under a reorganisation of sales-depots scheme. The Cottage Industries Institute will have a show room attached to it where village handicrafts will be exhibited for sale. The State will advance 50 per cent of the price of goods to the workers, the rest being paid after the goods are sold out.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

The Policy Committees, appointed by His Highness's Government to suggest plans of post-war reconstruction, have submitted their reports. The Central Co-ordinating Committee will now consider these reports, which will be finally placed before the State Legislature.

COMPULSORY INSURANCE

Baroda State has introduced a compulsory insurance scheme for Government servants. Under the scheme a policy will remain in force for a minimum period of two years to make the holder eligible for surrender value.

RELIEF TO STATE EMPLOYEES

His Highness the Maharaja of Baroda has sanctioned increased relief to State employees. Employees drawing a salary of Rs. 75 and between Rs. 76 and Rs. 140 will now get Rs. 20 and Rs. 15 respectively as dearness allowance.

This increased relief involves an expenditure of Rs. 18,89,124 per annum.

REVISED SCALE FOR TEACHERS

His Highness the Maharaja of Baroda has sanctioned revised grades for Primary school teachers at an additional cost of Rs. 6,25,705.

Cochin

ENHANCED SALARIES FOR POLICE

The Cochin Government have passed orders, enhancing the salaries of the executive officers of the Police Department from 1st Chingam, 1122. The revision of salary scales is to be temporary, subject to a review by the Pay Revision Committee.

According to the order, the Intelligence and Transport Officer will draw Rs. 200-250; Inspectors and Prosecuting Inspectors Rs. 150-200; Sub-Inspectors, in three grades, from Rs. 60 to Rs. 120; Head Constables Rs. 30 to 40; and Constables Rs. 13 to Rs. 22.

NEW DEWAN OF COCHIN

Dewan Bahadur C. P. Karunakara Menon, Regional Food Commissioner, Madras, has been appointed Dewan of Cochin in succession to Sir George Boag, who will proceed on leave in the middle of March next preparatory to retirement.

Mr. Menon belongs to Chettur in the Cochin State.

Gwalior

GWALIOR MAHARAJA'S APPEAL

H. H. The Maharaja of Gwalior, replying to a civic address at Bhind (Gwalior State), said that India was entering upon a new era in history and would soon become master of her own destiny. He deprecated communal disturbances at this juncture. "It is shocking", he said, "that neighbours should fly at each other's throat."

His Highness announced the appointment of a Harijan Uplift Committee in the State and said that his Government would do every thing possible to remove the disabilities of Harijans.

PREMIER OF GWALIOR

Mr. M. A. Sreenivasan, a former Minister to the Government of Mysore has been appointed Premier of Gwalior and Vice-President of the Gwalior Cabinet.

Kashmir

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MUSLIMS

An idea of how His Highness' Government are according special facilities to Muslim students in Government institutions may be had from the latest annual report of the Sri Pratap College, Srinagar. The Principal said that while a sum of Rs. 1,000 was sanctioned for general scholarships open to all communities purely on basis of merit, a sum of Rs. 1,700 was earmarked for scholarships to Muslim students exclusively. Besides this a sum of Rs. 648 was earmarked for award of scholarships to students from Frontier district, most of whom were Muslims. Women students were also receiving scholarships of the value of Rs. 1,200.

VISITORS TO KASHMIR

The total number of visitors to Kashmir upto the first week of October last amounted to 25,734. These included 4,140 Europeans and 19,594 Indians.

Rajkot

JUDICIARY SEPARATED FROM EXECUTIVE

In pursuance of his plans to reform the State Government, the Thakore Saheb of Rajkot has made the judiciary independent of the executive control. The Chief Judge of High Court will be solely responsible for this branch of Government. Full legislative and administrative powers are vested in the Executive Council. The Dewan of Rajkot will be in charge of nine portfolios in it.

Pudukottah

DEWAN OF PUDUKOTTAH

Sir Alexander Tottenham, Dewan of Pudukottah, who returned to the State to rejoin duty after spending his leave in England, suddenly took ill and expired on December 13.

The late Sir Alexander was 74 and entered the State service in 1934.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

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South Africa

MRS. PANDIT ON UNO VICTORY

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Leader of the Indian Delegation to the U.N.O. speaking at the meeting held at Constitution Club at Delhi, said that she had drawn two lessons from her experience at the U.N.O. The first was that the position of India in the international field was fairly strong and that Indians were as well able to stand up in an international conference as anybody else. In fact, they were better than most. Secondly "our foreign policy, as has recently been made known to the Western world, has been very deeply appreciated and all sections of people from all countries came to me and expressed a desire to have a closer understanding and better relationship with India.

Think that even placed as we are, we are in the fortunate position of being able to get the sympathy of the world; but when we are free, we shall progress, in a much shorter period than Russia did after the last war, to a place, possibly, even higher than the one Russia has attained in the world today."

She was very keen that, having regard to the difficulties that existed in India today, our own internal conflict and the possibility of great conflict in future, we should cement our relations with other countries as quickly as possible with a view to giving them a correct picture of what is happening here.

The success which the Indian delegation was able to achieve at the U.N.O. was really the success of the U.N.O. itself, she said. In the success of the resolution placed before the U.N.O. by France and Mexico and accepted by India lay the very foundations of the U.N.O. itself. If that resolution had fallen through, there would have been ample reason to suppose that the foundations of the U.N.O. had not been well and truly laid.

U. S. A.

INDIANS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Weightman said in reply to a question in the Central Assembly that the Government of India had made representations from time to time to His Majesty's Government to remove the disabilities of Indians in British Columbia but without any success so far. The Government continued to pursue the matter. The last reminder on the subject was again sent.

Indians in British Columbia, who numbered 1,300, were denied the municipal, provincial and federal franchise. As a result of this they were debarred from certain public offices and occupations. They could not serve as trustees in any municipal, district or rural school or hold any municipal office or serve as jurors; were debarred from employment as contractors for the Public Works Department and for the sale of timber; they could not be registered as pharmaceutical chemists; they were also debarred from holding engineer's certificates under the Boiler Inspections Act.

In reply to Seth Govind Das, Mr. Weightman laid on the table of the House a detailed statement on the disabilities of Indians in Commonwealth countries and said that the Government of India proposed to attempt to remove those disabilities by means of negotiations with the Government of each country concerned.

West Africa

FUTURE OF S.-W. AFRICA

The Trusteeship Committee of the United Nations passed by 17 votes to 15 with four abstentions the Indian resolution on South-West Africa that "the Mandated territory of South-West Africa shall be placed under the International Trusteeship system and the Mandatory Power concerned shall be requested in accordance with article 79 of the Charter to prepare and submit forthwith the Trusteeship Agreement to the United Nations."

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS * DEPARTMENTAL * NOTES

Questions of Importance

H. M. G's STATEMENT OF DEC. 6

The statement issued by British Government on December 6 says:

"The main difficulty that has arisen has been over the interpretation of Paragraph 19, (5) and (8) of the Cabinet Mission's statement of May 16, relating to meetings in Sections, which runs as follows:

19 (5) These Sections shall proceed to settle Provincial constitutions for the Provinces included in each section and shall also decide whether any Group constitution shall be set up for those Provinces and, if so with what provincial subjects the Group should deal. Provinces should have the power to opt out of the Groups in accordance with the provisions of sub-clause (8) below:

Paragraph 19 (3): As soon as the new constitutional agreements have come into operation, it shall be open to any Province to elect to come out of any Group in which it has been placed. Such a decision shall be taken by the Legislature of the Province after the first General Election under the New Constitution.

"The Cabinet Mission have throughout maintained the view that the decisions of the sections should, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, be taken by a simple majority vote of the representatives in the sections. . . .

"His Majesty's Government have had legal advice which confirms that the Statement of May 16 means what the Cabinet Mission have always stated was their intention. This part of the Statement, as so interpreted, must, therefore, be considered an essential part of the scheme of May 16 for enabling the Indian people

to formulate a constitution which His Majesty's Government would be prepared to submit to Parliament. It should, therefore, be accepted by all parties in the Constituent Assembly.

"It is however, clear that other questions of interpretation of the statement of May 16, may arise and His Majesty's Government hope that if the Council of the Muslim League are able to agree to participate in the Constituent Assembly, they will also agree, as have the Congress, that the Federal Court should be asked to decide matters of interpretation that may be referred to them. . . .

"On the matter immediately in dispute, His Majesty's Government urge the Congress to accept the view of the Cabinet Mission in order that a way may be opened for the Muslim League to reconsider their attitude. If, in spite of this reaffirmation of the intention of the Cabinet Mission, the Constituent Assembly desires that this fundamental point should be referred for a decision of the Federal Court, such a reference should be made at a very early date. It will then be reasonable that the meetings of the Sections of the Constituent Assembly should be postponed until the decision of the Federal Court is known.

"There has never been any prospect of success for the Constituent Assembly except upon the basis of agreed procedure. Should the constitution come to be framed by a Constituent Assembly in which a large section of the Indian population had not been represented. His Majesty's Government could not, of course, contemplate—as the Congress have stated they would not contemplate—forcing such a constitution upon any unwilling parts of the country."

Utterances of the Day

SRI RADHAKRISHNAN'S ADDRESS TO THE CONSAMBLY

Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, in offering his congratulations to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, on his election to the permanent chairmanship of the Constituent Assembly pointed out that the Constituent Assembly had met to frame a constitution to effect the withdrawal of British control—political, economic and military—and establish a Free and Independent India. If successful, this transfer of authority would be the biggest and least bloody of all transfers in human history.

Referring to Indo-British relations, Sir Sarvapalli said that the first Britisher to arrive in this country was a Jesuit missionary in 1579. He was followed by other merchants who came to trade but stayed to rule. In 1765, the authority was transferred to the East India Company. Later, it was gradually subordinated to and replaced by the authority of Parliament, and it had been continuing till now on the famous principle enunciated by Cecil Rhodes, a principle fundamental to Imperialism—philanthropy plus five per cent.

Right through there had been protests against British rule. All these protests became canalised when the Indian National Congress was established. The Congress adopted mild methods till the advent of Mahatma Gandhi, when it became aggressive. In 1930, the Congress adopted the resolution for the Independence of India and we are now here to give effect to that resolution.

The British were empirics from beginning to end. It was Lord Palmerston who said:

"We have no eternal principles; we have only eternal interests." "When they take any particular line of activity", said Sir Sarvapalli, "you may take it that it is not a willing surrender of power or authority, but it is a response to the historic necessities of the case."

Continuing, Sir Sarvapalli said:

The British introduced the communal electorates in India with the intention of keeping the people apart. The higher mind of Britain advised local officials that they would be betraying the trust imposed on them by foisting communal electorates, that they would be injecting poison into the

body politic which could only be removed, if at all, at the cost of a civil war. "We know how those anticipations are getting realised to-day".

"The latest statement of H.M.G. on the Cabinet Plan indicated that it was not in human nature to surrender power easily (hear, hear.) The playing of one faction against another was unworthy of a great people and would embitter the relations between this country and Great Britain. It was essential for them to understand that if an act was done, it must be with the utmost grace."

INDIA'S NEW CONSTITUTION

The Constitution the Assembly would be drawing up, Sir Sarvapalli urged should embody the dreams and passions, the ideals and aspirations of all who belonged to this country. It must be based on the consent of all and respect the right of all people belonging to this great land. "We have been kept apart, it is our duty now to find each other."

Referring to the Muslim League's abstention from the Assembly Sir Sarvapalli said:

"We all deplore, as the speakers yesterday and the day before deplored, the abstention of the representatives of the Muslim League from the Constituent Assembly. We take it that it will only be temporary, for their co-operation is absolutely essential for the success of any constitution which we may draw up. Our hunger, our poverty, our disease, our malnutrition, are common to all. Take the psychological ills from which we suffer, the loss of human dignity, the slavery of the mind, the stunting of sensibilities and the shame of subjection. These are common to all—Hindus or Muslims, Princes or peasants. The chains may be of gold, but they are still chains that matter."

"Apart from all this, a nation did not depend on identity of race, sentiment, or ancestry. It depended upon a persistent and continuous way of life that had come down to us. "Such a way of life belongs to the very soil of this land. It is there, indigenous to this country such as the waters of the Ganges or the snows of the Himalayas. From the very roots of our civilisation, down from the Indus Valley to the present day, when we have representatives of that same great culture among Hindus and Muslims, we have stood for the ideal of comprehension and charity. This country never adopted inquisitorial methods. It never asked the Parsis or the Jews or the Christians or the Muslims who came and took shelter here to change their creeds and become a uniform Hindu humanity. 'Live and let live'—that has been the great spirit of this country. If we are true to that spirit, if that ideal, which has dominated our cultural landscape for five to six thousand years, is adhered to by the elected representatives of that great culture, I have no doubt that the crisis with which we are faced to-day will be overcome as many other crises in the previous history of this land have been overcome."

Political

CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT

The Congress Working Committee, in a lengthy statement, considers that a "new situation which is full of peril for the future has been created", by the British Government's declaration of December 6 and subsequent pronouncements in Parliament.

The Committee reviewing the position express the view that a reference of the Grouping issue to the Federal Court in the present conditions when the British Government and the Muslim League have refused to abide by its decision, is uncalled for, unbecoming and unsuited to the dignity of the Congress and the Federal Court.

The Committee conclude:

The Working Committee are still of the opinion that the interpretation put by the British Government in regard to the method of voting in the sections is not in conformity with provincial autonomy, which is one of the fundamental bases of the scheme proposed in the statement of May 16. The Committee are anxious to avoid anything that may come in the way of the successful working of the Constituent Assembly, and are prepared to do everything in their power to seek and obtain the largest measure of co-operation, provided that no fundamental principle is violated."

Earlier the statement discusses various statements made on behalf of the British Government and says that in spite of assurance to the effect that no additions to or interpretation of the statement of May 16 were going to be made, the British Government have now issued a statement (on December 6) which clearly in several respects goes beyond the original statement, on the basis of which progress has been made till now.

The statement expresses regret that the British Government should have acted in a manner which has not been in keeping with their own assurances, and which has created suspicion in the minds of large numbers of people in India. For some time past the attitude of the British Government and their representatives in India has been such as to add to the difficulties and complexities of the situation in the country. Their present intervention, long after the members of the Constituent Assembly had been elected, has created a new situation which is full of peril for the future."

ABOLITION OF INDIAN TITLES

In future no Indian titles will be conferred on Indians in British India, whether military or civilian. A communique issued by the Government on December 31, says:

"In view of the attitude of the major political parties in India to honours and titles, H.E. Lord Wavell has had informal discussions with Members of the Interim Government and it was decided that, with the exceptions mentioned below, no recommendations in favour of Indians from British India should in future be submitted to His Majesty the King.

"Awards for gallantry and of the order of British India will continue to be made to the Indian personnel of the armed forces. In suitable cases awards for gallantry will be made to civilians. Awards of the King's Police and Fire Services, Medical and the Indian Police Medal will continue. For humanitarian services, Kaisar-i-Hind Medals will be awarded as before.

"In future, no Indian titles will be conferred upon Indians in British India, whether military or civilian."

HOME MEMBER ON APPOINTMENT OF NON-INDIANS

Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Home Member, announced in the Central Legislative Assembly in reply to Mr. Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal that the Interim Government had decided that appointments of non-Indians to civil posts under their administrative control should be made only in exceptional cases and that also only on contract for the minimum period necessary.

Whenever a Department proposed to employ a non-Indian in any post, it should simultaneously take suitable steps to train Indians to fill such posts.

Educational

SIR RADHAKRISHNAN AT THE UNESCO

Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, the Chief Indian delegate, declared at the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Conference at Paris on November 25 that the modern man is a "victim of his education". "We have become slaves, accepting whatever our Government ask us to accept", he told a Programme Commission meeting.

"The world is faced with spiritual blindness and spiritual disintegration. We have to find for this distracted world an integrated view of life."

The way in which they were handling secrets of atomic science was not a way which recommended free interchange of ideals or free flow of thought from one nation to another". Sir Sarvapalli continued: 'It is all very well to talk about exchanges of ideas and equality of opportunity', he said. 'We must support this with our deeds. The way science is going to be employed depends upon the outlook in the minds of men—that is where philosophy is needed.'

STUDY OF SANSKRIT IN BRITAIN

A tribute to the achievements of India and Greece in the spheres of culture and civilisation was paid by Prof. Sir Ernest Barker, the well-known British philosopher, at a meeting at Cambridge. He suggested that Sanskrit should be learnt by British students as a great classical language along with Latin and Greek and appealed for greater cultural understanding between the peoples of India and Britain.

The Chairman of the meeting, Mr. Subrata Roy Chowdhury, said that the new India now emerging was destined to provide a solid spiritual foundation on which alone it was possible to build a world society. The role of the new India in bringing about peace and security of the world was unchallengeable.

REVISION OF TEXT BOOKS

Prof. K. G. Saiyidain, Indian delegate, stressed at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Conference the need for revision of school text-books and instanced as an example of too much distortion the fact that in India many history books ended by speaking of the "blessings of British rule."

The professor added: "We must speak the truth in our text books. If we have any skeletons in our cupboards, we should bring them out and not be afraid to face them."

The UNESCO, he suggested, should approach various Governments and national bodies for co-operation in this important matter.

KHYBER UNIVERSITY IN N.W.F. PROVINCE

The North-West Frontier Province may soon have a university, to be named after the famous Khyber Pass.

The first meeting of the university committee was held at Peshawar under the presidency of the Minister of Education Mr. Mohammed Yahya Jan, and was addressed by Dr. Amarnath Jha, Vice-Chancellor of the Allahabad University. The university committee decided to appoint a sub-committee of six to tour the various Indian universities and collect the necessary data.

It is understood that the Khyber University will be an examining body with powers to affiliate and establish colleges and other institutions.

CEYLON TO DROP ENGLISH

The Select Committee appointed by the States Council on State language has recommended that English shall cease to be the language of the administration of the Island of Ceylon and Sinhalese and Tamil shall take its place from Jan. 1, 1957 i.e., in ten years from now.

Legal

THE LAWYERS' CONFERENCE

That the system of trial by jury and with assessors being unsatisfactory, the Government should adopt early steps for the abolition of the system by suitably amending the Code of Criminal Procedure was the opinion expressed by the Provincial Lawyers' Conference, which met at Madras in Christmas week.

Mr. K. Raja Aiyar, Advocate-General, Madras, presiding over the session, stated that "there ought to be only one Bar, namely, the Indian Bar, comprising one class of practitioners, call them what you will, Barristers or advocates."

The Conference resolved to request the High Court to amend the rules relating to the enrolment of Advocates suitably so as to enable pleaders to enrol themselves as Advocates on payment of a nominal enrolment fee of Rs. 50. The principle was accepted that there should be two categories of lawyers, namely, 'Acting' and 'Pleading' Advocates.

Expressing the opinion that the system of trial by jury and with assessors was unsatisfactory, the Conference urged the Government to take early steps to suitably amend the Code of Criminal Procedure for abolishing the same.

The Conference urged that in working out the present scheme of separation of the Executive from the Judiciary not less than 75 per cent. of the Sub-Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and District Magistrates should be recruited directly from the Bar and the rest from the present incumbents possessing the necessary legal qualifications, 75 per cent. of the recruitment from the Bar should be from the mofussil etc. etc.

The Conference resolved that out of the Judges recruited from the Bar to the Judicature at Madras, half the number might be recruited from among the members of the Mofussil Bar in the presidency.

Government was requested to provide for the defence of poor persons in Criminal cases, by legislating an Act on the lines of the English Act "the Poor Prisoners' Defence Act of 1930."

The Conference was of opinion that the increase of Court Fees by the Madras Court Fees Amendment Act of 1922 had worked great hardship on the litigant public and had amounted to a denial of justice and hence requested Government to reduce the Court Fees to the level obtaining prior to 1922.

Lowering of the scale of stamp and registration fees to the level existing in 1921, revision of Court fees on a slab system or any other rational basis, revision of rules so as to enable legal practitioners to get twice the present schedule rate of fees, and fixing a minimum fee of Rs. 50 to legal practitioners in all land suits having jurisdiction value of over Rs. 500 and allowance of the same scale of fees in all suits and proceedings in Revenue Courts as are allowed in original suits and proceedings in Civil Courts, were asked for in some other resolutions.

Abolition of the Panchayat Courts, as well as the system of non-stipendiary and Bench Magistrates in criminal administration and the system of allowing private pleaders to appear, plead or act before Magistrates, was urged by means of other resolutions.

The Conference resolved that the Bar Council be the statutory and final arbiter of the professional conduct of the members of the Bar and that all powers exercised by the High Court now may be withdrawn and vested in the Bar Council.

LAHORE HIGH COURT CHIEF JUSTICE

The King has appointed Sir Abdul Rashid, a Puisne Judge of the High Court in Lahore, to be the Chief Justice of the said High Court.

PROGRESS OF INSURANCE IN INDIA

"Insurance in modern times is intimately connected with every sphere of civilian life and plays an important part in it. The world is engaged in far-reaching schemes of reconstruction and India is particularly engaged in schemes of industrial expansion which will help in raising the standard of living of its teeming millions. When these schemes come to maturity insurance business of all classes is bound to increase," states the Superintendent of Insurance in the review of Insurance in India in 1945 in the latest Indian Insurance Year Book.

Commenting on the increase in the volume of life insurance business effected by Indian Insurance companies, the Superintendent states that this gradual increase for several past years does not in itself indicate that the country has become more insurance minded. "It is more or less a result of the war-time prosperity of the class taking to insurance. In this connection it is important to stress once again the off-repeated warning about the relative importance of quality and quantity in life insurance business. Quantity implying merely the size of the premium income should never be the objective. Where insurance is at its best the under-writer is supreme, ignoring the demand for premium income at the cost of the quality of the business."

Referring to companies doing insurance business other than life, the Superintendent remarks that in the majority of cases the premium income shows a shrinkage in the Marine branch. "This is an inevitable result of the complete cessation of war risk premiums. The disturbed post-war conditions have also contributed to this decline inasmuch as normal trade facilities are still lacking and war-time controls have not yet completely disappeared. It will be some time yet before the normal flow of trade begins. The claims have increased. The premium incomes of both the Fire and Miscellaneous branches of these

companies have generally increased. The claims in the Fire business show a welcome drop, while in the Miscellaneous business the position remains where it was in 1944".

The report reiterates the position as a dealt with in this publication in the past years. The two major influencing factors which cause anxiety to the insurers, *viz.*, effect of cheap money policy of the Government and high taxation have been fully discussed. The Superintendent feels that the interest rates have come to stay, at any rate, for an unpredictable long period still, and advises the insurers, particularly those doing life insurance business, to strengthen their reserve position so as to meet the strain on their resources on this account. The report has warned the insurers against the danger of disregarding the basic principle of not seeking investment in classes of securities which are particularly susceptible to fluctuations in value, in their anxiety to augment their interest yields.

The Superintendent of Insurance has recapitulated the arguments against Nationalisation given in the last Year Book and has enumerated the obvious points in favour of the State taking over the business of life insurance leaving it to the public to form its own opinion in the matter.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE

The effect of the elimination of *workmen's compensation insurance* from the activities of the private institutions is already being felt. Some companies specialised in the business which is now taken over by the Ministry of National Insurance, and the composite offices are naturally not content to see a branch of their activities with or without replacement.

There are several directions in which the unwanted resources can be used says *Capital*. Aviation has long term possibilities, while there seems to be considerable scope in insurance against flood, storm and tempest.

EXCHANGE VALUE OF RUPEE

The South Indian Chamber of Commerce in a communication to the Government of India, in reply to an invitation by the Government for comments on the par value of the rupee says that the Chamber is against any change in the par value of the rupee "for the time being." It states:

In the years when we had heavy debt services and home charges to pay abroad, we were well served by the high exchange value of the rupee. Now the position of Britain as a debtor-country is reversed, and she will be compelled to pay off the balances due to India in the years to come. It may help her to realise her economic equilibrium and pay off her foreign liabilities, if the Indian exchange is continued unaltered. Having regard to our political relations with Britain in the past and our desire to remain in the Commonwealth for as long as may be, we are interested in keeping the liabilities of Britain as light as possible.

A depreciation in the exchange value of the rupee just at present will induce an abrupt shooting-up of prices to a corresponding extent, and the problem of inflated prices, therefore, will synchronise with days of serious unemployment and stagnation in the growth of industries, having regard to the new policy of the Government, to divert funds and manpower from major industries to cottage industries for the development of rural areas. This should be avoided.

For no less than two decades past, there has been a perfect equilibrium between several economic forces. Now by a sudden change in the exchange value of the rupee the relative position of importers and exporters, debtors and creditors, employers and employees, producers and consumers, landlords and tenants, will be violently disturbed, and one section of the population in each case will benefit arbitrarily at the expense of the other.

In view of these considerations it is desirable that for the time being the Government of India should not be troubled about the exact rate at which the rupee must be pegged. In due course, when the reorientation of the policy initiated by the new Governments, Central and Local, takes shape, and India's economic relations with the outside world take a new turn, it will be time to determine whether a change will be in the best interests of the economy of the country.

CONTROL AND REGULATION OF COTTON TRADE

The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay has set out its view on the control and regulation of cotton trade, in a letter addressed to the Government of Bombay in reply to the latter's questionnaire.

The Chamber favours confining trading hedge contracts to one recognised association in Bombay for the whole province. At the same time, the Chamber says, "In order to afford the necessary facilities for upcountry centre for trading, in local growths, forward trading, limited to local growths and to delivery contracts should be allowed in such centres."

The Chamber is not ordinarily in favour of subjecting commercial transactions to any penal provisions. As the law stands at present, contracts not in accordance with the bye-laws of a recognised association are invalid but not illegal. The Chamber after careful consideration inclines to agree that such contracts "should be made illegal thereby rendering persons dealing in such contracts liable to criminal prosecution and such penalty as may be prescribed."

The Chamber is not in favour of options in cotton (Tejimandi transactions) being made illegal and regards that the present hedge contract (Indian cotton contract) stands in need of modification which should be done in consultation with interests directly concerned in the cotton trade.

TRADE COMMISSIONER IN AUSTRALIA

Mr. A. D. Azhar of the Commonwealth Relations Department has been appointed Trade Commissioner to Australia in the place of Mr. R. R. Saxena.

RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Leader of the Indian delegation, intervening in a debate on the rights of women in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee of the United Nations declared: "It is not sufficient to recommend to nations new proposals ensuring women's equality with men—a principle which is already in the United Nations Charter. It is public opinion more than legal sanction which is bound to succeed".

Joining issue with Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Mrs. Pandit pleaded for dropping the word "political" from the recommendation to be made by the Committee concerning women's right and argued that reference to a sub-committee" on this important matter "would sidetrack the issue".

Mrs. Pandit stated that in India women had not to fight their rights as in Western countries and quoted Indian history as abounding in instances of women's participation as equals to men in all walks of life, adding: "Though literacy in India is not universal and though we are still not a free people we have raised the status of women to almost equal level with men."

Mrs. Pandit, however, opposed a Danish resolution which urged the General Assembly to recommend all member-States that have not already done so to adopt measures necessary to fulfil the purposes and ends of the Charter in this respect by granting women the same political rights as men.

"Do not ask women to beg for favours," she said. "What Indian women despite handicaps are doing can be done by women elsewhere. If women are not ready, as has been said, give them a preparatory period to get used to assuming responsibilities. In India women never found any opposition on their part by men."

AMERICAN WOMEN TAKE TO DRINK

An eminent American psychiatrist says more and more women in the United States are becoming alcoholic.

Writing in a recent issue of the magazine, *Women's Home Companion*, Dr. Robert M. Seliger reports that the number of American women patients admitted to mental hospitals for alcoholism has sharply increased in the past 10 years and that of these patients, 60 to 70 per cent. are doomed to end their lives in psychiatric hospitals or literally drink themselves to death.

Dr. Seliger, a member of the psychiatric Staff of the highly rated John Hopkins Hospital and University at Baltimore, Maryland, for 16 years, writes that in the early days of his practice, not more than one alcoholic out of ten who came to him was a woman. Now the women are four out of every 10.

MRS. PANDIT, STAR FROM THE EAST

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, who led the Indian delegation to the United Nations Organisation, is given top-page honours in an article entitled "Women of Achievement in 1946" in "New York Sun". Above the picture showing Mrs. Pandit addressing the U.N. Assembly, the newspaper says: "Taking the United Nations as a proving ground, women in the year 1946 put forward a formidable team. It was a star from the East that captured the imagination and admiration of her fellow-workers and people everywhere who were anxiously following the progress of the United Nations. From the opening of the General Assembly when Mrs. Pandit arrived as the head of the Indian delegation until the closing weeks when she defended with courage and distinction the rights of her countrymen in South Africa this tiny dark Brahmin lady in her Indian sari was the focal point of attention both in the Press and among United Nations visitors".

ORIENTAL STUDY IN ENGLAND

One of the most striking feature in the growth of London University is the increase in students at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Though they numbered only just over 200 in 1939, they now exceed 1,000 for the first time in the School's history. More than 300 at the last session were from the forces.

The curriculum included 15 commercial courses in Arabic, Sudanese Arabic, Malay, Persian, Chinese, Tamil and Urdu, and even more courses are being held this session. They cater largely to the demand of Middle East, Indian and the Far East business houses, including principal members of the India-Burma Association, and also oil companies. Fifteen of these firms sent students.

Expansion has necessitated more than doubling of teachers—from 50 pre-war to 121 with additional linguists on call when required.

The School of Slavonic and East European Studies is also busy with over 50 pre-war to 121 with additional linguists on call when required.

The School of Slavonic and East European Studies is also busy with over 50 students, most of them study in Russian.

WORKING CONDITIONS OF JOURNALISTS

The Joint Secretaries Southern India Journalists' Federation Madras in the course of a communication state: With a view to collecting as complete data as possible with regard to the newspaper and periodical press in South India in so far as they have a bearing on the status and strength of the profession of journalism and the working conditions of the men and women employed on the editorial and reporting sides, including mofussil correspondents a questionnaire has been prepared and sent to the editors of newspapers and periodicals published in South India. If the enquiry should be fruitful, it may be possible for the Federation to compile and publish in due course a Newspaper Directory for South India.

MR. BEVAN'S DESCRIPTION OF MR. CHURCHILL

Mr. Aneurin Bevan, the Minister for Health, referred to Mr. Winston Churchill, Britain's war-time Premier, as "that wicked man" in a speech recently.

Mr. Bevan, who was replying to Mr. Churchill's attack on him recently said: "When people ask me to remember his war record, I remember his peace record and in peace, he was a disaster" he said "He was one of those who bludgeoned miners back to work in 1926. He was one of the chief architects of our misery and spread ruin, poverty and destruction in the mine industry", continued Mr. Bevan, "Mr. Emmanuel Shinwell (Minister of Mines) had to reap the harvest that wicked man sowed", he added.

SIR G. S. BAJPAI

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai has been appointed interim Charge d'Affaires of the new Indian Embassy in Washington pending the appointment of a full Ambassador.

Mr. George Merrell the present American Commissioner to India, is also appointed Interim Charge d'Affaires in New Delhi.

INDIAN TO COMMAND H.M.I.S. "HIMALAYA"

Commander A. Chakravarty, R. I. N. has assumed command of H.M.I.S. "Himalaya" a shore establishment in Karachi.

H.M.I.S. "Himalaya" which was commissioned during the war, is the largest gunnery school in Asia and Commander Chakravarty is the first Indian to be appointed its Commanding Officer.

MR. ISWARA DUTT FOR HYDERABAD

Mr. K. Iswara Dutt, Editor of the "Twentieth Century" and till recently Director of Information, Jaipur State, has been appointed Public Relations Officer of the Hyderabad State Government.

THE LATE MR. K. PANDALAI

We regret to record the death of Mr. K. K. Pandalai, a former Judge of the Madras High Court, at Mavelikara (Travancore State.)

NEW PENICILLIN TREATMENT

According to medical reports, more and more use is being made of penicillin in the treatment of minor ailments with highly successful results. Penicillin is now being used as a wax preparation which will enable bigger doses being given at a single hospital attendance. This method has been applied in the treatment of such as boils, carbuncles, inflammation and infections of blood. The use of penicillin in wax makes it possible to administer doses up to twelve times larger than the normal doses used hitherto and hundreds of rapid cures been obtained.

Doses of penicillin 12 times larger than those usually given are producing remarkable results in the cure of boils, carbuncles, inflammation and various infections of the blood stream. At King's College Hospital, London, hundreds of out-patients have been treated with these bigger doses and people for miles around are talking of 'spectacular cures'.

TREATMENT OF LEPROSY

The *ad hoc* Committee appointed by the Madras Government to examine and report on the present position as regards prevalence of leprosy and the steps to be taken for its treatment and prevention met recently at the office of the Surgeon-General, Mrs. R. Lakshmipathi, Minister for Public Health, presiding.

The committee includes the Surgeon-General, Dr. Cocharane, Capt. Thambiah, Mr. Kurian and the Director of Public Health (members) and Mr. T. N. Jagadisan (Secretary).

The Committee agreed that the policy should be that of treating leprosy like any other disease and of laying emphasis on the preventive side of the problem.

The Committee has programmed to discuss at its future meetings, problems of rural leprosy, improvement of existing sanatoriums and the establishment of new ones as also research, teaching, education of the public, occupational therapy and rehabilitation measures.

MATERNITY WORK

Opening on December 16, the first Conference of Women Medical Officers in charge of Maternity and Child Welfare work in the Province of Madras the Hon. Lady Nye stressed the importance of their applying themselves to their work in a spirit of service, bearing in mind that it was the work of building up the generations of future citizens and ensuring their healthy growth.

Mrs. Rukmani Lakshmipathi then delivered her presidential address. It was a recognised fact, she said, that the well-being of the mother and child was essentially the concern of the State as well as of society at large and of individual citizens. If the manhood of the future and the country should prosper, the preservation and care of the mother and child were of the utmost significance. The child was the citizen of to-morrow and unless and until infant life was fostered and protected, the country was bound to suffer. Greater attention was being paid in recent years to this aspect of public health work. Many of the pioneers in this field were confronted with the tragedy arising from the fact that child birth took place in unsuitable surroundings, only unskilled and unqualified persons, such as the indigenous hereditary *dayis*, being in attendance. The earliest attempts were, therefore, directed to up-grading the level and standard of midwifery and imparting training for the *dayis*. The scheme did not succeed as the training was given in a desultory and sporadic fashion.

In conclusion, Mrs. Lakshmipathi said that it was necessary to have an intensive drive towards the goal and organise propaganda in the cause.

HEART BEATS TRANSMITTED BY RADIO

Listeners in Britain recently heard the beating of human hearts in Moscow when Moscow Radio, broadcast a contrast between the beat of a healthy heart and that of a rheumatic one, says a *Reuter* message from London.

NO CHANGE IN PAR VALUE OF RUPEE

The Government of India have decided not to change the par value of the rupee. A Press Communique issued in this connection on December 11th says:

"Pursuant to Article 20, Section 4 (a) of the Articles of Agreement of the international Monetary Fund the Government of India were requested on September 12, 1946, to communicate to the Fund on or before October 12, 1946, the par value of the rupee expressed in terms of gold or U. S. dollars based on the rates of exchange prevailing on October 28, 1945, which was the sixtieth day before the coming into force of the agreement. On the basis of the exchange rates prevailing on that date, namely, Re. 1—1sh. 6d and £1—\$4.03, and one fine ounce of gold \$35, the par value of the rupee in terms of gold comes to '0086357 ounces of fine gold and this was duly communicated to the Fund.

"Under Article 20 Section 4 (b) of the Articles of Agreement, the par value so communicated is to be par value of the rupee, unless within 90 days after the receipt of the Fund's request, (that is by December 12, 1946) India notifies the Fund that it regards the par value as unsatisfactory or the Fund notifies India that in its opinion, the par value cannot be maintained. In either of these latter events, India would have to come to agreement with the Fund as to a suitable par value of the rupee or else withdraw from the Fund.

"The Government of India, having regard to all the relative circumstances and in consonance with the vast majority of the opinion received, have decided that no change is called for in the par value of the Rupee. While intimating this decision, the Fund has been informed that in the interests of accuracy, the par value of the rupee, instead of being expressed in ounces of gold as previously communicated, should be expressed in terms of grains troy of gold.

THE RAILWAY CONFERENCE

"It is my hope that it will be possible for the Central and Provincial Governments and the States to view the development of Transportation as a whole and to evolve a co-ordinated scheme of healthy development which may afford the millions of India ever increasing facilities for free movements in maximum comfort". Thus declared Mr. Asaf Ali, Member for Transport in the Interim Government speaking at the 50th session of the Indian Railway Conference Association.

NATIONALISATION OF RAILWAYS

The history of the growth of Indian railways has handed down a legacy which makes it necessary to emphasize the reorientation which must be taken to have come about since this revolutionary change.

This naturally means that the biggest national asset which is now being managed by the Government on behalf of the people, whose money has gone to its development, must no longer be considered as an instrument of exploitation by foreign or Indian capitalists and everyone employed by the organisation must look upon the Government railways as the most tangible national property, whose improvement is a national duty imposed upon every railwayman.

OFFENCES UNDER RAILWAY ACT

Recent experience during the disturbances which have occurred in various parts of the country has indicated that railway communications have been interfered with in various ways and that the penalties at present provided in law for such interference have not acted as a deterrent to the lawless elements responsible for it, says a Press Note. The Government have, therefore, considered it expedient to enhance the penalties provided in the Indian Railways Act 1890, for offences against the safety of passengers and staff and damage to equipment. A new Ordinance provides for these enhanced penalties.

MALI OF ANANDA VIKATAN

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of T. R. Mahalingam known as Mali, the well known artist of the *Ananda Vikatan*. "Mali" has been ailing for the last three years, and though he had the benefit of the best available treatment he never completely recovered. Even in this condition his mind was active and his apprentices who were devoted to him continued to be guided by him to the end. "Mali" has endeavoured to give pictorial representation to every feature of South Indian life and scenery. Even in the last Annual, "Mali" is represented by a coloured picture throbbing with life. He had a knack of piercing through the surface to the soul of the subject and with a deft hand he could make his figure live and vibrate with animation. "Mali" was proud of his South Indian lineage and he took pains to produce a gallery of pictures of South Indian temples and scenes. Besides this, he attempted to capture some of the passing phases of South Indian civilization and his studies in expression are as varied as they are entertaining. "Mali" died at 41 at his village home in the Tanjore District and the Tamil world will not see his like again. To the bereaved family and to the management of *Ananda Vikatan* we offer our deepest sympathies in their irreparable loss.

NEHRU SITS FOR EPSTEIN

Pandit Nehru, before he went to the India Office, London to confer with the Secretary of State, gave Epstein, the famous sculptor, sitting for a bust of himself. Epstein worked at his studio at Hyde Park, writes Fraser Wightton.

COCHIN GRANT FOR SOCIETY OF PAINTERS

The Government of Cochin have sanctioned a donation of Rs. 10,000 to the South India Society of Painters, Egmore, Madras.

AUSTRALIA WIN SECOND TEST

Australia won the second Test Match with England by an innings and 33 runs at Sydney on December 19. Australia are now two up, having won the first Test of the present series by an innings and 332 runs at Brisbane on December 4.

Set to make 404 runs to avoid an innings defeat, England fought back magnificently when they made 247 for three. Edrich and Hammond were then together, with 86 and 15 respectively, and much depended on them when the match was continued the next day. But when the partnership had added 33 runs to the overnight total, Hammond was dismissed for 37.

With Edrich's dismissal, the end was in sight, and the whole side was dismissed for 371.

ORIGIN OF FOOTBALL

Football as we know it today really started on October 26, 1863, in the Freemasons' Tavern, London, presenting ten football clubs who, when they wanted a game had no means of telling what rules, if any their opponents might play under, met to discuss the situation.

The result of this meeting was the evolution of one set of rules, subsequently recognised and adhered to by all, under the aegis of a ruling body known throughout the world today as the Football Association.

The condensing of various school rules into one set acceptable to every body presented some difficulties, and as a result those who favoured an egg-shaped ball and preferred to run with it, dropped out to form their own game of Rugby Football.

JARDINE TO WRITE ON INDIAN CRICKET

The former England Cricket Captain Douglas Jardine, who has great knowledge of cricket in India, has undertaken to write a booklet with a view to helping the young cricketers in India to learn cricket on proper lines.

NO ANTIDOTE TO ATOM BOMB

Professor Albert Einstein and a group of scientists appealed for 1,000,000 dollars in public subscriptions to be used in educating the community in social implications of atomic energy and the steps necessary to avoid the destruction of civilization.

Professor Einstein declared: "These facts are accepted by all scientists; Atomic bombs can now be made cheaply and in large numbers. They will become more destructive: There is no military defence against an atomic bomb and none can be expected; Other nations can rediscover our secret processes by themselves; Preparedness against atomic warfare is futile and if attempted will ruin the structure of our social order; If war breaks out, atomic bombs will be used and they will surely destroy our civilisation. There is no solution to this problem except international control of atomic energy and ultimately, elimination of war."

NOBEL PRIZE AWARD FOR GERMAN ATOMIC SCIENTIST

Prof. Otto Hahn, the 69-year-old German scientist, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1944 for his discovery of fission of heavy atomic nuclei.

Prof. Hahn was connected with German atomic research, but remained a resolute opponent of National Socialism. He was taken to England for interrogation to find out how far Germany had progressed before the atomic bomb was adopted on Japan. Prof. Hahn is now the leader of a group of German scientists who are planning resumption of fundamental scientific research in the British zone of Germany.

DR. K. S. KRISHNAN'S NEW POST

Dr. K. S. Krishnan, Head of the Physics Department of the Allahabad University, who is at present in America with the Government of India Delegation of Indian scientists to study scientific researches which will be beneficial to the industrialisation of India, has been selected for the post of Director of the National Laboratory of Physics to be established in Delhi.

TWENTY-THREE LANGUAGE FILM

Somerset Maugham's novel, "The Razor's Edge" the filming of which was recently completed at a cost of £1,000,000 will be either "dubbed" or given sub-titles in no fewer than 23 languages.

The foreign language programme, which will be the most extensive undertaken on any recent 20th Century-Fox picture, will include "dubbing" in Hindustani. The only other film "dubbed" in Hindustani was "The Thief of Baghdad". Several of the principal sequences of "The Razor's Edge" are set against the background of India. Distributors throughout the world will be asked whether they prefer dubbing or sub-titles.

FILM BIOGRAPHY OF PROF. KARVE

Sunrich Pictures of Bombay, says a Bombay report, have decided to make a film biography of Prof. D. K. Karve, founder of the Women's University in Bombay. Mama Warenkar, who has championed the women's cause through his novels, is writing the screen play and Mr. P. M. Zand, I.C.S., a litterateur of high merit, is writing the dialogues for English version.

SUBHAS BOSE'S ROLE

Subhas Bose's nephew is reported to have agreed to play the role of his illustrious uncle in the film *Netaji Zia-uddin*.

The report of the story based on Utamchand's articles on the escape of Netaji is now under preparation and the picture will go on the sets soon at the newly erected studio of the United Films, Lucknow. The sponsors of this venture are Anupam Chitra.

INDIAN FILM FOR PARIS EXHIBITION

The film "Dharti-Ke-Lal" (children of the earth), produced by the Indian People's Theatre, has been accepted for the International Film exhibition at Paris during the session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, according to a telegram received here from the Education Department of the Government of India.

The film depicts the Bengal famine of 1943.

BRITAIN'S OUTPUT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Britain's production of motor vehicles reached a record in September as regards both passenger cars and commercial vehicles. Output of passenger cars was 20,612 and of commercial vehicles 13,865. The total number of motor vehicles of all types for which licences were current in August was 3,068,000—only 114,000 less than in August 1939. There were in August nearly 300,000 fewer cars, but over 100,000 more agricultural tractors and similar machines than before war.

The Rootes Group, which makes Humber, Hillman, and Sunbeam-Talbot motor cars, has decided to concentrate the assembly of all these cars in the recently acquired 80-acre shadow factory at Ryton-on-Dansmore, near Coventry.

MOTOR CAR IMPORTS

Though there is a shortage of passenger motor cars, the position is improving month by month. From the beginning of 1946 to the end of September, about 4,000 new motor cars have been imported and now they are being received at the rate of nearly one thousand per month. There is no serious shortage of transport vehicles in the country and the question of continuance of control does not arise in respect of them. Power to exercise control over distribution and price of motor cars now vests in the Provinces, and it is understood that the Provincial Governments of Punjab and Madras have already imposed control.

41,000 MOTOR VEHICLES IN OCTOBER

The British motor industry has now reached 95 per cent. of its pre-war output. This was revealed the other day by Mr. R. Gresham Cooke, Director of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

The October figure of nearly 41,000 cars and commercial vehicles, he said, suggested that over 480,000 vehicles will be produced this year, as compared with just over 500,000 before the war.

SAFETY IN AIR TRAVEL

Lord Nathan, Minister for Civil Aviation announced recently that he is setting up an expert body to exercise responsibility under his authority in matters pertaining to safety in British Civil aviation. He said that the general policy of his Ministry would be to pursue first safety, second safety and third, safety and then regularity, adequacy of services and speed. "If the confidence of the public is to be obtained, it is essential to know that they will arrive safe and sound at their destination at the prescribed time," he said.

Lord Nathan also proposes the appointment of National Civil Aviation Consultative Council to assist him in the discharge of his function. The membership will be drawn from operators personnel constructors, users and a representative of the general body of the population.

LUXURY TRAVELLING PLANNED

Airlines are asking the public to help design passenger features for to-morrow's airliners. In a novel booklet circulated by the United Airlines to present and prospective airline patrons, the company asks them to join its engineers in planning such thing as airliner seats, berths, upholstery, compartments, cabin lighting, baggage facilities, lounges and other details of the big four-engined Douglas planes which companies have ordered for post-war operations.

BRITISH PLANE SETS UP NEW RECORD

A British Overseas Airways aircraft claimed a new record early in December for the flight from New York to Shannon (Ire) with the non-stop time of 3 hours 32 minutes. The plane, Bristol II, was piloted by Captain B. Frost. It covered 3,200 miles at an average speed of 375 miles an hour cruising at 21,000 feet.

NEW AIR CHIEF FOR INDIA

Soldier-airman and veteran of World War I, Air Marshal H. S. P. Walmisley, has been appointed Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief India, in succession to Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr.

INDIA'S WARTIME INDUSTRIES

Varying degrees of tariff protection, Government subsidies or State assistance in the procurement of raw materials have, it is understood, been recommended by the Indian Tariff Board in respect of almost all the fourteen industries on which the Board has concluded enquiry.

These recommendations will now be considered by the Central Government.

Almost all the industries whose cases were referred to the Board for enquiry had sprung up during the war or owed their prosperity to war conditions, said a Government spokesman in an interview to the A. P. I. recently. The total absence of imports during the war years had augmented the demand for indigenous products and substitutes, thus contributing to the flourishing of a number of industries.

The Tariff Board has now completed investigations on the following industries: 1) Grinding wheels; (2) caustic soda and bleaching powder; (3) antimony; (4) sodium thiosulphates sodium sulphite anhydrous sodium bisulphate; (5) phosphates and phosphoric acid (6) butter colour; aerated water; (7) steel hoops for caging; (8) bichromates; (9) aluminium; (10) calcium chloride; (11) coated abrasives; (12) hurricane lanterns (13) wood screw; and (14) cocoa powder and chocolate industries.

MANUFACTURE OF GOLD THREAD

A demonstration plant for gold thread manufacture has been set up in the Government Textile Institute, by the Department of Industries and Commerce, Madras.

Gold thread, which is largely required for hand-woven fabric and embroidery, and is used largely in Madras Province, is the trade name given to finely flattened silver wire, plated with gold after it has been coiled closely on silk. Since recent years there are no imports of foreign gold thread and the present import duty is sufficiently high to enable capitalists to undertake the local manufacture of the product.

AGRICULTURAL INCOME-TAX

It is understood that the provisions of the Agricultural Income Tax Bill under consideration by the Madras Government are likely to be on the following lines:

Agricultural incomes up to Rs. 5,000 will not be taxed.

On incomes between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000, a tax of nine pies in the rupee.

Incomes between Rs. 10,000 and 15,000—One anna in the rupee.

Incomes between Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 20,000—One anna and a half in the rupee.

Incomes between Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 25,000—Two annas in the rupee.

Incomes between Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 30,000—Three annas in the rupee.

Incomes above Rs. 30,000—Tax likely to be at a flat rate of four annas in the rupee.

MR. BHABHA ON NEED OF CULTIVATORS

The need for a well-planned and coordinated irrigation policy was stressed by Mr. C. H. Bhabha, Member for Works, Mines and Power, at the meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation at Delhi.

He said this problem had to be tackled from an all-India angle. Provincial nationalism would have to give way to the larger interests of the country or of a river-basin, as a whole.

More and more land could be brought under cultivation and the yield per acre of food-grains could be increased only if they offered the cultivator the benefits of perennial irrigation at a reasonable cost.

A SHORT COURSE IN WATER-DIVINING

The Government of Bombay, it is learnt, is considering a project to take the help of some non-official water divining experts and train some men of the Agricultural Department in the use of water-finding machine and selection of best sites for well construction. Such trained staff would be of immense use to Government in its programme of construction of 50,000 wells in the province in the next five years to help irrigation.

PROFIT-SHARING IN TATAS

The existing wage structure for the employees of the Tata Iron and Steel Company will it is learnt, be revised as a result of the recent settlement between the Tata Workers' Union and the management of the Company and a new wage structure will be substituted which will come into force from April 1, 1947.

The following among other benefits will accrue to the employees: Basic wages for all employees will be on a graded incremental time-scale of pay.

The good attendance bonus will be 20 per cent of the basic wages for weekly-paid employees and daily rated employees outside the workers, and ten per cent for the monthly rated employees drawing up to Rs. 150 per month and below. Performance bonus in the new wages system will be extended to all semi-skilled workers in the plant and will be at an average rate of 40 per cent for service maintenance personnel and 50 per cent for producing personnel plus an additional ten per cent to all personnel as attendance bonus. The performance bonus will increase as the *per capita* output increases for each group.

Under the profit-sharing bonus scheme, the employees will be entitled to a share of 22½ per cent of the annual net profits of the Company. The Company has also agreed to build 3,500 more quarters for the workers within the next two years.

WAGES IN THE B. & C. MILLS

Mr. H. S. Town referring to a statement attributed to the Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress in their Memorandum to the Textile Court of Enquiry to the effect that the average wage of workers in October was Rs. 37-14 basic wages, plus a Dearness Allowance of Rs. 26-4, making a total of Rs. 34-2 pointed out that the minimum wage paid to an adult worker in the Mill is Rs. 19-8, plus Dearness Allowance of Rs. 26-4 making a total of Rs. 45-12. The Dearness Allowance fluctuates from month to month and is based on 3 annas per point of the Government Index above 100.

EAST BENGAL RELIEF WORKS

The Bharat Sevasram Sangha has been carrying on relief works in East Bengal from 10 centres, particularly in Noakhali, Tippera and Dacca districts. The Sangha has reconverted over 10,000 forcibly converted Hindus; reclaimed over 100 forcibly married women; restored symbols of Hindu womanhood, such as, vermilion and conch-shell bangles, to 500 forcibly converted women.

At Chandpur, Chaumohani and other centres 30,000 refugees from the raided villages of Noakhali and Tippera were temporarily maintained and new 10,000 destitutes are being sheltered with food, clothing etc. 2000 stranded and confined Hindus were rescued from different danger zones and despatched to the Sangha's refugee shelters. Dry doles of rice, chura, Gur etc. are also being distributed amongst large number of refugees. Money is also advanced to the utterly destitute refugee families to restart their life.

At Calcutta the Sangha transported 15,000 refugees from the Railway Stations to various relief camps; 2500 of them being temporarily sheltered and maintained in 5 Relief camps of the Sangha; at present 500 refugees are being accommodated and maintained. Charitable Dispensary, Free Primary School, Spinning, Book-binding and Religious Coaching classes have been provided for them.

To carry on these extensive relief operations the Sangha has to spend Rs. 15,000 per week. With the opening of new centres, as the situation demands, the expenditure will increase in proportion. Sufficient funds should be rushed to the Sangha's Relief Works. The management of the Sangha appeal to the benevolent public to contribute liberally. Contributions are requested to be sent to Swami Vedananda, General Secretary, Bharat Sevasram Sangha, 212, Rash Behari Avenue, Ballygunge, Calcutta.

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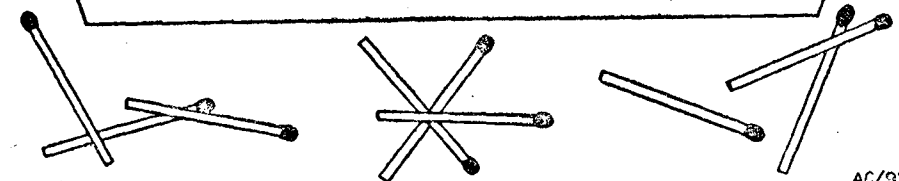
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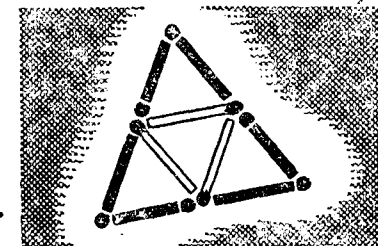
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AC/93

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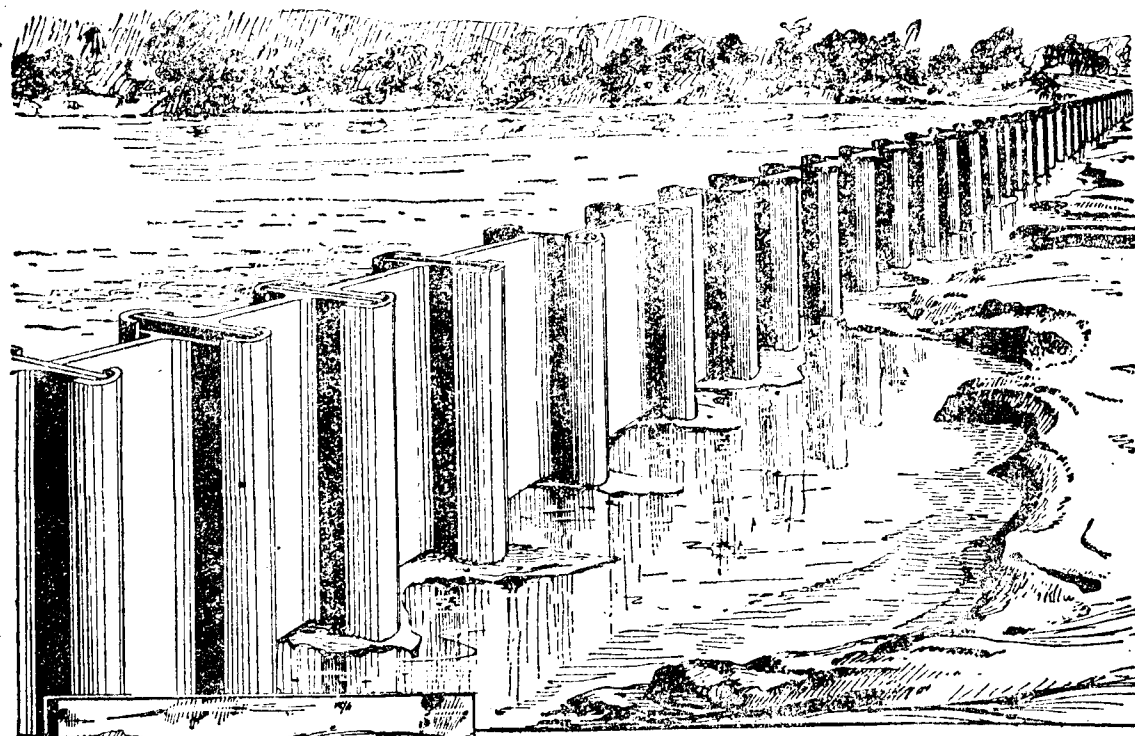
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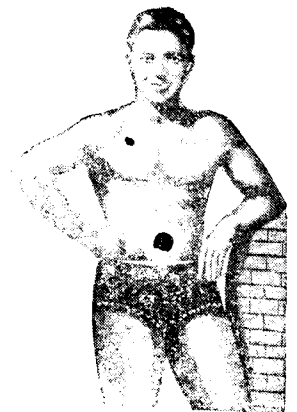
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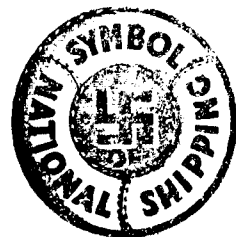
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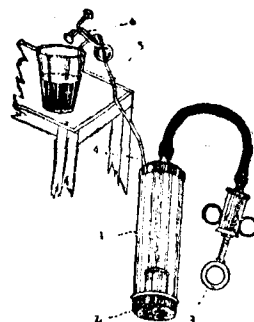
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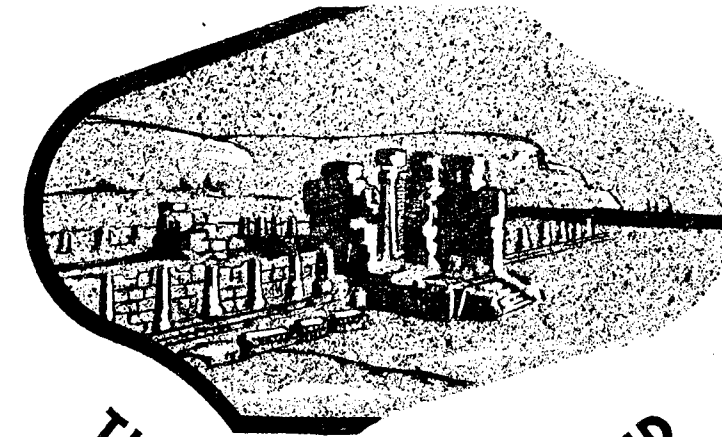
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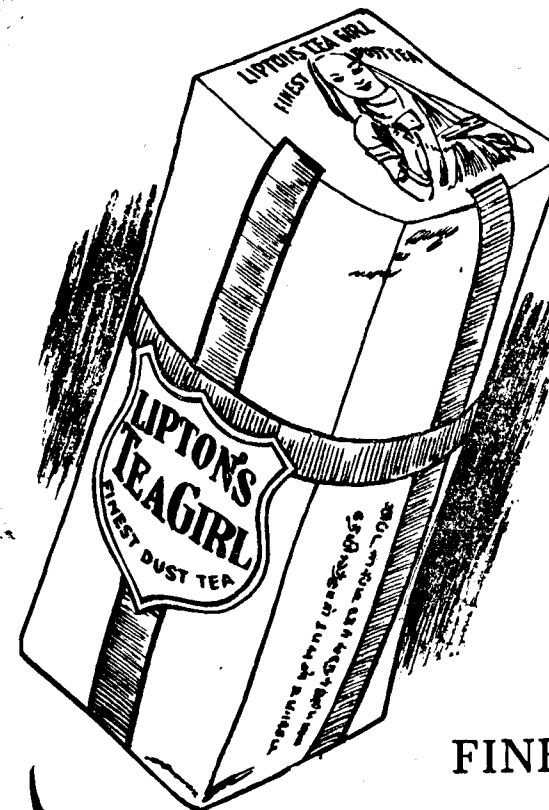
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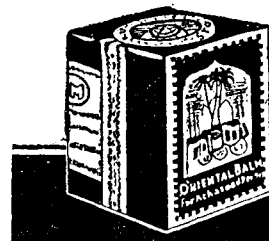
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FEBRUARY 1947

[No. 2.

IS ISLAM ANTI-HUMANITARIAN?

DR. M. HAFIZ SYED, M.A., Ph.D., D.Litt.

—: o:—

THE most tragic and heart-rending happenings in various parts of our unfortunate country have created great suspicion in our minds regarding the unwholesome influence that Islam is supposed to exercise on the lives and doings of its followers. It is believed in certain quarters that this religion preached by the Prophet of Islam is mainly responsible for it. It is alleged that Islam countenances and encourages arson, loot, abduction and forcible conversion. It, therefore, becomes the duty of every fair-minded person whether Muslim or non-Muslim, to ascertain once for all whether the religion of Islam which according to the unanimous verdict of the historians of the world, wrought miraculous changes in transforming the lives of barbarous nations like the Arabs and elevated them from the lowest depth of moral degradation to a higher level of civilization, has really enjoined on its adherents to be so intolerant and almost inhuman to perpetrate all sorts of moral crimes in the name of God and religion, or has it any element of brotherliness, humanity, charity and mutual good will or not.

The basic principle of Islam, a faith in all the prophets of the world, is enough to give the lie to these allegations. The great and liberal mind that preached not only love and respect for the founders of the great religions of the world but much more than that *faith in them*—could not shrink down to the level of utter intol-

erance for those very religions. Tolerance is not in fact the word that can sufficiently indicate the breadth of the attitude of Islam to other religions. It preaches equal love for all, equal respect for all, and equal faith in all. Not to compel the unbelievers to accept Islam, for it was against all the broad principles in which they had been hitherto brought up. No, it was to establish religious freedom, to stop all religious persecution, to protect the houses of worship of all religions, mosques among them. Here are a few quotations :—

"And had there not been God's repelling some people by others, there would have been pulled down cloisters and churches and any synagogues and mosques in which God's name is much remembered. (Quran 22 : 40)

"And fight with them until there is no persecution, and religion is only for God." (2: 193.)

"Every student of Islamic history knows that the Holy Prophet and his companions were subjected to the severest persecutions as Islam began to gain ground in Mecca". Introduction to the Quran by Muhammad Ali, pp, XVIII & CIX.)

So from the first to the last, the Holy Quran allowed fighting only against those who fought the Muslims *first*; it allowed expressly only fighting in defence without which the Muslims could not live, and it clearly forbade aggressive war.

THE WAGING OF WAR ON UNBELIEVERS

Again, intolerance could not be ascribed to a book which excludes compulsion from the sphere of religion altogether. "There is no compulsion in religion" (II. 256), it lays down in the clearest words. In fact, the Holy Quran is full of statements

showing that belief in this and that religion is a person's own concern, and that he is given the choice to adopt one way or another; that if he accepts truth, it is for his own good, and if he sticks to error, it is to his own detriment. A few quotations from the Holy Quran are given below to prove the authenticity of these statements:—

"The truth is from your Lord, so let him who please believe and let him who please disbelieve (18: 29)

"if You do good, you will do good for your own souls; and if you do evil, it shall be for them."

The Muslims were allowed to fight indeed, but with what object? To compel them to accept Islam is a myth pure and simple, a thing unknown to the teachings of the Holy Quran. The conception of God in Islam is the God of all mankind and His favours are not confined to any 'chosen' people. The Muslims are prohibited from running down the deities of non-Muslims. The Holy Quran says:

"Revile not those whom they call on besides God, lest they in their ignorance despitely revile Him". (VI: 108)

Every Muslim is enjoined not to make any distinction between Muslim and non-Muslim when he has an opportunity of serving a needy person. The Prophet says in unambiguous language:

"The whole world is the family of God. Therefore, he alone is good in His sight who accords kind treatment to all His creatures alike."

Further the Prophet says,

"Assist any person oppressed, whether Muslim or non-Muslim."

"Whosoever goes with a tyrant to assist him knowing him to be a tyrant then verily he has gone out of Islam."

It is not for the Muslim to ignore any one of the great teachers who have long since done their work and retired from this world; he dare not utter a word of disrespect towards them. On the contrary he is bound to show the greatest deference to each one of them (Quran IV. 150-152).

Speaking of the prophets of the house of Israel, the Quran says, "Say ye, we believe in God, and what was revealed to Abraham

and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes, and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the other Prophets from their Lord—we make no distinction between any of them; and to Him we submit (Quran II-136, III-84).

And it is not only to Moses and Jesus and Muhammad that the Muslim owes allegiance, but to all the prophets of all the nations who have appeared in the different ages of the history of mankind. Thus along with a thousand others, Sri Ramachandra, Sri Krishna, Gautama Buddha of India, Zarathushtra of Persia and Confucius of China, have alike a place in the hearts of all the followers of Islam.

CONVERSION IN ISLAM

Forcible and unwilling conversion is repeatedly forbidden in the Quran. On the other hand it inculcates simple preaching through persuasion as the only permissible method for spreading the faith in Islam. The Holy Quran's injunction is as clear as day light. It puts it thus,

"There is no compulsion in faith". (II.256)

"You shall have your religion and I shall have my religion." (CIX: 409).

"And we have not sent thee otherwise than to mankind at large, to announce and to warn." XXXVI: 27).

"(My) sole (work) is preaching from God and His message." (LXXII: 24).

"Obey God and obey the apostle; but if you turn away, yet is our apostle only charged with plain spoken preaching." (LXIV: 12).

IDEAL OF HUMAN FRATERNITY

In Islam, all humanity is one vast brotherhood, with God as their creator and master who looks upon them all as equal. All the barriers racial and others, raised against it by the self interest of man are destroyed, difference and division merely on the ground of religion are not recognised. Its teachings are directly opposed to sectarianism and are generally based on the broad principle of common humanity. "Be ye all worshippers of God and brothers to one another, like as God has commanded you." (Sayings of Muhammad 904 translated by Abul Fazl). The service of man and the good of humanity

constitute pre-eminently the service and worship of God. "All creation," says the Prophet of Islam,

"is the family of God, and of all creation the most beloved of God is he who does most good to His family." "God is not merciful to him who is not merciful to men" (Sayings 511). "The merciful God is merciful to those who are merciful: be ye then merciful to those who are in the earth, so that He who is in heaven may be merciful to you." (Sayings 508).

"Ye shall not believe unless ye love one another." (Sayings 194).

"By him in whose hand my life is! no worshipper (truly) believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself." (Ibid 214).

The essence of religion according to the teachings of Islam, is the service of the afflicted humanity.

"Hast thou seen him who calls the religion a lie. That is (the man) who pushes away the orphan, and stirs not up (others) to feed the poor."

"And woe to those who pray, who of their prayers are unmindful, who make a show, and refuse help to the needy." (The Quran CVII).

MUSLIMS' MORAL DUTY

And what is the duty of man in Islam? "Verily", says the Quran, God commands justice and the doing of good, and the giving to those of kin (their due); and he forbids filthy actions and iniquity and transgression." (Quran XVI 90).

"When one of you sees wrong-doing" said the Prophet, "let him undo it with his hand; and if he cannot do this, then let him speak against it with his tongue; and if he cannot do this either, then let him abhor it with his heart—and this is the least of faith." (Sayings 235).

"Assist one another in goodness and piety, but assist not one another in sin and enmity; and fear God; verily God is severe in punishing. And let not the malice of a people provoke you to transgress but act justly—it will be nearer to piety; and fear God; Verily God is informed of what ye do." (The Quran V. 2 and 8).

RESPECT OF SENTIENT CREATURES AND HARMLESSNESS

Wanton destruction of life is considered reprehensible:

"There is no moving thing on the earth, nor a bird that flies with its wings, but is a being like to you . . . to their Lord shall they be gathered." (The Quran VI. 38).

"Who kills a sparrow for nothing, it will cry aloud to God on the day of resurrection, saying, O my Lord! such—and—such a man killed me for no good. (Sayings, 36.)

"Take not things, which have life to shoot (arrows at)." (Sayings, 39).

The Prophet of Islam denounced the heartless act of men who burnt the abode of ants. (Ibid 46, 54).

He forbade the robbing of eggs from the nests of birds (Ibid 55).

He forbade likewise, the capturing of young birds and distressing the mother-bird and would have them restored to their nests. (Ibid 54 and 55).

The Prophet would go up to any distressed animal, and stroke him and enjoin upon their master's kindness against oppression and fatigue." (Sayings 53).

Regarding the value of human life the Quran teaches.

"Whoso kills a being, unless it be for another being, or for evil doing in the land, it is as though he killed all mankind, and whoso saves one, it is as though he saves all mankind."

In Chapter IV verses 15 and 16 fornication is strictly denounced. Similarly sins of all kinds such as theft, arson, abduction of innocent women, and killing of helpless children are condemned. Once more we are clearly reminded by the Prophet that

"he who helpeth his fellow creature in the hour of need, and he who helpeth the oppressed, him will God help in the day of Travail. What actions are most excellent? To gladden the heart of a human being, to feed the hungry, to help the afflicted, to lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful and to remove the wrongs of the injured. Who is the most favoured of God? He from whom the greatest good cometh to His creatures."

At this tragic time through which our country is passing it is the duty of every devout Muslim and God-fearing Divine to raise their voices and lodge their emphatic protest against the lawlessness that is prevailing in certain parts of India. And not only this: they should go in person or send their trusted missionaries to preach to those hooligans who are engaged in all types of brutal crimes in the fair name of Islam to desist from their evil ways. There is no greater service, at this hour, to Islam than to restrain them from their devilish acts and show the right path which God and His Prophet have clearly pointed out.

FIXING THE PAR VALUE OF THE RUPEE*

BY PROF. KRISHNA KUMAR SHARMA, M.A.

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INDIA became a member of the International Monetary Fund before 31st December, 1945. As such our country along with other member countries has been asked on September 12, 1946 under Article XX, Section 4 of the Final Act of Bretton Woods to communicate to the Fund within 30 days the par value of its currency based on the rate of exchange prevailing on the sixtieth day before the entry into force of the Bretton Woods Agreement. This par value is to be expressed in terms of gold or the U. S. dollar of the weight and fineness in effect on July 1, 1944, vide section 1 (a) of Article IV of the Final Act. The par value must be based on rates of exchange prevailing on 28th October, 1945, viz., 60 days before the Agreement came into force. Within 90 days after the request a member may notify that its par value is unsatisfactory or the Fund may notify the member concerned that its par value cannot be maintained without recourse to the Fund. In such circumstances, the initial par value will have to be changed. The Fund and the member will then have to agree within a period determined by the former with regard to a suitable par value of the currency concerned. Failing that, the Member concerned will be deemed to have withdrawn from the Fund on the date when the period expires.

Once the par value is agreed upon in consultation with the Fund a change can be made to correct a fundamental disequilibrium in consultation with the Fund. The Fund will raise no objection if the proposed change does not exceed 10 per cent. of the initial par value. For a further 10 per cent. change of the initial par value, the Fund may either concur or object, but it must declare its attitude within 72 hours if the member so requests. For further changes it will require a longer time to consider its attitude. Thus if a country feels that

the exchange rate prevailing on the 28th of October, 1945 will not be suitable, it must inform the Fund and make out a case to that effect and reach an agreement with the Fund on what is to be the correct par value. Thus if India feels that 1sh. 6d. rate will not be suitable she must make out a convincing case very soon to get the rate changed.

War affected the prices of goods in different countries in different degrees. In Canada, England and America the rise in prices was not as much as in India during the war. In India the wholesale price index of August 1946 was 271.3; while in Britain and the U. S. A. the corresponding indices were 171 and 141 respectively against the base of 100 in August 1939. The exchange ratio has remained unaltered in India during all these years. If goods were freely available from England and America, India would be flooded with the goods of these countries as they would find the Indian market very profitable to sell under these conditions. The result would be collapse of the price level and the internal economy of our country. In the alternative prices in England and America would rise. Perhaps both these tendencies would work simultaneously till equilibrium was reached.

One of the main difficulties which prevented a decision being taken in India on this question was the dollar-sterling cross rate. Indian currency has been linked to sterling and we have large

* According to a Press communique issued on 11th December, the Government of India have decided not to change the par value of the rupee. Meanwhile the Government of U.K. and India will be meeting to grapple the problem of repayment of our sterling balances. The British Government is sending out to India a Financial Delegation consisting of Treasury officials, with a view to finish the preliminary talks. It is an augury of the changing times that on this occasion the venue of discussions will be Delhi and not London. (Ed. I.R.)

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balances accumulated to our credit in sterling. Any uncertainty in regard to the dollar-sterling cross rate would create uncertainty in Indian exchange. This difficulty has now been solved. The British Chancellor of the Exchequer made a statement on the 16th September, 1946 that no change in the existing par value of the pound sterling was contemplated. Similarly the U. S. Treasury Secretary stated that the par value of the dollar would remain unchanged at 35 dollars per fine ounce of gold. Thus in spite of the fall in the internal purchasing power of the currency of these two countries their external value has not been sought to be reduced. This is but natural. There is a general shortage of goods in the world and markets for their products are almost assured for some time to come. Hence devaluation would bring them no definite advantage. This would simply give an advantage to the foreign importers of their products.

Three alternatives are possible. *Firstly* the par value may be fixed above 1sh 6d. The technical position of the rupee is strong, and there may not be much difficulty in maintaining the higher ratio. Many advantages can be claimed for it. It would facilitate imports of machinery and technical skill which India would require for rapid industrialisation. Further we require consumers goods and food-stuffs to a great extent. We shall also get agricultural implements, and other necessary things for augmenting our food production. It will help our debtors like England to repay their debts to us. There are disadvantages also. A high value of the currency unit means low prices which may mean depression in the existing industries and unemployment. Moreover goods from foreign countries are not freely available and our balance are not free to be used. It may not be possible to maintain the price levels in the country on a reasonable basis even on 18d. ratio. Hence a higher ratio is out of the question.

The second alternative is devaluation, i.e., a reduction in the par value of the rupee to some lower level, say, 16d. This course has been suggested by the Currency Sub-Committee of the National Planning Committee. They say: "There is warrant for the presumption that some degree of devaluation of the rupee would be necessary in order to put the Indian economy on a reasonably competitive basis as compared with the economies of other countries. An unduly high exchange ratio would mean frittering away of our sterling balances exactly as after the last war. It would exercise a deflationary pressure on trade and industry." Here it may be pointed out that there is a general shortage of goods in the world and for some years to come there seems to be little danger of competition in foreign markets or in the Indian market. But if foreign competition is to be prevented in the case of some industries in India, the proper remedy would not be devaluation or manipulation of currency but protection. Further, the analogy of 1920 can hardly fit in with the conditions of 1946. In World War I and after Indian exchange had gone very high. Moreover, the Babington Smith Committee had recommended the 2sh. ratio, which was far different from the 1914 ratio. People knew that it could not be maintained. Mr. Dala had pointed to the dangers of the ratio. It led to speculation and there was a mad rush for converting the rupee into the sterling. The market ratio was much lower than the legal ratio; but the Government persisted in providing sterling for the rupee at 2sh. The securities in the gold standard reserve were sold at very low prices and thus our sterling resources were frittered away in maintaining the ratio. Conditions are far different now. Exchange has remained steady during the last several years. At 18d. there is little scope for speculation. Externally the rupee is very strong and the rate can be maintained without frittering away our balances.

The proper parity of a currency is to be judged by three main factors. It should not be difficult to maintain the rate and it should not involve a great strain on the external resources of the country. It should be in accordance with the purchasing power parity of the currency in terms of foreign currencies and it should be in consonance with prices, incomes, and costs in the country. Prices in India have undoubtedly been higher than in many other countries; but a downward movement must set in sooner or later. Moreover prices in the U. S. A. and the U. K. are tending to go up. Hence the maintenance of the rupee at the existing par may not be difficult. The main argument in favour of devaluation are: (1) Internally the rupee is weaker than some important foreign currencies. The par value of the rupee should therefore be brought down to the level of the purchasing power the currencies like the dollar and the sterling. Failing that, the trend of trade may go against India and our foreign exchange resources may be filtered away. This argument has been taken up above. Here it may be pointed out that devaluation is not the proper cure for inflation under the existing conditions in India. It will raise the cost of imported goods and consequently prices for Indian goods will also continue to be high unless production is increased. Immediate devaluation of the Rupee will prevent a downward trend in prices, because it will keep the cost of imported goods at a high level. (2) The existing exchange rate is said to be too high to maintain the price structure at a level which will give a fair margin to the farmer. It will not facilitate exports of agricultural produce. Here it may be pointed out that under the existing conditions of supply and demand, immediate devaluation will not bring any gain to the cultivator. Much of his produce will not be available for export as there is scarcity of agricultural produce in India. Further, it will keep up the prices of

imported goods and the agriculturist will suffer as consumer. This will not be a temporary phase only. There is bound to be an increase in the tempo of the economic development of the country. Hence there will be a steady demand in our own country for our agricultural produce. Consequently, our dependence on foreign markets will be reduced. Hence the importance of devaluation is not the same now as it was in the inter-war years. (3) It is said in favour of devaluation that the existing rate will undermine the competitive capacity of Indian industries, particularly, of those which grew up during the war. Here it may be pointed out that production and not devaluation is the proper remedy. Devaluation will be disadvantageous in as much as it will raise the cost of imported goods like machinery, technical skill, etc., and it will be a hindrance in the way of the industrialisation of the country. It will also raise the cost of imported consumers' goods. It will create difficulties in the way of the liquidation of our sterling balances. It will not facilitate the import of goods from Britain. She will be only too glad to sell to those countries which can give foreign exchange to her. Thus devaluation is not desirable under the existing conditions in India.

The third alternative is the maintenance of the existing par value of the rupee. It can easily be maintained by keeping the price level of agricultural commodities at about twice the pre-war level and by keeping the prices of industrial goods higher by 50 to 75 per cent. of their pre-war level. It will help in the process of our industrial and economic reconstruction as the cost of imported goods, machinery, technical, skill, etc., will not be as high as under conditions of devaluation. It will, of course, adversely affect the industries which came into existence during the war. But the remedy for them is protection. Hence the existing ratio is the most suitable under the circumstances.

THE A.I.C.C. MEETING

H. M. G's Statement of December 6, was the *piece de resistance* at the important Session of the All India Congress Committee at Delhi in the first week of January. Strong objection was taken to the terms of that Statement which, in effect, nullified the hopes fostered by the original declaration of May 16. The Working Committee of the Congress was seriously divided in opinion and some members openly favoured rejection. They felt that H.M.G. had actually gone back upon their declaration. But the issue was so important that no decisive step could be taken without the sanction of the A.I.C.C. The Working Committee sat for hours and adopted a resolution which was thought the best solution under the circumstances. It sought Mahatma Gandhi's advice, and decided to accept H. M. G's interpretation in spite of its obviously objectionable features, if only to test the *bona-fides* of the British Government and to pave the way for League co-operation. The following is the text of the resolution drafted for submission to the A.I.C.C.

"The A.I.C.C. having considered the events that have taken place in the country since the Meerut session of the Congress in November last, the statement issued by the British Government on December 6, 1946, and the statement of the Working Committee of December 22, 1946, advises Congressmen as follows:—

"The A.I.C.C. endorses the statement of the Working Committee of December 22, 1946, and expresses its agreement with the view contained therein.

"While the Congress has always been agreeable to making a reference to the Federal Court on the question of interpretation in dispute, such a reference has become purposeless and undesirable owing to recent announcements made on behalf of the British Government. A reference could only be made on an agreed basis, the parties concerned agreeing to abide by the decision given.

"The A.I.C.C. is firmly of opinion that the constitution for a free and independent India should be framed by the people of India on the basis of as wide an agreement as possible. There must be no interference whatsoever by any external authority, and no compulsion of any province or part of a province by another province. The A.I.C.C. realises and appreciates the difficulties placed in the way of some provinces, notably Assam and the N.W.F.P. and the Sikhs in the

Punjab, by the British Cabinet's scheme of May 16, 1946, and more especially by the interpretation put upon it by the British Government in their statement of December 6, 1946. The Congress cannot be a party to any such compulsion or imposition against the will of the people concerned—a principle which the British Government have themselves recognised.

"The A.I.C.C. is anxious that the Constituent Assembly should proceed with the work of framing a constitution for free India with the goodwill of all parties concerned and, with a view to removing the difficulties that have arisen owing to varying interpretations, agrees to advise action in accordance with the interpretation of the British Government in regard to the procedure to be followed in the Sections. It must be clearly understood, however, that this must not involve any compulsion of a province and that the rights of the Sikhs in the Punjab should not be jeopardised. In the event of any attempt at such compulsion, a province or part of a province has the right to take such action as may be deemed necessary in order to give effect to the wishes of the people concerned. The future course of action will depend upon the developments that take place and the A.I.C.C. therefore, directs the Working Committee to advise upon it, whenever circumstances so require, keeping in view the basic principle of provincial autonomy."

The Session of the A.I.C.C. which met at Delhi on the 5th January was attended by 207 out of 396 members who were called on to consider the situation arising out of H. M. G's new statement. Sardar Patel and Maulana Azad could not be present.

Acharya Kripalani, the Congress President presided and Pandit Nehru opened the debate with an exhaustive speech anticipating all possible objections. He was followed by over 20 speakers.

Pandit Nehru, in asking the house to adopt the official resolution drew attention to the grave situation that may result unless patience and care were exercised.

Whatever the reactionary intentions of the British Government and the League might be, the Congress, he said, should accept the December 6th statement and achieve the independence of the country. New difficulties had been put in the way of the Constituent Assembly and the League for its part was doing its best to prevent it functioning. Pandit Nehru said that the Congress acceptance of H. M. G's statement was the one step whereby they would judge finally whether the League meant to join them in the struggle for freedom. By accepting the statement, the Congress would be confronting both the British Government and the League in their own field on their own ground.

Seventeen amendments to the resolution were moved. Mr. Tandon emphasised that the autonomy of the provinces should be fully preserved and he regretted that the resolution merely played with it. Dr. Lohia indicated the attitude of the Congress Socialists as one of total opposition. He urged the house to reject it entirely.

The last speaker, of the day, Pandit G. B. Pant, urging the acceptance of the resolution said

there was nothing in the resolution that went against the principles the Congress had always advocated. It would be neither politic nor correct for Assam to keep out of Sections and fight right from the beginning, as it had always the freedom to walk out. If the League needed a gesture from the Congress this resolution gave it and it was now for the League to enter the Constituent Assembly in all good faith.

When the house met the next day Pandit Nehru accepted an amendment moved by Khan Abdus Samadkhan for including Beluchistan in the same category as Assam, the N. W. F. Province and the Sikhs of the Punjab in whose way difficulties have been placed by the new interpretation to the state paper.

Mr. Tandon's amendment for rejection of the December 6, statement was lost by 54 votes to 102. Other amendments were either withdrawn or lost.

Opposition from members representing the Groups and also from the socialists was very pronounced. What they asked, if with all the appeasements the League continued to be intransigent? Appeasement in their view, only made the League more obstinate and unreasonable.

Mr. Baijnath Mukherjee and Rev. Nichols Roy placed before the house the difficult situation in which Assam would find itself if the resolution was accepted by the A.I.C.C.

While Congress was fighting for independence and unity, this resolution if accepted, would divide the country. Assam delegates were very clear that they would not sit in Sections unless there was an assurance from Mr. Jinnah that he would not use his majority to the detriment of Assam.

Mr. Jai Prakash Narain warned the House against a policy of appeasement which the Working Committee had been following towards Mr. Jinnah and the League. He was sure

Mr. Jinnah would make fresh demands and the Working Committee would find itself forced to consider them. Just as the Muslim League members had succeeded in disrupting the harmony of the Interim Government, they would neutralise the Constituent Assembly when they entered it. The Socialists had now come to the conclusion that they could not go along with the right-wing of the Congress.

The opposition became more and more pronounced and spirited, and members of the Working Committee were convinced that only out of deference to the sponsors could the resolution be carried through a house so hostile to the policy of appeasing those who were bent on sabotaging the plan. Dr. Pattabhi put up a spirited defence of the Working Committee resolution. He warned that the house would be playing into the hands of the enemies of the nation if it rejected the resolution.

Pandit Nehru, in the course of his reply pressed again for acceptance of the resolution in the ultimate interest of the country and made it clear that he was not prepared to commit the Congress to any reference to Federal Court on any disputable point. "We would consider every issue on its merits," he said.

After debating for two days the house passed Pandit Nehru's resolution advising acceptance of the British Government's December 6 statement.

In his concluding remarks President Kripalani appealed to members, particularly Socialists,

not to separate at this juncture but perfect the organisation through constructive activity and get ready for any eventuality.

Only the pre-eminent position of the sponsors of the resolution saved it from defeat. Even so, Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, could not reconcile himself and tendered resignation of the Working Committee.

ON THE ABOLITION OF ZEMINDARI

By MR. P. C. SAXENA

THE United Provinces Government is contemplating the abolition of a system which, it is claimed, has brought into existence a double culture in Indian society, two classes—one of the rich and another of the poor: the zemindars, it is put forward, representing the first and the agricultural population of the country representing the latter.

The landlord, it is assumed, is surrounded by luxury and lavish expenditure while his tenants are ground down under the iron heel of his tyrannical *gumashtas* and tax-collectors. Let landlordism be abolished, it is argued, and then the classes of the over—and under—privileged will automatically disappear. Let us examine this statement carefully.

The history of landlordism may be traced back to the Mughals. In the Hindu Period there were no zemindars, taxes and other dues being paid by the individual village—committees directly to the ruler. There were no intermediaries in the form of tax-collectors or landlords. All over the land there was a state of, what has been appropriately termed, 'peasant—proprietorship.'

This 'peasant—proprietorship' continued for some time during the initial stage of Muslim reign. In time, however, it was discovered that the rulers could not establish proper control over their governors or tax-collectors in far-away corners of their state. It was found necessary to appoint hereditary tax-collectors or 'talluqedars' who had fixed taxes to pay into the royal treasury at regular intervals. The royal income was thus assured and the talluqedars became fully responsible for the revenue. In return, they had to render military service when the need arose. At first they had no proprietary rights over the land; they collected taxes from but later they acquired these and the present institution of zemindari came into being.

Besides the fact that the government wished to have a fixed revenue every

year with little fluctuations, which were usually for the worse, there were other factors that led to the institution of the system. The rulers, in those troublous times, wished to be assured of the loyalty of a particular class of society whose interest would be strongly inter-linked with their own. The zemindar could be banked upon to protect the cause of the master from whom he acquired his rights and could be depended upon in time of need to furnish strong supporters in the form of soldiers and servants from among his 'subjects', his tenants.

Another consideration was the prosperity of subjects. It was thought that the landlords would behave like benevolent parents and guardians of their people. It was hoped that they would look after the interests of the tenants. Thus, thought the Moghal rulers, the well-being of the state would be promoted side by side with that of the people.

It will be seen, however, that this reasoning was not borne out by facts. At present the administration is greatly hampered by this state of affairs. For the revenue to be realised from the landlords in the present age is hardly sufficient for the Government. What income was suitable say fifty years ago quite falls short of present requirements. The Government is contemplating the embarkation on various schemes for the public benefit and industrial development of the country, all of which are going to be very expensive and the present income must needs be greatly increased if any reasonable measure of success is to be attained.

Approximately four-fifths of the U. P. revenue comes from the zemindars. And the increase in the Government's income can be realised from the fact that the rent paid by tenants on land cultivated by them is many times that paid by the zemindar to the Government. A tenant may pay, say, nine rupees rent for every

bigha he cultivates while out of this the zemindar pays to the Revenue only seven annas. Of course there are variations but the fact remains that the landlords are very, very expensive tax-collectors for the nation. Roughly, according to one estimate, these tax-collectors pocket one and a half times as much as they pay into the Government treasury.

The loyalty of the people too, does not in any way depend on the zemindars. That order of things has passed. The people do not now pay loyal tribute to the gods of their masters. They have their own political creed for which they are willing to die irrespective of the fact that their landlords will otherwise.

But the surprising thing is that the zemindars themselves have come forward for the national cause. Not the big ones commanding four figure incomes per month, but the majority of the ten out of a total of eleven lacs of zemindars in U.P. who command incomes ranging from a few hundred rupees per annum downwards. It is these men who not having to worry about their own and their families' daily bread have come forward into the political arena and have suffered in jail and have toiled for the country's cause free from cares of home and dependents.

The contribution of zemindari to the national cause has thus not been inconsiderable and it will be very unfair to rate loudly against *all* landlords in general for their alleged obstruction and hampering of the progress of the nation.

In the United Province there are about eleven lacs of zemindars and the number of those amongst them who have six-figure income can, according to Mr. Sri Prakash M.L.A., be counted off 'at one's finger-ends'. Therefore it is utterly wrong to claim that zemindars as a class live in the lap of luxury and lap up the fat of the land. As regards financial position therefore, we cannot claim that landlordism is a profession that fattens on the life-blood of others.

One great argument of its opponents is that zemindars derive incomes which they have not earned. What right do they have, it is argued, to derive income from the toils of others? But from the point of view of the other side the case is quite simple. After all the zemindar or his father or any other ancestor has invested some hard-earned money in purchasing the land just as a man invests his savings in Government securities and the like and derives profit from the same. If it is right for a shareholder in a joint-stock company to derive an income from the labour of others, it is equally right for the landlord to do the same. Just as a man may purchase a house in town and let it out for others' use and may not be brought to book for doing so it is quite fair for the landlord to do the same.

That is correct, says the opponent of landlordism, but how do we know that the particular zemindar in question has actually invested money in his plot of land. It might have been awarded to him by the Government for service done long ago or acquired in some other manner without having to pay for it. Well, other men also get money by inheriting it or doing Government some particular service and they can enjoy the fruits. Then why not the poor zemindar?

Thus it is clear that if zemindari is to be abolished all other classes of capitalism must go. The whole system of society must be abolished and communism or socialism must be enforced, otherwise it will be a great injustice to the landlord class if the axe falls on them alone.

But we must begin with something. The system of landlordism cannot be justified in any way on utilitarian grounds. It has already been shown that the purposes for which this system was brought into existence are not now fulfilled. The Government's policy of keeping intermediaries to collect its taxes is greatly hampering its own progress and that of the country. These intermediaries are too costly to the nation. Apart from the fact

that the Government derives little benefit from them financially it is evident that large departments have to be maintained to keep accounts of these eleven hundred thousand landlords. With a little more recurring expense these intermediaries may be dispensed with altogether and direct contact may be established between the Government and its people.

Has the state the right to change the existing state of society? Definitely, yes. Because it has tremendous responsibilities imposed on its shoulders. It has to provide employment for the growing population, it has to develop industries, agriculture, commerce. It has to further the physical, intellectual and moral betterment of its subjects. It thus has the right to take any steps, drastic as they may be, to gain its object. Let supporters of zemindari remember that the revenue fixed fifty years ago by the Government do not suffice for the great projects now under consideration for the development of the country's resources. Money must come and the state is justified in changing the system of society to attain it.

It is argued that the absence of zemindars does not result in any good done to tenants. It is said that tenants in Government estates in the province are in no way better off than those under zemindars. It is said that with the abolition of landlordism the tax-collecting machine of the Government will be more costly than the present landlordism. But these things are yet to be seen and when we compare the future state of affairs with the present in other countries we have every reason to be optimistic.

No doubt, if the tax-collecting machine formed resembles other departments of the present with their red tape and costly extravagance and inefficiency there is bound to be still further trouble. But it is hoped that the future Government will take steps to carry out reforms on an extensive and hitherto untried scale.

This is true, for in Madras and Bombay Presidencies there is no landlordism and

yet the ryots cry out for change in the existing system. The general inefficiency of insincere state officials is worse even than landlordism. Government officials have a fixed income and naturally (?) they do not take great care in their duties. The ryots have great reason to complain against them and that is why it is necessary for the future Government to carry out extensive and intensive reform in all its departments to derive any benefit from its schemes. The officials concerned must have their own interests directly linked with that of the cultivators. All management may be placed in the hands of a committee and not with one person.

Of course, the zemindars should be compensated for their losses. Apart from the fact that the state is morally liable to do so, we must admit that it would be feasible to retain a class of persons who could work for the national cause free from worry for their livelihood. Thus the zemindars could go on working for the country without hampering its progress in any way.

Opponents of the system claim the right to take away the possessions of all the landlords who cannot prove that they invested their money in the land. Only those should be compensated, they say, who have actually spent money in purchasing the land *if they can prove it*. But this latter is very difficult to fulfil. It many cases it would be impossible to prove anything and in many it would be difficult to find out how much return the landlord used to get for his money to fix his compensation. In any case it would take a very, very long time to settle everything—if anything is settled at all. A huge Government department would have to be established to sift and examine the cases of each of the eleven hundred thousand landlords and much time and labour and public funds would be wasted. So if we want no delay we shall have to treat all landlords as equal in all respects except incomes.

Having therefore decided to compensate all landlords at a uniform rate even if

many of them get more than they should we must find out how much we are reasonably expected to pay. For pay we must, because of the clause in the Indian constitution guaranteeing compensation by the Government in case of any change in land rights.

The landlords reasonably expect the Government to ensure them the same income they have been deriving so far. They have no reason to grumble at the form in which they get the same. We can, of course, pay them a lump sum so many times their annual income which would give their former income when invested in Government securities or other safe investments. But with the present state of affairs this is quite out of the question. The Government does not possess so much money and would go bankrupt if called upon to pay such a large amount of money at once!

Another course would be to award annuities to dispossessed landlords. These annuities would be of the same amount as their former annual incomes. But this is also not convenient for it will force the Government to keep a long, detailed account of eleven lakhs of annuities which will naturally cost a good deal to the public Treasury.

So the issuing of Government Bonds seems to be the best suggestion so far. These bonds will be just like other Government Bonds and will be issued to ex-zemindar carrying an interest which will be the same as their former incomes.

Even if the Government changes the new one will not normally repudiate these Bonds and will continue to recognise them just the same. Thus landlords may feel secure of their incomes.

And if these Bonds change hands by scale and thus entail the keeping of detailed accounts by the Provincial Government, it is suggested that the accounts of these be entrusted to the hands of local societies like Co-operatives. These local societies are in the future bound to play an important

part in the destiny of the nation and it is suggested, that they be entrusted with this task too.

Thus if the above procedure is adopted the landlords, though deprived of their kingly powers over the lives of their tenants, will not be much dissatisfied and may be reconciled to the state of things and yet not be prevented from carrying out their useful activities for the nation just as they did in the past. Whatever happens they shall still be a class that remains in the front rank of the country's march.

Whatever, in the end, be the result of this move, whatever be the motives of those that are carrying it out, whatever be the difficulties that it may plunge the nation into, the abolition of landlordism must be hailed as one of the greatest landmarks in the history of India—and socialism in India. For it is the mentality of the men behind the move that really counts. These have stood up for the abolition of a privileged class—one that feeds on the toil of others, these have tried to bridge the gulf between the exploited and the exploiters, these have set the pace towards the final achievement of equality of distribution of wealth, of the destruction of capitalism. Whether they fail or succeed, is another matter. The fact remains that they have in their own way tried to remove one of the greatest evils in the modern world.

To these we must offer thanksgiving.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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

PRESTIGE OF SCIENCE

BY MR. PROBODH CHANDRA BANDYOPADHYAY

SCIENCE is a specific term for human knowledge. This special branch of human knowledge had its beginning in the remote ages when individuals studied in seclusion. Now the wealth of information and extensive nature of study engage large teams of workers in different parts of the world. Spirit of co-operation irrespective of country and colour of skin; or to use a big word, internationalism has been the background of the development of scientific thought. In recent years progress in science has assumed a steep upward curve by the incentive of war—to kill men and to heal them as well. The history of science shows that when science has proper prestige and resources, progress is certain. Unfortunately till recently appreciation of science has come forth in jerks during the stresses of war. Crowther tracing the history of science said ".....successful English business men and scientific research workers did not talk shop together when they met in clubs. Thus business men and scientists rarely know each other as equals, and never learned the nature of each other's problems and how they could co-operate. In Germany, on the contrary, the business man was expected to talk about business, and the scientist about science. This led to mutual understanding and respect.

"The British social habit.....is a reflection of the ideal of the leisured class in England. The English businessman or scientist usually wishes to be known first as a leisured gentleman, and as a great organiser or discoverer afterwards. He uses the means provided by success to acquire the habits of the leisured class." This explains why Germany could in quick succession dare stand on the aggressive against the whole world. When the war became far-flung, the whole strategy of war switched off to the productive factor of the fighting countries—how much material equipment and how many men one country can spare against another, and victory came to the side of the United Nations.

The primary function of science is increasing human understanding. How does science work? A scientist starts work with a definite problem. He never allows himself to be swayed over by heaps of problems all of a sudden. He suits and arranges them and proceeds gradually. From careful observations of what is happening the scientific workers make a mental map or an hypothesis on the basic facts. The hypothesis or the theory provides a general idea of how things come about and what effects are produced. The theory is next put to rigid tests and the results shape the final form of approach. There is nothing sacred in science, nothing is too sanctified by past anecdotes to withstand rejection. No dogmas pervade the mind of the scientific worker. Imagination there is but not uncontrolled by analysis. Facts are turned over and over and all around in order clearly to explain the phenomenon. A peculiar intelligence and wisdom marks the scientists. At so many points science has been touching life that we are at present either under it or over.

Every scientist does not make inventions. The wonderful thing about scientific work is that a fascinating never-ending chain of co-operative thought and action is woven year after year. Inventions of use to us may come about in process of work. Hertz in the last century observed the tiny waves of electro-magnetic origin and then transmission of these waves was made possible by Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose in the beginning of this century and later, on a bigger scale by Marconi. Gradually, radio as a means of easy communication and entertainment was established by the work of many ingenious brains. It again happens that a scientist might be pursuing a line of work and a chance observation in the course of his work opens his eyes in another direction yielding a very useful result. Alizarin dyes are the product of an accidental rupture of the glass thermometer within the reaction mixture, where

the mercury acted as the 'magician'. A series of coloured compounds were produced.

The following random selection of scientific achievements will give us an idea of the works scientists do. The year under review is one of the war years. (pre-penicillin year)

1. Discovery of a planet revolving round another star similar to our sun and the earth. This astronomical work has no direct bearing on our affairs. It exemplifies patient and painstaking work. We have come to know of another world far away in the limitless blue sky.

2 Building of a 100,000,000 volt electron accelerator for X-ray production. This sort of physical devices are coming for great use in biological research so vital for our life.

3. Building of ships within a week. Cargo-ship of 10,500 tons were completed from keel laying to launching in 4½ days and from launching to delivery in 8 days. Side-launching of ships was used extensively in war ship-building programmes.

4. Making of aeroplanes to fly much faster than 400 miles per hour. This has required solutions of problems like the development of wing sections, improvement of flaps and cooling systems, and improved engines and new propeller designs.

5. Product of synthetic rubber from chemicals and 100-octane motor spirit.

6. Artificial production of antibodies which is naturally within our blood for fighting diseases. Vaccines and injections for immunization created certain changes within the blood of the body and the actual changes have been artificially produced in human blood stored in a flask. The doctors can now see the actual disease-fighting in laboratory.

7. Building of smaller and simpler electron microscopes. These microscopes magnify up to 100,000 times and do not use light as the focussing medium but by means of tiny electrified particles known as electrons the image of the object in light and shade is formed on a screen or

a photographic plate. The research workers in biology therefore can see very much deeper into the objects of their study.

More examples of work of adaptation and extension of old discoveries at this point may now be given. From the astronomers a military version of the Schmidt camera-telescope went into war service as an aerial camera. It has an extraordinary light-gathering power and can photograph almost in the dark. Nitrogen which used to be extracted from air to manufacture fertilizers and explosives has been found in a pure form in the course of drilling an oil well. A fully electrically operated and completely automatic, robot weather station has been invented. Wool has been toughened chemically and is resistant to moths and soap. Artificial wool may also come to market. Puffed up sand, known as silica aerogel can be used as a heat insulator twice as effective as any other substance. As a substitute of cork and in place of cellular rubber or kapok in life preservers and life boats, floating glass was made by foaming glass with additions of carbon during manufacture. In a continuous fermentation process molasses is converted into alcohol from 3 to 5 hours. Fusel oil, a product in the distillation of alcohol (to be avoided in wines and spirits), has been found to be of use in making alcohol from agricultural and industrial wastes without expensive distillation process. Radio phones are in current use for overseas talks but transoceanic telephone cables now seem to be practicable due to the invention of a telephone repeater which can be built into the cable structure itself. Words fade out in long transmission unless the electric current carrying the wave of the words is sufficiently pitched up in midway.

More than two million chemical compounds are made in a year in the laboratories of the world, but each one is not an end product. An endless quest is proceeding in different branches of science. New branches are growing up as sub-divisions seem necessary for better work. In 1942

a new branch of geophysical science was born; palaeogeostology, the study of fossil grasses, which lie embedded in stones or in ice blocks. For the last 300 years scientists are labouring, may be goaded originally by curiosity, but now they work in an organised scheme. We enjoy from our birth so many benefits of their labour as a matter of course so easily and readily that we never question their origin and forget to bow to the untiring energy of those men living and dead who gave so many to us. But when we get a gasmask or hear about atom bombs, we know it to be a scientist's work. It is time we knew of science and brought the scientific methodology to bear upon our problems. The international spirit among the scientific workers came long ago in the course of their work. The nature of the scientist's work forbids personal equation. That must vanish also from the minds of those who are now busy with post-war plannings. Are scientists being tagged there?

There were periods when man seemed to have stood still. There were other periods when he had rushed forward at a pace which could not be checked or controlled. We are destined for good or ill—we do not know the end yet—to live in such a latter period. We shall be caught in the onward surge. It is futile to imagine that we are involved in a European crisis that may pass as it has come. We are involved in a crisis of humanity all the world over. We are living in one of those great periods of history which are awe-inspiring in their responsibilities and in their consequences.

The world in which we live is going to change, politically and sociologically no doubt, but also technically, we have no choice as to whether we will change with it, we simply have a choice as to whether we will change rapidly enough and sanely enough to remain part of the essential scheme of things, or whether we will pass out of the picture.

INDIA AND HER PROBLEMS*

BY SRIMATHI K. SAVITRI AMMAL

It is a happy idea of the publishers to bring out an edition of this kind and make it within reach of all especially those who have not the means to buy or the time to go through the complete works of Swami Vivekananda. The present volume contains a few extracts from his speeches and writings and is meant to enlighten the reader on the inherent greatness of India as well as the various problems that stand in the way of her marching along with the other nations of the world.

We all know how Swami Vivekananda the illustrious apostle of Sri Ramakrishna took the world by storm with the extraordinary powers of his mind and speech and the altogether new mode of his addressing the audience. He carried the doctrine of Vedanta to the distant shores of America and made the American people spell-bound by his flaming eloquence and

magnetic personality. The world listened breathless to his brilliant exposition of the Hindu religion which, he declared, was a challenge to the materialism of the West. For, has not India survived, she asks centuries of foreign persecution and oppression of her people with triumph, while empires rose and perished in the West as fast as they sprang up? And what is the secret of it but the strength of her religion?

The message of Swami Vivekananda was indeed not for the nation only but for the whole humanity. He glowed with pride for the land of his birth and extolled its high ideals, its spirit of tolerance and renunciation. No country despising its past can hope to have a future was his firm belief.

*Swami Vivekananda on India and her problems. Published by Advaita Ashrama, Calcutta.

He applied his vigorous mind to all those problems of India such as caste, education, the uplift of the masses, the uplift of women etc. and dealt with them in his characteristically, spirited away. He had nothing but contempt for the religion which degenerated into a few meaningless practices.

"What do you expect of a country" he asks "where grown up men by the hundreds discuss for years whether we should drink a glass of water with right hand or the left hand, whether the hand should be washed three times or four times?"

He could approve of the caste system though not as it exists at present. The defect lies not so much in the system as in the people who have allowed it to prove a stumbling block in the path of their own progress.

"Caste should not be abolished" he says, with conviction. "For within the old structure is to be found life enough for the building of two hundred thousand new ones".

He condemns however the state of things which has encouraged the evil of untouchability in a land where Advaita flourished and allowed the masses to be steeped in poverty and ignorance. To him, the Mahatma—the great soul, is he whose heart bleeds for the poor and who thinks and works for the poor incessantly. Do we not realise him today in Mahatma Gandhi who has identified himself with the Bhangis of the country?

The present system of education is also denounced by him "as merely and entirely a negative education." According to him "the education which does not help the common mass of people to equip themselves for the struggle for life, which does not bring out strength of character, a spirit of philanthropy and the courage of a lion is not worth the name." The ideal of all education, all training in his opinion should "be man making." If you have assimilated fine ideas and made them your life and character you have more education than any man who has got by heart a whole library. "If education is identical with information the libraries are the greatest sages in the world and encyclo-

pedias are the Rishis." Can anything be more telling than these words?

Of the Hindu women he speaks with fervour and in a lofty strain. "Sita is our ideal" he says. "Any attempt to modernise our women if it tries to take our women away from that ideal of Sita is immediately a failure as we see every-day. The women of India must grow and develop in the foot-prints of Sita and that is the only way."

About the abolition of early marriage and the re-marriage of widows etc., he is not worried. "Women must be put in a position" he says, "to solve their own problems in their own way. No one ought to do this for them."

Regarding the education of women, his solution is simple. "Our Hindu women easily understand what chastity means because it is their heritage. Now first of all intensify that ideal within them, so that they may develop a strong character by the force of which in every stage of their lives whether married or single, if they prefer to remain so, they will not be in the least afraid even to give up their lives rather than flinch an inch from their chastity". Did we not hear from Mahatma Gandhi the very same sentiments recently when he advised the women of East Bengal to face even death rather than lose their honour?

He considered that though science can do wonders it is the spiritual power that makes a man happy.

"Why should a man who can send a current of electricity through a wire be called a very great man and a very intelligent man? Does not nature do a million times more than that every moment? Why not then fall down and worship nature?"

Indeed nothing can be more forcible than the truth of this statement.

We have no doubt the book will amply fulfil the hope expressed in the preface. Those who have the well being of India at heart will certainly find much in it to inspire and enlighten them.

CONGRESS-LEAGUE CONFLICT:

ITS ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

By MR. HARIDAS MUKHERJEE

AT present we are passing through a transition period. History bears witness to many such transitions. Our entire society has been to-day shaken to its very foundations. In fact, the old order is collapsing. People are flouting with their traditional measures of values. Deep and widespread restlessness has invaded the entire psychology of man. People are suffering from discontent and burning with indignation which is only blind and vague. Even the younger generation with its uttermost dissatisfaction has not as yet been able to discover in their soul a shining vision of the future. True, no doubt, there are individual idealists with a profound creative passion, but, unfortunately, they also lack coherence and organisation. At a time when the reactionary elements, faced by the rising challenge of progressive forces, stand more organised than ever before, the idealists of the country cannot keep isolated anymore. They must at once organise themselves and knit the scattered forces of progress together under the historic pressure of the hour. Next, this organisation must evolve a central creative purpose quite in tune with the time.

In the present phase of our own society the strongest and the most revolutionary organisation is the Indian National Congress. To-day in our country a formidable anti-imperialist front has grown up through a long historical process of evolution. The Congress, though predominately a bourgeois (*i.e.*, middle-class) organisation, represents in India the most powerful anti-imperialist force. And because it is a bourgeois-national organisation, it also embodies in its theory and practice an anti-feudal stand. In other words, it only means that among the two-fold targets of the Congress, the first is British Imperialism and the second, the Indian Feudalism as represented by the Muslim League. The League by the very nature of things is a pluralistic organisation, though it is dominated and exploited by the Nawabs and Zamindars

(*i.e.*, Feudal forces) to their vested class-interests. The freedom-loving bourgeois elements of the League are to-day submerged and ineffective. Ignorant and blind Muslim masses lie stupified and bewildered. Mostly, they are converts from Hinduism whose social tyranny and economic injustice have driven them to the fold of Islam. They largely suffer from a sense of fear-complex coupled with a deep-seated inferiority-complex. This is the peculiar psychology of the Muslim masses. Again, the great famine of 1943 with its unprecedented enormity of sufferings told heavily upon their already dissatisfied psychology with the result that they passionately crave for some total change in the existing state of things. Of course it is a palpable fact that their discontent is blind and chaotic. They lack any positive programme or constructive imagination. They cannot lead themselves. As they cannot lead themselves, they are being led by others. Their widespread and deep-rooted discontent is being exploited by the Feudal League. Driven by class interests, the Feudal elements of the League have already drawn up a fantastically vague programme of their own, *viz.*, Pakistan, and they are mobilising the energy and the religious passion of the Muslim masses according to that plan. Be that as it may, the League is a reactionary bloc standing in the way of India's national liberation as envisaged by the Congress. Fed and encouraged by the reactionary elements of Great Britain, the Muslim League has to-day made a conscious alliance with Imperialist England.

In these circumstances when conflicting economic tendencies are at work, the task of the idealists and revolutionaries will be their genuine and effective alliance with the progressive forces of India and non-Indian territories—to the utter exclusion of reactionary elements. It is to this vital task that the idealists should address their mind to-day.

DISTRUST OF RUSSIA

BY MR. K. PYLEE JOSEPH, M.A.

RECENTLY I met an angry man in a train who told me in an angry, confidential whisper that the world was going to the dogs. And pulling himself to his full length he looked at me in a very menacing manner, clenched his fists and shouted: "Why? Because, there's going to be another war soon. The mutual suspicion between the Russians and the Anglo-Americans means that. Why should these fools distrust each other? Why? That's what an honest man like me doesn't understand." This angry man is quite representative of large sections of men all over the world who do not understand the eternal jealousies between the two groups of Great Powers. The distrust of Russia that prevails in many countries is not the result of any accident but it is a legacy of history.

It is a mistake to believe, as many people do, that all this misunderstanding between Russia and the rest of the world is because Russia is a communist country. The trouble started much earlier. When St. Vladimir, a Russian King who ruled ten centuries back, after examining the rival claims of various religions (he refused to accept Islam because according to him "Russians cannot live without drinking") at last decided to introduce Greek Orthodox Christianity into Russia, he was only laying the foundation-stone of this huge edifice of misunderstanding, the top-most power of which is Communism. Because of this divergence in belief from the rest of Asia and Europe, Russia does not share in many of the great historical traditions of either. To the Russians the Crusades or the Reformation do not mean anything. Due to this difference in religious belief, Russia stood outside the family of European nations for many centuries.

Another factor that widened this gulf between Russia and the rest of Europe was the Tartar conquest of Russia in the 13th Century. This is one of the most catastrophic events in all Russian history.

Compared to it the recent German invasion of Russia dwindles into insignificance. Russia had developed a civilisation of her own in the early days and was on a par with other enlightened nations of the world when this great blow came. The Tartar conquest destroyed the early civilisation of Russia and it put the clock of progress back by well-nigh two centuries. When later, Russia recovered from the effects of this great blow under the guidance of the Tsars of Moscow she found herself plodding in the rear of the other progressive nations of the world. The advanced nations began to look down upon Russia as a backward and uncivilised country. There was a great amount of truth in this notion. The Russian Tsars were extremely despotic and the Russians knew nothing of liberty under them. Economically also Russia was far in the rear of the other European nations. All this was to a very large extent due to the Tartar invasion. A few frantic efforts were made by Tsars like Peter the Great to push Russia to the front line. Such efforts were not on the whole very successful.

The despotic Tsars of Russia now found that it was much easier to rule a politically backward people than to rule a politically advanced people. So the Tsars busied themselves in stopping every chink through which rays of political thought from the west might creep into Russia. Intercourse between the West and Russia was discouraged as much as possible. Russian travel abroad was severely looked upon. The Tsars refused to send out Russian students to foreign universities. The Russians were kept much to themselves. They were made an idle, stay-at-home people. Russia grew up in ignorance of what was happening in the outside world and the world began to grow ignorant and indifferent about Russia. The iron curtain was slowly dropping around Russia. The Russians were so ignorant about the rest of the world that a Russian Empress of the 18th century (Elizabeth) is

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reported to have understood the fact that Great Britain is an island only towards the close of her life.

Having thus resolutely set her back to the West, Russia put in all her energy in expanding to the East. She pushed east, reached the Pacific coast, founded Vladivostok (the Lord of the East), colonised much of Central Asia and crossed the Caucasus. This rapid expansion alarmed the nations of the West and estranged the relations between them and Russia still more. Till now there was only cold indifference between the two. This gave way to active hostility from this time on. Russian foreign policy now plays its part to widen the gulf of difference. This phase is responsible for two of the most important wars in Russian history, the Crimean War and the Russo-Japanese War. Russia's desire to establish herself firmly on the shores of the Baltic and gain access to the warm waters of the Mediterranean won new enemies for her. It is the common impression that Russia follows an extremely tortuous foreign policy. This idea has found expression in the famous saying that Russian foreign policy is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.

There is no use denying that communism is one of the most effective barriers between Russia and the other nations. The very circumstances under which communism came to be established in

Russia were exasperating to many. Russia backed out of the First Great War as soon as communism came into vogue and this was looked upon as an act of shameless treachery by many people all over the world. This coupled with subsequent happenings worsened the relations. The Russians justly resented outside interference (like the British interference in the Civil War or the Polish support of the reactionaries) while they were fighting out their struggle. Conservative hysteria over the success of the Russian proletariat was most insufferable. The lovers of the old order of things did everything in their power to alienate the sympathy of the world from the new Russian experiment. The crop of bitterness that we are reaping has been largely of their sowing.

Geographical remoteness, the difficulty of mastering the language of the Russians (it is one of the most difficult of languages, almost as difficult as Chinese), racial differences, the unwillingness of the Soviet authorities to let in observers from outside, all these help to hold Russia apart from the rest of the world but these obstacles are not insurmountable.

Differences in foreign policy, in ideology, in race, in language might appear a formidable set of barriers to get over. But provided there is intelligent lead it is not difficult. We will not in any way be helped by irresponsible propaganda.

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THE 34th Session of the Indian Science Congress which met at Delhi on the 3rd January and subsequent days was an international gathering of distinguished Scientists. Indeed since the Jubilee Session of the Congress in 1938 we have not had such a galaxy of foreign scientists visiting this country. Sir Charles Darwin, the leader of the British delegation, is Director of the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington

and Britain's foremost nuclear scientist now alive. He was a member of the committee of scientists who proved the feasibility of the manufacture of the atomic bomb on the United Kingdom side. Hardly less important is Prof. Blackett who helped in the manufacturing stage. Sir Harold Spencer Jones is an astronomer of note while Dr. Dudley Stamp may be expected to bring new life to the teaching of geography

in our universities. The Soviet delegation was perhaps the most colourful of the many delegations that visited this country. Prof. Volgin is the Vice-President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, the supreme controlling organisation of scientific work in the USSR.

SIR MAURICE GWYER'S WELCOME ADDRESS

Sir Maurice Gwyer, Vice Chancellor of the Delhi University, welcoming the delegates to the Science Congress said that it was significant that scientists, irrespective of their nationalities, could meet on a common platform. This meant a good deal for the future well-being of mankind.

Pandit Nehru by virtue of his position as Vice-President of the Interim Government and member for External Affairs, was an appropriate choice for the chairmanship of the Session. For nobody outside the ranks of professional scientists is better qualified for that high office and he made a speech, which for all that it came from a layman and a politician, was full of the true spirit of modern science.

PANDIT NEHRU'S PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Pandit Nehru, in his presidential address, expressed the hope that now that India was on the verge of independence and Science in India too was coming of age, it would try to solve the problems of the New India by rapid planned development on all sectors and try to make her more and more scientifically-minded.

Surely, said Pandit Nehru, science was not merely an individual's search for Truth. It was something infinitely more than that if it worked for the community.

For a hungry man or a hungry woman Truth has little meaning. He wants food. For a hungry man God has no meaning. He wants food. And India is a hungry, starving country and to talk of Truth and God and even of many of the fine things of life to the millions who are starving is a mockery (hear hear). We have to find food for them, clothing, housing, education, health and so on—all the absolute necessities of life that every man should possess.

When we have done that we can philosophise and think of God. So, Science must think in terms of the 400 million persons in India. Obviously, you can only think in those terms and work along those lines on the wider scale of co-ordinated planning."

He hoped that the Science Congress would devote itself to this task and not wait merely for Government to take action. "Governments may be good and may be bad," said the Pandit.

"But Government normally are very slow (laughter) and the only thing that moves them is some immediate public outcry which affects their future indirectly (more laughter). Therefore, I should discourage among the scientists a reliance always on what Government may or may not do. Naturally, they have a right to expect things from Government and, speaking just as one Member of the present Government of India—speaking, may be, partly for my colleagues, but largely for myself—I may say that we are intensely interested in scientific development in India and we shall do everything in our power to encourage scientific research. We should like to tap all the latent scientific talent in the country and to give it opportunities for growth and service to the community. And I should like to assure this Science Congress and our friends who have come from abroad that we want to co-operate with science abroad in every way to advance the cause of peace in the world, the peace and progress of humanity" (cheers).

THE BRITISH DELEGATION

Sir Charles Darwin, leader of the British Delegation expressed the hope that mutual visits by scientists of Britain and India would be more frequent in future, Sir Charles added that meetings like the Science Congress, where scientists from all the country met together, provided the best occasions for such visits.

Referring to the collaboration between scientists from the two countries he said:

"If you make the necessary allowances for distance my general impression is that collaboration is there as much as can be attained or ever was attained."

THE SOVIET DELEGATION

Speaking at a party given by the Science Congress to the Soviet Delegation, Prof. Volgin, leader of that delegation said:

The names of eminent Indian scientists are well-known to the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union. A number of representative Soviet scientists have at different times visited India and the names of our scientists are known in India too. But this is the first occasion that a delegation of the Academy of Sciences takes part in a session of the Indian Science Congress.

Prof. Volgin explained the role played by the Soviet Academy of Sciences in the development of science in Russia and added:

The founders of the new Institute for Industrial Research at Delhi, at the stone-laying ceremony

of which we had the honour to be present yesterday, reminded us of Lord Kelvin's fine words, 'The life and soul of science is its practical application' Lord Kelvin's statement might have served as a motto for our Academy too.

Our generation, which has undergone the hardships of two world wars will appreciate the importance of international collaboration and its significance in securing the progress of the peoples the world over. The people of India are faced with enormous industrial and cultural problems. We are sure that science in India inspired by Lord Kelvin's message will take an active part in solving these problems (cheers.) Allow me to wish the scientists of India success in their work which would help to secure peace and international collaboration among all the peoples and scientists the world over.

POPULAR SCIENCE LECTURES

Other Scientists engaged themselves in expounding their respective theories from different platforms under the auspices of the Congress.

Sir Harold Spencer Jones, British Astronomer-Royal, speaking at the Delhi University in a series of popular lectures arranged by the Indian Science Congress, said.

One cannot escape from the conclusion that there must be many other worlds where conditions

are such that life can come into existence and where, I think, life will in some form be found.

Sir Harold, who was speaking on, "Life on other Worlds," said:

There are probably more than a thousand million separate universes each containing perhaps, something like one hundred thousand million stars and many more beyond our range of vision. The question which inevitably comes to our minds at some time or other is: Is it possible that life exists only on this little world on which we live? Of course we do not know how life started on this world of ours. What we do know is that it has somehow, sometime, come into existence. Different people may have different views about the origin of life. I think it probable—although I cannot prove it—that wherever in creation conditions prevail where life can exist there somehow in some way life will develop."

It would appear that the public lectures were only a secondary part of the activities of the Science Congress. The scientists were evidently busy integrating themselves in sub-committees, where we understand, all the real business of such conferences was accomplished and that later on "there will come forth such a spate of scientific findings as to be quite beyond the comprehension of the layman."

HUMOUR IN KAMBAR AND VALMIKI

BY RAO SAHEB T. S. NATARAJA PILLAI

"THE world's pride," says Priestly, "is an Englishman—Shakespeare." We Indians ought to be equally proud of Valmiki and Kamban. In poetic imagery and lofty conceptions, our Indian poets can equal the English poet and dramatist. But in respect of humour, there can hardly be any comparison between them. The reason for this will be found to be more national than temperamental. The Englishman loves laughter, reflective and indulgent; the Indian loves to reflect on the soul and the life beyond. These characteristics are ingrained in their very nature. Yet, the poems of Valmiki and Kamban are not so devoid of humour as those of Shelley and Wordsworth.

From time immemorial, poets have sung of love and war. These two Indian poets have done likewise. The Ramayana gives

ample scope to such themes. Rama in his wanderings reaches the forest of Dandaka. There a demoness, Surpanakha by name, meets him and falls violently in love with him. The very situation as presented to us by Valmiki is full of humour. Here is a demoness barbarous, ugly and unclean, seeking to mate with a person who is in every way infinitely superior to her. But Surpanakha is all unconscious of this difference. Herein lies the humour of the situation. As the sister of the powerful Ravana, who was a terror to all the three worlds, she considers that she is conferring a very great favour on Rama. To the delight of the reader, Valmiki brings out the contrast between them in three beautiful stanzas. Ordinarily, we would expect one set of stanzas to describe Rama and another to describe Surpanakha. But

Valmiki, with great poetic skill, proceeds to describe both of them in the same stanza, using words and their antonyms. The antonyms bring out the attributes of the demoness. For example,

Sumukham durmukhi Ramam vrtamadhyam
visalaksham virupakshi sukesam
mahodhari
tamramurdhaja

(Benign of face, dour faced; slender waisted, big-bellied; with big and beautiful eyes, cruel-eyed; sleek and smooth haired, red haired)

This style is repeated in two more stanzas. But when we understand the plan, we enjoy the humour all the more, as this construction accentuates the incongruity and raises a smile.

Kamban takes up the incident and improves upon it. Instead of presenting an uncivilised and ugly woman, overwhelmed by love and lost to all sense of shame, he pictures to the reader, with great adroitness, an apparently modest woman, surpassingly beautiful. Even Rama is taken in by her appearance. She uses upon Rama, in a subtle way, all her arts and wiles. Kamban enters into the spirit of the theme with great zest and creates enough fun for our merriment. Surpanakha is introduced to the reader with a few deft and humorous touches. As a disease congenital and dormant, which having grown with the body at last overcomes and kills a person, so she who was born with Ravana and bided her time to lead him to destruction, appears now before Rama. A kamarupini, she can assume any form she likes. With unconscious humour she prays to Lakshmi, whose avatar Sita is, to give her a dazzlingly beautiful form in order to win from Sita her own husband. Having attained this form, she presents herself before Rama, 'tripping it as she goes on the light fantastic toe.' The stanzas which describe her entrance are resonant with jingling rhymes that echo the tinkling little bells of her anklets. There is droll mirth in the very lines. Much is made of the fact that in Coleridge and Tennyson are found poems in which sound echoes to the sense. Such things are common in India.

Having presented Surpanakha to the reader, Kamban recedes into the background, leaving her to make her own debut. She is not wanting in assurance and is not retarded from gaining her purpose by any sense of false modesty. There is a most beautiful stanza bubbling with fun which describes her actions. "The love-lorn maiden studies Rama's face to detect therein some signs of admiration; she bows before him and touches his feet with her hands. Straightening herself up, she turns upon him the archery of her eyes. Lest he should think her overbold, she withdraws her gaze, trusting that the love shafts sent would reach their mark and wound. She then demurely shifts her glance to a distant object. As if overcome with modesty, she shrinks from his view like a gazelle and stands with an averted or downcast face just a little behind the hero." The poem being written in the same rhyme adds to the charm and the humour.

In the conversation that ensues between her and Rama, she exhibits all the vanity and the native wit of her sex. That beauty is vain and boastful is demonstrated here to the reader. She claims descent from Brahma himself and is anxious to be taken for a high class damsel and the equal of Rama. Kamban ridicules this common failing which besets not only women, but others in this unfortunate country. She artfully changes her name. She is no longer Surpanakha, the destroyer of sacrifices. Of what use is it to advertise her evil calling when she seeks to find favour in Rama's eyes? So she craftily calls herself Kamavalli, the virgin. The name and the descriptive word in apposition are significant. Kamavalli means the love creeper and is the name of the slender plant which entwines itself round the sturdy Kalpaka, the fabled wishing tree, which grows in the realm of Indra. And she is a vestal worshipping the sacred form of Rama alone. If Rama was the shrewd man she took him for, he must understand her intents and purposes. Humour and

dramatic irony are also to be found in her statement that the immaculate beauty which she possesses was attained after severe penance which sublimated her gross human form.

An acknowledged form of humour is tender mockery. It is to be found in all the best literature of the world, when humour of character is described. It is also to be found in private life, in a happy family of husband and wife, and brother and sister, if they are affectionate and shrewd. Such humour is displayed by Rama and Lakshmana, according to the version of Valmiki, in their talk with Surpanakha. Rama tells her that he is already married and chaffs her saying that such a grand lady as she cannot reconcile herself to live along with a first wife. He recommends Lakshmana for her acceptance as the fairer and younger and also as one who is languishing for the lack of a spouse. When she goes to Lakshmana, he in turn tells her that he has no freedom, being a bondsman of Rama and that if she should join him, she would lose her independence and become a slave too. He advises her to go back to Rama as he cannot but choose such a charming person as she in preference to the ugly Sita. Failing to see that the brothers were enjoying fun at her expense, she again approaches Rama, repeats Lakshmana's words respecting the ugliness of Sita in Sita's own presence and asks him to discard her. At this every one, including Sita, burst into laughter. This enrages her. To prove and establish her superiority, she offers to swallow Sita on the spot.

Let us return to Kamban. When Surpanakha finds that Rama is relentless, she changes her tactics and points out to him how greatly he would be benefited by consorting with her. He was alone; the Rakshsas were notorious for their magic; theirs was always a guileful and treacherous sort of warfare; with her by his side, he would find that the earth and the heavenly kingdom were his; thousands would wait upon him to do his bidding and the very

demigods would be at his beck and call. Here Kamban displays his remarkable sense of humour. Instead of portraying an angry Rama, as the poet Villiputhurar, for instance does in the case of Bheema in parallel circumstances, when Idimbi, the demoness, offers him protection, Kamban makes his hero see the humour of the situation and use satirical language. His raillery breaks forth in an unrestrained spate of laughter. 'Yes maiden' says he, 'by your favour I have gained not only the goodwill of the Rakshsas, but also the love of a Rakshasa dame and the luxury of living with her surrounded by wealth and splendour. Yeal it is only in my exile, after I had left the sacred city of Ayodhya, that my piety and good deeds have begun to bear fruit'. Such sarcasm is most suited to the occasion. There is no need to spurn her, as some authors are inclined to make their heroes do. Rama uses similar biting sarcasm with good effect, in the case of Lakshmana himself, when after the abortive coronation, that worthy brother, with more zeal than discretion, began arming himself to secure for his brother, by warfare, the right which he had lost by the machinations of his step mother. Rama then says to him 'Well brother! Whence is this anger? When will it subside? Is it to abate after killing a woman and mother, or slaying an aged father and king, or murdering a brother for no fault of his own?' This brings the irate Lakshmana to his senses and he throws down his bow and arrows.

In the case of Surpanakha, the sarcasm is not lost on her. She feels discomfited and casts her baleful eyes around. They encounter the beautiful form of Sita, who according to the version of Kamban, enters upon the scene only at this juncture. In her, Surpanakha sees the reason for her rejection. She ponders over the unnatural circumstance of a lovely woman residing in the company of men in a lonely forest. Verily she could not be Rama's wife. No king in his senses would bring his own

wife here and make her undergo all the hardships attendant upon a rugged forest life. She argues that this woman like herself must be an interloper. Rama should be enlightened and warned. To think is to act. She addresses Rama at once. Pointing to Sita, she says: "Lo This woman is learned in the magic arts; she is an artful demoness; you cannot fathom her mind of guile and deceit; to take her at her face value is not the act of wisdom; the form she bears is not her own real one; she is a carnivorous beast living upon flesh; Oh! Rama save me from her as I am afraid of her very presence." The cat is now out of the bag. In Sita, the demoness sees the counterpart of her own self. Unwittingly, she reveals the secret of her own adventure. There is not a single characteristic of herself which she omits to attribute to her rival and warn Rama against. Once more, Rama laughs, as indeed we are inclined to do and commends her for her sharpness.

Kamban does not end the episode here. He is so bubbling with laughter that he follows Surpanakha to Lanka. There she complains to her brother of her ill treatment and demands vengeance on Rama. The cause of her ill treatment, she archly ascribes to her attempt to lift Sita, in order to bring her to Ravana. She then paints Sita in glowing colours. Three of the stanzas have a double meaning—one the praise of Ravana and the other the conveying of a covert prophecy of coming evil. This the reader cannot fail to detect and smile at. For example,

Vallalay oonakku nallen matrunia manaiyil
vazhum
Killai pol mozhiyark kellam kedu soozh
kindren anray

(Oh free giver! to you I may be acceptable; but to all those sweet-spoken ladies of your palace, I am seeking evil.)

The plain meaning here is 'You will look upon me with favour because I am procuring a beautiful woman for you; but I am causing evil to your wives since I am bringing a rival and thus depriving them of your company.' In the concealed

meaning the evil in reference to the wives is the ultimate death of Ravana, their husband.

On hearing the description of Sita, Ravana gets enamoured of her and so smitten with love is he that he discards his food, takes no interest in his ordinary duties and betakes himself to solitude. Through constant contemplation, he conjures up the vision of Sita before his eyes. On seeing this apparition, he at once sends for Surpanakha, describes the form and asks her if the veritable witch before him is Sita. The answer that she gives is startling. It must be remembered that Sita's form being the creation of Ravana's fancy cannot be seen by Surpanakha. So, while Ravana is describing the loveliness of Sita's eyes, her mind flies at a tangent to the beauty of those orbs which have enslaved her. Immersed in her own train of thought, she pays little attention to her brother's speech. When that ends and she finds that she is expected to speak, she replies readily. "Yes! The lotus eyes, the sweet mouth, the heaving shoulders, the long arms and the broad chest—all confess that it is he, the great archer, Rama." With a violent start Ravana comes back to the reality of the world around him. "What is this my sister," he asks. "I saw a female form; how is it that to you it seemed to be a male one? Are these men—mere men—capable of excelling us in magic and deceiving our very eyes?"

Thus ends one of the most humorous episodes in the Ramayana. I have tried to sketch only the most important incidents. There are several minor ones which lose nothing of their piquancy in the narration by Kamban. There is a good deal of humour in the last incident in Lanka. In Kamban's humour there is nothing that is malignant. The sarcasm or railery is enjoyable and harmless. It conforms to the best traditions of humour in English Literature which, while exposing the bells in the cap, makes reform of character and manners, its end in view.

—Broadcast Talk, Madras.

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

THE PRESIDENT ON CONSAMBLY'S REPRESENTATIVE CHARACTER

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, in his opening address, repudiated the aspersions cast on the representative character of the Constituent Assembly, as at present composed, by certain Conservative members of Parliament in the course of the recent general debate on India. It will be recalled how, during the debate on the Cabinet Mission's statement of May 16, and the subsequent interpretation of the British Government thereon, Mr. Churchill said that the Constituent Assembly, as it was meeting then, represented "only one major community in India"; and Viscount Simon went a step further to say that it was a meeting of caste Hindus. Dr. Prasad's reply is self-sufficient and is worth reproducing. He said:

Out of a total of 296 members who were to take part in the preliminary session, 210 members attended. These 210 members consisted of 155 Hindus out of a total of 160, 30 Scheduled Caste representatives out of a total of 33, all the five Sikhs, six Indian Christians out of seven (one of them is also counted as a member of the Backward Tribes), all the five representatives of the Backward Tribes, all the three Anglo-Indians, all the three Parsis, and four Muslims out of 30. The significant absence is, of course, that of the representatives of the Muslim League, which we all deeply regret. But it is clear from the figures I have quoted that with the exception of representatives of the League every community in India, whatever the party affiliation of the persons representing that community, was represented in the Assembly; and therefore, to describe the Assembly as representing "only one major community in India" or as "a body of Hindus" or as a "meeting of Caste-Hindus" is a complete travesty of facts.

THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The Assembly then accepted without debate the resolution moved by Mr. Satyanarain Sinha for the election of a Steering Committee. Thereafter discussion of Pandit Nehru's resolution defining the objectives of India's future constitution was continued.

SIR RADHAKRISHNAN'S SPEECH

The most notable speech of the day was that of Sir S. Radhakrishnan

THE Second Session of the Constituent Assembly met on January 20 according to schedule, but the members of the Muslim League were absent again. It will be recalled that the Assembly adjourned on December 23 last with the hope that when it met again after four weeks the Leaguers would make it possible to attend it. As a gesture to the League and also to enable it to attend this Assembly Session, the Congress called a meeting of the All India Congress Committee on January 5 which decided to accept H. M. G.'s statement of December 6. Thus the League was given ample time to revise its decision to boycott the Assembly.

LEAGUE'S DELAYING TACTICS

Soon after the announcement of the A.I.C.C. decision it was expected even in some League quarters that the League Executive would be called to meet and decide before the reopening of the Assembly Session. But the authorities of the League treated the whole affair in such a leisurely way that they seemed in all respects bent on ignoring the Assembly as of no consequence. And when at last it was announced that the League Executive would meet only on January 29, more than a week after the scheduled date for the commencement of the second Session of the Assembly, it was quite evident that the League was not prepared to treat the matter seriously and was determined to indulge in dilatory tactics to further its own ends whatever they may be. These tactics, whether consciously or unconsciously, were quite in accord with the Churchillian attempts to sabotage the whole plan of constitutional advance in India.

But the Congress was determined to go ahead with the programme as chalked out in the last Session. The Assembly met with Dr. Rajendra Prasad in the chair. Over 200 members attended, among the distinguished visitors being Mr. Arthur Henderson Under-secretary of State for India with his India Office advisers and Mr. George Merrell, U. S. Charge d'Affairs in India.

who pleaded for the unanimous acceptance of the resolution. Even if India elected to go out of the Commonwealth, he said Britain stood to gain very much if only she could choose, at this late hour, to cultivate India's friendship and goodwill. The future afforded great opportunities for the peoples of two such countries to work together in many fields of common interest. Such voluntary association between two equals would be productive of greater mutual benefit than vain efforts to delay the day of freedom and disrupt Indian unity.

MRS. PANDIT'S DECLARATION

Mrs. Pandit, in a brief speech, declared, that the resolution embodied all the ideals which the Indian people had been longing for. It was in the nature of things, she said, for imperialism to strive its utmost to survive, but its end was certain.

DR. JAYAKAR WITHDRAWS HIS AMENDMENT

When the House met again the next day Dr. M. R. Jayakar's amendment seeking postponement of the passing of the resolution until the Muslim League and Indian States representatives came into the Assembly was withdrawn by the mover with the permission of the House. This enabled the unanimous passing of the resolution.

MINORITIES' SUPPORT

Eleven more members spoke on Pandit Nehru's resolution, including five on behalf of the minorities: Mr. S. H. Prater for the Anglo-Indians; Rev. D'Souza and Dr. H. C. Mookherji for the Indian Christians; Mr. Devendra Nath Samanta for the Adibasis and Mr. Khandekar for the Scheduled Castes.

PANDIT NEHRU'S REPLY TO DEBATE

Pandit Nehru, in a stirring and impassioned reply to the debate, said that while he would welcome the absentees at any time "it should be made clear without any possibility of misunderstanding that no work will be held up in future whether anyone comes or not."

Referring to Indian States and the question of Sovereignty, he said:

A point has been raised that the idea of the sovereignty of the people which is enshrined in this resolution does not commend itself to certain Rulers of Indian States. That is a surprising objection and, if I may say so, if that objection is raised in all seriousness by anybody, be he Ruler or Minister, it is enough to condemn the Indian State system and every Ruler and Minister that exists in India (hear, hear).

It is a scandalous thing for any man, however highly-placed he may be, to say that he has any special divine dispensation to rule over human beings today. That is an intolerable presumption on any man's part (hear, hear) and it is a thing which, I hope, this House will never admit for an instant and will repudiate if it is put before it.

"We have heard a lot about this idea of the divine right of Kings," said Pandit Nehru. "We have read a lot about it in past histories and we had thought that we had seen the last of it and that it had been put an end to and buried deep down into the earth long ages ago. And for any individual in India to raise it to-day shows that there are parts of India and Indians who live buried deep down in the past without any relation to the present (hear, hear). So I would suggest to them in all friendliness that if they want to be respected or to be considered with any measure of friendly feelings, no such idea should be even hinted at, much less said. On this there is going to be no compromise (hear, hear)"

The passing of Nehru's resolution was the main business of the Session which engaged itself in the setting up of important committees and selecting the personnel for them.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

After the personnel of the Steering Committee was announced, Pandit Pant's motion to set up an Advisory Committee of 72 members to deal with fundamental rights, minority rights and questions relating to Excluded and Tribal areas, was adopted.

Dr. Rajagopalachari, moving for appointment of the Union Subjects Committee, spoke frankly of the Muslim League position. "Let us give them ample time to come," he said. "But that does not mean that we can stop our work, that we can stop thinking."

The Assembly agreed to Dr. Pattabhi's motion to set up the order of Business Committee consisting of Sir N. Gopalaswami Iyengar, Mr. K. M. Munshi and Mr. Bisvanath Das, to recommend the order of further business of the Assembly and to submit its report before the commencement of the next Session in April.

DR. H. C. MOOKHERJEE TO BE VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr. H. C. Mookherjee has been nominated Vice-President of the Assembly. Dr. Mookherjee is the only candidate in the field.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BY "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

The Muslim League's Decision

THE Muslim League resolution rejecting the Congress hand of friendship and invoking the British authorities to disown their own creation—the Constituent Assembly—was not altogether unexpected, judging from the tenor of the speeches of League leaders for some time past. And yet, members of the Constituent Assembly hoped against all indications to the contrary that good sense and patriotism would prevail in the end and bring the lost sheep to the fold. The League Council has now banged the door with a vehemence in direct opposition to the warmth and eagerness displayed by the Assembly to bring the League in. In fact the more eager the Assembly showed itself for co-operation with the League the more intransigent it has become. The House was duly warned of such a result but Dr. Jayakar and others pleaded for a policy of moderation and delay. The League, by its tone of violence and intransigence, has proved itself undeserving of that consideration. The League leaders who on a moment's notice were ready to fly to London took over a month to call a meeting of their Council. Such leisurely handling of important issues was a deliberate and calculated insult to the Assembly. By these efforts they were trying to sabotage the whole plan and now they have definitely asked H. M. G. to drop the whole matter. Even the *Times* calls their demand "preposterous."

The League has again displayed its inability to rise above Communal considerations. . . . It was preposterous for the Karachi meeting to call upon the British Government for a declaration that the Cabinet Mission's plan has failed and to demand the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly.

Nothing indeed could be more welcome to the Churchills and Ameries of England who are only waiting for such opportunities to torpedo the freedom movement in India; and the League, by its delaying tactics, is merely playing into their hands.

League's Negative Policy

The long winded resolution of the Muslim League Council takes us nowhere. Congress has defined its attitude, declaring its complete acceptance of H. M. G.'s statement. The League says it is no acceptance but a "dishonest" "trickery", and on that plea continues to boycott the Consambly. It can please itself. But the question arises how the Viceroy happened to assure Pandit Nehru that the League was prepared to work the long term plan and on that understanding took them into the Interim Government. Who has been tricked and how? It is for H. M. G. to clear the situation.

Fancy the Attlee Government pulled in different directions by the inclusion of the diehard nominees of Churchill who indulge in violent recriminations of their colleagues in the Cabinet!

In this connection we must draw attention to the very sensible advice given by Mr. Ali Zaheer, former member of the Interim Government.

If, instead of rejecting the constitutional plan and finding fault with the work done by the Constituent Assembly so far, the League leaders had given assurances to the minorities in Groups "B" and "C", the deadlock might have been resolved. . . . It is difficult to understand how the League wants others to respect the Muslim minority and its wishes, while it is not ready to show any consideration for the minorities which will exist in its own Group. I still hope the general Muslim public will realise the absurdity of the stand taken up by the Muslim League Working Committee.

Will the League profit by this wise counsel?

When Gandhiji's advice on the 6th December statement was sought, he seems to have held that the Congress should proceed with the work of the Constituent Assembly irrespective of the attitude of any party or group. After all, the constitution framed by the Assembly would be applicable to such units as freely and willingly accepted it and units that might dissent now could accede at a later stage.

Gandhiji's Peace Pilgrimage in Bengal

Not all the thunder of the League nor even the stately proceedings of the Consamby itself could outstrip in importance and intrinsic value the silent revolution that is being wrought in Bengal and South India. Gandhiji's peace pilgrimage through the muddy fields of distracted Bengal is an experiment in *ahimsa* the value of which is well recognised even by the League Premier Mr. Suhrawady himself. Gandhiji has his own way of doing things and the Bengal Premier testifies to the good work of the Mahatma in restoring Communal peace and harmony in a part of the country which was the scene of the worst tragedy in Indian history.

Temple Entry in South India

There is a surprising spate of temple opening for Harijans in South India. Following the great Temple Entry Proclamation of Travancore public opinion in South India has in recent years progressed so remarkably that it is quite ripe for the new Bill that is contemplated by the Madras Government. It must hearten reformers to know that their efforts are bearing fruit so quickly and in such wide areas. The opening of the temples in Shiyali and Srirangam to Harijans last month is bound to have far reaching influence on the social life of our people. Over a score of the great temples of South India, Shivite no less than Vaishnavite, are now open to Harijans. It is a remarkable feature of the silent revolution that is taking place in South Indian society.

Madras Public Security Ordinance

That the Government of Madras, and a Congress Government at that should have been forced to adopt the obnoxious method of ordinance is regrettable enough. But the Prime Minister's Statement in the Assembly and Council would seem to put the public in the horns of a dilemma. In a spirited defence of his Government's action Mr. Prakasam pointed out that even a Communist Government could not afford to look passively on a scene

"wherein elements subversive of public peace and order combed the countryside defying the law, seizing lands, looting or destroying crops, setting fire to homesteads, attacking Government buildings, murdering innocent people, engaging in armed conflicts with Government forces and generally indulging in a reign of terror."

If it is a question of choice between two evils there is no doubt as to which is the lesser evil.

Unrest in the Punjab

The arrest of top-ranking Muslim Leaguers in the Punjab following their defiance of authority on the one hand and the discovery of steel helmets in the premises of the National Guard on the other has created a queer situation. That Punjab in these days of communal wrangles has kept its head cool speaks for the sanity and good sense of its citizens. But League leaders, by their violent speeches are fomenting trouble with the ultimate aim of discrediting the present Ministry and capturing the Government. Peaceful and constitutional methods of displacing one Government by another are there, which the League is free to follow, but no Government worth the name could tolerate open violation of law and incitement to violence. It is good that even top-ranking men should be made to know their proper place.

The Princes and Consamby

The Princes and their Ministers have met and dispersed, having defined their attitude to the Constituent Assembly. The terms appear to be rather stiff and one-sided though the statement expresses a desire to be helpful. The Princes, we are told, are willing to participate in the Assembly but are not to be bound by its decisions, and secondly, Paramountcy, when it ceases, will revert back to each of the numberless states that adorn this country! That will be a queer position indeed! But it is evident not all the Princes are of one mind and there is bound to be a change in their outlook, sooner or later. If the Assembly should go ahead with its programme, firmly yet considerately as it has done so far, the States are bound to fall in line.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By "CHRONICLER"

Smuts and the U.N.O.

F. M. S SMUTS, who is so eloquent on international themes and the value of world security appears determined to flout the U. N. O. Just what Italy did on the Abyssinian question he seems prepared to do on the Indian question. Where then is the difference between Mussolini who defied the League and Smuts who is out to trounce the U.N.O.?

Asserting that the "United Nations Organization made a poor start," F. M. Smuts, the South African Premier announced in the Union Senate that if the U.N.O. "did not play the game and carry out the Charter" (in refraining to interfere in domestic matters of countries) "it will go the way of the League of Nations."

Smuts, however, added that South Africa had no intention to leave the U.N.O.

Premier Smuts was speaking on a resolution moved by Senator Basner, the Native representative, that the South African Government should summon a convention of all races to arrive at a commonly accepted constitution for future development of South Africa.

Senator Basner moving the resolution said that membership of the U.N.O. was incompatible with principles of racial discrimination and supremacy.

White Paper on Burma

A Constituent Assembly set up by direct election and an Interim Government for Burma on the model of the present Indian Interim Government, are two of the most important results of the Burma self-government talks in London announced in a White Paper laid before Parliament.

The White Paper, as expected, covers a wide range of subjects, including External Affairs and Defence of Burma. The British Government has made it clear that, pending final transfer of power to the Burmese people, it will retain responsibility for the British Armed Forces in Burma, although the Burmese forces will be under the control of the Burma Government.

Aung San on Pact with U.K.

Aung San, Leader of the Burmese Political Delegation, which has concluded the Constitutional Agreement with the British Government, told a Press conference in London, soon after the agreement was reached, that he considered that Burma's independence now lay in her own hands.

"We are going to have a Constituent Assembly about May," said U Aung San, "and it depends upon us how soon we decide to make Burma independent."

He added:

"What I am going to say to Burma is this. 'Now that we have got an acceptable settlement, we recommend it to you,' but we shall tell them quite frankly that independence is still not there. Independence must be got, but we think we have got the basis on which we can proceed to our independence in a smooth and peaceful manner. We may be proved wrong by events, but that is our opinion."

The Future of Germany

Dr. Kurt Schumacher, Chairman of the German Social Democratic party and President of the Advisory Council for the British zone, spoke recently: "One cannot blame the Germans for lack of moral qualities. The third Reich has collapsed but many methods of the occupying powers have also collapsed."

"To leave Germany as a black spot in the heart of Europe would mean a temptation for imperialists of all shades. The problem should not be based in neutralisation of the country, but on allowing her to become a European nation".

Truman's Appeal to U. S. Congress

President Truman appealed to Congress on Feb. 3, not to scrap the Government's war-time powers, abandonment of which would mean virtual chaos in world distribution of short food supplies. These powers—due to expire under the present law on March 31—are included in the Second War Powers Act, and President Truman declared, in a special message to Congress, that if they were not continued "our troops would be jeopardised and our policy of encouraging the growth of democracy would be endangered."



The WORLD of BOOKS

(ONLY SHORT NOTICES APPEAR IN THIS SECTION)



GLORY AND BONDAGE. By Edgar Snow. Victor Gollancz Ltd., London. Thacker & Co., Ltd., Bombay Rs. 7-8-0.

Edgar Snow left America in 1928, saw about a dozen years of war and returned home in January 1941. He travelled extensively in Japan, the Philippines and the East Indies, covered rebellions in Indo-China and Burma and followed Mahatma Gandhi on his first great civil disobedience drive in India. The book is full of thought-provoking comments.

Here is his caustic observation on the original attitude of America and Britain towards Japan; "By continuing to arm Japan after the seizure of Manchuria in 1932, America and Britain were merely strengthening her for that moment when she must surely attack us." The two Governments did not realise the folly of their ways till "the kick came and the Japs returned our scrap iron to us with compound interest."

Mr. Snow is positive that though Japan is defeated and humbled, it will be difficult to obliterate altogether the influence of Japan on the Asiatic mind.

"Shorn of her empire and exploitative rule her doctrine of 'Asiatic co-prosperity' may find a much wider response. It is not to be supposed that the Chinese reject this idea fundamentally or will permanently refuse to co-operate regionally on a plane of true equality with a democratic or socialist Japan—which is the kind of state most likely to emerge from the shambles of the empire."

On the authority of Sumner Welles Mr. Snow avers that the oriental world as well as Europe cannot remain "half-slave and half-free" and that the "right of self-determination by peoples is not limited by divine warrant, nor by the Atlantic Charter to the white race".

"For the colonial problem can no longer be the exclusive concern of any one country whose early adventures and conquerors happened to be the first to carry modern guns and machines to these areas and impose their will and domination.

True words these!

THE INDIAN DEADLOCK. By K. M. Munshi. Kitab-Mahel 56A., Zero Road, Allahabad. Price Rs. 2.

We cannot have a more effective and convincing reply to Prof. Coupland's book, "The Future of India" which brands the Congress of Totalitarianism and makes it responsible for the deadlock than Mr. Munshi's admirably documented book under review. With merciless logic, and acute insight, Mr. Munshi analyses the hollowness of Prof. Coupland's thesis with its mischievous suggestion for the partition of India into four regions with a weak agency centre which according to him would only tighten the strangle hold of Britain on India. He also shows by a study of the events since 1907 how the British authorities in India are really responsible for the deadlock by their policy of "divide and rule" and encouragement of disruptionist forces sabotaging at every concerted effort at unity. Profoundly aware of the supreme necessity for a strong and united India which alone can challenge British authority he suggests that only a Centre Party willing to enter into a compromise first with the British with an assurance that a transfer of power to Indians will not mean separation from Commonwealth, next with the League assuring them that they can have a zone of Muslim States enjoying autonomy consistent with a united India and finally with the states guaranteeing them their internal sovereignty. Mr. Munshi's lively and stimulating book is an earnest and eloquent plea for a realistic approach to the Indian Problem.

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THE WORLD OF BOOKS

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THE MAYURA SANDESA OF UDAYA Edited by Dr. C. Kunhan Raja. Foreword by Sardar Major K. M. Pannikar. Published by the Poona Oriental Book Agency (Poona Oriental Series No. 84).

The Sandesa Kavya is a distinct well-known type in Sanskrit literature. Its theme, according to Alankarika terminology, is inspired by Vipralambha Sringara—the outpourings in love and grief of a lonely lover pining for his distant beloved in separation. It takes the form of a message addressed to some being chosen by the lover to carry his love-laden words, as a messenger, to soothe the lacerated heart of his beloved in the distant place. Naturally, the lover takes the messenger into his confidence and gives a detailed poetic description of the route to be taken by him to reach her. The first and foremost of these Kavyas is the Megha Sandesa by Kalidasa.

The Mayura Sandesa of Udaya which belongs to this type of Sanskrit literature, though suffering from the handicap of its being an imitation of Kalidasa, is still interesting reading. It has got poetic merit and the style is elegant and flowing. It has got local interest as the route described for the Peacock to take is from Trivandrum called Syanandura in Sanskrit to Annakara, a village near Trichur in Cochin.

Dr. Kunhan Raja who claims the author as an ancestor of his, has done well in editing this poem and writing a Sanskrit commentary on it.

THOUGHTS OF POWER-SWAMI VIVEKANANDA. Published by Advaita Ashrama, Almora.

This little book is a collection of thoughts from Swami Vivekananda. They are classified under the heads of 'Faith and Strength', 'Love and Unselfishness', 'God and Religion' and so on. As we go through them we are struck with the remarkable observation revealed in one, the power and insight in another, and the profound truths in a third. They appear indeed as distilled drops from the great springs of knowledge of a master mind!

The book will, doubtless, be of immense value to all who need guidance and inspiration, in life.

THE CABINET MISSION IN INDIA. Compiled by A. C. Banerjee and D. R. Bose. A. Mukherjee & Co., Calcutta.

When the British Cabinet Mission came to India to negotiate with leaders of Indian parties to settle the Indian question once for all, Mahatma Gandhi, with unerring instinct observed: "Whether you like the Cabinet Delegation's announcement or not it is going to be the most momentous one in the history of India and therefore requires careful study." The Editors have therefore done well to put in permanent book form all important published documents relating to the work done by the Cabinet Mission in India. Not only the official statements but the text of the correspondence between the parties and the speeches and resolutions of the respective participants find place in this collection. It is a valuable collection for future reference by students of Indian constitutional development.

RABINDRANATH: A SYMPOSIUM. The Book Exchange, 217 Cornwallis St., Calcutta.

Of Rabindranath the poet and philosopher a great deal has been written though his own works supply the best interpretation of his teachings. These studies on diverse phases of the poet's life and genius by four distinguished writers are of special interest as expressing the poet's re-action on contemporary thought. The four writers Dr. Amiya Chakravarti, Dr. S. K. Maitra, Dr. Sachin Sen and Dr. Nahar-ranjan Roy—have attempted a precise assessment of Tagore's contribution to world thought and their studies constitute an illuminating commentary on the poet's approach to the varied problems of individual and corporate life.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

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- January 1. Madras—Trivandrum air service survey flight made.
—Thiruvavur temple opened to Harijans.
- January 2. Gandhiji starts on his walking tour of Bengal villages.
- January 3. Indian Science Congress meets at Delhi, Pandit Nehru presiding.
- January 4. Mr. Henderson, Under-Secretary for India arrives in Delhi for talks with Sardar Patel, re settlement of I. P. S. and I. C. S. question.
- January 5. Congress Cabinet recommends acceptance of December 6 statement.
—A.I.C.C. Meeting at Delhi debates group- ing plan.
- January 6. A.I.C.C. adopts Pandit Nehru's resolution accepting British Government's interpretation of Consamby procedure, by 99 votes to 52.
- January 7. Gandhiji at prayer meeting at Masimpur appeals to Muslims to be tolerant.
- January 8. Gen. Marshall appointed U. S. Secretary of State in place of Byrnes resigned.
- January 9. Mysore ruler's message to people; Dewan to submit proposals for reforms.
- January 10. Burmese Mission in London.
—Cochin Maharajah endorses Consamby resolution on people's sovereignty.
- January 11. Mr. C. H. Bhabha opens Mineral Industry Conference at Delhi.
- January 12. Forword Bloc Conference at Arrah adumbrates 10 point programme for wresting power.
- January 13. New French offensive in Indo-China against Viet Nam forces.
- January 14. Indian representatives to U. N. Economic and Social Council announced.
- January 15. Anglo-French Alliance discus- sions begin in London.
—Country wide searches of communist offices.
- January 16. Gandhiji re-installs family deity of his host at Bhatialpur.
—K. P. S. Menon appointed Ambassador to China.
- January 17. Madras Government's decision on salaries of Government servants published.
- January 18. Dr. Malan asks South Africa to flout U.N.O. decision on Indians in the Union.
- January 19. Sir Maharaj Singh in Madras.
—Revolt in Central Burma.
- January 20. Constituent Assembly re-opens at Delhi: Rajen Babu replies to British critics.
—Gandhiji calls on Miss Salam fasting at Sironchi.
- January 21. Dr. Jayakar withdraws amend- ment to Nehru's "objectives" resolution.
—Miss Salam breaks fast on obtaining local Muslims' signed agreement to protect Minority rights.
- January 22. Constituent Assembly adopts "aims" resolutions.
- January 23. Madras Public Safety ordinance promulgated; rounding up of communists.
- January 24. League leaders arrested by Punjab authorities.
- January 25. Sir Akbar Hydari appointed Governor of Assam.
- January 26. Punjab League leaders released.
- January 27. Proposals for a New Consti- tution for Travancore promulgated.
- January 28. Interim Cabinet on Indian model and setting up of Assembly for Burma announced in White Paper laid before Parliament.
—Midnight round up of Punjab League leaders.
- January 29. Standing Committee adopts resolution defining Princes' terms for participation in Constituent Assembly.
- January 30. Madras Premier defends Public Safety Ordinance and steps taken in pursuance of it.
- January 31. King and Queen leave London for South Africa.
—Muslim League Council rejects Consamby plan.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



SOUTH INDIAN TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE

The *Silpi* continues to maintain its high standard. The Christmas number contains articles and illustrations of exceptional interest. Sri Aurobindo and Dr. Coomaraswami are among the contributors. South Indian Temple Architecture is discussed at some length in an illustrated article by Mr. T. N. Srinivasan who observes:

"The architectural sublimity of the ancient South Indian temples consisted in their splendour, magnificence and imposing appearance which excited in the millions of the adherents of Hinduism, emotions of admiration, respect, piety and virtue. They had been the store-houses of Hindu culture and as pieces of architectural specimens, it is almost bewildering to correctly guess how such huge edifices have been constructed at a time, when modern implements of engineering were not in existence. Yet they still stand as colossal monuments of a branch of art which had attained a degree of perfection which can well compare with any of the modern architectural canons. The science and technique of these ancient artisans were such that they had been successful in creating modes and fashions which could stand the ravages of time and iconoclasts."

Besides being places of worship, many of these South Indian temples were famous Gurukulas or universities.

"In places like Chidambaram, and Conjeevaram, we see that along the prakarams, special structures have been constructed for the accommodation of the pupils and the masters. These scholastic institutions were supported by the State and the students were given food and clothing in addition to education."

In some places, temples were also places of security, as during internal strifes, the safety of men and property were at stake.

"For this purpose underground chambers were built, where the deities and the other precious belongings used to be segregated during days of peril. Around temples grew villages and consequently markets, where commodities of local manufacture used to be bartered. During festivals, the residents of neighbouring villages gathered together and in addition to purchase of their necessities of life, they also contracted marriage alliances and thus spread the custom of celebrating marriages at important temples."

In short, temples were not only centres of worship but were also centres of culture, trade, education, social activities and in fact everything that man needed for his enlightenment and worldly comfort.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN INDIA

Rani Laxmibai Rajwade, writing in a recent issue of *Rural India* points out that now, when India's new educational system is on the anvil, is an opportune time to introduce an ethical and religious element in the schools. Are the additional millions to be educated under the new plans to be given the stone of a materia- listic bias for the bread of truth? Rani Laxmibai Rajwade recognises sectarianism as "the curse of our national life" but also rightly holds that a sound ethical and religious foundation is indispensable to a well-rounded life. She finds the solution in the underlying unity of all religions and their identity in ethical and moral code. The State cannot evade its responsibility by pleading neutrality, she writes. It has a duty to interfere "when religion is used as a cloak for preaching a hymn of hate and to fan the fire of fanaticism." A man's personal religion is his own concern; his ethics concern all. She therefore calls for the compiling and the country-wide promulgation of an ethical code based on the principles common to all faiths.

HOW TO CLOTHE THE VILLAGES

Mr. Manu Subedar, M. L. A. points out in the course of an article in the *Hindustan Review* that under the present circumstances the village population, in the next ten years will not have adequate cloth. For "The small merchant, who was engaged in the distribution of cloth for the villages, is unable to get cloth at all and if he gets it, he finds that he can make more money by selling it in the black market in areas of larger population." In any case the reward for taking cloth to villages is so low that it will not tempt these merchants to take the trouble. The writer therefore offers a scheme which he thinks may be profitably worked for the good of all concerned. One bale of cotton, he says, "should be given to every village collectively. The people of the village could spin this into yarn. The yarn will be used either for doubling or as weft and cloth could be made therefrom. One bale would yield approximately 2,400 yards of cloth (or 1,800 according to count). If charkhas and taklis are wanted, they should be supplied by the State. (Manufacture should be organized in jails.) The weaver should receive his wages in kind, retaining to himself one out of every eight or ten yards. The cloth, when ready, should be made available to the people of the village on a 'per head' ration basis. If and when it is important to collect grain in those villages, where there is supposed to be a grain surplus in the hands of the farmers, the cloth should be substituted only for grain. In other cases, the people of the village should collect enough to pay for the value of the bale of cotton. In other words, for the price of cotton (which is, in the first instance, advanced by Government), they would get cloth. While cloth shortage would be eased, cotton surplus would also be taken away and it will help the grower of cotton."

As the village Panch would have to take over the cotton bale and deal with the whole thing, the beginning would be made of:

- (i) village industry,
- (ii) joint and collective effort,
- (iii) participation and labour contribution by the small and the big ones, and
- (iv) elimination of the middleman."

The suggestion put forward in these terms was reproduced in the *Harijan* by Mahatma Gandhi, who, it appears has asked provincial ministries to examine it.

If the experiment were made in the first instance with twenty thousand villages of the Bombay Presidency, or even two thousand of them, the results, we are told, "would be seen in the course of the next six weeks. Government will have to lock up funds for the cotton at the rate of Rs. 225 per bale. Much of this money will return either in the form of grain or in the form of cash.

MUSLIM PATRONS OF HINDU LEARNING

Mr. H. G. Narahari, in the course of an article in the *Aryan Path* for January draws attention to the concord which ruled between the Muslims and Hindus a few centuries ago. It was rooted in understanding, appreciation and mutual respect. Prince Dara Shukoh, eldest son of the Moghul Emperor Shah Jehan was a great patron of the Pandits of Benares. Names are also known of some great Hindu scholars like Goswami Nrsimha Saraswati who seem to have enjoyed the special patronage of this unfortunate prince who was murdered by his ambitious brother Aurangzeb.

The Emperor Jahangir was so attracted by a Hindu ascetic named Jadrup that whenever he could snatch an interval amidst his heavy responsibilities, he would rush to Jadrup and enjoy listening to his entertaining discourses. Such was the influence of this Hindu saint on the Emperor that we read of the latter's often changing laws in the State to make them conform to Hindu standards. In the *Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri* (Memoirs of Jahangir)

the Emperor himself speaks of how at the suggestion of Jadrup he had been tempted to change the laws even of his revered father Akbar and how accordingly he had ordered that thenceforth the weight of the seer would be 36 dams, in accordance with what is laid down in the Hindu texts, setting aside the old decree of Akbar that the seer should be 30 dams, which had prevailed till then.

Akbar himself was no mean admirer of Hinduism. His literary interests were no less noteworthy and broad. Among the Hindu works translated into Persian at his command are the *Atharvaveda*, the Epics, the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*, an excellent treatise on Arithmetic—the *Lilavati*, and the *Tajaka*, a well-known work on Astronomy.

Such then was the concord that existed between the Hindus and the Muslims in the Moghul period of Indian History. The writer concludes: It should not be impossible even now for the two communities to live together in this happy relationship, for the Muslims to shake off their distrust of the Hindus and for the Hindus to free themselves from their own prejudices against the Muslims.

VITALITY OF VEDIC CIVILIZATION

It has been noticed by western scholars that many of the civilizations which once flourished in the world have now ceased to exist. Where are the civilizations which flourished in ancient Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Chaldea, Phoenicia, Carthage, Greece and Rome? But the Vedic civilization of India which is the most ancient of all civilizations, still shows wonderful vitality and flourishes in our land, writes Basant Kumar Chatterjee, M.A., in an article in *Kalyana Kalpataru*.

If a doubt is expressed as to whether the Vedic civilization is still alive, he adds, it will be enough by way of reply to point to Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. "Sri Ramakrishna was almost illiterate. He was absolutely free from foreign influences.

He derived his ideas about religion from his parents and relatives, from wandering monks, from songs, religious discourses and indigenous theatrical parties. He worshipped Goddess Kali in the way laid down in the Puranas and also tried to realize the Advaita idea as laid down in the Upanishads. Both his attempts were remarkably successful. That he had direct experience of God is asserted not merely by his Hindu countrymen, but also by foreign scholars and philosophers all over the world."

It may also be observed that Ramakrishna was not an isolated phenomenon in India. There were many others before him, contemporaneous with him and after him."

Nor should it be thought that it is only in the religious field that the Vedic civilization is producing even in the present age outstanding world figures. Gandhi and Tagore, J. C. Bose, P. C. Ray and C. V. Raman have occupied the foremost places in the world as a leader of men, as a poet or a scientist. These persons might not have been upholders of Vedic civilization in its pure form, but they were all born in families which for countless generations had led their lives according to the Vedic civilization observing the rules of caste in marriages and other vital matters. It should not also be supposed that the Vedic civilization might have produced outstanding figures in various walks of life but has failed to raise the general level of the masses. On this point we may quote a passage from Mahatma Gandhi. He said:

I ask you to accept the testimony of Sir Thomas Munroe and I confirm that testimony that the masses of India are really more cultured than any in the world.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy said:

From a careful survey and observation of the people and inhabitants of the various parts of the country and in every condition of life, I am of opinion that the peasants or villagers who reside at a distance from large towns and head stations and courts of Law are as innocent, temperate and moral in their conduct as the people of any country whatsoever.

THE 100 PER CENT. AMERICAN

Ralph Linton has summarized the day of a "100 per cent. American." Dawn finds him in pijamas, a garment of East Indian origin. He glances at the clock (medieval European invention) and goes into the bathroom (porcelain from China, tooth brush from 18th century Europe, soap from ancient Gaul, toilet from Roman original, razor an iron-carbon alloy from India).

Breakfast brings before him developments from other ages and peoples—the fork (a medieval Italian invention), coffee (Abyssinian plant discovered by the Arabs), sugar (discovered in India), waffles (Scandinavian), butter (originally a Near Eastern cosmetic), bacon (pigs domesticated in south-eastern Asia, smoked by process of northern Europe).

So eventually he takes the train (English invention), and settles back to smoke (cigarette, Mexican ancestry) and read his paper (imprinted in characters invented by ancient Semites by a process invented in Germany on a material invented in China). Very likely, as he scans the news of the day, he thanks God (a Hebrew deity) in an Indo-European language that he is a 100 per cent. (decimal system invented by Greeks) American (named after Amerigo Vespucci an Italian geographer.)

It is our urgent responsibility, comments a writer in the *Catholic World* to evaluate truly and generously the achievements of the various races and nations of the world. "Two billion people can live together on a globe grown suddenly small only if we bring our knowledge of human relations up to our knowledge of physical science. Let us take pride not in a false assumption of superiority to any other people but in our friendly knowledge of all the other peoples of the world."

APPEAL TO RELIGIOUS LEADERS

An appeal to the leaders of religion to exert their moral influence to avert a new catastrophe is made by Mr. David Jobman, writing in *Peace*.

The painful lesson emerging out of the ruins of our martyred generation, he says, is that ecclesiastical smugness and bias, tinged by a lust for power and dogmatic totalitarianism, must atone for the many crimes of omission and commission which have contributed so much to the sum total of strife and confusion of minds for the past ten centuries. According to pre-war figures, out of a total world population nearing the two billion mark more than 34 per cent. or 639,000,000 souls, were credited with being professing Christians. Is it conceivable that true Christians would ever have permitted those frequent slaughters of the innocent climaxing in global holocausts? Do we really and sincerely know our faiths?

One cannot honestly believe in the glory of the Son of Man, the Prince of Peace, and lover of human brotherhood, and at the same time aid and give comfort to policies and practices which set man against man, neighbour against neighbour, people against people and nation against nation. True religion cannot be made to thrive upon a sea of planted bayonets, torture chambers, and firing squads. Was the trust not violated by those ecclesiastical guardians of our youth, throughout the world, whose duty it was to instil those mental and spiritual qualities which make it impossible for injustice and bigotry to ravage their lives?

A living religion and true followers will see to it that no evil seeds take root to plague future generations of man. The spokesmen of religion have now the opportunity of a life time, which they can ill afford to miss. . . In brief, the ethical ideals of religion must now be translated into realities of world law and order, economic justice and racial brotherhood.

INDIAN STATES

Hyderabad

INQUIRY INTO DISTURBANCE

"The Government will be appointing a commission very soon to enquire into the causes which led to the recent disturbances and see what steps must be taken to remedy the real grievances and prevent a recurrence of the trouble", said His Highness the Prince of Berar replying to a number of addresses presented to him by the people belonging to all communities of Suryapet, Jalgaon, Bhongir, and other villages which were until recently the storm centre of Communist activity.

His Highness said that more than 700 men out of 929 arrested in connection with the recent disturbances have been ordered to be released.

He recounted the measures adopted by the Hyderabad Government to ameliorate the conditions of the rural population and said that the Government had already abolished the system of forced labour or "Bigar". He drew attention to the special responsibilities or 'deshmukhs' (landed property owners) as privileged class to see that the Government's order was obeyed and forced labour was not practised.

Referring to the communal situation in the country he said, "Communal strife is a disgrace since we have to live and die here. It behoves us to lead a united and peaceful life."

INVESTIGATION OF INDUSTRIES

Sir Mirza Ismail, President of the Nizam's Executive Council has invited Sir Albion Rajkumar Banerji, former Dewan of Mysore, to advise the Nizam's Government on the possibility of further constitutional reforms in the State.

Sir M. Visvesvaraya, President, All-India Manufacturers' Organisation and a former Dewan of Mysore, has been invited to advise the Government of Hyderabad on future irrigational and industrial developments in the State with particular reference to the Thungabhadra Project.

Mysore

MAHARAJA'S DIRECTION TO DEWAN

His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore has directed the Dewan, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar to submit proposals for constitutional progress in the State, bearing in mind the course of discussions and the events in the rest of India.

In a message to the people of the State His Highness observes:

"Now that the stress and strain of the great war in which we were all engulfed are over and we are faced with new problems, the attention of all people is turned towards constitutional progress and economic development. . . .

It has been the policy of the House of Mysore to follow the principles of associating representatives of the people more and more with the administration of the Government.

"The new Legislature which I inaugurated in 1941 has now had five years of existence. The constitutional position in British India is now under examination. The place which Mysore will occupy and the part which it will play in any new structure which will be devised for British India are engaging the attention of my Government and the people. Taking all these facts into consideration, I have directed my Dewan to review the whole position and submit to me proposals regarding constitutional progress in my State.

DEWAN'S CALL FOR CO-OPERATION

Following His Highness's message Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, the Dewan, observed that the message contained a mandate to him from His Highness, which entailed a heavy responsibility on him. He hoped to discharge that responsibility with the help, advice and above all, the co-operation of all sections of the people in the State. An obligation had been cast on him by His Highness to seek such help and co-operation.

Baroda**REFORMS FOR BARODA**

Steps towards the establishment of Responsible Government in Baroda are being taken by the Maharaja.

Broadcasting to his people over the Baroda Radio Station, declared open on January 10. His Highness said:

"It is my desire that on the eve of India's independence my people should have a larger association with the governance of my State than at present. The final constitution of my State must await the framing of a constitution for the Indian Union. The interim period may well be utilised to prepare my people to exercise larger powers and undertaking larger responsibilities. With this end in view, I have directed my Government to submit proposals on the following lines:

"Substantial enlargement of the franchise so as to include all interests; expansion of the Executive Council by the addition of a non-official member; enlarging the powers of the 'Dhara Sabha' to have an elected President; and providing protection to all minorities and backward classes.

"In submitting the proposals to me, my Government will keep in view that Responsible Government is the ultimate objective."

SIR B. L. MITTER'S BROADCAST

Sir B. L. Mitter, Dewan of Baroda, broadcasting on the Baroda Radio, explained the Maharaja's message and said: "The announcement made by the Maharaja is a definite milestone on the road to Responsible Government."

The Dewan added: His Highness's announcement involves substantial enlargement of the franchise. This means that a larger number of people will take interest in the administration of the State and will necessarily influence it. Universal adult franchise, no doubt is the ideal of any democratic system, but it would not be wise to jump from eight to cent. per cent. straightway.

Travancore**TRAVANCORE REFORMS**

The Government of Travancore have issued a Press Communique outlining proposals for the new constitution of the State. The proposals are dealt with under five heads, Legislature, Executive, Dewan, Judiciary and the Residuary Powers of the Sovereign.

The salient features of the new Constitution are:—

There will be a Bi-cameral Legislature, the elections to the Assembly being on the basis of universal adult suffrage for men and women without any weightage in favour of any class or community. The members of the Sri Chitra State Council will be elected on a functional and facultative basis. The Legislature will have jurisdiction over the entire field of Government, subject to certain specified exceptions. Each House will elect its own President and Deputy President.

The Executive administration and machinery of the State shall be under the general and disciplinary control of the Dewan who shall be appointed by His Highness the Maharaja and shall hold office during His Highness' pleasure.

The control of the Legislature over the policy of Government Departments will be exercised through Executive Committees elected by the Legislature, of which there will be six.

The Dewan may convene meetings of one or more or all of the Executive Committees and may confer with or address them, on matters within their jurisdiction. He will have the power to veto any recommendation of the Executive Committees for reasons to be stated in writing.

The High Court will interpret the provisions of the Statute and nothing contained in the proposals will affect or derogate from the powers of His Highness the Maharaja.

Gwalior**ADMINISTRATION OF GWALIOR**

Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Acting President of the All-India States Peoples' Conference, in a letter to the Maharaja of Gwalior urges that an Interim Government (till such time as a Responsible Government is established in the State) be entrusted with the Administration of the State. He says in the course of his letter that such a Government will bring into being initiative, originality and a sense of responsibility which make popular Government a success.

The letter is written in reply to the one from the Government of Gwalior to the Gwalior State Congress urging the Congress to extend support to the Government in bringing about the establishment of Responsible Government in the State in a peaceful and orderly manner as it is felt by the Government of Gwalior that the Government and the Congress have one and the same goal.

Cochin**COCHIN MAHARAJA'S VIEW**

H. H. the Maharaja of Cochin is in complete agreement with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in respect of the latter's views as embodied in his resolution moved in the Constituent Assembly that in the future constitution of India, all powers and authority parts should be derived from the people.

This was revealed by Mr. T. O. Thomas, a Congressman of Travancore and former Secretary to Sir Maurice Gwyer, who had an interview with the Cochin Ruler recently.

Mr. Thomas, told the United Press of India that one of his objects in meeting the Cochin Ruler was to find out his reaction to the stand taken by a number of Dewans of Indian States regarding Clause 4 of Pandit Nehru's resolution in the Constituent Assembly. He said that the Cochin Ruler did not appear at all worried about the *locus* of sovereignty.

General**STATES PEOPLES CONFERENCE**

The Standing Committee of the States' People's Conference meeting at Delhi on December 27 charged the Political Department with responsibility for the repression that is going on in the States and demanded "a complete change" both in its personnel and its relations to the Government of India and the States.

A resolution passed by the Committee on the general situation in the States says that the Political Department, representing British imperial interests in India, works in secret and follows a policy which is opposed to the growth of responsible Government in the States.

The resolution demands that the Department should deal with questions directly related to Paramountcy only and should not interfere with any other matter which are common to the States and the Government of India. The Chief Officers of the Department, who are almost entirely foreign should be replaced by Indians acceptable to the States' people and the activities of the Department should be carried on in close consultation with the Government of India.

East India States**E. I. S. FEDERAL UNION PLAN**

An announcement indicating drastic changes in the existing machinery of administration of the Eastern States is contained in a memorandum issued by the Special Committee of Rulers of these States set up to evolve a plan to bring under Federal Union all the Eastern States, with a common Constitution and joint administrative machinery.

The recommendations of the Committee include a strong Central Government, which will administer all important subjects, a bi-Cameral Legislature whose Upper House will consist of representatives of State Governments and a Lower House consisting of representatives of Unit Legislative assemblies, and a Board of Rulers of five to seven members.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

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South Africa

SIR MAHARAJ SINGH'S ADVICE

The view that India must not be too optimistic about a change of policy on the part of the Union Government towards Indians in South Africa was expressed by Raja Sir Maharaj Singh, one of the members of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations, in an interview to the Associated Press of India, at Madras.

Giving his own view on the South African question, Sir Maharaj Singh said: Although the proposed annexation of South-West Africa has been definitely—and I think finally—rejected we must not be too optimistic about a change of policy on the part of the Union Government of South Africa towards Indians in their country. Field Marshal Smuts is already being criticised by hostile quarters there on his failure before the United Nations. The Nationalist Party if it succeeds in ousting the Field Marshal, will be even more anti-Indian than the present Ministry.

SOUTH AFRICA DEFIES U. N. O.

General Smuts told a tense, crowded House of the Union Assembly on January 21, that the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act must stand. Such legislation is necessary, he said, "if South Africa did not want Durban to become a second Bombay."

He declared that South Africa would not submit the draft trusteeship agreement for South-West Africa requested by the United Nations last month. The territory would continue to be administered under the Union's laws as it has been since 1920.

Gen. Smuts made this declaration of policy speaking on the motion introduced by the Opposition Leader Dr. D. F. Malan, for rejection of the United Nations' request that South Africa should negotiate with India on the Indian question. The motion also called for rejection of the United Nations' request that South-West Africa be placed under Trusteeship.

Malaya

REPATRIATION OF INDIANS

Government of India representative, Mr. S. K. Chettur told a Press Conference at Singapore on January 16, that 5,033 Indians were repatriated in December last bringing the total for 1946 to 18,000.

Mr. Chettur said that the new scheme would get away 5,000 every two months. One boat is leaving Penang and one Singapore every month.

The total amount spent by the Government on free passages in December totalled 15,000 dollars, while 135,000 dollars were spent for the year 1946.

Cash relief paid out by the state to labourers totalled about 113,000 dollars or 169,000 rupees.

As most of the needy have already been repatriated, it should be possible to suspend relief within three months.

Burma

RIGHTS OF INDIANS IN BURMA

The Secretary of the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, has informed the Southern India Chamber of Commerce that questions relating to the rights of Indians in Burma, future immigration policy and levy of taxes on landed and other properties had already been taken up officially by the Government of India with the Government of Burma.

The response of the Government of Burma to the representations made by the Government of India, he adds, has so far been satisfactory and the representations are being actively pursued.

Kenya

INDIAN DEPUTATION TO KENYA

Mr. S. A. A. Kazmi, Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Bihar, has been selected by the Government of India to lead a deputation to Kenya to inspect and investigate the working of the educational system there.

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS * DEPARTMENTAL * NOTES

Questions of Importance

ALL-INDIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

Presiding over the All-India Christian Conference which met at Bombay on Jan 24, Dr. John Matthai, Member for Transport and Railways, referred to the crucial stage reached in regard to political developments in the country and stressed the need for tolerance and statesmanship, if India was to survive the crisis through which she was passing. He appealed to Indian Christians to regard themselves primarily as the servants of the country and so organise their resources as to be a spearhead of national service. They must heal the wounds and soften the asperities in the body-politic of the country. The Indian Christian community was peculiarly fitted for this task, he declared.

A great responsibility rested on political leaders for the wise and constructive handling of the differences which had arisen between them, Dr. Matthai added. In his opinion, there was no reason for despair or pessimism. In spite of the apparent misunderstanding and bitterness which prevailed in the country, he felt that deep down there were forces at work which would enable the country to emerge from the present ordeals with unimpaired resources and with ability to fulfil the great destiny which lay ahead of her.

Speaking from his brief experience as a member of the Interim Government, he thought that the difficulties with which they

were faced were not by any means insurmountable. The problems which they were called upon to handle in the course of their day-to-day work seemed by their very nature to demand mutual co-operation and willingness to play as a team. He therefore felt hopeful that in spite of baffling circumstances, the logic of events would in the end assert itself.

A resolution protesting against the South African Union Government's suggestion to ignore the verdict of the United Nations Assembly on the treatment of Indians in South Africa was passed by the All-India Christian Conference when the annual session resumed the next day.

The resolution hoped that "the Government of India will strongly oppose the Union Government's decision and bring the matter again before the General Assembly at the earliest possible moment." The resolution was moved by Raja Sir Maharaj Singh, one of the Indian delegates to the U. N., and was passed unanimously.

By another resolution, the Conference appealed to the Muslim League to enter the Constituent Assembly at the earliest possible date and help to secure, through better understanding and co-operation between the major parties, the freedom of India together with justice and fair treatment for all communities.

Sponsored by the chair, a third resolution urged upon the Christian members in the Constituent Assembly to do their utmost and see that fundamental rights were incorporated in the future constitution of India.

Utterances of the Day

PROF. LASKI ON FREE INDIA

"It is not often in one's life-time that one sees a great dream coming true", Prof. Laski told the crowded meeting of the India League in London on Indian Independence Day on January 26. He told how as a young instructor at Harvard University, 30 years ago, he learned to understand the nature of the Indian claim to Independence and the undeniability of the Indian demand for freedom and Self-Government. "But the attainment of freedom by a nation is not an overnight achievement", Prof. Laski added.

"Freedom cannot be given to any people—it must be taken by them. People must prove by power and discipline, by their unbreakable resolve and by their organised insistence that they are capable in full degree—not in a momentary one—of permanent resolution. The Indian people have amply proved themselves in the years since 1917. British Governments in majestic succession have made now this concession to India, now that concession, but no concession has been adequate, because no concession has been full.

"Now at long last the Indian people stand on the threshold of the day that will be an epoch in the history of the whole world."

Prof. Laski continued: "What you do on the day that the Treaty of Independence is signed with the Government of Great Britain is going to affect not only your own history, but the history of the whole of the Ancient East and the history of the whole civilised world. If you are in a real sense worthy to fulfil the great mission that is yours, it will require on your part a courage not less than the courage that has so far been shown and a patience no less than the long, hard patience that leaders and followers alike have displayed in the bitter years since 1917." "Above all", Prof. Laski said, "it will require on the part of the people of India a generosity which never falters in its purpose.

"It is encouraged by power, this Indian nation, I hope that it will give as well as take. I hope that the independence movement organised under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and my good friend, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, will not cease on the day when freedom is recognised. I hope it will assume that, wherever in the world a people is unfree, there the aid of the Indian people will be given with understanding and with magnanimity."

MR. D. N. WADIA ON ROLE OF SCIENTISTS

"The first requisite for developing the basic sources of wealth and well-being, in land, man-power, rivers, forests, minerals and electric power, is that India should align herself in her scientific organisations with the progressive countries of the world while retaining her own individual pattern of organization, correlated with the traditions and requirements of the country," observed Mr. D. N. Wadia presiding over the 13th annual general meeting of the National Institute of Sciences of India, at Delhi on January 1.

In the course of his address Mr. Wadia said:

"If the transition period is utilised in a dynamic, scientifically directed effort to uplift the whole structure of Indian social, industrial and economic life, there is no doubt her magnificent man-power, so far latent, or utilised to a bare fraction of its potential, applied to her great agricultural, water, forest and mineral resources will lift the country out of her present abnormal economic and industrial depression and put her on the high road to progress and the welfare of her millions. The one agency which can achieve this transformation is science. It is primarily the scientific approach to problems of life and society in India no less than the application of science to agriculture and the manufacturing industries, which needs most to be fostered and cultivated in India. . . .

"The signs of a welcome departure from an indifference towards science are becoming visible in the last few years as our leading men of science are multiplying the ties with the representative scientific workers of England, America, Russia and the rest of Europe. The contacts hitherto established from a valuable asset but they need to be strengthened and vigilantly maintained on a wider scale through new agencies, such as the UNESCO. A fair number of our scientists have visited Europe and America during the war and later years on various commissions official and non-official, and there are besides nearly 1,600 post graduate students deputed to foreign countries during the last two years for advanced studies in different branches of science and technology. This is gratifying, strained scientific man-power is our greatest need. But the world-contacts of India in matters relating to science should grow into a healthy two-way traffic in technical information exchange of material and personnel. He will be a narrow-minded and reactionary patriot who will try to hinder an exchange and a cross-fertilisation of scientific thought or oppose a reasonable outlay of the national revenue for achieving these objects and for establishing international scientific liaison offices in various centres."

Political

THE HINDU MAHASABHA

The 27th Session of the All India Hindu Maha Sabha met at Gorakhpur in December last in a specially erected pandal to accommodate about 60,000 people. Delegates numbering about 5000 from Bombay, Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra, Behar, U. P. Madras, Sind and Delhi attended the Session. It would appear that the intransigence and obstinacy of the Muslim League has had its reaction on the Hindu Sabhaites, and the proceedings were marked by strong criticism of the Congress policy of appeasement.

Maharaja Sir Pateswari Prasad Singh of Berhampore, Chairman of the Reception Committee welcoming the delegates and visitors to the Session made a spirited appeal to the Hindus to unite under the banner of All-India Hindu Mahasabha and face the critical times ahead.

Referring to the communal situation the Maharaja said that Hindus had always been generous to other communities and religions. This spirit had made it possible for many small races to come and settle down in this country. The comfort and convenience which the Muslims were asking through Pakistan were already available to them in this country.

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, inaugurating the session appealed to Mr. Jinnah not to threaten the Hindus with civil war because communal strife would be disastrous not to the 25 per cent minority to which Mr. Jinnah belongs, rather to the 75 per cent majority.

Mr. L. B. Bhopatkar, in the course of his presidential address declared:

"To be frank, the Muslim League has placed before India two questions, namely, first—whether the Muslim demand for Pakistan with all its aftermath is to be conceded or not? And secondly, whether India is prepared to accept the Muslim challenge of direct action or not?"

"In such an eventuality, the main target of the Muslim attack will be the Hindu and all that he cherishes as dear and near to him.

"Our leaders have got to accept the ideology which the Hindu Mahasabha has, for the past several years, been preaching. An eminent Congress leader said the other day, 'Sword will be met by sword.' That really sums up not the Congress but the Mahasabha ideology in a nut-shell."

The President was critical of the British attitude to the Indian question. He said:

"The Cabinet Mission has, by its grouping of areas, sought to grant with its left hand to the Muslim League what it was not bold enough to grant straight with its right hand. It has, under the cover of groups, opened the door for Pakistan."

He accused the Britisher of pro-Muslim and anti-Hindu tendencies, and added:

While compelled by world forces to grant freedom to India, the Britisher is trying in his own way to postpone as far as possible the actual grant thereof."

Mr. Bhopatkar, advocated a four-point plan for the Mahasabha:

Firstly, to agitate and educate the Hindu masses and classes in the ideology of the Mahasabha, and to make them communally conscious;

Secondly, to organise the Hindu Front, composed of Caste-Hindus, Scheduled Castes, and Sikhs, to meet successfully all open or veiled aggression in any part of India;

Thirdly, to make the Hindus more self-reliant, and if necessary, even militant; and

Fourthly, to carry out this work, the Party should start a Hindu Reconstruction and Relief Fund.

Of the Hindu States, he said that they should realise that sooner or later they would have to merge themselves into the Indian Nation. They had a two-fold obligation, respect for the nation as a whole and respect for the Hindu community.

The speeches and resolutions were all in accord with the trend of feeling in the Mahasabha.

POLITICAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE

"The definition of the powers and functions of the Centre must precede the settlement of the provincial and group constitution", said Prof. D. N. Banerjee in the course of his Presidential Address at the Ninth Session of the Indian Political Science Conference held at the Old Viceregal Lodge, Delhi, under the auspices of the Delhi University.

Prof. Banerjee also emphasised that the "Union Government should be vested with constitutional authority to intervene either at the request of the local Government or even, if necessary, on its own initiative" in the event of communal disorders.

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

H. H. The Maharaja of Travancore inaugurated the 22nd Session of the All India Educational Conference at Trivandrum on December 28. Leading educationists from all over India took part in the Conference. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcomed the delegates. The Session was presided over by Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, who observed:

The present tendency for the formation of groups and associations based on political, communal or religious differences outside, and the encouragement of party loyalties in educational institutions by leaders of political parties spell danger and disaster of such magnitude, that we shall be failing in our duty if we do not sound a note of stern warning to all, and more particularly to political parties in this country.

The Conference adopted a number of important resolutions among which was the demand for a declaration of rights of the teaching profession and the enactment of a Teachers' Charter. The Conference, by means of a resolution, demanded adequate and uniform scales of salaries for different grades of teachers, primary, secondary and collegiate. It also stressed the need for the institution of a Provident Fund scheme in every school, immediate relief by way of allowances to meet the high cost of living to be paid to teachers at Government rates and full fee concessions to the children of the teachers of elementary and secondary schools, so long as those children continued to make progress.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Fourth All India Adult Educational Conference was also held as an adjunct to this Conference. It was presided over by Dr. K. G. Saiyidain, Educational Adviser to Rampur State who made an earnest appeal

to all political leaders, to all teachers and parents, to all young men and women, who inhabit this great land which is to-day plunged in shame and mourning at the misdeeds of its own children, to realise whether we are going to cry halt to this madness.

Mr. Saiyidain added that political and human reasons had brought the issue of adult education to the forefront.

We were on the verge of great political changes which would determine perhaps for centuries the shape of things to come in our country. People could not retain this political liberty unless they were prepared to pay the price for it in terms of eternal vigilance which postulated proper civic and political education. Unless we could bring the total impact of an enriched adult education to bear on the life of an illiterate adult and widen his horizon of knowledge and appreciation we could not succeed even in our narrow objective of imparting literacy.

The Conference resolved that

in view of the democratic constitution that is being evolved for India and the immediate need for educating illiterate masses for citizenship and the imperative need to develop in them ability to think, appraise and judge for themselves, educational authorities in India should discharge their primary responsibility in this matter by immediately formulating comprehensive schemes of adult education and working them out with devotion so that the prevalent illiteracy and ignorance might be liquidated in as short a time as possible.

C. R. ON EDUCATION THROUGH JOY

Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, Education Member, Interim Government, laid the foundation-stone of the newly established Teachers' Training Institute at Santiniketan on December 28.

Announcing a non-recurring grant of Rs. 4,95,000 and a recurring grant of Rs. 75,000 to the Institute by the Government of India, the Education Member said the Government had done well to select such a sacred place for national education.

"Gurudev (Poet Tagore) advocated the education of the young in the midst of joy and affection, so that their heart and mind may expand. We want this method followed all over India in thousands of schools.

"Henceforth, joy and activity will form the basic method of teaching. May we have in ample measure, the strength, wisdom and courage to fulfil our future tasks."

MADRAS LAWYERS' CONFERENCE

An appeal to lawyers to make an intensive and extensive study of the subject of Constitutional and International Law was made by Mr. K. Bashyam, Minister for Law, when he inaugurated the Madras Provincial Lawyers' Conference, at Madura on Dec. 26.

Mr. Bashyam pointed out that India was assuming her rightful place in the comity of nations, and was becoming a world force. Her place in international politics stood high, and the need for lawyers, with international outlook and with knowledge of International Law, was being increasingly felt.

The Conference, which was presided over by Mr. K. Rajah Ayyar, Advocate-General, Madras, was attended by about 250 delegates from different parts of the Province.

Declaring the Conference open, Mr. Bashyam asserted that so long as the rule of law remained, lawyers would also remain as also the Judges, despite statements by even responsible persons deprecatory of the lawyers.

Answering the criticisms that the scheme for the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, initiated by him, did not go far enough and that the powers, under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code were still left to the Executive District Magistrates, Mr. Bashyam said that in these times of Communist, communal and other troubles, such powers must be vested in the Government's Executive Officers only.

He hoped the time would soon come, when even these powers would be transferred to the Judiciary, and the separation made complete.

Mr. K. Rajah Ayyar, in his Presidential address, made a strong plea to make the Bar Councils in India take the place of the Inns of Court in England, and for

vesting in them the sole and exclusive jurisdiction in respect of all matters relating to the admission of members of the Bar as well as the exercise of disciplinary jurisdiction over them.

Mr. Rajah Ayyar said there ought to be only one Bar, namely the Indian Bar, comprising one class of practitioners and one set of rules to regulate their qualifications, conditions of admission into the Bar and their conduct. He was not however suggesting that there ought to be only one Central Bar Council and that the Provincial Bar Councils should be abolished. What he meant was that subject only to such necessary variations, as local conditions necessitated, there must be uniformity throughout.

SIR LIONEL LEACH

Sir Lionel Leach, the Chief Justice of Madras who retired from the 1st of this month has been the recipient of a number of farewell parties given by representative leaders of the Madras Bar. Mr. K. Rajah Ayyar, the Advocate-General bade him farewell on the 31st January before a Bench of all the Judges specially constituted. Mr. Rajah Ayyar observed:

We must pay ungrudging tribute to your untiring energy and ceaseless activity while on the Bench. Your Lordship was bestowing concentrated attention hour after hour, on the cases which came up before you from the time the court assembled to the time the court rose for the day. Straight and unbending, you have been literally and metaphorically. Law was your absorbing passion; and the Law Reports bear ample testimony to the record of work done by Your Lordship in laying down the law or settling debated questions by Full Bench rulings.

The chief Justice in reply said:

Madras is really one of the most advanced Provinces in India, in many ways the most advanced. My ten years in Madras have more than convinced me of the truth of these words and I am confident that the Madras Presidency will remain in the vanguard of progress and orderly government.

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Insurance

RIOT INSURANCE

In a statement issued recently, Mr. S. C. Roy, Editor, *Insurance World*, has very appropriately touched on this problem and pleaded that in such abnormal circumstances the State should also share with the insurers the responsibility of riot risk insurance. Commenting on the abnormal increase in the rates of riot insurance, Mr. Roy pointed out that the riots which have taken place since 16th August last in Calcutta and elsewhere belong to an altogether different and hitherto unknown category and it is neither possible for the insurers to assess the risk of such riots properly nor practicable for the insured to pay the requisite premiums out of their own resources. He therefore suggests that it would be only proper and fair if the Government, on whom falls the primary and major responsibility for the present riots, should bear a share of the cost of riot insurance needed today to cover the present abnormal situation in the country. He characterises the present riots as civil commotion undistinguishable from civil war and holds that the cover for war damage is undoubtedly a concern of the Government.

Citing the example of the Bombay Dock Explosion, Mr. Roy points out that on that occasion petty legislative considerations were brushed aside and fire insurers were compelled under law to pay for the damage, and Government also voluntarily took upon themselves the main financial responsibility for the damage caused by the fire to the extent of 87½ per cent, in the case of insured property. The situation in Bengal and elsewhere to-day, concludes Mr. Roy, brought about by the widespread communal riots needs action on the lines followed by Government in April 1944 to deal with the situation caused by the Bombay Dock Explosion. He is of opinion that a subsidy for lightening the burden of premium rates upon the insured and for compensating insurers for loss for under-assessment of risk should be granted by Government.

SHIPPING RISKS

The improvement in shipping risks as well as more practical experience of conditions is reflected in a revised scale of homeward freight rates with reductions covering a wide range of commodities. When vessels were derequisitioned it was possible to assess accurately what rates would be most appropriate in conditions so greatly changed since they were last operated by their normal owners, but a sufficient trial has now been given—albeit in the relatively favourable conditions of summer—to justify a reduction in the Ministry of Transport's controlled rates.

The reductions are not sensational, being mostly on the lower side of 10 per cent; though cover for iron-ore shipments from Mediterranean ports in vessels of 9,000 tons and over is down by 12½ per cent. Iron and steel cargoes from North Atlantic ports are reduced by 5 per cent., while grains from the same quarter are unchanged. Canadian and Newfoundland newsprint is 10 per cent. down. Sugar rates from Queensland are unaltered. Shipments of oilseeds from India and of nitrate from Chile now have their rates decontrolled.

INSURANCE COMPANIES' SHARE CAPITAL

The budget session of the Central Assembly will see a discussion on a Bill proposing to establish an Industrial Finance Corporation for India to provide credit for medium and long-term capital requirements of industries which fall outside the normal activities of the commercial banks and which are expected to facilitate post-war rehabilitation and development of industries in the country.

Insurance companies will feel disappointed, says *Capital*, at the small quota of the capital that has been allotted to them.

Trade and Finance

THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS

The future of Indo-British relations and the relations of India with other countries in general was defined by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government of India and Member for External Affairs, in his address to the Associated Chambers of Commerce which met at Calcutta on December 16. A striking feature of this session was that for the first time in 25 years an Indian was invited to preside over this influential body of European businessmen. The leaders of European commerce were richly rewarded for their shrewd enterprise. Pandit Jawaharlal told them what India proposed to do with them. India welcomed friendly aid from all quarters; but she would spurn all attempts at subjecting her either to political subordination or to patronising condescension. She would be no suppliant before any Power however mighty and resourceful, not excluding the United States of America. She would proceed with her job, conscious of her inherent greatness and of the unlimited and immeasurable potentialities with which she is blessed—geographically, physically, politically and economically. In regard to Britain in particular, Pandit Jawaharlal stated that "unless the break comes in such a way as to poison the future, this (Indo-British) relationship will continue in hundreds of ways."

INDIA'S INTERNAL ECONOMY

The obstinacy of Mr. Jinnah has led to the feeling that frequent disturbances will have an upsetting influence on the internal economy in the country, writes Evesdropper in *Indian Finance*. But within the next three months the question will have to be settled definitely one way or the other. In any scheme of things it cannot be expected that investments will be seriously affected. The vigorous planning will certainly mean an increase in industrial activity and existing industries will prosper.

It has been suggested that the Interim Government will check inflation and that the period of high profits is at an end. Naturally every effort will be made to reduce the cost of living and no undue increase in prices will be allowed. Regulation of profits, and may be of dividends, will mean lower return on shares but it is believed that the smaller margin or profit will be amply compensated by a larger turnover and that if there is reduction in prices there will be a reduction in costs as well. The planned re-equipment of industry and effective utilisation of available funds will mean that considerable waste in capital expenditure will be avoided and that the maximum advantage out of the improved financial position of industries will be derived. The developments in the next three months will decide the general trend of markets.

INDIA'S STERLING BALANCE

Some influential London quarters discount suggestions which have been made in most reputable sections of the British Press, such as the *London Times* that if the current negotiations of India's sterling balances fail, Britain might have to block them. On the contrary, these quarters think that if any suggestion for blocking were ever made, it would not come from the British Government but from the then Indian Government, as a method of checking flight from the rupee, writes Sydney Campell, *Reuter's* Financial Editor.

For the same reason, these quarters profess no concern about India's sterling balances. They think that Britain can repay them quite as fast as India will really want repayment, though not necessarily as fast as India will say she wants it. Anyway, no suggestion of blocking is likely to be made at the present discussions which are essentially interim negotiations with the Interim Indian Government.

ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Presiding over the 19th Session of the All-India Women's Conference at Akola Lady Dhanwanthi Ram Rau on December 28 said it was the duty of the conference to be alert and vigilant to ensure the incorporation of the rights of women in the constitution of an independent India.

A "Charter of Women's Rights," prepared by a sub-committee of the conference and sent to the President of the Constituent Assembly, claims for women's equality with men with franchise and economic, social and political opportunities in public life and demands that marriage should not prejudice the inherent rights of a woman.

"Our progress will be considerably encouraged materially and psychologically when the state acknowledges our right to equal citizenship and categorically accepts the principle that no barriers on the ground of sex will stand in the way of a woman's growth and development in public life."

"We have women representatives in the Constituent Assembly, majority of whom are active workers of our organisation. In my opinion we should set up a strong committee to work in co-operation with these members of the Assembly, to popularise make and mobilise public opinion in favour."

It was equally urgent that women should try to safeguard the rights of children, she said.

"If we desire to see progress within 35 years, we must actively plan the lives of our children, into whose hands the destiny of the nation can be given within this period with complete confidence.

"The lack of knowledge of the requirements of the child from the earliest stage—even the pre-Natal stage—the necessary diet, discipline hours of sleep and play and awakenings of the childmind is pathetic. In no country the children are so much neglected in spite of all the love bestowed on them as in India.

"No attention is paid in the average Indian home to child psychology and child requirements. Any haphazard training in the earlier stages is considered good enough, until the child goes to school and even then there is no co-relation between the home and the school thus nullifying a good deal of whatever more scientific training the child may have at school. A nation-wide propaganda should be undertaken within the homes, before the state can take up the responsibility of providing the facilities for the full development of the child once it has outgrown the conditions the home can provide."

KHURSHED BEN'S OFFER

Khurshed Ben, former Secretary to Mahatma Gandhi, has offered her services as interpreter to any medical mission which may be sent to Viet-Nam from India.

It will be recalled that Mr. Mai Tha Chau, representative in India of the Viet Nam permanent delegation in Paris, recently appealed for the immediate despatch of an Indian Medical Mission to Viet Nam pending other help such as volunteers and cloth.

In a letter to Mr. Chau she says: "I wish to offer my services as interpreter to the Medical Mission which I hope India will send to help our brothers and sisters of the Viet Nam Republic. My only qualification is a fairly good knowledge of the French language. I have had my share in India's fight for freedom.

"All freedom fighters are with you. Long live Viet Nam."

RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

Argentina took sides with India when the debate on the Danish resolution on political rights for women was continued by the Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee.

The Argentine delegate, Dr. E. P. Coroaminas, told the Committee that he agreed with Mrs. V. L. Pundit the granting of only political rights to women was "insufficient." He asserted: "If we merely gave them 'political rights' we would put a limit to what we are asking for the women of the world."

The Committee unanimously passed a resolution urging the General Assembly to recommend "that all member States, which have not already done so, adopt measures necessary to fulfil the purposes of the Charter by granting women the same political rights as men."

INDIAN HISTORY CONGRESS

Inaugurating the 9th Session of the History Congress at Patna on December 27, Mr. Sri Krishna Sinha, Prime Minister, Bihar, observed that a proper interpretation and appreciation of the past is bound to be of immense value in the reconstruction of the future.

Prof. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri of the University of Madras who presided over the session delivered a thoughtful address in the course of which he traced the history of Indian Unity during the ages past and pointed out that Indian Unity which was essentially cultural in the Hindu period was maintained and fostered by Moghul rulers. On any reckoning, he added, the greatest achievement of British rule in India and the most beneficent is the political unification of the country, and the organization of its rule under a finely-knit administrative system.

India, he said, would serve herself and the world best by retaining her individuality and developing on lines consistent with her long and instructive experience.

Stressing the need for proper education to cope with the demands of the administration in India, he said that in future, we shall have to depend almost entirely on our own resources for the personnel of the entire administrative system. A good academic course in history and allied subjects is admittedly an essential preparation for the career of those whose daily task is the proper regulation of the conduct of men and their affairs.

Again for the work of teachers the narrowly-specialised B. Sc. and M. Sc. courses are hardly a proper preparation, and we should need more men and women with a much broader training.

In fact, students of arts subjects in general, and specially of history and allied subjects, should form the natural recruits for the educational services, the civil and diplomatic services, and the body of social services, which will be coming up under the new order, for the legal profession and all literary professions.

Prof. Sastri urged that there should be more centres of advanced study and research of history, and the professors should be employed in the colleges and universities in sufficient numbers to command the leisure they required to pursue independent researches of their own in addition to lecturing to under-graduates.

INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES TO U. N. COUNCIL

At the third session of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, India was elected to six commissions of that Council, to which the Government of India have nominated the following persons as members:

Economic and Employment Commission: Mr. R. K. Nehru.

Human Rights Commission: Mrs. Hansa Mehta.

Transport and Communications Commission: Mr. Nur Mohamed Chinoy.

Commission on the status of women: Begum Hamid Ali.

Fiscal Commission: Mr. N. Sundaresan.

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar will represent India as principal delegate at the fourth session of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations which is expected to open in New York on February 28.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI AS GOVERNOR OF ASSAM

His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Muhammad Saleh Akbar Hydari, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., to be Governor of Assam in succession to His Excellency Sir Andrew Clow on the expiration of his term of office on May 3, 1947, says a press communique issued from the Viceroy's House.

The appointment has been well-received in official and non-official circles.

MR. MUNSHI'S BIRTHDAY

Mr. K. M. Munshi was felicitated on the occasion of his 60th birthday at a party given in his honour by Mr. Devkaran Nanjee. Tributes were paid to Mr. Munshi by various speakers.

Mr. Nanji said that Mr. Munshi was a lawyer of outstanding ability and his services as a Minister during the Congress regime in Bombay could never be forgotten. In the field of education he was responsible for building cultural and technical institutions in Gujarat.

MEDICAL CONFERENCE

The need for adequate provision of post-graduate education and for the training of specialists in all branches of medicine was emphasised by Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, inaugurating the 23rd session of the All-India Medical Conference.

The conference, which met at Madura recently under the presidency of Capt. P. B. Mukherji of Calcutta, was attended by about 100 delegates from all over India.

Presiding over the Session Captain P. M. Mukherjee, referred to the recommendations of the Health Survey and Development Committee appointed by the Central Government, and remarked: "We may expect before long a National Health Service Bill, either at the Centre or simultaneously, in the Provinces, incorporating those recommendations of the Committee which offer to the whole population of India a complete medical service free of immediate charge for the services rendered. This presupposes the regimentation of all medical men in a whole-time salaried State Service, and will mark the beginning of the end of Medicine as a profession."

Dr. Mukherjee declared that "Medical thought has always found its fullest expression and originality in an atmosphere of freedom—freedom unfettered by the trammels, the frustrations and the infinite delays of bureaucracy, and, above all a freedom untouched by the ebb and flow of politics."

AYURVEDIC CONFERENCE

"The history of Ayurveda in the days of its glory comprised not only medicine, but also surgery. Ayurveda should not, however, live on ancient glory, but take what was good from any source and carry medical science and practice further and further," observed Dr. M. D. Gilder, Minister for Public Health, Government of Bombay, inaugurating the fifteenth Karnataka Provincial Ayurvedic Conference held at Gadag on January 8.

NATURE CURE

Champions of nature cure battled in the House of Commons sometime back for recognition, under the National Health Service Bill, of those who practise these methods of healing.

One member who moved an amendment to this effect, said: "I have had more benefit from three days nature cure than I would get from 13 years of medical treatment."

He recalled that Mr. Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, had lost a week or more on the committee stage of the Bill through 'flu and suggested that if the Minister had gone in for nature cure he would not have lost that time.

After other M. Ps. had spoken for and against, Mr. Bevan said "No" to the proposal.

BRITISH HEALTH MINISTRY TO TEST

A vaccine which is claimed to increase resistance to tuberculosis is to be examined by the British Ministry of Health, which will take steps to see if it can be used in Britain.

The Ministry of Health has agreed to this following the presentation of a memorandum laid by the *British Medical Journal* to make "an overwhelming case" for the vaccine, which is known as "BCG."

DISEASE-CARRYING PESTS

"Disease-carrying pest cause more deaths than all wars put together," says an American doctor. "Americans have been spending \$86,000,000 a year on insecticides without getting decisive results.

Every year insects destroy grain and mill products worth \$300,000,000. There are more rats than human beings in America and they take a \$250,000,000 toll annually. Moths destroy \$200,000,000 worth of clothing a year and termites cause losses totalling \$40,000,000."

BANKING REFORM

The Select Committee on the Banking Bill met under the chairmanship of Mr. Yamin Khan, Deputy President of the Central Assembly. The Committee have arrived at the following tentative decisions:

1. If any bank wants to operate in any district with one office, it will be required to have Rs. 50,000 in paid-up capital and reserves.

2. If it wants to have one branch within the district, it will be required to have a capital of Rs. 1 lakh plus Rs. 100,000 for such branch.

3. If it wants to have branches outside the district but in the Province then it must have Rs. 25,000 extra for each such branch.

4. If it wants to operate anywhere within the region as understood by the Reserve Bank of India Act, it should have a capital structure of Rs. 5 lakhs.

5. If a bank wants to operate anywhere in India, the capital structure should be Rs. 10 lakhs.

6. Banks willing to operate in Calcutta and Bombay cities will be required to have another Rs. 5 lakhs extra.

7. For banks situated in cities having a population between 1 lakh and 2 lakhs and in the provincial capitals, the required capital structure would be Rs. 2 lakhs.

8. If any bank has its office in one Province and desires to open a branch in another Province within a radius of 25 miles from its principal office, for such a branch it will require only Rs. 25,000 extra as if it were a branch in a separate district within the same Province.

LAND MORTGAGE BANKS CONFERENCE

"Our Land Mortgage Banks have evoked the admiration of other Provinces and have been looked upon as models. The Government recognise that their success is entirely due to the untiring efforts of public-spirited gentlemen, who are managing the Central and Primary Land Mortgage Banks," said Mr. V. V. Giri opening the 17th Land Mortgage Banks' Conference at Madras on January 19.

REHABILITATION OF RAILWAYS

"Go Slow" methods adopted by men in railway workshops have put back the railway rehabilitation programme by a year, an official spokesman stated the other day giving the results of his personal observations of conditions in several workshops in the country.

A day's stoppage of work in one workshop alone, he said, would mean, a hold-up of repairs with the result that one locomotive, 12 wagons and 3 passenger coaches would have to be kept off the rails, that is to say, some 800 tons of goods and between 300 and 400 passengers could not be moved.

"The railways are a national asset of considerable importance from the point of view of public utility and productive activity," he added, "and stoppages of work or 'go slow' policies are likely to set back the country's economic clock, and as such, are highly detrimental to national interests."

"Peace has ushered in a phase which makes it imperative for the railways to carry out a high pressure rehabilitation programme, so that the present attenuated services can be increased in the immediate future subsequently restored to normal and increased ultimately. The railways have set themselves a task which requires working up to a time-schedule. Deviation from this time-schedule throws out of gear the entire rehabilitation programme chalked out over a number of years."

AMENITIES FOR S. I. RY. PASSENGERS

The South Indian Railway have under consideration a scheme for the provision of amenities for lower class passengers expected to cost over Rs. 25 lakhs. The amenities promised include improved sanitary arrangements, refreshment rooms, waiting rooms, water supply and covered platforms.

INDIAN GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. F. C. Badhwar took over as general Manager of Oudh-Tirhut Railway on Jan. 17. He is first Indian General Manager and his appointment is believed to be in pursuance of the Government of India's policy of Indianising the Railway services.

MUSIC CONFERENCE

Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor, Madras University inaugurated the 14th South Indian Music Conference at Madras, during the Christmas week. Dr. T. Srinivasaraghavachari presided.

Inaugurating the conference, Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar said music had a divine appeal, and the greatness of music was that it could appeal to all. Therefore let them not cavil at this or that type of music.

Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar referred to the need for making music a special form of study and stressed the need for cultivating a comparative study of music of different nations.

Referring to the suggestion for a college of music at which not only students would be prepared for highest degrees but active research could be undertaken, Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar invited the co-operation of all. He appealed to the teachers to see that their students avoided mannerisms.

HERITAGE OF CARNATIC MUSIC

Inaugurating the Music Festival in the All-India Khadi and Swadeshi Exhibition at Madras on December 27, Mr. Justice P. V. Rajamannar said that in the free India of the future, music must occupy an essential and integral part in their national life, whatever be their form of future Government. Otherwise, their national life would be hopelessly inadequate. Life without music would be a barren, dull and animal existence. This sentiment was not foreign to their culture. Every man and woman had got a right to enjoy good music and it should be their duty to make such music available within reach of the common man. He was, therefore, particularly happy to note that this festival would enable people to enjoy good music for a nominal fee.

HORSE RACING IN INDIA

A suggestion that the various provincial governments should make known as early as possible their long-term policy with regard to horse-racing in this country was made by Sir Victor Sassoon in an interview.

Sir Victor said that the development of horse-breeding in this country depended entirely on whether racing was going to be continued or not. He revealed that a number of Indian orders for bloodstock from the U. K. and other countries had been cancelled because of the uncertainty of the future of racing in India. Sir Victor pleaded for the continuance of racing in India, at least from the point of view of the development of horse-breeding in this country.

He also suggested, that from the turf club point of view, the licences should be granted for a period of five years, instead of one year.

AUSTRALIA RETAINS "THE ASHES"

The Third Test between England and Australia ended in a draw at Melbourne on January 7.

C. Washbrook scored a century and his opening stand with Hutton realised 138 runs. After a promising start, the England batsmen failed again, but just managed to save the game. When stumps were finally drawn they had made 310 for seven. Yardley batted doggedly, remaining unbeaten with 53.

Having won the first two Tests and drawn the present match, Australia (holders) retain the "Ashes", although the rubber has yet to be decided.

U. S. REGAIN DAVIS CUP

The United States have regained the Davis Cup lost to Australia in 1939 when the competition was last played, by winning the doubles in the Challenge Round for a decisive 3-0 lead.

In the recent match Jack Kramer and Ted Schroeder, former United States doubles champions, beat John Bromwich and Adria Quist, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4.

NATIONAL MINERAL POLICY CONFERENCE

It is not the intention of the Government of India to deprive provinces and States of their rights in regard to the mineral resources within their respective boundaries, but a central planning agency will be necessary for the conservation and utilisation of mineral assets in all parts of the country and also a central service for skilled advice, as contemplated in the proposal to set up a bureau of mines. This point was emphasised by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government in his address to the National Mineral Policy Conference at Delhi on January 13.

Speaking after Mr. C. H. Bhabha had finished his presidential address, Pandit Nehru said that Government would no longer tolerate the wasteful exploitation of mineral assets in any part of the country by any individual or group to the disadvantage of national economy. He pointed out that the geological survey made so far, though of excellent quality, had been but on a small scale, and also urged the necessity for expanding research in the various fields connected with the proper conservation and utilisation of minerals.

NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF INDIA

"There is a vast field for the study of coins", observed Dr. Syed Mahmud, Development Minister, in course of his inaugural address at the annual meeting of the Numismatic Society of India held at Patna in Christmas week.

The science of coins is very closely connected with history, and the field which Indian History presents is vast and extensive. In the field of Numismatics we make new discoveries. We have often been accused of having done little or nothing to unravel the past. I am afraid it is true to a certain extent. But there is no occasion to lose heart, for there are some amongst you who have really done very well in numismatical research. I have a firm conviction that if you will carry on your numismatic research as you have done hitherto, your contributions will be gratefully acknowledged by the future historians of India.

Dr. A. S. Altekar of Benares Hindu University presided over the meeting.

TWENTY-THREE LANGUAGE FILM

Somerset Maugham's novel, "The Razor's Edge", the filming of which was recently completed at a cost of £1,000,000, will be either "dubbed" or given sub-titles in no fewer than 23 languages.

The foreign language programme, which will be the most extensive undertaken on any recent 20th Century Fox picture, will include "dubbing" in Hindustani. The only other film "dubbed" in Hindustani was "The Thief of Baghdad". Several of the principal sequences of "The Razor's Edge" are set against the background of India.

PRIZE FILMS

The Punjab Government is offering two prizes for the two films, which best promote good relations between the various communities. The first prize will be of Rs. 5,000 and the second of Rs. 2,000. These prizes would be awarded to films of the documentary type produced during 1946-47. The length of the documentary film should be not more than 1,000 ft. In addition to these prizes the Punjab Government undertakes to buy the prize-winning films at the rate of Rs. 7 per accepted foot.

FILM LIBRARY FOR CHILDREN

Mr. Eric Johnson, president of the Motion Picture Association in Hollywood, is sponsoring a Children's Film Library, from which American cinemas would be able to obtain features for children's shows.

Among the pictures available are: "Blondie Brings up Baby," "Alice in Wonderland," "Anne of Green Gables," "Jane Eyre," "The Poor Little Rich Girl," "Green Pastures" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

FILM STAR SAIGAL

The death occurred on January 13, of Mr. Kundan Lal Saigal, a famous songster and film star of India, at Jullunder after a prolonged illness.

Saigal worked in different roles in a number of film companies of Bombay, Calcutta and Lahore.

ALL-INDIA MOTOR UNION CONGRESS

Dr. Pattabhai Sitaramayya, presiding over the 7th session of the All-India Motor Union's Congress, at New Delhi on January 18th expressed himself against the idea of nationalising motor transport.

"The case of the individual motor owner" he said, "deserves patient understanding, close examination and careful judgment. He has committed no sin beyond sinking his money a quarter of a century ago upon an unknown industry with an uncertain future. After many vicissitudes, he had begun to make good when licences, controls, regulations and corrupt practices destroyed his living. The motor owners are a set of highly patriotic men who have done their bit for the country both in the economic and the political line. Now suddenly to say that they shall surrender their business into the hands of local board or Government is to do evil unto those who have done good.

NATIONALISATION OF BUS TRANSPORT

A new scheme to operate motor transport in the province was put forward by Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari who opened the Madras Provincial Motor Union Congress, at Limbdi Gardens, Madras, on January 7.

Mr. Krishnamachari viewed with alarm the policy pursued by the Madras Government in regard to motor transport. He criticised the present system and put forward his proposal according to which the existing operators and the Government should enter into a partnership. The province might be divided into eight to ten zones and a joint stock company for each area started. The operators' assets should be valued and that value should constitute 49 per cent. of the capital while the Government might contribute in cash 51 per cent. to enable the zonal company to replenish its worn out stock besides providing the finance for expansion. The dividends payable to the operators would be limited to six per cent. and so on.

WORLD CIVIL AVIATION COUNCIL

Mr. Biraj Madhab Gupta, Deputy Director of the Civil Aviation Directorate of India, attended his first meeting of the Council of the Provisional International Civil Aviation Organisation as India's representative at Montreal on January 15, replacing Mr. K. M. Raha.

Welcoming Mr. Gupta, Dr. Edward Warner stated that the attendance of 19 constituted a record since the first meeting a year-and-a half ago.

Weighty discussions in connection with the drafting of private Air Law and preparations for the establishment of a permanent organisation were lightened by Sir Henry Temple Cotton, the United Kingdom delegate, who objected to the use of the word "recordation" in PICA documents, declaring that it could not be found in the dictionary. Dr. Warner said that he would refer the matter to the Legal Committee.

PARIS TO LONDON

Squadron Leader W. A. Waterton, flying an R.A.F., Gloster Meteor, which set up the world's speed record of 616 miles per hour last September, flew from Paris to London on January 16 in 21 minutes, 11 seconds, giving a speed of 618.4 miles per hour.

Squadron-Leader Waterton, now demobilised from the R.A.F. is a test pilot for the Gloster Aircraft Co.

The speed may be subject to variation as the official flying distance from Paris to Croydon airport has not been finally settled.

BHARAT AIRWAYS

A signal advance in the cause of India's aviation was recorded when Bharat Airways, Ltd., a new air transport company, initiated a series of survey flights in the first instance, between Calcutta and Delhi via Benares and Lucknow. The company is expected to swing into full-scale operation on a number of vital trunk and feeder routes.

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Dr. John Matthai, Member for Industries of the Interim Government, laid the foundation-stone of the Shri Ram Institute for Industrial Research on Jan. 6 at Delhi which will function primarily as an institute of applied scientific research in respect of industrial problems, carry out experiments and run pilot plants in order to test out the results of these experiments. The institute will incur an estimated cost of Rs. 20 lakhs.

Dr. John Matthai, speaking on the occasion, said that private institutes of this kind, at the present stage of industrial development in India would help industry to become research-minded and would be helpful to the various national laboratories proposed to be run by the Government. Similar institutes would facilitate rationalisation in industry which would result in the avoidance of waste of any kind which, he said, was of particular importance in India at the present stage.

THE SWADESHI EXHIBITION

The All-India Khadi and Swadeshi exhibition arranged by the Tamil Nad Provincial Congress Committee in the grounds of the Committee's buildings at Teynampet, Madras was opened by Mr. T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar a labour leader, in the absence of Sir S. Radhakrishnan at Delhi. There was a large gathering.

Mr. K. Kamaraj Nadar, President of the Congress Committee said that after the disastrous fire at the old Congress House in Royapettah six years ago, the exhibition was now revived with many new features. He was glad that despite several difficulties, including the recent heavy rain they were able to have the exhibition.

Mr. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar said that swaraj and swadeshi were inseparable, swadeshi being the foundation of swaraj which also helped to build up the swadeshi movement. He added that the Indian National Congress should become more and more representative of labour.

AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

A three-point programme for the development of agricultural economy in India on scientific lines was drawn up by Sir Manilal B. Nanavati in his Presidential address at the Seventh Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics held at the Municipal Hall at Karachi on Dec. 26.

Sir Manilal suggested firstly the removal of the inefficient classes which have crowded into Agriculture, secondly the improvement of statistical machinery and the extension of the scope of economic research so as to touch not merely the business of farming but to cover the whole field of rural life and finally the establishment of popular agencies in every village in India to prepare the ground for these reforms to take root and to bring the Government and the public in closer contact for mutual understanding of the intention of the one and the difficulties of the other so as to develop in both a spirit of mutual faith and active co-operation.

The highlight of session was the inaugural address delivered by Mr. Minoo Masani. He observed that all talk of industrialising India was futile unless they were prepared to do justice to the Indian peasant and put him on his feet. This could be done if those who lived in cities and towns were prepared to get on his back.

Referring to the proposed legislation for abolition of zamindari Mr. Masani welcomed the move as making for elimination of parasitic intermediaries between the cultivator and the State. Mr. Masani, in conclusion, advocated a system of peasant proprietorship.

ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

The All-India Economic Conference concluded its 29th session on Jan. 1 after discussing at some length the question of stabilization of agricultural prices. Prof. R. K. Rudra presided.

Prof. Rudra pleaded for giving a lead by which the farmer would be remunerated and the consumer satisfied.

CONFERENCE OF EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS

Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, Labour Member, Government of India, in his presidential address at the Conference of Employers' and Workers' Delegates, at Delhi on December 6, said: "The social justification for the modern industrial organisation is that it caters to the satisfaction of human wants and thereby promotes human welfare and happiness. Industrial undertakings which do not provide a decent standard of living for their workers have no social claim to survival. No popular government can afford to allow an industrial undertaking to subordinate its social obligations to its own financial interests."

The Conference which was attended by representatives of the Indian Organisation of Industrial Employers and the Indian Federation of Employers and by representatives of the All India Trade Union Congress and the Indian Federation of Labour, was convened by the Government of India to discuss and decide upon a five-year programme of labour legislation and administration. The programme, which aims at bringing about an improvement in the working conditions, efficiency and standard of living of workers, has already been generally accepted at two earlier Conferences, one of Provincial Labour Ministers and the other of States' Labour Ministers.

The formulation of the five-year programme, said Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, was intended to avoid, on the one hand, piecemeal legislation and on the other, the charge of being half-hearted in ameliorating labour conditions.

"The demand has been put forward", he went on, "that we should immediately institute action for prescribing and enforcing a national minimum wage, introduce social security measures including unemployment insurance and old age pensions on a scale similar to the benefits obtainable in the countries of Western Europe. I have every sympathy with these proposals."

HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

"We have a great culture and a great literature of which we can be proud, but in the field of writing history or in preserving historical records and materials, we must admit we have shown deplorable neglect," said the Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Education, Government of India, opening the 23rd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission at Indore on December 20.

"Voluntary work could achieve a great deal," said Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, "but the time had arrived for orderly effort on the part of the State whether it be in the Provinces or in Indian States and there was need for a well-co-ordinated and uniform policy regarding finding and preservation of historical documents throughout India."

INDOLOGICAL RESEARCH

An organisation for the furtherance of Indological research has been formed with Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar as President and Sir S. Radhakrishnan as Chairman of its Working Committee and with its headquarters in Madras.

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar handed over to the Committee formed in this connection a sum of Rs. 25,000 in pursuance of the announcement made by him at the recent session of the Indian Philosophical Conference at Delhi for being utilised for promotion of Indological students and research by giving scholarships and otherwise helping research students.

THEOSOPHICAL CONVENTION

Mr. C. Jinarajadasa, President of the Theosophical Society, delivering his presidential address at the 71st International Convention of the Theosophical Society at Adyar on December 26 referred to the recent tragic events in Bengal and Bihar and the unleashing of the forces of communal hatred. He appealed to Theosophists, who alone, he claimed, among all groups in India had a vision of the Soul of India, not to let that vision fade from their eyes.

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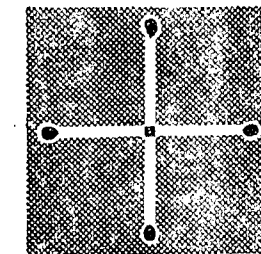
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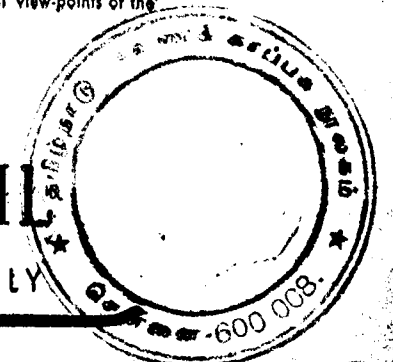
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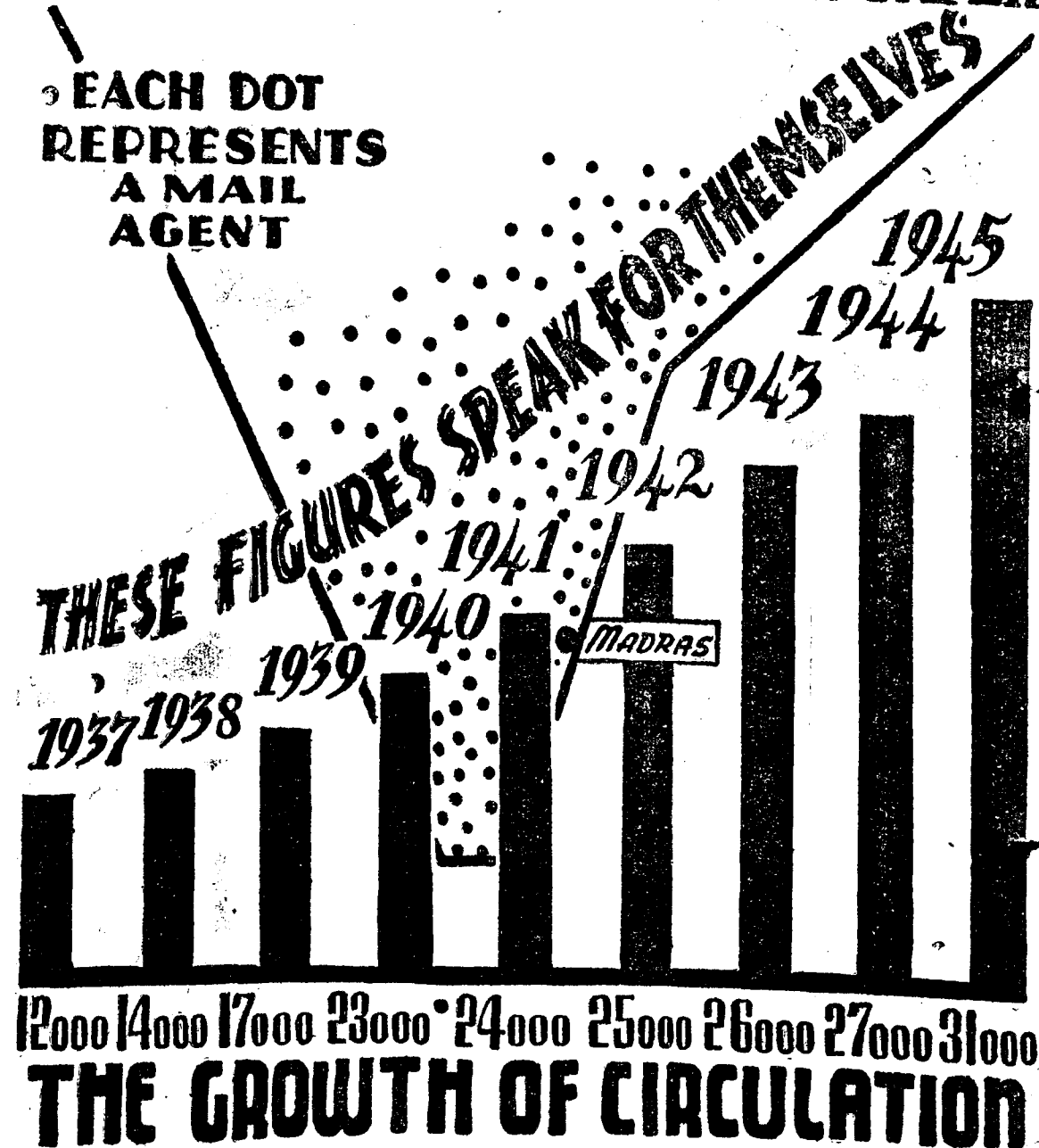
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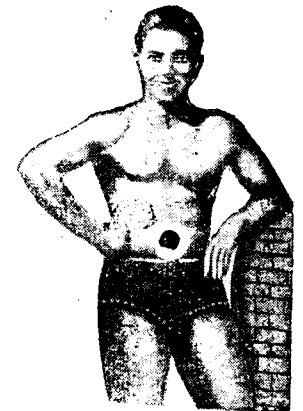
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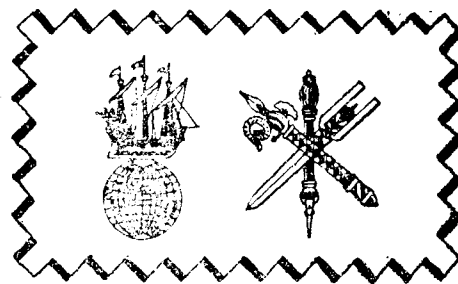
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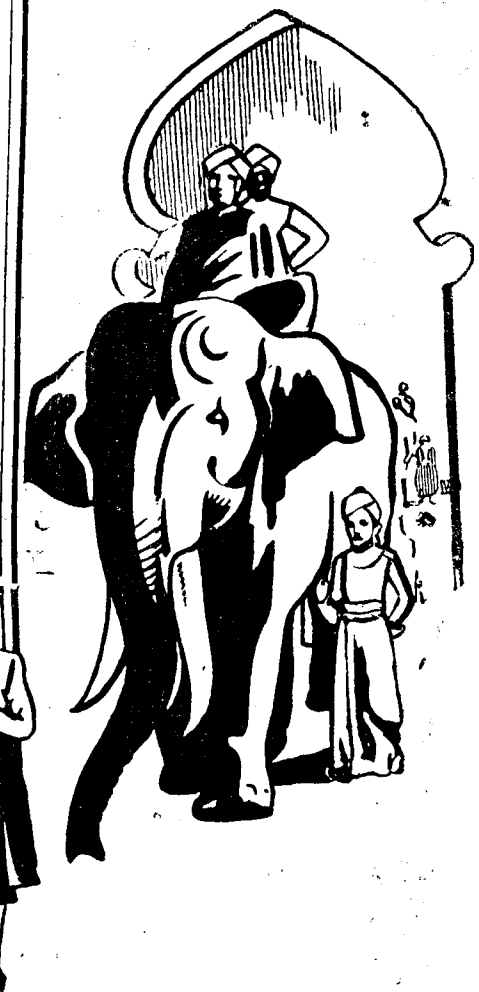
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Edited By Mr. G. A. NATESAN

Vol. 48]

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[No. 3]

BOOKS THAT HAVE INFLUENCED ME

By DR. SIR C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR, K.C.S.I.

MY father who was one of the special disciples of Professor Gopal Rao, a renowned literary connoisseur and teacher, was passionately devoted to English poetry of the Wordsworthian era and during the latter years of his life dedicated himself to the study of philosophy. Under his guidance, I began to devote concentrated attention to English literature, an acquaintance with which, in accordance with the tradition of my younger days, was regarded not only as indispensable but as the peak point of educational ambition. So influential was the European tradition that, by an irony of fate, my earliest studies were directed to the master-pieces of English literature and even later I studied not my mother-tongue but French. My serious, as apart from formal and academic, pre-occupation with Sanskrit and Tamil came much later. In other words, the training that I received was not unlike that which has been described with such detail by John Stuart Mill in his Autobiography—a book that should be in the hands of every parent and of every young man on the threshold of life in order to serve not only as a guide but also as a warning. The poesy and the attitude towards life of Keats and Shelley also exemplified in

the earlier lyrical out-pourings of Wordsworth were formative influences during my earlier University career but the startling invasion of new ideas heralded by Darwin and Herbert Spencer and their championship of the theory of evolution, brought to the forefront a new approach towards life's problems and necessarily also towards art and literature. My generation bore the full brunt of the impact of the iconoclastic attack on established forms of belief and Darwin, Huxley and Tyndall very rapidly supplanted earlier preceptors and many of us emerged as agnostics. The revised version of the life history of the earth and of living species, the evolutionary doctrine as expounded so brilliantly in Sir John Frazer's "Golden Bough" and the transformed point of view in respect of human beliefs and practices broke down many barriers. Much was destroyed and little was built up to take its place. Nevertheless and by way of fierce and natural reaction there was a parallel urge towards romance and mystery and humour side by side with realism. It drove me to the study of Dickens and Thackeray on the one hand and Charles Reade, Dumas, Balzac and Victor Hugo on the other. The humour and the pathos of

daily life and the psychology of liberation contended for mastery. The "Pickwick Papers" of Dickens, Thackeray's "Vanity Fair" and "Esmond" and Reade's, "Cloister and the Hearth," Balzac's "Wild Asses Skin," "Pere Goriot" and other illustrations of the "Comedia Humaine" stimulated the comprehensive curiosity of those days.

Saturated as I was with the spirit of the English language, it was not difficult for me to appreciate the work of Hazlitt, Oliver Wendell Holmes (the author of the Breakfast Table series) and to savour the delicate and gentle irony of Charles Lamb which has been in a special manner resurrected by the Chinese satirist Lin Yu Tang. The influence of French literature and the re-discovery of French poetical art-forms in the nineties of the last century brought me into intimate contact with what has now proved to be an evanescent phase of English poetical development. This movement was represented by Henley and Lang, Dobson and Watson and other post-Tennysonian rebels against the Victorian way of thinking. Soon, however, the tragic implications of existence came more and more to the forefront even before the last war, and there were produced many books which revealed the discontent with the present ordering of world economy and demonstrated the desire to shatter the world to bits and to remould it according to the heart's desire. Hardy, Meredith and Fitzgerald's rendering of Omar Khayyam from one point of view and from another the savagely satirical and formless poetry and prose culminating in T. S. Elliot's "Ulysses", were powerful

influences to which I would have wholly succumbed but for the concentrated study which I took up a decade ago of the great sources of Hindu thought and speculation exemplified in the pristine Upanishads and in Sankara. The life and teachings of the greatest man that ever lived, the Lord Buddha, have exercised a profound spell over me and Edwin Arnold's "Light of Asia" led me to the study of Buddhist religious and philosophic thought which has followed a path parallel to Vedantic speculation. The Gita as a synthesis of philosophy came only next in personal preference.

The clinging and poignant search for the absolute, the daring grasp of essentials coupled with passionate devotion towards a personal godhead which is manifested in Tamil devotional literature was a further corrective; and if I were today asked to summarise my mental adventures amongst the classics, I would, in order of importance, furnish the following list:

The Upanishads, especially the Isa, Katha, Mandukya, Brihadaranyaka, Taittiriya and Svetasvatara. What has captured my allegiance is the type of lesson taught in the dialogue between Yama and Nachiketas regarding the things that are more excellent as well as the basic propositions enunciated and re-emphasised constantly in them that attainment comes not to the weakling nor to the followers of extravagance in life and thought nor to those who follow the path of misdirected or unattainable austerity.

Sankara's works which are an object-lesson in the unfettered freedom of intellectual research, and in the emotional sphere, the work of the great creative artists

Keats, Shelley and Wordsworth of the early 19th century.

The romantic and realistic romances and novels of Europe commencing with Dickens and Thackeray and Dumas and culminating in Balzac and Flaubert and the Russian Masters.

The passionate out-pourings of devotional ecstasy contained in the work of the medieval Christian mystics and the Tamil Saints.

The contributions made by the leaders of psychological freedom and the exponents of clear-eyed mellowness starting with Plato and the neo Platonists and comprising Spinoza, Darwin, Huxley, Tyndall, Herbert Spencer and Renan (in his Vie de Jesus) and culminating in the writings of Sir James Jeans and Eddington which have thrown a new flood of light on the workings of the Universe and have enlarged many mental and spiritual frontiers.

So far, I have referred to the serious side of literature generally; but equal in importance from a personal point of view have been these intellectual treats and puzzles for which Poe, Gaboriau, Wells, Conan Doyle and other Masters of the literature of incident have made themselves responsible. I frankly avow to an absorbing interest in so-called "thrillers."

As a reaction from the common-place and the sombre, I have been greatly fascinated by what may be called the literature of Nonsense and if I had to spend some months on a desert island, some of the indispensable items in my luggage will be the Operas of Gilbert and Sullivan,

books like "Alice in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass" and the rhymes of Edward Lear and his poetical descendants. Although unable to read him in the original, I have been not only attracted but greatly influenced by the Epigrams and verse of Horace; and the works of his literary descendants, Montaigne and Madame de Sevigne have been my constant companions.

The frank and direct approach to problems of life and of society initiated by Ibsen and Bernard Shaw in their dramas, by Bertrand Russell in his analysis of present day tendencies and developments and by Upton Sinclair in his review of world conditions before and during World War No. 2 have afforded me not only instruction but illumination. I should not omit my indebtedness to Landor whose penpictures of the noted characters of history contained in "Pericles and Aspasia" and "Imaginary Conversations" have been my constant solace.

If I were compelled to possess only half a dozen books I would perhaps give my choice to a volume of the ten Upanishads, to that masterpiece of verbal felicity and natural description, Kalidasa's "Meghasandesa", to the matchless epigrams of Bhartrihari and the works of Lamb, and Sainte Beuve and as an additional, *bonne bouche* a pocket edition of Horace.

But then, I should be sorry to be without a few volumes of Dumas and the two parts of the Golden Treasury of Songs and Lyrics.

ONE WORLD AND THE PHILOSOPHER

BY DR. EDWIN A. BURTT

I ARRIVED in India to bring greetings and best wishes from American philosophers to Indian philosophers and from the American people to the Indian people. And being in India is giving me the thrill of my life. I know already that India had given much to the world, but I am now finding that you have much more than the rest of the world could wisely come to share than I had ever imagined. So my first message on this occasion is: Thank you and your country for playing the wonderful part in the world that you have played and are playing. And speaking now as philosopher—thank you especially for the wisdom that your great men have contributed and are contributing to help all men everywhere to find the way to peace and happiness.

India has already assumed a great place among the nations; she will occupy a greater one still, and her contribution to the welfare of mankind in the future will be even more splendid than the contribution she has made in the past.

So my second message is one of hope and faith: That the best for India and the world does not lie in the past but is yet to come and that all can participate in its achievement.

I said that I come to bring greetings and good wishes from American philosophers. But as an emissary of philosophy I bring something more. The American Association of Philosophers is entering on an expanding programme of co-operation with philosophers in other countries. And it is part of my commission to learn what

forms of philosophical co-operation between America and India would seem to Indian philosophers to be most timely and important.

Philosophers have told us since time immemorial that the things that separate us into different races, religions, classes, nations, are not as important as the things that bind us together into one human family. But philosophers themselves have too often lived and thought in isolated worlds, with walls of misunderstanding, prejudice and even hostility between them. It is time that in their own fields they practise what they preach.

I have come to tell Indian thinkers that we in America are beginning to be conscious that we are not as self-sufficient as we had thought we were, that we are beginning to wish to learn as well as to give, that just as we believe that the West has something to contribute to human thought and aspiration that is worthwhile, so we no longer want to miss what Indian insight and experience have to offer.

Since coming here I have become more aware than before that here too a tribute to India is due. What this means is that American philosophers, as an organized group, are at last responding to a message that Indian thinkers and students in philosophy have long been trying to bring to them. Scattered individuals have responded to it before but only they. The great philosophic minds of the past in India have held before the world, more than the great minds of any other people, the ideal of unity and harmony between them, to be achieved

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through a mutual tolerance and understanding. And in recent generations your young men have, in increasing numbers, gone to the West to pursue their advanced studies, thus adding to the knowledge of their own philosophical tradition mastery of the wisdom that Western thinkers have been slowly accumulating.

We have been so terribly slow to respond in kind, to be ready on our part to help build one co-operative world of philosophic understanding on a basis of equality and of mutual respect. And I would be going beyond the facts if I were to intimate that any wholesale awakening or conversion of American philosophers has taken place, or that you may expect in the near future any large number of American students eager to pursue studies in India. But my presence here testifies to the fact that a significant beginning is at hand and that definite steps in the direction of philosophical co-operation on both sides are now under way. Philosophers on both sides as well as statesmen will leave their separating dogmatisms behind and join in building the one world of peace and brotherhood in which we all must live if, in the atomic age, we are going to continue to live at all.

Just what is it that philosophers can contribute to this one world? In what way is their presence valuable to the rest of us?

Well, without philosophy we all face the problem: How to find dependable happiness in life without understanding it. So we pursue happiness blindly with no clear idea

of where it is to be found. Philosophy's task is to help us understand it to clarify our search for what is truly good, to fix in memorable form the great lessons that experience slowly teaches us about it. Philosophy's task is to be our guide in using all the resources made available by science, art, moral statesmanship and religion in learning how to live the best life that is possible for men. And the philosophical insight of no one country is adequate to this task; the richest wisdom that each can contribute is needed. It is a task in which we cannot afford to fail.

I have an enticing dream, which never quite leaves me. It is that of a World Institute of Philosophers, with an Executive Council drawn from all the philosophically active countries of the world and with centres of study in each of them I picture this Institute arranging periodic international conferences, establishing exchange professorships and fellowships for advanced students, engaging in manifold other collaborative activities and of course, working in closest harmony with international bodies of scientists, artists, lawyers, statesmen, educators and religious leaders—to the end that all phases of man's cultural progress will be so linked together that each will give the maximum support to whatever is constructive and forward looking to all the others.

The process may be slow, but something like this dream will have to become a reality. For nothing but the best is good enough for man—and this is the way in which philosophers can contribute towards that best.—*Broadcast from Delhi.*

RUSSIA LOOKS AT THE WORLD

BY MR. VIJAY SEN, M.A., J.D.

THE outstanding fact emerging from the war is the Russian supremacy on the continent of Europe. Every great war upsets the then existing balance of power and the last war is no exception to the rule. Actually, because of the enormous destruction during the war Russia may be poorer than it was prior to the war, but its potential energy is tremendous and it will rapidly make good and go further ahead. In military and economic power there is none to challenge it on the Eurasian continent. No other country is to-day so well politically solid and economically well-balanced as the Soviet Union is. It has vast resources, an absence of medieval back-ground, a faith in Science and its applications, educated masses and a new ideology with a zeal to spread it far and wide.

In its foreign policy Russia is showing an expansionist tendency and is expanding its territories more or less on the basis of the Tasars' Empire. But during the war Russia seemed to have become sweetly reasonable with her allies, at least in her missionary zeal to spread communism in the world, with the dissolution of the commintern in 1943. It meant that Russia would no longer interfere through communist parties in the internal affairs of other countries. But it was only expediency to win the full co-operation of its allies.

Gradually, however, the true face of Russian foreign policy began to show itself. The Soviet Union is anxious to build for itself a protective chain of as many friendly and dependent, and semi-dependent countries

around its frontiers as possible. Though working with other powers for the establishment of a world organization, it relies more on the building up of a strong defence line around it on an unassailable basis. So presumably, do other nations which is not a hopeful prelude to 'One world'.

Soviet Russia while sharing in all major conferences is effecting settlement of its own. Following the defeat of Finland, it fixed her boundaries where it wanted them. In agreement with Great Britain and the United States it fixed the eastern countries of Poland at the Curzon line and without their co-operation it pushed back the Western boundaries to the Oder. Czechoslovakia in spite of her protests had to give Ruthenia, its eastern end to the Ukranian Republic. At the same time, under the pressure or shadow of the Red Armies and through indirectly supporting the communist parties in these countries, communist régimes were established in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Albania.

After consolidating its power and establishing its hegemony in Eastern Europe it began to take steps to control the great Black Sea power—Turkey. Two wars have demonstrated her real need for easy and direct access to the sea. Russian proposals to Turkey include not only the return to Russia of the territories ceded by Russia before the 1914-18 war but also control over the Dardanelles because Russia is the most interested and the most capable power to undertake the defence of the straits in the event of any emergency or war. This

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is not a new idea for Russia. It is as old as Russia of Catherine or Peter the Great, which began to fight Turkey then a sick-man of Europe and was saved from total extinction because of so many prospective factors—and expand in all directions, specially to the Balkans and to the south at the expense of the Turkish Empire so as to acquire a 'Window' on the Black Sea. The ideology of the party in power may change but it is not a sure test, of any fundamental change in the foreign policy. The urge for expansion or the lust for territory and power is the same excepting perhaps the ideology and the motive behind it. The expansionist policy of the Soviet Union which may be called, in plain words, the Soviet Russian Imperialism though it would safeguard the legitimate security interests of the Soviet Union is not any way different from the Tasarist Imperialism. Great Britain has no longer the power to bottle Russia up in the Black Sea or to keep it out of the Middle Eastern oil preserves. France which used to have a great say over this question is very weak to raise her voice. However, since the Soviet note of August 7 despatched to Turkey demanding the control over the Dardanelles the tension between the two countries is causing anxiety. Both sides are preparing for an imminent clash of interests resulting in a ghastly war. Turkey has decided to fight to an end over this issue than to give way. A high military official in Turkey revealed the other day that the military is on the extreme alert and is ready for emergency. We shall come into the field at a moment's notice.

Not only that, Russia also feels interested in the Middle Eastern countries. Being the most powerful country in Europe and with a view to preserve and spread her new ideology it wants along with an opening on the Mediterranean Sea an outlet in the Persian Gulf as well besides rich Persian Oil resources. To gain this end it must weaken Persia, Afghanistan and Iraq. Russia is backing the Tudeh party in Persia to undermine the present Persian Government so that the new Persian Government friendly to the Soviet Union would be a weapon against Turkey and Great Britain.

This brings the situation close at hand on the Western frontiers of India. The British Government is anxious to preserve the status quo. If in the northern Persia the Soviet Union is helping the revolting peoples of Azerbaijan the British Government has deputed Indian troops to the southern Persia to preserve her interest and to protect her life line, another dangerous spot in the world.

Far off on its eastern frontiers the Soviet Union is backing the communists in Manchuria as Chiang kai—Shek's Government is being helped by the United States. The Civil War in China still goes on and behind it Russia and the United States are still fighting with each other. Moreover, in spite of the successful negotiations concluded last year between Moscow and Chungking, and the recognition of the Kuomintang by the U.S.S.R., Outer Mongolia and Inner Mongolia are unified, it is believed, with the support of Russia and the Chinese Communist Eighth Army.

A little further, the defeat of Japan and the presence there of Allied occupation

Forces take these islands out of Russia's reach for the present. But nevertheless, from a strategic point of view Japan remains the West Flank of the United States and the East Flank of Russia. The Soviet Union aspires to become a Pacific Power and can no longer tolerate any other power to court the favour and control of the ancient yellow race on the mainland of Asia.

Thus it becomes all the more clear that instead of peace in the world and the same old scramble and race for power and territory is going on this expansionist move on the part of the Soviet Union may be accounted for three main reasons. Firstly it has suffered the most in the war and thus it is actually conscious of her defence and security needs. If Great Britain is to maintain its empire for defence purposes, France and Holland their colonies for exploitation, the United States is to keep strategic islands all along her coast. On the Pacific as well as the Atlantic Oceans which is clearly against the idea of collective security or a world community—Russia also feels interested on its frontiers and powers surrounding her. Russia also wants to build a chain of buffer states all along its frontiers.

Secondly the United States is the possessor of the most frightful and dreadfully weapons yet discovered by man; the United States would have been uneasy if it were in the U.S.S.R.'s exclusive possession. As long as the Soviet Union feels menaced by the atom bomb, that is as long as it does not invent any counter weapon or this very weapon is controlled by an International body in which Russia

has a strong voice according to its status and this secret is spared by all powers and as long as Russia feels that America and Britain have ganged up on her, it will put security ahead of treaty obligations and would work for its own security and defence. No doubt the fear of destruction is a creative force, for the scared man can run faster from the pursuing bull than he ever thought possible. But fear also becomes paralyzing. Further more, the fear of mutual destruction easily degenerates into the fear of a particular foe. Even now it must be regretfully admitted that fear of Russia in the West and of the West in Russia seems more potent than the common fear of destruction.

Thirdly its new ideology and lack of political democracy in the Soviet Union makes her an enemy of democracy and freedom. But it is also a naked fact that if Great Britain and the United States have political democracy all the evils of a capitalist society are present in these countries. And without economic equality or democracy, political equality or democracy is of no use. For the proper development of human nature both are essential. The two ideologies, that of political and economic equality should be collaborated to evolve a new formula of life resulting in the development of mankind and its social welfare.

These tragic facts should alarm the persons building 'One World.' Since the world happens to be round, every country is encircled by others. To avoid such encirclements powers and statesmen wielding powers, have been making alliances and

counter alliances, expansion and conquest. But, however huge a country's dominion or 'sphere of influence' may be there is always the danger of encirclement from those who have been left out of it, and who on their part, fear this abnormal growth of a rival power. And this policy has brought not a lasting peace but misery and horrible wars. The need of the hour is a closer alliance between all powers, big or small, so as to work out a solution for "Permanent peace" and 'One world'. We need statesmen who will take ethical and human view of politics and not politicians with their fixed habits of Orthodox Diplomacy and who ultimately let us drift into the disasters of war. We want statesmen who would work together, setting aside fear and mutual suspicion and can provide a soul to the world organization. The universalism, which

is innate in every religion and philosophy of the world, more so in the Eastern Philosophy, is a potent factor towards 'one world'.

Moreover, technical civilization has created an economic inter-dependence and no nation can isolate itself in order to defend its frontiers. There must be co-operation on the basis of equality and mutual welfare, on a pulling up of the backward nations and peoples to a common level of well being and cultural advancement; for the Mandatory and trusteeship systems have failed to raise the backward communities or nations which are like the bird of prey causing mutual destruction. Racism, imperialism and domination must be eliminated so that the whole world may march together in peace and prosperity towards brotherhood of nations.

Planning of India's Cotton Mill Industry

BY MR. P. C. JAIN, M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.) Lond.

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IN India at the present time we have 417 cotton textile mills with 10.24 million spindles and 202,388 looms but it is still not possible to produce enough cloth for the people. The output of mill cloth declined from the peak output of 4871 million yards in 1943-44 to 4695 million yards in 1944-45 and 4725 million yards in 1945-46. The production in 1946-47 is expected to fall still further and would not exceed 3700 million yards. This quantity of mill cloth along with the handloom production at 1500 million yards, after allowing for exports, gives a low supply of 11 yards per head of population. This

quantity is quite insufficient to keep the people satisfactorily dressed and every possible effort has to be made to increase the production of mill cloth in India.

LOW PROFIT MARGIN

Why has the production of cloth been declining and how can it be increased? There was a time when the shortage of coal was the chief bottle-neck. The cotton mills could only get a fraction of their requirements of coal as the total available supply for distribution had fallen to a low level of 22.5 million tons in 1943 as against a supply of 28 million tons in the pre-war year. It was with great difficulty

and slowly that the production increased and the supply available for internal distribution amounted to 23.44 million tons in 1944, and 25.73 million tons in 1945. In 1946 and 1947 a greater supply of coal would be available to all the Indian industries including cotton textiles. In answer to a question in the Central Assembly the Government spokesman pointed out that the monthly allocation of coal to the cotton textile industry increased from 124 000 tons in March 1944, to 155,000 in January 1945, and to 180,000 tons in November 1945 at which level it stands to-day. This supply of coal is enough for the needs of the cotton mill industry.

PROBLEM OF TEXTILE MACHINERY

One handicap which has prevented an increase in the output of yarn and cloth is the non-availability of new machinery. Most of the existing equipment in Indian cotton mills is worn-out and must be replaced by new machinery in order to maintain its productive capacity. In the absence of new machinery there are far too many stoppages of work and in spite of the availability of raw cotton, labour, and other materials the production of cloth cannot be increased. In their postwar reconstruction scheme the Government of India have sanctioned the setting up of 125 new cotton mills with an equipment of 2.75 million spindles and 77,000 looms and other machinery in proportion. This is expected to increase the annual production of cloth in India to a level of 6,500 million yards per annum and also increase the supply of yarn to the handlooms. But this planning would be successful only if new textile machinery is available in required amounts over the next

few years. The chief difficulty in this connection is that the textile machine manufacturers in the U. K., U.S.A. and elsewhere are booked with advance orders and are not in a position to entertain orders for machinery from India. There are, however, two hopeful signs for the future. The Government Textile Delegation which had recently visited the U. K. has induced the Textile Machinery Makers Ltd. to supply 25 per cent. of its output of machinery to Indian Mills. Efforts are also being made to set up a textile machine manufacturing industry in India with the help and co-operation of the above mentioned British combine. This Indian company would be able to produce nearly 20,000 spindles per month by the beginning of 1948 and later on the production would be increased to 40,000 spindles per month. Meanwhile arrangements are also being made to convert one of Government of India's Ordnance factories to the making of spare parts for the cotton textile machinery. This will make it possible to renovate the plant in existing factories and would thus make it capable of maintaining the present output.

Another difficulty in connection with machinery is the high price quoted for new machinery by the machine manufacturers. Indian cotton mills are urgently in need of new machinery but it is quite doubtful whether it would be advisable to buy it at such high prices as that would unduly increase the cost of production. But at the same time if machinery, which is already too old is not replaced, the Indian industry would remain comparatively backward and its cost of production would remain too

high. This dilemma can be solved if the Government grants subsidies to the cotton mill industry to cover part of the price. This would make it possible for the cotton mills to buy the urgently required machinery and would at the same time not raise their costs of production unduly high. The grant of such subsidies is fully justified on grounds of public finance. These subsidies would be paid in the interest of the tax payers themselves who are vitally interested in the well being of the entire industry in their capacity as labourers, suppliers of raw materials, and consumers. Every possible effort should be made to increase the output of cloth which at present is very low and Government subsidies would help in this task.

RATIONALISATION

An acute scarcity of labour and the high wages paid by cotton textile mills are also partly responsible for keeping the production of cloth low. Many mills capable of working three shifts are not doing so because labour is not available. The supply of labour to cotton mills can be increased provided workers discharged from other war-time occupations are directed to the cotton mills. Moreover, it would be worthwhile for the cotton mills to introduce schemes of rationalisation replacing labour by machinery. These schemes are long overdue and would also reduce the costs of production thus increasing the competitive power of Indian industry. In ordinary times the labourers opposed such schemes of rationalisation on the ground that they cause unemployment of labour and are therefore undesirable. But this criticism would not be valid now. The labourers made idle by

rationalisation would at once be absorbed on the second and third shifts.

The wages of labour in the cotton textile industry have gradually increased while the prices of cloth and yarn have been brought down by repeated reductions. The net result has been a reduction in the profit margin of cotton mills. The situation has become more difficult since August 1, 1946 when the hours of factory work were reduced from 54 to 48 per week without any reduction in the wages. This has increased the labour cost per yard of cloth. The general price level is as yet so high that there is no immediate prospect of a reduction in wages. Moreover, it is doubtful whether wages will at all come down in the future even if the prices of manufactured commodities fall because the labourers have become accustomed to these high wages which, as has been experienced in other countries, might prove to be rigid. In that case we will have to plan our cotton mill industry on the basis of permanently higher wages. This is perfectly possible provided the efficiency of labour is increased by specialisation of work, scientific management, and rationalisation. It is therefore high time that efforts are made to increase the productivity of textile labour so that the cotton mills might be able to pay high wages in the future without suffering in competition with foreign producers of cloth.

TARIFF PROTECTION

The cotton mill industry has been in existence for a long time but due to a number of causes, over which the mill-owners did not have any control, it is not yet in a position to survive foreign competition, which would revive as soon as normal

conditions return and the foreign producers are in a position to send cloth to the Indian market. It would therefore be necessary to grant it tariff protection in the post-war period as well. The present position is that the existing tariff duties have been extended up to the end of March 1947.

The problem of protection in the future has already been considered by the interim Tariff Board which held its meeting for this purpose on January 21st, 1947 at Bombay. The Secretary of the Tariff Board in posing the problem pointed out that at present the imports of cotton piecegoods are of the order of 15 million yards as compared to a pre-war average import of 750 million yards per annum, and the four possible alternatives open to the Board are to recommend (1) the maintenance of the existing duties for a further period of two or three years and a consideration of the problem in 1949 when more normal conditions are likely to return, or (2) the maintenance of present protection for a further period of two years, but keeping the protective duties in abeyance subject to the institution of a tariff enquiry later on, or (3) the withdrawal of protection, leaving it to Government to impose such revenue duties as they deem fit, or (4) the conversion of the existing protective duties into revenue duties. But all these are only theoretical possibilities. Contrary to what the representatives of the consumers and importers emphasised before the Tariff Board the protection cannot either be withdrawn or reduced at this stage without doing harm to the industry. There is no doubt that at present the imports are very small but they would increase much sooner

than most people believe. The Japanese industry is reorganising itself rapidly and in order to exist Japan will have to export cotton piecegoods to get its requirements from abroad. The British industry is fast increasing its output and although the need of the home market is as yet very large it would soon be satisfied. Huge amount of cloth is then likely to be dumped into India. The Indian industry can be protected against it only by adequate import duties. It cannot be argued that protection might be reimposed as soon as need arises because on this score our experience in India has been quite disappointing. The Government machinery is slow, halting, and too cautious. These defects are bound to remain for sometime in spite of the National Government. It would, therefore, not be advisable to remove protection for the time being. Moreover, if protection is not necessary and the import duties are left intact they can do nobody any harm and it is not clear why there should be a desire to remove protection when, in principle, all accept the need of protecting the industry when imports begin to come in. Lastly, it should be realised that during the war period the Indian cotton textile industry has suffered extraordinary difficulties which gave rise to many complications, for which the millowners have not at all been responsible. Apart from other justification of protection the cotton mill industry has to be granted protection for a sufficient time and in an adequate measure to enable it to overcome these war-time defects. The best course therefore seems to be to leave the existing duties intact with power to the Government to increase them if such a course is made necessary by a rising tempo of imports. If this is done, the claim for protection may be enquired into by another Tariff Board two or three years hence when conditions are likely to return to normal.

MARRIAGE LAW REFORM

BY MR. RAM KESHAV RANADE, LL.M.

Joint District Judge, Sangli.

MANY reformers are trying their level best to co-ordinate and simplify Hindu Law and bring it into line, as far as practicable, with modern social opinion, especially in regard to the rights of women. The habit of laying on ancient Smritis the blame for the present unsatisfactory position of women in respect of marital and other rights is unfounded. The various rights of women were recognized by our ancient law givers earlier than in any other system, and compared favourably with those enjoyed even by British women, until the enactment of the Married Women's Property Act.

It may be remarked that it is really under British Administration that Hindu Law tended to become static and ceased to reflect the progress of social opinion. A perusal of the various Smritis will disclose a tendency to bring the Hindu Law into line with enlightened public opinion. The Privy Council, however, gave a set back to the natural process of adjusting the law to the changing conditions by its rigid regard for the sanctity of ancient texts, very often construed in too narrow and literal a sense. The recommendations of the Rau Committee, therefore, go back to the liberal interpretation of the Mitakshara and the purpose of the Committee's labours is mainly to improve the personal and proprietary rights of women. So far as the Bombay province is concerned three bills have been introduced in respect of marriage for improving the condition of women.

BIGAMOUS MARRIAGES

There has been a steady growth of public opinion against the institution of polygamy among Hindus. Women's associations have long been pressing for this reform which is designed to put men and women on the same basis in respect of matrimonial rights. Some Indian States have already passed laws for the prevention of polygamy. Shrimati Lilavati Munshi, therefore, introduced

a bill which is called Anti-Bigamy Bill with a view to bring the Law relating to Hindu Marriages more into conformity with enlightened public opinion by penalising the performance of bigamous marriages and providing that any such marriages contracted in future would be void.

A bigamous marriage is defined to mean the marriage of a person during the life time of his or her spouse, if the marriage of such person with such spouse has not been dissolved or declared void by a Court of competent jurisdiction, or is not void according to the custom or usage of the community to which either of the parties to such marriage belongs. It merits particular mention that the bill was confined only to Hindus. It is said that the word "Hindu" includes a Sikh, a Jain, a follower of the Arya or Brahma Samaj or a convert to Hinduism. It would have been better if, like the Sarda Act, the Bill had been made applicable to all persons including Mahomedans.

By the aforesaid bill it is provided that notwithstanding any law, custom, or usage to the contrary, a bigamous marriage shall be void—

(a) If it is contracted in the province of Bombay,

(b) If it is contracted beyond the limits of the Bombay Province, and if either or both the contracting parties are domiciled in the Bombay Province. As regards penalty, it is provided that whoever contracts a bigamous marriage in contravention of the aforesaid provisions shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 6 months or with fine or with both.

UNEQUAL MARRIAGES

Shrimati Lilavati Munshi has already succeeded in getting non-Muslim bigamous marriages declared void in the province of Bombay. She has now brought a bill for the prevention of what is called an unequal marriage. The practice of persons over

the age of 45 marrying minor girls is in considerable vogue, and public conscience has been awakened for long against the inequity of such marriages. It may be pointed out that Legislative enactments preventing such unequal marriages have been passed by Indian States like Mysore, Baroda and Kotah.

An "Unequal Marriage" is defined in the Bill to mean a marriage between a male of more than 45 years of age and a female of less than 18 years. To prevent an unequal marriage it is provided that if a male contracts such marriage, he shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to Rs. 1,000.

The Bill seeks to punish principal participants of unequal marriages, but it does not declare such marriages void or voidable as in the case of the Anti-Bigamy Act. As the Bill stands, a girl of say 14 can be successfully married to a man of 44. A man aged 45 is prevented by this bill to marry a girl of 17. It is to be noted that when an unequal marriage is actually performed, the marriage itself is binding upon the bride and the bride-groom, and the only consolation the minor girl or her friends can have is to get some persons punished. It may be remarked that it can hardly bring happiness to a minor girl who has to live with her husband who is punished on her account for having contracted an unequal marriage. If legislation intends to afford protection to a minor girl against an unequal marriage, the protection must be effective and beneficial. It is feared that the Bill regarding unequal marriages will not give such protection.

DOWRY RESTRAINT BILL

Among many communities in the province of Bombay, as in other provinces of India, there exists an evil custom of taking and offering dowry. As a result of this custom many persons have to pay exorbitant sums to secure bride-grooms for their daughters. In some parts in the province of Bombay a regular traffic of

selling and buying girls is being carried on. In these circumstances it was necessary to introduce a legislation to eradicate this evil custom. A Bill, therefore, was introduced in the Bombay Legislative Assembly by Mr. F. B. Dabhi on the 3rd October 1946 with a view to provide for restraining the custom of taking or offering of dowry in marriage.

As regards dowry it is said that it means anything paid in cash or coin as a part of the contract of any betrothal or marriage, by the father, mother, or guardian of a bride, to a bride-groom or to his father, mother or guardian and vice versa. Regarding punishment it is provided that any person who takes dowry shall be punishable with simple imprisonment which may extend to three months or with fine which may extend to the amount or value of the dowry taken. It is further provided that any person who offers dowry or abets the taking or offering of dowry shall be punishable with simple imprisonment which may extend to one month or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees.

The various women's organizations and conferences throughout India have been urgently demanding the legal and social emancipation of Hindu women. It cannot be gainsaid that the aforesaid three Bills are introduced with a view to improve the condition of women. It is, however, to be remembered that the reformist movement has also raised a storm of opposition in orthodox quarters. In view of these two opposite currents of public opinion, the reformers cannot afford to ignore deep-rooted customs and prejudices. Social reform cannot be satisfactorily effected by only passing laws. It is hoped that the reformist movement will not only try to get liberal laws passed, but also will attempt to propagate liberal ideas among orthodox people. Social reform, to be effective, must come from within by the persuasive influence of education and the happy liberalisation of thoughts.

THE METRIC SYSTEM

BY HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

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A PROPOSAL will shortly be placed before the Central Legislative Assembly for the adoption of the Decimal System for our coinage and it is likely to be passed. This means that hereafter the annas and the pies will disappear and the rupee will consist of 100 cents. Each cent will be worth about 2 pies. 5 cent pieces, 10 cent pieces, 25 cent pieces and 50 cent pieces will be our small coinage. There may be other convenient divisions than these but they will all be based on a rupee being divided into 100 small units. This will bring India in line with the system already adopted round about India like Malaya, Ceylon and other places although our rupee will continue as before as the basic monetary unit. Account keeping and calculation will be reduced to simple addition.

The necessary corollary of simplifying the coinage will be the taking of measures to bring the confusing weights and measures of our country into order in accordance with the Metric System. The Metric System is international and universally accepted in sciences. Units of length, area, volume and weight are in the Metric System inter-related. The metre is the unit of length; sub-division of the metre will be according to the decimal system, that is 1/10 of a metre, 1/100 of a metre and 1/1000 of a metre. Multiples of a metre too will be in multiples of 10, 100, 1000 and so on. So far about linear measurement. Area is measured in square metres and multiples and sub-divisions of this by 10. Volume is also measured in terms of a cubic metre or sub-divisions thereof by 1/10, 1/100 and so on.

The unit of weight in the Metric System is the weight of water at its maximum density, that is at 4 degrees C. contained in 1 cubic centimetre. (A centimetre is 1/100 of a metre.) This unit of weight is called a gram. Taking the smaller convenient sub-divisions, the metric units

would be the centimetre for linear measurement instead of our present inch; the litre which is the volume of a cube 1/10 of a metre in length, breadth and height instead of the pint or the volumetric *seer*; and for weight the gram instead of the ounce or the tola.

A centimetre is just a little more than a third of an inch, about the width of the little finger tip. 100 centimetres make 1 metre which will be just a little bigger than a yard, being slightly above 39 inches. So far as linear measurement goes, the inch and the British yard have been practically accepted throughout India. Its replacement by the centimetre and the metre may be looked upon as an innovation which can be justified on the ground that it would bring Indian linear measurements in line with the international and the scientific world.

As regards units of measure of volume, the litre which is the Metric unit, will be a little bigger than a *seer*. Our milkman will have to recover for 10 litres what he would recover for 11 *seers*. The litre will be divided into 10 smaller units. Instead of the *seer*, the *powa* and the *chattack* we shall have a litre and divisions thereof. Bigger units will be 10 litres, 100 litres, 1,000 litres and so on, uniform throughout the country and understandable by all. The unit of weight will be a gram. 1,000 grams (kilogram) will be 1 *seer* plus a little more. The Indian standard *seer* is equal to 933 grams. If we make the *seer* a little bigger, that is increase its weight by less than a tenth, we reach the Metric unit, the kilogram. [1 kilometre, that is 1,000 metres, is shorter than a mile. 621 miles will make 1,000 kilometres, 100 metres will be almost the length of a furlong. 1,000 kilograms is very nearly a ton. 98 British tons would make 100 Metric tons, a Metric ton being equivalent to 1,000 kilograms, 1 litre is a little more than one and three fourths of a pint. 22 gallons will make 100 litres.

It we adopt the Metric system of weight, volume and linear measurements, we will have the kilogram, the litre and the metre, but it is not necessary to adopt the European names. It is quite possible and would be convenient to retain the name *seer* but increase its weight by a tenth to make it equal to a kilogram. The *seer* is now 82 tolas in some provinces and 40 tolas in some other provinces. The Metric system would make it throughout the country about 90 tolas. Similarly we can have the *seer* for measuring volume of grain, oil, milk and the like, but it will be a little larger than the present *seer*. Similarly the *guz* will continue, but it will be a little longer than the present *guz*, that is 3 feet and odd, more making it equal to the metre. The *seer* differs from province to province and sometimes from district to district. The variations in the present units of weight and capacity may be described as almost chaotic and it is absolutely necessary to bring about a reform by way of uniformity whether we adopt the Metric system or not. But when we make one reform, it is wise to take advantage of the occasion and bring about the other reform also, namely the adoption of the Metric system, thereby bringing Indian weights and measures in line with international weights and measures. If, therefore, we make our *seer* and our *guz* slightly bigger than what they are to-day and enforce it all over India as a uniform set of units, we shall have brought about order into chaos and at the same time adopted an international scale.

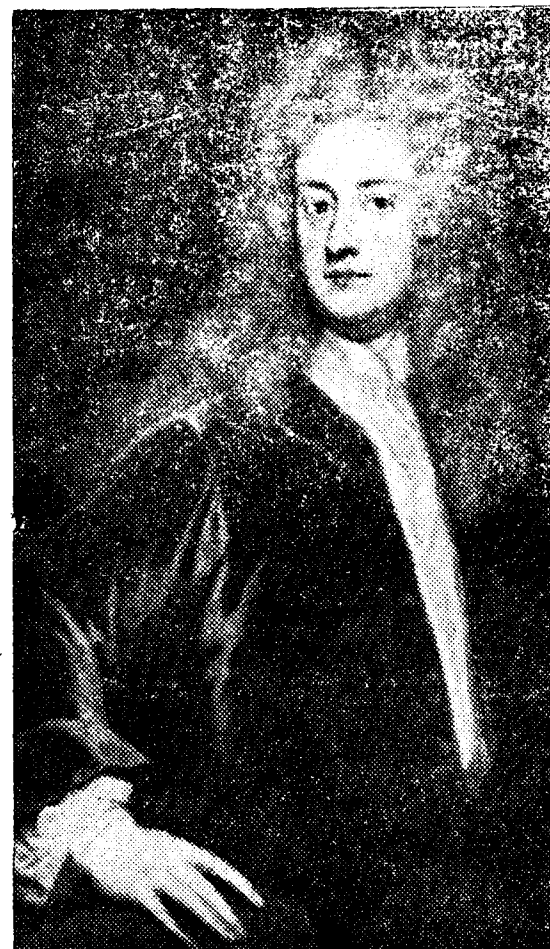
India, it is well known, was the land where the decimal system of notation was born. It is appropriate that she should put her weights and measures to-day in line with the international scientific world, adopting what is truly her own decimal system. Internal commerce has now crossed the borders not only of districts but of provinces and everyone but the

incorrigible lovers of confusion would welcome a uniform *seer* all over India which should be statutorily recognised and enforced. We may love variety and variation in art, but weights and measures are in their very nature fundamental social machinery. Uniformity is of the essence of it. There is no room in weights and measures for parochial freedom if we believe in widening circles of commerce. I have written this to show that in order to adopt the Metric system of weights and measures it is not necessary to adopt the Latin or the Greek names used in the West but we may continue to use the names prevalent in India which are near about the same size or quantity. The *guz* may be the name for the Metre in India and the *seer* may be the name in India for the litre and for the kilogram. We shall divide the *guz* not into 12 inches but into tenths for ordinary purposes and into hundredths for minute measurements. We shall divide the *seer* not into 8 or 16 parts but into one-tenths. So also we shall divide and multiply the *seer* in weighing things by 10, 100, 1000 and so on. Nobody knows in India to-day what a Maund may be. It is 40 seers of 3200 tolas in Bengal but something much smaller in Madras weighing 960 tolas. It would be quite easy and convenient to regularise the Maund to be an exact multiple, say, of 50 of the new *seer* that we would have in the Metric system so that everyone in India may know how much it is and everyone in the world will straightway understand it to be so many kilograms. Difficulties can be exaggerated and the love of traditional methods may be converted into arguments of various kinds, some good, some bad and some indifferent. But there is no doubt that certainty and convenience of calculation are the elements that go to make up a rational system of weights and measures in modern civilized life.

A LITERARY PARTNERSHIP

BY KATHARINE MOORE

THE friendship between Addison and Steele resulted in one of the most successful partnerships in literature. Each did their best work in collaboration, for



JOSEPH ADDISON

Each was the complement of the other. Addison, reserved, cautious and fastidious, was inspired by Steele's warmth and vitality, while Steele's restless improvidence was checked by his veneration for his friend and mentor.

They met first at school, one arriving, a penniless orphan from Dublin, dependent on charity, the other from the respectable security of an English Deanery. They shared their youth together at Charterhouse

School and Oxford University, and then their paths diverged for a time. Addison went abroad to study diplomacy and Steele (as he says of himself) "mounted a war horse with a great sword in my hand and planted myself behind King William III against Louis XIV."

At the opening of the 18th Century, party feeling in England was violent and bitter. Addison and Steele were life-long Whigs (Parliamentary Progressives), but Addison's career was cautious and successful. When the Whigs were in power he wrote a poem on the battle of Blenheim and was made Secretary of State. Steele, on the other hand, often jeopardized his interest by rashness. "I am in a thousand troubles for poor Dick", writes Addison, "and wish that his zeal for the public may not be ruinous to himself."

"THE TATLER"

Their first bid for literary fame was on the stage. It was unsuccessful. Addison wrote a poor musical comedy and Steele three plays "damned for their piety." Later, however, Addison made a popular hit with a tragedy, "Cato". It is now forgotten. But meanwhile Steele had found his true medium, and in 1709 there appeared the first number of *The Tatler* by "Isaac Bickerstaff, Esq."

The Tatler appeared three times a week at the cost of one penny, and was an immense success. We, who are snowed under by popular periodicals, find it hard to imagine the sensation caused by a paper dealing, for the first time with entertainment as well as news. But *The Tatler* aimed at reforming as well as pleasing, and was especially concerned with the fashionable vices of gambling and duelling. John Gay of "Beggar's Opera" fame writes that "Bickerstaff ventured to tell the Town that they were a parcel of fops, fools and coquettes, but in such a manner as even pleased them and made them more than half inclined to believe that he spoke the truth."

The design of *The Tatler* was wholly Steele's. He borrowed only the pseudonym "Bickerstaff", which Swift had already made popular. But soon after it started Addison offered his help, "which", says Steele, "it would have been barbarous to have denied to one with whom he has lived in an intimacy from childhood, considering the great ease with which he is able to dispatch the most entertaining pieces of this nature, and through him it was raised to a greater thing than I intended it."

This is generous but just. The inspiration in the partnership came from Steele, the polish from Addison. The emotion also was supplied by Steele. He could not finish Paper 114, which deals with the death of sweet Jenny, and overcome with grief he handed it to Addison who supplied a cold conclusion.

JOINT WORK

Even their method of composition was sharply contrasted. Steele wrote anyhow and anywhere, always in a hurry—at the coffee house, in his bed. Addison polished and perfected in seclusion and at leisure. As a result Addison's prose is nearly always superior to Steele's. Yet it is Steele who sometimes hits off an unforgettable phrase—"to love her is a liberal education."

In 1711 Steele got into trouble politically, and *The Tatler* came to an abrupt end. Its mourning was hardly done, however, before the non-political *Spectator* took its place. This was more close a collaboration. Early in their friendship Steele had wished to publish a joint work to be called "The Monument" in memory of their friendship. The *Spectator* is that Monument.

For two years the friends produced a daily paper, amusing, lively and wise. It is concerned with the observations of "the Spectator" upon life in general, and a group of individuals in particular. Of these by far the most important is the fictitious country squire, Sir Roger de Coverley. Sir Roger is one of the great characters in

English literature. Again Steele conceived him, but Addison adopted him. The best Sir Roger Papers are from the latter's pen, and he grew so fond of him that in the end he chose to kill him rather than let him be misappropriated by another.



RICHARD STEELE

It is not clear why the *Spectator* ceased. Probably, it was because Steele wished to return to politics, which he immediately did in the *Guardian*, but this soon got the author into difficulties. But in 1714 Queen Anne died, the Whigs came again into power and Addison and Steele were at the zenith of their fame. The two were often to be seen at Whites' or the Kit Cat Club where Addison

... "gave his little Senate laws
And sat attentive to his own applause".

But perhaps Pope who wrote this was right, and fame went to Addison's head; perhaps he grew tired of Steele's incessant monetary difficulties; perhaps his marriage in 1716 to the Dowager Countess of Warwick, a cold and unhappy affair, created a barrier. Whatever the reason, the friends began to see less of each other, and in 1719 Steele's ill-starred political activities resulted in an absolute breach. They attacked one another in the Press, and before the quarrel could be made up Addison died, characteristically sending for his stepson from his death-bed "to see how a Christian can die".

STEELE'S HOME LIFE

Steele's subsequent references to his friend are full of the old love. "There never was a more strict friendship", he writes, nor had we any difference but what proceeded from our different way of pursuing the same end."

Two years before Steele had lost his wife—his "dear, little, peevish, beautiful, wise governess." His marriage had been a tempestuous one. She was quarrelsome and exacting, he thriftless and hot tempered. Yet he loved his Prue dearly, and she was seldom out of his thoughts. He wrote to her constantly from camp and coffee house: "Where there is a dirty crowd of busy faces all around me talking politics and

managing stocks, while all my ambition and all my wealth is love." With all its drawbacks, Steele's home life with his Prue and his "romps" of children were preferable to Addison's.

After Addison's death, Steele still had 10 years more of life, but he had buried his heart with his wife and friend and wrote little more of real merit.

The lasting contribution of Steele and addition to literature is to be found in the inimitable scenes of English life and character set out in clear, vigorous English prose in the pages of *The Tatler* and the *Spectator*, but it must not be forgotten that these writers also accomplished a revolution in morals.

After the strife and uncertainty of the seventeenth century, England was entering upon a new era of prosperity and growth. Englishmen had to learn behaviour worthy of the age. Good manners became of the utmost importance, and their essence was self control. The two friends set themselves to teach their fellow countrymen, not by the whips of satire but by coaxing them into good behaviour.

What Dr. Johnson said of Addison is equally applicable to Steele: "He has taught innocence not to be ashamed, separated mirth from indecency and wit from licentiousness, and taught a succession of writers to bring elegance and gaiety to the aid of goodness."

The New Spirit Among the Indian Women

BY MR. SOHAN LAL KAPUR

It is manifest to the least observant eye that during the last few decades a profound change has been sweeping over the entire feminine world of India. There has been a growing realisation on the part of the Indian intelligentsia that no political progress or social advancement is possible unless the broad principle of equality between the sexes is clearly and ungrudgingly recognized; for, it is only when the

relations between man and woman are placed on a footing of equality, mutual co-operation and sympathetic understanding, that India can fairly and reasonably claim the honourable status of a civilized and progressive nation.

In India today one witnesses an unprecedented ferment of mind and spirit, a phenomenon which has permeated and affected the entire political, social and

religious life of India. Recent trends in the Indian social and spiritual outlook furnish unmistakable evidence of the new spirit of awakening and progress that is abroad among the women of India.

It is worthwhile to consider retrospectively the status enjoyed by the women of India at different periods of history and to review some of the outstanding manifestations of the new spirit of enlightenment and progress among the women of India.

During the period of the highest efflorescence of Hindu culture and intellect, woman was not only accorded a position of perfect equality with man, but was invariably held in high reverence by virtue of her celestial attributes of gentleness, humility, courage, steadfastness and devotion,—attributes which equipped her for, and made her capable of, the highest renunciation and noblest sacrifice. She enjoyed freedom in the broadest sense of the term, and led a natural, yet not altogether a dull life.

With the passing of that glorious epoch consequent upon the collapse of Hindu national solidarity, there succeeded an era of national and social deterioration. With the worsening of the social conditions the position of the Indian woman appears to have suffered a complete eclipse.

The inevitable contact with European thought and literature and the consequent expansion of mental and spiritual outlook not only instilled into the minds of the Indian women a consciousness of their fundamental rights, but inspired them with new hopes and new aspirations and opened out before them undreamt of possibilities of freedom and progress and self-realisation. . . .

That the Indian girl of to-day is no longer content with the elements of education with which she has been consoled in the past is fully attested by the ever-growing number of girl students appearing for the matriculation and other university examinations and distinguishing themselves by attaining high academic honours in Art, Literature, Science, Philosophy, Law and Medicine. It is a happy augury for India's

future national development that even the most conservative and tradition-ridden Muslim families having realised the supreme necessity of a liberal education have begun sending their girls for higher education. There are today a number of well-known educational institutions for women, imparting education not only in the theoretical subjects, but also in the social, cultural and domestic sciences.

Conscious of her new status, equipped with a liberal education and an enlightened outlook, the Indian woman has awakened to a new life and a new destiny. The pressure of circumstances or the desire for economic independence has compelled the enterprising Indian woman of today to seek new outlets for the exercise of her natural gifts and latent capacities. With her apparent success in various fields she has exploded the time-worn myth that woman, however gifted and intelligent, is incapable of great achievements.

The modern Indian woman is a complex of surging of desires and high-soaring ambitions, resolved not only to compete but even to outshine. She is to be seen to-day as Confidential Secretary, Personal Assistant, Stenographer, Telephone Operator, Lecturer, Teacher, Professor, Doctor, Magistrate, Advocate, etc. The number of women in the medical and legal profession is indeed a remarkable testimony to the growing interest and enthusiasm manifested by Indian women in domains which in times past had remained the exclusive preserve of men.

It is needless to describe the wonderful part played by the women of India in the Indian political movement. Their genuine patriotism, splendid sacrifices, remarkable discipline and capacity for suffering have not been lost upon the country. Not only have they earned adequate recognition of their services in the Indian national movement, but they have evoked the highest admiration from their male colleagues. Indian political leaders and social reformers have at last come to the realisation that the vision of a happier, brighter and truly

progressive India of the future cannot materialise, unless and until the legitimate civic and political rights of Indian women have been adequately recognized, and they have been accorded their proper share in shaping the country's future. The framers of the present constitution of India were not slow to appreciate this aspect of the Indian problem, and in keeping with the progressive trend of public sentiment women were given the right of vote and election to the provincial legislatures.

That the tempo of feminine progress has quickened very considerably of late years is evidenced by the increasing participation of women in the national and social life of India in all its multitudinous aspects. They are to be seen amid gatherings of every kind—religious, social and political—taking their places alongside men, and discussing problems that are of vital concern to their sex and there have been occasions when they have felt it necessary to express their views on questions of national and international importance. As editors or journalists, as speakers on the platform or the radio, as delegates or representatives at social and political conferences, they have emphatically articulated their grievances and vigorously agitated for their legitimate rights and demands. The attitude of passive acceptance which characterised the Indian women in the past is gradually being replaced by a tendency to aggressive self-assertion.

Indian girls today enjoy greater freedom in the matter of matrimony than did their mothers or grandmothers before them. Parents have become indulgent and sympathetic, in that they do not force their decisions upon their daughters in regard to the choice of their lifemates. Love marriages and marriages by choice are coming increasingly into vogue. The elaborate, wasteful and meaningless procedure adopted by the Indian priests at the marriage ceremony has undergone a drastic curtailment and is being replaced by a more simplified and time-saving ritual.

In India, as in all oriental countries, considerable prejudice attaches to the theatrical profession. Ladies of high social rank have been strictly debarred from singing or dancing in public, or acting on the stage or in films. To-day the number of girls in the theatrical profession is legion. In the cinema halls, cafes and restaurants, at the races, tournaments and boxing matches, one finds himself beside young and beautiful creatures, discoursing facetiously in English on all subjects.

During the last dozen years or so, there has been a tremendous revival of the Indian classical arts, such as music and dancing. As a result of the widespread interest evoked by well known exponents of Indian dancing like Uday Shanker, Menaka and Ram Gopal, there is now a large number of institutions imparting training in all the various forms of Indian classical dancing.

A noteworthy feature of the Indian feminist movement is the growing tendency among Indian ladies to social intercourse, which has resulted in the emergence of women's associations, clubs and societies, where plans for women's welfare are discussed and schemes for their betterment are formulated.

Intellectual expansion and spiritual enlightenment which must inevitably follow a liberal education have gone a long way towards the emancipation of Indian women from the tyrannous yoke of religious and traditional superstitions and conventions. While the older generation still reposes faith in such absurdities as ghosts, evil spirits, charms, amulets, spells and incantations, the modern Indian woman with her scientific knowledge, critical intellect, and rational outlook, dismisses them as airy nothings.

True, there are remnants of the old school who still continue loyal to their ancient ideals and primitive ways. They still maintain an attitude of malevolent hostility and unreasoning contempt for everything Western, affecting a pious horror of the new-fangled ideas and the intellectual

apostacy of the younger generation. But, happily for the future of India, their influence is definitely on the wane. The iron rule of the Indian mother-in-law is fast becoming a memory of the past and her ancient predominance is being replaced by a spirit of tolerance and sympathy towards the daughter-in-law.

Indian custom precludes a wife from sitting or eating together with her husband before strangers. But the modern wife feels no embarrassment in sitting alongside her husband on the dining table, or at social or religious gatherings. Till recently it was considered very improper for an Indian wife to address her husband by name. But the enlightened Indian husband nowadays does not mind being addressed by or referred to by his name or surname.

The exigencies of social life and the requirements of a cosmopolitan culture have obliged the Indian woman to discard the caste system and throw off her traditional reserve and exclusiveness. Except in the South of India, where religious orthodoxy and caste system still reign supreme, a spirit of friendly intercourse has grown up among women of different communities. Hindu women see no harm in consorting with their sisters of other communities. Very often they are to be seen eating with them on the same table or in the same restaurant and associating with them in other ways.

Child marriage has been the bane of Indian society in the past. Hindu society is not exclusively to blame in this respect; the evil prevails more or less among other communities as well. Though the Sarda Act was intended to stamp out the scourge, it is a matter of common knowledge that the enactment is honoured more in its breach than in its observance.

The plight of the Indian widows was, and still is, the most unhappy feature of orthodox Hinduism. Before the time of the great Mutiny the life of a Hindu widow was indeed extremely miserable. Women

of the old school regarded widows as an unwholesome influence on family life, their widowhood being supposed to be the outcome of their misdeeds in a previous incarnation. Custom and tradition required the Hindu widow in the past to lead a life of utmost simplicity, almost of austerity; she was to dress plainly, eat the coarsest food, bid farewell to her daily toilet and personal beautification: in short, she was to suppress all mortal craving and spend her time in the study of holy scriptures. Thanks, however, to the tireless efforts of social reformers and state legislation, the day of their suffering and tribulation has at last come to an end. The modern Hindu widow is at liberty to remarry and make her life happier, richer and more fruitful, without antagonizing orthodox opinion or causing a social scandal.

Under the existing state of Hindu law, daughters are precluded from claiming any share in the paternal property. Widows can only claim maintenance which is seldom adequate. Hindu women have now launched a vigorous campaign for the alteration of the existing legislation with regard to their rights of inheritance.

Purdah has existed as an established institution among Muslim women from the earliest times. When and how this pernicious custom came into vogue is a question which may be left to the historian to determine. Imperious necessity, however, and a natural desire to move with the times have compelled the Muslim ladies to cast aside the veil and take their proper place beside their enlightened and emancipated sisters of other communities. Their impatience with the old order and their overwhelming desire to shake themselves free from the traditional restraints put upon their movements and activities are clearly evidenced by the anti-purdah resolutions and utterances which have become a regular feature of the feminist movement in India, and provide a reliable index to the progressive outlook

of the Muslim women. In the past, among the aristocratic Muslim families the seclusion of females was regarded as the hallmark of respectability. With the dissemination of modern ideas, however, and the diffusion of mass enlightenment, Muslim women have outgrown that obsolete mentality. Prominent Muslim ladies have not only discarded the purdah, but have denounced it as a relic

of mediæval barbarism and a stumbling block to national progress.

As a result of an awakened conscience and the altered social and ideological context, Muslim ladies are raising their united voice against polygamy, having realised by experience that monogamous marriages are happier and more enduring than polygamous marriages.

ON BOOKS

BY MR. B. NATESAN

“BOOKS that have influenced me” was the last talk that the late Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri gave from the Madras Station of the A. I. R.: and what bookman in India could discourse on such a theme with more eloquence or discernment? At Mr. Natesan's request Mr. Sastri was good enough to expand the thesis with a view to making it the first contribution for a symposium. The subject was so catching that other distinguished writers responded with alacrity to the request to join the symposium. The result is the volume* now presented to the public.

Mr. Sastri defined the scope of his thesis with his wonted precision. “My business to-day” he said, “is to mention the books that, above all others, have made me what I am, furnished my mind with its best material, directed my habits and modes of thought, and informed my spirit with its characteristic aims and ideals.” And this task he fulfilled with a complete-

ness that set the standard for others who followed with their experiences. It is said there are books for a time and books for all time, and one man's food is another man's poison. And the writers, who are all well-known figures in contemporary life, have given their experiences in their own characteristic way. They have done it with a freedom and candour that cannot fail to impress readers, whether young or old. Some have confined themselves to books that have influenced their “mind” as distinguished from those that have influenced their “character” and “moral being.” Some have dealt with literature that proved a turning point in their life and thought. Some have extended the scope of literature to the authors of books and the influence of their personality on their life and conduct. While some have pointed to the literature that made a difference in their outlook and life, others have freely browsed over the whole field of literature that has claimed their interest and appreciation. Altogether the approach to this subject by the distinguished writers

* BOOKS THAT HAVE INFLUENCED ME. A Symposium. Re. 1-8. G. A. Natesan & Co., Publishers, George Town, Madras.

who have joined the symposium is as varied as it is interesting.

When we talk of the influence of books we mean the influence of what De Quincey calls the literature of power as distinguished from the literature of knowledge—knowledge of useful arts and sciences. These doubtless have their uses in shaping our vocations or augmenting our fortunes, but it is the power and glory of great literature to effect a transformation in ourselves. Not what we have, but what we become, is the test of that influence. Naturally the influence of such literature is more subtle, more intangible but nonetheless more real and more profound. Who could read without being moved to tears—tears that purge the soul of its dross—Plato's superb account of the final scene in "The Life and Death of Socrates" where he recounts in words of matchless pathos, simplicity and dignity the tender grace, the noble equanimity and wise resignation of the Master as he passed into the great unknown? And yet only poetry and the works of imagination have the power to affect us in that way. Their influence is imperceptible like the odour of flowers. The main distinction of this kind of literature is that it never becomes stale or superseded by the march of time or progress of ideas. No new discovery in the world of science nor new thought in philosophy will make the Odyssey or the Ramayana out of date. These great Epics deal with the elemental things,

On man, on nature and on human life,

—the conflicting passions of mortals, their hopes and fears and ambitions, their joys and sorrows, which having been must ever be. They are the same all the world over and for all time. Hence the eternal freshness and power of the great classics of antiquity. And strangely enough

The sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought.

"More and more," said Matthew Arnold, "Mankind will discover that we have to turn to poetry to interpret life for us, to console us, to sustain us. . . . There is not a creed which is not shaken, not an accredited dogma which is not shown to be questionable, not a received tradition which does not threaten to dissolve. . . . The strongest part of our religion to-day is its unconscious poetry." That explains the extraordinary hold that great literature from Valmiki and Homer, and Shakespeare and Cervantes, down to Hardy and Landor, and Tolstoy and Rolland, has upon the hearts of men. What wonder that the distinguished writers in this symposium revert again and again to these masterpieces for comfort and consolation, no less than for inspiration and for sheer joy.

The publishers desire, in conclusion, to take this opportunity to thank the writers for the courtesy and readiness with which they have responded to their request. They have no doubt that coming generations will be benefited by the knowledge of what has gone to the making of their fathers.

THE DECLARATION AND THE DEBATE

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THE DECLARATION AND THE DEBATE

WHEN in February last the non-League members of the Interim Government made it known to H.M.G. that leaguers who refused to participate in the Constituent Assembly were not entitled to be their colleagues on the Interim Government they were little prepared for the surprise announcement contained in the White Paper of Feb. 20: "His Majesty's Government wish to make it clear that it is their definite intention to take necessary steps to effect the transference of power to responsible Indian hands by a date not later than June 1948." In making this statement in the House of Commons, Mr. Attlee said:

The British Government in the Cabinet Mission's plan agreed to recommend to Parliament a constitution worked out in accordance with the proposals made therein by a fully representative Constituent Assembly.

But if it should appear that such constitution will not have been worked out by a representative Assembly before June, 1948, Government will have to consider to whom powers of the Central Government in British India should be handed over on the due date, whether as a whole to some form of Central Government for British India, or in some areas to the existing Provincial Governments, or in such other way as may seem most reasonable and in the best interests of the Indian people.

Although the final transfer of authority may not take place until June 1948, preparatory measures must be put in hand in advance. It is important that the efficiency of the civil administration should be maintained and that defence of India should be fully provided for. But inevitably, as the process of transfer proceeds, it will become progressively more difficult to carry out to the letter all the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935. Legislation will be introduced in due course to give effect to the final transfer of power.

It is significant that the announcement made no mention of the particular point in controversy. Nor did non-League members think it worth while to pursue a comparatively small matter in the light of the opportunities opened up by this momentous announcement. It was thought the dynamic nature of the announcement would infuse a sense of reality among the contending parties in facing the bigger problem of freedom and national independence. It was in this spirit that Pt. Nehru hailed Attlee's statement as "wise" and "courageous" and appealed to the Leaguers to join hands and share the fruits of freedom together.

DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Viscount Templewood opened the two-day debate on India by moving the following resolution in the House of Lords:

This decision of the British Government to hand over India to an Indian Government or Governments in June, 1948, under conditions which appear to be in conflict with previous declarations of the Government on this subject and without any provision for the protection of minorities or discharge of their other obligations is likely to imperil the peace and prosperity of India.

Viscount Templewood described the Government statement as "unconditional surrender at the expense of many to whom we have given specific pledges for generations past" which would lead to a "division of India under the worst possible circumstances."

Lord Samuel, leader of the Liberal Party criticised the Tory motion. He pointed out:

Had Britain tried to restore the old position of complete control, it would have meant a staying in India for ten, fifteen or more years. But the Government had fixed June, 1948, as the date to impress the Government's sincerity on the Indian parties and also the sense of urgency of their finding solutions to their own differences.

Replying to the debate, Lord Listowel, the Post-Master General and former Under-Secretary for India submitted that there was no satisfactory alternative policy, he declared:

We do not forget what happened in Ireland and that the worst results came from a policy that gave too little and too late.

But the highlights of occasion were the speeches of Lord Halifax and Lord Pethwick-Lawrence. The Secretary of State for India appealed to the Conservatives not to defeat the Government.

"If you should decide to carry this motion to a division and that division goes against the Government", he told Conservative Peers—who outnumber Labour Peers by 10 to 1—"it would considerably weaken our means of effecting our desires in India and very likely weaken the very purposes of which Viscount Templewood spoke.

Lord Halifax, former Viceroy of India, told the House that he would find it difficult to support Lord Templewood to a division and urged it would be possible to avoid one.

"If this chapter of Indian history has to come to a close", he told the House, there is no better way of closing it than by offering to assist India's passage to a new order, and that

would be the spirit of the message I would like to see this House send to India to-night.

At the end of the second day's debate, acceding to the appeals of Lord Halifax and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Templewood withdrew his motion and there was therefore no vote.

THE COMMONS' DEBATE

Sir Stafford Cripps, opening the debate in the House of Commons on March 5, made the first official mention of the issue raised by the non-League Ministers in the Interim Government, that the League Ministers had no place in the Interim Government since they did not take part in the Constituent Assembly.

"It is in these circumstances" he said "that the British Government had to consider what action they should take to smooth out the difficulties of transfer of power to India," and added that "the fixing of the time-limit would give the Indian parties opportunities to sink their differences."

MR. CHURCHILL'S VENDETTA

The leader of the opposition Mr. Winston Churchill made a most mischievous speech, wildly attacking the Interim Government and Pandit Nehru and concluded by suggesting that the India question might be referred to the U. N. A.

In the course of the speech Mr. Churchill said that the Government headed by Pandit Nehru was a "complete disaster." He declared that it was a mistake to submit the Government of India to a leader of caste Hindus, Mr. Nehru. The speech was a pitiful exhibition of malice and pettiness in a leader of the stature of Mr. Churchill, and Mr. Alexander rightly characterised it as an attempt to sabotage settlement.

MR. ALEXANDER'S REJOINDER

Speaking immediately after Mr. Churchill, the Minister of Defence, declared:

History may record that Mr. Churchill's speech this afternoon has been the principal factor in preventing the sides (Indian parties) coming together.

Referring to Mr. Churchill's attack on Pandit Nehru Mr. Alexander said that if Mr. Nehru and his colleagues were given a fair opportunity to co-operate with other parties

they would bring India through her present difficulties to power, prosperity and peace.

What the British people wanted was long-term standing friendship with the Indian people, and Mr. Alexander said he thought

that for one in a position of responsibility and authority to get up in the House and talk in this way of leaders of this kind was fatal.

It was a well deserved snub to the war time Premier.

The Opposition amendment criticising the Government's Policy was defeated by a big majority and the Government's motion was passed without division.

MR. ATTLEE'S REPLY TO THE DEBATE

The Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, replying to the debate, in conclusion, made many humorous sallies against Mr. Churchill and vigorously defended the Government's decision, setting a date for transfer of power to India. Answering the charge that the Government had been too precipitate, Mr. Attlee said:

I think that there has been too much delay, too much hesitation, too much fear to go forward; but having reached the present stage, we cannot go back and cannot remain as we are.

He appealed to Indians

to grasp this great opportunity of showing that all of them, without distinction of creed, place the good of the Indian millions before the interests of any section whatever."

It was a timely warning, and Mr. Attlee concluded:

We believe we have done great work in India. We believe the time has come when Indians must shoulder their responsibilities. We can help, but we cannot take the burden on ourselves.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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

INDIAN AFFAIRS

By "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

Mr. Attlee's Statement and After

IN recent years the British Government have made ever so many declarations in regard to their India policy but the statement made by Mr. Attlee in the House of Commons on February 20, has a note of finality which marks it out as the most dynamic step in Indo-British relations. Like other statements too it needs a lot of clarification but one thing is clear that Britain is quitting India by June 1948 and steps will be taken to facilitate the peaceful transfer to competent Indian hands. This revolutionary step to transfer the governance of the country "as a going concern" is in complete accord not only with Indian aspirations but with the declared objectives of the British Government.

While the intentions are good and the Labour Government have proved their *bonafides* in regard to their India policy the method of procedure now adumbrated is not exactly in consonance with the Cabinet Mission's plan. It is true that the British Government still desire to hand over responsibility "to authorities established by a constitution approved by all parties in India"; but their recent declaration that in the event of the failure of such a constitution being evolved they will have to consider

to whom the powers of the Central Government in British India should be handed over, on the due date, whether as a whole to some form of Central Government for British India, or, in some areas, to the existing Provincial Governments or in such other way as may seem most reasonable and in the best interests of the Indian people.

The unfortunate reference to handing over the Government "in some areas" "to existing Provincial Governments" is putting a premium on the intransigence of certain parties who by the mere act of Non-co-operating with the Consamby hope to divide the country and damage the cause of United India to which two centuries of British rule has been deliberately leading. The unfortunate implication is leading to an impossible position which has its ugly repercussions in the Punjab and elsewhere the lesson of which it is hoped, will not be lost upon H. M. G.

The Interim Government's Budget

The first re-action to the Interim Government's Budget presented by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, the Finance Member, was one of general approval and satisfaction. It was a people's Budget in that it was mainly designed to give relief to the poorer and middle classes. The abolition of the salt tax—an important item in the Congress programme—and the raising of the level of taxable incomes, are decidedly popular measures for which the deputy leader of the Muslim League, now in charge of the nation's finances, deserves the thanks of the entire community.

Businessmen and the Budget

But that is not to say that people will rush to welcome new taxes. Businessmen put up a strong protest in the Federation of Chambers. They could not reconcile themselves to the series of new proposals—the new tax on profits, the doubling of the corporation tax and the levy on capital gains—and their resentment expressed itself in the closing of the Stock Exchanges—a step which called forth a sharp rebuke from the Finance Member who warned: "I shall be neither impressed nor bullied into any action by such tactics." He reminded them that the proposals are to be viewed not in relation "to purely financial purposes" but to "certain social objectives" which "must be kept prominently in view by all those who have the good of the countless millions of this vast sub-continent at heart."

To the objection put forward by industrialists, the Finance Member pointed out:

We do not want to stifle private enterprise, but if private enterprise is not willing to take up a helpful attitude and is not willing to assist us to improve the economic condition of this country, then there are other methods by which we shall be able to achieve that purpose.

Dr. Matthai elaborated what was meant by "helpful attitude" when he explained that industrialists in future should be willing not only to bear heavier taxes but also to rest content with a much

smaller return on capital than they were accustomed to a decade or two ago.

That the National Government is keen on making the country industrially great and self-sufficient and progressive is borne out by the statement made by Pandit Nehru and Mr. C. Rajagopalachari in their addresses to the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry that there is a definite future for private enterprise and initiative in India, particularly when we are on the eve of a great programme of industrialisation.

Wavell and Mountbatten

It is needless to discuss the diverse Press speculations on the subject of Lord Wavell's recall and the appointment of Lord Mountbatten in his place as the last Viceroy of India. The secret behind this extraordinary step can never be known. And we must, for the present, be content with Mr. Attlee's announcement in the House of Commons, in connection with the important statement on India "that the opening of a new and final phase in India is an appropriate time to terminate this war appointment."

That Lord Wavell tried to do his bit in bringing the League to participate in the Simla negotiations is all to his credit; but that he should have countenanced a Cabinet whose members are pulling different ways and cannot work as a team is a result on which one cannot congratulate his statesmanship. The most charitable inference one could make is that His Excellency has been let down by persons in whom he placed his trust. That can explain but cannot exonerate one in his position.

As for the new Viceroy it would be rash and premature to say anything. In the face of so many disappointments in respect of recent Viceregal appointments it would be wise to suspend judgment. The proper time to assess his Viceroyalty is when he lays down his office.

But one thing is clear. Lord Mountbatten has the clear duty of facilitating the peaceful transfer of power into Indian hands. He has a historic role to play in implementing the high policy of H. M. G. and it needs courage and wisdom and tact of a high order.

Malaviya Memorial Fund

The late Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya's activities were many-sided but the Benares Hindu University will always stand as the greatest monument of his dedicated life. There could therefore be no better way of perpetuating the memory of this patriot than by fulfilling his life long desire to extend its activities and make it the ideal centre of culture and enlightenment in India. With this object in view an appeal for funds has been issued over the signatures of political leaders of all shades of opinion, princes and other leading public men. The appeal reminds us that this great nationalist leader "lighted a lamp at Benares whose light will penetrate far into space and time and continue to shine as long as our civilization lasts." There is no doubt the appeal for funds to support this noble cause will receive a generous and nation wide response.

Congress Committee's Resolutions

The Congress Working Committee, meeting at Delhi on March 8, invited the Muslim League to nominate representatives to meet Congress representatives in order to consider the situation that has arisen for the impending transfer of power and to devise means to meet that situation.

The Committee declared that the transfer of power in order to be smooth should be preceded by the recognition in practice of the Interim Government as a Dominion Government, with effective control over the Services and administration, and the Viceroy and Governor-General functioning as the constitutional head of the Government.

The Committee asserted that in view of the tragic events in the Punjab, it is necessary to find a way out which involves the least amount of compulsion. "This," the Committee said, "would necessitate a division of the Punjab into two Provinces, so that the predominantly Muslim part may be separated from the predominantly non-Muslim part."

The League's reaction to this friendly gesture is awaited with interest.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BY "CHRONICLER"

End of Prussian State

PRUSSIA—the largest and, the most populous State of former German Reich—ceased to exist as a political entity, under a law, published by the Allied Control Council on March 1.

The law stated:

Urged by the concern to preserve peace and security for the peoples and desire to safeguard further reconstruction of political life in Germany on a democratic basis the Control Council decrees as follows:

(1) The Prussian State together with its Central Government and all its offices has ceased to exist.
(2) Territories, which were part of the Prussian State and are at present, under the authority of the Control Council, will receive the status of the States (Laender) or be incorporated in the States. The regulations of this article are subject to such alterations, as may be decided by the Allied Control Council or may be formulated in the future German constitution.

(3) The administrative functions as well as properties and liabilities of the former Prussian State will be transferred to the respective States, with the reservation that other decisions may be taken by the Allied Control Council, if necessary.

Prussia—the former German kingdom with 13 provinces—became a State of the Weimar Republic after the 1918 Revolution. In 1933, the Prussian constitution was set aside by the Nazis and the State was ruled with the rest of Germany by the Central regime in Berlin.

Anglo-French Alliance

The 50-year Treaty of Alliance between Britain and France was signed on March 4 in the battered Town Hall of Dunkirk, the historic scene of the last stand by Britain's Armies before Germany overran Western Europe in 1940.

The Treaty was signed for Britain by Mr. Bevin and the Ambassador in Paris, Mr. A. Duff Cooper. M. Georges Bidault, the Foreign Minister, and M. Rene Massigli, the Ambassador in London, signed for France. In a broadcast, M. Bidault said:

We are contributing the essential elements of a just and lasting peace. In this Treaty of Alliance, Britain and France have linked their fate together. After having stood together in such trials, we shall now help each other in our resurrection.

Four Power Pact

On the eve of the Moscow Conference of Foreign Ministers, the American Secretary of State, Mr. George Marshall, told a press conference in Berlin that his aim was the completion of a Four-Power Pact to secure the peace of Europe.

"We shall spend the days ahead of us trying to make a sound peace which will prevent any future aggression and let the whole world live in security," said the British Foreign Minister in a radio message to the Russian people.

German Settlers in S. Africa

Forecasting that South Africa would in the next five or 10 years, see a very substantial change "in the right direction" regarding immigration, the South African Premier, F.-M. Smuts, said at Capetown that though the Government did not allow Germans immediately, the future might be different.

He was replying to the Nationalist Opposition's criticism of the Government's immigration policy in the Assembly.

He said many of South Africa's best settlers were of the German stock. The time might not be far off when there might be a change of heart among the people.

What South Africa wanted was people who would harmonise with South Africans, people of the parent stocks from which they had come.

U. S. To Preserve Peace

President Truman declared at Mexico city on March 6 that the United States and Mexico were determined to preserve world peace in the atomic age to prevent the destruction of civilization.

Speaking to the Press of both nations at the scene of the ruins of Quetzalcoatl, President Truman said: "We do not want to be a passing civilization. We have come to a destructive point. Unless we preserve peace, we will be like these ruins—a deserted desert."



The WORLD of BOOKS

(ONLY SHORT NOTICES APPEAR IN THIS SECTION)



STUDIES IN INDO-BRITISH ECONOMY—HUNDRED YEARS AGO. By N. C. Sinha. A. Mukherjee & Co., Calcutta, Price Rs. 5.

This work can, with great justification, claim to be a valuable contribution to the existing literature on the early economic history of India. It throws a flood of light on the economic conditions during the period that preceded the genesis of the modern industrial structure in the country. The transition from the old economy to the modern capitalistic enterprise has been traced with perfect objectivity, basing the conclusions on a study of original sources. It is heartening to find that India in the eighteenth century was in possession of such enormous capital resources and business enterprise. The circumstances under which such valuable potential power for economic development was shunted on to wrong rails have been described by the author with extraordinary clarity and in a very convincing manner.

The author divides the book into two different parts of about equal size. In the first part the most important aspects of the problem, such as the implications for India of the two Charter Acts of 1813 and 1833, and the native capital resources and talent are dealt with. In the second part the circumstances leading to the system of indentured labour are described. Though the two parts appear incompatible and there does not seem to be much logical reason for treating them together in one work, the author has very ably pointed out that the traffic in indentured labour is not an isolated phenomenon but a natural process in the evolution of capitalism (p. 59.) Thus the two parts are blended harmoniously by treating them as different aspects of the same problem.

The author deserves to be complimented for having ventured into this unexplored field of enquiry. His work supplies a valuable link in the literature on Indian Economic History.

BRITISH SAVAGERY IN INDIA. Edited by Ram Sharan Vidyarthi. Shiva Lal Agarwala & Co., Ltd., Agra.

The author had been jailed in 1942 and again in 1945 for possession of the type script of this book, held by the presiding Magistrate as "prejudicial report." He holds that the British doings in the Mutiny, during the Punjab Martial Law in 1919 and the Civil Disobedience movements of 1930 and 1932 pale into faint colours as compared to the grim severity of their doings of 1942-43. We read that Mr. Beck, Principal of the M. A. O. College, Aligarh tried hard to wean Sir Syed Ahmad from the Congress and prepared a memorial in 1890 for opposing Bradlaugh's bill for Indian democracy on behalf of the Indian Muslims, on the plea that democracy was unsuitable to India which was not a single nation. The C. D. movement of August 1942 was actually forced by the government; and the latter had really no defence to offer beyond gagging the Congress and its spokesmen.

WHITHER CIVILIZATION AND OTHER BROADCAST TALKS. By T. M. P. Mahadevan, M.A., Ph.D. The Central Art Press, Madras.

This is a collection of thirteen "talks" broadcast from A. I. R. Madras. The subjects cover a wide field ranging from the "Quest of the Absolute" to "Getting on in life," but the discerning reader will find in them an essential unity of outlook. With a facility that comes naturally to one of Dr. Mahadevan's learning and philosophic temper, he deals with his topics with high seriousness and an unerring instinct for right conduct. For "philosophy in India has been regarded not as a mere way of thought but as a way of life." This is illustrated in his studies of Sankara and Ramalingaswami—two typical poet-saints of India.

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THE WORLD OF BOOKS

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THE MAN GANDHI. By G. Ramachandran. Gandhi Era Publications, Madras. Re. 1-4.

The author, a distinguished graduate of the Visvabharati University founded by the great poet Rabindranath at Santiniketan, has for 20 years worked in close association with Mahatma Gandhi. He was introduced to the Mahatma by his teacher the late Mr. Andrews during the great fast of 21 days at Delhi on behalf of Hindu-Muslim unity. The author recalls many instances, incidents and anecdotes to illustrate his thesis that Gandhi, for all his greatness and leadership, was essentially human, and kindness and laughter are his unfailing characteristics.

Mr. Ramachandran's first hand impression are at once vivid and racy and his enthusiasm for the master finds apt and eloquent expression in the book under review which is teeming with many an entertaining personal anecdote touching the Mahatma and his ways.

THE CABINET MISSION IN INDIA. By Dewan Ram Prakash. Tagore Memorial Publications, Lahore.

This book is written by the author of "The Story of Simla." Neatly bound in wrapper and attractively brought up, the book senses in the proper mood the historical, cultural and also the moral aspects of the Mission and its work. It gives one the feeling that as India is struggling along for her freedom, Britain too cannot stand behind. Civilization advances all over the world in spite of the innovation of the Atom Bomb. This idea is strengthened by the simple truth that Britain has begun to feel the necessity of allowing Indians, and for that matter any other people of the world, to choose their own Government and also to decide for themselves whatever concerns them.

The work is of gripping interest, and makes one feel his nearness to freedom.

BOOKS RECEIVED

FREEDOM—MY DESTINY. By Y. G. Krishnamurty. Foreword by Dr. Rajendra Prasad. Phoenix Publications, China Bazar, Bombay.

HANDLOOM WEAVING INDUSTRY IN INDIA. By M. P. Gandhi. Foreword by V. L. Mehta. Gandhi & Co. Bombay.

BRETTON WOODS AND AFTER. By V. S. Krishna. Oxford University Press, Bombay & Madras.

POLITICS AND MORALS. By Benedetto Croce. Translated from the Italian. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. London.

MANKIND: NATION AND INDIVIDUAL. By Otto Jespersen. George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London.

THE CRITICISM OF DUTCH NATIONHOOD. By Prof. G. J. Renier. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. London.

RECORDS IN ORIGINAL LANGUAGES. Cochin State Book II: Letters from Cochin Rajas to Bataria. Cochin Government Press, Ernakulam.

THE BRITISH CABINET MISSION. By Prof. Ruchi Ram Sahni. Dewan's Publications, Lahore Rs. 2-4.

INDIA AND THE I.L.O. By P. P. Pillai and L. N. Birla. Oxford University Press.

INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTS. By A. C. Banerjee. A. Mukerjee & Co., Calcutta.

THE CABINET MISSION IN INDIA. By A. C. Banerjee and D. R. Bose. A. Mukerjee & Co., Calcutta.

NATIONALITIES IN INDIAN POLITICS. By Prof. M. S. Vairan Pillai Ph.D. Foreman Christian College Lahore, Rs. 6-8-0.

SOME PARTICULAR SUGGESTION FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF FREE INDIA. By K. G. Mashruwala. Hamara Hindustan Publications, Bombay.

THE HEADQUARTERS OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. By C. Wilfred Jenks. The Royal Institute of International Affairs London. (Oxford University Press.)

NATION BETRAYED: A case against communists. By Dr. A. G. Tendulkar, Bombay Provincial Congress Committee, Congress House, Bombay No. 4.

THE GOSPEL OF SELFLESS ACTION. Or the Gita according to Gandhi. By Mahadev Desai, Navajivan Publishing House, Ahmedabad Rs. 4.

SNAKES AND LADDERS. A Novel by M. Lindsay. Thacker & Co. Ltd., Bombay.

KINGS AND BEGGARS. The First two Chapters of Sa'dis Gulistan. Translated into English with introduction and notes by A. J. Arberry Litt. D. Luzac & Co., Lond.

A SHORT HISTORY OF TRANSJORDAN. By Baharuddin Tonkan. With a Foreword by H. R. H. Emien Abdullah. Luzac & Co. London.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

- Feb. 1. Temple Entry at Srirangam.
 Feb. 2. French decision for reconquest of Indo-China.
 Feb. 3. Gandhiji appeals to League to enter Constituent Assembly.
 Feb. 4. Wavell discusses situation with Nehru.
 Feb. 5. Viet Nam proposes 'Cease Fire' and resumption of talks.
 Feb. 6. New British plan for Palestine.
 Feb. 7. Mr. Asaf Ali leaves for U. S.
 Feb. 8. Baroda negotiates independently with Consamby Committee.
 Feb. 9. India Government decides not to cancel licences for Spindles for Madras.
 Feb. 10. Whitehall—Delhi exchanges on Nehru's letter.
 Feb. 11. "Civil rights for Harijans-Bill" passed in Madras Council.
 Feb. 12. Madras Estates Land Bill referred to Select Committee.
 Feb. 13. Sir B. L. Mitter in a press Conference explains Baroda's lead in direct negotiations with Consamby.
 Feb. 14. At the India House Dinner to Mr. Asaf Ali, Mr. Ernest Bevin, Foreign Minister makes a spirited appeal for United India.
 Feb. 15. Ministerial crisis in Madras: Mr. Prakasam meets High Command in Delhi.
 Feb. 16. Cease fire order issued to Indonesian forces.
 Feb. 17. Dr. John Matthai presents Railway Budget in the Central Assembly. —The King visits Capetown.
 Feb. 18. Attlee Cabinet considers issue raised by Pandit Nehru.
 Feb. 19. Mr. Prakasam announces committee to enquire into "group system".
 Feb. 20. Britain to quit India by June 1948: Viscount Mountbatten to replace Lord Wavell as Viceroy.
 Feb. 21. King opens South African Parliament.
 Feb. 22. Pandit Nehru commends British Government's statement.

- Feb. 23. Mr. Jinnah insists on Pakistan: —Mob fury in Lahore and Jullunder.
 Feb. 24. Gandhiji's call for unity.



VISCOUNT MOUNTBATTEN

- Feb. 25. Lords' debate on India: Pethwick Lawrence defends decision to withdraw from India.
 Feb. 26. Tory motion withdrawn in the Lords. —League Compromise with Punjab Government reached.
 Feb. 27. Madras Cabinet crisis: Mr. Sankar Rao Deo meets Legislators.
 Feb. 28. Madras Congress Legislators elect a new leader. —Salt tax abolished by Interim Government.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



ADULT EDUCATION IN INDIA

This is the subject of an informing article by an eminent Indian educator who writes under a pseudonym in the excellent international magazine *Free World*. This new American magazine which hails from New York deals with topics of special interest to the United Nations. In the article under notice which appears in the December number the writer points out that our literacy campaigns have broken down because they failed to take into account the conscious needs of the masses.

"Literacy" alone, as an immediate program for the peasantry and labourers, says the writer, is bound to leave them cold in the face of the enormous and pressing socio-economic problems with which their eyes are beset. "Our literacy efforts have largely failed to catch the imagination of the people in any permanent way or to stir new life in the villages, precisely because from their point of view the motive is too limited, the rewards of the task too distant, the efforts involved and sacrifices demanded by far too great.

The approach to the problem of adult education in India must be more functional, in the first place; and secondly—to obtain the co-operation of the people—it must be capable of affording immediate and concrete results. Other methods of intellectual stimulation, and non-book techniques for imparting information must be richly used in the initial program in order that from day to day, and not merely at the end of six month's toil at the alphabet, the peasant may be conscious of his horizon being appreciably extended and his capacity to deal with his everyday problem greatly increased."

"The people," says Junmy Yen, "have no time to learn this and that. They need, desperately, with their little time and money, to learn the right things. Make the essential knowledge available to the people and applicable by the people."

PHILOSOPHY AND MODERN LIFE

How can philosophy retain a prominent place in Modern life? Prof. P. S. Naidu of the Allahabad University, offers a solution in the columns of the *Jaina Gazette* which is quoted in *East and West* (Los Angeles, California). Should the philosopher, then, play to the gallery and cater to the public taste in these matters? Should he transform philosophy in order to satisfy the demands of the prevailing fashions in thinking? The answer is plain enough.

But he must *live philosophy*. Real philosophy is merely not to be talked about but lived; it is not merely a matter of the intellect, but of the heart too. By living the life of philosophy which the philosopher professes, he will be able to bring light into this gloomy world. The intensity of the faith which the philosopher has in the capacity of his well-beloved discipline to solve the practical problems of life must be demonstrated by the life he leads.

The philosopher sages in India lived the doctrines they preached and taught to their disciples and the disciples in their turn "caught the infection," and modelled their lives on the exalted principles expounded by their teachers. Of a historian, mathematician or scientist, it is not demanded that he should live a life based on his teachings. One may be a great scientist or a great historian, but his life may be anything he pleases.

Like the teacher of other subjects a teacher of philosophy may also make it a matter merely of intellectual discourse, and may often lead a life divorced from his philosophical convictions. But

this state of affairs must go, at least in our country. Let the philosopher *live philosophy*, and then he will find his students unconsciously imbibing the spirit of true philosophy. They will then apply the principles to the practical problems of life and solve them with ease."

Only those should be allowed to teach philosophy who live the life of the philosopher. Only by identifying philosophy with life, in his own life, can the philosopher create the spirit which will enable his disciples, the students of philosophy, to solve the problems of life for themselves and for those who are outside the pale of philosophy.

INDIA: THE LAST CHANCE

A recent issue of the weekly *Picture Post* devoted the first seven pages to a profusely illustrated article by Sydney Jacobson entitled "India: The Last Chance."

"A century and a half of British rule is ending: nothing in the long run can change that," he says: "If the changeover comes violently, we will find British troops involved in a terrible, senseless struggle, and we will lose the last chance of maintaining healthy trade and industrial interests there."

It is ironic that at a time when the British Government is genuinely anxious to hand over power to India, its biggest obstacle should be the Muslim League because to some extent, the League has been the Frankenstein of British policy. To counterbalance the growing power of the Congress, British Imperialist policy in India in the past has tended to build up Muslim opposition to "Hindu domination." The League in its nationalist role is largely a product of this strategy of divide and rule. Even now the League's strongest supporters outside the proper-tied Muslim community are the diehards in India and Britain who still hope to prolong British rule in India, who would rather, if Britain has to quit, have two weak Indias than one strong one, or who dream of Pakistan as the Indian buttress in the Muslim bloc against Russia. They are fighting for a cause out of date and already lost, but which is still important because of the mischief they can do.

Mr. Jinnah's strategy for the moment, says the writer, is based on the hope of growing British support for the presence of British forces in India.

He talks of 'Pakistan or civil war, but what it means is Pakistan or an outbreak of such widespread communal killings that British troops will have to intervene and stay on—Pakistan remaining a live issue and the British Government eventually becoming involved in another violent clash with the Congress.

Mr. Jinnah knows that if he can wreck the Constituent Assembly or if the Congress alone frames a constitution and it comes before the British Parliament then the baby will again have

been passed to Britain and if Britain refuses to confirm the constitution she will have to fight the Congress. Whichever way you look at it, the Cabinet plan and the Constituent Assembly may well be the last hope for a peaceful settlement.

If the fight ever comes, warns the writer, it will be a full-scale war.

Maybe, as a last resort, Britain will have to announce the date by which British forces will be withdrawn and the whole machinery of Government handed over, but there is still hope that this desperate step will be unnecessary and Indians themselves will be able to come to a solution without bloodshed.

Such a date has since been announced and June 1948 is to be the dead line for Britain's withdrawal from India.

Behind the revolution replacing British rule by Indian can be seen shaping another revolution whose purpose will be to bring a planned and just social system to this sprawling, suffering country. . . . No Government other than the Indian Government with its roots in a free, united people can ever hope to start solving them.

THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF INDIA

Mr. L. James of the University of Alexandria, writing in the *Modern Review* for January draws attention to a tendency that is very apparent in the recent history of Eastern Europe. He points out that the general tendency with the passage of centuries has been for larger units to emerge in place of a mosaic of small units.

This is true whether one considers the process of German and Italian unification, the rise of the Hapsburg and Ottoman empires, or the gradual building up of large empires like the British and Russian imperial systems.

The events of Eastern and Central Europe ought to be closely studied by the present generation; they have a clear lesson for countries trying to work out their political future.

India faces roughly the same alternatives, whether to integrate the whole sub-continent as one political unit, or to have disintegration on the basis of the religious cleavage between Hindu and Moslem. Although the latter have areas in the North-West

and Bengal where they are in a clear majority, the actual separation is far from being clear cut. However carefully the frontier between the two is drawn, it will leave both sides with minorities. It is not seriously proposed that the pernicious practice should be resorted to of uprooting people from their homes in order to transfer them to some other area in the interests (so-called) of achieving religious uniformity within the respective regions. Modern nations used to recall that cultural progress is dependent upon the fusion and interaction of peoples and cultures of different outlooks and character. Uniformity ought never to become an object of established policy. Although it is possible to demonstrate fairly successfully that Pakistan can develop its areas on separate lines, using its own ports, and having its own industrial areas, the lesson of Eastern Europe is that political division runs counter to economic development. It inevitably makes for disharmony in every sphere of life. If Indians patiently and carefully study the lessons of events in inter-war Europe, they will spare themselves decades of frustration and strife. Separation into two or more political units ought to be avoided except as a very last extremity.

The ordinary people of India, as of many other lands are united in their poverty; the task of the present period, the writer truly observes, is to raise the standard of life by introducing the necessary improvements in agriculture and developing industrialism under proper safeguards that it does not leave an evil legacy, and so make the common lot both easier and happier. Political separation will only delay this essential work by diverting energy into unprofitable channels; it can only bring frustration and chaos such as have occurred in Eastern Europe."

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

Prof. M. Venkatarangaiyya, writing on the Indian Constituent Assembly observes in the course of an article in *The Triveni Quarterly* that the Constituent Assembly that is to function differs from the Assembly that has all along been demanded by the Congress.

"It is elected not by adult franchise. It is not free from the influence of the British.

It consists of a number of heterogeneous elements. It is not organised to facilitate speedy action. It has some of the evils of bicameralism. It has not behind it the support of a genuine and powerful Provisional Government. It is not free to frame any kind of Constitution it likes or to adopt any procedure it considers desirable. There is also no guarantee that the Constitution it frames will automatically come into operation."

These are some of the defects that the critics of the Cabinet Delegation's plan have in mind, and perhaps these are also the defects which Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru had in mind when they referred to the Constituent Assembly during the deliberations of the All India Congress Committee on July 7th and 8th. It may be that the Assembly will be able somehow to get over these defects and that everything may end well at last. But all this shows that heroic efforts are necessary if the Assembly is to become a real success.

"It should also be realised by all the critics that if we have not been able to secure a better type of Assembly at present the reason for it is our own weakness. It is this truth that is conveyed by Mahatma Gandhi in the following words of his: "If then the Constituent Assembly fizzles out, it will not be because the British are wicked every time; it will be because we are fools, or shall I say, even wicked. Whether we are fools or wicked or both, I am quite clear that we must look for danger from within, not fear the danger from without. The first corrodes the soul; the second polishes." We have now got the kind of Assembly which we deserved, and the wisest course is to make the best use of it. It is up to the members of the Assembly to transform it into a really sovereign and independent body if the spirit that animates them is that which animated the members of the States-General of France of 1789, a spirit which made them take the famous Tennis-Court Oath that they would not separate until they had drawn up a constitution for their country."

LONGEVITY AND BUSY BRAIN

Doctors of the Institute of Brain Research, Neustadt, Germany, have by their experiments, established the fact "that busy people develop strong, tough brain cells and that this, in turn, leads to longevity." This is disclosed in a communication to the authoritative British Scientific Journal *Nature Magazine Digest* summarising the conclusions reached by the Scientists of the Research Institute, point to the life and works of great artists like Goethe and Victor Hugo and Michael Angelo. They did their masterpieces when they were past eighty.

"If we allow our brains to go idle," say these German researchers, "we are digging our own graves."

Our span of life is determined by the condition of our brain cells. If they are stimulated, they are strengthened and we go on living to a ripe old age. If underworked, they deteriorate and we die long before our time, simply because our under-exercised brain cells are ready to throw in the sponge.

There are hundreds of types of cells in the brain, each responsible for a certain type of activity in the body. Together, they act like a supreme headquarters, making the body function quietly and efficiently.

The Scientists point out that by the time we are three years old, we have acquired our life time quota of brain cells; they cannot reproduce themselves.

The original cells acquired in childhood must carry on the job of directing thought, action, digestion, growth, and all the other complicated processes of a living body.

If a cell dies, we lose it forever; none will take its place. If only a few die, it might not have a noticeable effect on our personality or body. But if a whole group blacks out, then some part of us will cease to function. Thus, if the nerve center that controls the right leg dies, then the leg withers.

The secret of longevity, say the doctors, is to strengthen the brain cells by giving them a lot of work to do.

They love activity and thrive on fast and furious thinking. If they receive stimulation from the millions of nerve extensions, they are kept in the pink of condition and you can go on living a useful life far beyond the allotted threescore and ten years.

On the other hand, if you lead a dull life and are rarely stimulated, the brain cells will be under exercised. Out of sheer frustration, they weaken and age prematurely, hastening your death.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH AND INDIA

".....by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India....."

Not since January 1, 1877, when Benjamin Disraeli persuaded Queen Victoria to accept the style of Empress of India, have the titles of Britain's ruling monarch been changed, observes the *News Review*. But now, after 70 years, use of the term "Emperor of India" is being reconsidered.

"Whether the change will be made during the lifetime of the King depends upon the pace of events. George VI may yet make such a gesture to smooth the ruffled feathers of Indian nationalism. But, whatever happens, when daughter Elizabeth ascends the throne she will not be crowned Empress of India."

This has since been done by Mr. Attlee's government. This article appeared before the historic announcement of February 20 fixing June 1948 as the date of withdrawal from India.

CALL TO BRITAIN

The defiant resolution of the Muslim League Working Committee passed at Karachi, calls for the plainest of answers from Whitehall, says an editorial note in a recent issue of the Left-Wing weekly review, *The New Statesman and Nation*.

"This time the League was not content to reaffirm its boycott of the Assembly." *The New Statesman* says, "for it described it as an invalid and illegal body and called for its dissolution."

"This is a concerted move to destroy the whole plan for realisation of India's Independence. The next inevitable step is that the League's members, who are manifestly bent on sabotaging the plan, should be asked to withdraw from the Viceroy's Council. Recent events have confirmed our opinion that the British Government should now announce its firm resolve to withdraw from India on a fixed date, some months ahead. The responsibility for reaching or refusing a settlement would then rest squarely on the shoulder of the Indian parties."

INDIAN STATES

Hyderabad

NIZAM'S MESSAGE TO HIS PEOPLE

Inaugurating the first Hyderabad Legislative Assembly, constituted under the new reforms, H. E. H. the Nizam, in a message read by his Prime Minister, Sir Mirza Ismail, declared that the one object constantly sought by the Asaf Jahi dynasty was 'The good of the people. It is this purpose which, under Providence, has been through centuries at once the guiding principle and bulwark of our rule, and it will continue to be so through the changing forms called forth by changing times.

"The Legislative Assembly aims at the closer association of my people with the administration through the representation of various interests in the State, and in order that this association may be productive of the highest good, I have, in my Instrument of Instructions to my Government enjoined upon them the duty of cultivating and maintaining the spirit of responsiveness to the wishes of the Assembly.

"It is my firm faith that this Assembly, if it is used in the right spirit, will prove a most useful and powerful instrument for those who wish to serve the interests of their fellow citizens. It lies with you to make full and judicious use of the opportunities afforded you to promote the welfare of the dear land of your birth."

NIZAM'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

It is learnt that the various parties in the Hyderabad Legislative Assembly have been asked by the Nizam's Government to submit a panel of names for selection of Ministers of the State. It may be recalled that under the Reforms Scheme H. E. H. the Nizam will nominate two popular Ministers, one Hindu and one Muslim. There are at present five parties in the Assembly including the Hajlis-e-Ittihadul Muslimeen which is the majority party.

Mysore

REFORMS FOR MYSORE

The Government of Mysore have requested the people of the State to send their views on constitutional reforms.

The following press communique has been issued by the Government:

"With a view to ascertain the opinion of all section of the Maharaja's subjects on the question of constitutional progress in the State and to formulate proposals for submission to the Maharaja for consideration as enjoined in the Maharaja's message of January 8, the public of Mysore are hereby requested to send their views in the matter of constitutional reform. All help, advice and co-operation on the part of the public will be very much valued.

"While not seeking to confine the scope of the memoranda embodying their views, suggestions are invited on some or all of the following matters: (1) Unicameral or bicameral Legislature; (2) the place and functions of the Representative Assembly in the Legislature if (a) unicameral, (b) bicameral; (3) composition of the legislature; (4) franchise; (5) method of election; (6) representation of minorities; (7) functional representation; (8) nature of the executive and the relation between the Executive and the Legislature; and (9) safeguards.

"It will be appreciated if such memoranda are received by the Reforms Officer in Bangalore before March 31, 1947."

MYSORE GRANT FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

A special grant of Rs. 10,000 has been sanctioned by the Government of Mysore for systematic excavation of the site and temple mounds of the ancient Hoysala capital of Halebid, about 150 miles from Bangalore.

Baroda**BARODA AND THE CONSAMBLY**

The Dewan of Baroda, Sir B. L. Mitter, in a Press interview, explained the reason why Baroda was conducting separate negotiations with the Committee set up by the Constituent Assembly. Sir B. L. Mitter said that he had been invited to join the States Negotiating Committee, but that the Maharaja did not agree to his joining that body.

The Dewan added: "I am afraid that I cannot subscribe to the claim of the Princes Negotiating Committee that it is the sole representative of the States. The fact that Baroda was negotiating separately was enough to annul that claim."

Explaining his attitude to the Indian Union, he said that he wanted to ensure full co-operation to the Constituent Assembly.

Sir B. L. Mitter flatly denied a suggestion that Baroda was attempting to incorporate certain Kathiawar States into her domain. Baroda had no such designs and her sole intention was to join the Indian Union and if some other States joined Baroda, the only result would be that Baroda's boundaries would be a little longer, but Baroda by herself would constitute a unit.

3 SEATS FOR BARODA

The following communique has been issued by the Secretary of the Constituent Assembly:

The States' Committee of the Constituent Assembly met Sir B. L. Mitter, Dewan of Baroda, and it was agreed that on the population basis Baroda should have three representatives in the Constituent Assembly. It was further agreed that these representatives should be elected on the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote by the State Legislature only the elected and the nominated non-official numbers voting. The Official nominated members will not vote.

Travancore**INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION**

Schemes of industrial expansion in the State are proceeding apace. One of these is the proposed expansion of the rubber factory for the manufacture of tyres for motor car, bus, lorry and other vehicles in the State. The present rubber factory manufactures only cycle tyres and tubes, apart from other rubber goods.

It is proposed to start a Government-sponsored concern for this purpose with a capital of Rs. 1 crore. The support of big businessmen has been enlisted for starting the venture.

Another concern devoted to the exploitation of the fishery industry has made considerable progress in its plans.

Another concern for the promotion of electrical and allied industries has acquired lands for setting up its factory and imported much of the machinery required for it. They are launching on the manufacture of dyes etc., forthwith so that production could commence without delay when the buildings are complete and the machineries are erected.

PAY OF COLLEGE PROFESSORS

Important decisions affecting the pay and prospects of teachers in private colleges in the State were taken at a meeting of the new Senate of the Travancore University, held under the presidency of Mr. H. C. Papworth, Pro-Vice Chancellor.

The meeting accepted with certain amendments the recommendations of the committee appointed by the Syndicate to examine the question of salaries etc., prescribing minimum scales of pay and uniform conditions of service for teachers in private colleges which would be incorporated in the statute. The pay of professors has been fixed at Rs. 100—5—150—10—200. Second Grade Rs. 80—5—150. The recommendations include terms of recruitment, conditions of service and provision for appeal to the Syndicate in case of dismissal of teachers.

Jaipur**REFORMS FOR JAIPUR**

Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, Prime Minister of Jaipur, said in the State Representative Assembly that His Highness' Government had examined with sympathy the representations that had been made in the House about reforms and in a short time Government hoped to make an announcement on the subject which he was sure, would be received with gratification by the people of the State.

He added: "There is a fundamental difference between British India and our State. Here, there is complete identity of interests between the Ruler and the people and among different classes of people. The bonds that tie them are very old. There never has been in Jaipur any question of reforms being extorted from unwilling rulers. It has always been the policy of His Highness that legitimate aspirations of the people should be satisfied. The aspirations are the result of His Highness' enlightened policy. His Highness is quite prepared to satisfy those aspirations and in a short time Government propose to make an announcement on the subject."

Indore**INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS**

The Indore Industrial Statistics Bill, which seeks to provide for the compilation of comprehensive industrial statistics based on fuller and reliable information, will be moved in the current session of the Indore Legislative Council. The Select Committee in its report recommended that the Bill be passed.

RELIEF TO DEBTORS

Another bill to be moved in the Council is the Indore Moneylenders (Act) Amendment Bill, which seeks to give relief to all kinds of debtors, including the non-agriculturists.

Patiala**TEN YEAR EDUCATION PLAN**

H. H. the Maharaja of Patiala, inaugurating an Educational Conference in the State, stressed the need for a reorientation of the educational policy of India. The existing system of education, he said, was futile, as education had acquired a new significance and meaning in the wake of World War II. His Highness urged the eradication of communalism from the sphere of education and emphasised the importance of physical and technical education.

Earlier, Raja Bhalinder Singh, Education Secretary, outlined the 10-year education programme, which, *inter alia*, provides for the opening of 252 new primary schools, 229 middle schools and 13 high schools.

Gwalior**EDUCATION IN GWALIOR**

Plans to open more schools in village areas of the State are being implemented. In Bhind District, several new schools have been opened; some lower grade schools have been raised to higher standard and more teachers have been appointed. The construction of new school buildings has been taken in hand. Low-paid school teachers in Gwalior State will receive higher salaries as soon as the new proposals to give them adequate increment receive His Highness's assent. The Ruler recently ordered that comprehensive proposals should be submitted immediately.

Kashmir**WATER SUPPLY TO VILLAGES**

His Highness's Government, has made arrangements for the supply of water to villagers in areas which are experiencing scarcity of drinking water. Tank lorries will stand by near the villages to render immediate relief. Orders have also been passed for the construction of *pucca* tanks in villages.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

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South Africa

PANDIT NEHRU ON S. A. INDIANS

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Member for Commonwealth Relations, said in the Central Assembly in reply to Sardar Mangal Singh, that it was natural to expect that the Government of the Union of South Africa would now proceed to take action to remove the grievances of the Indians in South Africa in pursuance of the General Assembly's decision. "Any such action will be welcomed by the Government of India and will have their co-operation. Government are now waiting to see what action the Union Government take and it would be premature and will not serve any useful purpose to have a discussion of this question in this House for the present."

1,338 PASSIVE RESISTERS CONVICTED

One thousand three hundred and thirty-eight Passive Resisters have been convicted since the passing of the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act, said the Minister of Justice, Mr. H. G. Lawrence, replying to a question in the S. African Union during the three months ended January 31. 296 Passive Resisters had been convicted, he added:—

The Minister of the Interior is unable to vary his previous decision not to grant Dr. G. M. Naicker, Congress President, a passport to attend the All-Asia Conference in India, the Department of Interior told the Natal Indian Congress in Durban.

Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, President of the Transvaal Indian Congress, has not yet received his passport and it is stated in Durban that it might not after all be issued as his identification card has been "retained" by the Immigration Department.

East Africa

TERMS OF COMMUNAL SETTLEMENT

A system of joint electorates for the Indian community for elections to the Legislative Council, Municipal Councils, and Boards in East Africa, with reservation of seats for Muslims and non-Muslims, is the main feature of a communal settlement reached among Indians in East Africa, the details of which are now available.

Two important meetings of the Indian community have already accepted the broad principles of the scheme which is to be put before the Indian community throughout the territories and also to be placed before the Government with the request to have the Legislative Council and Municipal ordinances altered in accordance with the proposals.

The scheme, which was drawn up by the Indian elected members, is as follows:

In this document, the term "Muslims" will mean Indian Muslims and the term, "other Indians," will mean Indians other than Muslims.

This settlement will be binding on all parties until December 31, 1951.

Japan

FRANCHISE RIGHTS FOR INDIANS

It is notified for general information ... that the question of restitution of the property held by Indian nationals in Japan and of the restoration of their rights and interests in that country has been taken with the appropriate authorities and a list of all the claims already registered with the Director of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta has been forwarded to the Indian Political Representative at Tokyo.

Persons and concerns who held properties and interests in Japan before the outbreak of the war and have not yet registered their claims, are advised to forward immediately full particulars of their claims, together with copies of relevant documents, to the Director of Commercial Intelligence 1, Council House Street, Calcutta.

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS * DEPARTMENTAL * NOTES

Questions of Importance

PANDIT NEHRU'S APPEAL TO LEAGUE

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in a statement following the declaration of February 20 commends the British Government's statement as "a wise and courageous one" and says that the work of the Constituent Assembly must now be carried on with greater speed.

"In this great work," he proceeds, "we invite afresh all those who have kept aloof, and we ask all to be partners in this joint and historic undertaking, casting aside fear and suspicion, which ill become a great people on the eve of freedom".

The Pandit says:

"The statement made by Prime Minister Attlee in the House of Commons on February 20, in regard to Indian policy has received and is receiving the earnest attention of all those who are vitally interested in bringing the present transitional period to a satisfactory conclusion. The statement is obscure in some places and requires careful consideration. The outstanding feature of it, however, is the decision of the British Government to transfer power to Indian hands not later than June, 1948. It has further been stated that preparatory measures must be put in hand in advance. This is important as only thus can we secure a rapid and effective transference of power within this period. My colleagues and I are giving the fullest thought to this statement, and early next month the Congress Working Committee will meet and give its considered views on the new situation that has arisen."

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MR. ATTLEE ON THE STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 20

"The British Government have declared their intentions to transfer full power to Indian hands not later than June 1948, and responsibility for the security of India from external aggression will fall upon India from the date when full power is transferred," said Mr. Clement Attlee in the Commons on February 25 in reply to a question whether he would confirm that the Government intended to maintain responsibility for the security of India from external attack after June 1948.

Mr. Attlee continued: "If India decides to remain within the British Commonwealth, the position as between the British Government and India will be similar to that now existing between the British Government in the United Kingdom and the British Commonwealth. If India decides to leave the British Commonwealth, continued security of India will, of course, be a matter of great interest to the British Commonwealth."

"The British Government will naturally be very willing to enter into discussions with India as to mutual assistance in matters of external defence, subject, of course, to obligation of both parties under the United Nation's Charter."

THE MADRAS CABINET CRISIS

The Congress Working Committee considered at length the Madras Ministerial tangle, and after hearing Prof. Ranga and Konda Venkatappayya representing Mr. Prakasam, Mr. Kala Venkata Rao representing the supporters of the no-confidence motion, are understood to have decided to empower Acharya Kripalani to settle the dispute on the "basis of democratic principles" when he visits Madras on March 10.

MR. BEVIN'S CALL FOR UNITED INDIA

A strong plea to India to avoid civil strife and prove an example to the world by carrying out her transition in a peaceful way was made by Mr. Ernest Bevin, the British Foreign Secretary, when he attended a dinner given by the Indian Association and Institute at India House in honour of Mr. Asaf Ali, the Indian Ambassador-Designate to the United States, London on February 14.

Mr. Bevin, said :

My task is concerned not so much with India, but to keep the 'ring'. I have to look out for all other parts of the world and give Lord Pethick-Lawrence a chance to settle India. Our great desire, however, is to see India start off as a going concern and not suffer any disruption in civil life—not to engage in a civil war of any kind.

"I can speak for the whole Cabinet," Mr. Bevin said. "when I say that our desire is to see India—Muslim, Hindu and the rest—joined together and taken over from us as a going concern. That would be a great tribute not only to the British Government, but to the entire British Commonwealth. That is what we hope that is what we pray for, that is what we are striving for."

"Too many countries" continued Mr. Bevin, "have had to secure their liberty through strife. There is no war so hard, so troublesome—no war which takes so many generations to overcome—as a civil war. It is far worse than any external war. I have seen it. I have seen brother against brother, father against mother. It is one of the most disastrous of all wars."

Proceeding, Mr. Bevin said :

"Often in the Foreign Office, I stand and look at the map of the world. I see the Indian Ocean and the great contour of the sub-continent of India and ask myself: 'Will India be a stabilising place for peace in the world?' I see the threat of Russian imperialism and the financial imperialism of the United States and see ourselves in the middle 'establishing liberty wherever we can. I say to myself: 'Will there be conflict? Will there be war? Will those great countries clash and bring us into a war more terrible than anything we have ever known?'"

"And then I say: India is the key to the situation." Mr. Bevin declared:

If that key can be held in security and peace then the peace of the world can be held for hundreds of years. Let you resolve therefore, not to fight over your difficulties and start another world struggle, but unite and taking into your own hands the liberty for which you have struggled so long, make it a blessing to the world for generations to come.

MR. LIAQAT ALI'S BUDGET SPEECH

The Finance Member, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, replying to the two-day debate on the Budget proposals in the Central Assembly stoutly defended his taxation measures and gave a warning to private industrialists who might be unwilling to assist in improving the economic condition of this country, "that there are other methods by which we shall be able to achieve that purpose."

He declared that it was neither his intention nor the desire or the intention of the Government to prevent or hinder the industrialisation of this country in any way.

The Finance Member said :

It is my earnest desire that production in this country should increase and not decrease, and if anyone can prove to me that by the imposition of the special business tax, I shall really be affecting the interests of the country adversely, I shall be only too glad to withdraw this tax, but I am not going to withdraw this tax because it is going to take a bit of the profits which some people have made on account of war conditions." (Cheers).

I, of my own accord, by putting down a motion for reference of these Bills to Select Committees, have given proof of my 'bonafides' that I am not out to force anything down the throats of the members of the House or the country. But I want the members to assist me in devising ways and means to meet our requirements.

I once again tell my industrial friends to help us in this situation and if they do not, well, it will be unfortunate. We do not want in any way to stifle private enterprise. We want all the assistance, technical knowledge, experience of private persons to help the industrialisation of this country. India will be industrialised. If Russia could be industrialised in a short period why not India? (Loud cheers). We do not want to stifle private enterprise. But if private enterprise is not willing to take up a helpful attitude and is not willing to assist us to improve the economic condition of this country, then there are other methods by which we shall be able to achieve that purpose. (Cheers).

Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan replying to the criticism that the 25 per cent. business tax would reduce or stop production said:

This tax is only for the current year. Therefore, those who talk of there being no production in the next year because of this tax are quite mistaken. Whatever production there has to be for the purposes of this tax has already taken place with regard to the current year. There may be a tax is not going to affect production in the next year.

LANGUAGE IN THE ASSEMBLY

President Mavlankar gave a ruling in the Central Assembly on February 27 that a member could speak in his own national language irrespective of whether he was acquainted with English which under the rules, is the official language of debates in the House.

Mr. Mavlankar suggested that this rule could have to be liberally interpreted in the present state of transition. He recalled at earlier in the session, the Government had a large majority of members seemed to agree that the time had come to change this rule and he mentioned that although automatically any amendment of the Rules of Procedure could be made only with the approval of the Secretary of State, such approval would not ordinarily be withheld on a matter which had the support of a large majority of members. Mr. Mavlankar invited the co-operation of all members in the change-over to our national language.

The occasion for this ruling was provided by a point of order raised by Sir Cowasji Hangir, while Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, member for Delhi, was speaking in Hindustani in the House Rent Bill. Sir Cowasji said at Lala Deshbandhu Gupta could speak in English fluently and asked whether such a member could use an Indian language, which is not intelligible to a large number of Indian members of this House."

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO U.N.O.

Pandit Nehru told Mr. Ahmed E. H. that India's actual contribution to the United Nations Organization had been increased though the proportion of the total expenditure that falls to India's share had been reduced. The reduction in the percentage was due to the admission of new members to the United Nations.

"The percentage fixed for India's contribution by the General Assembly was 4.09 per cent for 1946 and 3.95 per cent for 1947. India will, however be required to pay approximately Rs. 36,14,250/- for 1947 as against Rs. 26,21,690 for 1946.

MR. MARSHALL ON THE BRITISH PLAN

The United States Secretary of State, General George Marshall, declared that the British Government plan for transfer of power into responsible Indian hands "offers a just basis for co-operation." He expressed "hopes that Indian political leadership will accept this clear-out challenge and proceed to break the impasse between the Congress and the Muslim League."

Speaking at a Press Conference in Washington Gen. Marshall said: "The relations between the United States and India have assumed a new significance with the arrival in this country on Feb. 20 of India's Ambassador-designate, Mr. Asaf Ali, and the declaration by the Prime Minister on the same day that the British Government would transfer power into responsible Indian hands by a date not later than June 1948."

"It would be difficult to exaggerate the magnitude of the task faced by Indian leaders or the heavy responsibility that rests upon them as they endeavour to bring freedom, political stability and economic progress to such a large segment of humanity.

"This Government fully appreciates the grave character of the British decision to set a definite and an early date for the completion of the process of transferring power to responsible Indian hands.

"It profoundly hopes that Indian political leadership will accept this clear cut challenge and proceed to break the impasse between the Congress and the Muslim League.

"The Indian internal crisis threatens to prevent India from making its rightful and honourable contribution to the maintenance of international peace and prosperity. An India torn by civil strife would not only find it difficult to make this positive and greatly needed contribution, but could conceivably become a source of new international tensions in a world only now beginning to grope its way back to peace."

MAULANA AZAD ON EDUCATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION

"Education should have the highest priority in our national budget and should take its place immediately after food and clothing. In fact, a proper system of education is necessary in order to tackle satisfactorily even these problems," said the Hon. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Member for Education, Government of India, addressing a Press Conference. He added, "I have every hope that we shall be able to make up our leeway by a determined and concerted effort and place education in India on par with education in other civilised countries of the world."

Some of the main items to be taken up in the near future are the setting up of a National Museum, better provision for fundamental research work, preparation of a Guide for Teachers for the new scheme of education, preparation of a generalised curriculum, grants to educational experimental institutions, development of archaeological studies and fullest utilisation of new media of mass education such as broadcasting and the films.

Maulana Azad emphasised upon the need for improvement in the status and condition of teachers and referred to the place of religious instruction in schools. Government's decision on the latter question would be indicated early, he said. Acknowledging the valuable work done by missionary societies in spreading modern education and in contributing to the development of Indian languages, Maulana Azad referred to the "vexed question of conversions and especially conversions *en masse*."

U. N. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INDIAN STUDENTS

The Purdue University, Lafayette, U.S.A. has offered to Indian students two United Nations Scholarships each of the value of 130 dollars per term tenable at the University for study in Science, Engineering, Agriculture, Pharmacy and Education for the term beginning in September 1947.

The Scholarships will be granted for one term in the first instance but can be extended a term at a time till the completion of the course provided the scholars make satisfactory progress. Candidates must be graduates of Indian Universities and should be able to supplement the scholarship from their own funds in order to meet the high cost of University education in the U.S.A. They should be prepared to spend about 2,500 dollars from their own pockets.

The Government of India have invited Universities and other Educational Institutions of similar rank to recommend names of suitable students. The final selections will be made by the authorities of the Purdue University.

AIM OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

"The greatest treasure which any college or university can bestow on its members is not to be found in the prescribed text books or in a lecture room or in an examination hall, but in the formal day-to-day contact of fresh, keen and generous minds" said Sir John Sargent, Educational Adviser to the Government of India, addressing the annual convocation of the Osmania University, on February 16.

Sir John Sargent illustrated his observation with anecdotes from his career at Oxford and said "the most valuable item in it, in my opinion is the close personal contact which life, in a comparatively small residential college, allowed or even forced one to have with one's fellow students."

RECOURSE TO PRIVY COUNCIL

The Privy Council, the highest legal authority in the British Commonwealth and Empire, has ruled that the Dominions have the right to abolish appeals to the Council.

It gave this judgment on an appeal from Canada, where, for many years, a dispute had existed between the Ottawa Government and some of the Provinces, particularly Quebec and Ontario, over the right of the Dominion Parliament to pass legislation prohibiting citizens of Canada appealing to London against judgments of the domestic Supreme Court.

The matter went before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, consisting of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Jowitt, Viscount Simon, Lord MacMillan, Lord Greene, Master of the Rolls, Lord Simonds and Lord Goddard, the Lord Chief Justice of England.

The judgement of the Privy Council is that the Canadian Supreme Court, if the Canadian Government's implementing Bill became law, should have "exclusive, ultimate appellate, civil and criminal jurisdiction within and for Canada and the judgment of the Court shall in all cases, be final and conclusive."

The judgment adds: "It appears to Their Lordships that it is not consistent with the political conception which is embodied in the British Commonwealth of Nations that one member of the Commonwealth should be precluded from setting up, if it so desires, any supreme court of appeal having a jurisdiction both ultimate and exclusive of another member."

BOMBAY DIVORCE BILL

A Bill to provide for the right of divorce among the communities of Hindus in certain circumstances has been published in the Bombay Government Gazette.

The Bill permits divorce among Hindus on grounds of impotency, desertion or disappearance for seven years; and lunacy or leprosy extending to seven years. The first wife will be entitled to divorce when her husband has married a second wife, who is living. The second wife or any subsequent wife will not be entitled to divorce from the husband because he had another wife at the time of marriage, even though he has concealed the fact of having another wife already.

In the case of leprosy, provision is made for judicial separation if the party so desires.

CIVIL RIGHTS FOR HARIJANS

A bill to amend the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act 1938, to confer on Harijans the right of access to secular institutions including hotels, shops etc., was introduced in the Madras Legislative Council by Mr. V. Kurmayya, Minister for Information. It was referred to a select committee for report.

IS WEDDING IN AIR LEGAL?

A legal question befitting the times has arisen in Chicago. Is a wedding in an aeroplane legal? A clerk of marriages refused a licence for a couple who want to be married in a plane because the air is out of his jurisdiction. But local judges disagree with his ruling. One said that married couples are up in the clouds anyway. The problem will probably find its way to the Supreme Court.

Insurance

CROP INSURANCE FOR INDIA

In the Central Assembly, Mr. N. Narayanamurti moved his resolution, asking the Government to adopt an effective programme of crop insurance. After an assurance from Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Member that the proposal will be examined in detail, the resolution was withdrawn.

Mr. Narayanamurti said that in view of the heavy loss constantly sustained by agriculturists of this country and also in view of the fact that agriculture was the primary occupation of an overwhelming majority of the people of this country, the Government should introduce crop insurance.

Seth Govind Das, supporting the resolution said that crop insurance was very essential for the Indian peasant. A big agriculturist, himself he had studied the problem and would make certain suggestions to the Government in this regard. They were: The Government should evolve a scheme which would be easy to administer. It should be financially sound and economic in working; the execution of the scheme should be so operated as to minimise litigation; the benefit should be extended in the first instance only to small holders, and not to big farms covering extensive tracts. In regard to poor agriculturists who hold less than ten acres it should be compulsory. Crop insurance was not possible without co-operative effort on the part of the Provincial and Central Governments and the agriculturists.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Member replying to the debate, expressed his fullest sympathy with the objects of the resolution but pointed out the difficulty of crop insurance under Indian conditions, which he asked the members to consider with care and attention. Any scheme of insurance in India was an insurance against the weather. There was the further risk of cattle diseases. There had been years in which cattle had died like flies and crops had failed on that account even though the weather was favourable. The difficulty was that most of our cultivators did not produce

for sale. They produced for their own consumption and only a portion of what they produced was sold. That made a world of difference between our system and the American system of agriculture. Whereas in America agriculture was a kind of industry, in India it was a sort of a vocation. That might be all the more reason why the Indian peasant should be insured, but it made the difficulty of insurance all the greater.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad felt that under present conditions the majority of our peasants were not in a position to save enough in order to be able to pay the premium. It was not necessary on a resolution like this to appoint a committee because a committee could not do anything without the necessary data. In this case, we did not have that data. In the absence of data it was not possible for him to commit the Government to any course of action.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE IN IRAN

The Government of Iran, according to a note in a recent issue of the International Labour Review, has passed an Act for the compulsory insurance of workmen against accidents. Although in the beginning, the Act will be extended to four leading industrial cities only *viz.*, Tabriz, Meched, Ispahan and Teheran, it will cover all industrial, mining, transport, railway and commercial undertakings employing more than 20 workers. The funds for the scheme will be realised by contributions from employers and workers. The employer will pay 75 per cent of the contribution and the worker will pay the rest at a rate varying from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of his wages according to the risk involved in his occupation. The administration of the scheme will be entrusted to an Iranian Insurance company. Under the Act compensation is payable to a worker if he contracts an occupational disease or sustains an injury or dies in the course of his regular employment. The rate of compensation will depend on the nature of the case and the income of the worker.

Trade and Finance

THE CENTRAL BUDGET

In the Central Assembly on February 28, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member, presented the first Budget of the Interim Government. He announced a deficit of 48.46 crores on the existing level of taxation. He also announced that Britain would not pay anything towards Defence charges after March 31 and all expenditure will fall on India alone. The main features of the Budget are as follows:

The Finance Member announced the abolition of the salt tax.

The abolition of the salt tax means a loss of Rs. 8 crores. With the addition of this amount the deficit would increase to Rs. 56.71 crores.

The Finance Member also announced the raising of the minimum exemption limit for Income-tax from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500.

He announced a 25 per cent. tax on business profits exceeding Rs. One lakh.

The Finance Member proposed to raise the rate of the Corporation Tax from one anna to two annas. There is no change in the rate of Income-Tax.

Under indirect taxation he proposed that the export duty on tea be increased from 2 annas to 4 annas a lb.

He announced a graduated tax on capital gains.

All these taxes would bring an additional revenue of Rs. 39.79 crores, leaving a final deficit of Rs. 16.96 crores. The deficit might be larger after the proposals of the Pay Commission were received.

The revised scale at which Super-Tax will now apply is Rs. 12 lakhs for unearned income and Rs. 1.5 lakhs for earned income instead of Rs. $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs and Rs. 5 lakhs as at present.

The Finance Member proposed to appoint an Economy Committee of officials and non-officials to make proposals for economy in expenditure and the elimination of extravagant expenditure.

He had come to the conclusion that the Reserve Bank should be nationalised.

He proposed to bring before the House a measure to control speculation on the stock markets and commodity and bullion Exchanges.

ENQUIRY INTO WAR FORTUNES

The functions of the Tax Investigation Commission which the Finance Member proposes to set up are to be two-fold, firstly, to make a general report on the effectiveness or otherwise of the existing law and procedure to prevent tax evasion, and second, to make special investigations into particular cases.

It is explained in the Bill introduced in this connection that recently businesses and properties have changed hands for very large sums of money, and the Government are anxious to know how, in spite of very high rates of taxation—Income-Tax, Super-Tax and E.P.T.—the large fortunes which these transactions imply have been accumulated.

The Commission is vested with the powers of a civil court to compel the production of evidence, oral and documentary, before it and it is given the same powers as a court in regard to offences committed before it. The Commission is enabled to appoint expert accountants or assessment officers to aid it in its task. Such persons are to be vested with like powers to compel production of evidence before them.

General power is given to the Commission to regulate its own procedure. The Commission and its investigating staff are given the status of public servants. Contempt of their authority are brought within the scope of the Indian Penal Code. The ordinary law of evidence is relaxed in proceedings before the Commission and investigating officers.

In any case in which evasion of tax has been found, the Government are given power to order reassessment.

WOMEN'S RIGHT TO LANDED PROPERTY

Two matters require the consideration of the legislature before they extend the Deshmukh Act to succession to agricultural lands in Madras Province, writes Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri, C.I.E., to the press. They are: Shall we now legislate or postpone legislation to a later date? Should we make the Act retrospective if the Act is to be passed?

There is much goodwill in recent social legislation but not always imagination as to the consequences which may flow from it. The Deshmukh Act falls under this criticism. It has created difficulties with which one has to grapple in framing a satisfactory scheme of succession. One illustration will make the legislature pause and think before extending the Act. If a man died leaving a daughter and daughter-in-law, the Deshmukh Act excludes the daughter in favour of the daughter-in-law. Dr. Deshmukh himself might be shocked by that result. He was thinking of relief to the poor daughter-in-law but the exclusion of the daughter resulting from his Bill escaped his attention.

Under no system of law is the daughter-in-law an heir except that in Bombay she comes in as an agnate by marriage but only after daughter, daughter's son and sisters full and half. Rectification of the Deshmukh order requires consideration with due regard to the law since 1937. Its extension to agricultural lands will create more difficulties in the way of correction.

My suggestion is: postpone legislation. if that is not agreed to, do not make the

Act retrospective. It will unsettle titles since 1937 and create no end of complications and difficulties. Daughters, parents and brothers will have to return properties to the daughter-in-law.

Marriage and divorce legislations are not of a compulsory character. People are free to stick to usage notwithstanding legislation. Inheritance must follow natural preferences, dissenters being left to make wills.

These considerations merit the attention of the members of the legislature.

ELLEN WILKINSON

Miss Ellen Wilkinson, British Minister of Education and the only woman member of the Cabinet, died in a London hospital on February 6.

The only Woman Minister in the Labour Cabinet, elected, from Durham (Jarrow division) Miss Ellen Wilkinson was the Chairman of the Labour Party Conference, which decided the fate of Churchill's Coalition Cabinet at Blackpool early in 1945. For the greater part of the war, she worked with Mr. Morrison as Parliamentary Secretary with a seat in the Cabinet.

Born in 1891, and educated at Ardwick, Stretford, and Manchester University, where she took the M.A. degree, Miss Ellen Wilkinson was in the thirties noted for extremist Labour views. Later she changed over to the orthodox Labour policy. She was an enthusiastic supporter of the women's cause.

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE PRESS

Raja Sir Maharaj Singh, inaugurating the United Provinces Provincial Press Conference at Benares recently, said in part: During my 40 years' experience of the Indian Press, I can testify to the great and all-round improvement that has taken place since the beginning of this century in both its branches—English and Vernacular. Increasingly, the quality of leading articles and other matter has improved. Its news service to-day is more comprehensive and more attractive than that of former times, and the Press takes more interest in international affairs. Last but not the least, its editors and correspondents are more highly educated and erudite. This is not to say that there have not been brilliant Indian editors in the past, of whom this country must ever remain proud, or that there is no room for improvement.....

It seems to me that in a democratic State, the Press must serve several purposes. The first is dissemination of knowledge of all types, with special reference to current affairs. Secondly, it must ventilate freely all shades of opinion. Thirdly, it must be the foremost advocate of reform, political and social, wherever and whenever that is necessary. Fourthly, and perhaps above all, the Press must ever be a watchful sentinel against any infringement of human liberty."

BRITISH NEWSPAPERS

The *Daily Express* has the largest circulation of all London dailies. We give below the comparative figures:

"Daily Express"—3,463,630.

"Daily Graphic"—882,000.

"Daily Herald"—2,150,000 (est.)

"Daily Mail"—1,927,073.

"Daily Mirror"—2,400,000 (est.)

"News Chronicle"—1,595,488."

"Daily Telegraph"—832,878.

"Times"—229,694."

"Daily Worker"—106,646.

Circulation, apparently, is no test of the standing and influence of a paper.

GANDHIJI'S MESSAGE TO MR. ASAF ALI

"India has a right to expect you to represent the combined culture which India's many religions represent", says Mahatma Gandhi in a letter to Mr. Asaf Ali, India's Ambassador-designate to the U.S.A. Gandhiji says: "You are an old and seasoned Congressman, I know how you stood in the estimation of the late lamented Hakim Saheb Ajmal Khan and Dr. Ansari and what value Maulana Abul Kalam Azad puts upon you, not to mention the many important Hindu and other friends you have. It is well, therefore, that the Interim Government of India has chosen you as its first Ambassador in America. India has a right to expect you to represent the combined culture which India's many religions represent. What is perhaps more, you will represent simple living and high thinking for which the National Congress stands and of which you are a distinguished member."

THE LATE MR. D. BALASUBRAMANIA AIYAR

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. D. Balasubramania Aiyar, Proprietor of Messrs. B.G. Paul & Co., Publishers, Madras, who passed away at the comparatively early age of 49 last month after a prolonged illness. He was a devout disciple of Sri Sankaracharya of Kumbakonam. His devotion to Hindu Dharma was great and he made available to the public a number of religious books in Sanskrit and Tamil. He gave benevolent contributions to educational institutions and other deserving causes, besides scholarships to deserving students. He leaves his wife and a number of friends to mourn his loss.

AGA KHAN OFFERS SERVICES TO NEHRU

It is learnt that His Highness the Aga Khan intimated to Pandit Nehru that his services are at the disposal of the External Affairs Department for diplomatic assignment.

PANDIT NEHRU'S ADVICE TO DOCTORS

Speaking at the inaugural meeting of the Council of Physicians of India at Delhi on February 14, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru expressed the hope that the doctors of India would not work in a spirit of narrow trade-unionism, but would keep in view the interests of the community as a whole.

Pandit Nehru said:

Serious charges have been levelled against the medical profession. One of the most eminent men of to-day, George Bernard Shaw, also brought such charges against doctors and there is no doubt that they contain a great deal of truth. In olden days, there was a sense of physicians being public servants functioning for the good of humanity. But now, stress is being laid on the business side of the profession. The question has risen as to how far the State should interfere with and control the practice of medicine. Doctors and scientists are not only important but also a dangerous element of society. I do hope that your organisation will rise above the spirit of narrow trade-unionism and will keep in view the interest of the community as a whole.

Pandit Nehru complained that a large number of doctors to-day lacked the true scientific method. The scientific method, he explained was really an approach to life and its problems. It was in fact, the art of living.

Referring to the various Indian systems of medicine, Pandit Nehru said: "At one time, India led other countries in the matter of medicine. But our systems became static and thus unscientific. Have Unani or Ayurvedic systems by all means but apply to them the scientific method first."

DR. CHERIAN TO ACT AS SURGEON-GENERAL

Dr. P. V. Cherian, Principal, Madras Medical College, has been appointed to officiate as Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras. He took charge from Major-General J. P. Huban who is proceeding on long leave.

Dr. Cherian is the first non-I.M.S. Officer to Officiate as the Surgeon-General.

TO AVOID HEART DISEASE IN OLD AGE

Quiet living is the best way to avoid heart trouble in the old age, says Dr. Connil Guion of Cornell University, Medical College, U.S.A.

"If we can teach the group over 60", he says, "that too much food with subsequent obesity, too much smoking, too much worry, too continuous physical exertion all put a serious strain on the heart and blood vessels, and if we can persuade them to replace tension by relaxation, we can delay the appearance of coronary and cerebral spasms, hypertension and other old-age heart conditions."

TO STOP FATIGUE IN WOMEN

For the headaches, hot flushes, nervousness, and fatigue which women commonly experience during the menopause, the American Chemical Society has recommended a new drug. It is Meprane, a synthetic female hormone. Taken by mouth, it makes up for the dwindling ovarian secretions of the middle years without the unpleasant toxic effects that follow the use of stilbestrol and similar synthetics, it is claimed.

PENICILLIN FOR TOOTH DECAY

Will penicillin prevent tooth decay if you scrub your teeth with it?

An answer to that question is being sought in a wholesale test with human guinea pigs by Dr. Thomas J. Hill of Western Reserve University, U.S.A. The test will be made on 1,000 boys in an eastern industrial school, for a year or more. Half of the boys will use tooth powder with penicillin added, the others will use a penicillin-less powder.

LEPROSY CARRIED BY COCKROACHES

The discovery that leprosy is carried by cockroaches is announced by Rhodesian Researcher, Bernard Moiser, who has given 15 years to the study of leprosy. He is one of the 12 counsellors of the international Leprosy Association.

NATIONALISATION OF RESERVE BANK

The assurance that Government would consider the question of nationalisation of the Reserve Bank most carefully and sympathetically and if they were convinced that nationalisation of the Bank would be in the country's interest, they would not hesitate to take steps in that direction was given by the Finance Member, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, replying to a debate on a resolution moved by Mr. Tamizuddin (Muslim League) in the Central Assembly.

The Finance Member made it clear that if nationalisation was decided upon, they must see that whatever the constitution was framed for the Bank it would not play the part of a subservient agent of Government. He acknowledged the willing co-operation the Reserve Bank had given to the Government in the past.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan's resolution which was supported by Mr. Manu Subedar, Dr. Ziauddin, Mr. S. S. Sanyal and Mr. Gole, was eventually withdrawn after the Finance Member's reply.

RUPEE COINS IN NICKEL

Rupee coins will henceforth be issued in nickel just as half and quarter rupee coins are at present issued. Power to make this change is given in a Bill introduced in the Central Assembly by the Finance Member, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan.

The statement of objects and reasons says that under modern conditions, when the nature of coins as tokens of value is well understood, it is unnecessary and wasteful to use a metal of high value like silver for coinage. The elimination of silver from the rupee coin will also facilitate the return of the lease-lend silver to America and might enable Government to control speculative rise of silver prices in India should occasion arise.

The Finance Member introduced another Bill to enable the Reserve Bank to wind up its affairs in Burma.

RAILWAY BUDGET FOR 1947-48

Among the more important features of the Railway Budget for 1947-48, presented to the Central Assembly by the Transport Minister, on Feb. 17, are a small increase of one anna in the rupee on existing passenger fares from 1st March 1947 and slight adjustments in an upward direction of certain special and station to station goods rates which have in the past been fixed at unduly low levels for various reasons which no longer operate. The minimum fare of one anna will remain.

The extra yield from passenger fares is estimated at $4\frac{3}{4}$ crores per annum. The adjustments in goods rates introduced from the 1st April will be far too small to affect retail prices. They will never represent as much as one pie on a seer of food gains or on a yard of cloth. They are expected to yield $5\frac{3}{4}$ crores per annum. Another prominent feature is a works programme of 50 crores, the largest on record, which provides, inter alia, for the beginning of construction at the Kanchrapara locomotive manufacture plant.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS TRAVEL TO GO

The Railway Member, Dr. John Matthai, informed Mr. Ishaw Seth that Government had decided to reduce the present four classes of travel to three. The three future classes of travel named first second and third classes, would approximate in standard of comfort to the present second, inter and third class respectively. In the branch lines it was proposed to adopt only two classes namely special and general.

RAILWAY CONCESSION FOR SHORT DISTANCES

The Railway Member announced in the Assembly on February 25 that the increase $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent in passenger fare will not apply to fares below eight annas including those of season tickets between points where a single journey fare is below eight annas. The Railway Member said that this concession would cost 85 lakhs.

PANDIT NEHRU ON DELHI EXHIBITION

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru opened an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Gopal Ghose, organised by the All-India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, at Delhi.

Declaring the exhibition open, Pandit Nehru said that paintings in this country lacked vitality. "They are full of repose and make one sleepy. India needs developing vitality in every aspect of life and the paintings of Gopal Ghose show that vitality."

Sir Ushan Nath Sen, President of the Society, welcoming Pandit Nehru said that ever since the International Contemporary Art Exhibition was held in March 1946, periodical exhibitions, numbering about 10, had been held up-to-date and over 19,000 people had visited them. As the total proceeds from the exhibits amounted to Rs. 10,625, he said that it was hoped to transform the Society into an Indian Academy of Arts.

Over 150 works of art were on show and a large number of people visited the exhibition.

BUST OF DAMLE

A marble bust of the late V. G. Damle, one of the founders of the Prabhat Film Co. has been erected at the Prabhat Nagar, Poona. Sculptured by the well-known artist Karmarkar it was unveiled by Mr. K. V. Kelkar on the first death anniversary of Mr. Damle. The ceremony was largely attended by the Company directors, friends and well wishers of the Prabhat.

INDIAN PAINTER HONOURED

Mr. V. R. Rao, Bombay portrait painter, is the first Indian artist to be honoured by having one of his works exhibited by the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.

His portrait of Sir Rustom Masani has been accepted by the Society for display at their 54th annual exhibition now taking place at the Suffolk Street Galleries, London.

FOOTBALL POOLS

The House of Commons debate as to whether Government should stop or curtail Football Pools during the present emergency led to some astonishing revelation about this form of gambling. First it would seem that Britons were born optimists, inasmuch as more than 7,000,000 each week endeavour to win a fortune for one penny by correctly forecasting 20 results, the odds against doing which are officially estimated at 3,486,784,001 to one.

There are 820 Pools firms making between them nearly £50,000 weekly profit. They send out 7,750,000 printed circulars each week, and employ 75,000 workers full time, and another 50,000 part time.

Demands were made in the House to stop these Pools. One member said that Pools might fasten clothes rationing on the British people for another ten years more adding that if the people employed on the Pools were put to work in the clothing industry, rationing could be ended in twelve months. He said that one textile firm alone had lost 250 girls to one of the big Pools firms.

But Government decided that they would not interfere. Mr. N. Edwards, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour, said that he was not entitled to impose moral views on other citizens. It was a question for the individual to decide.

CALCUTTA STADIUM SCHEME

It is understood that the Bengal Government have appointed a committee of five members to advise them on the subject of erecting a stadium on the Calcutta maidan capable of accommodating at least 80,000 spectators.

AUSSIES' SUCCESS

Australia won the fifth Test Match with England by five wickets at Sydney on March 5.

England, resuming their second innings of 144 for six in brilliant sunshine, failed to hit up any appreciable total, the whole side being out for 186. This left Australia to make 214 runs to win, and they hit them up for the loss of five wickets.

ATOMIC RESEARCH IN INDIA

Laying the foundation-stone of the National Physical Laboratory, at New Pusa, five miles from New Delhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru emphasised the importance of starting atomic research in India. He was of the view that atomic energy would help cottage industry.

Dr. John Matthai, Member for Industries and Supplies, Interim Government, presided.

Pandit Nehru said: "Presently we may have to follow other countries in having a great Atomic Energy Research Institute also not to make bombs, I hope, but nevertheless I do not see how we can lag behind in this very important matter, because atomic energy is going to play a dominating part in the future shape of things. Already it is known that radio-active elements that are produced can be used for therapeutic purposes, but in regard to other matters too it will make power mobile, and this mobility of power can make industry develop anywhere. We will not be tied up so much by the accidents of geography."

Atomic energy, Pandit Nehru suggested, would help cottage industry. "Obviously if you have atomic energy at your disposal or some form of it, you can work in small units much more easily, effectively and efficiently, so that all these very practical aspects of it make it incumbent on us to think in terms of atomic energy research on a big scale, apparently it cannot be done on a small scale."

MERGER OF SCIENTIFIC GROUPS

That a paramount scientific body for India should be formed combining the National Institute of Sciences, Delhi, the Indian Academy of Sciences, Allahabad and the National Academy of Sciences, Bangalore was the unanimous decision taken at the first meeting of the new Scientific Consultative Committee held in New Delhi on February 9 under the chairmanship of Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Minister for Industries and Supplies in the Interim Government.

RAM GOPAL TO MAKE FILM IN U. S. A.

Ram Gopal, the well-known dancer, it is learnt will be producing a technicolour film in the United States during his forthcoming tour of the country in April next. His own company will comprise the cast. The theme of the film will be Indian classical dancing.

It is also learnt that Ram Gopal will be televising the classical dances through the B.B.C., as he did at the Alexandra Palace London, in 1939.

STUDENTS' FAVOURITES

What sort of film do schoolboys like? Those who say Westerns, or Disneys, Comedies or Thrillers go to the bottom of the class.

A recent poll in Britain gave the following order: "Caesar and Cleopatra," "Henry V," "Theirs is the Glory," "The Way to the Stars," "Quiet Week-end," and "Courage of Lassie." "The Captive Heart," "Men of Two Worlds," & "Lassie Come Home, which only shows how the younger generation has changed."

INDIAN FILMS FOR BRITAIN

India's ace cameraman Krishna Gopal has just returned from England with assignments to make short films about India both for J. Arthur Bank and the British Ministry of Information.

It is further reported that K. G. in conjunction with some of his former colleagues in the I.F.I. is trying to secure similar assignments from provincial governments which will enable him to produce shorts regularly on educational and topical subjects.

A FILM OF THE CONGRESS

A film depicting the history of the Indian National Congress is shortly to go into production. The picture has been captioned *Azadi Ki Rah Par*. Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant, the Premier of U. P., the report adds, will inaugurate the production.

MANUFACTURE OF AUSTIN CARS IN INDIA

As an indication of the spirit underlying the negotiations culminating in the signing of the agreement between the Austin Motor Export Corporation and manufacture of Austin cars in India, the following clauses forming part of the agreement will be of interest:

"Austin and Austin Export being desirous of furthering the National aspirations and policy of the Indian which aim at the employment of the maximum of Indian labour, and in accord with, and in order to support that policy to the fullest possible extent, Austins and Austin Export agree that it is desirable that an organisation should be established in India having as its objects: (1) the importation into India of Austin products, (2) assembly of Austin products from their components, (3) progressive manufacture in India of such part of Austin products as can be manufactured there (4) supply of Austin products and parts to accredited distributors for resale to the public of India (5) provision of adequate facilities for prompt servicing of Austin products throughout the whole of India."

The agreement provides for the erection of a plant at one of India's main ports for the output of a minimum of 3,000 vehicles per year. Whereas the Indian company will be officially independent and will be controlled by Indians, the Austin Motor Export Corporation will send out technical experts from their Birmingham factory and adequate machinery to facilitate an early start.

FORD REDUCES CAR PRICES

Henry Ford, the second, President of the Ford Motor Company announced a price reduction, ranging from 15 to 50 dollars on current Ford models.

He said that the action was intended as a "shock treatment" to halt the "insane spiral of mounting costs and rising prices."

FREEDOM OF AIRWAYS

The U. S. Government still supports the principles of the 'five freedoms' of airways and hopes that the Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization (PICAO) eventually can bring about general agreement covering the main points of those 'five freedoms'. This was made clear by Garrison Norton, director of the U. S. State Department's Office of Transport and Communications Policy, in a broadcast over NBC's 'University of the Air' in which Dr. Edwar P. Warner, president of the interim council of PICAO, also participated.

The 'five freedoms' include:

1. Freedom to fly across another nation's territory;
2. To land in another country for non-traffic purposes;
3. To discharge passengers and freight from the airline's own national territory in another country;
4. To load passengers and freight for the return trip to airline's own national territory; and
5. To pick up passengers en route and carry them from one intermediate country to another.

DEMAND FOR NEW BRITISH PLANE

Orders amounting to about £2,000,000 have been placed by 13 different countries for Britain's latest light transport plane. This was announced by the manufacturers, de Havilland Aircraft Co. The plane is the de Havilland Dove, an eight-seater, which has just completed its trials after several months of test flying.

India, Persia, Iraq and the Sudan are among the purchasing countries, the others being Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Southern Rhodesia, Belgium, Greece, Argentina and Chile. It is expected that by next spring 20 of these planes will be produced each month.

C. R. ON NATIONALISATION OF INDUSTRIES

'Nationalisation is not practicable at present. Even those who want socialisation of industry admit that it is not practicable just now. Therefore you must exorcise the ghost of nationalisation and go on, resting assured that there will be compensation in any scheme of nationalisation', said Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Industries and Supplies in the Interim Government addressing the 20th annual session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry at Delhi on March 3.

Mr. Rajagopalachari spoke on a resolution on the need for increased production proposed by Mr. G. D. Birla and supported by Dr. S. B. Dutta and Mr. Begraj Gupta, which was accepted by the House.

SPINDLES FOR MADRAS

In the Central Assembly on February 12th Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Minister for Industries and Supplies, in a written reply to Mr. Ananthasayanam Iyengar, said that it was not correct to say that the Government of Madras had surrendered their spindles. They did inform the Government of India that they desired to surrender them; but the Government of India replied that they could not see their way to cancelling the licences already issued to parties, in view of the commitments involved.

The question of allocating to other Provinces spindles allotted to Madras could not arise so long as the parties who obtained licences had not surrendered them.

TEXTILE MACHINERY FOR INDIA

Sir Arthur Waugh, Secretary, Industries and Supply Department told the Council of State on February 25 that the Government of India had informed the Madras Government that in view of the commitments involved they could not see their way to cancelling licences for spindles already issued to applicants.

U. P. ZEMINDARS

The figures collected by the Zemindari Abolition Committee set up by the U. P. Government reveal the number of Hindu and Muslim Zemindars in the Province and the total revenue paid by each community. There are 1,927,000 Hindu Zemindars paying a revenue of Rs. 573 lakhs, 348,000 Muslim Zemindars paying Rs. 382 lakhs. Besides these, there are 798 Christian Zemindars whose revenue payments amount to Rs. 3,82,000.

Sir Jagadis Prasad, in his address to the conference of Zemindars at Unao deprecated the move towards abolition of Zemindaris and appealed to the members to get united and look after the welfare of the tenants. Already a provincial union of Zemindars has been started to safeguard the rights of the vested interests. The U.P. Government will not be having a plain sailing with its programme on this question.

A FARM TOOL FACTORY IN POONA

India will have a greatly expanded farm tool industry by next year when the Government of India's order for 1,250 power operated agricultural instruments is carried out by a Bombay concern says the *Times of India*. One of the immediate objectives is increase in agricultural output, but the long term aim of mechanising Indian agriculture is also furthered.

The temporary home of the industry will be in an aircraft factory at Poona where ploughs, harrows and cultivators will be manufactured. Arrangements are being made to recruit technicians from abroad. But it is to be hoped that the need to train Indian operatives as rapidly as possible is fully appreciated.

Even more necessary will be the need to popularise tractors which have been used successfully by the Government of Bombay in the scarcity areas. So far, the demand has justified the scheme of tractor ploughing at concessional rates.

LABOUR'S 14 POINT MEMO.

The Madras Minister for Labour, Mr. V. V. Giri, is considering a Fourteen-Point Memorandum submitted to him by a number of Labour organisations. Mr. T. S. Ramanujam, on behalf of various Labour Unions, met Mr. Giri and submitted the memorandum.

The following are some of the 14 points:—

(1) minimum wages shall be guaranteed in all industrial, commercial and agricultural concerns;

(2) victimization, shall cease to pay for an employer, whether private or Governmental;

(3) security of tenure shall become the rule rather than the exception;

(4) labour exchanges shall play a live part in promoting employment;

(5) sick leave and medical assistance, provident fund and other retirement benefits are sponsored by employers;

(6) houses for the poor shall be built all over the land by co-operative concerns commanding cheap and adequate funds borrowed at 2 to 3 per cent. and planning to recover expenditure over a pretty long period—say, 50 years;

(7) all mill cloth shall be distributed entirely among persons of the lowest income groups, while handloom cloth at controlled price, khaddar and silk can be earmarked for persons of higher incomes;

EQUAL WAGES FOR ALL

The following question was put to Mahatma Gandhi at the prayer meeting at Char Sholadi, on February 23.

"Do you hold that all persons who perform useful and necessary service in society, whether farmer or *bhangi*, engineer or accountant, doctor or teacher, have a moral right only to equal wages with the rest? Of course, it is understood that education or other expenses shall be charged to the State. Our question is, should not all persons get the same wages for their personal needs?"

INDIAN ARMY CHIEF

According to "Londoner" in the *Evening Standard*, when the control of the Indian Army passes to Indians, the Commander-in-Chief is expected to be Brigadier K. M. Cariappa. One of his senior commanders will be Brigadier J. N. Chaudhuri. Both have just arrived in London.

Brigadier Cariappa, now in his early fifties, is more than six feet tall.

The two Indians are in London to attend the Imperial Staff College. Their old friend, General Slim, will help by teach them.

DR. JULIAN HUMLEY

At a secret session of the UNESCO Conference, the British biologist Dr. Julian Huxley, was elected Director-General of UNESCO or a period of two years.

POPULATION OF INDIA BY COMMUNITIES

	Total	per cent.
TOTAL	33,66,66,623	100.00
Non-Muslims	29,46,08,527	76.19
Muslims	9,20,58,096	23.81
Hindus	25,49,30,506	65.93
Caste Hindus	20,61,17,326	53.31
Scheduled Castes	4,88,13,180	12.62
Tribes	2,54,41,489	6.58
Christians	63,16,549	1.63
Sikhs	56,91,447	1.47
Others	22,28,636	0.57

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER IN BRITAIN

Mr. Sudhir Ghosh, who has been appointed the Government of India Public Relations Officer in London, has gone back to England. Mr. Ghosh will be head of the Public Relations Department to be created in the Indian High Commissioner's organisation.

PRESIDENTSHIP OF U.N. ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar was unanimously re-elected President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council when 18 member nations opened their first session of the year at Lake Success on February 28.

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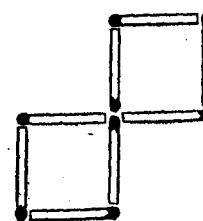
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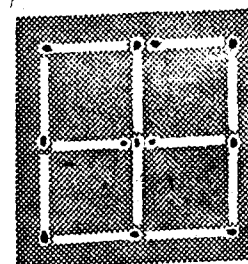
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PROBLEM: With four match sticks convert two squares into four.



ANSWER: Place the additional four sticks as shown in the diagram.

JUDICIOUS placing of the four match sticks can make them do the work of eight. Similarly, in your family budget you can gain the maximum advantage by knowing what to do with your savings. Buy National Savings Certificates—the investment specially devised for small investors.

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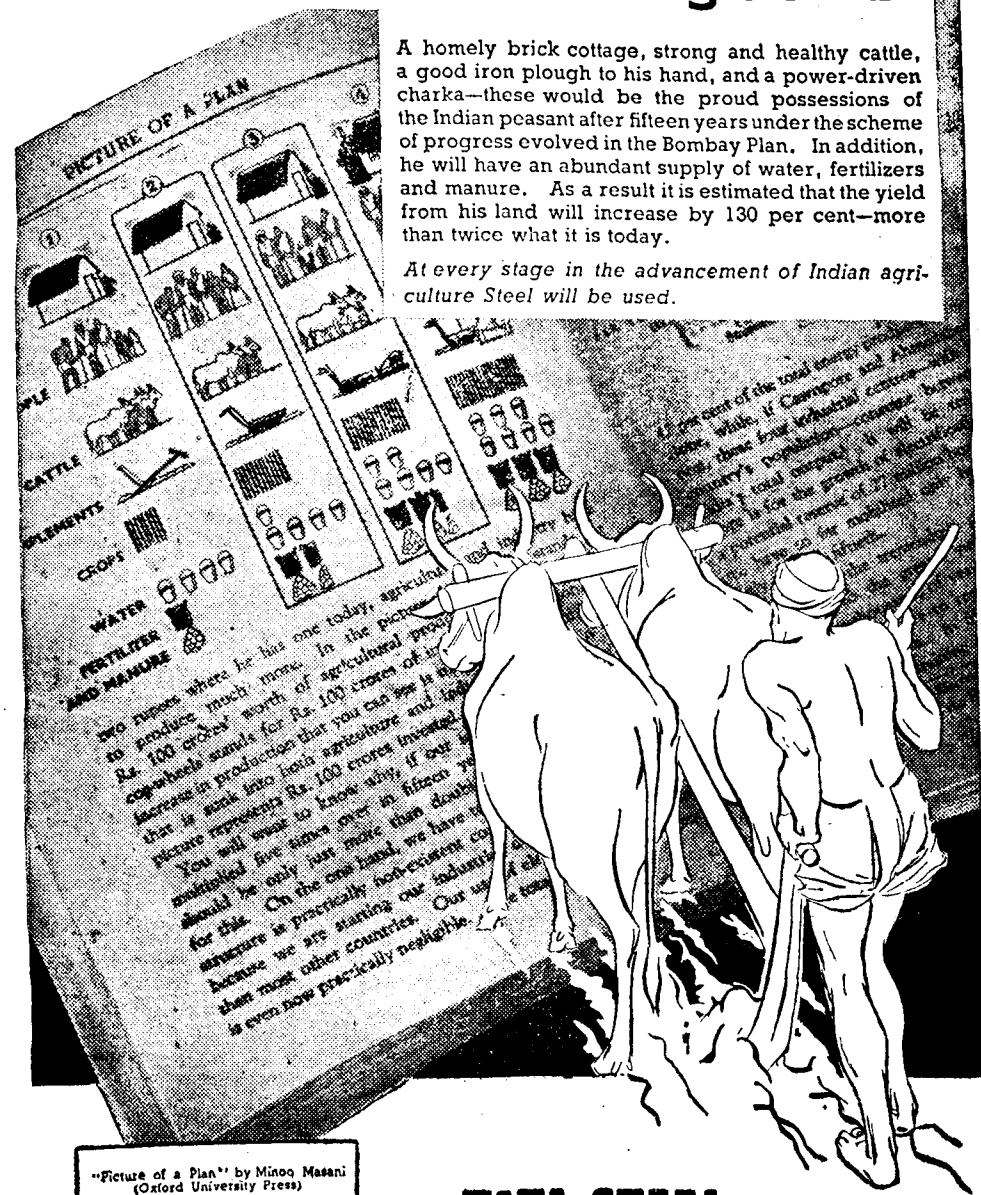
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INDIAN AGRICULTURE

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two rupees where he had one today, agricultural produce to produce much more. In the picture you see Rs. 100 crates' worth of agricultural produce. If you use copwheels sands for Rs. 100 crates of agricultural produce, you will see an increase in production that you can see in the picture. That is sunk into both agriculture and industry. Rs. 100 crates invested there represents Rs. 100 crates invested in industry. You will want to know why, if our country is producing five times over in fifteen years than it was in 1947, should be only just more than double for this. On the one hand we have a structure is practically non-existent because we are starting our industries from most other countries. Our structure is even now practically negligible.

"Picture of a Plan" by Minoq Masani
(Oxford University Press)

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OPINIONS

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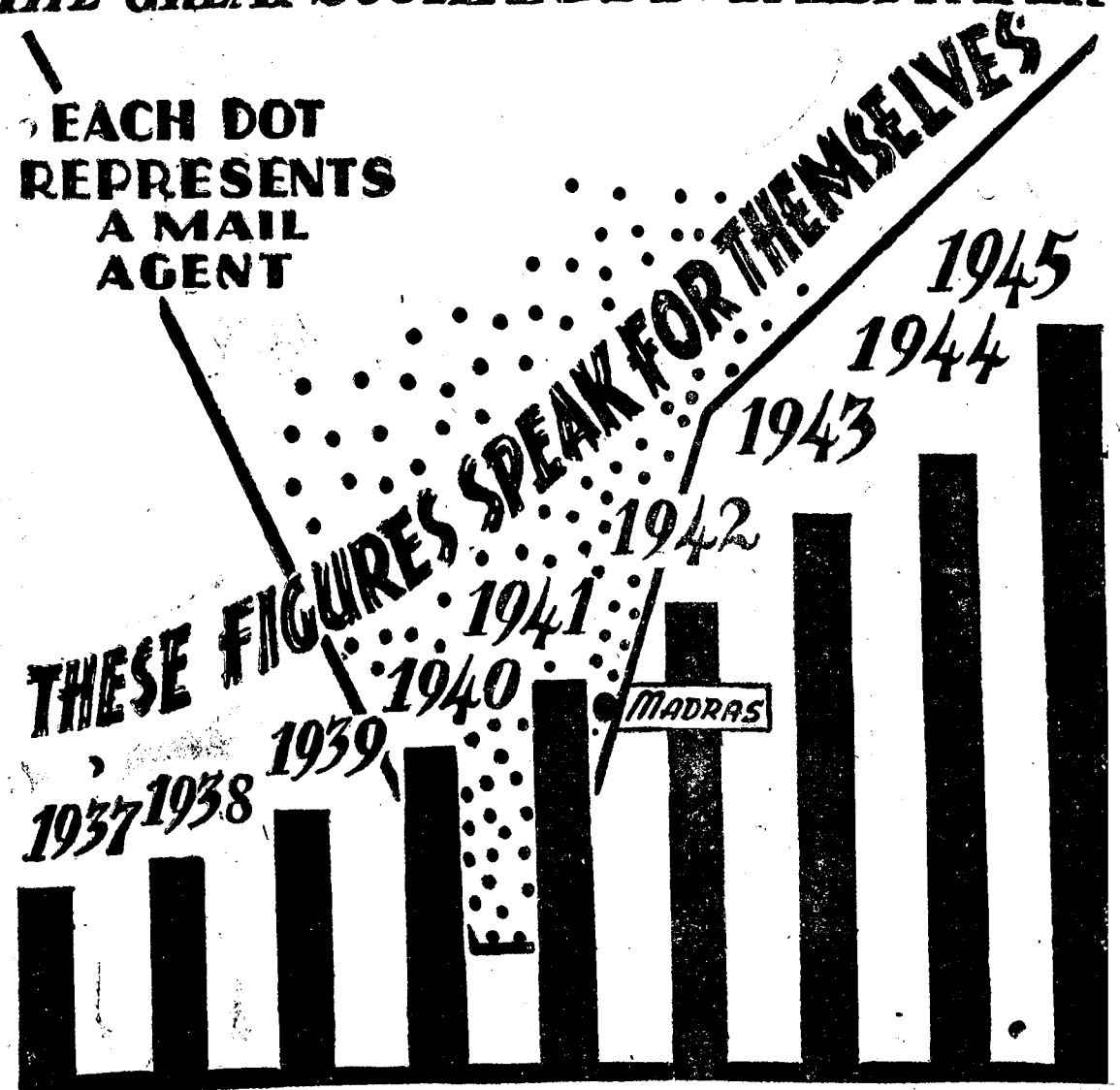
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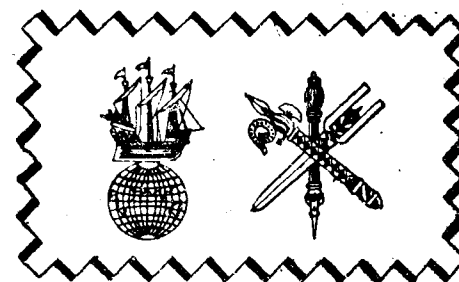
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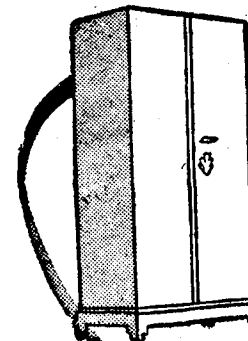
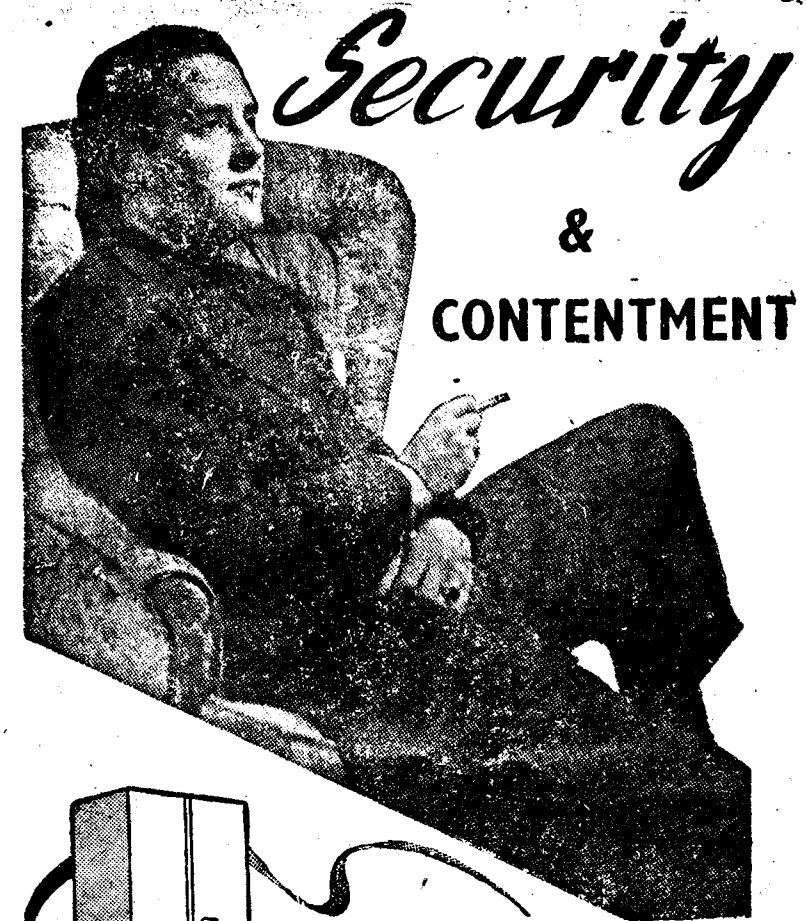
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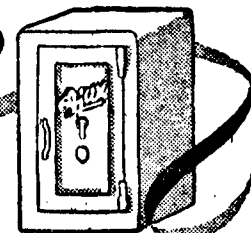
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