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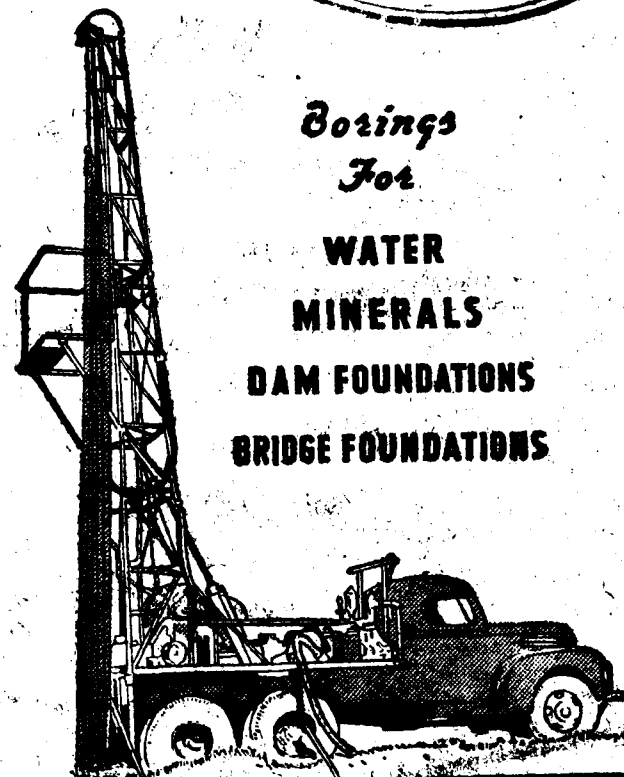
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The Editor invites articles and news items of interest to Indians living abroad for publication in this Journal. Contributions should be preferably typewritten on one side of the paper and should be sent well in advance of the probable date of their publication to the Editor, "Indian Affairs", 7, Jantar Mantar Road, New Delhi. We regret it is not possible for us to make any payment for accepted contributions.

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Indian Affairs

(A Journal of the Indian National Congress)

Vol. II

APRIL, 1950

No. 7

The Shape of Things

The second All-India National Medical Conference was held in New Delhi on February 15 and subsequent days. The conference aims, among other things, at the "evolution of a single national system of medicine" through a synthesis of what is best in all medical systems. It attempts to inculcate and maintain a spirit of comradeship among members of the Indian medical profession in general and the qualified practitioners of Indian medicine in particular. Inaugurating the conference, Shri K. M. Munshi said that official recognition should be immediately granted to Indian systems of medicine as they cater to an overwhelmingly large number of people in India. There was not more than one trained allopathic doctor to every 40,000 of our population, the bulk of which is served by our *vaid*s and *hakims* following traditional ways of treatment, but are nevertheless experienced. They cannot be easily dismissed as quacks. Dr. Y. Suryanarayana Rao, presiding over the session, supported Shri Munshi's contention and maintained that the recommendations of the Chopra Committee of Enquiry, envisaging the integration of Indian and western systems of medicine in three stages, leading ultimately to their synthesis, was the most rational way of evolving a unified medical system for India. Dr. Rao, while admitting that such a synthesis was not easy, deprecated the attempts to shelve the Chopra Committee recommendations which were widely

welcomed throughout the country. He urged the Government of India to create a separate Department of Indian Medicine.

The 37th session of the All-India Ayurvedic Congress which met at Delhi a few days later, was in a sense supplementary to the National Medical Conference in that it supported the same demands. Over 600 delegates from all over the country—some of them well-known experts in the Ayurvedic system—attended the session which was presided over by Shri Tricumji Jadhavji. Dr. S. P. Mukerjee, Minister for Industry and Supply, Government of India, inaugurating the session, stressed the need of raising the standard of education in schools and colleges of Indian medicine and formulating certain basic principles for the system on which it can base its claim for recognition by the government. He appealed for a more intensified research in Indian herbs.

Along with the session an Ayurvedic Exhibition was held which was opened by Shri R. R. Diwakar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting. Shri Diwakar stated that Ayurveda was used by 70 to 80 per cent of the people in India and pleaded for research and standardisation of Ayurvedic medicines. He was of the opinion that the preventive aspect of Ayurveda was not very much attended to by those interested in medical practice. What was most essential to modernise Ayurveda was "the standardisation of quality, methods of administration, ways of manufacture and the degree of potency".

A call for a humane approach to crime, criminals, punishment and discharged prisoners was made in the opening day's addresses at the All-India Penological Conference which met at Lucknow on February 18, 19 and 20. The Conference was convened by the U.P. Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society and was inaugurated by Shri H. J. Kania, Chief Justice of India. Assembled were thinkers, social workers, prison officials, police officials, magistrates and judges from all over India. Shri Lal Bhadur Shastri, U.P. Police Minister, presided.

The conference set up a Crime Prevention Society under the chairmanship of Shri Paripurnanand Verma to be known

as the All-India Crime Prevention Society. The Society will make a scientific study of delinquency and crime and the methods of effectively dealing with them. It will also work for the improvement of penal and promotion and improvement of correctional and institutional education centres in the country. The conference adopted a number of resolutions approved by its four sections regarding police, prisons, law and juvenile delinquency. It recommended the abolition of whipping and opined that capital punishment should be awarded only in exceptional circumstances. It also recommended to the various States, the establishment of juvenile courts, remand and children's homes and held the view that juveniles and first offenders should, under no circumstances, be sent to prison or police lock-up for detention.

A Penological Exhibition—the first venture of its kind—was opened by Mrs. Kania. Numerous implements used by criminals in committing different types of crime, were on show. There were also demonstrations of modern scientific methods of investigating and detecting crimes and of treating, preventing and reforming criminals.

Presenting the Indian Railway Budget for the year 1950-51, in Parliament on 21st February 1950, the Railway Minister, Shri N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar forecast a surplus of Rs. 14 crores, the surplus in the current year being estimated at Rs. 11.02 crores. He made the following points: The railways had made a remarkable recovery in their working; the punctuality of passenger trains had gone up; the wagon turn-round and loading had greatly improved; there will be no change in railway fares and freights; ten State railway lines covering a route mileage of over 6,500 would come under Central control from 1st April, 1950 as a result of federal financial integration. The Minister pointed out the improvement in employment conditions and reaffirmed the government's desire to deal with railway labour, "not only justly but generously and indeed to set an example in this respect for other industrial undertakings". "Indian Railways are doing well and will do better", concluded Shri Ayyangar.

It was a good record showing the "sound financial position" of this "magnificent national asset". The integration of all railway systems under the Centre is expected to result in a well-knit and unified system of railways and further improve the railway position, while the establishment of factories in India for the manufacture of new types of coaches and wagons would lessen our dependence on foreign countries for rolling-stock. However, the year's greatest achievement, so far as our railways are concerned, was the completion of the historic Assam rail link. No longer need the economic life of Assam and the northern districts of Bengal "depend upon the goodwill of Pakistan", which, as current events have shown, is not at all friendly towards us.

* * *

On 21st February, India beat the Commonwealth Cricket team by three wickets in the fifth and final test. To Mustaq Ali went the honour of hitting the winning shot to give India the victory and also the rubber. Hazare, Mustaq, Umrigar and Joshi were mainly responsible for the brilliant victory. Although Indian fielding was not up to standard, Joshi's performance behind the stumps, the bowling of Phadkar, Mankad, C. S. Nayudu and Choudhary and the batting of Hazare, Kishanchand, Umrigar and Mustaq, made up the deficiency. Hazare's was a real captain's knock with 84 runs, during which he hit 7 fours.

Among the Commonwealth players, Bill Alley, Frank Worrell and Jack Holt excelled in batting and Tribe and Fitzmaurice in bowling. Bill Alley's fielding was an object lesson to the Indians. Although these tests were not official, they gave our boys valuable lessons in first-class cricket, from which they could benefit substantially. To the credit of the visitors, it must be said that they played "cricket" both literally and figuratively. India's best wishes go to them.

* * *

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose, elder brother of Netaji Bose and President of the recently formed United Socialist Organisation passed away at 11-40 p.m. on 20th February last. He was ailing from cardiac thrombosis. Starting his political

career under the leadership of the late Deshbandhu C. R. Das, Sarat Babu soon made a mark for himself in Bengal and all-India politics. Although eclipsed to a certain extent by the fame of his younger brother, Subhas Chandra Bose, Sarat Babu had a personality of his own. While his extreme individuality often led to serious differences of opinion with his colleagues in the Congress, Sarat Babu's place in the hearts of the Indian people has always been secure. His idealism, keen perception of events and circumstances and his unparalleled sacrifice in the cause of freedom made him a hero in the eyes of those of us who had the honour and the privilege to participate in the struggle for independence. The fact that almost the last thing he did before he breathed his last was to write an article for his newspaper, "The Nation", appealing to the people of East and West Bengal to maintain peace and amity, showed the grit of the man and the love of country that amounted to a passion with both the Bose brothers. Sarat Babu held the opinion that our independence was not complete and it required an economic revolution to make it so. We do not think he was far wrong in this analysis. Now that he is no longer with us, it behoves us all the more to pursue the inspiring ideal he placed before the country. With his sorrowing countrymen, "Indian Affairs" would like to pay its ~~need~~ of tribute to this great Bengali and great Indian who laid down his life in the service of the Mother whom he so deeply loved and worshipped.

* * *

Presiding over the second session of the All-India Cottage Industries Board at Jaipur on 25th February last, Dr. S. P. Mukerjee, India's Minister for Industry and Supply, called for a "new orientation to be given to production in respect of the cottage industries". This new orientation, according to him, could only be brought about "by a larger mechanisation of the methods of production, the invention of small machines and labour saving devices, the adaptation of imported machines to our conditions and to the use of our raw materials, the study of techniques of production followed in other countries and experimental work relating to the adoption of new small-scale and cottage industries". Dr. Mukerjee thought that the

proposed Central Institute of Cottage Industries to be established in Aligarh, might play an important part in bringing about this change. He deplored the "comparative lack of utility goods produced by cottage industries" and maintained that there was no real conflict between large-scale and small-scale industries, both of which have to be "properly integrated into one co-ordinated economy in national interests". He went on to emphasise the need for co-operative organisation of cottage industries and said that industrial cooperatives were a desideratum if small-scale industries were to flourish.

* * *

On 5th March last, Dr. Mukerjee inaugurating the tenth annual session of the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation, stressed the absolute need for an understanding between Government and industrialists on the one hand and the people on the other, if the economic policy of the Government was to get public support. He appealed to manufacturers to voluntarily set up targets of production and see them through. He announced the intention of the Government to introduce legislation for the creation of a machinery for developing small and medium industry. Dr. Mukerjee pleaded for sacrifice by those who are more fortunately placed. "If all sufferings and sacrifices are to be made by the common people and the poor people, they will not tolerate it."

Nearly 200 delegates were present at the meeting. Dr. Alagappa Chettiar, who presided over the deliberations, dealt with the various problems that hindered industrial progress in the country and blamed the government for their lack of a considered and coherent policy in industrial matters. He wanted the industrialists to be allowed to go ahead unhindered. Dr. Chettiar pointed out the deterioration in the financial status of the middle classes—who formed a very important section of the population—and suggested that relief be given to them in the form of cheaper education and housing facilities.

The A.I.M.O. is currently running a Manufacturers' Industrial Exhibition in Delhi which can be aptly described as India's first Trade Fair.

* * *

The proceedings of the 23rd annual session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce which was held in New Delhi on 11th and 12th March last, were "notable alike for their appreciation of what the Government had done to restore economic health to the country and the contribution the business community could make towards bringing about increased production". The Prime Minister who addressed the gathering of business-men and industrialists surveyed the economic situation against the background of political events.

Resolutions passed by the Federation demanded abolition of controls and restoration of the normal channels of trade as the best method of providing more avenues of employment to the middle classes, opposed state trading, criticised indiscriminate launching of industrial enterprises by the State and called for close cooperation between the Government and industrialists. Another resolution laid down a 7-point programme for counteracting the stagnation in production which is at the root of the present economic *malaise*. Shri G. D. Birla, who spoke on the occasion, felt that the future of the country was very bright, although things were in a bad way at present. Business-men, he declared, could make it even brighter "by educating our masters and by doing our job".

* * *

As these lines are being written, ominous clouds are gathering in the eastern horizon and the situation seems to be getting ripe for a show-down in Eastern Pakistan. The atrocities perpetrated on the helpless Hindu minority in East Bengal are gradually coming to light after weeks of complete silence by the Government of that province over what had happened there. There has been such a heavy censorship of news and events in East Bengal during the past two months or so, that people in India had to spend days of great anxiety and despair. Even the activities of such a recognised news agency as the Press Trust of India, have been practically banned by the East Bengal Government. It would appear as if they are unwilling to permit impartial observers to see things for themselves. Obviously, this attitude is born of a guilty conscience.

The people of India and the Indian press have in general been restraining themselves in spite of grave provocations so as to enable our government to take suitable action in the grave emergency that has arisen. That action will naturally depend, as the Prime Minister stated, on the developing circumstances. We can only hope that Pakistan will learn the error of its ways before it is too late and thus avert a catastrophe.

The Budget of the Government of India for 1950-51 published on 28th February last, shows a revenue of Rs. 347.5 crores and an expenditure of Rs. 337.88 crores, leaving a surplus of Rs. 9.62 crores. The Finance Minister, Dr. Mathai, in his Budget statement announced a series of tax-reliefs and reductions. The rates for locally delivered letters are to be reduced from two annas to one anna and postcards from nine pies to six pies; the basic charges on ordinary telegrams are to be reduced from nine annas to eight annas, and on express telegrams from Re. 1-2-0 to Re. 1; the rates for trunk telephone calls are to be reduced from Rs. 16 to Rs. 12 for ordinary and from Rs. 32 to Rs. 24 for urgent; the Dividend Limitation Act to be discontinued; Business Profits Tax is to be abolished; income-tax paid by companies is to be reduced from 5 to 4 annas with a concurrent increase in company supertax by half an anna; the tax on the income slab between Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 is to be reduced from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 annas; the tax on the income slabs above Rs. 15,000 is to be reduced from 5 to 4 annas; the maximum rate of personal supertax is to be reduced from 9 annas for earned income and 10 annas for unearned income to a flat rate of $8\frac{1}{2}$ annas; for Hindu undivided families, the exemption limit is to be raised from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000. The net cost of all these reliefs comes to Rs. 8.31 crores, leaving an estimated surplus of Rs. 1.31 crores.

Other points from the Finance Minister's statement were:

1. Food production in 1949 is estimated at about 43 million tons as against 41 million tons in 1948.
2. Procurement for eleven months ending November, 1949, was 4.2 million tons against a target of 4.6 million tons for the whole year.

3. Production in 1950 is expected to show an increase of 2.8 million tons over that of 1949, while procurement target for that year has been raised by a further million tons over the target fixed for 1949, with a corresponding decrease in imports from overseas.

4. Imports next year are now placed at 1.5 million tons, of which approximately 200,000 tons will go to build up a reserve.

5. The production of jute in 1949 is estimated at 30 lakhs of bales against 20 lakhs of bales in the previous year. The target for next year has been fixed at 50 lakhs of bales.

6. Cotton production, which amounted to 28 lakhs of bales in 1949, is to be raised to 36 lakhs of bales in 1950.

7. Out of 1,365 cases referred to the Income-tax Investigation Commission, 116 cases have been disposed of. From these a sum of about Rs. 2.25 crores is likely to be recoverable.

8. The budgeted expenditure on defence of Rs. 168 crores includes a provision of Rs. 8 crores for the pay, allowances and maintenance of Indian States Forces to be taken over by the Centre on federal financial integration.

THE EDITOR.

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The Religion of Mahatma Gandhi

Dr. P. NAGARAJA RAO

In this revealing study, Prof. P. Nagaraja Rao, M.A., D.Litt. of the M. N. College, Visnagar (Gujarat) discusses the religious ideals and precepts that guided Mahatma Gandhi in the conduct of his daily life. The soul of Mahatma Gandhi is his religion, says Dr. Rao, and his religion is at once scientific and humanistic. —*Editor.*

The soul of Mahatma Gandhi is his religion. He defines religion after the manner of Tolstoi. True religion is a relation, accordant with reason and knowledge which man establishes with infinite life surrounding him, and which is such as binds his life to that infinite and guides his conduct. He writes, "I have no desire for the perishable kingdom of earth. I am striving for the Kingdom of Heaven, which is spiritual deliverance. For me the road to salvation lies through incessant toil in the service of the country and humanity. I want to identify myself with everything that lives. In the language of the Gita I want to live at peace with both friend and foe. So my patriotism is for me a stage on my journey to the land of eternal freedom and peace. Thus it will be seen that for me there are no politics devoid of religion. They subserve religion. Politics bereft of religion are a death-trap because they kill the soul."

The manifest destiny and the supreme purpose of man's life is spiritual realisation. All other goods will be added unto us, provided we seek first the kingdom of heaven. Men conceive the one ineffable supreme spirit which is realised in the hour of mystic union under different names and forms adequate to, their several psychological and intellectual equipments. Gandhiji described the Supreme as *Truth* and the method to obtain it as *Non-violence*. As the One Supreme transcends all forms and names it is irreligion to be intolerant of the different descriptions of God given by the various religions. The God of one religion is not the enemy of the other. They are all several expressions of one and the same spirit differing in perspective and forms. Gandhiji revived this inherent catholicity of Hinduism, preached and practised it and laid down

his life for it. He did not believe in a God who denied the existence of his rivals. He worshipped the Supreme Spirit under all the forms. He declared "I regard all the great faiths

of the world as equally true with my own. It hurts me to see any one of them caricatured as they are today by their followers."

This broad outlook and the significant conception of the fellowship of faiths, is destructive of all bigotry, fanaticism, religious wars, dogmatism, crude and violent communalism and has made religion progressive and rational. The central truth of religion is experience and not any dogma or document. Men need to cultivate the moral life to realise the Spirit. They need not surrender their intellect, nor sacrifice their rationality, nor accept at second hand any account of reality. They themselves can realise it in their own selves. Such a definition of religion as spiritual and individual gives a deserved blow to all institutional religion which petrifies truth and kills the spirit.

God and man can meet directly. Man is not a fallen being. He is not a creature of sin. He has divinity in him. He is God in the making. Ig-

norance and vice have distorted his real nature. He has to discover himself *back*. The scriptures of the world declare it.



The *Upanishad* says, *That art thou*. The Bible, *The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord*. So God created man in his own image. *I and my Father are one*. Gandhiji does not, like the dogmatic creeds, believe in the assertion: "Thou shalt have none other God but me." He does not hold the view that man and God are for ever divided and that man's efforts are of no avail except through the grace of the Lord. He does not say like some theologians that "man is completely under the domain of Satan, he is carnal and is completely devoid of any glimmer of divine light."

He believes in the dignity, divinity and spiritual equality of man. Man is a creature on the borderland. By effort and moral strength he can attain the divine life and do good to all. By his constant insistence on moral life and the value of the deliverance of an enlightened social conscience, Gandhiji cleansed Hinduism in particular and religion in general of all superstition and hypocrisy.

To the Mahatma, religion is not mere belief; it is behaviour. It is the "art and theory of the internal life of man, so far as it depends on himself and on what is permanent in the nature of things". In the words of Professor Whitehead, it is what "the individual does with his own solitariness". Religion for the Mahatma is life lived as a whole. He does not bifurcate politics and religion, or individual ethics and state politics, or means and ends. For him there must be no double standard of morality. Life does not admit of such divisions. What is individually reprehensible cannot be politically admirable. Bad means defeat good ends. Gandhiji writes, "Ends and means are interchangeable in my philosophy." Further he regards that religion must be concrete and must enter into our daily life and not be a matter for Sundays. Active moral life and sincere prayer must go together. Utter selflessness and taking upon ourselves the suffering of others and educating the opponent through non-violence must be our method.

Most of the items of the Gandhian constructive programme hinge round the one powerful doctrine namely, the equality of man. The traditional literalist Hindu was merely asserting the 'spiritual equality of man' and maintaining a rigorous inequality (consciously built) on all other planes. Gandhiji

wanted to transplant the doctrine of spiritual equality to the material, economic, social and political planes. A mere political democracy is not enough. Decentralisation and devolution of power, and a world of self-contained units are the translations of the principle on the economic plane. The most ethical and spectacular translation of the spiritual equality of man is expressed by Gandhiji in his memorable fight against untouchability. Who can forget his celebrated, unforgettable declaration before the Minority Committee in the 1931 Round Table Conference! "Let this committee and through it the whole world know that there is a body of Hindu reformers who feel that untouchability is a shame, not on untouchables but of orthodox Hinduism and they are therefore pledged to remove this blot. I would far rather Hinduism died than untouchability lived. I want to say with all the emphasis that I command that if I was the only person to resist this thing I would resist it with my life."

Gandhiji's doctrine of non-violence is a new chapter, but not discontinuous with the old in the history of Hindu thought. Traditional Hinduism regarded violence as neutral and that its worth is determined by its use. Manu and others regarded that violence must be opposed by violence and so sanctioned its use in some cases. They justified the righteous wars. Gandhiji by his interpretation of the Gita has established that violence can never be of any good and its use under any circumstance, even be it for self-defence, is bound to fail. Violence is not ultimate. For man to stop at the stage of violence is to arrest his evolution at the jungle level. "Non-violence is the law of our species as violence is the law of the brute", says Gandhiji. "The spirit lies dormant in the brute and he knows no law but that of physical might. The dignity of man requires obedience to a higher law, to the strength of the spirit. The *rishis* who discovered the law of non-violence in the midst of violence were greater geniuses than Newton." On another occasion he declared: "If blood be shed, let it be our blood. Cultivate the quiet courage of dying without killing. For man lives freely only by his readiness to die, if need be at the hands of his brother, never by killing him."

To a war-shattered and nerve-racked world given over to the pursuit of class-war and cruelty, non-violence is a great remedy. It is not a matter for academic debate for highbrows, but it is the exasperated cry of the hour. It is mis-education to put youths into uniform, instil in them the hatred of the rival, indoctrinate them with the current superstitions of race, nation and class. We twist them out of shape, blast the charities of their heart and strip their spirit of all their moral sense and love and ask them to fight their fellow-men. Thus we create our armies, air forces and atom-bomb and after all this we cry, 'man is by nature violent'! With all his force Gandhiji lays stress on the need to build up the inner man. He believes that we ought to reorient our points of view and forswear our foolish ways. Mere organisational improvements will not do. He has the grand conception of the oneness of humanity. He asks us to fight against the favourite doctrines of the Devil, "One thing is not another", and "One self is not another". "My good is my good and yours is yours". He declares a war against this unregenerate selfishness. He declares, "There cannot be happiness for any of us until it is won for all."

The message of Gandhiji's religion is an exhortation to all of us to build in each one of us—man and woman—a solid core really and fully human, and so condition our behaviour patterns as to give up greed, ambition, vanity, pride, jealousy, bad temper, uncontrolled tongue, and to instil in ourselves moral qualities like disinterestedness, courage, honesty, a sense of justice and fair-play, patience, self-mastery, and above all the power to endure and wait, to persevere in a clearly and consciously seen objective and to resist the attrition of everyday existence in this mechanised world of ours. The religion of Gandhiji is at once scientific and humanistic; it helps us to live without surrendering the rights of reason and the needs of humanity. It is the best introduction to veracity. It is the enemy of cant and hypocrisy. The ideal man, the Vaishnava, is best described in Gandhiji's favourite song:

"He is a true lover of all who knows
And feels another's woes as his own;
Ever ready to serve, never boasts;
He bows to every one and despises none,

Keeping his thought, word, and deed pure.
Blessed is the mother of such a one.
He reverences every woman as his mother
He keeps an equal mind and does not stain
His lips with falsehood; nor does he
Touch another's wealth, no bonds
Of attachment can hold him.
Ever in tune with *Ramanama*, his body
Possesses in itself all places of pilgrimage,
Freed from greed and deceit, passion and anger,
This is the true *Vaishnava*."

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will be taken over by the Government of India on April 1st this year. The State may not be paid any compensation for the transfer of these Federal subjects, but the Government of India are expected to subsidise the State to meet to a certain extent the deficits in its revenues arising out of the transfer. Thus, the Nizam's State Railway, with a route mileage of 1,200 on which, it is estimated, Rs. 18 crores have been invested, would be taken over by the Central Government. Other installations in the State coming under Federal control are the Begumpet Airport constructed at a cost of about Rs. 90 lakhs and the telephone and tele-communications systems built at a cost of Rs. 20 lakhs and Rs. 5 lakhs respectively.

● Increase in Production in 1949

Appreciable increases in the production of steel, cement and coal are revealed in the production figures for the year 1949 officially released recently. In steel production the rise was 5.8 per cent, in cement 33 per cent and in coal raisings 33 per cent. These statistics reveal that the Government of India's efforts to stimulate production and the assistance given by them to various industries, particularly those which are vital to the economic recovery of the country, have yielded satisfactory results.

In 1949 India produced 0.9 million tons of steel as against 0.85 million tons in 1948, although early in 1949 there had been a break-down in the Tata's Blooming Mill as well as in the SCOB'S Sheet Mill. In the cement industry, three new factories came into existence and a few existing units expanded their capacity with the result that the cement production in 1949 was about 2 million tons, whereas in 1948 the total output was 1.5 million tons only. The coal industry also registered an improvement last year inasmuch as the total raisings were nearly 31 million tons, which represented an increase of about 1 million tons over the 1948 output.

Important industries like aluminium, electric motors, transformers, electric lamps, bicycles, conduit pipes, refractories, sulphuric acid, superphosphates, caustic soda, paper, etc., also showed an improvement in production in 1949 over that of the previous year.

● Centre to take over Hyderabad Communications

Railways, airports and the tele-communications system in Hyderabad State, of a total estimated value of Rs. 20 crores,

● Indian Assault on Mt. Everest

An Indian party of five men will make an attempt to reach Mount Everest in April 1950. The expedition is being organised by the Himalaya Mandal, formed recently in Poona with the object of making a detailed study of the Himalayas and to carry expeditions to the different peaks of the snow-clad ranges. This will be the first Indian attempt to conquer the highest peak in the world which has not been reached so far despite 14 German and English attempts.

● World Air Record set up

Air India International claims to have set up a world record of 17 hours and 55 minutes for a scheduled service flight between London and Bombay. This included a halt of one hour twenty-five minutes at Cairo airport. The Bombay-bound constellation was piloted by Captain D. K. Jatar from London to Cairo and by Captain R. Khan from Cairo to Bombay.

● India's Trade Balance Improves in 1949

Figures of India's exports by sea in 1949 reveal a substantial increase over the previous year's figures. Exports during the year amounted to Rs. 428 crores and re-exports to Rs. 13 crores, making an export total of Rs. 441 crores. The total figure for 1948 was Rs. 428 crores, comprising exports Rs. 419 crores and

re-exports Rs. 9 crores. The break-down according to currency areas of figures for 1949 and 1948 is:

Year	Dollar Area	Other Hard Areas	Soft Areas	Total
1948	88 crores	31 crores	309 crores	428 crores
1949	95 „	33 „	291 „	419 „

There was a fall of Rs. 9 crores in 1949 in exports to all hard currency areas, but in the last quarter of 1949 (i.e., after devaluation), there was an appreciable rise in exports to hard currency areas amounting to Rs. 44 crores as against Rs. 21 crores of the previous quarter.

Exports of cotton piece-goods in December last reached a new peak figure of 86.5 million yards valued at Rs. 7.17 crores as against the November figures of 63.5 million yards and Rs. 5.4 crores. The export of raw and waste cotton also showed an increase of 3,000 tons in December. India's main hard currency earners were jute manufactures, raw jute, raw and waste cotton, mica, lac, hides and skins, manganese ore and groundnut seed.

Imports of merchandise by sea in 1949 amounted to Rs. 621 crores, showing an adverse balance of Rs. 180 crores for the year, as against Rs. 200 crores of the previous year.

● Rural Social Education Drive

Approximately 45 million people in the age-group 12-40 out of a total of 162 million adult illiterates in India, are to be given social education within the next five years. This recommendation has been made by a special committee set up by the Central Advisory Board of Education to give practical shape to the new programme of social education in the country. The committee's report has since been approved by the Government of India. Other points relating to the programme are as follows: (1) All possible use to be made of the media and techniques of mass education; (2) Wherever possible social education centres to be housed in primary schools and function as community centres; (3) Education to be imparted primarily through the school teachers, whose present number is 5,50,000 volunteers to be trained and utilised and camps to be organised for an in-

tensive course of from six to eight weeks; (4) *Per capita* expenditure on Social Education not to vary materially from province to province; and (5) The standard of attainment to be practically the same throughout the country.

● Telephones show Substantial Profit

The Government of India have made a total profit of Rs. 7 crores to Rs. 8 crores from the telephone system since they took them over in 1942. The entire profit has been poured into the pool of Central revenues.

● India's trade with Pakistan and Afghanistan

India had a favourable trade balance of Rs. 36,40,000 with Pakistan and an unfavourable balance of Rs. 19,20,000 with Afghanistan through the various land customs stations in the Punjab during December 1949. India's exports to Pakistan amounted to Rs. 37,88,000 and to Afghanistan Rs. 6,14,000 and the values of imports from these two countries were Rs. 1,48,000 and Rs. 25,34,000 respectively. Main articles of export were coal, cigarettes, bidis, tea, medicine, etc., and the main articles of import were dry and fresh fruits, salt, cotton seed, drugs, metals, etc.

● Foreign Aid to Indian Industry

Negotiations for foreign participation in Indian industrial projects have been finalised in regard to 75 projects between August 15, 1947 and the end of 1949 involving a total foreign investment of 213 million dollars. 38 of these projects relate to the manufacture of consumer goods, 21 for capital goods and 16 for electric power. 74 per cent. of foreign investment is in capital goods projects, including electric power establishments and 26 per cent in the consumer goods industries. 32 projects with a capital investment of Rs. 80 crores are under state auspices and 43, with a capital investment of Rs. 21.9 crores, are organised under private enterprise.

● Atomic Pile for India

Pandit Nehru told Parliament on January 9, 1950 that India hoped to produce atomic energy within a reasonable time. Steps

had been taken to process atomic energy raw materials and conserve them for Indian use and it was planned to set up a small pile within a few years. Steps had also been taken to set up a factory for processing raw materials and the factory would be in full operation within a year. A nucleus of workers covering the different techniques required for the work, Pandit Nehru revealed, had already been trained, while other personnel required for this and other atomic work were under training.

● History of India's Freedom Struggle

The Government of India have set up a preliminary committee consisting of Dr. Tara Chand, Dr. R. C. Majumdar, Dr. Bisheshwar Prasad, Prof. C. S. Srinivasachari, Dr. S. N. Sen, Shri R. R. Diwakar and Dr. G. C. Narang for the collection, from all possible sources, of necessary materials for the compilation of a history of the freedom movement in India. It has been decided to undertake a detailed survey from 1870 to August 15, 1947. While thorough investigations in India will be made for past documents and records, enquiries will also be made abroad, especially at the India Office in London, Pondicherry, Chandernagore, Paris, Geneva, Mexico City, San Francisco and Canada. Official German, Italian and Japanese sources will be exploited for fuller details on the activities of the Indian National Army.

● Indian Fish Oil as Antidote to Blood Pressure

High blood pressure can be relieved through the oil of a fish found in the Bay of Bengal known as "Galeocedretrigrinus". The oil can bring down blood pressure by 60 points in 5 days. This has been proved by Dr. S. Nyogi who has just returned to India after research in hyper-tension in the United States.

● Opening of Basic Schools

India's Education Minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, told Parliament in February last that junior basic schools had been started in all the states except the Punjab. A few senior basic schools had also been started in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay. Government had already spent about Rs. 19 lakhs for the training of basic education teachers in the centrally

administered areas of Delhi and Ajmer, where at present 1,296 students were undergoing training for teaching.

● Higher Technical Education

On the advice of the All-India Council of Technical Education the Government of India have decided to set up forthwith the Eastern Higher Technical Institute at Hijli in Midnapore district, West Bengal. In order that the Institute may start functioning effectively at an early date, the Government have appointed a Board of Governors for the Institute. The establishment of the Institute was originally recommended by an *ad hoc* committee appointed by the Government of India to report on the development of higher technical institutions in India. That Committee recommended the establishment of four institutions—one in the East, one in the West, one in the North and one in the South—to satisfy the requirements of the country. The Eastern Higher Technical Institution, when fully developed, will provide extensive facilities for the training of 2,000 undergraduates and 1,000 post-graduate and research students in various branches of engineering and technology.

● India Sponsors new International Body

Eleven countries have accepted India's proposal to set up a new international body to be called the International Commission on Irrigation and Canals. The main function of the Commission would be to encourage study and progress in design, construction, maintenance and operation of large and small irrigation works and canals and to collect all relevant information. The headquarters of the Commission will be in India. The eleven countries are: Pakistan, Canada, Egypt, Brazil, Turkey, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Siam, Ceylon, Indonesia and Yugoslavia. Replies from a large number of other countries are awaited. A meeting of the representatives of countries which have agreed to become members of the new body is likely to be convened in India this summer to frame the constitution and take a final decision about the holding of a plenary session of the Commission in January 1951. The Government of India have decided that the Central Board of Irrigation, Simla, should function as the national committee for India for the International Commission on Irriga-

tion and Canals. As such, the Board will be in charge of all arrangements for the Commission's meetings, etc. India and the other eleven participating countries between them possess much more than half of the total irrigated area in the world. According to the latest available information, the total areas under irrigation in some of these countries are as follows: India—49 million acres; Pakistan—21 million acres; Egypt—6 million acres; and Iraq—4 million acres.

● **Woman Flier wins First Prize in National Air Race**

In the first National Air Race conducted by the Aero Club of India over a 341 mile course (Barrackpore-Jamshedpur-Asansol-Barrackpore) on February 25th, Miss Prem Mathur, the 25-year old woman flier from the Hind Flying Club, Kanpur, won the race and the best woman contestant's prize in her *Silvaire*. Interviewed, Miss Mathur observed: "Though it is a bit strenuous, yet I believe women of my country have a bright future in aviation."

● **70 Lakh non-Muslims Migrate to India**

The Minister for Rehabilitation, Shri Mohanlal Saxena, said in Parliament recently that 70 lakhs of non-Muslims had migrated from Pakistan into India up to January 31, 1950. Of them 54 lakhs were from West Pakistan and 16 lakhs from East Pakistan. He said it was not possible to state the number of non-Muslims still remaining in Pakistan. Mr. Saxena also revealed that the number of Muslims who had migrated to Pakistan was about 58 lakhs. It was not possible to state the number of Muslims who had returned to India, he added, but many Muslims were coming to India from East Pakistan.

● **Educational Exchange Agreement with United States**

On 2nd February 1950, India became the sixteenth nation to conclude an agreement with the United States whereby funds realized from the sale of American wartime surplus property will be made available for educational exchange purposes. The accord, signed here by Prime Minister Pandit Nehru and the American Ambassador, Loy Henderson, will make available an annual sum of approximately Rs. 19 lakhs to finance studies, research projects and other educational activities of and for

Americans in approved institutions of higher learning in India. It will also provide costs of transportation for Indian students going to the United States to attend similar institutions there. Comprising fifteen articles and one appendix, the agreement has been signed under the provisions of the U. S. Public Law popularly known as the Fulbright Act.

● **Historical Records to be Microfilmed**

Half a lakh of rupees are to be spent for obtaining microfilm copies of all unpublished records relating to modern Indian history not available in this country. Contacts have been established with several countries in Europe and with the U.S.A. for this purpose and some of them have agreed to cooperate with the scheme.

● **India's Budget through the years :**

Year	Revenue	(In crores of Rupees)	
		Expenditure	Deficit (—) or Surplus (+)
1940-41	107.65	114.18	— 6.53
1945-46	360.67	484.57	— 123.90
1947-48 A	178.77	185.29	— 6.52
1948-49 B	332.32	339.87	— 7.55
1949-50 C	307.74	322.53	— 14.79
1949-50 D	322.53	322.04	+ 0.49
1949-50 E	332.36	336.10	— 3.74
1949-50 F	347.50	337.88	+ 9.62
1950 G	339.19	337.88	+ 1.31

A—for 7½ months; B—revised; C—on pre-budget taxation; D—with relief and new taxation; E—revised; F—on old level of taxation; G—with new measures.

● **India to Encourage Tourist Traffic**

Dollar-hungry India is entering the field of tourist traffic. India is rich in tourist attraction—scenic grandeur unmatched anywhere else in the world and ancient monuments comparable in age and majesty to any elsewhere—and the transport authorities are working out a plan to launch a worldwide drive beginning from this year to attract tourists, particularly from America.

The Transport Ministry has formed an informal American tourist promotion group, consisting of representatives of American transport and travel interests in India to advise the Government of India on the immediate measures to be taken to attract and handle a larger volume of American tourist traffic. The authorities have relaxed the stringency of certain customs and visa laws. Some of the Indian Embassies abroad have been authorized to issue visas. The import and export restrictions too have been liberalized. So have the restrictions on liquor. The Government of India hope to cut "red tape" to the minimum. A card carried by a tourist will enable him automatically to draw ten gallons of petrol a week without having to queue up for coupons after arrival in India. He will get prompt customs clearance and facilities in regard to railway retiring room, dak bungalow and rest-house accommodation. It will secure for him personal attention from officers in charge of museums and monuments. These cards will be sent in thousands to Indian Consular offices abroad. In addition, the passports and visas of tourists will be embossed with the label "tourists". Tourists will be allowed to have their own choice of food in railway restaurant cars and hotels instead of having to stick to the usual menu. As soon as they are accommodated in a hotel, they will get liquor permits. Even in those states where such permits have to be paid for, they will get them free. The Transport Ministry, and not individual railways, will in future give recognition to travel agents. This would enable the Government to form a uniform policy. As part of the plan to improve hotel facilities, more telephones will be installed in suites. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East has agreed to undertake a hotel survey in India and make recommendations for improving the position from the tourist point of view. There will be tourist sections in the different consular offices. The Ministry of Transport will open regional tourist offices in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The Tourist Traffic Committee, appointed by the Government in 1948, has been asked to prepare a scheme for the training of guides. A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has been sanctioned for tourist publicity and another sum of Rs. 2 lakhs for regional organization in 1950-51.

● Akhil Hind Balak Sangh

The latest annual report of the activities of the Balkan-Ji-Bari or Akhil Hind Balak Sangh, shows the progress made by this popular children's organisation which was started as early as 1926, in Karachi (now in Pakistan). The chief aim of this Association is to keep children as happy as possible and to let them develop by themselves. There are provincial Balkan-Ji-Baris in Bombay, Delhi, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh and it has more than 100 branches spread all over India. The Balak Sangh with a total membership of about 20,000, brings children together in their leisure time for recreation which is considered to be a good medium of education in the most liberal sense. Boys and girls meet in these centres once a week at least and enjoy a pre-arranged programme of intelligent amusements. Its motto is 'Education and Entertainment'. The Sangh has its own children's libraries, a poor children's fund, monthly journals in English and Indian languages and a pen-friendship section. It holds periodical excursions and tours and holds workers' camps. Its future programme includes the starting of a Children's Volunteer Corps, Children's Mutual Aid Centres and a Children's Own Museum. Shri B. G. Kher, Chief Minister of Bombay, is the President of the Balkan-Ji-Bari, and Shri Shewak Bhojraj, its General Secretary. Address—"Gulistan", Khar, Bombay 21.

Bombay

● Aarey Milk Colony

Mr. Wolfisberg, Director of the Nestle's and Anglo-Swiss Milk Products, Switzerland, who recently visited the Aarey Milk Colony at Goregaon, observed, "I have no doubt that in time to come this Milk Colony will be considered a monumental achievement. . . . Aarey Colony as it stands to-day is superior to many such dairy farms in Europe and if the present standards of efficiency are maintained, it can very well qualify as a model dairy farm even in Europe." Mr. Wolfisberg, who has visited hundreds of dairy farms in Europe and America and has life-long experience of dairying conditions in many countries of the world, stated that Aarey Farm was perhaps the only self-

contained form of its standard and magnitude anywhere in the world.

Madhya Pradesh

● Teaching Wrestling in Schools

The Madhya Pradesh Education Department has decided to introduce wrestling in all primary and secondary schools with immediate effect. In Berar it would be compulsory in the initial stages. If as the result of experience it proves to be successful it would be made compulsory in other schools of the State also next year, thereby making it a part of the curriculum.

Madras

● Social Education

The Government of Madras have sanctioned a supplemental Adult (Social) Education Scheme costing Rs. 1.57 lakhs for introduction in the current year. 500 adult schools are proposed to be started immediately, the schools being attached to colleges, secondary schools and higher elementary schools. A bonus of Re. 1 per adult who becomes literate, has also been sanctioned by the Government.

● Food Production Drive

An additional 14,000 tons of food-grains are expected in the State's food production under the several schemes of irrigation—both by wells and tanks—carried out since April 1, 1949. About 29,000 acres of land have been brought under cultivation with the help of these irrigation schemes. Nearly 300 old tanks have been repaired and pump sets provided, benefiting about 5,800 acres. In addition, a number of small dams, new tanks and tube wells have been constructed.

● Electrical Undertakings to be Nationalized

Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Public Works and Electricity, announced in the State Legislative Assembly on 11th March, 1950 that the Government would complete

nationalisation of electrical undertakings in the State in about five years. He said a sum of about Rs. 3.5 crores would be payable as compensation to the owners of these undertakings. The Minister said there were 39 private undertakings in the State which would be acquired in five batches, one after another, the less efficient ones taking precedence.

Mysore

● Better and Cheaper Small-pox Vaccine

A new method of producing small-pox vaccine which will ensure higher purity and lower costs has been evolved in the Vaccine Institute, Bangalore. It was found that external application of Streptomycin over the vaccinated area of a calf twice daily for five days, reduced the bacterial contamination. This would enable vaccine to be preserved up to two years at below zero temperature.

Punjab

● Industries Making Satisfactory Progress

Industries in the Punjab made satisfactory progress during January, 1950. Sports goods manufacturers at Jullundur and Batala did roaring business. The difficulties of raw material particularly of willow however continued and to overcome this, manufacturers imported badly manufactured sports goods from Kashmir and utilized the willow used in them. In textiles, the spinning and weaving mills at Bhiwani increased production by 48 per cent. over last month. Lacquer and wood-working industries of Hoshiarpur and Jullundur remained active and goods worth Rs. 13,000 were exported to U.S.A. The stone dressing industry of Rohtak, Bahadurgarh and Sonapat has completely revived because the scarcity of skilled artisans created by the migration of Muslims has since been overcome. The small fabricators of trunks, *balties* and other hollow-ware had good business.

● Township Built by Refugees

On 22nd February, 1950, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru paid a visit to Nilokheri, which is the first project of its kind in the

country where refugees have built up a township in what was two years ago a marshy jungle. They have built workshops, run their own schools and a dairy farm, produced and sold their goods on a cooperative basis and bought their daily necessities from their own cooperative stores. Even the humble *pan* shop in this industrial township is a subsidiary of a co-operative concern. So far 280 workers' flats have been completed; 180 more would be ready soon, while the construction of a market-place after the pattern of Connaught Circus in New Delhi, hospital and school buildings is proceeding apace. The present strength of the town is 6,000 of whom 1,800 persons work in the various industrial and other establishments.

Pandit Nehru visited the various workshops in the colony and saw the men at work. In the concrete products section, cement slabs, pipes and sanitary requirements for the township as well as for sale were being manufactured. In the industrial section there were a tinsmithy, foundry, fitter shop, machine shop and departments for the manufacture of hosiery, leather goods, weaving, dyeing and calico printing. The Prime Minister also visited a printing press and a furniture workshop. These places were humming with activity.

● Vocational Training Centres

The number of displaced persons under training in different vocational training centres run by the Punjab Government was 4,313 including 1,095 women on 1st February 1950. There are about forty Vocational Training Centres in the Punjab where training is imparted in over fifty crafts. The up-to-date expenditure on raw materials for Vocational Training Scheme is Rs. 3,60,000 against which goods worth Rs. 1,46,000 have been manufactured. Finished articles of the value of Rs. 70,000 have been sold and the rest are in stock.

● Panchayats have a Busy Time

Panchayats in the Punjab are evincing a keen interest in the "Grow More Food Campaign" in the State. Small pieces of barren land are being brought under the plough. Manure pits in scores are being dug for the conservation of village rubbish and manure. Destruction of rats and harmful weeds is being

carried with considerable success. Improved seeds are being increasingly used. The Panchayats raised about Rs. 7,600 by taxation and Rs. 2,300 through voluntary contributions during the month of January 1950. Three new schools and one library were started during the month and 235 boys were got admitted into schools by Panchayats. Guliana and Sangri Panchayats in Karnal district collected Rs. 11,000 for construction of a school building. Other works of public utility like construction and repair of public buildings, *kuhals*, culverts, *baolies*, public paths, etc., were also carried out during the month. 476 civil and revenue cases and 435 criminal cases were decided by the Panchayats.

● Stepping up Rice Production

In view of the shortage of rice in the Punjab, the Department of Agriculture is making all possible efforts to step up production of this cereal in this State by evolving suitable improved varieties for cultivation under different agro-climatic conditions and also finding suitable manures with appropriate doses which could be recommended to the "zamindars". It has been found that artificial fertilizers, *viz.*, ammonium sulphate and ammonium phosphate are superior to farm-yard manure in giving immediate increase in paddy yield. Ammonium phosphate (150 lbs. per acre) gives the highest yield of 3.65 maunds (28.6 per cent.) paddy per acre over no-manure. Fertilizer in two doses—half at the sowing time and the other half at the caring time—leads to greater yield than applied in one dose. The normal requirement of rice in the Punjab is 151,000 tons against its production of 102,000 tons.

● New Gardens

The Punjab will add 20,000 acres to its existing area under gardens as the result of the setting up of 26 new gardens in 11 of its 13 districts. Plots of 20 acres each in these colonies have been allotted to about 1,000 educated persons with experience of gardens. Eight hundred out of these are displaced persons. The Punjab Government have set apart Rs. 10 lakhs for *taccavi* loans to be granted to allottees of these garden colonies. Thirty tube wells, at a cost of about Rs. 7½ lakhs will be set up in those garden colonies where canal water is not available, or is avail-

able only in insufficient quantities. The remaining two and half lakh rupees will be given for purchasing agricultural implements. Allotment of garden sites has been made, in lieu of lands, to displaced persons under the quasi-permanent allotment scheme. Non-refugee allottees will surrender an equivalent of their own land.

● 72 Lakh Cheap Housing Scheme

The eight-Marla-plot cheap housing scheme, which aims at the provision of 10,000 plots of eight-marlas each for displaced persons in the Punjab has been finally approved by the Government of India. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 72 lakhs and the Central Government have sanctioned Rs. 20 lakhs for the current financial year for its execution. Each displaced family under this plan will be advanced Rs. 500 in the form of a loan for construction of a 'Kucha Kothi' on the eight-Marla plot. Another scheme to accommodate nearly 70,000 displaced persons in 13,200 mud huts, at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs has made sufficient progress. Eight thousand huts have already been constructed and 40,000 persons housed in them.

Saurashtra

● Renovation of Historic Somnath Temple

Efforts are now being made to obtain a stone from which could be hewn a *lingam* nine feet in height and five feet in diameter, for the ancient Hindu shrine of Somnath in Junagadh. The Somnath Renovation Trust has decided that the temple is to be reconstructed on its old foundations during the course of this year. The idol will be installed at the spot where the old one was believed to have existed centuries ago before its destruction. The Trust has also decided that the old town of Prabhas Patan, where the temple site is situated should be remodelled and developed into a cultural centre.

Uttar Pradesh

● Insulating Wool from Arecanut

Investigations carried out in the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun have proved that arecanut husk can, by a simple

process, be converted into insulating wool as well as hard boards, which compare favourably with foreign products. About 5,000 tons of arecanut husk available in the country at present go to waste. By a simple process of beating the husk with a wooden mallet, it can be converted into satisfactory insulating wool. By a process of defibration or hydrolysis with weak acid or alkali, the husk can also be used for the manufacture of hard boards. Further experiments are required for improving the moisture absorption and swelling properties of boards made from the husk.

● Development of Fisheries

Uttar Pradesh will shortly have a Fish Research Farm at Mirzapur. In the existing Research Laboratory at Lucknow three urgent problems of practical importance to the development of fisheries in the State are under investigation. They are: (1) the effect of varying physical and chemical properties of water and soil of ponds on fish; (2) the kinds and quantities of aquatic life in stocked ponds, which provide food and thus improve the growth of fish and (3) compilation and study of statistics of catches in rivers to assess the natural stock of fish in them from year to year and of sizes of fingerlings stocked in tanks to ascertain their rate of growth under varying conditions. Considerable progress has been made in connection with the scheme of acquisition, cleaning and stocking of tanks. In anticipation of the breeding of fish, nursery ponds are being constructed at Raniket, Havalbagh, Baijnath and Gwaldam to provide adequate accommodation for the thousands of young fish expected to be hatched. A scheme for fish culture in the streams and *nallas* of the Ganga Khadar and in the brick-kiln ditches at Lalpur in the Bhabhar Tarai colonization area has been completed.

National Planning

A National Planning Commission, with Pandit Nehru as Chairman, has been set up by the Government of India for the formulation of a plan "for the most effective and balanced utilisation of the country's resources" so as to ensure adequate means of livelihood to the people of India. Such a statutory planning body was recommended by the Congress Working Committee in a Resolution passed at its meeting held on 19th January last. In view of the importance of the subject, we give below the Working Committee Resolution as well as the Government of India's Resolution dated 15th March 1950 announcing the appointment of the Planning Commission. —Editor.

RESOLUTION OF THE CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE

Recognition of the vital role of planning in the development of our national economy and the realization of the people's aspirations for social justice and progress led to the appointment of the National Planning Committee in the year 1938. Working under the limitations, inseparable from the political conditions of the period in which it functioned, the Committee achieved valuable results in making the conception of planning familiar in the country and in carrying through a great deal of spade work.

In modern conditions of life no country can hope to administer its affairs with success or with any degree of satisfaction to the mass of the people without recourse to the powerful instrument of social and economic planning. The need for a comprehensive plan has become a matter of compelling urgency in India now owing to the ravages of the second World War and the economic and political consequences of the partition of the country which followed in the wake of the achievement of freedom, and the steady worsening of the economic situation in India and the world. The tasks of a Planning Body for India have already been set by the course of the country's struggle for freedom. What the economic content of the people's freedom should be has been indicated in general terms in the resolutions and manifestoes of the Indian National Congress, in the pronouncements of Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress leaders and in the Congress Economic Programme.

The vision which inspired the people of India through the various phases of the non-violent revolution which made the country free was of a land from which poverty, unemployment, ignorance, inequality and exploitation would be banished and in which every person would find work suitable to his talents and capacity and have the wherewithal of a decent life. With the achievement of complete independence it becomes the paramount duty of the Congress to take immediate steps for the fulfilment of its solemn pledges and for producing the conditions in which the people's creative energies and enthusiasm can be evoked and harnessed in the fullest measure in the great endeavour to bring into being a just and progressive social order.

The Constitution which the people of India have just adopted embodies certain directive principles of State policy which have also an intimate bearing on the forms of social and economic organization to be evolved and which must be rendered in terms of programmes of action by the Planning authority.

In order that the declarations of the Congress and the directive principles of the Constitution are made effective in as short a time as possible, it is desirable that a Statutory Planning Commission be set up by the Government of India. The Planning Commission should be a compact body composed of persons whose selection is made primarily with the view that the outlook of the Commission is in harmony with the basic ideas which should govern the plan and that it possesses a comprehensive understanding of the administrative, social, political and economic needs and conditions of the country.

The Commission should be assisted by Boards of Experts who may together be able to provide it with all the information and advice necessary for the adequate performance of its functions. The Commission should be equipped with a statistical organisation which should be in a position to make use of the administrative machinery of the country for the collection of the requisite statistical and factual material. In order to bring the plan and its execution into tune with the needs and aspirations of the people the Commission should devise measures to secure their association and cooperation at all levels.

The principal objectives to be realized through such a plan are:

(1) The establishment of a just order of society, providing for:

(i) the operation of the principles of decentralization, cooperation, and individual freedom to the utmost feasible extent, (ii) equal opportunity for all, (iii) adequate means of living for all, (iv) just and humane conditions of work, (v) full and suitable employment, and (vi) the growth of the human personality in all its aspects;

(2) Adequate and expanding volume of production to secure a progressive rise in the standard of living and the achievement of a national minimum in respect of all the essentials for physical and social well-being, within a reasonable period;

(3) The best utilization of the material and human resources of the nation and the improvement of the skill and the productive capacity of its man-power by suitable technical education and training;

(4) As near an approach to national and regional self-sufficiency as would be compatible with the requirements of an adequate standard of living and the country's internal and external security.

The Planning Commission should have the following duties:

(1) To make a full assessment of the resources and the requirements of the nation;

(2) To determine priorities, to work out a proper allocation and distribution of the resources and their constant adjustment to the changing requirements with a view to obtaining the speediest and maximum realisation of the objectives of the plan;

(3) To lay down the various stages, each covering a defined period, for the development of the country's economy and to undertake the necessary preparatory work in connection with each stage;

(4) To secure full and all-round co-ordination in the process of planning and in the execution of the plan.

In the context of the present needs and the circumstances of the country in view of the economic difficulties which are being experienced, the Commission should devise immediate measures (a) to bring about a speedy elimination of the import of luxury goods and such other articles as are not indispensable regardless of the inconvenience that may be felt by any section of the population so as to reduce to the dependence of the country on foreign sources in the matter of consumers' goods; (b) to secure the necessary capital goods for increasing the internal production of the needed articles as quickly as possible; (c) to maximise the production of the essential primary goods, specially foodstuffs and raw materials for the principal industries, in the shortest time possible; (d) to speed up the projects for increasing irrigation facilities and power supply of the country, which are the basis of its prosperity and progress.

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

For some years past, the people of India have been conscious of the importance of planned development as a means of raising the country's standard of living. This consciousness found expression in the appointment in 1938 of the National Planning Committee by the Indian National Congress. The work of the Committee was, however, interrupted by political and other developments in the beginning of the war, although much useful material has since been published. In 1944, the Government of India established a separate Department of Planning and Development and, at its instance, the Central as well as the Provincial Governments prepared a number of development schemes to be undertaken after the war. Problems of planning were reviewed towards the end of 1946 by the Advisory Planning Board which was appointed by the Interim Government of India, an important recommendation of the Board being the appointment of a Planning Commission to devote continuous attention to the whole field of development, so far as the Central Government was concerned with it.

During the last three years, the Centre as well as the Provinces have initiated schemes of development, but experi-

ence has shown that progress has been hampered by the absence of adequate co-ordination and of sufficiently precise information about the availability of resources. With the integration of the former Indian States with the rest of the country and the emergence of new geographical and economic facts, a fresh assessment of the financial and other resources and of the essential conditions of progress has now become necessary. Moreover, inflationary pressures inherited from the war, balance of payments difficulties, the influx into India of several million persons displaced from their homes and occupations, deficiencies in the country's food supply aggravated by partition and a succession of indifferent harvests and the dislocation of supplies of certain essential raw materials have placed the economy under a severe strain. The need for comprehensive planning based on a careful appraisal of resources and on an objective analysis of all the relevant economic factors has become imperative. These purposes can best be achieved through an organization free from the burden of the day-to-day administration, but in constant touch with the Government at the highest policy level. Accordingly, as announced by the Honourable the Finance Minister in his Budget speech on the 28th February, 1950, the Government of India have decided to set up a Planning Commission.

The Constitution of India has guaranteed certain Fundamental Rights to the citizens of India and enunciates certain Directive Principles of State Policy, in particular, that the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life, and shall direct its policy towards securing, among other things: (a) that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood; (b) that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good; and (c) that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment.

Having regard to these rights and in furtherance of these principles as well as of the declared objective of the Govern-

ment to promote a rapid rise in the standard of living of the people by efficient exploitation of the resources of the country, increasing production, and offering opportunities to all for employment in the service of the community, the Planning Commission will:

(1) make an assessment of the material, capital and human resources of the country, including technical personnel, and investigate the possibilities of augmenting such of these resources as are found to be deficient in relation to the nation's requirements;

(2) formulate a Plan for the most effective and balanced utilization of the country's resources;

(3) on a determination of priorities, define the stages in which the Plan should be carried out and propose the allocation of resources for the due completion of each stage;

(4) indicate the factors which are tending to retard economic development, and determine the conditions which, in view of the current social and political situation should be established for the successful execution of the Plan;

(5) determine the nature of the machinery which will be necessary for securing the successful implementation of each stage of the Plan in all its aspects;

(6) appraise from time to time the progress achieved in the execution of each stage of the Plan and recommend the adjustments of policy and measures that such appraisal may show to be necessary; and

(7) make such interim or ancillary recommendations as appear to it to be appropriate either for facilitating the discharge of the duties assigned to it; or on a consideration of the prevailing economic conditions, current policies, measures and development programmes; or on an examination of such specific problems as may be referred to it for advice by Central or State Governments.

The Planning Commission will be composed of the following: Chairman—Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru; Deputy Chairman—Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda; Members—Mr. V. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. Chintaman Deshmukh, Mr. G. L. Mehta,

Mr. R. K. Patil: Secretary—Mr. N. R. Pillai: Deputy Secretary—
Mr. Tarlok Singh.

The Planning Commission will make recommendations to the Cabinet. In framing its recommendations, the Commission will act in close understanding and consultation with the Ministries of the Central Government and the Governments of the States. The responsibility for taking and implementing decisions will rest with the Central and the States Governments. The Government of India feel confident that the States will give the fullest measure of help to the Commission, so as to ensure the maximum coordination in policy and unity in effort.

The work of the Planning Commission will affect decisively the future welfare of the people in every sphere of national life. Its success will depend on the extent to which it enlists the association and cooperation of the people at all levels. The Government of India, therefore, earnestly hope that in carrying out its task the Commission will receive the maximum support and goodwill from all interests and, in particular, from industry and labour.

The headquarters of the Commission will be at New Delhi.

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Indians in Ethiopia

CHARLES A. ISAAC

The writer of this article is an Indian Christian youth, born in Malaya and educated in South India. At present he is serving the Ministry of Education in Ethiopia. He is also the author of two books—'Indivisible India' and 'Tales of Taste'.—Editor.

It is believed that Ethiopia had commercial relations with India as early as the sixth century B.C., through her ancient ports on the Red Sea coast. No wonder then that there has been an influx of Indian merchants to Ethiopia from time to time. Some of them were mere birds of passage, while others chose to stay here as Ethiopian citizens. I personally know two Indian gentlemen who have spent more than twenty-five years in this country without a break. One of them lives in the Capital with a prosperous family consisting of five sons and two daughters. He originally came from Jamnagar (Western India), and has willingly made Ethiopia his second home. The other gentleman, who is living in Dembi Dollo (Western Ethiopia), has not only married an Ethiopian woman and raised a large family, but also has completely identified himself with the Wollega Gallas among whom he lives.

The Italian Invasion

It is a well-established fact that Indians can be found to be engaged in business even in the remotest corners of the world—from Japan to Jamaica, and from Greenland to Falklands—and thriving in their business too! My own investigations have revealed that there were about 2,000 Indians in Ethiopia, before the Italian invasion which took place in 1935. Almost all of them were traders and merchants. One of the pioneers, and the leading merchant-prince, among them was G. M. Mohammed Ali. He had a flourishing business in Ethiopia when the Italians came; but unfortunately, he was forced to leave the country in disgust, when the new rulers revealed the depths of their greed. On the whole the Italians were very impolite towards the Indians, who were of course protected

by the British Legation in Addis Abeba. As soon as the Italian invasion began, most of the Indians left the country for India and the British colonies in the neighbourhood. They even cut off their business connections with Ethiopia, some as a temporary measure, but most of them never to return! Only a handful remained in Ethiopia, but they luckily knew how to get along with the Italians.

A New Generation

Those who fled from the country were rejoiced to learn that the Emperor Haile Selassie I regained his throne in 1941. But they lacked the courage to come back to the country where their fortunes had once suffered a cruel blow! Thus, it required a new, enterprising generation of Indians to take the place of those who abandoned the country once and for all. Today there is a wealthy, respectable community of about 700 Indians in this country, including those who live scattered in the provinces. Out of this number, Addis Abeba alone can claim about 500 Indians, among whom there are merchants, teachers, journalists, clerks and craftsmen. In the commercial field, the leading firms are those of Messrs. Jeeva Khan, J. Premjec, Nathoo Moolji, Maganlal Anderji and Akbar Ali Kamruddin.

Recruitment of Teachers

When His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie began to reorganize the Ministry of Education, some of the educated Indians in the country signed on as teachers. But the first batch of Indian teachers were officially recruited by the Ethiopian Government in October 1947. The two planes (of the Ethiopian Air Lines) sent out by the Ministry of Education brought a group of 28 teachers and their families in November, 1947. These teachers were honoured by a presentation ceremony at the New Palace, as soon as they were assigned to the different schools. The second batch of Indian teachers arrived in Ethiopia, by sea, in February 1948. Out of the two groups, some were sent to such far-off out-posts of the Empire as Adowa in the north, Harar in the east, Irgalem in the south and Dembi Dollo in the west. Wherever Indian teachers have been posted, they are holding aloft the torch of India's ancient culture and civilization.

The Indian Association

The vast majority of the Indian citizens in Ethiopia are members of a patriotic organization, known as the Indian Association established in 1936. It has a President, two Joint Secretaries and a Working Committee which consists of twelve members. Its office is situated near one of the main roads, not far from the heart of the city; and the Association has its own school, which meets the educational needs of about 50 Indian children in the capital. It is the proud claim of this Association that it has Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Parsees among its 500 members. Under the auspices of this Association, the first and second anniversaries of India's independence were celebrated on a grand scale.

Mutual Relations

Just as the Indian teacher is popular among the Ethiopian students, the average Indian merchant is also popular among the townfolk. Those Indians who are employed by the Government and by private firms are looked upon with respect by their fellow-workers. The Goodwill Mission which visited Ethiopia in October 1948 was certainly impressed by the position of Indians in this country. What is more important is the fact that the Indian residents of Ethiopia have always been in the best possible relations with the Ethiopian Government. They have always been faithful, loyal, and deeply respectful towards the Imperial Crown. The Emperor, in his turn, has always been solicitous of the welfare of the peaceful Indian community, whom he looks upon as his adopted children. And they are for ever striving to show their gratitude by helping the great Emperor in his noble task of modernizing the most ancient, independent kingdom in Africa.



India is a very interesting country for the tourist, but much more so for those who are interested in her wonderful past. The past rises up unceasingly to the view of those who know how to look at it, not only in the sanctuaries and the *ashrams*, but even in its every-day life, in the pre-occupations of the common people. India has the good fortune of being the repository of the noblest spiritual tradition, the only one in the whole world which has been alive throughout the centuries. The Sanskrit language, which has been the privileged instrument of this tradition, is still honoured by all, spoken or at least understood by many.

PROF. LOUIS RENOU,
University of Paris.

India is doing wonders. She is tackling the immense problems resulting from probably the greatest transference of power in the history of man with energy, determination and with commendable success. That is the impression I gained after talking to most of the leading politicians and editors in India and a number of prominent British officials and businessmen during a three-weeks' visit. The fear that communism will spread rapidly among India's millions who live at a low standard, worries many in this country, but gives no serious concern to India's leaders. They believe they have the danger under control. Wherever I went, British people spoke very highly of the efficiency of the police and the military.

MALCOLM G. GRAHAM,
In the *Express and Star* of Wolverhampton (England).

India must take a very big part in the leadership of South-East Asia. India's role in this sphere is obviously increasing with the rising degree of education of her vast population. I have given a great deal of quiet thought to the problem of how far China will be influenced by India. My own view is that India's influence will be profound. The position of South-East Asia in relation to the world at large is extremely important.

EAMON DE VALERA, *Eire*.

India's non-violent struggle for *swaraj* gives hope to the world that through a World Citizens' Congress modelled after the Indian National Congress, mankind can develop enough popular force to persuade national governments, to transfer their power and to surrender their arms to a common government of the people of the world calculated to achieve social equality of man.

MR. and MRS. HARRIS WAFFORD,
Leaders of the American World Federalist Movement.

Communism cannot be eliminated by police repression alone, but at any rate the boldness with which the Congress leaders have grasped the nettle shows their awareness of the danger. . . . If as high an order of statesmanship can be applied to the solution of this problem as has been brought to bear on Indian affairs since 1945, an outcome may be expected which will establish a new framework of peace and stability in the Indian Ocean and Southern Asia.

The Economist, London.

Much is expected of a nation which has come into being under such favourable auspices as the Indian Republic and which is led by men of such stature as Jawaharlal Nehru. If India can approach its economic problems and its boundary

questions with the wisdom and forbearance that it has displayed in its relations with the Commonwealth, India's millions and all of Asia will have reason to remember January 26 with pride and gratitude. And from the United States in particular there arises the fervent hope and faith that independent India will become the rock of freedom and strength that Asia needs today.

New York Herald Tribune, U.S.A.

SECOND YEAR OF FREEDOM

.....To conclude, this publication is valuable both to the supporters of the party in power and also to the many who scoff at the Congress, for the reviews provide material for both platform affrontery and public adulation of Ministers. The book is therefore doubly precious.

People's Health, Madras

See also inside front cover page

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The Manager,
"INDIAN AFFAIRS"

India and the Problem of Food Scarcity

BHABESH CHANDRA CHAUDHURY

Shri Bhabesh Chandra Chaudhury of Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, views the food problem of India in the context of the world scarcity of food and concludes that only family planning and a switch-over to more easily available food material can come to our help in this crisis.

—Editor.

Since we attained our independence on 15th August, 1947 nothing has presented so much difficulty to our Government as feeding our 320 million people. Over 12,50,00,000 of them appear at present to live under a regimen of controlled diet in consequence of our policy of food economy. It may also be mentioned that as a result of partition, the irrigated area under rice in the Indian Union is in the neighbourhood of 89 per cent. of pre-partitioned India and that of wheat about 53 per cent. As compared with 1946-47, India's wheat production appeared to have been better in 1947-48 by more than 6 lakh tons. Besides, she is now reported to be feeding about half a million more refugee mouths in 60 different camps in addition to meeting the enormous normal demand of her own. Thus, it appears that during 1948, 43,200 tons of food-stuffs valued at Rs. 2,75,00,000 were made over by the Government to refugee camps.

A recent report of the Food Ministry, Government of India stated: "India imported 2.84 million tons of food-grains costing about Rs. 130 crores and entered into eight agreements with foreign countries in 1948, of which three were with Pakistan, two with Australia, and one each with Argentina, U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia." In view of the very grave responsibility that has fallen on their shoulders the Government appear now to have sponsored the immediate implementation of a policy of: (a) Intensive cultivation of those areas under food-crops which have perennial or assured water supply, (b) Reclamation of about 8 lakhs of acres of land by tractors, (c) Import of special quality fertilisers, (d) Diversion of some acreage from surplus crops

to cereal production. Finally her momentous decision not to import any food-grains from abroad after 1951 except in the case of grave calamity such as widespread failure of crops or for building up a central reserve has further added tremendous fillip to the "Grow More Food Campaign".

The real task, therefore, is to increase indigenous agricultural wealth to make her national economy as early as possible self-sufficing. It is in the realisation of this basic fact alone and in the steps so far taken to meet the challenge of her recurring food-perils, that the last two and half years of her newly-won freedom records the biggest hit in India's achievement in national regeneration and recovery. But it seems, however, that in spite of these sincere efforts that have been so ably undertaken by the Government, the problem remains as acute as before. Indeed to a people under the threat of starvation it is perhaps poor comfort to be told that the key to the food problem lies in intensifying the food drive and the "Grow More Food Campaign".

The shadow of the atomic bomb lies over the world and the idea of our being blown off the face thereof has apparently hidden from us the considerably greater peril, *viz.*, that of disappearing from the earth by gradual decay and from psychosomatic diseases for want of sufficient food and nutriment. The food problem is now an international problem and it is recognised by food-scientists the world over, that there is every probability that the world's population will, in a comparatively few years, bypass its available food-supply. Sir John Boyd Orr, the eminent food expert, who had long been calling attention to the pressing need for a comprehensive food plan on a world-wide basis, summing up the situation at a recent conference in New Delhi, pointed out that the population of the world is increasing at the rate of about twenty million a year and that in all probability it will continue to do so until those countries that have a high birth rate have reached the standard of living and of education that have been attained in Great Britain. But he computes that the decline in population will not occur for a long time and that in the next twenty-five years or so, there will be another five-hundred millions added to the present world-population so that instead of there being a total

population of about 2,000 millions, there would be one of between 2,500 and 3,000 millions. If they are to be fed and fed properly, food production in the next quarter of a century, according to him, should have to be at least doubled.

How is this prodigious work to be accomplished? It is true that during the past, civilised states in Europe or Asia had had to face a similar problem and that, but for the devastation brought about by several wars and man-made famines, they would in all probability have managed to solve it. But, as contrasted with Asia, Europe had advantages which the other continents of the world could not some how or other enjoy. Although much of Europe's additional food came regularly in the past from advanced methods of agriculture, more of it came also from abroad—for instance, North and South Americas, Australia, India and the Far East—countries where unfortunately now there is not enough of virgin soil left untapped for exploitation of man's needs. Indeed, not only are there no reserves in these countries waiting to be opened up, but the fertility of land appears to have been considerably reduced due to soil erosion as a result of which to quote Sir John Boyd Orr, "the falling reservoir of land-fertility is the biggest problem facing mankind to-day". It would thus seem that possibly some remedy lies in the immediate establishment of some sort of correlation between a country's population and its capacity to produce food, and also by counter-checking over-industrialisation by method of planned enforced emigration of a select group of the population to countries that are in a position to grow more food and sustain their new immigrants. But, for any plan affecting such emigration of population for the purpose of food-economy, steps should be taken to prevent the country from being deprived of the more productive and efficient groups of her population.

The problem of food scarcity also centres round the question of reducing consumption by exercising some check on birth. In the past, population had been kept within bounds by periodic occurrence of wars, pestilence, famines and by a very high infant mortality. Most of these 'safeguards' have now been removed thanks to modern medical science and due to this, the increase in the population of many of the less highly

developed countries such as India has now been so steady as to render the immediate solution of the food-problem a very difficult task. There is another side to the question, namely, the method of reducing the population to an economic level by means of what is generally known as "family planning". But here, any intrusion by the State—already too active otherwise—into the private sanctum of the home would not be welcomed. Viewed against this general perspective, it is problematical whether India would be able to attain self-sufficiency in food by the target date of 1951 by merely following objective policies like "Grow More Food" and "Miss a Meal" movements. More and more education of her people in the cult of family-planning and self-control and a switch over to more easily available food material should also be emphasized if India's food problem is to be finally solved.

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• First European to visit India

According to Prof. Lev Berg, President of the Soviet Union's Geographical Society, the first European to visit India, in modern times, was Afanassi Nikitin, a Russian merchant, who arrived in the town of Bedar 480 years ago, that is, before Vasco Da Gama reached India.

• Mathematics in Ancient India

In ancient India Mathematics was divided into the Science of Numbers, Geometry and Algebra. The computation of the lowest and the highest numbers was well-known. In *Yajurveda*, we come across one, ten, hundred, thousand, ten-thousand, lakh, million, ten million, billion and so on. In these *Samhitas*, it is clearly evident that addition, subtraction, multiplication and division were well known. In *Satapatha*, we are informed that the whole of *Rigveda* contains 4,32,000 syllables. It is a little surprising that this number denotes also the total number of years in *Kaliyuga*. Besides, the decimal system too was in vogue. It is a well-known fact that the Arabs have taken the decimal system from India. As Macdonell points out, "what is quite certain is that our present decimal system, in its complete form with the zero, which enables us to do without the ruled columns of the Abacus, is of Indian origin. From the Indians, it passed to the Arabians, probably along with the astronomical tables brought to Baghdad by an Indian ambassador in 773 A.D." Algebraical or syllabic representation of the numerals too was very popular in India. *Aryabhatta* has given the principles of arriving at the square root and cube root of any given number. The value of zero too is discussed.

● Our Constitution

India's republican Constitution which the members of the Constituent Assembly signed on 24th January last weighs over forty pounds. Printed on vellum parchment paper, the historic document in English contains 289 pages for the Articles and Schedules and is expected to be indelible for over a thousand years. Two other volumes, hand-written by special calligraphists are not yet complete. Although signed by the members, they contain pages whose borders are illuminated in gold-like Moghul paintings. These two volumes—one in English and the other in Hindi—have been sent to Santiniketan where under the direction of Shri Nandalal Bose, the first pages of each Chapter and Schedule will be painted with pictures depicting the various periods in Indian history.

It is India that gave us the ingenious method of expressing all numbers by means of 10 symbols, each symbol receiving a value of position as well as an absolute value, a profound and important idea which puts our arithmetic in the first rank of useful inventions; and we shall appreciate the grandeur of this achievement if we remember that it escaped the genius of Archimedes and Apollonius.

LAPLACE.

(Famous French mathematician and astronomer, 1749–1827).

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● India Government continues Overseas Scholarship Scheme.

The Government of India's scheme of awarding scholarships to Indian and indigenous students in certain Asian and African countries, for studies in India, inaugurated last year, will be continued in 1950. The Government propose to award 70 scholarships, each valued at Rs. 200 per mensem, at an annual recurring cost of Rs. 3 lakhs this year, and include two more countries, Nigeria and Surinam (Dutch Guiana), in the scheme. The following will be the distribution of scholarships among students from the different countries in 1950: Forty scholarships to non-Indian students: Indonesia 3, China 2, Nepal 3, Afghanistan 3, Iran 2, Egypt 3 (on exchange basis only), South Africa 2, British East Africa (that is Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Zanzibar) 4, Malaya 2, Burma 2, Ethiopia 2, Ceylon 2, Siam 2, Bhutan 1, the Philippines 1, Indo-China 1, Tibet 1, Turkey 1, Portuguese Colonial Africa 1, Mauritius 1, Nigeria 1. Thirty scholarships to students of Indian origin domiciled abroad: South Africa 4, British East Africa 3, Ceylon 4, Malaya 4, Burma 4, Mauritius 3, Jamaica, Trinidad and British Guiana 3, Fiji Islands 3, Siam 1, Surinam (Dutch Guiana) 1. Last year 70 scholarships were sanctioned but owing to various factors only about 60 students were selected, involving a recurring annual expenditure of nearly Rs. 2 lakhs. The scheme has, as its objective, the fostering of cultural relations and cordiality with the countries concerned and the providing of such educational facilities as are available in India to students in whose countries they are not so developed. Students, who are already studying in India and who are not in receipt of any other scholarship or financial assistance, are eligible to the scholarship. But they have to apply through the Government of India's representative in the country of their domicile.

● Narendra Deva's Impressions of Visit to Bangkok and Rangoon.

Acharya Narendra Deva, Vice-Chancellor of the Lucknow University, who has returned to India after attending the Regional Conference of the United Nations Association at Bangkok and who on his way back stayed in Rangoon for five days, said in an interview that there was no discrimination against Indians in Burma. The Indians were treated on an equal

footing with the Burmese. Indians in Burma as well as in Siam enjoyed initial advantage over other foreigners since the people of both these countries recognised and admitted the fact that they owed their culture to India. However, both Burmese and the Siamese people were intensely nationalistic and this advantage was likely to be lost if the Indians in those countries did not identify themselves with the people. In Rangoon there had been no discrimination even against the Indian landlords with regard to payment of compensation.

The Burma Land Nationalisation Act, he said, was a progressive measure enacted with great speed and had enhanced the prestige and power of the Burmese Government. The maximum and minimum size of a holding had been limited under this law. The maximum compensation to be paid to landlords was 12 times the annual rental, though rent in Burma was much lower than that in India. Indian Chettis who were landlords in Burma, he said, had been agitating for some time to secure a higher rate of compensation and had also tried to canvass support in India. Consequently a move was afoot to send a delegation to press the claims of Chettis in Burma. The visit of such a delegation to Burma, he said, was inadvisable and improper at such a time since it was likely to be misunderstood as exercise of pressure. Further the visit of such a delegation would provide ground to certain hostile foreign elements in Burma to carry on anti-Indian propaganda. Even the Burma Indian Congress, the Acharya said, had wisely refrained from expressing its opinion on this matter. The general feeling of the Burmese towards India was one of friendliness and even the insurgents, including the Karens, did not oppose Indian interests.

Referring to the cultural ties that exist between India, Burma and Siam, the Acharya pointed out that elementary Sanskrit and Pali were compulsory languages up to certain standards both in Burma and Siam. In Siam there were many Sanskrit words of common use; for instance, currency note was called "dhan-patra", and the university was called "Maha Vidyalaya". The ancient capital of Siam was *Ayodha*, whose ruins are about 45 miles from Bangkok, and the road on which the residence of the Indian Ambassador in Siam is situated, is known as *Ayodha Road*. *Ramlila* is very popular all over Siam, but it is slightly different since the Siamese have their own version of the *Ramayana*. In the King's palace, there are mural paintings depicting various scenes from the *Ramayana*. The court priests in Siam are Brahmins; though the religion of the people and the King is Buddhism. The proposed coronation of the Siamese King is to be held according to Vedic rites. The royal priests still perform their ceremonies to the chanting of *Rigveda mantras* and *Satapatha Brahmins* which were probably taken along with them when the Brahmin priests migrated there from South India many centuries ago. In the royal temple in Siam the three deities enshrined were the Hindu Gods Vishnu, Shiva and Ganesh. The Siamese were a prosperous case-

loving people fond of art and beauty. They lived well and neatly and kept their houses clean and decorated. The country was prosperous, though most of the industries and commerce were controlled by foreigners. Beggary was unknown in Bangkok. There was little political life in Siam. The form of government was democracy under constitutional monarchy, but the democracy as practised there was a mockery. There were no political parties as people knew them in India and the Prime Minister, Pibul Songgram, wielded great power. He was something of an autocrat. He had even introduced sartorial legislation, banned the wearing of native dress and prohibited the chewing of *pan* on the ground that it was a dirty habit.

British West Indies

● Repatriation of Indians from Trinidad.

According to a report appearing in the *Port of Spain Gazette*, Trinidad (8th February 1950) Shri C. B. Mathura, Indian Councillor in the British West Indies is of the opinion that the question of repatriation of indentured Indian immigrants in Trinidad to India appears far from nearing settlement. Shri Mathura, it appears, has received a letter from Pandit Nehru saying that he (Nehru) did not agree with the passage rights of the immigrants as they have been set down by Shri Mathura. The Indian Prime Minister's interpretation is that the repatriates should pay half their passage. They could then proceed home after making independent arrangements for their next of kin. Adverting to this, Shri Mathura says that sometime in October 1949, at a mass meeting of Indians held at Debe under his chairmanship, it was decided to make representations to the local government to have those Indians who had completed their terms of indenture and years of stay in the colony, repatriated under the Immigration Ordinance. There were at least 3,000 Indians who had registered their intention of going back to India and hundreds of them had actually made cash deposits in keeping with the provisions of the Ordinance. He had directed two Indians at California to write to the Prime Minister of India stating their anxiety to return home. The Prime Minister had however written back to say that the Indian Commissioner in Port-of-Spain had already been requested to take up the question of repatriation to India with the Government of Trinidad, and the Commissioner had intimated to the Government of India that the local government was prepared to contribute half the cost of sea passages by the cheapest direct route. The immigrants were, however, to conclude arrangements for the other half of the passage and make suitable provisions for their dependents. Commenting on this reply, Shri Mathura said it seemed that the present Government of India were not aware of the Immigration Ordinance and the agreement which the Indians in that colony had made on their arrival.

This agreement had stated in part that every immigrant who had completed five years of indentureship plus another five years of stay in the colony was entitled to be repatriated to India at a cost of \$5 dollars, the balance to be paid under the Immigration Ordinance Funds provided for by what was known as the Planters' Fund. The agreement had gone on to state that the sons and daughters of the immigrants were also entitled to a free passage and this was substantiated by a letter written in 1891 by the Protector of Immigrants which was in the possession of Shri Mathura. The question of their half passage did not arise, he said, because when the immigrants arrived in Trinidad they were not asked to make any similar contributions to their relatives in India nor was any provided by the Crown Agents. He suggested that a copy of the Immigration Agreement should be sent to the Government of India. He further stated that before the outbreak of the last war a shipload of immigrants had been sent back home according to the agreement but later developments prevented further departures.

● Republic Day in British West Indies

Prof. Satya Charan, Commissioner for the Government of India in the British West Indies including British Guiana, held a grand reception at his residence in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, to celebrate the Indian Republic Day. The function opened with the Indian National Anthem *Jana-gana-mana* which was followed by reading of the official proclamation by the Commissioner. Expressions of felicitations were made by the Acting Governor of Trinidad and the Commissioner delivered a speech outlining the salient features of the republican Constitution of India. Entertainments on the occasion included exhibition of Indian films depicting the cultural heritage of India. Among the 600 people who attended the function were the local government officials, dean and members of the consular body, Members of the Legislative Assembly and prominent Indians of the colony.

● Mahatma Gandhi's Death Anniversary

A meeting was held to commemorate the second anniversary of the death of Mahatma Gandhi at the Rialto Cinema, St. James, Trinidad, under the chairmanship of Prof. Satya Charan, Commissioner for the Government of India in the BWI including B.G. The Mayor of Port-of-Spain, Alderman Norman Tang, Hon'ble Dr. Patrick Solomon, the Hon'ble Victor Bryaw, Mr. R. Mitchell, Mr. A. R. Ghany and Mr. Simbhoonath Capildeo spoke about the many-sided contribution of Gandhiji to the moral and political thought of the world. The Commissioner in his speech characterised Gandhiji's philosophy as a unique contribution to the realm of international politics, though for Indians it was only a recapitulation of the noble ideals preached by Lord Buddha some 2,500 years ago. Prof. Satya Charan appealed to the people of Trinidad to erect a suitable monument in memory of the Mahatma.

● Burma Indian Congress Resolutions

The following are some of the most important resolutions passed at the third annual session of the All-Burma Indian Congress held on 28th and 29th January 1950 in Rangoon.

I. Greetings to Indian Republic: This Conference of Indians in Burma offers its heartfelt felicitations to the Motherland on this unique historic occasion of the proclamation of India as a Sovereign Democratic Republic and rejoices with the rest of Indians all over the world in the happy culmination of the struggle for freedom of the country. At this hour of rejoicing it remembers with reverence and pays its respectful homage to the Father of the Nation and to all other leaders and martyrs who have suffered, made sacrifices and laid down their lives for the peace, prosperity and liberty of the people of India.

This Conference offers its respectful congratulations to Desh Ratna Babu Rajendra Prasad on his unanimous election and assumption of office as the Head and First President of the new Republic of India. The Conference feels gratified that the choice and honour has fallen on one who is not only eminently fitted for the office but is also the universally beloved leader of the people and an ardent follower of the Father of the Nation.

II. Citizenship: (a) Whereas the Constitution of the Union of Burma has conceded, amongst others to Indians resident in the country, a very special right in Section 11 (4) enabling them to acquire the citizenship of the country; and whereas due to disturbed conditions in the country it has not been possible for many Indians desirous of taking up citizenship to consult their relations, business associates and friends in areas occupied by insurgents; this Conference requests the Government of the Union of Burma to extend the time for the acquisition of citizenship under the Citizenship (Election) Act for three months in Rangoon and six months in the districts with effect from the date of such notification. (b) This Conference also requests the Government of the Union of Burma to reduce the fee for citizenship certificates laid down in clause 10 (i) (b) of the Union Citizenship Regulations, 1949 to Rs. 5. This Conference further requests the Government of the Union of Burma to grant citizenship certificates free of charge to all the other members of a family, whose head has been granted such a certificate on payment of a fee.

III. Land Nationalization: Having learnt that a delegation sponsored by the Government of India is coming to Burma in the near future to discuss the question of compensation in respect of land nationalization this Conference is of the opinion that any such delegation to this country until peace is fully restored here and the first general elections

have taken place, will be inopportune and unlikely to lead to any beneficial results and it requests the Government of the Union of Burma to arrange that the Land Compensation Commission may not make its decisions and award until a Government of India delegation has had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the Government of the Union of Burma.

IV. Exchange Control: While fully recognizing the right of the Government of the Union of Burma to control the flow of money out of the country and appreciating the need for such control at the present moment, this Conference has learnt with regret of the difficulties faced by Indians, particularly of the middle and poor classes, in obtaining permission from Exchange Control authorities for sending money to India for genuine needs. Delay is being caused in the final disposal of such applications due, among other reasons, to the fact that the authorities have not issued any instructions as to the particulars and documents which an applicant should submit to them along with his application. This Conference requests the Government of the Union of Burma to specify the particulars and supporting documents which an applicant should submit with his application. It invites the attention of Government to the fact that large numbers of Indians, who send comparatively small amounts, cannot possibly furnish any elaborate documentary proof in support of their applications. In view of the fact that Exchange Control accepts applications only through Scheduled Banks and as most Scheduled Banks now forward applications of their constituents only, this Conference requests Government to permit applications to be submitted also directly or through the Treasury Officers or any other officer specially designated for this work. This Conference further requests Government to arrange to expedite final orders on all applications for remittances.

V. Consular Offices: In view of the difficulty experienced by Indians in the districts where their number is big and problems varied, this Conference urges the Government of India to establish Consular Offices in the important towns in Burma like Akyab, Mandalay, Moulmein, Bassein, Taunggyi and Myitkyina. This Conference further urges that the consideration of this question may not be put off on grounds of economy as it would affect the interests of lakhs of Indian residents outside Rangoon.

VI. Education: This Conference (1) appreciates the work so far done by the Congress in pursuance of the resolution adopted at the last session with regard to making provisions for the proper education of Indian children in Burma, (2) thanks the Universities of Calcutta and Madras for having agreed to permit students from here to appear for their respective matriculation examinations, (3) urges upon the other Indian Universities and Examination Boards to extend to students from here the same facilities as have been allowed to them by the aforesaid Universities, and (4) directs the Working Committee of the All-Burma Indian Congress that steps be taken to put into effect the recommendations made

by the Education Sub-Committee in its recent report particularly with reference to the establishment of a Central Indian Educational Institution at Rangoon to prepare students for the local Matriculation Examination as also for the Matriculation Examinations of the Calcutta and Madras Universities.

VII. Foreigner's Registration: Whereas, the present rule requiring foreigners who return to the Union of Burma, after over two months' absence, to register themselves again as foreigners is causing hardship to Indians, especially to those who are entitled to permanent residence in the country under the Immigration Law, this Conference requests the Government of the Union of Burma to arrange to re-issue to Indians, who return to the Union of Burma within one year, their certificates of registration as foreigners without payment of any fee.

VIII. Immigration: This Conference is of the opinion that while the present immigration control is satisfactory within the framework of existing immigration laws, the whole question of immigration between India and Burma deserves to be reviewed and readjusted consequent upon the constitutional changes that have taken place in the two countries and the friendly and harmonious relations existing between the two peoples. This Conference, therefore, urges the Governments of India and the Union of Burma to take early steps for negotiation of an Immigration Agreement so that the law may be placed on a more permanent basis and the procedure made less costly and cumbersome.

Ceyl

● Jaffna pays Homage to Gandhi

The second anniversary of the death of Mahatma Gandhi was observed in the Jaffna Town Hall on 30th January. Two processions, one from Vannarponnai, headed by the Indian community, and the other Colombuthurai reached the Town Hall. The proceedings included prayers recited by Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and Christians. Gandhi Day was also observed at Kayts and Velanai by holding mass meetings under the auspices of the Karampan Rural Development Literary Society and the Kalaimagal Seva Sangam of Velanai.

● Ceylon became Free because of India, says Madras Minister

On 19th February 1950, Mr. K. Madhava Menon, Madras Minister, while addressing the eleventh anniversary meeting of the Bharath Seva Mandalam at Colombo, referring to Indo-Ceylon problems, said that Indians in Burma, Malaya, Siam and South Africa are experiencing more difficulties than Indians in Ceylon. Whether that problem was the creation of certain self-interested politicians or the result of ill-will on the part of

indigenous people should be studied. India achieved her independence by a bitter struggle and after untold sacrifice. Ceylon became free without a struggle because of India becoming free. If Ceylon Indians impress this fact on the indigenous population they would certainly show goodwill and friendliness. Whatever the problems, they should be settled between Ceylon and the Indian Government. The best course would be for Ceylon Indian leaders to settle it with the Ceylon Government themselves.

East Africa

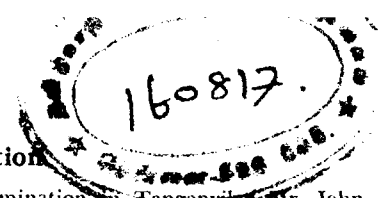
● Prof. Anand in Nairobi

Prof. S. S. Anand, a representative of the Swadhyaya Mandal, Pardi (Surat), India, visited Nairobi in the course of a world tour to propagate Indian culture and philosophy. The Swadhyaya Mandal is in existence for over 30 years engaged in research and publication of accurate vedic literature and its translation. Shri Anand will also study in the course of his visit the various problems affecting the Indians residing in foreign countries. While in Nairobi he gave several talks and contributed many articles in the papers on religious, philosophical and cultural subjects relating to India. Later he is expected to visit Zanzibar, Uganda and Tanganyika.

● Indian Youth League on Hartwell Report

The following resolution has been unanimously adopted by the Indian Youth League of Nairobi:

The Indian Youth League, Nairobi, having considered the Report of the Select Committee on Indian Education, is of the opinion that the principle of racial taxation for social services, as recommended, is absolutely unjustifiable and should therefore be rejected. It, therefore, cannot accept the Report which recommends a "communal tax" for the education of the Indian children. This meeting is also of the opinion that it is the State's sole responsibility to pay for all social services and is further convinced that the additional money needed for Indian education can be raised by the ordinary principle of taxation, namely, that all should pay taxes according to their ability and the benefits be equitably apportioned to meet the educational needs of the pupils of all schools irrespective of their race. This meeting is further of the opinion that (1) the present vote for Indian education is inadequate and should be raised; (2) the school age should be five years; (3) a provision should be made for compulsory education for all or else, every facility should be provided by the Government to all pupils who or whose parents consider they can profit by it.



● Ending of Racial Discrimination

Britain intends to end racial discrimination in Tanganyika. Mr. John Lamb, Political Liaison Officer for the territory, told the United Nations Trusteeship Council on 9th February. Britain administers Tanganyika under United Nations trusteeship. Mr. Lamb, replying to questions and views of delegates on Britain's report on the territory, said every effort would be made to speed up education and to establish inter-racial schools. Mr. Lamb said he did not think there had been any serious arguments against the "wisdom and propriety of our inter-territorial organisation with Kenya and Uganda". Other points from Mr. Lamb's statement were: The question of an electoral system will receive special consideration; the newly constituted Central Legislative Council will be brought into being at the earliest possible date as through education, improved health and so on, the efficiency and productivity of the African workers increase, so will he be able to command higher wages; development of an independent African Press will doubtless come in due course.

● Two more Scholarships for Africans

The Commissioner for the Government of India in British East Africa has announced the award of two more scholarships for a period of 4-5 years for African students generously offered by Shri Hemraj Nathooobhai Sha of Nairobi (Kenya) and the Hon'ble Shri C. K. Patel, Bar-at-law, of Jinja (Uganda).

● East African Congress Appeal

The East African Indian National Congress has protested against attempts by European communities in Kenya and Tanganyika to "suppress the legitimate rights of non-European races". The Executive Committee of the Congress passed a resolution welcoming proposals by the Tanganyika Government for changes in the constitution of the territory, which Britain administers under United Nations Trusteeship. The Committee particularly welcomed plans for eventually giving equal unofficial representation in the Legislature to Africans and non-Africans, and for election of non-Africans from a common electoral college of Europeans and Asians. "This Committee fervently hopes the Tanganyika Government will not yield to the clamour of a small European community and that it will not abandon these progressive proposals," the resolution said.

● Indians Climb Kenya Mountain

The honour of being the first Asian to reach one of the highest snow-capped peaks on Mount Kenya goes to Shri Shahane, Information Officer to the Indian Commissioner in East Africa. He was one of a party of Asians who despite heavy snow-storm reached Point Linana on 14th February, 1950. Mrs. Pant, who was one of the party climbed up to a height of 15,000 feet. The party included a 14-year old boy,

Aravind Desai who reached the peak second. The peak is 16,300 feet high and lies on the Equator.

● Indian Cultural Institute

The Indian Cultural Institute, Mombasa came into being on the 15th August 1949. As its name indicates it is interested in and stands for Indian culture. An Indian gentleman placed at the disposal of the Institute one large room in which the activities of the Institute are being carried on since 2nd October 1949. Some members of the Theosophical Society, which has a Lodge in Mombasa, carry on the work of *Bhagavad-Gita Pathashala* in which Gita classes are being held daily. Every Saturday has been set apart and is being observed as a commemoration day to keep the memory of Mahatmaji green. On this day after the Ashram prayers some *Pravachana* is being given and portions from "My Experiments with Truth" by Gandhiji is being read and explained. This is being done under the auspices of Gandhiji Society of which Shri P. D. Master is the Honorary Secretary. Among other activities carried on by the Institute are the reading of *Ramayana* every Sunday and reading some well known author on the characters in the *Mahabharat*.

On the 26th January, 1950 the inauguration day of the Republic of India, the members met early in the morning. There were mass prayers. Shri P. D. Master read the first few lines of the Preamble to the Indian Constitution in Sanskrit and briefly explained the significance of the occasion. Thereafter the pledge taken by the members of the Constituent Assembly was explained to the audience. Sweets were distributed among 1,500 school children of all races (European, Arab, African and Indian). On the 30th January 1950, the anniversary of the passing away of Mahatmaji, members gathered together early in the morning. There were prayers of all religions. After the singing of the favourite Hymn of Mahatmaji "Vaishnav Jana To Tene Kahiye" they dispersed. In the evening there were *Pravachana* and prayers again. Hundreds of copies of a small booklet on Gandhiji in Swahili, an African language were distributed among the Africans. One of the African teachers present said that they would always remember the Indians for the sweets and the books that they received.

● Stricter Immigration Laws in Kenya

Shri Guru Charan Dass, whose re-entry into Kenya has been banned by the Government of that country writes in a letter to the Editor, "Hindustan Times", New Delhi on 16th February, 1950 that Indians in Kenya are suffering from great disabilities at the hands of British imperialism. Stricter immigration laws are being enacted with a view not only to restrict the entry of Indians into the Colony but also to exclude those who try to maintain their self-respect against the tyranny of the Whites. During the war the Government of Kenya restricted the entry of Indians into the colony on the pretence of shortage of residential accommodation

and tried to bluff the Government of India as well, that the restrictions were only temporary. No sooner the war was over than the Government of Kenya enacted permanent measures in spite of strong opposition from the local Indian community. The Indian community is helpless, for although Indians form a large community of residents in the colony as against the Europeans they have very little representation in the Councils. The White settlers have been agitating for Dominion Status for Kenya since 1926. Attainment of such a status means further slavery of a lakh of Indians and 15 million Africans to the Whites as in South Africa, concludes Shri Das.

● Tagore's Play on Nairobi Stage

For the first time in East Africa, an entirely Indian cast presented an English play. It was the *Post Office* by Rabindranath Tagore and was staged on a specially prepared stage at the Indian Commissioner's reception on the 26th January 1950. Later, the performance was given for the benefit of the public in regular theatres.

Ethiop

● Indian Republic Day

Local Indian residents gathered *en bloc* at the premises of their Association on 26th January to celebrate the inauguration of the Republic of India. Many prominent members of the community attended the function. There was a special programme over Radio Addis Ababa, consisting of a talk by Mr. Menezes, President of the Indian Association, followed by a recital of Indian music.

● Pandit H. N. Kunzru's visit to Addis Ababa

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru, accompanied by Mr. Gundevia, Joint Secretary of the External Affairs Ministry of the Government of India, arrived in Addis Ababa en route to South Africa on 29th January 1950. They were received by the President of the Indian Association, Mr. I. Menezes, and other members of the Indian community there. There was a reception for them at the Indian Association the same evening where all members of the Indian community were present. After a welcome speech by Mr. I. Menezes, Pandit Kunzru spoke to the audience in Hindi which was much appreciated. He emphasized that every Indian there was the ambassador of India and that the name of India and the esteem for India in that country remained in their hands. Afterwards the Indian Association gave a dinner in honour of Pandit Kunzru which was attended by more than 30 prominent Indians. The next morning the distinguished visitors were entertained to tea by the local Indian firm 'Nathoo Mooljee', where more than a dozen prominent Indians were present. Later Pandit Kunzru presided over a meeting at the Indian

Association, convened to commemorate the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, at which he spoke on Mahatma Gandhi's life and exhorted all to follow Mahatma's footsteps, his teachings and ideals and to uphold the greatness of India.

French Assembly adopts Referendum Bill

The French National Assembly has passed the bill authorising the French Government to fix the date and organisation of the referendum in Pondicherry, Mahe, Yanam and Karikal, the French settlements in India. The Bill also authorised the French Government to meet all travelling and living expenses of the neutral observers of the referendum. M. Jean Letourneau, Minister of Overseas Territories, declared in a statement on 24th February that France would "scrupulously respect" the result of this referendum to decide the future of the French settlements in India. No discriminatory measures would be taken against anyone. He said that whatever the result of the vote "we do not believe our friendly relations with the Indian Government will be altered".

Germany

● India Institute

The Indian Institute (which used to be the Indian Section of *Die Deutsche Akademie*, Munich) has been re-established to carry on its activities in a very modest way. After two years' (1926-28) efforts on the part of Dr. Taraknath Das, aided by his late lamented wife Mary Keatinge Das and many German friends of India, the India Institute of *Die Deutsche Akademie* was started in 1928 and the first group of four Indian scholars who received the *Deutsche Akademie* Fellowship (one for Bio-Chemistry, one for Engineering, one for Indology and one for Medicine) arrived in Munich in 1929. The work of the Institute in securing scholarships for advanced post-graduate Indian students in German universities and engineering colleges and helping Indian scientists to gain practical experience in various industries, continued with great success until during World War II when these activities had to be stopped. During its existence of over ten years, the India Institute of *Die Deutsche Akademie* aided more than a hundred Indian scholars to get higher education and practical training. It was under the auspices of India Institute that the late Professor Benoy Kumar Sarkar of Calcutta University gave a series of lectures on "Modern India" and acted as a Visiting Professor to various universities. The Indian Institute of Munich received many distinguished Indian visitors such as the late Rabindranath Tagore, the late Jagadish Chandra Bose, Professor Raman and others. During the month of October 1949, through the initiative and active support of Dr.

Taraknath Das the India Institute has been re-established in Munich, Germany.

Indo-China

● Remittances from Indo-China

Dr. B. V. Keskar, Deputy Minister for External Affairs, Government of India, said in Parliament that special remittance facilities granted to Indians in Indo-China were discontinued but the facilities of making remittances through normal banking channels as permitted by exchange control regulations of the Government of Indo-China were still in force. No representation had been received from the Indo-China Indian Association, nor have any steps been taken to give relief to the dependents in India.

Malaya

● Resolutions of the Malayan Indian Congress

Following are some of the resolutions adopted at a meeting of representatives of Regional and Local Indian Congresses and members of the Malayan Indian Congress Working Committee held on 5th March 1950:

I. *Federal Citizenship*: As the people of the Federation of Malaya are today faced with the issue of the Federal Citizenship, it is resolved that as a matter of principle, the Government should clear up the issue of the rights and duties attached to the Federal Citizenship; that the qualification for a certificate of citizenship, that one should be able to speak Malay and English with reasonable proficiency, is highly disadvantageous, particularly to the Indian population and extremely restrictive in principle. It is urged that this piece of qualification should be removed; that the clauses requiring of a person to conform to Malay customs as a pre-requisite to become a Federal Citizen should go as this will render it difficult for most of non-Malays to become Federal Citizens; that the residential qualification for a person to become a Federal Citizen should be reduced to 5 years.

II. *Demand for Self-Government*: The Malayan Indian Congress reiterates its requests to the British Government to announce a political, economic and educational programme designed to help Malaya achieve democratic self-government in a reasonably short period. We trust that such a plan will greatly strengthen the confidence of the Malayan people in the Government and enable them to be a great asset to the Commonwealth. We have a constitution that is neither democratic nor does it contain the seeds of democratic growth. A large proportion of children of school-going age either cannot afford education or have no schools to go to and the economy of the country is still precariously dependent on

tin and rubber. In the considered opinion of the Malayan Indian Congress, the only solution of all these ills is to bring into being a Constituent Assembly to be elected by popular vote that should be entrusted with the task of framing a new Constitution for Malaya that would include Singapore.

III. *Land Settlement Scheme*: In order to create a real interest in the progress and prosperity of Malaya, a long term policy of land settlement is an urgent need. The Malayan Indian Congress urges upon the Malayan Government and the employers of labour to give serious consideration to this matter and to devise and introduce land settlement schemes for workers who have adopted this country as their homeland.

IV. *Indian Workers' Cooperative Societies*: The Malayan Indian Congress is of opinion that the state and other workers' cooperative societies which have hitherto been functioning merely as credit and loan societies, should be encouraged and assisted to enable their members to purchase their own plots and make houses and urges the Government to take necessary steps to this end.

V. *Education*: The Malayan Indian Congress is greatly concerned about the large proportion of children of school-going age who are not attending school either because they cannot afford to go to school or there are no schools to go to. The Congress is also concerned about the extent of adult illiteracy in Malaya. The development of democracy in Malaya has been and is being greatly hindered by this drawback. Furthermore there is an inherent danger to law and order in this backwardness. The danger is all the more great in view of the growing threats of world developments to political and economic stability. The Congress, therefore, urges the Government to grant free primary education, make education compulsory for all children of 15 years and under and work a scheme for the education of adults.

● Anti-Bandit Campaign : Appeal to Indians

Mr. G. V. Thayer, President of the Malayan Indian Association, has issued the following appeal to Indians:

"Indians in Malaya are a community settled in this country with an age-long tradition and we have as much stake in the maintenance of law and order as the Malays and Chinese. The prosperity of our community is entirely dependent on the prevalence of peaceful life in the country unperturbed by bandit disturbances. It is needless to state that part of the amount which is now spent by the Government on anti-bandit activities is contributed by the Indian community in Malaya. It is our duty to save that money for utility schemes. To save that money, it is imperative that we should see the end of bandit activities in Malaya at an early date. I, therefore, appeal to all the Indians in this country who have made Malaya their home to help the anti-bandit campaign started by the Government to the best of their ability and prove them-

selves true citizens of Malaya. It will not be out of place to state in this connection that Mahatma Gandhi was opposed to the violence used by the bandits and that the Government of India is itself taking decisive and strong action against similar elements within India. In conformity with the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and the policy now followed by the Government of India, all Indians in Malaya should aid the anti-bandit campaign and help restoration of peace and order".

● Club House for Singapore Indian Association

At long last, in its 27th year of existence, the Singapore Indian Association is going to have a building of its own. Thanks to the determination of some individuals, the Association has managed to raise a fund of a little over \$ 60,000 towards which the highest individual donation is one of \$ 10,000 by Mr. Hardyal Singh of Messrs. Gian Singh & Co. The construction of Singapore Club House, on the land given near Balestier Road on long lease by the Government, commenced on the auspicious day of Pongal, 14th January 1950.

● Indian Labour in Malaya

Dr. B. V. Keskar, Deputy Minister for External Affairs, said in Parliament that the Malayan Legislature has passed a Bill for withdrawing the privilege enjoyed so far by the Indian Agent in Malaya to inspect the condition of Indian labour there. The Bill was passed in December 1949, but had not yet been implemented. The Agent of the Government of India had been consulted when the Bill was pending, but it had been passed in spite of his disapproval. The Indian Representative in Malaya has taken up the question whether, after the implementation of the Act, he could look after the interests of Indian labourers there informally.

● Bandits' Attack Indian Rubber Estate

An Indian-owned rubber estate in the Muar area of Malaya was attacked by bandits armed with bren, sten and tommy guns and rifles early in February. The entire factory of the estate (Palaniarapa Estate) and labourers' lines were burnt down. The labourers were not molested. Representatives of various Indian associations and unions in Selangor State have unanimously resolved to give full support to the Malayan Peoples' Anti-bandit Month. They have also decided to set up a liaison committee whose function would be to advise the State's Anti-bandit Month organiser on problems affecting the community.

● Malaya Indians Celebrate January 26

The Indian Republic Inauguration Day was celebrated on 26th January 1950, with great eclat by the Indian community throughout Malaya.

Highlights of the celebrations were flag-hoisting, prayers, feeding of the poor, entertainment of children, mass meetings, etc.

Mauritius

● Indian Republic Day Celebrations

Vast crowds numbering over seventy thousand participated in the Indian Republic Day Celebrations in Port Louis organised by the Commissioner for India, Shri Dharam Yash Dev and Shrimati Dev. The celebrations began with performance of *Havnayagna* by *sanyasis*. At mid-day, the flag was hoisted over the Indian Commissariat Building and local Indian bands played *Jana Gana Mana*. The crowd cheered and raised cries of *Bharat Mata-ki-Jai*. Bugles and conches were blown. Immediately after flag-hoisting, the crowds from the Commissioner's office marched in procession and reached Champ-de-Mars Race Course Maidan where the Commissioner for India, His Excellency the Governor and others delivered speeches. A special feature of the celebrations was the prevalence of the utmost cordiality between the Hindu and Muslim sections of the Mauritius Indian population and much of the celebrations' success was due to the active cooperation given by many leaders of the local Muslim community and merchants who were very active members of the Central Organising Committee.

Pakistan

● Hindu Shrines in Pakistan Misused

Hindu and Sikh shrines numbering 895 are reported to have been desecrated in Pakistan according to a Press Note issued on 10th February 1950 by the Indian Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. A list of about 800 Hindu and Sikh shrines reported to have been desecrated was forwarded by the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Government of India, to the Government of Pakistan in June and July, 1948. Several other cases were reported thereafter. In spite of repeated reminders, no reply has been received by the Government of India so far. Since March 1949, the High Commissioner for India in Pakistan has forwarded to the Pakistan authorities a further list of 95 temples and Gurdwaras, of which 71 are situated in Karachi. No reply has been received from the Pakistan Government. Some of the non-Muslim religious places in Karachi are very close to the Secretariat and other offices and are still being used for the rehabilitation of refugees or for purposes other than those for which they are intended. The following examples, typical of numerous such cases, will show the use to which shrines are being put in Pakistan. (1) The Sikh Gurdwara behind the Secretariat police station, Karachi, is being used as the Muslim League National Guards centre with a quotation in Arabic painted on the main gate; (2) The Khalsa Darbar, opposite the Garden

police station, Karachi, is occupied by Muslim refugees for residential purposes; (3) The Akal Bhunga Sikh Darbar, Lawrence Road, Karachi, is occupied by Muslim refugees for residential purposes.

Portuguese East Africa

● Indian Republic Day in Beira

The Indian Republic Day was celebrated by the Beira Hindu Community with all pomp and splendour. The Governor and the British Consul attended the function which took place in a school. The Portuguese National Flag, the Indian National Flag and the Union Jack were unfurled. On the occasion Messrs. Sheth Damodar Anandji & Co. declared a very handsome donation for the poor students and hospital patients in the District of Manika and Saphala which was handed over to the Governor who assured that it would be spent as desired. It appears that no Muslim took part in the programmes. On 30th January, the anniversary of Gandhiji's death was also observed.

Portuguese India

● Harsh treatment

The Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru reiterated in Parliament on 9th February that Goa should join India. He said that according to the Government of India's information, complaints of arrest, search of political suspects and of ill-treatment of political prisoners are common in Goa. There were 18 political prisoners. One of these was an Indian national and the rest Goans. There is severe censorship of the Press. The message of greetings sent by the Indian Consul-General at Goa to the President on 26th January last was censored in Goa and was not published. Pandit Nehru's statement on Goa was also censored and was not allowed to be published in Lisbon. To the question, "Is it a fact that Indians with pro-Indian sympathies were sent to an island near Lisbon", Pandit Nehru replied, "Yes, but we must remember the word 'Indian' is used in a vague sense. They are Indians but Portuguese nationals. All the inhabitants of Goa are Indians but in law their nationality is different."

South Africa

● Cape Town Talks

The official joint communique of the preliminary conference held at Cape Town between the Governments of India, Pakistan and South Africa, issued on 19th February 1950, said that the three nations had agreed to call a Round Table Conference "to explore all possible ways and

means of settling the Indian question in South Africa. It was agreed that neither the discussions under this formula nor the holding of the Round Table Conference itself, would involve any departure from, or prejudice to, the standpoints of the respective Governments on the question of domestic jurisdiction." The South African Minister of the Interior, Dr. Donges told the Union House of Assembly on 20th February that at the very outset it was made clear to the Conference that, as far as South Africa was concerned, the talks had their genesis in informal talks between the Prime Ministers of South Africa and India in London in April 1949. It was necessary to clarify South Africa's approach to the talks in view of the attitude which the Union had consistently taken up at the United Nations in regard to the interpretation and over-riding effect of Article II (7) of the United Nations Charter—the domestic jurisdiction clause. South Africa had further to safeguard herself from any implication that by agreeing to the talks, she was admitting or countenancing interference in what was clearly and purely a domestic matter. "At the preliminary conference itself, this position was repeatedly reaffirmed and re-emphasised", said Dr. Donges. Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru, Leader of the Indian Delegation to the tripartite talks, refuting the contention of Dr. Donges that the problem of South Africa was a purely domestic matter, said: "Mr. Donges says that the issue is domestic, but we adhere to the stand taken by us before the United Nations that the problem is not a domestic issue of the South African Government. They evidently have also not given up their contention."

● Round Table Conference Welcomed

In a Press statement, the South African Indian Congress, welcoming the announcement of a Round Table Conference, said that it sincerely hoped that the proposed Conference would be held in the very near future and that the decision to convene it would have the effect of arresting any further deterioration of the position of Indians in the Union. They expressed their hope that statesmanship of the highest order would prevail henceforth so that when the representatives of the three governments meet they would do so in an atmosphere of goodwill and understanding. They reiterated that expatriation was no solution at all to the Indian question. In keeping with the United Nations decisions it would be the task of the three governments concerned to arrive at a working formula for the extension of human rights to the Indians in South Africa. The question of franchise, the question of restrictions against ownership and occupation of property, the colour bar in industry, the civil service and the armed forces and the restrictions against freedom of movement between provinces, are fundamental questions which must receive priority at the Conference. It must also discuss the inadequate educations, housing, hospitalisation and other facilities for Indians—in fact, all aspects of Indian life in South Africa.

● Congress Banquet to Pandit Kunzru

About seven hundred guests attended a banquet in the Durban City Hall on 15th February, 1950, in honour of the Indian delegation to the tripartite talks. The banquet was given by the Natal Indian Congress and the guests included Africans, Indians and Europeans. Welcoming the delegates Dr. G. M. Naicker who presided, said: "We are pleased to welcome you not merely because you are Indians but because you are championing the freedom of all irrespective of race." Continuing he said, "We live in a democratic age and cannot allow discrimination against human beings merely because of the colour of their skins. We are not asking for the moon, but only for these things which are ours by right and should be conceded even without asking."

Mr. A. W. G. Champion, President, African National Congress (Natal) said that he was glad to take the opportunity of conveying to the Government and people of India the heartfelt thanks of his community for the work of the Indian delegation at United Nations in the interest of the African people. "We can claim no better friends than the delegates of India at the UN" he said. "We do not know what took place at Cape Town but knowing the record of your country's representatives at the UN, we feel certain you did not forget us in your private talks." Speaking of cooperation with the Indian community, Mr. Champion said, "So far as the Natal Indian Congress is concerned they are doing everything to help bring about better understanding with the African National Congress. I willingly accept the help of the Natal Indian Congress in this connection. I hope that this cooperation will continue in spite of forces that are trying to work against it. We have to wage a united fight against our common enemy—the enemy of freedom". Concluding, the speaker asked the delegation to convey the thanks of the voiceless people of South Africa to the Prime Minister and people of India for their continued interest.

Mr. Swales, President of the African Peoples' Organisation, representing the coloured community said it was not possible to attain freedom without Coloured, Indian and African cooperation. The success of the Indian people will be the success of all oppressed peoples. They were glad to know that in their struggle there were a large number of European friends.

Mr. D. G. Mtinkulu, Principal of the Inanda College, said that the function in honour of the Indian delegates which brought the different racial groups together, was a great achievement. It was seldom that there were such mixed gatherings. He took the opportunity to thank the Government of India for offering assistance in the cultural field by providing scholarships for African students. He assured the visitors that the large mass of his people were deeply grateful for India's efforts in trying to cultivate cultural associations. Unfortunately there were difficulties with regard to passports. Speaking of Indo-African relations Mr. Mtinkulu said there was no cause for believing that there was hatred between the two communities. He looked forward to marching together in the common fight for freedom.

Pandit Kunzru who spoke at length said he was very pleased particularly in having met the representatives of the African and Coloured communities and to hear from them words of appreciation and thanks for the little that India was able to do. Referring to the United Nations he said that India was happy to champion the cause of those who were not represented there. Regarding the tripartite talks recently concluded in Cape Town he said that the three delegations had made unanimous recommendations to their respective governments and if these recommendations were accepted, a Round Table Conference would follow soon. India had been asking for such a Round Table Conference since 1945. India had to go to the UN because the Union Government was not convinced of this course.

● Indians employed in Gold Mines

Dr. Keskar, Deputy Foreign Minister, told Parliament that there were at present 49 Indians employed in gold mines in South Africa and according to Government's information, there was no restriction on their movements.

United Kingdom

● 10,000 Indians vote in British Elections

In Britain's General Elections on 23rd February, 1950, about 10,000 Indians exercised their voting rights out of some 15,000 qualified to vote. There are five main Indian communities in the United Kingdom. Some 10,000 live in the London area and the others in Tilbury, Cardiff, Liverpool and Birmingham—the latter's Indian population being about 2,000. Britain's estimated 25,000 Indian population includes permanent Indian residents and students but not of course, transient and fluctuating visitors like seamen. The political consciousness of the Indians was characteristically keen, and in many ways they approached the poll with as great interest as their fellow electors. A number of Indians were among a party of overseas students representing 14 countries who attended the count of votes for the city and Westminster Parliamentary division at the Westminster City Hall on the night of the election.

United States

● Indian Art Exhibit

An exhibit which covers 4,500 years in the development of Hindu and Buddhist art is now on view at the country museum, Los Angeles and will continue up to 16 April, 1950. The display, the largest collection of ancient Indian art ever to be shown in the United States, includes sculpture, paintings, wood and ivory carvings, carpets, terra cotta, ceramics and jewelry.

To The Editor

Black Market and Corruption

Recently in a Co-operative Stores, cloth got accumulated and could not be sold though sale was open to non-members. A certain enterprising S.D.O. ordered them to be placed in the weekly Hat for sale. The experiment succeeded and cloth sold like hot cakes. This shows the extremely conservative and shy character of the Indian buyer. He prefers to continue not merely the goods but also the channels through which he has been purchasing so long. He has an instinctive hostility to anything institutional or governmental. Psychology dies hard. He has known government through officers, and officers have changed very little except in their relation to the middle classes. Thus the hostility continues and he keeps away from government measures. But in dealing with business-men he feels no hostility. He feels a strange security in their hands, however insecure and fleeing those hands might be. Thus the psychological position is that he will willingly be fleeced by a business-man rather than unwillingly be saved by a new-fangled government institution. The business-man, besides fleecing him, attends to his difficulties and helps him to make the choice. Most of us are deficient in this capacity of making the right choice for lack of training, but few of us know it. In comparison, the touch of the government servant or institutional salesman is wooden and unsympathetic. There is no beam of recognition in the eyes, no inviting manner of the private salesman in him. Rather there is a distantness and perpetual boredom. Even at best there is condescension which hurts. Matched against this is the ordinary purchaser who is mostly ignorant, often illiterate and lacks the courage born of knowledge and understanding. So he is held back from the government officers and the institutions by sheer dread of the unknown. In this category falls also the lower middle class, even if literate. Thus the percentage of ignorant buyers would be about eighty. Hence nearly 80% of our buyers need for their purchases a friendly and inviting look and sympathetic advice to make the choice. In government and institutional shops unfamiliar stiffness constantly repels them. Till this shy-

ness and conservatism of the buyer is dispelled by courage born of knowledge and confidence in new methods and channels, he will tend to avoid government and institutional shops. Till then he will be fleeced in high market rather than seek cheaper government stores. Till then in scarcity conditions, the field for blackmarket will remain.

If it were possible to put the entire nation on ration (like England) then they might have been forced to cooperate with the government and in that way, after a period of initial suffering, might have got off their psychological complex. But at present barring the urban population which is a small fraction of our man-power, the bulk is outside the pale of rationing. Thus in the vast non-rationed areas there is endless scope for rates to rise, and non-government market or blackmarket to function. It is this which tends continuously to crack the shell of the rationed areas. Even in the rationed areas, due to psychological complex there is a larger section of the population which foregoes its quota knowingly, unknowingly, grumblingly but without complaint. This quota tends to go under. It is this endless scope for blackmarket which is being exploited by the business class. The scope for black-money is equally vast. So the honesty-purchasing capacity of black-money is also vast. It is this black-money which is corrupting our officers and corroding the administrative machine. In a country where rights are unknown and when known unenforced, where calling upon fate is regarded as sufficient amends for suffering, blackmarket and corruption have free play. Once these set in, one goes on promoting the other in a vicious circle like the inflationary spiral.

Long-term remedies of this crisis are obvious:

- (1) Over-production to wipe out scarcity.
- (2) Knowledge of confidence in, and practical understanding of, government institutions and their working.

Short-term remedies are:

- (1) Choosing for government and institutional shops, salesmen and workers from the business class, thus replacing the wooden bureaucratic approach and dealings of government and institutional officers by the helpfulness, friendliness, sympathy and understanding of the business dealer.

(2) Replacing government departmentalism with its dilatoriness, inefficiency and out-of-time decisions by sufficiently empowered corporations to act with speed, efficiency and in right time, on the spot.

(3) Concentrated drive to make the people understand the Government channels and their *modus operandi*, and trying to adjust the institution to popular psychology rather than imposing an institution from above and then expecting mass psychology to adapt itself to it.

(4) Vow by the public not to hoard and not to purchase any scarce commodity unless indispensable.

(5) Programme of austerity for the entire nation.

(Sd.) K. P. Tripathi,

Principal, Darrang College, Tezpur (Assam)

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—Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

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