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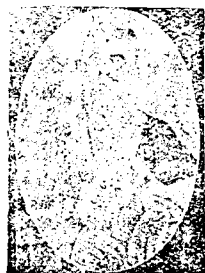
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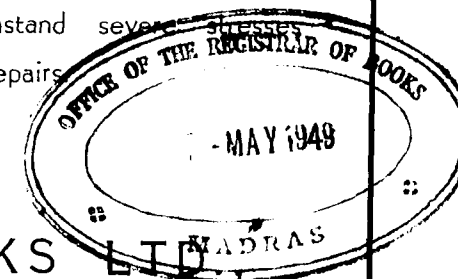
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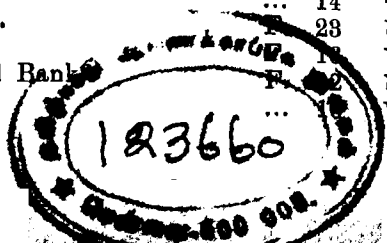
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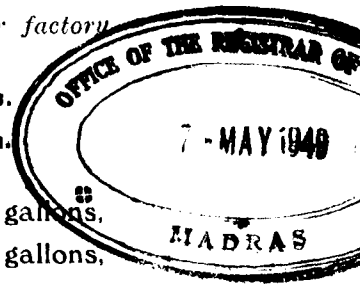
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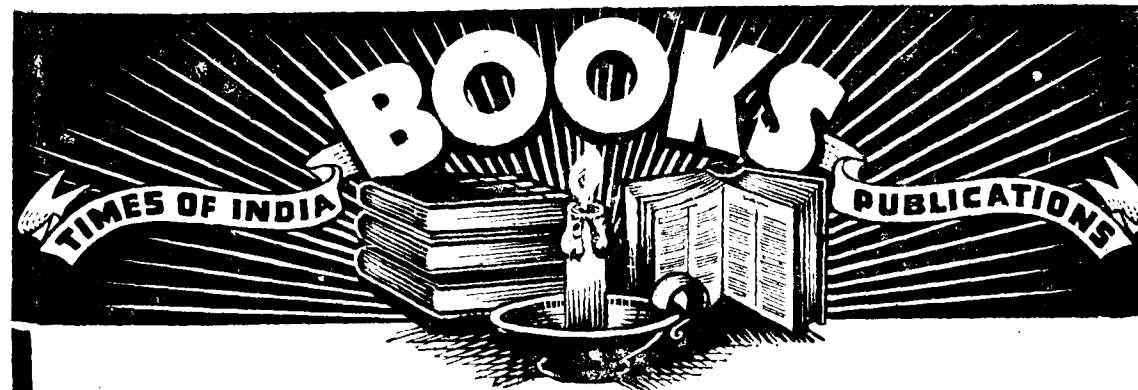
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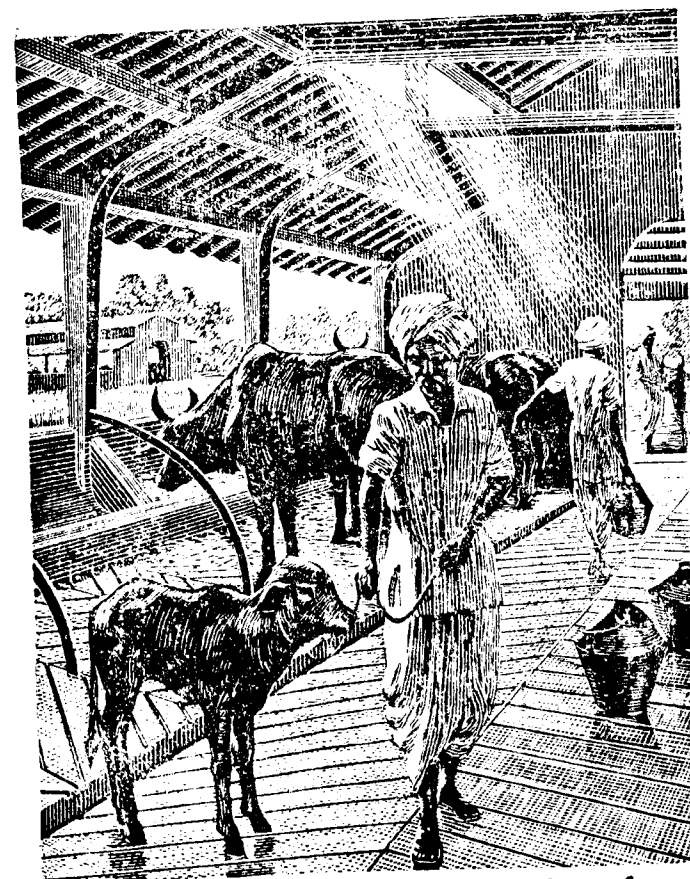
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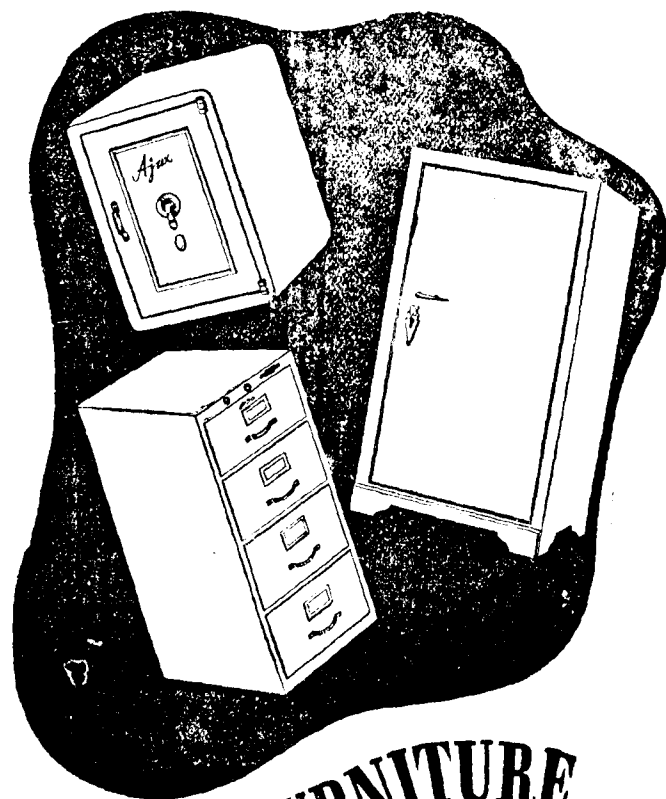
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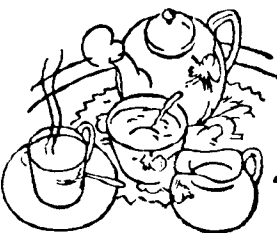
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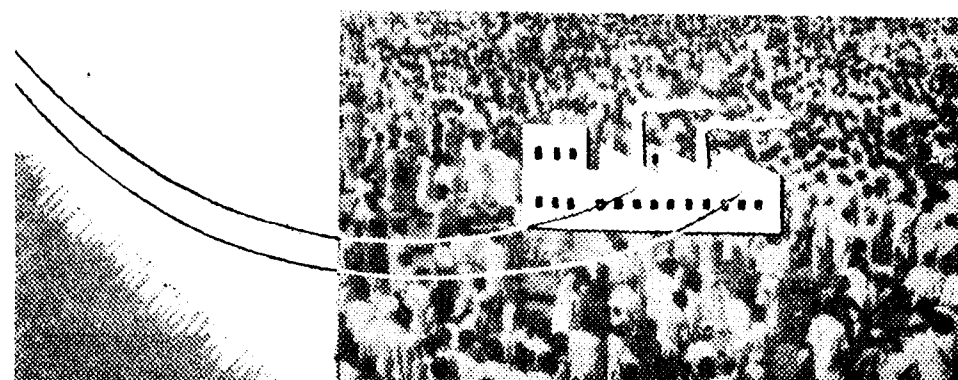
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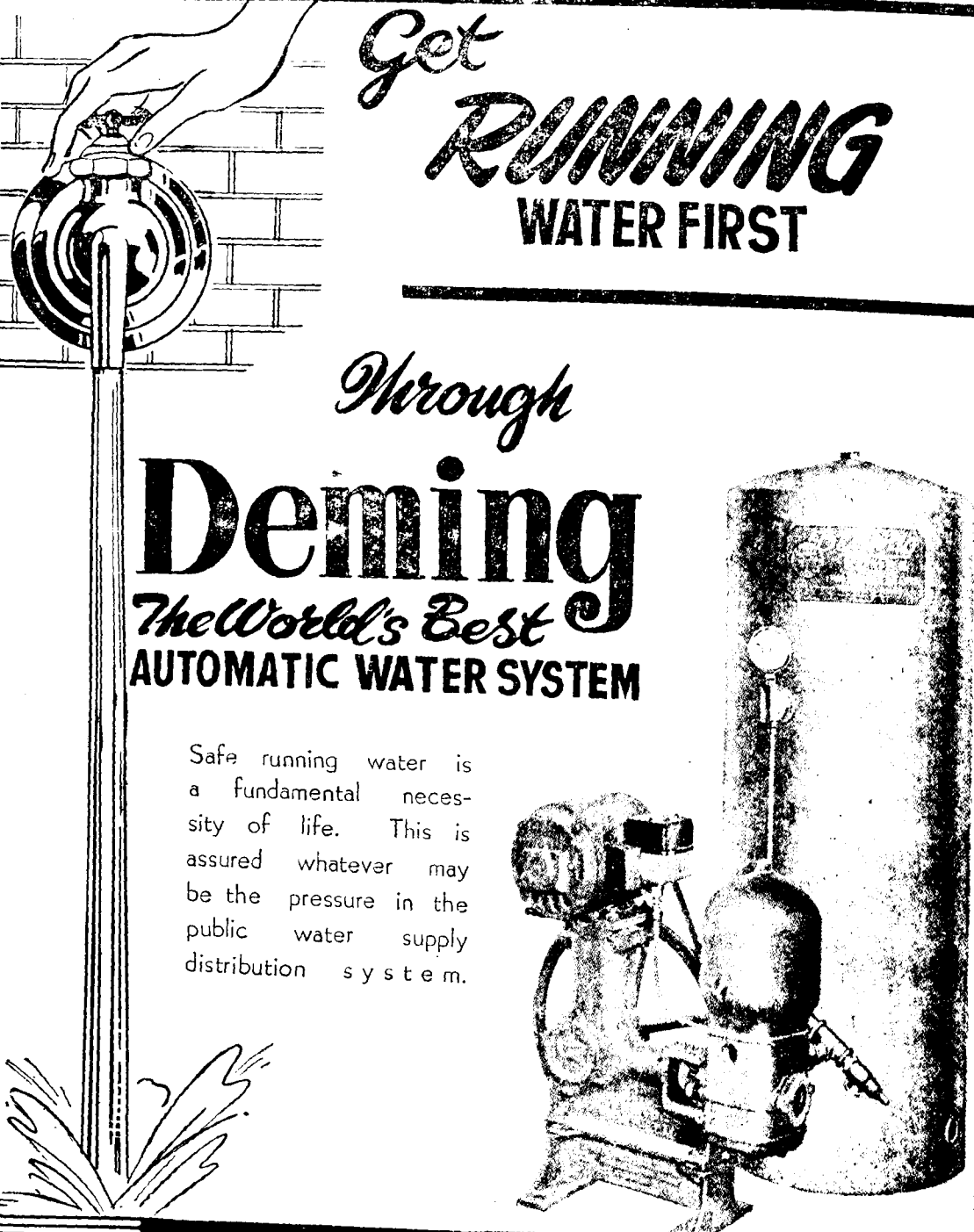


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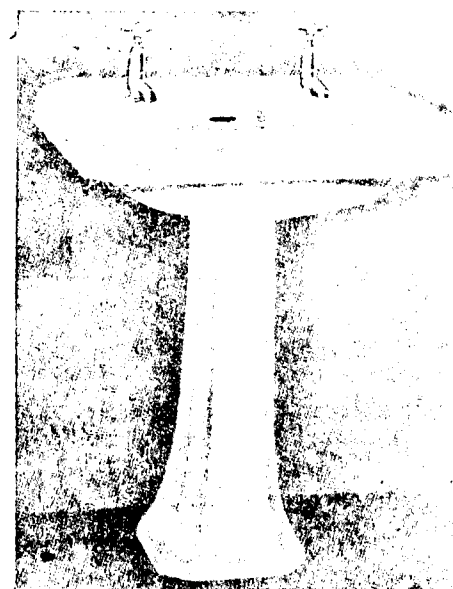
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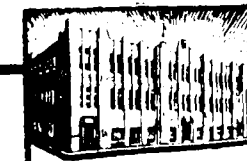
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The Life and Message of Shri Shankara

BY THE HON'BLE MR. B. G. KHER

Premier of Bombay.

IN a striking passage in 'The Discovery of India' Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru thus sums up the life-work and greatness of Shankara :

"Shankara was a man of amazing energy and vast activity. He was no escapist retiring into his shell or into a corner

people, arguing, debating, reasoning, convincing, and filling them with a part of his own passion and tremendous vitality. He was evidently a man who was intensely conscious of his mission, a man who looked upon the whole of India from Cape Comorin to the Himalayas as his field of action and as something that held together culturally and was infused by the same spirit, though this might take many external forms. He strove hard to synthesize the diverse currents that were troubling the mind of India of his day and to build a unity of outlook out of that diversity. In a brief life of thirty-two years he did the work of many long lives and left such an impress of his powerful mind and rich personality on India that is very evident today. He was a curious mixture of a philosopher and scholar, an agnostic and a mystic, a poet and a saint, and in addition to all this, a practical reformer and an able organizer. He built up, for the first time within the Brahminical fold, ten religious orders and out of these four are very much alive to-day. He established four great Maths or monasteries, locating them far from each other, almost at the four corners of India. One of



THE HON'BLE MR. B. G. KHER.

of the forest, seeking his own individual perfection and oblivious of what happened to others. Born in Malabar in the far South of India, he travelled incessantly all over India, meeting innumerable

these was in the south at Sringeri in Mysore, another at Puri on the east coast, the third at Dwarka in Kathiawar on the west coast, and the fourth at Badrinath in the heart of the Himalayas. At the age of thirty-two this Brahmin from the tropical south died at Kedarnath in the upper snow-covered reaches of the Himalayas."

According to the generally accepted idea, Shankara was born in 788 A.D. and died in 820. At the time of his birth, India was in a state of disunion and disintegration. There was a large number of States, each warring with the others. King Harsha's empire had broken up, and in Northern India the Rajputs were struggling for supremacy. Buddhism was fast declining and a number of creeds had sprung up with crude ideas and cruder practices. The great religion of the Upanishads and also of the Buddha were nearly forgotten. What India required at the time was a dynamic personality, who could infuse a new spirit in the country and prove to be a strong rallying point for her cultural and religious forces. Shankara eminently fulfilled the need. From amongst the innumerable Srutis and Smritis he selected mainly the Gita, the Upanishads and the Vedanta Sutras and wrote illuminating commentaries on them. By unsailable logic and by his own pure life he proved that through appropriate discipline and conduct a man could attain the goal of religion in one's life. He was himself a great Sanyasin, and laid considerable stress on the need of every one leading a pure life. Sanyas did not mean inactivity to him and what he accomplished within his brief life of thirty-two years will be considered staggering by any ordinary man.

He preached a religion of strength and made the teachings of the Upanishads current coin in the country. He proved that mortal man is really immortal and that man is a master of himself and nature. Godhood is immanent in man. *Isvarah Sarvabhutanam* and to realise this would be to overcome all ills and to attain indescribable peace. The mysterious Ego controlling our mind is a part of the immortal and indestructible Supreme Force *Paramatma* whose true nature is *Sachidananda*. True liberation consists in realising the oneness of the individual soul with the absolute soul.

Such, in brief, was the message of Shankara. In his own way he was a great nation-builder. The very fact that he established four Maths in the four corners of the country to encourage the idea of the fundamental unity of India and that he wrote all his works in Sanskrit shows that his aim was to make India culturally one. He took all that was good in the various tenets of his time and made it part of Hinduism as he expounded it.

The world is torn, at present, by jealousy and hatred. The whole of our civilization is threatened by the atom bomb. In our own country, there is still considerable communal and other bitterness, though Mahatma Gandhi staked his life on its eradication and ultimately had to give it up as a supreme sacrifice. The only remedy for this sorry state of affairs is the dominance of altruism and love over egoism and hatred. Why should I love my neighbour? Because in essence he and I are one. We are made of the same stuff; we cannot—must not hate each other as parts of the same body and must not hate each other. This feeling

should be assiduously cultivated through culture, social institutions and a radical transformation of the personality of the people. The last is perhaps the most important. But how is it to be brought about? With all the power of his great intellect and vigorous personality Shankara proclaimed the great Vedantic truth that realization of our unity with God is the panacea for all ills. In the present day context we might say that an intense realization of our oneness would lead to the elimination of egoism and hatred and to

love of fellowmen. By prayer and pure action, constant meditation on the great truth of our essential being and by disinterested service to our fellow-beings we attain such realization, and our life acquires a deep meaning and purpose. That is the message of Vedanta as interpreted by Shankara and reinterpreted in our own day by Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Vivekananda, by Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi. And that is the only effective answer to the challenge of the atom bomb.

New Houses for Old—New Houses for All

BY MR. F. W. CORBETT.

THE question of providing adequate and suitable accommodation for all, has always been a problem especially in the urban and industrial areas, but has now become a matter of urgency, by reason of the great increase of population in these areas, and the impossibility of meeting the needs of all, owing to the insufficiency of accommodation.

When the immense population of India, amounting to nearly three hundred and forty millions is considered the problem of providing accommodation for all in a reasonable period of time, appears, at first sight, to be insuperable, but fortunately, as the report of the Industrial housing Sub-committee published some time ago rightly remarks, the shortage of housing is more acutely felt only in the larger centres of population, as the great mass of the people live in areas of less than two thousand souls each, and the climatic conditions for the greater part of the year,

make the provision of pucca housing for them relatively unimportant.

According to the census of 1941 only thirteen per cent. of the population of India is town-dwelling, but as the Post-war population of every city and urban area has been practically doubled, it is reasonable to assume that the urban population of India is now about twenty-five per cent. of the entire population.

This paper attempts to suggest a scheme for the simultaneous provision of dwelling houses not only for this twentyfive per cent. of the population, but also for the seventyfive per cent. of the rural areas, in a relatively shorter period of time than that envisaged in the Industrial Housing Sub-committee Report, or in any other report published so far. If vigorously carried out, it can provide every family in the rural areas with a decent dwelling within two years, can ease the position in the urban areas within five years,

can completely house the entire urban population in ten to twenty years, and thereafter ensure that the provision of accommodation keeps pace with the growth in population.

Nothing adds to the dignity and self-respect of a man, than the fact that he is able to walk head erect into the house, instead of having to literally crawl into it, as so many of our people in the rural areas, and in the slum areas of our large cities now have to do.

It is very easy to achieve this in the rural areas in a short time, and with the minimum of labour and expense. The various designs of houses built of concrete, suggested and advertised from time to time, are excellent in their way, but are not necessary nor desirable for the rural areas and for the poorer sections in the urban areas, where the first consideration should be the *immediate provision* of cheap, easily constructed houses of the minimum standard of 100 square feet per person as laid down by the committee. Such dwellings can be easily erected, with little more than the cost of the labour, with the help of the prospective tenants themselves. There is no need to wait till cement, steel, and other expensive types of building materials are available. Nature has been prolific in providing our country with an abundant supply of clay and of building stone of every variety for building our houses. Temples, palaces and structures of every description have been built with these materials from time immemorial, and have stood the test of storm and stress for centuries. These materials are still in abundant supply, and, every village, town or other locality may easily obtain its requirements from within a radius of a few miles, at a minimum of cost in labour

and transport. It would be a criminal and short sighted policy not to make use of these bounteous gifts of nature, and to hanker after steel, cement and other new-fangled and expensive materials which are in short supply, and beyond the means of the poor.

Nor is it necessary nor desirable to go in for pre-fabricated houses—another of those fads, created by the war. Prefabricated houses are alright as a temporary expedient. They are still on their trial, and their durability has yet to be proved. They are also not suitable for Indian conditions, where fairly thick mud or stone walls are necessary to keep out the excessive heat. Their comparatively higher cost also militates against their extensive use. There will be no need for them if we make more extensive and rational use of the cheap materials readily at hand.

For the poorest classes, and taking the rural areas first, the walls may be of mud, or of mud and brick, which are cheaper than cement, and have served them well for building purposes all these centuries. But the houses should be better built, with higher plinths and walls, and more doors and windows. If built entirely of mud, the walls may be of the improved type, reinforced with stone chips, and pressed into blocks in long wooden frames, as recently adopted and demonstrated by the military authorities.

The great advantage of this type of dwelling houses is, that work on them may be started *immediately and simultaneously* in every rural area by the people themselves during the idle periods between the harvests, and without having to wait for

materials that are in short supply. All that they will need is a little advice and guidance. The first requisite is to decide the minimum standard dimensions for each dwelling. A survey may then be made of each village. In cases where the already existing dwellings are of less than the standard dimensions decided on, the owners or occupants may be helped and advised to reconstruct them to the required dimensions. As soon as a few such houses are reconstructed, other owners will see their advantages, and readily accept the help and advice to rebuild their own. Where they are prepared to rebuild with bricks or other suitable materials, they should, of course be encouraged to do so. In addition, new dwellings may be built for those who have none. In this work of building new dwellings, care must be taken to build according to plan, and not haphazardly, as in the past. The best plan would be to build in rows, each dwelling to consist of two rooms of the required dimensions, with a kitchen and a bathing place and a little courtyard at the rear. An open space of eight or ten feet may be provided between each building or group of two or three buildings, and twenty-five to thirty buildings may be built in each row. The next row may face the first, across a street, not less than fifteen feet wide. Each street will then consist of fifty to sixty houses, and, taking the average number of persons per household to be four, will provide accommodation for two hundred souls. A village of two thousand souls will therefore consist of ten such rows of dwelling houses, old and new. If this plan is vigorously carried out, all the

villages and rural areas can be rebuilt simultaneously, with the help of the people themselves, to provide every family with a dwelling of the standard dimensions within a period of two years. This is a result well worth striving for.

The problem becomes more difficult and complicated as we approach the urban areas and larger centres of population, where slums, built up areas, and so called vested interests have to be contended with. But none of these need stand in the way of affecting an immediate and reasonable improvement in the existing deplorable conditions. Large scale slum clearance such as has been envisaged in an ambitious scheme recently announced for Calcutta, and costing no less than 75 crores of rupees, will only unnecessarily put off the required improvements indefinitely, whereas what is required is the *immediate* provision of more accommodation, and the *immediate* improvement in the present highly insanitary conditions, both of which may be taken in hand simultaneously.

Taking slum clearance first, we may begin by breaking down and rebuilding the squalid, insanitary, ill-ventilated leanto huts of old mattings and kerosene oil tins, which disgrace and disfigure many localities in all our larger cities. Where they are owned by profit seeking renters, they should be compelled to rebuild them to the required standards. Where they are owned by the occupants themselves, or by the local authority, the expense should be borne by the latter. At the same time a process of "thinning out" may be adopted, by pulling down an unnecessary room or wall here and there, to improve the ventilation, and

by pulling down an entire hut or two at regular intervals in each street, for the same purpose. This "thinning out" may be accomplished with the least friction, and with the greatest common measure of agreement, by forming a committee of a few responsible residents of each locality, with the Municipal Commissioner, the Municipal Engineer and Health Officer, where they are available, to advise on which houses or portions thereof, may be pulled down to effect the necessary improvements. This method is much quicker and far less expensive than completely breaking down and rebuilding an entire area, and has the added advantage of causing the least disturbance or dishousing of the occupants.

Simultaneously with this "thinning out" process, a "filling in" process may also be adopted, by building, or encouraging the building of new houses in the open spaces that may be available in each locality. Elaborate development and housing schemes necessarily take years to materialise, whereas what is required is *immediate relief*. Our immediate objectives as far as the urban areas are concerned are therefore, to "thin out" the slums, and to "fill in" the open spaces. Both may be accomplished with a little active help from the Government.

This is a 'short term' policy for providing *immediate relief*. For 'long term' planning it should be the policy of every Government, and of every local authority, and, it should be made incumbent on every large employer of labour, to provide at least five per cent of its employees with suitable accommodation

at reasonable rents at once, and thereafter, to add at least five per cent every year. If this is done, every urban dweller will be provided with a house suitable to his means and requirements within twenty years. As at least one-half of the urban population is already provided with accommodation, this means that the entire urban population will be suitably housed within ten years.

Until such time as this is accomplished the extravagant building of luxury houses by the very rich should be prohibited. For instance, it was recently announced that a Calcutta millionaire has planned to build a mammoth luxury mansion of seven storeys, provided with every refinement of luxury with four lifts constructed of bronze and aluminium, etc., etc., at a cost of seventy-five lakhs, to house his family and servants consisting of *only 120 souls!* Not to be undone, a Bombay millionaire is also reported to be contemplating a building of outstanding size, replete with every modern comfort on a scale hitherto unknown in India at a cost of *three crores* of rupees, for occupation by wealthy tenants! Such fantastic schemes are bad enough in normal times, but are a crime against society at a time when millions have not even a roof over their heads. These millionaires should be persuaded, if not forced to use their wealth to provide much needed accommodation for the poorer classes of tenants at reasonable rents and to defer their fantastic schemes to more prosperous times. For the present the policy and purpose of everybody should be, "New Houses for old, and a house for every family, rural or urban".

THE INFANT STATE OF INDONESIA

By PROF. C. S. SRINIVASACHARIAR, M.A.
Principal, R. D. M. College, Sivaganga.

FOR nearly three years and a half, from March 1942 to August 1945, Japanese propaganda in Java laboured hard to spread the exaltation of the Asiatic and the humiliation of the White man in the minds of the youth and the illiterate masses, particularly by means of the radio, the press and the popular stage. More important than the Japanese Army *personnel*, left in the Island on their evacuation was the vast quantity of ammunition, guns, bayonets and rifles, secured by the Indonesians, partly taken from unresisting Japanese soldiers and partly handed over voluntarily by the Japanese themselves, including control of their concentration camps. When the allied victory came about, these concentration camps did not at all benefit and continued to suffer, while fear of starvation increased for the internees.

The Republic of Indonesia was proclaimed on the 17th August 1945 with a great flourish of trumpets. In Sumatra enthusiasm was not so great. It was only a year afterwards that the Republican leaders were able to claim that Island as the second great pillar of their national structure. But in Borneo the Freedom Movement no sooner started than it withered away. There was no stir at all in the Northern Celebes, and but very little in the Lesser Sundas and in the Dutch New Guinea. In the rich Island of Bali, with its predominantly Hindu culture, the political influence from Muhammedan Java was comparatively small. Dr. Soekarno has been the main pillar of the Movement.

The next great Indonesian leader, Dr. Muhammad Hatta, had first fallen under the spell of German National Socialism and early grew up to be a champion of an independent Republican Status for his country. Both Hatta and Soekarno had ardently believed that Indonesian Independence would be realised under the new Japanese Order for Eastern Asia. Sjariffoedin, the next leader, is more westernised than the others. Soetan Sjahrir, the youngest of the four leaders, is a Sumatran by birth and frequently interned in New Guinea and elsewhere; and he was quite firm in his determination not to have any collaboration with the Japanese.

The Indonesian Republic was blessed at its birth by the dying Japanese Empire "in the shadow of the flames caused by the atom bombs of America," but it is equally certain that the Republic was not wholly of Japanese manufacture. At Dalath, near Saigon, the historic meeting of Soekarno attended by Hatta, and Radjiman, the Japanese-sponsored Mayor of Batavia, with the Japanese Field Marshal Terauchi, took place on the 11th August 1945. Three days later the proclamation was finally made of the birth of Indonesia, with its red and white flag and no compromising colours either of Dutch blue or of the Japanese Rising Sun. The younger generation felt that they were nearly as good as the Japanese and far better than the Europeans; while the Pelopors (the Youth Movement) included a number of fanatics for the Republican cause and many bands of terrorists and suicide squads.

For some months anarchy continued to prevail. The Chinese in the Islands who numbered two millions, were set upon by the poorer people and robbed and persecuted as they formed the easiest prey to the hooligan elements. The Dutch, including the semi-Dutch folk, had expected speedy relief by the Allied Troops. Dutch rule in the past was interpreted, on the one side, as a creditable record of three centuries of enlightenment and progress, but on the other condemned as three long centuries of exploitation and oppression. The numerous States and Regencies scattered over the islands, especially in Sumatra, under the control of nominally-hereditary Sultans and of nominated Regents, were also warmed by zeal for the Republican cause. The Dutch contended that Indonesian Nationalism had developed somewhat prematurely, and transformed itself within less than two decades from a local and East Javanese to a pan-Indonesian basis. The Dutch Lieutenant-Governor-General, Dr. Hubertus van Mook, had been a sober politician in the past and had strenuously worked for the good of the East Indies, both culturally and politically. He had always been striving, negotiating, arguing, planning and pleading, only to find that the agreements he had successively hoped to achieve had always become elusive and tantalising. Soekarno had always been immovable from his goal of a sovereign Indonesian Republic, though he permitted his followers to go through the wearisome processes of negotiations, arguments and counter-arguments, leading to tentative agreements.

The Allied Supreme Commander was anxious that British Indian Troops should

not get themselves involved in the internal politics of Indonesia, particularly because Indian opinion was not sensitive about the use of the Indian troops to suppress the independence and national movements in any Asiatic country. Their aim was merely to restore peaceful conditions and allow free expression of opinion and action that would lead to a final settlement.

For some months confusion was rampant in the land. When Indian troops landed for restoring order in October, 1945, bitter fighting persisted between the Japanese and the Indonesians, mainly due to the desire of the latter to obtain Japanese Arms. The British Command claimed to have faithfully followed a policy of restraint in the suppression of terrorism and disorder. But terrorism remained a persistent sore during all the months of negotiations that followed. A competent observer has shrewdly noticed that the Indonesian National Movement had been initially vitiated by the limited knowledge and small political experience of its leaders and also by the effect of three years of Japanese training and propaganda. In the process opportunities for private revenge, loot and massacre were much greater than in normal national movements.

II

Soekarno, who was proclaimed the President of the Republic of Indonesia in the second week of November 1945, formed a new Cabinet with Sjahrir both as the Prime Minister and the Minister for both Home and Foreign Affairs. The President retained his firm hold upon the enthusiasm and the affections of the masses. He cleverly shifted his headquarters to Jogjakarta in Central Java, leaving his Prime Minister to deal

with the delicate and complicated political situation at Batavia. The new Premier remained closely linked with his master, and never abated one jot of the reiterated demand for complete independence. Indeed, the Indonesian Cabinet felt itself to be strong enough to compel the Dutch negotiators to come to its doors for settlement, instead of its going to the Dutch Government requesting an understanding.

Sjahrir first took part in a series of conferences with the British and Dutch Delegations in an endeavour to bring about a final settlement of Dutch and Indonesian relations. In Sumatra, the Republican Movement was confined to Palembang and Medon; in Celebes the Indonesian leaders and local chiefs were at first unwilling to co-operate with the Dutch, but soon returned to order; and in Borneo the silence of desolation had always prevailed. Van Mook put forward appeal after appeal to the Supreme Command urging the adoption of a firmer hand in Java as no political agreement was possible while acts of terrorism continued. But time was inexorably on the side of the new Republic. Sjahrir disliked in his heart all the acts of terrorism, but for the time, turned a blind eye towards them. Jogjakarta was much better suited for the Republican leaders than Batavia. Thus between Batavia and Jogjakarta "there was both tug and war, but the tug was all on the part of the Dutch, and the war all on the part of the Indonesians, with no connection between them." While the Dutch saw no other solution than a settlement under the Dutch Flag between themselves and the Indonesians the Republican leaders consistently held

that their independence had already become a *fait accompli*.

III

The constitution framed for the Republic has a strong leaning towards that of the U.S.A., giving the President great powers to proclaim martial law and to disallow bills passed by the Council of Representatives and an article establishes socialistic nationalisation of everything. On the other side, the Dutch declaration of Policy elaborated the principles of re-organisation of the East Indies sketched by Queen Wilhelmina in 1942 and held out the prospect of combined independence and collaboration for the Indonesians in the Commonwealth.

A moderate political organisation emerged out of the practical turmoil, claiming to voice the opinions of millions of Indonesians who were not caught up by the Republican fervour, but as usual with all moderate movements, in stirring times it did not secure success and its leaders were naturally denounced by the Republicans as Dutch-puppets.

Talks on the new proposals began in February 1946 for negotiating a political structure based upon full freedom and self-determination for the Indonesians sufficient to satisfy all except the Extremist elements. As before, Van Mook talked and talked and flew often to Holland to get renewed instructions, while Sjahrir listened, and frequently journeyed between Batavia and Jogjakarta. All the time Soekarno kept himself in splendid isolation. But soon Dutch forces began to land in increasing numbers to take over, by gradual steps, from the British the task of maintaining order; and Sjahrir vigorously protested

against their landings, but urged counsels of moderation upon his Extremist followers. The result was that among the Republicans the moderates parted company from the fanatics, though they would not give up the cause of the Republic. Van Mook now offered a Free State of Java, that would be a partner with the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Federation of Indonesia and the partnership was to last during the transition period necessary for the Free State to grow into a full-developed nation. The offer was refused; on which the Dutch were prepared to acknowledge an Indonesian Republic. Now the Indonesians wanted the recognition of *their* State as *the* one Republic of Indonesia. After this Sjahrir was kidnapped but set at liberty soon; and the incident did not cause more than a passing flutter.

In the Conference in Malino in Celebes held in July 1946 Van Mook stuck to his original stand. A later conference gave no practical results. By October 1946 there were 65,000 Dutch troops in Java well armed and trained; and a Royal Commissioner-General was now sent over from Holland for negotiating a final settlement; but though a truce was obtained through the mediation of the British Special Commissioner for South East Asia, Sjahrir held that the principle of Federation should be carried further than the Dutch had suggested and that Indonesia would like to acquire membership of the United Nations Organisation. He also desired a clear definition of relations

between the Republic and the rest of Indonesia as well as with the Netherlands. The new Cabinet of the Republic that was now constituted (October 1946) was representative of all parties; and for the first time the Netherlands Government officially recognised the Republic, though they did not as yet announce what the constituent parts and territories of the Republic should be and did not certainly agree that Sumatra should yet be a part of it.

Thus a settlement was at last arrived at; but the proposals were fiercely opposed in Holland itself; and Soekarno held aloof, as usual, at Jogjakarta, obviously ignoring both the negotiations and the agreement.

The draft Liggadjati agreement broke to pieces on a dispute over article 15, which referred to the Government of the Netherlands having power to initiate forthwith legal measures to adjust the constitutional and international position of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the new situation. This agreement clearly indicated how far the Netherlands Government were willing to go; but it had no real effect upon Indonesian opinion. The Dutch could win over Sjahrir, but not Soekarno, nor Hatta, nor Sjaffudin. Thus the new year of 1947 opened with a normal truce that was intended to cover the whole of Indonesia but the battle of bullets and the perpetration of atrocities continued, leaving everything unsettled.

(To be continued)

Kantilal and the Octopus: A Story

BY MR. DEVENDRA PRATAP

—: z :—

KANTILAL took the bottle of "Pneumocure" in his hand and examined it carefully, tallying the particulars on the label with those jotted down in his note book.

"Seems all right," he said. "How much?"

"5/8, Sir."

"What? But the controlled price is 3/8, surely?"

The shopkeeper who was a shrewd, narrow-eyed, fat man with four chins and a smile that seemed laid on his face with a brush, winked.

"You are right, Sir," he said. "But, alas! we don't get it at controlled rates from the wholesalers. We buy it in the black market ourselves—for *esteemed customers like you*". The words trickled out of his mouth like synthetic honey and his smile deepened into one of obsequiousness.

"You lie," said Kantilal, trying to keep his voice even. "I *know* you get a quota from the Civil Supplies Department."

"My good Sir, but how much? Aye, Three dozen bottles a month. Pchah. And I have a hundred patrons to think of."

That was the black marketeer's way—always. Kantilal smiled grimly at the familiar words.

"I don't see," he said emphatically, "that that gives you any right to resort to the black market, buying or selling. If it were Brilliantine or a comb, your action would be bad enough in all conscience. But it is *not* Brilliantine. It is a medicine. An *essential* medicine for children. To blackmarket in it is to gamble with a child's life. It is a *crime*."

The shopkeeper's smooth silky smile vanished suddenly as if some one had run a blotting paper across his pudgy face. His eyes became steely. He curled his lip and all his four chins jutted out to assume an expression of derision.

"Then take your precious child into the General Ward of a Hospital," he snapped. "Why come to a shop? Why buy an expensive medicine? If the child's life is so dear, why not fork out what I ask?" He made a quick movement and snatched the bottle from Kantilal's hand, passing it on to an assistant behind him. "Crime indeed! It would be a happier world if people had less of this blasted Socialism in their heads and more in their pockets."

Of the customers present, a few laughed outright—people, Kantilal noticed, who wore stylish suits and diamond rings and had more than one chin; some grinned sheepishly—those of the spineless middle class who wanted the best of both worlds; only a very few—the young idealists—ranged themselves on Kantilal's side.

"But he is *right*," said one of these. "You ought not to blackmarket, you know." His tone was serious but pusillanimous. "You are not co-operating with the Government."

Two or three men laughed—those with the well fed appearance. The spineless continued to listen attentively, now and then wagging their heads indecisively, always endorsing the majority viewpoint.

"Co-operating with the Government!" said one of the multiple chins, guffawing as if he had come across a rare joke. He

turned towards the man. "You young bloods are all alike. Empty-headed idealists. You know *nothing*. What has the Government done for us that we should co-operate with it, eh? Can you answer that? Look at me. I am a Building Contractor. In 1942, my income was 30 thousand a month and I had three de-luxe cars. And to-day? Today, I offer "prasad" in a temple if I make two. And, as to cars, I suppose some *would* call a miserable 14 H. P. contrivance a car!"

He spat bitterly and continued: "And why have I come to such a pass? Because of our worthy National Government. Because of checks and counterchecks on my honesty. As if it could ever be in doubt! Merely to ensure that my cement will not be examined too closely, I slip across five thousand to an officer, only to find another officer above him who keeps reverting to its 'poor' quality. *Poor* quality, indeed! And when I have greased his palm too, up comes another—and yet another. There is no end of them. And eventually one turns up—he's rare, I'll admit—who will *not* accept my 'envelopes' and creates all sorts of fuss checking up on the bricks to find out if they are really first class. Bah. Sheer persecution, I call it. *Co-operating with the Government!*" He spat again. Turning to the shopkeeper, he bought six tins of a tonic food at thrice the controlled price and left the shop.

The shopkeeper and several of the remaining customers laughed heartily and the protest which had risen to the lips of the young man was stilled. With a shrug of his shoulders, he collected his purchases

and slunked quietly out of the shop, followed by the other 'idealists and the 'spineless.'

Kantilal flushed with anger. The fellow had talked nonsense and his logic had annoyed him. At the back of his mind was the image of his two-year-old child Ramesh. He was in the throes of pneumonia and, as a last resort, the doctor had ordered "Pneumocure". Nothing else—if anything—could save the boy, he had declared finally. So Kantilal had left the house at once, promising his young distracted wife that he would be back very shortly.

And here was "Pneumocure" right before his eyes. And it was not as if the difference was much. He *could* afford the two rupees extra which the shopkeeper demanded. But ought he? He was in a fix. He thought, sifted and weighed the issues carefully, dispassionately, and at last proceeded to the counter.

"All right, *baba*," he said. "Give me a bottle."

The shopkeeper's sticky smile appeared again—along with his doormat attitude.

"My wise Sir," he said in a confidential whisper. "I'm glad you see reason at last. These are not the days for idealism. You have a child to save and I—I have my large family to think of, eh? Well, well, here you are. And remember me whenever you need something you can't get anywhere else, see? I stock everything—*everything*."

Kantilal nodded his head appreciatively, put some coins on the counter and tucked the bottle of "Pneumocure" in his pocket.

"But it is only 3/8, my dear Sir," said the shopkeeper, counting the money a second time before Kantilal, coin by coin, so as to make no mistake.

"That's right," said Kantilal. "3/8 is the price and 3/8 you get. Not a pice more."

"You cheat," cried the shopkeeper, his face livid with rage.

"Give me back the bottle."

"No," cried Kantilal, equally loudly. "And if you don't keep a civil tongue in your head, may be I'll have to show you how hard my knuckles are."

A crowd collected. A constable appeared.

"Hey, hey. What's all this?" the latter asked, stepping forward and saluting the shopkeeper.

"Let me see the bottle," he demanded when he was abreast of the situation. He took the bottle, examined it carefully, and was about to give it back to the shopkeeper when Kantilal smartly jerked it out of his hand.

"So!" he exclaimed, "Our worthy incorruptible police, eh? Never heard of Sardar Patel, have you?" Then turning to the shopkeeper, he said quietly: "You'll have to come with me to the Police Station, master. This constable cannot settle our differences."

The fat man looked nervously about him and his tone changed immediately. "The Police Station?" he queried in a voice that betrayed his fear. "But, my dear Sir, there *are* no differences. None at all. You are right. The price is 3/8. Thank you, Sir, thank you."

Kantilal thought again. Here was the end of the matter—so far as *he* was concerned. Should he leave it at that and run home with the precious drug? But something inside

him prevented him taking this easy course, this line of least resistance. He caught hold of the fat man by the scruff of his neck and dragged him out of the shop.

"I must see it through," he said fiercely. "It is my duty. So, unless you want me to kick you all the way like a football, you will come quietly, my friend. And you too," he added turning towards the constable.

He was not a very powerful man but a certain zeal within him—a kind of fire—gave him the courage of a lion and, completely cowed by it, the shopkeeper and the policeman followed him meekly.

By the time they reached the Police Station, an enthusiastic crowd—never much in sympathy with the undeservedly wealthy or the "red turban"—was trailing behind them, cheering lustily.

Before the Inspector in charge, Kantilal stated his case simply. The fat man followed with a brazen denial and the constable supported the fat man. Under the table, something papery passed from the shopkeeper to the officer whose face immediately lit up with a smile of comprehension. He took Kantilal aside and whispered something into his ear.

"Are you trying to bribe me into silence, officer?" said Kantilal amazed at the other's words. "Shameful, I bring you a specific case of black marketing—you have no idea at what cost to myself—and you want to hush it up! But I might have known. For the last time, are you or are you not going to register my complaint against this man? Because, if not, perhaps I'd better get in touch with the S. P. I'm determined to see this thing through, you may rest assured. Somebody's got to

give a lead. The Octopus must have its tentacles cut.

He knew that much time was being wasted. Every moment was precious to the life of his child. But he heroically ignored the lesser and stuck doggedly to the greater.

At length, the Inspector seemed to become convinced that this fanatic young man was in dead earnest. Reluctantly, lingering over every movement, he produced a register and leisurely took down Kantilal's dictation.

"Any witnesses?" he asked triumphantly, producing what he thought was a trump card.

To Kantilal's surprise, no less than to the Inspector's six young men stepped out of the crowd and among them was the man who had raised his feeble voice in the shop to support Kantilal and had later seemed to slink away.

"I was outside all the time—watching," he said.

Three faces fell as the witnesses put their signatures and addresses to the report and at length, when it was all over, Kantilal hailed a taxi and jumped into it. He had done his duty and now he could go home with the precious "Pneumocure".

But even as the taxi drew up at the door of his house, he knew, with a sudden stab at his heart, that it was useless. He had arrived too late. The house was in commotion and the sound of his wife's wailing reached him.

In a sudden fit of rage, he dashed the bottle of "Pneumocure" to the ground and kicked viciously at the glass splinters. "Oh, if I hadn't been such a fool," he wailed remorsefully as he strode towards the house. "If I had let well alone..."

But, at the threshold, a new light dawned on him suddenly like a flash of lightning. He paused, jerked his head back proudly, looked at the starlit sky and murmured: "Have I been a fool, really? Have I? I wonder..."

Rajasthan—Past, Present and Future

BY MR. B. R. K. BHATNAGAR

RAJASTHAN, the land of the traditional rulers of Delhi in the pre-Muslim India, namely Rajputs, becomes the land of democracy, with the inauguration, on March 30, 1949, of the (Greater) United State of Rajasthan comprising all the States of Rajputana.

But even at the hour of its fall to the advancing forces of Indian nationalism, this last home of princely rule remains true to its historical traditions, which it established in the time of Akbar and later Moghul

Emperors and continued during the days of East India Company and subsequent British Viceroys, *i.e.*, the tradition of falling in line with Delhi. With the exception of Rana Pratap's Udaipur in Akbar's days, the entire Rajasthan, the land of reckless fighters, had paradoxically enough accepted the suzerainty of Delhi without spilling a drop of blood when the spilling of blood counted in the history of India. And now, when Delhi has changed its masters from Muslims and British to the Indian National

Congress and Rajasthan witnesses the bloodless transfer of power from Rulers and Princes to popular leaders, Rajasthan has once again accepted unlike other Unions of integrated States which have their own Legislatures—to be directly responsible to D. L. B. This is, as it were, the age-old magic, which Delhi, the cradle and cemetery of successive governments of India, wielded over the land which supplied a whole galaxy of heroes and heroines to the colourful stage of north Indian history, stage lit up by Rajasthani stars like Rana Sanga who led the armies of first Rajput confederation against Babar, and after routing Babar's advance guards at Khanwa inflicted on him a life of austerity and compelled him to break his drinking cups and swear by *Quran* never to touch wine again as a pious precaution against an impending defeat at the hands of Rajput forces, by stars like Rani Padmini who faced the fire to uphold the honour of Indian women and Rana Pratap who fired the imagination of soldiers of freedom in the face of heavy odds and imperialistic designs of Akbar, by stars like Raja Mansingh who carried the stamp of Rajput military genius throughout the length and breadth of the country and brought Kabul in the North and Golconda in the South to the feet of Delhi and poetess Mira Bai who stamped the compositions of the Indian poets of all times with a religious fervour.

I have called Rajasthan the land of Rajputs though Rajputs form only 5 per cent. of the population. It is, nevertheless, the land of Rajputs, in that the entire texture of human life, and the entire outlook of 150 lakhs of its inhabitants is

shaped, moulded and cast after the Rajput pattern. The Rajasthani literature and folk songs written in "Dingal" are mostly bardic in origin, having for their theme the chivalry and valour of Rajput kings and chiefs; the fairs and festivals have the colour and romance reminiscent of Rajput bravery; the dress, appearance and social manners follow closely those prescribed for Rajput courts; and even prominent poets and poetesses have been the Rajput princess like Mira Bai whose compositions have been translated in all the Indian languages from the Himalayas to the Cape Comorin and the Somnath to Puri and the Rajput prince like Prithvi Raj, who, though a dignitary of Akbar's court, is believed to have inspired Rana Pratap to abandon the idea of qualified surrender to the Great Moghul, which the Rana had contemplated in a moment of desperation and exile. The couplets which produced this magic effect and Rana Pratap's reply to it when translated read:

FROM PRINCE PRITHVI RAJ

If you, Rana Pratap, would acknowledge Akbar, call him by the name of Padshah, the sun would rise in West. Oh Diwan (seniormost among the Rajputs); write to me one of the alternatives, whether I should twirl up my moustaches in pride or kill myself with my own sword.

FROM RANA PRATAP

The God *Eclinga* (Siva) will allow the mouth of Pratap to call Akbar only a Turk. The sun will rise in the East as it always does. Gladly therefore O Peethal (Prithvi Raj)! twirl up your moustaches in pride!

"Fair for the brave", is an age-old adage. Doubtless the people of Rajasthan have been brave—the Rajputs, Jats, Gujars and Minas have left an imprint of martial glory on the Indian Army of which they are an integral part even today—and fair their women-folk.

The beauty of Rajasthan's women has been proverbial. Well known for their well-chiselled features, they dress themselves in most elegant styles. Their ample colourful shirts which are a master-piece of tailoring in folds and pleats and star-studded *cholis* in real or imitation embroidery, impart rhythm and majesty to their movements. They have always fascinated the visitor from the West, one of whom Aldous Huxley, says that the women of Rajasthan

move with the princely grace of those who, with pots and baskets on their heads, have passed their lives in practising the department of Queens.

Women belonging to the upper classes have been shut up behind the purdah, yet Rajasthan, true in its ideals, has ever been respectful to the dignity of womanhood. The kingdoms lost, lives sacrificed, and the pyres left by Rajasthan for upholding the chastity of its women and protecting the honour of its queens are the well known phenomena of Indian history.

The land which honours its women and produces sturdy martial people, has been equally a patron of art. The Rajasthani school of painting is a distinct and recognised school of Indian painting, possessing distinctive feature and beauty of its own. The love episodes of *Radha* and *Krishna* and the pictorial rendering of classical *Ragas* and *Ragnis* are the principal motifs of these paintings. The rare specimens of this art had a section exclusively devoted to themselves in the Paintings Gallery at the recent Government House Exhibition at New Delhi.

The architecture of Rajasthan has been described as a living art by Havell. The palaces of rulers, and the structures erected at the place of the cremation of royal

persons speak volumes for what the Rajasthani architecture has been capable of. Though Rajasthan does not possess any master builders, and has not given proof of their existence before, the talent of the individual builder is of a high order and even today the artisans and masons have retained a capacity to beat men of their class from other parts of the country. An ample proof of this was provided when Rajasthan, particularly Jaipur, Bharatpur and Alwar contributed a large number of masons at the time of the laying out and construction of New Delhi.

II

It is a change from the poetic to the prosaic to leave the enchantingly colourful panorama of Rajasthan's past and return to the grim realities of the present.

What Rajasthan is to-day, except a backward unindustrialised barren tract of land? This is true. But the statement is not an unmixed truth. Rajasthan is backward, no doubt industrially, but it is the sons of Rajasthan's soil that are the industry makers of the Dominion of India. Whether it is the celebrated Birlas and Dalmias, the Singhanias or the Sekhsarias, the Podars or the Goenkas, all hail from Rajasthan—the owners of factories, mills, airways, banks, and what not. Except the Tatas, most of the front rank industrialists of India come from Rajasthan. If Rajasthan is, therefore, backward economically, it is not the fault of its people. It is Nature which is to blame, the Nature which has been hostile to its people. The entire energy of its inhabitants is concentrated not so much on expansion and development as in providing the very means of subsistence and livelihood,

which would preserve human life against the ravages of Nature and the recurrent danger of famine. Sandy desert patches and hilly barren tracts abound in Rajasthan, and the fear of famine lurks round the corner. But still heroic efforts have been made, wherever they could be made, to overcome Nature through wells, bunds and canals, particularly in the bigger of the States like Jaipur, Jodhpur and Bikaner.

As for industries, the land has not a bad account to give of itself. It has undoubtedly been incapable of large scale industrialisation, both for want of knowledge and means—knowledge and means, which, with the integration of the States, now are expected to be forthcoming. But it must be said to its credit that it has preserved and in case of Jaipur and Bikaner developed its cottage industries full well. The brass, ivory, sandal-wood, dye and paper industries of Jaipur are in a flourishing state. The carpet and wool manufacture industries have recently been organised by the Bikaner Cottage Industries Institute.

The backwardness of Rajputana has also been ascribed to the lack of education of the people. The people of Rajputana are indeed backward in education; but here again the educational progress of the land has been a queer phenomenon. There have been colleges in every big State of Rajputana. The Maharaja's College at Jaipur is over a century old and has seen the birth of the Punjab, Allahabad, Agra and now Rajputana Universities to which it has been affiliated from time to time for its various courses of study during its long history. There has been free education almost in every State. In addition, the Birla Education Trust

and Messrs. Surajmal Nagarmal have opened hundreds of educational institutions in Rajputana. A number of mutually independent big and small units have been existing in Rajasthan, yet, Rajasthan presents the singular example of possessing a university of its own, to which the educational institutions of all these administratively separate and politically unintegrated units are affiliated. This is an advantage not possessed even by the hitherto largest Union of States like Madhya Bharat. It is hoped that not faced with any difficulty on this score, Rajasthan will now make great headway in the field of education.

This is no doubt that with such advantages Rajasthan will soon be on the road towards progress, the essentials for which it possesses in abundance—historical heritage, aesthetic and cultural outlook, industrial acumen, political unity, vast hidden unexploited natural resources and opportunities for power development at the only perennial yet potential river.—*Chamba*.

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PROVINCIAL BUDGETS

BY PROF. V. G. RAMAKRISHNAN, M.A.,

THE pattern of provincial finance that emerges from the Provincial Budgets recently presented to the Legislatures is that, as an anti-inflationary measure, the Provincial Governments have avoided deficit financing. In almost all Provinces, notably Bihar, Madras, Bombay, W. Bengal, deficits of varying volume have been sought to be met by new taxation measures. In Madras the deficit is of the order of Rs. 3.91 crores, while the taxes proposed are expected to yield about Rs. 4 crores. In Bombay the additional taxes proposed will convert an anticipatory deficit of Rs. 398.48 lakhs with a surplus of Rs. 11.52 lakhs. In W. Bengal the revenue deficit is Rs. 111 lakhs and this is expected to be made up by Rs. 80 lakhs expected from the proceeds of the recently passed Sales Tax Amendment Bill and the Agricultural Incometax Amendment Bill and Rs. 20 lakhs from the proposed increase in the entertainment taxes. The attempts made by the Provincial Governments not to leave their deficits uncovered is quite welcome but some of the taxation measures are obnoxious from the point of view of the larger interests of the people. For instance, the Bihar Government's proposal to levy sales tax on food grains, the Madras Government's proposal for withdrawal of the exemption from the General Sales Tax now allowed on the 1st sale of agricultural products; the 50. p. c. increase in the purchase tax on groundnut and cashew-nut, the tax on coffee hotels and boarding houses—all these will adversely affect the price of foodstuffs of the consumer and on that account, are to be depreciated at the present time since half the battle against

inflation consists of the reduction in the price of food. The proposal of the Bombay Government to levy a tax of 3 pies on all exports from that Province which is expected to yield about Rs. 2¾ crores a year, the withdrawal of the exemption so far granted in Madras in the case of tea, and the imposition of a tax on cotton at one stage are instances of levies which will accentuate the inflationary pressure, and further taxation of exports by the Provinces is an innovation payment with potentialities of evil for the future. While the progress in the process of integration and merger of States tends to break the old land customs cordon between them and the rest of India, the imposition of export duties by Provincial Governments is a barrier to inter-provincial trade and militates against national interest. The Madras Government's proposal to levy a tax on the increase in value of urban immovable property from 1938 to the date of sale looks like an inroad into central sphere of revenues and the proposal to impose a 12½ percent surcharge on house tax levied by municipalities and panchayats is a clear encroachment on the field of local finance. The introduction of Prohibition and the abolition of the Zamindari system have no doubt added to the difficulties of provincial finance, especially at a time when the inflationary situation imposes upon the Provincial and Central Government to balance their budgets and put a check on non-productive governmental expenditure. In their attempts to cover deficits, the public authorities seem unable to resist the temptation to treat trade and the tax-payer as convenient milch-cows.

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PROVINCIAL BUDGETS

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In regard to revenue, expenditure and fresh taxation, the provincial budgets this year disclose more or less similar features. The refugee problem in some provinces, and the acute food shortage in all the Provinces have affected their finances. For instance, W. Bengal has budgeted for a total expenditure of Rs. 10 crores on the relief and rehabilitation of refugees during the running year, while C.P. proposes to spend Rs. 3.27 crores on refugees. As regards the pressing and permanent problem of food, the cost of food subsidies and schemes for growing more food figures largely in the budgets of Bombay, Bihar & C. P.—Bombay (Rs. 8½ crores), C. P. (Rs. 4½ crores), & Bihar (Rs. 86 lakhs for grow-more Food schemes) alone. Any easing of the situation in the Provincial Budgets must begin first of all with an improvement in the food situation. Expenditure on Police and general administration etc. seem to be on the increase in all Provinces largely due to the present political and economical conditions with the result that lack of adequate funds seem to place nation-building activities in the region of possibilities rather than of immediate achievements. It looks as if more funds will not be available until the prices come down to normal levels and the various schemes now being planned actually become sources of provincial revenues.

Another main feature of Provincial Budgets is that fresh taxation follows more or less on the same lines. Excepting U. P. all Provinces have gone in for fresh taxation, and in all of them, the items, chosen are more or less the same. The Sales Tax has become a kind of 'Open Sesame' to the Provinces for augmen-

ting their revenues. For instance, Bombay has chosen to levy the tax on a wide list of food products, cheap cloth, and school children's requirements. Bihar proposes to tax food grains at 3 pies in the rupee. The consumption of electricity has come in for fresh taxation, while in Bombay it is being extended to industrial consumers, while in C.P. it is being levied for the first time on non-industrial consumers. As regards the sales tax, the varying policies as well as the varying rates of Provincial governments raise the question whether it is not advisable to have it centrally collected and distributed to the Provinces as in the case of income-tax.

W. BENGAL

The impact of the partition is much more evident in the economic than in the political sphere in the province of Bengal. The Budget estimates of W. Bengal Government for the financial year 1949—50 disclose revenue deficit of one crore and eleven lakhs. Chronic budget deficits have been always an unhappy feature of Bengal's finances even in the pre-partition days and the evil legacy has passed on to W. Bengal also. But it must be said to the credit of the Finance Minister that he has reduced the deficit to a very small proportion in a province whose economy has been rudely shaken by the Global War as well as the partition. The Revised estimates for the current year place the revenue at Rs. 30.59 lakhs as against 31.19 lakhs in the original budget, the difference being due to drops in revenue from Stamps, Registration, Provincial Excise, and land revenue, and the grants from the centre have been reduced to the tune of Rs. 4 crores and 87 lakhs and the cumulative effect of all

these things would have caused serious gaps in revenue receipts but for the better receipts under Sales Tax, Raw Jute, Electricity duty, entertainment Tax, Motor spirit, share of the divisible pool of income-tax and jute export duty.

For the coming year, increased receipts are anticipated under various heads such as Provincial excise, civil works, other taxes and duties and Transport. To meet the anticipated deficit in the coming year, it is proposed to enhance the entertainments tax, to revise the Agricultural Income-tax and to remove more commodities from the exemption list under Sales Tax. On the whole the financial structure of the Province is not unsound. It has no public debt, funded or floating though it owes to the centre a sum of Rs. 8 crores 82 lakhs which will swell to Rs. 24 crores 83 lakhs at the end of the next year and these amounts are intended to finance such productive projects as Calcutta Transport scheme, Grow More Food schemes, the Mor Project and the Damodar Valley project. An analysis of the expenditure also reveals the changing pattern of public finance towards nation-building items. The shift from dead weight to productive expenditures is unmistakable. It is true that Police still occupies the 1st place in the list of expenditures but General administration which occupied third place in undivided Bengal has dropped to sixth place in 1949-50 in W. Bengal. Education which was fifth is now fourth. Medical aid has reached third place and the trend is thus in favour of nation-building items.

As regards W. Bengal budget this year, a notable feature is the review of the political and economic situation given by

Mr. N. R. Sarkar, the Finance Minister, as a background to the budget proposals. It is a matter of more than passing interest. Among the remedies suggested to overcome the deteriorating economic situation is borrowing capital from abroad and he is of opinion that loans from the International Bank would of course enhance India's credit and make other foreign creditors all the more ready to lend to India. But he wants such loans should be reserved only for selected Government sponsored or big schemes. He considers that participation of foreign industrialists would be even more fruitful of results than loans from International Bank in as much as India will get the requisite 'know-how' which the Bank Loans may not always carry with them. Since India has a strong centralised type of Government based upon democratic principles, Mr. Sarkar thinks that there is no need to be unduly apprehensive of the evils of foreign capital that are likely to manifest themselves in a country having a weak Government.

BOMBAY

As regards the budget for 1949-50, the revenue receipts are estimated at Rs. 48.81 crores whereas expenditure debitable to revenue is Rs. 52.41 crores. There is thus a gap of Rs. 3.60 crores and in order to meet the deficit, the Bombay Finance Minister has made the following proposals. First modifications in the present sales-tax structure, stamp duty on bullion transactions, electricity duty on energy used for purposes other than lighting and fans or by industrial establishments and a tax on newspaper advertisements. Of the four proposals, there is justification for stamp-

duty on bullion transactions on the principle of taxing those best able to bear the burden of the tax. But in the case of other taxes, they would be really inflationary in their effects. The new imports are expected to bring in an additional revenue of Rs. 4.1 crores, which after covering the deficit will leave a small surplus of less than Rs. 12 lakhs.

MADRAS

The budget for 1945-50 estimates revenue receipts of Rs. 51.75 crores as compared with Rs. 53.38 crores (revised) for the current year. The estimated expenditure on revenue account for the budget year is placed at Rs. 55.66 crores as against the revised estimate of Rs. 57.04 crores for 1948-49. Thus the budget for the coming year reveals a deficit of Rs. 3.90 crores. Additional taxation measures are proposed to cover the deficit besides serving as an anti-inflationary measure. It is doubtful how far the additional taxation proposed will be really anti-inflationary but it is quite certain that it is an additional burden to the common people.

In a marathon speech, the Finance Minister has surveyed the measures for the betterment of the people and in particular for the Harijans, *viz.* a separate department of Harijan Welfare and ample free educational facilities from the primary to the University stage. The Government's programme of Industrial development provides Rs. 51 lakhs for the purchase of shares in the proposed Industrial Finance Corporation. The Central Government has been approached for the establishment of a steel factory and there are proposals regarding the production of important chemicals. The

acquisition of the Andhra Paper Mills at Rajahmundry, the setting up of a hydro-generation factory at Calicut, the arrangements that are being made for the production of Austin Cars and the establishment of a factory for Standard Cars and Ferguson Tractors form part of a programme of industrial development. It is noteworthy that there is one thing in common to both Madras and Bombay budgets. In both provinces the full effects of the loss of revenue on account of Prohibition and the costly social projects are now becoming more apparent and the two Governments are resorting to desperate fiscal measures to make both ends meet.

UNITED PROVINCE

The U. P. Budget for 1949-50 declares a small surplus of Rs. 15 lakhs, receipts being estimated at Rs. 55.73 lakhs and expenditure Rs. 55.58 lakhs. No new taxes are proposed. Instead, two funds, the 'Sugar Research and Labour Housing Fund' to which Government have transferred Rs. 150 lakhs this year and the 'Zamindari Abolition Fund' to which will be allotted one crore out of the current year's surplus are to be created. The savings of the tenants are to be mobilised for feeding this Zamindari Abolition Fund. A tenant who contributes an amount equal to ten year's rent will be entitled to a reduction of 50 per cent on the sum now paid up by him as rent and will pay to the State one-half of this sum as revenue. This scheme will at once bring scattered surplus purchasing power into a pool to be utilised for eliminating middle men and reviving agricultural prosperity and will exert a healthy downward pressure on

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inflation by canalizing savings into productive channels.

CENTRAL PROVINCE

The budget for 1948-49 shows the revenue at Rs. 18.99 crores as against the estimated expenditure of Rs. 18.79 crores. In order to augment revenues, in the coming year, the exemption list under the Sales-tax has been narrowed down, as in the case of Bombay and Madras. Besides certain suitable articles have been transferred from the ordinary to the luxury list under this tax. Other taxes are the entertainments duty at the uniform rate of 50 per cent of the ticket, a profession-tax at the rate of Rs. 28 per annum upto an income level of Rs. 10,000 yearly and at Rs. 50 for income above Rs. 10,000, a registration fee of Rs. 12 per annum from money-lenders, enhancement of the taxes on motor vehicles, and the electricity duty as in the case of Bombay and Madras.

BIHAR AND ORISSA

Both Bihar and Orissa budgets for the year 1949-50 reveal certain common features. The estimated accounts of the two provinces show surpluses and both Provinces have introduced fresh taxation measures to augment their revenues.

In the case of Bihar, the revenue is estimated at Rs. 890.09 lakhs as against a budgeted expenditure of Rs. 876.09 lakhs. On capital account a receipt of Rs. 3039.74 lakhs as against a disbursement of Rs. 2907.09 lakhs is anticipated thus showing a surplus of Rs. 132.65 lakhs. On the side of taxation, proposals are for increasing the tax on motor vehicles, adhesive stamps, agricultural income and sales.

As regards Orissa, the budget for 1949-50 discloses an estimate of Rs. 24.40 crores under revenues and of Rs. 21.52 crores under expenditure and thus a surplus of Rs. 2.88 crores with which the current year's balance of Rs. 5.91 crores is expected to close the accounts with a balance of Rs. 8.80 crores at the end of the budget year. With a view to meet the cost of post-war schemes and other long-range requirements of the Province, proposals have been put forward to levy a tax on the sale of foodgrains at 3 pies in the Rupee, an increase in the rate of tax on retail sales of motor spirit and a super-tax on agricultural income over Rs. 25,000 a year and the taxation proposals are estimated to yield Rupees two crores.

EAST PUNJAB

The budget estimates for 1949-50 disclose a gap of Rs. 8.55 crores. Revenue receipts are estimated at Rs. 14.37 crores and expenditure at Rs. 22.92 crores. Out of a sum of Rs. 8.30 crores to be spent on refugee relief, a sum of Rupees seven crores is expected on this account from the Central Government and the real deficit would therefore be about Rs. 15 crores.

A survey of Provincial budgets leads us to certain general conclusions of considerable significance for the present and the future. War time inflation brought a sudden increase in Provincial revenues in terms of rupees and the inflationary conditions continue to maintain revenues at the bloated levels of the war period and all the Provinces have gone forward on the path of fresh taxes and large scale expenditure. Rising expenditure, on account of refugees, development schemes such as Grow-more Food

Campaigns, expanding social and security services are outstanding features of Provincial Budgets of 1949-50. By some means or other, the Provinces mostly show a surplus for the coming year. Though they have attempted to avoid deficits, they cannot claim to have strengthened the fight against inflation. The need for co-ordination of tax policies either among Provinces or with the Centre does not seem to have received the consideration that was insisted upon at the recent Finance Ministers' Conference about the twin objectives of combating inflation and securing co-ordination in fiscal policies. The present position requires first of all relieving the inflationary pressure, and economy in public administration. Though the liquidation of illiteracy, total prohibition etc. are unexceptionable, these schemes of social amelioration depend on a certain rate of growth of our national income and the evolution of scientific system of public finance. Small Provinces like Orissa, Assam etc. have on the whole adopted fiscal policies free from serious error. West Bengal and East

Punjab have suffered from the evils of partition which is writ large on their budgets. Among the medium-sized provinces, Bihar has made a careful and prudent management of her finances and among the bigger Provinces, U. P. has levied taxes to the tune of Rupees four crores a year and has been making annual additions to its revenue reserves. Madras and Bombay have also levied new taxes to the extent of Rupees four crores a year and in all the Provinces, the new levies have fallen disproportionately on the sales-tax, as for example Bombay and Madras trying to cover three-fourths of the expected deficit from sales-tax. The increase in indirect taxation especially the manner in which it is now being employed is bound to affect the growth of trade and industry, and taxable capacity of the people. The present chaotic system of grants from the Centre to the Provinces, the present divisible pool of revenues between the Centre and the Provinces and the entire structure of Provincial taxation call for hard thinking and scientific reorganisation.

BUDGET AT A GLANCE (1949-50)

(IN CRORES OF RUPEES)

	BENGAL	BOMBAY	U. P.	C. P.	BIHAR	ORISSA	MADRAS
1. Revenue	31.83	48.81	55.73	18.49	24.40	8.90	51.75
2. Expenditure	32.94	52.79	55.58	18.79	21.52	8.76	55.66
3. Surplus (+) } or Deficit (-) }	-1.11	-3.98	+0.15	0.30	+2.88	+0.14	-3.91
4. Net Tax yield } about }	1.11	4.10	Nil	.50	Nil	Nil	4.00
5. Net surplus(+) } or Deficit (-) }	—	+1.12	+1.75	+1.20	+2.88	+0.14	+1.09

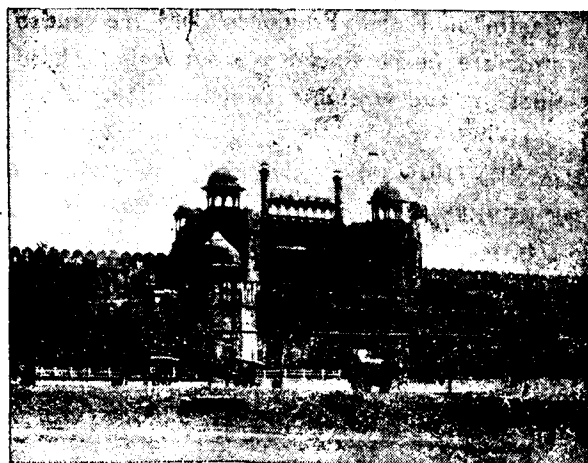
INSIDE THE RED FORT

By MR. N. K. HALDAR

THE recently concluded Mahatma Gandhi murder trial, which incidentally cost the Government more than Rs. 5,00,000, has stirred renewed interest in Shah Jahan's Red Fort wherein was conducted for nearly 8½ months one of the most momentous and poignant criminal cases of modern times.

It was here during the historic Mutiny of 1857 that Bahadur Shah was proclaimed Emperor of Hindustan by the mutineers. Within the four walls of the citadel a few months later, he was tried by a military court on charges similar to those which confronted the three I. N. A. officers in 1945, at the close of World war II.

What is the Red Fort's history and what is its heritage? It was built in the middle of the 17th century by the Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan. Delhi boasts of many



A VIEW OF THE RED FORT, DELHI.

historical monuments of medieval grandeur and superb architecture but the Fort, described also as the "Heavenly Palace," is unique and legendary.

It is believed that under the foundation-stone of the Imperial Palace lay a solid gold model of the palace and a copy of the Holy Quran given by a Sunni Pir with the strict injunction that on the preservation of that holy book would depend the glory and continuity of the Moghul dynasty in India.

Shah Jahan secreted it along with the gold model under the foundation-stone, but Aurangzeb who knew the secret, dug it out for religious reasons, and kept it in a mosque especially built by him within the precincts of the Imperial Palace. It is well known that during his reign the Moghul Empire reached its zenith.

After Aurangzeb's death, the holy book mysteriously disappeared from the mosque and the disintegration of the Moghul Empire proceeded apace.

Much has been written about the awe-inspiring palace of Shah Jahan inside his Red Fort. One of the inscriptions on its walls reads, "a part of high heaven embellished with a hundred beauties," illustrating the ecstasy of the Court poet who beheld in it an ethereal magnificence comparable to Heaven itself. Nor was this mere poetic hyperbole. One of the two most famous palaces in the Fort is the Diwan-I-Khas (Hall of Private Audience) which, writes an enthusiast, symbolises the great Shah Jahan himself, awe-inspiring in his royal eminence, exuberant in his love of beauty and dazzling in the majesty of his imperial power. The beauty of this gorgeous palace lies as much in its architectonic meaning as in its architectural excellence

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to which the purity of its marble, the perfection of its *Pietra Dura* decoration, the harmony of its rhythmic design, the grace of its colonns and the attraction of the delightful background of the river Yamuna on one side and the Palace garden on the other, all contribute.

In short, the Diwan-I-Khas is indeed a marvellous gem of Mughal art, symbolic



DIWAN-I-KHAS INSIDE THE RED FORT. of its royal builder's boundless magnificence and unstinted patronage of art and architecture.

There is a fairly big marble dais (takht) now removed to the eastern aisle of the hall, but which originally lay in the centre as the support for Shah Jahan's world-famed and bejewelled Peacock Throne, better known as Takht-i-taus, which cost no less than Rs. 10 million, equivalent then to £1¼ million, and took seven years to complete. Among the precious stones which encrusted it was a ruby, believed to be worth a

lakh of rupees. It was first used by the Emperor in March 1636 A. D., for the New Year's day celebrations amid scenes of unexampled grandeur.

Next to the Taj at Agra, the Diwan-I-Am (Hall of Public Audience) is the best specimen of Moghul architecture, and has been immortalized in the oft-quoted inscription on one of its walls:

If Paradise be on the face of the earth,
It is this, it is this, it is this.

It was here that the Emperor met the principal officials, nobles and ambassadors to transact weighty and confidential business of State. There he would personally write or dictate all urgent official letters, promulgate State Firmans, decide the disputed affairs of the Crown demesne, award principal grants and charities, approve important architectural plans, inspect the works of the court painters and craftsmen, and, last but not least, enjoy musical entertainment in the company of select friends and courtiers.

After 300 years of fluctuating fortunes, the Red Fort still stands four-square in the capital of a new India, in the heart of a free and sovereign country, not just a relic of an age that has passed but as a reminder of India's ageless glory.

THE INDIAN REVIEW

"THE INDIAN REVIEW," (12 as.), published by G. A. Natesan & Co. in Madras, contains a number of interesting articles. This Review is level-headed in its policy and provides a fine example of decorous constructive journalism. Its format is neat and its proof reading is commendably good. Readers who appreciate an unbiased survey of the political panorama will find it in The Indian Review—Illustrated Weekly of India.

Kashmir's Future—Linked-Up With India

BY MR. J. NIGAM, M.A.

WITH peace once again reigning supreme in the beautiful Valley of Kashmir, things are by now clear that Kashmiris never wanted war to come and ravage their land with endless death and misery. Both by nature and temperament Kashmiris are a peace-loving people who want home-rule under their own leadership without any pressure from outside. Under the able and wise leadership of Sheikh Abdullah, who is popularly known as Sher-i-Kashmir and who is now the Prime Minister of the State, they have always stood for peace and non-violence.

To say that Kashmiris revolted against the Dogra rule and began killing and butchering their own people with the help of the tribal raiders, who gave them a helping hand to become free and accede to Pakistan is as great a myth as can ever be imagined. It was Pakistan which with lusty promises of rich loot let loose a host of tribal people led by her regular forces, to capture the land of Kashmiris and make her a scapegoat for her own exploits. How Kashmir under the leadership of the National Conference rose as one man to meet the challenge and how Indian Army came to their rescue is now history.

The glorious fight that Indian Army and State's people put against the forces of evil that threatened the very existence of the soil, forced the invaders to agree to cease-fire and honour the pledge that India signed when it conditionally accepted the State's accession. The State's accession to India or Pakistan is now a matter of the free will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and no pressure from outside can now

intimidate with the life and honour of the Kashmiris. Kashmiris know their mind best and no fanatic propaganda can separate them from the National Conference that keeps them together. The leaders of the National Conference are all tried leaders of the people who have no axe of their own to grind. They have always stood for the honour and integrity of the State and they will rather die than see their country tottering under the menacing influence of any outside power. They have already decided that they will accede to India which can help them to develop their resources and raise the standard of their living.

Both economically and financially Kashmir is a backward country. This is not because nature ordained her to be so. Nature has been very bountiful in blessing her with all the resources that go to make a country big and prosperous. Kashmir is a big treasure-house of various kinds of important minerals and ores and if suitably explored, it can unearth some of those rare things which are the envy of the world. There is every possibility that Kashmir may have a big reservoir of petrol and a big pipe line hid in her bosom.

There is no denying the fact that if Kashmir has to make good use of her resources and if it has to liquidate her poverty, it must ally herself with a country which can deliver her goods in the minimum possible time. India is the only country which can help Kashmir in the right direction. There can be no doubt, about this. Pakistan with her weak resources and equally weak capacity for a swift

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KASHMIR'S FUTURE—LINKED-UP WITH INDIA

industrialisation cannot pull another man's cart. She has neither the machinery nor the necessary strength to drive through this business.

India has sufficient strength to tide over her present difficulties which are mainly due to after-effects of partition.

Free India has vast resources. Her financial position is sound. Her industrial output is creditable and she has a well balanced economy. She is striving hard to work night and day to harvest the power that lies waste in her big rivers. She has already under execution very many tentative plans which will change her face altogether.

Kashmir knows that in associating herself with the mother country, she is going to have a good time. She knows also that if it basked in India's healthy sunshines, it will emerge as a great country—big and prosperous. All her poverty which clings to her like an old disease and tampers with the life of her people will be a thing of the past and she will have reason to feel proud of taking a right decision when her very existence was at stake.

Kashmiris cannot afford to take a different decision for that would amount to killing the goose that laid her golden eggs. All her trade and industry are directly connected with India. Kashmir is abundant in fruits. It prepares silk and silken cloth, saris, hand-loom cloth, costly durries and other luxury goods. All these things find their ready market in India.

Pakistan cannot even offer a fair price to all these commodities. She herself exports fruits. Only last year when she was cut off from India her fruit trade was greatly

paralysed. As costly as grapes did not get enough market in Pakistan and was sold at 2 annas a seer. Silken and other luxury goods that are so popular in India cannot find so ready a response in Pakistan where people are proverbially poor.

Kashmir attracts an unending stream of tourist traffic from India. Roughly speaking more than half the population of the Valley earn their livelihood by associating themselves with this traffic. If Kashmir joined hands with Pakistan all this will stop and this will result in great dislocation of trade and industry which will finally tell upon her people.

All these factors weigh heavily with Kashmiris. They cannot possibly damage their own cause. They have to put their house in order and they will think twice before they take a hasty step.

SONG

By TERENCE HEYWOOD

I know the loveliest, whitest of beaches,
That sleeps in tranquillity under the noon,
And bears in the breast of its inland reaches,
A blue lagoon.
Its wind-chiselled features by sea-spray etched
Are undulant, shapely and smooth to the eye,
And its bosom immaculate halo-encinctured,
Is bare to the sky.
I shall go with my love there and spend the day gazing,
In the lake, in her eyes, in the brightness above,
And into the night I shall linger there lazing,
With all I love.

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FROM MY NOTEBOOK

BY "BEE"

I WISH I HAD BEEN THAT BANK CLERK

Half of these stories about the prodigious fortunes made by begging are (I verily believe) misers' calumnies. One was much talked of in the public papers some time since, and the usual charitable inferences deduced. A clerk in the Bank was surprised with the announcement of a five hundred-pound legacy left him by a person whose name he was a stranger to. It seems that in his daily morning walks from Peckham (or some village thereabouts) where he lived, to his office, it had been his practice for the last twenty years to drop his half penny duly into the hat of some blind Bartimeus, that sat begging alms by the wayside in the Borough. The good old beggar recognised his daily benefactor by the voice only; and, when he died, left all the amassings of his alms (that had been half a century perhaps in accumulating) to his old Bank friend.

Was this a story to purse up people's hearts, and pennies, against giving alms to the blind?—or not rather a beautiful moral of well directed charity on the one part, and noble gratitude upon the other?

I sometimes wish I had been that Bank clerk.

—Lamb.

POET AND THE FOOL

Sir, I admit your general rule
That every poet is a fool;
But you yourself may serve to show it
That every fool is not a poet.

—Pope.

WHY BEMOAN DEATH?

What reason hast thou, O mortal, for all this exceeding sorrow? Why bemoan and bewail death? For, if thy life past and gone has been welcome to thee, why not take thy departure like a guest filled with life, and enter with resignation on untroubled rest? But if all thou hast enjoyed has been squandered and lost and life is a grievance, why seek to add more, to be wasted in its turn and utterly lost without avail? Why not rather make an end of life and travail? for there is nothing more which can continue to give thee pleasure: all things are ever the same.

Epicurus.

A LAW SUIT

Tom and Bill had gone to law;
Such a sight you never saw!
Tom was deaf and so was Bill,
But the judge was deafer still.
Tom recounting all he'd spent;
Said, 'He owes me five months' rent.'
Bill replied, with smiling scorn,
'Tis at night I grind my corn.'
Then the judge, serene and bland,
Raised a deprecating hand:
'Why dispute with one another?
After all, she is your mother.'

—A. C. Benson.

CALL A SPADE A SPADE

In literature as in life he makes himself felt who not only calls a spade a spade but has the pluck to double spades and re-double.

—Q.

THE SURE WAY TO BE CHEATED

The surest way to be imposed upon is to think oneself cleverer than other people.

—La Rochefoucauld.

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FROM MY NOTEBOOK

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PEACE

[The simple poignant sincerity of these lines will find an echo in many hearts that have loved, lost and suffered. The poem is steeped in sentiment which however, is touched by a courage which clears it of sentimentality. The note of grief and loveliness slowly broadens down into resignation.]

What though the world indifferent be,
and lost
Is all the dear delight of happier
days,
And gone the one who gave to life its
light,
Peace has not fled. The rapture of the
spring,

—The breathless hush of early summer
dawns,
—The magic of the moon behind the
hill,
—The cloistered calm of dim cathedral
woods.....
—The eternal stillness of the shining
stars,
—The shining beauty of untrodden
snow,
—The brooding peace of sleeping moors
at dusk,

These are Earth's pastures green, her
waters still.

All that one loved is lost, but there
remains

—Though ne'er again the path of joy
be trod—

The Changelessness of God.'

—Hilda Traveyan—Thompson.

TO DO GREAT THINGS

To do great things a man must live as
though he had never to die.

—Vauvanargues.

GLORY

To what do Caesar and Alexander owe the infinite greatness of their renown, if not to Fortune? How many men has she not snuffed out in the beginning of their career of whom we have no knowledge, who brought to their work the same courage as they, but whose ill luck stopped them short at the very birth of their enterprises? In the course of the many and extreme dangers to which he was exposed, I do not remember having read that Caesar was ever wounded. A thousand have fallen in lesser dangers than the least of those he passed through.

—Montaigne.

ONE DISASTROUS DAY

"Now no more shall thy home receive thee with glad welcome, nor wife and children run to be the first to snatch kisses and touch thy heart with a silent joy. One disastrous day has taken from thee, luckless man, all the many prizes of life." This do men say, but add not thereto "and now no longer does any craving for these things beset thee withal."

—Lucritius.

MISFORTUNES

Nobody is so weak but he is strong enough to bear the misfortunes he does not feel.

—La Rochefoucauld.

GREAT MEN

Great men owe a fourth part of their fame to their daring, two-fourths to their fortune and the remaining fourth to their crimes.

—Ugo Foscolo.

THE DEEP PATHOS

The deep pathos lying in the thought of human mortality—that we are here a little while and then vanish away—that this earthly life is all that is given our loved ones and to our many suffering fellowmen—lies nearer the fountains of moral emotion than the conception of extended existence.

—George Eliot.

NOTHING BEGINS, AND NOTHING ENDS

Nothing begins, and nothing ends
That is not paid with moan;
For we are born in other's pain,
And perish in our own.

—Francis Thompson.

KINDNESS AND COURAGE

Life is mostly froth and bubble;
Two things stand like stone—
Kindness in another's trouble
Courage in our own.

—Lindsay Gordon.

RETIRED BUSINESS MAN

He always said he would retire
When he had made a million clear,
And so he toiled into the dusk
From day to day, from year to year.
At last he put his ledgers up
And laid his stock reports aside,
But when he started out to live
He found he had already died.

—Anderson M. Scruggs,
in THE SUN (New York).

THE DESPISER

He who despises mankind will never get
the best of either others or himself.

—Toqueville.

THE SPORT OF FATE

Here on the earth we are the sport of Fate; nay, on the earth itself we are worse off still, we are beneath the moon, and beneath the moon there is not only Fate, but something more unworthy and equally malignant—chance, to say nothing of damp and the ills of earth and bad demons.

—Gilbert Murray in
"Greek Religion."

THE GRATITUDE OF MEN

I've heard of hearts unkind, kind deeds
With coldness still returning;
Alas! the gratitude of men
Has oft'ner left me mourning.

—Wordsworth.

LIFE AND POETRY

All that is worth remembering in life is
the poetry of it.

—Hazlitt.

MAGNANIMITY AND PRUDENCE

Magnanimity owes no account of its acts
to prudence.

—Vauvanargues.

THE SERVICE AND THE STATE

You will do the greatest service to the State if you shall raise, not the roofs of houses, but the souls of citizens; for it is better that great souls should dwell in mean houses than for mean slaves to lurk in great houses.

—Epictetus.

CLIMBING AND CREEPING

Climbing and creeping are done at the same attitude.

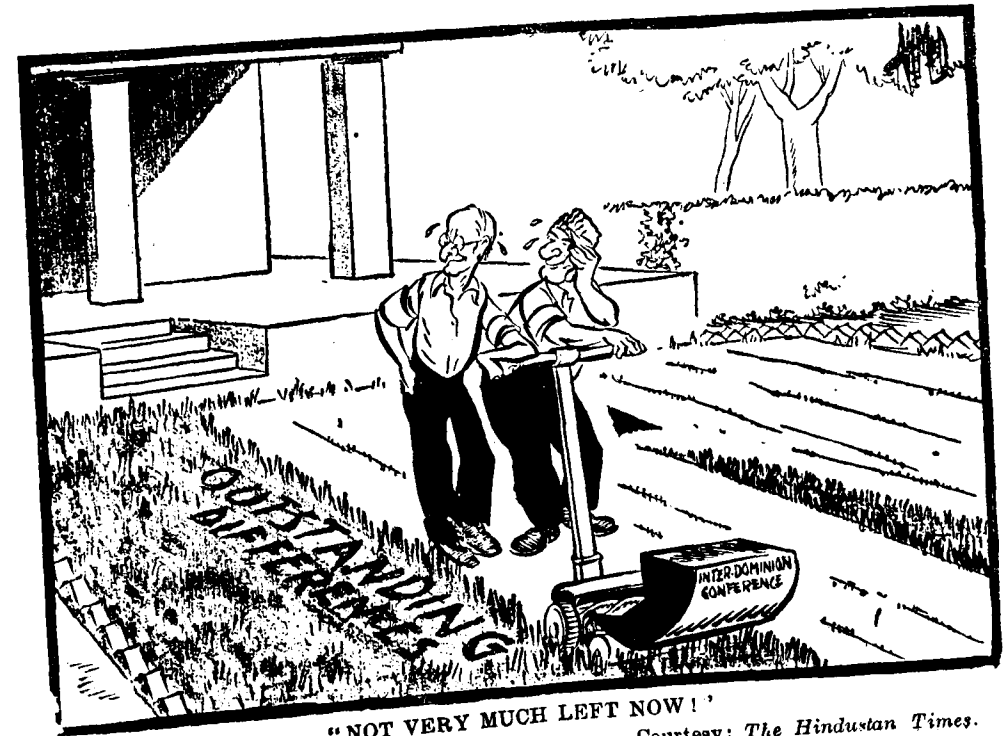
—Swift.

HAPPY AND UNHAPPY FAMILIES

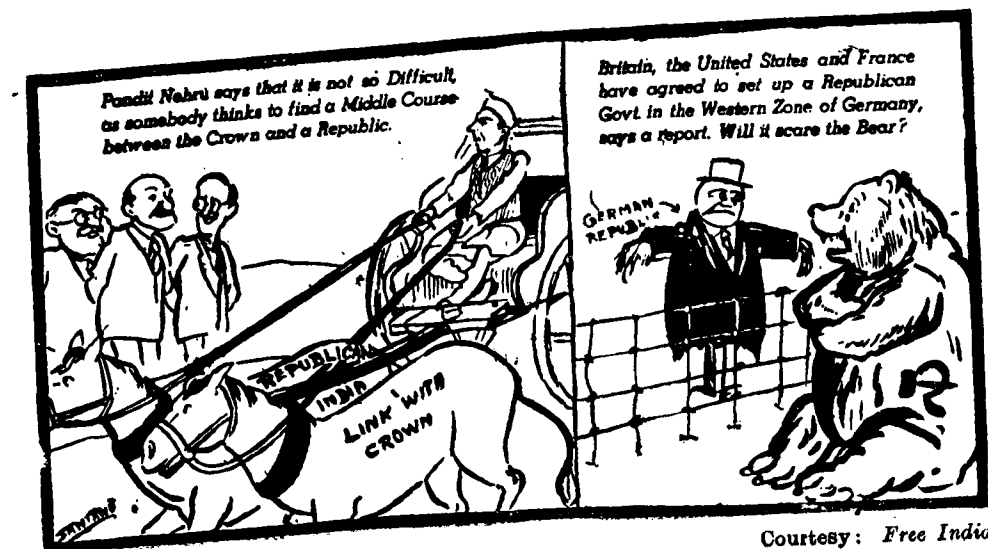
All happy families resemble one another;
every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.

—Tolstoi.

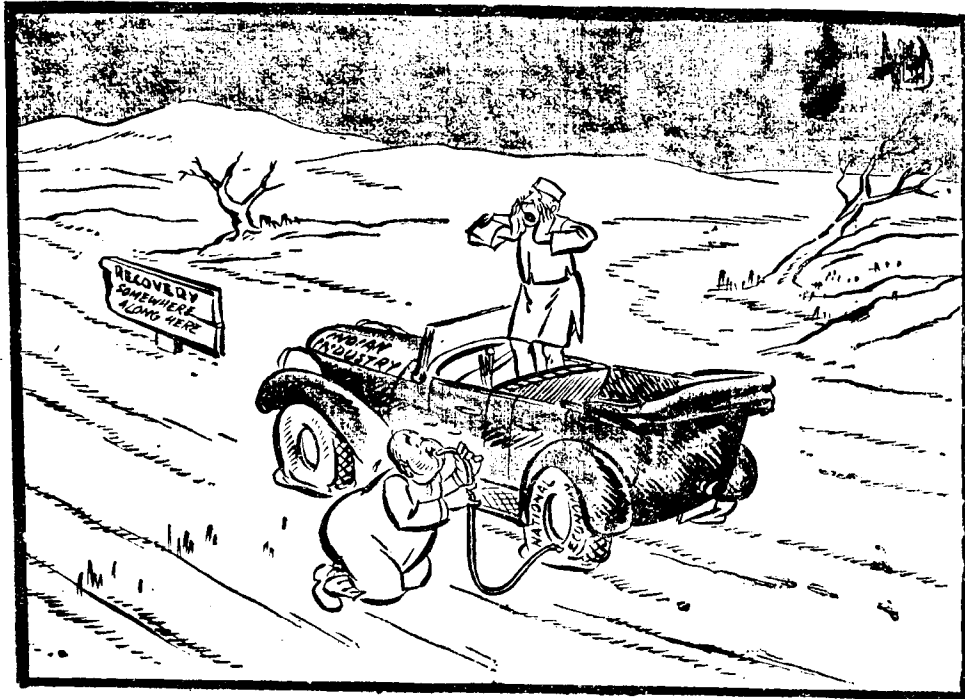
TOPICAL CARTOONS



Courtesy: The Hindustan Times.



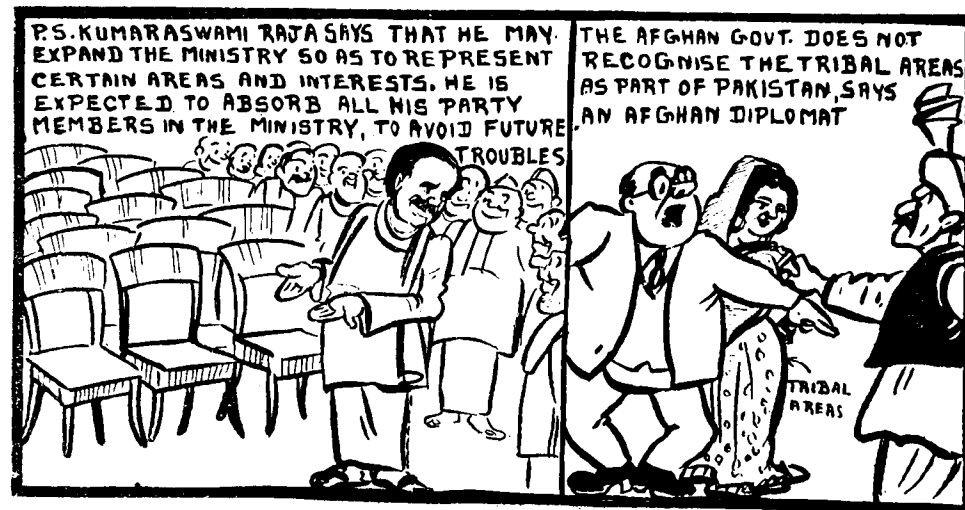
Courtesy: Free India.



"YOO-HOO! ANYONE GOT A PUMP?"

The Prime Minister has made a statement reassuring freedom to foreign enterprise from discriminatory restrictions and welcoming capital from abroad.

Courtesy: *The Hindustan Times.*



Courtesy: *Free India.*

Home and Foreign Affairs

BY "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

The Commonwealth Agreement

THE outcome of the London Conference of Commonwealth Premiers is the settlement of a problem that has been the theme of endless discussions and consultations for several weeks past. The Agreement is satisfactory in so far as India becomes a member of the Commonwealth on her own terms. And then the Commonwealth is all the richer for the retention of a country of such potential power and importance. A new experiment in international fellowship has come into being—replacing the old Statute of Westminster—whereby "Dominions and Republics become indistinguishable and the way opened for discussing closer ties and looser union."

According to the London Agreement India will "remain a full and equal member of the Commonwealth of Nations freely co-operating in the pursuit of peace, liberty and progress."

The Government of India have agreed to accept the King merely as symbolic head of this "free association of independent members". The King will have no constitutional functions as far as India is concerned. The future head of the Republican India will be an elected President, who will express the sovereign will of the people and exercise the functions hitherto performed by the King.

Thus the British Crown will cease to be the ruling symbol in New Delhi and will become, for India, merely the symbol of her association with the Commonwealth of Nations. When her Republican Constitution comes into force, "India will cease to

owe allegiance to the Crown, while all the other Dominions, including Pakistan and Ceylon, will continue to owe such allegiance."

At the final plenary session of the Premiers Pandit Nehru is reported to have made a speech which left a deep impression. One of his main points is believed to have been that the Commonwealth should not be regarded as a military bloc, but should try to approach world problems in a constructive and progressive way.

Other important aspects of the declaration are as follows:

- (1) India will continue to enjoy full imperial preference to trade matters.
- (2) The word "Dominion" which has not been used officially for some time, will now be finally abandoned.
- (3) Within the Commonwealth, Indian citizens will continue to have all the rights they now enjoy.
- (4) Legislation, it is suggested, will not be needed in any of the Commonwealth countries to give the declaration full effect.
- (5) When India becomes a Republic the office of Governor-General, as representative of the King, will disappear.
- (6) The future designation of India's diplomatic representatives in Commonwealth republics—now called High Commissioner—has yet to be decided.

To a large extent the London Agreement is a personal triumph for Pandit Nehru even as it fully expresses British genius for adapting itself to new situations.

Sir H. P. Mody, New Governor of U. P.

Sir Homi Mody, the biographer of Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, is an Indian first and a Parsi afterwards. He is the last person to think of himself in terms of community, but it must be gratifying to members of this important minority, that an eminent Parsi leader and businessman should have been chosen Governor of U. P. in succession to Sarojini Naidu. Sir Maharaj Singh in Bombay and Asaf Ali in Orissa are reputed members of other important minorities.

Recruitment to the Armed Forces

Brig. Billimoria, Director, Selection of Personnel, Army Headquarters, who was addressing a Press Conference in Bombay complained that response from suitable young men for admission to the newly-started Inter-Services Wing of the Armed Forces Academy had been "disappointing," with a large number of vacancies for the training courses remaining unfilled. But what was more disturbing was the disparity of the response of the various Provinces. For example, Brig. Billimoria said:

Out of the approximately 180 cadets now undergoing training at the Inter-Services Wing, over 50 were from East Punjab, about 40 from Delhi Province, and about 35 from the United Provinces, leaving about 50 only from the other large provinces of India, such as Bombay, Madras and Bengal.

Illustrating the disparity further, the Brigadier said that for the second course of the Academy, beginning in July, 1949,

out of about 300 applications received up to date, 240 were from East Punjab, Delhi, and the U. P. while only 18 were from Bombay, 11 from Madras, 11 from Bengal, 10 from C. P. and Berar and 4 from Bihar.

If this "very serious state of affairs" continued, Brig. Billimoria said, "and over 75 per cent of Officer Candidates for the Armed Forces were recruited from Northern India

we will be faced with the problem of a martial class again, which no true citizen of India would desire in a secular State.

It is in the interest of Free India that the citizen army of the future is fully representative of all Provinces and classes of people and there is no disparity in the response to the recruitment drive of the armed forces of the country.

Asian Nations meet in New Delhi

India is content to be left free to manage her affairs without hindrance from foreigners. Having just recovered her freedom she does not aspire to lead any more than she desires to be led. But circumstances are forcing her to take a leading part in Asian affairs. Events in Burma and China and Indonesia cannot be a matter of unconcern to us. There is trouble in all these countries and India, being comparatively free from such troubles she is looked up to for guidance and friendly counsel. She has vast resources in men and material and her statesmen have not been wanting in sagacity and goodwill. India is steadily acquiring a sort of natural leadership which she cannot afford to dispense with.

Representatives of eleven Asian countries met in New Delhi last month under the Presidency of India's Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and reviewed the situation in Indonesia and considered the next step to be taken for a satisfactory solution of the Indonesian problem.

The conference, which was of an informal nature, became necessary, as the recent resolution of the United Nations Security Council on Indonesia, was not in conformity with the one passed on January 22 by the Asian Conference on Indonesia.

The countries represented at the conference were: Afghanistan, Australia, Burma, China, Ceylon, Egypt, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Siam and India.

THE LIMIT

The burglars were busy in the store. "Look at the price of this suit," said Bill, "Downright robbery, I call it."

The Madras Ministry

Madras, which in the past, led the other Provinces in efficient and progressive government, has of late fallen in public esteem. It would be invidious to discuss the relative merits of the two Premiers who have successively held the position once held by C. R. and Mr. Prakasam. There is one thing in common. Mr. Kumaraswami Raja, like Mr. Reddiar owes his position to the favour of a clique which has made and unmade Ministry in the Province. The main business of the leader is to lead and if he submits himself to be led by any group however powerful, he is no more secure in his office, and the same process which helped him to power will be his undoing. Secondly the legislators themselves hardly seem to be of one mind on any matter of public importance, save the retention or dismissal of the men in their power. Until the legislators begin to think in terms of policy rather than of personalities there is little hope of good government in the Province. And then, fancy each Minister speaking his own mind irrespective of the collective view of the Cabinet. The Cabinet must work as a team, choosing its leader with discrimination and working with him loyally and faithfully. The new Premier has had fairly good experience of public life and his modesty must carry him far in enlisting the support and co-operation of those whose support and co-operation are well worth having in the interest of the government and people of this Province.

DO YOUR BEST

Judge: "The sentence is twenty years' penal servitude."

Prisoner: "But, my lord, I won't live that long!"
"Never mind, just do the best you can."

Pandit Nehru on Foreign Investments

The Prime Minister's statement in Parliament welcoming foreign investments in India has aroused considerable interest in Britain and U. S. A. There is of course, plenty of capital in India, and if Indian businessmen are wise and patriotic they can make the best use of their capital in their own interest and in the interest of the country. But in the long term programme of industrialisation on which India is bent on launching there is ample scope for additional investments from abroad. The Prime Minister's statement is not necessarily an invitation to foreign financiers to employ their money in India in preference to Indian capital. It is to be interpreted as offering a fair field for foreign financiers if they care to take the opportunities offered by the new demands of Indian industrialisation.

The chairman of the U. S. National Association of the Manufacturers recently pointed out two conditions which are necessary to ensure the free flow of foreign capital. The capital importing country should ensure fair and non-discriminatory treatment to foreign investors and foreign capital must be protected against inadequate compensation in the case of compulsory acquisition. Pandit Nehru's statement gives ample guarantee to foreign investors on both these points.

GLAMOR GIRL

The head of the firm was frowning over a letter. Calling for his chief clerk, he said: "That typist—you certainly didn't engage her on account of her grammar!"

"Grammar", said the other. "When you were emphasizing the importance of grammar—well, I thought you said 'glamor'!"

Truman's Threat

President Truman's threat that he would not hesitate to use the atom bomb against the erring nation does no more than reflect the average Westerner's approach to the problem of peace. The American President is merely echoing the familiar language of Churchill and Stalin. For at bottom the temper of mind which gives vent to such language is just the same in all three. But who is to judge whether a nation's acts are righteous or wicked? Hitler had no doubt that his national socialism would save the world from the wickedness of Western democracy and he threatened the rest of the world with dire consequences. Whatever is good or bad for the nations there is no doubt that this kind of talk is one which is bound to create the very atmosphere of war. And yet the President's intention was far from aggressive. The attitude of mind betrayed by such talk is the very despair of the pacifist intent on paving the way to permanent peace. What we need is a new approach to the problems of peace, an approach which must appeal to the best instincts of men and nations, inspiring confidence and faith in one another and in the ultimate brotherhood of mankind. Hence Gandhiji's insistence on correct means for ends, however desirable in themselves.

Eire breaks with the Crown

On April 18, Easter Monday, Eire cut off her last link with the British Crown. The ceremonial inauguration of the Republic of Eire was an impressive affair. At a Press Conference in Dublin, the same afternoon Prime Minister John Costello declared:

We now stand alone as a Nation. We have no alliances, entanglements or ties with any country in the world. But we are to be reckoned with now as an independent State, however, small we are.

Until partition goes we cannot give the full contribution we could give in economic and military co-operation in the defence of peace.

Mr. Costello said the Eire Government would be prepared to allow the people of Northern Ireland to retain their present powers of Government provided that the powers of defence and foreign affairs were in the hands of an all-Ireland Government.

Although we have severed the ties that bound us to Great Britain and the other members of the Commonwealth, we believe that what has been done to-day will ensure more cordial and closer co-operation, greater and more real friendship between Ireland, Great Britain and the other Commonwealth countries than could ever have existed under former conditions.

Mr. Eaman de Valera and members of the opposition boycotted the function, as in their view this act of complete severance would make the idea of re-union with Northern Ireland absolutely out of the question. Spokesmen of the Government on the other hand are convinced that link with the Crown has in no way helped the process of re-union and is likely to prove a hindrance rather.

U. N. Trusteeship for Italian Colonies

India has suggested an eight-point plan for direct United Nations Trusteeship for the whole of the former Italian Colonies in Africa, with the exception of Eastern Eritrea. Addressing the General Assembly's Political Committee, Mr. M. C. Setalvad, Chief Indian delegate, called for an impartial United Nations administration outside the Big Power orbit, and devoted to the preparation of these territories for early independence.

Mr. Setalvad said India appreciated the strength of the case made out by Ethiopia for the incorporation of a part of Eritrea into Ethiopia. "In the circumstances," he said,

I would suggest that in Eastern Eritrea, including the ports of Massawa and Assab, an immediate plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations be taken.

If the people express their will to be incorporated into Ethiopia such a decision may be given effect to.

Journalists in Conference

South Indian journalists, meeting in Conference at Madras, were happy to have their tried and well beloved President Mr. N. Raghunathan of the *Hindu* to guide their deliberations for the fourth time in succession. That selection was a tribute alike to Mr. Raghunathan's interest in working journalists and their own appreciation of his eminent services.

Speaking of the role of the press following the achievement of freedom in India Mr. Raghunathan made pointed reference to the twin evils of scurrilous writings in newspapers and the gutter Press, battenning on group prejudices and antagonisms, communal, religious and racial. Such unhealthy developments cannot be too strongly deprecated. But he held that, while the ordinary criminal law should be rigorously enforced against all law-breakers including the erring section of the Press, nothing should be done to impede the fullest freedom of criticism unless there was imminent danger of violence resulting from the misuse of such freedom.

It was a happy augury too that the first important public gathering which the new Premier Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja addressed was the conference of journalists. That is as it should be. For as the Premier rightly observed a 'fearless and independent Press, like an independent judiciary was an index of real democracy.' The press, he added, should bring home to the Government their acts of commission and omission, which required rectification.

In fact nothing can be more helpful to good government than a clean press, critical when necessary but always discerning and helpful in the larger interest of society.

Civil War in China

The civil war in China has flared up with fresh vigour on the failure of negotiations. The Communists have crossed the Yangtse at various points and are spreading out fan-wise to the South. Nanking has fallen, they have entered Taiyuan and isolated Shanghai. The defence on the mighty river has crumbled with surprising suddenness. The Nationalists have evacuated the capital and have fallen back to Hangchow, the capital of Chekiang province. The complete collapse of China seems inevitable.

What kind of Government will emerge from the civil war is a matter for speculation. Mr. Mao Tse-tung, the Communist leader, has declared that

the particular task of the Chinese Communists is to unite all revolutionary forces within the whole country, to drive out the aggressive forces of American imperialism, overthrow the reactionary role of the Kuomintang, and establish a unified Democratic People's Republic.

He has denounced "foreign imperialism and native feudalism" and has called for the abrogation of all unfair treaties which China had been forced to enter into with foreign countries.

At the moment the Communists are in full command and fairly strong and popular too. Western powers can hardly afford to take liberties with new China. They will doubtless move warily seeing that new China, though Communist, will yet be undivided. A united China is a different affair to deal with and can't be tackled piecemeal. But then Chinese Communism may adapt itself to the needs of the soil and turn out a different pattern from the Soviet.

Broadly speaking, human beings may be divided into three classes: those who are toiled to death, those who are worried to death and those who are bored to death.

—Winston Churchill.



The WORLD of BOOKS



(ONLY SHORT NOTICES APPEAR IN THIS SECTION)

MAHATMA GANDHI. By H. S. L. Polak, H. N. Brailsford and Lord Pethick-Lawrence. With a Foreword and Appreciation by Sarojini Naidu. Odhams Press, Ltd., Long Acre, London. Can be had of G. A. Natesan & Co., Madras, Rs. 10-8.

The publishers claim this is a complete and authoritative biography of Mahatma Gandhi yet published. No biography of Gandhiji could be complete in one volume. His long public career, crowded with so many activities and such achievements could hardly be compressed within the space of a single volume. Attempts are therefore rightly made in India to prepare a full length biography of the Mahatma, making use of all available material in the shape of innumerable sketches and studies and his own literary remains. But the book under review is certainly as authoritative a document as can be conceived. For all the three writers and the lady who wrote the Foreword were all intimately associated with Gandhiji in many of his activities and at various times. And they can rightly claim to speak with authority and personal knowledge. Gandhiji had inspired many writers among his contemporaries and the authors of this book are not the least of them. Mr. H. S. L. Polak, Mahatma Gandhi's deputy during the pre-1914 period in South Africa, writes appropriately enough of the early years. Mr. H. N. Brailsford, journalist and author, writes of him during the inter-war period. Lord Pethick Lawrence writing with the dual

authority of an old friend and former Secretary of State for India rightly observes

that the world of atom bombs and perhaps bacteriological warfare 'may yet be forced to think again of some escape from self-destruction along the Mahatma's lines.'

Lord Pethick-Lawrence sums up the Mahatma's role in world history :

No one truly understands the life and thought of Mahatma Gandhi who imagines the emancipation of India from foreign rule was the main purpose of his life, or that its attainment was his greatest contribution to the land of his birth.

For his kingdom, like that of Christ or the Buddha, was not of this world. It was the moral emancipation of his countrymen and countrywomen from the sins of sloth, cowardice, malice and uncharitableness that was his overriding passion.

Nevertheless, unlike these founders of two great religions, Gandhi stepped down from the high plane of spiritual leadership to mingle in the arena of everyday affairs. In that, he more nearly resembled the Hebrew prophets who played an active part in the statecraft of their days.

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu who, alas has so soon followed the Mahatma, writing as friend and disciple in a foreword asks :

How, in what lexicons of the world's tongues, shall I find words of adequate beauty and power that might serve, even approximately, to portray the rare and exquisite courtesy and compassion, courage, wisdom, humour and humanity of this unique man ?

He was assuredly a lineal descendant of all the great teachers who taught the gospel of love, truth and peace for the salvation of humanity, and who was essentially akin to all the saints and prophets, religious reformers and spiritual revolutionaries of all times and lands.

YOUNG TEACHER'S GUIDE. By the Rev. R. Conesa. S. J. Padma Publications Ltd., Bombay, price Re. 1.

This is a useful exhortative book for those who enter the teaching profession. There are six chapters, the last two being The Modern World and Modern Education, and Modern Theories of Education.

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THE WORLD OF BOOKS

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THE WORLD AND INDIA. By Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer. Published by the Indian Institute of Culture, Bangalore, Re. 1.

The beautifully got up little booklet under review is the substance of the two lectures delivered by the author to the Indian Institute of Culture, and they appeared first in two instalments in the *Aryan Path* January and February 1949. The first lecture "India and world culture" gives us the main characteristics of Indian Philosophy and Culture, and brings out the "ideological and material intercourse which has gone on for long centuries between India and the rest of the world. The progressive, universalistic, rational, spiritual and the humanistic ideals of Indian thought are clearly touched on and eloquently described. The fundamental unity of Indian culture is emphasised as its unique character.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN; HIS RIGHTS AND DUTIES. By V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, Hind Kitabs Ltd. Bombay.

The Hind Kitabs Ltd., have done very useful service to the reading public by bringing out an Edition of Srinivasa Sastri's Kamala Lectures on the Rights and Duties of the Indian Citizen. No other publication can be more opportune at a time when the constitutional Pundits of the land are engaged in forging anew the constitution of the country. The statement "every law is a veritable freedom" is upheld by Sastriar with his characteristic clearness and force of diction. The book provides good reading to the student and the citizen as well.

OCCIDENTAL CIVILIZATION. By G. S. Ghurye. International Book House, Bombay. Rs. 20.

Dr. Ghurye, who is the Head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Bombay, has already shown his careful knowledge of culture and civilization in his book *Culture and Society*. In the present book he has made a wide study of the culture of the West in its various aspects. He has taken the period from 1300 to 1925 and studied the contribution of various countries to painting, sculpture, architecture, drama, opera, science, philosophy and other thought. One chapter is given to each, and after each chapter he has given a list of all the distinguished names in the various countries in that art form. His discussions are historical and critical. With such a vast theme he naturally does not go into detailed criticism. He gives only the general features of the scene. But his purpose of revealing the co-operative nature of culture he has very well succeeded in bringing out. While the chapters dealing with the different arts are full of useful information, and may even serve as a reference book, his last chapter of conclusions is full of suggestive thought. Apart from everything else, the book is revealing of international interdependence, and serves therefore the greatest need of the hour,

INDIAN LANDSCAPE: A BOOK OF DESCRIPTIVE POEMS by R. N. Currey, Routledge, London, price 5s. net.

These are "glittering trifles" produced by a typical British soldier in India, with sufficient "sensibility" to record his impressions of what he sees while travelling in the country. In India we conceive of poetry more devoutly than in the vein of a superficial and supercilious impressionist. The race of overweening birds of passage is bound to decline in the future.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

- April 1. Sri Kumaraswami Raja elected leader of the Madras Legislative Party.
- April 2. Chandranagore Assembly votes for merger with India.
- April 3. Golden Jubilee of Pope Pius XII. —Governor-General gives assent to Madras Zamindari Bill.
- April 4. Atlantic Pact signed at Washington by Foreign Ministers of 12 nations.
- April 5. Parliament passes three non-official Bills on Marriage reforms.
- April 6. New Madras Ministers sworn in. —East Punjab Cabinet resigns.
- April 7. Karens surrender to Government forces in Burma.
- April 8. U. N. Steering Committee accepts India's move to discuss Indonesia.
- April 9. Pandit Nehru inaugurates at Delhi Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO.
- April 10. Congress Executive discusses Nehru formula for Commonwealth Conference.
- April 11. Deadlock in Kashmir talks.
- April 12. Thakin Nu, Prime Minister of Burma arrives in Delhi.
- April 13. Reports of Pakistan raid on border village.
- April 14. New Ministry for East Punjab announced.
- April 15. U. N. submits fresh Kashmir truce plan to India and Pakistan.
- April 16. Red Peace terms in China.
- April 17. Sir H. J. Kania addresses Madras Lawyers at Advocates' Association's Diamond Jubilee.
- April 18. Eire cuts link with Crown.
- April 19. Pandit Nehru leaves for London to attend the Commonwealth Conference.
- April 20. Personnel of Fiscal Commission to review Protection policy announced.
- April 21. Commonwealth Prime Ministers meet in London. —East Punjab Cabinet formed.
- April 22. Chinese President and Premier quit Nanking: Communists cross the Yangtse; Nanking falls.
- April 23. Madras Premier inaugurates Southern India Journalists' Conference.
- April 24. Government forces take Karen stronghold at Insein.
- April 25. Dutch attack Sumatra.
- April 26. Admiral Nimitz assures fair and impartial plebiscite in Kashmir.
- April 27. London Conference of Commonwealth Premiers concludes with an agreed settlement.
- April 28. U. N. Kashmir Commission presents "final terms" to India and Pakistan. —Eire's Parliament receives Pandit Nehru.
- April 29. Mr. S. P. Sinha, Judge, Allahabad High Court, removed from office.
- April 30. Provincial Food and Agricultural Ministers meet in Conference at Delhi. —Reds advance in S. China; Evacuation of Hangchow.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



INSIDE PAKISTAN

Alec Reid, in the concluding article of his "Report on Pakistan" in the columns of the *Hindustan Times* observes that the enthusiasm which was born of the creation of Pakistan has now cooled off and the people are now faced with grim realities of trying to make things work with a grave shortage of necessary talent.

Any country, especially a new one whose frontiers have been carved with a knife, like Shylock's pound of flesh, he says, has to face dangers on three fronts—economic, social and political. Pakistan, starting from scratch, has to build up these fronts and if the pioneering spirit, the spirit which acclaimed the entry to the Promised Land, does exist then planning should be well ahead.

I heard much of this pioneering spirit when in England during the past two years and read stories sent across to the London Press by Pakistan's many friends among English journalists and also her other admirers who broadcast very encouraging reports as to her progress. For instance, in the early days after partition, the crusaders of Mr. Jinnah were reported sitting on boxes (apparently there was a great shortage of chairs) merrily plunging into their manifold tasks in the building of the new State. But judging by the present position, 18 months after, that reported pioneering spirit has cooled off somewhat and Pakistan is now faced with the grim realities of trying to make things work with a grave shortage of the necessary talent. Plans for the future are by no means in short supply but how and when they are to be carried out is another question.

But if from the start the minority had been clearly shown that they would get a square deal, if urgent efforts had been made to produce a constitution within whose framework their interests would have been safeguarded much of the present-day muddle might have been averted. From

the start, however, members of the minority (and the Hindus in particular) were damned as potential fifth-columnists and many thousands who were loath to leave what had been their homes for generations had little alternative but to seek refuge in the Indian Union. And they took with them much of the brain power that is so sadly required in Pakistan today. Those that are left, in the absence of assurances as to their future and any encouragement whatever to play their part in the building of the new State, cannot but be a drag on the wheels of progress.

I was told, when both in Western and Eastern Pakistan, in somewhat vague terms of the new Dominion developing a new brand of Socialism known as "Islamic," but since there has been no report of even a draft constitution, it is difficult to appreciate what exactly this means; and especially it is difficult to foresee the position of the Hindu minority. Does the brotherhood of the Koran embrace the unbeliever? It would clarify the position if at least this were made known.

Internally the country is being ruled by the few rather than the many, but in the main the people are not proving intractable, though elements of dissatisfaction are not lacking. These have not infiltrated from India but have grown up on Pakistan soil and until and unless the leaders realize that sometime or other there must be a reckoning, it will be difficult to produce peace and prosperity. High-handedness and Fascist shock tactics cannot hope to establish a permanently peaceful relationship. West Punjab is a case in point, where the rule of the people has been substituted by autocracy; East Bengal is in practice ruled by a handful of non-Bengali Muslims, while the Frontier is very much under British influence of a most reactionary type controlling the Ministry of Quayum.

GO SLOW IN NATIONALISATION

"D. V. G.", writing in the February number of *Public Affairs* (the Journal of the Gokhale Institute of Public Affairs) observes that there was a time when the public services of Britain were noted for their incorruptibility and public spirit. The war, did not leave that reputation as it was. There are stories of slackness to be heard long before the Bachelor-Gibson episode. Secret money is only a part of the difficulty of public management. Another fact of it is in the lack of technical competency. Business management cannot be mechanised. It needs individual gifts of insight and imagination. How will nationalization or government management ensure this?

Honesty, technical efficiency and personal vigilance are the three indispensable conditions of success in business organization, not merely from the point of view of the balance-sheet, but also from that of utility to the public. The supply of these qualities cannot be unlimited for a Government in any country; and in India in any event we have every circumstance warning us that our position in this respect is very far from one warranting complacency. Our progress in nationalization therefore is not to be ordered by impatience and hurry.

The Government of India have considered not only the susceptibilities of private enterprise, but also the interests of the masses at large, in making it clear that their plan of nationalization is limited to a few specified heads, at any rate for the present, and that private capital will have a fair field for ten years at least.

Two things are clear about nationalization:

(1) It should be restricted to items of absolute necessity as judged from the point of view of the general public interested in the goods or the services of the concern in question.

Where private enterprise has given or can be made to give reasonable satisfaction, the State must not step in. Regulating private enterprise is

a different matter. When the springs of private enterprise are dried up, society can exist only as a piece of mechanism and not as a free growing organism. So maximum of private enterprise and minimum of nationalization.

(2) When nationalization is in operation, even when it is properly applied, there must be the best possible kind of vigilance exercised over it by the Parliament or the responsible legislature.

Nationalization is in practice the rule of a body of Government officials. This means the addition of another Department to the bureaucratic organization of the State.

In a democratic State, the Minister responsible to the legislature for the affairs of a bureaucratic Department is often a layman. Can a layman's supervision and guidance go far enough in the field of technical business? Can he be trusted to help without becoming meddling? And will the Parliament, which is to control the Minister, be any less amateurish? Ill-informed and amateurish meddling is sure to ruin the business. What then is the remedy? The solution must be sought along the following lines suggested by Stephen King Hall in his recent news-letter.

At the beginning of each session (of Parliament) a Select Committee should be set up with power to send for persons and papers. There is an analogy in the Committee on expenditure which functioned during the war, although, for security reasons, some of the most interesting fruits of their labours were never exposed to the public gaze. The Select Committee on Public Corporations would have the duty of keeping the activities of these new bodies under constant review, and it would be the duty of the Committee to report periodically to the House of Commons, drawing the attention of the House to any matter which in the opinion of the Committee required publicity and debate. The main Committee would probably find it convenient to sub-divide itself into Sub-Committees each charged with the job of being the watch-dog of a particular Corporation.

Magistrate: "Can't this dispute be settled out of court?"

Both the Accused: "Certainly, Your Worship. That's just what we were trying to do, when the police interfered!"

FRANCE AND INDIA

Louis Renou's article in *Prabuddha Bharata* published by courtesy of the International Literary Pool, UNESCO, reveals the close link between France and India in respect of India's literary treasures. After dealing with French translators of Sanskrit works Mr. Renou goes on to observe that apart from Sanskrit works, very little—too little—has been done to make familiar in French the best of the Tamil writings as well as those in Hindi, Bengali or Marathi. "We shall soon have a partial translation of the works of Tulsi Das. So far as contemporary work is concerned, rather more has been done, but not nearly enough. Several books by Dhan Gopal Mukerji, Sarat Chandra Chatterji and, recently, a sociological novel by Mulk Raj Anand, *Coolie*, have found readers in our country and have enjoyed success. Efforts in the last thirty years have naturally been concentrated on the works of Rabindranath Tagore, in whom we have appreciated the faithful reflection of all the tendencies of the Indian mind. Much of his work has been translated in French; a fine poet, Pierre Jean Jouve, assisted by Professor Kalidas Nag, has translated *The Swan*. Andre Gide, one of the foremost writers of our time, and himself a Nobel prize-winner, has translated *Post Office* and *Gitanjali*. In his preface to the latter, he says,

"I have spent much longer time translating certain of these poems than Tagore spent writing them. It seemed to me that no thinker of modern times deserved more respect, I might almost say devotion, than Tagore. I took pleasure in humbling myself before him as he had humbled himself to sing before God."

One of our recognized critics, Thibaudet, also greeted *The Home and the World*,

when it was published in French, with resounding praises."

Indian mystical theology found a genuinely interested mind in the philosopher Bergson, who tried to define the characteristics of Indian mysticism in contradistinction to Christian mysticism. "Bergson was familiar with the ancient writings in the English versions, while for modern movements he referred to the works of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda, which have been translated into French, as have the works of Aurobindo, Gandhi, and a few others, in the last few years."

The names mentioned prompt a reference to their biographer, Romain Rolland. Romain Rolland did more than anyone to disseminate the doctrines of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda in the Western worlds. "He was able to link them with the doctrines of ancient India from which they are derived and, through them, to popularize Indian thought. Those lyrical works, to which may be added the same author's book on Gandhi, are in the tradition of romantic writings. It is principally owing to them, I think, that Romain Rolland has been regarded in India as the most representative of contemporary French authors."

Not only is France, like all other Western nations, a civilized country from the material point of view, as much as, and possibly more than any other, it is a country in which intellectual values, the heritage of classical antiquity, and Christianity, have been preserved with their pristine force. In spite of decline, France is a home of literature, art, and philosophic thought. How could she fail to acknowledge the splendour of Indian culture, as she did previously, when the treasures of India's past first met her gaze?" asks the writer.

PERSONAL AND PUBLIC CONDUCT

Emphasising that the need for adopting a higher standard of conduct is not for Congressmen alone but for every one, Sri K. G. Mashruwala writes in a recent issue of *Harijan*:

While there is enough reason for the general dissatisfaction towards the Congress organization and its members, it would be most dangerous on the part of the people and parties opposed to the Congress to suppose that Congressmen are the only people who should correct themselves in order to set the matters right in our country. The Congressmen are but a small part of the nation, and perhaps, with everything said and done, the better section of the society. As matters stand, I do not see any body which is organized on better rules of personal and public conduct than the Congress and is capable of replacing it for the better.

The very fact that the Congress organization itself lays stress on this matter and is alive to the deficiencies of its members is a great and hopeful sign. It is not unlikely that under the chastening effect of its principal leaders, it might yet shed its weakness before it is too late. But the critics who run down the Congress are likely to harm themselves by adopting a complacent attitude that their own standards of conduct are much superior or that it is the Government and the Congressmen who have to mend or end and that they have nothing to contribute.

While, therefore, I allow myself to criticize the Congress-Government or Congressmen unreservedly, when necessary, I feel no manner in doing so. If I have said, at

times, that the Congress will die or be ruined it is not that I wish so, or curse it. Rather, it is in the spirit of a friend and an old servant of the Congress that I make my remarks.

What is necessary for the Congress is still more necessary for the nation. Everyone of us has to adopt a higher standard of conduct. Everyone of us has to turn Godwards *i.e.* towards truth, righteousness, honesty, simplicity, cleanliness and love and regard for the comfort of others. Let it be realized that we cannot expel God from our life and yet be happy and contented.

THE SOVIET EMIGRANTS

A valuable source of information on conditions and outlook in Russia at the present day is available in the tens of thousands who have "escaped from the Soviet Union", observes George Fischer in the *Russian Review*, published in New York. Disaffected citizens, there doubtless are, in all countries and the writers warning is important that American analysts of the emigres' evidence must be unwilling "to accept too readily whatever anti-Soviet evidence some may expect or hope to hear."

Those interviewed by the writer of the article seem to have been in agreement, however, as to widespread disaffection against the Soviet Government, found in every layer of the population, though its expression is prevented by the "ever-present and over-ruled system of arrests." One gets an insight into the possible reason for the rigid control of expression by writers and artists, lest subversive ideas gain currency. A totalitarian regime has to sit on the lid very firmly or risk its own overthrow.

But the fear of Communist ideology in the West does not bespeak great confidence in the obvious superiority of the democratic pattern, as the democracies generally are unable to "come before the court with clean hands." It is the sense of one's own inadequacy or one's own shortcomings that makes competition or comparison feared.

But, as the *Aryan Path*, truly points out, it is a grievous mistake to look with apprehension and resentment at the people of any country, above all a totalitarian country, for the sins of omission or commission of its ruling.

The Russians, like the Indians, like the Americans or the French or the English, are *people*, a mixture of good and bad, wisdom and folly, selfishness and readiness to sacrifice oneself, and the sooner people generally learn this and so rise above national no less than creeded or racial labels, the better for mutual understanding and peace and for triumph of the universal brotherhood of man.

THE CIVIL SERVICE IN FREE INDIA

In England and other parliamentary countries the Civil Service is a purely administrative body. The Ministers who are leaders of public opinion lay down the policy of the Government and it is implicitly carried out by the Civil Servants. Of course in actual practice the long experience and expert knowledge of Civil Servants may indirectly contribute to policy-making.

In India, during the British rule the Civil Servants, were performing functions which were incompatible with democratic principles says Mr. R. J. Venkateswaran in the *March New Review*.

Up to 1921, the position of the Civil Service was that of a governing corporation. With the exception of the posts of the Viceroy, the governors of Bengal, Bombay and Madras and the chief justices of the High Courts, all the senior appointments were held by the members of the Civil Service. All the lieutenant-governors were I. C. S. officers. They also directed and con-

trolled the public works department, forest administration, police and other technical services. As the Montague-Chelmsford Report said, "The I. C. S. has been in effect much more of a government corporation than a pure civil service in the English sense."

Having thus enjoyed unlimited powers for a long time, it was but natural that the I. C. S. should feel nervous when the Reforms were published. They tried their best to whittle down the Reforms and formed associations to protect their interests 'by the same kind of methods as those by which Trade Unionists in England band themselves together to protect their own interests'.

The Reforms of 1919, however, actually strengthened the Services. The Ministers were given no control over them in the matter of postings promotion and discipline. All these functions were taken over by the governors although the Act did not empower them to do so. Even after the introduction of provincial autonomy, the civil servants continued to enjoy enormous powers and privileges.

But all this has changed with the attainment of independence. The civil service has ceased to govern. It has become a purely administrative body.

Its members have realised the significance of the change and have adjusted themselves to the new environment. But they can discharge their duties efficiently and in the best interests of country only if they are freed from the irritating interference of party politicians.

CHEAPER

It was a very dissatisfied tenant who approached the landlord of the new house.

"Look here," he said, "that house I've just taken from you is horribly draughty. I've spent pounds on heating arrangements, but wherever I sit my hair is blown all over my head. Can't you do something about it?"

The landlord shook his head.

"I'm afraid not," he replied. "I think it would be easier and cheaper for you to get your hair cut."

BOOK KNOWLEDGE IN SPIRITUAL LIFE

"Experience" said Swami Vivekananda, "is the only teacher we have. We may talk and reason all our lives, but we shall not understand a word of truth, until we experience it for ourselves. You cannot hope to make a man a surgeon by simply giving him a few books. You cannot satisfy my curiosity to see a country by showing me a map; I must have actual experience. Maps can only create curiosity in us to get more perfect knowledge. Beyond that, they have no value whatever. Clinging to books only degrades the human mind. Was there ever a more horrible blasphemy than the statement that all the knowledge of God is confined to this or that book? How dare men call God infinite, and yet try to compress Him within the covers of a little book!"

Books have become an unhealthy obsession with us, observes "Jibendra" in the *Vedanta Kesari*. We waste time in reading and discussing them while the hour for spiritual practice goes by. "Constant pre-occupation of the mind with one's own thoughts or those of others embodied in books hermetically seals it against the descent and reception of truth, light, knowledge, power from above—a descent which can only take place in a quiet, peaceful and silent mind and not in a mind which is ever active, restless and pre-occupied."

If books made men better, changed their lives or widened their hearts, the world would be an altogether different place to live in from what it is to-day. The fact that it is not so is proof positive of the inadequacy of mere book learning for the

purpose of spiritual life. Books may act as an incentive to higher life by stimulating the intellect a little. They have therefore an intellectual but not a spiritual value.

"In spiritual life the object is to realise the spirit, the Atman, as the fundamental truth of our existence—not merely know or apprehend intellectually—and this can only be done by a spiritual living."

SPORTS AND THE NATION

In an article on Sports and the Nation, published in the *Bulletin of Physical Education* of Pondicherry, Sri Aurobindo stresses the need and utility of sports for the nation.

Sports, he says, are valuable not only for building the foundation of health, strength and fitness of the body but also for fostering the qualities of discipline, courage, hardihood, steadiness of action, sportsmanship, and high morale, which are greatly needed and of the utmost service to the nation in war or in peace.

Concluding the article Sri Aurobindo observes:

I need not enumerate, the other benefits which can be drawn from the training that sport can give or dwell on their use in the national life. In our universities, sports have now a recognised and indispensable place; for even a highest and completest education of the mind is not enough without the education of the body. When the qualities I have enumerated are absent or insufficiently present, a strong individual will or a national will may build them up, but the aid given by sports to their development is direct and in the way negligible. This would be a sufficient reason for the attention given to them, in our Ashram, though there are others which I need not mention here. I am concerned here with their importance and the necessity of the qualities they create or stimulate for our national life. The nation which possesses them in the highest degree is likely to be strongest for victory. Success and greatness but also for the contribution it can make towards the bringing about of unity and a more harmonious world order towards which we look as our hope for humanity's future.

NO TIES

"There's one thing about you men who wear open-necked shirts. You always seem to be so free."

"We are. We haven't any ties."

INDIANS OVERSEAS

South Africa

RACIAL TROUBLE IN S. AFRICA

Mr. M. T. Naidu, a member of the Executive of the South African Indian Congress who has been appointed to advise the Indian delegation to the United Nations in the South African dispute, was born in Durban and has lived there all his life. In the course of an interview in New York he observed:

"The condition of Indians in South Africa has been deteriorating for the past 18 months and is rapidly worsening. We attribute the present situation in South Africa on the racial question to the policies which the Nationalist Government is following at present.

The racial disturbances that occurred in Durban recently seem likely to be repeated. The Government are going ahead with their policy that continues to sharpen racial, and particularly anti-Indian feeling. The Indian population of South Africa is anxious that the United Nations should find some method for taking a forward step on the 1946 resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the treatment of their nationals in the Union. There seems no way of influencing the South African Government by any internal appeal," he continued.

"The only way seems to be for world opinion to get South Africa to change her racial policies. Speaking from my own experiences I can see the racial difficulties that exist in South Africa."

ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON S. A. INDIANS

Mr. George Singh, Durban Attorney, who has been appointed to represent the 282,000 Indians of South Africa at the United Nations Assembly, said in London that they had no future in South Africa.

"There is grave danger," he said, "that their moral character will crack very soon. Until recently, it has been very high, but the situation, politically and economically, has deteriorated very seriously.

Dr. Malan's Government is pursuing a policy of squeezing the Indian out of South Africa. The only possible country to which they can go is India. All other countries have refused to take them in.

About half of the 282,000 Indians live in Durban. Of these, roughly 70 per cent. live below the poverty line according to the official statistics of the Natal University College.

The South African Government used to offer a bonus of £20 to every Indian who returned to India. They now offer £40. That is a lot of money to an Indian working class family with an average of four children.

I don't think many Indians will return to the land of their forefathers; yet there is every temptation to find a new home away from South Africa. The African native populations are being urged to boycott them. The Government still closes its eyes to the racial propaganda."

Economically, the Indian is being throttled.

Ceylon and the Far East

INDIAN INVESTMENTS ABROAD

DR. B. V. Keskar, Deputy Minister for External Affairs, said in Parliament that the investments of South Indian Chettians in Ceylon, Malaya and Indo-China were estimated at Rs. 5 crores, and Rs. 2.14 crores respectively.

Replying to Mr. Brajeshwar Prasad, Dr. Keskar added that Chettians also owned about three million acres of paddy land in Burma, but they had no investments in Siam.

As regards their investments in Burma, no reliable information was available. The Government of India were negotiating with the Government of Burma with a view to securing for the Chettians equitable compensation for their lands which the Government of Burma proposed to take over under the Burma Land Nationalisation Act.

South-West Africa

TRUSTEESHIP FOR S. W. AFRICA

Dr. B. V. Keskar, Deputy Minister for External Affairs, said in Parliament in reply to Mr. Lakshminarain Sahu that the Government of India were strongly of the United Nations General Assembly's recommendation that South-West Africa be placed under a Trusteeship system should be given effect to.

India's representatives would press for this in the General Assembly whenever the question was considered, he added.

"Travelled all over the World, eh? Went up the Rhine of course?"

"Climbed it to the top."

"Saw the Lion of St. Marks?"

"Fed it."

"And visited the Black-Sea?"

"Filled my fountain pen there."

Sumatra

DUTCH MURDER OF INDIANS

The Government of India has made a strong protest to the Netherlands authorities against the shooting of three Indians by Dutch paratroopers on December 30 last at Djambi in Sumatra.

The Government received information of the incident through their Consul-General in Batavia. The Indians were shot dead after their houses had been ransacked.

The Government of India's protest has been lodged with the Far East Office of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Batavia.

Meanwhile the External Affairs Ministry has requested the Dutch Ambassador in Delhi to make enquiries and ascertain the facts.

Brazil

INDIAN COLONIZATION IN BRAZIL

Indian Ambassador to Brazil Mr. M. R. Masani in a recent speech expressed satisfaction with regard to a proposal covering Indian immigration and colonization in Brazil, which he said "will be a happy solution to the problem of low population in one country and over-population in another country."

Mr. Masani added that, if the project is completed, Indian immigrants will come to Brazil "with the intention of becoming assimilated into Brazilian life and will become good Brazilians."

PUZZLED

A Young wife, wishing to announce the birth of her first child to a friend in a distant city, telegraphed: "Isaiah 9, 6," which passage begins: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given."

Her friend, unfamiliar with the scriptures, said to her husband: "Margaret evidently has a boy who weighs nine pounds and six ounces, but why on earth did they name him Isaiah?"

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS * DEPARTMENTAL * NOTES

QUESTIONS OF IMPORTANCE

WORK OF NATIONAL PLANNING

The Congress Working Committee meeting at New Delhi on April 5 expressed its "high appreciation of the good work done by the National Planning Committee".

The Working Committee adopted a resolution accepting the National Planning Committee's proposal to maintain an up-to-date series of reports on various phases of National Planning.

This work will necessitate full co-operation with the Central and Provincial Governments and more especially their statistical department.

In order to draw up a scheme for the continuation of this work a Committee consisting of the following is constituted:—

The President of the Congress, the Prime Minister of India, the Minister for Industry and Supply of the Government of India, Mr. J. C. Ghosh, Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai and Prof. K. T. Shah.

The Committee shall be called National Planning Series Committee. Prof. Shah will be the Secretary of this Committee and will be in charge, on behalf of the National Planning Committee, of the office and funds of the Committee. It will continue to function till effect is given to any new scheme that may be evolved.

The Planning Committee, appointed by the Congress ten years ago, having completed its work, dissolved itself at the end of last month.

LINGUISTIC PROVINCES

The Congress Working Committee has accepted the report of the Jawaharlal-Vallabhbhai-Pattabhi committee recommending the postponement of the formation of linguistic provinces for a few years, "so that we might concentrate during this period on other matters of vital importance and not allow ourselves to be distracted by this question."

The Committee adds that if public sentiment is "insistent and overwhelming, we, as democrats, have to submit to it, but subject to certain limitations in regard to the good of India as a whole."

The Committee, however, feel that the case of Andhra Province should be taken up first and the question of its implementation examined "before we can think of considering the question of any other province."

NATIONAL CULTURAL TRUST

A scheme for the establishment of a National Cultural Trust for India has been accepted in principle and its details are being worked out by the Ministry of Education.

This information was given by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister of the Government of India, replying to a question in Parliament. It was proposed to undertake preliminary work in connection with the Trust and to call three conferences of experts.

UTTERANCES OF THE DAY

PANDIT NEHRU ON INDIA'S ROLE

Addressing a Press Conference at Government House, Bombay, on the eve of his departure to London on April 19, Pandit Nehru said:

I have always sought the goodwill, affection and co-operation of the Indian people and always obtained it in a generous and abundant measure. If I have achieved anything in life, it is because of that affection and goodwill. I feel now that at no time was this goodwill and affection more necessary than at the present moment when I am on the point of emplaning for the West to consider problems which affect the present and the future.

During the past years we, all of us, in India, have been partners in the making of history and history has marched with giant strides in this country, in Asia and the World. History is still in the process of being made and there are mighty movements and considerable turmoil and conflicts in the World.

Free and independent India faces this prospect with a measure of confidence. We have to a large extent found ourselves and we have survived many perils and dangers and this has bred confidence in us to face the future.

I have little doubt that in this future India has to play an important role, provided always that she adheres to the great ideals which have inspired us in the past and to the lessons which the Father of the Nation taught us. "Our very position demands a wider appreciation of what is happening in the world and an acknowledgment of our duties and our obligations to further world peace and progress.

The immediate object of my going to England is to discuss the future association of India with the Commonwealth countries. I have already, in Parliament and in open Congress and elsewhere, discussed this matter with frankness and stated what our fundamental position is. I shall abide necessarily with the directions given to me on this subject and equally necessarily by the ideals which have inspired us.

In regard to our foreign policy, we have repeatedly stated that we cannot align ourselves with power blocs hostile to each other. This is not merely a policy of neutrality, but is a positive approach to the problems of the world in the hope that we might further the cause of peace and friendship between nations. I believe India can be of service not only to India and Asia but to the world in this matter. It is with this background that I have tried to approach all our foreign problems.

History is on the march and we have to keep in step with it, at the same time trying to mould it and fashion it to the best of our ability. Ultimately the policy of a nation depends upon her inner strength. It is because our inner strength has grown and because of our great potential,

which will progressively become actual, that India counts more and more in the counsels of the world.

Recently I was reported, by some error, in a London newspaper as having said that there is no morality as between nations. As a matter of fact, I hold strongly to the opinion that unless there is a moral basis, both to the internal politics of a nation and to its external affairs, that nation will suffer and the world will suffer. I hope that whatever happens, India will never do anything that is wrong morally even though some misguided people might think it is advantageous for the moment.

And so, for the present, I bid a brief goodbye, conscious that I am not going abroad as a mere individual but as a representative of a great nation with the goodwill of millions and with the desire to approach other nations in a spirit of friendship and co-operation. Jai Hind."

MR. CHURCHILL'S BOSTON SPEECH

Speaking at Boston (Massachusetts) on March 31, Mr. Winston Churchill said that an outstanding feature of the 20th century had been the enormous expansion in the number of people who were able to share in the "larger and more varied life" previously reserved for the very few.

If we are to bring the broad masses of the people in every land to the table of abundance, it can only be by the tireless improvement of all our means of technical productions, and by the diffusion, in every form of education, of an improved quality to scores of millions of men and women.

Even in this darkling hour I have faith that this will go on.

Britain's wartime Prime Minister declared:

We are now confronted with something quite as wicked but in some ways more formidable than Hitler.

Mr. Churchill urged the utmost vigilance in the present cold war, but did not think that violent or precipitate action should be taken now. "War is not inevitable." Often something happened to turn or mitigate the course of events. Hope or patience need not be abandoned.

If however there is to be a war of nerves, let us make sure our nerves are strong, and are fortified by the deepest convictions of our hearts.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL

INTER-DOMINION AGREEMENT

Agreement was reached in respect of the majority of 27 items considered at the three day Inter-Dominion Conference which concluded its deliberations at Delhi on April 4.

Among the more important items on which agreement was reached were those relating to the payment of pensions and cash certificates. The Conference also agreed to set up a machinery to ensure prompt payment of pensions, provident funds and security deposits of provincial and State Government servants who had left one Dominion for the other.

The Conference further agreed to set up a machinery to consider matters, such as border incidents, which do not fall within the sphere of the Partition Committee of East and West Punjab, and to implement decisions reached on such items.

CONSTITUTION OF STATES

The constitution of Indian States is likely to form an integral part of the Indian Constitution as a result of agreement reached between the Government of India and representatives of Indian States, it is learnt.

This will eliminate the need for each State debating and passing a separate Constitution through its own Constituent Assembly. The States Constituent Assemblies will presumably function as interim Legislative Assemblies until new Assemblies are elected under the new Indian Constitution.

It is believed that the Indian Constitution, which is expected to be passed by

August 15, 1949, will have a separate chapter devoted to the Constitution of States just as in the case of the Provinces. One important effect of this decision will be that the difference in the status of Provinces and acceding States will be further narrowed down.

LOCAL FINANCE ENQUIRY

The Government of India have constituted a committee known as the Local Finance Enquiry Committee, to enquire into the question of the finances of local bodies and make recommendations for the improvement of local finances.

The Committee will examine (1) whether the existing resources are adequate for the performance of the functions assigned to the local bodies and consider what further sources of revenue should be provided, (2) the methods of Government assistance to local bodies, and (3) the existing machinery and methods of assessment and collection of taxes.

Mr. P. K. Wattal has been appointed Chairman and Mr. Labu Ran Mehra Secretary of the Committee, which consists of eight other members.

BIRBAL SAHNI

India has lost one of its greatest men of science in the death of Dr. Birbal Sahni, Head of the Department of Botany and Dean of the Faculty of Science, Lucknow University. Wherever botany is studied his name is held high. His outstanding contributions to the subject not only won him international fame but raised India's status in the world of science.

MEDIUM IN UNIVERSITIES

The Education Minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in a written reply said in Parliament that the Government of India had not yet reached any final decision on the report of the Committee on the Medium of Instruction and were awaiting the views of the University Commission expected in September next.

The Committee on the Medium of Instruction had recommended that steps should be taken during the next five years for the gradual replacement of English as the medium of instruction and examination at university stage, by the language of the State, Province or region, he said.

The Central Advisory Board of Education had resolved that the final decision on this recommendation should await the report of the University Commission.

The Nagpur University had proposed to introduce Hindi and Marathi as the media of instruction in the first year class of colleges from July 1949 and extend their use to higher classes year by year. The Annamalai University had introduced Tamil as the medium of instruction in the intermediate art courses.

The Benares University had decided that Hindi should be additional medium of instruction in all subjects except English and modern Indian languages in Inter and B.A. classes, and from 1950 Hindi alone would be the medium of instruction for those students whose domicile was Eastern Pnnjab, United Provinces, Central Provinces, Bihar and Rajputana. The Calcutta University had allowed students to answer question papers either in English or in their mother tongue.

GOVERNMENT'S AID TO UNIVERSITIES

During the question-hour in Parliament on April 5, the Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, replying to a question as to what steps were being taken to stimulate scientific research in the Universities, specially in Atomic Physics, said that the universities had the dual function of training scientific workers and of conducting fundamental and applied research.

The Government of India, he added, were stimulating scientific research in the universities by (1) sanctioning grants-in-aid for buildings and equipment required for research, the expansion of special Research Departments and the conduct of approved research schemes; and (2) the discovery and training, of talented persons through post-graduate schemes and fellowships. Grants-in-aid totalling over Rs. 28 lakhs have been sanctioned for the purpose during 1948-49.

Fellowships have been awarded for research in Nuclear Physics. A National Professorship of Physics has been created at the Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore.

UNIVERSITY FOR KARNATAKA

The Premier of Bombay, Mr. B. G. Kher, introduced in the Bombay Legislative Assembly on April 4, a bill to establish a University for Karnataka. The Premier said the University would come into being in 1950 and its jurisdiction would extend to the districts of Belgaum, Bijapur, Kanara and Dharwar.

Mr. Kher said that the establishment of the University would fulfil a longfelt need and a pressing demand of the people of Karnataka.

LAWYERS' ROLE IN FREE INDIA

Inaugurating the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Madras Advocates' Association on 15th April, the Chief Justice of Madras, Mr. P. V. Rajamannar, suggested the creation by the Government, of a separate Department for conducting juristic studies and social inquiries, which he said should precede legislation.

Legislation, he added should never be the result of mere one-sided lobbying.

The Chief Justice said that the Department should be a body of experts both for long-range investigation, and for dealing with the day to day complaints and defects in the actual operation of the laws, and for making proposals for improvement.

The important role of lawyers in guiding Democracy on right lines was emphasised by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar in the course of an address he delivered on the second day of the celebrations.

The members of the Association presented an address of felicitation to Mr. V. V. Srinivasa Iyengar, one of the seniormost members of the profession, who completes the 51st year of his legal practice.

Sir Harilal Kania, Chief Justice of India, in a thought-provoking address on the concluding day dealt with the problems confronting lawyers in India.

Sir Harilal placed before the lawyers the ideal of service and defence of right, fearless of consequence, and urged them to do all they could to stabilise the freedom of Independent India.

Stressing the need for having an independent judiciary, Sir Harilal expressed the hope that the oft-repeated assurances

of politicians and public men in this connection would soon be "translated into action in the Constitution Act."

The Chief Justice of India cautioned against hurry in regard to a change-over from English as the language of courts and said that the problem of language of courts was not acute, and, if they wanted to avoid inconveniences, this was not a sphere in which impatience could pay.

FREE LEGAL AID FOR THE POOR

The All-India Progressive Lawyers Association has set up a Free Legal Aid Bureau in Delhi for the benefit of the poor. The Bureau, which is the first of its kind to be set in India, will provide free legal aid to political workers and others, who are unable to secure legal advice, provided that they are not charged with communal offences, offences relating to sex, theft and bribery.

PUNISHMENT FOR FOOD OFFENCES

The Indian Parliament passed on April 5 the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill, which replaces the ordinance which has been in force for six months. The Bill makes the punishment of imprisonment obligatory in respect of food offences except when the court for reasons to be recorded in writing is of the opinion that in the circumstances of the case imprisonment is not called for.

In addition, the Bill also empowers courts to order the forfeiture of the vehicle or vessel used for smuggling.

FOREIGN CAPITAL IN INDIA

The Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru making his long awaited policy statement on the participation of foreign capital in India said in the Dominion Parliament on April 6 that as regards the existing foreign interests, "Government do not intend to place any restrictions or impose any conditions which are not applicable to similar Indian enterprise."

Pandit Nehru added: "Government will so frame their policy as to enable further foreign capital to be invested in India on terms and conditions that are mutually advantageous."

Pandit Nehru said that foreign interests would be permitted to earn profits, subjects only to regulations common to all.

If and when foreign enterprises were compulsorily acquired, the Prime Minister said, compensation would be paid on a fair and equitable basis as already announced in Government's statement of policy.

The Prime Minister made a special reference to British Interests in India and assured them that although it was the policy of the Government of India to encourage the growth of Indian Industry and commerce, there was and would still be considerable scope for the investment of British capital in India.

He added: "The Government of India have no desire to injure in any way British or other Indian interests in India, and would gladly welcome their contribution in a constructive and co-operative role in the development of India's economy."

SETTLEMENT OF PAKISTAN'S DEBT

The amount outstanding in respect of Burma's separation debt and share of the pensionary liability to India was in the order of Rs. 64.5 crores and Pakistan's partition debt to India had not yet been worked out and it would be some time before this was done, said Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Finance, in the Dominion Parliament.

The Finance Minister further informed the House that Pakistan was due to repay her debt in 50 equated instalments commencing from August 15, 1952. Burma's separation debt was repayable in 45 years commencing from 1937-38 and her share of the pensionary liability was to be paid currently. The payments had remained suspended from 1942-43 and the question of resuming them was under discussion with the Government of Burma.

LIMITATION OF DIVIDENDS

The Parliament passed the Finance Minister's Public Companies (Limitation of Dividends) Bill which limits the dividends which may be paid by public companies to six per cent of the paid-up capital or the average annual dividend between Apr. 1, 1946, and Mar. 31, 1948, whichever is higher.

The Bill, which is an anti-inflationary measure, will expire on Mar. 31, 1950. The Finance Minister assured the House that if early next year it was found that a measure of this kind was not necessary, Government would not extend the duration of the Act.

ABDUCTED NON-MUSLIM WOMEN

"Government have received reports that a number of abducted non-Muslim women have been taken over the Pakistan border into Afghanistan," said Mr. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar, Minister, in reply to Giani Gurumukh Singh Musafir, in Parliament.

Mr. Ayyangar added that the matter had been taken up with the Afghan Government during June 1948 and they had repeatedly given their assurance to help India as far as possible in the recovery of abducted women from areas under their control. "As the task of locating the abducted women is fraught with many practical difficulties, it will take some time before any tangible results are achieved."

WORKING WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

With a view to promoting the welfare of working women, assisting them in choice of a profession and finding employment for them and promoting their interest in professional work, a number of Patna lady teachers, doctors, nurses and other working women have formed a "Working Women's Association". Courses of lectures on hygiene and home nursing are being organised by the Association in different Mohallas.

WOMEN FOR JUDICIAL SERVICE

Women have been made eligible for recruitment to the Judicial Civil Service in the United Provinces, according to a Gazette notification published in Allahabad.

The notification amends the U. P. Civil Services Judicial Branch Recruitment Rules to make women eligible for recruitment to this service.

HEALTH OF GIRLS IN COLLEGES

There are now a few hundreds of girls studying in various colleges of Nagpur. The average college girl is really a sight. With the exception of a few, most of them are far from robust, writes Prof. M. G. Dharamraj in the course of an article in *Nagpur Times*.

I don't think the university or the colleges could be blamed for their physical condition, he adds. The girls, especially those studying in co-educational institutions, do not get all the facilities for games and physical recreation. Even when they get the facilities, the general atmosphere is not free enough for them to take full advantage of them. Even in the Central College for Women, apart from the Hostel girls, the day scholars do not get much by way of physical exercise, except for what movement of the body is afforded by the bus that takes them to and fro. The medical report of the girls of the university is far from flattering.

WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS FOR SWITZERLAND

The Government of Switzerland, whose women have neither franchise nor the right to hold public office, last month took the revolutionary step of announcing the formation of a Voluntary Women's Army Corps, whose duties will include anti-aircraft service. The Corps is to be formed immediately and women between the ages of 20 and 40 will be eligible. In the event of war, the age limit will be raised to 60.

GENERAL

NEW MINISTRY FOR MADRAS

A 10-man Ministry for Madras headed by Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja was sworn in on April 6 by H. E. the Governor at the Secretariat. Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddy and Mr. B. Parameswaran have been taken into the Cabinet while Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Mr. V. Kurmayya and Dr. S. Gurubatham have been left out.

Mr. Raja making an announcement earlier said that he proposed to have "a few more Minister's shortly to represent certain areas and interests."

Accordingly, as we go to press, Mr. C. Perumalswami Reddiar has been sworn in.

DR. PATTABHI VISITS EYE INSTITUTE

Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, President of the Indian National Congress, recently visited Dr. Agarwal's Eye Institute at 15, Daryaganj, Delhi. He saw the patients suffering from various eye troubles practising the novel methods of treatment under the care of Dr. Agarwal and highly appreciated the synthetic eye treatment which is practised in this institute. Recounting how his own wife had benefitted from this latest system based on the research of Dr. Agrawal, Dr. Pattabhi said, "My wife suffering from the paralysis of the External Rectus of the left eye and therefore from 'diplopia' (double vision) has got over her trouble by a steady pursuit of the regimen prescribed by Dr. Agarwal and she bears witness to the many cures of obstinate and obscure eye complaint under the roof of the doctor's clinic."

NEW EAST PUNJAB CABINET

The nine-day old Sachar Cabinet was reconstituted on April 21 by the inclusion of three new Ministers.—Dr. Gopichand Bhargava, Mr. Prithvi Singh Azad and Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa.

After the swearing-in ceremony, Mr. Bhimsen Sachar told the Associated Press of India that the relations between the old and new Ministers were not only cordial, but definitely influenced by considerations which were of the highest order—namely the interests of the province.

GANDHI FUND

An event described by Dr. R. Jendra Prasad as without parallel took place at Sardar Patel's residence at New Delhi on April 16 when, at a simple but dignified function, the Industrial Committee of the Gandhi Memorial Fund presented to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of the Fund, cheques for over Rs. 5 crores, representing collections made since last May when Sardar Patel called leading industrialists to Mussoorie and fixed the target of Rs. 5 crores as their contribution to the Fund.

The importance of the occasion was further heightened by Dr. Prasad's announcement that public subscription to the Fund had also touched the figure of Rs. 5 crores.

C. R.'s. GOOD CONDUCT PRIZE

His Excellency Mr. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India has instituted a good conduct prize to be awarded annually from the year 1949-50 for the best behaved student in the Salem Municipal College,

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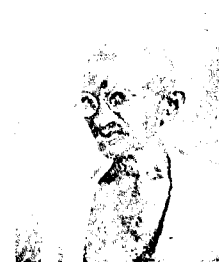
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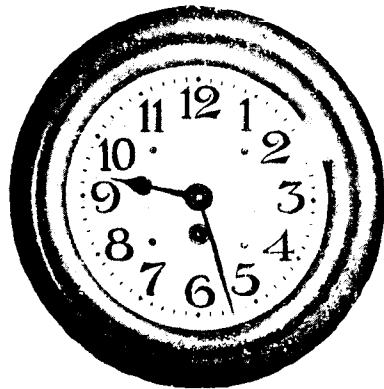
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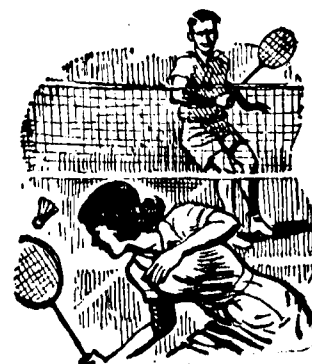
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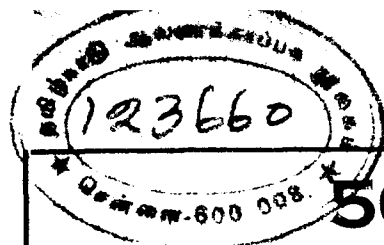
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