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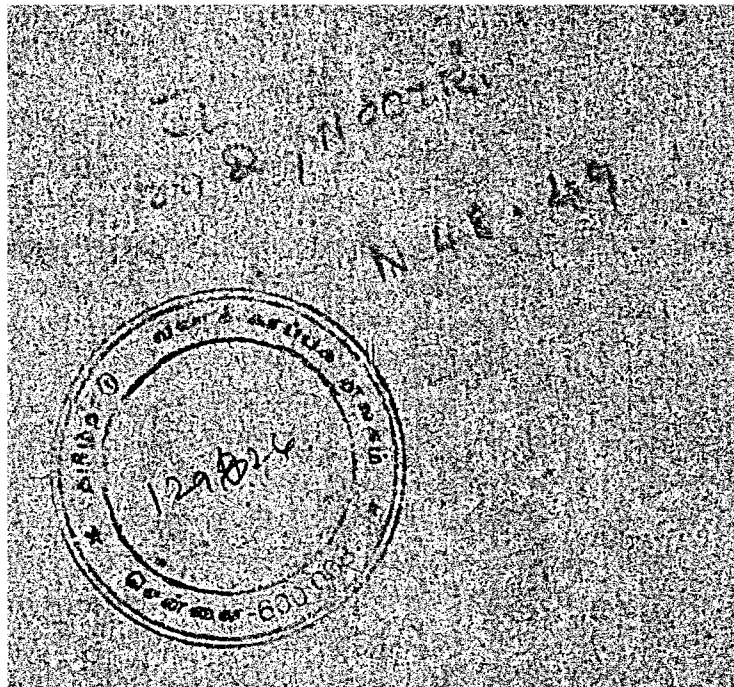
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Vol. 49.]

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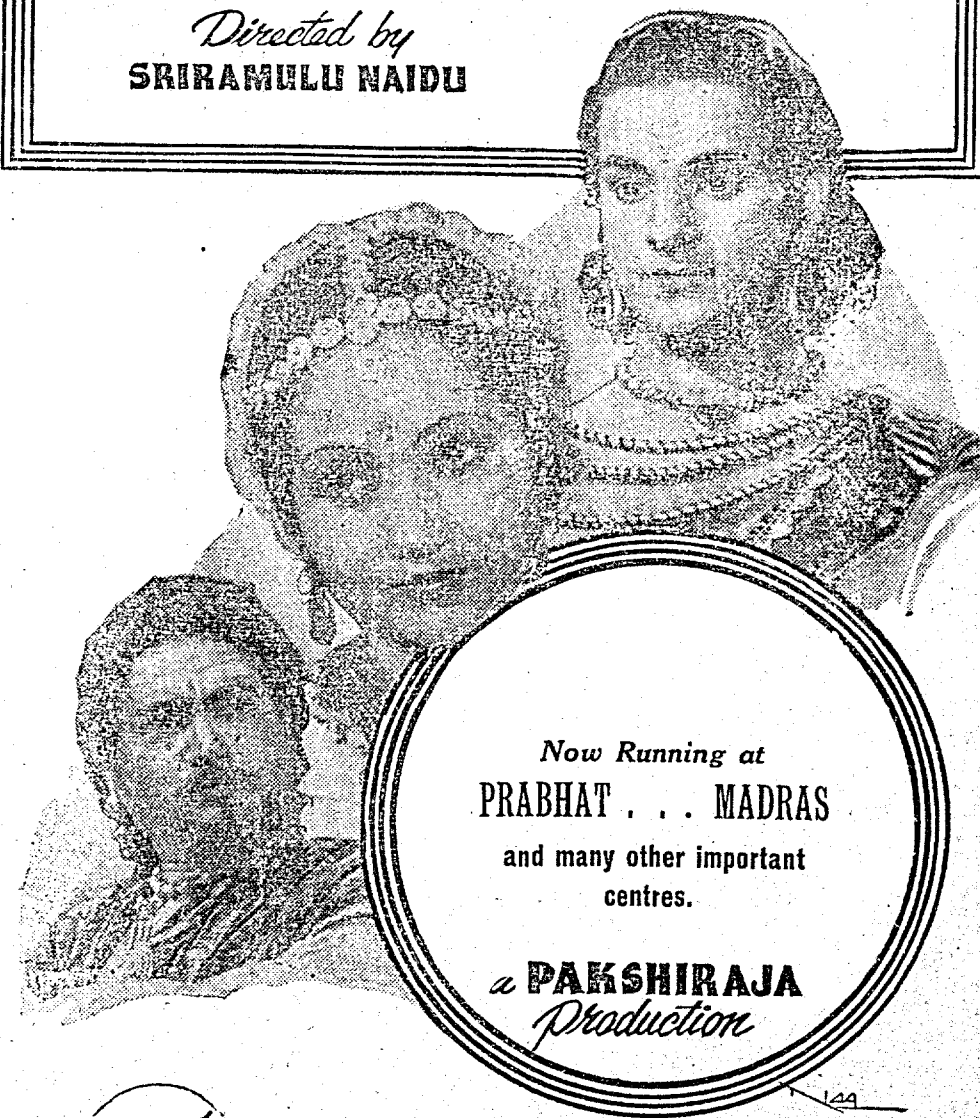
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JANUARY 1948

[No. 1.]

THE BANGUI SESSION OF ECAFE

By DR. P. S. LOKANATHAN, M.A.

Executive Secretary, U. N. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

THE second session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (Ecafe for short) was convened at Bangui, the lovely summer capital of the Philippine Republic in November last. It was notable for several reasons. In a remarkably frank and stirring speech President Roxas opened the

to Asian countries; indeed of the 11 members only 5 belong to Asia. India, Siam, Philippines and China were the original Asian members. After Pakistan became a member of the United Nations, she automatically became a member of the Commission. The other six members are Australia, United Kingdom, France, Netherlands, U. S. S. R. and the U. S. A. These countries are members either because they are Metropolitan powers or as in the case of U. S. S. R. and U. S. A. are of great dominance in the economics of the world. Australia is a member by virtue of contiguity and at the recent session the Commission has recommended the admission of New Zealand on identical grounds.



DR. P. S. LOKANATHAN, M.A.

Conference with an appeal to the Western Powers not to neglect Asia where peoples were living in conditions of terrible distress and poverty. The note of urgency that he struck found its echo among the assembled delegates who faced up to their responsibilities in a firm and courageous spirit. Membership of the Commission is not confined

From its inception it was felt that the Commission would gain a great deal if it could associate the other territories in the region in its work. Hence the device of associate membership was adopted by which the non-self-governing countries could be admitted as associate members, if sponsored by the members responsible for their international relations. Associate members have the same rights as members in all respect except the right to vote at meetings of the full Commission. But they are eligible for

membership of every Committee and subsidiary body that may be set up with full voting rights. Accordingly at Bangui, Burma, Ceylon, Hong Kong & Malayan Union were admitted associate members on the motion of the United Kingdom while France sponsored the application of Cambodia and Laos which were also admitted. The question of admitting Indonesia as an associate member raised considerable controversy; the Netherlands government proposed Indonesia; but the Indonesian Republic presented an application directly to the Commission on the ground that it was responsible for its own international relations. The Commission felt itself unable to decide an obviously political constitutional issue and deferred the consideration of both applications to the next meeting which has been invited by the Government of India to be held in India sometime about the middle of May.

Several important and far reaching decisions were taken at this Bangui session. The Commission has authorised the Executive Secretary to enter into negotiations with the Directors General of all specialised agencies concerned in the economic field [e.g. FAO; the International Bank, ILO etc] to consider her best. ECAFE can work with them in matters of common concern. This of course is an essential function of Ecafe, as on account of its regional character it is concerned with all economic problems affecting the region, and therefore it is its duty to inspire whatever action is necessary and appropriate. The main purpose of the Commission is to promote reconstruction and development and its work and activities should be judged in the light of its

contribution to this end. The Commission had before it a carefully prepared document setting out the essential reconstruction needs of the countries with its geographic scope, and after analysing it, adopted a number of recommendations of great significance. The Commission found that the major problem of this region was still shortage of food and therefore has asked the Executive Secretary to confer immediately with the Director General of Food and Agricultural Organization with a view to the formation of an effective food programme for the years 1948 and 1949 paying due attention to the degree to which the deficiency in supply may be met by expansion of production, improved distribution, and creation of facilities for production. It has been suggested that a Working Party of experts should be set up by F. A. O. to visit the principal areas of food production and shortages in the Region with a view to co-ordination of effective programming and that a Regional Committee on Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Far East be established as early as possible on which Ecafe should also be represented. The countries of the region have been called upon to report on their reconstruction plans and programmes so that the Executive Secretary may, at his discretion, call a Conference of officials engaged in the task of reconstruction with a view to reporting on methods by which the production of food and other agricultural products may be rapidly increased.

The Commission has recognised the urgency and importance of industrial development so much that it has taken a step which is likely to have far reaching

effects in the near future. There is no specialised agency of the United Nations concerning itself with this field of responsibility. On the other hand Asian countries have suffered from a sad neglect of industrial development and even to-day are poorly developed. Hence the Commission has directed the Secretariat to prepare as quickly as possible a report upon existing plans for promoting industrial development in each country of the region and the relation of these plans to the industrial progress of the area as a whole. Special attention has to be given to the technical skill and capital equipment required for such industrial development, and all necessary consultations with the Bank, Governments of countries which are in a position to supply such skill and equipment are to be made. In the preparation of the report as well as in making specific proposals for the consideration of the Commission especially in the matter of securing effective co-ordination of plans and maximum use of available resources within the region, the Secretariat will be assisted by a Working Party of four experts selected from a panel of names recommended by the Governments of the region. Governments have already been addressed on the subject and it is expected that the four experts will soon assemble and after the necessary study of the plans will make effective and practical recommendations to facilitate and speed up industrial development on the basis of a co-ordinated (and whenever possible, integrated) scheme of development.

The territories of this region have so far developed their trade relations more

with their Metropolitan countries, and geography and economics have often been subordinated to political factors. The Commission has now recommended that a working section should be established within the Secretariat with the view of encouraging the formation of trade promotional agencies in countries where none exist and bringing about an expansion of trade between the countries of this region. Another recommendation of equal importance is the setting up of a Working Section with the Secretariat for the training of technical and administrative personnel within the region and to bring about an exchange of trainees among the countries of Asia. Under the changing political and economic conditions when foreign personnel is being withdrawn at a fairly rapid pace, it is essential that local trained personnel should be readily available. Hence the Commission has attached the greatest possible importance to the creation of training facilities in the countries of the region. It is hoped that countries like India which can make large and effective contribution to this end by affording facilities to the nationals of other Asian countries will not stint in their efforts to make this recommendation a success.

It is unnecessary to enumerate the other resolutions and recommendations adopted at this session. Sufficient has been said to indicate their nature and significance. The countries of Asia despite their geographical contiguity have in the past stood aloof from one another. For the first time in the history of Asia they have the chance and the power to come together to discuss their common economic

problems and find a satisfactory solution acceptable to themselves. It is true that these recommendations are not binding upon any country but since they are the result of voluntarily agreed conclusions they stand a good chance of implementation by the Governments. Indeed it may be said that the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, consisting of representatives of Governments is something like a Parliament of Asia, although it has no legislative or executive powers. The opportunities for regional co-operation and regional solution of many of the problems confronting this are vast and almost

unlimited and it is hoped that full use will be made of such facilities. In the meanwhile the Secretariat of the Commission besides undertaking the various responsibilities cast upon it is building up a well organised and efficient statistical and economic bureau to serve as a collector and disseminator of information and statistics relating to this region. With the publication of an Annual Economic Survey of the countries of Asia and the organization of systematic studies of the economic problems of this region, the charge that Asia is an unknown region cannot any longer be sustained.

A THREE-YEAR INDUSTRIAL TRUCE

BY PROF. T. V. RAMANUJAM, M.A.

THE war against Germany, Italy and Japan has been won. During the years of her bitter struggle against the hateful Nazism and Fascism, India had to put up with many acute hardships. She bore them all patiently, though the best of her children were not exactly over-enthusiastic about this war, because Imperialism's grip had not been relaxed.

But now India has shaken off Britain's political domination over her. Yet, what ails her so badly? One can understand a people's privations when they have to wage an all-out war against oppressors like the Nazis, Fascists and Imperialists. But how can one explain the continued belt-tightening, forced on a people even after victory?

In fact, the agonies of the common people in India during these years of peace have been more excruciating and more

widespread than what they were during the horrible years of the war!

SANS FOOD, SANS CLOTHING, SANS SHELTER

The lower nine-tenths of our people get bad food-stuffs, in utterly inadequate quantities, at unconscionably high prices. Who does not know the sad tale of rising index number of food prices, diminishing rations and the sharp practices of the merchants? That is in regard to food.

As for clothing, merciful as the climate is in many parts of India, making a nation of notoriously semi-naked people not too miserable, even the incredibly low per capita consumption of cloth has been adversely affected!

About housing it is difficult to express one self with restraint. The shortage is so awful and the racket is so scandalous in Bombay that it does not seem to be

uncommon for people to pay a *pagri* of Rs. 1,000 for two rooms rather than face the alternative of living on the pavements.

WIDESPREAD WANT AND MISERY

Such is the state in regard to the absolute necessities of life. Neither is there anything better or more hopeful to say about other essential consumer's goods. Scarcity, high prices, dealers' ramp and officials' corruption—these are the features that mark any group of commodities.

Barring that tiny fragment of our society which made huge fortunes during the years of war, by means as dishonest as hoarding, black-marketing and tax-evading, the entire population is in the vicious grip of varying degrees of want and suffering.

What is this dismal situation due to? Why are prices continuing to rise? The answer is to be found in the fact that in respect of most commodities like rice and steel and cement, and most services like nursing and healing or instructing and educating, there are not enough to go round.

Even if they are at all distributed with the wisdom of a Solomon and the kindness of a Buddha, most people would not be much better off than they are today and a small number of people would be very much worse off than they are.

This should not be taken to mean that such a distribution should not be effected or that a big part of this "small number" do not deserve this fate. All that is meant to convey is that the crux of the problem, both in its importance and in its urgency, is one of production rather than distribution.

The next question is: Why has production been so low? Why has it become lower still in recent years? Is it happening like this elsewhere?

In no advanced country has the production of goods and services been diminishing so steadily and over so wider a range as in India. And no country could afford this less.

Take this for instance: The first sentence in the latest official Hand-book on Present Conditions and Recent Progress in Canada (an excellently got-up and well-written publication, by the way) reads thus:

Stimulated by an effective, market demand production in Canada was maintained during 1946 at a higher level than in any other peace-time year. . . . the output of wheat was greater than in any other year since 1942, when a maximum of 697 million bushels was produced. The crop of oats was 18 million bushels greater at 399 million, while the harvests of barley, rye and flaxseed were at some what higher levels.

The output of newsprint was greater in 1946 than in any other year.

Similar striking progress has been made by Canada in several spheres.

To India war was a curse. To the economy of Britain war was a shattering blow. But Canada, Australia and the United States have converted it into a blessing! The official publication on Canada says that

war has revolutionised the industrial life of the Dominion and the tremendous manufacturing expansion has turned Canada into a predominantly industrial nation and has provided a foundation for stability and progress.

Contrast all these with what our Indian Finance Minister or any responsible person has said about the production of goods in our country. Presenting the First Budget of Free India, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetti said:

. . . . The food position has continued to cause grave anxiety both to the Provincial Governments and the Central Government. The country has

just weathered a serious threat of a breakdown of its rationing system. The results of the "Grow More Food Campaign" have been on the whole disappointing.

Our meagre resources of foreign exchange are being eaten up by these imports of food. So, very serious restrictions have to be placed on the imports of other essential goods. The prices the selling countries have charged are very high.

CAUSES OF THE SCARCITY

Why is it that in almost every industry, we in India alone should find ourselves in a situation, where not only is production below the high level, reached during the war, but below the pre-war level and installed capacity? The causes that have been at work are many and not all of them are post-war ones.

1. Most of our instruments of production and transport have suffered serious wear and tear during the years of war and after.

There has been little or nothing of renewals and replacements. Orders placed for fresh locomotives, for instance, have not yet been fulfilled.

2. Sources of Power especially coal, have been inadequate. Recently, there has been a slight improvement in the output, but owing to the bottlenecks that have developed in transport, coal has been accumulating at the pitheads. Economic causes and events act and react at one another. The two factors mentioned here have affected each other.

3. Several industries have had difficulties in getting the raw materials they need.

4. Besides shortage, if not absence, of up-to-date machinery, there is also a scarcity of skill, the technical know-how. Trained technical personnel is a desideratum.

The most immediate cause has been reserved to the last. And that is the very sad deterioration in the relationship between the two sections on whose co-operative effort depends all production, namely, Labour and Management.

BAD INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Strikes and lock-outs, luxuries which even prosperous countries like New Zealand, Canada and Australia have all tried to avoid and prevent, have been galore; and astronomical numbers of man-hours have been lost.

Owing to fear, suspicion and hate, the productivity of our labour, never good enough, has diminished very seriously. Sabotage, ca'canny, go-slow—these have been deliberately adopted by Labour to spite the Management.

It is this last cause of our alarmingly diminishing production that the brilliant idea of Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru seeks to remove.

Prime Minister Nehru is not unaware of the rights of Indian labour. None knows better than he how long is the way which Indian labour has to traverse before there can be anything like minimum conditions in respect of adequate wages, proper hours, civil treatment, full protection against risks of accident, unemployment, sickness, holidays with pay, housing, educational and recreational facilities. Lord knows when there will be parity in these matters with labour in the advanced countries!

Nevertheless, India's Prime Minister, along with most right-minded men in the country, came to feel that labour will hurt itself and hurt the rest of society if, in the face of the grave economic stringency that prevails in the land, it does not call a halt to the spate of strikes.

That explains the origin and the background, of the grand suggestion that Pandit Nehru made at the recent Industries Conference, a suggestion which was immediately accepted by that body, by passing a Resolution moved by Sir Sriram.

The Resolution "calls upon Labour and Management to agree to maintain industrial

peace and to avert lock-outs, strikes or slowing-down of production during the next three years."

On the spirit in which this most timely Resolution is worked by Labour and Management will depend not only the future of the labour movement but also the whole future political and economic set-up of the land. A popular, and non-partisan Government have made a decent offer to do their best in reconciling different interests, to secure a fair wage for the labour, a fair return for the capitalist, and a 'fair price' for the consumer.

This they evidently expect to achieve by persuading the two sections to make the fullest use of existing machinery as well as of the new and improved machinery for conciliation, arbitration and adjudication (or tribunals) which is to be established.

Labour has got raw deals in the past from previous governments. But let them trust Free India's First Government to give them a fair deal.

In all Unit, Regional, Provincial and Central Committees that may be set up shortly, Labour may be assured of equal representation with Management. Where

conciliation fails and arbitration or adjudication has to be resorted to, the selection of the personnel is to be such as to command the confidence of Labour.

Where they are not able to achieve their ends by collective bargaining, should not the decisions of such a carefully chosen machinery be accepted by Labour—at least for a period of three years—in preference to strikes?

That section which seriously violates the spirit of the Truce will write itself down in the eyes of the public as being anti-social.

WORK AND MORE WORK

In fact, the Truce has to be extended to Kisan-Zamindar relationship too. The Government must soon set up Agrarian Conciliation Committees in appropriate sectors of our rural economy.

"Produce or Perish," that is our situation to-day. We cannot produce unless we learn to work together at least for a limited period. The Government must make the atmosphere favourable for such "working together".

Let there be Agrarian Truce besides Industrial Truce, and let it lead to, in the words of Rajaji, "work and more work, honesty and more honesty".

THE INDIAN TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

BY THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN

THE visit of the Indian Team to Australia has given Bradman an opportunity of doing something that he had not achieved before, *i.e.*, making two separate hundreds in a Test Match, which he did yesterday, (4th January 48) when in the second innings he made 124 not out after having made 132 in the first innings of the Third Test Match against India which is still in progress.* Amarnath made a bold move

*As we go to press (Jan. 5) Australia has won the third Test Match against India by 233 runs. The Indians have been singularly unfortunate with the weather so far. This latest reverse puts them two down in the series—the second Test was abandoned as a draw—and leaves them the task of winning the remaining two to square accounts.—[Ed. I.R.]

when he declared the Indians first innings when they were still over a hundred runs short of the Australian score. It will be a moot controversy for many long years whether it would not have been better if Amarnath had declared the first innings in the morning when he found wicket was liable to take spin. But his strategy might have succeeded if, as the reports say, the catches that came the way of the Indian side had been held. He himself seems to have contributed a great deal by his accurate bowling on this wicket and though figures prove nothing his analyses are well worth studying. His bowling in the first innings on a perfect wicket was responsible

for getting the Australians out for a reasonable total. But the Indians failed to drive this advantage home by their failure in batting on a good wicket. Amarnath and Hazare our chief run-getters seem to have failed, and Barnes, who is never reckoned as a bowler, seems to have succeeded in getting rid of both of them. When the Australian bowling had been mastered by Mankad and Sarwate who gave the Indians a good start by registering 124 on the board before Sarwate left, the latter batsmen failed. Our batting order still seems to be giving trouble. Gul Mahomed first wicket down seems to have not worked well. As Duleepsinghi and Fingleton have said, it might have paid the Indian side if Amarnath himself had gone in first wicket down. But it is very hard to speculate after events have happened. Phadkar seems to be proving himself a good batsman in the middle. But somehow our batting has failed on critical occasions. Morris's and Bradman's performance in the second innings, when they put on 233 runs, should prove an object-lesson to the Indian side as to what kind of concentration is needed in Test Cricket. The pity is that we seem to have the material to do well but we seem to lack that last power of concentration of trying to take advantage of positions. Holiday Cricket is all good enough and the Indians have captured the Australian crowd by their carefree batting. But in Test Matches results count, and our men ought to realise that if our country is to take her place among the Cricket Nations of the world this power of concentration has got to be developed to the utmost. Adhikari, for instance, when he was batting well and getting over the trouble that had occurred because of the cheap dismissal of the earlier batsmen, seems to have thrown away his wicket at the end of the evening by rushing out at Dooland. This is what our people must learn, that specially at the end of an evening or before lunch one has got to take care not to lose one's wicket in a hurry. Now evidently when Bradman joined Morris things looked rather danger-

ous for Australians and if one of them had failed India might now very well be in a position to win this match. But these two by their wonderful concentration have made the position of Australia not merely safe but almost certain of victory. I trust this lesson would have gone home to our cricketers. Bradman, as Fingleton has described him, is really a freak and a superman as far as cricket is concerned. But even the supermen come because of the way they train themselves up to face any situation. This trip to Australia will be of immense benefit to Indian Cricket as a whole and Australian methods are certainly worth studying. As a cricketing country Australia stands almost on a pinnacle at the present time and depleted as our Indian side are without Merchant they seem to have done well enough to attract the crowds that came to see this Test at Melbourne. I am still hoping that India will render a better account of herself in the coming Test Matches. But there is this consolation that our people seem to have enhanced the reputation of this country in Australia and in this sense they have indeed been good ambassadors. Test Match temperament does not come all at once, but the visit to England in 1946 and this present Australian visit in 1947-48 should have at least showed our people what one should do to excel in this class of Cricket.

TO THE REFUGEES

BY MR. PURUSHOTAM LAL

You put your faith in them, they wronged you,
You trusted them, and they deceived you;
You gladly followed them, they spurned you;
You fled for succour, and they grieved you.

No, curse them not, though they betrayed you,
Though the bleak shades of evening darken;
Say, We will keep our vengeance still; yea,
And if there be a God, He'll hearken.

School Farms and Rural Reconstruction

BY THE VENERABLE A. J. APPASAMY, M.A., D.Phil.

THE problem of increasing the food supply of India is becoming more and more urgent. The vast population of this country is increasing every year by something like twenty millions. Now as a result of the second world-war there is an acute shortage of food supply. The excellent research done in the various Agricultural Colleges has not reached down widely enough among the millions of farmers in the country. One Agricultural Demonstrator in a taluk is not really able to spread his scientific knowledge of Agriculture among all the villages in his area. Nor is it possible with the limited financial resources available to the Agricultural Department to increase indefinitely the number of Agricultural Demonstrators. The graduates in Agriculture in the Agricultural College are few in number. Their salary scale does not permit villages to employ them even if people interested in agricultural reform would like to use the services of Agricultural B.Sc.s out of funds other than those provided by the Government.

One definite way in which the knowledge of scientific Agriculture may be spread in villages is to teach Agriculture as a pre-vocational subject in all Higher Elementary Schools and to make the boys and girls in them work regularly on the farms attached to such schools. Though pre-vocational teaching is now introduced in the Province of Madras in all Higher Elementary Schools, the pay which is allotted by the Education Department as the salary of the prevocational teacher is by no means enough for the services of a man who has

received even the rudiments of Education in Agriculture.

There is at present a proposal by the Madras Education Department to introduce bifurcated courses in High Schools. Pupils in High Schools will be divided into two classes—those who will go to the Colleges for their further education and those who will stop with the School Final. It is now proposed that the latter class of students should spend a great deal of their time in Forms V and VI receiving vocational training. The various courses contemplated are Agriculture, Engineering, Secretarial Work and so on. Many High Schools are tempted to offer training only in Secretarial Work as the equipment needed for such training is not costly. The purchase of four or five Typewriters and a few books on commercial subjects would be all that is needed. The Engineering course will probably be the most expensive vocational course, involving as it does the outlay of large sums of money for the establishment of a workshop. Next to it in cost and difficulty would be the teaching of Agriculture. For that would involve the purchase of several acres of land, the sinking of wells, the provision of Farm implements and so on. A School Farm to be useful must have at least five acres of land. If every High School and every Higher Elementary School in all rural areas gives vocational training in Agriculture, much can be done to broadcast methods of scientific Agriculture. Farmers all over the world are conservative. Farmers in India, most of whom have had little or no education, are most unwilling to take to

new ideas and methods. If children in rural areas work in School Farms and become familiar with improved methods of farming, they are likely to adopt them more readily in their later life.

School Farms, if well run, may serve a most useful purpose as Model Farms. Mere propaganda by lectures or books is not found effective. Actual demonstration is what counts. Nothing can convince people as well as a paying Farm, worked along improved lines of Agriculture. Unfortunately even many of the graduates in Agriculture have not much practical experience. They, of course, do a certain amount of practical work as a part of their agricultural training. But this does not give them enough experience in farming. Some of them have no real sense of vocation: they only do their work as a method of earning their livelihood without putting their heart and soul into it. This explains the small success which often attends their work in rural areas. A good School Farm, with a keen experienced vocational teacher who has received some training in Agriculture, can play a most important part in the work of Rural Reconstruction. Often Agricultural Demonstrators are transferred to a particular area from other places and their knowledge of local conditions is scanty. If they stay in the same place for some years they will acquire a certain amount of local knowledge but before they can use it they may be transferred to still another place where local conditions are quite different. Also at present they can only give advice which may or may not be taken. They have no sphere for carrying on farming under their immediate

supervision and in which they can insist on their detailed instructions being carried out from day to day. An efficient School Farm, on the other hand, has more of permanence and stability. Certain experiments can be carried over a period of years. Careful records can be kept. Accurate information can be given to neighbouring farmers when they ask for it.

Some years ago Gandhiji suggested that Basic Schools with Agriculture as their craft should each have a Farm of twenty acres in extent and that the income from the Farm should be a real financial help to run the School. There are no doubt various difficulties connected with the proposal. To purchase good land would be an expensive proposition anywhere. In areas where land is costly the cost of twenty acres would be almost prohibitive. If these twenty acres are only waste land a considerable sum of money would be needed to bring them under cultivation. The wild shrubs would have to be cleared, the land would have to be levelled and irrigation facilities, such as wells or canals, would have to be provided. The cost of cultivation year after year would be heavy and there may be failures of crops for want of rain or on account of too much rain or for other reasons. While all these difficulties must be borne in mind, the financial value of a large and well-run School Farm is immense. At present the grants which Village Schools receive from Government are very small. A large proportion of Village Schools are housed in inadequate buildings with meagre educational equipment and are staffed with low paid teachers. Efforts should, therefore, be made by private agencies and philanth-

ropic people to provide Rural Schools with School Farms.

Gandhiji's proposal that Agriculture should be made one of the crafts taught in Basic Schools is an excellent one. But little seems to have been done in this direction. Spinning has been introduced in various Basic Schools and text books have been written on spinning as the basic craft. But as far as my enquiries go, Agriculture has not been introduced as the basic craft and no text book written making Education centre around the various processes, methods and experiences in farming. The reason for this is no doubt that spinning is a comparatively inexpensive craft. Agriculture, on the other hand, is quite an expensive craft. In view of the great importance of Agriculture in India, we must be prepared to shoulder this heavy cost. The greater portion of the population of India lives in

villages. Farming and all that is connected with it is familiar to children in rural areas. Education in Rural Schools will gain much in interest, vividness and value if based upon Agriculture as a craft. This would certainly be a most effective way to give a rural bias to Education in our Village Schools. At present Education in Village Schools differs but little from that in urban areas. This certainly is not right. Boys and girls in the countryside should be linked up far more closely with it than they are at present. Most of them will grow up and settle down in the villages, though a few may be attracted to the cities and towns because of the amenities which they provide. Education in Village Schools must aim at giving adequate preparation to boys and girls for their life in the countryside as citizens of a new and independent India.

The Strangest Dance Ever: A Fable

BY PROF. B. J. VASWANI, M.A.

(Deputy Registrar, University of Sind).

THAT night all the great and small animals of the forest met when the moon was high. It was not far from the great highway that divides the two Punjabs of today.

In a huge grassy natural amphitheatre, in the moonlight centre stood Sher, the Lion. The great beast lashed his tail for order, and opened the meeting, clearing his throat with a mighty roar.

"Animals of the forest! My brothers of the land of five rivers! I have summoned you here tonight to celebrate our release from bondage to our ancient enemy, Man."

"Hear, hear!" thundered the animals in chorus.

"During the past one month or more, our runners have returned from distant cities and villages of the land of five rivers, and have told us that Man is killing Man. The hour of our release from our ancient bondage to Man cannot be far away. It is well we should meet to rejoice in our new freedom. Man will soon perish from this land."

Hathi, the Elephant, swayed uneasily in the vast circle, his red little eyes darting about. He raised his great trunk and spoke.

"Freedom, Sher! As long as man has the tools which he has made, how can we expect to enjoy the freedom which is imminent? Moreover we need not be overjoyous that Man is killing Man. Death of Man may mean the death of all of us."

Sher, the Lion, shook his head and spoke with deep sarcasm in his voice.

"Ah, Hathi, it is fitting that you should speak. You and the members of your family have been the slaves of Man for Ages, building pyramids and palaces, felling the forests which Man stole from us, helping him to fight his interminable wars. It is natural you still should think of Man as our eternal Master, and dissuade us from the joy of coming freedom. We may die with the death of Man, but from that parasite we shall at least be free."

Hathi was silent and hung his head in shame. Sher, then, turned from Hathi and surveyed his circle.

"You, Bel," he roared at the patient ox, "What have you become? Nothing but leather for Man's shoes, power for his plough, and meat for his greedy table." The Sher wheeled around the circle. "And you! And you! And you!" None was spared. At each animal, the Sher scornfully hurled the precise nature of his bondage to Man. When he had done, all of the animals spoke with one voice.

"Hear, hear! Sher has spoken wisely. It is greater to be free from slavery and fear even than to live."

Sher signalled for silence, and then Hathi spoke.

Friends! I am not light-hearted. Sher is happy that we are free. But where is freedom? We have only our fangs and claws to fight with. But Man has tools

which are more effective than all of these. How can we prevail against Man?"

Sher glowered and roared. Every animal listened.

"Animals of the forest! When I say that our release from bondage to Man is imminent, I have sound reasons for the expectation. It is not tools which have given Mastery to Man. It is Reason. And that Reason he has lost. My runners have gone to all the distant cities and villages of the land of five rivers, and I have been prowling near many haunts of Man. All our observations lead to one conclusion. Reason is no longer the proud possession of Man. Man has forsaken his ancient weapon, and we must take it up or perish. . . ."

Just then, on the great highway that divides one part of the Punjab from another according to the new dispensation, there arose a great hubbub of many confused voices. All the animals looked at each other, pricked their ears, and then turned to the Sher for the meaning of all the uproar.

"This noise that you hear is, I guess, the sound of Man's massacre of Man. Let us stealthily move towards the edge of the forest, and spread ourselves along the entire length of the highway, and you will, perhaps, witness a scene that will convince you that Man has lost the masterful gift of reason, and our release from his bondage is imminent."

Immediately, the vast assembly broke up, and noiselessly, in twos or threes or in singles, the animals took their stations unobserved behind the trees that skirted the highroad.

A stream of terrified men, women and children, some on horses, some in bullock carts, some on foot, sped past, pursued by bearded turbaned men in swift-moving vehicles. The animals were all agog with excitement at the sight.

"Who are these bearded, turbaned men?" whispered the deer.

"I have sometimes seen them in what they call the house of guru, and in that house they sing to the God of all with much devotion," replied the ox.

Then shots rang forth and sabres rattled. The helpless women and children were mown down without mercy, while some fled and others fought.

"Do these bearded men worship God?" asked the deer.

"They do very piously. They may have sung songs to Him only an hour ago," said the ox.

"How is it, then, they kill their own kind so mercilessly, if they make true worship to God who is all Mercy?"

"I think what the Sher said in the meeting about Man is correct. He has forsaken Reason, and we can now be free from our bondage to Man."

"Did you see the look in the eyes of those murderous bearded men of God?"

"Yes, Man calls us brutes, but I have never seen any animal of the forest so brutish as these men were."

Just at this stage, there was an outcry. The deer and the ox saw the Sher and Hathi issuing out of the forest and pouncing upon some bearded men who were about to kill a little child that was kneeling for mercy before them. And soon the bearded men were either dead on the carnage field or drowned in a canal nearby and strange calm, the calm of death, came upon the place.

The animals assembled again in the forest, Sher presiding.

"What do you say, Hathi, about your master, Man?" asked the lion.

"There is no doubt Man has lost Reason. He is about to be extinct, and we have reason to rejoice that we are free from such a pest."

"Hear! hear!" thundered all in chorus.

The Sher signalled for silence, and every one sat up to listen.

"Today is the day of liberation for us. Let us celebrate it, not by killing each other as Man is doing. Let us forgive even Man who has been our ancient enemy. Let us take up his discarded weapon Reason, and live in perfect amity with one another, and thus shame Man into sanity."

Just then, there was another outcry on the highroad and this time it was the bearded men, their women and children in a great crowd moving in the opposite direction, and pursued by men who constantly cried "God is great" but killed and killed and killed without mercy.

"Let us not worry about the lunacy of Man. Let him go about in his mad ways. Let us rejoice we are free."

Then some strains of music came from far away, and while Man, impervious to this soul-stirring voice of gods, killed his fellow-Man, the Cobra in the vast assembly of animals raised his hood, and danced in ecstasy. The mood of joy came upon all the rest, and the strangest sight that ever was witnessed was seen that night in the forest, witnessed by a few stragglers from the highroad who had escaped the great killing there.

The cumbrous Hathi danced, and raised a trumpet voice now and then as the refrain of a song. The lion roared, the ox bellowed, the horse neighed and the donkey brayed as all whirled about and about round the cobra, forgetting all the fight between them, and feeling as one great family that lives in harmony and peace with all the world.

And while the music lasted, all danced in ecstasy of a new feeling of peace and fraternity—and then slept the sleep of the innocent, not one worried about the harm that another might do. Peace and Happiness brooded over the place and the heaven shed its blessing on all.

Man lurked behind the bushes, lurked from the horrors he himself had made and a deep sense of shame came upon him, and a little of sanity came back to him.

BESANT: A CENTENARY RECORD

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ANNIE Besant was born a hundred years ago and the centenary of her birth was the occasion for public celebrations all over the world. Adyar, the Headquarters of her world wide organisation, was the scene of great demonstrations and rejoicings in the first week of October last.

In commemoration of this occasion the Centenary Celebrations Committee, consisting of a team of influential and representative men drawn from various occupations and divergent interests, have produced a magnificently got up volume¹ a volume which in everyway is worthy of the great leader and teacher who laboured so long and so strenuously not only for the good of India but of humanity as a whole. Annie Besant's greatness was in her strength and versatility, her passionate endeavour and resolute purpose and the sustained energy of her devoted service to all the causes she espoused. Every one of these facets is brought out in the sumptuous volume before us. There are in all 54 original articles, dealing with different aspects of her great and glorious work, besides pithy appreciations from various sources and occasions. The volume is enriched with over a dozen portraits illustrative of different phases of her life and career.

Besant distinguished herself in different fields of thought and work—as a votary of free thought, as scholar, patriot, reformer, educationist, teacher and all; and she brought to her great task the genius of an

inspired leader and the patient discipline of a trained worker. She wrote and spoke with a power and energy seldom surpassed by any of her contemporaries. Her private generosities and public virtues have been the theme of endless tributes. And yet they by no means exhaust her monumental services to India and the world. "It is no exaggeration to say" said the late Srinivasa Sastry, "that she was many personalities combined in one, and that everyone of these personalities was a great power for good."

Besant proved her greatness in everyone of her multifarious activities, but there was one field in which she was supreme. In that field Eclipse is first and the rest nowhere. The generation that listened to her eloquence and swayed to her dythyrambs is fast diminishing. But the memory of her brilliant feats of oratory will remain a lasting memento of a fast receding world. There have been great orators in the past who could thrill their audiences. But Besant's manner was unique. There was art and inspiration in it. Correct to the minute she appeared on the platform in a mantle of white and gold and stood like an apparition. She started in a whisper and the audience strained their ears to catch her fast flowing words. Slowly she raised her voice and in accents of strong and energetic talk spoke to each unit in the audience as in a *tete a tete*. Then raising her voice higher, her words rang through the hall in a mighty tremour and kept the audience spell bound—just as a master musician takes you through the *alaparnam*. Exactly five minutes before the close, she raised her voice to the highest pitch, her whole body quivering and swaying to the rhythm of her eloquence, her right hand raised aloft as in a minatory manner—and just at the stroke of six, the tornado of words came down with a clap of thunder.

The listeners came back to their own, and the spell was broke.

INDIA AND THE HISTORICAL NOVEL

By MURIEL WASI, M.A. (Oxon.)

It is a common failing among Indian intellectuals distressed about present conditions in the country and fearful of speculating upon the future, to hark back to a remote past of unexampled splendour and to point to the survival of an indigenous culture or cultures as irrefutable proof of our abiding vitality. It is a characteristic that has not infrequently been commented upon by unsympathetic foreigners, and one that would appear to require, if not abandonment, then drastic rectification. One ingenious way to modify a habit of this kind and, indeed, to transform it into a virtue is to turn the past to present and future benefit by dramatising it. The more obvious medium of drama—the stage—does not lie within the reach of a large number of our writers and artists, nor does it lie with the literate in outlying parts of the country to witness a renaissance in this direction. As an alternative, the historical novel, would appear to commend itself as drama in easily readable form, to serve both stage and screen for stimulus and to revive, in practical and beautiful form a past of which we seem to be immeasurably proud.

To attempt anything like centralisation in this matter—as important to Literature as planning is to our economic life—would be fatal. For the whole essence of our history lies in its centrifugal character. It is widespread, provincial and, indeed, boasts local atmosphere and colour that no central planning board could understand or undertake. It is a matter for local stimulation and even so, the less systematic and deliberate the planning for creative

historical work, the more likely is it to achieve the first rank.

There is no province that cannot boast a wealth of historico-dramatic material that anyone of historic and dramatic temper cannot readily turn to modern interest. Madras, Maharashtra, Bengal, Assam, the United Provinces, Gujarat, Delhi, the Punjab all have enviable traditions of which the foreigner knows nothing. There is no better way to acquaint the uninitiated with the temper of a people and its hopes for the present and the future than to illuminate the lines of its past development. So much stands out dramatically in situation, problem and personality that it should not be difficult to re-create our glorious past in the novel.

There is always the danger that provincial history will turn provincially propagandist and, seeking to boost on people, will automatically designate another with whom historic relations have not been inevitable, but so long as more obvious propaganda is avoided and historic justice is done to the "enemy", no one should take umbrage at this. The tendency to "take sides", always more or less present in historic portrayal, should provoke no more than the amused and indulgent inter-provincial feeling that in fact draws men closer instead of estranging them further.

There is another, and perhaps more serious danger, that must be avoided at all costs. To use history to establish a present political theory is a failing to which a large number of political theorists have succumbed through the ages. Today, we in India are more

¹THE ANNIE BESANT CENTENARY BOOK.—The Besant Centenary Celebrations Committee, Adyar, Madras. Price Rs. 15.

than ever guilty of this historical perversion and will quote episodes and situations from any portion or locality of Indian history to support a thesis that does not actually bear historical scrutiny. To use history to this end in a historical novel would not merely be base in the historical sense but would, in all probability ruin the novel as creative writing. There must be no set thesis, only the desire to revive ancient problem and personality and to see these with the same historic eye that cons records and documents with judicial impartiality.

Our minds are at present so full of the problem of conquest and subjection and freedom from subjection that all history is apt to be coloured by this obsession. But if history be the story of freedom, it is the story of freedom in a much wider sense than this. The liberation of a people from a foreign yoke is a subject that has inspired epic, dramatic history and poetry through the ages, and we would not attempt to belittle it. But it seems that the development of such ideas as toleration, of democratic living, of the sovereign people, and emerging from this, the sovereign individual, are subjects at least equally fit for drama. Yet nothing has so far been made of these. We focus our historical attention upon a single significant historic figure—an Asoka, an Akbar, an Aurangzeb, and read a period of history through the life of each of these. But there is so much in the history of India that is not immediately associated with the civilisation or the culture of a court and must therefore escape portrayal because it

is not bound up with a Himalayan figure. This is a gap that only the provinces and the rural districts in their turn, can fill, for it is local tradition that we are now hoping to resuscitate and through it to lend colour and body to the hidden incidents of our widespread history.

To whom shall we look, finally, for this revival that is so important to our present character and our future endurance? Not to the facile journalist only for then our history will tend to inaccuracy and bias, and fact will readily be sacrificed to sensational drama. Nor to the scholar only, for then we shall have Miltonic disquisition in place of human drama. The historical novelist has always had a rather exceptional combination of qualities—has been neither profoundly scholarly nor an actor too ready to seize the dramatic highlights and let analysis go by. He (or she, for it was a woman who wrote *The Stranger Prince and Royal Flush*) have come to the fore through mysterious and unforeseen channels, and have, in a sense, awakened to find themselves historical novelists and famous. We shall probably have a similar experience. Given the material, the articulate demand for historical drama and the responsiveness that keeps it alive, we should awake one fine day to find our historical novelist, in the country rather than in the town, in north, south, east and west, with vivid material and an eye to colour and character that will assemble the processional of history to sustain our pride in it.

WHITHER SOCIAL LEGISLATION?

BY MR. V. R. TALASIKAR, M.A., LL.B.

It appears that this is essentially an age of legislation. The rapidity with which new laws are being ushered into existence is rather unprecedented and the teeming millions for whose welfare all this effort is being made are finding it difficult to keep pace with the feverish speed with which both the legislative chambers are working. The main question before the thinkers of the day is whether this effervescent legislative enthusiasm is opportune and wholesome, especially bearing in mind the major problems of vital importance which are awaiting solution before us and which are daily threatening our very existence.

Let us take the instance of the proposed bill to regulate and validate marriages between different castes and sub-castes of Hindus.

This bill can be subjected to various criticisms. If we read the statement of objects and reasons as stated by Mr. Shreeprakash we find that the object of the said bill is to free people from the alleged serious hardships which have deterred many people from making proper marriage alliances.

Secondly, it is alleged that the progress of the community has been retarded on account of marriages being confined within various small communities resulting in harmful intermixture of blood. If we scrutinise these two factors we have to come to the conclusion that the framers of the bill have sadly neglected the biological and sociological considerations hinted at in the said statement of objects and reasons.

It is alleged that this bill has come into existence for the purpose of removing the insurmountable difficulties which lie in the

way of proper marriage alliances. It is surprising to note that the bill nowhere states what is meant by a "Proper marriage alliance". I think that it will be generally agreed by all rational persons and by the lovers of modern science that a proper marriage alliance is a marital union which conduces to happiness from the psychological point of view and which is desirable also from eugenic considerations. We ordinarily find that the personal equation in the said question is always unduly stressed and the genetic consideration is often neglected. It appears from the reference to the alleged harmful intermixture of blood, in the statement of objects and reasons that the framers of the bill seem to be alive to the eugenic aspect of marriage problem. The bill has tried to do away with the old restrictions of endogamous marriage; it directs people to be more and more exogamous, without any restrictions as to caste or race. If uptill now we were endogamous *i.e.* marrying within our own caste, then there is absolutely no question of any "Intermixture of blood." By intermixture of blood is meant the combination of the genes of two different castes or racial strains. By marrying within our own caste it can at best be said that we were not importing alien blood and that our genetic constitution had reached the stage of fixation. I have dwelt on this aspect of the question at some length only because the framers of the bill are advocating this measure also on eugenic grounds.

It is accepted on all hands that the structure of the Hindu Society is not atomistic or homogeneous. It is constituted

of diverse racial strains of different genetic constitutions. It is also clear that these castes which are primary breeding units in the biological sense, have been marrying within their own fold at least for the last three thousand years. The bill has connived at the patent distinction between Caste and Varna. So the only question is if it is established that the combination of different racial strains in India is eugenically and culturally desirable, then alone the principle behind the proposed bill can be accepted.

We are now living in an age wherein science has become a household word. It does not appear that the framers of the bill have consulted the sociological and biological science in this behalf. The question of marriage is essentially a question wherein eugenic considerations ought to prevail. Instead of dilating upon the biological consequences of such unions at length I will briefly state here the considered opinions of one or two leading biologists.

On the whole increased hybrid vigour has not shown itself in a very marked way, in the crosses thus far studied between different races of man. Working probably to the disadvantage of some, race mixture in man is the fact that certain human races differ in such ways that union of their characteristics may yield combinations that are in detail inharmonious. (The Biological Basis of Human Nature. Faber and Faber, 1930 P. 289.)

The general consequences of race mixture can be predicted with confidence, without particular knowledge of the factors in which the contrasted races differ. If the races and their descendants intermarry freely, the factors which are inherited independently will be re-combined at random; each person of mixed race will resemble the one paternal stock in respect of some factors, and the other stock in respect of others. Their general character will therefore be intermediate, but their variability will be greater than that of the original races. Moreover new combinations of virtue and ability and of their opposite, will appear in the mixed race, combinations which are not necessarily heterogenous, but may be fixed as permanent racial characters. There are thus in the mixed race great possibilities for the action of selection. If selection is beneficial and the better types leave

the greater number of descendants the ultimate effect of mixture will be the production of a race, not inferior to either of those from which it sprang, rather superior to both, in so far as the advantages of both can be combined. Unfavourable selection, on the other hand, will be more rapidly disastrous to a mixed race than to its progenitors. It should, of course, be remembered that all existing races show very great variability in respect of hereditary factors, so that selection of the intensity to which mankind is exposed would be capable of producing rapid changes, even in the purest existing race. (The Genetical Theory of Natural Selection by R. A. Fisher. Oxford 1930 P. 238.)

If we examine the present state of our society in the light of these observations of Dr. Fisher, we find that there cannot be frequent combinations of desirable genes unless we marry in the same Varna and do not choose individuals from inferior stocks as marital partners. Secondly, the indiscriminate adoption of Western ideas and the phenomenon of differential fertility are showing their effects in an unmistakable manner. The intelligentsia is dwindling in numbers: they are leaving lesser descendants, thus affecting the qualitative aspect of population.

A rigid system of occupational castes, each compelled to bear the burden of its own necessary reproduction, would ensure biological permanence, such as, the permanence of the society of genes is ensured in cell division." (Ibid.)

Prof. Carr-Saunders one of the eminent economists in England and an Authority on the Population Problem says as follows:—

Competition would only be avoided in so far as the structure of society became segmentary, that is divided into hereditary castes; and it is away from and not towards social structure of this kind that those who attach "Capitalism" wish to move. (World Population Oxford Clarendon Press 1936 P. 250.)

These authoritative pronouncements indicate that the principle underlying the proposed bill is harmful to their structure of Hindu Society.

Now let us turn our attention to another bill for restraining the custom of taking or offering of dowry in marriages.

If we read the provisions of the said bill it will be apparent that it is a harmless statute which would not cause much hardship to the people. It is true that on many occasions the parents of a bride are severely handicapped in obtaining a good spouse for their daughter because of the exorbitant demand of dowry on the part of a bridegroom or his parents. At times they are required to run into debt or to sell away their belonging in order to bring about their daughter's marriage. Among the Shudras the practice of accepting bride price is fairly common, with the result that bridegrooms who are not in affluent circumstances find it a hard job to secure brides, or the other result which follows is postponement of marriage up to a period when the bridegroom gathers enough money to finance his marriage. I think that these questions can best be solved not by statutory measures but by enlightened public opinion. The object of the bill is to eradicate this evil custom. It need not be told that the source of this practice is to a certain extent inhuman avarice. The text of Hindu Law does not at all enjoin that bride price must be accepted or that the bride's father must offer a handsome amount to the bridegroom as a condition precedent to the marriage. All these matters have got to be settled after all amicably by the parties themselves without making each other feel the pinch. It is doubtful whether the intended measure will finally put an end to this evil custom. Those who are bent on making money

out of marriage alliances, will continue to do so, under various guises.

At present we are experiencing that we are amidst a flood of new Legislation. For the present we must determine whether this piece of legislation is absolutely necessary, or whether in its absence society would come to a standstill or whether it would cause irreparable damage to the Society. It is clear that no such contingency will arise if this bill is deferred for some years, especially when moral vital problems affecting our very existence are facing us. There can be no doubt that this measure is a peace-time legislation. Another fact to be noted in this connection is that the growth of modern sentiment and the increasing tendency of the people towards registered marriages, would make such a measure somewhat unnecessary after some years. The Legislature must not in its enthusiasm saddle the Society with excessive legislation. As I have already observed above, much of the rigour of this alleged evil can be softened by enlightened public opinion and a spirit of mutual understanding and compromise.

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.

FOOD FOR THE FUTURE

By MR. P. S. NAIR, B.A.

ALTHOUGH the importance of food, both in peace and War had been realised, it has not been recognised as a fundamental problem in countries like India where this has been left to the vagaries of an unreliable and unsympathetic nature with the consolation that "whom God creates, he provides Food". This complacency has led to great tragedies in human life like famine and epidemic diseases which the superstitious attribute to the anger of the Gods. People are accustomed to spend money on sacrifices and penance to propitiate God Indra to bless them with rain utterly forgetful of the fact that what water he has already given has not been carefully preserved, but allowed to dry up or to flow into the ocean. It is recorded that every day sufficient rains fall upon the earth to fill a reservoir 400 miles square to a depth of 10 feet. It is high time for the people to be made to realise that they cannot any more base their lives on irrationality and ignorance, but, life is to be planned on the solid foundation of the Law of Cause and Effect and on scientific truths.

The problem of food to the individual is the trouble of finding out food to satisfy his hunger; to the Nation it is the duty to find out sufficient nutritious food for the inhabitants and to take adequate precautions to meet any emergency; to the World at large it is the task of pooling the resources of the mother Earth and distribute it according to necessity and not according to production. So the fundamental feature of the problem is self-sufficiency which may not be always

possible in all items of food, as individuals and Nations are inter-dependent in the matter of supplies. But the necessity for some measure of independence arises in abnormal times like war when the country is blockaded on land and sea and subject to aerial bombardments. In view of the fact that during the last 46 years of this century, the World has been in a state of War for 10 years and the interval has been periods of hectic preparations or minor wars have been fought in some place or other, the factor of self sufficiency cannot be easily brushed aside.

When during the last war Burma was conquered by Japan, India which was depending upon Burma for Rice suffered from the Bengal famine of 1942. Similarly when Indonesia fell into turmoil, what rice she promised to India was not supplied resulting in the present scarcity. Even a ripple in the political tranquillity of even a minor country like Argentina will transmit waves of dislocating repercussions throughout the World, furnishing another reason for the consolidation of the Earth into what Wendell Wilkie aptly called "One World". U.S.A., and U.S.S.R. are self-sufficient in food, but U.K. is an instance of a country which even in the zenith of her glory was not self-sufficient in Food. Only 5.7 percentage of her population is employed in Agriculture and with all the intensive and mechanical nature of her agricultural economy, she needs importation which her command of the seas helped her to accomplish even in War time.

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FOOD FOR THE FUTURE

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Indian Agriculture is a pitiable record of extensive and undeveloped economy. With 70 per cent. of her people in Agriculture and roughly 216.9 millions of acres of land under plough, our unfortunate country presents the depressing spectacle of only producing 0.35 tons of rice and 0.32 tons of wheat per acre with an appalling deficit of 4 to 5 million tons of Food-stuff to be made up by import. This is in striking contrast to Australia and Denmark where only 20 per cent. and 34.2 per cent respectively of the people are engaged in it, and still they are food exporting countries. Australia has virgin soil which has not come under the Law of diminishing Returns, but what the enterprising people of Denmark have done in the development of agriculture through co-operation will be a lesson to millions in India. Denmark has commercialised agriculture and made it profitable through the elimination of middle men right from financing to marketing through the establishment of Co-operative Societies. In India, Co-operation has made some progress, but the Indian Peasant still considers it as a part of Government which they fear and dread, rather than a useful institution for their own betterment. The spirit of co-operation has not taken firm root on the soil of India, because Indian agriculturists are too ignorant to take up the leadership of these Societies. Consequently they fell into the grips of these middlemen whom they wanted to eliminate. In Germany "Membership in a Credit Union is a certificate of character and a badge of Honour, a public acknowledgment of the fact that the member is a man of Industry,

thrift, sense, sobriety and complete trustworthiness." If the Indian Peasant is to take up to co-operation as a mode of living he must become more self-reliant and progressive through general mass education. The need for compulsory primary education is too immediate to wait for long. Indian Peasants are to be encouraged to visit the Continent and America to see for themselves the marvels in agricultural improvements which may do more to develop this Industry in India than tons of instruction thrust through deaf ears. We must have a class of agricultural Engineers—to be more apt agricultural missionaries, well versed in modern agricultural practices and organisations and capable of knowing the psychology of the masses and catching their ears, tour the villages, demonstrating how to improve agricultural conditions. The peasants should be made to realise their high role in National economy and the patriotic service they can render to the nation as suppliers of food.

Another question that arises is whether it is desirable to allow such a large number of people to stick to agriculture at the expense of other occupations. Two theories are generally stated in support of the contention that as many people as possible should be absorbed in agriculture because the Peasantry form the backbone of the country and constitute the recruiting ground of the Army. The ancient Romans purposely fostered agriculture to bring into existence a prosperous peasantry who won for her a great Empire and supremacy in civilisation. But economic life has changed with the great strides made in Industry in modern times by the application of Science.

Even pre-war Germany with all her romantic notions of agriculture had to resort to lessen her agricultural population to give room for industrialisation. The only hope for India and for that matter China which has also 4/5th of her population in agriculture is to curtail their population in this occupation to relieve the great pressure on land. The good features of peasant life with a desirable healthy contact of nature can be supplied to the Industrial workers by a policy of decentralization and electrification of Industries and allotting small pieces of land around their houses for spare time cultivation. The agricultural policy of her National Government should be to bring about a balance in agriculture and industries, which should be determined by the resources and national features of the country. Coal and Iron, mined in India are insufficient for the thorough industrialisation of India and any idea of achieving this through importation of machineries and tools will not prove profitable in the long run.

Indian agriculture is not furnishing a minimum standard of living for its votaries. An average holding in India is calculated to be 3.7 acres in Bengal, 7 acres in Deccan, 1. to 10 acres in the Punjab and 3 to 5 acres in Madras, while in England it is 62 acres, U.S.A. 148 acres, Denmark 42 acres and pre-war Germany 21.5 acres. The process of fragmentation is encouraged by our social system, where the family property is divided among the sons and daughters as soon as the father is no more. The average income per head in India from agriculture is only Rs. 48 compared to 68 in England and 219

in U.S.A. Against this must be counted the indebtedness of Rs. 50/- per head totalling approximately 1800 crores of rupees. Indian agriculturists are clinging to lands because the only other alternative is begging or yellow robes. When the war showed new sources of income in the army, the people discarded the plough not under the romantic idea of patriotism, but for increased wages. The War took away from agriculture its enterprising and the youthful devotees and this accounts for the failure of the Grow More Food Campaign. Unless agriculturists consolidate their holdings and bring about some sort of collective farming, these occupations will go to the wall, as happened in England at the time of the Industrial Revolution.

It is pitiable to see our respected leaders begging for Food at the capitals of other Nations to relieve the famine conditions in India. The partition of India has complicated the Food problem to an un-imaginable extent. Pakistan commands 6-1/2 million tons of rice out of a total of 21 millions. Two major food producing Provinces of Sindh and Punjab with an annual surplus of 2-1/2 Lakhs and one and half lakhs of rice and 50,000 and 1,00,000 of wheat respectively and the Punjab States of Bawalpore and Kharirpur with a total wheat surplus of 60,000 were separated from the Indian Union and we cannot expect them to supply the food requirements under preferential conditions. But as Pakistan requires coal and clothes from India, they will have to part with their rice as a good neighbour policy. If they are capable of showing some vision and foresight, Indian Union and Pakistan can be bound together

through an economic agreement with benefit to both. Apart from this Government has another duty to perform in this connection. If it depends upon the farmers alone to consolidate the holdings and take up to intensive mechanical methods of agriculture, the country will take at least a century to become self-sufficient in her food requirements. If the Government intend to spend crores of rupees on projects like Ramapada Sagar, Mahanadhi, Damodhar, and Kosi, why cannot they undertake within their area the cultivation, besides the 154 million acres of land that are remaining uncultivated in India. This will give an incentive to the agriculturists to improve their lands on modern lines. Mr. A. Lamartine Yates writes; "Investigations of agri-Biologists show that under special conditions the yield of crops can be increased to 5 times and in some cases to 10 times their present average. For instance Oates have been made to yield 245 Bushels per acre whereas average in Britain is about 40 bushels. Potatoes yielded 80 tons per acre, whereas the British average is 7 to 8 tons. Under a milking bailee, a man and a boy can look after 80 cows, a tractor may save the work of 3 men and 4 teams of bulls, while a combine harvester effects still greater economics. A whole series of new machines for market gardeners has made possible the mass production of vegetables. Agricultural science is putting within reach the power of producing all the food we need, with but a fraction of the present farming population of the world." Even if the fear that the use of chemicals and fertilisers on lands will tend to make them barren and sterile within a period, which itself is doubtful, nature is not so

short-sighted as to leave humanity in such a lurch. We discover new continents to redress the balance of the old. Now we are on the eve of tapping the resources of the Arctic continents, and after that who knows we may not be exploring some of the planets.

The Indian farmer is proverbially a re-actionary by outlook and a fatalist by temperament. He is mostly illiterate and unenterprising. Bishop Gruntvig, the great Social Reformer and the founder of the Folk High School Movement, faced a similar agricultural community in Denmark. He set out to provide an education which in place of books and learning by rote was to stimulate the living world. There were to be no examinations. The education was to be general, not technical and agricultural. It taught the dignity of labour and inspired the students to work and action. The Folk High School, resembling our basic education through crafts in its emphasis on action, did wonders in transferring the peasants of Denmark into the most progressive agricultural community in the world. We can hope the basic education imparted through the medium of agriculture, will bring out the best in the peasants in India and will transform them into a progressive people.

A new Food Policy should take into consideration not only the quantity of the food consumed, but also the quality. Major-General Sir J. W. D. Megaw, a former Director-General of Indian Medical Services has recorded; "Taking India as a whole the doctors regard 39 per cent. of the people as well nourished, 41 per cent. poorly nourished and 20 per cent.

very badly nourished". The average life of an Indian is calculated to be only 27, while that of an Englishman is 63. American 62 and Japanese 47. The Food of an Indian consists of only grains like rice and wheat and consists very little of milk, vegetables, fruits, eggs, fish and meat which constitute the protective food. The high level of physical strength and vigour shown by the Punjabees is due to the larger quantity of nutritious food like milk and animal food consumed by them. Nutrition experts have calculated 2600 calories as a balance diet, whereas at present we do not get even 1000. Even in these days of scarcity and famine, Government is mainly concentrating on cereals only at the expense of milk, fish etc. Milk supply can be increased by better breeding and maintenance of cattle and organising dairy industry. The Indian Cow on an average gives 525 lbs of milk only per annum, while her sister in Holland gives 7559 lbs, in Denmark 7005 lbs. and Switzerland 6498 lbs. Regarding the development of Fish Industries, Government show utter callousness on the plea that there are few fish careers and it cannot relieve the pressure on cereals. The Bengalese are a fish eating community irrespective of caste and still very little was done to intensify the catch during the 1942 famine. Vegetarians, namely, persons who have scruples to take fish and flesh, are very few in India and they are decreasing day by day. We have a long coastline and can easily foster our fish industry. Only recently the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have decided to resume intensive researches in Fisheries

in the vast oceans of North Seas and Arctic Oceans. The Fish Laboratory at Lowestoft will soon begin to operate 3 research ships to be used for exploration. India cannot afford to neglect this inexhaustible food reserve. When prohibition is introduced in the coastal regions, many tappers who will be thrown out of work can be profitably prevailed upon to take up to the Romance of the Seas in the place of the Romance of the Trees. This will increase our seafaring population which will be an asset for our defence in addition to the many industries that will crop up in the wake of a thriving Fish Industry.

A balanced diet cannot be complete without fruits. A most common fruit in India is bananas, but unfortunately they are not of the best type, commonly called "*Nendran*" in Malabar. They are so big and nutritious that 2 or 3 bananas will be a sufficient substitute for a full meal. It will pay for the agricultural department to try whether this type of bananas can be introduced in other parts of India. The other fruits like oranges, grapes etc., are beyond the reach of the common man and unless steps are taken for increased production and made available for lesser prices they will remain so. Potatoes and tomatoes, both nutritious, have not yet become popular among the poorer classes for the same reason. By this drive for better food for the common man, the Government as well as the leaders of the public are appeasing the hunger and improving the health of the people who, in the words of the late Gopal Krishna Gokhale, do not know what it is to have a full meal.

SURENDRANATH BANERJEA

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THE birth centenary of Surendranath Banerjea was celebrated last month all over the country. It is fitting that free India should recall the services of the great pioneers of Indian freedom and commemorate the occasion of their birthday by paying homage to the memory of those who toiled to make the lives of their successors free and happy. In the roll of such benefactors Surendranath takes a high place, and though he did not live to see the full fruition of his life long efforts, we who inherit the fruits of his labours are in duty bound to cherish and embalm his memory. Such commemorations are an honour to the living no less than to the dead whose ceaseless labours and self-sacrifice have left us a legacy of which we ought to be proud.

There was in Surendranath a rounded perfection of gifts and talents which proved such an admirable vehicle of power and persuasiveness at a time when such accomplishments were so indispensable to the service of the nation. Surendranath was a patriot first and last and his abiding faith in the high destiny of his countrymen found eloquent expression in words and deeds which had a tonic effect on their lives and aspirations. As an educationist he was a leader of youth from the beginning of his career. As an orator he had few rivals, and his trumpet voice resounded from end to end. As a journalist he preached the gospel of progress and reform day after day, through the columns of the *Bengalee*, which in those days was more than a newspaper. His civic activities were ceaseless and uninterrupted for all his absorption in the wider fields of public and political

work. Surendranath joined the Congress at its second session in 1886 and at once became one of its acknowledged leaders. "Whoever might be the President" wrote C. Y. Chintamani, "Surendranath Banerjea was, session after session, the central figure in the Congress? Indeed, powerful and influential as the Congress was, even in his days, it was not seldom that people flocked to this annual gathering if only to see and hear this great Bengali orator. His thundering declamations had an inspiring effect on his hearers. But the crowning glory of his career was his leadership during the partition of Bengal.

"Fed on the ideals of Mazzini, Surendranath felt that Partition could only be annulled by the united might of the nation. He immediately set himself to the herculean task of mobilizing the Bengalis and entire India against this policy of divide and rule. For six years he swept the country like a tornado by his powerful eloquence and writings. He gave the signal of *Bande Mataram* and *Swadeshi* and led the campaign. *Bande Mataram* and *Swadeshi* became the cry of Bengal. They became the rallying cry of India."

"Surendranath," said a writer, "wore a coat of mail of innoculate sincerity which even fanaticism could not pierce." In the present posture of affairs it is remarkable to recall that when Surendranath said: "Mahomedan brothers! your God is my God." Muslims flocked to him in their thousands with cries of *Allaho Akbar*. What a contrast to the picture of an India where Muslims are at war with their compatriots and seek separation!

Much water has flowed down the bridge since those spacious days, and though Surendranath and his pioneering band of patriots would have thought our claim for complete independence but a cry for the moon, we take our hats off to those veterans who laid the foundations for a free India.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BY MR. B. NATESAN

Maulana Azad's Lead

MAULANA AZAD has given a straight lead to his countrymen. 60,000 Muslims from all parts of India attended the conference at Lucknow, where more than one historic decision of the old Congress had been taken. The conference took stock of the situation arising from the League's two-nation theory, and has realised the absurdity and havoc caused by a decade of disruptive teaching. Now that the League policy has done its worst and cut the country in twain, it would be disastrous to Muslims and the whole country, if further dissensions and fissiparous tendencies are not curbed in time. The only way to do it is to liquidate the League and for Muslims to join the Congress whole-heartedly and make common cause with the rest of their countrymen. That way lies their own salvation.

In this connection one is surprised to see attempts made to perpetuate communal divisions in respect of wholly nationalistic activities. In any rational or democratic polity there is no point in having an official opposition in the shape of a communal party. Our Legislatures can no more tolerate communal cliques either in office or in the opposition. Provincial Legislatures ought not to tolerate such groups, and make it imperative that party alignments must be in respect of economic or political considerations and never on the basis of communities. Then alone can we hope to have a sensible arena for the discussion of political means for political ends.

If Muslims in India forget this obvious lesson and cling to their shibboleths they will be utterly lost. Pakistan cannot come to their rescue any more than Turkey or Egypt.

An Industrial Truce

A new chapter in the history of Capital-Labour relationship was opened the other day at New Delhi when at the last sitting of the Industries Conference representatives of employers, employees and Government unanimously decided to maintain industrial peace and avoid lock-outs, strikes and slowing down of production for the next three years. This is a timely and happy move which should have been taken as early as August last when Britain transferred power to India. It is unfortunate, even tragic to think that even those who never stirred their fingers while a foreign bureaucracy was ruling should now resort to extreme measures. Grievances there will always be but surely some consideration must be shown to those who are now battling with unexpected difficulties, with extraordinary patience and courage. Surely there are methods of peaceful settlement in all civilised societies which should not be ignored in favour of direct action. What the country needs is production and more production to meet the needs of a growing population. If work is interrupted who suffers? Not the owners and workers only but the entire population. And a nation emerging out of the abyss of slavery has all the need to conserve its energies for more fruitful and sustained work. The truce, if faithfully implemented, is bound to create a wholesome atmosphere. The credit for this happy solution goes to Pandit Nehru, the Prime Minister and Dr. Shyam Prasad Murkherji, the President of the Industries Conference who helped the industrialists and workers' representatives to iron out their difficulties and come to an agreed compromise in the larger interests of the nation.

[JANUARY 1948]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

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The Financial Settlement

The terms of the financial settlement between India and Pakistan are evidently drawn up in a spirit of goodwill and realism. Pakistan gets 75 crores out of the 400 crores of the total cash balance, but only 17½ per cent. of the uncovered debt is made her liability. She gets a 50 per cent. rebate in the case of her railways. And then the whole debt has been taken over by the Union Government, and Pakistan's portion is to be repaid to India in 50 instalments on most favourable terms. This is generous to a fault; but the sole purpose of this arrangement is to ensure that Pakistan, as a state, will be viable. Will Pakistan appreciate this gesture of goodwill and reciprocate with equal fairness in the matter of other issues now pending before the two Dominions?

Pakistan behind the Kashmir Raiders

Pandit Nehru and the authorities in Kashmir have said, time and again, that but for Pakistan's encouragement and support the raiders could not have held out so long and so powerfully. This has not been denied either by Mr. Jinnah or Mr. Liaquat. "There is not the least shadow of doubt," said Mr. Bhim Sain, Dt. Magistrate of Poonch that

the Pakistan Government is openly providing arms, ammunition, transport, petrol and food to the so-called 'raiders.' Frankly speaking, persons who have all along been described as raiders are part and parcel of the Pakistan Army."

In his view the raiders are no other than Pakistan Army men.

There should be no controversy about it. Let those who dispute this fact go to Pakistan, particularly to Peshawar and Rawalpindi, and find out for themselves who is recruiting men and providing them with arms for the invasion of Kashmir. So far as we are concerned, we are fully convinced. The information reaching us from

across the border and the statements made by captured men leave no doubt as to who is directly behind the invasion and the continued sending of reinforcements.

The authorities of the Indian Union, backed by Gandhiji hold, that whatever Pakistan may do, we shall not deviate an inch from our rectitude. They stand by the rock of ages—that right conduct on one side, if persistently pursued, will yet win in the end. Yet it looks odd, nay even foolish and suicidal, that we should be supplying the sinews of war—in the shape of money and arms to Pakistan—that it may conveniently pass them on to the raiders to help prosecute the war on India! It is for Pakistan to show by her actions that such fears are unfounded.

It is alleged that Pakistan is arming 100,000 men with the most sinister intentions and that India has sought U.N.O.'s intervention in the matter. We only hope that the U.N.O. will take prompt action and will not be merely content with marking time, appointing Committees and Commissions *ad infinitum* and going through the whole process of procrastination till any intervention will be entirely nugatory.

No More Summer Exodus

The annual waste of the summer exodus to the hills was a subject of constant interpellations in the old legislature. It would be strange if even under the new regime the same tradition is continued. We therefore welcome the Central Government's decision not to proceed to Simla during the ensuing summer. The argument that the exodus is essential to efficient administration was never convincing. The sojourn to the hills was in fact hampering the administration. The work of the Secretariat—the hub of the administration—was brought to a standstill during the period of transport. And then the Government became practically out of touch with the people.

The Future of English in India

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister, in his Convocation address at Patna University urged gradual replacement of English by a common Indian language in all spheres of life. "The position that English is occupying to-day in our educational and official life", the Education Minister said,

cannot be sustained in future. But you will create chaos and confusion in all your affairs if you suddenly displace a language which is holding its own for the past one hundred and fifty years.

If this was said by Pandit Nehru or Prof. Radhakrishnan, one would think that they are swayed by their bias for English in which they are such adepts. In the present temper of the country such a counsel would even be thought un-Indian. But the Maulana has never been known to be partial to English. Even during the Cripps negotiations he stuck to his native tongue; and the story goes that he consistently communicated his directives to the Education Adviser to the Government of India through the medium of his own mother tongue to the despair and chagrin of Sir John Sargent. When a man of his eminence, background and culture raises his voice in protest against any sudden innovation even the worst Anglo-phobist in India should pause and consider. And what does he say?

We may either take an immediate and sudden step: or we may proceed gradually measuring our way and considering the pros and cons of our steps.

I wish to make it quite plain to you that after having considered all aspects of the question I have come to the conclusion that it is the second alternative alone that can suit us.

The Late Sir Chimanlal Setalvad

The death of Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, the veteran Liberal leader, at the great age of 83, marks the disappearance of one of the few surviving links with the spacious past. After Gokhale and Wacha he continued the Mehta tradition as the most vehement of the Moderates. Setalvad's liberalism was broadbased on a firm and unshakable faith in British connection but it stood four

square against all encroachments on personal liberty and civic rights. Setalvad was by temperament averse to revolutionary programmes and he could not exactly fit himself in the latter day scheme of things in Gandhian Congress. English education and the Liberal traditions of British democracy had made him what he was—a resolute opponent of revolt and direct action. The idea of non-co-operation was abhorrent to him and being a man of strong and determined views he never hesitated to give expression to them frankly. Latterly he was so obsessed by opposition to Gandhiji that he could see nothing good even in his constructive plans of social and moral uplift; and yet he was always ready to throw in the weight of his authority and arguments in support of all progressive causes. Setalvad had served his generation in many ways, distinguishing himself as an educationist and administrator, apart from his contributions as a stalwart champion of all liberal causes. To the end Sir Chimanlal was active and alert, and his book of reminiscences published about a couple of years ago is a mirror not only of his own activities but of the eventful years of his time and generation.

Sir Maharaj Singh

We congratulate Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh on his appointment to the Governorship of Bombay in succession to Sir John Colville. Sir Maharaj has taken an active part in public life, having been President of both the National Liberal Federation and the Indian Christian Association. He has led the Indian Christians unfalteringly along the path of Nationalism. He has represented India in foreign lands and international gatherings. He was very successful as Agent-General in South Africa. And then it is common knowledge how well he acquitted himself at the U.N.O., in company with Vijayalakshmi Pandit and Mr. Chagla. The appointment should be appreciated not only on personal grounds but as indicating Congress gesture to minorities in the new India which, unlike Pakistan, is truly a secular State, first and last.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By "CHRONICLER"

Mr. Wallace for U.S. Presidency

ANNOUNCING his intention to run for the U.S. Presidency as an independent candidate, Mr. Henry Wallace, former Vice-President and close follower of the late Franklin Roosevelt, criticised both the Republican and Democratic parties. "Both stand for a policy which opens the door to war in our lifetime and makes war certain for our children," he said.

Outlining his programme, Mr. Wallace urged an objective understanding between the United States and Russia and stressed the need for an international police force which would be stronger than the military establishment of the biggest of Powers.

King Michael of Rumania Abdicates

King Michael of Rumania abdicated on December 30 and later a Republic of Rumania was formally established. A Bucharest Radio announcement said: "To-day, December 30, 1947 King Michael first signed an instrument in which he abdicates the Rumanian throne, lays down all royal prerogatives on his own behalf and on behalf of his heirs.

"The King gave as the reason for his abdication the fact that great political, economic and social changes have taken place in Rumania during the past few years which created a new relationship between the principal factors governing national life. In view of the situation thereby created, the King considers that monarchy no longer corresponds with the existing conditions of Rumania's national life and is a serious obstacle to the country's development".

U. Saw Sentenced to Death

U. Saw, former Premier who schemed to become dictator of Burma, was on December 30 sentenced to death by hanging, for his part in the political killings of U. Aung San, Burmese Prime Minister, and six other Cabinet Ministers in the Burmese Council Chamber on July 18, 1947.

Failure of London Conference

Mr. Ernest Bevin, British Foreign Secretary, explained the abrupt ending of the Foreign Ministers' Conference in London as due to the insistent pressure of the Soviet delegation to get advance agreement to form a central Government in Germany.

Expressing Britain's opposition to this demand, Mr. Bevin said that the proposal for centralisation without a representative Government would result in the re-establishment of a dictatorship.

Mr. Bevin also charged the Soviet Union with exerting pressure on neighbouring States against participating in the Marshall Plan.

The Russian Rouble

A decree of the Council of Ministers and the Central Communist Party of the Soviet Union announced the Government's currency reforms and abolition of rationing in the Soviet Union on December 14.

Two important announcements made by the decree said (1) Food rationing in the Soviet Union is to be abolished and (2) The Russian currency is to be reformed.

According to the changes a new Rouble will be equal to 10 old Roubles.

British Withdrawal from Palestine

Britain is surrendering the mandate in Palestine on May 15, 1948, it was officially announced in the House of Commons. The date however is subject to negotiations with the United Nations.

Mr. Creech Jones, Colonial Secretary, who announced the Government's decision said that British troops in Palestine would be withdrawn by August 1, 1948.

Meanwhile, in Palestine, the city of Jerusalem has been sealed off by British troops following a gun battle between Jews and Arabs in which casualties were suffered by both sides.



The WORLD of BOOKS

(ONLY SHORT NOTICES APPEAR IN THIS SECTION)



THE GREAT BEYOND. By Maurice Maeterlinck. Philosophical Library, New York. S. 3.

Maeterlinck has so established his fame as a writer and a thinker that any praise of him would be considered superfluous and any criticism an impertinence. But it may be permitted to say that there are books which coming from an obscure pen would not find a publisher, but coming from the pen of one that has millions of fans would be greedily welcomed. The book under review comes under this category. In itself it is nothing much, but to lovers of Maeterlinck any book which casts some light on his inner thoughts would be very precious. *The Great Beyond* is a fine title which raises great expectations of giving us a sustained thesis on all that humanity values. In actual fact it is just a jumble of notes which authors jot down in their note-books to be worked up or used on a future occasion. They are neither chronological nor logical. They are just put together. Needless to say many of them coming from such a master are very pregnant with thought but there is no coherence. The agnostic, the mystic, the sceptic, the atheist, the Christian, the anti-Christian will all find material suitable to confirm each one of them in his attitude. To one familiar with the writings of Maeterlinck the book will furnish a clue to the workings of his soul. To one who is not so familiar it will merely be a book of quotations, which will not furnish a key to the problems of life.

Maeterlinck is known to be a mystic, and the real Maeterlinck comes out in the following notes of his and we shall close with them: Page 84: "The day we believe we have found God, we will be very surprised to find that we see ourselves at last."

Page 34: "We should not ever speak of God. To speak of him is to stir images which do not represent Him. It is by praising Him that we really commit blasphemy. A silence free of thoughts is alone worthy of Him".

HINDU KINSHIP: AN IMPORTANT CHAPTER IN HINDU SOCIAL HISTORY. By. Dr. K. M. Kapadia—The Popular Book Depot, Bombay.

Dr. Kapadia evaluates, on the basis of data available in Sanskrit literature, and with reference to both the historical and analytical methods, the problems of ethnic contact among the Hindus, like the offerings to the manes, or ancestors, the *Vridhhi Sraddha*, the evolution of sept exogamy, *gotra* and *pravara* etc. Our author tries to assign a date about the 5th Century B.C. for the emergence of the concept of sept exogamy. The ideas of *Sapinda* exogamy and cross cousin marriage are traced. Adoption and *niyoga* are detailed in rough outline. The hypothesis of polyandrous unions among the Vedic Aryans is not held to be supported. Questions of inheritance and succession are explained in their relation to the evolution of property rights, and the schools of Jimutavahana and Vijnanesvara are sketched, as well as later schools developing therefrom. The notice of birth and death impurities and of the organisation of kin completes the substance of this compressed treatise heavy with authorities and the detailed analysis and classification of the concepts and resultant rules and practices.

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THE WORLD OF BOOKS

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JAGADVIJAYACCHANDAS OF KAVINDRA-CHARYA. Edited by Dr. C. Kunhan Raja and published by Anup Sanskrit Library, Bikaner.

The edition of this work is based on four manuscripts in the Anup Sanskrit Library, Bikaner. The manuscripts belonged to Kavindracharya, and Dr. Kunhan Raja who has edited this work thinks that Kavindracharya may be the author. It is written in the Dandaka form and is adapted for singing in a well-known tune adapted to the Dandaka form. We in South India know of a well known stotra in praise of Goddess Parvathi called the Syamala Dandaka whose author is said to be the famous Kalidasa himself. These songs in Dandaka form always begin with the words "Jaya Jaya". The song of this work is in praise of Siva. Alliteration is a distinct characteristic of this song. There is not much poetic merit in this work, but there is intellectual dexterity and skill shown in the combination of words. The only point of interest about this work is that the title suggests a reference to the Great Emperor Jahangir. The smaller text published in Appendix I and in Appendix III is addressed to the Emperor Jahangir. This strongly indicates that the author whoever may be enjoyed the great patronage of the Muslim Emperor at Delhi, just as the great poet Jagannatha Panditha was patronised by the great Emperor Shahjahan. In the days of the great Moghul rulers there was not any distinct cleavage between the Hindu and Muslim cultures. There was on the other hand mutual appreciation which tended to the harmony between the two cultures and to their fusion into one glorious Indian culture. It is in this aspect that this work deserves to be edited and published.

Dr. Kunhan Raja has done a notable service to the cause of Indian nationalism by doing so.

CHITTAVINODINI. A Sanskrit anthology. Compiled and published by R. N. Gosh, 7, Ruttledge Road, Lucknow. Rs. 6.

In this beautifully produced book, Mr. R. N. Ghosh has brought together a number of interesting or famous Sanskrit stanzas. He himself aptly describes the book as a collection of witty, epigrammatic, instructive and descriptive Sanskrit verses, selected with care for their point, brilliancy, excellence, humour or singularity. The verses are arranged in an alphabetical order with reference to the best known part of each verse. Sometimes when different quarters of a verse are equally well-known, they are cross-indexed. As the compiler points out, *sringara rasa* (or the sentiment of love) predominates in the sections from Kalidasa and Bilhana. Other topics such as *bhakti* (devotion to God), *vairagya* (dispassion) and *santa rasa* (the sentiment of peace) are also well represented. There are brief notes here and there, explaining the meanings of difficult words or obscure stanzas. Now and then interesting literary anecdotes from tradition are given in Hindi to describe the occasions when certain stanzas were composed.

Most of the verses selected are interesting. The student of Sanskrit literature will find here many famous verses. Some others, not quite so famous, but marked for point or wit, are also included. Some of the hymnody and poetry of the *bhakti* movements of North India found in this volume may introduce the average reader to a practically new literature, till now not very widely known.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

: 0 :

- Dec. 1. Nizam appeals to people for co-operation.
—Finance Minister reviews economic position.
- Dec. 2. Mr. Jag Jivan Ram urges repatriation of Pakistan Harijans.
—Burma Premier meets Pandit Nehru in Delhi.
- Dec. 3. Fourteen non-official and two official Bills introduced in the Dominion Legislature.
- Dec. 4. Attempt on Nizam's life.
—Raiders massing on Kashmir border.
- Dec. 5. N. G. Os in Madras go on strike. Strike called off on Govt's assurance.
- Dec. 6. Arabs and Jews clash in Jaffa and Tel Aviv.
—Inter Dominion Conference at Lahore.
—Joint organisation in India and Pakistan urged.
- Dec. 7. Madras N. G. Os decide to go on strike from Dec. 15.
- Dec. 8. Govt. of India decontrols sugar.
—Madras Premier asks N. G. Os to call off strike.
- Dec. 9. Patel announces full agreement with Pakistan on Partition issues.
- Dec. 10. Public celebration of Rajaji's 70th birthday.
—Union Assembly debates decontrol policy.
- Dec. 11. British invitation to Nehru.
—Palestine Mandate to end on May 15, 1948.
- Dec. 12. Terms of Indo-Pakistan Agreement announced in Union Assembly.
—Madras Govt. warns striking N. G. Os.
- Dec. 13. Pandit Nehru addresses Jubilee Convocation of Allahabad University.
- Dec. 14. Earl Baldwin dead at Stourport
—Lord Mountbatten addresses Jaipur Durbar on States' accession.
- Dec. 15. Annual Meeting of Associated Chambers at Calcutta.
- Dec. 16. Hyderabad Interim Govt. formed.
—Big Four Conference adjourns.
- Dec. 17. Dutch-Indonesian peace talks in Batavia.
- Dec. 18. Pandit Nehru's call for Industrial truce at Delhi Conference.
—Sardar Patel's call to Princes at Rajkot.
- Dec. 19. Truman announces Marshall Plan to aid Europe.
—Agreement evolved in Indo-Pakistan talks.
- Dec. 20. Mr. Marshall U. S. Secretary of State, attacks Russian policy.
—Mr. Jinnah appeals to Britain to use influence to settle differences with India.
- Dec. 21. Madras N. G. O's strike called off.
—Maulana Azad advocates gradual replacement of English.
- Dec. 22. Sir Maharaj Singh appointed Governor of Bombay.
Indian Economic Conference meets at Calcutta.
- Dec. 23. Pt. Nehru addresses R. I. A. F. personnel at Delhi.
—Dr. Mukherji deplores linguistic fragmentation.
- Dec. 24. Music Conferences in Madras.
—Sir B. N. Rau, at a press conference in New Delhi, discusses scope of India's future Constitution.
- Dec. 25. Death is reported of Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed, Aligarh University Vice-chancellor, in London.
- Dec. 26. Indo-Ceylon talks in New Delhi.
—Arabs preparing for war in Palestine.
- Dec. 27. Indian Union Muslims' Conference meets at Lucknow, Maulana Azad addressing 60,000 Muslims.
- Dec. 28. Plane crash near Karachi.
—Bitter fighting in China.
- Dec. 29. Mr. Henry Wallace to stand for U. S. Presidency.
—U. Saw sentenced to death.
- Dec. 30. King Michael of Rumania abdicates.
—Racial riots in Jerusalem.
- Dec. 31. India Govt. decides to refer Kashmir issue to U. N. O.
—3000 raiders attack on new front in Kashmir.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



STUDY OF SANSKRIT

Writing on the future of Sanskrit studies Mr. B. Bhattacharya points out in the *Calcutta Review* that it is the European scholars who have rediscovered Sanskrit culture and civilization when we the inheritors of that culture have all but forgotten our great heritage. Now that they have given the lead let us at least follow. It is up to us, he says, to re-interpret the discoveries of the pioneers, to view the multi-faceted structure of our ancient culture from all possible aspects.

If we are to live a fuller existence, and if we have the least inquisitiveness to understand our national, religious and social heridity, we must have to study the history of Indian civilization from the earliest times to its latest phase. We must learn to respect the thoughts of the ancient seers, philosophers and thinkers of this great sub-continent who tried to see things with a breadth and liberality and boldness of vision that has been and would ever remain to be a wonder of the world. While in this twentieth century, boasting of a rich civilization as we do, we are still thinking in terms of our respective provinces, and accentuating the spirit of disintegration—culturally and politically, thus failing to knit the provincial and racial units of this Indian sub-continent into the harmonious cultural and political whole, it is reassuring to meditate over the achievements of our hoary ancestors imbibed a common spirit among the millions of inhabitants of this far-flung territory, gave them a common culture and a common nationality, from the foot of the Himalayas to the tip of the Cape in the south. And this common cultural, spiritual and political outlook, that is well-nigh an impossibility now-a-days, was possible because one common language—Sanskrit, was the vehicle of all their thoughts.

That community of expression was at the root of that expansive culture spreading over the length and breadth of this huge peninsula.

And if even now we can pride ourselves on being Indians, of being members of a common nationality, it is because the reminiscences of that wonderful cultural heritage achieved by Sanskrit language still persists in our veins. Would it be wise, asks the writer, to scrap that synthesis and unity and the language that had begotten them, when we are striving to unify once more our motherland, disintegrated politically

and culturally under the baneful influence of an unsympathetic foreign domination lasting over centuries?

Should we not mark this hour of our deliverance by making an all out effort to revive that wonderful language and the heritage handed down through it through ages? Sanskrit language and culture stand for that essential unity of India, which cannot be destroyed even by the vilest machinations of external hostile agencies. A revival of Sanskrit learning would restore that lost harmony in our national life buzzing with the jarring notes of discordant units. It would bring about a renaissance in decadent provincial cultures seething with unifying emotions and restore to them that intellectual and spiritual fervour the lack of which is responsible for our stunted cultural growth.

Finally we should remember with respect that a civilization and culture that gave birth to a Buddha, a Sankara, a Ramanuja, a Chaitanya and a Vivekananda—to name only a chosen few, is certainly worth preserving. Irreverence can only bespeak our own meanness.

PLOT TO BETRAY KASHMIR

The story behind the Kashmir drama enacted by Pakistan is very sordid, reveals 'Wayfarer' writing in *Roy's Weekly*.

The plot began, he says, long before August 15. The role of the traitor was performed by the former Prime Minister of Kashmir, R. C. Kak. This man entered into intrigue with the Nawab of Bhopal and the then Political Secretary Sir Conrad Corfield. It is said that the plotters had ear-marked Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs to prevent Kashmir from acceding to the Indian Dominion. The Maharaja was surrounded by the clique which was hand in glove with the enemies of India.

The constant visits which Mr. Kak paid to Bhopal were indicative of the feverish activity that was afoot to betray the State and hand it over bound hand and foot to Pakistan's dictator. The Maharaja of Kashmir apparently had no mind of his own.

The Maharaja awakened to the situation, says the writer, late, but not too late. He immediately released Sheikh Abdullah.

PATENTS IN INDIA

While there is no inherent lack of inventive talent in India, either qualitatively or quantitatively, India has not, on the whole, become patent-minded. In comparison with other countries, the number of patents granted annually in India stands at a dismally low figure. For example, says the *Eastern Economist*, the average annual number of patents granted in U.S.A. is 48,697, in Great Britain 18,417, in Japan 4845 and in India 898. To put it in other way, the number of patents granted per million of population is only 2 in India as against 493 in Great Britain and in U.S.A. But what is even more disheartening is that even this small extent of business is mostly in alien hands. As has been very aptly put,

the role of the patent system in India may be compared to the role of a hundred horse-power engine turning out one horse-power work, ninety per cent. of which is for the benefit of the aliens.

The importance of invention, in face of the prevailing scarcity of technical equipment in India, cannot be too much emphasised. In explaining the advantages of the Patent System an American authority remarked:

Patents have played a triple role in our industrial development. They have encouraged men of genius to create new products and processes. They have encouraged industry to manufacture new better products. They have encouraged investors to use their saving for the development of the new and expanded industries based upon invention.

The Patent system in India, taking its birth 90 years ago in 1856 has, no doubt, made some progress. "Early patents were concerned with punkha pulling devices, chulas, fuels and oil mills. The Swadeshi movement in 1905 was marked with lively activity in spinning and weaving appliances, sugarcane mills, oil mills and other small industries. The impetus given by this movement is responsible for the presents of Indian origin. Food products, disinfectants and insecticides, building, materials, electric motors and fans, plastic composition containers, locks, tiffin carriers, India rubber products and toys are the industries covered by India inventions in 1946."

Absence of any major industry in this list is a gap to fill which no attempt should be spared, especially in view of the present crying need for basic materials and semifinished products required for the manufacture of various stores. "That India has no dearth of inventive talent is proved beyond doubt by the war-time experience of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, which has been responsible for over a hundred patentable inventions and during 1946 has turned the record number of inventions (27) by any single Indian Institution. All-India Spinners' Association has also made spectacular progress. So what is actually needed is proper guidance and incentive, given which Indian inventors can rise equal to the task."

NATIONALISM AND RELIGION

Writing under the caption "No comparison possible", Mahatma Gandhi says in *Harijan*: "A friend asked me the other day whether I shared the opinion often expressed that as between nationalism and religion, the former was superior to the latter. I said that the two were dissimilars and that there could be no comparison between dissimilars. Each was equal to the other in its own place. No man who values his religion as also his nationalism can barter away the one for the other. Both are equally dear to him. He renders unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's. And if Caesar, forgetting his limits, oversteps them, a man of God does not transfer his loyalty to another Caesar, but knows how to deal with the usurpation. A rehearsal of this difficulty gave rise to Satyagraha.

"Take a homely illustration. Suppose I have mother, wife and daughter. All the three must be equally dear to me in their own places. It is a vulgar error to think that a man is entitled to forsake his mother and his daughter for the sake of his wife. He dare not do the converse. And if any of the three oversteps her limits, the law of Satyagraha comes to his assistance for the restoration of the equilibrium of the three forces."

NEW PROBLEMS FACING INDIA

Glowing tributes are paid to Jawaharlal Nehru by Mr. James Fox in *Irish Review* discussing India's progressive foreign and home policy.

"To-day," Mr. Fox writes, "all Asia feels its strength as the Indian spokesman puts Field Marshal Smuts in his place. So it is also with India's interventions in the discussions of activities of the United Nations Organisation. Whether she is informing Dutch that the day is past when the European army has any right to be in Asia without the permission of the Asiatics or is casting her vote in favour of independence of Egypt or is playing a constructive part in the development in the international, economic and cultural co-operation, India has given an unmistakable evidence of the arrival of a new authoritative power whose wishes the Imperialists in Europe and America will not lightly be able to discard."

The writer then proceeds to pay tribute to Pandit Nehru's handling of the sensationalist foreign reporters and to detail the Indian Government's policy and plans for industrial development and its interests in the sphere of culture. He says in conclusion:

"The problems of new India are colossal. It will be many years before the roots of evils of poverty, ignorance, disease and superstition are eradicated. The dangers of American capitalist penetration and the British attempts to reassert old overlordship will also be present for a long time and there is also strong native conservative forces which will try to obstruct the country's advance to better things. But the picture of endeavour to high idealism unfolded with the passing of the iron curtain of the British Raj is one which will hearten us in Ireland and inspire us to greater efforts in our own land."

HOW OLD IS THE EARTH?

The earth is much older than was first thought. Scientists working from data at present available say that the most probable estimate is 3,350 million years.

These new conclusions are based on the latest method of measuring the age of the earth—the detailed study of radio-active minerals.

They are given by Professor Arthur Holmes, one of the world's foremost geologists in *Endeavour*, the official magazine of Imperial Chemical Industries. Professor Holmes is Regius Professor of Geology and Mineralogy, Edinburgh University.

The history of the many efforts that have been made to discover the age of the earth's crust reveals a remarkable alternation of contrasted estimates, long and short.

The most remarkable is that of the ancient Hindus, whose calculations would mean that now (A.D. 1948) it is 1,972,049 years since the earth came into existence.

Professor Holmes gives evidence that all we can conclude about the sea is that the apparent age of the oceans is something of the order of 250 million years.

He says the radio-active methods of estimating the earth's age depend on the transformation of uranium and thorium into helium and lead, and on the accumulation of these stable products in minerals and rocks that contain the parental elements.

Helium, being a gas, is liable to escape, but the lead is much more likely to be retained and so to serve as an index of age.

Provided a radio-active mineral such as pitchblende or uraninite has remained unaltered by weathering or other changes, then the amount of radiogenic lead now found within it is a function of (a) the amounts of uranium and of thorium now present and (b) of the time elapsed since the mineral first crystallised.

INDIA GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

An appeal for a sense of proportion in judging communal troubles between India and Pakistan and for consideration of their constructive political achievements is made in the political and financial weekly, *The Economist*.

After referring to the Punjab communal troubles the paper says, "When all this is recognised, it should also be appreciated that the very scale and intensity of the catastrophe imposed on the two new Governments in their first days of full power and responsibility a strain which would certainly have been too much for any men of straw". The paper adds that if Indian political readers had been unfit for power, the situation would have passed entirely beyond control, but nothing of this kind happened.

Referring to the Indian States, the paper says, "The new Indian leadership has not only averted a disintegration which would have been far more serious than the secession of Pakistan, it has achieved a unity with the States more organic than existed under British Paramountcy, for representatives of the States are now participating in the National Parliament, instead of merely having external relations with the Central Government."

Dealing with the minorities, *The Economist* says that whereas Pakistan was set up as a Muslim State, Congress always claimed to be supra-communal, though Congress, particularly in the lower levels of the party organisation had not always practised what it preached. "But the higher Congress leadership, particularly Mr. Nehru and Mr. Gandhi," *The Economist* says, "has set itself firmly against the attempt to turn India into an officially Hindu State."

"If this policy can be continued and strengthened over a period of years, if it can be demonstrated practically that Congress really is devoted to an ideal of Indian nationality transcending communal loyalties then the effect will certainly be felt in Pakistan."

TRAINING FOR PRIESTHOOD

Dr. C. Kunjan Raja, in the course of an article on the future of Hindu Temples, writes in *The Indian Social Reformer*:

"There is a sort of impression at present among the Hindus that a general modern education is detrimental to purity in religious life. There is also a notion about a contrast that exists between what was ancient and holy and what is modern and profane. It is only among the Hindus of modern times that such an antithesis is entertained. It was not entertained in India in ancient times. It is not entertained among the followers of other religions. In a Christian Church, no one will be admitted as a Priest unless he has a general, broadbased education and unless he has also a specialized Theological Training. The result is that among the Christian population in any locality, the Priest in the Church is one of the most respected persons. That cannot be said of the *Archakas* in a Hindu Temple in any place."

FUTURE OF ENGLISH IN INDIA

Writing about the future of English language in India, the *Diwan Chand Review* says:

While English must lose its present predominant position, the fact that it is the language spoken and understood by at least about a third of the world's population, makes it incumbent that it must always have a place in our curricula. It must be one of the subsidiary subjects compulsorily learnt in the college courses and it must be made necessary to learn English for those in the officer's of the provincial and Central Governments. Even Mahatma Gandhi is for retaining English as the commercial language of India. We have to use English in our correspondence with the whole of North American countries, Britain, Members of the British Commonwealth of Nations which constitute about 60 of the important modern countries of the world. English has to be retained even though in an attenuated form in our college-courses.

INDIAN STATES

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Hyderabad

SARDAR PATEL AND HYDERABAD

"I have every hope that Hyderabad will do the right thing (joining the Union) before the year is out. In this world the the popular will can be ignored only at one's peril," declared Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for States, addressing a mammoth meeting at Jaipur during his recent visit to the State.

When such a big power as Britain had to quit India under the pressure of popular opinion, how could the Nizam hope to do otherwise, asked the Sardar.

Sardar Patel, however, added that the Interim Government of Hyderabad which had just assumed office should be given a chance. Some people feared that in the interim period Hyderabad would be prepared for a struggle. Even if that were true, it was foolish to imagine that they would sit idle while those preparations were being made.

AGENT-GENERAL IN HYDERABAD

Mr. K. M. Munshi has been appointed the Government of India's Agent-General in Hyderabad (Deccan).

An I. C. S. Officer will be appointed Secretary to Mr. Munshi.

Mr. Sudhir Ghosh has been appointed Public Relations Officer with the rank of Assistant Secretary, attached to the Agent-General's Office, Hyderabad.

HYDERABAD'S AGENT IN INDIA

Nawab Zain Yar Jung Bahadur, former Deputy Prime Minister, is appointed Hyderabad's first Agent-General in India and an early decision on this is expected.

BAN ON FOREIGN CURRENCY

The Nizam's Government has promulgated an Ordinance making use of the State currency obligatory for all cash transactions carried on in the State and rendering circulation of "any foreign currency" illegal for such purposes.

Mysore

MUSLIMS IN MYSORE

Muslim leaders in Mysore have given an assurance that they would not only desist from obstructing the singing of 'Bande Matram' but join in singing it.

This was revealed by the Home Minister, Mr. T. Mariappa, at a press conference in the Secretariat at Bangalore on Dec. 16 when he examined the root cause of the present communal tension in the city and invited the co-operation of the press in restoring and maintaining peace.

The Minister said that the Muslims must decide if they would be loyal to Pakistan or the Indian Union. They should realise that they were part and parcel of India and a change of heart should take place. So far as Mysore was concerned, the Government's attitude would be the same as that enunciated by Mahatma Gandhi. They would give all protection to the Muslim minority and try to gain their confidence. At the same time, the State had a right to expect transparent loyalty of all Muslims.

OFFER TO ABSORB 5,000 REFUGEES

Nearly 2,000 refugees have arrived in Bangalore city from the Punjab, Sind, the North-West Frontier Province and Hyderabad (Deccan) and the influx continues unabated.

The Mysore Government have appointed an influential non-official committee to consider the refugee problem in Mysore State and will also appoint a refugee officer.

In response to an appeal from the Indian Government two months ago, Mysore has offered to absorb in the State 5,000 non-Muslim refugees and provide employment for about two years. Government have a scheme to accommodate these refugees in camps near the site of Lakkavalli reservoir project in Shimoga district and employ them in channel excavation work.

Travancore

INTERIM GOVT. FOR TRAVANCORE

The Government are understood to be considering the State Congress Working Committee's resolution forwarded to them by the Committee in connection with formation of Interim Government.

ELECTIONS TO ASSEMBLY

As the last date for publication of final electoral rolls has been fixed for January 2, 1948, it is expected that nominations for elections to Representative Assembly will take place by the middle of January, and elections conducted by the second week of February. The Representative Assembly, according to present anticipations will be able to meet by the end of February.

DRIVE AGAINST CORRUPTION

In view of general complaints of corrupt practice in the food procurement and ration distribution, the Government of Travancore have sanctioned the appointment of an officer of the status of Assistant Superintendent of Police with a small staff to work directly under the Dewan, and an Administrative Secretary to the Dewan for making speedy and confidential enquiries and to report to Government for prompt action.

The Government request full co-operation of the public in this attempt.

The Government also wish to assure that no action would be taken against informants.

BAN ON "DEENABANDHU" LIFTED

The Government of Travancore have lifted the ban on *Deenabandhu* published in Ernakulam.

Nepal

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM IN NEPAL

Constitutional reform in Nepal will be announced it is understood, on Jan. 3, which is the Maharaja's birthday. Dr. U. R. Singh, Constitutional Adviser to the Nepal Government, has already prepared a draft constitution which is now being put into final shape.

Kashmir

SARDAR PATEL ON KASHMIR

Referring to Kashmir in his speech at Jaipur the other day Sardar Patel, the Home Member, said that India would not desert Kashmir even if the struggle went on for ten years, but ultimately it would be for the people of Kashmir to decide their own fate and this could be possible only after the last raider had left the country.

INTERIM GOVT. FOR KASHMIR

Sheikh Mohd. Abdulla, Head of the Administration in Kashmir, and his colleague Ghulam Mohd. Bakshi, saw Mahatma Gandhi at Delhi on December 21.

They discussed with the Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and other Cabinet Ministers and high ranking military officers the situation in Kashmir.

Sheikh Mohd. Abdulla, who was staying as the guest of the Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, is understood to have discussed with Pandit Nehru and the States Minister Sardar Patel the question of forming an Interim Government in Kashmir. Just now there is an emergency administration and efforts are being made to form an Interim Government till conditions settle down in Kashmir.

C. P. and Orissa States

ADMINISTRATIVE MERGER OF STATES

Thirteen out of fourteen States in Chhatisgarh have signed an agreement with the Indian Dominion Government as a result of which there will be an administrative merger of the States with the neighbouring Central Provinces Government.

Sardar Patel, who returned to Delhi, after his successful mission to Orissa and C. P. which has brought about these agreements, has explained the significance and mutual benefits to be derived from the settlement by both the Rulers and peoples of these States.

Baroda

DEMAND FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVT.

Addressing the Central Council of the Baroda Praja Mandal at Kalov, Mr. Kanyalal Desai, President of the Gujarat Provincial Congress Committee, declared: "If the people of Baroda have to fight again for getting full Responsible Government all Gujarat will join them. Baroda's fight is Gujarat's fight too."

Mr. Desai added that if the rulers did not want to see the signs of the time and keep the people subdued, the people would fight and take over the reins of the State from them.

Mr. Desai felt that the future of Baroda would decide the future of not only some of the bigger States in India but of Kathiawar States immediately.

Durbar Gopaldas told the Council that though the time for fighting had ended and the time for working the constructive programme had come, the liberation of subject people was part of the constructive programme. He would join the Praja Mandal in its fight for Responsible Government.

Bikaner

BIKANER RULER'S CALL TO PRINCES

The Maharaja of Bikaner, in a broadcast talk from the All-India Radio, Delhi on December 12 said that the time had come for the Princes to take their people fully into their confidence and share power with them.

"The Princes" the Maharaja added, "have a contribution of their own to make to the future greatness of our motherland. The conditions in the States are changing as fast as they are changing elsewhere, but it will be realised that the States have come into an integral relation with India for the first time in history. Given a little patience there is no reason to suppose that they will lag behind the rest of India, in their political, economic and cultural progress."

The changed relationship from Paramountcy to co-operation should bring with it a new attitude, a new approach to the problem of the States. The past has left a legacy of suspicion and distrust, and the habit of mind towards the States has not kept pace with the changed circumstances. They are still looked upon in certain quarters with suspicion, and even in States where the Rulers themselves are fully prepared to share power with their people and have taken measures accordingly, agitation is considered an essential prerequisite of such sharing of power. I would strongly urge that this attitude of mutual suspicion and distrust should now give way to one of active co-operation and collaboration as between two units of the same body politic.

Pudukottah

AGREEMENT WITH PUDUKOTTAH

An agreement has been reached between the Raja of Pudukottah and the State Congress. The Ruler is reported to have agreed to the following terms suggested by the State Congress:

1. The present administration consisting of the Dewan, a Councillor, and two Ministers is to be immediately replaced by a Dewan to be appointed by the Ruler at the suggestion of the States Ministry.
2. The new Dewan should carry on the administration of the State and set up a Constituent Assembly on the basis of the proclamation already issued by the Ruler.
3. The present administration to cease to hold office on the day the new Dewan takes charge.
4. The present Legislative Council will continue as the legislative machinery until the new Constituent Assembly is set up.
5. As soon as the Constituent Assembly is set up, an interim Government will be constituted commanding the largest measure of support in the Constituent Assembly. It will consist of not more than three Ministers.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

South Africa

PANDIT NEHRU ON U.N.A. DECISION

The Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, said in the Dominion Assembly that last year's resolution of the United Nations Assembly on the India-South Africa dispute was still operative. Referring to the failure to secure a two-thirds majority to India's resolution at the recent session of the U.N. Assembly, Pandit Nehru said the Indian resolution's "moral importance is in no way diminished by the shortfall of three votes in the requisite two-thirds majority."

Pandit Nehru assured the House: "We shall not falter either in our resolve to secure justice for Indians in South Africa or in our desire to achieve this object by methods which are not inconsistent with the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations."

Rhodesia

LEGISLATION AGAINST INDIANS

At a special meeting held at Bulawayo (South Africa) on December 16, the City Council unanimously passed a resolution calling on the Southern Rhodesia Government to introduce legislation forbidding Europeans to sell, lease or hire property in a European area except to Europeans and providing that the local authorities may reserve specific areas for the use of non-Europeans.

Ceylon

CEYLON—INDIA TALKS

A Press Communique issued by the India Government dated December 30, says:—Discussions took place between the Prime Ministers of India and Ceylon on the question of rights of citizenship of Indians in Ceylon. The various points of view were examined in a friendly atmosphere in order to arrive at a settlement acceptable to both countries. The broad principles governing the qualifications for citizenship were agreed upon.

U.S.A.

INDIA FAMINE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE IN U.S.A.

In view of serious and threatening news of a huge scale famine developing in India in the near future, a special meeting of the India Famine Emergency Committee was called the other day. In the absence of Pearl S. Buck, Chairman of the Committee, Sirdar J. J. Singh, President of the India League of America and a member of the India Famine Emergency Committee, presided.

Mr. B. R. Sen, Charge d'Affaires of the Indian Embassy in Washington, invited to give the latest report on the food situation in India, reported that severe rationing to a subsistence level and the gradual depletion of all grain stocks postponed famine in India last year. However, it left a population greatly weakened by hunger and malnutrition. On top of the depletion of last year's stocks, there has been a failure of wheat and maize by three to four million tons this year, with the result that the Government is not expected to have more than 12,000 tons of food stocks against a monthly requirement of 658,000 tons.

Mr. Sen added that India was asking the United States for an additional 100,000 tons of food grains.

Burma

INDIANS IN BURMA SERVICE

The Government of Burma have reversed the Cabinet Sub-Committee's recommendation to retire all Non-Burmans in Government Services on the eve of the inauguration of Burmese Independence on January 4, it was reliably learned here.

The Burma Government are at present understood to be working on a programme of gradual retirement of Non-Burmese nationals in Government employ. Details of this plan are expected to be announced shortly.

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS * DEPARTMENTAL * NOTES

Questions of Importance

MUSLIM LEAGUE IN INDIA

The historic city of Lucknow, where many a decision on the political future of Indian Muslims has been taken in the past was the scene of the Indian Union Muslim Conference, held on Dec. 27. Over 60,000 Muslims, including a large number of Leaguers, attended. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's Education Minister, presiding over the Conference made a spirited appeal to Muslim Leaguers in the Indian Union to dissolve the League and join the Congress.

Maulana Azad said the League had no place in India. "If it claimed any place or purpose, it would be harmful, poisonous, destructive and detrimental to the interests of the country."

Saying that communalism would lead to ruin and destruction, Maulana Azad pointed out that the duty of the Conference did not end with deciding to wind up communal organisations. It should establish a non-communal committee, and create a favourable atmosphere among Muslims who had been taught in the past decade, the gospel of hatred and communalism.

Hafiz Mahomed Ibrahim, Chairman of the Reception Committee, said there was no reason for Muslims to become panicky. They should become true Indians by discarding communal politics.

Resuming its sittings the next day the Conference unanimously passed a resolution calling upon Muslim of all shades of political opinion to take a united decision and abjure communal politics. The resolution, which was moved by Maulana Ahmad Said, Vice-President, Jamait-ul-Ulmaigai-Hind, said:

This Conference of the Muslims of the Indian Union has surveyed the terrible happenings that have taken place in India since August 1947 and come to the conclusion that they reveal an alarming growth of disruptive, anti-social and reactionary

ideas and tendencies in Indian political life masquerading under communal and false religious slogans

Communal parties have, in the past, done immense harm to the country and specially the minorities of India and are pregnant with even greater danger to their future. The time has, therefore, come when Muslims of all shades of political opinion must take a united decision and abjure communal politics, which, far from serving the real interests of the masses and affording necessary protection and security to the minorities, have tended to encourage social and political reaction and injured national life by encouraging false and unreal divisions and fostering mutual hatred and suspicion among the different communities.

Another resolution which was moved by Mr. S. A. Brelvi, read:

This Conference is of the considered opinion that the interests of the Indian Union and all communities inhabiting it can be best served by the realisation of the ideal of a free democratic secular State. It, therefore, calls upon the Mussalmans of India to be members only of non-communal political parties and advises them to join the Indian National Congress which has been the main bastion of our freedom and unity, and is pledged to absolute equality of rights and opportunities for members of all communities.

INDIA'S ARMED FORCES

By April 1, 1948, the Indian Army will have an Indian Chief and all commands in the lieutenant-colonel level will be held by Indians. British officers, between 200 and 300, will be retained as advisers, staff officers and instructors and in certain technical units of the Army. Gen. Sir Rob Lockhart is resigning from January 1, 1948, and will be succeeded by Lt.-Gen. Bucher who will be in office until the end of March, 1948. Thereafter, Gen. Bucher will become Chief Adviser to the Indian Army. The Indian Navy and Air Force will still have British heads for some time but both Services are being largely nationalized.

These announcements were made at a Press conference by the Defence Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh.

DR. RADHAKRISHNAN ON DUTIES OF PHILOSOPHERS

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Chairman of the reception committee of the 22nd session of the Indian Philosophical Congress, at Benares on December 21, welcoming the delegates said, referring to the duties of true philosophers in this troubled age, "In our country, moksha and dharma, spiritual freedom and social duty, have been the two central concern of the philosopher. Only the philosopher does not engage himself in contemporary controversies but leads a life of detachment which reserves for him freedom of thought and clarity of judgment. He must serve, as frankly as possible, the kind of world we are living in and what we should make of it.

"If the application of science are to be directed to the well-being of the world, mankind needs a powerful renewal of the discipline of wisdom and philosophy," he observed.

"Philosophy in India has been defined as atma-vidya or knowledge of the self. Man is not to be understood in terms of biology, psychology, social behaviour or politics. All these belong to the world of the object. Our tragedy is due to the fact that we do not recognise the reality of the spirit in us. Man is not merely a passive produce of objective nature and society. He is also a messenger of an inward spiritual life, without which there is neither freedom nor creation. He is a participant in the drama of universal history where he works and creates without yielding to the powers of destruction. In the modern world he has to wage a relentless war for the preservation of the inward life, the integrity of fellow men."

The problem of the day, Dr. Radhakrishnan said, was how they should adapt ourselves to the tasks of their new age without losing the integrity of their lives. It was the task of philosophers to reflect on these problems and guide their fellowmen.

C. R.'s CALL TO NATION

The Governor of West Bengal, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, told a mixed gathering of Muslims and Hindus at Calcutta on December 6: "If we behave well with one another in the Dominion of India, things will automatically improve in the Dominion of Pakistan. This is the simple prescription which Mahatmaji is trying to give. Some of his colleagues and friends find it difficult to accept it to-day, but they will find one day or other that this is the only remedy for the disease in India." . . . "We have begun a new era and there is no time for quarrelling. If we do not do anything and go on quarrelling, our state of Independence will be worse than the state of dependency. We will not be happy unless we have wealth in the true sense of the term. We cannot have that wealth in the country unless we all work, in the honest and plain sense of the word. One may be a Governor or Governor-General, Secretary of a Department or a clerk, sub-inspector or constable, carpenter or barber, but if we do not put our work before everything else, our country is going to be poorer and poorer and we shall not be able to recover our lost ground."

PANDIT NEHRU'S APPEAL

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, addressing a mammoth public meeting at Allahabad, on December 14, said: "The battle of our political freedom is fought and won but another battle, no less important than what we have won, still faces us. It is a battle with no outside enemy, though we have to remain constantly prepared for any eventuality like that. It is a battle with our own selves. We have to bury communal feelings; we have to build ourselves up; we have to organise ourselves; we have to fulfil big tasks for the removal of poverty and unemployment in the country; we have to remove social evils and make our country great and prosperous. This is a battle that we have to fight now."

INDIAN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor of West Bengal, inaugurating the Thirtieth Session of the Indian Economic Conference at the Senate Hall, Calcutta, on Dec. 21 warned economists not to be tempted to please one set of politicians or another but to make a scientific approach to truth and assist those who had undertaken the difficult task of governing the country with their considered opinion.

Referring to the urgent need of enhancing production His Excellency urged countrymen to exhibit a greater sense of duty. "Work and more work, honesty and more honesty, should be our formula".

Dr. P. S. Lokanathan, President of the Conference, said modernisation of agriculture and industry by the use of scientific knowledge and technique, assigning a high priority on food and agriculture, was the fundamental need of any plan for reconstruction for Asia.

Dr. Lokanathan made a reference to the economic consequence of the division of India and held that unless the economies of the two parts were integrated and allowed to function in a complementary manner there would be grave difficulties for both.

The conference discussed problems relating to a cheap money policy. The President, summing up the debate, said that the subject was complex and there could not be unanimous conclusions. His own conclusion would be in favour of maintaining the present cheap money, but there should be no cheaper money.

A number of papers were read at the Conference on India's commercial policy.

The Conference concluded its four-day session on Dec. 24. A symposium on the role of the State in the future economic development of India was held with Mr. N. R. Sarkar in the chair. Papers were read on economic relations between the Dominions of India and Pakistan, some of the economists participating in the discussion. The subject of agricultural labour was also discussed.

FOOD CONTROL POLICY

The Government of India's decision to revise their food control policy in the direction of progressive decontrol is announced in a statement.

The Government state that consistently with this basic decision on policy, the Government of India have advised the Governments of Provinces and States that they should progressively reduce their commitment under rationing and controlled distribution in the reverse order to the original process of extension, so as to be able to withdraw and end all rationing and control as soon as may be feasible.

Recognising that the new policy "entails a certain amount of risk", the Government state that the results of decontrol will be carefully watched and "should the situation so demand, the Government of India will not hesitate to re-establish rigid control."

NEW APPOINTMENTS

The Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad has resigned his office of Minister of the Indian Dominion Cabinet, consequent on his election as President of the Indian National Congress, says a Press Communique.

The Press Communique adds: His Excellency the Governor-General has, on the advice of his Government, accepted the resignation, and appointed His Excellency Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, at present Governor of Bihar, to be a Minister of the Dominion Cabinet, and Shri M. S. Aney, to be Governor of Bihar in his place.

The appointments will take effect this month.

EMPLOYMENT OF GURKHAS

The Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, announced in the Dominion Legislature that a tripartite memorandum of agreement had been signed between the representatives of the Government of India, the Government of Nepal and the United Kingdom on the subject of future employment of Gurkha troops under the Government of India and His Majesty's Government.

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

"In this cultural interchange, it is not altogether idle speculation that great ideals for which this country has stood will triumph," said Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, in his presidential address to the twenty-third session of the All-India Educational Conference held at Rewa on December 28.

In his address, Dr. Radhakrishnan advocated the importing of specialists from foreign countries like Britain, America, Russia, Germany and Japan to help India in the task of setting up first class institutes of higher learning and research in this country.

As regards the medium of instruction in universities and other educational institutions in India, Dr. Radhakrishnan expressed the view that it should be the mother-tongue or the regional language of the province. "But, there are in this country large numbers whose mother-tongue is not Hindi," he said. "Attempts should be made to teach Hindi in non-Hindi speaking regions so that there may be language for inter-provincial communication."

The Maharaja of Rewa, Shree Martand Singhji, in his inaugural address, said that the session had special significance as it was the first to be held in a free India under the presidentship of a reputed scholar of international fame. It would be incumbent upon every scholar and educationalist, the Maharaja added, to change his outlook and widen his sphere of activity and research as they were now saddled with greater responsibility of offering solutions to the multifarious problems confronting the country to-day.

Immediate introduction of free, compulsory and universal education in the country was recommended in one of the resolutions adopted at the Conference. The Conference invited the attention of Education Ministers of all Provinces and States to the urgency of the problem of mass illiteracy "which hampers the country's progress in all spheres of activity."

ALLAHABAD JUBILEE CONVOCATION

Speaking at the jubilee convocation of Allahabad University on December 13, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, declared that India aimed to establish a strong, free and democratic state where every citizen had an equal place and full opportunity for growth and service, and inequality, in status would cease to exist. Pandit Nehru said in such a State inequality, communalism, separatism, Untouchability, bigotry and exploitation of man by man would not be tolerated.

Referring to the recent disturbances and carnage through which India had to pass, Pandit Nehru said though freedom came to India with a minimum of violence, after its achievement India had to go through a blood bath.

With all this dark cloud over us there was a silver lining on the horizon, and one bright flame continued to burn. It was the light of Mahatma Gandhi, who rose above the turmoil without caring for the exigencies of the day. At no time in his magnificent service to India during the past half century had his services been so much required as in the past four months.

INDIAN HISTORICAL CONGRESS

An appeal to historians to rewrite the history of India with a balanced outlook, in an atmosphere of complete political freedom, was made by Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier of Bombay, inaugurating a session of the Historical Congress in Bombay on December 26.

Prof. Mahomed Habib, of Aligarh, presiding, criticised the partition of India as a monstrosity unknown in the history of India.

BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY

Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan and Dr. Iqbal Narayan Gurtu, Vice-Chancellor and Treasurer respectively of the Benares Hindu University have resigned their posts.

OBSOLETE STATUTES

Seventy-five Acts and 59 Governor-General's Ordinance which have either ceased to have effect or to be in force will be removed from the Indian Statute Book when a Bill, which Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Law Minister, introduced in the Dominion Legislature on Dec. 6, is passed. The statement of objects says that the Bill is intended to remove from the Statute Book certain Acts and Ordinances or portions of them which have either ceased to have effect or ceased to be in force, although the enactments and ordinances which are either spent or are of a purely amending nature can now be removed from the Statute Book by virtue of Section 6 (a) of the General Clauses Act 1887.

JURISDICTION OVER SMALL STATES

The Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on December 9, passed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Bill to provide for the exercise of certain extra provincial jurisdiction of the Central Government as reported by the Select Committee.

Explaining the objects of the Bill, Sardar Patel said that it clothed the Government with powers to interfere in those areas of semi-jurisdictional or non-jurisdictional States where there was a danger of anarchy prevailing. Such States were to be found in Western India, Kathiawad, Manipur, etc.

The Minister, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, intervening in the debate in a vigorous defence of the bill, said that there was no clandestine effort in the bill to usurp any authority from any State which had not voluntarily surrendered such authority to the Dominion Government. He pointed out that the Instrument of Accession differed in regard to Class I States semi-jurisdictional States and non-jurisdictional States. It was true that with the lapse of Paramountcy, the Dominion Government, as the succession State, could not inherit the jurisdiction which arose out of

Paramountcy. But it did not mean that if an Indian State chose for reasons it thought were imperative to confer jurisdiction of the analogous type that arose out of the Paramountcy upon the Indian Dominion Government, there was nothing in the Indian Independence Act to prevent the State from doing so.

BLACK MARKETING BILL

The Black Marketing Bill introduced by the Civil Supplies Minister, S. J. Charu Chandra Bhandari, was passed in West Bengal Assembly.

"Black marketing", says the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill, "has been rampant for a long time and has become a great evil which should be checked immediately if society is to survive. In the absence of a clear definition of black marketing in existing laws it has often been found difficult to prosecute blackmarketers successfully. The Bill provides a comprehensive definition of black marketing. It also provides for deterrent punishment, machinery for expeditious trial, externment, bond of good behaviour, special provisions regarding bail and burden of proof—all of which are necessary for eradicating the anti-social evil of black-marketing".

NEED FOR UNIFIED NATIONAL BAR

Dr. P. Subbaroyan, Minister for Law to the Government of Madras, referred to the important role that lawyers had to play in the new set-up, in his opening address to the Provincial Lawyers' Conference at Masulipatam on Saturday, December 29.

Mr. K. Rajah Aiyar, Advocate-General, advanced a plea for forming an All-India Bar which could enrol members of the profession both in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts. Mr. Rajah Aiyar observed that English could continue to remain the language of the courts so long as the present legal traditions were maintained.

AMENDING THE INSURANCE ACT

Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar introduced a Bill in the Central Assembly to amend the Insurance Act (1938). The Insurance Societies are insuring lives for Rs. 1,000 and upwards. The co-operative life insurance societies were exempted from the rule which restricted insurance to Rs. 500 and above, which was raised in 1946 to Rs. 1,000 and upwards for insurance societies. In 1946, when the amending Bill was before the Indian Legislative Assembly, this exemption was sought to be amplified, but by a mistake the actual amendment that was passed took away the exemption by an incorrect wording. The Bill seeks to rectify the mistake.

SICKNESS INSURANCE

Dr. Roy has suggested the introduction of a system of insurance against sickness as in western countries, to be financed by levying a Health Tax falling on those who were able to pay. He urged that child and maternity welfare work should find a prominent place in their schemes. Unless medical practitioners took upon themselves the duty of ambassadors of public health, nothing could be achieved. There was perhaps no better definition of a medical man than that in future he would be ready to co-operate in team work and be in close touch with the people in a disinterested fashion. He would be a friend and leader who would take all measures for the prevention of disease and become therapeutic when prevention broke down. Such a man could make the people healthier and happier.

RIOT INSURANCE FOR FACTORIES

It is learnt that the Pakistan Government, with a view to inducing Indian factory-owners to start running their abandoned factories in Pakistan, have promulgated an Ordinance entitled, "The Riot and Civil Commotion Risk Insurance Ordinance".

INTER DOMINION AGREEMENT ON INSURANCE

The agreements reached between the Dominions of India and Pakistan as a result of the Secretariat-level Conference of Inter-Dominion representatives in New Delhi on December 18, 19 and 20, are now released.

The following are the provisions in regard to Insurance Companies:

1. It is agreed that the companies which have moved their head offices to India will advise the Reserve Bank through the Government of India that 15 per cent of the statutory deposits made by them with the Reserve Bank shall be deemed to be held on account of the policy-holders now resident in Pakistan until the Superintendent of Insurance has determined the appropriate percentage of policy liability pertaining to persons at present resident in Pakistan.

2. The Superintendent of Insurance is to be requested to report the appropriate percentage figure by the January 15 if possible.

3. On behalf of the companies, which have moved their head offices to India, an undertaking is given that their assets, other than statutory deposits with the Reserve Bank of India, will not be reduced or withdrawn from Pakistan to the detriment of Pakistan policy-holders.

4. Insurance companies, in particular general insurance companies, will be accorded all reasonable facilities by the Pakistan Government in respect of protection and investigation of claims for their representatives, who must go to investigate and appraise claims.

Agents of such companies should report to the Home Secretary, Government of West Punjab: and similarly agents of companies in Pakistan should report to the Home Secretary, East Punjab Jullundur. Both Governments will advise the companies concerned to send out agents and investigators, as far as possible belonging to the communities, who, *prima facie* would not require protection.

ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS

Addressing the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce in Calcutta on Dec. 15, Pandit Nehru visualised the future economy of the country in which there will be no special privileges accorded to foreign business interests. He emphasised, however, that India needed the co-operation of foreign countries during the period of development, on lines conducive to her own national interests.

The Prime Minister called for harmony and goodwill in Capital-Labour relationship and rejected the criticism that the present Government were not interested in the peasants.

He added that, India was anxious to industrialise rapidly and in this task, if money was lacking, it would be borrowed internally or from abroad. Foreign assistance, technical or otherwise, would also be welcome.

Pandit Nehru observed that since India's economic policy was just beginning to take shape, he was only giving expression to "certain trends" of that policy and was in no way committing the Government of India in this regard.

The Government, however, were considering the subject seriously and would shortly place before the country their entire economic and industrial policy, he said. The main consideration in the formulation of the Government's policy, he added, would be the well-being of the masses. All methods and plans should serve that end. Perhaps a wide outlook in the economic field might have to be adopted for this purpose. The present system, by whatever name it might be called, had led to the degradation of millions of Indians and, therefore, it must be changed.

Proceeding the Prime Minister said that production must be increased in order to serve the needs of the country. He deprecated any attempt on the part of labour which might tend to interfere in increasing production. At the same time, he asked employers to look into the workers' grievances sympathetically.

DUTY ON EXPORTS TO PAKISTAN

The Government of India have declared the Dominion of Pakistan to be foreign territory for the purpose of levying customs duty on the export of raw jute and jute manufactures from India to Pakistan.

To implement this decision the Government of India have issued the necessary notifications under the Indian Tariff Act, the Sea Customs Act and the Land Customs Act with immediate effect.

The Government of India are also taking suitable measures to ensure that sufficient stocks of raw jute are kept available in the India Dominion.

The above decisions or any others that the Government of India may be called upon to take to cope with the situation caused by the levy of customs duties by the imposition of customs duties on raw jute by the Pakistan Government are, however, as already stated, without prejudice to reconsideration of the position if an amicable and reasonably long-term settlement is reached over the entire field of freedom of trade and commerce between the two Dominions, levy of customs and customs and excise duties; their pooling and allied matters.

INDIA AND THE MARSHALL PLAN

Dr. B. C. Roy, interviewed at Calcutta on return from U.S.A. stated that he undertook his recent tour of the U.K. and America as Chairman of the Military Medical Services Integration Committee, appointed by India's Ministry of Defence.

He said that he had discussed with prominent Americans the possibilities of an American loan, and made it clear to them that India would welcome any foreign loan, only if it was for developing her industries, and was without any stipulation.

Aid to India on the Marshall Plan, Dr. Roy said, was not only desirable but essential, because he felt that the Western countries were responsible for the present economic and food disaster in India.

ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The 20th session of the All-India Women's Conference presided over by Mrs. Anasuyabai Kale opened at the special pavilion on the Congress House grounds, Madras, on Dec. 29, in the presence of a very large gathering.

The President urged that a successful solution of the many problems facing free India like illiteracy, over-population and under-production would require the co-operation and service of all Indian women. Pointing out that production in India of foodgrains had not kept pace with its ever increasing population, which in turn had an adverse effect on the nation's health, Smt. Anasuyabai put in a powerful plea for "regulated parenthood" as the only way to keep the economy of the family undisturbed. She had talked to many women from middle and labouring classes on this subject and none of them was opposed to regulation of families. The men had to be educated in this regard.

Declaring that 10 to 11 crores of women would be enfranchised under the new constitution, Smt. Anusuyabai Kale emphasised that the need to give the right of education to the womenfolk of our land was now more supreme than ever. She also pleaded for organising a regular national militia for women. Smt. Kale also felt that the linguistic division of provinces would help progress all round.

The President concluded by appealing to Government to conscript women and utilise their services for tackling problems, like removal of illiteracy, adult education and welfare work. To achieve India's goal of "equality and social justice" she suggested the setting up of a Minister of Social Affairs both at the Centre and in the Provinces.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister, Government of India, said she firmly believed women would bring about unity in India. She urged them to imbibe the spirit of suffering and self-sacrifice, following the teachings of Gandhiji.

Srimathi Ambujammal, Chairwoman of the Reception Committee, in her welcome address earlier, referred to the unique place of Madras in women's activities and said there was no field of service in which the women of this province had not played a part. She pleaded that the linguistic division of the presidency should take place without acrimony.

Among the resolutions passed at the session was one urging the Government of India to take up the draft revised Hindu Code for early consideration and enactment into law.

REHABILITATION OF ABDUCTED GIRLS

At the prayer meeting at Delhi on December 26, Gandhiji addressed the audience on a subject which could bear repetition. Several thousands of Hindu and Sikh girls had been taken away by Muslims. The whereabouts of a few were known, but there were large numbers about whom he knew nothing. When contacted some were reported to have said that they did not wish to return. They were afraid they would not be accepted back by their society. Their husbands, parents, and friends would look down upon them. Mahatma Gandhi wanted to say with all the emphasis at his command, that society should welcome those girls back. Some of them were pregnant. It was no fault of theirs. Their children when born should be treated with the same regard and respect as any other children. The religion of these children would be that of the mother, on growing up they were to change it if they wished. If any such girl came to him she would be treated by him as any other girl in his party. To castigate these girls for having fallen a victim to the lust of some monster was less than human. No shame attached to them.

JOURNALISM IN FREE INDIA

Addressing the students of the Diploma course in Journalism, University of Madras, on the occasion of the first annual day celebrations held at the University buildings on Dec. 14, Mr. G. A. Natesan, Editor, *Indian Review*, said that journalism was a sacred calling and journalists should be proud of their profession and realise that the welfare and prosperity of the country depended upon the method and manner in which they conducted themselves and carried their message to their readers.

Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the University, presided.

Mr. Natesan spoke recalling his days when men who entered the profession had to learn things for themselves. Referring to their syllabus that contained almost every aspect of journalism including radio news editing, advertising etc., he said that while they must be proud to enter the newspaper world in a free and independent India, it also entailed new responsibilities of constructive work and added that their motto should be *Absit Invidia* meaning "Let there be no ill-will."

Proceeding Mr. Natesan referred to the communal tension in the country and stressed that in times like this every journalist must conduct himself with a great sense of moral responsibility. The larger interest of the country must be the dominating note in whatever they wrote.

THE SIND OBSERVER

Mr. Kotamraj Punniiah who has been editor of "Sind Observer" for twenty-seven years has resigned. His place has been taken by his chief assistant on the staff of "Observer," Mr. C.H.V. Pathy who has been associated with the journal for over fourteen years.

He took up the Asst. Editorship of "Sind Observer" in 1933 and helped in building up the daily which strode to the front rank in Sind journalism. Mr. Pathy is a versatile journalist and is good both on the news and writing side. His elevation to editorship is a recognition by his employers of his sterling work and rare devotion to a paper with which he has been associated for over fourteen years.

SARDAR PATEL'S TRIBUTE TO RAJEN BABU

India's Deputy Premier, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, sent the following message to the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee on Dr. Rajendra Prasad's 64th birthday:

Babu Rajendra Prasad is the one person in India who has not only no enemy, but is loved and respected by all. His humility and gentleness are inimitable and his sacrifices in the cause of the country's freedom are unsurpassed. It was in the fitness of things, therefore, that he was chosen to be the architect of Free India's constitution and India paid the highest compliment by electing him as the President of the Constituent Assembly, and once again by entrusting to him the onerous task of guiding the Congress at this critical period. May he live long to serve the Nation.

BHAI PARAMANAND

The death of Bhai Paramanand removes a well known figure from the ranks of the Hindu Mahasabha leaders. Mr. Bhopatkar, President of the All India Hindu Maha Sabha says in a message to the press that

in him the Hindus have lost a priceless Hindu and a genuine revolutionary. He lived and suffered for his religion and country's freedom as few have done. It will take long for the Hindus to produce a leader of his faith, convictions, candour and sacrifice.

NEW GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY

H. E. the Governor-General of India has, on the advice of his government, appointed Raja Sir Maharaj Singh, C.I.E., to be Governor of Bombay in succession to Sir John Colville who will be handing over charge to his successor on Jan 6, 1948.

MAJOR GEN. SHRINAGESH

Major-General Shrinagesh, General Officer Commanding, Madras Area, has been appointed Adjutant-General, Indian Army, *vice* Major-General Hearst, who is proceeding to Great Britain.

Brigadier Sant Singh has been appointed G. O. C., Madras Area.

GOVERNOR OF U. P.

Dr. B. C. Roy, who had been chosen for the Governorship of the United Provinces has expressed his inability to accept this office.

Her Excellency Mrs. Sarojini Naidu is made permanent Governor of the United Provinces.

ALL-INDIA MEDICAL CONFERENCE

Sir John Colville, Governor of Bombay, inaugurating the 24th session of the All-India Medical Conference at Bombay on December 24, appealed to medical men in the country to live up to the noble ideals of the profession and help in extending medical relief to villages.

Stressing the need for co-operation between the medical profession and the Government, Sir John said that medical men should take effective steps to stop the economic waste which still occurred on account of preventable sickness.

Speaking about Bombay Province, Sir John said that one of his experiences was the difficulty in securing an adequate number of qualified doctors for medical relief in rural areas. That was the case in other parts of the country also. He thought that more medical men should devote themselves to work in villages.

Lt-Col. Amir Chand, who is a refugee from the Punjab, in his Presidential address gave an account of the happenings in the province after August 15.

In the programme of national reconstruction, the Government had a gigantic task, Dr. Amir Chand said. The programme should be so worked as to raise the standard of living in all respects. The health of the individual was a national asset of the first degree, and for its improvement special attention had to be paid to food, housing, hygiene and maternity and child welfare.

The institution of Industrial medicine in industrial areas to maintain the optimum standard of workers was urged by the Conference. A resolution of the Conference suggested that the Central Government should give a lead by starting such a centre in an industrial area.

The Conference appealed to the Governments of India and Pakistan to allow liberal imports of essential drugs and medical appliances which are not available in the two Dominions, and to take steps for the early manufacture of these requirements in the respective Dominions.

DR. B.C. ROY ON PUBLIC HEALTH IN INDIA

Dr. B. C. Roy made an earnest plea for action on the recommendations of the Bhore Committee on public health, presiding over the 8th Bengal Provincial Medical Conference at Calcutta on Dec. 6.

Dr. Roy, who was a member of the Bhore Committee, said that the scheme the Committee had put forward involved an expenditure of nine to ten rupees annually per head of the population. At present the total expenditure per *capita* per year on medical and public health services came to about five to six annas. In the United States the expenditure worked out at Rs. 35 to Rs. 36 and in the United Kingdom it went up to Rs. 53. They in India possibly could not reach that standard now. But they could improve their medical and public health work in stages, starting from an expenditure of six annas per head, to one rupee in the first few years.

There was also the difficulty in regard to personnel, said Dr. Roy. According to the Bhore Committee there were 47,500 doctors in India, but they required five times that number. They also required the number of their nurses to be increased from 7,500 to 6,80,000 and in the place of the 5,000 midwives they had, they needed 1,12,000. Russia had increased her medical personnel seven or eight times in the course of 28 years and they should be able to emulate that performance in India.

PENICILLIN SMOKE

A penicillin "smoke" of pulverized drug crystals has been developed by Dr. George C. Taplin and Dr. Fred A. Bryad of Rochester University.

Dr. Taplin states that one inhalation of penicillin smoke is equal to eight intramuscular injections given at three-hour intervals.

The concentration lasts up to twenty-four hours compared with three hours for treatment by the injection method.

SAFE DEPOSIT VAULTS

The Governments of India and Pakistan have been considering the policy that should be followed in respect of the operation of the safe deposit vaults and the transfer of bank accounts from one Dominion to another, states a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan, on December 24.

"In regard to safe deposit vaults, Government wish to make it clear that they are restored to their rightful owners. In so far as the West Punjab is concerned, in order to ensure that this is done on proper lines, it has been arranged by the Pakistan Government that any person wishing to remove his valuables should apply to the Custodian of Evacuee Property for a permit to operate his locker. In granting such permits the Custodian will satisfy himself that no claims against the applicant in respect of the valuables concerned are pending: this applies especially to removal of articles pledged with a pawnee.

As regards the transfer of bank accounts from one Dominion to another, both Governments have agreed not to place any restrictions on such transfer and to take reciprocal action for ensuring that they are made smoothly and expeditiously. The difficulties in this respect in the past have been mainly due to deficiency of staff and communication delays. The two Dominions are affording all reasonable facilities to the banks to enable them to function in a normal way."

NATIONALISATION OF RESERVE BANK

The Finance Minister, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chettiar told Seth Govindas in the Union Parliament on December 10, that the question of nationalising the Reserve Bank of India had to be postponed as at present the Bank was the joint banker for the Dominions of India and Pakistan. The Government proposed to take up the matter for further consideration after the arrangements envisaged in the Pakistan monetary system and Reserve Bank Order 1947 had been terminated.

DRIVERLESS TRAINS

A "driverless" train rushing through the English countryside at nearly 100 miles per hour automatically obeyed a normal warning signal, applied its own brakes and halted safely in 1,500 yards. It was making a test run between Reading and London to demonstrate the latest in foolproof safety devices.

The new system can be fitted to any existing railway track in Britain or similar system overseas and its universal application throughout Britain is expected soon.

India is already officially considering adoption of the device. Indian railways could be easily adapted to the new control at relatively low cost, it is stated.

Britain's Great Western Railway Company—pioneer of the new device—is applying it to about 4,000 locomotives over its network of 9,000 miles of track at a cost of about £50,000.

MANUFACTURE OF LOCOMOTIVES IN INDIA

In the Dominion Legislature on December 11, the Transport Minister, Dr. John Matthai, laying a comprehensive statement on the manufacture of locomotives in India said that as far as the present position was concerned, it was possible for Government to state that practically all the normal requirements of Indian Railways in respect of locomotives would be met by indigenous manufacture. If the requirements in respect of replacements over the next 15 years were taken into account, it would be found that the capacity being provided for in the Loco Building Workshops of Government and of private enterprise would be sufficient to meet these requirements. If, however, it was found that the railways had to undertake a large development of their lines and to extend the existing railway mileage, more locomotives would be required. As against this, Government were considering electrifying certain sections of Indian railways which, if it fructified, would reduce the requirement of steam locomotives on replacement account during a period of next 15 years.

MUSIC CONFERENCES IN MADRAS

The Raja of Sivaganga opened the 21st session of the Music Conference of the Madras Music Academy on December 23. The cultivation and appreciation of music, he said, was confined to certain circles. There was a tendency for present day music to become stereotyped and to conform to certain lines.

This was due to the desire on the part of musicians to please as large a number of their hearers as possible. It was possible that, if this tendency was not curbed in time by true lovers of music and by the musicians themselves, the art would become vulgar and merely pander to the tastes and fancies of the unthinking masses.

Presiding over the conference Rajya-sevanirata Vidwan Semmangudi Srinivasa Aiyar pleaded for the establishment of a separate University for musical study. He also pointed out the various ways in which the Government could help in this direction.

There was another Conference at St. Mary's Hall—the fifth Tamil Music Conference which was declared open by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Education Minister who stressed the importance and value of Tamil Music and folk songs.

C. R. ON THE MUSIC IN INDIA'S CULTURE

Music, religion and dance were truly the property of the people of the country, said H. E. C. Rajagopalachari, Governor of West Bengal, opening the 11th session of the All-Bengal Music Conference at Calcutta on December 9.

Mr. Rajagopalachari said that though most people might value college and high school education as more important they would still appreciate his view that folk songs, popular religious festivals and music were really much more valuable than school and college education. Music was intimately associated with religion and was, therefore, something Divine. He appealed to the rich men of this country to help in the maintenance of the standard of music in India, for everything would be lost if they lost their culture.

FIRST TABLE TENNIS TEST MATCH

In the first Table Tennis Test match between India and Czechoslovakia which marked the conclusion of the visit to Madras of Vana and Andreedes, the visitors won by 5 matches to nil on December 19 at the Memorial Hall. A capacity crowd watched the matches. Lady Nye, wife of the Governor of Madras, was present.

The Czechs, said a Press reporter, have come and gone leaving behind them a lasting impression of their versatility—Vana as the 'killer' and Andreedes as the artiste whose every movement was grace itself. There is no doubt that one day very soon, Andreedes will wear the crown as World Champion and Vana may have to look to his laurels.

ALL-INDIA BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

The All-India Badminton Championships concluded at Bombay on December 19. Another title went to Malaya, when A. S. Samuel and C. K. Leong beat Tage Madsen and P. Holm, the Danish players in the men's doubles final, Durai, the other Malayan player, had won the men's singles title.

Mrs. T. Ahm, of Denmark, won the women's singles title, beating Miss M. Chinoy in three games. T. Madsen and Miss. Suman Deodhar beat C. K. Leong and Mrs. Pinto in the mixed doubles final in straight games.

In the mixed doubles final Leong the the Malayan doubles wizard, was the best player on the court.

CEYLON CRICKET TOUR OF AUSTRALIA

A Ceylon Cricket Team will tour Australia some time this year if the proposal from the Ceylon Cricket Association is accepted by the Australian Board of Control. Mr. S. J. Campbell of the Ceylon Cricket Association, who is now visiting Australia for negotiations in this connection, is also expected to meet Mr. Pankaj Gupta, Manager of the Indian touring team, to extend an invitation to the Indians to play a match in Colombo on their way home.

INDIAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

The 15th biennial conference of the Indian Mathematical Society was inaugurated in the Andhra University Buildings, Waltair on December, 22, by the Maharaja of Jeypore. Dr. M. R. Siddiqui, Director of Research, Osmania University, Hyderabad, presided. In the course of his address, the Maharaja expressed the hope that the Conference would give an impetus to mathematical and scientific studies in the Andhra University.

Welcoming the delegates, Dr. C. R. Reddi, Vice-Chancellor of the University and Chairman of the Reception Committee, referred to the importance of mathematical studies and their application to allied sciences.

Dr. Siddiqui at the outset said that the civilised world owed a debt of gratitude to India for its pioneering efforts in systematic mathematics. It was hardly possible, he said, to calculate the innumerable benefits that the human race had derived by the use of mathematical discoveries of our ancestors, particularly the discovery of the numerals and of the positional notation in arithmetic.

He mentioned with regret that the number of mathematicians engaged in active research is much too small for a country of the size and population of India, and traced it to the early specialisation in education, and to the fact that mathematics was being relegated to the background in schools and colleges as compared to the so-called practical subjects.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Mr. E. V. Ganapathi Aiyar of Mysore Civil Service, who has once before acted as Director has been appointed to act as Director of the Indian Institute of Science vice of Sir J. C. Ghosh, appointed Director-General of Industry and Supply, Government of India. Mr. Ganapathi Aiyar assumed charge of his duties last month. His appointment has the approval of the Mysore Government.

KASHMIR FILM'S FIRST VENTURE

The Kashmir Films, a new concern, have taken up a subject of national and even world-wide interest like the philosophy of Ahimsa, as preached and practised by Mahatma Gandhi for their maiden venture.

Their first production, which is nearly completed, is titled *Ahimsa* and deals with the stirring events that followed the arrest of Congress leaders in August 1942. The mass movement, which developed to colossal proportions in a haphazard way in the absence of recognized leaders, broke away, at places, from the Congress creed of peaceful demonstrations and degenerated into mad outbursts of violent fury. The sense of frustration and desperation led many a sincere worker to abandon the teachings of Gandhiji and follow terrorist methods from their underground hideouts. There were, on the other hand, quite a large number, who exploited the names of Gandhiji and the Congress for their own selfish ends and made hay while the sun was shining.

How a few sincere and devoted workers kept the torch of truth and non-violence, burning aloft in this welter and confusion of diverse ideologies and interests, forms the highlight of this film, *Ahimsa*. All the human appeal and dramatic elements in the story have been vividly captured in the picture.

FILM ON FOOD PROBLEMS

Distribution to all cinemas in Britain is being arranged for a documentary film on international food problems, made by the famous British director Paul Rotha. Entitled "The World is Rich", the film was shown at the Food and Agricultural Conference of the United Nations held in Geneva in August last. The film, which drew special praise from the Director-General of the F.A.O., took 18 months to make and cost £13,000. Sir Alexander Korda has taken charge of arrangements for showing the film throughout Britain.

CAR MANUFACTURE IN INDIA

Dr. Mookerjee told Mr. Ranga during question time in the Union Assembly that three motor car manufacturing concerns, two at Bombay and one at Calcutta, were under construction. Their combined capacity, when the entire plant had been installed, was expected to be 20,000 vehicles per year. Government were assisting the three factories in obtaining building materials and foreign technical assistance and had provided for dollar facilities. Government had no control over their management but the advice and instructions of Government were accepted by the concerns. Government proposed to assist two more factories in the near future.

For the next two or three years, the factories would be mainly assembling plants but by 1950 or 1951, it was hoped the factories would be able to manufacture all the parts necessary for the motor car.

Asked whether Government themselves would start a motor car manufacturing factory, Dr. Mookerjee said they would consider the question.

MOTOR WORKERS' DEMANDS

At the second provincial conference of the Madras Provincial Motor Transport and General Workers held on December 21 at the Chintadripet High School Hall, a resolution was adopted urging the Government to launch prosecutions against and to cancel the permits of those motor operators who did not implement the Interim Award of the Court of Enquiry within a fortnight. In the event of the Government not taking such a course, the resolution authorised the President of the Federation to take steps to call for direct action throughout the Province.

As regards conditions of service of motor transport workers, the Conference passed resolutions demanding that all operators should pay dearness allowance at the rate of 3 annas per point over 100 points from 1941 and that the settlement of all labour disputes should be by a committee wherein at least 50 per cent of the members should be selected by labour unions.

AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION IN INDIA

Dr. Mookherjee said, in reply to Mr. K. Santanam, in the Indian Dominion Legislature that the Hindustan Aircraft, Ltd., had taken up the production of Percival Prentice trainers for the Royal Indian Air Force under an assistance arrangement with the Percival Aircraft Company, England.

The Ministry of Defence had placed an initial order with the Hindustan Aircraft for fifty such aircraft.

It was the policy of the Government that as far as possible the requirements of the Indian Air Force should be met by Hindustan Aircraft, Ltd. For this purpose, the Government proposed to constitute an advisory committee to advise the directors on questions of policy and to constitute a liaison committee between the company and the main indentors. This committee would include representatives of the Ministry of Defence, the Director-General, Civil Aviation, and the Ministry of Railways.

There was, in addition, a local technical committee of officers of the Hindustan Aircraft, Ltd., and the Indian Air Force to co-ordinate the activities of the company in technical matters.

ASSAM LINKED BY AIR TO INDIA

The first air mail service between Assam and the rest of India was inaugurated on December 14, when Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi, Premier of Assam, opened the first air mail bag, which arrived from Calcutta, in the presence of a large gathering of officials and non-officials. The function took place at Kahikuchi, 12 miles from Gauhati.

Mr. K. P. Sen, Director, Posts and Telegraphs Dept., in his speech referred to the great difficulty experienced in the transit of mails to Assam through Eastern Bengal and said that the new air service had solved the problem, at least in respect of first class mail, namely, letters and post-cards.

DELHI INDUSTRIES CONFERENCE

On December 18 the Industries Conference at Delhi called upon Labour and Management "to agree to maintain industrial peace and avert lock-outs, strikes or slowing down of production during the next three years."

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, President, announced that the sub-committee which considered the draft resolution under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister had reached unanimous agreement.

The resolution also recommends the fullest use of statutory and other machinery for settling industrial disputes in a "just and peaceful" manner; the establishment of machinery for the study and determination of fair wages and conditions of labour, and fair remuneration for capital; association of labour in all matters concerning industrial production and constitution of works committees.

BRITISH EXPERTS IN INDIA

Senior Executives of Britain's most prominent manufacturers of mines' lighting equipment and electric storage batteries are at present in India to take part in important discussions and to survey mining conditions and explore the potentialities for increased use of portable mines' lighting equipment.

It is anticipated that interesting developments will ensue from the visit of Mr. A. G. Townsend, Export Manager, and Mr. Arthur H. Bull, Technical Adviser, of Oldham & Son Ltd., Denton, Manchester, England.

STATE INCURSION INTO INDUSTRY

"The incursion of the State into the field of industrial enterprise at this stage would be unfortunate from every point of view. We have a tremendous leeway to make up, and the Government have neither the capacity, nor the resource to undertake the country's development on anything like the scale which is required," said Sir Homi Mody in his Presidential address at the annual meeting of the Federation of Employers at Bombay on December 10.

LIQUIDATION OF ZAMINDARI

Criticising the article on the Liquidation of the Zamindari published in the November issue of this journal, Raja Sajid Husain, M.L.A., Honorary Secretary, Taluqdars' Association, Oudh pleads for a more judicial and reasonable approach to the problem. He takes strong objection to the writer's main justifications for the abolition, in respect of fixity of tenure, intensity of production and removal of the middlemen. He fears that the removal of the Zamindars or middlemen will only "leave the tenantry at the tender mercies of that rapacious class of petty officials who are notorious for making common cause with local bullies in their nefarious activities." The Raja is evidently furious at such tampering with an institution which, for all its sins, deserves better fate. His letter is too long and too personal for publication.

AGRARIAN REFORMS

The two-day Conference of Revenue Ministers concluded at Delhi on December 17, after holding three sittings. The Conference, after reviewing the schemes for abolition of the Zamindari system in various Provinces, decided that in view of the fact that circumstances prevailing in different Provinces differ materially there could not be any uniformity in the schemes of compensation and the scheme of each Province had to be examined on its merits and in the light of local opinion.

It was also decided that by the end of the first week of January all the Provinces should submit memoranda to the office of the All-India Congress Committee and the Finance Department of the Government of India indicating the financial implications their Zamindari abolition schemes.

The Conference discussed the question of state acquisition of Zamindaries on payment of equitable compensation and the agrarian reforms which come after Zamindari abolition.

ADJUDICATION MACHINERY

Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, Labour Minister of Bombay, denied the charges made by the sponsors of the one-day token strike, that the adjudication proceedings in the Province were dilatory and that the Labour Department was partial to employers.

In a one-hour talk to Pressmen at the Secretariat on December 24, Mr. Nanda said that there was no justifiable cause for the token strike. The causes, which might have led to a misunderstanding were being gradually eliminated by the Government.

The Government of Bombay had initiated labour reforms during the last few years and to-day the staff and the machinery of adjudication had been practically doubled, the Labour Minister said. Four Labour courts had been set up in the Province, realising the growing demands of labour and because many of the problems had not been solved since 1928.

When he met the labour representatives early on his return from Delhi he had invited suggestions to improve the whole mechanism, said Mr. Nanda. But he was disappointed to find that they could not agree among themselves on any of the suggestions put forward.

WORKING OF TRADE UNIONS

A report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in Madras Province during 1946-47 says that the Government are glad to observe that there has been a steady progress of trade unionism in the Province. The number of unions in the year rose from 242 to 336. The membership of registered trade unions at the end of the year was 2,29,830 as against 1,71,083 at the beginning of the year.

A large number of unions failed to submit their annual returns in spite of the issue of printed notices explaining the obligations under the Act and advance intimation for submission of returns. A total of 119 unions availed themselves of the concession of the audit during the year.

DEATH OF PROF. HARDY

Professor G. H. Hardy, F. R. S., died at Cambridge on December 1. His death recalls the achievements of S. Ramanujan, the first Indian Fellow of the Royal Society. Professor Hardy, in collaboration with that remarkable but self-taught Indian mathematician, produced some brilliant treatises on the theory of numbers.

Ramanujan's work was first appreciated in 1913, when he sent a letter enunciating more than 100 theorems to Professor G. H. Hardy. Although not all the theorems were accurate, Hardy recognised the genius of his correspondent and arranged for Ramanujan to go up to Trinity College, Cambridge, of which he became the first Indian Fellow. To Hardy's great grief Ramanujan died in 1920.

THE LATE PROF. ROERICH

Professor Nicholas K. Roerich, renowned Russian artist and founder of the Ursvati Himalayan Research Institute died at Kulu in the Simla hills on December 13.

Leaving Russia after the 1917 revolution, Prof. Roerich stayed for several years in New York, where he founded the Master Institute of United Arts and the Roerich Museum. Later, he came to India and settled down at Kulu in the Punjab.

Roerich's paintings have been on exhibition in several countries.

DE VALERA'S TRIBUTE TO GANDHIJI

A warm tribute to Mahatma Gandhi was paid by Mr. De Valera, Prime Minister of Eire, in the course of a two-hour conversation with Sir B. N. Rau, Constitutional Adviser to the Indian Constituent Assembly who recently visited Eire. Disclosing this at a Press Conference Sir B. N. Rau said as Mr. De Valera told him:

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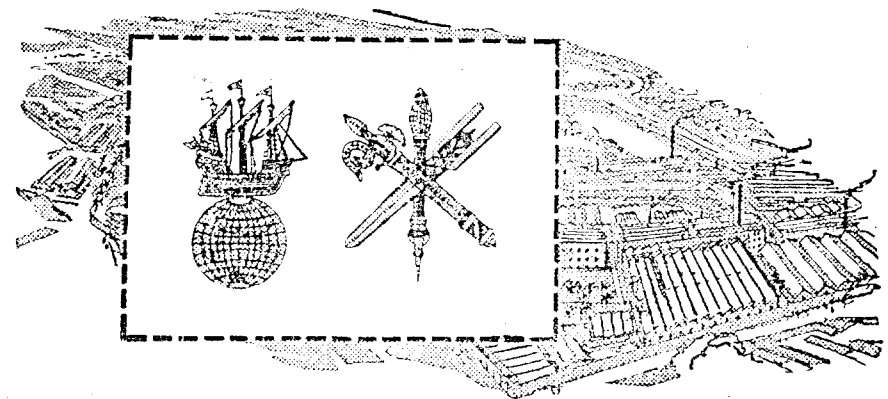
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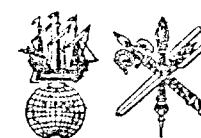


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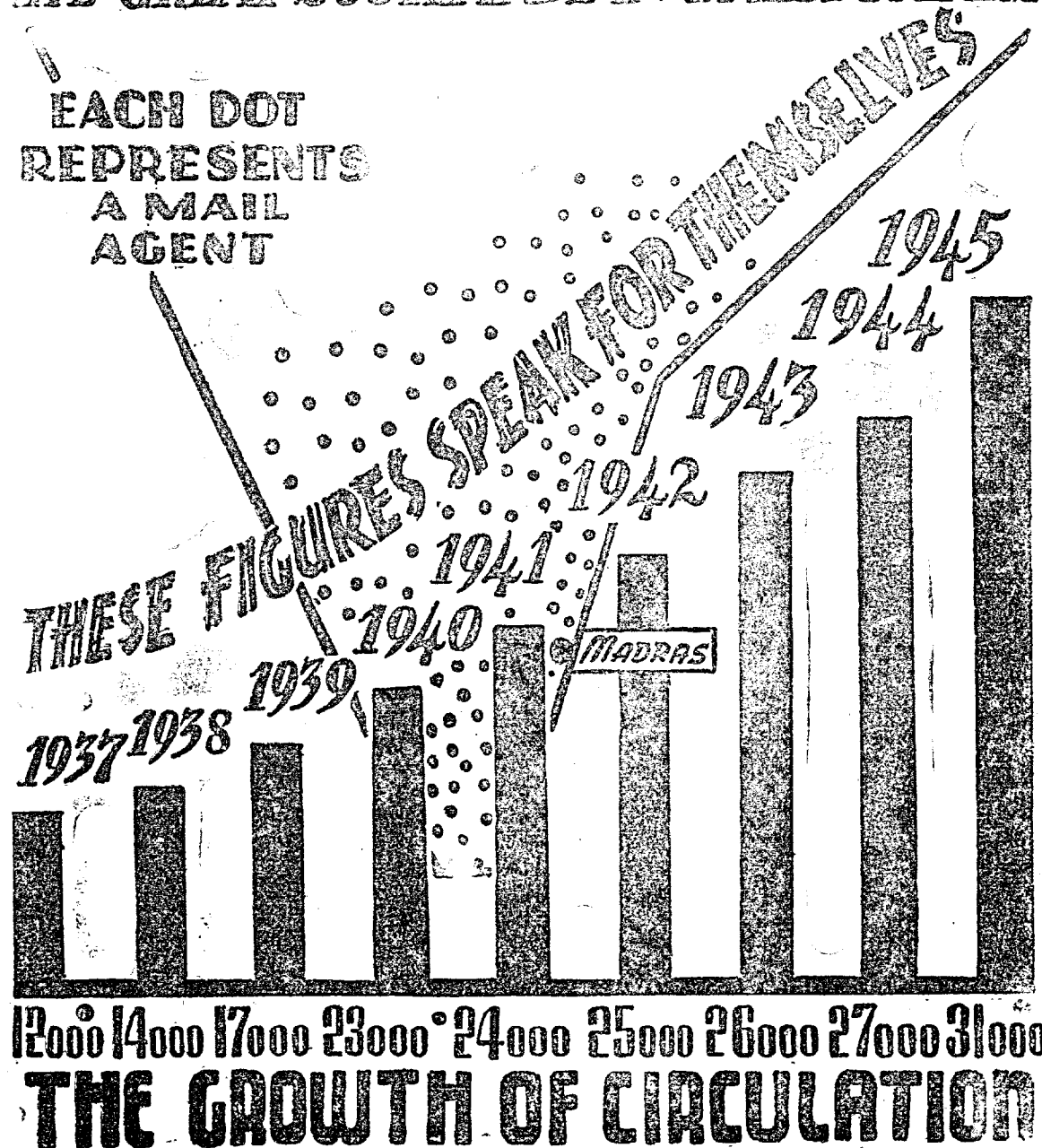
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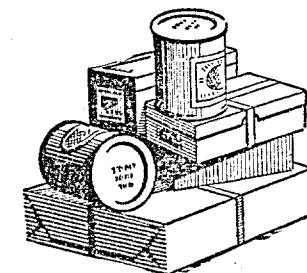
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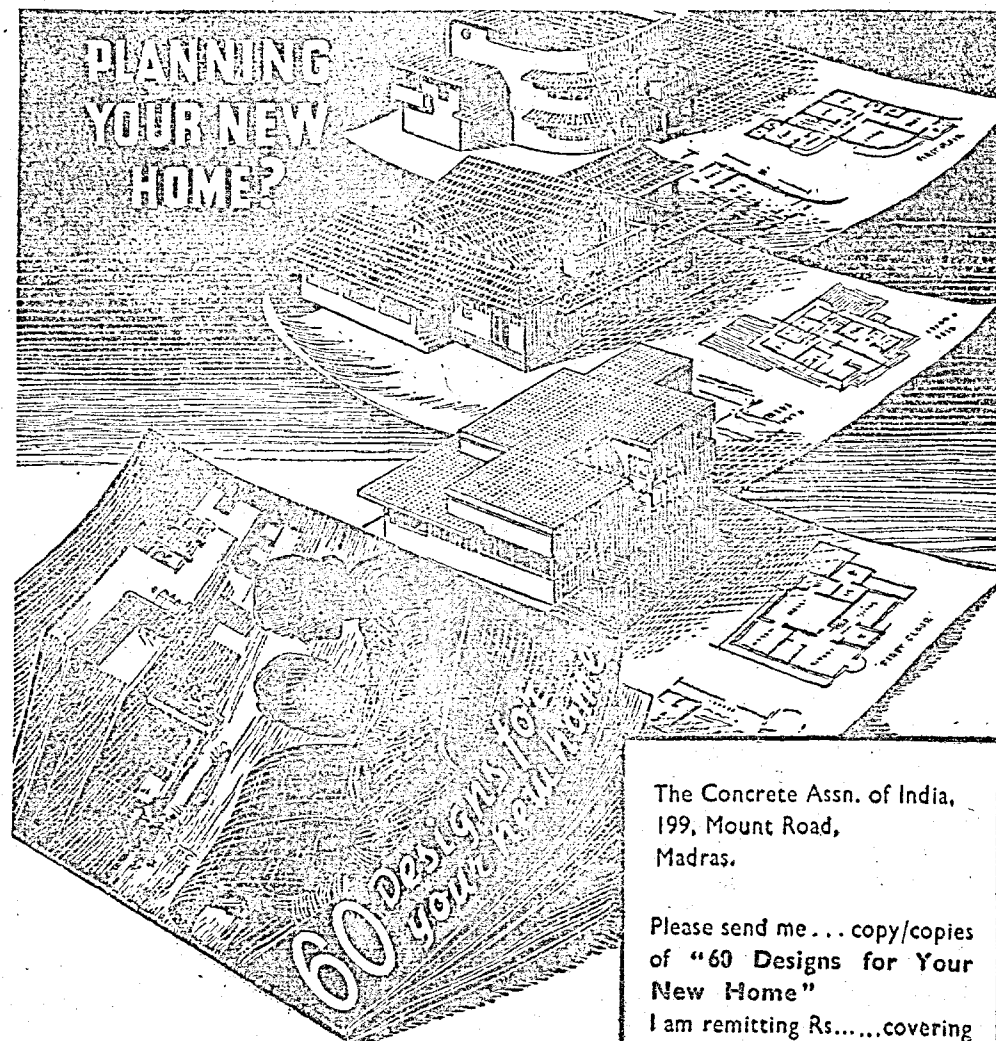
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