

In th

Being a survey
years and an account
publications on Indian politics
from the speeches and writings

WITH FOL.

His Excellency Mr. C. I

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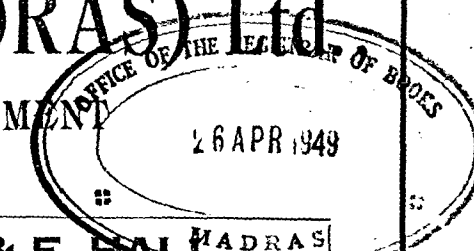
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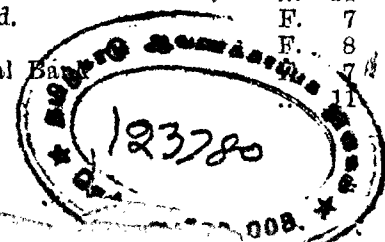
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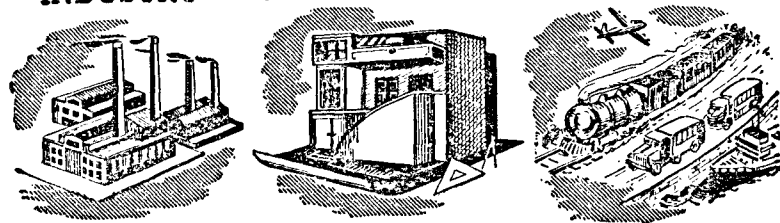
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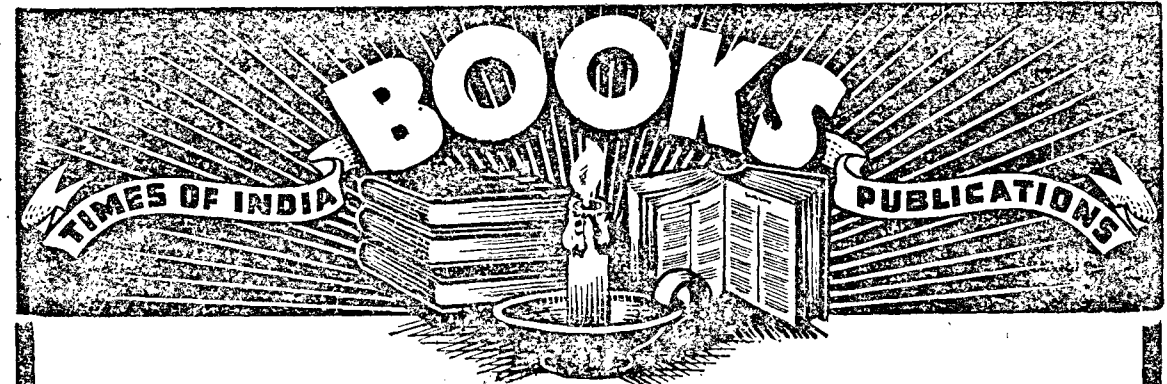
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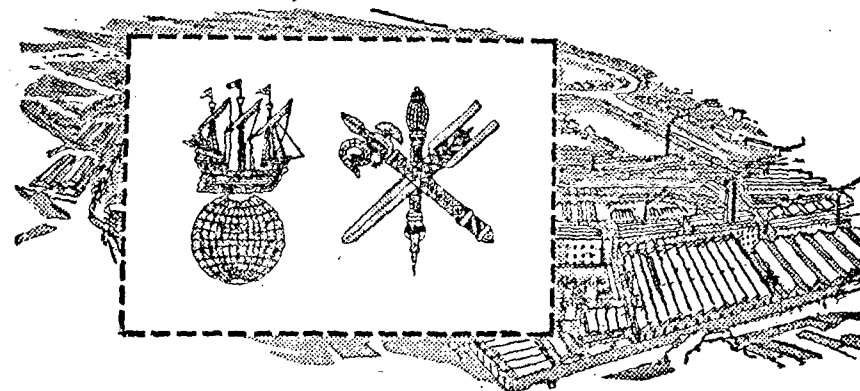
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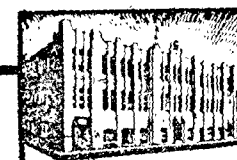
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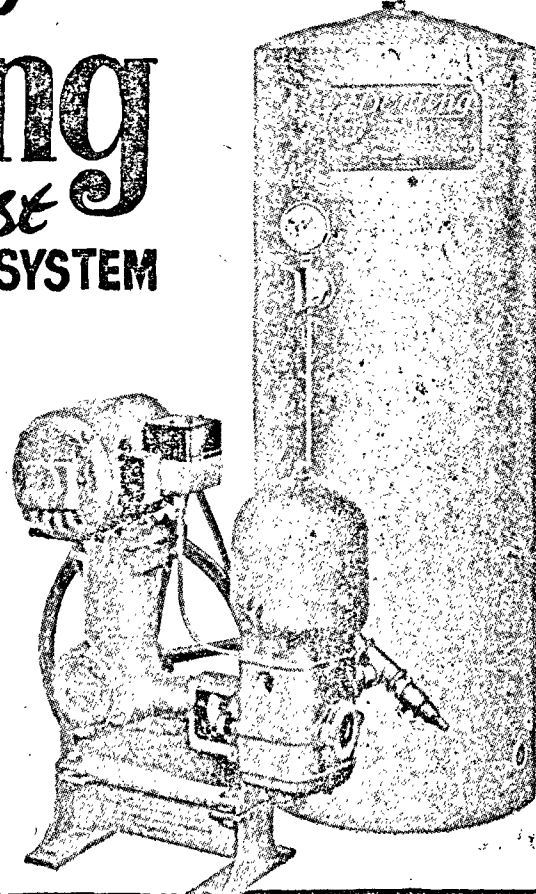
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Editor: G. A. NATESAN

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Vol. 50.]

JANUARY 1949

[No. 1.

THE EDITOR THANKS

WITH this number the *Indian Review* commences its fiftieth year of publication. On an occasion like this I wish to take the opportunity to thank the contributors, subscribers and advertisers for the generous interest they have evinced in my efforts to make the *Indian Review* the popular monthly periodical it is to-day. During this long period of 49 years the *Review*, with the co-operation of its writers and readers has attempted—with what success it is for others to judge—to cater to the needs of an ever growing public. With the exception of a single issue in May 1931 which was published as a double number, the *Review* has continued to appear without interruption—a fact which, to me as Editor, is naturally gratifying. I am not so vain as to think that I could have carried on for such a length of time without the efficient co-operation of the staff and a host of friends and the unfailing indulgence of readers who are no doubt fully aware of the difficulties of the Press in the years under foreign domination.

On this happy occasion I deem it my duty to express my gratitude to Mr. B. Natesan

for the invaluable services rendered to the *Review* and to the firm with singular devotion during the past 40 years.

The opening of a new era of freedom for our country entails new responsibilities no less onerous than in the past. New occasions teach us new duties.

The Editor has seldom indulged in personal sentiments in these pages but he cannot let this occasion pass without a word of gratitude to the many friends and helpers in the cause of a periodical devoted to the furtherance of national interests and general enlightenment.

One particular feature of this periodical must be mentioned. I have always attempted to enlist the co-operation of all classes of readers and writers, irrespective of race or religion, avoided anything savouring of provincialism or communalism, and always insisted on a national outlook. The *Indian Review* is an All-India journal and it will continue to strive for a progressive and integrated India.

G. A. Natesan

THE INDIAN REVIEW

A MONTHLY PERIODICAL DEVOTED TO THE DISCUSSION OF ALL TOPICS OF INTEREST

Editor: G. A. NATESAN

Associate Editor: B. NATESAN

Vol. 50.]

JANUARY 1949

[No. 1.

THE FIRST YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

By PROF. SRI RAM SHARMA, M.A.

Principal, D. A. V. College, Sholapur.

ON August 15, 1947, the reins of Government in India passed into the hands of Ministers scarcely one of whom had much experience of government or administration. Sir Gopalaswamy Iyengar was the only exception; but he was a Minister without portfolio. Sardar Baldev Singh had held office in the Punjab but exercised little power in a government that was officially described as Unionist in principle but coalition in personnel. Dr. Shyamaprasad Mukherji had been the unofficial helmsman of the Government of Bengal for a very short period. The assumption of independent status by India was further followed by the retirement of a very large number of senior civil servants. In the armed services the conditions were still more difficult. The retirement of the British officers from the army soon deprived India of experienced military personnel. Not a single senior Indian officer had ever exercised independent command on the battle-field. In trade and commerce as well, foreign trade had mostly been organized, till recently, through British or American houses. Some of these now ceased to function throwing another burden on Independent India. To these unfavourable factors must be added the new and emergent tasks some of which had been accumulating in the wake of the war and others had arisen on account of our Independence and consequent partition of the country. There was shortage of food and shortage of cloth. The country's railways were ill equipped to handle satisfactorily the tremendous volume

of traffic in passenger and goods which it had to face now.

A year of Independence, a year and four months to be more precise finds India, not only alive but kicking. Her prestige abroad has immensely increased, her Prime Minister is hailed today as one of the leading statesmen of the world. Some of her representatives abroad have acquired international recognition for their handling of the world problems with probity, independence and strength. Her Government has handled with courage, the supreme task of keeping law and order in the country. Her army has proved itself worthy of recognition not only as an efficient striking force in Hyderabad and Kashmir but as a successful agency for tasks which were obviously too difficult for her civil services. The safe evacuation of millions of citizens from hostile areas into India was a Herculean task which the army performed so well.

Many problems, it is true, remain still with us unsolved. But a look round the world would prove that in our failure to solve some of them, we are not alone. The most adaptable of the world's people, the English, are still on short ration and are pursuing an austerity standard of life. Not a single country of the world can be cited as having done any better in solving its labour problems. India has not gone completely socialist in a year, nor has England in more than three years of a Labour Government in power. The Communist party is

not very happy in Independent India—in fact it is much less happy than it was in British India. This is but natural, in Independent India, as elsewhere in the world, there is no room for political parties inspired from outside her own frontiers. Independence would not have been worth a day's purchase if the new Government of India had started taking its orders from Moscow instead of from London. Some of the minorities have realized that they can no longer claim special privileges for the simple reason that it is not necessary for an Indian Government now to purchase support for its policy by granting special rights and privileges to classes that had hitherto been loyal to the British rulers of India. The princely order has bowed to the inevitable and remembered in time—despite all the Conservative coaxing to the contrary—that they were Indians as well as Princes.

The refugee problem is all our own. But the history of the world has no record of such a large scale migration of people covering such a large hostile area being carried out at a lesser cost either in men or money. We are now all wiser after the event; it is doubtful, however, if it would have ever been possible to make peaceful arrangements for the transfer of population and an amicable settlement of claims in property arising therefrom before August, 1947. The Congress would not have countenanced any such arrangement, the Hindu Maha Sabha would not have touched the question even with a pole, the Muslim League would have demanded larger areas in Bengal and the Punjab, if such a thing had been suggested. The settlement and rehabilitation of the emigres are far from being satisfactorily carried out at present. This is not because of any unwillingness to explore all possibilities but because of limitations of time, space, materials and resources.

But when all is said and done, it is necessary that we should not only rejoice in our achievements but search for any shortcomings revealed during sixteen months in office. We would be all the stronger for the knowledge thus gained. After all, Independent

India began her career short of funds, lacking in many resources, denuded of army officers, civil servants and trained personnel of all kinds. If her achievements during this period are nothing short of miraculous, her deficiencies must be conceded to be at least on the mundane level.

The first and foremost blemish in our record is our failure to distinguish between the party, the government and the administration. From the President of the Indian National Congress down to the latest recruit to its ranks there has been a lamentable attempt at obliterating the lines that should divide these three institutions with the result that the pranks of every congressman have been foisted on to the Government. What should have been national celebrations and times of national rejoicing have, not seldom, been marred by being turned into party festivals. Call for service has sometimes fallen flat on the ears of the emotional youth of the nation when it has come, for all practical purposes, from the party rather than the government. There is dearth of talent in the country but even all the available talent has not been utilized. Members of the government have sometimes acted, in their pronouncements at least, as light heartedly as if they had no cares of office to keep them sober.

Akin to this has been the obvious distrust of the experts. True, till August, 15, 1947 almost all our experts were British and therefore suspects in the eye of the new Government. Indian civil servants had with an exception or two, followed the powers that were as they were bound to do as permanent officials. They thus shared the hatred usually reserved for British civil servants as instruments of keeping India in chains. But outside official ranks there were plenty of experts who were sometimes wooed. As soon as their findings clashed with the pre-conceived notions of the governments in power, the experts were dropped like hot potatoes. Many a fiat was issued by Ministers 'on their own' to be interpreted away in hot haste. As the party dominated the scene, the experts were asked to conform

to its views. Some of them did only too gladly; you can find several of them occupying 'lucrative offices' in New Delhi or abroad. The formulation of any consistent policy in commodity prices, minimum gains allowable to capital, export import trade, new industries and education have been all the more difficult on account of the Government's failure first to form a Brains Trust and then to use it if and when formed. As no government can be run without expert assistance, this policy has led to the emergence of a breed of experts whose qualifications nobody ever scrutinized because they were very often ministerial finds. A very easy, though dear, method of producing experts was to select young trainees for training abroad without adequate proof that such training would be of immediate use on their return or that the trainees were the most suitable persons to be benefitted by such training.

These two tendencies have led to some discontent in the armed forces and among the permanent civil servants. Hosts of new jobs—all more lucrative than working on the daily grind in the secretariat or the Army—have been created and offered to persons from outside the ranks of permanent officials. No competent authority is called upon to pronounce either on the requisite qualifications for the job or on the appointee's claims to their possession. It is amusing to find that whereas a revised scale of salaries has been suggested for the new entrants to higher civil services, the appointments so far made in higher ranks do not reflect the tendency to rationalize salaries. In the army, new scales of salaries have been applied retrospectively to Indian officers barring a few at the top. Whereas we have been so lavishly spending money on entertainment and sumptuary allowances to the staffs of our embassies abroad, in the army an attempt has been made to cut down some of the allowances below permissible standard. Those who formulated the scheme forgot that an English army officer was supposed till recently to maintain himself at his own expense during the first seven years of his career. He was seldom married before he got his

captaincy. Now that industry and trade are expanding in the country, there are bound to be a large number of openings for brilliant young men outside public services. So far the cream of India's youth gravitated to public services because they offered both power and high salaries. But when higher openings are possible elsewhere, to decrease the salaries of the higher civil servants in their *earlier years* is far from being an act of wisdom. English traditions of public service arose partly because some families sent their sons to permanent services—particularly the diplomatic services and the armed forces—in a spirit of dedication and family tradition. We have no such traditions here; rather the contrary. Government service is looked upon here as a gold mine to be dugged into from all sides. Another reason why salaries in the earlier years should have been made more reasonable is the fact that civil servants are now expected to come into contact with big business almost every day of their lives. The integrity of the services as well as efficient discharge of functions without fear or favour both demand that the urge to economy in earlier years should be kept within reasonable limits.

The hall mark of civil service in England has been impartiality, honesty and anonymity. Of course, the British members of the civil service in India were the *raj* and their personal achievements were very much publicized. Now that making of policy is in the hands of the Cabinet, it is unfortunate that the activities and achievements of a selected number of officials have been thrust too much on public attention. It was very unfortunate that when the States Minister was ill or convalescing, an impression was allowed to gain ground that the department was being run by the Secretary of States Ministry. There were many other glaring examples of similar publicizing of the activities of certain public servants. If this publicity is the price of the abolition of the titles, the sooner the titles are revived the better for all concerned. If the permanent officials are thus allowed to come into the limelight, they will have to play as such to the

gallery as our politicians. This would do away with the only safeguard that can make democracy work by impairing the morale of the services and breeding the habit of looking up to the Minister and the party in power among the civil servants. As the democratic government of the modern type is yet in its experimental stage in India, we cannot afford to drop the safeguards that have made it work elsewhere.

The year has also revealed the failure of the Central Intelligence Bureau and our Publicity Departments on more than one occasion. The bureau had become a parody of its old self on account of the opposition of the Provincial Government to its activities after 1937. The publicity departments had been serving the powers that be. To switch these two organizations to new needs was a tremendous task, in which we were not very successful. The evidence produced in some of the recent trials underlines the failure of the Central Intelligence Bureau whereas the attitude of the British press on the Hyderabad issue was a glaring example of the failure of our publicity organization. Agents of the Central Intelligence Bureau have to be posted all along our land borders if we want to keep peace there. It takes the Government of India more than a fortnight now to learn of a disturbance in Tripura or Assam if not in the Punjab. This is not a very desirable state of things and the sooner it is put aright the better for all concerned. The achievements of the Governments in power have often been badly handled and unartistically presented. Who would be drawn to read the *People's Raj* in its present format? It is also necessary that all publicity work be centralized at the Centre and in the Provinces.

Some members of the Governments have shown themselves prone to making statements of unformulated policy in odd places to all sorts of persons. Such pronouncements have very often defeated their very object. It serves no purpose to announce how the Government intends dealing with black marketeers, capitalists, speculators, trade and industry after six months or so. Such

declarations please no body and when after the stipulated period the Government fails to live up to its promises, its credit is shaken. The English custom of making announcements of policy in Parliament when it is in session might well be followed here with advantage. The American practice of holding press conferences might be of some service if the conference were to be held by officials permanently authorised to do so and trained in their work. The Ministers should not waste their time and energy in attending all sort of functions where they may be tempted to make speeches. Official reports of the speeches of Ministers should always be taken so as to avoid the unseemly wrangle between the press and the Ministers on the correctness or otherwise of the speeches made.

It is time the various Governments decided what questions were matters for Cabinet discussion. Instead of consultations between some Ministers, Cabinet meetings may be held more regularly and more frequently to cover all important questions. The English custom of submitting names for certain appointments to the King has the advantage that all the Cabinet Ministers know about the appointments made before they are Gazetted. The creation of new posts carrying salaries—including allowances—above Rs. 1000 per mensem should be subject to Cabinet approval. The number of Ministers and their departments should be fixed by statute so that the Government takes the approval of the legislature before setting up new departments.

An attempt is being made to 'sell' Indian Culture in India abroad. It is rather unfortunate that many of these sent to do this abroad represent an Anglicised way of life in themselves rather than being representatives of the culture they are supposed to represent. There are some among them indeed who had never relished anything Indian all their lives. The attempts to produce to order state-sponsored histories of Indian Philosophy or of the country itself are doomed to be failures if attempted at the present moment. We need not always

pander to the foreigner's interest in India by producing works which should otherwise mature slowly. The government can render help in the matter by grants to appropriate bodies for specific purposes rather than undertake such works itself. In some cases where time for final appraisal is yet far off, grants for research would be more appropriate than nationalization of scholarship.

But the most important lesson to be learnt from the experience of the past year is that the Government should take first things first. A large amount of the time and energy of Ministers is being wasted in considering schemes and plans which, however desirable in themselves, need not detain us at present. Every new scheme requires a new officer—or work party—to consider it. Sometimes when important questions were waiting consideration in a department, the entire energy of the Minister was found to be occupied in minor matters of doubtful benefit to the country at present. Much hardship could have been avoided if the Ministers concerned had taken cognisance of the country's drift to scarcity in cloth and food in time instead of busying themselves otherwise. The need for economy

should have been driven home to the Ministers the moment they took charge. But there seems to have been a keen competition among Ministers and among Provincial Governments in setting up departments the creation of which could easily wait. The setting up of embassies and representatives in some of the countries could easily wait till we have requisite staff for the purpose. While the Russian embassy in India has been flooding India with its releases every week, it is doubtful whether our embassy in Russia is equipped to discharge such a task even if it had a mind to do so.

We have certainly embarked on a great adventure. We are making the biggest experiment in Democratic Government so far made in the history of mankind. Our problems are immense and they had been allowed to pile up for some time past. We have a courageous skipper but the ship of state can steer safely only if the officers and the crew possess the nautical skill required in handling it including a knowledge of the shoals and rocks in the course. Some of these obstacles have been charted above in the hope that this may render the task of our rulers easier.

T. S. ELIOT

BY MR. P. LAL

THE twentieth century, with its remarkable display of poetic ingenuity, its intensive experimentation and radicalism, boasts of no greater poet than T. S. Eliot. Eliot is versatile, he is at once a poet, an innovator, a sociologist and a thinker, and a literary critic of profound and penetrating intelligence. An undoubted master of poetic technique, he exerted, and is yet exerting, a powerful influence upon contemporary verse.

St. Louis, Missouri, (September 26, 1888,) was the birthplace of Thomas Stearns Eliot. He started writing while at college and contributed some poems to *The Harvard Advocate*, the College literary journal, of

which he was also the Editor. He married in 1915; and in 1917 appeared his first volume of poems, "Prufrock and Other Observations." After that followed book after book of prose and poetry: "The Use of Poetry and the Use of Criticism," "The Idea of a Christian Society", "Collected Poems" (1909-1935), two poetic dramas, "Murder in the Cathedral" (1935) and "The Family Reunion" (1939), "What is a Classic?" "Selected Essays," and in 1944 he gathered together in one volume titled "Four Quartets" what is surely his most important and significant poetic achievement and the really great literary production of the century, the four interlinked philosophic poems, "Burnt

Norton," "East Coker", "The Dry Salvages," and "Little Gidding." With "Four Quartets" Eliot seems to have reached the peak of his genius—suddenly all poetry has stopped coming from his pen and he is mainly absorbed in his duties as Director of the publishing firm of Faber & Faber.

After initial neglect honour upon honour has been heaped on him. In the 1948 New Year Honours List he was awarded the Order of Merit, the highest honour that can be bestowed on an English subject; and in the same year he received the Nobel Prize for Literature, a rather unexpected award.

In the light of this it is interesting to trace his subtle but sure development since 1917. J. Alfred Prufrock's first sound in this world must have been discontented squawk: even when he came of age, "inhibited, culture-ridden," he was voicing distrust and disappointment, and wondering why

In the room the women come and go
Talking of Michelangelo.
Prufrock is confused, wavering:
Do I dare
Disturb the universe?
So how should I presume?
Then how should I begin
To spit out all the butt-ends of my days
and ways?
Shall I part my hair behind? Do I dare to
eat a peach?

"Prufrock" was written while Eliot was still at Harvard: and it may be very true that Prufrock is in part the undergraduate Eliot struggling to find sense in the petty "bourgeois" haphazard modes of living.

But as poetry, Prufrock fails. It is futile to point out how many times it has been given prominence in anthologies as representative of Eliot's style; so is "To a Skylark" supposed to be significant of Shelley's poetry. Prufrock is nothing of the sort: it is only a prelude to maturation in "The Waste Land," which in turn is in a way a prelude to the magnificent "Four Quartets." If any single poem is to be taken as representing Eliot's poetry, it must be the "Quartets," nothing else.

For in Eliot poetry is a dynamic, changing process, quite unlike the static state of things that occurs in most mediocre poets, and even in some good ones. Instead of shifting and developing, a certain permanent immobile standard intrudes and affects all verse the poet composes. But no specific period (prior to "Four Quartets," of course) in Eliot gives way to analysis of this sort. From the tentative blunderings of Prufrock and the revolting antics of Apeneck Sweeney one is led to the sober, age-old philosophisings of Krishna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra: a strange transition, to say the least, but one that was bound to seem inevitable to any close observer of Eliot's poetic and incidentally philosophic progress.

The early poems of Eliot show a distinct influence of the French symbolists and Gerard Manley Hopkins. The five "Landscapes" with their spondaic beat can remind the reader only of the style of Hopkins. Later on, as thought and technique progressed, Eliot imbibed a bit of Robert Browning, a bit of Donne and Marvell, and tried personal experiments in metre not far removed from the elusive metres of the Elizabethan lyrists. But the predominant influence, as Eliot himself admits, is that of Ezra Pound. The charge of obscurity in Eliot is ill founded. He is no more vague than Shakespeare in his references to ancient religious books, little-known mediæval poets, and his quotations from all sorts of sources. The very ordinary reader can unravel the maze with the help of a simple commentary.

If "Prufrock" blundered, "The Waste Land" (1922) recoiled, partly in horror and partly in pity. It was a relentless, brutal exposure of the "sham and hypocrisy" of the post-war world, and Eliot was in perfect hold over himself and his genius. But the same old sense of futility and helplessness lingered: man groped, his eyes blind-folded, struggling, half-hoping:

What shall we do to-morrow?
What shall we ever do?

"The Hollow Men" (1925), a surrealistic fantasy, nearly told him what to do—nothing. Or perhaps, if something must indeed be done, one could

... go round the prickly pear
Prickly pear, prickly pear
At five o'clock in the morning.

A grand disillusionment was creeping into Eliot's philosophic conceptions, and the poet was flung about in kaleidoscopic confusion and meaninglessness:

This is the way the world ends
This is the way the world ends
This is the way the world ends
Not with a bang but a whimper.

But, whichever way the world ended, the essential job was to explore the present, and Eliot banked on religion to aid him in his exploration. In "Ash-Wednesday" (1930) he plumbed introspective consciousness and extended this introspection to outside objects in an attempt at universal synthesis of religious experience. Alternating between fits of despondent weariness and sensuous romantic passion for earthly beauty, a tortured voice cried out for spiritual constancy, one that was not granted, leaving the poet in awful throes of expectation.

"Four Quartets" was Eliot's final attempt at extracting spiritual constancy out of impermanence and worldliness. Purely as poetry, "Four Quartets" is incomparable; the music has a flavour all its own. Eliot's remark that genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood can find no better self-illustration than the "Quartets." Page after page glows with sublime poetry, a veritable storehouse of music, passion and calculated thought.

Though many philosophies jostle each other in the "Quartets" a main important one can with some difficulty be extracted. Harking back to the "Bhagavad-Gita" it is the philosophy of inaction in the midst of action. The senses move among objects of experience; the body does actions; but the tainting power of these actions is nullified by an unconscious abandoning of their fruits. Man cannot even sustain himself without work, obviously; as Eliot

himself says in "Burnt Norton" "Desire itself is movement." The way out of this dilemma is the relinquishing of the fruits of one's deeds and the offering of them to God:

We must be still and still moving
Into another intensity
For a further union, a deeper communion
Through the dark cold and the empty
desolation,
The wave cry, the wind cry, the vast
waters
Of the petrel and the porpoise. In my
end is my beginning. (East Coker).

"Good writers," comments Ezra Pound in his "ABC of Reading," "are those who keep the language efficient. That is to say, keep it accurate, keep it clean. It doesn't matter whether the good writer wants to be useful, or whether the bad writer wants to do harm." If this be a criterion of excellence in literature, Eliot has surely qualified and won. In his hands language is kept accurate, clean, efficient. What is more, it is "suggestive" a quality all good poetry must of necessity possess. He is one of the very few writers at present who are helping to improve and enrich the potentialities of the English language; for this he ranks with Donne, with Dryden, and with Browning; for this alone he ought to command wide importance.

Critics have always been confusing Eliot the intellectual with Eliot the poet. That is a great pity: his double literary personality makes him critic of great insight and acuteness, but as a poet he remains a self-confessed romanticist. Few romantics indeed have transcended the sheer verbal hypnosis and romance of "Marina"; Coleridge himself with his fantastic neurotic imagination never dreamed of the exotic poetic paradise. Eliot has magically conjured up:

What seas, what shores, what grey rocks
and what islands
What water lapping the bow
And scent of pine and the woodthrush
singing through the fog
What images return
O my daughter.

Even Eliot never again attained such poetical meaning coupled with such felicitous musical spontaneity.

INDIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

PROF. K. C. CHAKRAVARTI, M.A.

THE issue before India is simple. If our membership with the Commonwealth lowers our status internationally in the slightest degree, we should at once come out of the Commonwealth. Even if there be considerable material gain we must not compromise our independence and sovereignty. If, however, India in the Commonwealth can be as free and independent as any other free and independent State in the world, we should next consider what material gain or loss we may have by our association with the Commonwealth. The Lahore Resolution of the Congress need not be binding on India now. The situation has completely changed in the course of the last 20 years, and India has to make her decision in the light of this new situation.

Practically our membership of the Commonwealth does not in any way lower or reduce our sovereign status in international affairs. Actually every member of the Commonwealth is fully and completely independent in internal as well as external affairs. Like all other members India can pass any law altering her constitution, citizenship, flag, army, tariff etc. even if that goes against Great Britain. India sends Ambassadors to foreign countries and receives Ambassadors from them. She can enter into any treaty with any sovereign State in the world directly and independently. So even India remains a member of the Commonwealth which no longer is British but of which Great Britain is a member, her independence is real and complete. But there is one institution which theoretically obscures her sovereignty. It is the Common Crown. King George VI is the King of India as well as of Great Britain and also of course, of all the Dominions in the Commonwealth. But the common Crown does not mean domination by one over the other. George VI is as much our King as England's. If England changes her King that will not be automatically valid in India. The King will be legally valid for India only when the Indian Legislature passes a law to that effect. So the common King

does not imply that India is subordinate to England any more than England is subordinate to India.

There is, however, one theoretical difficulty. In English constitutional law for anything done by the King, his Minister is responsible. When the Indian Minister advises George VI to put his signature on a treaty or document, the King does it on behalf of India and on the advice of his Indian Minister. It is, therefore, clearly not binding on England. But English constitutional lawyers and all the world know that George VI puts his signature on the advice of his English Minister. Final responsibility, therefore, rests on the English Minister. This is one of the reasons why such a procedure carries more weight and prestige in foreign relations. It can, therefore, be interpreted that in external affairs (members of the Commonwealth, and hence) India is dependent on Great Britain. This difficulty can be removed by necessary legislation as the Eire has done it already.

While this may be a pure legal subtlety, there is another reason why the institution of the Crown may obscure our sovereignty. It is psychological. Our masses are ignorant and they cannot make the distinction between King George VI before Dominion Status and George VI after Dominion Status. Before Dominion Status the British ruled over us and George VI was the King. If after Dominion Status George VI continues to be our King the belief with the Indian masses naturally persists that Great Britain in some way or other has some control over us and that we are not completely independent. Therefore, because of our past relations with Great Britain and because of the ignorance of our masses it is desirable that the independence which we have won should not only be real but that it should also be obvious.

Again, the difficulty can also be removed, without abolishing monarchy altogether and without ceasing to be a member of the Commonwealth. Our Constitution may remain silent on the King and for internal purposes the

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name of the King need not be used. Besides the Governor-General representing the Crown, we have a President of the Republic elected directly or indirectly and all appointments, promulgation of laws etc. may be announced in official papers in the name of the President or in the name of the Ministry concerned. But for diplomatic purposes the office of the King may be used. Thus whatever weight or prestige the name of the King carries in international and diplomatic relations, we can have without sacrificing anything. Eire also did the same and possibly our Government is also contemplating a similar line of action.

Though these difficulties—nominal and technical—can be removed by a single stroke of the pen, the real and political position of India *vis-a-vis* Great Britain cannot be improved. Legally India as a sovereign State may be equal to Great Britain as a sovereign State but in economic resources, industrial strength and organisation Great Britain is far superior and India in the Commonwealth will remain a sub-ordinate member. Many of us may not like to be a member of an Association wherein another member actually if not technically holds a superior position. This, however, is no justification for our withdrawal from the Commonwealth. If India is weak so are some other members. Besides, simply withdrawal from the Commonwealth cannot improve her position. If to-day India in the Commonwealth is weak and inferior, to-morrow India out of the Commonwealth will not be other than what she is. Membership of the Commonwealth, therefore, does not reduce the International Status of India as an Independent and Sovereign State. Let us next consider what is the material gain or loss India may have by her association in the Commonwealth.

The basis of the Commonwealth is free and voluntary association. No one dominates. No one is subordinate. No force or compulsion is used. Any member may withdraw any moment it likes, *prima facie*, therefore, there is every reason to continue in this association. As it is a union and as union

is strength every member will derive all the benefits that flow out of Union. In defence and in diplomacy its membership will carry greater weight. An enemy will think thrice before attacking one member. Members in isolation will be weaker. England has a Navy, Canada has an Air Force and India has an Army. In the event of a war joint action by all of them will definitely be stronger and effective. India at present practically has no friend in International Affairs. Diplomatically she is now isolated. Therefore there is greater reason why she should be in the Commonwealth. Economically there is greater scope for co-operation. Our resources can be best utilized in co-operation with others. We have man power, we have natural resources, but no capital and organisation. In co-operation with others we can develop our resources and can be the granary as well as the workshop of at least this portion of the globe. We can have coal from South Africa, wool from Australia, wheat from Canada, plants and machines from Great Britain. In return we can supply tea, jute, cotton manufactures, iron and steel etc. to these countries. On one issue, however, no co-operation is possible. No Dominion will allow Indians to migrate and settle there, and these Indians who have already settled, are receiving discriminating and humiliating treatment. England up to now has no such restrictions on Indians but the scope for settling for Indians in England is practically nil. This racial discrimination therefore is a serious issue on which all attempts for co-operation may fail. But it is doubtful whether our withdrawal can help us. Our protest against South Africa will attract more notice and possibly some sympathy if India is within the Commonwealth rather than without. We can cite the instance of the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan, both members of the Commonwealth. We are practically at war though it is undeclared and the agency of the Commonwealth has failed to settle the dispute. The Commonwealth cannot settle all the disputes and cannot establish complete rule of law amongst its members. It can, however, offer better opportunities for coming closer

if the members so desire. In the Commonwealth Conference, both the Prime Ministers met and they might have got and lost some opportunity for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem.

There is another consideration why India should continue in the Commonwealth. We have our Sterling Balances in England. So long as England is our debtor we should not cut off our connection with her. If not at a time, at least by instalments we can buy capital goods as well as consumption from the Commonwealth countries.

Let us see what we lose by our membership of the Commonwealth. Union certainly is strength but that strength really depends on the degree of unity amongst the members. If the members are united only in name, then clearly that Union is not strength but a source of irritation just as the Union between the Hindus and Muslims had been. Actually other members of the Commonwealth have so many things in common and so far as they are concerned the Union is strength to them. India practically has nothing in common except the memories of some bitterness and suffering in the past like Eire. Do we really feel for the Canadians or the Australians and do they feel for us? If there is no sense of unity we cannot expect any mutual support.

Our association with Great Britain will mean that those powers who are against Great Britain will be automatically against us. At present nothing is so attractive to Indians as her leadership amongst Asiatic powers. India in the new situation aspires to become the leader of these powers, but some of these powers clearly will not support India if she continues to be a member of the Commonwealth. Our friendship in one group will mean loss of friendship in another group. This contention again is not so convincing. Actually it is clear that the Asiatic powers will ultimately yield to either the Anglo-American capitalistic group or to Russian Communism. India has already banned communism and her association with the Anglo-American group is almost a certainty.

Another alternative is possible. India economically is badly in need of capital goods which America alone can supply. Instead of developing our trade and industry with the Commonwealth countries, we can leave the Commonwealth and directly establish, as Pakistan is most likely to do, trade relations with America. Experience has shown that those trade relations develop into closer political relations. This involves great risk as it may virtually mean American domination of India.

WOMEN AS TEACHERS

BY PROF. B. S. MATHUR, M.A., B.A. (HONS)

SADHU T. L. Vaswani has a very beautiful idea in his illuminating book "The Secret of Asia":

We must begin with the child; not without reason did the great Hindu physician of old, Susruta, emphasise in his 'Ayurveda' the importance of child-training. And a prophet of another nation declared 'A little child shall lead them'. The child is the cradle of the future, and the eternal Wonder-Worker, who shapes the destinies of nations, works His daily wonders above the hills, along the blue, around the air, painting the rose and setting the stars in the fields of space, in order to bless the nation's children. It is for man to co-operate with the purpose of the universe: it is for us to guard

These words of wisdom and experience are of infinite value to-day when we are thinking of the reconstruction of our entire education. We know that without the reconstruction of our education with an inseparable reference to India's past we cannot hope to go ahead and make much progress to be in line with the progressive and progressing countries of the world.

India's future by helping India's children to develop into efficient men—the children whom Krishna loved and Christ blessed, saying—'Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven'.

Also it is plain to us that we have to look to Western knowledge and we will have to adopt the modern outlook. We cannot go back to our ancient traditions in toto. We will have to think in terms of modifications according to changed ideas and ideals. But this much is true that we will have to look to our children and their interests, if we want perfect progress in education in our country. Child-training is of the essence.

But who are to co-operate in this divine purpose of development of children? Men, yes and by all means. They are more advanced at the moment in India. They have benefits of education and conference which our women have but in a very limited measure. And then, only a limited number of women have these benefits. So men have to see to the perfect and comprehensive development of children in the interest of India's rise to happiness and power. But we have to look to women more in the long run than to men. And why so? Men are by nature not endowed with those qualities which they should possess in order to be successful teachers and upbringers of little children. It should be binding upon educated women to take to the profession of teaching if they take to any profession. I have said "if any" because I know we are still not modern in our outlook and we cannot comfortably see our women stepping out taking to some profession to make their independent living. That is why I advocate the modern outlook. Think of the countries of the West. They have such a measure of progress. There women are educated and they are busy in the joyous and useful task of educating little children. Their task is joyous because that is something which is very natural to them. It is given to women to bring up children. They can quite naturally teach them. More than that, they can educate them. Education does not consist in imparting outside information or knowledge. That imparting of knowledge or information is useful but not very useful.

It might make the child well-informed but it does not prepare him for the emergencies of life. Life is such a complex experience or affair. It is impossible to anticipate it in childhood in the process of imparting knowledge. What is, therefore, urgently needed is the right type of education that can prepare the child for all the complications of life. This education, I say, women are best fitted to give to our little children. Men can teach them in advanced stages but not in early stages. And so the need for women-teachers.

We have to make the education of our children really creative and useful. We will have to take the help of children-lovers. To my mind women are best children-lovers. Education is an experience in love and delicacy. The mind of the child is so delicate. Women can study it thoroughly and affectionately. Why not make them their teachers, their real creators?

Real creators or upbringers these women have to be if they are to be successful as teachers of little children. Thus far we have been able to give a certain type of education to them but this has not produced a happy impression upon them. There is a enough in the prevailing system that is to be condemned and that can be held responsible for present unhappiness in the matter of educating our children. There is a lot of attention given to memory work. There is enough by way of information to be communicated to them. Teachers are not well-trained. They do not live with them. There is considerable artificiality in the attitude of teachers towards the children. But the greatest reason for the unhappiness is that we give them male teachers, who are not fit to project themselves into their minds. They have something hard about them: they are dreaded and they cannot easily create an atmosphere of love. Without love there is no (and there cannot be actually any) right type of educational experience for the children. This defect will soon disappear if we ask good and well-educated women to take to this

for the Time

"A satisfactory explanation of the mechanism by which near work produces myopia has not yet been given"—Tschering: *Physiological Optics*, P. 86.

"It is not yet determined how near work changes the longitudinal structure of the eye."—Eversbusch: *The Diseases of Children*, Vol. VII, P. 291.

The doctor's curiosity increased to know the truth about the cause of myopia. I explained to him that myopia is caused by efforts to see the distant objects, and not by strain at near work. Looking at distant objects under strain increases the length of the eye ball, hence right focussing is disturbed. The elongation of the eyeball takes place by the action of the oblique muscles on the outside of the eyeball. These muscles immediately contract when there is strain in seeing distant objects and relax or function normally when the eye is free from strain.

To demonstrate practically I called a boy patient into the darkroom. His complaint was headache while reading. I examined the eyes of this patient at a distance of six feet with the plane mirror of the retinoscope. The patient looked at the mirror without strain, the retinoscope indicated that the eye was normal. Then I asked the boy to try to read the letters of the Snellen test card which was placed on the wall in front of him. The letters were faintly visible as the light was very dim. As the boy made an effort to read the letters, the movement of the shadow stopped. Then the boy looked at a point on his index fingernail at about ten inches distance in such a way that the pupil could be examined by the retinoscope. The shadow began to move in the same direction. Again the boy looked at the blank wall without trying to see, the shadow moved in the same direction. These facts were observed by the doctor also. No special skill was required to make this demonstration.

To demonstrate clinically that strain in near work does not cause myopia but improves the sight for distance I called

the doctor's son and noted down his vision 10/30 without glasses. I gave him fine photographic reduction print to read as near to his eyes as easily possible. After a few minutes' reading the photographic type reduction at about four inches distance, I instructed the boy to read the Snellen test card again. His eyesight had temporarily improved, and the vision 10/20 was recorded and the chart letters appeared clearer than before.

The doctor friend understood that straining the eyes to see at long distances produced myopia, while by making an effort to see at the near point continuously, the eyes become farsighted. Now he wanted me to begin the treatment of his son. I educated his son to blink rightly and directed him how to focus correctly on the Snellen test card at three feet distance by the help of central fixation exercises.

I explained to the boy that when he looked at the bottom of the letter 'C' the whole letter was visible but the bottom appeared more distinct than the top of the 'C', and when he looked to the part of the letter, the left part appeared more distinct than the part of the 'C'. When he shifted his sight from the bottom to the top and from the top to the bottom of the letter, the part of the letter on which he focussed appeared more distinct and blacker than the part of the letter on which he did not focus his sight. In this way he practised on smaller letters also. At times he found it difficult to note the part regarded more distinct, but after closing the eyes for about a minute and remembering the black or white colour he was able to note the clearness in the part of the letter regarded. The chart was gradually shifted to ten feet. Sometimes the boy outlined the letters while his eyes were closed and then occasionally looked at the card letters. The boy improved his sight to 10/15 in an hour's time. As this improvement was temporary I advised the doctor to help his son in the way I had helped him.

RECENT CONVOCATION ADDRESSES

ALLAHABAD—SARDAR PATEL

In the course of his convocation address at the Allahabad University on November 27 Sardar Patel said that freedom has come to India at a time when both nationally and internationally the country is in the midst of nerve-racking experiences and in a veritable tumultuous sea of problems.

"If I am laying stress on our defects, it is only as a warning against complacency and as a spur to determined effort for our national reconstruction and regeneration."

He added: "We must then consolidate our freedom, build up our unity and strength, make up the long leeway, that is the legacy of the past—and make this country a better and healthier place to live in before we can turn to narrower objectives and smaller ambitions. Few people realise—so peaceful and smooth has been the transfer of power—the dangers we would have faced if we had secured our freedom when we did, fewer still realise what potentially disastrous situations we have successfully tackled during the last year. All this has been possible because the heart of the nation is sound and because our true instincts and faith could successfully stand the shocks." At the same time, if we allow free play to the tendencies which have manifested themselves and to which I have referred, the dangers are obvious. We shall get lost in the weedy undergrowth and sink deeper and deeper in the mire. We shall have choked our freedom to death almost as soon as it was born. India's history tells us that we have bartered away our freedom because narrower objectives and selfish ambitions secured ascendancy over larger aims and national aspirations. In national emergencies when it was the duty of every one to lend his hand to the plough, divisions have sprung up among our rank and personal ambitions have blinded us to national interests and mutual hatred have taken away all sense of unity and discipline. A nation forgets the lessons of history only at its peril. . . . "Let us

consolidate our hard-won unity and integrated harmony before we create any further diversities. Let us concentrate on factors that unite—rather than on those which divide us. The situation is such and the problems so vast and complicated that we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. . . .

Above all, you must have the freedom of your motherland as the constant object of your care, devotion and attention. In whatever country or clime you may be, whatever may be your country, uphold its honour and prestige, and promote the moral and material progress of your poverty-stricken countrymen. Do nothing which places the freedom of the country in jeopardy. Be constantly alert and active to safeguard it even at the cost of your life."

ANNAMALAI—JUSTICE RAJAMANNAR

Addressing the Annamalai University on December 2, Mr. Justice P. V. Rajamannar Chief Justice of Madras put in a cogent, plea for unity and discipline in our ranks.

"I would therefore earnestly appeal to you, my young friends, to resolutely stand up against and fight all dissentient and separatist propaganda. It is easy to exaggerate differences but it is better and wiser, though sometimes it may be difficult, to perceive the fundamental unity of India's cultural life. In any event, even if you think that politically and economically there should be a partial or total separation, there is no justification or need for, and no salvation in encouraging and bringing about any division or separation in the cultural sphere. In the spacious halls of the Palace of Indian Culture there is room for Valmiki and Kambar, for Tulsidas and Thikkana, for 'Sakuntalam' and 'Meghadoota' as well as 'Silappadikaram' and 'Manimekhalai.'"

What greater proof do you require today of the fundamental unity of India than this, that a distinguished son of Tamilnad is our Governor-General, an eminent leader of Andhra Desa is the President of the Congress and an enlightened Maharaja of the North is our Governor?"

UTKAL—DR. RADHAKRISHNAN

"Our country is to-day on its trial and the great qualities which won us freedom require to be developed if freedom is to be consolidated," observed Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, addressing the Fifth Convocation of the Utkal University held at Cuttack on Dec. 3.

"We are free from foreign rule through a peaceful revolution, through the exercise of those great virtues of service, suffering and sacrifice. They are the qualities which are needed to-day to free us from material poverty, social corruption and communal strife. A free India must be a country of discerning people cherishing the value of truth, peace, order and goodwill between man and man, love of truth and quest of beauty. If we struggle for power over our fellows, for power to make money, for power to make life more ugly than it is, it means that life has lost the dignity of civilisation. . . ."

Continuing Dr. Radhakrishnan said: "We look to the universities to supply the nation with good men, men who are better than those of the past, men of the future, men with vision and courage, men who will work for cultural integration and economic progress. . . ."

It is the purpose of universities to serve as centres of cultural life of the community. They must speak to us of our strong points and defects, they must mould the organisation of our thoughts, refine the crudity of our instincts, educate the will, united by the consciousness of our desire for the happiness of the life that is beautiful and free. We can achieve this only by spiritual creation, only by the combined efforts of literature and science, art and industry.

It is for the universities to provide the leadership so urgently needed to interpret to the rising generation constructive methods of using scientific power, high ideals of a democratic citizenship and a revived faith in the Eternal Unseen."

RAJPUTANA—SIR V. T. KRISHNAMACHARI

Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, Dewan of Jaipur, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Rajputana University, addressing its first Convocation, at Jaipur on Dec. 4, called upon the students to assist in "consolidating our newly-won independence and securing the largest measure of social justice for the people."

"You can only do this, by fighting for the highest standards of rectitude in public life, working unceasingly against communalism and provincialism and striving to create a strong public opinion in favour of the United Nations. . . ."

"India has now attained independence and we are at the threshold of a new era," he continued. "You are fortunate—and this should be a constant source of inspiration to you and a call to high endeavour—that, when you leave the portals of the University, you will be called upon to play your part in shaping the future of Free India."

A distressing fact in India's life, he pointed out, was the deterioration in moral values that had taken place in recent times.

"We have for example, an extensive black market which defeats all control measures and causes untold hardship, tax evasions on a large scale, lowered standards of rectitude in the public services, frequent strikes and deliberate slowing down of vital production, etc. It is your duty—a duty you owe to the country as educated men—to wage unceasing war against this evil. You should work for the re-discovery of the spiritual values for which India has always stood. . . ."

Sir V. T. Krishnamachari expressed his gratification at the progress made by the Rajputana University during its life of 16 months.

"It has been said that the objective of education is not just knowledge of values, but the embodiment of the ideal in one's actions, feelings and thoughts, no less than an intellectual grasp of the ideal. From this point of view, education is a continuous process lasting through life and I hope everyone of you will seek to attain an adequate philosophy of life through a deep study of one of the great religions of the world, of the humanities or of art in the widest sense."

BENARES—C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

The Governor-General of India, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, delivering the Convocation Address at the Benares Hindu University on December 2, exhorted the students to throw off the habit of disregarding law and authority, to develop reverence for the State, to eradicate the tendency to resort to sabotage and appealed to all to have 'faith in our destiny under democracy.'

Mr. Rajagopalachari said: "We have done well in attaining freedom and in showing a bloodless way of overcoming unpleasant things. The process involved in the attainment of freedom through the method of disobedience has left behind certain results along with the attainment of the object. These results like the incidental harm done to the body when you take drugs for curing a serious disease have to be corrected by convalescent discipline, by effort and determination amounting to fervour and truth."

The Governor-General deprecated what he called 'the tendency of sabotage', which had developed as the result of our struggle against foreign domination.

"Free and democratic India cannot function in security and prosper and attain strength unless we totally eradicate this tendency to utilise methods of sabotage to attain some 'immediate object,' he said. "Short-sighted hurry to attain an objective good in itself, may lead to great harm being done to the State and society as a whole. We should revive a reverence—I cannot use a lesser word—for roads, for bridges, for all means of communication, for the machinery of production, industrial and agricultural. We should automatically and instinctively feel a horror, as we do when we see any living thing cruelly killed. Otherwise modern society cannot hope to thrive. Respect for the means of communication and means of production must reach the level of religious reverence. We have to rebuild reverence."

AGRA—SAROJINI NAIDU

The Agra University Convocation was held on November 20, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Governor of U. P. and Chancellor of the University presiding.

In her speech Mrs. Naidu urged young men and women to live high and noble lives, following Mahatma Gandhi's advice."

Addressing women graduates, Srimati Naidu said that they should never suffer from inferiority complex and humorously observed that she herself had never suffered from it even when she had been to England at their age. She had seen in those days even British girls suffering from this complex who tried to camouflage their own sex to pass as intellectuals. "But now they have come back to their own and things had changed. There should not be any suggestion of separation at men and women to any department of knowledge. It is as much the birth-right of woman to have higher education as of any man."

ANDHRA—MR. O. P. RAMASWAMI REDDIAR

Mr. O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar, Premier of Madras, in his Convocation address to the Andhra University which was read by Mr. B. Gopala Reddi, Finance Minister, at the Andhra University campus at Waltair on December 11, declared:

"We are to-day on the eve of an unparalleled experiment, trying to establish democracy on the basis of adult franchise in a country with a population of over 300 millions. We succeed in our colossal experiment only to the extent our educational system succeeds. And if India succeeds, the world succeeds."

Pointing out the inadequacy of the modern educational system, Mr. Reddiar observed:

"Modern knowledge has aided society in its onward march of progress; but when that progress goes off the track and is heading towards a disaster, is not enlightenment to come to its rescue and save mankind from cataclysm? That is the part wisdom has to play."

WAR WIT

BY MR. T. K. VENKATARAMAN, M.A., LT.

WAR is a brutal affair, and humanity is sighing for the day when it will be banished from the world once for all. Yet, the capacity of man to smile even in the midst of horror and suffering has been the basis for the efforts of the humorist to snatch some entertainment even in the midst of this terrible business.

Clovis, the founder of the Frankish Kingdom of Gaul, was a master of craft. He mercilessly killed every rival prince of his house. Some escaped. Clovis now lamented that the royal house was faced with extinction, and implored any kinsman who survived to come to him without any fear. Not realising that this was a cunning trap to catch and slay them, these fell into it and were killed. At another time, he instigated an ambitious prince to murder his own father. Then, pretending great indignation at this patricide, he brought about the slaughter of the murderer and annexed his state. Craft seems to accompany many conquests. Edward I of England tricked the Welsh who wanted to be ruled by their own prince. They said 'Give us a prince who speaks neither English nor French.' Edward agreed with alacrity, and the Welsh thought that he had decided on installing one of their own chiefs. Edward presented before them his infant son and said 'Here is your prince. He speaks neither English nor French.' The first Prince of Wales appears thus in English History.

Deceit seems to be easy. Once, a soldier wagered that he could find enough dupes who would sign any petition to the government, no matter how ridiculous. He won. He got hundreds of signatures, asking the American government to create a pension for the widow of the Unknown Warrior.

Gallantry is always praised in war. But, it is not always evident. Before Peter the Great of Russia recognised his army, it was worthless. In an engagement near the city of Nerva with the forces of Charles XII of Sweden, the Russians fled at the first

onslaught of the Swedes. Many of the German officers recruited by Peter to lead his forces were not yet well known to the men, and these men shouted as they ran: 'The Germans are betraying us.' The general of the Russian forces had himself to seek refuge in the enemy's camp, exclaiming: 'The Devil alone can command such troops.'

Here are some stories told about the women's auxiliary Corps:

A young thing of this force was walking along a lonely road during a hot day. She saw on the way a lake surrounded by trees. She decided to have a nice bath, looked around and, seeing none about, took off her clothes and dived into the water. After a long swim, she came out and, stretching herself on the bank, had a sun-bath. Suddenly to her horror, came a male voice 'Camouflage squadron—Dismissed! All the trees surrounding her walked away.'

At a camp, the soldiers and the W. A. Cs. were given lemon daily to provide them with Vitamin C. A medical committee later found that the men were alright, but the women were deficient in Vitamin C. One of the latter then confessed that they used the lemon for their hair.

The first W. A. C.: I wonder if John still loves me.

The second W. A. C.: Of course, he does; why should he make an exception of you?

One W. A. C. was hard up. So, when she received a brassiere as a gift from a soldier, she wrote to him without thinking 'I wish you had sent the money. I'm flat busted.'

The following was overheard. A W. A. C. was asking another in the train 'That Tommy with whom you had the date last night seems to be a nice fellow.' The

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other answered coldly 'He must have been. While we were sitting, the light went out, and he spent the rest of the evening repairing the fuse.'

A soldier while in the hospital, fell in love with his nurse, and they agreed to marry on the day he was discharged from the hospital. The nurse put on a wedding gown for the ceremony, and the happy bridegroom announced to all 'Isn't she lovely? This is the first time I've ever seen her with a dress on.' The blushing bride exclaimed 'It's the first time also that I've ever seen him when he was not in his pyjamas.'

Soldier: Let us get married or something.

The girl: We'll get married or nothing.

It was a hot day. The bus was packed with passengers. Everyone was irritable. Suddenly, the voice of a civilian rose loud and clear 'Will some pretty girls please get recorded a number of resolutions concerning various aspects of the political and economic fortunes of the nation. On the off at the L.C.C. meeting under the these soldiers will leave?'

An unpopular officer returned to camp exhausted after a week-end of women and wine. Outside the tent where he slept, the men hung a sign 'Temporarily out of ardour.'

Let us now turn to the warriors and their spouses. One of them, returning on leave unexpectedly, found his wife in the arms of a stranger. He whipped out his gun. 'What are you going to do?' his wife shrieked. 'I am sick and tired of your playing with others while I'm away. I'm going to blow my brains out.' 'Thank you' said the woman relieved 'I thought you are going to make a scene.'

Mrs. Murphy: 'What do you hear from your husband who is in Japan?'

Mrs. Thomas: 'He is there, but the news is bad. He writes that he has a lovely

jeep with him. I suppose Jap women are called jeeps.'

A Tommy wrote in fury to his wife 'For Heaven's sake don't send me any more of these nagging letters. I want to fight this war in peace.'

A company of marines arrived home. One of them, mistaking one of the female greeters for his wife, gave her a hearty kiss. The woman angrily asked him 'Haven't you made a mistake?' The man, discovering his mistake, sought for an excuse, and said 'I haven't. I haven't seen a woman for three years.'

A girl turned up wearing two officers' silver bars pinned to her dress. One of her friends asked 'Is your boy-friend a Captain?' 'Goodness, no' she said 'Two lieutenants.'

Here are some stories of men who come home on leave:

One of them was mentioning his experiences and said "I remember the time Committee, food, ammunition and beer to Gandhiji's lead and said, 'We are beginning to build up our nation anew, and at this time we should follow the path Mahatma Gandhi has shown us. Bapuji gave us when all our culture and tradition. He taught had run out. We were, viz., Truth thirst.' 'Couldn't you get any water, one of the thrilled audience. 'We could. But, was that the time to be thinking of cleanliness?'

A soldier was being entertained. The hostess asked 'May I give you a cup of tea?' 'No tea, thanks.' 'A glass of milk?' 'No milk, thanks.' 'Perhaps you would like a cup of coffee?' 'No coffee.' 'You would prefer a drop of whisky and soda?' 'No soda.'

We will close with a few snaps at the operation fronts:

A man in a truck, negotiating the muddy street of Belgium observed a soldier shoulder-deep in mud, moving slowly. He asked him 'Can I give you a lift?' 'No, I'm in a jeep.'

A recruit just joined was writing an accident report. He wrote 'Smith hurt his leg while jumping from a lorry. Under the column REMARKS, am I to put down his remarks?'

A clergyman addressed the troops. But, the newspaper which carried the report of his speech was cramped for space. The person, reading it next day, was shocked when the report ended with the sentence 'Finally, he told a number of stories that cannot be published.'

The Admiral has directed that his washerwoman should meet his ship at the port with his laundry. His young lieutenant sent to the port a wireless message 'Have admiral's woman meet him at the dock.' After he had sent it, he felt that it was not clear. So, he radioed again 'Referring to my last message, insert WASHER between admiral and woman.'

At the air-port, the old lady confessed that it was her first plane trip. A young officer, taking pity on her, sat by her and held her hand in his. The greatest records that many of the have been rejected now on the ground of physical fitness. Washington had false teeth, and Kaiser William II a withered arm. Nelson lacked an eye and an arm. Grant was a victim of alcoholism. Bismarck was overweight and Washington underweight. Napoleon had stomach ulcer, and Caesar, epilepsy.

A big air raid had smashed the power station at Bremen. The German demolition squad heard a thin, monotonous and persistent voice coming up from the

wreckage. They dug and unearthed a parrot which was saying over and over again 'No military objects were hit.'

The German officer was giving instructions to the German wounded leaving the Russian front. 'Remember that you must not depress the people at home. If your arm is disabled, you have hurt yourself in bayoneting a Russian to death, and so on.'

'What if there is a plaster cast on the face?'

'You broke your jaw explaining to the Russians that they were beaten.'

The German merchant captain said that his ship was torpedoed by a British submarine.

'That is a lie' shouted the officer. The British have no submarines. It must have been a mine.'

'Yes, sir, the mine told me that I had fifteen minutes to take to boats and then struck.'

The Nazis questioned me. I've been come he would get.

The quisling said that, if the allies won the war, he would simply put his hat on and clear out of the country. A voice asked 'But, where will you put your hat on?'

Getting out a magazine is fun but it's no picnic. If we print jokes, people say we are silly. If we don't, they say we are too serious. If we clip things from other magazines, we are too lazy to write them ourselves. If we don't, we are too fond of our own stuff. If we don't print contributions, we don't appreciate the true genius. If we do print them, the magazine is filled with junk. Now like as not someone will say we swiped this from some other magazine—we did.

THE JAIPUR CONGRESS

THE 55th Session of the Indian National Congress which was held at Jaipur in the third week of December last marked an important stage in the history of that great organisation. In the first place it was the first plenary session to be held after the achievement of national freedom. And then for the first time the Congress met in an Indian State. Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya who presided over the session is a veteran Congressman who has held important positions in the Congress executive and enjoyed the confidence of Mahatma Gandhi.

SUBJECTS COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

With the arrival of the Akhand Jyothi or the Torch of Liberty carried all the way from Meerut, the Jaipur session might be said to have begun. The Working Committee met in the second week and recorded a number of resolutions touching various aspects of the political and economic fortunes of the nation. On the 16th the A.I.C.C. meeting under the presidency of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel converted itself into the Subjects Committee and Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya was invited to take the chair and guide the deliberations. The House started by adopting three condolence resolutions, the first of which paid solemn tributes to "Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Indian Nation."

Thereafter the Subjects Committee approved for the consideration of the Congress two important resolutions, one relating to Congress Objectives and the other on the Foreign Policy of India.

Meeting in the afternoon the Committee unanimously adopted the official resolution entitled "The Message", which set out the new objective of the Congress, reiterated its faith in the principles enunciated by Mahatma Gandhi, and called upon the Congress to work in a peaceful manner for the attainment of social and economic freedom, and for a classless democratic society.

Pandit Nehru, speaking on the resolution, referred to an amendment seeking a

reduction in the Governor-General's salary, and disclosed that the Cabinet had decided only the previous day at the suggestion of Rajaji himself, that the Governor-General's salary in future will be Rs. 5,500, free of Income-Tax.

The next day the Committee debated eight official resolutions viz: Foreign Possessions in India, Problem of S. African Indians, Greetings to Indonesian leaders, 'States', 'Communalism', 'Labour', Sufferers from Partition and 'Gandhi National Memorial Fund'.

Sri Sanker Rao Deo moved the resolution on Greetings to the people of Indonesia and her leaders which was passed unanimously.

MR. BHATT'S WELCOME ADDRESS

Over two lakhs of people attended the open session on the 18th. Mr. Gokulbhai D. Bhatt, Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcoming the delegates referred to Gandhiji's lead and said:

We are beginning to build up our nation anew, and at this time we should follow the path Mahatma Gandhi has shown us. Bapuji gave us a glimpse of our culture and tradition. He taught us true economics and showed us the one way to effect the welfare of the people, viz., Truth and Ahimsa.

Proceeding Mr. Bhatt exhorted Congressmen all over the country to concentrate their attention on the welfare of the village people. He said:

Many of our friends have had to assume high offices and undertake grave responsibilities. The position is apt to corrupt and enmesh people and of this we ought to be aware. If we cannot further the welfare of the common people, if we leave the right path or are tempted by circumstance, then we should leave those positions. This has all along been and will always be the Congress creed; no one should doubt this.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

In his presidential address, Dr. Pattabhi dwelt on a wide range of subjects, and in view of the fact that the session at Jaipur is the first after the attainment of freedom, part of the survey related to the past struggle and the remainder was devoted to the problems of the future.

We gather not to challenge a foreign power ruling over us, as we did at Meerut, but to organise ourselves for the independence that we

have earned by means unknown hitherto to the world.

Stating that the present Government was the fruit of the labours of the Congress during the past 63 years, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya said:

It is our duty as wise men to foresee and formulate the needs of the hour to suit the changing temper of the nation.

The supreme task of the Congress, he said, was

to tone down the extravagant and idealistic demands of the people, and to tone up the measures and moderate the realistic and restricted achievements of the ministers.

Supporting the movement for linguistic provinces Dr. Sitaramayya deprecated the talk of postponement of consideration of their formation in the name of unity. He said: "Unity is not uniformity but harmony in diversity." He added:

A bad thing cannot be made good by mere waiting. A really good thing need not be put off for any reason whatever, especially when it is fundamental. Let therefore, Government take up this problem broadly and boldly and make a people's rule possible by removing the obstacles in their way.

Dealing with the question of free Indian Republic's future relationship with the Commonwealth of Nations he observed:

This relationship cannot be that of a Dominion. It can only be the association of free and independent countries agreeing to have certain reciprocal relations which do not limit in any way their freedom in regard to domestic or international policy.

ASPECIAL MEETING OF SUBJECTS COMMITTEE

A specially convened meeting of the Subjects Committee of the Congress, assembling on the eve of the open session, reversed by 116 votes to 75 the decision it had taken the previous day on the "standards of public conduct" resolution, which insisted that Cabinet Ministers should also be included in the purview of the resolution, after Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru had virtually made of it an issue of confidence in the Government.

Another resolution, adopted by the Congress Subjects Committee stressed the need for planned projects to meet the production crisis in the country. A plea was also made for fair prices for agricultural products.

CONCLUSION

After one of the longest debates lasting over nine hours, the 55th session of the Indian National Congress terminated late on the 19th evening.

As many as twelve resolutions, some of them very important, covering a very wide range of subjects were discussed and adopted in record time. Two resolutions, one on the Linguistic Provinces appointing a three-man committee of the President, Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel to review the question and the other on verbal amendments in the Congress constitution were moved from the Chair and passed unanimously. A resolution on communalism, moved by Pandit Pant and seconded by Mr. Tandon was ably supported by Mr. Anantasayanam Iyengar, who cautioned against entertaining any idea of establishing a Hindu State. When the resolution on Indian States was under discussion Sardar Patel, invited by the President, made a few forthright observations.

Towards the close of the session Pandit Nehru made a statement on the unexpected turn of events in Indonesia, the arrest of the Republican leaders and the occupation of Jagjakarta. He warned the Dutch of the resumption of hostilities in Indonesia, and said that the Indian National Congress was pledged to end alien domination in Asia. He described the Dutch action as "contrary to all principles of the United Nations Charter."

Dr. Pattabhi in his concluding remarks thanked the Reception Committee for the arrangements. After a rapid review of the events since he became President of the Indian States Peoples' Conference in 1936 till now, Dr. Pattabhi said that he had always been working for the amalgamation of the Indian States Peoples' Conference and the Indian National Congress.

He concluded by declaring that he would continue to serve the cause of the Congress in a spirit of co-operation.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

By "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

C. R.'s Sage Counsel

WISDOM and appropriateness marked H. E. the Governor-General's Convocation Address to the Benares Hindu University and his exhortation to the businessmen of Bengal. Striking a new note, instead of the usual platitudes on such occasions, C. R. stressed the value of discipline in renaissance India and deprecated "the tendency of sabotage" which had developed as a result of our struggle against foreign domination. Civil disobedience was alright as a method of winning freedom from foreign yoke when once we had abjured violence.

But the process involved in the attainment of freedom through the method of civil disobedience has left behind certain results along with the attainment of the object. These results, like the incidental harm done to the body when you take drugs for curing a serious disease, have to be corrected by convalescent discipline, by effort and determination amounting to fervour and faith.

Even more apposite was his exhortation to the members of the Bengal Chamber. C. R. has a knack of putting even unpleasant things in a pleasing way. He frankly asked Indian businessmen to take a leaf from their European compeers. He put his finger unerringly on the weakest spot of our body politic when he pointed to the eternal grouching of our people about inflation and rationing and a thousand ills that flesh is heir to. We are making too much of the temporary aberrations incidental to a State in transition. Yet foreigners see nothing so damnable about us. We lack their optimism. "British and other non-Indian elements here," he said,

have more confidence in India than the nationals of India. An attitude of optimism is the correct one; an attitude of hesitation and doubt is not the correct attitude. It delays things. The Indian commercial and industrial people require education in optimism which people who have come here from outside India can give.

The Drive Against R.S.S.

The other day, at Gwalior, Sardar Patel made an earnest appeal to Mahasabhis and R.S.S. people to change their outlook as becomes citizens of a truly Secular State. At any rate the Government he said, could not tolerate any challenge to the peace and tranquillity of the State. And he went on to warn them that if they resorted to Satyagraha "we have all the resources necessary to meet such a challenge."

The Sardar has been as good as his word, and it is painful to see that the R.S.S. people should have left themselves loose in the way they have done and the Police should have been compelled to resort to their customary action in such cases. Reports of lathi charges and unhappy reminders of other times are by no means pleasant reading but to call their defiance Satyagraha instead of Duragraha is a perfect mis-nomer. Gandhiji's prescription against foreign rule is sought to be applied against our own. When will the R.S.S. learn that any attempt to disrupt the State at this juncture is a blow aimed at the country and a disservice to the nation? Would that they learnt that they are adding to the difficulties of a Government already storm-tossed by enemies at home and abroad? Let them reflect what they would themselves do if, as a Government, they were confronted with such unreasoning obstruction. It is time they realised that their own freedom and security depends on the stability of the State which they are trying to under mine by their reckless actions which they mistake for patriotism.

The Delhi Agreement

Indo-Pakistan relations have worsened in spite of repeated Conferences and assurances of goodwill. What is the use of passing pious resolutions at meetings if they are not to be implemented faithfully by the parties concerned? That has been the unhappy experience in the past. The Calcutta agreement made a number of promises and assurances of goodwill. To



The WORLD of BOOKS



(ONLY SHORT NOTICES APPEAR IN THIS SECTION)

THE CONCEPT OF A SECULAR STATE. By Prof. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri (Current Thought Series) Published by S. Viswanathan, Madras. Price 12 as.

This pamphlet cites strong historical evidence for India remaining a secular State. Ancient Hindu tradition was of broad-minded toleration and consideration for all religions alike though the rulers were themselves attached ardently to particular faiths. This stands in clear contrast to the spirit of Mediaeval Europe where secular armies were often marshalled under spiritual banners, to wipe out heresy.

The concept of a secular state does not preclude the State's interest in maintaining moral standards among its people. Even in religion, it is not so much strict neutrality as equal assistance in maintaining standards of pure precept and conduct. The author also utters a note of warning rightly against the tendencies of the Secular State in Europe, for both Marxism and National Socialism render unto Caesar the things which are God's.

The case for a Secular State has been already accepted in India; what we want is a consideration of the practical implications. Let us work it as best as possible.

A MEMORANDUM to be presented to the Hon.'ble President of the Constituent Assembly of India, by the representatives of Bihar in the Constituent Assembly. By Sachchidananda Sinha, Patna.

Mr. Sinha has brought together a mass of data to establish the long historic association between the districts concerned and Bihar. His attack on the linguistic argument is however not convincing. Linguistic provinces certainly make for administrative efficiency. The parallels cited are in fact not parallel. Switzerland, Canada, and the U. S. A. are instances of nationality transcending differences of language, and

it can therefore be argued that the various languages in India are not a barrier to the attainment of nationhood. Yet Switzerland is divided into essentially linguistic cantons. Canada has also French and English provinces. The inconsistency of the West Bengalees does not destroy the linguistic argument.

Linguistic adjustment may however be postponed in the present circumstances. Mr. Sinha's strong argument is that the districts in question are not predominantly Bengalee-speaking.

The author is rightly indignant against the grabbing of the votaries of amalgamation. The rehabilitation of refugees is not confined to West Bengal.

Geographically the districts are part of the Chota-Nagpur plateau, and the people share many customs with the Biharis of the West.

ASPECTS OF SCIENCE: By Sir C. V. Raman, (Nalanda Publications, Dhan-nur, 3rd Floor, Sir P. M. Road, Bombay 1. Rs. 2-4.)

Sir C. V. Raman is one of the half a dozen front rank Scientists of the world; and rightly, in the tradition of the great British scientists, has the knack of presenting his thoughts and discourses in lucid and attractive form. He has a natural turn for humour too and is fairly fluent in English. All these gifts have made him a speaker of considerable charm and power and his Radio talks are particularly happy revealing his deep interest in the things that move students and laymen alike. The nineteen chapters that comprise the book show his versatility as thinker and expositor alike. The publishers have shown commendable enterprise in obtaining permission of the A.I.R. authorities in their efforts to share the talks with the wider public.

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THE INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY 1947-'48 Annual, Gandhi & Co., Publishers, Jan Mansions, Sir Pheroze Shah Mehta Road, Bombay.

This volume edited by M. P. Gandhi of Cotton Textile Industry Annual fame, has come just when the Government of India have decided to reduce the ex-factory price of sugar. It abounds in very valuable statistical tables quite intelligible to the layman. To the man in the "line", the volume is not only a chronicle of the history of Industry but is almost a reference book.

Here and there in the volume are a number of thought provoking ideas such as, the suggestion that any decrease in price will have to be borne by the cane producers, since the price of cane forms the living share of the cost of production. The author has shown clearly the lowest position that we occupy in the matter of efficiency in the industry from the beginning to the end. Our yield per acre, extraction percentage is all below almost every other sugar producing country in the world.

The author remarks that sugar has practically become a luxury to most poor people and in recommending increased production he does not advise an extension of acreage but suggests increased efficiency in cane production and sugar extraction as the proper remedies.

The book maintains its usual neat get up and will be of great use to economists, food experts, administrators, and the trade.

SECOND REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. Geneva, 1948, Pp. 138.

This Report deals with man power problems, freedom of association and industrial relations, protection of children and young persons, women's work, industrial safety, maritime labour, statistics, agricultural organisations and the regional activities of the I. L. O. It also describes the relations of the I. L. O. with the U. N. O. and other International Organisations.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—:Z:—

INDIAN CAVALCADE. By Bhabani Bhattacharya, Nalanda Publications, Bombay 1.

A MONOGRAPH ON HANDLOOM WEAVING INDUSTRY IN INDIA. By M. P. Gandhi, Messrs. Gandhi & Co., Sir P. M. Mehta Road, Bombay 1.

VEDANTA FOR THE WESTERN WORLD. Ed. with Introduction by Christopher Isherwood, George Allen & Unwin Ltd.

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF HYDERABAD. Vol. I. Rural Economy, by Anwar Iqbal Qureshi, Orient Longmans Ltd., Madras.

METHODS AND MIRACLES OF NATURE CURE. By Dr. S. J. Singh, 57 Gwynne Road, Lucknow.

HOW TO GAIN WEIGHT. By Dr. S. J. Singh All-India Nature Cure Assn. 57 Gwynne Road, Lucknow.

THE BIRTH OF INDONESIA. By David Wehl, Allen & Unwin Ltd.

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE FOR PEACE 1920-1946 Ed. by Ethelwyn Best and Bernard Pike, George Allen & Unwin Ltd. London.

THE STORY OF STATES INTEGRATION (Survey of Sardar's achievements) compiler: P. D. Master Publisher: M. C. Patel, B.A., LL.B., Oriental Printers Ltd., Mombasa.

INFLATION AND THE ECONOMIC CRISIS (Current Thought Series). By T. V. Ramanujam, M.A. Published by S. Visvanathan, 14, Singanna Naick St., G. T., Madras.

I. L. O. PUBLICATIONS

1. THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LABOUR STATISTICIANS, 1948 (Studies & Reports New Series, No. 7. Part 4).
2. SECOND REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS 1948.
3. VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF ADULTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 1948.

All the three books published by International Labour Office, New Delhi.

PRODIGIES

The emergence of a musical prodigy Pierino Gamba who at the age of ten has been drawing crowds to Harringay Musical Festival where he successfully conducted the London Philharmonic Orchestra, has set Scientists thinking. To what can we attribute the amazing ability and experience at such a young age? Robert W. Harter, writing in *Prediction*, observes that medical men attribute such feats to abnormal glands, especially the pituitary, the adrenals and that tiny mysterious gland the pineal.

"Without doubt the secretions of these glands so contribute to, or retard, as the case may be, development of mental ability. But, unless science can prove beyond all doubt that the glands of the new-born child contain minute cells which have within them the innate knowledge, experience, and proclivity of ancestors in the realms of music, painting, mathematics, languages, and other spheres, how can science account for the phenomenal child wonders of every age which puzzle humanity? And science has so far failed to prove this fact."

Anyway there can be no doubt that extraordinary genius at early age has manifested itself in different fields of thought and activity.

Lord Macaulay wrote a universal history when only seven, an accomplishment which an adult four times his age would have considered a feat. At the age of three, when toys reign supreme in a boy's life, John Stuart Mill, the philosopher, began to study Greek. When only five, Jean Phillipe Baratier translated the Greek Bible. When six, he was a member of an ecclesiastical

synod in Berlin. And at fourteen, he took the degree of doctor of philosophy. Even at four he could speak German, French and Latin.

"In the realms of painting Roswitha Bitterlich began her painting and drawing career at three years of age. By seventeen she exhibited 400 of her paintings and drawings.

Sir Francis Galton, pioneer of fingerprinting which plays such an important part to-day in scientific detection of crime, learned to read when only two-and-a-half. Multiplication tables, the bane of every school child, he had mastered by the age of five.

Medical science may argue that it was the abnormal glands of Kenneth Wolf, born in Cleveland, Ohio, which enables his such speedy mental development that he was able to talk perfectly when only four months old, able to read at twelve months, and able to study and absorb the knowledge which enabled him to matriculate at only nine years old.

But it was a physical impossibility for the wonder child of Dr. Clench to have even amassed so much law, history, geography, mathematics and astronomy in his brief twelve years, so that the verdict about him was—"This boy has more knowledge than most men in the world."

No scientific explanation can account for Sidis, U. S. A. wonder child, having the knowledge to lecture on the abstruse fourth dimension to learned professors at the age of eleven. Can there be any other solution to the problem of child prodigies, than the only accountable one for the babe Christian Heineken speaking when only a few hours old—Re-incarnation?

VARIED USES OF HELICOPTER

Industrial and other uses of the helicopter are increasing rapidly throughout the world, Lawrence D. Bell reports in an article in the current quarterly issue of the American magazine *Air Affairs*. The author, a U. S. helicopter designer and manufacturer, tells how the machines are being used to save and increase agricultural crops, in forest-fire fighting, oil exploration and many other fields. In Argentina, he writes, 10 helicopters are credited with having stopped a 25-million-dollar loss of crops to locusts; in Iraq helicopters are being used to pollinate date palms; in north-eastern United States potato fields record yields per acre are being obtained with the help of insecticide sprayed from the craft.

Extensive use of the helicopter is planned by the U. S. military services. The planes, it is reported, will be stationed at more than 50 Army posts and, eventually, aboard every U. S. aircraft carrier for communications, observation, and rescue work. The latter task is one which helicopters—because of their ability to rise and descend vertically, and hover above a particular spot—have been performing for many years from the Arctic to jungle areas.

Use of the helicopter may be further increased by an invention of a young American engineer, Charles Kaman, and several colleagues, all of whom work in aircraft construction. They have developed a helicopter which is said to be simpler, lighter and less expensive than any previous type; says U. S. I. S.

The Kaman machine, powered by a 190-horsepower engine, is distinguished by twin-revolving rotors whose blades intermesh

and change pitch through the operation of small tab attachments behind the trailing edges of the blades. Hitherto, the necessary change in pitch of rotor blades, as they revolve in opposite directions, has been attained by discs and other devices in the hubs. These are of heavy construction and require a mechanism to offset vibrations they cause.

With the Kaman blade there is no vibration, the builders say. Both the blades and the hubs not only are lighter and simpler but cheaper to build and easier to maintain. The Kaman helicopter, its builders say, can be produced for about half the cost of present models.

MUSLIMS IN INDIA

That the India Government's police action in Hyderabad had brought communal peace in India, and the Muslims in India to-day were free citizens again, is emphasised by Mr. Horace Alexander in an article in the "*New Statesman and Nation*."

Giving the background of the whole Hyderabad episode, and fully supporting the Government of India's action, Mr. Alexander says: "It was a moving experience to participate on Sept. 26 in the service of thanksgiving at the great Jammu Masjid at Delhi, where some 20,000 people, most of them Muslims, but with a sprinkling of their Hindu neighbours, gave thanks for the restoration of peace in Hyderabad, and for their own merciful deliverance.

"A year ago, hardly a Muslim dared show his face or his headgear in the streets of Delhi. To-day, they are free citizens again. Pandit Nehru and his friends have had a hard fight to achieve their secular State. Mahatma Gandhi had to sacrifice his life for it. But today it seems that they have nearly won the battle. The Muslims of India can hold up their head, can walk in the streets without fear."

DIARY OF THE MONTH

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- Nov. 26 Pakistan fails in U. N. : Zafrullah's charges dismissed.
- Sardar Patel replies to Zafrullah and declares India cannot desert Kashmir.
- Nov. 27 Sardar Patel addresses Allahabad Convocation.
- Nov. 28 Communists within 35 miles of Nanking.
- UNECAFE meets in Australia.
- Nov. 29 Standstill Agreement with Nizam extended with modifications.
- Consamby adopts article on equality and abolition of untouchability.
- Nov. 30 H. E. C. Rajagopalachari addresses Bengal Chamber.
- Calcutta University awards Doctorate to C. R.
- Dec. 1 Vijayawada station of A.I.R. inaugurated.
- Civil War in China: Madam Chiang in U.S.A.
- Dec. 2 H. E. C. Rajagopalachari delivers Benares Convocation address.
- Syria's attempt to move Hyderabad question in U.N. fails.
- Dec. 3 R. R. Diwakar appointed new Union Minister.
- Dec. 4 Gen. Cariappa appointed Commander-in-Chief of India.
- Dec. 5 French India Governor Baron replaced by Mr. Maurice Thompson.
- Dec. 6 Inter-Dominion talks begin at Delhi.
- Battle north of Nanking.
- Dec. 7 U. K. threatens action against Israel.
- Russia demands dissolution of Korean Commission.
- Dec. 8 Indonesia admitted to UNECAFE.
- Constituent assembly adopts article 23 providing cultural and educational rights for the minorities.
- Dec. 9 R. S. S. Demonstrators rounded up. C. P. bans publication of Sangh chiefs' statements.
- Indian Residents Bill in Ceylon passes Second reading.
- Dec. 10 ECAFE session at Lapstone concludes.
- U. N. Assembly adopts Declaration of Human rights.
- Dec. 11 The Nizam in a letter to military Governor refutes Sir Zufrullah and pays a tribute to present impartial and efficient administration.
- Dec. 12 Congress Working Committee at Jaipur adopts nine draft resolutions.
- Reds cut Government troops' life lines in Nanking area.
- Dec. 13 Boundary Commission reports there is no justification at present for Linguistic provinces.
- Dec. 14 Inter-Dominion Conference concludes at Delhi.
- Dec. 15 Mr. Attlee accepts Mr. Belcher's resignation.
- Russia vetoes Ceylon's admission to U.N. membership.
- Dec. 16 Subjects Committee of the Jaipur Congress agrees to working Committee's resolution on Foreign Policy.
- Fall of Peiping reported.
- Dec. 17 Kashmir commission panel arrives for talks on plebiscite.
- Nizam's private army disbanded.
- Dec. 18 Fiftyfifth session of the Indian National Congress meets in Jaipur, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya presiding.
- Dec. 19 Dutch airborne troops occupy the Indonesian Republican capital of Jogjakarta and capture Drs. Soekarno, Hatta and Shariar.
- Dec. 20 Dr. Lozano of the U. N. Kashmir Committee meets Pandit Nehru.
- Dec. 21 U. S. Ambassador stresses need for treaty of friendship with India.
- Dec. 22 U. N. asked to order immediate cease-fire in Indonesia.
- Tojo and six other Jap leaders hanged.
- Dec. 23 Ceylon, India and Pakistan ban Dutch airlines.
- Dec. 24 U. N. vetoes Israel's application for membership.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



INDIA THE POWERFUL BULWARK

India's immense importance as a bulwark against Soviet expansion in Asia is stressed by the London *Economist* in an article.

The former Indian Empire, it writes, has been reconstituted as two states, one with a population of well over 300,000,000 and the other much smaller. "The disparity in population between the two units is accentuated by the contrast of industrial potentials, for India is heir to all the principal industrial areas developed before the partition. On the other hand, Pakistan is better off than India as regards food supplies and is also better furnished with exportable surpluses for the world market.

Further, Pakistan holds the North-Western mountain keys to the Indo-Gangetic Plain and is thus responsible for the defence of India, as well as of the most vulnerable land frontier of the sub-continent. It follows from these facts that India and Pakistan are interdependent to a high degree both economically and strategically and that India's status as a Great Power must vary according to the state of its relations with Pakistan. The two nations in close co-operation can be extremely strong.

If India and Pakistan can work together they can not only assure peace to the whole vast area formerly ruled by Asoka, by Akbar and by the British Viceroy; they will also exert a powerful influence for stability both in the Middle-East, on the one hand, and in South-East Asia on the

other. Their joint interests are bound to extend their horizons both to the West and East of the Indian sub-continent."

Not long ago there was hardly a politician in India who was actively concerned about the country's external interests, continues *The Economist*, all attention was concentrated on the struggle for national independence. "Foreign affairs remained under British direction up to the final transfer of power and it was fashionable to regard the North-West Frontier almost as a British invention. Now that independence has been achieved, the new Governments of India and Pakistan are quite well aware that they have to guide the destinies of their countries in a world of great strains and stresses which can affect the regions close beyond the Khyber or east of the Bay of Bengal."

Nor are they unaware of their countries' dependence on supplies of food, oil and other essential commodities from nearby countries—an interest which must cause them to keep a very sharp eye on what happens in Burma, Indonesia or Iran. "Pakistan, as a Moslem state, has also a special interest in the fate of all the Moslem countries, and therefore, of the Middle East as a whole; and India also has an interest in the independence of the States which can serve as buffers between India and the Soviet Union. Without the strength and cohesion of India, there would be great danger of a Russian expansion all over Asia, because of the absence of any effective resistance by the Asiatic States themselves."

PATH TO PROSPERITY

Mr. K. B. Gajendragadkar, Pleader, Satara, recommends the following twenty four maxims to be read carefully and thoughtfully daily in the morning before one begins one's routine work.

1. Make few promises.
2. Always speak the truth.
3. Never speak evil of any one.
4. Keep good company or none.
5. Live up to your engagements.
6. Never play a game of chance.
7. Drink no kind of intoxicating liquors.
8. Good character is above all things else.
9. Keep your own secrets if you have any.
10. Never borrow if you possibly can help it.
11. Do not marry until you are able to support a wife.
12. Keep yourself innocent if you would be happy.
13. When you speak to a person look him in the face.
14. Make no haste to be rich if you would prosper.
15. Ever live (misfortunes excepted) within your income.
16. Save when you are young to spend when you are old.
17. Avoid temptation, through fear you may not withstand it.
18. Never run into debt unless you see a way to get out again.
19. Small and steady gains give competency with a tranquil mind.

20. Good company and good conversation are the sinews of virtue.

21. Your character cannot be essentially injured except by your own acts.

22. If any one speaks evil of you, let your life be such that no one will believe him.

23. When you retire to bed, think over what you have been doing during the day.

24. Never be idle, if your hands can't be employed usefully, attend to the cultivation of your mind.

WARNING TO WESTERN POWERS

The Labour Member of Parliament, Mr. Richard Crossman, writing in the *Sunday Pictorial* asserts that recent events in China should be a lesson for the Western Powers not to depend too greatly on American military power.

"Chiang Kai-shek's armies were equipped with American weapons and supported by a very large and efficient force of American bombers, fighters, and pursuit planes", he wrote. The Communists licked them, though they possessed hardly a single aeroplane.

This should be a warning to all those who rely on American air power and atom bombs to protect Europe against Communism.

The democratic world might have been far stronger if we had never discovered the atom bomb. Because we possess it, some people think we can rely on air power as a substitute for a real constructive alternative to Communism. It is not in a cold war or in a hot one."

INDIAN STATES

—(o)—

Hyderabad

NIZAM REFUTES ZAFRULLAH

The Nizam of Hyderabad, in a letter to the Military Governor, Major-General J. N. Chaudhry, refutes the statements, made by Sir Mahomed Zafrullah Khan recently while asking for an early meeting of the Security Council to consider the Hyderabad situation.

The following is the text of the letter received by Gen. Chaudhry from the Nizam. My dear friend,

I am surprised to see in the newspapers that Zafrullah Khan has again made a statement regarding Hyderabad and is asking for an early meeting of the Security Council to arrest what he calls 'the fast deteriorating situation of the State.'

As a matter of fact, the situation is considerably better than it was some months ago and the subjects of my State are living peacefully.

There is no doubt that the administration had broken down during the latter part of the last Ministry's regime. But at present, the Military Government has achieved success, not only in restoring but improving the administrative machinery.

All shades of opinion in the State feel that the present administration is impartial and efficient.

I feel happy to think that through the endeavours of the Military Government my subjects are settling down to normal life. I am sorry to note that Sir Zafrullah Khan has made such a misleading statement,

Yours Sincerely,
(Sd.) Nizam VII.

THE HYDERABAD ASSEMBLY

It has been decided by the Government that electoral rolls should be prepared as a first step towards the summoning of a Constituent Assembly for framing a constitution for Hyderabad, says a *firman* issued by the Nizam dated December 1.

The *firman* adds: "I therefore, hereby call upon all officers and all subjects of Hyderabad State to render full assistance and co-operation in measures to be taken for preparation of electoral rolls for the Constituent Assembly."

The Hyderabad Legislative Assembly which was constituted under functional representation with Hindu-Muslim parity in the previous regime has been dissolved. A notification says: "With a view to constituting a fully representative body elected by the people at as early a date as possible H. E. H. the Nizam has deemed it expedient to abolish the Hyderabad Legislative Assembly constituted under the Hyderabad Legislative Assembly Act of 1355 Fasli."

Cochin

TRIBUTE TO PRINCE'S SCHOLARSHIP

A tribute to the scholarship of H. H. the Maharaja of Cochin, Sri Rama Varma was paid by Mr. Justice S. Panchapagesa Sastri, of the Madras High Court, at a public Durbar held at the Durbar Hall Ernakulum on Dec. 4 to present to His Highness the title of "Darsana Kalanidhi" conferred by His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Sankaracharya of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam.

Men of letters legislators, and high officials attended the Durbar.

Mysore**RATIONING IN MYSORE**

A new scheme for distribution of cloth to consumers throughout Mysore State was enforced with effect from 1st December by means of the introduction of coupons at the rate of 10 yards per person out of which 5 yards are given in the first instance.

The coupons are distributed on a population basis taking the taluk as the unit and are not transferable from one unit to another. The coupons are distributed on the basis of the food ration card which must be produced for the purpose.

Eight thousand retailers have been selected from the trade for the distribution. This figure includes co-operative societies. There will be no discrimination in regard to classification of the retailers and there will be uniformity by reason of fixed quotas. It is Government's hope that this new scheme will minimise the margin of black-marketing. No cloth merchant can infiltrate into the villages and take away the goods therefrom to the urban areas.

MYSORE & THE MODEL CONSTITUTION

The Government of Mysore, have it is understood, received intimation from New Delhi that an expert committee is to be appointed in the Indian Constituent Assembly to evolve a model constitution for all the States and that it will be instructed to finish its work early.

Pending completion of the work of that committee, the Mysore Constituent Assembly has been requested to hold up its proceedings.

Baroda**BARODA STATE COUNCIL**

The Baroda State Council consisting of the Dewan, the Minister for Law and Her Highness Shanta Devi (President) met for the first time at Laxmi Vilas Palace, Baroda in November last, to discharge its duties in the absence of the Maharaja.

The Council gave assent to the 1948-49 budget of the State passed by the Legislative Assembly and also to the 24 bills adopted by the House including the Harijan Temple Entry Bill and the Incometax Bill.

BARODA TO BE DRY IN 4 YEARS

Addressing the Baroda State Legislature on October 18, Dr. Jivraj Mehta, said that by progressive reduction in the consumption of liquor in the State, total prohibition would be achieved in four years. Total prohibition will be introduced in Amreli and Okhamandal districts of the State from such date as might be decided upon by the Government of Saurashtra and Junagadh in their respective territories adjacent to these districts.

The implementation of the prohibition policy would entail a loss of revenue estimated at Rs. 13 lakhs this year.

Danta**DANTA TO MERGE**

The Danta State, west of Rajputana and adjoining Palanpur, Sirohi and Idar, will be integrated with the Province of Bombay. The Ruler of Danta has signed the instrument of merger. (The population of State is 31,000.)

Mayurbhanj**MAYURBHANJ ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. D. V. Rege, formerly Commissioner of Jubbulpore division of the Central Provinces took over the administration of Mayurbhanj State on November 8, on behalf of the State Ministry.

Kashmir**U. N. COMMISSION'S REPORT**

The difficulties of arranging a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir are stressed in the first part of the United Nations Kashmir Commission's report.

The Commission has presented only an Interim Report and does not attempt to draw any final conclusions or make recommendations for future action by the Security Council.

The report states that the Pakistan army in Jammu and Kashmir "confronted the Commission with an unforeseen and entirely new situation" and "along the lines of the Security Council's resolution of April 21 and the basis of the situation explained in the report, the Commission considered that the Pakistan Government should be asked as the first step towards the final solution of the dispute to withdraw its forces from the State of Jammu and Kashmir with an understanding that as the second step the withdrawal of the bulk of the Indian troops would occur."

In a detailed account of its work of investigation and fact-finding on the spot, the Five-Member Commission states: "The situation which confronted the Commission upon its arrival was different from that which had been envisaged by the Security Council during the deliberations which preceded the formulation of its resolutions in as much as regular Pakistan troops are within the frontiers of the States of Jammu and Kashmir participating in the fighting.

This new element necessarily influenced the approach of the Commission with regard to the implementation of the Security Council's resolution on April 21.

Travancore**TRAVANCORE CONSTITUTION**

"While Travancore is prepared to consider the model constitution to be framed by the Committee set up by the States Ministry and examine the suitability of the same for adoption in Travancore, the Travancore Government have protested against the suggestion that they should await the model constitution", said Mr. T. K. Narayana Pillai, Prime Minister of Travancore, at Madras early last month in an interview.

Mr. Pillai said that the model constitution aimed at bringing about uniformity in the administration of States. But the Travancore Government's stand was that Travancore had the right to frame its own constitution.

Madhya Bharat**SARDAR PATEL INAUGURATES DARA SABHA**

Inaugurating the Dara Sabha, Legislative Assembly of Madhya Bharat in the Secretariat, Gwalior on December 4, the Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Patel, emphasised the importance of integrity in administration, spirit of service, and mutual co-operation with the Rulers and services for the betterment of the country.

Sounding a warning to the representatives, he said: "We have taken over from the Rulers a rule that has gone on for many centuries. We have to realise the magnitude and the extent of that responsibility. If we fail to do our duty properly, we shall be sinners."

The Deputy Premier also paid a glowing tribute to the patriotism of the Princes,

STUDY OF SANSKRIT IN KABUL UNIVERSITY

The Kabul University of Afghanistan has made Sanskrit a compulsory subject in its curriculum for students taking languages. The reasons for its introduction as a compulsory subject are set out in a letter by Sardar Ghulam Mohamed Khan, *Charge d' Affaires* for Afghanistan in Delhi, to Mr. Ghanshyam Singh Gupta, Speaker of the Central Provinces Assembly, who had made an enquiry in this connection.

"Persian and Pushto are direct descendents of Sanskrit and still maintain a large vocabulary derived from Sanskrit," writes Sardar Ghulam Mohamed Khan, adding, "The idea behind the introduction of Sanskrit as a compulsory subject in the University is to make Pushto a more scientific language and to develop it to better standards. It is hoped that Sanskrit will be very helpful in this process."

EDUCATIONAL CONCESSIONS TO BACKWARD CLASSES

The Government of Madras have sanctioned the utilisation of Rs. one lakh provided in the Budget estimate for 1948-49 for the amelioration of the conditions of Backward Classes as distinct from Harijans, by granting scholarship to students reading in the college classes, and high schools. They have also directed that 75 per cent of the Rs. one lakh should be set apart for the grant of scholarships to deserving students of Backward Classes studying in arts and professional colleges, including the Law College, and the balance on the grant of scholarships to deserving students of Backward Classes studying in high schools, preference being given to women students.

DR. ZAKIR HUSSAIN

Dr. Zakir Hussain, Principal of Jamia Millia, was unanimously elected Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh University at a meeting of the University Court. Sixty-five members attended the meeting.

TRAINING IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The Ministry of Defence have decided to establish a school of foreign languages for officers. To start with, instructions will be given in French, Russian, German, Persian, Arabic, Chinese and Japanese. Though the school is primarily intended for officers of the armed forces, civil officers of various Ministries will also be admitted.

Mr. P. N. Banerjee, a linguist, who knows eighteen modern and four classical languages, has been appointed Director of the School.

C R.'S ADDRESS AT ALIGARH CONVOCATION

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, told the students of Aligarh University at a special convocation held on December 15, that universities had a very particular and important role to play in the advancement of culture and education in India. He added that the Government and himself would do everything in their power to enable the Aligarh University to perform its functions in a worthy manner.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Dr. M. Abdul Huq, Principal of the Government Muslim College, Madras, has been appointed Principal of the Presidency College, Madras, in succession to Dr. S. G. Manavala Ramanujam who has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Annamalai University.

Prof. K. Swaminathan, Additional Professor of English, Presidency College, Madras, has been appointed to officiate as Principal and Senior Lecturer, Government Muslim College, Madras.

NAUTICAL COLLEGE IN BOMBAY

An important step to meet the acute shortage of Indian Merchant Navy officers was taken recently with the starting of a nautical college in Bombay. For the first term there are 120 students who will receive post-sea instruction to enable them to take the examinations for the certificate of competency.

KARNATAKA LAWYERS' CONFERENCE

Presiding over the first All-Karnataka Lawyers' Conference held at Dharwar on December 9, Mr. K. R. Karant, former Minister of the Government of Madras, pleaded for an independent, able and efficient judiciary which was a *sine quo non* of democracy and demanded the immediate separation of the judiciary and executive.

Referring to the new constitution of India that was being framed, he said that all of them were supporters and believers of democracy which was based on the fundamentals of civil liberties, of which freedom of person and speech, and freedom of property were important. The function of lawyers was mainly the protection of those fundamental rights. When those rights were being infringed, it became their duty to speak out and say what they felt about it. Certain provisions in respect of civil liberties had just been included in the new constitution in the making. But in the practical application those rights had to be safeguarded.

Speaking about liberty of person and property, he referred to the orders passed by the Madras Government investing the police with greater powers. He warned the Government against the practice of detention without trial.

RIGHT TO MOVE SUPREME COURT

The Constituent Assembly at its sitting on December 9 adopted, what Dr. B. R. Ambedkar described as "the most important, article" in the Draft Constitution, conferring the right on citizens to move the Supreme Court in the event of denial to them of their other fundamental rights. The Court has been empowered to issue directions or orders or writs including writs in the nature of 'Habeas Corpus', 'mandamus', prohibition, 'Quo Warranto' and 'Certiorari', whichever may be appropriate, for the enforcements of any of the fundamental rights conferred by this Constitution.

SEPARATION OF JUDICIARY

Sir Clifford Manmohan Agarwalla, Chief Justice of the Patna High Court inaugurating the annual conference of Bihar judicial officers on December 5, criticised the framers of the draft Indian Constitution and said they had not thought it necessary to insist upon the immediate separation of judicial and executive duties.

For decades, Sir Clifford said, those who were struggling for the freedom of India were made painfully aware of the danger to liberty which existed when judicial and executive duties were mingled and yet, when they had obtained the power to remedy that deplorable state of affairs, they had done nothing effective to remedy the defect.

Sir Clifford asked: "What is the reason? Why is it that a step which seemed so eminently desirable before August 15, 1947, has now lost its appeal for those who were formerly such ardent advocates of it? Is it not obvious that having discovered that power over those appointed to administer the criminal law helps to lubricate the creaking machinery of administration, the Government is reluctant to part with that power, even though the public they claim to represent demands this long-overdue reform and even though they themselves are fully aware that it is a necessary step if the administration of criminal law is to command the confidence of the people for whose protection it exists?"

I consider that without an absolutely independent judiciary, it is idle for the Constitution to contain a list of Fundamental Rights and it will be impossible to keep the springs of justice pure," Sir C. M. Agarwalla concluded.

JUSTICE VISWANATHA SASTRI

The Governor-General has appointed Mr. A. V. Viswanatha Sastri as a permanent Judge of the Madras High court.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

—(O)—

Ceylon

INDIANS AND CITIZENSHIP BILL

"The refusal of the Ceylon Premier, Mr. D. S. Senanayake to give an assurance regarding equality of status to citizens by registration, and definite exclusion of Ceylon Indians from the benefits of the three existing Ordinances reduce Indians to an inferior type of citizenship," declared Mr. A. Aziz, President, Ceylon Indian Congress, in a statement on the correspondence between the Prime Ministers of Ceylon and India on the Indian Residents (Citizenship) Bill.

Mr. Aziz added: "The basis of negotiations was: 1. that qualifications for citizenship would be for the inclusion of Indians as citizens of Ceylon; 2. that the procedure laid down for establishing these conditions would be simple; and 3. that citizenship offered would be full."

"All these three points appear to have been violated by the Government of Ceylon. The conditions laid down are such as to make it impossible for a large number of Indians here to become citizens of Ceylon.

Particularly the points referred to about the expiry of the period of residence and the distinction between married and unmarried persons the requirement of adequate means of livelihood and each minor child being resident with a person in the island make the conditions vicious."

Mr. Aziz drew attention to the introduction of a new point which the Government of Ceylon had not previously raised in the negotiations in 1940 in Delhi and in 1941 in Colombo, namely the "capacity to observe the laws of Ceylon."

South Africa

POLAK ON MALAN GOVT'S. POLICY

Mr. Erick Louw, Chief South African delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in Paris, must not take for granted the ignorance of the public here (England) or in India regarding South Africa affairs, says Mr. H. S. L. Polak in a letter published in the *London Times*.

"Mr. Polak who has had a life-time connection with Indian affairs including ten years' active association with Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa says, with all his attempts to paint an immaculate picture of the South African scene, Mr. Louw had not been able to blot out the race and colour bar there, so strongly condemned by progressive South Africans.

"Had Mr. Louw to pay the normal taxes and at the same time to endure the political, economic and social disabilities of the Natal Indians (whose relatively 'prosperous' condition is due almost entirely to their own unaided efforts and which Mr. Louw's white countrymen are seeking deliberately to undermine) he would better understand exactly where the harrow gripped," he states.

"Now the price—a nominal Indian franchise—which General Smuts' Government was willing to pay for the extension of the Transvaal segregation policy to Natal has been taken by the abolition of that franchise by Dr. Malan's Government". Mr. Polak adds, "Is it to be wondered at that the more moderate elements among the Indian leaders have been temporarily over-shadowed by the more extreme? Every reactionary activity of Mr. Louw and his colleagues will inevitably increase the influence of the latter. For this, the responsibility will not lie with the Indians."

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS * DEPARTMENTAL * NOTES

Questions of Importance

REPORT OF THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

The Linguistic Provinces Commission set up by the President of the Constituent Assembly have recommended against the formation of linguistic provinces at present. They have, however, expressed the opinion that when the Indian States have been completely integrated and the country fully stabilised, some of the Provinces should be reformed on an administrative basis.

The Commission, who have submitted an unanimous report, recognise that there is a sincere and strong demand for the creation of linguistic provinces and that its non-fulfilment may lead to much disappointment. Nevertheless, they think that an emergency exists in India which would not justify acceding to the demand at present.

The Commission say that the first and last need of India at the present moment is that it should be made a nation. The Constitution, which is now being forged for India, as also all the multifarious problems which clamour for immediate solution have to be considered in relation to this paramount necessity. Everything which helps the growth of nationalism has to go forward, and everything which throws obstacles in its way has to be rejected or should stand over.

"We have applied this test", say the Commission, "to linguistic provinces, and judged by this test, they fail and cannot be supported. If once the principle is recognised, it will set the ball rolling for the disintegration of the entire country."

The Commission was appointed, as a result of a discussion in the Assembly in November 1947, and of a recommendation by the Drafting Committee in their report. The Chairman was Mr. S. K. Dar, a former Judge of the Allahabad High Court.

INTER-DOMINION ISSUES

The Inter-Dominion Conference between India and Pakistan, which concluded in Delhi on December 15, after sitting for nine days in an effort to iron out outstanding differences between the two Dominions barring Kashmir, reached "a very substantial measure of agreement" according to a Press Note, issued from the External Affairs Ministry.

On the political side, the new Agreement is based very largely on the Calcutta Agreement. The principal new features of the Agreement relate to the provision of machinery for ensuring prompt and satisfactory implementation of the various undertakings by the two Governments.

To resolve boundary disputes between East Bengal and West Bengal and East Bengal-Assam, a high-power judicial tribunal is to be set up before January 13, 1949.

WORK OF ECAFE'S SESSION

A feeling of futility and frustration was prevalent amongst most members of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, whose two-week conference ended at Lapstone (N. S. W.) on December 2.

The five-year "Master Plan" for the development of industry and agriculture produced by a working party of the Commission has been shelved through lack of funds from either the U. S. or the International Monetary Bank.

Hopes that ECAFE would become the Asian counterpart of the European Advisory Council, set up to deal with Marshall Plan problems, have also been dashed.

It was agreed that the Commission would meet in May or June, 1949, in Singapore.

The Jaffa premier
a glowing tribute
to the
the

AMENDMENTS TO INSURANCE ACT

Prevention of the cornering of control over insurance companies by mere financial interests and steps necessary to avoid interlocking arrangements between banks and insurance companies were recommended by the Insurance Advisory Committee, which met recently under the chairmanship of the Commerce Minister, Mr. K. C. Neogy.

Provision to this effect will be made in the Insurance Amending Bill, which is expected to be introduced in the next session of the Parliament.

Among other subjects considered by the Committee were restrictions on investments of life funds; restrictions on the remuneration of insurance executives and officers; and limitations of over-all expenses.

STATE INSURANCE FOR WORKERS

The industrial survey undertaken in Madras Province in connection with the proposed Employees' State Insurance Scheme is expected to be completed by March 1949. The survey work commenced in August last and it was formerly expected that the work would be completed within a period of three months. Subsequently, however, it was found that in view of the magnitude of the problem it would take some more months.

The Government have appointed two officers, Capt. C. S. S. Sarma and Dr. S. G. Adinarayana Raju, for carrying out this survey. All districts north of Madras City (numbering eleven) are being covered by Dr. Raju and the other 14 districts by Dr. Sarma.

Explaining the object of the survey, Dr. Sarma stated that it was "to locate the worker concentrations in groups and numbers round about a large or small scale factory, and to site a suitable dispensary and a doctor to be in sole and complete charge of a fixed number of industrial workers under the definition of the Factory Act. The objective was to provide for the industrial worker a dispensary and a doctor within two miles of his habitat and place of work." This doctor who would be a whole-time officer would not be allowed to have private

practice. The aim of Employees' State Insurance Corporation was to administer in one consolidated act the various benefits now obtaining for the worker under the Workman's Compensation Act and the Maternity Benefit Act.

Referring to the actual working of the Employees' State Insurance Act passed by the Government of India in April last, Dr. Sarma said that all employees working in factories which had a permanent set-up and which used power and where there were more than 20 labourers on the rolls, would be compelled to avail themselves of the insurance scheme, by paying 50 per cent. of the premium. (The other half of the premium would be shared in equal proportion by the Managements of factories and the Government.) Compulsory insurance administered under the Act would apply to all workers in receipt of a salary of Rs. 400 and less, irrespective of their position in the industrial establishments. Under the scheme the workers and their families would not only get the benefit of sound medical advice and free treatment but also 'cash bonus' for the number of days they are asked to absent themselves for medical reasons. The Insurance Fund proposed to spend as much as Rs. 6 per head per annum, Dr. Sarma stated.

FREE MEDICAL AID IN BRITAIN

All visitors to Britain from abroad are now entitled to free medical treatment under the new National Health Service. Those staying for a month or longer receive on arrival a leaflet explaining the facilities at their disposal.

Visitors staying for more than three months can register with any doctor taking part in the scheme. Those staying for shorter periods can in case of illness apply for free medical treatment and free hospital treatment.

Over 18,000 general practitioners and 8,300 dentists have now joined the service. Ninety-three per cent of the population have registered with their doctors. Since last July about 1,750,000 people have applied for free dental treatment.

ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS

India's Finance Minister, Dr. John Mathai, addressing the annual general meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce at Calcutta on December 13 said; "We are faced with a somewhat extraordinary situation. On the one hand, there is a marked inflationary trend and on the other, a low level of investment and business activity."

The address by the Finance Minister broke the traditional history of the Associated Chambers, which had previously always been addressed by the Head of the State and, for the past two years, by the Prime Minister, at its annual meetings.

A packed house of India's leading businessmen, West Bengal Ministers and prominent citizens heard the Finance Minister summing up the present economic problem in the country in these words:

The Government of India have already given concessions to encourage the starting of new industries, while they are also themselves engaged in promoting large-scale schemes of agricultural development. As for prices of commodities, the immediate objective is to stabilise rather than curtail prices.

Apart from the increase in cost of production due to the general rise in labour and material cost, one contributory cause has been the level of direct taxation.

Under the Government's declared industrial policy, there will be good scope left to private enterprise to which the Government attach great importance as might be witnessed by the concessions given by them recently to aid new industries and their policy of protection of existing industries.

E. P. T. deposits will be refunded within three years for those who require it for the purpose of financing worn-out plant and machinery.

The Government have no desire to take any steps which will in any way injure British interests in India. At the same time there is a responsibility resting on non-Indian

concerns to give reasonable opportunities to the nationals of the country to acquire training and find employment in the industries run by them.

The meeting adopted a number of resolutions dealing mainly with India's export trade policy, tax on capital gains, profit-sharing, labour legislation, sales taxes, railway transport and limitation of dividends.

MARSHALL PLAN FOR ASIA

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, 15 Far Eastern countries headed by India, China and the Philippines have gone ahead with the organisation of a Marshall Plan for Asia. Official Confirmation of this report, however, is not forthcoming as yet. The main object of the plan, the journal states, is to accelerate the pace of industrialization in the East. The spokesmen of the plan, are said to have approached the U. S. Department of State, which advised them to concentrate on throwing the doors open to private investors and private bankers for a sizeable part of the requirements.

INCOME-TAX ENQUIRY

The Governor-General, on November 19, promulgated an Ordinance to amend the Taxation of Income. (Investigation Commission) Act, so as to give effect to certain urgent recommendations made by the Income-tax Investigation Commission.

The Commission had called upon a number of banks to furnish information in respect of all but specified categories of current account and deposit account transactions exceeding certain specified monetary limits during the years 1941 to 1947. Objection was taken on behalf of some of the banks on the grounds, first, that there were practical difficulties in complying with the requisition in view of the efflux of time and, secondly, that they should not be placed in an embarrassing position if the law was not quite clear about the powers of the Commission to call for information about all clients and depositors instead of about specified cases of individuals only.

MILITARY TRAINING FOR WOMEN

Presiding over the annual conference of the Madras Branch of the All-India Women's Conference, Her Highness the Maharani of Bhavanagar appealed to women to co-operate with the Government as far as possible "in their task of administration and their projects for the betterment of womenfolk in India."

The resolution that was discussed at length at the session was the following one moved by Mrs. Rukmani Lakshmipathi:

"With a view to emphasising the importance of the principle of equality of status between men and women, this conference requests the Central Government to recruit women to the army in their new schemes of Indianisation. This step will be in conformity with the removal of sex disqualification in respect of all administrative posts in the civil side."

Dr. (Mrs.) Muthulakshmi Reddi seconded the resolution and stressed the need for training women in self-defence.

Mrs. Mona Hensman brought an amendment to the effect that women should be trained for self-defence. Moving the amendment, Mrs. Hensman disapproved the ideal of imparting military training, for women, she added, could serve the army in various other ways, as in ambulance, air raid precaution work, etc. Women were by nature peace-loving and to recruit them to the army was repugnant to Indian tradition. The utmost that could be done was to give them training for self-protection and self-defence.

Mrs. Sushila Indersen and Mrs. Guhapriya spoke supporting the amendment.

Mrs. Rukmani Lakshmipathi agreed to the amended resolution, which was put to vote and carried. The amended resolution was as follows: "With a view to emphasising the importance of the principle of equality of status between men and women, this conference requests the Central Government to include women in their new scheme of Indianisation for the purpose of training women for self-defence and self-protection."

WOMEN'S PROGRESS IN INDIA

Lady Rama Rau, wife of the Indian Ambassador, expressed dismay in a speech at Washington at America's lack of knowledge of what had been happening in India during the last 25 years—particularly concerning the part women were playing in the life of the Nation.

Measured against the difficulties that had to be overcome, the achievements of the All-India Women's Conference had been little short of dramatic, she told the Advertising Women's Club.

Prominent among these difficulties had been a literacy rate among women in India of only two per cent—the result of the educational system introduced by the British. This system had been out of touch with the spirit of India and, because of this, it was felt that women should remain aloof from it, and remain the lasting link between what belonged to India and what was being introduced into it.

Lady Rama Rau pointed out that social evils which the Women's Conference had set out to remove had not always been evils. As an example, child marriage had been desirable in the old days of the joint family system, when it served as a period of training for the onerous part the woman would be required to play as a member of the family. It was only when the joint family system broke down what was once a perfectly understandable practice became an evil and warranted the attention of reformers.

FREEDOM FROM PURDAH

The Muslim women of the Hyderabad State have submitted a memorial to the Military Governor appealing to him to come to their "aid" for the abolition of the "purdah" system.

"You have given the men in the State the freedom of movement, freedom of speech and freedom in every respect. Please come to our aid and get us freedom from this oppression." The appeal is signed by 500 "purdah-nashin" Muslim women.

PROF. RENOU ON SANSKRIT STUDIES

"Significance of Sanskrit studies in the West" was the subject of a lecture delivered by Prof. Louis Renou at the Ranade Hall, Madras, under the auspices of the Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer presiding.

The artificiality of Indian literature, Sir C. P. held, like the artificiality of Latin, Greek and French literature generally coincided with certain national impulses and aspects of national life.

Prof. Renou in the course of his speech said that there were not many authentic facts in the numerous Sanskrit books in India. If he were asked to speak before a French public, continued the lecturer, he would have ardently insisted on Indian humanism. The singularity of the facts or paradoxes was calculated to find a wider audience among the Frenchmen than ever before.

TECHNICAL TERMS

Pandit Nehru has uttered a warning against the evolving of technical terms which the common man could not understand. This tendency had been very marked recently.

Addressing the Central Board of Irrigation in New Delhi last month the Prime Minister, said: "In my personal opinion the terms which have gained currency should be retained. Science and technology know no frontiers, and narrow nationalism is not conducive to the progress of science. By following a policy of isolation, you will really be drifting away from science and the people, and forming an isolated priesthood which no one will understand or care for."

GANDHI BIOGRAPHY IN ITALIAN

A biography in Italian of Mahatma Gandhi written by Professor Tucci, the well-known Italian Orientalist, is being published in Rome. The book deals mainly with the outlook of Mahatma Gandhi and his philosophy.

DEATH OF A. E. W. MASON

The British author, Mr. A. E. W. Mason, died in London at the age of 83. In all, he wrote 27 novels, many of them best sellers.

GENERAL CARIAPPA

The appointment of Lieutenant-General K. M. Cariappa as the new Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army was officially announced on December 4 last.

A Defence Ministry communique said: "The Government of India have decided to appoint Lieutenant-General K. M. Cariappa, G.O.C.-in-Chief, Western Command, to succeed General Sir F.R.R. Bucher, as Chief of the Army Staff and Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army. Lieut.-General Cariappa will take over the new appointment on January 15, 1949."

General Cariappa is the first Indian C.-in-C. of the Indian Army. General Bucher has been Commander-in-Chief since the beginning of January 1948.

DR. RADHAKRISHNAN AND UNESCO

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan has been elected Chairman of the UNESCO's Executive Board.

Dr. Radhakrishnan has been a member of the Executive Board since the inception of UNESCO and his work in the general conferences and Executive Board has won universal appreciation.

The Executive Board consists of 13 members elected by the general conference in Arts, the Humanities, Sciences, Education and diffusion of ideas and represent diverse cultures and geographical areas. The Executive Board is responsible for the execution of programmes adopted by the general conference and its members and exercises powers delegated by the conference on its behalf as a whole and not as representative of their respective Governments.

INDIA'S AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Mr. N. Raghavan, first Indian Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, presented his credentials to President Klément Gottwald on Dec. 8.

The Ambassador expressed his conviction that "friendship and collaboration between our two countries would contribute in a great measure for the noble idea of peace, progress and happiness for mankind."

60 Medical and Health

DR. CHERIAN ON CARE OF THE EAR
 "Normal hearing and hearing defects" was the subject of an address by Dr. P. V. Cherian under the auspices of the Madras International Fellowship.

Referring to the causes of defects in hearing, Dr. Cherian said that excessive collection of wax affected the external ear. He warned against the very common practice of trying to remove the wax either by the little finger, or by some other means. He also warned against seeking the aid of quacks who offered to remove "not only the wax but also living creatures from the ears." The middle ear went wrong whenever the atmospheric pressure exceeded the air pressure inside the cavity, which was being kept in equal proportion by a tube connecting the mouth and the small bones in the middle ear. Ordinary cold, tonsils or adenoids caused this defect. Highly infectious diseases like typhoid, influenza, chicken-pox, etc., affected the internal ear.

Dr. Cherian then referred to the problem of children born deaf and said that it was criminal to club them along with the mute. The speaker disapproved the use of the nomenclature "deaf and dumb." The deaf children were dumb, because they could not hear and imitate the voices. Under certain conditions, their vocal chords had been found to move.

PATENT MEDICINES

Under the Drugs Act, 1940, and the Drugs Rules, 1945, no patent and proprietary medicines, i.e., no non-pharmacopœial drugs, can be imported into, manufactured nor sold in India unless these bear on their label either their composition or the number of the registration certificate granted by the Central Drugs Laboratory, Calcutta, says a Press Note.

Although the Drugs Act and Rules have been in force from April, 1947, the control over patent and proprietary medicines has not actually been enforced so far. It will be rigidly enforced with effect from April 1, 1949.

Radio

VIJAYAWADA GOES ON THE AIR

The Vijayawada station of the All-India Radio was inaugurated on December 1 by Sardar Patel, Deputy Prime Minister of India, thus adding yet another link in the Government of India's scheme for the expansion of broadcasting centres on linguistic basis.

Broadcasting on the occasion, Sardar Patel, Mr. O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar, Premier of Madras, the Maharaja of Bhavnagar, Governor of Madras, and Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya appealed to the people of Andhra Desa "to make the best and widest use of this service, a valuable medium of instruction and entertainment, a medium of mass education."

The day's programme included a variety of entertainments by a galaxy of famous musicians and artistes of Andhra. A pageant in Tulugu depicting Andhra glory through the ages, violin recital by Dwaram Venkata-swami Nayudu and folk songs of Andhra, constituted part of the inauguration day programme.

RADIO SEAC

It is learnt that Radio SEAC (Forces broadcasting station) will probably be taken over by the Government of Ceylon shortly. It is understood that the British Government will be paying for the entire cost of running and maintaining the station in return for the use of the station for their transmissions.

Mr. C. Sittampalam, Minister for Posts and Telecommunications, said that a tentative arrangement has been made in order to prevent delay and facilitate the amalgamation of the Colombo Broadcasting Station and Radio SEAC. Pending the amalgamation early this year, the station is now called Radio Ceylon since the midnight of November 30.

RADIO TELESCOPE

A special form of radio telescope will be introduced in the near future into the astronomical practice which will make it possible to observe the planets through the clouds surrounding them.

FOREIGN BANKS IN PAKISTAN

The Governor-General of Pakistan has promulgated the Banking Companies (Restriction of Branches) Act (1646) Amendment Ordinance, 1948.

Announcing this a Press Note of the Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan, said: "Under the existing law, while banking companies with their head offices in Pakistan are required to obtain the sanction of the State Bank of Pakistan before they can open new branches or change the location of an existing branch, banking companies with their head offices outside Pakistan are exempted from these restrictions. The result is that any foreign bank, whether sound or unsound, can open any number of branches in Pakistan, without obtaining the permission of the State Bank of Pakistan. As this constitutes a positive danger to sound banking in Pakistan, the Government of Pakistan have promulgated the Banking Companies (Restriction of Branches) Act (1946) Amendment Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. XX of 1948) amending the existing Act so as to provide that all foreign banking companies also should obtain the prior permission of the State Bank of Pakistan for opening of new branches or for changing the location of existing offices."

TRADING IN BULLION

In order to facilitate the regulation and control of forward business in bullion in Bombay city under a single association, the Government of Bombay intends, so far as Bombay is concerned, to extend the Bombay Forward Contracts Control Act to bullion, with effect from December 25, 1948. It is proposed to recognise the new Bombay Bullion Association as soon as its bye-laws are approved and it is in a position to function. Till then, the effect of the extension of the Act to bullion will be that no person will be permitted to transact any kind of forward business in bullion in Bombay city. Any person transacting such business will render himself liable to prosecution and punishment.

ACCOMMODATION IN TRAINS

The Railway Board have decided that the new classes of accommodation to be provided in trains from January 1, 1949 should be known as First, Second and Third instead of Upper, Inter and Ordinary, the Public Relation officer of the G. I. P. Railway, Bombay, announced.

Accordingly, the new classes on the G. I. P. Railway would be First, Second and Third on the main line trains, while the classes on suburban trains will consist of first and third only. However, this decision does not affect the basis for charges as originally decided upon in respect of Upper, Inter and Ordinary classes.

PLEA FOR SPECIAL TRIBUNAL

Strong opposition to any strike move in the railways was expressed by the General Council of the Indian National Railway Workers Federation in a resolution on November 30, at Bombay.

The Council warned railwaymen that a strike at the present stage would be not only against the interest of the nation, but against those of the railwaymen themselves.

The Council adopted a number of resolutions in the course of which it declared that the Central pay Commission's recommendations did not fully satisfy the workers' aspirations and that the "inordinate delay" in implementing those recommendations had caused much discontent among the railway employees.

45-MILE RAIL TRACK FOR E. BENGAL

The construction of a 45-mile long rail track in East Bengal, at an estimated cost of Rs. 30 lakhs, to link Jessore District directly with Chuadanga through Kaliganj is being considered by the Pakistan Railway Board, Karachi.

Passengers now proceeding from Jessore to Chuadanga pass through a 20-mile stretch of Indian Union territory and undergo customs formalities. The object of the proposed new link, it was stated, was to avoid passage through Indian territory.

EXHIBITION OF WAR PAINTINGS

The Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on December 2, opened the Exhibition of Jammu and Kashmir war paintings by Kanwal Krishna. In a brief speech, Pandit Nehru stressed the importance of an exhibition of this kind, which "helped the people in understanding what has been happening in Kashmir".

The story of Kashmir, he said, was an extraordinary one. The people and Government of Kashmir, the Government of India and above all the Indian Army and Air Force had each its part in this story.

Referring to the paintings, Pandit Nehru said that even though modern photography had achieved much, there still remained certain things which it was unable to depict. The feelings that a painter could put in a picture could not be put in by a photographer.

The exhibition consists of 62 paintings by Kanwal Krishna who has returned from the Kashmir front. There are pictures of various points, which have been in the news because of the Indian Army operations. These include the Old Fort at Naushera, gun positions on Uri-Chakothi front, the first piquet at Zoji La, Guais, the Pathankot-Jammu Road and a bird's-eye-view of Rajaori.

The exhibition has been organised by the Western Command Headquarters and the opening ceremony was attended by the Defence Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh, and Lt.-General Cariappa.

BOMBAY ART SOCIETY

The hope that the University of Bombay would, in due course create, a Faculty of Fine Arts was expressed by Raja Sir Maharaj Singh, Governor of Bombay, declaring open the Diamond Jubilee Exhibition of the Bombay Art Society at Sir Cowasji Jehangir Hall, on Friday the 10th December.

A message received from Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Education and Art, congratulating the Bombay Art Society on its completion of 60 years of useful service to art, was read by Sir Cowasji Jehangir, President of the Society.

THE SECOND TEST

The Second Test Match between India and West Indies, played at Bombay, ended in a draw. West Indies batting first piled up a huge score of 629 for 6 wickets and declared. India had disastrous luck in the first innings, all the wickets being skitted for a bare 273, thus having to follow on. When Mankad was caught by Fergusson off the bowling of Gomez, the position was 2 for 33, and looked hopeless. It was in fact generally thought that, an innings defeat was in sight for them. But Modi and Hazare entered the pitch and batting stolidly made more than a century each. At 112 Modi got out to an easy catch by Gomez. Amarnath stepped in and took the score to 333 for 3 wickets, thus averting an innings defeat and forcing a draw.

Two tests, thus being drawn, the third test to be played at Eden Gardens at Calcutta, will provide very keen sport and is bound to attract a huge crowd.

COL. NAYUDU ON VALUE OF CRICKET

Lieut.-Col. C. K. Nayudu, opening the Inter-Divisional Sports Tournament, arranged in connection with the Maharashtra Physical Education Conference at Nagpur, said that cricket was the only antidote to politics, which has given us a world torn by selfishness and distrust and moral fear."

The tournament which he had opened was a step in the right direction, Lieut.-Col. Nayudu added, and he had no doubt that in the near future it would be possible to revive once more the great tradition of our country in the realm of sport.

INDIAN ATHLETE'S SUCCESS AT OXFORD

E. L. Phillips, Indian Olympic runner, scored a sprint double in the Oxford University athletic club sports finals for seniors and freshmen. He won the 100 yards in 10.8 seconds and the 220 yards in 24 seconds.

In the heats he covered the 100 yards in 10.7 seconds and the 220 yards in 23.9 seconds.

INDIAN RESEARCH IN COSMIC RAYS

Important developments in scientific investigations conducted by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, especially in the sphere of cosmic rays, are expected as a result of the efforts of Dr. H. J. Bhabha, Chairman of the Indian Atomic Commission, who has returned to India after a three-month visit to the leading physics laboratories of the United Kingdom and the Continent.

Dr. Bhabha, who is also the Director of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, is understood to have arranged during his visit to Europe for close co-operation in cosmic ray research between his Institute and the Nuclear Research Centre of the University of Brussels.

One notable result of Dr. Bhabha's visit abroad is that Prof. G. P. S. Occhialini, the eminent scientist, who discovered the cosmic ray showers, will soon arrive in India to help Indian scientists in their research work. Prof. Occhialini, who in collaboration with Prof. Powell, of Bristol, recently discovered the decay of the heavy meson—regarded as one of the most fundamental discoveries of recent years—is expected to arrive in Bombay shortly and to stay for several months, working at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

DEFENCE SCIENCE RESEARCH

Dr. D. S. Kothari, appointed Scientific Adviser to the Defence Ministry, will be assisted by a Board consisting of Dr. H. J. Bhabha, Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and Dr. K. S. Krishnan. The British Scientist, Professor Blackett, has also agreed to visit India for short periods every year to advise and help the Ministry in building-up a sound scientific organisation, and give other assistance in defence science research.

ATOMIC CONTROL

The United Nations General Assembly, overriding Russian objections, gave overwhelming support to the Western Plan for international control of atomic energy. Forty nations lined up in favour of giving an international body, full control over the mining of uranium, the production of nuclear fuel, and the manufacture of atomic weapons.

THE FILM INDUSTRY

The Government of India, contemplate ordering an enquiry into the condition of the film industry in India, its growth and present organisation, the influence of the imports of foreign films into this country on the indigenous industry and other factors connected with the industry in its various aspects. The Committee will also make recommendations indicating the steps necessary to enable the industry to develop into an instrument of national entertainment and education. Among other terms of reference to the Committee will be the laying down of the standards and principles in regard to the import of raw films and also the possibility of encouraging the growth of a cinematograph manufacturing industry in the country itself. The terms of reference have not been published, presumably because they desire to have the views of the Provincial Governments and the trade concerned regarding the scope of the enquiry. The Committee will consist of members of whom two will be representatives one each respectively of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Industry and Supply, one a member of the Constituent Assembly and the fourth a person representing the Indian film industry.

NEW FILM CODE IN MADRAS

The new Film Code issued by the Madras Government contains certain special provisions for making total Prohibition in the province a success.

A special clause designed to secure this object says: If the scenes (in a film) are meant to make fun of the idea of Prohibition, to induce people to become indifferent to such a programme or to encourage them to break Prohibition laws or to glorify drink to show it as a fashion, or to describe it is a social custom about which there is nothing wrong, to make it popular, to paint it as healthy, honourable or respectable, or to make it appear as religious, then such scenes are objectionable and should therefore be removed from all films exhibited in this province.

BUSES IN MADRAS PROVINCE

A statement laid on the table of the Legislative Council showed that (in June and July when a check was made) there were 4,920 buses operating in the Province, distributed as follows:

Vizagapatam 173, East Godavari 138, West Godavari 121, Krishna 217, Guntur 130, Nellore 166, Cuddapah 116, Anantapur 95, Bellary 108, Kurnool 79, Chittoor 165, Chingleput 331, North Arcot 332, South Arcot 101, Tanjore 219, Tiruchirappalli 197, Salem 224, Madura 355, Ramnad 227, Tirunelveli 301, Coimbatore 354. The Nilgiris 57, South Kanara 140, Malabar 268, Madras 256.

The statement also showed that new chassis for buses were allotted between May 1947 and April 1948 to Vizagapatam 14, E. Godavari 18, W. Godavari 9, Krishna 23, Guntur 28, Nellore 11, Cuddapah 13, Anantapur 10, Bellary 13, Chittoor 14, Chingleput 17, N. Arcot 16, S. Arcot 11, Tanjore 3, Tiruchirappalli 11, Kurnool 7, Salem 10, Madura 12, Ramnad 8, Tirunelveli 14, Coimbatore 21, The Nilgiris 4, S. Kanara 9, Malabar 20 and Madras 176 (171 to the Transport Commissioner).

MOTOR FUEL OUT OF AIR AND WATER

The navy is developing a motor fuel which can be made entirely out of air and water. This is hydrozine, at present synthesized on a small scale out of ammonia. Its molecule is almost the simplest possible combination of the two basic elements, hydrogen and nitrogen.

The mere fact that work on hydrozine and a companion fuel, nitromethane, was under way was announced before the American Chemical Society.

Any further details are military secrets, it was stressed at Admiral Solberg's office. It was agreed, however, that hydrozine might at least be an opening step in becoming independent of carbon compounds such as gas and oil in some special fields of motor fuels.

CIVIL AVIATION CONFERENCE

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India welcoming the delegates to the meeting of the S.E. Asian Regional Council of the International Civil Aviation organisation at Delhi on Nov. 23 said: India, was not isolated from the rest of the world at any one period of history. But 150 years of British domination had only isolated her from her nearest neighbours in Asia. But these barriers are fast vanishing in sequence of the "conquest of the air" by science, and the gradual expansion of civil aviation, in India and the neighbouring countries.

One hundred and fifty-one delegates representing 17 countries attended the conference. Among the countries participating were Afghanistan, Belgium, Burma, Ceylon, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Portugal, India, Pakistan, the Netherlands, Siam, the U.S.A. and the U. K. The Indian delegation, consisting of 40 delegates, alternates and advisers, was led by Mr. N. C. Ghosh, Director of Civil Aviation.

Mr. P. K. Roy, Secretary-General of the Regional Council, presided over the conference.

DEVELOPMENT OF AIR-PORTS

The Government's ten-year programme of development of civil aviation provides for the construction of 21 new aerodromes, estimated to cost Rs. 54 crores, including a capital expenditure of over Rs. 5 crores on the development of three international air-ports—Santa Cruz in Bombay, Dum Dum in Calcutta and Palam in Delhi.

The new aerodromes proposed to be constructed are at Ajmer, Mangalore, Aligarh, Berhampur, Calicut, Cuddalore, Dehra Dun, Hubli, Nellore, Ootacamund, Ratnagiri, Salem, Saugor and Surat.

BOMBAY—RANGOON AIR SERVICE

It is understood that the British Overseas Airways Corporation will be operating a Bombay-Rangoon service very shortly. It is also learnt the planes will touch Madras en route.

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF INDUSTRIES

The Central Advisory Council of Industries, whose personnel has been announced, is a body constituted by the Government of India with functions distinct from those of the Central Advisory Council of the Labour Ministry, which met recently at Lucknow. This newly set up council will advise the Government of India generally on industrial policy by periodically reviewing production. It will advise the Government on the allocation of raw materials in scarce supply, on the steps to be taken to secure the best use of existing capacity, on the import of necessary raw materials and capital equipment. The Council will appoint committees to deal with major industries and with specific problems. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee is Chairman of the Council and Mr. S. A. Venkataraman its Secretary.

PROFIT SHARING IN INDUSTRY

The Central Advisory Council on Labour concluded its three-day session on Nov. 27. Repeated emphasis was laid during the discussions by representatives of labour on the need for adjusting wages to the cost of living.

Mr. Kandubhai K. Desai suggested that to meet the situation arising from the rise in prices, cereals which were to be rationed might be subsidised so that all could get their cereals at cheaper prices.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, stated that he would like to have the reactions of employers' and workers' representatives to this interesting suggestion. Members expressed the view that it would be a good means of overcoming the hardships of inflation.

ASIAN INDUSTRIALISTS TO MEET

A conference of Asian industrialists and businessmen will be held in India in March under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. Delegates from India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, Malaya, Siam, Indonesia, Indo-China, the Philippines, China, Japan and Korea, are expected to attend the conference.

ELECTRIC SHOCKS TO PLANTS

A scheme of electro culture applied to agriculture calculated to increase the yield of other things remaining the same by at least 30 per cent has been submitted to Government, and the Government have offered the necessary facilities to the officer to conduct his experiment at the Government Agricultural Research Station at Tirukuppam, and the Government House Agricultural Farm.

The scheme, it is stated consists of passing a certain power electric current through the water in the fields where there are standing crops, at particular times, resulting in electric shocks to the plants, which finally result in increased yields.

The Minister for Agriculture, Mr. K. Madhava Menon indicated that the Department was rather sceptical about the success of such a scheme, but they would await the results of the experiments which the officer would be carrying out in these two places.

The Government have sanctioned the necessary staff to the officer, and have given him the powers of a Deputy Director of Agriculture to enable him to get his instructions carried out.

"Everything will depend on the results of the proposed experiment, and the Departmental experts will assess the results" stated the Minister.

The officer has not yet begun his experiment.

AMENDMENT TO DEBT RELIEF ACT

A Bill to amend the Madras Agriculturists Relief Act has been approved by the Cabinet. The legislation provides for scaling down the interest on arrears of rent, to the present rate of 5½ per cent. Civil and Revenue Courts will be vested with powers under this amending Bill for scaling down rents.

TEN PERCENT OF WORLD FOOD LOST BY PESTS

Ten per cent of world production in cereals, pulses, and oilseeds, besides other foodstuffs, is to-day being lost through pests such as rats, mice, insects and mites which attack these goods in transit or storage. Britain alone is thus losing 2,000,000 tons of food per year.

TRADE UNION LEADER ON STRIKE THREAT

Mr. Hariharnath Shastri, President of the I.N.T.U.C., in a recent statement said that a general strike at the present time would not only cause great hardship to the community as a whole, but would particularly hit the working class very hard, by accentuating the economic crisis in the country. "If a general strike was likely to end the hardships of workers, the I.N.T.U.C. would unhesitatingly have given a clear lead in the matter," he said.

Mr. Hariharnath Shastri added, "I have no doubt in my mind that the threatened strike is aimed primarily to revive the political prestige of a party that has suffered a serious setback during recent months as a result of its suicidal policy that has completely isolated it from the mass of the people." He appealed to the working class of the country "not to fall a prey to such a machinations and to resist all efforts to make it a pawn in the power politics."

AMENITIES FOR LABOUR IN FACTORIES

"The Government consider that the management of factories should pay greater attention to the provision of amenities and safeguards to workers," says a Press Note issued by the Government of Madras.

Sir Wilfred Garrett, lately Chief Adviser, Factories, has, the Press Note adds, observed in his report on the administration of the Factories Act and the organisation of the Factory Inspection Services in India that though amenities and safeguards are provided in factories, in many cases they had fallen out of use due to lack of supervision. He has quoted instances of interlock guards on machines not being used and exhaust draught system not cleaned for weeks. It is as much the duty of the manager to see that these things have attention as it is for him to produce goods.

ASIAN FEDERATION OF LABOUR

The possibility of the formation of an Asian Federation of Labour was considered by the Working Committee of the Indian National Trade Union Congress.

DR. C. R. REDDI'S TRIBUTE TO SRI AUROBINDO

A tribute to Sri Aurobindo as a poet, dramatist, philosopher, critic, interpreter and commentator of Vedas, the Geeta, and all the transcendent lore and legend of India, was paid by Dr. C. Ramalinga Reddi, Vice-Chancellor of the Andhra University, speaking on the occasion of the presentation of the Sir Cattamanchi Ramalinga Reddi National Prize at the Convocation of the University held on November 11, at Waltair.

PANDIT NEHRU DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMITTEE

Dr. Rajendra Prasad has accepted the invitation to join the Nehru Diamond Jubilee Celebration Committee. The following are the members of the Committee: Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Mr. Purushottamdas Tandon, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Mr. K. M. Munshi, Seth Govind Das, Mr. Nandlal Bose, Mr. Viswanath More, Mr. S. H. Vatsayayan and Dr. Lanka Sundaram.

THE LATE MR EDWARD CADBURY

The death was announced on November 21, of Mr. Edward Cadbury, former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the *News Chronicle* and also Chairman of the British Cocoa and Chocolate Company Ltd., for a considerable period. Mr. Cadbury was actively associated with his father and with the late Mr. Charles Booth in the passing of the first Old Age Pensions Act.

UNESCO COMMISSION

Mr. P. N. Banerjee, Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University, and Indian delegate to the third general meeting of the UNESCO, has been elected Vice-Chairman of the UNESCO. The Commission is entrusted with the recruitment of the UNESCO administrative officials and management of the Organisation in general.

SHERIFF OF BOMBAY

The Government of Bombay have appointed Mr. Joachim Alva, Editor of *Forum*, as Sheriff of Bombay for the year. Mr. Alva is the first journalist to hold the post in Bombay.

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[JANUARY 1949]

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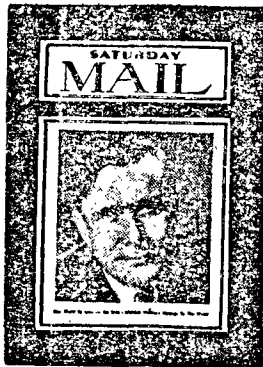
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S. A. Brehvi, President, All India Newspaper Editors' Conference: I have made a point of reading your weekly when in Bombay. In the brief period of one year the *Mail* has made a place for itself in Indian Journalism and I wish that in the years to come it will become an increasingly useful and popular journal and a powerful force for promoting national progress.

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RAJ-JYOTISHI

Jyotishsamrat Pandit Sri Ramesh Chandra Bhattacharyya, Jyotisharnab, M.R.A.S. (Lond.) has won unique fame not only in India but throughout the world (e.g., in England, America, Africa, China, Japan, Malaya, Singapore etc.) and many notable persons from every nook and corner of the world have sent unsolicited testimonials acknowledging his mighty and supernatural powers.

This powerfully gifted great man can tell at a glance all about one's past, present and, future, and with the help of Yogic and Tantric powers can heal diseases which are the despair of Doctors and Kavirajas, can help people to win difficult law-suits, and ensure safety from dangers, prevent childlessness and free people of family unhappiness. His three important predictions (prediction about the British victory on the very day—2nd September, 1939—of the declaration of last World War, prediction of the achievement of independence by the Interim Govt. with Pandit Jawaharlal as the Premier made on the 3rd September, 1946 and prediction regarding the future of India and Pakistan which had been sent to the Prime Minister of India on the 11th August, 1947 and subsequently published in various Newspapers) have proved correct to the detail, amazed people the world over and have won for him unstinted praise and gratitude from all quarters including His Majesty George the Sixth, the Governor of Bengal and eminent leaders of India. He is the only astrologer in India who was honoured with the title of "Jyotish-Siromani" in 1928 and "Jyotishsamrat"—Emperor among astrologers and astronomers—in 1947 by the Bharatiya Pandit Mahamandal of Calcutta and Baranashi Pandit Sabha of Benares. Panditji is now the Consulting Astrologer to the Eighteen P. Ling Princes in India—a signal honour that has not been endowed on any astrologer in India so far.

Persons who have lost all hopes are strongly advised to test the powers of the Panditji.

A FEW OPINIONS AMONGST THOUSANDS.

His Highness The Maharaja of Athgarh says:—"I have been astonished at the superhuman power of Panditji." Her Highness The Dowager 6th Maharani Sahiba of Tripura State says:—"He is no doubt a great personage with miraculous power." The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court Sir Manmatha Nath Mukherji, Kt., says:—"The wonderful power of calculation and talent of Sriman Ramesh Chandra is the only possible outcome of a great father to a like son." The Hon'ble Maharaja of Santosh & Ex-President of the Bengal Legislative Council, Sir Manmatha Nath Roy Choudhury, Kt., says:—"On seeing my son, his prophecy about my future is true to words." The Honourable Justice Mr. B. K. Roy of Patna High Court says:—"He is really a great personage with super-natural power." The Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Bengal, Raja Prasanna Deb Raikot, says:—"The wonderful power of calculation and Tantrik activities have struck me with greatest astonishment." The Hon'ble Justice Mr. S. M. Das, of Keonjhar State High Court, says:—"Panditji has bestowed the life of my almost dead son." Mr. J. A. Lawrence, Osaka, Japan, writes:—"I was getting good results from your Kavacha and all my family were passing a different life since I started wearing." Mr. Andre Tempe, 2723, Popular Ave., Chicago, Illinois, U.S. America:—"I have purchased from you several Kavachas on two or three different occasions. They all proved satisfactory." Mr. K. Ruchpaul, Shanghai, China:—"Everything you foretold in writing is taking place with surprising exactness." Mr. Issac Mumi Etia, Govt. Clerk & Interpreter in Deschang, West Africa:—"I had ordered some Talismans from you that had rendered me wonderful service." Mr. B. J. Fernando, Proctor, S. C., & Notary Public, Colombo, Ceylon:—"I got marvellous effects from your Kavachas on several occasions", etc., etc. and many others.

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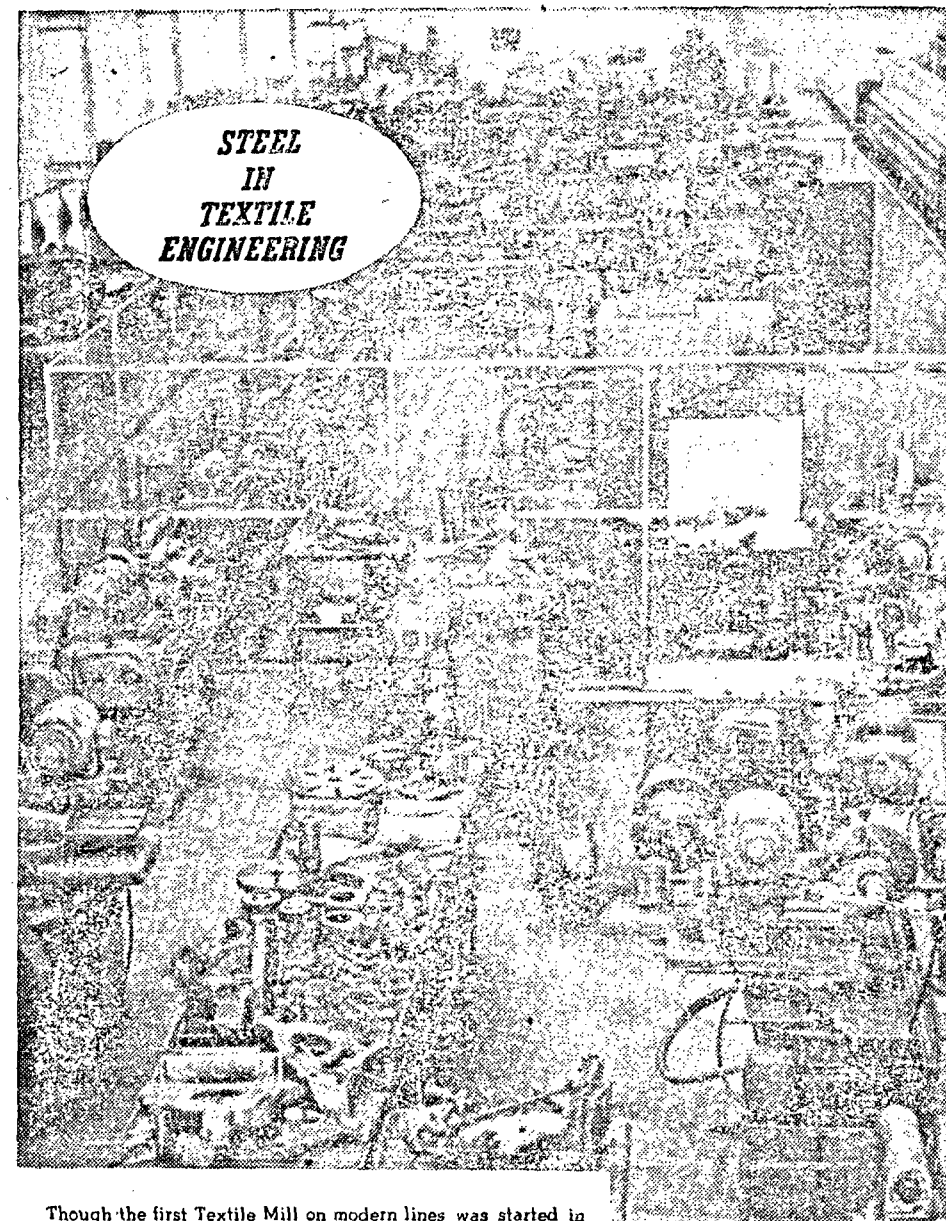
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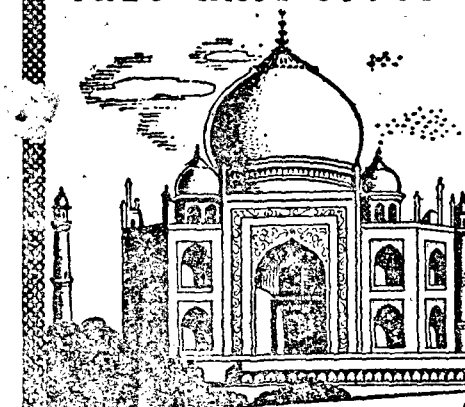
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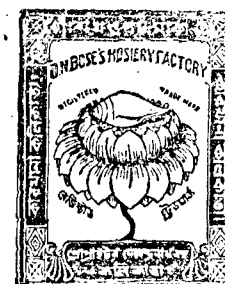
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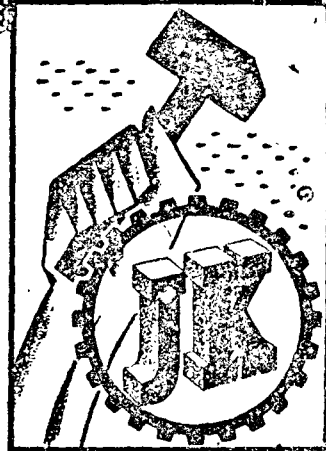
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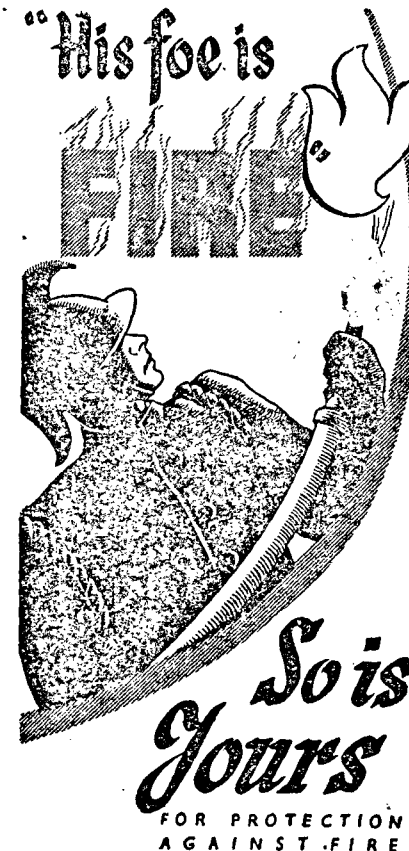
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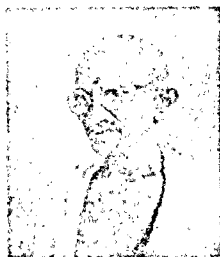
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