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Edited By Mr. G. A. NATESAN

Vol. 48]

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Edited By Mr. G. A. NATESAN

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JULY 1947

[No. 7.

Municipal Finance and the New Economics

BY

DR. GILBERT J. FOWLER, D.Sc., F.R.I.C., F.R.San.I., F.N.I.

—:O:—

AT the outset the question may be asked what is the New Economics. Quite shortly the New Economics may be said to have arisen from the modern problem of poverty amidst plenty, from the fact that while the possibilities of production have increased enormously through the progress of scientific invention and method, the problem of distribution of the resulting goods has not been solved, and consequently society is faced with great differences in the possibilities of life among the various sections of the community. The New Economics is concerned to find a way out of this trouble which undoubtedly is the fundamental cause of the social unrest in the world which again is the ultimate cause of war.

The New Economics seeks to put men before money and to substitute real value for token value. The true meaning of the statement that the love of money is the root of all evil is beginning to be understood, *viz.*, that when money as a mere token or image is valued for itself as apart from the goods or services which it represents then the same trouble arises as develops from any system of material idolatry. There is no doubt that humanity throughout the ages has found it easier to worship a golden calf than to obey the commandments of the prophets.

The manifold troubles which have arisen in the present world have brought many of the more thoughtful back to the reconsideration of these prophetic warnings. Thus one whole volume of a modern British writer is based on the famous dictum of Ruskin: "There is no Wealth but Life." From the other side of the Atlantic comes the voice of Henry George: "Labour is Capital" and what is known as the Technocracy movement puts forward a further axiom which is really a corollary of the other two: "The more we spend the richer we are."

It will be of interest to consider how far these axioms can be advantageously applied to the finance of Municipal undertakings. As an old official in the Corporation of Manchester, England, of 20 years' service and with considerable financial responsibilities, the writer has naturally had occasion to give a good deal of attention to the financial side of the schemes in which his Department was interested and which involved large expenditure. Every year *eg.*, the Lord Mayor and the members of the Finance Committee would come round to each Department endeavouring if possible to reduce the expenditure within certain limits—this policy being obviously founded on the belief that the possibility of carrying out desirable public works was essentially a matter of money.

and consequently a provision of *monetary* capital. Actually what was really required was simply labour, all materials being the product of labour and their application being only possible with the aid of labour. Unfortunately in order to start any work it was necessary to obtain in the first place not labour and materials but the promise of the necessary *money* from the Banks, or the Government who themselves had to recover it from the Banks. The question naturally arises to any individual with common sense why was it necessary to obtain these facilities when all that was required was a certificate that the necessary work had been done in any direction, some standard unit of no value in itself being adopted as a measure of the services rendered. When this measure or this token is considered to be in *itself* of value, the worship of images and tokens rather than the delivery of goods or services is experienced.

Bergson has very graphically reminded us that if the vegetable world were to accumulate carbon in the shape of diamonds instead of carbon in the combustible and assimilable form, nature would be acting as the human community acts in making gold the subject of its accumulation. The diamond would consume energy in its creation much as gold absorbs manpower in its production. Actually life in cities has drawn humanity so far away from the life of nature that these simple facts are smothered under an accumulation of what eventually become vested interests, the interest, *i.e.*, of those who supply *tokens* and therefore are able either to hasten or impede the rapidity of the cycle of life.

To consider Municipal finance from this new view-point we may deal with the following items which were always in the mind of those who had to justify Municipal expenditure before the critics of the Finance Department.

The outstanding question always was the effect which any given expenditure would

have upon the *Rates*, and on special occasions rate-payers' meetings were called and the Citizens' Auditor, especially elected by popular vote, would bring before the rate-payers the important schemes under discussion. Unfortunately the chief criterion of the suitability of any scheme, so far as it concerned the citizens was its *cost*. At the same time the ordinary citizen does not realize that his payments to the rate collector give him the best value for his money that he could possibly have, always provided that the money is honestly and efficiently spent.

Let the rate-payers, everytime they walk in the parks or along properly paved and asphalted streets, when they wander in the art gallery or museum or public library, only consider what it would cost them if they had individually to pay for all these amenities. It may be more difficult to visualise the benefits derived from the system of invisible underground sewers, or from the installations for the sanitary disposal of sewage and dust-bin refuse, which are not so pleasant to visit as the afore-mentioned art galleries and parks. Nevertheless even when the value of these amenities is fully realized and the necessary expenditure is cheerfully admitted, there remains a more serious cause of discontent *viz.* the *basis* on which rates are levied.

The contrast is made between the heavy rates levied upon a shopkeeper who may just be able to keep his head above water financially, and on the small office say of a consulting barrister whose income may exceed by many times that of the unfortunate shopkeeper. The rate is levied largely upon his *rent*. This brings us down to the origin of rent and thence on to the whole knotty problem of land values.

Why is it that the tendency in these days is for buildings to go higher and higher towards the sky until on the restricted land area of Manhattan Island, New York, we have sky-scrapers of really frightening altitude?

The reason manifestly is the increasing price of sites on which buildings are built. In the old days in Madras and in India generally when land was cheap and plentiful it was possible to have spacious bungalows and park-like "compounds" provided by the former merchants of the city. Now many of these, like even more palatial residences in Great Britain, have continued their careers as boarding houses so that rent is sub-divided even though it may have increased in the meanwhile. For buildings nearer the heart of the city where horizontal extension has become increasingly expensive, already we may see the springing up of skyscrapers. The question naturally arises to the philosophic observer what is the source of this increased value on which increased rates are based, and to whom does this increased value accrue. It appears fairly obvious that the increased value cannot be due simply to the initial ground landlord who has sat quietly watching while the labour of thousands has filled up the remaining areas with the results of their activity. Surely in common justice the reward should be to those who have worked not to those who have merely sat still and watched. It would appear in fact that speculation or more crudely stated gambling is a more lucrative source of income than hard work. Can this be said to be just or to be to the general benefit of the public?

Land obviously is in a different category from goods and services since it exists apart from the activity of man. It is nevertheless one of the three "factors of production" defined by Henry George as land, labour and capital.

Since production cannot take place without the use of land in some way, the owner of land has thus a hold over all other citizens. Hence has arisen the movement for the taxation of land *Values* which has attained great momentum in the United States under the stimulus of the writings of Henry George. It would

appear indeed from recent economic writings that the enthusiasm for Henry George's ideas has rather overstepped its usefulness in the United States having become condensed in the form of the "Single tax" whereas the more reasonable differential classification of taxation accepted in England has facilitated the adoption of the taxation of land *Values*. In Great Britain in recent years no fewer than 100 Local authorities have passed Resolutions demanding the Rating of Land *Values*.

It must be understood that Land *Value* is the market value of the land alone apart from any structures that may be built upon it. The Rating of Land *Values* will obviously tend to bring land into the market, since the higher the price claimed for it, the larger the land or ground rate which will have to be paid.

Another prophet of public recovery of land values is Silvio Gesell. His remedy is *nationalisation* of the land. By this he means that the State buys up all private property in *every kind of land*, paying compensation to the landowners. According to Gesell the taxpayer who has at present to deduct from his work not only the taxes but also *Rent* could easily bear a larger tax if relieved of the burden of rent. At first nobody gains or loses by the redemption of the land, what Gesell "Free Land". The net gain to the States will only begin with the gradual amortisation of debt resulting from "Free Money", the second reform advocated by Gesell.

It must be emphasised that the question of expenditure on public works or in day-to-day municipal services raises another problem *viz.*, the question of *interest* on borrowed money.

Here the controversy is between the public and the banking interests, and what may be termed the "financial authority", since even a Government loan must be borrowed from the banks, *i.e.*, ultimately

from the Bank of England, which under the present monetary system alone has the power of issuing *money*. Under this system it happens particularly in the case of long term loans that the amount paid in interest adds enormously to the eventual expenditure. Moreover loans are granted on rateable security, and once more we come back to the question of rates, the value of which depends on the activity of the citizens and bears no real relation to the gold, the basis on which the transactions of the Bank of England are still conducted whether or not the country is technically 'on' or 'off' gold.

Since the foregoing paragraph was originally written the nationalization of the Bank of England has taken place and its profits, if any, return to the nation. Moreover the "gold standard" may be considered permanently "off". After a lapse of some fifteen years the view which the present writer put before the Rotary Club in Madras is now voiced in the Central Assembly, *viz.*, that the real backing of the currency of any country was the "purchasing power of the people". (Mr. A. Ayyangar, Debate on Amendment of the Reserve Bank of India Act, April 8, 1947).

Moreover even more recently Mr. Attlee reminded Mr. Churchill that "it was he who brought us back on the Gold Standard, which led to the crisis in the coal industry, from which we are suffering to-day."

It is only fair to Mr. Churchill that in the budget debate on April 21st, 1932 he acknowledged his error pleading bad advice by experts and eloquently abjuring the position that all future scientific and social developments should be "arbitrarily barred by the price of gold."

There have been several classic cases of municipal authorities who have endeavoured to escape the stranglehold of gold and the consequent accumulating burden of interest and debt by using their own notes in

payment of goods and services. This policy has resulted in extraordinary prosperity until crushed by the intervention of the "financial authority."

Such a case is what is known as the Guernsey Market Scheme. For a hundred years the island of Guernsey issued its own special notes, which were legal tender in the community. The contractors were paid in these notes which were afterwards redeemed by the earnings of the projects in question. Here the community borrowed from itself. There was no question of interest and consequently no permanent debt.

An even more striking application of the ideas of the New Economics is to be found in the Austrian village of Worgl where Silvio Gesell introduced the idea of negative interest. Gesell pointed out that money value expressed in gold did not keep step with the real value of commodities since the latter depreciated on storage. If therefore money was made to depreciate *pari passu* with commodities there would be no inducement to hoard rather than to spend. This would result in what was practically free money. The Burgomaster of Worgl, a disciple of Gesell arranged for the circulation of a certain number of ordinary Austrian notes to be termed "labour bonds." These lost 1 per cent. of their value every month unless paid into the Municipal treasury or into the savings bank. This negative interest forced the money to circulate freely and the little town became wonderfully prosperous. Unfortunately the movement awakened the vested interests of the banks. It is these vested interests which the New Economics is watching.

Without any question of banks or interest payments the simple question of labour costs may surely be handled in a simple fashion without any interference with normal currency provided the necessary arrangements are made and legalised. A large proportion of most Municipal works must consist of purely labour costs

involving no serious market or financial difficulties. There is no reason why at any rate a proportion of the Municipal expenditure should not be paid in what may be termed "labour notes", labour being interpreted in the large sense of the word, as when it is applied to the Labour Party. Labour in this way would consist of all those to whom salaries and wages are paid.

Actually the present writer was able during his experience as a Municipal official in some sort to approximate to this procedure. It became necessary to arrange for the renewals of a large area of the sewage filter beds then in use, the cost of which was almost wholly labour. Unless some provision was made there was a danger that the rates would be suddenly called upon for considerable sums, unless it was possible to arrange for what may be called a sinking fund. He was told that financial rules did not permit of such a course, *i.e.*, the setting aside each year of a proportion of the eventual expenditure. By persistence he was able to get these rules altered by the authorities, and consequently the cost was spread evenly over a period of years. In this way special loans and consequent interest were avoided and in fact the experience indicated that as in personal finance so in public finance a policy of "pay as you go" is to be recommended for financial peace of mind. In a valuable book entitled: "Capital and Labour" by Walter Jones, a former Mayor of Stourbridge and head of the firm which pioneered the engineering development of the Activated Sludge process, he deals with this question in a very interesting manner showing the enormous sums which have to be paid in interest by public bodies

who tend to borrow lavishly and he recommends that no loan should run for more than 10 years and that the amount paid into the sinking funds should be at least equal to the amount paid in interest so that the burden of interest should not continue indefinitely, becoming ultimately a crushing burden.

To summarise, therefore, we may say that the New Economics, so far as it is concerned with Municipal finance, would press not only for the reduction of debt but for its entire avoidance by paying cash wherever possible. This cash involves nothing but an exchange of notes between the citizens and those who work for them, the source of revenue being simply the material and labour in themselves.

Outstanding liabilities concerned with land values and Municipal securities will always have to be considered but the New Economics urges that these be settled as soon as possible with equal justice to the landowner, the 'rentier' and the citizens. In fairness it must always be remembered that the owners of the land or of Municipal securities acquired their property under a social system in which these considerations had not been fully realized. That some loss to property interests may eventuate must be faced, just as the handson cabs and horse-driven trams have had to yield to the coming of the motor. These changes are inevitable but they should be understood, and settled on an equitable basis to be arranged by some body whose intelligence and impartiality can be trusted to see justice done. In this way we may hope for a better state of things without incurring the risk of anything approaching a red revolution. That the whole matter must be faced however is an inescapable conclusion.

DR. ANANDA K. COOMARSWAMY

SOME REMINISCENCES AND AN APPRECIATION

BY DR. J. M. HAFIZ SYED, M.A., Ph.D.

MY recollection of Dr. A. K. Coomarswamy dates back to the year 1907 when I was a student at Benares and he had come over to the Theosophical Society. His tall and slim and graceful figure, his intellectual and refined features and his Indian attire upon a foreign looking body attracted the attention of all who saw him. When it became known to us youngmen that he was a scientist by training and artist and philosopher by nature we were all the more impressed by the many-sided culture which we expected to find in him. The fact that he lived in England and had foreign blood in his veins became more and more emphasised as a contrast to his deep understanding and burning love of Indian culture and civilization and took our young imagination as if by storm. A kind of hero worship grew up in the mind of the younger generation who came into touch with him; and those of us who had read his articles published in the *Central Hindu College Magazine*, the *Indian Review* and the *Modern Review* in the opening years of this century regarded him as an outstanding force of the time.

The early years of the century were the years of great enthusiasm. The Partition of Bengal and the surge of patriotic feeling that came with it, the swadeshi movement and the spirit of sacrifice that was liberated in support of it, the herculean effort which men like Gokhale and Lajpat Rai made for the unification of the politics of the Hindus and the Muslims of the country, all these and everything else that occupied the minds of men were germinally present in Dr. Coomarswamy's writings of those early years. Yet, in spite of the great surge of national feeling in the country, the general attitude of mind to things Indian was marked by ignorance and contempt in the so called English educated people.

Even the Indian National Congress in those early years lacked the national self-

consciousness which Dr. Coomarswamy tried to awaken. As I look upon the resolution of the Indian National Congress adopted in those early years and remember the great speeches of the reformers of the time, I feel that the best that was attempted or desired by us was to make India in every way like England. Hardly any one mentioned the need of revitalizing the Indian Ideal or evaluating the progress of things in terms of that ideal.

Dr. Coomarswamy's articles quickened a sense of pride and dignity in the minds of young Indians for the past of their civilization by giving them an understanding of the principles underlying their culture and civilization. "What shall it profit India to gain the whole world if she lost her own soul in her effort to gain it", insisted Dr. Coomarswamy in a variety of ways. His articles were read and re-read, discussed and pondered upon by the cleverest of the younger generation and became a kind of tonic for their future effort. Everywhere the most ardent admirers of Dr. Coomarswamy were young men to whom his words made a special appeal.

I remember how in every town and city which he visited for collecting pictures for the great exhibition at Allahabad in 1910, he made an impression on young minds and left crowds of them to ruminate on his central ideas. The great work that he did to educate public taste for Indian art exhibited at Allahabad stands out as a landmark in the evolution of modern India. Judging from his contribution towards the awakening of Indian consciousness to things Indian one cannot but regard him as one of the great builders of modern India.

He did not figure in the struggle for political freedom in any of its several phases. But his writings supplied the energy and the motive for the deeper undercurrent that worked imperceptibly behind the outward symptoms. He was a critic of art and toured the country as a

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collector of pictures. But his definition of and his interpretation of pictures became many-sided appreciation of the national forces that had gone to the making of the national arts. Whether he wrote on Swadeshi or on Industry, on Indian jewelry or Indian statuary and buildings, he always seemed to harp back on the central realization behind Indian culture and philosophy. When he wrote about education in India he displayed the same largeness of view and deep understanding of the Indian point of view which was neglected and ridiculed by the foreign educator of Indian youths. In short, whatever was the subject to which he applied his catholic and liberal mind, he always brought his readers to consider all things as rooted in the central reality of the Indian conception. Even now to his old admirers the publication of a book by him is an outstanding event. And although he lives so far away in America we think of him as perpetually present behind the shaping energy of the times as one of its great main-spring. It is difficult to review his contribution to the making of modern India without taking away the essential dignity from the future Indian ideal. For, to quote his own words, "nations are built, not by politicians but by artists and philosophers."

It was he who insisted upon the fact that we want freedom for our country not merely for bread but for the sake of being what we have in ourselves to become. It is impossible not to be thrilled by the appeal Dr. Coomarswamy made to the deeper self-respect of Indians whose latter day history was devoid of all significance and substance and who from that cause were unable to make any contribution to the sum total of human culture and the civilization of mankind.

We have not said anything of Dr. Coomarswamy's contribution to making India understood by Europe and America. But even here he is a great worker. His lectures and books addressed to the Western people present India in the fairest possible terms. As to the Indians so to the English men, he talks of India as an essential link in the chain of human civilization and presents

her case for freedom upon the level not of human conquest and slavery, but upon the level of the unity of mankind. His appeal is always couched in persuasive terms as would be that of a brotherly man talking to brotherly men. This is so because he is a lover of the best that England stands for and equally of that which free India can still evolve out of her many sided culture for the solution of the many problems that face the modern world.

He used to say to us that "the future of India could not be postponed for ever. Swaraj or self-Government was the ideal of young India, and it depended upon the wisdom and sympathy of English rulers in India to say whether the growth of this idea of nationality throughout the country should be attended by violent disturbance or whether it should be allowed to proceed peacefully towards the inevitable goal. Episodes such as Hindu-Muslim riots, and the deportation of Indian agitators in those days were but the flashes that announced the conflict. They were not the struggle itself. Nor did they explain its significance. What then, according to him, was the deeper meaning of the struggle? It was a part of a wider one, the conflict between the ideals of imperialism and the ideals of nationalism. Between these two ideals we had then to choose; and with the choice of England in particular we were then concerned. Upon that choice depended the salvation of much that was absolutely essential to the future greatness of civilization. For imperialism involved the subordination of many nationalities to one; a subordination not merely political but also economic and cultural. He thought that nationalism was inseparable from the idea of internationalism, recognizing the rights and worth of other nations to be even as one's own. For Indians he held that the ideal was that of nationalism and internationalism. He desired us, Indians to feel that loyalty for us consisted in loyalty to the idea of an Indian nation, politically, economically and mentally free; in other words he believed that India was for the

Indians, not because we believed that every nation has its own part to play in the long tale of human progress, but that nations which were not free to develop their own individuality and their own character were also unable to make their contribution to the sum of human culture which the world has a right to expect of them. He was definitely of opinion that so long as England's ideals were set upon an achievement of domination over others she could neither be free nor truly great. These precious words of his uttered forty years ago have come out to be true and his aspirations and prayers seem to have been fulfilled.

Much has been said and written by political thinkers on the value and importance of individuals and nations. Dr. Coomarswamy's view is no less valuable than that of some of the eminent thinkers of the West. He believes that "the world has progressed from the ideal of individual slavery to that of individual freedom; it has become an instinct to believe that men are equal at least to this degree, that every man must be regarded as an end in himself. But progress is only now being made from the idea of national slavery (empire) to that of national freedom (inter-nationalism). We have to learn that nations no less than men are ends in themselves; we have yet to realize that a nation can no more ultimately justify the ownership of other nations, than a man can justify the ownership of other men."

Let us not forget, he further adds, that in setting this ideal of nationalism before us, we are not merely striving for a right, but accepting a duty that is binding on us, that of self-realization to the utmost for the sake of others.

Deeply learned as he is in ancient lore of India and saturated as he is with the true spirit of Indian culture he lets no opportunity pass when he does not emphasize the need and importance of disseminating some of the vital ideals of ancient India that hold good for all time, and which the present erring and suffering world

needs to no small extent. He sincerely feels that India has to play a part among the comity of nations and has to contribute something definite to the spiritual and cultural evolution of mankind. There is something in India in the form of spiritual values which is not found elsewhere in the world and it is that which India has to share with other nations in order to revitalise their outlook on life and reorientate their civilization. Every country like every individual has its own genius and special characteristics which have to be preserved in the interest of commonweal and human welfare. He is one of those few thinkers and advocates of India's cause who always takes a deeper view of life and knows how to discriminate between the real and the unreal, between vital and unessential. Unhesitatingly and with full sense of confidence and responsibility, he enjoins his countrymen (as he identifies himself with India and her aspirations,) "that India's contribution to the civilization of the world does not and can never justify her children in believing that her work is done. There is work yet for her to do, which if not done by her, will remain for ever undone. He enjoins us not to shirk our part in the reorganization of life which is needed to make life tolerable under changed conditions." He draws our attention to the fact that it is for us to show that great and lovely cities can be built again without the pollution of the air by smoke or the poisoning of the rivers by chemicals; it is for us to show that man can be the master, not the slave of the mechanism he himself has created."

He desires us to bear in mind that "wisdom is greater than knowledge." We should never forget that "art is something more than manual dexterity, or the mere imitation of natural forms." He calls upon us "to investigate the psychical and supersensual faculties anew, in the light of the discoveries of physical science and to show that science and faith may be reconciled on a higher plane than any reached as yet." It is for us, he emphasizes,

"to spiritualize the religious conceptions of the West, and to show that the true meaning of religious toleration is not the refraining from persecution, but the real belief that different religions need not be mutually exclusive, the conviction that they are all equal roads suited to the varying capacities of those that tread them and leading to one end."

How few patriots are there in our sacred land, who have caught the true spirit of India's past glory and have faith in her immense possibilities in future. Dr. Coomarswamy is one of the very few of them who devoutly believes that the soul of India with its deeper and fuller significance, should be jealously guarded and carefully preserved. Every civilized nation is really proud of its national heritage and is never willing to destroy it. The true ideal of *swadharma*, doing one's own duty, however irksome and unpleasant it may be, must be pursued unflinchingly. He is one of those few persons who sounded a timely note of warning more than forty years ago

that "the people of India should cease to imitate their rulers." Indian music, Indian art, Indian architecture, Indian philosophy, in short everything that is truly Indian must be preserved. He has rightly awakened us to our national consciousness and told us that "the best in us is still sleeping".

As a writer of great eminence and a thinker of no mean order, he is too well known in the world of to-day to need any further mention. His contributions to the Sinhalese and the Indian art shall ever live. His collections of Kangra, Moghul, and Rajput paintings are safely deposited and preserved in the Boston museum of which he is the worthy Curator. Although he is far away from us in a distant land, I have no doubt, that his heart is with us and he is watching our rising destiny closely from his abode of peace. May he long be spared to us by kind Providence to espouse our cause and to inspire us with his wonderful interpretation of Indian tradition, is the prayer of one of his oldest admirers in India.

Tenancy Laws in Congress Provinces

BY RAO BAHADUR SARDAR M. V. KIBE, M.A., INDORE

OWNERSHIP and tenancy are concomitant things. The latter is of sorts. It is doubtful if in any province of India the State is the owner of land. It is also debatable if what it receives from the land is rent or revenue.

There are two main systems prevailing in India, namely Zamindari and Ryotwari. Zamindari includes Taluqdari, Khoti etc., which are its variants. In its case the Government has divested itself of its proprietorship. In the case of the Ryotwari tracts it may be said that it is practically so. In the countries which were under the Maratha Empire, and are even now governed by States which formed part of it, there is a class of Inamdars, Jahagirdars and Saranjamdars. They may be owners of pieces of land or a village or villages. The Jahagirdars are different from the class

so named in Rajputana and other States. The last named above were originally created for military service under the Maratha rule, but now are owners, like the rest of the classes with some restrictions. The Inamdars were brought into existence for various things; some of the causes being the same as for the creation of Jahagirdars. The latter are for services rendered to the State.

The Jahagirdars in Rajputana wholly represent the Class sprung from the family of the ruler. They practically possess the same power over the land which the state originally possessed. They used to resist, and still resist, with diminishing force, any interference of the Government of the State of origin in the management of their estates. Democratic leaders in these days do, by the way, mix,

the two classes of Jahagirdars named in this and the preceding paragraph. Inams are for various proposes, mainly religious.

The East India Company finding too vast a dominion to manage, when it became the owner of the Diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, found the easy way of framing the revenue of the territory under them at a much higher rental than prevalent and in order to attract the highest bidders, made the Settlement permanent. If the Zamindar failed to pay the revenue fixed, his estate was sold to the highest bidder. Thus these estates have passed into several hands but the rental remained permanent, while much extra unearned increment fell to the lot of the Zamindar.

With settled Government, agriculture began to be a profitable industry. The Zamindars began to earn much extra profits, owing to rack-renting their fields and bringing fallow lands under cultivation, for both of which demand arose. While the latter process was legitimate, as under the Permanent Settlement, they had become the owners of the land, in the former case it led to the oppression of the cultivator. The Government had to interfere and make tenancy laws, the Macdonald Act of 1885 being a model one.

The Permanent Settlement was also introduced in parts of the Madras presidency but its extension there or to the provinces, was stopped. But when large territories were annexed as in Gujrat or Oudh and other places farmers of tracts of land were found in possession. It was difficult to divest them of their existing rights, and a matter of time, to approach the actual tiller of the soil who being a tenant-at-will, had no permanent interest in his holding and was constantly changed and replaced. So they were made responsible for the payment of the Government Revenue. Examples of these are the taluqdars of Gujrat and the Zamindars of Oudh and the United Provinces. The Lambardars and Malguzars of the Central Provinces are of the same kind.

When people's representatives began to be elected to the legislative bodies in gradually increasing numbers, and with the extension of franchise, the tiller of the soil prominently came into the picture, in both the Zamindari and Ryotwari tracts or territories. Laws for the amelioration of his main evils, namely, instability of the tenure and indebtedness, began to be enacted by even the bureaucratic governments in British India, even in Ryotwari tracts. A new class of the cultivators arose, that is to say, owners, who themselves did cultivate owing to the natural consequences of economic laws and laws of inheritance. The former led to the accumulation of lands in the hands of owners who could not be tillers, due to physical causes, and the latter to the bringing into existence of uneconomic holdings.

In Bengal and Madras the Permanent Settlement has been decided to be abolished, but only after paying due compensation to Zamindars, who will presumably be replaced by cultivators. The United Provinces seems to have resolved to take the same course, which is easier there, as it has no permanently settled Estates. The Central Provinces Government has decided to wait until the Government of India Act of 1935 becomes defunct, because it has an equitable provision that no one should be deprived of his rights without being compensated for it. The Central Provinces Government desired to do away with this just provision probably regarding it as a bourgeois device.

While in these Provinces, the Zamindari system is being replaced by the Ryotwari system, the Bombay Government has got itself out of the just promise of the Government of India Act of 1935 of paying compensation, by turning the land owner into a Zamindar, by its recent tenancy laws, which in course of time, are expected to eliminate the class. Whether the economic and social laws will fail to continue to create the same conditions, which are sought to be removed now, is out of the sight of the legislators at present. Unless

land and the agricultural industry are nationalised, it is not difficult to see that those conditions will not re-appear in course of time.

Under the Bombay Tenancy laws unless an owner cultivates his fields himself, he has to give them to either of the two sorts of tenants. The condition is obviously a drastic one. Since an owner not only may have fields scattered in the same village but in different villages in the same district he cannot possibly fulfil this condition. He has therefore to have tenants. They are now created of two classes (1) Protected (Permanent) and (2) Ordinary. The latter will be practically only for new lands to be brought under cultivation. The rights of the former are not only so covered by protection as to make the owner a helpless one, but he is also burdened with duties, in the discharge of which the cultivator has little share.

The owner is made responsible for the land revenue while he will naturally have to wait for two years before he can recover his land, even suffering to lose his dues. The owner is to receive only one-third of the income, or produce, from the field in unirrigated lands and one-fourth in the irrigated lands irrespective of the source of irrigation, that is to say, whether it is obtained by manual labour or paying costs in money or is natural. In the last named case, at least, the owner should have received a larger share. There are other minor details for which there can be no space here and besides they are too numerous to be dilated upon in a general review.

Even the above named shares in the produce of the land are to be fixed by revenue authorities. In the case of the share of the produce, while the revenue authorities have to determine the share, the cultivator can remove the produce, apparently leaving the deciding authority to depend upon hearsay evidence for his decision. Heavy penalties, as yet only of fine, have been provided to be levied on the owner, for any breach, in any such

detail as in the case of the giving of receipts, or taking any labour or gift from his tenants. The tenant can give up cultivation at any time. But the owner is to be penalised, if for any reason he is unable to put the land under cultivation in a season. Apparently this is a ruse for driving him out. Even after legal process the tenant is held to have lost his rights, before he can be ousted the owners have to go to Civil Courts with their appeals and revisions.

The only redeeming feature of the law, seems to be that the law of primogeniture has been, although by back stairs, introduced in the case of tenants. Apart from the fact that this reform will be a source of litigation, as the laws of inheritance have not been touched. The benefit of this provision has not been extended to land owners. This shows that the main object of the Bombay Province Tenancy Act, as amended in 1946, in which year also it has been made applicable to the entire province, without any compensation for the loss of his vested rights. It is not too much to say that apart from the injustice of the case such a measure as this one, cannot be beneficial in the long run to any party.

Lastly, in applying this law to the tenants in Inams and Jagirs in the province, there is a distinct breach of the sanads given by the previous rulers and confirmed by the present government. These inams and jagirs were, after an elaborate enquiry, accented as binding by the East India Company, before the Mutiny of 1857-58 by granting Sanads. They make an absolute gift of the property. It is not open to the Congress Government to ignore it, in this summary way, without disregarding natural justice, coming down by long usage and custom. Not that the tenants are not to be given any protection, but special consideration will have to be given to the terms of the Sanads. This can be tested in a Court of Law if the final authority does not intervene.

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AMERICA LOOKS AT THE WORLD

BY MR. VIJAY SEN, M.A., J.D.

ONE of the outstanding facts emerging out of the war is the keen interest that the United States has begun taking in the European and world affairs. Ever since the beginning of her history her policy has been 'hands off Europe'. Of course, she has been all the time working for her own safety, her trade and commerce and did not tolerate any interference by the outside powers on the mainland of America. She has protested and opposed, directly and indirectly, any such interference. During the first few years of the first World War the United States remained neutral. But then the unrestricted use of the submarine on the part of Germany, the blockade of seas and a serious encroachment on the rights of neutrals began obstructing her life, commerce and trade. And hence the Congress of the United States, on April 6, 1917, declared war on Germany. But after the war when Harding succeeded Wilson as President on March 4, 1921, the withdrawal of the United States from Europe became a confirmed feature of American policy. She even withdrew from the League of Nations. Again, towards the end of forties, when the clouds of war were seen over Europe the United States Senate hastened to pass various Neutrality Acts to counteract the inevitability of America being once again dragged into another European war.

But after a few years of the war it became almost clear that the days of continental wars were over. The United States had to revise her Neutrality Acts to help Great Britain the defender of Democracy and Freedom of the continent of Europe; and she actually declared war on December 8, 1941, a day after Japan launched air attacks on U. S. naval, military and air bases at Pearl Harbour.

Now after the war the United States is banking on the experiences of the two World Wars and has clearly understood that peace can never be maintained in one and only one part of the world. She is now actively participating in the rebuilding

of a new world order, casting aside her age old policy of isolationism. The permanent home of the UNO in the United States not only shows the keen interest with which the Americans look towards this organisation but also reveals the profound conviction that the centre of world destiny is in the United States.

There are three main reasons for this change in policy and outlook of the United States Government and people. Firstly, as has been said, it is clear now, if it was not before, that all future wars are to be global and not continental. Means of communications, intensity and extent of wars and their effects, and the interdependence of countries have greatly changed the prospects of future war and peace. The whole world now is to move together; it has now become like one body; if one part is suffering the other must feel and suffer as well. This has made an average American world-conscious.

Secondly, America is on the top of the world. She produces more than half of the coal of the world; 600 million tons a year against Britain's 170 million tons and Russia's 169 million; more than half the steel in the world, 80 million tons against British 12 million and Russian 14 million. Her navy is 6 times larger than the British Navy is and moreover she holds the secret of atomic bomb and is prepared for any emergency. She is the first rate power in the world, and is free from any dependence on Europe. Europe has produced demons of totalitarianism during the last quarter of a century who have been responsible for two wars and both the times she has saved democracy and freedom in Europe. And now again she fears the expansionist policy of the Soviet Union, the stronghold of communism and totalitarianism in Europe. America seems to be determined to try her own American way of life in Europe with Russia if possible and without Russia if necessary. From various reports and the recent address of President Truman before the

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Congress asserting that: 'The totalitarian regimes imposed on free peoples, by direct or indirect aggression, undermine the foundations of international peace and hence the security of the United States. And the free peoples of the world look to us for support in maintaining their freedoms. If we falter now we may endanger the peace of the world—and we shall surely endanger the welfare of our own nation', it is now all the more clear.

Thirdly, the great technical skill achieved by the United States during the war has greatly changed her outlook. She not only turned out war material for her own use but the American tanks, aeroplanes, bombers and destroyers were fighting the Germans and Japanese on all fronts. She astonished the world by her stupendous production and organizing capacity and it is beyond doubt that the great American productive capacity was a large factor in the triumph. This has not only given a superiority complex and a spirit of self-confident nationalism to Americans but has itself created a great problem for themselves which is taxing their wits and energies to the utmost. This has produced a great effect at home and in the foreign policy of the United States. At home, as is made clear by the victory of the Republican party, the Roosevelt epoch has closed, and in T. S. Eliot's classic phrase, "not with a bang but a whimper". The liberals left Washington after Mr. Truman was in office, "first by twos and threes and then in droves". Republicans, generally, are hostile to government regulation of American economic life, and remain convinced that the smaller the part it plays in interfering with the free economy of the market the better for the American people. The great achievements of the American people in war and peace must obviously would have attracted Americans to support this policy.

But the Americans are lulled into a mistaken expectation of a quiet epoch in the next years. For a free play of market economy would naturally lead to crisis.

America to-day is feeling prosperous in the same way as it did before 1929 but the winter of 1931 may not be far away. However to them for the present a liberal President, a liberal Congress also, are of the nature of intruders. They are welcome only in a crisis. It is only in storm that they turn to the pilot who is prepared to take the ship of state to port by an unchartered route. As the Republicans dominate the two houses of Congress conservatism is in the saddle and the captains of industry and finance wield the power; it has made liberals homeless for some years to come at least.

Abroad this has led to what some people have named it as American Imperialism. America, the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world, becomes dependent on other countries absorbing its surplus production. For some years there would be a big demand in China and India, industrially backward countries, and in many countries of Europe the economy and industry of which have been paralyzed and destroyed due to the last World War. But every country is sure to develop her own resources and her capacity to fulfil most of its needs. And where will all these exports go to without creating friction and conflict? But that is a distant question. For the present the great alarming factor is that the rest of the world is moving leftward and America has become a stronghold of conservatism and reactionary forces of the world and still further those in authority in Washington not only view with dislike and alarm this leftward trend but also want to check it.

It was made evident when so representative a figure in American big business as Bernard Baruch warned his fellow citizens against any financial aid for socialist experiments in Great Britain. It again became clear when the United States stood against the Polish resolution in the United Nation's General Assembly recommending a rupture of relations with Franco.

It is manifested again in the policy of General MacArthur, which has not only

made the occupation of Japan virtually an American monopoly, but has been careful to develop constitutionalism there as a political form with, as yet, few if any sign of economic substance behind it.

But the great alarming factor disturbing the peace of the world is that the world is divided into two groups of Powers—the Russian and the American. President Truman and a vast majority of thoughtful and well-informed Americans have come to the conclusion that there is a very little difference between Nazi expansionist policy and that of Soviet Russia. In the words of Louis Fischer 'The Russians have annexed an empire since 1939. Yet they continue to demand territory, bases, and controlling positions.' The United States Government feels that such a development would endanger the security of the United States and thus the United States has decided to check Soviet Russian aggression.

To achieve that end she is strengthening a ring around the Soviet Union. In the east, Japan is being prepared as a military bulwark against the Soviet Union. The Yokohama naval base, Japan's largest and a key network of airfields, has been placed in first class condition by U. S. military. In fact Japan has become a strategic base that could block any Russian advance southward into China or eastward across the Pacific; and from a strategic point of view Japan remains the west flank of the United States and the east flank of Russia. It is quite clear that the United States will seek Sino-Japanese and perhaps Indian co-operation to check any further Soviet expansion in Eastern Asia.

Moreover, the United States is fully preparing herself for the next war. Vice Admiral Blandy, deputy chief of naval operations for special weapons referring to the Bikini atomic bomb tests declared: "These tests are one form of being prepared for war. The best way to avert war is to be prepared for it." He further added: "the results of these tests remain the secret property of the U. S. The atomic bombs are still manufactured in the

United States and so far no agreement has been reached for the international control of this demon of destruction."

It has been made quite clear from the recent statement of President Truman and its amplifications by Mr. Dean Acheson, Assistant Secretary of State. He declared before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of representatives: "The existence of communist dominated Governments in any place in the world is dangerous to the security of the United States." He further added: "we are helping Turkey and Greece to withstand external pressures and the question of monarchy in Greece is one for the people of that country to decide." The United States to-day wants to help Greece and Turkey to check Russia in the Black Sea. Her second line of defence would be in the lands of Lebanon Syria and Iraq.

Again, the German policy of the United States Government differs from that of the Russian Government. Apart from the official support of different ideologies in the two sectors their views on the unification of Germany greatly differ. Americans are for a united Germany and want to revive German industry, obviously with American capital and for American benefit. Russians oppose it.

This cleavage in the two countries is also deflected in the newspapers. In a most widely read and circulated magazine in America a distinguished statesman, while advocating that America must prevent the conquest of Germany and Europe by Soviet tyranny writes: "We face once more the distinction between relative justice and tyranny. Our tyrannical opponent is as unscrupulous as tyrannies always are, exploiting every gesture of pure trust by new demands... It should be apparent to all but the wilfully blind that there is no hope of peace in a policy which plays into the hands of Russia's ideological strategy. "On the other hand the Soviet Political Journal, *New Times* reviewing the American policy wrote: "American reaction, trying to give new interpretation

to the Monroe doctrine has changed 'America for Americans' to the "world for Americans."

And with the simultaneous refusal of Washington to accede to a Russian request for 25 million dollars worth of oil-refining equipment, or to (Communist) Yugoslavia's request for 100,000 tons of grain as emergency food relief, it may be concluded without any doubt that "the fight is on". An ideological or political fight only for the present. Moreover, Russian strategy is not to precipitate matters perhaps as long as the Russian scientists do not invent any counter weapon against atomic bomb. The way Moscow blows hot one day and cold the next, the way Molotov smiles one morning and

frowns the next, are evidence that the Soviets want to avoid war for the time being.

If America cannot stand political inequality or totalitarian rule in the Soviet bloc, Russia also sees all the evils of a capitalist society and of reactionary element in the American bloc. Both are great evils in the present day world and are hindrances in the proper development of man. The need of the hour is the collaboration of the two ideologies, that of political and economic equality and to evolve a new formula of life resulting in the development of mankind and its social welfare. Only then the whole humanity can march towards Truth and Freedom, love and peace.

THE INTERNATIONAL BANK

BY MR. KANWAR JOGINDRA SINGH, M.A.

THE International Bank for Reconstruction and Development came into existence when at a meeting held at Savannah (Georgia) from the 8th to the 18th March, 1946, the representatives of Governments having 65 per cent of the total quotas ratified the Articles of Agreement drawn by the United Nations at Brettonwoods (N.H.) in July 1944. As in terms of an Ordinance promulgated on the 24th December, 1945 the Government of India had signed the Brettonwoods Agreement before the 31st December, 1945, India secured a seat on the Executive Directorate of the Bank as an appointed member among the 'Big Five'.* The Bank representing 38 member Governments held its first meeting in May 1946 and its executive Directors elected their Managing Director and the President and decided questions of interpretation,

* 12 Executive Directors took office at the Savannah meeting—the representatives of Big Five (USA; UK; France, China and India) being nominated and 7 representing Canada, Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, Greece, Chile and Cuba being elected from amongst the members.

office staff and relationship with other organisations. The Executive Directors fixing June 25, 1946 as the date upon which the Bank would formally begin operations, advised the member Governments to remit 20 per cent of their total subscription in instalments between August 25, 1946 and May 25, 1947. Out of an authorised capital of \$10,000,000,000 \$7,670,000,000 have already been subscribed and with a call of 20 per cent the Bank will have an immediate fund of \$1,534,000,000 for direct loans as against its total lending capacity of \$7,670,000,000 which will of course grow as the Bank's subscriptions, surpluses and reserves increase. The Bank published its annual report in September, 1946, reviewing its activities and examining operational questions which lie ahead. As our hopes of effective world rebuilding are based on what the Bank hopes to achieve in the field of reconstruction and development, we may briefly examine the work done by the Bank so far and suggest its lines of action in the immediate future.

The Report of the Bank reveals that during the year the authorities remained busy in completing essential preliminaries with regard to 'establishing Bank's structure, selecting staff personnel and developing working procedure.' Beyond this nothing substantial has been done towards the attainment of Brettonwoods purposes. The Report is even silent about the future programme of the Bank; it has not been stated as to when and in what manner the reconstruction and development is to be initiated. Also nothing has been said about the Bank's policy of borrowing and lending and, what is most surprising, the Bank has cared little to offer any informative interpretation of its purposes as mentioned in Article 1 of the Articles of Agreement. On the other hand, we are told that requests for loans from two members are still pending and only preliminary discussions are taking place. All this is discouraging, indeed. Since the main aim of the Bank is to facilitate economic reconstruction in a world where everything is urgently required, the Bank's inactivity in taking up its task is casting a shadow on its name and even its well-wishers have begun to entertain grave doubts about its utility in the future. The resignations of Mr. Eugene Meyer and Harold Smith from the two principal executive posts of the Bank and the unwillingness on the part of well-known bankers in U. S. A. and Canada to accept the vacated posts, the pronouncement of the Winconsin Banking Commission, the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the U. S. Government for providing the Bank necessary facilities for borrowing—all these facts reflect extreme defeatism about the prospects of the Bank. Yet inspite of these clouded beginnings it would be a mistake to write off the Bank as a failure; all its present shortcomings may be regarded as mere teething troubles which can be definitely overcome as soon as the Bank adopts a positive course of action.

Since UNRRA is now almost dead, the war-stricken and undeveloped countries will ask for reconstruction or balance of

payment loans and as such the first and foremost duty of the Bank should be to look to its lending side. While granting applications the Bank will have to take into consideration its lending capacity and although each application will be examined on its merits, the effect of its grant on other applications will not be overlooked. The Bank's lending should be prompt, impartial, anti-inflationary and capable of increasing the productive capacity of the borrower in such a way as to make the transfer of the service possible. Although the Bank is interested only to supplement private international investment it is obvious that owing to present atmosphere of political distrust, the Bank cannot but start with its own lending operations, taking risks which normally it is not expected to take and lending sums which are substantial in amount and significant in direction. Funds larger than those represented by 20 per cent. capital contributions of member countries can be loaned by the Bank by selling its own obligations to investors and if the Bank is to serve the desired purpose the rates of interest must be really low and the period for which loans are to be repaid must be really long. Thus by adopting a bold policy in lending, the Bank will not only contribute towards raising its own prestige but will also save the world from the ills of tied governmental lending by which the lending nation begins to exercise political and economic influence on the borrower mainly through the familiar devices of bilateralism and imperialism. The Bank will no doubt be experiencing formidable difficulties in adopting positive course as contemplated above but the path of recovery after a huge and wasteful war as the World War II can only be traversed through boldness and courage. Boldness and risk-taking propensity on the part of the Bank will infuse a spirit of confidence and organised will among the borrowing countries to spend the credits on their recovery under the Bank's guidance and the loans will become good risks. Since like a co-operative institution the purpose

of the Bank's building policy is to promote the welfare of poor nations so as to bring them upto the standard of their rich neighbours, the Bank can arrange to make repayment of its loans adaptable to fluctuations in economic conditions of the borrowers.

Large lendings, however, envisage a larger borrowing on the security of 80 per cent. of the Bank's guarantee fund—the Bank borrowing on the security of this guarantee in the capital markets of the world and relending to its members needing assistance or, which comes to the same thing, guaranteeing the loans which they raise direct in the markets. Thus the Bank is likely to be one of the largest borrowers ever to have entered the world's capital market and since its funds will be raised largely in the U. S. A. it is necessary that private and institutional investors in that country are induced by all possible means to purchase Bank's obligations. Some well-wishers of the Bank have blamed the United States for not so far facilitating the sale of Bank's bonds by legislation. While it is desirable that the United States should do so, this does not make up the entire picture of Bank's borrowing difficulties. Investors above all require security and it is for the Bank to demonstrate that its obligations are not only secure but free from risk. It has been estimated* that savings in U. S. A. outrun investment opportunities and in case the Bank is keen enough to attract these idle funds it should come forth with clearly defined policies in respect of its borrowings and should not put too much hope on state legislation to make its borrowing popular with the public. How can the public feel enthusiastic about the Bank's obligations when the exact nature thereof, viz, the kind of bonds, their duration and the rate of interest, still remains to be decided? Although the Bank has to deal with seven loan applications for the present it has not so far declared its intention to come in the

market even for its first bond issue. The Bank will have to sell its bonds in markets other than those of U. S. A. and Canada but as yet nothing has been done to study the market conditions of other countries for this purpose.

One reason why the Bank has failed to adopt a positive programme of its two main activities of borrowing and lending may be found in the constitution of the Bank itself. In an ordinary co-operative Bank the Managing Director is the force behind all the matters of policy determination and rightly so since the success of the institution depends upon his initiative. In the international Bank the position is otherwise; the policy, the control and direction in day-to-day conduct of affairs is with the Executive Directors. Since these executive Directors stand for their individual governments and not invariably for the common policy of the Bank their activities must lack cohesion and some time must elapse before they learn to work together in this unique experiment of co-operation. "The President," as the *Economist* points out*, "is the creature of the Board of Executive Directors" and as such cannot set his own house in order. This is surely a constitutional defect which must be remedied in the interest of the smooth and speedy functioning of the Bank.

Another reason for Bank's inactivity may also be stated. The United States and United Kingdom are the two most important sponsors of the Bank yet they are among those who do not believe in placing much reliance on Bank's utility in the matter of expansion of trade and production. Both countries are at present concerned with an increase of their export targets and since poor and war ravaged countries have no means to pay for what they need this one way trade is sure to aggravate the balance of payments and other economic troubles of the importing countries. If other nations also join in this individual

* Foreign Commerce Weekly, May 18, 1946, P. 63.

* January 4, 1947, P. 34.

effort of expanding their own trade the very purpose of the Bank will be defeated and the result of competition in the present restricted sphere of export will be another great war. It will, therefore, appear that the success of the Bank is in the hands of its influential and rich members who must believe that by raising the standard of living and productive capacity of poor countries they will in fact be building their own export markets. Reconstruction of poor countries is the task which no rich member of the Bank should shirk.

Strange though it may appear the needy nations are also not enthusiastic about the help which the Bank can provide to them. Indicative of this is the fact that although finance for reconstruction is sorely needed, the Bank has only so far received a few applications for loans. History, it seems, has taught the weaker nations that their participation in international organisations only served to promote the cause of strong nations. In fact, poor countries have entered the Bank not with the expectation of gains but owing to the reason that their

remaining isolated would have given them a stigma of non-co-operation with an institution which is expected to fulfil the freedom-from-want promise of the Atlantic Charter. If, as it has so often been demonstrated, the prize of victory won against the evil forces of Nazism and Fascism is to be an indivisible peace which permits of no distinction between 'satisfied' and 'hungry' peoples then surely the sector of world trade (which is supposed to have shrunk by 60% on account of world War II) must be expanded. The best means of increasing trade lies in the development of foreign markets by making funds available for reconstruction and development and as the International Bank hopes to realise this ideal it is the sacred duty of all nations (especially the bigger ones) to co-operate in the proper functioning of the Bank. Member nations should bear in mind that the Bank is an entirely new experiment in the realm of international co-operation and its success demands sincerity and boldness on the part of nations that form its executive.

THE GITA AND THE MODERN MIND

BY MR. K. BALASUBRAMANIA AIYAR, B.A., B.L.

THE Bhagavad Gita is best read and digested by men whose lives have been sanctified by the noblest ideals of self-sacrifice, spirituality and culture. In fact, the best commentary on the text of the Gita is the life of the man who has striven every day of his life to live the message of the Gita. Mahadev Desai was one of such men. He was the finest flower of Indian humanity and culture. His book entitled "The Gospel of Selfless Action or The Gita according to Gandhi"* is a masterly production and will easily rank as one of the foremost among the modern works on the Gita. As Mahatma Gandhi says in the Introduction "It repre-

* THE GOSPEL OF SELFLESS ACTION or The Gita According to Gandhi. By Mahadev Desai. Navajivan Press, Ahmedabad.

sents his unremitting labours during his prison life in 1933-34. Every page is evidence of his scholarship and exhaustive study of all he could lay hands upon regarding the Bhagavad Gita." His book consists of two parts, one entitled "My Submission" and the other an English Translation of the meaning of the Gita and notes as given in Gujarati by Gandhi. Thus, the reader gets the inestimable benefit of knowing how 'the sage of India', every moment of whose life is a conscious effort to live the message of the Gita, has understood its meaning and of also appreciating the interpretation of the Gita by his foremost disciple. Gandhi's work in Gujarati was known as the "Anasakti Yoga". We are informed that fifty-one thousand copies of the work have been sold already. In

this connection, we may remind our readers of a similar effort years ago, an English Translation edited by Dr. Besant* and published by Messrs. G. A. Natesan & Co., of which as many as a lakh and sixty thousand copies are widely distributed.

Mahatma Gandhi who is a master of both English and Gujarati vouches for the translation. This is more than sufficient guarantee for the reader. Perhaps, the more useful part for the reader is that entitled "My Submission". It is truly a masterpiece, written in beautiful, classical English and touching upon topics connected with the Gita, such as its date, the text, historicity of Krishna and the dialogue between Him and Arjuna, the history and the development of the Bhagavata Dharma, etc., and also giving a clear and brilliant summary of the teaching in every one of the eighteen chapters of the Gita. Need I say that what he touches, he adorns. But he premises his treatment of these topics by pointing out the wisdom of the attitude of Mahatma Gandhi to these problems. He says "To him, it is the truth and historicity of the message of Anasakti Yoga that abides and that matters". He sums up the attitude of Gandhi and of himself in these words:

An aspirant will not make himself uneasy over the absence or uncertainty of evidence regarding the author of the Gita or the identity of Krishna. The doctrine of detachment is as old as Creation. As Lord Krishna assures us in the Gita. It must have been practised to perfection by the seers who reveal the message to mankind. The author of the Gita felt and saw and lived Krishna and left his experience as an abiding heritage for mankind. Mahadev Desai feels rightly that it is not necessary for one's profound belief in the message of the Gita to assume that the Gita must be the narration of a dialogue that took place on the field of battle. It is enough to take it that the author of the Gita made Arjuna's mind suffer 'the nature of an insurrection' and put him face to face with God and made God quell the insurrection and surround him with light and peace and bliss. Desai, therefore, is emphatically of opinion that the Gita, seen in this light, is none the less adorable than if some one proved that it was a dialogue between Arjuna and Krishna. It may be that, to the

* THE BHAGAVAD-GITA: Text in Devanagari and English translation. By Annie Besant. G. A. Natesan & Co., Madras. Price 6 as.

orthodox Hindu, this will give a rude shock as it runs quite contrary to his traditional beliefs. It may, even, be that a close scrutiny of the form of the discourse clearly indicates that the author meant it to be an actual dialogue. But to the modern-educated mind, the facts of true poetic vision are as real as facts of history and the effect and the inspiration of the Gita remains as strong and enduring to it as to the orthodox Hindu mind. Desai has written the book especially with the view to acquaint the English-knowing youths in India with the message and the meaning of the Gita and with Gandhi's interpretation of it. He has also in view the large number of intelligent readers outside India, especially, in the West. Hence, he has drawn very interesting parallels from the Bible and the Koran and the words of great seers who drew their inspiration from the great books. He endeavours to show how, in the deepest things of life, the Hindu and the Muhammadan and the Christian, the Indian and the European are so spiritually akin. For, he points out there is nothing exclusive about the Gita which should make it a Gospel only to the Brahmana or the Hindu. His exposition of the Samkhya system as adopted and interpreted by the Gita is very profound and revealing. He says that the evolutionary idea, with the discovery of which, Darwin concluded his famous researches was long ago anticipated by the Samkhya doctrine. In fact, the Samkhya philosopher evolved a triple law evidencing not only the struggle for life but the stage before that viz., inertia, then, the struggle for life and, lastly, for the life of others or sacrifice. Desai's interpretation of the Gunas of the system from the modern scientific standpoint is highly interesting and significant. He refers to the memorable lines of Julius Caesar which will make the Western reader understand the distinction between the changing gunas and the unchanging self. Shakespeare, therein, refers to the Self as 'the Genius' and to the Gunas as the mortal instruments.

The following are the lines from Julius Caesar representing the soliloquy of Brutus which are well worth reproduction:

Between the acting of a dreadful thing
And the first motion, all the interim is
Like a phantasma, or a hideous dream;
The Genius and the mortal instruments
Are then in council; and the state of man,
Like to a little kingdom, suffers then
The nature of an insurrection.

Desai's exposition of the doctrine of Karma and rebirth will greatly appeal to the modern mind, and his observations on the theme of the Gita are full of wisdom and truth. He concludes that the theme of the Gita is to indicate the end of man's existence on earth and the means for the attainment of it. The end is for man to realise completely what he is, what the world about him is and to experience what

sustains him and pervades him and what sustains and pervades the world about him is the one Truth and Reality. According to him, the Gita sums up the means of attaining this end in one word *viz.*, Yoga. He says that this ancient word is pressed by the Gita into its service to mean the entire gamut of human endeavour to storm the gates of Heaven. It thus means the yoking of all the powers of the body, the mind and soul to God. His analysis of every one of the chapters gives beautiful and convincing summary of the main doctrines taught therein. Of course it is not possible to agree with every observation in the book.

For example, the note on sloka 42, Chapter I, which says that the author of the Gita cannot be taken to have regarded

the shraddha rite as necessary cannot be accepted as correct. The fact that the author refers to the falling of the Pitrus *Patanti Pitrah* is proof that he regards it as necessary.

On the whole, the book furnishes a very precious and brilliant guide to the earnest student of the Gita and the seeker after Truth. I fervently appeal to all Hindu youths to take to the study of the Gita in a spirit of humility and sincere devotion and to profit by the lessons of the lives of great men who strove to live consciously the message of the Gita and to deeply ponder over the reflections of men like Mahdev Desai on the meaning and interpretation of the Gita which he truly calls "The Bible of Humanity."

MEN LIKE AND DISLIKE WOMEN

By "OMEGA"

"MAN'S best possession is a loving wife", says Burton, the author of *Anatomy of Melancholy*. Many great men have paid fulsome tribute to their wedded partners. The society of a beloved wife has been of the greatest help and comfort to them in all their toils and struggles of life. William and Catherine Gladstone lived together for 59 years and it was a life unclouded with a speck of misunderstanding. They were intensely devoted to each other and enjoyed the fullest measure of conjugal felicity. The same was the good fortune of Gladstone's bitterest rival on the political stage—Disraeli. Disraeli did not marry for love; he married for money. At the age of 35 he entered into wedlock with a woman of 50. Mary Anne was a rich widow—neither young nor beautiful nor brilliant. But she knew how to deal with people. And Disraeli found in her company a perfect refuge from the fret and fever of his troubled political life. To him she was like a haven of repose. "We have been married 30 years" Disraeli said,

"and I have never been bored by her." They had a little joke between themselves. "Mary Anne, you know I married you only for your money." "Yes", would come the reply, "But if you had to do it again, you would marry me for love. Wouldn't you." And that, Disraeli confessed, was the exact truth. Both these men were luckily married. Theirs was no small joy—the joy of possessing a loving and sympathetic life partner. Turgenev, the great Russian novelist, pined for this happiness. He said, "I would give up all my genius, and all my books, if there were only some woman somewhere, who cared whether or not I came home late for dinner."

Robert Browning was very happily married and the death of his wife was the greatest tragedy of his life. So considerate was he to his invalid wife that she wrote to her sister, "And now I begin to wonder naturally whether I may not be some sort of real angel after all." For Wordsworth his wife was a "Phantom of delight."

"A perfect woman, nobly planned
To warm, to comfort and command."

Rossetti and Mill were overwhelmed with grief when their life partners were snatched from them by the cruel hands of death. G. B. Shaw and his wife have lived together like Darby and Joan.

But have all great men adored women? There is another side of the picture and how rueful it is! Tolstoi's life had been made so unhappy by his wife that he fled into the cold and darkness and died of pneumonia in a railway station. His dying request was that she should not be permitted to come into his presence. Abraham Lincoln was so miserable at home that he did his utmost to avoid her presence and preferred wretched country hotels to the luxuries of his home. More than anything in life he regretted his unfortunate marriage.

Let us now closely examine the views of some world celebrities towards marriage. That great henpecked, Socrates, when asked to advise whether to marry or not to marry, said, "Whichever you do, you will have to repent." Schopenhauer was a confirmed woman hater. He called woman "long of hair and short of sense"; and always advised his friends to abstain from marrying. Pepys noted in his diary, "Strange to say what delight we married people have to see these poor folk decoyed into our condition." Johnson, though a good and devoted husband, did not think that the state of marriage was natural to man. "Sir", he declared, "it is so far from being natural for a man and woman to live in a state of marriage that we find all the motives which they have for remaining in that connection and the restraints which civilized society imposes to prevent separation are hardly sufficient to keep them together."

Robert Louis Stevenson, when he was still a bachelor, said "Marriage is a field of battle and not a bed of roses," but like a gallant soldier he did not enter that field. Charles Lamb preferred to remain a bachelor all his life and defended his action with all the rhetoric at his command. Nothing could persuade the eminent

Philosopher, Herbert Spencer, to give up his single-blessedness.

Gustave Flaubert, one of the greatest French novelists avoided women. "On the whole," he wrote to a friend, "the muse, howsoever intractable, gives fewer sorrows than woman. I cannot reconcile one with the other: one must choose." Michael Angelo said, "I have more than enough of a wife in my art." Adam Smith also reserved his gallantry for his books.

Sir Isaac Newton rigidly avoided women and quarrelled with one of his friends who he suspected tried to "embroil" him with women. Henry Cavendish hated the very sight of his house keeper and communicated with her through notes left on the table. He was a misogynist No. 1. The late Lord Balfour was very popular with women but he died a bachelor. When Austen Chamberlain proposed a tax on bachelors, suggesting that the tax be increased for every ten years of unmarried life by a certain per cent to be determined on, Balfour was dumb-founded. "Oh, by the way," went on the Chancellor of Exchequer, "why you would have to pay £40 a year at that rate." "Yes", replied Balfour, "but I think it is worth it." Gibbon, the historian of the Roman Empire, remained a bachelor all his life since his father had overruled his proposal in his younger days. That other historian, Carlyle, married and he had a brilliant wife. But they were always at loggerheads—husband and wife. A friend who tried to compose their differences was humorously credited with an attempt to found "a Heaven and Hell Amalgamation Society." The greatest fault with Carlyle was that he monopolized conversation. He was an endless talker and no woman can allow her tongue to be suppressed for any length of time. Among historians Hume and Macaulay were wiser. They never married. Add Sir William Pitt and Charles James Fox to your list of famous celibates and you have a well balanced picture.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND STRIKES

By MR. KAMAL KUMAR GHOSH, M.A.

THE struggle of Capital and Labour, for usurping the major share in profit, on either side in the Tug-of-war, has caused widespread dishevelment in the industrial arena of the country at the present juncture, and strikes and other cranks have been the outcome, regarding industrial advancement of the country. This phase of grave labour unrest—may be considered by some as but a reflection of the general spirit of restlessness, but it is not so easy as it appears on the face of it. It requires the breaking of the spirit with its various evils that war has originated, of high prices and non-availability of commodities. Certainly, such strikes cannot be only a reflection of restlessness, neither that of vested interest to discredit any party nor on mere political pretexts. The root cause is, the shooting high of prices, unstabilisation of cost of living, and impossibility to make both ends meet by the wage-earners.

During all these war years, people have patiently borne these, with the expectation, that post-war period will find comfortable days. But the prices have not lowered even after one year of the cessation of hostilities; on the contrary, dearth and non-availability are being experienced. The Government's haphazard control policy, onesided as it is, has only accelerated scarcity and corruption.

But this clamour for higher wages in some form or other as embodied in the demands of the strikers, is only moving in a vicious circle, as the more the wages will increase, the prices of commodities will rise higher. Moreover, strikes would cause decrease in production, and would mean naturally rising costs and higher prices. Thus wages, costs and prices would be the triple chasers in the unending race. So mere increase in wages or money would be of no avail, till we get increased production. Thus, as a writer puts it, "The race between the increasing prices and the attempt of the money wages to catch them starts never

to end." Thus, we must get supplies more than our demands.

But what are our main demands, the popular demands, if we may term them? These are food and clothing. If we can increase our agricultural supply and stabilise agricultural prices, then much of the problem might be solved. The tragedy of importing our food from elsewhere, being ourselves agricultural people, should cease at once, and Government should be specially particular in converting more lands under cultivation, increase yield, and making agricultural profession remunerative.

Side by side, we must have an increase, in the industrial production of the country, and the controlling of the cost of production. Whereas, the capitalists and the industrialists are getting huge dividend, the labourers are not being paid enough wages for sustenance.

Instead of therefore declaring high dividend and thus increasing the cost of industrial production, with wages remaining low, Government should see that instead of the profit being declared in dividend, should be utilised for new machinery, chemical etc. for increased production, which would not only meet demands, but also accomodate further workers, and give relief for post-war apprehension of unemployment.

Hence, in order to check the strike epidemic, we must not allow price level to get out of control, but must stabilise the same. There should be no apprehension of the standard getting down or up in the cost of living index. Thus, by an expanding economy and fair stability in price lever of industrial and agricultural commodities, with the adjustment of the real wages of workers, appear to be the real solution of the canker of strike-fever.

Thus,* the remedy does not lie in simply increasing wages, although the same is necessary for higher standard of living. But with the increase in wages, the purchasing power must be increased, which

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alone can be achieved by effective control and stabilisation of prices. The inflation, which has been caused by free handling of money, must now be effaced by effectively fixing prices at fair level.

So however much it may be cried hoarse, that strike is a legacy of the war, which leaves behind restlessness, and how so ever strict the laws might be in declar-

ing strikes illegal, till the root is not unsettled, the epidemic cannot subside, although may cool down temporarily.

The Bombay Government have recently taken up the Industrial Relations Bill, where clauses relating to conciliation and arbitrage are of importance. But let Government set up an efficient machinery immediately to control the price, as has been pointed out.

SANSKRIT ELEMENT IN PUSHTU*

BY

DR. RAGHU VIRI, M.A., Ph.D. (Lond.) D.Litt. et Phil. (Utrecht.)

AFGHANISTAN is the land of the Aryans. In ancient times they had an Aryan religion, Aryan customs and manners, Aryan language and Aryan features. Out of these only the Aryan features have survived better than anything else. The Pashto language has been dominated in the past few centuries by Persian influence. Persian itself has been saturated with Arabic. These influences have taken away from the Pashto language many of its old characteristics.

It may be stated for the information of the general public that Persian is a Sanskritic language. Three thousand years ago the Persians in the remotest North Western Frontier of Persia spoke a language which came as near Sanskrit as any two dialects in the east of Persia. In Afghanistan the closeness between the languages of these countries and Sanskrit must have been much greater.

Afghanistan is the true Aryan nation sung in Indian literature of all ages. In the Puranas which give the history and geography of Indian language legendary as well as in the form of dynastic tables, Afghanistan up to the Oxus River is a part of India.

Afghanistan in Vedic times was a fertile land. The Kabul River is mentioned

* Pushtu is the language of the Pathans of N. W. Frontier Province.

there as Kubha, while the Gomal is Vedic Gomati. These names are of pre-historic age when we cannot talk of centuries and years.

The land of the Afghans was still fertile up till the eighth Century A.D. The hills and plains were greener than in later days. The tale of these days to which the present generation of Afghans must look with reverence and wonder, their tale is told by the mother earth who still bears on and within her bosom the magnificent remains of the past, when the Afghans were more given to higher thought and intellectual activity.

To-day we are concerned only with those jewels of words which have been preserved intact by the uneducated, simple folk of this land. These jewels bear testimony to the big family to which the Afghans really belong, namely, the Sanskrit family. I shall take at random a few of these words. They say in China, a tortoise is auspicious, and hence we shall begin with it. *Kashp*, *Kashap* has beautifully preserved within itself the major part of the Sanskrit Kashyapa. After the passing of thousands of years the Pashto tortoise is still recognisable to have started his career with the Sanskrit word. The back of the tortoise is curved which idea is expressed in Pashto by the word *Kosh* the Sanskrit word is *Kubja*.

When two consonants come together in Sanskrit they are likely to be worn out by the rolling of centuries. The passing of time has made the Aryan people lazy and this laziness has plenty of evidences in the shortening of the Sanskrit words, in their wearing out. The Ancient Sanskrit language was sturdy like its speakers. It needed clear and sharp sounds and combined beautifully into a harmonious whole. It would not bear negligence and slackness.

A generation or two ago the Pashto speaker could be heard welcoming his friends enquiring of them if they have been keeping hale and healthy with the word *Kashul* which is Sanskrit *Kushala*. The ancient weapon of the Aryan is Bow. The word for bow string *Zhai* is still the Sanskrit word *Jya*. Milk is our ancient food and Pashto *Pai* is Sanskrit *Paya*.

The wound or the blow received in battle is *Prahara* in Sanskrit, the ancestor of Pashto *Parhar*. Another word connected with the cow is *Ghoshak*, "Cowdung" the Sanskrit *Goshakrit*. *Mesh*, the male buffalo is Sanskrit *Mahisha*, and *Mezh* sheep is Sanskrit *Mesha*. The Aryans were a pastoral people, hence in Pashto *Rash* meaning a heap of grains, is Sanskrit *Rashi*. Pashto *Shole* meaning Rice is Sanskrit *Shali*. *Shund* "Dry ginger" is Sanskrit *Shunthi*. *Shak*, meaning sand is *Sikata*. *Sim* meaning way side is Sanskrit *Sima*. *Shkel*, meaning rope for tying horses' feet, is Sanskrit *Shinkhala*. *Sher*, the arrow is Sanskrit *Shara*. *Vandanai* meaning grass rope is Sanskrit *Bandhana*. We have mentioned before some animals like buffalo and the sheep. There is also the mosquito *Meshai* from Sanskrit *Mashaka* and *Myavr* from Sanskrit *Mayura*.

Coming to the human body itself we find *Shund* meaning lip from the Sanskrit *Shunds*, the upper lip or trunk of the elephant. Pashto *Makh* is Sanskrit *Mukha*. Pashtai meaning rib is Sanskrit *Prishti*. Pashto *parpus* meaning lungs is Sanskrit *Prapuhusa*. *Zangun* meaning knee is Sanskrit *Jangha*. *Charman* is exactly Sanskrit

Charman. *Ghosh* meaning tooth is from Sanskrit *Ghas* "to eat". *Greva* meaning collar bone is from Sanskrit *Griva*. *Kshe* meaning arm pit is from Sanskrit *Caksha*. *Osh* meaning tear is Sanskrit *Ashru*.

Now I shall give a list of miscellaneous words, nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs. *Bay* meaning loss is from Sanskrit *Apaya*. *Om*, *Um*, meaning raw is Sanskrit *Ama*. *Uchat* is Sanskrit *Uchcha*. *Uzh* meaning garlic is Sanskrit *Ushna*. *Ghar* is Sanskrit *Giri* meaning mountain. *Tam* meaning darkness is Sanskrit *Tamas*. *Tval* meaning equal in weight is Sanskrit *Tulya*. *Levai* meaning husband's brother is Sanskrit *Devara*. Note that Sanskrit *D* is changed to *L* in cases in Pashto. I shall give a few more examples of this change. *Naral* meaning to cry is from Sanskrit *Nard*. Similarly *Lar* "below" is Sanskrit *Adhara*. *Bahu*, *Bau* "an ornament for the arm" is from Sanskrit *Bahu*. *Much* meaning fly is from Sanskrit *Makshi*. *Mram* meaning to die is from Sanskrit *Marana*. *Ma* "do not" is from Sanskrit *Ma*. *Pashkal* meaning rainy season is from Sanskrit *Varsha Kala*. *Vara* meaning time, period is from Sanskrit *Vara*. *Vesh* meaning poison is from Sanskrit *Visha*. Lastly *Shaghal* meaning to please is from Sanskrit *Shlagh*. May it be for the pleasure of all our readers and may they try to dive deep into the ancient Aryan literature which would give them a better understanding of their origins and of the part that the oldest Afghans played in this world.

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.

THE A-I.C.C. MEETING

THE All India Congress Committee which met in New Delhi on June 14 concerned itself mainly with two important resolutions drafted by the Working Committee, one touching Congress attitude to the British plan and the other the position of the states in the Indian Union.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S PLAN

The Working Committee resolution accepting the June 3 statement (Page 377) was hotly contested and the discussion lasted over 7 hours on the opening day of the session. Both Gandhiji and Acharya Kripalani pointed out to the House that an adverse vote would mean throwing the Congress Working Committee out of office. Acharya Kripalani, who opened the proceedings with a review of the events that had led up to the present Partition plan, and Pandit Pant and Maulana Azad, who moved and seconded the resolution respectively, were extremely restrained in their references.

Pandit Pant analysed the good points in the scheme such as immediate Dominion Status, freedom to build up a strong dynamic Centre and a democratic system in the Provinces without separate electorates as also weightage in the Legislatures and Services. He seemed confident that the secession of certain parts of India would prove to be temporary.

Maulana Azad commended the scheme mainly on the ground that any solution at this stage was far better than a drift towards chaos.

Gandhiji's speech on the occasion undoubtedly turned the scales against the opposition and Pandit Pant's resolution was finally passed by an overwhelming majority. Two hundred and eighteen members were present when vote was taken. Of them, 157 voted for the resolution and 29 against. Among the minority were Left-wingers.

Two powerful speeches by Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel in defence of the Plan were the chief feature of the concluding phase of the debate which altogether lasted eight hours. Pandit Nehru declared:

The time is gone when you can change the course of events. If you wish to do that it may take long before we become free. The Plan is not a British imposition. It has been evolved with our consent. The country's first need is a strong Central Government. Everything else must come next.

Sardar Patel in a forthright speech said:

We cannot get anywhere by speeches. We have the chance now to build a strong State. Let us show the necessary discipline and strength. That is the sovereign remedy for all our ills.

CONGRESS AND THE STATES

On the second day of the session the A-I.C.C. unanimously passed the resolution regarding Indian States (Page 379) moved by Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya. Making an important declaration of policy, Pandit Nehru stated that the Indian Union would not recognize the independence of any Indian State and that if any foreign Power acted otherwise the Indian Union would consider that an unfriendly act. The resolution along with Pandit Nehru's declaration has thus told Hyderabad, Travancore, Bhopal and other States that they have bitten more than they can chew.

We will not recognize independence of any State in India. Further, any recognition of such independence by any foreign Power will be considered as an unfriendly act.

He added:

There is a great deal of talk about independence and Paramountcy. Independence does not depend on a mere declaration by anybody but on various factors—foreign relations, defence, etc. It fundamentally depends on the acknowledgment by other parties of that independence.

The Paramountcy of the British Crown arose in India under certain circumstances. If that Paramountcy is withdrawn, as they say it is going to be withdrawn, what follows? So far as we are concerned, we do not agree with the doctrine of Paramountcy as it has been declared during the last few years by the British Government.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BY MR. B. NATESAN

The Mountbatten Plan

THERE was never much enthusiasm for the Mountbatten plan which was acquiesced in by the parties just because they could not help it. All were weary of the interminable riots and the endless deadlock, and the only way out of it was to agree on something, and end the agony of suspense and drift. Congress still thinks the division of India unholy, but there is no point in prolonging a struggle when one of the parties is determined to secede. In corporate as in individual life, it is invariably a question of choosing the lesser of two evils: freedom with such division or continued subjection in a United India. We cannot force an unwilling partnership. If parting is inevitable let it be done with a good grace. Time, it is hoped, will teach us the folly of this division and restore the lost sheep to the fold. Let it, however, be made clear that the Indian Union stands as ever before, compact of all communities and interests, one and indivisible, except for the seceding part. It will still be "India" and the "Indian Constituent Assembly" will speak for all India, barring the seceding units which are always welcome to join the Union at any later time.

Britain's Part in a divided India

It is comforting to think that the seceding units will rectify the mistake and rejoin in the not distant future, realising how in all essentials India is one and indivisible, in spite of artificial barriers. But the history of other countries and past experience in India tell a different tale—the

gap has a tendency to widen. While the parties themselves are to blame for this, Britain which has controlled the destinies of the country for two centuries cannot escape blame altogether. Indeed, she encouraged this division in devious ways, and it is recalled with regret and resentment that throughout the negotiations she had been suggesting and talking in terms of "authority or authorities", "government or governments", "one Constituent Assembly or two." If only she had stuck to the Cabinet Mission's plan, designed to afford satisfaction to all parties, while maintaining the integrity of India, she would have deserved well of the country. But now the "quit India" is made the occasion for splitting her. Britain has obliged Mr. Jinnah by splitting first, whatever her intentions as to quitting. It will be long before India could forget this injury.

Mr. Attlee's assurance

Judging from the trend of events there can be no going back on the promise to quit. The deadline of June, 1948 is there, and we are promised an even earlier quitting. So far so good. The announcement at once raised Britain's stock in India which was fast dwindling and the prestige of the Labour Government was never greater than when Attlee declared that minorities would not be allowed to sabotage the progress of India. But what sort of India is being left in the trail of Britain's withdrawal? The Poet Tagore pictured the desolation of a country divided and the people reduced to penury. "As I proceed onward," he wrote prophetically, "I look behind to see the crumbling

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ruins of civilization strewn like a vast dung heap of futility." And yet we would rather look forward "to the opening of a new chapter in her history after the cataclysm is over and the atmosphere rendered clean with the spirit of service and sacrifice."

The States in the New Set up

The position of the States in the new set up has been left curiously (or purposely), vague. That has led to endless controversies over legal and constitutional implications. Surely the paramount power could have settled it once for all and without ambiguity, if only it had so willed. But by leaving the whole matter nebulous, a situation has been created which threatens to Balkanise the country. Fancy 600 odd States, big and small, each independent and sovereign or trying to group itself haphazard and desperately making efforts to survive! Some States say they were not conquered and therefore sovereign! Where is the need to conquer any State that is prepared to fall in line without a shot seeing the inevitable end of neighbouring territories? Every one knows that when it suited the authorities, any prince or chief could be deposed or exterminated, and the so called "alliance" was merely a legal fiction. What a pity they should be deluded by polite phrases? Paramountcy is paramount was the cutting answer that Lord Reading gave to the tallest of the Princes. They will put up with Britain's domination but cannot tolerate participation on equal terms with their own Countrymen! It is a strange commentary on their mentality. It is unfortunate that even those who swore by United India should now take a leaf from the Pakistanists. That a section of the people should have chosen to secede is bad enough. But how can this suicidal step be averted by further

secession? One would think that that is all the more reason why all the Princes should hold together and join the Union and make their undoubted contribution to the strength and stability of the Union, no less than of the States themselves. The new set up ensures security to the States and dynastic continuity to the Princes. What more could they want? The Negotiating Committee is satisfied with the agreement. Instead of feeling proud of the new opportunities of playing their part in the independent India of the future, it is astonishing to see some of them still sitting on the fence and hesitating. Will their so called independence be worth five years' purchase, asks Dr. Ambedkar.

It is now out of fashion to look to Japan for a moral. Yet two decades ago every Indian looked to Japan for its spirit of patriotism and greatness. It is recorded that in the third year of the Meiji era (1869) Kido drafted a memorial which he and Okuma induced the *daimyo* of the four Western clans to accept and to present to the throne. Its signatories called for one Central Government and Universal authority, and, as a proof of their sincerity, gave up their fiefs, to the Emperor. So the great feudal nobles mostly accepted the new order of things with equanimity.

Look at this picture and that?

H. E. H. The Nizam's Firman

It was His Exalted Highness the late Nizam of Hyderabad who used to say that the Hindus and Muslims of his territory were like the two eyes, equally dear to him. True to the traditions of his house the present Nizam has issued a *Firman*, reiterating his concern for the welfare of both communities in terms which are unexceptionable.

The basis of the division of British India is communal. In my State, however, the two major communities live side by side and I have sought, since I became Ruler, to promote by every means good and friendly relations between them. My ancestors and I have always regarded Muslims and Hindus as the two eyes of the State and the State itself as being the indivisible asset of all the communities inhabiting it. I am happy to state that there has not been in my State the same acute cleavage as has led to the recent events in British India.

While the preamble is unexceptionable His Exalted Highness comes to a strange conclusion. A Prince of his outstanding position and eminence could well have given a lead to British India and the other States, and taught them all a much-needed lesson by his own example, joining the Union which stands for nationalism as against communalism. He could have enforced his dictum better by strengthening the bonds of union as against separation. And yet His Exalted Highness has chosen to stand aloof and declared an independence which, to speak frankly, will, under the conditions that obtain to-day, lure the States to their doom.

End of the B. & C. Strike

All's well that ends well. It is a matter of profound relief and satisfaction that the hundred-day-old strike in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills—perhaps the biggest industrial concern in South India—has ended, following an agreement signed by the Management of the Mills and the representatives of the workers. It is useless at this time of the day to lay the blame on any particular person or party for this unwanted strike. The prolonged struggle must have left a disagreeable nausea on all concerned—the workers no less than the management and most of all on the public who have watched this painful episode in helpless dismay. The tragedy of 15,000 of our poor workmen adrift in the streets, and one of the finest of the textile machinery idle when the need for every yard of clothing is so urgent is apparent. And now that the workers have joined duty we wish them godspeed. It will be seen the management have dealt with their demands fairly and even generously and no doubt the workers will reciprocate with equal diligence and loyalty. For it is in such mutual co-operation that we must seek for the best interests of all, not excluding the public who stand to lose by such periodic exhibitions of ill-temper and dislocation of public essential services.

The Partition of Bengal

Bengal is to be partitioned. Members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly representing non-Muslim majority areas decided by 58 votes to 21 that "the Province should be partitioned." The meeting was held in pursuance of H. M. G.'s declaration of June 3. The motion was put from the chair. Muslim members, numbering 21, opposed it en bloc. Four Anglo-Indian members voted with the Congress.

By 58 to 21 votes the members of the non-Muslim majority areas also decided that "the constitution of the separated Province consisting of the non-Muslim majority areas should be framed in the existing Constituent Assembly." All the 21 Muslim members voted against the motion.

The joint sitting of members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly representing Muslim and non-Muslim majority areas voted on the question whether the province of Bengal as whole would join the existing Constituent Assembly or a new and separate Constituent Assembly if it was decided by the two parts to remain united.

Ninety members voted for joining the existing Constituent Assembly and 126, for a new and separate Constituent Assembly.

The Punjab Votes for Division

At a meeting of the Eastern section of the Punjab Assembly members held on Monday the 23rd June it was decided that the Province be divided. The voting was 50 for and 22 against.

The Western section voted against partition by 69 votes against 27.

As partition of the Province is to take place even if one section demands it, the Eastern section's decision is to prevail.

At a joint session of the two sections of the Punjab Assembly—Western and Eastern Punjab—held on the same day with Dewan Bahadur S. P. Singha in the Chair, 91 members voted for the new Constituent Assembly and 77 for the present Constituent Assembly.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By "CHRONICLER"

Burmese Constitution

THE Burmese Constituent Assembly unanimously adopted the "independence" resolution moved by U Aung San on June 17. The resolution was supported by representatives of all parties as well as frontier areas.

The resolution which embodies fundamentals of the draft constitution adopted by the A. F. P. F. L. Convention says that the constitution to be framed by the Assembly, "shall be that of an independent sovereign Republic to be known as a Union of Burma."

Dominion Status for Ceylon

The British Government will soon enter into negotiations with the Ceylon Government with the object of according Ceylon the status of a Dominion.

An announcement to this effect was made in the House of Commons by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Creech Jones. He added that Dominion Governments would be consulted on the action the British Government proposed to take.

The British decision was announced by the Governor at a special meeting of the Ceylon State Council. His Excellency said that opportunity had now come for the fulfilment of Ceylon's aspirations.

Ratification Of Treaties

The British Government has approached the United States, France and the Soviet Union to secure the earliest completion of ratification of the peace treaties with Germany's five satellites—Italy, Finland, Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria, and simultaneous deposit of the Instruments of ratification necessary before the treaties can come into force.

Egypt's Case before Security Council

The Egyptian Government has formally sent its petition to the Security Council asking the United Nations to examine the Anglo-Egyptian dispute about the 1936 treaty.

Dutch Proposals for Indonesia

The Indonesian Republican President, Dr. Soekarno, has accepted the main lines of the Dutch proposals of May 27 for the formation of a Federal Interim Government for the whole of the former Netherlands East Indies.

His acceptance ends a three-week-old crisis, thought in some circles to have brought the Dutch and the Indonesians to the brink of further war.

Dr. Soekarno has assumed responsibility for Government while the Republican Cabinet is being reformed after Prime Minister Dr. Sutan Sharir's over-night resignation because he could not secure Left-Wing support for his concessions to the Dutch during recent negotiations.

U. S. Anti-Labour Bill

Ignoring a last minute appeal from President Truman, the United States Senate on June 23 overrode the President's veto and voted into law the bitterly contested Labour Bill limiting trade union activity and banning the closed shop.

Voting was 68 in favour of overriding the veto and 25 against.

President Truman made an eleventh-hour appeal to democrats to uphold his veto, a short while before the Senate was due to vote on the issue.

In a letter to Senator Alben Barkly, the democratic Leader, President Truman assured him of "My unqualified support" in the effort to kill the Bill, which limits the scope of trade unions and bans the closed shop. He described the Bill as dangerous legislation "which will do serious harm to our country".

The Marshall Plan

Agreeing that United States help is necessary for the rehabilitation of the war-torn countries of Europe, Soviet Russia has expressed its willingness to take part in the discussions on Marshall Plan for American aid to Europe.

The three power talks, accordingly, opened at Paris on June 27.



The WORLD of BOOKS

(ONLY SHORT NOTICES APPEAR IN THIS SECTION)



THE PRINCE OF AYODHYA. By D. S. Sarma, M.A., Principal, Vivekananda Collage, Madras.

Professor Sarma, who has for many years devoted himself to the holy cause of popularising Hinduism and Hindu culture to our educated young men, has given us, in this latest work of his, a rendering of the *Ramayana*. Valmiki's great epic is here retold in easy and fluent English prose. The book is divided into three parts. The first two *Kandas* of the epic comprise the first part and go under the name of a tragedy. The next three *kandas* are then dealt with under the title of a romance. The *Yuddha-kanda* forms the theme of the last part and is described as an epic. The *Uttara-kanda* is completely excluded from consideration. In a brief introduction, Professor Sarma points out: "The central purpose of his (*i.e.* Valmiki's) poem was perhaps to show that the true progress of humanity lies in its moral and spiritual evolution, and not in its material and scientific development."

In these days, when knowledge of Sanskrit is fast dying out, Professor Sarma's work is bound to prove of great value in introducing to our young men what is perhaps the noblest poem of India. Professor Sarma has scrupulously avoided all reference to the divinity of Rama. Whether or not the deification of Rama was later than the original composition of the epic, Indian tradition for not less than 2000 years has looked upon Rama as a divine incarnation. And reading through this book, so satisfying in so many respects, one feels that the euhemeristic approach to Rama makes it thoroughly different in spirit from Valmiki's epic, as known and loved and revered in India. Valmiki, however, is closely followed for the most part.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A YOGI. By Paramhansa Yogananda. With a Preface by W. Y. Evans-Wentz. Published by the Philosophical Library, New York.

The volume under review is the delightful and edifying biography of an eastern saint, Swami Yogananda, a graduate of the Calcutta University. For the first time we have a systematic and scientific exposition of the fruits of Yoga and its influence on life by a first-rate saint. The supernatural powers of a Yogin are no longer a matter for speculation. Modern psychology, particularly the extra-sensory perception school (E. S. P.) of Dr. and Mrs. Rhine of the Duke University? America, has given us evidence of man's capacity to observe things without the aid of the senses. The Yoga view is that the sense organs delimit and confine man's powers to a limited extent. The Yogin is independent of his sense organs in his knowledge of men and things. Telepathy, clairvoyance, television are to-day proved facts of science. There are the inner powers of man which he can bring to light by exercise and spiritual training.

We have a very picturesque and clear account of the various stages of the Yoga of Yogananda. In the autobiography we get to know a fascinating phase of modern India and its re-action to Yoga. His interviews with Mahatma Gandhi, Jagadish-chandra Bose, and Rabindranath Tagore, are absorbingly interesting. The Swamiji has found a Yoga Institute at Encinitas, California. Yogananda's autobiography is an invaluable addition to the literature on Yoga in English.

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OUR HINDU-MUSLIM PROBLEM—A SOLUTION. By R. B. Andhyarujina. Published by New Book Company, Bombay. Rs. 1-8.

The booklet is a study of the problem of Hindu-Muslim Unity. The author claims objectivity for his viewpoint because he does not belong to either community. His solution to the Hindu-Muslim problem is expressed in the following formula "all decision in the Legislatures both Federal and Provincial, shall be ordinarily taken by a majority vote, provided, however, that no bill shall become law unless and until it shall have been supported by a majority of the Minority community either Hindu or Muslim as the case may be, in any particular Legislature, provided further that in the Punjab no bill shall become law unless and until it shall have been supported by a majority of the Hindu group as also by a majority of Sikh group in the Legislature."

THE GOSPEL OF ST. AMERY: By "Jove". Kitab Mahal, 56, A. Zero Road, Allahabad Rs. 2.

To the readers of *The Social Welfare* "Jove" is a familiar name who is noted for his dignified satire, spiced with sarcasm and witty parodies. The volume under review contains a selection of his writings and they reveal in a remarkable manner the twists and turns of political under-currents in the national and international field. We look at old crimes, wrongs and feuds of the nations mercilessly exposed by a gifted and sensitive satirist. Reviewing two eventful years of recent Indian History (1942-44) with a running commentary on important political events he holds an inquest on British Imperialism of which Mr. Amery is the concrete embodiment and ruthlessly exposes Britain's policy of systematic and scientific exploitation of India.

CHINA TO-DAY IN ART DRAWINGS. By Yeh Chien—Yu. The Book Emporium Ltd. 22-1, Cornwallis Street, Calcutta. Rs. 3-8.

Under the stress and strain of war Chinese artists have made remarkable progress. They were mainly imbued with the need for doing propaganda to stir the nation to greater war efforts, and to counter the enemy's propaganda by showing to the people the grim realities under which they lived in pictures, cartoons and caricatures and wood-engravings. Thus we find a new awakening which has created three groups of artists whose output is rooted in Chinese earth. They breathe the life and soul of China, its peace and calm shattered and devastated by a sanguinary war which has steeled the Chinese people to fight more stubbornly against the hordes of Japan.

In this nice selection of drawings we find, the streaks of rustic simplicity of life in war-torn China in bold black and white conveying to the reader in a series of vivid snapshots the appealing conditions under which the bomb-shattered and splinter-torn Chinese carry on their daily life. Dr. C. J. Pao's introduction and Dr. Amiya Chakravarty's commentary on the drawings considerably enhance the value of this delightful volume.

PROGRAMME FOR SWARAJ. By Y. G. Krishnamurthi. Published by Shakti Karyalaya, Madras. Price As. 8.

Mr. Krishnamurthi has already published half a dozen books on the philosophy and politics of Mahatma Gandhi. He is an enthusiastic student of Indian politics and believes that the salvation of the world rests in the adoption of the Gandhian scheme of life. The pamphlet under notice explains the meaning of Swaraj. He regards the present Constituent Assembly as an instrument of historical change.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

- June 1. Viceroy visits the site of Gurgaon tragedy.
—New U. S. plan for compulsory military training.
- June 2. Indian Leaders' Conference called by the Viceroy meets in Delhi.
- June 3. Party leaders accept British Government's Plan.
—Viceroy and leaders broadcast approval.
- June 4. Lord Mounbatten explains Britain's intentions at the Press Conference in New Delhi.
- June 5. Dominions welcome India to the Commonwealth.
- June 6. Cabinet Sub-Committee appointed to prosecute plans for partition.
—Madras Government advises B. & C. Mill hands to go back to work.
- June 7. "Stay still" order issued to Government departments.
—Leaders' Conference discusses terms of reference to Boundary Commission.
- June 8. Dewans of Jaipur and Bikaner appeal to States to join Consambly.
- June 9. League Council accepts Government Plan.
—Gandhiji explains attitude to H.M.G. Plan.
- June 10. Burma Constituent Assembly meets at Rangoon.
—Governors of Bengal and Punjab instructed to summon legislators to meet in groups.
- June 11. Bengal Governor appoints Group Presidents.
- June 12. King's birthday.
—Reopening of B. & C. Mills.
- June 13. Joint Conference of Sikhs accepts Government Plan subject to condition that the division will not split the community.
—H. E. H. The Nizam in a *Firman* declares independence for Hyderabad and non-participation in either Constituent Assemblies.
- June 14. Congress Working Committee accepts British Plan and prepares draft for approval of A.I.C.C.
- June 15. A.I.C.C. accepts Working Committee resolution on British Plan by 157 to 29 votes.
- June 16. Hyderabad State Congress criticises Nizam's decision as ill-advised.
—Mr. Jinnah starts a Pakistan Fund.
- June 17. Mysore to join Constituent Assembly: Maharaja's announcement.
—Dr. Ambedkar's call to Princes to join the Union.
- June 18. Sir Olaf Caroe, Governor of N. W. Frontier goes on leave: Sir Rob Lockhart appointed Governor.
- June 19. British Government announce grant of Dominion Status to Ceylon.
- June 20. Western section in Bengal votes for division by 58 to 21.
- June 21. President Truman denounces anti-Labour Bill.
—Referendum in Sylhet: procedure announced.
- June 22. Premier Dr. Khan Saheb demands free Pathan State.
- June 23. U. S. Anti-Labour Bill passed ignoring President's appeal.
—Punjab votes for division.
- June 24. N. W. Frontier Congress decides to boycott referendum.
—Expert Committees' terms and personnel announced.
- June 25. South China in floods: huge casualties.
—Punjab leaders demand martial law.
- June 26. Pakistan Constituent Assembly comes into existence: Sind returns four representatives.
- June 27. Dr. Soekarno accepts Dutch proposals.
—Three power talks begin at Paris.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



THE PRIME MINISTER

Lord Morley described the Prime Minister as the "keystone of the cabinet arch." The British Prime Minister can do anything and everything as long as he commands the confidence of the majority of the House, writes Mr. V. Venkata Rao in *Swatantra*.

The essential principle of parliamentary government is that the Prime Minister should select ministers from among the members of the Legislature.

"In exceptional circumstances, outsiders may be selected. For instance, Gladstone was Colonial Secretary without a seat in the Parliament. General Smuts was a member of the War Cabinet without a seat in the Parliament. Macdonald was defeated in 1931 at Seaham but he was a minister without a seat in the Parliament for a while."

As regards the distribution of portfolios, the Prime Minister has complete freedom. But keymen of the party may insist on having particular portfolios.

"Palmerston, Rosebury and Henderson insisted on having Foreign Affairs; Lord John Russel, the leadership of the House without portfolio; Lloyd George the Exchequer."

In modern times it is not possible for a Prime Minister to be in charge of a department with substantial administrative duties.

The British Prime Minister generally holds the portfolio of the First Lord of the Treasury which office has very little administrative work. The Prime Minister as First Lord of the Treasury exercises wide patronage.

The Prime Minister is not merely the "keystone of the Cabinet arch". He is much more. He is, as Laski puts it, "Central to its formation, central to its life and central to its death."

FREEDOM IN SCIENCE

Prof. Michael Polanyi, writing in the *Nineteenth Century and After* bases the scientists' claim to self-direction on the Coherence of Science. His individual impulses are respected in science only in so far as they are dedicated to its tradition and disciplined by its standards. Each scientist adjusts his activities to the results achieved by others, making science a co-ordinative effort.

Scientific research differs from working a picture puzzle, Professor Polanyi suggests, in that the scientist is given no assurance of an intelligible and discoverable ground plan. But surely this is negated by his concession that

... every new discovery claims to form an addition to the system of science as transmitted from the past. There is inherent therefore in each new claim to discovery the practical affirmation of a coherent system of truth, which is capable of indefinite extension into yet unexplored regions.

Coherence and freedom in society, he writes, depend on "the extent to which men uphold their belief in the reality of truth, justice, charity and tolerance and accept dedication to the service of these realities." "It seems," he warns, "that unless we radically reaffirm to-day the transcendent foundations of our civilisation," the logical outcome of the inadequacy of the ideas of our time "will not be delayed for long."

Scientists, he declares dedicated "to the advancement of an intellectual process beyond their control" and to the upholding of traditional values, "form a community believing in a certain spiritual reality and covenanted to the service of this reality." A far cry, surely, from the scientific materialism of the closing years of the last century!

THE INDIAN ARMY

'Scrutator' who writes regularly for the *Sunday Times*, expects Pakistan to remain in the British Commonwealth. Hindustan, when its leaders confront their full responsibilities, may see more than one reason for doing likewise," he adds. "Not only would it increase their external security but it would render easier and eventual Hindu-Muslim re-union.

After stressing the need for speed in carrying out the new plan, Scrutator continues:

"The difficulties still ahead are most formidable. Take for instance the Indian army. It has been the aim of British military authorities to render it non-communal. Muslims and Hindus serve in it side by side. The reward of that policy has been reaped during communal disturbances when the army has earned everybody's confidence by putting down disorders immediately.

But now the demand is for the army to be divided—part of it to Hindusthan and part to Pakistan. Hindus and Muslims who hitherto have served side by side will have to be sorted out in separate units. From the standpoint of Indian unification it is utterly retrograde. Moreover, it will take time to carry out—precious time during which the army as a non-communal force may be needed more than ever. Nor may one ignore the prime purpose of the army—external defence. How can it ever be efficiently discharged with three separate frontiers—Pakistan, Hindusthan and then Pakistan again? Is there any possibility of joint plans with the joint forces? If so what a pity to destroy its non-communal character."

None of these army problems has yet been really tackled. Yet none of them can long be shirked. When the British go, the army will be the sole remaining embodiment of force. One need only re-call what happened in China when the Manchus went in order to see some of the risks.

EQUAL CHANCES FOR ALL

It is a matter of great joy, says the *Prabuddha Bharata*, to observe the old walls of caste restrictions and prejudices falling down, thanks to the untiring works of Gandhiji and the Congress Ministries. "These social customs once so helpful to the preservation of the purity of the Vedic knowledge, have by now become stinking like a corpse. And it is a welcome sign that all temples and public institutions are being thrown open to all, in an attempt to purify Hinduism and raise the down-trodden to higher levels.

Even otherwise caste had fallen into disuse: the 'Brahmin' is no more confined to meditation and study; the 'Kshatriya' is not a fighter for righteousness to-day. All of us are vying with one another in amassing wealth—that is the caste of to-day, the caste of Mammon. The so-called, Mlecchas are to-day our warriors, the Kshatriyas. Thus we have to recast the caste according to its original functions—*i.e.*, according to the natural aptitude and ability of a man. A man may be born of any family, but if he has an inclination for a special line—whether for study or fighting, for commerce or manual labour, he should be trained in that special line, developing his tendency which alone is true education, and which alone will give him real joy for work and real service to the State. This is the real work that lies before the authorities to-day. For, only pulling down an ancient mansion will not fulfil the national purpose; we have to *build* another according to the modern needs.

CAN EPIDEMICS BE PREVENTED?

The June issue of the *People's Health* (a valuable monthly edited by Mr. A. V. Raman, Madras) contains among many other useful contributions an interesting article on "nature's influence on epidemics" by Dr. R. Adiseshan, retired Director of Public Health, Government of Madras. We quote below the concluding portion of the learned doctor's observations on the subject:

"The question which naturally interests the public is whether the seasonal epidemics could be prevented. Attempts to control the seasonal elements would be as absurd as King Canute's commands to the waves of the sea! Epidemic occurrences are governed by season, whose influence is greater on conditions favourable to the transmission of infection than on man and microbe. Conditions affecting transmission relate chiefly to sanitation of the environment, control of insect-carriers and personal hygiene. Improvements in these have brought about substantial reduction in the incidence of epidemic diseases in other countries demonstrating thereby that the influence of seasons can to a measure be circumvented. Immunisation with vaccines, though useful as a personal protection in cholera, typhoid, plague, etc., can never be considered a substitute for environmental sanitation and hygiene. Lastly, another important requirement is the collection and scientific study of the relevant data of diseases, our knowledge regarding which is still incomplete. Further, these studies will be helpful in finding newer and better methods of prevention, control and treatment."

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

The current issue of the *Flashlight*, a high class illustrated monthly published in Bombay stresses the value of teaching children to try their hands at various jobs. There are photos showing them busy at a handloom, a hand printing press and the children are eagerly watching paper being made by a hand press.

By far the most impressive way of imparting practical knowledge of occupations is, of course, to allow the children to do things, with their own hands. At the same time it gives the teacher or career adviser an opportunity to observe the child's special aptitudes, such as: manual dexterity, mechanical understanding, co-ordination of both hands, neatness, rapidity of re-action and a great number of those qualifications which may be needed for being successful

in various occupations. It allows him to watch the temperament and disposition of the child in his or her approach to an entirely new situation: keen interest, eager desire to understand, easy discouragement or tenacity to try again and again if the first attempts are unsuccessful. He will be able to find out special interests and qualifications in the individual child, which will provide him with invaluable help for future Vocational Guidance.

KALIDASA AS PATRIOT

"One of the most striking traits in the character of Kalidasa is his passionate love for his motherland. He makes use of every opportunity for describing her beauty and celebrating her glories. And there can be very little doubt but that he travelled throughout the length and breadth of the land in the spirit of a pilgrim and a patriot. He has sung of India as a poet, worshipped her as a devotee and thought of her problems as a statesman." So says Mr. M. R. Sampatkumaran in his essay on Kalidasa published in a recent issue of the *Educational Review*. The writer is of opinion that the patriotic sentiment in Kalidasa's works is of a fairly complex texture. It will not be lacking in political vision, but that would be its least important feature. For "it will embody the cultural ideals of the people and celebrate their history. It will describe India from end to end, delighting in the loveliness of her landscape and discovering a thousand associations everywhere. The flora and fauna of the land will come under loving observation. But above all, there will be a religious reverence shown to the country, as if it were a manifestation of divinity."

Foreigners like the Yavanas, the Persians, the Hunas, the Chinese and the Indonesians are mentioned by the poet.

From the zest with which he describes the victories of Raghu over the Persians, Huns and Kambhojas, one feels that Kalidasa had no problem of Swaraj to worry over.

THE DIVISION OF INDIA

"The division of India is like a knife-thrust into the hope of a splendid future, because the successful future of India is bound up with the development of its tremendous resources as a whole," says the *New Leader*, the weekly paper of the Independent Labour Party.

"Socialists cannot hide their bitter disappointment that this country should be divided," the article adds. "But it is one thing to express disappointment and another to offer some practical, immediate alternative. Pandit Nehru and his Congress colleagues have always been adamantly opposed to any form of Pakistan, but they were faced with the prospect of making some compromise with Mr. Jinnah or of risking large scale civil war.

"Freedom for India is not a gift from the suddenly benevolent retiring imperialistic master," the paper states. "It is an achievement fought for and won by Indians themselves. It is a great victory for the people. And herein lies the hope for the future. The people who have won this great victory must, and will, go on to the next stage of the battle for freedom and social emancipation."

CIVIC ART

Many towns possess civic buildings of considerable architectural charm, but so placed that their charm is entirely negated, because it is impossible to get an approach view or vista, writes Geo. C. Duxbury in the *Silpi*, the new art quarterly of Madras. All such buildings, he says, should be placed at what is termed a focal point, i.e., a point towards which one or more important streets lead up and form a vista when approaching these buildings. "Too much emphasis cannot be laid upon the value of these focal points, for they are, in fact, the primary factors in civic planning. Vistas which could, with a little foresight, be made to end with monumental buildings, churches, etc., frequently end in miserable, squalid buildings, of no charm whatever. These are neglected opportunities which

would not have happened if civic foresight had not perhaps been outweighed by private interests. In almost every town there are one or more such centres which provide an opportunity for architectural display. Usually this is to be found where several roads meet. It is around these points that distinctive civic erections should be placed. The building, column, or statue forming these focal points should be of such a nature and of such proportions as to emphasize the importance of the centre it graces and the vistas leading up to it. It must also give scale to the buildings surrounding it, and to a certain extent dominate them. Then the architecture of the focal-point building must be well considered and in keeping with the surrounding buildings, if such buildings are worth considering."

ASIA RESURGENT

Asia's problems are many, writes Joseph John in *The Social Welfare*. "Full political freedom has still to become a reality in several cases. Economic hold of alien capital with the aid of political arrangements will probably stay on for quite a long time yet. The pressure of population, the burden of poverty, ill-health and illiteracy, low economic productivity, the fears and antagonisms roused in the smaller countries as a legacy of Imperialist rule—all these will now be tackled not with the dubious help of the western powers but through mutual consultation and assistance."

Thus resurgent Asia has set an example for inter-racial, international relations. It has sought to establish good neighbour relations among the newly free nations of the East. But it has not sought it on the plane of antagonism to European ideas or culture. It has only raised the signal "Hands off."

"Resurgent Asia has taken the first step towards ending of colonialism and the speeding up of freedom, unity and world peace."

BOOKS THAT HAVE INFLUENCED ME: A Symposium. Re. 1-8.

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INDIAN STATES

Hyderabad

HYDERABAD'S FUTURE

H. E. H. the Nizam in the following *Firman* issued on June 12 declared that Hyderabad will not join either of the two Constituent Assemblies of Hindustan or Pakistan:—

"The basis of the division of British India is communal. In my State, however, the two major communities live side by side and I have sought, since I became Ruler, to promote by every means good and friendly relations between them. My ancestors and I have always regarded Muslims and Hindus as the two eyes of the State and the State itself as being the indivisible asset of all the communities inhabiting it. I am happy to state that there has not been in my State the same acute cleavage as has led to the recent events in British India. The subjects of my State have affinities with both the two contemplated Unions. By sending representatives to either of the Constituent Assemblies, Hyderabad would seem to be taking one side or the other. I am sure I am serving the best interests of my subjects by declining to take such a course. I have therefore decided not to send representatives to either of the Constituent Assemblies."

RESPONSIBLE GOVT.

In his presidential address to the first session of the Hyderabad State Congress, Swami Ramananda Tirtha, President of the Congress, appealed to the Nizam's Government to join the Indian Union and participate in the existing Constituent Assembly. He also urged the Government to convene a Constituent Assembly for the State, elected on the basis of adult franchise, to frame a democratic constitution with responsible Government under the aegis of the Nizam for Hyderabad as an integral part of the free Indian Union. In the meantime, Swami Ramananda suggested the formation of an Interim Government for Hyderabad.

Mysore

MYSORE AND THE CONSAMBLY

Mysore has decided to join the Constituent Assembly and send a delegation of 7 to take part in the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly formed of Provinces and States contiguous to Mysore.

The Dewan, announcing this decision at a press conference on June 17, said this entry was in terms of the agreement on fundamentals arrived at between the two Negotiating Committees of February last.

The Dewan expressed the hope that this Constituent Assembly would evolve a federation which would be acceptable to Indian States.

The Dewan also made clear that on the particular arrangements, agreements or conventions with special reference to Mysore State, made therein will depend the question whether Mysore should ultimately join the Federation or make some other arrangements with adjacent areas.

ERECTION OF NEW BUILDINGS

Mysore will shortly have one of the most up-to-date buildings in the State to house the Representative Assembly and to serve as the Convocation Hall and Examination Hall of the Mysore University. This is a sequel to the promise, which, it may be recalled, was made by Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, Dewan, at the last Dasara Session of the Mysore Representative Assembly.

PUBLICITY ORGANISATION

The Government of Mysore have sanctioned a scheme at an initial cost of Rs. 4 lakhs for establishing publicity and propaganda organisations in the State.

Under this scheme, a Publicity Officer will be appointed whose duty it will be to prepare pamphlets and posters for the guidance of the rural population, organise exhibitions, take such other steps as may be necessary to achieve the object in view.

Travancore**DEWAN ON TRAVANCORE'S STATUS**

Sticking to the position that the independence of Travancore was best for the State in her own interests at the present moment, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar the Dewan, explained at a Press Conference in Trivandrum, how though any sacrifice was worthwhile for achieving a united India, the same could not hold with a divided India or possibly more divided Indias and there was nothing out of the way at all in having an independent Travancore which could have the friendliest relations with the rest of India. From the economic, cultural and other aspects, this was a practicable and profitable proposition and the Dewan could see no valid objection to it and as such he would commend it to Travancorians, both official and non-official. Therefore, he would invite them to co-operate and work for the ideal of an independent Travancore, however unpopular it might be with certain influential quarters.

STATE CONGRESS'S OPPOSITION

Mr. Pattom A. Thanu Pillai, President, Travancore State Congress, has issued a statement in which he points out:

"I am surprised that Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar does not realise the consequences of what he is doing. He says that Travancore has decided to remain independent. He seems to think that he can deal and dispense with these affairs of the State in any manner he likes as if it were a private estate. He persists in refusing to see that it is the people of Travancore that should decide whether the State should join the Indian Union or not. There is no one in Travancore except the Dewan that shares this view. The Travancoreans' sense of nationalism is totally different from that of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar's."

MEASURES TO CHECK OPPOSITION

The Government of Travancore have decided to prohibit meetings and processions likely to lead to breach of peace.

Baroda**THE PORT OF OKHA**

The sea port of Okha in being developed by Baroda State. The port has been equipped with buildings and protective works. Last year, 2,39,602 tons of cargo were handled at the Port.

CO-OPERATIVE SAVINGS SOCIETIES

To inculcate the habit of thrift among mill workers, 34 co-operative savings societies have been established in the State. The compulsory and dearness allowance savings of these societies amounted to Rs. 4,98,049 and Rs. 18,05,744 respectively during 1946.

MEDICAL RELIEF IN RURAL AREAS

A programme of extensive medical relief in the rural areas of Baroda State has been taken in hand. Liberal grants for starting dispensaries on co-operative basis have been made by His Highness's Government. Male nurses are being trained to cope with the heavy pressure of work at the dispensaries.

Kashmir**CONGRESS PRESIDENT & KASHMIR**

"It is wrong to say that I have come to Kashmir to induce the State Government to join the Constituent Assembly," declared Mr. J. B. Kripalani, the Congress President, at a Press conference arranged by the Kashmir Journalists' Association.

Mr. Kripalani added: "The Ruler of Kashmir had favoured the idea of the State joining the Constituent Assembly long ago. I have no idea that he has since changed his mind. So the question of my inducing him to send representatives to the Constituent Assembly does not arise."

Proceeding Mr. Kripalani said: "I have come to Kashmir to bring about good understanding between the Government and the National Conference."

Kolhapur**NEW MAHARAJA OF KOLHAPUR**

Sir Vikram Sinha Puar, till recently Maharaja of Dewas (Senior), was adopted by Maharani Tarabai Chhatrapati of Kolhapur on March 31 and re-christened "Shahaji Chhatrapati." After the ceremony the new Maharaja was conducted to the throne by the Prime Minister, Sir Thomas Austin.

Bhopal**NEW CONSTITUTIONAL ADVISER**

It is reliably learnt that Sir Mohamed Zafrullah, Judge of the Federal Court, has accepted the appointment as the Constitutional Adviser to the Nawab of Bhopal. His salary will be Rs. 7,000 per mensem and he will be compensated for all incidental pecuniary losses arising out of his resigning the judgeship of the Federal Court.

Bikaner**BIKANER LEGISLATURE**

The Prime Minister of Bikaner, addressing a joint meeting of the Bikaner Constitution and Franchise and Constituencies Committees, indicated that Bikaner might have a bi-cameral legislature with a reservation of seats in the Lower House for Trade and Industry, Labour, Education, Women and Jagirdars. It is reported that the two Committees have accepted the principle that voters in the special constituencies should also exercise their votes in the general constituencies.

Cochin**JUSTICE K. S. K. IYENGAR**

H. H. the Maharaja has accepted the resignation submitted by Mr. K. S. K. Iyengar, Chief Justice of Cochin. Mr. Krishnaswami Iyengar handed over charge to Mr. Justice V. K. K. Menon on the 17th June.

General**STATES' PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE**

The Standing Committee of the All-India States' People's Conference, in a resolution on H. M. G.'s statement, declared on June 12 that "on the lapse of Paramountcy, sovereignty resides in the peoples of the States and the Princes can only be constitutional rulers, embodying the people's sovereignty."

The resolution added: "Any Ruler declaring his State independent will thereby express his hostility not only to the Indian Union but to his own people and such an act will have to be resisted. The Committee trusts, therefore, that all remaining States will join the Constituent Assembly of India in terms of the agreement arrived at between the Negotiating Committees. In the event of any State refusing to do so, the Standing Committee requests the Constituent Assembly to allow the people of such a State to elect their own representatives to the Assembly, so that the State may be properly represented and people's views might prevail."

Another resolution was a directive to the people of the Indian States to be vigilant and be prepared for all contingencies as certain states were increasing their forces.

The resolution says: "It has come to the knowledge of the standing committee that some states are increasing their armed forces and in particular smuggling in arms and ammunition is being carried on. This can only mean that the states concerned are harbouring certain designs which they wish to enforce by force of arms against their people."

The committee wish to draw the attention of the Government of India to this smuggling and armed preparations which are against the law. Further the committee asks the people of the states to be vigilant and be prepared for all contingencies.

The committee also adopted resolutions on Kashmir, Mysore, Bhopal and Eastern states and Constituent Assembly.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

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South Africa

NEHRU-SMUTS CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence exchanged between Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Member for External Affairs in the Interim Government, and Field-Marshal Smuts, the South African Premier, on the question of Indians in South Africa in the light of the decision of the United Nations Assembly has been published.

Pandit Nehru, who opened the correspondence, expressed the readiness of the Government of India to open negotiations with the South African Government to implement the resolution of the United Nations. Field-Marshal Smuts, in reply, insisted that the Government of India should send back their High Commissioner to South Africa as otherwise there would be no machinery for discussions.

Pandit Nehru refused to agree to General Smuts' suggestion in view of the fact that the High Commissioner was recalled following deterioration in the relations of the two countries and until these improved, which could only be by implementing the United Nations' resolution, there would be no point in sending back the High Commissioner.

Burma

INDIA GOVERNMENT'S PROTEST

The Government of India have sent a strong protest to the Government of Burma against the Emergency Immigration Bill passed by the latter last month.

The Government of Burma gave no indication to the Government of India of their intention in the matter. This is considered by the Government of India to be a breach of diplomatic procedure, almost amounting to an unfriendly act.

Malaya

MALAYAN INDIAN CONGRESS

The first session of the Malayan Indian Congress, was held at Kuala Lumpur on June 7.

Budh Singh, the veteran Sikh leader of Selangor and Chairman of the Reception Committee, referred in his address to the present situation in India and said: "Wisdom is bound to prevail after an unhappy family dispute. We here should in the meantime make our contribution to our beloved country's welfare in that spirit."

Mr. J. A. Thivy, the President, in his address reviewed the work of the Congress in the fields of Prohibition, temple-entry and destitute relief. Reiterating the complete opposition of the Congress to the reactionary constitution for Malaya submitted recently for approval by Parliament, Mr. Thivy stated that the Congress, co-operating with the Chinese and progressive Malays, had produced another constitution based on agreement between themselves. This would be submitted soon in the form of counter-proposals to Parliament.

Ceylon

MR. GIRI'S ADVICE TO INDIANS

Indians in Ceylon should completely identify themselves with the Ceylonese, said Mr. V. V. Giri, who has been appointed representative of the Government of India in Ceylon. The Indians should, however, be free to maintain cultural relations with India.

Mr. Giri said Ceylon, still a dependent colony, was aspiring for an independent existence, like other Asiatic nations. Indians, now on the threshold of freedom, should wish that Ceylon, their immediate neighbour, also attain freedom.

There were nearly a million Indians in Ceylon, and their status should be determined. They should not be treated as aliens and made to occupy a status lower than that of other citizens.

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS * DEPARTMENTAL * NOTES

Questions of Importance

CONGRESS AND THE BRITISH PROPOSALS

The All India Congress Committee which met in New Delhi approved the Working Committee resolution accepting the British plan. The following is the resolution:

"The A.I.C.C. has given careful consideration to the course of events since its last meeting in January, and, in particular, to the statements made on behalf of the British Government on February 20, and June 3. The Committee approves, and endorses the resolutions passed by the Working Committee during this period.

FUNCTION OF C. A.

"The Congress accepted the British Cabinet Mission's statement of May 16, 1946 as well as the subsequent interpretation of December 6, 1946, and has been acting in accordance with it in the Constituent Assembly which was constituted in terms of the Cabinet Mission's plan. That Assembly has been functioning for over six months, and has not only declared its objectives to be establishment of an independent sovereign Republic of India, and a just, social, and economic order but has also made considerable progress in framing the Constitution for the free Indian Union on the basis of fundamental rights guaranteeing freedom, and equality of opportunity to all Indians.

LEAGUE'S REFUSAL

"In view, however, of the refusal of the Muslim League to accept the plan of May 16 and to participate in the Constituent Assembly, and further in view of the policy of the Congress that it cannot think in any territorial unit to remain in an Indian Union against their declared and established will, the A.I.C.C. accepts the proposals embodied in the announcement

of June 3, which have laid down a procedure to ascertain the will of the people concerned.

"The Congress has consistently held the view that the unity of India must be maintained. Ever since its inception the Congress has laboured for the realisation of a free and united India and millions of our people have suffered for this great cause. Not only the labours and sacrifices of the past two generations, but the long course of India's history, and tradition bear witness to this essential unity.

"Geography, and the mountains, and the seas fashioned India as she is, and no human agency can change that shape or come in the way of her final destiny.

"Economic circumstances and the insistent demands of international affairs make the unity of India still more necessary. The picture of the India we have learnt to cherish will remain in our minds and hearts.

"The A.I.C.C. earnestly trusts that when present passions have subsided, India's problems will be viewed in their proper perspective, and the doctrine of two nations in India will be discredited, and discarded by all.

"The proposals of June 3 are likely to lead to the secession of some parts of the country from India. However, much this may be regretted, the A.I.C.C. accepts this possibility in the circumstances now prevailing.

"Though freedom is at hand the times are difficult and the situation in India demands vigilance, and a united front by all those who care for the independence of India."

MR. CELLER ON INDIAN UNITY

Representative Emanuel Celler, in a speech in the House of Representatives at Washington on June 20 said: "It is hoped that Indian unity will be obtained by peaceful ways and that, eventually, Mr. Jinnah will be won over to the principle of unity, wiping out for ever the cross purposes that have wrecked India".

Mr. Celler said that Mr. Jinnah secured Pakistan "by dogged insistence and mis-directed enthusiasm. He now issues a manifesto insisting upon the right of the Indian Princes to declare themselves independent sovereign nations. One can imagine the confusion worse than confounded, with Pakistan, Hindustan, and over 500 small and large Princely sovereignties.

"India, by culture, tradition, language, and geography, should be a single nation. The very idea of Pakistan and now the demand of the Princely States shows how wrong it was from the very beginning."

GANDHIJ'S CALL TO MINORITIES

Mahatma Gandhi in his post-prayer speech in New Delhi on June 16 declared, "Surely the Union Provinces were not going to be caught in the trap prepared for them" and said that they had to show by their action that Muslim members in the Provincial Cabinets were just as welcome as they were before and that no matter what was done in the Pakistan Provinces, the union Provinces would be strictly just and fair in their treatment of their Muslim brethren.

FRANK ANTHONY'S ADVICE TO ANGLO-INDIANS

Addressing a mass meeting of Anglo-Indians at Calcutta on June 20 the President of the Anglo-Indian Association, Mr. Frank Anthony, asked the community to create in the minds of the people of this country the assurance that they (Anglo-Indians) would give to India their complete loyalty. Once this assurance was created, he said,

the special qualities and aptitudes of the Anglo-Indians would be invaluable and welcomed in the New India.

The Anglo-Indian Association had always hoped for the unity of India because they believed that was the way the best interests of the country and of the community would be served. Political developments, however, had forced the division of the country. Fortunately, the community had been saved from vivisection. With numerical smallness as their greatest weakness, if the Anglo-Indians were sub-divided, they would have been in serious danger of being politically emasculated and in danger of completely losing their identity. As it happened, only about 10,000 Anglo-Indians, out of a total of about 450,000, would fall into Pakistan. The integrity and cohesion of the community was thus ensured.

Mr. Anthony said that events had justified the nationalist policy that had been adopted and this policy had saved the community from extinction. He had always advocated friendliness and friendship with Congress Party. He realised that whatever happened, the community as a community would have to work with and depend on the goodwill of the Congress. The Congress had not been ungenerous to the community. He had every reason to believe that they would appreciate the peculiar circumstances and special difficulties of the community.

SARDAR BALDEV SINGH'S ADDRESS TO SERVICEMEN

Every member of the armed forces—Officers, V.C.O.'s and Jawans—would very shortly be asked to state his choice on whether he wished to serve in the army of the Indian Union or in that of Pakistan, declared the Defence Member, Sardar Baldev Singh, addressing Servicemen at Ambala.

Sardar Baldev Singh assured Servicemen that none of their rights and privileges will be ignored or adversely affected in the process of division of the Armed Forces.

CONGRESS AND THE STATES

The following is the resolution on the Indian States adopted by the A.I.C.C. at its meeting in Delhi:

"The A.I.C.C. welcomes the association of many Indian States in the work of the Constituent Assembly. The Committee hopes that the remaining States will also co-operate in this building up of the constitutional structure of a free India in which the State units will be equal and autonomous sharers with the other units of the Federation.

CABINET MISSION PLAN

"The position of the States in the constitutional changes that are taking place was defined in the memorandum presented by the Cabinet Mission on May 12, 1946 and the statement of May 16, 1946. The statement of June 3 has not added to these in any way. The position, according to these papers, was that the Indian Union would consist of the Provinces and the States, that Paramountcy would lapse on the transfer of power, and that, in the event of any State not entering into a federal relationship with the Union, it will enter into other political arrangement with it. In the memorandum, it was further stated that the British Government had been informed by the Indian States that they desired in their own interests, and in the interests of India as a whole, to make their contribution to the framing of the structure, and to take their due place in it when it is completed. It was also hoped that the various State Governments, who had not already done so, would take active steps to place themselves in close, and constant touch with public opinion in their States by means of representative institutions. It was suggested that the existing arrangements between the States, and the Government of India should continue in regard to matters of common concern until new agreements were completed. . .

In view of the basic changes that are going to take place in India within the

next two months, resulting from the complete transfer of power to Indian hands, it is of vital importance that progress leading to responsible Government should take place rapidly in the States. . . .

PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

"The Committee does not agree with the theory of Paramountcy as enunciated and interpreted by the British Government. But even if that is accepted, the consequences that follow from the lapse of that Paramountcy are limited in extent. The privileges and obligations as well as the subsisting rights between the States and the Government of India cannot be adversely affected by the lapse of Paramountcy. These rights and obligations have to be considered separately, and renewed or changed by mutual agreement. The relationship between the Government of India and the States would not be exhausted by the lapse of Paramountcy.

"The lapse does not lead to the independence of the States.

Both from the point of view of the spirit underlying the memorandum of May 12, 1946 and the statement of May 16, 1946, as well as the acknowledged rights of the people, the States must have a dominating voice in any decisions regarding them.

"Sovereignty, it is admitted, resides in the people, and if Paramountcy lapses, resulting in the ending of the relationship of the States to the Crown, the inherent rights of the people are not affected thereby for the worse."

"The arrangements made under Paramountcy in the past dealt *inter alia* with the security of India as a whole. In the interest of that security, various arrangements were agreed to limiting the power of the States' authorities, and, at the same time, granting them protection. The question of the security of India as well as other matters are as important to-day as at any time previously, and cannot be ignored in deciding the future of the States."

A COMMON PATTERN OF EDUCATION

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Member, Interim Government, in his inaugural address at the session of the Standing Committee of the Legislature on education, in Simla said that the Interim Government should have given their highest priority to the problem of education but political situation in the country had not been easy and most of them had been preoccupied with constant changes in the political scene. He felt that he had not been able to do all that he wanted though he had certain definite schemes and all that was necessary was to put them into execution.

Maulana Azad said: "The most important task before the National Government is to set up a new programme of national education. Although we have not achieved all that we wanted a new spirit is already in evidence."

Maulana Azad added: "Education is a provincial subject. Provinces will therefore, carry the actual work but it is the task of the Centre to set a standard for national education. I do not for a moment suggest any encroachment on provincial autonomy but if we are to get the most desirable results it is necessary that there should be one common pattern and here the Centre is of very great importance."

IMPORTANCE OF BASIC EDUCATION

"Basic education is a system of State education free and compulsory for all boys and girls between the ages 7 and 14. It is not intended to replace the present system of university education. If we were to have a thoroughly industrialised country or even a Communist or Socialist order of society, I would not hesitate to say that we should take to basic education. If the system of basic education is honestly worked out on sound lines, I do not see any reason why it should not be adopted in Pakistan and I hope that within a very short time, basic education would

be the prevalent system of education in the whole of India," declared Dr. Zakir Hussain, who answered a number of questions on Basic Education at a public meeting in Madras. Mr. T. S. Avinasingam Chettiar, Minister for Education, presided.

The Chairman in the course of his speech said that the greatest and lasting contribution of Mahatma Gandhi to India and the world was the system of basic education. He added that basic education had been officially accepted and that it would be adopted throughout the country.

Stressing the need for public co-operation for the success of basic education, the Chairman said that the first thing that was needed was the education of the parents of the children.

S.-E. ASIA STUDENTS' CONFERENCE

The delegates to the South-East Asia Regional Conference of the International Student Service assembled in Madras last month formed themselves into three commissions, to consider and report on expansion of University Education, Technological vs. General University Education and Student Movements and Student Organizations respectively.

The three respective commissions were presided over by Mr. Ravindra Varma, President, Indian Students' Congress, Mr. Ubani, Delegate from Indonesia, and Mr. Potho Mang, President, All-Burma Students' Union.

A strong plea that technical and technological education must be developed within the University itself as in the Indonesian Republic and that the imparting of education should be through the medium of the national language was made in the reports of the three commissions which was submitted to the plenary session of the South East Asia Regional Conference of the International Student Service at the Banqueting Hall.

Dr. Zakir Hussain, Chairman of the Conference, presided.

CITIZENSHIP IN DIVIDED INDIA

A very valuable and vital issue, that of citizenship is being tackled by a committee of legal and constitutional experts. This issue would have been simple if the country had remained undivided. With partition being inevitable, several complicated problems arise, but the point relate to a definition of citizenship. According to a Press correspondent, questions that arise are firstly, should there be two citizenships within India; secondly, should there be a common citizenship between the two separate States within India or should there be dual citizenship. The position becomes more difficult because while the country is being divided on demand from a large bulk of Muslims, there will be about three to four crores of Muslims within the Indian Union. They have joined in the demand for a division of the country; and partition having taken place, they have to decide whether their allegiance would be to the Indian Union or to the separate so-called Muslim State and whose citizens would they be or prefer to be. Even if for temporary advantages they remain citizens of the Indian Union their loyalty may be put to the test on crucial occasions. Can they be given key positions in the Indian Union when there is tension between the Indian Union and the Muslim State?

Similarly regarding the division of national assets and liabilities all that can be done is to divide the assets on paper, and lots of them being irremovable things, they can not be transferred from one part to another. These can be evaluated and proceeds shared or divided. Discussion are continuing at high level on these subjects.

CANADIAN LAW AND BRITISH VETO

The Canadian Parliament gave the final reading to a Bill amending the "Publication of Statutes Act".

The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Louis St. Laurent, explained that the Clerk of the Canadian Parliament would not have to send copies of Canadian Statutes to the United Kingdom Parliament for "disallowance or certification purposes."

(Until now the British Parliament has had the power to disallow Canadian legislation.)

He said that the 1930 Empire Conference decided that the United Kingdom Parliament would not disallow legislation of an autonomous Commonwealth unit.

No Change was planned to the British North America Act (Section 56) requiring Governor-General to forward Canadian Statutes to the United Kingdom.

DR. JAYAKAR FOR PRIVY COUNCIL

In response to the wishes of the Lord Chancellor, Dr. M. R. Jayakar has gone to London as a member of the judicial Committee of the Privy Council during summer session to dispose of Indian and other appeals which are pending before the Privy Council.

NEW JUDGE OF FEDERAL COURT

The Governor-General has appointed the Hon'ble Sir Sayid Fazl Ali, Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, to act as a Judge of the Federal Court from June 9, 1947, in the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan.

EFFECT OF DISTURBANCES ON INSURANCE

Addressing the Field-Workers' Association the other day Mr. H. C. Naug referred to the adverse effect of disturbances in India—and particularly the cities of Calcutta and Bombay, the two most productive centres of Insurance business in India—on Insurance business in this country. But in spite of these disturbances, Mr. Naug added, Life Insurance business in 1946 was greater in volume than in 1945 which reflected credit for Field-Workers.

The President very aptly pointed out that disturbances involving suspension or reduction of economic activities minimized the national income and enhanced the national poverty of India which is one of the poorest countries in the world. The speaker dwelt at some length on the reason why Insurance business had not suffered so badly since August, 1946. He then warned his listeners both against undue optimism and useless pessimism.

Dealing with the prospect and future of Insurance business in India in the midst of civil disturbances. Mr. Naug remarked: "The last two World Wars and particularly the Second World War could not wipe out Insurance even in the worst areas of belligerency. Compared to the intensive havocs created by these Wars, the disturbances we have had in this country—when Freedom is in travail—are practically minor affairs."

In concluding his speech, Mr. Naug observed that if the 2nd Insurance Amendment Bill were to be reconsidered in the ensuing session of the Central Legislature, the Association must put in a stout opposition if the Field-Workers' interests were ignored. Finally Mr. Naug suggested that it was imperatively necessary that the Association must strengthen its financial resources—a working fund of Rs. 25,000 must be built up initially.

INSURANCE IN INDIA

"Of all the civilized countries of the world, India has the lowest per capita insurance," states the Post-war Sub-Committee. It urges concerted measures to make the public acquainted with the benefits of insurance, and more "insurance minded." For this purpose the setting up of an organisation jointly by all association of insurers in India and supported by a levy from them is recommended.

The Sub-Committee suggests the establishment of an institute to provide an efficient tuition service, in insurance matters. The institute would also serve as an examining body, and its diplomas should be recognised by insurers as well as by the Government.

The sub-committee also suggests that subject to certain specified conditions, insurers may accept without medical examination policies for small amounts, such as Rs. 1,000.

INSURANCE AGAINST RIOT RISK

Proposals for civil commotion and riot insurance are under the consideration of the Government of India, it is understood. Owing to the abnormal conditions prevailing in the country in which there has been large scale destruction of life and property and in which there is a constant threat to these, it is felt that the Government of India must devise some scheme of insurance on the lines of the war risk insurance operating during the war. Without such a scheme, business and industry are being seriously handicapped and bank credit is very shy. No decision, however, has yet been reached on the matter as the question of the liability of provincial Governments in this matter has not been settled.

HINDUSTAN vs. PAKISTHAN RESOURCES

The economic resources of Pakistan and Hindustan are given by Mr. G. D. Birla in a pamphlet which is circulated among the leaders. The following are the facts based on official statistics:

Industrial location (1939-40): Cotton Mills: Hindustan 380, Pakistan 9; Jute Mills: Hindustan 108, Pakistan nil; Sugar Mills: Hindustan 156, Pakistan 10; Iron and Steel: Hindustan 18; Pakistan nil; Cement: Hindustan 16, Pakistan 3; Paper: Hindustan 16, Pakistan nil; Glass: Hindustan 77, Pakistan 2.

Analysis of business and professional incomes: Mines, quarries, etc.: Hindustan Rs. 9,41,47,624, Pakistan Rs. 2,35,40,880; Textile manufactures: Hindustan Rs. 44,86,81,860, Pakistan Rs. 2,72,18,223; Metals and Metal goods: Hindustan Rs. 6,52,44,835, Pakistan Rs. 1,86,33,974; Buildings and miscellaneous goods: Hindustan Rs. 7,86,67,462, Pakistan Rs. 1,91,73,273; Distribution and communications: Hindustan Rs. 104,63,54,472, Pakistan Rs. 18,47,46,721; Finance: Hindustan Rs. 20,62,11,519, Pakistan Rs. 3,88,07,172.

Agricultural and food resources: Raw jute: Hindustan 983,519 acres, Pakistan 1,403,700 acres; Raw cotton: Hindustan 13,770,000 acres, Pakistan 1,630,000 acres; Tea: Hindustan 641,243 acres, Pakistan 96,657 acres; Rice: Hindustan 17,229,000 tons, Pakistan 5,376,000 tons; Wheat: Hindustan 4,199,740 tons, Pakistan 2,785,260 tons; Raw sugar: Hindustan 2,631,000 tons, Pakistan 517,000 tons; Groundnut: Hindustan 2,274,000 tons, Pakistan negligible or nil.

Coal: Hindustan 2,50,79,802 tons, Pakistan 1,98,476 tons; Petroleum: Hindustan 4,59,68,951 gallons, Pakistan 2,11,13,420; Chromite: Hindustan 5,194 tons, Pakistan 21,892 tons; Copper ore/matte: Hindustan 2,88,076 tons, Pakistan nil; Iron ore: Hindustan 14,21,701 tons, Pakistan nil;

Manganese ore: Hindustan 7,66,341 tons, Pakistan nil; Magnesite: Hindustan 23,052 tons, Pakistan nil; Mica: Hindustan 1,98,824 cwt. Pakistan nil.

Communication: Railways: Hindustan mileage 25,970 and capital investment Rs. 6,25,68 crores. Pakistan mileage 14,542 and capital investment Rs. 232,81 crores; Roads: Hindustan 246,605 miles and Pakistan 49,863 miles.

Potential water power: Hindustan 1,343,000 kilowatts and Pakistan 2,847,000 kilowatts.

Pakistan will have two major ports—Karachi and Chittagong which handled a total of 2,441,000 of cargo tons in 1939-40, and Hindustan will have Bombay, Cochin, Madras, Vizagapatam and Calcutta, which handled a total of 16,548,000 tons.

EXPORT OF COTTON

The Government of India have decided, as a temporary measure, to allow the free export of cotton, says a Press Note. This is in view of the commodity's easier supply position in the country. All the existing restrictions on the export of cotton are thus lifted with immediate effect and until 31st August, 1947, any one may export any variety of cotton to any destination, whether or not he is in possession of an export licence.

Intending exporters should present the necessary shipping bills to the export trade Controllers at the ports concerned, along with an additional copy for office use. The bills will be duly endorsed for export by the export trade Controllers.

Exporters are warned that as this concession is available only till 31st August, they should present shipping bills only when freight has been secured. Particulars of varieties and staples of cotton proposed to be exported should be specified in the shipping bills.

MRS. PANDIT'S TRIBUTE TO PARVATI DEVI

Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, unveiling the portrait of the late Mrs Parvati Devi, a prominent Congress worker of Delhi, in the Marwari Library, Chandni Chowk, Delhi, stressed the need for carrying on a new struggle to eradicate social evils from society to enable the country to become truly independent. This struggle, she said, would be more difficult than their political struggle.

Paying a tribute to Mrs. Parvati Devi as a non-violent soldier in the country's battle for freedom Mrs. Pandit said that she knew her personally. She worked for the removal of social bondages which hampered the progress of society.

"At the present stage of our struggle," she said, "we have to decide our future line of action. "Having achieved, our independence through non-violent means, we cannot now change our fundamental principles on which to build the future of our country."

But, she said, the country would become really independent only when the people took interest in shaping its future.

LATE MADAME MENAKA

Indian Fine Arts has received a rude set-back in the death of Lady Sokhey, better known as Madame Menaka, one of the foremost of Indian dancing. Here is a sketch of her colourful career.

Wife of Sir Sahib Singh Sokhey, Director of the Aaffkine Institute, Madame Menaka made her "debut" on the stage over 18 years ago, and her legacy to the lovers of Indian dance is the "Nrityalayam", an academy of dancing, which she established at Khandala in 1941. Among her many original contributions to the art of Indian ballet was her adaptation of Kalidasa's *Malvikagnimitram*.

Madame Menaka's most outstanding achievement was her European tour between 1936 and 1938, when she and her troupe

gave performances which attracted large audiences. At the International Dance Olympiad held in Berlin in 1936, her troupe won three out of the ten first class honour prizes. After the Olympiad, the troupe gave performances in Copenhagen, Stockholm and Oslo which were attended by the kings of the respective countries. The ballet proved a great success and made a great name of India and her ancient culture.

Soon after her return from Europe, Madame Menaka toured India and Ceylon. She gave dance performances to packed houses wherever she went, and at several places she was given public receptions and addresses. Her tour made the people realise the greatness of the Indian dance technique.

Madame Menaka was also an exponent of Indian folk dances.

LIPSTICK AND ROUGE IN CHURCH

Shorn of their lip-stick and rouge of the first time in modern years the faces of the fair sex churchgoers looked rather dry but more simple and devout. This was in compliance with the wishes of the Parish Priest of Lucknow who recently, denounced the make-up and improper dress inside the church as a sin of vanity in the house of God, writes the *National Herald*. The Pastor warned his congregation that non-compliance of the rules against cosmetics and improper dress will result in expulsion from the holy table. At least one Anglo-Indian girl, for the first time, was seen giving up the taffeta frock in favour of a sari, thus covering herself from head to foot in St. Joseph Cathedral.

The second thing the Pastor hit upon was the head coverage. He said: "When I say head covered I mean covered and not open." One will soon see a larger brimmed head-dress taking the place of a two-inch wide bonnet at least in the church.

TRAINING FOR INDIAN JOURNALISTS

The possibility of offering journalists from India, the Dominions and Colonies, the opportunities they have asked for to train themselves "in the methods and ideals of British journalism" is being investigated, Colonel J. J. Astor said after his re-election as President of the Empire Press Union in London.

"We should like to help", he added, "because an efficient and trustworthy Press is essential to democracy and no less so in countries progressing towards self-government."

Mr. D. V. Tahmankar of *Kesari* (Poona) said that the "Indian Press has been treated as a stepchild both by Downing Street and the Indian Office. Anywhere, we have tried to get information, always that information has been passed to the home Press or agencies before being given to us. I strongly protest against this attitude."

TAMIL BOOKS FOR VISWABHARATI

At the request of Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member of the Interim Government. Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar, Founder of the Annamalai University, has presented to the Viswabharati 1,040 valuable standard books on Tamilian culture and literature to be kept in a separate section in the main Library in Santiniketan.

The presentation of these books is the result of a deputation of South Indian students which waited on Mr Rajagopalachari, who was then Member for Education in the Interim Government, during his visit to Santiniketan in December last.

THE BIBLE

A new translation of The Bible in contemporary English which would avoid "all archaic words and forms of expression with the second personal pronoun singular employed only for prayers" has been proposed by a special committee of the Church of Scotland.

In a report issued at Edinburgh the committee asks the General Assembly to approve the new translation.

SETH RAMAKRISHNA DALMIA

Seth Ramkrishna Dalmia, the industrialist, has announced his intention "to retire from and not take an active interest in his business, and to serve the One World Government by rendering service to humanity through newspapers the policy of which should be the service of the people, unity among Hindus and Mohammendans and increasing amity and good relations between different sections of mankind."

In the course of a statement read out at a party given by him to about a hundred Indian and foreign correspondents, Seth Dalmia explained his political views. "Personally I feel," he said, "that the partition as envisaged by the recent plan will be more beneficial to the Hindus economically, politically and culturally. Let us separate, not as enemies or merely friendly neighbours but as affectionate brothers to be united again under One World Government, which is bound to come sooner or later."

DR. LOKANATHAN

The United Nations Secretary General, M. Trygve Lie has announced the appointment of Dr. P. S. Lokanathan of India as Executive Secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East which is now meeting in Shanghai.

Dr. Lokanathan is the Editor of the "Eastern Economist" of New Delhi, and a member of the Indian delegation to the United Nations conference on trade employment.

Dr. Lokanathan will take over his new duties in Shanghai next October.

MR. KRISHNA MENON

Introducing Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon to a gathering in Bombay Mr. Kher, Prime Minister, said that Mr. Menon's visit to Bombay this time was mainly for the purpose of contacting the leading businessmen and industrialists of the City with a view to enlisting their practical aid in the furtherance of the project of constructing an Indian culture centre in London.

SOVIET CURE FOR LEPROSY

An effective preparation for treating leprosy, hitherto considered incurable, has been evolved by two Soviet scientists. They are bio-chemist Gubarov and dermatologist Torsuyev, and have named their preparation Oxydiphtheric Acid.

This acid was extracted from diphtheria microbes and, produced striking results when tested on leprosy-infected mice and rabbits. It has been tested for a year on patients in Prof. Torsuyev's clinic, and ulcers which usually persist for months have been healed in weeks.

The Scientific Council of the Soviet Public Health Ministry has approved the method of treatment and decided to increase the production of oxydiphtheric acid.

VACCINE FOR INFLUENZA

A young German medical research worker, Dr. Fritz Himmelweit, who came to Britain before the war is responsible for what is probably the greatest medical development since the discovery of penicillin. He has produced an injection which, it is believed, will be influenza preventive.

The medical science has sought such a vaccine for generations. In Britain alone millions of man-hours are lost every year through influenza and the conquest of the disease—now in sight—will have wide effects on world economy.

MILLION VOLT X-RAY

A gift of three lakhs of rupees for the purchase of a million-volt X-Ray therapy apparatus has been made by Mr. Snehanu Kumar Acharya, Bar-at-law, to the Chittaranjan Seva Sadan Cancer Hospital, Calcutta.

One of the rarest of giant apparatuses of the type, will soon be installed in the Hospital.

SIR ALMROTH WRIGHT

Sir Almroth Wright, the British medical scientist, whose discovery of typhoid inoculation saved over 100,000 lives during the First World War, died in London last month at the age of 85.

HOW TO KEEP YOUNG IN OLD AGE

The idea of growing old gracefully should be rejected in favour of growing old "aggressively, creatively, social-mindedly," says Dr. George Lawton, New York psychologist and student of the problems of aging, in his latest book *Aging Successfully*.

Growing old aggressively will not be a graceful process. If not carried to extremes, however, it will make old age a happy, useful period of life.

The "real and only" fountain of youth can be found by those who look on old age as a "way of life, a question of intensity, not a matter of duration."

Don't make the mistake of confusing perpetual youth with arrested development, Dr. Lawton warns. He cites as an example the giddy, kittenish woman, who dresses and acts like a teen-ager in her sixties. This type of person he says, "grows older but never grows up."

Revising the saying, a man is as old as his arteries, Dr. Lawton says a man "is as old as those to whom he might be important say he is."

ANTIDOTE FOR HEART DISEASE

Sipping a highball while smoking was recommended for smokers suffering from heart disease by a prominent heart specialist of America.

"Tobacco has a bad effect on heart disease if the person is sensitive to nicotine," he said. "The best antidote is alcohol, which dilates the arteries. We believe that it dilated the little blood vessels that supply the heart muscle with blood."

He envisages a smoker with heart disease going through life with a cigar in one hand and a highball in the other." He added, however: "I don't mean to get plastered all the time. Of course, you have to take your conscience into consideration."

STERLING DEBT REPAYMENT

The *Manchester Guardian* in an editorial examined Britain's debt position and warned in passing that "we must remember that even during the war, many—probably most—Indians and Egyptians did not believe that the war concerned them. Above all we promised to repay and that promise cannot be dismissed lightly."

The paper said: "We chose the sterling balance method of financing because it was practically the most convenient for us at the time. We cannot demand universal Lease-Lend now."

Saying that "we must give more convincing reasons if we want part of the debts forgiven", the *Guardian* added: "There are in fact good reasons. It is unlikely that the system of freely convertible currencies and multilateral trading, which the United Nations is trying to establish, will work if very large payments have to be made to settle old debts. If the system does not work, every country will suffer. In a few years' time, it will hurt others if Britain has to restrict her imports by quotas. But no one can tell now how much capital repayment will then be possible. It would be better to leave the issue to be settled in good faith then. What matters now is to agree about the repayments the Britain can afford to make this year and next."

INDONESIAN CURRENCY NOTES

The Indonesian Republic has signed a contract with a London firm for the printing of Republican bank notes worth 300,000,000 Rupiahs, Dr. A. K. Gani, Indonesian Minister for Economic Affairs, announced the other day.

PUNJAB BANKS

Two wellknown banks and two important insurance companies are contemplating to move to Delhi. The total capital under flight is about Rs. 300 crores.

RAILWAY FINANCE AND UTILISATION

More safety devices are to be added to trains and care taken to see that existing devices are in working order, to prevent crimes on passenger trains.

This announcement was made by Dr. John Matthai, Transport Member, Government of India, replying to an address of welcome presented to him by Mr. Ratilal Gandhi, President of the Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay.

Dr. Matthai said that a special armed police force consisting at present of several thousands of men had been set up for protection of railways. If civil disorders continued, the strength of this force might have to be increased.

The Transport Member next outlined certain problems confronting the railways as a result of the constitutional, economic and labour difficulties in the country at present.

Referring to the impending constitutional changes, Dr. Matthai thought that one of the most difficult problems would be the division of the assets and liabilities of railways along with the partition of the country.

RESERVATION IN RAILWAYS

Railways have recently reviewed the measures necessary to ensure fair and equal treatment to passengers requiring reserved accommodation, says a Press Note. The review has been made possible by some improvement in the rail travel position.

A comprehensive scheme has been drawn up which has as its object the elimination of any possibility of irregular practices. Reservation registers and platform charts will be prepared in a more detailed manner, and will be subject to check at regular and frequent intervals by responsible officials. Where circumstances permit timed and dated certificates will be issued to passengers when accommodation is not available, and waiting lists will be maintained.

RUKMINI DEVI ON ART IN INDIA

Opening the Fine Arts Exhibition organised in connection with the South-East Asia Conference of the International Student Service at the Banqueting Hall, Madras, on June 12, Srimathi Rukmini Devi said that there could be no freedom in the country when there was cultural slavery.

The present day art in India, continued the speaker, was the outcome of an unnatural and foreign education. If they would look back and ponder over the beauties of the Rajput and Moghul paintings and the grandeur of the architecture of the temples in South India, and the lovely costumes which even now people in the villages wore, they could realise that India had nothing to learn anything new in this field from the West. But what they should now do was to forget what they had learnt to imitate. The youth of the country must remember the past glories of the culture and art of India, the beauty and simplicity of the life their ancestors lived, and must put their freedom in term of art.

HALF-TONE REPRODUCTIONS OF PAINTING

Writing on the art of Madhava Menon in the *Silpi*, the new art quarterly of Madras, Mr. Sanjiva Dev warns that to judge a painting by its half-tone reproduction is analogous to judge the beauty of a person by his shadow. "It is ardently desirable that no painting should be reproduced in half-tone plates. The process of making colour reproductions in a less expensive method should be invented. When an article on the art of a painter would appear in a periodical it must be made a rule that no half-tone reproductions accompany that article, but coloured reproductions alone would be published along with that article, this should be the custom with the future art articles. Otherwise it would be making immense injustice to the artists."

NEED FOR A MINISTRY OF SPORTS

Urging the need for the establishment of a ministry of sport at the Centre, for the creation of greater national well-being, better national health and firmer national character, Mr. Berry Sarbadhikary, the Indian sports commentator in a communication to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-president of the Interim Government, has chalked out a four-point programme for such a ministry.

These points are: (a) Mass physical education of Indian women, (b) inclusion of sport in the University curriculum, (c) building up of a chain of hospital stadiums all over the country (where the youth of Indian India can recuperate their ebbing vitality) and (d) the sponsoring of regular sporting tours to and from India, side by side with the exchange of political ambassadors, for the development of international goodwill and understanding.

At home, a special task of the Ministry (as Mahatma Gandhi advised a few years ago) would be to remove the last vestige of communalism in sport, communalism in every sphere having been the bane of Indian national life.

INDIA'S FIRST CRICKET SCHOOL

For the first time in history of Indian cricket, a school has been started to give expert coaching, and training to aspiring cricketers. It is called the Duleep school of Cricket, and was inaugurated, along with the Vijay Pavilion, at Porbander.

The Maharaja of Porbander, captain of the Indian cricket team that visited England in 1932, who planned this school has named it after one of India's greatest living cricketers, Prince Duleepsinhji, nephew of the last Ranjitsinhji.

The Maharaja has named the pavilion after India's No. 1 batsman, Vijay Merchant, who will captain the Indian cricket team in Australia next winter.

Prince Duleepsinhji and Vijay Merchant were present at the ceremony, along with some other members of the team of the forthcoming Australian tour.

TEN GREAT INVENTIONS OF SCIENCE

The U. S. National Machine Tool Builders Association has selected the following "ten great inventions" of the world all of which are mechanical:

Edmund Cartwright—the power loom.

Elias Howe Jr.—the sewing machine.

Eli Whitney—the cottonseed separating engine (cotton gin).

Thomas Blanchard—the formturning lathe.

Robert Fulton—the steamboat.

George Stephenson—the steam locomotive.

Francis M. Lechner—the coal cutter.

Christopher Sholes—the typewriter.

Ottmar Mergenthaler—the linotype.

John Butler Tytus, Jr.—the continuous sheet-steel mill.

THE NEW RUSSIAN PHONE

A telephone fitted with a screen which enables the user to see the person talking at the other end has been constructed by I. P. Rakharar, a Leningard engineer.

A Moscow Radio reporter, who visited the inventor in his laboratory and talked to Zakharoy over his telephone, said that he could easily distinguish on the screen not only the face of the inventor but also the title and date of the newspaper which the inventor held in his hand.

SOVIET HONOUR FOR INDIAN SCIENTIST

Sir C. V. Raman, President of the Indian Academy of Sciences, has been elected as a corresponding member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

The election was revealed in a broadcast over Moscow Radio by Lydia Bach, head of the Academy, who was reporting the foreign session of the general meeting of the Academy.

The broadcast spoke of the Indian scientist's research on refraction of light.

HINDI MEERA

A Hindi version of the Chandra Prabha Cinetone film "Meera", starring M. S. Subbulakshmi, was shown to a select gathering which included Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, at New Delhi recently. Expressing her appreciation of Subbulakshmi's performance, Mrs. Naidu later said: "I very seldom go to see Indian films. My life is such I am unable to spend much time for these. But I could snatch the whole day to hear Subbulakshmi sing in her film 'Meera'. The little daughter of hers, who acts as child Meera, is the perfection of dancing and everyone admired her performance. Then came up the grown-up Meera and the grown-up Meera was Subbulakshmi. It was pure enchantment against the background of Rajput grandeur, Rajput chivalry and the music of 'Meera' touched my heart and the hearts of the audience. In the quality of Meera as depicted in the picture, we have the Meera of our past come to life before the world."

INDIAN FILMS FROM HOLLYWOOD!

Plans for the exploitation of Indian films for the international market are to be placed before leading Hollywood film producers by two of India's motion picture executives at present in the United States.

The scheme calls for the production of Indian films in Hollywood with Indians as the principal member of the cast. Such films "would be produced in English and Hindustani respectively and only those actors speaking both these languages would be selected for the various parts," according to Mr. Fazalbhoy, Bombay motion picture equipment specialist who, with Mr. Mehboob Khan, Indian film producer, is now in New York.

MEMORIAL TO SAIGAL

Raj Kumar Bedi of Bombay has decided to raise a memorial to the late K. L. Saigal, on his own, an artiste's humble homage to an artiste.

NATIONALISATION OF MOTOR TRANSPORT

The nationalisation of motor transport, the principle of which has been accepted by the Madras Government, is not proposed to be undertaken in one sweep but will be worked up in suitable stages.

The idea is to make the start as early as practicable in Madras City, where already about forty State buses are running. The second stage will be nationalisation of bus services in towns and thereafter inter-district transport services.

The terms under which the existing operating concerns will be acquired and run by the Government, are still in the stage of discussion. It is understood that the existing operators will be enabled to participate in the new enterprise, to a limited extent, and tentatively, it is proposed that the capital cost and profits should be divided in the proportion of 51 per cent. for the Government, 20 per cent. for local bodies, 15 per cent. for railways and 14 per cent. for the existing bus operators.

RETAIL PRICES OF MOTOR CARS

In pursuance of Clause 4 of the Madras Civil Motor Cars Control Order, 1947, the Government of Madras have specified the maximum retail prices of the controlled motor cars of the following makes and types (the maximum retail prices noted against each of them are at main ports of importation plus octroi paid if any. These prices do not include sales tax).

Standard 8 H. P. De Luxe Saloon, Rs. 6,220; Standard 8 H. P. Tourer, Rs. 6,220; Wolseley 8 horse power saloon car, Rs. 8,655; Wolseley 14 horse power saloon car, Rs. 11,355; Nash 600, Rs. 8,860; Wolseley 18/85, Rs. 12,130; Sunbeam Talbot, 2 litre saloon, Rs. 13,045; English Citroen "Light Fifteen" Rs. 9,770.

The Government have also notified the maximum retail prices of the commercially imported transport motor vehicles of several makes and types.

MAKING AIR TRAVEL SAFE

The first concerted post-war endeavour of make the air safe for travellers of the future—the first session of the Airworthiness Division of the Provincial International Civil Aviation Organisation—has recently ended.

A recommendation that only multi-engined air-craft should be flown on scheduled international services is among the chief proposals the session has laid down.

Stringent standards to apply to all passenger transport planes manufactured after 1st January, 1945, have been agreed.

Earlier enforcement of the new requirements would, it is stated here, be impossible without in-justice to manufacturers, with new aircraft already under design or construction.

The new recommendations include:

(1) international methods for testing engine performances to ensure that engines will possess the same high degrees of reliability, irrespective of country of manufacture.

(2) Stringent protective measures against outbreaks of fire aboard.

(3) All planes to show sufficient structural strength to withstand the roughest conditions in the air and on landing.

(4) Measures to guarantee passenger safety in the event of engine failure under any circumstances even during take-off and climb.

International requirements for sound plane construction and installation of engines and equipment have also been laid down.

NEW YORK—CALCUTTA AIR SERVICE

Following the successful proving flight undertaken by them some time ago the Pan-American Airways propose to extend their weekly passenger and freight service between New York and Karachi to Calcutta. It is stated that the flight from New York to Calcutta might be completed in 37 hours' flying time.

TRAINING OFFICERS FOR INDUSTRY

The Government of India are setting up a Committee to suggest measures to facilitate the training abroad of managerial and higher supervisory staff for industrial establishments.

The Committee will consist of the Secretary of the Department of Labour (Chairman), Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Director-General of Scientific and Industrial Research, two representatives each of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, New Delhi, and the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, and officers of the Central Government departments interested in the proposal.

The Government of India have recognised the widely-felt need in India for well-trained persons capable of holding managerial and executive posts in industry and the importance of ensuring better results under the higher technical training scheme introduced in 1945. The Committee which is being set up will review the progress of the present scheme and consider what steps should be taken to facilitate the training of managerial and higher supervisory staff for industrial establishments.

Under the scheme up to the end of February, 1947, 83 candidates had been found training facilities in the United Kingdom and 35 in the U.S.A.

NEED FOR MORE PRODUCTION OF GOODS

Mr. S. V. Kiroloskar, President of the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, addressing the thirteenth annual general meeting of the Chamber appealed to Government, industrialists and the working classes to concentrate their whole attention on "more and still more production of goods." He said "the rank and file among the national workers must realise that while the country is on the threshold of freedom, what is wanted urgently is the capacity to construct."

RURAL WORKERS' TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Adarsh Seva Sangha of Pehri, Gwalior, is an All-India Institute for the training of workers for village service and attracts students from all over India and outside. It is needless to say that such a Nation-building Institute deserves wide recognition and encouragement in these days when the need for rural reconstruction is so urgent and imperative.

The object of the "Rural Workers' Training Course" is to give thorough grounding to rural workers, both men and women, in the theory and practice of rural development. The training, while embracing all round development of village life, will particularly initiate the trainees to the methods of Planning on the basis of Economic Democracy, Social Security, and Village Administration to meet the five essential requirements of the villagers—Food, Clothing, Housing, Health and Education, including Means of Communication.

Practical training is imparted both at the Institute and in the villages. Training in the following Cottage Industries are given at the Institute:—

1. Hand-spinning and Hand-weaving (khadi work).
2. Paper-making (Hand process).
3. Match-making (Hand process).
4. Bee-keeping.
5. Blanket-making and Woollen work.

DEVICE TO INCREASE FRUIT YIELD

A new fruit setting spray, which may have far-reaching effects on world horticulture, has been evolved by chemists in England. This spray, which is called Fulset, is the result of work carried out at the experimental station at Lenton on plant growth-regulating substances. So far this spray has been used with great success in the treatment of tomatoes, but experiments are now being carried out to determine its scope in other branches of agriculture and horticulture.

SETTLEMENT OF BUCKINGHAM MILL STRIKE

Mr. B. W. Batchelor and Mr. N. Barlow, representing the management of the B. and C. Mills, and Messrs N S Selvaraj, Raju, L. Loganathan, R. T. Krishnan and Kothandapani, Vice-President and members of the Executive Committee of the Madras Labour Union, met on June 18 and agreed as follows:

That the workers' representatives will advise all workers to return to work immediately.

The management agrees that there will be no victimisation of those who return to work by June 19.

The Management will pay out the bonus already sanctioned as soon as work is resumed without prejudice to the claim to be decided by the Court.

The Management will reinstate the 52 workers dismissed in September, 1942, or as many as wish to join before June 26.

The Management will ask the Government to cancel the orders against the Madras Labour Union, to withdraw warrants against all workers and to release those workers under arrest.

All other matters in dispute will be referred to the Court.

The Strike was called off and most of the workers joined duty on the 19th June.

NATIONAL T.U.C.'S CALL FOR UNITY

The provisional Executive Committee of the Indian National Trade Union Congress, in its meeting on June 15 at Delhi passed a resolution expressing the view that the division of India, even though inevitable in the present circumstances, was detrimental to the interests of the common people. No trade union movement could grow strong in sectional or communal environments.

The Committee however hoped that the division would be a temporary phase, and that the trade unions in the country would not encourage any separatist tendencies,

LATE T. K. BALASUBRAMANYA IYER

The death of Mr. T. K. Balasubrahmanya Aiyer is a great loss to the world of Sanskrit literature. Mr. Balasubrahmanya Aiyer belonged to a distinguished family of scholars of Tanjore district.

A serious student of Sanskrit literature and philosophy, Mr. Balasubrahmanya Aiyer resolved to do his best to make the great works in the Sanskrit language available to a wide public and during the rest of his life he spent his entire fortune in bringing out rare Sanskrit works, many of which had remained unpublished till then. The famous *Sri Vani Vilas Press* was founded by him at Srirangam in 1904. In collaboration with the late Prof. K. Sundarama Aiyer, he edited the *Hindu Message*, an English periodical devoted to the propagation of the ideals of Varnashrama Dharma.

Mr. T. K. Balasubrahmanya Aiyer was a disciple of His Holiness the late Jagadguru of Sringeri Mutt.

Mr. Balasubrahmanya Aiyer who was 73 at the time of his death had entered *Sanyasa Ashrama* only a few days previously with the permission and blessings of His Holiness Sri Chandrasekhara Bharati the present head of the Sringeri Mutt. The death of this scholar is a great loss to South India.

INDIAN AMBASSADORS

It can now be definitely stated that Mrs. Vijayaluxmi Pandit is being appointed Indian Ambassador at Moscow.

Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, will be appointed Government of India's roving Minister for External Affairs as heretofore.

Another diplomatic appointment that has been decided upon seems to be that of Mr. H. S. Malik, Prime Minister of Patiala as India's Ambassador to Canada.

For London, Mr. K. M. Munshi may still be appointed Ambassador or first as High Commissioner to be later transformed into Ambassador but as his name is being considered in connection with reshuffling of the Central Cabinet, nothing could be definitely stated.

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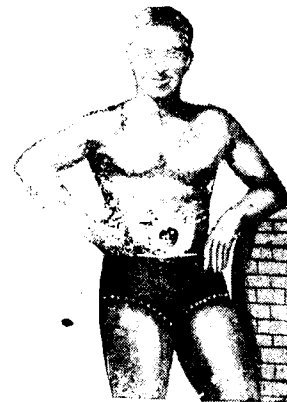
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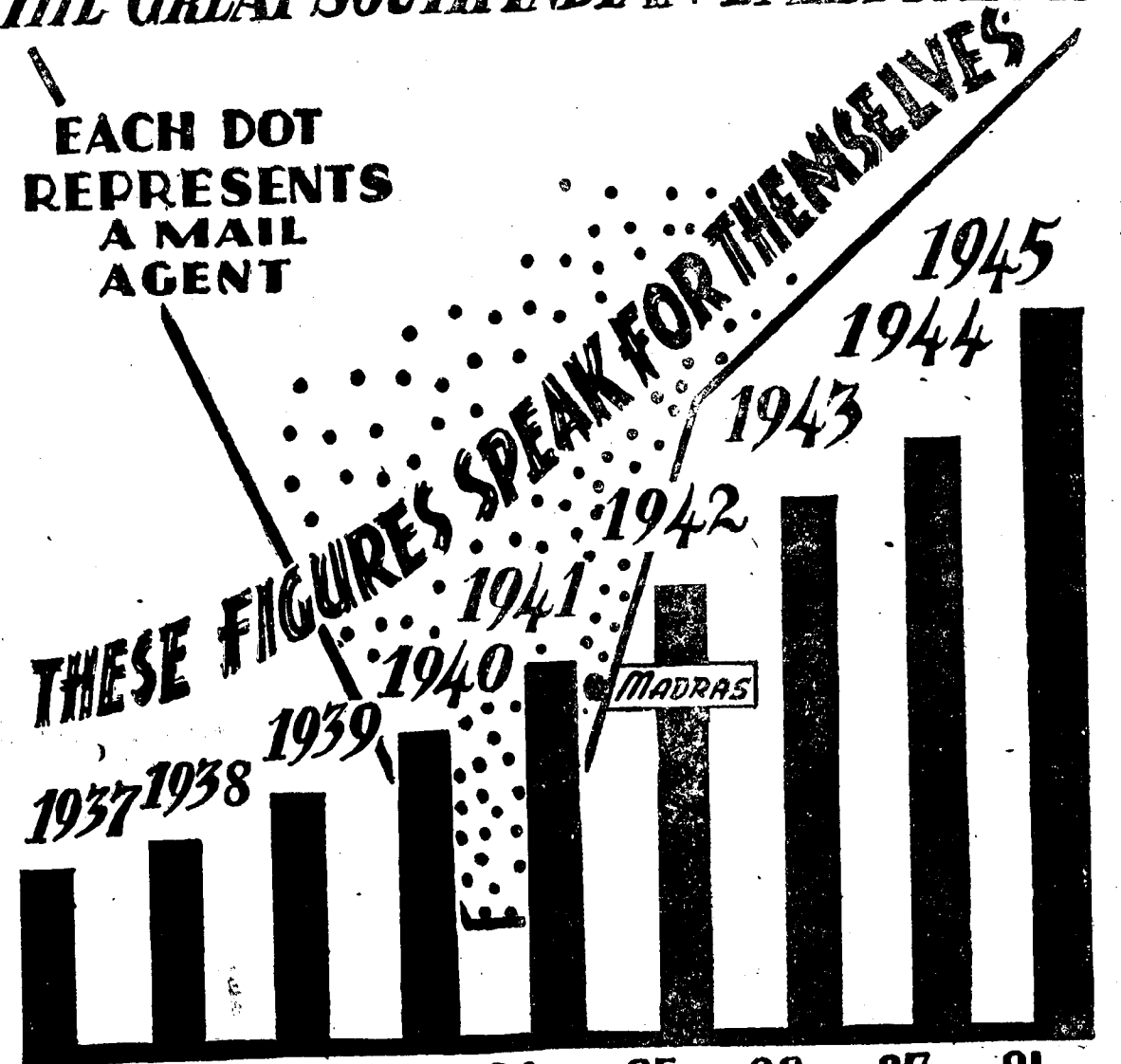
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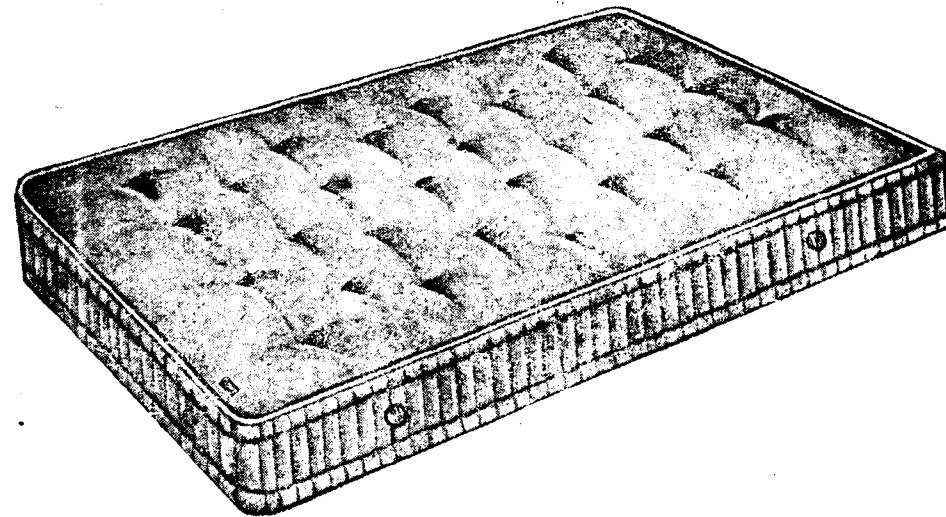
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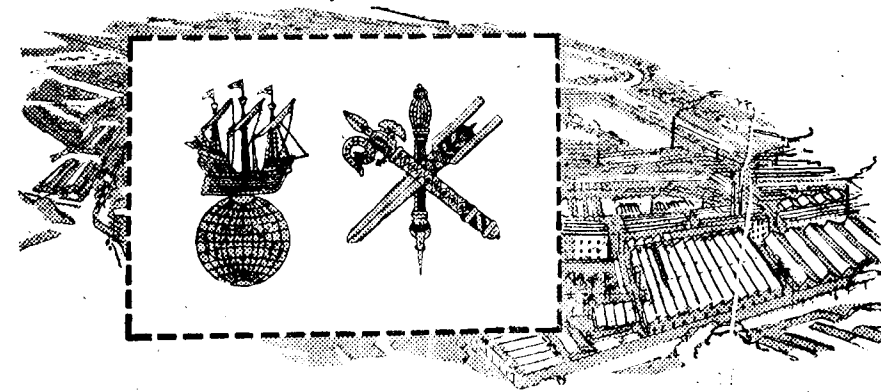
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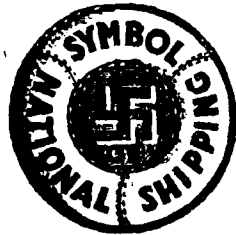


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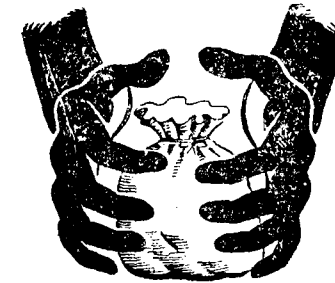
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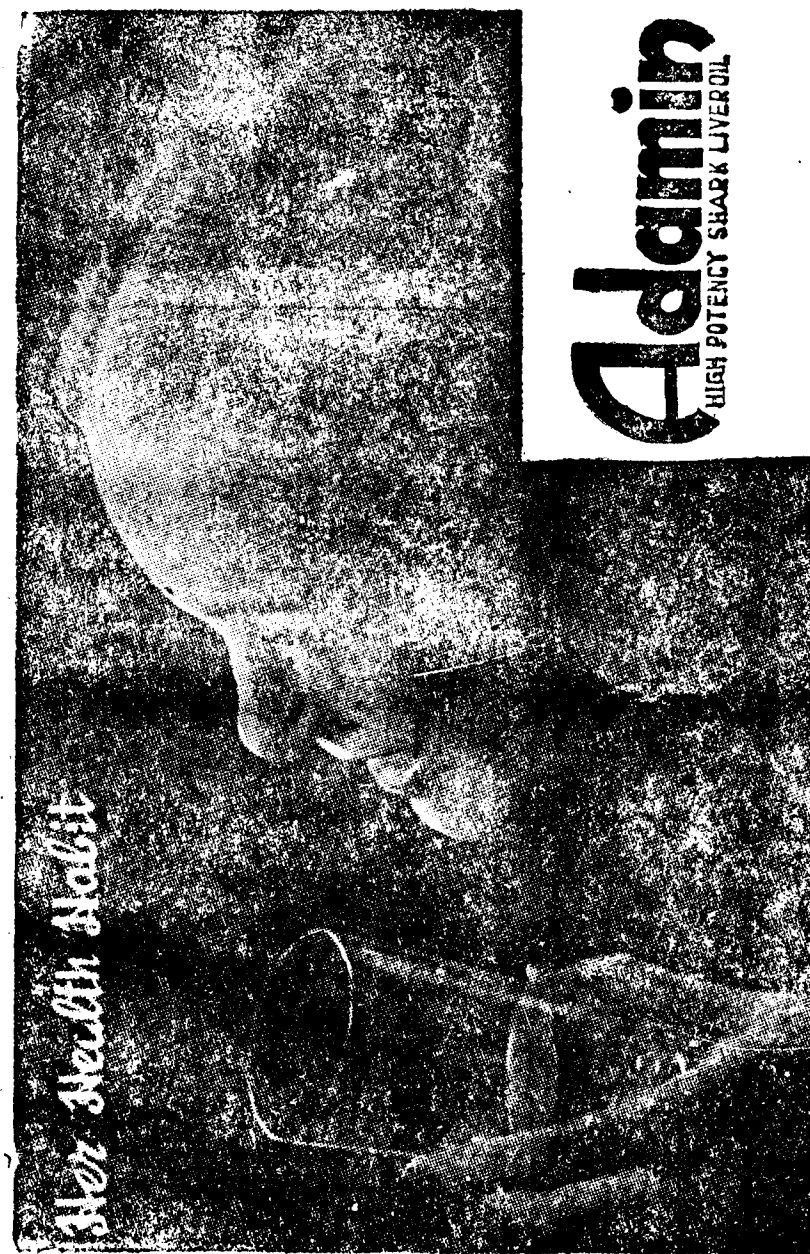
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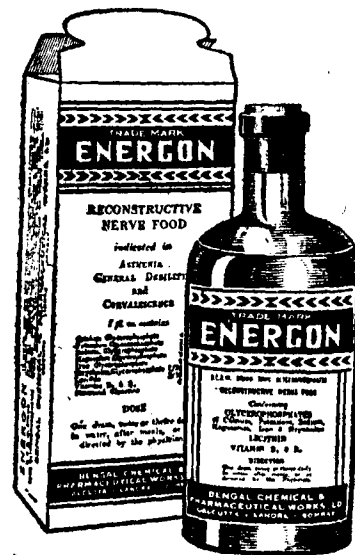
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