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Indian Affairs



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ANNAS

CONGRESS BULLETIN

No. 2]

1950

[MAR.-APR.

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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

MAY, 1950

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The Shape of Things

The formation of a new Dominion by federating the islands of the British West Indies has been recommended by an organisation called the Standing Closer Association Committee of the British Caribbean. According to the British Colonial Office Report, which has revealed this suggestion, the units comprising the proposed Caribbean Federation would be Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Jamaica, Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, Trinidad, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica. There is to be a federal legislature consisting of a Governor-General, a Senate and House of Assembly and Trinidad is to be the capital. The proposal on the face of it looks quite innocuous and progressive and would, under normal circumstances, be welcomed by the people concerned.

But there is a big fly in the ointment. The Committee suggesting this refers to it as "the shortest path towards a real political independence for the *British peoples* of the region, within the framework of the British Commonwealth." Our readers will please note the words "British peoples". Are there no other peoples in these islands and are they not anxious to secure political independence quite as much as their countrymen of British stock? Does this not lead to the suspicion that what is envisaged is another Dominion on the South African pattern

Editor: Dr. N. V. RAJKUMAR,
B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.B., Ph.D.

India in particular is very much interested in the future of the West Indies, for there are large Indian communities scattered from Jamaica to British Guiana. Although they do not suffer from any political disabilities, they are dominated, socially and economically by certain groups. The Tyson findings of 1938 bear witness to the sore plight of our countrymen in the West Indies. Such being the case, Indians, who have by their industry and perseverance, established themselves in these colonial areas, have a very real objection to the proposed scheme for federation. While they do not seek for themselves any special treatment and are prepared to join hands with the other racial groups in demanding self-government, they cannot be expected to meekly submit to domination by the insignificant White minority which is what this particular scheme would be in effect.

It is, therefore, encouraging to note that the Government of India are actively interesting themselves in the subject. Dr. B. V. Keskar, Deputy Foreign Minister, assured the Indian Parliament the other day that Government were "watching developments and would certainly take whatever action was considered necessary to protect the interests of Indians in the West Indies."

The All-India Cooperative Conference which was held in New Delhi on 25th March adopted a number of resolutions on the role of cooperatives in the country. Among the resolutions adopted is one urging the Governments to distribute all controlled goods through cooperative societies and stores to eliminate blackmarket and ensure adequate supply.

The Conference which was convened by the Indian Co-operative Union, was presided by Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya. Representatives from the various constituent states of the Republic were present.

In a resolution on cooperation, the Conference said: "Cooperative ownership and distribution must form a vital

plank in any programme for the transformation of the country's economy to one meant to satisfy the needs of the people and improve their standard of living." By another resolution, the Conference pleaded for "strengthening and encouraging co-operative farming by giving special concessions such as lower rates for reclamation, tractor ploughing and putting in of tube wells". In a resolution on distribution of controlled goods, the Conference urged the Government "to distribute all controlled goods through cooperative societies and stores in order to eliminate blackmarket and ensure equitable supply". It also stressed the necessity for Government giving sufficient quantity of controlled raw materials in order to encourage production and ensure full employment for their members. The Conference also urged on the Government the need for a central trade centre and showroom which would provide "a vital link between the producers and consumer goods distributing sections within the cooperative movement itself" and also provide "opportunities for the export of goods produced by Indian co-operative societies in the world market". The Conference referred to the need for a central cooperative organisation and said: "If a comprehensive cooperative movement embracing all possible sectors of the life of the citizens is to be built up, it is essential to have a greater coordination between cooperative organisations and workers of various States. This Conference is of opinion that a committee be set up to devise ways and means for bringing this about."

—THE EDITOR

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What is Basic Education?

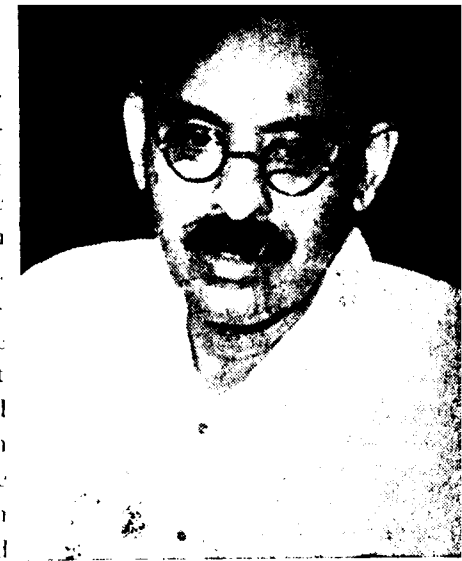
K. MADHAVA MENON

In this article, based on a talk given by him over Radio Ceylon in February last, Shri Madhava Menon, who is the Minister of Education in Madras, gives an extremely lucid exposition of what is popularly known in India as the Wardha Scheme of Education. He explains what is meant by a 'basic school' and what the basic system of teaching means to the child.—*Editor.*

I have been asked by many friends what the new scheme of education commonly known as 'basic education' is, that is being worked in India. Of course educationists understand it by what they call the Wardha Scheme of education. The other day I was talking over the All-India Radio on this 'basic education'. Some Americans who heard that told me that if I had styled my subject as 'progressive education' or something like that, it would have been appropriate for Americans, for what I spoke, they said, was nothing more than what is being attempted in America now.

The world is full of strife, mutual suspicion and distrust. The greed of man makes us forget our duties to the neighbour and each man wants to over-reach the other and grab as much as possible. And what is true of individuals is true of nations also, as a nation is nothing but a group of individuals. And this strife, envy, malice and attempt to grab as much as possible are the causes of great wars and other miseries that we see in this world. What is the remedy for this? Each attempt to curb this by force only leads to the finding out of a greater force to quell the earlier force. Sword and arrow were replaced by cannon and rifle, which in turn were replaced by poison gas and aerial bombing. This led to the Atom Bomb which is being replaced by the Hydrogen Bomb. And each nation wants to over-reach other in prostituting science and human intelligence to forge weapons of destruction instead of using them to reduce our miseries and increase the happiness of all. And all these are done in the name of peace. Thus we find that we are moving in a vicious circle.

What is the remedy to get ourselves free from this vicious circle? Education as we commonly know it now has not been a solution for these maladies. So there must be something wrong in the education that we give to the average person. So our education has to be remodelled as to make him realise the dignity of labour: we must make him realise how you would treasure the results of your own labour: we must make him realise that he should not depend upon another for all his wants and desires: we must make him realise that by his own effort he can be useful to himself and to his neighbour and to society. If these could be achieved by proper education, then the attempt to get things you want by *force* could be replaced by affection, goodwill and cooperation.



Shri K. Madhava Menon

It is with this idea in mind that Mahatma Gandhi began to think of evolving a system of education by which a person could be trained even from his or her childhood to eschew violence, to live by his or her own efforts, to help the neighbour, to realise the dignity and value of labour, to curtail the wants and to love your neighbour. After deeply thinking about the problem and consulting various educationists like Dr. Zakir Hussain and Mr. Aryanayakam he evolved, what is commonly known in India now, as "Basic Education" to be made if possible free and compulsory at the primary stage throughout the country.

The principle underlying this basic education is that all education, whether it be of the humanities or science, should be craft-centred: I mean, everything should be taught through a craft which will be useful to the student for his or her after life also. It is this craft-centered education that we call basic education. In a basic school, the whole set of students are divided into particular departments, one section looking after

sanitation, another section looking after cleaning, a third section looking after cooking, the fourth section looking after education proper, a fifth section looking after games, the sixth section, social welfare and so on. Each will be in charge of a student leader called the Minister and there will be a Chief Minister for the whole school. This gives an opportunity to bring out aptitude for leadership in children and also aptitudes in other matters. The child is asked to observe and record his observations which are checked by the teacher and corrected. It brings out the latent capacities of the children and produces a spirit of initiative in them. Curiosity and inquisitiveness are natural to every child. The child wants to know everything about anything that it sees, the cause of it and its effect. The basic principle in this system of education is to take advantage of the curiosity or inquisitiveness inborn in the child, diverting it to proper channels and teaching everything the teacher knows by satisfying the desire on the part of the child to know.

I think I can better illustrate the method of teaching by an example. The children of a school run on this line decide to go on an excursion to a prominent riverside and to have a little bit of boating and bathing in the river. The section in charge of the journey prepares a sort of marching song. The section in charge of physical training evolves a scheme of marking the time during the march. The person in charge of food prepares a list of what things they have to take for their food, plans where they should halt and cook their food and makes arrangements for the dining and cleaning after the dining. The person in charge of sanitation and health makes arrangements for unforeseen casualties on the way, the dress of the party, how to keep it clean. All the children are imbued with an enthusiasm and full of the excitement of the journey, of the delight of a river bath, a good swim and the pleasures of a boating. The preparation of the journey itself is an education for them and as they march they observe the scenery of the roads, ask questions of the teacher of things that appear to them to be strange and form their own impressions about things. They are asked to note the things in their mind or in their books. When they march through a particular place the teacher tries to evoke their historical sense by telling them the

historical importance of the place they pass through and if it is a place where a battle has been fought years ago, he takes that opportunity to tell them who the parties in the fight were, of the cause or mutual jealousies that led to that fight and tries to tell them that much misery and bitterness could have been avoided if only there was not that mutual jealousy.

When they reach the river, the teacher can tell them the place whence the river begins, how the river is formed, how it originates, and in the course of these, he can lead the child to the other rivers in the world: can tell them of Ganges, Indus or Brahmaputra or of Mahaveli Ganga or Kelani Ganga or of the River Nile or Yangtse-Kiang or Niagra or Mississippi or Missouri. In this way in one travel on an excursion, history, geography, a little bit of arithmetic in the preparation for the journey, and in fact every subject that you want to teach could be given to the students. This will be more impressive to them than learning them in class room by text-books. On their return the children will be asked to record their own impressions and inferences and the teacher takes the opportunity to discuss with them and with much less cost and much less energy, a general idea of things can be given to all the children through this method of teaching. The method is the same if we take boating excursion or spinning and weaving or agriculture. The idea behind is that we must be able to correlate any craft and the education that you require and teach the craft, and through it teach all the humanities and sciences to the child. Every child will be compelled to do cleaning work including scavenging. This impresses upon the child the dignity of labour and that you can get on happily only if you work and that you have a right to get on only if you work. The efforts and energy of people are pooled for the common good and a spirit of service and love is engendered from the very childhood. The spirit of greed, envy, and hatred is attempted to be eschewed and to be replaced by affection, kindness and cooperation. And to some of us the only way to find a solution for our ills is through this method and not through attempts at using science and knowledge for producing greater and greater forces of destruction.

This is the system of basic education, or the Wardha system of education as it is commonly known, that has been introduced

and worked in India. For this purpose what is primarily required is to have a number of teachers trained in this method. We in Madras, have decided to convert all our primary schools to schools of the basic education pattern in the course of the next 10 years. We have opened a very large number of basic training schools for training teachers. We are not opening any training schools on the old pattern. As we train teachers we are converting our existing primary schools into basic schools and we hope to make considerable progress in converting the major portion of our primary schools to basic standard in five years. This basic method replaces the kindergarten method for children of tender age; we call them the pre-basic schools. After the primary stage this method can be dovetailed into the secondary or senior standard. For this purpose we have introduced bifurcated courses of crafts in our high schools also. The real principle underlying the whole system is that education will be worth the name only if we can make the eye, the hand and the brain of the child work simultaneously.

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● Food Crisis Successfully Tackled

"Despite the prevalence of famine conditions equal in extent and severity to those during 1943 in Bengal, no lives were lost by starvation or want," states a report on the work of the Ministry of Food during 1949 which has been presented to Parliament. Of the total allocation of 39.4 lakh tons of food grains, nearly one-third was given to Bombay, Saurashtra and Cutch. As a result of the failure of the monsoon in large tracts of Western India and Gujarat, floods in U.P. and Bihar and a cyclone in November 1948, which damaged the millet crops of Madhya Pradesh, there was a shortage of about 30 lakh tons in production, as compared to that in the preceding year. After a careful scrutiny of the estimates of State Governments and taking into account the possibilities of improvement in local procurement and economy in supplies, the Central Government decided to import 40 lakh tons at the beginning of the year. As a result of the efforts made during the year, however, some saving was achieved and the rationing arrangements were maintained with a total import of 37 lakh tons. The surplus States made available 3.2 lakh tons for the deficit areas. Out of the total availability of a little over 10 lakh tons, 39.4 lakh tons were distributed among deficit areas, and at the end of the year, there was a balance of 80,000 tons in the central reserve.

● Lac Industry in India

India produces 90 per cent of the world output of lac and lac products. Seedlac and shellac are exported to Europe and America. Until recent times, seedlac was consumed primarily in India for the production of shellac and for other purposes. But during the past few decades progressively increasing quantities of seedlac have been exported to America and Europe for the manufacture of bleached lac, machine-made shellac and other purposes so that it forms a substantial part of the export trade in lac products.

● Indian Cloth Sells in Manchester

Indian cloth had found its way to many foreign markets, including Manchester as a result of the export drive, said Mr. T. P. Barat, Textile Commissioner of India, explaining the cloth position in the country at a meeting of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce. The Government, he

added, were keen on achieving their export target of 1,000 million yards between September 1949 and December 1950. Explaining the reason for the export drive, Mr. Barat said India had lost Pakistan both as a source of raw cotton and as a market for her finished goods. She had, therefore, to purchase cotton from various countries mostly at inflated rates and Government had already spent Rs. 42 crores on the purchase of American cotton and another Rs. 60 crores were likely to be spent on purchases from sterling areas. These imports, he pointed out, had to be requited by export and conditions being favourable for Indian textiles it had been considered desirable to take the maximum advantage of the situation. Under these circumstances, there was bound to be shortage internally in certain varieties of cloth with which, he hoped, the country would gladly put up.

● India and China Establish Diplomatic Relations

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China have given their formal agreement to the appointment of Sardar K. M. Panikkar as India's Ambassador to Peking, and the Government of India have formally accepted the appointment of Gen. Yuan Chung-hsien as the Ambassador of China in New Delhi. Gen. Yuan has had considerable political experience. He was a Garrison Commander and Political Commissioner of Nanking from August 1949 to January 1950. He was also temporarily Political Commissioner, Nanking Garrison Headquarters in May 1949, and carried on negotiations with the British authorities regarding the incident in the Yangtse river in which the British warship, *Amethyst*, was involved.

● Indo-Iranian Treaty Signed

A Treaty of Friendship signed between India and Iran affirms that there shall be perpetual peace and friendship between the two countries; provides for the establishment of diplomatic and consular posts in each other's territories and for the grant to their representatives of diplomatic and consular privileges; provides for special agreements between the two Governments to conduct their commercial, customs, navigation, aviation and cultural relations as well as matters relating to extradition, judicial assistance between the two countries and conditions of residence and stay of the nationals of each party in the territory of the other in accordance with special agreements; and provides for the settlement of differences between them through ordinary diplomatic channels, by arbitration and by such other peaceful means as they may deem most suitable.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ardalan, Iran's Foreign Minister said that the good relations between Persia and India were the result of "complete similarity in thought, civilization and culture and in the characters and customs of the two nations and in view of the fact that Persia and India were never remote from each other."

● Over 20,000 Found Jobs in February

The Employment Service placed 26,312 persons in employment during February, as against 19,328 during the previous month, says a Press note. Of those who were found jobs, 12,307 were absorbed in private employment. The number of persons registered for employment assistance was 76,471, representing a seven per cent increase over the figure for the previous month. The increase was particularly marked in West Bengal, largely due to the influx of displaced persons from East Pakistan.

Under the training schemes of the Ministry of Labour, 5,727 persons, including 1,709 displaced men and 159 displaced women, were undergoing training at 140 training centres. In addition, 513 apprentice-trainees, including 313 displaced persons, were under practical training in production work in 138 factories.

● Won Race at 89

Eighty-nine year old ex-Havildar Major Ram Singh stood first in the pensioners' handicap race held on 20th March 1950 at the Rajrif Regimental Re-union Sports, New Delhi. Hundreds of servicemen loudly cheered him when he shook hands with the Defence Minister and took his prize. Ram Singh had retired from service in 1904.

● Coal Production Record in 1949

A record figure of 31.45 million tons substantially exceeding the target fixed by the Government was reached in the production of coal during the year 1949. The production in 1948 was 29.82 million tons. The target fixed for 1950 is 31 million tons.

● Indo-Egyptian Trade

The Indo-Egyptian trade agreement was signed on May 10, 1949, and came into force for a period of one year from July 6, 1949. The overall statistics regarding the movement of trade between the two countries before and after the agreement are:

	Jan. to June 1949	July to Oct. 1949
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports into India from Egypt	23,75,41,029	12,47,99,551
Exports from India to Egypt	1,01,48,852	1,97,45,746
Balance of Trade	— 22,73,92,177	— 10,50,53,805
Total balance of trade	Rs. — 33,24,45,982.	

The best months for the export trade were August and September the total values being respectively Rs. 50.5 lakhs and Rs. 58 lakhs.

● Indian Council of Cultural Relations

Under Article 6 of the Constitution of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, the Government of India have nominated Maulana Abul Kalam

Azad, Minister for Education, as President of that body. Maulana Azad has nominated the following 28 persons as members of the Council: Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Maulana Hussain Ahmad Madni, Dr. C. V. Raman, Smt. Ammu Swaminathan, Mirza Mahmud Beg, Shri Shankarrao Deo, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Dr. Tara Chand, Prof. Humayun Kabir, Pandit Sunder Lal, Sardar Umrao Singh Shergill, Dr. Mohammad Ishaq, Shri M. Satya Narayana, Shri M. Azim Hussain, Shri Rahul Sankrityayana, Dr. B. V. Keskar, Maulana Mohammad Mian Farooqui, Seth Govind Das, Smt. Hansa Mehta, Shri Mohammad Ibrahim, Dr. Raghuvira, Maharajkumar Raghuvir Singh, Shri M. S. Commissariat, Smt. Durga Bai, Lala Shankar Lal, Dr. N. V. Thadani, Miss Sarah Chacko and Rev. Jerome D'Souza.

● National Harbour Board

After their recent consideration of the recommendation of the West Coast Major Port Development Committee, the Government of India have agreed that a National Harbour Board should be constituted, advisory in its functions and composed of representatives of the Ministries of the Government of India concerned, maritime State Governments, major port authorities, including the Development Commissioner, Kandla, with the Minister for Transport as Chairman to advise on matters of general policy relating to port management and development and on important problems of a general nature, affecting industry, commerce, shipping, railways, etc. so as to ensure integrated consideration of all important port matters. Action to this end is in hand.

● Satisfactory Progress in Food Drive

According to a report of the Central Ministry of Agriculture presented to Parliament, the decision of the Government of India to stop food imports by the end of 1951 gave an impetus to the food production schemes and a Commissioner of Food Production, with an emergency branch in the Ministry of Agriculture to assist him, was appointed. During 1949-50 a total amount of nearly 6 crores of rupees was given to the States as grants for the 'grow more food' campaign under various heads including distribution of seeds, land development, minor irrigation works, etc. The report states that while the additional output from the food production schemes now launched will not be known until the first six-monthly reports in respect of *kharif* are received from all the States, preliminary reports received show satisfactory progress. During 1948-49 the Central Tractor Organisation of the Ministry reclaimed a total area of 71,497 acres of land. In addition, mechanical cultivation of over 23,000 acres in the Punjab, 2,000 acres in the Matsya Union and 2,410 acres in Delhi was done during 1949.

● Envoy to Yugoslavia

The Government of India have decided to appoint the Indian Ambassador in Rome, Shri Binay Ranjan Sen, as their Ambassador to Yugoslavia also.

● Eastern Shipping Corporation

The first Government-sponsored shipping corporation formally came into being and commenced operations from mid-March. To start with, the Corporation has a fleet of two 10,000-ton Canadian Victory ships, purchased last year by the Government of India for Rs. 20 lakhs each. The Corporation's routes are India-Australia, India-Far-East, India-Singapore and India-East Africa.

● President Inaugurates Trade Fair

Inaugurating India's first Trade Fair called the Manufacturers' Industrial Exhibition organised at New Delhi on the lines of periodical fairs held in Britain and the U.S.A., Dr. Rajendra Prasad told a distinguished gathering of 2,000 including leading Indian and foreign industrialists that "India's resources are in many respects illimitable but man's enterprise, devotion and skill are wanting to develop them. We welcome all to help and assist us in the task of exploiting our resources so that the life of the Indian may be made happier and more comfortable." The Fair which opened early in March attracted huge crowds every day until it closed on the 30th April.

● State-owned Machine Tools Factory

Shri S. S. Iyengar, Special Officer (Machine Tools), Indian Ministry of Industry and Supply, before he left for Geneva in early March said that the Government of India had given the highest priority for the proposed state-owned machine tools factory, to be constructed at Mysore. The factory, which will comprise eight trading establishments, will be the biggest of its kind in Asia. It will be completed in five years at an approximate cost of Rs. 16 crores. In the initial stage the factory will be run by Swiss experts, who would be later replaced by Indians.

● Population Study Institute

Sardar K. M. Panikkar, India's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, inaugurated the Indian Institute for Population Studies at Chidambaram (South India) on 7th March. The object of the Institute, the first of its kind in India, is to promote the investigation and study of population problems in all their varied aspects with particular reference to India and Asia. Among the members of the International Advisory Board of the Institute are Lord Boyd-Orr (United Kingdom), Dr. Philip M. Hauser (United States), Prof. Alfred Sauvy (France), Dr. Ta Chen (China), Dr. Ayanori Okazaki (Japan) and Dr. W. D. Barrie (Australia). The normal executive committee consists, among others, of Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetti (Chairman), Dr. Gyan Chand, Prof. C. N. Vakil and Dr. Radhakamal Mukherjee. Dr. Chaudrasekhar is in charge.

● Devanagiri Script for Sindhi

The Government of India, in consultation with all the States Governments, have decided to accept a proposal of responsible Sindhi scholars

and educationists to change the Arabic script for the Sindhi language into the Devanagiri script.

● India's Favourable Trade Balance

India's favourable balance of trade reached a new peak of Rs. 17.51 crores, in February 1950, according to the provisional figures of India's sea-borne trade for the month (excluding trade through ports in Travancore and Saurashtra). The total exports in the month amounted to Rs. 43.50 crores as against the imports of Rs. 25.96 crores. In January 1950, the favourable balance amounted to Rs. 10.61 crores including trade through ports in Travancore and Saurashtra. Similarly, final figures for December 1949 reveal a favourable balance of Rs. 15.14 crores. In November 1949, when a plus sign was first recorded after some months of unfavourable balances, exports exceeded imports (final figures), by 9.96 crores. Compared with the imports in January the corresponding figures for February show a drop of 10.89 crores. Exports in January, including re-exports, amounted to Rs. 47.49 crores.

● India's Postal Services

India's Posts and Telegraphs service has shown an appreciable rise in almost all classes of traffic in the year 1949-50. The number of postal articles handled was 2,165 millions as against 2,083 millions in 1948-49; money-orders 53.9 millions as against 42.3 millions; telegrams 25.1 millions against 23.37 millions; and trunk calls 4,835,000 against 3,809,000. The Government opened 3,749 new post-offices in the rural areas between 1st January and 15th February, 1949 in pursuance of its policy to provide villages with a population of 2,000 and above with one post-office. On the international side, during 1949 the Government resumed normal parcel post service with Germany, Palestine, Italy and Bulgaria and money-order service with France, Saudi Arabia and a number of smaller countries.

● Self-sufficiency in Salt by 1951

India will be self-sufficient in salt by 1951, according to Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee. The estimated production in 1951 is 700 lakh maunds and the estimated demand 650 lakh maunds. India imported 120 lakh maunds of salt in 1948, 39 lakh maunds in 1949 and in 1950 the import will be 30 lakh maunds.

● Townships for Refugees

The Minister for Rehabilitation, Shri Mohanlal Saksena, disclosed in Parliament on 15th March last that Government had schemes to build 16 townships in West Bengal for displaced persons from East Pakistan. The number of houses proposed to be constructed in these townships was 23,586. A proposal to construct 500 houses in the neighbourhood of various towns in Orissa was being considered by the State Government. The Assam Government were planning housing schemes for 21,000 families.

● Radio Stations for Coastal Shipping

Two wireless stations in the west coast of India—one at Ratnagiri and the other at Karwar—are to be set up shortly by the Government of India for the convenience of coastal shipping, particularly during monsoon. The stations which are expected to function during the middle of this year will work in co-ordination with the Meteorological Department.

Tests are also being carried on for a new radio communication link between Bombay and Calcutta. Similar links between Bombay and New Delhi and Bombay and Mangalore, set up in 1948 and 1949 respectively, as additional outlets for the telegraph traffic, are now in operation.

In addition, the authorities are executing fresh plans for long-distance trunk lines linking main centres in India by replacing overhead wires by underground cable. During the last year 8 new trunk exchanges totalling 63 positions were set up and put into service at Baroda, Agra, Calicut, New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Ferozepore, Ambala and Patna.

● A.I.R. Expands its Services

India ranks high in the sphere of broadcasting and now occupies the third position among the users of broadcasting frequencies in the world. The International High Frequency Broadcasting Conference which met in Mexico and in which India was represented, prepared a basic assignment plan in which India secured 367½ channel hours. The plans drawn up by the High Frequency Broadcasting Conference and the Technical Plan Committee if adopted will be the basis for the operation of all short-wave broadcasting stations during the next five or six years, and will ensure broadcast reception free from interference.

With the opening of a new station at Calicut in the near future, the first phase of All-India Radio's scheme of extending broadcast facilities to all the important linguistic areas of the country will have been completed. The next phase will be the installation of medium wave transmitters of higher power to replace the 'Pilot' stations and the addition of more powerful medium wave transmitters at the major zonal centres of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Allahabad. Two stations were added to the radio network during last year, one at Ahmedabad and another at Dharwar, increasing the number of broadcasting stations from 14 to 16. Broadcasting having become a central subject under the Republican Constitution, the radio stations at Mysore, Trivandrum, Hyderabad and Aurangabad were taken over on 1st April. The A.I.R. network now consists of 21 stations.

Parallel to this expansion there has been a corresponding development in the growth of listening. From less than 2 lakhs at the time of partition, the number of radio sets has gone up by nearly 4 lakhs. Apart from a general increase in the number of domestic receivers, the number of community receivers at rural and industrial centres and receivers installed in schools have gone up. The transmission output

from the various stations has also grown proportionately. While in August 1947 the total monthly output stood at 5,700 hours, by December 1949, it exceeded 9,000 hours and by April 1950 it was in the region of 10,000 hours.

● Progress of Air Transport

India's internal air transport recorded in 1949, an increase of nearly 17,000 passengers carried and 11,000 hours flown, over the previous year. The freight carried increased by 62 per cent and the mails by 156 per cent. Under the all-up airmail scheme, 28 per cent of all internal mails are being conveyed by air. From 1st April, 1950, the Central Government have assumed responsibility for 17 of the aerodromes located in what was previously known as States like Bhavnagar, Udaipur, Bhopal, Jaipur, Kolhapur and Gwalior. In 1949 India concluded bilateral air transport agreements with Australia, Switzerland and Philippines. India has already established similar agreements with the U.S.A., Netherlands, France, Sweden, Pakistan and Ceylon.

● Manufacture of Electric Bulbs

India's Minister for Industry and Supply, replying to a question in Parliament, said that ten factories in India last year produced 13,326,000 electric bulbs, compared to 9,246,000 in 1948.

● Indo-Polish Trade Favourable to India

Comparative statistics of the periods before and after the Indo-Polish agreement which came into force from 1st July 1949, are given below:

Exports:

Commodities	From 1-1-1949 to 30-6-1949	From 1-7-1949 to 30-9-1949
	Rs.	Rs.
Jute	.. —	7,90,883
Groundnut	.. 22,44,416	—
Black Pepper	.. 1,16,000	—
Coir Fibre and Yarn	.. 93,890	—
	.. 24,54,306	7,90,883

Imports:

Newsprint	.. 92,306	81,726
Balance of Trade	† 23,62,000	† 7,09,157

It will be seen that the turn-over of trade was proportionately much more favourable during the first half of 1949 when there was no agreement.

● Nehru on Foreign Policy

Speaking on India's foreign policy, Pandit Nehru told Parliament on March 17, that while invasion of Nepal was not at all likely "we cannot tolerate any foreign invasion of Nepal or any part of this sub-continent." India, said Pandit Nehru, was opposed to colonisation in Asia and Africa. With Asian countries India had no formal treaties and alliances and pacts but she became more and more connected with them by bonds of mutual understanding and interest and even of mutual affection. While keeping aloof from power blocs, India's policy was not a negative or merely a neutral policy but a positive policy of supporting those forces she considered right. India did not want any Indian vested interests to grow up in Africa at the expense of the African people. Pandit Nehru hoped that some way would be found to solve the problems of Indians in Ceylon. Reiterating India's interest in the future of many who inhabited the North-West Frontier, Pandit Nehru feelingly said: "We cannot forget those people who stood side by side with us for a whole generation in the fight for India's freedom.* It is an abiding regret to us that we can only be interested from a distance and cannot help in the solution of these problems." (*The reference is obviously to the famous Khan Brothers.—Ed.).

● India-Afghanistan Wireless Link

An agreement was signed recently in Kabul between the Governments of India and Afghanistan for the establishment of direct telegraphic communications between the two countries. The service is expected to commence shortly.

● Indian Soap Manufacturers, Please Note

The total import of toilet soaps into Malaya in a month averages about 2.25 lakh lbs. out of which imports from India total only 1,000 lbs. The main varieties of toilet soaps generally imported are *Lux*, *Palmolive* and *Cuticura* including small quantities of Indian soaps like *Hamam*, *Margo*, *Neepe*, and *Sandalwood*. While *Lux* and *Palmolive* are sold to the Malayan consumer at 20 cents (5 annas) a cake and *Cuticura* at 60 cents (15 annas), *Hamam* and *Margo* soaps are quoted at 40 to 45 cents (10 to 11 annas) a cake, and *Mysore Sandalwood* Soap cannot be had for less than St. \$1 (Re. 1-9) a cake. The inflation in prices of soaps imported from India is due mainly to the presence of too expensive and too many a middleman between the exporter and the consumer. With an improved merchandising through importers of standing, however, the products of quite a number of Indian soap enterprises can favourably compete with the foreign manufacturers, it is stated.

● Improvement in Industrial Relations

Labour relations registered a substantial improvement in 1949 as compared to the preceding year. The number of labour disputes in 1949 was 911 as against 1,611 and 1,259 in 1947 and 1948 respectively. Workers involved in the previous two years were 1,819,781 and 1,059,120 as against

681,188 in 1919. Comparative figures of the number of man-days lost are as follows: 1917—16,562,666; 1918—7,837,173; and 1919—6,580,887 out of which strikes accounted for the loss of 3,410,453 man-days and lock-outs for 3,170,434 man-days. During the year, the Central Advisory Council of Labour set up a committee for the study of the problem of fair wages. The committee's recommendations have been accepted by the Government and the question of undertaking legislation to implement them is under consideration.

Two important Bills, the Mines Bill and the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Bill, the former for bringing the provisions regulating labour and safety in mines in line with those contained in the Factories Act, 1918, and the latter seeking to set up a tribunal to hear appeals from the decisions of industrial tribunals, are awaiting final consideration of Parliament. Two other bills have recently been introduced in Parliament, namely, the Labour Relations Bill and the Trade Unions Bill.

For improving the condition of agricultural workers, the Ministry in collaboration with States undertook an all-India inquiry into their condition. Government have also been holding tripartite plantation conferences with a view to improving the working conditions of labour in the plantation industry.

Bombay

● Poona University Vice-Chancellor

Dr. M. R. Jayakar has been unanimously elected Vice-Chancellor of Poona University for three years at a meeting of the University Court. Dr. Jayakar has been the Vice-Chancellor of the University since its inception two years ago, when he was nominated to the office by the Bombay Government. Yesterday's election was the first to be held under the University Act.

● Dockyard Apprentice School

A school to train apprentices in various aspects of dockyard work has just completed its first year. The school was started in Bombay with the object of raising the educational and technical standard of the civilian personnel of the Indian Naval Dockyard in anticipation of ship-building activities. But those who are trained there will also be qualified to take their places in the expanding industries of India on release from the dockyard. Boys between 16 and 19 who are of matriculation standard are selected annually on the basis of competitive examination held in June every year. They obtain training both theoretical and practical, for five years in marine engineering, electrical engineering, naval architecture, etc. All apprentices undertake to remain in the dockyard, if required to do so, for a period of eight years after the completion of training. They receive stipends during training which cover board and lodging charges, leaving a small surplus. Their first two years of training are spent in

the Dockyard Apprentice School proper while the other three are spent in the workshops and drawing offices of the dockyard under the supervision of the school authorities. The apprentices also attend a course of lectures on subjects like Mathematics, English, Indian History, Metallurgy, General and Electrical Engineering and Naval Architecture. Physical training is an essential part of their curriculum. During the first two years they are given instructions twice a week regularly, and later on they are encouraged to take part in games and athletic pursuits.

● Adult Literacy Drive

The programme of bringing about universal literacy among the industrial workers, which is one of the post-war reconstruction schemes of the Government of Bombay, made promising progress during the first year of the working of the scheme. Under the scheme, Workers' Literacy Boards were constituted at Sholapur, Ahmedabad, Jalgaon and Hubli in the middle of 1918. The number of literacy classes rose from six to 519 in Ahmedabad. At Sholapur, 191 such classes were opened during the year. A number of these classes were devoted to the cause of Harijans, who form a large proportion of the Sholapur industrial workers. At Dharwar, 23 literacy classes and ten post-literacy classes were held during the year. In the Khandesh, the scheme was implemented in Jalgaon, Dhulia, Chalisgaon and Amalner during the year under report. In all, 64 new classes were started at these places. A literacy class, which is of four months' duration, consists of 20 to 25 workers and calculations show that the number of workers made literate during the year under report ran into thousands. Experience has shown that an adult of average intelligence, who attends literacy instruction fairly regularly attains the standard of literacy in four months.

● Cattle Protection Scheme

Shri Dinkarrao Desai, Civil Supplies Minister, Bombay, told the State Legislative Assembly in mid-March that the Government's milk colony at Aarey would become the model for all big cities in India. The colony which will cost Rs. 2½ crores, will accommodate 15,000 cattle and grow fodder for them. At present about 30,000 buffaloes of first class variety are being sent to the slaughter house yearly after their lactation period. To check this, which now results in a loss of Rs. 3 crores annually to the people, Government would make it economic for every producer to send his animals after lactation period to the Government colony. The Government of Bombay will soon establish two more milk colonies, one at Palghar, about 60 miles from Bombay and the other at a place yet to be decided.

● Development of Education

Shri B. G. Kher, Chief Minister of Bombay, told the State Legislative Assembly on March 16th that the Government were going to spend this

year over 12 crores of rupees on education compared with two crores of rupees in 1939-40. Bombay now had six Universities in the place of one when the present Ministry took office. He said, "The policy of the Government is to care more for the underdog who is not given any education than for the boys of rich people. We want to see that people are not denied the scope of education at any particular stage. For this purpose, we have decided to give compulsory primary education for the present for four years." However, the Chief Minister declared, the Government had not neglected University education in any way. In the place of 2 lakh of rupees in 1946-47, they had granted over Rs. 33 lakhs for University education during the budget year. Besides, the Government were spending Rs. 32 lakhs a year on their own colleges.

Hyderabad

● More Primary Schools

Hyderabad State will have 650 more primary schools immediately in the absorbed *Jagir* areas costing the Government exchequer more than Rs. 7 lakhs a year. Preference has been given to villages where the population is 1,000 or more. In the beginning of the present academic year, 800 new primary schools were opened in the *Diwani* areas which are expected to cost nearly Rs. 14 lakhs a year.

● Gold Production

The total quantity of gold recovered from the Hutti Mines in Hyderabad during fifteen months from October 1948, is 9,420 tolas. Production will be stepped up with the installing of a gold recovery plant. At present 150 tons of ore per day are being treated for gold. Soon the quantity will be doubled. The cyanide section of the plant is expected to be installed shortly. The gold mines are being worked by the Hyderabad Gold Mines Company with an authorised capital of Rs. 50 lakhs. According to geological experts, the conditions in the Hutti area are similar to those of Kolar Gold Fields and mining operations will prove very successful.

Kashmir

● Anti-Corruption Drive

Since its establishment in December 1948 to weed out bribery and corruption in Government Departments, the Anti-Corruption Department has made out as many as 74 cases out of 300 complaints received by the department against Government officials of various departments. These Government employees were put before the Court and some of them have been convicted and sentenced. Corruption in the State has been made a cognizable offence making criminal misconduct of the Government servants punishable with 7 years' imprisonment and fine.

● Silk Industry

With a view to improving the silk industry in the State the Jammu and Kashmir Government have appointed Sig. Lioni, an Italian sericulture expert who will advise on important matters connected with the silk industry in the State. Further, a scheme for the establishment of silk printing works has been sanctioned by the Government at a cost of about Rs. 75,000.

● Education in the State

300 educational institutions were re-started in the areas re-captured from the enemy. About 20 schools have been opened for refugee children in the State. Education in primary schools is being imparted through the mother-tongue.

● Field Publicity Drive

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has established as many as 172 community listening centres in the Kashmir province. The Department has 5 film units, each unit giving a daily show which is being attended by over 4,000 persons.

Madhya Pradesh

● Training of Panchas

Under the scheme for decentralisation of administration, the Madhya Pradesh Government have till now established 4,520 *panchayats* in villages or groups of villages having a population of a thousand persons or above. The Government have now taken up a scheme to train *panchas* or *gram panchayat* members. Efforts are being made to train personnel who will in their turn train *panchas*. In the first instance, 190 persons from *Janapada Sabhas* will be trained at the Home Guards Training Centre in Nagpur, and after completion of theoretical and practical training, they will be posted to their respective *Janapada Sabhas*. The six-week training will include sanitation, first-aid, grow more food, *gram panchayat* law, social and cultural education, animal husbandry, poultry, farming and cooperation. It is proposed to train 54,000 *panchas* throughout the State in the course of 15 months. The idea of giving them training is to infuse into them a spirit of service, sacrifice and missionary zeal in matters of village welfare.

● Newsprint Mill Under Erection

A newsprint mill, with a capacity of 30,000 tons per annum, is under erection in Madhya Pradesh. The requisite quantities of steel and cement have been made available for this purpose and the construction is proceeding apace.

● Decentralisation of Administration

Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, announced recently that a scheme for the gradual decentralisation of the powers and functions of the State Government would be introduced from July 1, 1950. He added that separation of the judiciary from the executive in the State was also proposed to be effected from the same date. From July 1, the unit of administration will be the *Janapad-cum-tashil*. A suitable number of *Janapad* areas will be combined into divisions and the present Deputy Commissioners, to be changed into Divisional Officers, will be the heads of the division supervising and controlling all *Janapad* and Government activities. In the next phase the Divisional Officers will become administrative heads of their Divisions and Government Officers and officials of all departments working thereunder will be under their administrative control. After the separation of the judiciary from the executive, the Divisional Officers will be relieved of criminal work and will only be in charge of maintaining law and order and prevention of offences.

Madras

● Chemical Laboratory for Madras

Mr. C. Perumalaswami Reddi, Madras Industries Minister, told the Legislative Assembly on 13th March that the Madras Government had sanctioned the opening of a well-equipped chemical and analytical laboratory for testing the industrial potentialities of raw materials in the State. He said active steps were being taken by the Government to recruit the required personnel and to start the laboratory at an early date.

Manipur

● Dried-up Fisheries to be used for Food Production

To give an impetus to the grow more food campaign the Chief Commissioner has requisitioned the dried-up fisheries within the State and has issued orders for settlement of these lands to the landless cultivators immediately, so that cultivation may be possible within this year. The settlement of the land will be on a special *batta* basis.

Mysore

● Fruit Preservation Centre

A Fruit Preservation Centre has been established in Bangalore recently by the Department of Industries and Commerce, Mysore. A pilot plant costing Rs. 20,000 has been installed at the Centre where initially experiments are conducted on fruit preservation and in the keeping qualities of various types of fruits. The experiments are confined primarily to fruits peculiar to India such as Jack-fruits, wood-apple, banana and oranges with a view to making them into jams and jellies.

Punjab

● A Surplus Budget

The budget estimate for the state for 1950-51 showed a small surplus of Rs. 4 lakhs. The receipts were estimated at Rs. 16.18 crores and revenue expenditure at Rs. 16.14 crores. This satisfactory result was made possible both by cutting down expenditure and by raising additional revenues.

● Cabinet Enlarged

Captain Ranjit Singh was sworn in on March 14 as the sixth Minister of the Punjab Cabinet. The portfolios of P.W.D. (including Buildings and Roads), Public Health and Electricity have been allotted to him. These portfolios were held temporarily by Shri Prithvi Singh Azad who has now become Minister for Labour and Local Self-Government.

Travancore-Cochin

● State Planning Board

The State Government have constituted a Planning Board which will collaborate with the Planning Commission set up by the Government of India and evolve suitable plans for the industrialization of the State. The Board consists of Shri K. G. Menon (Chairman), Shri M. Marikar, Dr. P. T. Thomas, Shri V. K. S. Menon, Shri K. C. Karunakaran and the Development Secretary.

● New Medical College

The Travancore-Cochin Government have decided to start a full-fledged Medical College in the State which would be able to take in 75 students at the beginning. The College would begin functioning at the end of the year 1951 and the work of constructing the building has already started. The capital outlay for the College will be approximately Rs. 85 lakhs.

● Monazite Factory

A factory for processing monazite sands is to be established at Alwaye (Travancore) within six months, with an estimated capital of Rs. 50 lakhs and working capital of Rs. 10 lakhs. The Government of India would contribute 55 per cent of the cost and the rest would be contributed by the Government of Travancore-Cochin. The factory which will be primarily engaged in the production of thorium will also produce several by-products which will in turn bring into existence certain subsidiary industries.

Uttar Pradesh

● Creation of Fuel and Fodder Reserves

The U.P. Government have acquired 65,583 acres of land in the various districts of the State for afforestation and creation of fuel and fodder reserves. An area of 8,000 acres has also been set apart as an integral part of the Ganga Khadar Colonisation Scheme for creation of fuel and fodder reserves and timber plantation under a five-year scheme.

● Linseed Fibre as Jute Substitute

Linseed fibre, a substitute for jute, is being supplied to the jute mills in Uttar Pradesh by the State Government to meet the shortage of raw jute. The jute mills made weaving tests of linseed fibre in admixture with jute and it has been found that up to 50 per cent linseed fibre can be easily mixed with jute for the manufacture of bags and other kinds of jute goods. The Government of India have shown interest in the scheme and the feasibility of expanding the scheme is already under consideration.

● Gaon Panchayats

The Utility of the *Gaon Panchayat* scheme of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, which has been in operation for nearly a year now, is becoming evident. A *Village Panchayat* in the district of Dehra Dun has set an example of self-help by constructing a four-mile long canal which would provide irrigation facilities to nearly 5,000 acres of land. In the Naini Tal district, *Village Panchayats* have constructed a large number of roads and also made lighting arrangements. A three-mile road is the achievement of a *Village Panchayat* in the district of Fatehpur. Farmers themselves did the entire manual work and no money was spent on construction. In the district of Basti a 400 yard long "*Gandhi Marg*" has been constructed and similar work is being done by *Gaon Panchayats* in the district of Azamgarh. In a record time of ten hours a *Village Panchayat* was reported to have repaired a two-mile long *Kuchcha* road in the district of Faizabad. Useful work is being done by the *Village Panchayats* in the direction of education also. Two primary schools have been opened by them in the Naini Tal district and one in the district of Almora. In the Allahabad district several *Village Panchayats* have set up reading rooms and libraries besides opening schools. To fight the cholera epidemic, a *Village Panchayat* constructed drains and adopted other sanitary measures in the district of Shahjahanpur.

● Tenants in 17 Lakh Holdings acquire Bhumidhari Rights

Chaudhry Charan Singh, Parliamentary Secretary to the U.P. Chief Minister, told recently a meeting of villagers, eight miles from Lucknow, that bhumidhari rights had already been acquired in 17 lakhs of holdings in the State. Explaining the Bill for the abolition of the zamindari system,

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he said the Bill would be passed into law within the next three or four months and the Government intended to extend the period for the acquisition of Bhumidhari rights up to the next *rabi* harvest. He pointed out that the proposed compensation to the intermediaries on land had been fixed at a reasonable figure. Nearly seven crore *pucca bighas* of land would be acquired on payment of about Rs. 137 crores. Replying to the critics of the Bill, he said, "Intermediaries on land would have to go in any case. Nowhere had the Government given an undertaking that the abolition of zamindari would depend on payment of cash money."

● Milk from Sterile Cows

An experiment to see if sterile cows could give milk by hormone treatment has been tried by the U.P. Government. With the stoppage of the slaughter of uneconomic and useless cattle it has been found necessary to devise ways and means by which they could cease to be a burden on the human population. By the implantation of 100 milligrammes of "Stillboestrol" tablets under the skin, the sterile cows have been made to secrete milk in appreciable quantities.

Race Discrimination in Transvaal

P. S. JOSHI

Journalist Joshi of Johannesburg, South Africa, gives a very pathetic picture of the miserable conditions—political, economic and social—in which the Indian community live in the Transvaal province of the Union of South Africa. That such racial oppression should continue to exist in a country which fought the war against Nazism only a few years ago, is a blot on what is known as White civilisation. —Editor.

It is not generally known that Transvaal has been the centre of racial oppression of the Indian people in South Africa. While Natal supplies the background, Transvaal has been the battle-ground of the Indian people. The South African Republic with its tradition of white superiority a heritage of Europe's Calvinism or Protestantism, was first to enact a law of race segregation, Law 3 of 1885, which has dictated the course of the Indian policy of successive South African Governments. Between 1885 and 1910, some sixteen legislations were passed in the Transvaal Legislature to fortify the colour bar in the social and political life of the Indian people in residence, in education, in civil service and in immigration. Ghettos were the original creation of Boer rule and ghettos have been the aspiration of the South African Government both under General Smuts and Dr. Malan. Since the Union of South Africa was formed new ghettos have been demarcated by about 10 legislations specially enacted for the Transvaal province. The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act of 1932 could be practically termed the first Ghetto Act of the Union Parliament, although its effects were not so rigid and oppressive as its successor in 1946.

The Indians have not suffered less indignities in the Transvaal than in Natal. It was the humiliation of the Asiatic registration that led to the inauguration of the Passive Resistance struggle by Mahatma Gandhi. Transvaal has already witnessed the Boer Constitution in action: "There shall be no equality between white and black either in Church or State." The anti-Indian measures in the Transvaal have

stopped Indian immigration, restricted Indian commerce, disqualified Indians for certain business and professions, discriminated against them in social spheres, handicapped them in industrial enterprises and deprived them of the right to representation in the local, provincial and parliamentary bodies of the country.

Race discrimination has closed most of the avenues of livelihood of the Indian people who have been consequently compelled to concentrate on commerce. Hatred of their progress in this sphere has led to measures of restrictions on ownership and occupation of Indian trade. If it is enforced without a sense of justice, it would bring about the closing of 40% of Indian businesses, followed by compulsory repatriation of Indians back to India.

Side by side with the ghetto legislation, is organised a boycott agitation by the South Africa Protection movement which has the support of Nationalist politicians and the encouragement of the official world. Active supporters of the boycott movement are the European schools whose teachers penalise children patronising Indian shops. The African people are also instigated against the Indians. They witnessed the misdirected fury of the Africans in the Durban riots last year and while New Clare had ignited the spark in the Transvaal, they did not know what would happen in the future. Their very existence is in peril.

Racial discrimination in labour is marked by the exclusion of the Indian from the skilled trades. He is debarred from apprenticeship training. He receives little technical education. Consequently the number of Indians employed in private manufacturing industry in Transvaal is 914 (which includes 250 women), barely 1% of the total number of employees. The Mines and Factories Act makes separate provision for places of work for European and non-European workers. In various occupations on the Witwatersrand and in Pretoria, of the total 48,000 unskilled workers, only 2% are Asiatics. The Indians have been the members of certain trade unions, but a movement is on foot to divide them racially. Although the non-Europeans supply the bulk of labour to the industries, no non-European has ever been appointed as adviser to the Government delega-

tions at the international labour conferences. The Government is so scared that it has disallowed international investigation of the conditions of labour in the country. Race discrimination in the gold mines has been complete. There are no Indians working in the gold mines, and no concession stores are allowed to be opened by the Indians near the mine compounds.

The Civil Services are almost closed to Indians with barely a handful employed as teachers, court interpreters or postal clerks with discriminatory wages despite common work. There are no Indians in the police force.

Race discrimination in education is illustrated in various departments of educational life. There is no compulsory education for Indians. Nearly 500 children were refused admission last January owing to lack of accommodation. 99% of the school buildings have been erected by the Indian people, later hired by the Transvaal Education Department. Schools in urban areas lack the facilities for physical exercises. There are separate playgrounds for different sections of the population. There are approximately 6,000 Indian children studying in 25 Government, Indian and 19 other Coloured primary schools. In a mixed staff of Europeans and non-Europeans, a European is appointed as head. The salary scales of the Indian teachers are approximately 60% of the Europeans for equal qualifications. Annual government subsidy for Indian education is about one-third of the European per head, i.e., £5-5-0 per every Indian child. All the universities in the Transvaal, except the local Witwatersrand University, have closed their doors to Indians. At the Witwatersrand University some 150 Indian students are studying in various faculties. Students taking engineering, dentistry and medicine have been afforded no opportunity for practical studies. An Indian medical student is debarred from practical work in the European section of the General Hospital, while an engineering student becomes stranded, as he would not be allowed practical training in a European factory. All municipal and state libraries are closed to Indian people.

Segregation in railways and post offices is not new to Transvaal. It has been there for years in all walks of life, in revenue

and other government departments, places of entertainment, in transport, in public parks, zoos, and sports fields. In some cases licenses are restricted to work among non-Europeans only.

In the field of social welfare, Indians are apparently a very neglected community. While meagre old age pensions and invalid grants are given at a discriminatory rate of £30 per annum, family pensions have been entirely withdrawn by the present Government. The South African pattern of caste system assigns them the status of outcastes for whose progress, the Europeans contend they have no duty. There are no Government Indian social welfare officials in the Transvaal.

The Government does very little to solve the problems of unemployment among the Indian people with the sinister object that intolerable conditions and oppression would force them to avail of the assisted emigration scheme.

The hospital services are not enough for the Indian people in the Transvaal. There is no Government Indian hospital. The Indian community has financed the erection of Indian wards in most of the centres, but they have no nursing homes or maternity homes. They are treated in non-European hospitals. In Johannesburg, owing to lack of accommodation, Indian patients are sent to Baragwanah hospital about 12 miles away from the city. Representations have been made to authorities for better facilities, but so far without success. Indian infant mortality in some of the Asiatic locations is high and during an epidemic like the one of small-pox last year, there is a heavy toll of life.

Race discrimination has not even spared the monuments. Indians have just one monument, on Observatory Hill, of their soldiers who fell during the Anglo-Boer war in 1899-1902. It is never looked after. It behoves the Government of India to represent the matter to the Union Government. If possible, the former should take over the supervision of the monument, as a mark of respect to the memory of the dead.

Colour bar in South Africa is so rife that Prof. Frankel was once constrained to say that the superstructure of the South African society was at times as brilliant as Hollywood, but its

foundations were those of slavery. The system endeavoured to maintain the semblance of an open society with feet of clay.

The prosperity of the Indian people is overdrawn. According to the Report of the Social and Economic Planning Council, 45 to 60% of Indians in urban areas are not able to buy as much food as they need for good health. The average wage of the Indian domestic servant is estimated at £80 per month. The conditions of poverty and under nourishment amidst them account for the progressive growth of preventible diseases.

The Indians need a decent standard of living, but they cannot uplift themselves under conditions of race discrimination and as long as they are assigned an inferior political status. In the Transvaal they have never known what we call the right to citizenship. The laws of the land do not recognise them as citizens entitled to representation in the legislative bodies of the country. There was a time when a few leaders of European community had advocated representation of Indians in the municipalities, but today it is all past history. The Indians wonder when the policy of *apartheid* would end. They are not disheartened, but frustrated.

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LORD BOYD ORR, England.

The great accomplishment of free India's formative period is that the family of democratic nations has been enriched by a new member and international councils are hearing a powerful voice for morality in international dealings. India made herself the champion of all Asian people still under alien rule and at the same time emerged in the forefront of Asian powers, the potential leader of half the world's people.

ROBERT TRUMBULL, *New York Times*.

The eastern society which has most truly taken over a Western system of social and economic organisation is India. Even though India has preserved many archaic elements in its society it is the one society in the East which has been transformed by western influence and which has thereafter developed

a strength and vitality of its own. . . . India is at present governed by men whose outlook and ideals are broadly speaking the same as our own. If any society in the East is to stand up against Communism it will probably be India. It is on India, therefore, that the west should concentrate its assistance. If India is strong and stable, the possibility of war is much reduced.

Manchester Guardian, England.

We do not forget our linguistic descent from the Sanskrit and we regret not being able to use it. But we know Indian poetry and philosophy and religion and we are aware of the intellectual heritage that inspires your education combined with modern achievements.

G. P. OIKONOMOS, *Rector,*
The University of Athens.

India clearly cannot accept as satisfactory a plebiscite in the Azad Kashmir areas so long as the Azad Kashmir forces are not disarmed. Pakistan cannot be expected to believe in the neutrality of Sheikh Abdullah's police. Yet the withdrawal of all troops and police by both sides involves a very severe risk of anarchy and the rule of the local hooligan, conditions in which a plebiscite could not be held at all. This is a risk which India in particular cannot possibly face, since the Maharaja's accession makes her legally responsible for the peace and good order of the country. The authority of the force would have to continue for a considerable period. Refugees have to return, proper election rolls have to be drawn up and time has to be given for the different alternatives to be adequately expounded to the population.

Economist, London.

Our fate is bound up with the fate of India. It may well be that a generation from now, the centre of world power will have shifted from the shores of the Atlantic to the shores of the ancient East. If it so shifts all of us hope that the spirit

of Mahatma Gandhi and the spirit of Jawaharlal Nehru will preside over the destinies of these great congeries of people.

Prof. H. J. Laski, England.

A more recent development in the situation which has prompted currency discussion, is India's improved economic position. Her main exports are in good demand at rising prices. The country has done quite well since devaluation, and her monthly trade balance continues to show improvement. This is due in part to import restrictions, but also in part to augmented exports.

Financial Times, London.

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India Takes up Economic Planning

In the February and March issues of this Journal we published two articles on "India's Industrial Policy" prepared by our Economic Research Department, which traced the gradual growth of the Indian Government's policy in industrial and economic matters and dealt with the various factors that influenced the formulation of that policy. This article on Economic Planning, also by our Research Department, may be considered as a fitting third of the series, thereby bringing this study of a complex but important aspect of our national life up to date. Written for the layman, it is at once direct, factual and to the point.—*Editor.*

Though the desirability of having planning and a planned economy had been recognised by the Congress long back by the appointment of the National Planning Committee in 1938, its indispensability for the development of the country's economy began to be felt in responsible quarters early in 1949. It became a matter of "compelling urgency" as the Working Committee chose to describe it, "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".

Since the achievement of independence the Government of India had been trying their best to increase the country's production—this being placed on the top of the list of priorities as we have shown in one of our previous articles on the Government's industrial policy, they gave assurance and reliefs to the industrialists at various stages in order to stimulate production. But unfortunately this policy did not meet with success. The economic situation was worsening steadily. Production continued to be discouraging, balance of trade unfavourable, prices at the highest peak and Government's financial position precarious. It became obvious that private enterprise by itself could not develop the economy as automatically as they did in England after the Industrial Revolution, in an under-developed country like ours. The Government's policy of establishing a controlled economy was failing to deliver the goods and not mere control but planning

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was the need of the hour. In fact the stage was set for a planned economy, as Shri Shankarrao Deo pointed out in one of his articles under the title "Quo Vadis". Shri Deo wrote: "The Government have taken steps—a number of steps, like self-sufficiency in food, balancing the foreign exchange budget, reaching industrial targets, promotion of compulsory savings and last but not the least making evaded profits to be invested, which unless integrated might not yield the desired result. Such integration is possible only under a Planning Commission. The Government are committed to such a step and the Indian National Congress repeatedly urged upon the Government an early appointment of such a Commission."

Prior to that, constructive workers from all over India, met at a conference in Wardha in the first week of November to discuss the economic situation and draw up a realistic plan that might help solve the economic crisis the country was facing. The conference was attended by almost all important constructive workers and was presided over by Shri Kaka Kalelkar. In his opening speech, Shri Shankarrao Deo stressed the need of formulating an economic programme to tackle the immediate crisis and a long range plan for *Sarvodaya*. The conference appointed a seven-man drafting committee with Shri Kaka Kalelkar as the Chairman.

Again on December 22 about 200 constructive workers from all parts of the country assembled at Wardha, to consider a policy statement on the *Sarvodaya* economic ideal, more generally known as the *Sarvodaya* Economic Plan, prepared by the seven-man drafting committee. Though not giving an outline plan or a detailed programme, the statement visualised that kind of life and society one would expect in *Sarvodaya* order and suggested a policy by which the present economic ills may be removed and steps taken towards our ultimate goal.

On 30th January 1950, the second death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the plan was published. It gave a clear exposition of the *Sarvodaya* conception of such topics as ownership of property, standard of life, ceiling to incomes, production, the agrarian, industrial and financial patterns and the State power. The statement further emphasised the need

for a Planning Commission composed of a few councils to plan the country's economic development.

On the 20th of January 1950, the Congress Working Committee met at New Delhi to discuss the economic situation. After a close deliberation, the Committee adopted a resolution recommending the appointment of a Planning Commission. The Committee recognised that "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 peaceful instrument of social and economic planning". Coming to the functions of the Planning Body the Committee felt that their tasks had 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 manifestos of the Indian National Congress, in the pronouncements of Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress leaders and in the Congress Economic Programme." Elucidating further the Committee continued: "The vision which inspired the people of India through the various phases of the non-violent revolution which made the country free, was 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. 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 organisation to be evolved and which must be rendered in terms of programmes of action by the Planning Authority."

For the first time the Working Committee did not only recommend a course of action to the Government but it also laid down the limits within which the new Commission was to function. The President of the Republic in his first address to Parliament announced that a Planning Commission would be set up. On the 17th of February the Working Committee appointed a Sub-committee consisting of:

1. Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant .. (Chairman)
2. Shri Jagjiwan Ram
3. Shri Gulzarilal Nanda
4. Shri N. G. Ranga
- and 5. Shri Shankarrao Deo ... (Convener)

to draw up a programme for the country indicating priorities which should be given effect to during the next 12 months and to indicate in broad outline the nature of a five-year programme.

The appointment and personnel of the Planning Commission was officially announced in the budget speech of Dr. John Mathai on February 28. The Commission consists of:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Chairman</i> | : Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru |
| <i>Deputy Chairman</i> | : Shri Gulzarilal Nanda |
| <i>Members</i> | : Shri Chintaman Deshmukh |
| | Shri Gagan Viharilal Metha |
| | Shri R. K. Patil |
| | Shri V. T. Krishnamachari. |

Later, in a resolution, the Government of India stated: "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." Almost echoing the words of the Working Committee resolution, the Government resolution stated: "The Constitution of India has guaranteed certain fundamental rights to the citizens of India and enunciates certain directive principles of the State policy, in particular that the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by serving and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of 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 serve 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."

The resolution also stressed the need 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 adequate opportunities for full employment.

The Planning Commission has already started its work. As reported in the papers, considerable headway has been made towards the formulation of an integrated cotton plan for India—the first major policy issue referred to the Commission for advice. The main function of the Commission, viz., the formulation of an overall plan of economic development for the country however would have to wait till the Commission is fully equipped with the requisite personnel. The Commission, it is further reported, will function in six divisions, each in charge of two members, viz., 1. Resources and Economic survey. 2. Finance. 3. Industries, Trade and Transport. 4. Development and National Resources. 5. Food and Agriculture. 6. Employment and Social Service.

So the Planning Commission has made the beginning of a great job. The question that naturally looms large in the people's mind is—will the Commission succeed in attaining its objectives.

Before trying to answer the question let us see what are the necessary conditions for its success. None could give a better expression to it than did Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru when he stressed the social aspect of planning in his address to a meeting of the Institute of Engineers. "Governments or engineers would not be able to accomplish the big task of building the country until they secured the full-hearted cooperation of the people." Referring to Soviet Russia he said that keeping politics apart, the Government of Soviet Russia was successful in creating such a psychological atmosphere that the people of that country took every project as their own and worked for its success. National development schemes, he thought, could be executed only under such a condition of psychological enthusiasm. The problem, therefore, is one of rousing the people, to enthuse them to come forward, "to make everybody—whether he is in a village or a town—feel not only that something is being done for him but that he himself is participating in doing it". Possibly that alone can make the Planning

Commission a "live body", fit to produce "results". And the success of the Commission would depend on how far we succeed in rousing the people's enthusiasm.

Steps are being taken towards this objective. The appointment of an Economic Planning Sub-Committee of the All-India Congress Committee has helped greatly in bridging the gulf that existed previously between the Congress organisation on the one hand and the Government on the other. The individual Congressman may now be made to feel that he has a part to play in the country's development. The Congress Economic Planning Sub-Committee met on the 18th and 19th February 1950 and discussed issues among themselves and also with the Presidents and Secretaries of Provincial Congress Committees. Later on, memoranda of issues were circulated to P.C.C's and State Governments for their suggestions. The Committee will now prepare a draft report on an immediate programme. This report will be placed before a conference of the Chief Ministers of the States and Provincial Congress Committee Presidents, convened by the President of the Congress.

There are attempts also to enlist the cooperation of the constructive workers. Not a part of the Congress as such, the constructive organisations like the A.I.S.A., A.I.V.I.A. and Talimi Sangh had been the pillars on which the Congress depended for its constructive movement. They had been the "Hinter lands" of Congress or an integral part of a "Greater Congress" if we may say so. Any attempt, therefore, to rouse popular enthusiasm, if it is to be successful, will have to enlist the cooperation of these constructive workers. For one reason or the other, the constructive workers in general had been critical of the economic policy of the Government. The gulf that was growing between them and the Government and therefore the Congress could not be allowed for any length of time. To harness the energies of the constructive workers in the cause of planned economic development, two conferences were held in the Government House. The President, the Prime Minister, and the Deputy Prime Minister met the constructive workers' representatives in the first meeting. It was decided that the constructive workers should submit a programme of work. In the second meeting the immediate programme drawn up by

the constructive workers was finalised. Dr. Rajendra Prasad and members of the Congress Economic Planning Sub-Committee attended this meeting.

This is a great achievement indeed. Yet, efforts will have to be intensified. Cooperation between the people and the Government should have to be forged at various levels. The war we are going to launch against poverty, unemployment and social injustice of all sorts must be a "total war"—a "people's war" so to say—a war that will make us united against the common enemy. And if we are confident about ourselves, we are going to win.



● The Indian Meteorological Department

The Indian Meteorological Department was instituted in 1875, to coordinate, combine and extend the work of various provincial meteorological organisations which had been established in the years between 1865 and 1871. Before 1865, Provincial authorities asked administrative or medical officers in districts to note temperatures, pressures and rainfall, but unfortunately there was no arrangement to collect the records systematically and turn the data to account. Observations of value were however kept at a few observatories of the first rank. The Madras Astronomical Observatory, which was built in 1792, began meteorological observations in 1796. The Colaba Observatory (Bombay) was built in 1826 for astronomical and magnetic observations, and it started meteorological work in 1841. The Trivandrum Observatory in Travancore State, founded in 1836, has meteorological observations dating from 1842. In Calcutta, the Survey Office recorded meteorological observations from 1853, and these were continued until the existing Alipore Observatory started its meteorological work in 1875.

At the time of its formation, the main function of the Indian Meteorological Department was "the systematic study of the climate and weather of India as a whole and the application of the knowledge thus acquired to the issue of storm and other warnings and daily weather forecasts". In the course of time many more duties have been added, and some subjects other than meteorology have come under the jurisdiction of the Department. When the Department was founded in 1875 there were 77 meteorological observatories in India, which number was increased immediately to 94. More and more observatories

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were then gradually established, not only to fill up the gaps in the net-work over the country, but to extend the observations to the land areas around India and to island stations in the Indian seas. With the goodwill of the respective countries and the courtesy of British Consulates or Missions, the Indian Meteorological Department maintained observatories in Afghanistan, Iran, Arabia, the Persian Gulf, Seychelles, Zanzibar, etc.

● Asoka's Edicts near Bhuvaneshwar

The Department of Archaeology of the Government of India, has, in collaboration with the Government of Orissa, discovered a set of edicts of Emperor Asoka at the famous Asokan site of Dhauli, nearly four miles south east of Bhuvaneshwar in the State of Orissa. At Dhauli there is a low granite outcrop and on one of its boulders is inscribed the set of edicts. These edicts were addressed to the Mahamatras (local officials) of Tosali who were asked to read them out to the public on certain specified occasions in the year. The location of the inscription here suggests that the ancient township of Tosali was somewhere in the neighbourhood.

● Foreign Nationals in India

There are 3,497 Americans, 12,963 Chinese, 1,010 French, 1,032 Germans, 925 Italians, 401 Czechs, 396 Russians and 233 Greeks in India who have so far registered as foreign nationals. No quota has yet been fixed nation-wise for persons permitted to enter India. The stay of a foreigner is governed by means of a residential permit renewed at intervals of one year.

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Indians and Their Trading Rights In Gibraltar

This article deals with the difficulties experienced by Indian merchants at Gibraltar and has been sent to us for publication by the President of the Indian Merchants Association, Gibraltar. The Association vouches for the veracity of, and undertakes full responsibility for, the statements contained herein. We shall be interested to hear about the further progress of the negotiations that are now going on in London on the subject.—*Editor.*

When, in the 1800's, pioneer Indian merchants opened the first Indian shops in the small British colony of Gibraltar, little could they imagine that, a century later, their successors would be engaged in a grim struggle to prevent being driven out of business. Such, unfortunately, is the predicament in which present Indian merchants on the historic Rock find themselves. Early in the 1920's, an apparent dislike of competition prompted various local traders dealing in similar goods to start protesting against the Indians and their protests found echo in the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce, who, strange to relate, comprise only a very small section of the trading community. For close on thirty years, therefore, Indian dealers have been waging a losing battle for the preservation of their trading rights, which have been repeatedly curtailed by the British administrators of the colony, who, by taking the line of least resistance, have paid heed to the protests to the detriment of the Indians.

A detailed exposition of the restrictive measures employed would be somewhat lengthy. Salient features, however, are:—

1. A partly successful attempt made by the then Chief of Police, in 1923, to persuade Indian firms to limit, voluntarily, their shops to one per firm.

2. The introduction, in 1924, of the Alien Traders Ordinance, requiring shops owned by aliens to be licensed. (This ordinance is undemocratically unique inasmuch as it discriminates between the trading rights of British subjects born in Gibraltar and those born in other parts of the British

Commonwealth. It would be understandable, and to a certain extent acceptable, if such an ordinance had been framed by Gibraltarians themselves but self-government does not exist in the colony.)

3. Continuous attempts to limit, in the strictest sense, the goods which may be dealt in by Indians, by the proposed addition to their licences of a list specifying such goods in detail.

However, and apart from these restrictive measures, an ugly aspect of the whole matter is that evidence collection by the Indian Merchants' Association at Gibraltar, throughout the years, suggests that discrimination has been particularly exercised against Indians. The following striking examples bear out this contention:—

(a) In a letter to the Association, a former Colonial Secretary, Col. Beattie, made a reference to "far too many Indian Shops". (In this connection it should be pointed out that shops owned by Indian dealers do not exceed 2% of the total number of shops in Gibraltar.)

(b) In compliance with the Companies Act of 1930, Indian firms trading as limited companies were required to submit, amongst other particulars, details of the lines of goods handled. The authorities did not then question the rights of these companies to deal in the goods enumerated, yet, subsequently, several varieties of the goods were declared to be "prohibited lines".

(c) On various occasions, shops owned by other aliens were purchased, lock, stock and barrel, by Indians. After a period, the latter were advised that they could not trade in certain of the goods which had been freely sold by the former alien owners.

Finding that years of patient discussion and negotiation have not got them anywhere and having come to the painful realisation that their spirit of cooperation has been mistaken for a sign of weakness, Indian traders at Gibraltar have resolved to take a firm stand and in a supreme effort to maintain their rights, a deputation recently left for London to lay the facts

of the case before the High Commissioner for India and invoke his intervention. The final outcome is awaited with confidence, for the deputation has made known to the Indian High Commissioner the fact that the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce has only a membership of under 200 of a total of over 1,000 traders. (Indeed, in a recent meeting convened to discuss an exceptionally important matter, its President, Mr. L. J. Imossi, complained of the scant membership and sparse attendance.)

Another noteworthy fact which the deputation has revealed, in the interests of justice and fairness, is that Gibraltarians, generally, have never shown the slightest animosity against Indians and, indeed, the most amicable relations exist between them. The man in the street does not fail to recognise that, apart from providing employment to a number of Gibraltarians, Indian firms introduce the element of competition so necessary if the average Gibraltarian wants to prevent having to buy his needs at the prices dictated by monopolies operated by the few, but influential, big fry of the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce.

The aim of the Indian Merchants' Association at Gibraltar is, primarily, to secure the total repeal of the Alien Traders Ordinance, but failing this, that an amendment should be introduced excluding them from the observance of its rules and regulations. This would be a commonsense measure, for, in the same way as the rights of Gibraltarians are differentiated from those of the Indians, so should a distinction be made between the rights of the latter (Commonwealth subjects by choice) and those of aliens. At this stage, it is perhaps worthwhile to stress that hundreds of Indian firms in the neighbouring territories of French and Spanish Morocco and Tangier are able to trade in anything and everything, without let or hindrance. It is, therefore, rather ironic that such should not be the case with Commonwealth subjects in a British Colony.

However, and should the unrepresentative Chamber of Commerce finally have their efforts rewarded by the introduction of the list of merchandise which can be sold by Indians, then the Indian Merchants' Association will only be prepared to discuss a list which would comprise general lines of goods and not individual articles for, as the list stands at present.

Indian traders may sell ladies' handkerchiefs but not gentlemen's, gent's Panama hats but not ladies', wrist watches but not pocket watches or clocks, watch straps but not watch bracelets, dressing gowns and kimonos but not housecoats, etc., etc. Incredible as it may seem, such are the types of restrictions which the list sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce would impose on Indian merchants in the British Colony of Gibraltar.

GOD IS TRUTH

"To me God is Truth and Love; God is ethics and morality; God is fearlessness. God is the source of Light and Life and yet He is above and beyond all these. God is conscience. He is even the atheism of the atheist. For in his boundless love God permits the atheist to live. He is the searcher of hearts. He transcends speech and reason. He knows us and our hearts better than we do ourselves. He does not take us at our word, for He knows that we often do not mean it, some knowingly and others unknowingly. He is a personal presence...He is embodied to those who need His touch. He is the purest essence. He simply is to those who have faith. He is all things to all men. He is in us and yet above and beyond us. He cannot cease to be because hideous immoralities are committed in His name. He is long suffering. He is patient but He is also terrible. He is the most exacting personage in the world and the world to come. He metes out the same measure to us that we mete out to our neighbours—men and brutes. With Him ignorance is no excuse. And withal He is ever-forgiving for He always gives us the chance to repent. He is the greatest democrat the world knows, for He leaves us 'unfettered' to make our own choice between evil and good."

—GANDHIJI



● Indians in the Western Hemisphere

The Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru told Parliament that there was no particular grievance in regard to the treatment of Indians in the countries of the Western Hemisphere. "It may be that in respect of certain rights in British colonial territories difficulties arise. In the U.S.A. there is no difficulty for Indians who are citizens. That is another matter." Dr. B. V. Keskar, Deputy Foreign Minister gave the following figures of the number of Indians who had settled down in different countries of the Western Hemisphere: Canada 3,000; United States 2,405; Brazil 40; Argentine 600; Dutch Guiana 56,000; Panama 500; Newfoundland nil; British Guiana 180,129; British Honduras 1,366; Jamaica 22,821; Leeward Islands 99; Trinidad and Tobago 211,177; Grenada 5,000 and St. Lucia 2,189. He said that rules and regulations were different in the various countries but once they became nationals of the country there was rarely any discrimination.

Belgian Congo

● Baroda Girls in Ruanda-Urundi

Mr. Hussein Meghji, the leading merchant of Ruhengeri in Ruanda-Urundi, in welcoming the girls of Arva Kanya Maha Vidyalaya of Baroda, India, remarked that "it is seldom that people, coming from India, cross Uganda and come to Belgian Congo. Baroda girls can be termed as the first cultural messengers from India. By their coming over here India's position would certainly go up in the estimation of Belgians and other Europeans." Mr. Antonious, the Administrator of Ruhengeri, speaking on behalf of the Europeans said the Baroda girls, as the first cultural ambassadors of India, had done very well in raising the status of their country. "We are highly impressed by the skill of the girls in various physical culture feats, archery and lovely Indian dances."

British Guiana

● Economic and Social Position of Indians

These figures reveal the position that the Indian community occupies in the economic and social life of British Guiana.

COMMERCE

Indians	Non-Indians	Total
9	74	83

(Ref.: *British Guiana Commercial Review*, December 1948)

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

15	52	67
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(Ref.: *Churchill's Medical Directory*, British Guiana list 1948)

CIVIL SERVICE

24	312	336
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(Ref.: *Colonial Office List*, 1948)

ELECTED LEGISLATURE

3	10	13
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POPULATION—1946

Blacks (Negro) and Mixed (Afro-European)	..	50%
East Indians (Indians)	..	44%
Europeans and other races	..	6%
Total	..	100%

PRODUCTION FOR EXPORT

East Indian Production	..	£5,000,000
Non-Indian Production	..	£2,000,000
Total	..	£7,000,000

British West Indies

● Sanatan Dharm Hindi Schools

Two lots of land have been donated by Shri Mahadeo Battoo Singh to the Preysal Branch of the Sanatan Dharam Association for the purpose of erecting a Hindi School. The St. Joseph Branch of the Association has started to erect their Hindi School and have collected 1,500.00 dollars. The Waterloo Branch are preparing to give a cinema show in aid of their Hindi School buildings. Shri Bhadase Saggan Maharaj laid the foundation stone of the Hindi School at Maingot Road, Tunapuna, on 27th January. This school is sponsored by the Tunapuna branch of the S.D. Association.

Burma

● 5,000 Indians Axed in Burma Railways so far

According to the Burma Railways Indian Staff Welfare Association nearly 5,000 Indians employed in the Burma Railways have so far been discharged, while 2,000 more await a similar fate as they refused to declare themselves as Burmese nationals. Nearly 4,000 Indians employed in the Burma Railways stayed back and accepted the nationality of that country. The Government of India, in order to help the retrenched railway personnel, have decided to start two report centres at Madras and Calcutta and have issued directives to the General Managers of the M.S.M. and the E.I. Railways to absorb the former Indian employees of Burma Railways as best as they could.

Dr. B. V. Kesar, Deputy Minister for External Affairs, stated in Parliament that representations had been made to the Burma Government for safeguarding the pension and other service benefits of Indian nationals. The grant of proportionate pension to them had been agreed to by that Government. In pursuance of the policy of nationalisation of the services the Burma Government had discharged a large number of Indian employees. The exact figures were being collected. Efforts had been made to absorb the discharged Indian personnel of the Burma Railways and others in the Indian Railways and so far 614 such persons had been absorbed in the Indian Railways.

● Indian Ambassador's Assurance to stranded Indians

On 15th March 1950, Dr. M. A. Raut, the Indian Ambassador broadcast over Rangoon radio to the Indians in the Central Burma-Toungoo area controlled by rebel Karens, to remain calm and collected. He advised them to avoid the battle area as far as possible and said that he had informed the Government of India of their plight. He was confident that the Indian Government would be prepared to do whatever was possible to relieve their distress. He further said that the Burma Government were also aware of the situation in those areas and would give adequate protection to the lives, property and honour of all civilians, particularly foreign nationals. Dr. Raut made the broadcast following radio appeals from the civilians at Toungoo and the sugar manufacturing town of Zeyawaddi, expressing anxiety as these towns became battle-grounds in the Burma Army's advance to the north.

● Indians Leading Normal Life

An official of the Indian Embassy in Rangoon, who visited parts of Central Burma from Pegu to Pyu which were recently retaken by Government forces from insurgents, has reported that there have been very few casualties among the Indian population throughout the wide area of the

disturbed zone. Indians in general, he said, have maintained strict neutrality and even though they were harassed in the beginning by irregulars, they are now fairly safe and are leading a normal life. The Indian Embassy arranged to send this official to the area to contact the Indian population as well as the Burma Army and civil officers to ascertain the truth of the reports that some Indians were involved both as victims as well as part of Karen forces, when they were in occupation of this area. The officer visited Pegu and from there he proceeded to Nyaunglebin, where some Indians complained of harassment and looting by the irregulars before the regular troops of the Burma Army took charge of the town. He also visited Kyauktaga and later Pyu. The Pyu village had been completely destroyed by the Karens when they retreated. Among the large number of casualties in Pyu, there were only one Indian killed and 13 injured. It was generally accepted in this area that the Indians did not take any sides during the occupation by Karens. A few individuals who co-operated with the Karens did so because they were unemployed. In Nyaunglebin, about 500 Indians representing almost all important Indian villages in the vicinity, met the Embassy official when he was there. Their main grievance was that the irregulars had looted Indian property in that area and that they had no facility for storing their paddy, which they were being forced to sell. The various matters represented to the official by Indians are being taken up with the Burmese authorities and the Minister for Agriculture. Bo Khin Maung Gale has promised to help in disposing of the paddy before the rains. Further reports show that in Zeyawaddi and Toungoo, which have also been retaken by the Government forces, Indians are safe.

Ceylon

● President of the Ceylon Indian Congress

Mr. K. Rajalingam, Member of Parliament, was unanimously re-elected as President of the Congress for the ensuing year. Messrs. Rahalingam, S. Thondaman and Abdul Aziz had been nominated, but the latter two had withdrawn in favour of Mr. Rajalingam. Meanwhile Shri Abdul Aziz, the former President was declared elected in the Maskeliya seat by-election to the Ceylon Parliament on March 11 with a large majority, having polled 11,301 votes against his opponent's 1,301.

East Africa

● Administration of Tanganyika

Europeans in the Kongwa groundnut area have submitted a memorandum calling for the Tanganyika Territory to be divided into three "spheres of influence" for Europeans, Asians and Africans. They also declared they saw little opportunity for collective or individual progress while

Tanganyika remained under United Nations trusteeship. The memorandum was handed to the Government Sub-Committee seeking people's views on the constitutional development of Tanganyika. Each part would have an absolute right under this plan to settle its own area, and would be given complete security of tenure. This was regarded as essential to encourage European immigration which is "axiomatic if the Territory is to be developed". An unofficial majority, 50 per cent. European, should replace the present official majority on the Legislative Council, the memorandum said. Non-Africans should be elected on separate rolls, and Africans nominated with popular support. At present the Territory has no elective system. The proposed changes would turn provincial councils into electoral colleges electing one African and one non-African each to the Central Legislature. Non-Africans would be elected from a common electoral roll of Europeans and Asians, and 15 would be nominated by the Governor.

Kenya Indians will give full support to Africans in protesting against European settlers' opposition to proposed constitutional changes in Tanganyika, said Mr. S. D. Puri, President of the East African Indian National Congress, and that the issue has now boiled down to Europeans versus non-Europeans. The Congress, representing Kenya's 5,000 Indians, would organise a joint protest meeting with the African Union, main African political organisation, he added.

● Enterprising Indians set up Nail Factory

Messrs. Virani Bros. who have Curry and Dhall Mills as well as a Confectionery Factory in Nairobi, have chosen Mombasa as the site of their huge Nail Factory. This factory for the manufacture of nails is the first of its kind in East Africa. The factory has been started with one machine which will produce 100 tons of nails in three months and five other machines will arrive in the course of the next few months. When in full production, this factory will supply all the needs of East Africa.

Gibraltar

● Gibraltar Indian Traders' Grievances

A deputation of Indian merchants from Gibraltar who went to London to protest that an Alien Traders' Ordinance was squeezing them out of business in the fortress colony, met the High Commissioner for India in Britain. There are about 78 Indian firms in Gibraltar, most of them one-man businesses. All are of very long standing and they have formed an association among themselves. They claim that the first discrimination against them was an ordinance passed in 1924. This declared that all non-Gibraltarians should be regarded as statutory aliens who required licences for trading. Recently there was a further order requiring traders to give a schedule of the commodities in which they dealt. Maintaining that this last ordinance is worked in such a way as to limit the range of

goods which they can import, the Indian traders seek its complete repeal. They contend it is unfair that Commonwealth citizens should be declared statutory aliens in a British colony. The deputation comprised two of the leading Indian merchants in Gibraltar, Mr. A. Balaram of Messrs. Dialdas & Sons and Mr. Lalchand Mukhi. *[We would like to draw the reader's attention to an article "Indians and their Trading Rights in Gibraltar" appearing elsewhere in this issue.—Editor.]*

Malaya

● New Tamil School in Singapore

South Indian office boys in Singapore have succeeded in raising funds to build a Tamil school for their education. They made collections totalling 10,000 dollars (about Rs. 15,500) for the school, and the Government supplemented it with a grant of 6,000 dollars (about Rs. 9,300). The United Kingdom Commissioner-General in South East Asia, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, and the Head of the Singapore Government, Sir Patrick McKerron, sent messages of congratulations on the occasion of the ceremonial opening of the school.

● Malay Indians to start Industries in India

As a result of certain clarifications of the Indian income-tax law, accumulated surpluses of Indian businessmen in Malaya to the extent of about three crores of rupees in the first instance, are likely to move to India for investment. These businessmen have been eager to invest in Indian industrial undertakings, but had hitherto feared that they would be liable to income-tax in India on such transfers of funds. Following representations made by Indian businessmen to the Indian Trade Commissioner in Malaya, the latter has clarified that transfers of funds to India made for investment there by persons, whether Indian or non-Indian, who are not resident in India, are exempt from income-tax. Indian businessmen in Malaya are considering setting up in India such industries as the manufacture of galvanised iron and steel pipes, sheet glass, mirrors, wire nails, industrial steel ropes and chains, hydro-electric machinery, umbrellas, fertilisers and scarce fabrics. Some permits have already been granted to some Indian businessmen in Malaya for the transfer of funds to India for investment in industrial projects.

● Sambasivam wins appeal

On 30th March, 1950 Sambasivam, a 27-year old South Indian trade unionist under sentence of death in Malaya for carrying a revolver, was set free by the British Privy Council sitting in London. The appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council was filed in Singapore last June after a last-minute dash from Kuala Lumpur by the India Government's Representative in Malaya, Mr. J. A. Thivy, who had visited Samba-

sivam in Johore prison to get his appeal. On being set free Sambasivam was immediately rearrested under the Emergency Regulations. Attempts are now being made by Mr. Thivy to repatriate him to India as he has expressed a desire to return to his motherland.

Nepal

● Nepali Organisations Merge

The Nepal National Congress and the Nepal Democratic Congress—the two foremost political organisations of the Nepali people—have merged in the interest of unity among progressive forces in Nepal. Shri Matrika Prasad Koirala, President of the Nepali Nationalist Congress, and Shri Mahendra Bikram Shah, President of the Nepali Democratic Congress, in a joint statement, said: "Both the organisations have decided that the country should be prepared for a fight to the finish against the autocracy that has no parallel anywhere in ruthlessness." The leaders appealed to "those who have the interest of the country at heart" to help build a real mass movement in Nepal with the object of introducing democracy. At a joint meeting of the two bodies held in Calcutta on April 9, a new organisation called the Nepali Congress was formed with Shri M. P. Koirala as President. Addressing the Conference, Shri Koirala advised his countrymen to rely on their own strength and be united for launching a movement for the advancement of the "people's freedom" in Nepal. About 500 delegates from Nepal and other Nepalese centres in India attended the conference.

Pakistan

● Claims for Evacuee Property in West Pakistan Total Forty Thousand Million Rupees

Hitherto undisclosed or little known facts about the problem of evacuee property and extracts from confidential documents relating to inter-Dominion negotiations on this subject, are given in a brochure compiled by the Ministry of Rehabilitation. In retrospect, this record throws a flood of light on Pakistan's policy on this issue, and provides useful background for understanding the real causes of the present deadlock existing between the two Dominions.

The value of non-Muslim property left in West Pakistan is "from six to ten times the Muslim property left behind in India". The claims filed by non-Muslims for property left behind in Pakistan total nearly four thousand crores of rupees. A rough estimate of Muslim property left behind in India is placed at about four hundred crores of rupees. In West Punjab alone, it is stated, non-Muslims have left behind over eight million acres of land, large portions of which are canal irrigated.

In addition, lands have been left behind by non-Muslims in Sind, N.W.F.P., Bahawalpur, Baluchistan and Khairpur. As against this, Muslims in East Punjab and in the States of Patiala, Nabha, Jind, Faridkot and Kapurthala have left behind only about four million acres, and the land is mostly unirrigated. The difference in the value of land alone is placed at over Rs. 300 crores. In addition, non-Muslims have left behind houses, factories, plant and machinery, huge stocks of raw materials, etc. On the basis of a fair valuation the value of immovable property works out to Rs. 1,000 crores which may become payable by Pakistan to India.

The disturbances which led to mass migrations covered some 300,000 square miles in Pakistan, while the area involved in India was about 87,000 square miles. In 93 per cent. of the area in India, Muslims continued to live in peace and security. Some Muslims migrated from other parts of India of their own free will to partake of the opportunities of employment and business in West Pakistan created, to a large extent by the planned eviction of non-Muslims from there. The total population of displaced persons for which India has had to find food and shelter (from West and East Pakistan) is approximately equal to the entire population of the continent of Australia.

It was at a meeting of the Joint Defence Council held at Lahore on August 29, 1947, under the chairmanship of Lord Mountbatten, the then Governor-General of India, that the problem of evacuee property was first discussed. The decisions taken here were also referred to in subsequent public statement addressed to the people of East and West Punjab by the Prime Ministers of the two Dominions on September 3, 1947. This statement among other things stated: "Illegal seizure of property will not be recognised, and both Governments will take steps to look after the property of refugees and restore it to its rightful owners. Each Government is appointing a Custodian of Refugees Property." The decision was confirmed in similar language by the West Punjab Government in a press communique issued subsequently from Lahore. But almost immediately afterwards, Pakistan took the first unilateral action. Without consultation with the East Punjab Government the West Punjab Government issued an Ordinance "to provide for economic rehabilitation in West Punjab". The Ordinance conferred very wide powers on the West Punjab Government which were in direct violation of the letter and spirit of the decisions taken by the Joint Defence Council on August 29, 1947 and the joint statement made by the two Dominion Prime Ministers on September 3, 1947. Soon after the Pakistan Prime Minister and the West Punjab Government itself had agreed that "illegal seizure will not be recognised," the properties of non-Muslims were openly seized by the West Punjab authorities for the rehabilitation of Muslim displaced persons. The Government of India was confronted with a *fait accompli*. On December 1, 1947, the West Punjab Government, again without any reference to India, and "in pursuance of instructions received from the Governor-General of Pakistan" (words quoted from the Ordinance) issued Ordinance No. VII of 1947 which had several confiscatory provisions. The effect of this

Ordinance was that evacuee owners could neither exchange nor sell their properties.

Several Indo-Pakistan conferences have since then taken place, bringing the matter no nearer solution. No agreement could be reached regarding agricultural property or urban immovable property. As regards movable property, even before the ink on the agreement was dry, a hunt began for all movable evacuee property in West Punjab. The authorities "took over" as much property as they could lay their hands on for the "rehabilitation" of the Province and for the "restoration of the economic life of Pakistan". Two new Central ordinances were promulgated in October, 1948 by Pakistan, again without consultation with India. The effect of both was to spread the net much wider for roping in as much non-Muslim property as possible. Under the agreement reached at the Inter-Dominion conference held at Karachi from January 10 to 13, 1949, displaced persons in the two Dominions were given facilities for arranging on an individual basis sale or exchange of their urban immovable properties. The two Governments also agreed that until displaced persons could arrange for sale or exchange of their properties, machinery would be set up in the two Dominions for collecting rents which would be forwarded at regular intervals to evacuee owners. Almost the first thing Pakistan did immediately after the Karachi Agreement was to issue a new Ordinance requiring in effect, persons visiting Pakistan for the sale or exchange of their properties to obtain an income-tax clearance certificate if they stayed in Pakistan longer than 15 days. Visits to Pakistan became almost impossible, as over-staying the period of 15 days would have meant imprisonment. In other directions also, it soon became apparent that the Pakistan Government had no intention to honour the Karachi Agreement.

All the time, while negotiations were continuing, the Pakistan Government had gone on making its evacuee property law tighter and tighter by new legislation. Evacuee property law in India had remained very mild. This, naturally, drew considerable criticism from displaced persons in India who wanted the Indian law to be similar to Pakistan's. The Government of India decided to review the position. In June 1949 they issued an ordinance for the administration of evacuee property in the Chief Commissioners' Provinces which was subsequently replaced by an all-India Ordinance in October 1949. This Ordinance does not apply to West Bengal, Assam, Cooh-Bihar, Tripura and Manipur. On July 26, 1949, the Pakistan Government issued yet another Ordinance, forbidding all transactions concerning evacuee property as also the property of what they were pleased to call "intending evacuee". This drove the last nail in the coffin of the Karachi Agreement of January 1949. In a letter dated August 22, 1949, addressed to Pakistan Government, the Government of India summarized the situation then existing and reiterated that in their opinion a satisfactory solution of this problem would only be on the basis of both Governments assuming responsibility for the evacuee property left behind in their territories, a just and fair valuation of property in either Dominion being made by joint machinery and the

net liability resulting from such valuation being liquidated by agreed arrangements. Pakistan's reply to this letter was characteristic of that Dominion's attitude to this problem throughout the period since partition, and merely tried to cloud the issues. The Pakistan Government replied: "The Government of Pakistan have repeatedly stressed their inability to agree to a settlement of evacuee property claims on the Government basis." A new Ordinance issued on October 15, 1949, tightened the evacuee property law still further in West Pakistan. The net result of this has been a fresh exodus of Hindus from Sind, where some of them were still sticking out as Pakistan nationals despite great hardship.

The position to-day is that a fundamental divergence of opinion exists between the two Governments. The fact of the matter is that the vast non-Muslim property in West Pakistan has enabled the Pakistan Government to rehabilitate their displaced persons without any expenditure, while the Government of India have had to spend nearly Rs. 70 crores so far on the relief and rehabilitation of their displaced persons, and are likely to spend another Rs. 100 crores before the problem can be brought under reasonable control. If the Pakistan Government were to accept liability for the assets they are using, they would have to pay considerable amounts to India for the liquidation of their liabilities. Even if they paid only the current fair rent of these properties, the amount due would be considerable.

● The East Bengal Disturbances

The number of persons killed in East Bengal during the recent communal disturbances up to 13th March 1950 is estimated to be about 3,500, according to official sources. A large number of people are reported to have been injured but exact figures are not yet available. Besides three attacks on trains by armed mobs, one at Suryanagar near Rajbari station on February 25 and two at Santahar on February 28 in East Bengal, assaults were committed by Muslim hooligans on Hindu passengers on most of the railway lines in East Bengal from February 12 to 18. In the attack on the train at Suryanagar 7 passengers were killed and 25 wounded. Two hundred casualties are reported in the attacks on trains at Santahar. The value of the property looted, burnt or destroyed in the city of Dacca alone would be about Rs. 3½ crores. In the rest of the province, the loss is estimated at about Rs. 2½ crores. This does not include the property abandoned by Hindus who had to flee from their homes. Many of them are still in refugee camps or have taken shelter with their relations or friends hoping to have their property, which they have temporarily abandoned, restored to them. The number of refugees who have left East Bengal and crossed over to West Bengal is now about a million. They are being sent to relief camps in Assam, Bihar and Orissa. The number of abducted persons is stated to be considerable, especially in the districts of Sylhet and Bakarganj.

Portuguese India

● Nehru's Stand Welcomed

A public meeting of Goans, held in Bombay on 19th March unanimously passed a resolution pledging their unqualified support to Prime Minister Pandit Nehru in his recent declaration in the Indian Parliament that Goa will undoubtedly join India. The meeting organised by the Bombay Committee of the National Congress (Goa) was presided over by Mr. A. S. de Mello, President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. The meeting also passed a resolution declaring that "Goans will not tolerate the presence of a foreign Power in their motherland any longer". The resolution said: "Goa is not a part of Portugal in any shape or form; Goans are Indians and Portugal can never lay claim to their birthright. The Portuguese are terrorising an unarmed people into submission to their regime. This meeting declares that any resolutions or so-called protests said to have been made in Goa are false propaganda arranged by the Portuguese Government through their agents and henchmen. This meeting challenges the Portuguese authorities in Goa to call a public meeting of Goans, after suspending for a week the suppressive laws against freedom of the Press, speech and association and, confident in the justice of the cause of the people of Goa, declares that not one Goan shall be found to support the Portuguese in Goa."

Another resolution passed at the meeting called upon the National Congress (Goa) to "prepare immediately the people of Goa for resistance and struggle for freedom in such non-violent forms as may be proper". A nine-man committee was set up to "organise relief measures for the political prisoners in Goa. Members of the committee include Mr. S. B. D'Silva and Mr. Waman Desai, President and Secretary respectively of the Congress, and Mr. A. S. de Mello.

Addressing the conference Mr. de Mello called upon the Portuguese Government to "give peacefully to Goans the freedom of life and religion which we in India have been given and which Goans also have earned and now deserved". Mr. de Mello made this appeal to Prime Minister Salazar of Portugal: "Afford us the opportunity of a Caretaker Government, formed with the best men of the Goan community in whatever part of the world they may be—and let us negotiate for and fix a time limit, during which time Portugal would be prepared to transfer and India would be prepared to accept Goa as a separate State."

● Goa Teacher Exiled

According to reports in Goa newspapers, the Portuguese Colonial Ministry has ordered that Mr. Divakar Cacodkar, a teacher in an English-language school in Goa, be expelled from the colony. The Ministry alleged that Mr. Cacodkar held "views subversive of the security of the

State". Mr. Cacodkar would be exiled to the islands of Cape Verde, off West Africa, the Ministry declared.

● Goans' Struggle for Freedom

The Goan people were mobilising their forces for a struggle of liberation from Portuguese tyranny in the not distant future, observed Dr. Antonio de Sequeira, Editor of *Taz Da India*, a daily which was recently banned by the authorities in Goa. At a Press conference in Bombay on 8th April he said that the people in India did not fully appreciate the nature of the Goans' struggle against Portuguese rule which was fascist in character, perhaps because their own struggle was against a country that had been nursed in the traditions of democracy. At the moment, he declared, a complete and a unique kind of censorship had been imposed on the publication of news in Goa. The Press in Goa had to struggle not so much against censorship on the publication of news, as against being compelled to publish hand-outs and even being told to set them in a particular type. The only Indian daily which was allowed entry into Goa was *The Times of India*, this paper being according to a Portuguese paper *O Seculo* against the Indian Government's stand on the future of Goa.

Rhodesia

● Plight of Indians in Rhodesia

On 7th February 1950, Mr. C. L. Patel, Secretary, Indian Congress, Rhodesia, at a Press conference in Bombay, said that every day new laws and regulations were coming into force placing more and more restrictions on the Indian community of Rhodesia, making life for them miserable and trade difficult. He said that racial discrimination was a thing unknown in Rhodesia and Indians who numbered about 2,000 enjoyed to the fullest extent the same rights and privileges as the other settlers. However, of late, an unfortunate development had taken place. "The policy of racial segregation adopted by the Malan Government in South Africa victimising the Indian settler, has won the sympathies of a section of the European population in Rhodesia. Restrictions unknown and unexpected in the past have begun to raise their ugly heads and the new legislations being promulgated by the Government all point to worse time ahead", he stated. He further pointed out that the average individual European was outwardly very cordial to the Indian, but when he occupied his seat in the Council, every action of his was directed at denying the Indian an opportunity to exist. He attributed this policy of racial discrimination against the Indian settler to the latter's phenomenal success in trade and business and the repressive measures of the whites were aimed at crippling Indian trade. Mr. Patel regretted that since partition of India, there has been a defection of Muslims from representative organisations of Indians which he maintained were secular organisations

fighting for the welfare of all Indian settlers without any communal discrimination.

South Africa

● Indians Protest against Ban on Seretse Khama

The South African Indian Congress has cabled a protest to Mr. Clement Attlee, the Prime Minister of Britain, against the ban placed by the British Government on Seretse Khama. The cable says: "The South African Indian Congress representing the Indian people of the Union view with grave alarm the British Government's decision in exiling Seretse Khama from his homeland despite his tribe's election of him as their Chief. As no satisfactory explanation for this action has been given we cannot help concluding that colour bar and mixed marriage were the factors responsible for the arbitrary and unjust decision. With justice loving people of the world we join in protesting against the banishment order and respectfully draw your attention to the fact that people of Africa engaged in struggle against colour bar and racial discrimination deeply resent this action which has reduced British prestige on this continent to its lowest level. This decision is completely at variance with justice, fairplay and democracy claimed for British rule. We who are suffering under the most humiliating form of racialism on this continent express our fullest sympathy with the people of Bechuanaland who through your Government's decision have become the latest victims of the abhorrent policy of race prejudice which violates the principles of human freedom."

Another cable has been sent to Mr. Leary Constantine, Chairman of the "Fighting Committee" in London representing the 20,000 non-European people in the United Kingdom, supporting their protest. In a cable sent to Mrs. Khama, the South African Indian Congress said: "With democracy loving people of the world we join in pledging our solidarity in your and your husband's fight against racial and colour discrimination."

● Transvaal Indians appeal to Nehru to Interfere

Transvaal Indians are facing a grave situation as a result of the Union Government's stringent application of the Ghetto Act. Confiscation of landed properties and ejections from existing occupation threaten hundreds of Indian families with total economic ruin. In terms of the 1949 amendment to the Act, the South African Government have absolute powers to confiscate innumerable properties belonging to Indians. Under these wide powers, properties worth several thousands of pounds have already been confiscated by the Government and the latest acquisition is an Indian school at Bloemhof. The Transvaal Indian Congress, confronted with this very serious situation has asked the Union Government to suspend these prosecutions on grounds that such action is necessary for

the purpose of demonstrating goodwill and honesty of purpose of the South African Government in agreeing to hold round table talks. Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, President of the Transvaal Indian Congress and the Joint Secretaries, Mr. Y. A. Cachalia and Mr. D. U. Mistry have made an urgent appeal to Pandit Nehru to intervene on behalf of the Indian community and to "prevail upon the Union Government to suspend forth with all prosecutions under the Act pending the proposed talks".

● Indians Finance Own School

The Indian community of Germiston (Johannesburg) has financed and erected a five-roomed school at the cost of about Rs. 91,000 for their children.

● Indians Assert Right to use Library

Three Indians walked into Durban's public library on 13th March to challenge the local by-law which restricts use of all public library facilities to Europeans. They looked at reference books, examined the lending library and read newspapers in the public reading room. They left after city police had taken their names. The Natal Indian Congress, which has sponsored this protest move, stated that the Indians were only exercising a right which they believe the Council is withholding from them without any legal authority to do so. "There is no question of the Indian people 'invading' the Municipal Library. To invade is to enter with hostile intentions. Congress members have no such intention."

The Executive Committee of the South African Indian Congress, has issued the following statement:

"The South African Indian Congress regret the lifting of the trade ban by the Government of Pakistan against South Africa. This announcement comes as a shock to the Indian people of the Union. We fail to appreciate the considerations which led the Pakistan Government to take this decision, specially in view of the fact that the trade ban was imposed as a protest against the Asiatic Land Tenure Act of 1946, which not only remains in force but has been recently amended by the present Government, imposing further crippling restrictions on the Indian people. The Congress which for the past four years, have urged holding a round table conference, would appreciate any move to create the right atmosphere. But it is their considered opinion that for the creation of such atmosphere a spirit of reciprocity is necessary, which is badly lacking on the part of the Union Government. On the contrary, the Union Government has introduced numerous discriminatory and oppressive measures against the Indian people, as a result whereof, their position in this country has seriously deteriorated. The Congress welcome the stand taken by the Government of India, that so long as discriminations and disabilities—against which the protest was made—remain, there can be no justification for removing present trade restrictions."

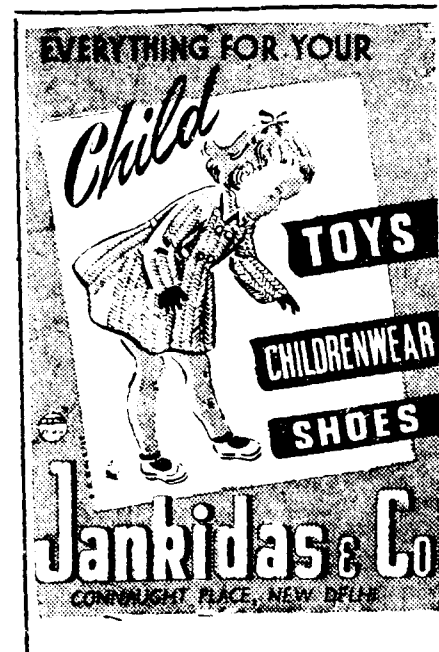
United Kingdom

● Indian Textiles exhibited in London

An exhibition of some of India's loveliest textile fabrics was opened by the Indian High Commissioner, Shri V. K. Menon, on 16th March 1950. The High Commissioner said that through the exhibition they wished to make some contribution to the export drive and to Indo-British trade relationship. Later they hoped to have exhibitions of raw materials and other things so that the manufacturers of Britain and other countries would be able to see what India produced. The purpose of the exhibition was to promote economic contacts between India and Britain and it was arranged by the Trade Officers of India House in cooperation with Indian businessmen in London. The exhibits range from ancient hand-made textiles to the products of modern mills and cottage industries. Manufacturers from all over India have contributed to make the exhibition widely representative of the country's resources in cotton, silk, brocade, wool, jute and coir.

● "Friends of India" meet

Friends of India, Dundee (Scotland) held their meeting on 22nd March 1950 in the School of Economics, Dundee under the chairmanship of Rev. J. M. McGanley, at which Indian films were shown by the courtesy of the Film Section, Public Relations Department, India House, London. The films, which are intended to promote cultural and friendly relations between the peoples of India and Britain, were much appreciated by the audience.



Corruption in Churches

I hold no brief against any particular church. Nor am I inclined to start any controversy over the vexed problem of corruption in the Christian Churches. I have been prompted to write by various activities of the Christian Churches, which to my mind, if not checked forthwith, would prove fatal to them. Hence my diatribe against prevalence of corruptions in the churches, I hope, would be perused in the spirit it is written. I ask point-blank, whether the Christian Churches with such unhealthy and dirty elements like favouritism, nepotism, vindictiveness, party-politics, enmity, flattery and prodigious disparities between the salaries and allowances of missionaries and the Indian mission workers are justified in claiming preferential treatment or are worthy of the name to be called a religious body? If not, why should they not be divested of all powers which they exercise under the name of religion? Besides, why should they not be classified as one of the commercial or business concerns? In what sense should they be considered as a religious body, when they act and function exactly in the same manner as any other secular organization? It is a pertinent question for the Christian Churches to answer.

The Bombay Government has made excommunication an offence and forbidden religious bodies, including Christian Churches, from excommunicating members of their communities. What have the Christian Churches got to say to it? The Bombay Government, whose Governor is a Christian, must have ample reasons to justify its action, and it is hoped that other Provincial Governments would emulate the example of the Bombay Government by enacting a similar law. In fact, I have already written to the Governor of the Uttar Pradesh on the subject, and he has very kindly referred the matter to the Premier of the Province. Excommunication in the Christian Churches have become more frequent and much worse than what obtained in any modern Hindu or other society. It is used as a weapon to wreak one's vengeance on others for personal reasons. I know of two cases. In one case a respectable

Christian had been excommunicated on the lame excuse that he wrote about the church affairs in a *non-Christian paper*, but the real motive for doing it was personal animosity. For one of the members who excommunicated the gentleman, not long ago, advocated marriages of Christian girls out of the Christian fold, an act which was even against the Christian doctrine, and yet he was not excommunicated, the reason being that he wields a great influence over the missionaries and is a *namak halāl* (loyal) servant of theirs. In the other case, a group of Christians were excommunicated by the Baptist Missionaries in Bengal for no reason other than that they became members of a certain Christian ashram and refused to remain under the suzerainty of missionaries. If God-fearing people are excommunicated on such flimsy pretences, then excommunication has outlived its utility and the sooner it is made an offence in the whole of India, the better.

This is not the only evil, which has grown unprecedentedly in the Christian Churches: there are many others also. And I am afraid if no sincere or earnest efforts are made to purge themselves of the same, they would face the fate meted out to them in Czechoslovakia sooner than expected. They may even have to lose the religious freedom guaranteed in the Constitution of India. It is time that the Christian Churches see things in their true colours. They should not gloat over and feel complaisant over the false propaganda or *chaplusi* of the hypocrites. It is time that more stress was laid on the revival of spiritual awakening in the churches than bargaining for personal gains. Heavy burdens lie on the shoulders of the missionaries, who are still tin-gods and manipulate the entire machinery of the mission work and churches. The Christians have attained political independence, but religiously they are still serfs of the missionaries and their money. Economically they are the worst sufferers and their future is very uncertain. Why make fish of one and flesh of the other? In the service of God, all should be treated alike. The rise in salary of a mission worker should be based on progress of his spiritual life and not on position or service. Favouritism, nepotism, flattery, hypocrisy and *dhokebazi* (cheating) should go from the churches lock, stock

and barrel. I do not need to cite here authentic cases of nepotism and favouritism extended to only a few chosen stooges.

In conclusion, I once again make it clear that I have written this letter with no malice or prejudice against any body. However, I feel convinced that if the churches showed no improvement or did not change their outlook, they would come to grief, not mainly due to the missionaries, but more due to Indians themselves, who, for the sake of material gains have forgotten their God and religion. I know reports are pouring in the offices of the State and Central Governments against the activities of Christian Churches, and it would be by no means out of place, if the Governments concerned intervene, for no free country would like to see any section of its people oppressed or ill-treated. It is time that the heads of all the churches in India call an all-India conference to discuss and contrive ways and means to restore the Church to its original place of the highest spiritual purity. The deterioration in the spiritual lives of its leaders must stop, or else religion would soon face a great challenge in communism, and I foresee, a great battle between the two. If religion does not awake, it would succumb to the communist doctrine for many thousands of men and women who have been frustrated and exploited in the name of religion would go over to communism. This would happen if the present Government, for some political reasons, does not prefer to free the Christians from the scoldom of foreign missionaries.

Chhapathi,
Mainpuri.

SETH HOWARD.

(We are afraid we know very little about corruption in Churches and we do not hold ourselves responsible for Mr. Howard's views. But if what he says is true, then it is high time the authorities concerned do something to improve matters.—Editor.)



- (1) *The Ramayana in Independent India and the New World Order*—pp. 10, Price Re. 1.
- (2) *The value of English Literature for Indian Youth*—pp. 8, Price Re. 1.

Both by K. S. Ramaswami Sastri, The Indian Institute of Culture, Bangalore.

These are reprints of two lectures delivered by the author at the Indian Institute of Culture, Basavangudi, Bangalore on the 11th and 12th July, 1949. Shri Sastri who is well-known to the South Indian public, is a lover of literature—ancient, and modern—and these two lectures bear witness to the depth of his learning in both. The Ramayana is, according to the author, not only one of the world's greatest poems, but it has historical, social and political significance also. The first paper seeks to bring about the significance of the political message which this old epic contains for free India. English literature, epitomising as it does all that is modern in literatures of the world, is the theme of the second paper. Shri Sastri maintains that the English language and literature have done us great service and are needed even to-day. We wish the reprints had been priced much lower so as to make them available to the average Indian reader.

Hamari Rashtra Bhasha—by Shiromani Venkataram Visarad, Shri Shammukha Publishing House, Mannargudi, S. India. Price 8 as. and 10 as.

The first two numbers of this Hindi reader series which we have received contain the usual lessons for the beginners in Hindi. The books have been prepared with a view to help those who have just begun learning Hindi.

Concentration and Meditation—by Swami Sivananda, The Sivananda Publication League, Rishikesh. pp. 421, Price Rs. 5.

"Concentration and Meditation" embodies all the essentials of *Dhyana Sadhan*. It may be rightly regarded as the *magnum opus* of Shri Swami Sivanandaji. *Dharana* or Concentration constitutes the very keystone of the structure of spiritual life. Bound handsomely this valuable book gives everything about its theory, practice and perfection.

Short Studies on China and India—By V. G. Nair, pp. 164. Price Rs. 3.

This is a collection of twenty-eight articles by the author which have already appeared in various Indian periodicals. Shri Nair, who is the Assistant Secretary, Sino-Indian Cultural Society of India, Santiniketan, has dealt with various aspects of Chinese life and thought as well as some of the great men China has produced over the centuries. In between he has sketched the lives and activities of Gurudev Tagore, poets Vallathol and Balamani Amma of Kerala and artist Abanindranath. There are two articles on Buddhism and Buddhist literature. The author is obviously quite familiar with China and the Chinese and has a fund of information to give on this subject. As Shri Tan Yun-Shan, Director of the Visvabharati Cheenabhavana, says in his Introduction to the book, Shri Nair's 'is a labor of love aimed at furthering the cause of cultural understanding between India and China'. Altogether a very useful collection to students of eastern culture.

We fail to understand why an article on "Tamilnad and Bharathiar" by Shri R. Krishnamurthy, Editor, *Kalki*, Madras, is added at the end as an appendix.

The Indian Review: Golden Jubilee Number, January 1950, Shri G. A. Natesan & Co., Madras. Price Rs. 3.

This special number of the famous monthly journal founded by the late Shri G. A. Natesan has been published to commemorate its fifty years of meritorious service to Indian

nationalism and Indian journalism. There are nearly fifty items of interesting reading value consisting of articles, short stories, poems, messages, etc. Of special interest are the well-deserved tributes paid to the late Shri Natesan and his spirit of enterprise in publishing literature on Indian nationalism. Profusely illustrated with over 130 portraits of leaders and writers, it is a well-got up issue.

Business Week—India (Commercial Weekly)—Single copy—As. 4, Business Week Press, 173, Lloyds Road, Madras 14.

One of the most useful of India's weekly journals. A perusal of the contents, week by week, shows that it has an all-India news coverage for traders and businessmen. Of special interest are regional surveys of world business news and trends of money, stocks and commodities markets. However, we cannot say how far it is independent of particular business interests in the country. Our best wishes to this venture which is now in its third year.

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Anand Bazar Patrika, Calcutta.

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