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Indian Affairs

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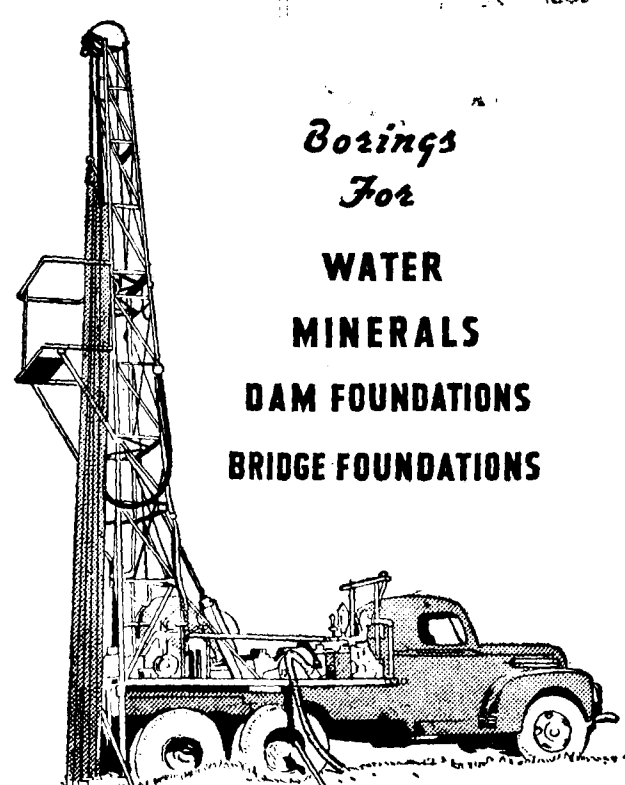
**Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar
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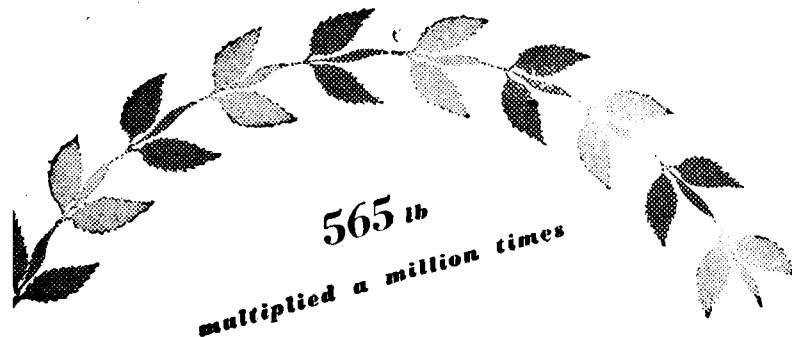
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The Editor invites articles and news items of interest to Indians living abroad for publication in this Journal. Contributions should be preferably typewritten on one side of the paper and should be sent well in advance of the probable date of their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

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Indian Affairs

(A Journal of the Indian National Congress)

Vol. II

JUNE, 1950

No. 9

The Shape of Things

Perhaps the most important development in the last few weeks was the agreement between India and Pakistan concluded at Delhi on 8th April last. Writing in the April issue of our journal, we hoped that "Pakistan will learn the error of its ways before it is too late and thus avert a catastrophe". This hope, we are glad to say, has now been realised and a *catastrophe has been averted*. That is obviously the most outstanding gain of the Nehru-Liaquat agreement. Even if nothing else is achieved, this fact alone *viz.* the removal of the danger of an open clash between the two countries, which at one time looked perilously near, would entitle this agreement to be hailed with joy in both countries. It has normalised an oppressive atmosphere surcharged with emotionalism of a type which is particularly dangerous in the prevailing conditions. Everything that we have held dear since time immemorial, everything that is best in our traditions and way of life, was in danger of being lost, if the situation had not changed, almost miraculously, as a result of the Delhi Pact. It is a welcome sign of our return to sanity.

It is yet too early to assess the positive advantages we have gained. Nevertheless there are signs that a new chapter has opened in the history of Indo-Pakistan relations. This new

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

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understanding has set in motion a series of events that augur well for the future. Nehru's two-day visit to Karachi and the hearty welcome he received from the people of Pakistan, the subsequent trade agreement between the countries, the joint conference of Pakistani and Indian newspaper editors, the agreement on pensions due to ex-officers of either country—are all welcome steps in the right direction.

The agreement on trade lasting till 31st July, 1950, provides for a balanced exchange of commodities expressed in monetary terms. As against a supply of eight lakh bales of raw jute from Pakistan, India will supply 20,000 tons of jute manufactures, 45,000 bales of fine and superfine cloth, 5,000 bales of cotton yarn of 40 counts and above, 7,000 tons of mustard oil, 5,000 tons of steel sheets, five lakh lbs. of tobacco, 1,000 tons of wheels, tyres and axles, 12,000 tons of timber and fifty lakhs worth of woollen manufactures. Cement not exceeding fifty thousand tons will be supplied by India for East Bengal. A number of other items like fresh vegetables, fruits, fish, etc., has been placed on the list of free trade between the two countries, the general understanding being that private trade in regard to these commodities would also be on a balanced basis without Government interference and without the need for either Government providing foreign exchange for the purpose. This is only a beginning. It may be confidently expected that the scope of the pact would be extended further as necessity arises and better relations develop between India and Pakistan.

The conference between newspaper editors of the two countries referred to above which was held in Delhi early May, has been a splendid success from all accounts. The Pakistan journalists have been impressed by the sincerity of their Indian counterparts and both have agreed that henceforth the press of both countries should work in cooperation for the establishment of goodwill between the two peoples. The press wields immense influence in the moulding of public opinion and on it rests a major share of the responsibility to implement the Nehru-Liaquat agreement on minorities. It has already set a good example by encouraging a sympathetic understanding of each other's difficulties and problems.

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What is, however, more welcome than all these developments, is the indication available that the major conflicts between the two nations like the evacuee property question, the Punjab Canal Waters dispute and, most important of all, the problem of Kashmir, may also be tackled on a direct level. If this can be done—and we feel it can be done if Pakistan continues to be in the same reasonable mood as she is today—then a lasting foundation for peace and amity between the two neighbours would have been laid.

* * *

The National Planning Conference which met in New Delhi on 25th April last on the initiative of the Congress President, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, and which was attended by members of the recently set up National Planning Conference, Chief Ministers of States and Presidents of the various State Congress Committees, created history inasmuch as it provided a common platform for both the official and non-official elements, on whose shoulders the responsibility of building the nation ultimately lie, to meet and exchange ideas on the all-important subject of economic planning.

In his address, inaugurating the conference, the Congress President dealt with the history of planning in India from ancient times to the present day and analysed the factors which require emphasis in any scheme of planning in this country. Pandit Nehru who is the Chairman of the Government Planning Commission addressing the gathering, emphasised the need for cooperation between non-official and official agencies in economic planning and expected the conference to give a lead to the planning authorities on the various planning schemes—short-term and long-term—which have been presented from time to time. Sardar Patel, who also addressed the meeting, gave expression to a few home truths in his usual forthright manner. He gave the warning that unless the Central and State Governments and the Congress organisation cooperated in this national endeavour, nothing could be achieved. The conference passed a number of resolutions on the various aspects of planning with particular reference to the urgent need of an immediate programme to lift the country out of the economic morass which

a combination of unfortunate circumstances have forced it into.
(*Text of the resolutions appear elsewhere in this issue.*)

* * *

We think that the recent decision of the Ceylon Indian Congress, authorising its Committee to withdraw if necessary its former decision to boycott the provisions of the Indian and Pakistani Residents' (Citizenship) Act, is a wise move. The committee, when it meets, is expected to withdraw the boycott and we hope this generous gesture on the part of the Indian community will be reciprocated by the Ceylon Government. There are hardly 16 months left under the provisions of the Act in which Indians can secure registration as citizens of Ceylon. We feel that the time has now come for the Government of Ceylon to take a reasonable view of the difficulties of Indians in the matter and make the necessary changes in the law in order to enable those Indians who desire to become Ceylonese nationals to do so in a fair and honourable manner.

* * *

The Indian Council of Cultural Relations was inaugurated by Pandit Nehru in New Delhi on the 9th April last. Pleading for greater understanding among the nations of the world, Nehru said, "We must approach our fellow human beings or other countries not in any sense of surrendering anything that we consider of essential value to truth or to our own genius; but, nevertheless, in a friendly way, with our minds and hearts open and prepared to accept whatever good comes from them." Maulana Azad, the first President of the Council, speaking on the occasion traced the history of the Council. While it is the aim of the Cultural Council to establish closer contacts between India and all other countries of the world, two sections of the Cultural Council—a Middle-East and Turkey Section and a South and East Asian Section—are to be set up for the present, of which the first has already begun functioning. At the headquarters of the Council in Hyderabad House, New Delhi, a Cultural Library is being built up, to which Maulana Azad has donated the whole of his personal collection of books. There is to be a Reading Room where newspapers, journals and other publications of all countries will be available. The Council proposes to arrange periodic meetings to discuss parti-

cular aspects of the culture and civilization of India and other countries as well as to arrange for the exchange of professors between countries. Diplomatic representatives from various countries also addressed the meeting pledging their support to the objects of the Cultural Council. Although started on an unostentatious scale, the Council for Cultural Relations promises to develop into an influential organisation for the promotion of goodwill among mankind. India's initiative in this respect has been warmly welcomed by several countries including Egypt, the Levant States, Iran, Afghanistan and Indonesia.

* * *

The implications of the new Group Areas Reservation Bill which has been introduced in the South African Parliament and which is now in its initial stages are grave, so far as the Indian and coloured population of the Union is concerned. The bill seeks to carry out the principle of *apartheid* to its logical conclusion by reserving distinct and exclusive areas for the "white", "native" and "coloured" races. The Government will have the power to declare any area as "group area" in which only members of a particular racial group can live or hold property. It is claimed that this Bill will help to eliminate racial friction and promote racial harmony by "allowing each racial group in South Africa a measure of existence and development as a distinct entity." This tall claim is quite in keeping with the usual platitudinous utterances of the Malan Government to cover a rankly discriminating policy against the Indian and native population. Discrimination, pure and simple, is the bedrock of this new law, whose object is to exclude non-Europeans from penetrating the rich and developed areas occupied by the Whites. No amount of whitewashing and sugar-coating can hide this insidious purpose. With no voice in Parliament and no political power, the non-Whites are condemned to lead an inferior existence in the ghettos reserved for them.

If this is meant as a contribution to the solution of the racial problem in South Africa, it is doomed to fail. For, it can only rouse racial antagonisms further and lead to fresh clashes between the Europeans and non-Europeans. So far as the Indian community is concerned, there is no salvation for

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Problems of Ceylon Indians

The tenth annual session of the Ceylon Indian Congress was held on the 21st April, 1950 in Matale, Ceylon under the Presidentship of Shri K. Rajalingam, M.P. In an extremely lucid address delivered on the occasion, Shri Rajalingam analysed the various problems facing the Indians in Ceylon. Following are extracts from his presidential speech.—*Editor.*

This time last year we called upon all Ceylon Indians not to accept the lower citizenship offered to us and not to barter away their rights and self-respect in the expectation of any illusory temporary advantage. Ceylon Indians have stood as one man against the iniquitous legislative measure carried through the Parliament in spite of representations from the Government of India and from their accredited representatives here, and in the teeth of opposition from sympathisers among the Ceylonese who rallied round us in a spirit of noble and passionate love of justice and fair dealing. The Ceylon Indian Congress has demonstrated its strength and solidarity by its united action in boycotting the inferior citizenship offered to Indians in this country. It is still possible for it by such concerted and sustained action to have it revised in the manner we desire. We shall fail only when we forget our ideals, objectives and principles and begin to stray away from the path of right and rectitude we have always striven to follow.

Before we decide to take the next step onward in our campaign so boldly conceived and so auspiciously launched, we have to recall to mind the benefits we have derived from the inspiring presence in our midst of our great, dearly beloved and revered leader, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, whose wisdom and moderation in settling differences with the neighbouring countries have earned the admiration and praise of statesmen all over the world. He felt that it was wrong and unwise for India to exercise any pressure over a country, which is now as free as his own, and that a sense of justice and reasonableness would always triumph over petty prejudices and pride, which some in this island had allowed to cloud the clear-cut issues of this very simple question. In his own inimitable manner

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it in this Bill. In these circumstances we wonder what purpose can be served by the projected Round Table Conference between India and South Africa. The Group Areas Bill has, it seems to us, sabotaged the whole idea of settling the Indian question in South Africa by peaceful negotiations.

—THE EDITOR.

he gave expression to his deep and profound feeling of misgivings over the treatment of Indians in this country at the mass meeting held in his honour in Colombo, words which I reproduce here for the most careful consideration of one and all alike: "It is not my desire to interfere in any way, and I speak to you for the moment not as the Prime Minister of India but rather as an old friend and colleague, what I have in my heart as I have a little trouble about this matter—this matter of those people on the plantations in Ceylon who came from India long years ago to live their lives here and are as much part of Ceylon as anybody else and whose future is in doubt. I urge that these people, that this very fine body of men and women who have laboured in this country and done their part in building up this country, be given every consideration in this country." Later at Delhi also he has expressed his undying faith in human values and the hope that these differences would be ironed out and all outstanding questions dealt with in a manner honourable to the prominence of both the countries in South East Asia and to the genius of their people.

As a result of Pandit Jawaharlal's visit the opinion is gathering force day by day among the people of this island that it would be wrong to deny the most elementary citizenship rights to the largest minority group therein, to overlook their great services to this country and to relegate them to a position of inferiority at all times. Segregation of this nature has had its most disastrous repercussions in other countries, and in high Government circles there is now perceptible a glimmer of reason and justice and a desire to do the right thing. A false sense of prestige has never done anyone any good and a magnanimous righting of a manifest wrong can only have the most beneficial results, which are bound to be appreciated not only here and in India but also all over the world, where iniquities and inequalities of this nature are slowly producing an intolerable situation of strife and struggle, which may have its aftermath in the spilling of innocent blood.

Whilst thanking you therefore for your steadfast and implicit adherence to the Resolution carried at the ninth session of the Ceylon Indian Congress to boycott the Indian

and Pakistani Residents' (Citizenship) Act, I am bound to express my own considered view that the qualifications for citizenship are too rigorous and the procedure prescribed too cumbersome to be followed by the vast majority of Indians in Ceylon. I would also reaffirm our demand for equality of status between citizens by registration and those by descent. But it must also be borne in mind that there is a section of Ceylon Indians sincerely anxious and willing to work it; besides, there would also seem to be a weighty section of Ceylonese opinion which feels that it is ungracious and unfair to reject the Act out of court without giving it a trial. Therefore as custodians of the rights of the entire Indian community you have to ponder deeply and wisely over this matter.

A minor, yet vital disability imposed on Indians in this country is the harsh and unreasonable manner in which the provisions of the Immigration and Emigration Act are being utilized to prevent the free ingress into this country of those who have the necessary residential qualification. The Right Hon'ble D. S. Senanayake had given an assurance to the effect that the Act would never be utilized to prevent Indians who have legitimate business or occupations in this country and have the required residential qualification from returning, and yet every conceivable device is being used against this free entry. We understand that not more than ten per cent of those who reached Mandapam to cross over to Ceylon have been able to obtain either temporary or permanent resident's permits on account of the hostile attitude of the Ceylon Immigration and Emigration authorities stationed at Mandapam and Thattapara. Here again the Soulbury Commissioners had given a distinct directive. They stated: "It should not in our judgment be competent for the Government of Ceylon unfairly or unreasonably to prohibit or restrict the re-entry of persons normally resident in Ceylon at the date of bringing into force of an Immigration Bill. We recommend that the new constitution should enable the Governor-General to reserve an Immigration Bill, if in his opinion its provisions regarding the right of re-entry of persons reasonably resident in this island at the date of passing of the Bill by the Legislature, are unfair or unreasonable."

In 1939 the Government of India had imposed a ban on emigration and therefore few of the Indian labourers in Ceylon could have been resident in the island for less than five years. A large number were born here and the Government of Ceylon have the power to restrict further admissions. The Soulbury Commissioners therefore anticipated that the Government of Ceylon would have the ability, as they felt sure they had the desire, to assimilate the Indian community and to make it part and parcel of a single nation. In spite of this wise counsel, attempts to squeeze out as many Indians as possible are being made in flagrant violation of all assurances and recommendations, and these savour of an ungracious and separatist tendency, not quite in keeping with the sentiments so freely blazoned out at all times that India and Ceylon are one from all points of view, traditional, cultural and what not, and are bound to affect the cordiality and goodwill which India has always shown and continues to show in all her dealings with this country. Let us hope that a sense of justice and reason will brighten the outlook of the powers that be in this country, and that they will be prepared to work these laws in a reasonably fair manner in keeping with its avowed intentions.

The Government of Ceylon has through its party strength in Parliament amended the Parliamentary Elections Order-in-Council resulting in the disenfranchisement of Ceylon Indians mainly and a few others. There was, however, a move directed towards making the seats of the European members of the House of Representatives secure. This undemocratic action unknown in any other country which claims to be guided by democratic principles has reduced the Ceylon Indians to a state of perpetual slavery in both political and economic fields. We are not perturbed over the few thousand temporary residents in this country but over the fate of the large majority who have made it their home for better or worse. The Indian estate labourers working and living under deplorable conditions of life, deprived of the most common amenities of a decent and civilized form of living, must have the suffrage restored to them without any modification or reservation, if they are to continue to discharge their duties in building up this country.

There is one other problem which has been exercising the minds of most Indians in this country. I allude to the Exchange Control Regulations which in other countries are utilised only as a necessary measure at the present time for conserving currency but is converted by the Ceylon Government into a political weapon for driving away these Indians by making life more and more difficult for them. The Finance Minister's brazen-faced declaration in this matter and the subsequent activities of the Department of Exchange Control are distinct indications of the length to which they would be prepared to go in order to ensure that all possible impediments are placed in the way of Indians sending contributions for the help of their dependants left in India. The conditions imposed for obtaining permits to remit money every month for the said purpose are too drastic, and even when these conditions are satisfactorily fulfilled, the allowances which are sanctioned are so meagre that men here—especially small traders and workers—are left without help or hope of ever being able to support their dependants as they ought to do. There is blank despair writ large over the countenances of these poor men and they are driven from post to pillar and from pillar to post in order to secure even the small measure of help which the department so grudgingly allows them. In the cases of those who wish to leave Ceylon for good, it was made known that they would be allowed to transfer their entire assets to India, but in actual practice this clearly legal and legitimate transfer too is not allowed for some frivolous reason, and cases are not rare where a man who wanted to take his life's earnings of Rs. 600 with him was allowed only Rs. 60.

Ceylon claims to be free, but it is a mystery why it has perpetrated a discrimination against Indian settlers in this matter while the white settler is generally able to take away whatever he wants. It has been admitted that in the case of a comparatively small number of white settlers nearly a crore is remitted annually to the United Kingdom, whereas only 75 millions are allowed to be remitted to India by Indians in this country. The Finance Minister is not concerned in the least degree about the large remittances made to the United Kingdom which he says are in the shape of interests, profits

and dividends whereas, according to him, remittances to India are largely a payment for imported labour and not for imported capital. This blatant discrimination is a clear indication of the fact that the present Government is only interested in protecting the capitalist and is not much concerned with labour, although it is from the blood, sweat and tears of the latter that the large dividends are earned and the country's administration financed.

I very earnestly appeal to the people of this island, which rightly claims to be a Buddhist country, to consider whether the misery and sufferings imposed on a large section of its subjects is in conformity with the principles of Dhamma, which its great protagonist has declared in unmistakable language, should be the guiding factors in the life of every Buddhist. The Buddhist rule of life is based on unbounded love for mankind and personal salvation from suffering based on service and sacrifice, and on broad and all-embracing humanity. Dhamma imposes a lofty standard of morality and life must be concentrated striving after virtue, creating a tie of love to bind the whole of humanity.

THE ARYAN PATH

Editor : Sophia Wadia

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The National Planning Conference Resolutions

The National Planning Conference which met in New Delhi on the 25th and 26th of April last, passed a number of important resolutions on the economic problems facing the country. These resolutions are reproduced below as they are likely to influence greatly the formulation of basic economic and industrial policies of the Indian Government in the future.—EDITOR.

1. OBJECTIVES

The Congress has declared the establishment of a democratic classless society in a non-violent and peaceful manner as its ultimate objective. The Constitution of India has guaranteed fundamental rights to her citizens and has enunciated the directive principles of State policy to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may, a social order in which justice—social, economic and political—shall inform all the institutions of national life. For the achievement of these objectives, it is necessary to formulate not only a short-term but also a long-term plan initially to cover a period of five years.

While the long-term plan will necessarily have to be well-integrated and all-inclusive and will require a clear demarcation of the phases through which it should be worked out by the country and the people, for the purpose of the immediate programme, attention will have to be concentrated on a few major items and priorities will have to be determined to indicate the order in which action for the fulfilment of the programme can most effectively be taken.

For the implementation of such a programme emphasis should be laid on the rousing of mass enthusiasm and consciousness which alone can make it a people's programme. It will also be necessary to create such institutions as cooperatives in agriculture and industries and Panchayats, and to arrange for the training of local leadership to man these institutions.

In the background of our limited resources, economic planning presupposes a period of austerity on the part of the people. In order to secure voluntary self-denial on a nation-wide scale for the purpose of a programme of planned regional development, efforts should be made to create a sense of equality of sacrifice among all sections of the community.

In the immediate programme every effort has to be made to raise the level of production and employment and to repair the damage to the economy of the country caused by the neglect of the past and the ravages of the second world war, the economic consequences of partition as well as the devaluation and its aftermath.

The successful implementation of the immediate programme will create conditions for the attainment of a stable and fair price level and for a more comprehensive planning with a view to: (a) promoting a balanced economy in agriculture, large-scale and basic industries, village industries and social services; (b) rationalizing production in agriculture and industry and taking steps for the establishment and administration of a just and decentralised cooperative economy; (c) bringing a definite rise in the standard of living of the people as a result of planned economy which guarantees a fair remuneration to those who participate in the creation of wealth.

2. AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN REFORMS

India's economic and social progress will in large measure be conditioned by the extent to which her land and water resources are developed. On the efficiency of the country's agricultural production will depend not only the satisfaction of the basic need of an adequate balanced diet for its growing population, but also the supply of raw materials for some of her major industries.

The immediate object in agriculture that the country has set before itself is self-sufficiency in food, to be attained by the end of 1951, as well as in cotton and jute; and concerted measures to this end are already under way. These consist of reclamation of land, offering of incentives and assistance for the diversion of land from other crops to the cultivation of cotton and jute, and improving the yield and quality of agricultural produce. What is needed for the purposes of the immediate programme is an intensification of some of these measures, as well as the creation of conditions conducive to better farming. Increased efficiency of agriculture postulates more than improvement in facilities, organisation and techniques; the maintenance and restoration of soil fertility; and the provision of irrigation. All this will fail to confer full or lasting benefit unless the tiller of the soil is given a sense of security and self-respect and the economic and social condition of the agricultural labour is improved.

The specific measures which have to be planned for the improvement of agriculture as part of the immediate programme will comprise the following:—

(1) The provision of irrigation facilities by way of reconditioning old, and constructing, new tanks and wells, including tube-wells. Such minor works will appeal most readily to the rural population and secure their active cooperation. They will supplement the irrigation that will be provided by the river valley projects, which should be completed as early as possible as part of the long-term plans of the Central and State Governments.

(2) The rapid multiplication of better seed. A well regulated procedure is required in all the States for the production of nuclear seed,

its multiplication under carefully controlled conditions and its testing before final distribution to the cultivator.

(3) The stimulation of compost-making, if necessary by legislation, and the full utilisation of the various other forms of organic manures available in the country. Definite planning is required for the conservation and use of waste material, human and animal excreta and residual matter from the carcasses of animals, and for maintaining soil fertility.

(4) The reclamation and conservation of the soil. There are still large areas in most States which could be brought under cultivation with the help of tractors and other machines. New areas brought under cultivation could assist materially in the settlement of displaced population, and works undertaken to prevent soil erosion will provide employment very appropriate to the agricultural worker.

(5) The development of an effective and widespread agricultural extension service. Such a service will act as a two-way link between the cultivator and the scientific departments of the State, so that the cultivator's practical difficulties are solved in the laboratories and the results are conveyed to him convincingly. It should be the special concern of the service to bring about an improvement in the arrangement for the designing, production and maintenance of better implements. (The quotas for the supply of iron and steel required for agricultural implements must be raised for a significant improvement in this direction to be possible).

Agriculture will remain in a state of flux so long as the structure and pattern of rural economy does not become clear and definite. It is therefore necessary to shorten the period of transition by expediting the abolition of *Zamindari* and *malguzari* by paying compensation, if necessary, in bonds. Provision should be made for fixity of tenure to the tiller. Subletting, even if allowed, should be for a period of just less than five years and for regulated rates of rent.

Cooperative Better Farming Societies should be organised in every region in a planned manner with fixed targets. Experiments in cooperative joint farming may also be made in selected areas. Both to multipurpose cooperatives and cooperative joint farms, special facilities should be granted by the State and they should receive priority in all matters of State assistance. In areas where fragmentation is intense, consolidation of holdings should be undertaken in a determined manner. Special efforts should be made to organise cooperatives for uneconomic holdings.

Special attention should be given to the organisation of agricultural labour for the betterment of their condition. Agrestic serfdom should be made a cognizable offence and the President of the Union Board or the Village Panchayat might be empowered to enforce the law. Debts of agricultural labourers should be scaled down and wherever found inequitable, wiped out. High priority should be given to provision of house-sites for agricultural labourers and to the removal of the disabilities attached to the present house-sites.

The problem connected with the development of India's agriculture offers a challenge to the planner and an immense scope for purposeful cooperation between the Government and the people; and success or failure in the solution of these problems will make all the difference between growing prosperity and continuing poverty in the land.

3. COTTAGE AND SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES

The programme of planned development of village and small-scale industries can, while increasing avenues of employment and ensuring more equitable distribution, make a significant contribution to the volume of production in the country. In the background of our limited resources in money and capital and the vast man-power, the decentralised co-operative economy has the double virtue of increasing production as well as employment speedily without consuming much capital. The policy of restricted import, closure of certain mills, growing unemployment and the recent flow of refugees from East Pakistan have further enhanced the urgency for, and underlined the importance of, the organisation of such industries in a planned manner.

The cottage and small-scale industries, by and large, present a spectacle of low technical efficiency, antiquated methods of work and organisation, extreme exploitation by *sowkars* and unsatisfactory conditions of life and labour. To remove these deficiencies there should be a rapid survey of the regional resources suitable for the development of these industries and the requirements at home and abroad which can be met by their products. Such a survey can be carried out by a coordinated effort of the State Governments in liaison with the National Planning Commission.

Every State Government must have a target in its plan for the organisation of industrial cooperatives which should receive essential materials on a priority basis from the Governments and look after the supply of the other raw materials and marketing of the products of the village and small-scale industries.

Emphasis should be laid on research in design and pattern and improvement of implements. Facilities should be provided for training of artisans for different industries in improved methods. While cottage industries in general should be developed on the basis of regional potentialities, provision should be made for inter-regional training centres so that the peculiar efficiency of the artisans of a particular region may be transmitted to the artisans of other regions.

In a properly coordinated plan, large-scale and small-scale cottage industries can be supplementary and complementary to each other. A

small cess on the large-scale industry may be levied to be utilised for subsidy to cottage and small-scale industry in order to reduce the disparity in the costs of production between them.

Modern technique of salesmanship should be applied to the cottage industries. Such methods of production should be adopted as will ensure a steady flow of standardised mass-produced utilities having an artistic appeal so as to add to our exports especially to hard currency areas.

The handloom industry, which is by far the most important cottage industry in the country, suffers from a number of handicaps. These should be removed if it is to grow and prosper and hold its own against competing mill production. The following steps may be taken: (1) To reduce the charges borne by the handloom weavers but not so either by a composite or a weaving mill; (2) To organise a syndicate of handloom weavers, cooperatives for purpose of dye-stuff and chemicals; (3) To make necessary adjustments in the specifications of the textile requirements of the Governments to suit the capability of the handloom industry; (4) To reserve certain varieties of cloth and requisite number of counts in order to protect this industry from mill competition and to regulate the setting up of additional looms by mills with due regard to the interests of the handloom industry; (5) To ensure adequate supply of yarn required to the handloom industry.

Every State Government has a programme of promoting the *Khadi* industry. Suitable subsidies and other forms of State assistance should be devised to protect and promote *Khadi* industry. The following steps should be taken: (a) Governments should purchase as far as practicable *Khadi* for their cloth requirements; (b) Certification of *Khadi* should be the responsibility of A.I.S.A. and allied bodies. Uncertified *Khadi* should not be allowed to be sold in the name of *Khadi*.

Industries like *ghani* industry for edible and non-edible oil, *palm gur* making, hand-pounding of rice, paddy husking, dairy farming, paper-making, button making, poultry farming, ceramics, silk spinning and weaving, leather making and tanning, and industries connected with horticulture and dead animals, should be encouraged. Measures should be devised to protect ghee from adulteration and put a stop to further expansion of the *vanaspati* industry.

4. A PROGRAMME OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The fulfilment of any scheme of economic development depends in a large measure on the standard of education and civic consciousness, health and efficiency of the people and a feeling of general contentment and goodwill. In this sphere of nation-building activities, where there is so much to be done, the primary consideration should be to fix priorities.

Instead of frittering away our energies on a diversified programme, an attempt should be made to tackle the problem at the root and to have a practical programme yielding quick results and maximum satisfaction.

Under Gandhiji's leadership, the Congress accepted the policy of developing a system of Basic Education which centres round a major craft, so that in every student a sense of dignity of labour is generated and he grows into a productive member of society. While the comprehensive reorganisation of education is bound to take time we feel that even during the transitional period, whatever may be the nature of training, every student today must not only develop the body and the brain but also acquire those qualities which would equip him for earning his livelihood by means of productive labour.

As the organisation and development of a decentralised cooperative economy will largely rest on the initiative, spirit of self-help and leadership on the part of the common man, a practical programme of adult education has a special significance and should receive high priority.

Under any scheme of fixation of priorities in the sphere of public health, where we are confronted with a large number of problems, attention should be concentrated on eradicating malaria which impairs the vitality and efficiency of our rural and agrarian population. High priority should be given to supply of pure drinking water in the villages. And above all, there should be a well-conceived programme of education of the people in healthy ways of life.

There should also be a programme of building village roads, trench latrines, small water channels and clearing of jungles on a cooperative basis. This sector of our programme offers a unique opportunity for harnessing our abundant man-power. To build a happy life and society, the labour potential should be mobilised. The Village Panchayat and other local self-governing bodies should prepare a budget of the labour power and implements of the locality which can be enlisted for this purpose and the Government should be prepared to offer assistance in money and materials in such proportion to the contribution of the people as may be decided upon by State Governments.

In this programme of rural development, specially in the Grow More Food Campaign and improvement of the technical efficiency of small-scale industries by imparting technical knowledge on a wide scale to the people, and in the building of roads, bridges and canals, the military personnel, when not employed on active operations, may take an important and worthy role. Such participation will create a sense of urgency among the people and train them in disciplined action and bring them in closer contact with our military personnel and establish complete cordiality between the people and the army in a democracy.

5. PLANNED INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL

To finance the planned development of the country, it is the paramount duty of every citizen of the State, who can possibly do so, to lay by a portion of his or her income. In recent times, while the claims on our capital resources have been numerous, the rate of capital formation has considerably declined. As a result of the war time shift in our economy, purchasing power has passed in some degree to sectors which have neither the habit of, nor the facility for, investment. Steps have already been taken to introduce compulsory savings among some income groups and to intensify the campaign for small savings, but as the quantum of investible surplus has not been commensurate with the demands of planned economy, some further steps should be taken in this direction.

The most important of these is the linking of local projects to local investible surplus. Maximum facilities should be given to multi-purpose cooperatives which are to be started in a planned manner on a nationwide scale, to canalise the surplus of the countryside. In order to make the cooperative organisation a fit instrument for this purpose, it is imperative to reorganise the cooperative movement and to introduce a definite policy of subsidy by the State. There should also be a programme under which persons who are well-placed in life might regularly put a certain percentage of their income into the shares of cooperative societies. Establishment of regional Industrial Finance Corporations, extension of the facilities for postal insurance to all government servants and to lower income groups in non-governmental occupations, slight increase in the rate of interest on postal savings and increase of the limit to individual deposit in Savings Banks should go a great way in stimulating capital formation.

A programme of planned economic development pre-supposes a definite policy of priority-rating in the matter of investment of national surpluses. To implement such a scheme of priority-rating in our investments, it is necessary to rationalise the control of capital issues so that a positive policy of priority-rating is imparted to our programme of capital investment in large-scale industries. It is also necessary to establish Credit and Finance Corporations for agriculture, substantially subsidized by the Governments operating through cooperative societies wherever possible, and to start in every State an Industrial Finance Corporation charged primarily with the task of advancing capital to cottage and small-scale industries.

6. MACHINERY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

At the basic level three institutions should operate on a functional basis, viz., the Village Panchayat, the Multi-purpose Cooperative and the Industrial Cooperative. The villagers should be encouraged to outline their plans for local development, social and economic, in the light of their regional resources and their readiness to contribute by way of labour,

other services and money, so that the people might have the satisfaction, when the plan finally emerges after coordination at the district, provincial and national level, that it is their own plan. Such a method of planning serves to reconcile the conflicting claims of centralisation involved in planning, with those of democracy and local initiative.

At the District level there should be a Rural Development Board consisting of the representatives of these functional institutions, the President of the District Board and one representative each of the nation-building departments of the Government, the Chairman being the district officer. There should be provision for nomination of the representatives of labour and large-scale industry wherever necessary and of eminent constructive workers. So long as the institutions at the basic level do not come into existence, the Board should be nominated by the State Government from a panel of names suggested by the district officer on the basis of the functions essential to the development of rural economy.

At the Provincial level there should be a Provincial Board representative of the District Development Boards with the provision for nomination of representatives of labour and industry and eminent economists, doctors, educationists and constructive workers. The Provincial Board should serve as a Standing Advisory Committee to the State planning machinery and should be consulted by it in fixing priorities for various developmental activities and allocation of materials in short supply. It should function as the spear-head of publicity for mobilising labour and capital for the purpose of regional development schemes.

It is, therefore, necessary to have at least a few development centres under the auspices of the District Development Board for concerted implementation of the whole programme of rural development. To work in the cause of this programme, a special cadre should be trained from local artisans, kisans and self-sacrificing young men and women.

While today every State Government has a machinery for coordination of developmental activities, there are wide differences in their composition and functions from State to State. It is therefore necessary to have a uniform machinery for this purpose in the shape of a sub-committee of the Cabinet consisting of the Ministers in charge of nation-building departments, the Chief Minister being its Chairman. After considering the advice tendered by the various departments and the Provincial Development Board, the State planning machinery should draw up a comprehensive plan for development, making proportionate allocation of available resources in money and material. Such a well-integrated and all inclusive machinery alone which associates the people and the Government in this endeavour of formulation and execution of the programme of development, can achieve the supreme objective placed before the nation and the country.

7. LABOUR AND HOUSING

Low productivity is a conspicuous feature of large-scale industry in this country and is adversely affecting the interests of the consumers as well as of the workers themselves. The appointment of *working parties* by the Central Government for effecting rationalization on comprehensive lines in certain industries, with due safeguards for the interests of labour, is a welcome step. This process should be expedited and extended to other industries.

Special attention should be given to the improvement of conditions of work and better provision of amenities like drinking water and sanitary arrangements.

Considerable unemployment has arisen in certain industries owing to closure of mills and the retrenchment of a number of employees. Steps should be taken to avoid unemployment as far as possible. Where it becomes inevitable, safeguards should be provided for the employees in the shape of suitable gratuity in the case of retrenchment and facilities for absorption in other establishments or occupations. A proposal for retrenchment by an employer should, however, when dispute arises, be subject to the approval of the agency to be set up by the State Governments.

Progress of industrial housing under the scheme announced by the Central Government has so far been negligible. It is imperative in the interests of raising industrial efficiency and for ensuring industrial peace, that large-scale construction of houses for industrial workers should be undertaken without delay. Any hindrances in the way of the execution of such a programme should be removed.

8. CONTROLS

Controls are a legacy of the war and were in operation when the national Government came into power. On account of the inevitable strains imposed by controls, the question whether they should continue or not has attracted considerable attention and roused acute controversy and widespread feeling. Some two years ago the Government decided to lift controls on food and cloth but their expectations were not realised and controls had to be reimposed. In view of the developments that have since taken place such as devaluation, as well as the lack of social consciousness against anti-social elements and the inability of governmental machinery to enforce the controls effectively and strictly, a review of the entire position is called for. It is necessary to examine this question dispassionately in its true setting and correct perspective, so that controls which are considered to be unnecessary may be lifted at the earliest suitable opportunity consistently with the interests of the community and the demands of a planned economy. In regard to certain articles at any rate, there would appear to be a *prima facie* case for removing controls, e.g. salt, paper, coal and cement.

9. EXPORT AND IMPORT POLICY

Our exports and imports should be so planned that even at some sacrifice to the people of the country, industrial raw materials, capital goods, other essentials and the service of foreign loans, for the development of our agriculture, basic and large-scale industries, may be financed. A review of the present policy is called for with a view to restricting import of consumers' goods to an austerity level. It is also necessary to devise ways and means to promote exports even at the cost of some privation to the people, so that the gap in our balance of payments may be bridged.

10. CONTROL OF SPECULATION

While the stock and commodity exchanges have a place in the present economy, the wagering element in transactions in various forward markets, which often lead to violent price fluctuations, has to be kept under rigid control. Legislation on an all-India basis may be enacted forthwith to provide for the necessary degree of control to be enforced over various forward markets.

Growers of cotton and other agricultural commodities should be organised on a cooperative basis and be provided with suitable credit facilities so as to place an indirect check on undue speculation in commodities.

INDIAN AFFAIRS — WHAT OTHERS SAY

A very useful and necessary arm of the A. I. C. C. office is its Foreign Department and the most laudable output of that department is the **Indian Affairs** monthly, which under the able editorship of Dr. N. V. Rajkumar serves to interpret Indian life and culture to the people of other countries and helps to keep our countrymen abroad abreast of events and developments at home. Valuable for the wealth of reading matter and with attractive getup the annual number is a remarkable success, and a brilliant testimony to the commendable spirit and endeavour which are responsible for the publication of this monthly. The Foreign Department of the A. I. C. C. and especially the Editor have every reason to be proud of the first year of the infant journal.

— **People's Health, Madras.**

It does not only epitomize the day-to-day progress registered by the Indian Government but also gives in ample measure, an account of and the treatment meted out to Indians the world over.

— **Commerce & Industry, Calcutta.**

A word, to congratulate you on your excellent publication 'Indian Affairs' which is of considerable interest to us.

— **Dr. Bhabani Bhattacharya, Indian Embassy, Washington, U. S. A.**

I was glad to see the latest copy of 'Indian Affairs'. I am sure it is proving very helpful.

Shri R. R. Diwakar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

A Plea for the Integration of Indian Banks

LALA YODHRAJ

In the course of his annual speech as Chairman and General Manager of the Punjab National Bank, Lala Yodhraj made a pertinent point relating to the urgent necessity to integrate the various banking institutions in India in the interests of Indian banking. We think this is a very useful and interesting suggestion and we reproduce below the relevant extracts from his speech for the benefit of our readers.—*Editor.*

The political map of India after the integration of 500 States into sixteen units has been greatly changed. The 'banking map' of India will also have to be changed by the integration of 78 Indian scheduled banks into, say, not more than a dozen or a dozen and a half—roughly equal to the number of Provinces and States left in the country. A smaller number with bigger size will meet with India's banking needs much better than the larger number of smaller banks. By doing the great bulk of banking business and holding most of the total deposits of the country they will be a better instrument for carrying out an integrated national policy of finance than the larger number of loosely scattered smaller banks. The English system of branch banking suits India better than the banking system of the U.S.A. Even in the latter country, the Federal Reserve System has done much since it was set up in 1914 to "pool" and centralise the cash reserves of its member banks. Branch banking will enable the larger units to use their cash reserves more effectively, distributing them among their branches according to the demand for cash in different places. It will facilitate loans from one part of the country to another. The central control of each bank will ensure a uniform policy and permit technical skill of a high order. All loans of any size will require the previous sanction of the Head Office eliminating in this way the personal factor in loans and advances of local managers. All such applications will be dealt with on merit and in accordance with the policy laid down by the Head Office or the Reserve Bank of the country.

My opinion is that if the principle of integration of banking institutions in India is accepted, the existing institutions could be easily fitted into the new frame-work without causing any dislocation of banking business and creating any unemployment. That would be a sort of "rationalization of banking" which will do immense good to the country. An outline of the scheme of integration could be as follows:

The heads of the banks chosen to lead the other banks would constitute an Association in which the financial policies could be discussed and settled. This Association would be in close touch with the Reserve Bank and the Finance Department whose representatives should participate in its discussions. The subjects to be dealt with by the Association should cover (a) the loaning policy, (b) the system of safeguards, (c) audit, (d) general administration including staff policy, and (e) promotion of inter-bank agreements.

Under the guidance of the Association the internal inspection system of banks could be standardised and the inspection reports regularly sent to the Reserve Bank. The Reserve Bank would in this way remain in close touch with the inspection work of each bank without launching upon a formal inspection—special or annual. The regular submission of internal inspection reports to it and their scrutiny by it would considerably help the Reserve Bank in the discharge of its duties as the guardian of depositors' interests.

At present the total number of branches of all the scheduled banks in India is 2,923. For providing adequate banking facilities to rural areas of our vast country, a minimum of 1,500 to 2,000 branches is needed. These are not likely to repay their way or be self-supporting in the present circumstances without the grant of a subsidy by the Government or provision of certain safeguards demanded by the commercial banks. Direct financial help by the Government in the present state of India's finances could neither be abundant nor certain. Even the grant of small subsidies with a rigid priority system would involve a biggish sum. It is also open to question whether it is desirable to divert funds from industry and multi-purpose schemes to the granting of subsidies for rural banking. The country is thus con-

fronted with a dilemma. Grant of subsidies for rural banking is out of question for the time being, while without it the banks may not care to expand on the rural side.

But the expansion of rural banking is essential if India is to live and progress. At present out of a total population of 35 crores, factory labour is less than 25 lakhs. This gives an average of one labourer working to supply factory goods to 140 men. To make up the leeway in industrialisation, we require more power, more steel, more capital goods, more technical skill etc. This will take considerable time. For the development of rural areas it will be more practicable and suitable to concentrate on the development of cottage industries and provide for them a distinct sphere of production. But the provision of modernized tools and implements, movement of raw materials and marketing of finished goods will not be possible without the expansion of rural banking. Credit facilities by way of collection and discounting of documentary bills, etc. will have to be provided. The total industrial population of undivided India was a little less than 3.5 crores. By the development of cottage industries aided by rural banking this proportion could be appreciably increased.

The present position of banks in India is that though 2,923 branches are spread over 1,350 towns, there is heavy concentration in bigger towns and cities. As many as 800 are situated in 13 principal towns. In other words 27 per cent of scheduled bank offices are located in 1 per cent of the towns having banking facilities. Too much concentration in a few towns has led to unnecessary overlapping and sometimes to, not an altogether healthy, competition. The urban areas could very well be served with half the number of existing branches—say 1,500; others could be shifted to the rural areas. The planned programme of closing the redundant offices in towns and reopening these in the rural areas will not adversely affect the profits of the banks, while the economic condition of the countryside will improve.

There may be obstacles in the way of adopting my proposal, but a survey of the present banking resources of the country will show that these are not insurmountable. The Imperial Bank being governed by a special Act is in a class apart and

can be left out of the scheme of integration which I envisage. The Exchange Banks with their Head Offices outside India are really foreign banks working in the country and specialising in foreign trade. Any extension of their sphere in internal banking will have to be curtailed. The Cooperative Banks work on a definite principle and can continue to work in their limited, specialised sphere of reducing or removing rural indebtedness. Of the Indian scheduled banks which have to be integrated, most are small. Out of the total working capital of Rs. 949 crores of all scheduled banks, as much as Rs. 597 crores are commanded by five banks. It is true that a number of families and people subsisting on such banking, will raise a hue and cry against the scheme of integration but really there should be no basis for complaint as it will not lead to any unemployment.

The integration of banking must be pursued with a broad mind. In fact we need a bit of the genius of Sardar Patel to bring about the desired result. Compromise and tact in bringing it about will be essential. One thing should, however, be made clear. The integration which would involve compulsory amalgamation of a large number of units into a dozen or a dozen and a half banks cannot be brought about under the present provisions of the Banking Companies Act or by means of an Ordinance. Public opinion will have to be created and a strong directing hand from the Reserve Bank or from a gentleman of the authority of Sardar Patel will be needed to bring about the desired consummation.

Early Indian Sculpture

The story of early Indian sculpture begins with Asoka, who on his conversion to Buddhism made it a State religion and propagated the Buddhist doctrines with edicts, engravings and pillars. The capitals of some of the pillars were crowned by animal figures of colossal size, among them the capital of the Sarnath pillar, which shows the influence of the art of Achaemenian Persia. The Asokan capital has, however, a marked individuality of its own and must not be regarded as a mere imitation of the Persian models. The craftsmanship of the Sarnath Capital is of the highest order but its appeal is optical rather than intellectual.

The art of Asoka was a court art, but either at the end of Asoka's reign or some time thereafter, there came into being a school of sculpture which carved colossal images of *Yakshas* and *Yakshinis* from single blocks of stone. The most famous of these are the *Parkham Yaksha* and the *Didargunj Yakshini*.

It is to such statues that one traces the ancestry of the somewhat later sculptures of the Buddhist rails of Bharhut, Sanchi and Buddh-Gaya. The Buddhists of that age were not only devout followers of their religion, but were excellent propagandists and had realised that representation in stone was a powerful means to capture the imagination of the lay worshipper. Thus the rails or stone-fence which surrounded a stupa usually containing relics of the Buddha came to be sculptured with various scenes from the Buddha's life.

At Bharhut one sees this form of narrative sculpture in its simplest form. Technically lacking in perfection, it has a directness of appeal, rarely equalled even when the technique of stone carving had progressed. The art of the stone rails expresses not only devotion but also a feeling for nature, for trees and flowers and for the rhythm of animals in movement. The representation is usually symbolic because the sculptor had to tell an entire story in a single panel. One tree may suggest an entire forest, two deer an entire herd. But sculptors were creating their story in stone for people who were familiar with

the life of the Master and the stories that had gathered round him in his previous incarnations.

In the northern part of India this development of plastic art took place under the Sungas and later under the imperial Kushanas. It is to the Kushana period that one has to look for some of the most beautiful creations of the early Indian sculpture. In fact the treatment of the female form in the railing pillars from Mathura has never been equalled from a strictly aesthetic viewpoint.

In South India there appears to have been a somewhat parallel movement in sculpture under the patronage of the Andhra dynasty, to whose rule must be ascribed the carvings of the caves of western India at Bhaja, Karla and Kanheri and the magnificent rails of the stupas of Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda. The similarity between the Kushana art of Mathura and the *mithuna* couples of Karla is striking, which shows a homogeneity in Indian art in all periods. The art of the Andhras was not, however, a mere offshoot from the Sunga and Kushana art of the north. It was an independent movement, the beginnings of which can be traced at Bhaja and culmination at Amaravati, and the slender attenuated and virile forms of which influenced later sculpture in the south. It also foreshadowed to some extent the formula of Gupta art.

Early Indian sculpture at its best is marked by a feeling for volume and solidity without sacrificing grace. It shows a constant progress in technique and has a youthful vigour. Its outlook was always fresh though never extravagant. It realised to the full possibilities of lythic material as a medium of plastic expression.



British West Indi

• Trinidad Indians Want to Return Home

The Trinidad East Indian National Association has passed a resolution calling on the Government of India and the Secretary of State for the Colonies to make early arrangements for the repatriation to India of former indentured immigrants and their descendants desirous of returning. The resolution was passed at a general meeting of the Association held recently under the Chairmanship of the President, Hon. Ranjit Kumar.

Burm

• Indian Mission to Burma Postponed

On 15th April Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru stated in Parliament that owing to the difficult conditions prevailing in some parts of Burma and the preoccupations of the Burma Government, the visit of the Indian delegation to discuss matters relating to the grant of compensation under the Burma Land Nationalisation Act as applied to Indians, had been postponed.

• Facilities to Travellers from Burma

Arrangements have been made with the Government of Burma for giving facilities to those travelling from Burma to India, for the conversion of their Burmese currency into Indian currency in Rangoon before they leave Burma, states a Press Note issued by the Indian Finance Ministry. The encashment facilities now available in India for the conversion of Burmese currency into Indian currency have been terminated from 1st May 1950.

Ceylon

● Ceylon Indian Congress Session

The tenth annual session of the Ceylon Indian Congress was held on the 21st and 22nd April 1950, in a specially erected *pandal* named "Motha Nagar" after the late Mr. C. R. Motha who had rendered memorable service to the cause of Indian labour. The session was presided over by Shri K. Rajalingam, M.P. who has been re-elected President for the second year in succession. The most important question considered by the Congress was whether its attitude towards the Indian and Pakistani Residents (Citizenship) Act should be revised. At the previous session of the Congress held at Hatton, in 1949, it was decided that the Act should be ignored and that registration under the Act should be boycotted. Owing to various developments in Ceylon, the Ceylonese who were friendly towards the Indians as well as several sections among the permanently settled Indians, have been feeling that the working of the Act would help in developing friendly relations between not only the Indian settlers and the Ceylonese, but between the two countries also. The meeting accordingly passed a resolution sponsored by the Subjects Committee delegating to the Ceylon Indian Congress Committee full powers to review the situation and to take such decision as it deemed fit. The delegates were assured by Shri A. Aziz, ex-President of the Ceylon Indian Congress, that whatever decision the Ceylon Indian Congress Committee took would be in the interests of the community at large. Shri Rajalingam, in his presidential address, urged the removal of all disabilities on Indians in Ceylon. He said that the Ceylon Parliament had passed "an iniquitous legislative measure offering inferior citizenship to Indians, in spite of representations from the Government of India and stout opposition from Indians and Ceylonese alike". He also referred to the harsh Immigration and Emigration Act and to the discriminatory Exchange Control Regulations which have been converted by the Ceylon Government into a political weapon to drive away Indians by making life more and more difficult for them. (*Extracts from the Presidential Speech of Shri Rajalingam appear elsewhere in this issue—Editor*).

● Ceylon Indian Labour Union

The ninth session of the Ceylon Indian Congress Labour Union was held on 22nd April, 1950 in Matale, Ceylon, shortly after the conclusion of the Ceylon Indian Congress Session. The Labour Union is run as a separate organisation though by convention the President of the Ceylon Indian Congress is also the President of the Ceylon Indian Congress Labour Union. But the Labour Union is purely a trade union of estate workers irrespective of their race or religion. It has quite a good number of Sinhalese members. Membership during 1949-50 totalled 72,527. In view of the fact that the Union had several Ceylonese members and in view of

the possibility of several of its members becoming Ceylonese in the near future, it was decided that the name of the organisation should be changed to "Ceylon Workers' Congress". In his presidential address, Shri K. Rajalingam, covering the main aspects of the problem of the labourers, said: "The Government of this country have the unique distinction of adopting the attitude and even of openly stating in so many words that they are not and cannot be responsible for a vital section of its population—a section indeed, on whose sweat and toil the very existence of Ceylon is at the moment dependent. . . . The Government is definitely interested, not in finding homes for them (labourers), but in seeking that they are, as far as possible, not settled; the employer finds the present position very convenient in that the labourer is entirely dependent on him for shelter, is completely isolated from outside influence, and has, at the whims of the employer, even to restrict social intercourse with friends or relatives. Our only salvation, therefore, lies in formulating a long-term scheme whereby the community can be settled in permanent homes of their own."

On the question of schools for children on estates, the Government is pursuing a policy of callous indifference and the same old eye-wash is perpetuated in the name of education. It is trumpeted about that all medical facilities are provided in estates, whereas the workers are still at the mercy of dispensers with inadequate qualification, and it is now becoming an annual feature that infant mortality among estate workers is larger than the general average. Neither the Government nor the employer seems to be interested in checking this state of affairs.

It is gratifying that after a great deal of agitation, there has been a small increase in the basic wage but we persevere in our endeavour to secure an adequate wage of at least Rs. 1/50 per man or woman and Re. 1 per child.

Another urgent problem that confronts us is the question of security of tenure. It is the practice, when estates are sold, to give notice to the labourers to quit; the workers thereby not only lose their continuity of service but in most cases are thrown on the streets. Provision should be made in such cases to see that the labourers are adequately compensated for past services and are retained in employment by the new owners."

● Indian Nationals in Ceylon

The Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, referring in Parliament on 19th April to the problem of the people of Indian descent in Ceylon, said, "There has been some confusion over this question. I have been referring to Indian nationals in Ceylon and Ceylon nationals of Indian descent. If they are Indian nationals, they have the right of Indian nationals but not of Ceylon nationals. The question is how far these people, under the new law in Ceylon, acquire Ceylon citizenship, thereby losing Indian nationality. One cannot be a national of two countries at the same time." Pandit Nehru said that there had been disagreement between the Government of India and the Government of Ceylon over this question. "What

has been put forward by India has not been wholly accepted by the Government of Ceylon. As a result of this, a large number of people of Indian descent in Ceylon are dissatisfied and have not registered themselves as Ceylon nationals." In reply to the question: Are the facilities for acquiring citizenship in India for Ceylon nationals identical with those available for people of Indian descent in Ceylon? Pandit Nehru said, "While so far as India was concerned, the Constitution provides for it, in Ceylon, the status of a large number of people whose ancestors went there generations ago and who were born there, has been rather uncertain. They have to choose between Ceylon nationality and Indian nationality. The Ceylon Government have passed a law relating to Ceylon nationality whose provisions are unfair to the people of Indian descent in Ceylon." Parliament was informed that up to the end of March last, only 1,232 Indians had acquired citizenship rights in Ceylon, while the total number of Indians was between six and seven lakhs.

● Indian Labour Union Demands Wages Boards for Beedi Industry

Shri Rajalingam, M.P., President of the Ceylon Workers' Congress, in a memorandum submitted to the Ceylon Minister of Labour has drawn his attention to the serious situation that would be created by the possible discontinuance of 2,000 workers engaged in the beedi industry. Shri Rajalingam contends that import of beedi tobacco and manufactured beedi has not decreased from 1947 to 1949 and that the sale of beedi has maintained the same level. He says that there is large scale smuggling obviously from India. The memorandum demands that the industry should be brought under the Wages Boards Ordinance.

French India

● Pondicherry's Future

Shri Deben Das, President of the Chandernagore Administrative Council, in a statement on 24th April expressed the view that the southern French settlement of Pondicherry would share the glory of India by joining it and would give a fitting retort to M. Chambon, who recently declared that "there was little likelihood of Pondicherry joining the Union of India, as he discovered the character of Pondicherry to be essentially French as against the Indian character of Chandernagore". Shri Das said that such a hoax even in propaganda was preposterous, and from what he knew of Pondicherry he had discovered that the French culture had failed to perform any anthropological miracle by changing the blood of the southern brothers to blue. He had no doubt that this southern settlement would give "a fitting retort to the discovery of this proud descendant of Charlemagne who challenged the sentiment of nationalist India".

● India Government takes over Chandernagore

On 2nd May, 1950, the administration of Chandernagore, a French settlement in West Bengal was taken over by Shri B. K. Banerjee, a senior Bengal official, who has been appointed Administrator on behalf of the Government of India. As the *de jure* transfer was still to come, there was no ceremony on the occasion but many people gathered round to witness the historic event. The transfer document signed both by M. Tailleur, the French Administrator and Shri Banerjee, ran as follows: "In accordance with the agreement concluded during the conference held in Calcutta on the 18th April 1950, ratified later on by the Government of India and the Council of French Ministers on April 28, 1950, today, May 2, 1950, the Administrator M. Tailleur, delegate of the Commissioner of the Republic for French India, Chandernagore, has transferred his powers to Mr. B. K. Banerjee, Administrator, appointed by the Government of India to replace him." A statue of Joan of Arc was placed on the table when the document was signed. While technically Chandernagore will continue to remain a part of the French Union till it formally becomes a part of India on ratification of a treaty of cession, the Government of India assumed complete administrative authority with effect from this date. The treaty of cession, the main provisions of which have been mutually agreed upon between India and France, is expected to be finalised at a very early date, and with its signing the transfer *de jure* of Chandernagore will be complete. Chandernagore is the first foreign settlement in India to free itself from colonial rule since the attainment of independence by India in 1947.

As regards the future status of Chandernagore, a recent Press Note of the Government of India stated that the Government of India will be directly responsible for the administration of Chandernagore and that there is no intention, at present, to merge the territory in West Bengal. Such an arrangement is intended mainly to implement the Government of India's repeated assurance to foreign settlements in this country, that as far as possible their autonomy and cultural identity will be maintained even after the accession. Except that the French officials employed there will be replaced by Indians and Indian laws will become operative, no other changes in the administrative set-up in Chandernagore are contemplated.

Mal

● Indians Urged to give up Boycott of Constitution

The Malayan Indian Congress' policy of boycott of the Malayan Constitution must be abandoned, said Shri Ramanathan, the newly-elected President of the Congress, in his address to the fourth annual session of the Congress, held at Kuala Lumpur on 29th April 1950. The Congress has been reiterating since 1947 that the Federal Constitution is unsatisfactory and undemocratic and has been rejecting it. Shri Ramanathan said:

"There are two ways of rejecting the present Constitution. We can ignore and boycott it as we did till now. We can also work the Constitution and by so working expose its inadequacy and demand a real, substantial political advance. In deciding the method we have to bear in mind that we represent only 12 per cent of the total population, and that we have to carry with us as far as possible, the two major communities of Malaya—the Malays and the Chinese. If Congress is to develop into a powerful representative organisation, it has to adopt a new orientation of policy. That policy should not be negative but must be positive. The boycott policy must be abandoned." He emphasised that the Malayan Indian Congress should be revitalised and needed entire overhauling. He sketched an immediate six point programme for strengthening the Congress. Referring to the prevalent lawlessness in Malaya, Shri Ramanathan said: "Indians have never been and will never be sympathisers of terrorism. Of bandits killed, wounded or captured up to the end of January last since the emergency commenced, Indians were only 15 whereas the total figure including that of all communities was 2,067. The principle of Ahimsa enunciated by Mahatmaji will always guide Indians."

Accepting the advice of the President, the Congress passed a resolution deciding "to work the Malayan Constitution along with other communities and by so working show the necessity for self-government in the near future." In pursuance of its policy of non-violence, the Congress reaffirmed its abhorrence of bandit atrocities in Malaya and resolved to extend its cooperation to re-establish peace and order in the country. The Congress also advised Indians, who are eligible for federal citizenship, to register themselves as federal citizens "in order to facilitate Indians to play their rightful part in shaping the affairs of the country." By another resolution, the Congress opposed the Malayan Federal Government Bill requiring all documents and accounts to be kept in English or Romanised Malay (for income-tax purposes).

● Self-mortification has No Religious Sanction

The Management Committee of the Chettiers' Temple at Tank Road (which also represents the Nattukkottai Chettiar Community in Singapore) at a meeting held on 2nd April at the Temple Hall, unanimously resolved to prohibit self-mortification by devotees at the Temple premises on festival days and requesting the managements of other Hindu temples in Malaya to do likewise. This practice has been banned in India long ago, where religious authorities are unanimous in their opinion that it has no religious sanction whatsoever. In Malaya enlightened Indian opinion has been urging such reform.

Portuguese India

● Officials Victimised by Portuguese Government

Shri Waman Desai, General Secretary of the Goa National Congress said in Bombay on 21st April last that "Goan officers in Goa who refused

to sign official circulars protesting against the Indian Prime Minister's statement on Goa have been dismissed and threatened with exile". Mr. Anthony Furtado, Administrator of Panjim, who refused to sign a circular protesting against Pandit Nehru's statement that foreign settlements including the Portuguese possessions in India, must eventually become part of India, after being reprimanded by the Governor-General, has been dismissed from service and was threatened with exile to Cape Verde Island. Mr. Furtado has since fled to Belgaum with his wife. A bank clerk who took a similar stand has been transferred to an island off the west coast of Africa. A campaign of victimisation against pro-Indian Goans seems to have been undertaken by the Portuguese authorities in Goa following Pandit Nehru's statement. In an effort to counteract expression of popular enthusiasm at the Indian Prime Minister's statement, the Portuguese authorities in Goa and other Portuguese possessions tried various methods of persuading the local population to protest against this statement. Government employees and others were persuaded or forced to sign letters of protest and to send telegrams to the Portuguese Government in Lisbon protesting against Pandit Nehru's statement. Some persons, however, refused to be bullied. "If the Portuguese authorities believe they can hold on to Goa against popular will and continue to adopt repressive measures, they are sadly mistaken. Goans are alive and Goa will and must come back to India—their motherland", concludes Shri Desai.

South Africa

● Non-Europeans Demand for Equal Status

A Defend Free Speech Convention was held in Johannesburg on 26th March 1950, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Moroka, the President-General of the African National Congress. With the cooperation of the four sponsoring bodies—the Transvaal Indian Congress, the Transvaal African National Congress, the African Peoples' Organisation and the Johannesburg District of the Communist Party, the Convention was attended by 528 delegates representing 1,001,507 people in the Transvaal. Dr. Dadoo and Mr. Sam Kahn, the two leaders banned under the Riotous Assemblies Act, attended the afternoon closed session and addressed the delegates. The Convention decided to call a National Convention of the whole people of South Africa to be held in Johannesburg on 1st and 2nd July 1950 and to observe 1st May, 1950 as Freedom Day, when meetings and demonstrations would be held to demand the abolition of all pass laws, the extension of full franchise rights to all, the return of the land to those who cultivate it, increased and adequate wages for all workers, and the repeal of all discriminatory legislation. Mass rallies were being organised by various African and Indian organisations. But on 27th April, the South African Government announced that all meetings and demonstrations in Transvaal province, would be banned from 29th April to 1st May. Troops and police stood by to enforce the Government ban.

On May Day several demonstrations took place which led to clashes with the police who tried to enforce the law.

● Provincial Immigration Restriction

The Immigration Department in Durban has introduced new measures further tightening up the provincial barriers which operate against the Indian people under the Immigrants Regulations Act of 1913. Before permits are issued to enable Natal Indians to visit other provinces they are now required to bring three Indians to identify them. Even small babies have to be brought to the immigration offices and their finger prints taken before the issue of permits. In a letter addressed to the Principal Immigration Officer, Durban, the Natal Indian Congress has protested against these new measures.

● Free Education up to Matric

Education in Indian Government schools in Natal will become free up to Matriculation in future, according to a proclamation published in the Provincial Gazette on 13th January 1950. The Natal Education Ordinance of 1942 provides for free education for Indians in Government schools to Standard VI, but under the proclamation in the Gazette instruction in all these schools "shall be free of charge up to and including the highest standard of secondary education". A provision stipulates that it will come into operation by progressive stages. From January 1, this year it will be free to Standard VII, in 1951 to Standard VIII, in 1952 to Standard IX and in 1953 to Standard X.

● 100 Dollar Prize for Indian Student

Narisumulu Poobathie, of the Clairwood Indian Senior Boys School, Durban, has been awarded a 100 dollar prize in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's essay and poster competition.

● Indian's Merit Award in Zulu

An Indian student, Birbal Rambiritch, was awarded a Certificate of Merit in Special Zulu by Dr. E. G. Matherbe, the Principal, at the opening ceremony for the non-European section of the University of Natal. Another student, Ruthnum Thumbadoo, was awarded a Certificate of Merit in English III. The number of certificates presented was noticeable for two points—firstly, never before had non-European students won so many Certificates of Merit, and, secondly, the only Certificate of Merit in Zulu went not to a Zulu, but to an Indian—a proof that the Indian population of Natal is interesting itself in its Bantu neighbours.

● Prominent Indians Pass Away

Shri B. A. Maghraj, wellknown pioneer Indian of Durban, recently died at the age of 80. A prominent member of the Natal Indian Congress,

when it was first founded by Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. Maghraj was associated with it until recent years, when ill health incapacitated him. On 6th March 1950, Mr. B. M. Patil, a well-known resident of Natal for half a century, died at sea on his way to India. He was a public worker and served for several years as Secretary of the M. K. Gandhi Library in Durban. He was one of the founders of the South African Hindu Maha Sabha of which he was at one time President, and was also a prominent member of the Natal Indian Congress.

United Kingdom

● Indians and Africans meet in London

Indians in London were hosts to Africans and peoples of African descent at a social and dance on the 7th April 1950, given by Dr. Krishna D. Kumria, Publisher and Managing Editor of *The Indian*, monthly journal published in London. Dr. Kumria said that he would try to make known the grievances of the Colonials to the British public and at the same time encourage friendly relations between Indians and Africans wherever they may be. He had noticed that in nearly all the British Colonies, Indians have to live side by side with Africans and he felt that they should work for the welfare of these colonies and to try and live as harmoniously as possible. Mr. Amponsah, the newly-elected Secretary-General of the African League said that he was very grateful to the Publishers of *The Indian* and to the Indian community for this gesture of goodwill, and hoped that all Africans and peoples of African descent will support the African League in its endeavour to spread African nationalism throughout the whole of Africa and to go forward until the African peoples, like the Indians, achieved their freedom.

United States

● Nehru's Present to American Children

Two baby elephants, Ashok and Shanti, were presented to Washington Zoo on 16th April 1950, as a gift to the children of the United States from the Indian Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru. The Indian Ambassador Shreemati Vijayalakshmi, making this presentation at a colourful ceremony, said, "These gift babies come here as messengers of goodwill, bringing the affectionate greetings of the children of India to the children of the United States. They also bring greetings from the Prime Minister who loves all children dearly." Mr. George McGhee, Assistant Secretary of State for Eastern Affairs, said in accepting the elephants: "Prime Minister Nehru possesses a rare genius for understanding those whom he has met. That he should follow up his visit to the United States by sending these babies as his long-lived personal present to the children of America,

is another evidence of his understanding and true friendship. Their initial impact on this country has been truly extraordinary."

● Death of Indian Inventor in America

Dr. Vaman Ramchandra Kokatnur, noted Indian-born consulting chemist and inventor, died in New York on 11th April, 1950. He carried out considerable research work in America. He held more than thirty patents with a wide range of industrial uses. One of them concerned a method of giving petrol more power by adding water to it through a special process. In 1940 Dr. Kokatnur was honoured as an outstanding inventor at the sesquicentennial celebration of the United States Patent Office. He was a member of leading scientific groups in America and was on the Advisory Board of the Watumull Foundation for bringing Indian students to the country.

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If I were to look over the whole world to find out the country most richly endowed with all the wealth, power and beauty that Nature can bestow, in some parts a very paradise on earth—I should point to India. If I were asked under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered on the great problems of life, has found solutions of some of them which well deserve the attention even of those who have studied Plato and Kant—I should point to India. And if I were to ask myself from what literature we here in Europe—we who have been nurtured almost exclusively on the thoughts of the Greeks and the Romans and of one Semitic race, the Jewish—may draw that corrective which is most wanted in order to make our inner life more perfect, more comprehensive, more universal, in fact more truly human—a life, not for this only but a transfigured life—again I should point to India.

— MAX MULLER.

* * *

Now that independence has been won, Indians are realizing that if they suffered much from their former rulers they also learned much. In constructing their constitution they have blended Western ideas with indigenous conceptions of democracy. Following Britain, they have established an executive directly responsible to the legislature and have guarded against the rigidities of a written constitution by providing for its amendment by simple act of Parliament. From this country they have borrowed certain federalist ideas, and American ancestry may perhaps be claimed for a declaration of human rights more detailed than that imbedded in the Constitution of any other nation. "The objective of our republic" said India's first

President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, in his acceptance speech, "is to secure justice, liberty and equality to its citizens and to promote fraternity among the peoples who inhabit its vast territories and follow different religions, speak various languages, and observe their peculiar customs." This high aim will not be easily achieved. There are many dragons in the path—such monsters as poverty, bigotry and ignorance—and Indian leaders will need all the courage, patience, and wisdom they can muster. But friends of democracy everywhere will wish them well and hope to see the new republic become the light of Asia.

The Nation, New York.

In the alliance of free democratic peoples India deserves an important position. India's present situation is far more favourable than that of any other South Asian country. She is a pivotal nation, geographically, in our relationships with the Near-East and the Far-East. She has a great and proven democratic leadership. It is in India and the rest of South-East Asia that the real struggle for men's minds is taking place.

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India and Kashmir's Economy

In the Kashmir debate at the Security Council, the Pakistan Foreign Minister suggested, among other things, that Kashmir's economy is entirely dependent upon Pakistan and this was regarded by him as one of the many reasons why Kashmir should be a part of Pakistan. Our Research Department which has made a factual study of this question has conclusively proved that Kashmir is more dependent on India than on Pakistan for her economic well-being.—*Editor*.

We propose in the following lines to examine the economic nexus between Kashmir on the one hand and India and Pakistan on the other.

Import Figures *

The figures of imports for the years 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47 as maintained by the State Customs Department (and almost all the articles imported are subject to import customs duty) according to the value of articles assessed to import duties are given below analysed by principal articles of import:

(in lakhs of rupees)

No.	Name of Article	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47
1	Cotton textiles including apparel ...	238.29	219.30	221.47
2	Leather, manufactured and otherwise ...	21.67	22.85	18.03
3	Metals ...	25.62	40.52	182.59
4	Sugar, refined and unrefined ...	53.30	55.74	70.42
5	Tea ...	25.94	29.87	5.74
6	Stationery ...	5.82	5.96	5.14
7	Rubber ...	2.55	2.25	2.79
8	Glass and glassware ...	.72	1.21	1.22
9	Silk and silk manufactures ...	1.08	6.21	2.07
10	Silver bullion ...	.13	9.54	1.76
11	Fibrous products ...	1.95	2.15	2.16
12	Tobacco (manufactured) ...	25.71	36.57	10.74
13	Woollen piecegoods ...	9.89	14.16	10.26
14	Drugs and medicines ...	12.05	11.84	8.53
15	Dyes, dyeing material and chemicals ...	8.19	12.21	6.12
16	Provisions ...	3.80	4.06	2.71
17	Fruits and vegetables ...	12.01	14.08	8.42
18	Oilseeds ...	21.83	13.03	21.12
19	Other articles of merchandise ...	75.88	50.66	77.43
20	Grains and pulses ...	43.51	36.18	47.03
21	Salt ...	20.12	15.98	18.45
22	Spirituous liquors ...	3.65	2.80	4.94
23	Petrol and kerosene ...	24.37	42.83	29.65
Total ...		638.08	650.00	759.09

*For the statistical data used in this article we are indebted to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir acceded to India in October 1947. The raiders' depredations, however, and the general upsetting in the State following these, put the import and export trade completely out of gear. Trade could revive only towards the end of 1948 but the figures since that time are not yet available. The table above, however, will give a fair idea of the general position.

Sources of Imports—Share of India and Pakistan

The source of supply for items 1 to 11 in the above table is India. Pakistan can obviously not claim to supply these commodities as it is itself dependent for them on India and other foreign sources. Items 12 to 15 are obtained partly from India and partly from foreign sources. For purposes of this analysis these supplies may be apportioned half and half between India and foreign sources. Items 16 to 19 in the table above are obtained partly from India and partly from Pakistan. We shall assume that these articles are supplied half and half by India and Pakistan. Items 22 and 23 are produced both in India and Pakistan, but only in very small quantities and we will assume that the main sources of supply of these commodities to Kashmir are foreign. Salt used to be imported from Pakistan. In regard to grains and pulses, Pakistan is an important source of supply though not exclusive. Assuming, however, that all the grains and pulses and salt and nearly half of items 16 to 19 were imported from Pakistan, the value of imports from India and Pakistan will be as follows:

(figures in lakhs of rupees)

YEAR	INDIA	PAKISTAN
1944-45	461.75	120.39
1945-46	474.90	94.08
1946-47	594.41	120.37

Converting these figures into percentages, the figures will be:

YEAR	INDIA	PAKISTAN
1944-45	79%	21%
1945-46	84%	16%
1946-47	83%	17%
Average	82%	18%

Export Figures

With regard to exports, customs duties are levied only on fruits and vegetables, leather, including hides and skins, and vegetable seeds exported from the State. The more important things like timber, woollen and *pashmina* manufactures, silk, embroidery, wood-work, silver-ware, etc. are exempt from export duty. In the absence of statistics, therefore, their value has to be estimated. Similarly the income from tourist traffic, which is an important source of income and occupation to the people of the State has to be based on estimation. The following table gives the estimated value of exports in lakhs of rupees:

No.	Name of article	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47
1	Fruits	57.26	104.51	112.62
2	Leather, including hides and skins	5.53	5.52	7.96
3	Vegetable and flower seed	3.64	4.20	2.03
4	Timber	240.00	260.00	285.00
5	Minor forest products	29.38	21.61	17.07
6	Woollen and pashmina manufactures	105.00	95.00	110.00
7	Silk and silk manufactures	68.00	102.00	97.00
8	Tourist traffic and handicrafts	300.00	350.00	275.00
	Total	808.61	942.84	906.68

Share of Exports between India and Pakistan

Fresh as well as dry fruits from Kashmir have an all-India market. No doubt, before partition, they used to be exported via Rawalpindi and Lahore through traditional traders and channels, but these have now migrated to the Indian Union. Partly the reason for the consumption of these products in India was that fruit products from the N.W.F.P., Baluchistan and Afghanistan supplied the markets in areas now constituting West Pakistan. *Leather and leather goods* as also vegetable and flower seeds were consumed by India. Coming to *timber*, the most important item of export, we find that it was exported partly as logs and partly as sleepers consisting of *Deodar*, *Fir* and *Kail*. *Fir* is used mainly for making shooks for packing cases. As such its greatest demand is in the industrial centres of India like Bombay, Calcutta, Kanpore, etc. *Fir* timber amounting to nearly 1/3rd of the total value

of timber exports from Kashmir had its market entirely in India. Sleepers made of *Deodar* were taken by the N.W.R., B.B. & C.I.R. and the Bikaner and Jodhpur State Railways. On a very rough estimate, it may be said that after partition nearly half would have been used by the Railways in Pakistan and the other half by Indian Railways. As for the logs, they had a market up to Delhi. If an allocation is to be made, one may say that India and Pakistan took one-third and two-thirds respectively of the log (other than of *Fir*) supply. To sum up, 11/18ths of timber exports (including *Fir* logs) went to India and 7/18th to Pakistan. During the War the Government of India took most of the timber available for its military requirements. Under the head *minor forest products*, Kashmir exported mostly drugs, turpentine and rosin. Almost the entire quantity went to India as the requirements of the territory now constituting West Pakistan were met by the Jallo factory. As for the *Woollen and Pashmina* manufactures consisting of the famous Kashmiri shawls, machine-made woollen textiles, handspun and hand-woven woollen goods, carpets, *namdas*, *gubbas* etc. their main market was India. Some of these also went to foreign countries. These products were collected at Amristar and from there forwarded to other centres in India. Approximately 10% went to Pakistan. As for *Silk*, India remained the exclusive customer for raw silk and the principal consumer of manufactured silk. *Tourist traffic* is one of the principal sources of income both to the people and Government of Kashmir. They purchased the artware, embroidery work, silver-ware etc. and also spent a lot on personal services. It won't be far from wrong to say that they are the mainstay of these trades. Government benefited from customs, road-toll, income-tax, etc. While a few of these tourists were Europeans, the great majority came from India and very few from Pakistan. On a rough estimate 10% of the total income from tourist traffic may be allocated to Pakistan.

Distribution of export between India and Pakistan

The following table will indicate the distribution of exports between India and Pakistan on the basis of allocations indicated above:

(in lakhs of rupees)

Name of article	1944-45		1945-46		1946-47	
	India	Pakistan	India	Pakistan	India	Pakistan
Fruits ...	43.95	14.31	78.38	26.13	84.46	28.16
Leather ...	5.33	...	5.52	...	7.96	...
Seeds ...	3.64	...	4.20	...	2.03	...
Timber ...	146.67	93.33	158.89	101.11	174.12	110.88
Minor forest and agr. products ...	37.38	...	29.61	...	25.07	...
Woollen and pashmina manufactures	81.00	9.00	81.00	9.00	96.30	10.70
Silk and silk manufactures ...	68.00	...	102.00	...	97.00	...
Tourists and handicrafts*	200.00	25.00	220.30	30.00	200.00	25.00
Total ...	585.97	141.64	679.60	166.24	686.94	174.74

Expressed as a percentage the figures will be:

Country	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	Average
India ...	80%	80%	80%	80%
Pakistan ...	20%	20%	20%	20%

The figures for the years 1944-47 may be inflated due to the war conditions but the proportion of allocations of export trade is not affected thereby as they are based upon the capacity of the two countries to absorb the exports or provide the import needs of the State.

Trade with Central Asia

A few words about the trade routes to Central Asia. The following are the figures of imports through this route:

(figures in lakhs of rupees)

Year	Imports	Exports
1942-43	2.78	2.98
1943-44	2.27	4.96
1944-45	4.47	6.02
1945-46	8.32	17.09
1946-47	16.36	24.03

* In calculating the receipts from the tourist traffic, income from European and American visitors has been excluded. Of the balance 11 to 12½ per cent has been allocated to Pakistan.

It should be borne in mind that no necessities of life are imported into Kashmir by this route. A very considerable portion of the exports and imports are from or to points in India.

Conclusion

It follows from the foregoing that Pakistan absorbs only a fifth of Kashmir's exports and supplies a little less than a fifth of State's import requirements. In case Kashmir is absorbed by Pakistan, the latter may consume more timber and woollen textiles as also silk cloth. For reasons already given Kashmir fruits will have no market in Pakistan. On this hypothetical basis the value of Kashmir's exports to Pakistan may at the most go up to Rs. 250 lakhs against the average of Rs. 175 lakhs. Rs. 550 lakhs worth of exports will still have to be consumed by India which is traditionally their natural market. How would a Kashmiri think regarding the natural attitude of India towards the entry of these exports, in case Pakistan absorbs Kashmir? It would mean the elimination of tourist traffic from India, thus spelling ruin for hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris who depend upon it for their living. A tariff wall would be raised against woollen and silk textiles and *Pashminas* which to-day can enter India duty free. Tariff barriers may also be raised against fruit imports and fruit culture developed and protected in India. The same with forest and other products.

With regard to imports, Pakistan can supply the requirements of Kashmir in salt and foodgrains (Jammu is deficit while Kashmir is self-sufficient) and some miscellaneous articles of merchandise. On the basis of the estimates given above these are valued at Rs. 100 to Rs. 120 lakhs. In case petroleum and petroleum products and some imported stores are supplied through Pakistan, the above figure would go up by another 60 to 80 lakhs. Thus the import of 200 lakhs would probably be the maximum that could be expected in this direction. This would still leave a balance of 50 lakhs (the hypothetical excess of exports over imports) which will have to be utilised for the purchase of import requirements from India. For essential articles like cotton textiles (the price

of textiles from foreign countries is twice the price of Indian textile products), iron and steel (foreign supplies being very expensive) and other metals, sugar, leather manufactures, stationery, rubber goods, drugs and medicines, etc., Kashmir has inevitably to look to India. Already, following the depredations of the raiders and Pakistani troops and the complete trade deadlock between Kashmir and Pakistan, India has been supplying salt to the State and also allocating food supplies. There is further little difficulty in obtaining other miscellaneous merchandise from India.

On the export side, India can increase its intake of fruits. The Kashmir Government has already a comprehensive plan for converting timber into doors, windows and other finished forms. This and the improvement in the transport system through new rail links will eliminate all difficulties in the export of more timber to India. And, as has been pointed out above, India is already the principal market for Kashmiri silk, silk manufactures, minor forest products, woollen and *Pashmina* manufactures, vegetable and flower seeds, etc. Along with the flow of tourist traffic from India this will prevent any possible disruption in the State's economy following the trade deadlock with Pakistan.

The conclusion therefore is inescapable that if Kashmir were not to form a part of the Indian political and economic system, there would be little hope of meeting the requirements of the State from Indian sources. While Indian economy is an indispensable prop to Kashmir's economy, the latter can do without the balance of Pakistan economy.

Facts are, therefore, more powerful than myths and they will ultimately assert themselves.



● Centre takes over Armed Forces in former Indian States

On 1st April 1950, the Armed Forces of India were unified as never before in the country's history. The Government of India assumed complete financial responsibility for and overall control of the former Indian State Forces. This has been achieved with the agreement of the Rajpramukhs. The Indian State Forces are now being reorganised and when this process is completed, they will, in all respects, including pay and allowances, organisation, etc., be on a par with Indian Army units. In the case of the State Forces of Travancore-Cochin, Mysore and Hyderabad, complete control, administrative as well as operational, has been assumed by the Indian Army, and Indian Army officers have been appointed Commandants of these Forces. As soon as the reorganisation of these Forces is over, they will be completely integrated with the Indian Army. In the case of Rajasthan, PEPSU, Madhya Bharat and Saurashtra, there is a separate agreement with the Rajpramukhs in accordance with which, while operational control over the State forces vest in the Indian army, the Rajpramukhs will remain the heads of the State Forces and be responsible for their administration, though in the exercise of this authority they are subject to any directions or instructions which may be issued by the Government of India. Officers from the Indian Army have been appointed as General-Officers-Commanding these Forces in each State, and future recruitment of officers as well as men will be the responsibility of the Indian Army. The strength and constitution of these Forces will be determined from time to time by the Government of India. The control over the State Forces of Jammu and Kashmir was taken over by the Government of India from 1st September 1949. The future of these Forces will be decided after the position of the State has been finally settled. In the case of the State Forces of 'merged States', suitable personnel are being selected for absorption in the Indian Army, while those who are not found suitable will be absorbed by State Governments concerned in civil appointments or mustered out.

● Our Food Front

India's production in 1949 of the principal crops and their acreage are as under:

		<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Yield</i>
Rice	..	60,480,000	18,863,000 tons
Wheat	..	21,165,000	5,414,000 tons
Other cereals	..	70,094,000	11,063,000 tons
Gram	..	19,711,000	4,563,000 tons

● Foreign Exchange Regulation Act amended

Finance Minister, Dr. John Mathai, introduced in Parliament on 5th April a Bill to amend Section 18 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947. The amendment sought to withdraw the preferential treatment accorded to United Kingdom companies and individuals under the Government of India Act, 1935, which required that no discrimination should be made between Indian and United Kingdom commercial interests.

● Manufacture of Radio Sets

It was revealed in Parliament recently that the number of radio sets manufactured in India in the year 1949-50 was 16,838. The lowest cost of a 5-valve AC/DC set was Rs. 161 and the sale price was Rs. 185. The corresponding figures for dry battery sets were Rs. 128 and Rs. 162 respectively. There were at present eight radio manufacturing factories in India—three in Bombay, three in Calcutta, one in Delhi and one in Bangalore. Two more factories would be set up shortly, and then the production would be at the rate of 10 million sets per year. It might then be possible to make a radio set available for Rs. 50 only.

● World's Largest Electorate

Plans for holding general elections in India in the spring of 1951 under the new Republican Constitution are going ahead with all possible speed. India has a population of over 347 millions and as everyone who had attained the age of 21 years by January 1, 1950 is entitled to vote under the new Constitution, India will be having over 170 million voters, an electorate larger than the combined electorate of the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. who have 100 millions and 60 millions respectively. The Indian Parliament will be having 484 seats in the House of the People with 71 and 38 reserved seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes respectively. Of these Uttar Pradesh gets the largest number, *viz.*, 102 seats.

● India's Plantation Production

The year 1949 was a prosperous year for the plantation industry in India. The tea industry set up new production records. The Government of India established the Central Tea Board with a view to looking after the interests of the industry. The bulk sale system to the U.K. was continued for another year. Exports to overseas countries were encourag-

ing, particularly to the dollar areas, the export quota having been raised to 125 per cent. of the standard quota. Prices of tea moved up to some extent, especially after the devaluation of the rupee in terms of the dollar. Despite this, Indian prices were the cheapest in the world. The economic position of the coffee industry became stabilised further on account of remunerative prices which producers were able to secure during the year, thus setting up new high levels. The quantum of pepper exports as also exports of cashewnut, cardamom and lemon grass oil were showing a receding trend.

● For Indians Going Abroad

A press note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs says: "It has come to the notice of the Government of India that in several instances Indian nationals when they go abroad do not get into touch with their country's representative. This results in the visitors' having to undergo unnecessary inconvenience which might otherwise be avoided. It is, therefore, essential that Indian nationals in their own interest, should get into touch with their country's representative soon after their arrival in any foreign country. It is the duty of the Government of India's representative abroad to look after and safeguard the interests of Indians whether they are permanent residents or visitors."

● Grants for Scientific Research

Pandit Nehru announced in Parliament recently that the Government proposed to allot to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research a recurring grant of Rs. 65 lakhs and a capital grant of Rs. 75 lakhs for construction of laboratories and purchase of equipment. The recurring grant for 1949-50 was Rs. 47.54 lakhs and capital grant Rs. 60 lakhs.

● Indigenous Manufacture of T. B. Specific

A method for technical production of Para-Amino Salicylic Acid (better known as "P.A.S."), a specific for tuberculosis is claimed to have been devised by Dr. N. C. Ganguly, a former research scholar of the University College of Science, Calcutta. Dr. Ganguly said that benzene which was now largely available in this country could be converted into Resorcinol, a near derivative of which was in turn transformed, with the help of ammonia and ammonium carbonate, into "P.A.S.". This is now being widely tried in T.B. sanatoria and hospitals in India.

● India's Representatives in Syria and the Philippines

Dr. A. A. Fyzee, Ambassador of India in Egypt, has been concurrently accredited as India's Minister to Syria. Shri D. G. Mulherkar has been appointed Indian Consul-General to the Philippines.

● Manufacture of Penicillin

An agreement has been signed recently between the Government of India and the Swedish firm, Karnbolegatab Bio-Chemical Industry,

Stockholm, for technical assistance in the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of penicillin and other sulphadiazine drugs in India. The factory, estimated to cost Rs. 3.5 crores, will be put up in Bombay. The Government of India will bear 51 per cent and Bombay Government 49 per cent of the cost. Depending on the availability of funds, the factory is expected to be completed by the end of the financial year 1951-52. The proposed factory will produce 100,000 mega units per month. In terms of international units, this means in the first six months, 1,200 billion units per annum and thereafter 3,600 billion units per annum.

● Purchase of Embassy Buildings Abroad

Dr. B. V. Keskar, Deputy Minister for External Affairs, gave the following details of properties purchased abroad by the Government of India for their legations, embassies, missions, etc:

	Rs.
In Rangoon properties purchased for	.. 1,80,000
In Singapore properties purchased for	.. 5,84,539
In Paris properties purchased for	.. 4,64,532
In London properties purchased for	.. 9,60,000
In Berne properties purchased for	.. 4,02,885
In Nairobi properties purchased for	.. 13,398
In Cairo properties purchased for	.. 9,44,444
In New York properties purchased for	.. 11,66,666
In Washington properties purchased for	.. \$ 3,52,000

● Export Duty on Indian Cigarettes Reduced

The export duty on the more expensive brands of Indian cigarettes, that is those, the wholesale price of which is more than Rs. 35 per one thousand, has been reduced from 10 per cent to 7½ per cent in order to enable Indian manufacturers to sell these brands abroad in large quantities. The principal market is expected to be Australia.

● Increase in India's Exports to Dollar Areas

A 50 per cent increase in the rupee value of India's exports to hard currency countries is shown by the export trade figures for the first two months of 1950 as compared with the figures for the first two months of 1949. An increase of 44 per cent only is required to obtain for India, after devaluation of the rupee, the equivalent amount of actual hard currency as compared with any period preceding revaluation. There is, therefore, an improvement in the overall earning of hard currency.

● Paper Production Goes Up

Paper and paper-board production in India for the period January to September 1949 totalled 77,858 long tons. It was 6 per cent higher than for the same period during 1949. 7,184 cwt. of paper, 600 cwt. of board and 127,741 cwt. of paper-making raw material were exported during the period. A new plant for the manufacture of transparent paper in

conjunction with a rayon plant, was inaugurated in Travancore during January. The annual production capacity is expected to be million pounds, which will meet only a fraction of the demand. Imports into India of wood-pulp and other paper-making raw materials during January to September 1949 were 198,888 cwt. as against 53,000 cwt. for the same period in 1948. Paper and board imports for the period January to September 1949 totalled 2,137,786 cwt. as against 1,300,000 cwt. for the same period in 1948.

● Government Loans to Refugees

The Government of India have disbursed nearly Rs. 36 crores as loans among the 21 States and Centrally administered areas up to the end of February 1950 for the rehabilitation of displaced persons. Out of this sum, Punjab and PEPSU between them received nearly Rs. 17 crores. Meanwhile, official attempts to curtail direct responsibility for feeding unemployed refugees have been largely successful. Out of a total camp population of over 5,50,000 on 1st April 1950 only 50,000 were in receipt of doles on that date. Last year the comparative figure was 8 lakhs.

● History of Eastern Philosophy

The Board of Editors, appointed by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan to prepare a history of philosophy which would reveal the continuity and development of human thought and the value of Indian contribution to the evolution of modern philosophy, is reported to have made good progress in its work. About 60 recognised experts, including some with international reputation, selected by the Board, have written on their own special subjects. About half of the book would be devoted to Indian philosophy and the other half to European, Arab, Chinese and Japanese philosophies. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Dr. Radhakrishnan, Bishop Lash of Bombay, Dr. Lo Chia-leun of China and Prof. Sucki of Japan are among the writers.

● Fuel Research Institute Opened

The National Fuel Research Institute at Digwadih (Dhanbad) in Bihar, third in India's chain of eleven National Laboratories, was opened on April 22 by President Rajendra Prasad. The institute will conduct research on major problems concerning fuel—solid, liquid and gaseous—and will operate a physical and chemical survey of Indian coals, the object being to provide a reliable assessment of the quality and quantity of the various coal resources of the country in order to ensure that they are utilised to the best advantage. In addition to problems of fundamental and applied research, sampling and analysis of coal will be undertaken and pilot-plants are to be developed for various processes. Opening the Institute, Dr. Prasad said that India was rich in mineral resources. It had been estimated that our total coal resources were about 65,000 million tons of which 22,000 million tons were considered workable at present.

Good quality coal, however, did not exceed 5,000 million tons but not all of this was suitable for metallurgical purposes. Our total annual output of all kinds of coal was about 30 million tons, of which about a third was consumed by railways, a fourth by metallurgical and other industries and a tenth for domestic purposes. About 13 million tons were being used for purposes for which coals of types other than of the coking variety, could be used. Prime Minister Nehru who also spoke on the occasion stressed that service should mould the minds of the rising generation of Indians. "Science widens the mind and broadens culture and that broadening is antagonistic to conservatism that impedes 'progress'", said he.

● Mobile Observatories to Report Weather Conditions

Ships of Indian registration or which are normally plying in Indian waters are being recruited to form a "voluntary observing fleet" to report weather and other conditions along the routes where they ply. The ships will be equipped with listed meteorological instruments loaned by the Indian Meteorological Department and will report observations regularly to the Indian coastal radio stations, thus constituting a fleet of "mobile" observatories. When in foreign waters, the ships will come under a similar international programme and will report weather conditions to foreign meteorological stations. India has four stations for reception of weather reports—Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Port Blair. As some ships in Indian waters often find it more convenient to report their observations to Karachi, Colombo and Rangoon, arrangements are in force to pass on to India, ships' reports received by these stations. For the present 39 ships have been recruited and 34 are fully equipped. When the programme is fully implemented, the fleet will number about 110 ships.

● Hydel Projects to be completed by 1954

Shri N. V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power, said at Poona on 23rd April that the Damodar Valley, Mahanadi, and Bhakra-Nangal schemes were fairly on their way and that these three schemes would be completed by 1954. These hydel projects are expected to increase the supply of hydro-electric power in the country by one million kilowatts and would bring four million acres of land under irrigation.

● Demand for Indian Articles in Siam

There is a good demand for Indian glass bottles in Bangkok where there is a government distillery which produces nearly 15,000 bottles daily. One of the local merchants proposes to order 2,50,000 bottles from India if prices are comparatively favourable. There is a keen demand for Indian molasses (about 10,000 tons) and linseed oil in Bangkok. A display of 250 samples of Indian cotton textiles and cotton yarns was held in Bangkok as a result of which orders for nearly 3 lakhs of rupees worth of Indian yarn of 10, 20 and 30 counts were booked in that country. This

display has considerably helped to promote demand for Indian cotton textiles in Siam.

● New Industrial Relations Bill

The Labour Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, introduced in Parliament a new Labour Relations Bill which seeks to provide for the regulation of the relationship between employers and employees for the prevention, investigation and settlement of labour disputes and for certain incidental matters. Three new authorities are envisaged in the Bill, namely, standing conciliation boards, labour courts and an appellate tribunal. The last-named will be an authority of considerable importance and is occasioned by the fact that there is "lack of uniformity" in the awards given by the large number of tribunals in the various States causing great restlessness and expectancy among employees.

● Recruitment to Territorial Army

Recruitment to the Territorial Army, which began in October, 1919, is now making steady progress. In some units, the target strength has already been reached. The Territorial Army has two types of units, provincial and urban; the first consisting of recruits drawn from rural areas and the second, of those from towns and cities. Some of the provincial units are already in camp undergoing one month's recruit training. This will be followed by two months' training every year. Training of urban units, which is imparted only during the men's spare time, is also under way wherever such units have been raised. During the period of training, the Territorial Army personnel get the same pay and allowances as are admissible to the corresponding ranks of the regular Army.

● Development of Assam's Airfields

The Government of India have taken in hand the development of the seven wartime airfields in Assam and its neighbouring centrally-administered areas of Manipur and Tripura. The airstrips at Jorhat in Upper Assam and Kumbhirgram in Silchar will get the first priority in the scheme. Besides, a new runway at an estimated cost of about ten lakhs of rupees is already under construction at Gauhati. Night-landing facilities have also been provided at Gauhati and Agartala in Tripura. Air transport of passengers and cargo to and from Assam area commenced since the partition of the country and today it has reached huge proportions. Thousands of pounds of tea, jute and other products are being daily air-lifted to the rest of India, while an equal amount of essential goods are being flown in.

● Progress of India's Air Services

India has shown in recent years a great increase in the number of air-lines and in the traffic carried. Before the war there were only two private

companies operating a route mileage of 5,264 miles. Today there are eight scheduled Indian air transport companies (on 14th August, united India had 11 companies) with a route mileage of 22,952. During the first half of 1948, as against the previous half-year, there was an increase of 25 per cent in air traffic, the miles flown being 5,874,380 and the passengers carried 175,734, with a 27 per cent increase in the weight of freight, mails and newspapers transported. In 1948 India entered the field of long distance international air transport with the formation of "Air India International Ltd", a joint state-cum-private enterprise. India has also concluded air agreements with the U.S.A., the Netherlands, France, Sweden, Pakistan, Ceylon, Australia, the Philippines and Norway.

● Technical Training for Adults

The Government of India Labour Ministry have decided to introduce a scheme for the technical and vocational training of adult civilians in view of the fact that a large number of skilled workers and lower grade technicians are urgently necessary for the economic development of the country. Two types of training will be available under the scheme: (1) Technical training in engineering and building trades, and (2) Vocational training in handicrafts. The period of training in technical trades will be two years, of which eighteen months will be spent in a training centre and the remaining six months in an industrial undertaking or in professional work.

Assam

● Encouraging Mulberry Plantation

With a view to encouraging mulberry plantation, the Government of Assam have so far granted a total sum of Rs. 3,743 for this year to be distributed among 103 persons in different places of the State.

Bombay

● Greater Bombay

A simple ceremony of "crossing the border" on 15th April by the Governor of Bombay, Raja Maharaj Singh and the Mayor, Shri S. K. Patil, marked the ushering in of Greater Bombay. As a result of this extension, Bombay has become one of the six biggest cities of the world. Greater Bombay's total area is about 90 square miles, with a population of more than 4 millions.

● School Girls' Camp

In pursuance of the Government scheme to hold holiday camps for school children and teachers, an educational camp for girls was organised recently in Sasawaue, about twenty miles from Bombay. It is reported

to have been a great success as a centre for self-help, observation of nature, social contacts and community life. 120 girls and fifteen teachers from five leading schools in Bombay joined the camp. The campers took great interest in sports, manuscript magazines, collection and exhibition of curios, tidiness at the camp, diaries and entertainments. To add to the informative side, talks on interesting subjects were given by teachers and other officers in charge and educational films shown.

● Bombay Ends the Drink Evil

Total prohibition which was officially enforced in Bombay State on 6th April, 1950 is the result of the four-year plan announced by the Bombay Government on 12th December 1946. The main features of the plan as it was first announced in 1946, are: The Government will give a chance to addicts to change their habits and enough time to improve their way of living. Dealers in intoxicants will get enough time to switch over from their present trade to other undertakings which are healthier and more beneficial from the point of view of society. The plan of total prohibition has been enforced by effecting a sort of temperance arrangement evolving itself into complete prohibition in the fourth year, 1950-51. The scheme of closing the shops on certain days in the week was a corollary to the progressive cut of 25 per cent. in the consumption of intoxicants. As the intoxicants supplied to the licensees were reduced, there was less supply and more demand. To meet this situation, the shops were closed for more number of days. In the first year, the closure was two days in the week, in the second year it was three days and in the third year for four days. The Government are still engaged in perfecting the arrangements for the production, preservation and distribution of *neera* which, it is claimed, is a healthy drink although not a substitute to liquor or *toddy*. The Government have sanctioned Rs. 30 lakhs for a scheme of *neera* production and supply.

Hyderabad

● Increased Wages for Labour

The Hyderabad Government have accepted the recommendations of the Rege Committee, appointed to enquire into the conditions of factory labour in the State, that the basic wage for an unskilled male factory worker throughout the State should be Rs. 26 per month of 26 working days. He is also to get a dearness allowance of Rs. 26 per mensem including house rent allowance of Rs. 5 if he lives in Hyderabad city, Rs. 21 if he lives in the towns where the house rent allowance is now Rs. 3 and Rs. 21 in the rest of the State. The government have fixed the basic wages of Rs. 20 for women workers and Rs. 17 for children per mensem as against the Committee's recommendation that men and women should get the same basic wage, because women generally are employed on lighter work. But when men and women are engaged on the same kind of work they will receive the same basic wage. No difference is, however,

made in case of men and women workers as regards dearness allowance. These decisions are to be applicable to Government-controlled industrial concerns in the State.

Kashmir

● Kashmir's Honey Trade

A little over 30,000 maunds of honey, valued at Rs. 12 lakhs, was exported from Kashmir to other parts of India in 1949-50. The State Agriculture Department is running 30 bee colonies and it has planned to increase these to 100 in Kashmir Division alone. Last year Government trained 50 selected agriculturists at their three bee-keeping centres in commercial bee-keeping on modern lines by qualified agriculturists. The trained *zamindars* organised 50 colonies last year. The number of colonies is expected to increase ten-fold this year, each *zamindar* running ten colonies.

Madhya Pradesh

● Abolition of Malguzari

The Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed on 5th April 1950 the C.P. and Berar Abolition of Proprietary Rights (Estates, Mahals, Alienated Lands) Bill, 1949, as reported by the Select Committee. The main features of the Bill are that Government would acquire the proprietary rights of *malguzars* and other categories of land-holders in the whole of Madhya Pradesh State on payment of compensation at a flat rate of 10 times the net profits, except in case of merged States areas where a sliding scale has been fixed. Every absolute occupancy tenant and normal occupancy tenant, on payment of four and five times the annual rent respectively, would become the *malik-makbuz* of the land comprised in his holding. Under the new set-up of revenue administration a *patel* will be appointed for village management and the collection of land revenue. Payment of compensation will be in cash in full or in annual instalments not exceeding thirty or in bonds. Where the amount is not paid within a period of six months from the date of vesting, the State Government would pay each proprietary interim compensation which would be equal to one-tenth of the estimated amount of compensation.

● Rehabilitating Vidya Mandirs

The Madhya Pradesh Government have decided to rehabilitate existing *Vidya Mandirs* in the State, at a cost of over one lakh of rupees during the current year. The 84 *Vidya Mandirs* were established in the State under a scheme launched in 1938, the principle underlying which was that income from the land attached to each of the *Mandirs* should make it self-supporting. As some of the lands have not been yielding the necessary income, the State Government are expected to sanction maintenance equipment and building grants towards the rehabilitation of the *Mandirs*.

Madras

● Institute of Mathematics Opened

Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, inaugurated on 15th April 1950, the Ramanujam Institute of Mathematics at Vepery, Madras. The aims of the institute are to encourage the study of mathematics in this country, to raise the tone of mathematical research and to publish periodically papers on different branches of the science. It is hoped that the institute would shed its influence on all other sciences which ultimately have to look to mathematics as the guiding star and pivotal science. The institute has been founded in the name of Srinivasa Ramanujam, world-famous mathematical genius of South India, who after a brilliant career, died at the early age of 33 in 1920. Ramanujam was the first Indian Fellow of the Royal Society.

● Compulsory Study of Hindi in Schools

The Madras Government have decided that Hindi be introduced as a compulsory subject of study for two hours in a week from the First Form stage in high schools, with the commencement of the coming school year. This is in pursuance of the recommendation of the Secondary Education Board. The high school student in Madras State has now to learn (1) his mother tongue or the regional language as the case may be or any classical language including Sanskrit, Latin, Greek, etc., (2) Hindi and (3) English.

Punjab

● Relief Camps in Punjab

The present population of the Relief Camps in Punjab is 1,08,140. 44,162 live in mud-huts and 63,978 under canvas, according to the latest Rehabilitation Report. Besides, 3,607 displaced persons from Kashmir are living in Ram Colony Camp, Hoshiarpur; 7,469 unattached women and children in special Homes; and 1,336 infirm and aged persons, who are receiving gratuitous relief in Infirmaries.

Against the construction target of 13,170 mud-huts, 8,852 have since been completed. In addition to the colonies already decided upon, the Government have decided to develop a colony of 200 cheap houses at Bhiwani. The Government of India have sanctioned an additional allotment of Rs. 30 lakhs for this purpose. The buildings of Karnal and Rohtak Homes have been completed and women and children are now being moved into these Homes.

Rajasthan

● Two More Dams Under Way

Rajasthan hopes to produce 15,000 tons more of food grains every year when the two proposed dams, one at Dholpur and the other in the Jaipur division, are completed. The Rajasthan Government have decided, under their irrigation and agricultural development scheme, to spend Rs. 1.5 lakhs in the current year on the Khanna Dam and its canals. The total estimated expenditure on this dam is Rs. 5 lakhs. When the work is completed about 10,000 acres of land will be irrigated, yielding 3,000 tons of food-grains. Three lakh rupees have been sanctioned in connection with the Parvate Dam in Dholpur. The total estimated cost of this dam is about Rs. 60 lakhs. The dam will irrigate about 40,000 acres of land yielding 12,000 tons of food-grains.

Uttar Pradesh

● A Planned Road System

Surveys for collecting the statistics required for designing roads will shortly be conducted by the Public Works Department. The object of the survey is to have a road system planned on a sound scientific and economic basis and then to prepare a well-coordinated scientific highway plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 21 crores. The road programme in execution by the State P.W.D. includes construction or improvement of over 8,000 miles of national highways, provincial highways, major district roads and other roads. In addition 2,411 miles of local metalled roads were also taken over for reconstruction, 75 per cent. of which have been completed at a cost of about Rs. 9.5 crores.

● Trade Union Activities on the Increase

Labour in Uttar Pradesh is getting more trade union-minded judging from the increase in the number of trade unions in the State, a statistical survey of industries conducted by the Labour Ministry revealed recently. At the end of the year 1949, the number of trade unions stood at 501 while the number of registered unions at the end of 1947-48 was 218 only. In the year 1948-49, 179 new unions were registered. Another interesting feature was the decline in the number of disputes and man-days lost in the industrial concerns of the State; only 54 strikes and play-offs took place in 1949 as against 100 strikes in the year 1948. The number of factories and workers employed therein went up nearly two-fold during the year 1948—their number being 1,040 employing 2,42,083 workers. At present there are 28 textile mills, 79 sugar, 103 glass, 26 leather and tanning and 18 oil factories.

● B. C. G. Campaign

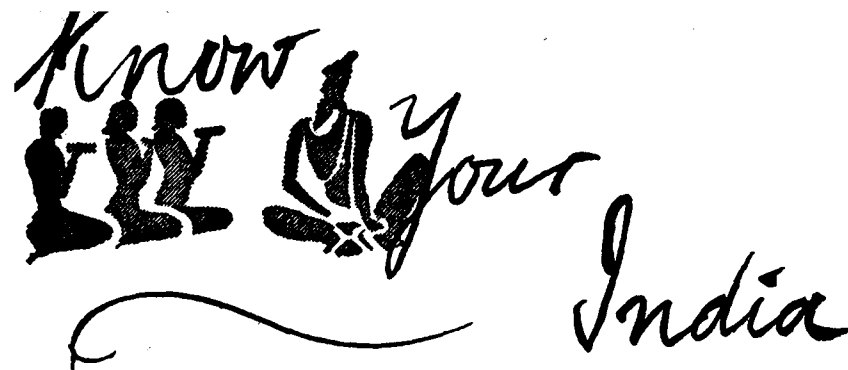
Over a lakh persons have been tested in Uttar Pradesh for B.C.G. vaccination and 30,663 persons vaccinated till March 30 this year by nine B.C.G. teams working in the State. The B.C.G. campaign was started on 9th September last year with an initial force of three teams. Six more were added subsequently. Mostly students under 21 were tested and vaccinated, except at Kanpur where a special drive was launched in the labour areas. The Health Ministry now propose to extend the campaign to the four hill districts of Almora, Nainital, Ranikhet and Mussoorie this summer.

● Incentive to Cane-Growers

A state function for the award of the 'Mahatma Gandhi Gold Trophy' to the best cane-grower in Uttar Pradesh was held under the auspices of the Cane Development Department of the U.P. Government at Kaiserbagh Baradari, Lucknow, on May 7. The award is the result of the first inter-range Cane Development Provincial Competition, introduced to induce the cane-growers to raise their standards of cane cultivation and thereby obtain higher yields per acre through the adoption of scientific methods of cultivation and other improved practices. The trophy went to the Meerut range, a cultivator of which has qualified for the first cash prize of Rs. 1,000. Numerous other prizes have been awarded on the results of zonal and range competitions. The cane competition is a part of the five-year intensive cane development plan sanctioned by the Indian Central Sugar Committee.

● Administration of Merged Enclaves

The U.P. Government are working out proposals to bring the 500 and odd enclaves merged in Uttar Pradesh to the level of other areas in the State. Departmental heads have been instructed to send detailed suggestions for extending development and social service schemes to these areas, which formerly formed part of Rajasthan, Vindhya Pradesh and other small States. The enclaves are to be administered in all respects as if they formed part of Uttar Pradesh. The State Government have abolished customs and other duties in the enclaves, for it has no intention of continuing any special taxes or duties obtaining in these areas which do not exist in Uttar Pradesh. Existing facilities for social services, such as education and medical relief, are to be improved in these enclaves, which have added about 7,500 square miles to the area of U.P. If in any place these facilities exist on a more liberal scale than in other districts, they will not be curtailed. Higher or new rates of levy applicable in the rest of the State, will not be applied immediately to the enclaves so as not to inconvenience people living in these areas.



● An Allegory and its Import

The reconciling of the lofty-souled Krishna, the noblest philosopher of the *Bhagavad-Gita*, with the Krishna of the *Bhagavat Purana* stories sometimes presents difficulties unless the allegorical character of the latter is perceived.

Recently we had an exhibition of Indian fine arts. I was conducting a foreigner through it. Suddenly we paused before a painting that depicted an embarrassing scene: a group of damsels bathing in a stream and a mischievous lad, flute in hand, perched on a tree nearby. He had the clothes of the bathing ladies hung about him on the branches of the tree, and the suppliant attitude of the unclad maidens in the water below suggested that they were pleading with the naughty boy not to tease them too much, and were asking him to give them back their clothes, which he had stealthily taken away.

My companion, not familiar with the theme, asked me what the painting was about. I told her that it represented an incident of Krishna's life, and I briefly narrated it to her. Obviously that did not solve her puzzle. "Do you believe in it?" she cross-examined me. "Yes, in a sense," was my reply. "What is the sense behind it?" "Well, it is all an allegory. God's graciously removing the pall of ignorance from man's intellect is pictured here as Krishna robbing the milkmaid of her robe." As I enlarged upon this point, I could perceive the contempt on the face of my interlocutor changing to smiling appreciation.

The interpretation given by me was not of my own concoction. I merely translated what the old teachers had said, explaining the Lord's epithet, "Robber of the robes of the

mistress of the tender of the cows" occurring in an invocatory stanza of the *Nyayamuktavali*, a work on metaphysics, which has no place for flippancy and where whatever is stated must be rationally explained. The true import of the epithet quoted in the said work is explained as follows: The cows stand for the organs of sense, their herdsman is the mind, the mistress of this latter is the intellect, her drapery is nescience, and its theft means the revelation of truth. How a sensible man's intellect gets shrouded is well known to the student of the *Gita* (III. 40).

Needless to say, other similar anecdotes of Krishna's life can be explained in like manner.

(B. CHHABRA in the *Aryan Path*)

* * *

● Ancient India knew Wave Theory of Sound

The *Mimamsakas* speak of three varieties of sound—*Nada*, *Dvani* and *Sphota*. The *Nyaya* system employs the "*Vichit-ranga nyaya*" according to which sound vibrations occur in circles. This is the wave theory of sound. The analysis of these vibrations has been carried farther under the name, "*Kampava santana sanskar*." Even in music, we have an analysis of sound into *Sruti*, *Swara* and the like.

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Hindustan Year Book—1950

M. C. Sarkar and Sons Ltd., Calcutta, pp. 476, Price Rs. 3/8.

As usual the 1950 edition of this annual publication is crammed with facts and figures about India and the world in general. It is an extremely valuable book to those who are interested in public affairs and especially to those who wish to widen their general knowledge. We wish our educated youngmen would familiarise themselves with the information this book can give them year by year. In spite of stray printer's mistakes here and there, this year-book is well-got up, handy and attractive. Our congratulations to the publishers.

N.V.R.

Indians in Malayan Economy

Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, New Delhi, pp. 57, Price Rs. 1/14.

A study of Indian migration to Malaya in the present century and the role of Indians in that country's economy, this useful booklet, prepared by Shri S. Nanjundan of the Government of India Economic Adviser's Office, contains statistics regarding growth of population, movement of Indians between Madras and Malaya, occupational distribution, employment, wages and hours of work of labourers for the period 1900 to 1940. Facts are presented as objectively as possible with a wealth of graphs and tables. Altogether a valuable addition to our information on a little-known subject.

N.V.R.

Russian Imperialism—How to stop it?

R. Swarup. Prachi Prakashan, 38, Netaji Subhas Road, Calcutta—1, pp. 56, Price Rs. 2.

The publishers, in sending us this book for review, say that their activities are directed towards the spread of objective information about communism amongst our people. "We believe", they say, "that only a strong and well-informed movement of the people can ultimately defeat the Red menace". This statement is a pointer to the general trend of this publication. It flaunts on the cover the words: "Read and Approved

by Shri Aurobindo". Except as a certificate from the ex-revolutionary, now saint of Pondicherry, this means little. Communism is a "hostile force" to Shri Aurobindo and the author has striven in the course of this book to prove this. Bertrand Russell thinks this "discussion of Russian Imperialism" "excellent" according to the blurb on the dust cover and when that great man says so, we suppose it must be. The book makes excellent propaganda against the communist doctrines and way of life and is full of controversial statements. The author has undoubtedly made good points here and there and is more or less right in the solutions he has offered to counteract this menace. We have no sympathy with communism as it is practised by its adherents to-day. Nevertheless, it is hardly in keeping with the dignity of the book to indulge in cheap hyperboles like that on page ix: "Communism is Devil's instrument in thwarting man's spiritual evolution." A scintillating study of the practice of communism in spite of its style which gets too lively in places.

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