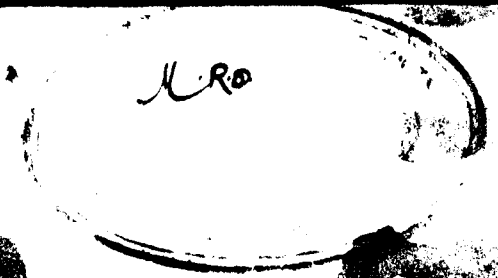


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JULY, 1950

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# Indian Affairs



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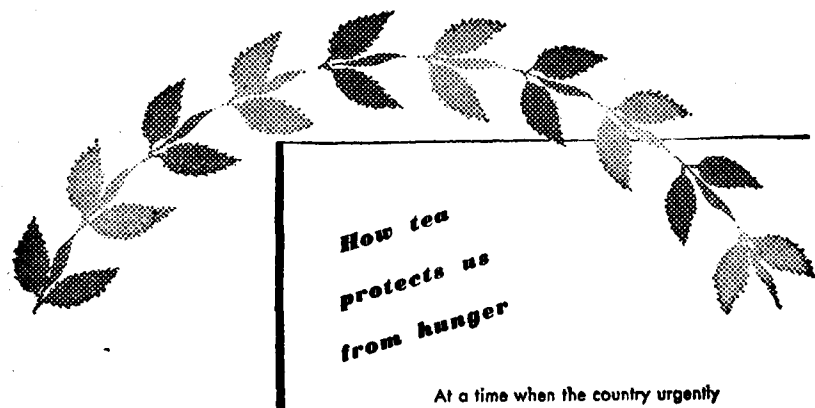
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The Editor invites articles and news items of interest to Indians living abroad for publication in this Journal. Contributions should be preferably typewritten on one side of the paper and should be sent well in advance of the probable date of their 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

JULY, 1950

No. 10

## *The Shape of Things*

Since the publication of our last issue, the Ceylon Indian Congress Committee has met and decided to lift the ban it had imposed on Indians registering themselves as citizens under the terms of the Indian and Pakistani Residents' (Citizenship) Act. Writing earlier on this subject we had termed this as a wise move. It would appear now that this decision has been welcomed by responsible public opinion in Ceylon. How the Government of Ceylon will react to it, is not yet clear. But the way the authorities have been dealing with the question of Indians visiting India temporarily and the difficulties they have been experiencing in this regard, leave little ground for optimism. It is reported that there has been a heavy exodus of Indians from Ceylon in recent months. They have been leaving Ceylon for good at the rate of sixteen to eighteen hundred a month, mainly due to the difficulty in obtaining from the authorities permanent or temporary Residence Permits, without which they cannot make journeys to India and return to Ceylon as of right. To expect Indians to give up all connection with India and not to visit this country in any circumstances, is to hope for the impossible. The Ceylon Government know this very well and have therefore planned ahead to take advantage of the fact. This, combined with the

EDITED BY N. V. RAO  
PUBLISHED BY THE EDITOR

racial qualifications laid down for acquiring citizenship rights, impose an intolerable strain on the Indian community. Premier Senanayake's latest statement regretting his inability to do anything in the matter on the ostensible plea that it was beyond his purview as it was a matter for the courts to decide, only proves that Ceylon is in no mood to be reasonable. Indians have a tough time ahead of them.

\* \* \*

Writing in our previous issue, we maintained that the Group Areas Bill brought before the South African Parliament had in effect torpedoed the idea of holding a R.T.C. to settle the Indian question in that country. We are glad that the Government of India have been persuaded to accept this view and have announced their decision not to participate in the proposed R.T.C. The correspondence that passed between the Government of India and the South African Government on the subject which was published recently, reveals the full story of the Malan Government's breach of faith. While professing to accept the U.N. directive and hold a R.T.C. for "exploring all possible ways and means of settling the Indian question", the South African Government have proceeded with its anti-Indian measures, which impose fresh disabilities of a very serious nature on Indians in respect of ownership or occupation of properties and in carrying on trade and other occupations. In short, the Union Government's object is to pass all its segregation laws before the R.T.C. meets and leave to it only the question of reducing the Indian population in South Africa which it has suggested already. It is a deliberate attempt to present the R.T.C. with a *fait accompli* and nullify the very object for which it was to meet. The Malan Government have refused even to comply with the very modest request of the Government of India to postpone the Group Areas Bill and to convene the R.T.C. immediately. This is an affront not only to India but to the U.N.O. as a whole.

\* \* \*

The long-awaited Indian delegation to discuss with the Burmese Government the issue of compensation to Indian landowners there, under the terms of the Land Nationalisation Act passed by the Burmese Parliament nearly two years back, have

gone to Burma and returned. They are reported to have expressed satisfaction with the trend of talks they had with the Burmese authorities.

India has made it clear that she is not objecting to nationalisation of land as such. For that matter several state governments in India have passed similar measures for the benefit of the down-trodden peasant, and zamindari abolition is one of the planks of the Congress electoral platform. Besides, it is conceded that the Burmese Act is a progressive measure and makes no particular discrimination against Indians, as its provisions apply to all landowners including Burmese. India does not demand any preferential treatment for her nationals. All that she expects the Burma Government to agree to is that the compensation paid to Indian landowners should not be so poor as to cripple them financially and compel them to return to their motherland as helpless refugees.

In this connection, we would like to point out the fact that under the Anglo-Burmese treaty reasonably handsome terms were offered to British property owners. We see no reason why the same consideration should not be shown to a people who are much nearer in so many ways and who in the past, have contributed substantially to the material progress and economic welfare of Burma. We hope the Indian delegation has been able to discharge its duties successfully and that ere long, this ticklish question would be permanently solved to the advantage of both countries.

\* \* \*

Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to Indonesia is a history-making event. Thousands of years ago, intrepid Indian colonists sailed to these distant islands of the Pacific and settled down there taking with them their rich culture and way of life. What they did there can be seen in the hundreds of ruined temples and other artistic structures that dot the lovely countryside all over Indonesia today. The majestic temples of Borobudur and Parembaran, the dance of Bali and the rich mythological lore that is still the pride of Indonesians, are all witnesses to the contributions made by the Hindus who went there, to the cultural life of the Indonesian people. And now, after a

centuries-old sleep when these contacts were broken, another Indian representing the 350 millions of this country has rediscovered India for the Indonesians. It is a historic occasion and the Indonesian people are fully conscious of this fact. They have shown their love and regard for India by welcoming our Prime Minister in a right royal manner. It almost looks like a family reunion—not only in a physical sense, but a reunion of hearts and souls symbolising the greatness of Asia and the essential camaraderie of eastern peoples. Out cordial greetings to Free Indonesia.

## Will Gandhian Economics Triumph?

WILFRED WELLOCK

*Wilfred Wellock, writing in the Peace News, London, says that the keystones of the non-violent social revolution, visualised by Mahatma Gandhi, are basic education, the principle of co-operation and trained workers in these techniques. The followers of Gandhi have fact, logic and reason on their side. But will they win over the exponents of western industrialism in India, he asks.—Editor.*

**B**ENEATH the surface of Indian politics a very active ferment is in process on the course that India should take at this critical juncture in her history. The issue is: should she adopt Western industrialism or the Gandhian economics. On that issue Congress, which had been a solid phalanx of support for nearly every proposal which Gandhiji brought forward, is deeply divided, and the division is causing a good deal of heart-burning among Congress members, all of whom regret the rift that is now dividing the ranks.

For a longer period than I had realised before I went to India, Gandhiji had been devoting much time and thought to the problem of India's economic future, the nature of the economy she ought to pursue when she entered into her new freedom. It was of course recognised that he was opposed to an economy on western lines, an economy based on a highly centralised, highly specialised, mass production system. It was also known that he favoured an economy which had as its basis village self-sufficiency, and that only in the economic and spiritual strength of her 700,000 villages could India win the freedom that is peace. In the ten years between 1937 and 1947 when India achieved her political freedom, Gandhiji developed his theory of non-violent social revolution for India. The keystones of this social revolution were basic education, the principle of cooperation and trained workers in these techniques.

So far as one can gather, there was little or no opposition to this new theory of revolution on the part of Congress members. This does not mean that everybody agreed with Gandhi,

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or that any appreciable percentage of his followers gave much thought to his social and industrial ideas. It probably meant no more than that it was enough to labour together with the maximum of unity in the winning of freedom, and to leave the later struggles till events opened the stage for their entry. At the same time it can be said that Gandhi's economic philosophy had the general support of Congress, with the exception of those actually engaged in mass production industry; and even these, with very few exceptions, preferred to keep silent out of respect for their leader. When at last freedom came, the first question to be settled was whether Congress members should, or should not, go into politics. Opinion was divided. But even of those who decided to enter politics, by far the greater number supported Gandhian economics.

In the meantime two events have tended to swing opinion among the "politicals" toward western industrialism. These events are the passing of Gandhi and the advance of Communism in the East, including India herself. In regard to the former, the influence of Gandhi will rise and fall from time to time according to the faith of his followers, and I am able to say that I have been heartened far more by the devoutness of those who have stood by his social teaching than I have been disheartened by those who have strayed from it. In regard to Communism it is now generally accepted that the way to stop its spread is to raise the standard of living. But in fact there is only a modicum of truth in this contention, since in the United States which has the highest standard of living in the world, the fear of Communism is stronger than in any other country.

Communism is spreading in India, but where? Not in her villages where the standard of living is lowest, but in the big industrial cities where working class living standards are highest. It is in the areas where trade unionism is strongest and wages are highest that Communism is spreading in India. Communism has made only slight intrusions into her villages, despite their appalling poverty, and this only on the promise to the peasants of the ownership of their farms. Such ownership relates to a life of quality, to freedom and self-determination and not merely to income. Then how will the industrialism

of India stave off Communism? Industrialism may draw from the villages the poorest members, but it will not save them from Communism. The loss of contact with nature and with a variety of agricultural and craft activities will leave an aching void which a higher money income and a hard existence in mass-production factories and congealed slums will not fill. It is precisely such conditions which act as the seed beds for Communism.

Moreover the multiplication of factories will not raise the standard of living in India's villages. Today millions in these villages cannot afford to buy mill-produced cotton cloth, which is now being exported at the rate of 800,000,000 yards a year. Hence the industrialism of India would quickly result in the pouring of new exports on the world's markets, where they would aggravate the world's major economic problem, and hurl India into the vortex of western politics at a time when the changes between the magnetic poles are increasing in intensity and frequency.

In this field, as in so many, Gandhi's instincts were sure. He had the deep conviction that it was quality of life, the spiritual value of creative, responsible living—that is, of vocationalism—and not merely money, which the modern world lacked, and thus what was needed in India was to protect the living standards of the peasants by a well-planned system of village and regional cooperation which would fix prices on an agreed principle of justice, and at the same time build up a new village economy of complete self-sufficiency in certain fields, and to a reasonable degree in the rest. The foundations of this new order were to be found in a new culture which basic education would inculcate, and on it a civilisation of high culture would be erected. Among its final products would be whole persons, from the children in the schools to grand-parents, also highly integrated villages, being stable and unshakable by virtue of the inward strength developed through creative, largely self-sufficient, living.

In India the followers of Gandhi have fact, logic, and reason on their side. Will they triumph? I have seen them at work and have witnessed their faith and their progress and have been greatly inspired.

## Recent Discovery of Early Hindu Art in Borneo

A HOARD of early Hindu religious objects near Sambas, West Borneo, was discovered recently by Mr. Tan Yeok Seong, President of the South Seas Society, Singapore. The discovery is of very great importance as it takes another step forward in rewriting the history of Indian influence in the Far East.

The find of these seven gold figures of Buddha and his attendants which had been dug up near Sambas, has a special interest because Borneo has so far proved nearly barren in ancient Indian relics by comparison with other parts of South-East Asia. None of the few found there so far, have had anything like the quality or finish of those from Sambas, which are masterpieces of the goldsmith's craft and in excellent condition. Throughout the Japanese occupation the pieces had to be carefully hidden. They were bombed but escaped unharmed. From being lost and buried for several centuries they had to go underground again to escape the Japanese. They are now in the vaults of the Overseas Chinese Bank.

The story of the discovery is that shortly before the first bomb was dropped on Singapore island in 1941, an inland trader from Borneo came to a goldsmith at Tanjong Pagar Road with a strange figure of an Indian deity and offered it for sale. He insisted that the image was of precious metal and demanded a high price. The goldsmith, after carefully examining it, was ready to pay for its bullion value. There was protracted bargaining. From this meagre information acquired by chance, Mr. Seong succeeded in locating the trader and was rewarded by the dazzling sight of the complete treasure. There were nine gold and silver images and a strange bronze vessel. Mr. Seong learnt that these finds had been unearthed in Sambas by some Chinese workmen. He was taken to them and was able to make further inquiries. The workmen were all waiting to return to China for good. Apparently, the trader had satisfactorily rewarded them for the find. They told Mr. Seong that while excavating a mound by the bank of a small stream on the outskirts of a village known as Palangai

Sabong, some 15 miles from the town of Sambas, they dug out an earthen jar about two feet in height. It was covered with a bronze cymbal-shaped disc and was standing on a bronze plate of considerable size which was badly decayed. Accidently they broke the jar and were dumbfounded at the sight of the treasure. The jar also contained some black sand.

The most interesting of the finds is a bronze vessel of rectangular base. This piece is in a perfect state of preservation and shows clearly that the vessel is an incense burner. It is the only one of its kind ever discovered intact in this part of the world. There are two standing Buddha images both perfectly preserved. The bigger is a silver piece six inches high of a figure standing on a lotus. The smaller is made of gold. In addition, there are two seated Buddhas made of gold. They are seated cross-legged in the *Vajrasana* attitude. Besides these, there are several images of *Bodhisattvas*. The biggest of the *Bodhisattvas* has a total height of six inches from the foot to the top of the aureole. The entire figure weighs 27 ounces of gold. It is dressed in a loin cloth with starry designs which makes it a rare specimen.

### One Year of Freedom

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### ● Progress of Work in National Laboratories

The National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, is at present engaged in the construction of the various precision instruments needed for modern research, particularly in the domain of physics. The chief among these delicate instruments is the precision Beta Ray spectograph for studying the energy distribution of beta-radiations from radio-active substances. The construction of a quartz clock is also in hand. For studies in optics, a number of optically plane and concave surfaces of substantial area, the largest about two feet in diameter, have been prepared. In the sphere of applied physics, two important lines of investigation are in progress—the preparation of carbon brushes and other carbon products, and separation of some rare earths from one another and the study of their luminosity when used as activators in suitable phosphorus. These investigations are expected to find application in the preparation of luminous paints and gas mantles.

There are some important lines of research undertaken in the other National Laboratories also. The Central Food Technological Research Institute at Mysore is busy on a number of problems designed to improve the nutritional properties of subsidiary foodstuffs and to present the latter in forms acceptable to the ordinary man. For instance, experiments are being made for the production of synthetic rice from tapioca, maize and jowar.

The National Chemical Laboratory at Poona is conducting experiments on the utilization of non-edible oils for technical purposes. These investigations are intended to modify tobacco seed oil and safflower oil for use in the manufacture of paints and varnishes, and some encouraging results have already been obtained. Another line of investigation relates to the use of castor and other oils to replace cocoanut oil in soaps. In the Inorganic Division of the National Chemical Laboratory, new and quick methods of estimating rare metals and minerals are being developed. Work has also begun with a view to concentrating precious metals and minerals from mixtures with less valuable materials. Processes for the manufacture of citric acid, calcium gluconate and Vitamin C have been developed in the Bio-Chemistry Division. Experiments on animals have shown that solution of a peculiarly pure gelatine is capable of overcoming shocks due to loss of blood without producing undesirable effects. Extension of this work, it is hoped, may provide possibilities of using this pure

gelatine as a substitute for whole blood or blood plasma in surgical practice. Other investigations in this Division relate to the preparation of heparine, a drug derived from cattle liver. Attempts are also being made to produce carotene, precursor of Vitamin A, by micro-biological digestion of leafy material.

In the Fuel Research Institute at Dhanbad, investigations on froth flotation of Indian coals, so as to reduce the ash content of high ash coals, are being conducted, as also experiments for reduction of their phosphorous content. Further tests are in progress in coal washing, and a cyclone type of washer has been designed. Simultaneously, experiments are in progress to throw light on the polymeric constitution of coal. The coal sample is, by suitable treatment, converted into a number of fractions, which are subjected to chromatographic analysis for separation into homologous groups. Constitution of tars is also being studied for obtaining fundamental data on coal bitumens.

The Central Glass and Ceramics Research Institute in Calcutta has evolved a good thermal insulating material from waste glass. Styled 'foam glass', this is light and porous and its use in house construction should tend to reduce the effects of extreme heat and bitter cold. It is expected that the investigations will shortly reach a stage when commercial production can be begun.

The National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur is evolving a process by which low-grade manganese ores can be converted into manganese sulphate for the production of high purity electrolytic manganese dioxide. Work on the control of grain size in austenite steels is being continued. This should lead to better use being made of imported metals, such as nickel and chromium.

The Building Research Unit at Roorkee has been concentrating on low-cost houses and conducting a series of investigations on sun-dried clay, roofing tiles, soil cement floors and wall plasters from mud. Survey of clays used in the making of bricks in various parts of the country, with a view to determining the compressive strength of the bricks, is in progress. Lime sludge, a waste from sugar factories, is being tried as a stabilizer in the construction of walls and floors. How bamboo should be treated so as to serve as a substitute for steel in the reinforcement of beams and concrete structures is another line of investigation.

### ● Machine Tool Factory under Construction

Preliminary work with regard to the starting of the Government of India's Rs. 20 crore machine tool factory at Jalahalli near Bangalore has begun. The factory, which will be the biggest in India, is expected to go into production within two years.

### ● India's Dollar Earnings

Shri K. C. Neogy, ex-Minister for Commerce, recently made in the Indian Parliament the following statement showing the amount of dollars

(expressed in rupee value) earned by the export of Indian commodities for the period of April–September, 1949 to the dollar areas:

| (Figures show rupees in lakhs) |    |    |        |
|--------------------------------|----|----|--------|
| Jute Manufactures              | .. | .. | 21,795 |
| Spices                         | .. | .. | 166    |
| Mica                           | .. | .. | 126    |
| Lac                            | .. | .. | 110    |
| Manganese Ore                  | .. | .. | 115    |
| Hides and Skins (raw)          | .. | .. | 38     |
| Cotton Waste                   | .. | .. | 25     |
| Woollen Manufactures           | .. | .. | 30     |
| Others                         | .. | .. | 381    |

In the case of tea, earnings from exports to the U.S.A. amounted to Rs. 220 lakhs and to Canada, Rs. 138 lakhs.

### ● Encouragement of Fine Arts

The Government of India propose to establish a National Cultural Trust which would undertake the promotion of all cultural activities in the country. Due to financial difficulties the formation of the trust has been postponed for the present, and some of the cultural activities expected to be promoted by that body are being undertaken by the Culture and Art Section of the Education Ministry of the Government of India. In cooperation with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Madras, two academies of Hindustani and Karnatak Music have been established by the Government of India. These bodies will undertake research as well as instruction in these styles of Indian music. Eight art scholarships of Rs. 2,500 each have been awarded to deserving art students in order to enable them to develop their art in the context of rural life.

### ● First Indian Metropolitan

The Right Reverend Arabinda Nath Mukherji, Bishop of Delhi, was unanimously elected Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India, Burma and Ceylon at St. Paul's Cathedral in Calcutta on 17th May, 1950. The Rt. Rev. Mukherji, who is 57, was born in the district of Hooghly in West Bengal and educated at the Calcutta University. He was consecrated as Bishop of Delhi in 1945. He is the first Indian to be elected to this post.

### ● Indo-Austrian Trade Agreement

The first Indo-Austrian trade agreement was signed towards the end of September last at the Vienna Foreign Office by the Austrian Foreign Minister, Dr. Karl Gruber, and the Indian Delegate, Major-General Khub Chand. The one-year agreement provided for exchange of goods to the value of 4,500,000 pounds sterling. Austria would supply steel, paper, textiles, chemicals and machinery while India would provide raw jute, tea, cotton, wool, hemp, manganese ore, hides and spices.

### ● Indian Tea for West Germany

The joint Export-Import Agency in the Anglo-American Zone of Germany has made a further allocation for the import of tea worth \$1 million exclusively from India, the Commerce Ministry of India announced recently. This allocation is in addition to the Agency's previous allocation of \$2 million worth of tea imports from sterling areas including India during the period January–June, 1949.

### ● Agricultural Research

Researches on the various aspects of agriculture and animal husbandry including breeding and pests and disease-control of both food and cash crops, were continued by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during 1948–49, according to its Annual Report, recently published. On the veterinary side, disease investigation schemes for cattle, sheep and goats and poultry were conducted. Rinderpest, foot and mouth disease, tuberculosis and John's disease, contagious abortion and other deficiency diseases in cattle and Ranikhet disease in poultry received particular attention and some useful results were obtained. To apply the results obtained from the various researches conducted by the Council in actual field conditions, the people of ten villages in Delhi are being persuaded to adopt mixed farming, sow improved seeds, use improved implements, conserve cow dung by planting quick growing trees for fuel, etc. They are being helped in improving the existing breeds of cattle, pigs, poultry, etc., and in increasing their income by taking to pisciculture. The scheme aims at enriching the villagers by increased returns and at building up a cooperative spirit whereby the community will be able to improve its standard of living. Breeding work on rice was continued in Bombay, Kashmir, Travancore and Hyderabad. The possibilities of the use of soya-beans as human as well as cattle food, are being examined in the Punjab. Investigations on the incidence of rinderpest and evolving a satisfactory method of immunisation have been undertaken. In U.P., desiccated and pill vaccines were tried and as many as 28,900 doses issued to the public. This assured immunity in cattle and buffaloes at an altitude of 600 to 900 feet. A cattle-improvement scheme known as "Key Villages Scheme" has been launched in U.P. and Cochin. According to this, all bulls of inferior type will be castrated in these selected areas and high quality bulls supplied in their place, thus improving the quality of cattle. A third such scheme will be in operation in Delhi shortly. The sheep-breeding scheme in Madras has shown that the quality and quantity of wool produced by Bellary sheep can be definitely improved by feeding the sheep on good pastures.

### ● 70 Crores Spent on Refugees from West Pakistan

A complete picture is now available of the untiring energy and grim determination with which the Central Government assisted by State Governments, tackled successfully the problem of relief and rehabilitation of 5 million of refugees from Western Pakistan in 2½ years at the stupendous

cost of 70 crores of rupees cheerfully borne by the rest of India. An additional 30 crores of rupees have been set apart in the current year for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees from both wings of Pakistan making a grand total of 100 crores of rupees.

According to a census taken early in 1948, it has been estimated that five million refugees, Hindus and Sikhs, left their homes and hearths in Western Pakistan and trekked towards India in the autumn and winter of 1947. This population could be broadly divided into two classes, rural and urban, and the number under each category is roughly 2½ millions. From the actual figures now available, it can be seen that the cost of rehabilitating the urban population is much heavier and more complicated than resettling the purely agricultural population.

With the coming into operation of the schemes of quasi-permanent allotment of evacuee land in East Punjab and PEPSU to nearly 5 lakh families, roughly representing a population of 22 lakhs, who migrated from Western Pakistan during the latter half of 1947, the gigantic task of rehabilitation of agriculturists may be said to have reached a satisfactory and conclusive stage. It has been ascertained that the area abandoned under permanent rights, excluding land, is 39.55 lakh acres as against which, only 24.18 lakh acres are available on the Indian side. It may also be mentioned that as against 43 lakh acres of irrigated land abandoned in Western Pakistan, only 13.2 lakh acres of irrigated land have been left behind by Muslims. This difference, both in size and quality, between lands abandoned in Western Pakistan and in India is significant and staggering. There were 4,83,611 persons who applied for agricultural land in India and claimed 39.55 lakh acres. As the land available for distribution was only 62 per cent of the land claimed, a scheme of graded cut had to be imposed. Under the scheme smaller holders sacrificed less than larger holders.

Out of 4,83,611 families of landholders affected by the quasi-permanent allotment, more than half are already settled on evacuee land on a temporary basis. During the last two years they have cultivated their lands, familiarised themselves with the surroundings, developed new contacts and have probably become attached to their new homes. The new scheme of allocation has therefore been designed firstly, to prevent as far as possible, uprooting of a large number of persons who are already settled, and secondly, to provide that as far as possible, people of the same district and tahsil of West Punjab are settled in compact areas.

### ● Rice Production on Increase

The all-India final estimate of rice for 1949-50 puts the area and outturn of rice for the current year at 71,660,000 acres and 21,913,000 tons as against 70,275,000 acres and 21,725,000 tons for 1948-49, being an increase of 2 per cent and 0.9 per cent respectively. The increase in acreage and production has mostly been shared by Bihar, Bombay, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Hyderabad and is attributed partly to efforts

at increasing food production and partly to favourable weather conditions at the sowing time. Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Madras have registered some decline in acreage which is reported to be due to adverse weather conditions.

### ● Rapid Progress in Damodar Valley Project

The Damodar Valley Corporation, which has been established under an Act of the Indian Legislature and which is financed jointly by the Governments of India, West Bengal and Bihar, is making rapid progress and has now entered an important phase, the preliminaries being over. Firstly, the scope of Damodar Valley has been defined; secondly, steps are being taken to state with greater accuracy and precision the revised estimates of costs of different projects; thirdly, a machinery has been set up under the name D.V.C. Advisory Committee to obtain the advice of the three participating administrations on every important point relating to the projects; fourthly, its financial wherewithal for power production, which is an important objective, has been furnished through a dollar loan from the International Bank; and fifthly, a technical board is being set up to scrutinise the detailed project estimates for the first phase of development, which includes the construction of dams for the Konar Group at Maithan, Panchet Hill and Tilaiya with the least possible delay. The Advisory Committee which met recently confirmed the decision to change the headquarters from Calcutta to Ranchi.

### ● Employment Figures for April 1950

The number of persons placed in jobs by the employment exchanges in India during April last, was 23,837 as compared with 24,976 during the previous month. There was a rise in registration for employment in Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal owing to the influx of displaced persons from Eastern Pakistan. The number of employers who used the exchanges during the month was the largest for the 12 months, the figure being 5,233.

### ● National Register of Citizens

Compilation of a National Register of Citizens in the Indian Republic will be undertaken by the Census Organisation either in the course of, or immediately after, the census enumeration scheduled to take place between February 9 and March 1, 1951. The National Register will form a basic record of all the useful data collected during the census operations, which would be available for a number of years even after the census tabulations have been completed. It will provide all the local data needed for various other purposes by the Central or State Governments. The register will be in separate parts, each relating to a village or a ward of every town or city. It will contain the names of all citizens enumerated in the forthcoming census, arranged according to households in the order of house numbers. The data relating to each citizen such as age, sex, economic status and means of livelihood will be taken from the census enumera-

tion slips. Parts of the register relating to villages and wards will be kept in the tehsil or other appropriate offices in the districts. They would be available for reference only by authorised persons, either for administrative purposes or for social and economic enquiries that may be undertaken with the approval of the Government of India or the State Government. This register, when completed, is expected to greatly help demographic and socio-economic enquiries.

### ● Indian System of Medicine Recommended

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation, at its meeting in Delhi on 10th May, recommended the application of the Indian system of medical treatment and favoured the panel system for Bombay. With regard to the former, it was felt that no system of medicine should be forced on the people and the Indian system should also be provided in addition to the allopathic system. Where workers in appreciable numbers desired the Indian systems of medicine, duly qualified practitioners in those systems should be employed and certification should then also be done by these practitioners. In this matter, the Corporation did not approve of the recommendation of the Medical Benefit Council, made in April 1949, that the allopathic system should be adopted during the first five years.

Earlier, the meeting reviewed the progress of the work done so far and decided to make a beginning of the scheme in Delhi, Kanpur and the Punjab. October 1950 was fixed as the target date for starting the scheme in the Punjab and April 1951 for implementing the schemes in Bombay and Ahmedabad. The organisational set-up envisages a decentralised administration with Central control and uniform policy. It visualises the establishment of local offices and a number of regional offices in addition to the headquarters. In view of the fact that the Corporation will have to collect weekly contributions payable in respect of about 20 lakhs of employees from about 8,500 employers spread all over the country, a large staff is contemplated. When the scheme is in full force, the income of the Corporation is estimated to exceed Rs. 11 crores.

### ● Indian Goods for East Africa

United Kingdom and continental cotton textiles are making their appearance in the East African market. Japan has also emerged as a competitor in the textile trade. India cannot expect to increase her exports of manufactures like textiles, oils, oilseeds, artware, curios, fancy goods and hosiery goods unless better quality products are offered at competitive prices. Sales can be put through on the basis of quality and price alone. The Indian manufacturers should be export-minded, and they must at the same time see that their goods are export-worthy.

### ● India's Marketing Possibilities in Iran

Provided that the quality is good, prices are competitive and get-ups aesthetic, the drugs and medicines given below are readily saleable in Iran:

Bi Phlogiston, Calcium Gluconate, Bi Sulphonamide, Bi Bismuthyl, Erythene Hydrochloride, Colloid Auro Calcium, Pituitary Extract, Hypertonic Saline, Diphtheria Antitoxic Serum. So far as the sale of Indian herbal drugs are concerned it should be emphasised that Iranian buyers are very susceptible to attractiveness of design, whether in regard to samples, catalogues, letter-heads or ultimate packing and consigning of commodities. In view of the fact that Iran is a potential market for Indian herbal and other speciality drugs, Indian traders would do well to note this.

### ● Agricultural Meteorology in India

Agricultural meteorology is playing an increasingly important part in India and "crop weather" research is regarded as important as the country's self-sufficiency in food. The Central Agricultural Meteorological Observatory and its attached Field Laboratory and the Radiations Laboratory at the Meteorological Office at Poona continue as active centres for the fundamental investigations on the experimental aspects of agricultural meteorology and allied topics of physics, soil-physics, meteorology and plant physiology. The investigations on the climate of the air layers near the ground, micro-climates of crops, the movements of moisture and heat through the air and soil layers near the ground surface, radiation from the sun and the sky, evaporation, percolation, effects of salts on the movement of water, and the restoration of permeability of alkali-ridden soils continue to make remarkable progress. The Indian Meteorological Department launched the first scheme of "broadcasts of dissemination of farmers' bulletins" five years ago. These broadcasts, which originated from the main meteorological forecasting offices of the department in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras and Nagpur, were developed and continue to include weather news of special interest to agriculturists and broadcast from 16 stations of All-India Radio in 12 languages. In addition, the bulletins are also being supplied to the daily newspapers.

### ● Indian Export Drive in Dollar Areas

In order to increase Indian exports, especially to dollar areas, our Commercial Representative in Canada suggests that along with the actual samples of goods, there should be constant propaganda for Indian goods in these markets, as the people there have become very much used to publicity. Besides, Indian businessmen should endeavour to catch these markets by pricing their goods at a reasonable level. The public there will not go in for very expensive articles, though it is quite fond of style and finish, especially when United Kingdom is doing its best to capture these markets. Holding of a National Exhibition and the International Trade Fair and an occasional independent exhibition of one type of goods at one of the most central places in various cities, will definitely enhance sale of Indian goods in foreign countries.

### ● Children's Parks

The Government of Bihar are taking steps to build 60 children's parks throughout the State in cooperation with the Committee for the United Nations Appeal for Children's Fund. They are expected to cost about Rs. 60,000 excluding the land acquisition cost.

Bombay

### ● Industrial Workshop for Ahmedabad

The Government of Bombay have decided to establish a series of industrial workshops in all big industrial cities of the State to train workers in different avocations. A workshop, the second of its kind, will shortly be opened at Ahmedabad to train workers in manufacturing chemicals, leather goods and weaving. This *learn as you earn* scheme was started by Government with a view to distributing workers among various industries and stopping the present rush on certain industries like textile and engineering.

### ● Progress of Power Projects

Surveying the development of electric supply in the state when opening the electric power house at Chiplun in Ratnagiri District, Dr. Jivraj Mehta, Minister for Public Works and Housing, observed that the Electric Grid Department set up by the Government of Bombay in 1914 had taken various steps to ensure coordinated development of supply of electricity in the State in the most efficient and economical manner, with particular reference to the development of rural areas not served by the licensees. The Department had now under active execution the North and South Gujrat Grid Schemes, the Irrigation cum Hydro-electric Scheme at Kakrapar, the Ratnagiri Hydro-electric Scheme, etc. Government had sanctioned transmission and distribution in the southern districts of Karnatak and Dharwar of some 11,500 K.W. of power purchased from the Mysore Government. The Koyna Hydro-electric Scheme now under active exploration would, when executed, make available very large blocks of power and serve large rural and urban areas.

### ● School for the Partially Sighted

A school for the "partially sighted", the first of its kind in Asia excluding Japan, will shortly be set up in Bombay. There are schools for the totally blind and partially blind, but at the moment there are no schools anywhere in Asia except Japan for the "partially sighted". It is estimated that the number of "partially sighted" persons in India run into lakhs.

### ● Separation of Judiciary from the Executive

The Madhya Pradesh Government have decided to separate the judiciary from the executive from July 1950. The Government propose to re-group the existing 96 *Janapada Sabhas* in the State into 57 major *Janapada* areas, which will function as independent administrative units having direct approach and contact with the Government. This step is aimed at decentralisation of power and authority and at encouraging local autonomy.

Madras

### ● Brisk Progress of Bhavani Irrigation Project

The Rs. 10 crore Lower Bhavani Irrigation Project at Bhavani Sagar (Coimbatore), at which 20,000 labourers are at work, will, it is expected, be completed towards the end of 1951.

Punjab

### ● Trade Across India's Western Frontier

Goods of the value of Rs. 46.47 lakhs were exported from India to West Pakistan and Afghanistan during March 1950 through the various land customs stations in the Punjab, and the value of imports to India from the two countries was Rs. 23.13 lakhs. Thus the total value of trade during March amounted to Rs. 69.60 lakhs as compared with Rs. 41.61 lakhs during February and Rs. 37.82 lakhs in January. The increase was more pronounced in the imports than in the exports with the result that, whereas the balance of trade was against India to the extent of Rs. 6.80 lakhs in January, it turned in favour of India to the extent of Rs. 5.05 lakhs in February and Rs. 23.34 lakhs in March.

### ● Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

Sixty-one Maternity and Child Welfare Centres continue to function efficiently in the urban and rural areas of the Punjab. The number of *dais* receiving training at these centres rose to 1,335 during the month of March 1950. In all 2,144 confinements and 1,570 prenatal cases were attended by the *dais*. Besides, 2,783 infants and 7,151 toddlers attended these centres during the month.

### ● Social Education Centres

The number of Social Education Centres in the Punjab has been increased to 134. Out of these, 108 centres are for men and 26 for women. Besides the three R's, education is imparted at these centres in citizenship, cooperation, health, sanitation, etc.

### • Food Situation Satisfactory

More than 116 lakh maunds of foodgrains of the value of about Rs. 13 crores were procured by the Department of Food and Civil Supplies during the year 1949-50. About 18 lakhs of people are issued supplies of foodgrains in the rationed towns. About 2 lakhs of people in the towns under the Controlled Distribution Schemes and about 50 lakhs under the Deficit Area Scheme also depend on the Government to feed them. The quantity of wheat, the staple diet of the people, procured during the year 1949-50 was 61,28,000 maunds. Over 4 lakh maunds of wheat of superior quality were supplied during the year 1949-50 to other States for seed purposes and another similar quantity has been given recently by way of loan to help maintain rationing in the adjoining states.

### • 1,33,000 Acres of Dry Land to become Wet

The Punjab Government have decided to bring under canal irrigation about 1,33,000 acres of rain-fed land. Water will be supplied to these lands from Upper Bari Doab Canal by digging new channels. Upper Bari Doab Canal takes off from the river Ravi near Madhopur in Indian Punjab and irrigates districts of Amritsar and Lahore in India and Pakistan respectively. About 40,000 more acres of land will be irrigated by Shah Nahar which is being extended for the purpose. These schemes form part of the 'Grow More Food' drive in the State.

## Travancore Cochin

### • Three Irrigation Projects to be Completed in 1951

Commendable progress has been made in the work on the South Travancore Perunchani Project, one of the three major irrigation schemes of the State. Estimated to cost about seventy lakhs of rupees, the Perunchani Dam which will irrigate an area of 30,000 acres, is now expected to be completed by 1951 according to schedule. This project, together with the Pechi Irrigation project and the Chalakudi river diversion scheme in the north, all expected to be completed by 1951, would benefit over 1½ lakh acres of lands resulting in an estimated additional yield of 35,000 tons of paddy.

## Uttar Pradesh

### • 5 Million Workers Engaged in Cottage Industries

A recent survey has revealed that in U.P. 25 times more workers are engaged in cottage industries than in factories, and they are producing annually goods worth Rs. 170 crores—about 60 per cent of the total industrial output of the State. About 50 major cottage industries are providing employment for 5 million people while the factory workers of all kinds total less than quarter million. In the past two years, nearly Rs. 2½ crores

have been spent on plans for putting back on their feet some of the once famous cottage industries of the State, such as silk brocades of Banaras, the carpets of Mirzapur, the brassware of Moradabad, the glass bangles of Firozabad and the carved woodware of Saharanpur. About Rs. 14 lakhs have been spent on loans and grants to cottage workers. The opening of a chain of "training-cum-production" centres is one of the highlights of the Government's programme. This scheme has three main objects. First, to improve the technique of the village artisan by training him in the use of modern appliances; second, to introduce new and better designs; and third, to organise production and sales on a cooperative basis.

### • Judicial Reforms Committee

The Government of Uttar Pradesh, who have been considering the question of reform in the system of administration of justice with a view to simplifying the processes of law and bringing justice within the reach of the common man expeditiously and at less expense, have constituted a committee to enquire into the system of administration of justice in this State with particular reference to: (a) the causes accounting for delay in the disposal of cases and other proceedings; (b) the rules of procedure and other factors which encourage unnecessary litigation and involve the parties in heavy expense and (c) the organisation of courts. The Committee will also report: (a) what reforms are desirable in the present system of administration of justice as will ensure to the people of the State justice, expeditiously, at less expense and without unnecessary litigation; (b) what changes are required in the law of procedure, civil and criminal and in other laws, and in the rights of appeal etc., so as to simplify the processes of law and bring justice within the reach of the common man; (c) whether the system of trial with the aid of jury or assessors should be further extended, limited or eliminated and if so, in what class or classes of cases; (d) what steps are necessary to minimise the evil of perjury in law courts; and (e) what should be the general set up, powers and jurisdiction of the courts, original and appellate, for attainment of the objects referred to in clause (a) aforesaid.

## West Bengal

### • Government to supply Standard Milk in Calcutta

The Government of West Bengal have decided to start supplying standard milk to the citizens of Calcutta shortly. At present, Calcutta consumes roughly about 5,000 maunds of milk daily, of which 4,000 maunds are produced in the city and the rest brought from the mofussil. The price of milk in the city varies from twelve annas to one rupee and four annas. The State Government propose to distribute the standard pasteurised milk and to start with, 100 maunds of milk will be sold from 40 depots in South Calcutta. It is intended to cover between 5,000 and 8,000 families.

The minimum quantity of supply will be half pound, the maximum being two pounds per family. For the present, the scheme is to be implemented in South Calcutta only, and if and when it proves successful, the whole of Calcutta will be covered and nothing but standard milk will be allowed to be sold. The Government intend to enlist the aid of college girls for the distribution of milk.

#### ● River Research Institute

Dr. B. C. Roy, Chief Minister of West Bengal, laid on May 21 the foundation-stone of the Central Laboratory of the River Research Institute at Haringhata on the Ganges, about 32 miles from Calcutta. The Institute will investigate the causes of deterioration in the drainage system in West Bengal and try to offer permanent solutions. A number of swamps have been formed in West Bengal affecting the health of the people and to remedy this, resuscitation of Bengal's dying rivers is essential. The River Research Institute is expected to help revival of these rivers.



Whatever the ultimate outcome, the leaders of India and Pakistan deserve credit for trying to settle their disputes by friendly means. In their meeting at New Delhi, the Prime Ministers of the two new nations faced a situation of great difficulty.

—Dallas Morning News, U.S.A.

The pact between India and Pakistan on minority rights must await severe tests of time and circumstances. But the pact is statesmanlike in motive and represents one of the most notable gestures toward peaceful solution of the causes of bitter strife between the two nations since the end of the second world war. If the goodwill prevails, we may see vast gains for peace and order in Asia achieved, where confusion and enmity have only favoured the danger of Red aggression. It will be a grand stroke for world peace, as well as their own well-being, if the people of the sub-continent adhere faithfully to this pact and make it work.

—Philadelphia Inquirer, U.S.A.

Like the proverbial candle in a world of darkness, the agreement just signed between India and Pakistan sheds a gleam that brings hope to people far off. There is inspiration as well as hope in the first paragraph of the agreement. It is a statement of principles which Americans and men of goodwill everywhere can understand and welcome. India and Pakistan are pivotal nations of Asia. Great events are in the making in that continent. Not a single one of the many millions of human beings who inhabit the Asiatic countries

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—*The Sun-Times, U.S.A.*

\* \* \*

"The problem of the minorities in India and Pakistan is not simple. No one formula can solve it, and yet its solution lies at the root of the hope for a constructive peace between these two neighbours. The New Delhi agreement held a foundation for some of the steps in that solution. Apparently some good fruits are already being reaped from that accord.

—*The New York Times, U.S.A.*

#### 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 our countrymen abroad abreast of events and developments at home.....Valuable for the wealth of reading matter and with attractive get-up 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 Chattacharya, 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.**

## Nationalisation of Land in Burma

KUMARI MUKUL MUKHERJEE

*Approximately 5,000 Indians own about 2,580,000 acres of land in Burma valued at Rs. 375 millions. A delegation from India recently went to Burma to discuss matters affecting Indian landowners there who have been hard hit by the Land Nationalisation Act passed by the Government of Burma in October, 1948. This article analyses the provisions of this law as they affect Indian interests and explains the point of view of the Indian landowners in Burma.—Editor.*

THE Land Nationalisation Bill was introduced in the Burmese Parliament on 11th October, 1948 and was passed the same day. This Act empowers the Government to take over all land held by non-agriculturists allowing agriculturists to retain their lands up to 50 acres. Approximately 5,000 Indians own about 2,580,000 acres of land estimated at Rs. 375 millions. The Government's contention is that all land belongs to the State. Thakin Tin, Minister for Agriculture and Forests, said, "One should bear in mind that no one owns land. All lands belong to the State. The only right a landholder has, is the right to cultivate and hold the land." He pointed out that under Burma's new Constitution "the State shall have the right to regulate, alter or abolish land tenures or take possession of any lands and distribute them for collective or cooperative farming or to agricultural tenants".

Theoretically this may be correct. In modern days, the conception of Government's authority, ownership and functions have widened so much that there is practically nothing in the world which a State cannot lay its hands on, especially in times of national calamity or emergency. By the Land Acquisition Act in Burma and India, the State has recognised the rights

of citizens in land, and has been paying adequate and equitable compensation for acquisition of lands for public purposes. In the case of land nationalisation, the lands are acquired by the State, not even for public purposes in the strict sense of the term, but for transferring them to some other citizens. Hence in the interests of justice and fair play, adequate and just compensation ought to be paid for the acquisition of freehold rights of landholders under the Nationalisation Act.

On the crucial question of compensation, the Act provides for payment on the basis of the land revenue assessable in the years 1947-49. It has been calculated that for one acre of land growing rice, a compensation of Rs. 30 will be paid if the maximum rate is allowed, while one year's rental income from the same land at today's controlled rate will be Rs. 60. There is no definite provision in the Act as to the actual basis of compensation and the manner of payment. These are to be decided by a Commission of ten members to be appointed by the President.

The Chettiar community has submitted that compensation should represent the fair market value. The Government of Burma suggests that 12 times the land revenue is a fair price. Taking the average land revenue to be Rs. 3, Rs. 4 or Rs. 5, twelve times the land revenue would come to Rs. 36, Rs. 48 or Rs. 60, but the land produced paddy carrying from 36 to 50 baskets, the price of which, according to the present valuation, would vary from Rs. 108 to Rs. 150. Though the land produce is valued from Rs. 108 to Rs. 150, the fair market value of the land suggested is Rs. 36 to Rs. 60 even if the maximum rate is taken. The Indian landowners feel that this is patently absurd. To show the fallacy of the argument that 12 times the land revenue is the sale value of the land the figures obtained from the Settlement Report in the posses-

sion of the Indians and some figures supplied by the Government of Burma are reproduced below:

| Area                                        | Period of Settlement | Avg. Revne. for rice lands | Max. & min. assumed price of paddy | Sale value of paddy lands | Remarks (Multiple of revenue) |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Tharrawaddy *                            | 1913-15              | 2.63                       | 94 - 76                            | 101.00                    | 38.4                          |
| 2. Prome*                                   | 1914-16              | 1.57                       | 90 - 65                            | 103.40                    | 65.8                          |
| 3. Sandoway**                               | 1914-16              | 1.71                       |                                    | 66.59                     | 38.9                          |
| 4. Akyah**                                  | 1914-17              | 2.89                       |                                    | 50.77                     | 17.5                          |
| 5. Myaungmya* (21 Tracts)                   | 1916-19              | 3.31                       | 107 - 89                           | 75.00                     | 22.6                          |
| 6. Maubin*                                  | 1925-28              | 3.61                       | 188 - 125                          | 124.51                    | 34.5                          |
| 7. Thaton*<br>Paan & Haling-bwe Township    | 1928-30              | 1.46                       | 156 - 122                          | 50.52                     | 34.6                          |
| 8. Thaton*<br>Kyaikto & Thaton sub-division | 1928-30              | 2.60                       | 153 - 110                          | 146.48                    | 56.3                          |
| 9. Hanthawaddy*                             | 1930-33              | 2.96                       | 78 - 64                            | 104.54                    | 35.3                          |
| 10. Amherst*                                | 1930-33              | 2.00                       | 92 - 67                            | 95.04                     | 47.5                          |
| 11. Pegu**                                  | 1932-34              | 2.24                       |                                    | 68.36                     | 30.4                          |
| 12. Myaungmya* (8 Tracts)                   | 1933-35              | 3.59                       | 107 - 88                           | 108.51                    | 30.0                          |
| 13. Insein**                                | 1933-35              | 3.29                       |                                    | 66.86                     | 20.3                          |

\*Taken from Settlement Report.

\*\*Taken from figures supplied by the Burma Government to the Government of India.

Therefore the maximum of 12 times the amount of land revenue cannot be treated as the real market value of the land or equitable compensation.

India is interested in the question as there are a large number of Indian landowners in Burma whose interests are likely to be adversely affected by this legislation. The extent of their stake can be realised from the fact that out of about 2.5 to 3 million acres of land are in possession of Indians, mostly Chettiars from the South. Nearly 2 lakh Indian labourers in Burma, it is feared, will also be thrown out of employment consequent on the passing of the Land Nationalisation Act. The objection of the Indians to the legislation is not so much on the score of compensation which is meagre, as on making the measure one of expropriation.

The Chettiar firms are banking firms converted into land-owning firms by circumstances beyond their control. The money they have invested is not all their own. They have still obligations to fulfil to banks and other depositors in India. The Burma Government should therefore give proper compensation to landowners if they desire the release of capital invested in lands. Any attempt to whittle down the just compensation would ruin them. It will have serious financial repercussions in South India where several thousands of ordinary families have invested their life-long savings in Chettiar banking firms whose assets are frozen now in Burma lands. So long as Burma desires to have private ownership of property, whether in lands, houses, factories, transports, jewels or bank investments, it would be a dangerous principle for the State to single out one item of property and pay its owners nominal compensation.

Talks in regard to the Land Nationalisation Act took place on 29th November 1948, between a delegation from Burma led by U. Win, Education Minister, Government of Burma and the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, M.P. and Mr. B. Gopala Reddi, Finance Minister, Madras, were also present. The discussions were confined to a general statement of the points of view of the Governments of Burma and India. An invitation on behalf of the Prime Minister of Burma was extended to the Government of India at this meeting to send a delegation to Burma for discussion on matters arising out of the Land Nationalisation Act. Representations for safeguarding the legitimate interests of Indian landowners have been made to the Government of Burma from time to time. A delegation led by Dr. Rauf, Indian Ambassador in Burma has recently met representatives of the Burmese Government and discussed matters affecting Indian agricultural interests.

The Indian nationals owning agricultural lands in Burma have made it clear, at the very outset, that they do not on principle, oppose the Burmese Government's land nationalisation policy. Whatever their views may be on the practicability of the Act, whether the time is opportune for nationalisation when there is so much chaos and disorder in the country, and

whether the Government of Burma can raise the necessary finances at this juncture when the financial position of the country is so critical—the Indian nationals would gladly accept the decision of the Burmese Parliament. What they are now seriously concerned about is that the landowners should be paid equitable, just and real compensation for the lands sought to be nationalised.

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## *The National Archives of India*

**T**HE National Archives of India has recently become a full-fledged research institution besides being the custodian of records useful for the purpose of current administration. Its 90,000 volumes of bound and unbound historical documents have been thrown open to scholars for research work in history. The listed and catalogued documents of the National Archives cover 15 miles of shelf space. These records are, among the best historical material in the world and form an important part of the nation's cultural heritage. The regular series of records preserved by the National Archives begins from 1748, but there are interesting collections relating to earlier years. The bulk of the records is in English, but there is hardly any important oriental language which is not represented among the official records of the East India Company. The records are not limited to political or commercial transactions. Some of the papers refer to botanical, geological and anthropological investigations and experiments undertaken under the auspices of the Government of India.

With little cubicles comfortably furnished to make study a pleasurable pastime, the National Archives of India Library is undoubtedly a scholar's paradise. For the casual visitor however, it has a number of features which fascinate—becoming at once a museum where old manuscripts are on display, recapitulating in rapid profusion the loves, quarrels and intrigues of kings and conquerors whose names are now almost legendary—an exhibition of some of the most modern library apparatus and a “workshop” of books and papers. All the books and records are kept in open steel shelves and are dusted periodically by dust removers. There is, besides, an overhead water sprinkling system throughout the premises which facilitates cleaning.

The library has the advantage of a microfilm camera, which is possibly the only one of its kind in the country. It is capable of filming 20 to 30 pages per minute and, as 1,000 to 3,000 pages can be accommodated in a 100-foot roll, much valuable storage space is saved. The rolls are indexed and

kept in neat cabinets. Should a research scholar require any particular record, the roll is put on to the microfilm reader which magnifies the film to the desired extent. So simple is it to operate, that the scholar himself is able to manipulate it easily. There is also a photo-micrographic apparatus which is useful for examining questionable documents, especially in regard to their genuineness and antiquity.

The National Archives, which now forms part of the Ministry of Education, came into existence in 1891 under the title of the “Imperial Records Department” and was located in Calcutta from where it was transferred to New Delhi in 1937. The India-born English historian, G. W. Forrest, was the first officer in charge. The present Archivist is Dr. S. N. Sen, who is, in addition, Chief Editor of *The Indian Archives*, a scholarly quarterly published by the National Archives of India. The department gives training in the keeping of archives which is a specialised subject and awards diplomas. The National Archives of India has an ambitious 5-year programme to print 39 volumes of manuscript material of which one volume of Bengali records, edited by Dr. Sen, has already been published.

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Ceylon

### ● Difficulties of Indians

According to the Colombo correspondent of the "Hindu", Madras, serious complaints are made against the Immigration and Emigration authorities by Indian passengers proceeding to India on short holiday. They allege that the authorities ask for almost impossible conditions prior to the grant of Temporary Resident Permits without which an Indian resident who goes out of the Island on a holiday will not be permitted to re-enter Ceylon. Temporary Resident Permits are not usually granted to those who are not able to produce documentary evidence to prove that they have been resident there for at least five years prior to 1st November 1949 without a break. Thousands of shop assistants, petty traders, hawkers, rickshaw pullers, cooks and hotel servants, who have no documentary evidence with them although they have been resident there for much longer periods than the stipulated five years, are being summarily refused Temporary Permits. The greatest difficulty which the majority of the passengers have to face arises from the fact that neither the Controller of Immigration and Emigration nor the Minister of Defence and External Affairs under whom the Immigration Department functions, has officially intimated the public the exact nature of the documents that may be admissible for the grant of Temporary Resident Permits. As a result, the same document which is admitted by one Assistant Controller is rejected by another and personal appeal to the Chief Controller against the decision of Assistant Controllers is almost impossible. Owing to such severe hardships, an average of 1,500 Indians are leaving the Island each month for good. According to the official figures sent to the Indian High Commissioner's office from the Protectors of Emigrants at Mandapam and Tuticorin, the number of Indians who were forced to leave the Island permanently in the months of February, March and April were 1,805, 1,676 and 1,868 respectively. The Indian High Commissioner's office seems to be powerless to stop this great exodus from Ceylon. In spite of the representations they are frequently making and in spite of the assurances given by the Prime Minister of Ceylon to

the Prime Minister of India in what has now come to be known as the "Indo-Ceylon correspondence" that Indians who are already in Ceylon will not be prevented from continuing their lawful avocations, administrative practices are such that they are resulting in slowly liquidating the urban Indian population at the rate of 1,500 a month.

When the "Hindu" correspondent interviewed the Ceylon Prime Minister, Mr. D. S. Senanayake, on this question and pointed out to him that impossible conditions were laid by the Controller of Immigration prior to grant of Temporary Resident Permits to Indians proceeding to India on holiday and that it would facilitate the general public if the Premier issued instructions standardising the documentary evidence to be demanded from passengers prior to the grant of Temporary Resident Permits, Mr. Senanayake said it was a judicial function which he did not want to usurp. "I cannot interpret the law which is the function of judicial officers of the State", he said.

### ● Restrictions on Remittances

The assurance given by the Controller of Exchange in January last in respect of small remittances to India would appear not to have been carried out in practice and has caused much hardship to a large number of Indians who are seeking to get their meagre and restricted amount of monthly remittances increased. It may be recalled that at the time of the introduction of exchange control in June, 1948, every individual was permitted to remit not more than Rs. 50 per month on production of his or her ration book at the Post Office. Later the permissible amount was reduced to Rs. 25 and in January this year the concession was wholly withdrawn. Those who were till then remitting sums not exceeding Rs. 25 on their rice ration books for maintenance of their families in India, were asked to take general permits to continue their remittances. At the same time the procedure of obtaining general permits was made more difficult and to some extent humiliating as well.

### ● Ceylon Indian Congress Lifts Boycott

The All-Ceylon Indian Congress Committee, which met at Hatton on 21st May, 1950, decided to give up the proposed boycott by Indians of registration under the Citizenship Act. The resolution which was carried by a majority vote reads: "The Ceylon Indian Congress Committee, having reviewed the position in pursuance of the directive of the tenth annual session of the Congress, resolves to advise that while the Working Committee proceeds with its efforts to secure the modification of unsatisfactory provisions of the Indian and Pakistani (Citizenship) Act, Indians in Ceylon do apply for citizenship under the Act. The Congress Committee directs the Working Committee to closely follow the working of the Act and to submit a report from time to time for its consideration." President, Shri K. Rajalingam told the Committee that political stagnation would seriously harm the Indian community. They should, therefore, take whatever rights they could get under the Act and agitate for more. It was

also pointed out that owing to the passage of the Election Amendment Act, which deprived non-Ceylonese of the franchise, the entire Indian community would go unrepresented if they remained as Indians and boycotted registration. The interests of the Indian community, more than all other considerations, demanded the lifting of the boycott, it was argued. By this resolution the Congress has withdrawn the boycott unconditionally. This is interpreted as a gesture of goodwill towards the Ceylon Government.

Commenting on the decision of the Ceylon Indians, Sir Francis Molamure, Speaker of the Ceylon House of Representatives, said: "Somehow or other, I always felt that this wise step would be taken by those responsible for the political rights of Indians in Ceylon. I am sure the decision of the Indian Congress High Command will be appreciated by the Government. It is very wise, as otherwise a large body of Indians would have been disenfranchised and would have lost their rights of citizenship. I further hope that mutual trust and cooperation will be the outcome of the Congress decision."

## Africa

### ● Asians and Africans Act Jointly

Indian and African members of the Kenya Legislature spoke from the same platform in Nairobi, on 23rd April, in denunciation of the European settlers' recent opposition to the proposed reform of the Tanganyika Legislative Council. The meeting, attended by some 3,000 Africans and a few Indians, was called jointly by the Kenya African Union, the principal African political organisation, and by the East African Indian National Congress and was presided over by the African leader, Mr. Elind Mathu. The African speakers at the meeting called for direct elections on a common roll and rejected the contention that they did not understand the ballot box. Mr. Mathu thought that experiments in democratic elections should begin now in the local government field. He called on non-Europeans to form a united front. Mr. Patel, blaming the Europeans for the political controversies, said that they did not know that a new age had dawned and were unaware of the unmistakable awakening in Asia and Africa, which must inevitably demolish their power and privileges. Any attempt to build a society in East Africa on the basis of South African racialism would lead to conflict. He contended that no non-European had any confidence in the leadership of any unofficial European in East Africa. The meeting carried a series of resolutions opposing the Europeans' political aims and opposing their "interference" on the Tanganyika proposals which were described as very moderate.

### ● Anti-Indian Mayor of Nairobi Defeated

Nairobi's London-born Mayor, Alderman F. R. G. Woodley, a member of the British Labour Party—accused of being "racial-minded"—was heavily

defeated in the bye-election for Kenya Legislative Council on 4th May, 1950. Earlier in the day an Indian newspaper had published an interview with three Indian city councillors attacking him. The constituency was European; only Europeans were entitled to vote. The cause of the Indian attack on Mr. Woodley was a statement he made at an election meeting when asked to define his attitude to Indian immigration into Kenya. Mr. Woodley was reported as saying: "Apart from artisans, I would say: put up the shutters and do not allow any more Indian immigration."

### ● East African Asian Women's Conference

The Conference of East African Asian Women which was held in Nairobi on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th April, 1950 on the initiative of Dr. (Mrs.) Nalini Devi Pant has served to bring together all Asian women in these territories on a non-communal, non-political platform. Delegates from Mombasa, Tanga, Dar-es-Salaam, Eldoret, Jinja, Kampala, Thika and several other centres took keen interest throughout the proceedings. The plenary session, which opened at 4 p.m. on 22nd April in the Oswal Mahajan Wadi where over 1,000 ladies and gentlemen were present, was attended by representatives of all the Asian women's institutions, African and European Women's Leagues and of other important educational and social institutions, the American Consul-General, Israel's Representative and the Indian Commissioner. The next day, matters of far-reaching importance affecting the various social and educational aspects of Asian life were discussed at length and resolutions were adopted dealing with education and family limitation, professional careers such as teaching, nursing and hospital facilities.

In the course of her Presidential Address, Councillor Mrs. Vidyavati Soudhi said: "Historically speaking this conference would have its roots traced to some 12 years back, when women's organisations began evolving in various parts of East Africa. With increasing demand for social rights for ourselves and betterments for our children, a central organisation, such as this conference envisages, became inevitable. I congratulate the Nairobi Asian Women's Association for taking this initiative in calling a conference. However, without the determination and energy of Dr. (Mrs.) Pant who first suggested the idea on sensing the general enthusiasm of the ladies all over the territories this conference would never have come about. Judging by the progress and the strength of the membership of the Asian Women's Association, I have not the least doubt in my mind when I say that the foundation has been laid by very efficient hands and nothing will shake it. We are in this country a nation of immigrant races and vast indigenous population. Unfortunately, and I say this with sincere regret, our relationship with the other communities often appear vague and uncertain. I am sure that I speak for the majority of our women when I extend a welcoming hand to our European sisters to join us in our problems and enlighten the mood of this new body. Our African sisters are a sacred charge. It is with humility and joy that

we welcome them. Our most urgent needs lie in the fields of education and health. In this matter Asian women must come forward to organise to the fullest extent and press for compulsory education for our girls. To achieve this end, I recommend the formation of an education committee whose aim will be to make a comprehensive survey of the problem of providing better schools. In the growing age and even afterwards nothing is of greater importance than balanced diet. Simple lectures on this topic could be instituted by experts for women to practise at home. We are sorely lacking in the field of medicine. Many of our young women who yearn for activity could well be trained for nursing which is amongst the noblest professions. It is true that the first duty of a woman is in the home, but surely that should not prevent those of us who have the time and inclination to spend part of our time outside in some useful occupations from so doing. I suggest this organisation make a detailed survey of the types of occupations in this country feasible for women and our girls should be encouraged to go in for them. We will make better citizens of ourselves and build the strength of our community faster by such concrete actions. We insist, however, on our right of equal pay for equal work with men."

The Chairman of the Reception Committee, Dr. (Mrs.) Nalini Devi Pant, in her welcome address said: "We all crave for security, especially women do and must, because they do not want their children to be brought into the world to be experimental guinea-pigs for atom bombs or hydrogen bombs. Men have had charge of the world so long, and they led us to atom bombs. It needs women now to come forward and provide the spiritual and human content that is lacking in world relationship today."



### ● Indians will have to Look for Other Homes

His Excellency the Governor of Fiji, Sir Brian Freeston, in a speech to the Legislative Council of Fiji on 2nd August, 1949 said, "the Secretary for Fijian Affairs has been engaged for some years in the arduous task of investigating the area and extent of the lands to be set aside in perpetuity as Fijian native reserves—lands which, when once their boundaries are proclaimed, will be kept wholly for Fijian use and occupation and will not be available for leasing to the members of other races. The net result will be that many thousands of acres of cultivable land now under lease will be taken into reserve when the current leases expire and will not thereafter be available for further leasing. This will inevitably entail the displacement from the lands which they at present occupy of some thousands of the non-native inhabitants of the colony—mainly Indians—who will have to look for other homes. The process of displacement will of course be spread over a number of years; some of the leases concerned

have still about 50 years to run; the number of persons who will be affected between now and the end of 1950 is not likely to exceed 200 or 300. But the problem is already there; and it is only too obvious that the problem will increase with every year that passes so long as the non-native population of this colony continues to multiply at its present rate. The only logical long-range solution to the basic problem of Fiji lies with the leaders of the Indian community themselves. It is for them to consider and to educate their followers in the existence of this inescapable dilemma; either they will continue to multiply beyond the available means of subsistence, with consequent poverty and distress or they will maintain and improve their present standard of living by a voluntary reduction in their natural rate of increase."

## French India

### ● Dr. Rajkumar's Visit to the French Possessions

Dr. N. V. Rajkumar, Foreign Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee, recently paid a visit to the French Settlements in South India to study conditions prevailing there and to have consultations with the local Congress workers and members of the pro-merger group. During his tour he studied the present situation in Pondicherry, Karaikal and Mahe. Dr. Rajkumar personally feels that, in view of the great difficulties that have arisen in the matter of the Government of India reaching an agreement on the modalities for holding a fair referendum in the French Settlements, it would be better if the problem can be settled and a solution found without holding a referendum at all. The view that, under the existing conditions in the South Indian French Settlements, no fair referendum could be held, has been expressed by him. "If the present state of lawlessness continues", he said, "it is no use holding any referendum to decide the future of the French Indian Settlements. No fair verdict of the people could be obtained under the prevailing conditions. Even responsible publicmen are going about in mortal fear of their lives and property." Dr. Rajkumar was surprised to learn from the pro-Indian workers that while pro-French meetings and propaganda were being conducted, pro-Indian meetings were being prohibited by the authorities on the plea of public security.

Several people made representations to him that there was complete failure of rice rationing in Pondicherry in the end of May and that all ration shops had been closed and that no rice was being distributed. It was also alleged that a person who insisted on the sale of rice at a ration shop was assaulted by rowdy elements. Dr. Rajkumar was further informed that black-marketing in rice was going on on a large scale and that the people were afraid of making complaints to the authorities lest they should become victims of rowdism.

A delegation comprising Messrs. C. E. Bharatan and I. K. Kumaran, nationalist leaders of Mahe, met Dr. Rajkumar in Madras and apprised

him of the general situation in Mahe. He was told that the French administration in Mahe was continuing to prosecute the nationalist elements there in various ways and that the authorities were collecting statistics of the immovable and movable properties of certain workers with a view to confiscating them. The Mahe leaders also gave Dr. Rajkumar the details connected with the 'Mahe Rebellion Case'. They said that 115 persons were in all charge-sheeted by the Mahe police. Out of these 68 were found guilty by the 'accusation chamber' of Pondicherry. Only 15 persons were produced before the court, the other 53 being in the Indian Union as refugees. The charges against them were rebellion against the state, looting and destruction of government records, kidnapping government officials, removing arms from the police custody by force, setting up the people against the Government, etc. The French Government appointed five jurors who were mere puppets. Fifty witnesses were examined on behalf of the Government. There were no witnesses for the defence since no one came forward to give evidence out of fear. The court sentenced 11 out of the 15 persons to undergo rigorous imprisonment ranging from 2 to 5 years and the other four were acquitted. The 53 persons who were absconding were sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment ranging from 5 to 20 years. An appeal against this is now pending with the 'Court de Cassation' in Paris. Nine persons who have been sentenced to more than 2 years imprisonment have filed appeals. The delegation impressed on Dr. Rajkumar that in the situation that was prevailing in Mahe at present, no fair plebiscite to decide its future could be conducted.

On the conclusion of his tour Dr. Rajkumar issued the following statement to the Press:—"A visit to the French possessions in this country is always stifling to one who breathes the fresh air of free India. Conditions there are abnormal and even more so now, in view of the contemplated referendum to decide their future. By now the whole world knows that naked rowdyism is prevailing in these areas, obviously tolerated by the authorities in their own interest. People live from day to day in fear of their lives and possessions. I have not witnessed such abject slavery and such demoralisation even in the worst days of British rule in India. Is it in this atmosphere that the French Government are going to hold the referendum? If so, the result is a foregone conclusion.

All parties and groups in French India are definitely of the opinion that there is no use holding a one-sided referendum under the control and supervision of the French administration. They are certain that unless India has a say in the conduct of the referendum and unless it is held under the joint supervision of both the Governments, it will go in favour of the French for the simple reason that the people will either not vote at all or will be forced to vote for the continuance of French rule. Opinion is unanimous that Indian police must be present on the scene in order to infuse confidence and to ensure security to the people.

A fair and impartial referendum will certainly go overwhelmingly in favour of joining the Indian Union. The people of French India have,

therefore, asked me in no uncertain terms to convey this view of theirs to the Government and people of India. If we cannot get the French Government to agree to this reasonable demand, they would rather like to be left alone to plod their weary way.

I have stated these facts bluntly, for the time has now come to speak frankly on this vexed question. The spirit of the June, 1918 Agreement between India and France was a free consultation of popular opinion under impartial conditions, and if this is not possible now, that agreement is null and void and will have to be scrapped. The two governments can then enter into fresh negotiations for a solution of the problem on the basis of immediate transfer of these areas to the Indian Union. In the alternative, the French can hand over charge to the people there and quit, following the good example of the British. This will in any event be preferable to the continuance of French rule over these scattered, but strategic spots of Indian territory."

## Indo-China

### ● Indians in Indo-China

The Indian in Indo-China has no longer to specify in his identity card and travel documents whether he is 'Hindu', 'Muslim', 'Christian' or 'Sikh'. He will simply state he is 'Indian' while he travels round in Indo-China. Towards the end of last year another handicap from which the Indian community suffered, viz. that every Indian should give his fingerprints on entry into Indo-China, was removed. The Indian community in Viet-Nam—separate from the very large number of French Indians who are to be found in the Government services and in business—totals some 2,000. They are mostly prosperous merchants who have very large interests. According to the President of the Central Indian Association, Mr. Mohammad Aziz, these businessmen cannot transfer any part of their funds to India for the benefit of their families who are mostly in India. As a result of representations, the French authorities have during the past few months been allotting an *ad hoc* sum of Rs. 50,000 worth of foreign exchange every month for the benefit of Indians wanting to remit funds to their people. The Indian Consulate-General distributes this benefit by rotation amongst 500 Indians every month so that once every three months an Indian is enabled to remit Rs. 100 to his dependents in India. This is, however, totally inadequate and while the French are giving more consideration to other foreigners, they do not extend the same courtesy to Indian nationals.

### ● A Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce in Malaya Urged

Addressing the 27th annual general meeting of the Penang Indian Chamber of Commerce held on March 25, Mr. Ambalal L. Patel, the President, strongly supported the appeal recently made by Mr. A. A. Abdullahi, the outgoing President of the Selangor Indian Chamber of Commerce, for the formation of a Federation of Indian Chambers in Malaya to look after the interests of the Indian business community as a whole throughout the peninsula. Following are some extracts from Mr. Patel's speech: "We have been fighting with the Government for the last two years for adequate representation for the Indian community in both the Settlement and Federal Councils. Though at long last, we have an Indian Member on the Settlement Council, we are yet to have an Indian on the Federal Legislature from anywhere in the north, although we were assured one year back that there will be an Indian from the north in the Federal Council. This apathy towards our community on the part of the Government, while it should be regretted, is partly due to the lack of coordination in the various sections of the community, which has of late become sufficiently disorganised, and our not having created adequate public opinion on vital matters. The various Indian Chambers of Commerce in this country have been in recent times functioning as important sections of our general community in matters social, political and economic. These should effectively form the nucleus of a central organisation for our people here, and it was with this view that our Chamber welcomed the idea of forming a Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce in the country when the question was initiated some time in 1948 by the Selangor Indian Chamber. It is our firm conviction that the social and economic well-being of our people here being the main aspect on which the future prosperity of our people and the prestige of our country rest, a Federation of Chambers of Commerce could be the most potential and stable organisation for Indians in Malaya that could sufficiently safeguard their primary interests. It is not too late yet, and we hope that we shall be able to have in the near future a strong pan-Malayan organisation that can satisfactorily safeguard the interests of our nationals in Malaya. We are thankful to the Selangor Indian Chamber for their initiative in making representations to the Government of India, when the Indian Constitution was on the anvil, on behalf of Indians in Malaya. You will be pleased to know, that this has produced welcome results, and the acceptance of Federal Citizenship does not prejudice our status and privileges as nationals of Free India. However, it will be in the interest of our people here, if, now that the Indian Constitution has been adopted, the Representative

of the Government of India would clarify the relevant clauses in the Indian Constitution bearing on Citizenship so that such of us who wish to take up Federal Citizenship may now be properly guided."

### ● Rise in Singapore's Indian Population

The Indian population of Singapore increased to 70,749 by the middle of 1949 according to the Singapore Government's annual report. The Indian population in 1947 was 68,967. The increase is made up of the migrational surplus and excess of births over deaths. Singapore's total population of 980,818 includes the large majority community of Chinese (761,962) and Malaya (119,623). Indians are the third largest community in the colony.

### ● Pictorial Exhibition of Indian Costumes

On 24th April 1950, Singapore witnessed a pictorial exhibition of "India's Peoples and Their Costumes". The show, sponsored by the Trade Commissioner for India, Sardar Jogindra Singh and his wife was the first of its kind in South-East Asia. It covered a wide and comprehensive variety of costumes worn by men and women in different parts of India from Kashmir to Cape Comorin, represented in full colours through skilfully prepared tableaux and artistic paintings. Alongside, was displayed a selection of Indian textiles, some handloom but mostly machine-made, which go into the making of different costumes. A special feature of the exhibition was a series of tableaux describing the history of textiles in India, headed by a preface written and autographed by Pandit Nehru. The paintings were the work of Mrs. Jogindra Singh, and the Indian textile samples were specially flown to Singapore from London and Sidney, where they were recently displayed and widely appreciated.

### ● Mauritius Interested in Indian Goods

The Government of India's export drive is showing good results in Mauritius and the colony's Indian trading community is displaying increasing interest in Indian-made goods. It has been decided to arrange a special exhibition of Indian-made goods in Mauritius. While trade in "routine" commodities, such as textiles, is improving, there are many other comparatively less known lines for which there is a demand. Not only importers and traders but even a large section of the local population are anxious to see samples of Indian-made goods like footwear, cycles, pharmaceutical preparations, brassware, *sari* goods and these are likely to find ready buyers. There is good demand in Mauritius for Indian-made (both superior quality and inexpensive) textiles, hosiery, leather manufactures, paints and varnishes, brassware, plastic goods, oils and even fancy goods, provided trade terms are reasonable and samples and packing up to the standard.

## Portuguese India

### ● Portuguese Possessions in India

The Portuguese possessions in India—Goa, Daman and Diu—would soon be granted autonomy and be in a position to control their fiscal and administrative affairs, said Mr. Castilho Noronha, representative of Portuguese India in the Portuguese Parliament, in an interview in Bombay. The necessary amendments would be made in the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic. The National Assembly in Lisbon had already been vested with revisionary powers and arrangements were being made to modify the Colonial Act. The Portuguese colonies would in future, be known as Overseas provinces and the Ministry of Colonies as the Overseas Ministry. The present Government's Advisory Council in Goa, hitherto a consultative body, would, in future, have full deliberative powers, Mr. Noronha added.

Criticizing this statement Shri Waman Desai, member of the Goa National Congress, said, "We, Goans have struggled against the Portuguese regime not to receive some facilities but for the complete withdrawal of the Portuguese from Goa. The Portuguese Government are changing some clauses in the Constitution and making Goans as Portuguese citizens. They should know that Goans are Indians and they cannot become Portuguese by mere change of rules or clauses. The Salazar Government should know that the Goans have already decided not to accept 'concessions' and that they would not be a party to such half-hearted constitutional changes. The Portuguese must declare their sincere desire to withdraw from Goa and other Portuguese colonies in India and allow Goans to make common cause with their mother country, India."

### ● Goan Official Dismissed for Patriotic Stand

Dr. Antonia Furtado, Administrator of Panjiur, Goa, has been dismissed from service by an order of the Portuguese authorities for his refusal to sign a protest against the recent statement in the Indian Parliament by Prime Minister Pandit Nehru, that foreign possession in India including the Portuguese territories, will have to come to India. Dr. Furtado, who has now come out of Goa as a voluntary exile, has addressed a lengthy communication to the Governor-General of Goa giving reasons for his refusal to sign the protest. "When you summoned me to your office and asked me the reasons for my not signing the protest against Pandit Nehru's declaration, it was easy to foresee what the future held in store for me," says Dr. Furtado. "My frank answer that I was not against Portugal but that I was also not against India and therefore, found it hard to sign it, irritated Your Excellency so much that you ordered the Director of Civil Administration to immediately dismiss me from the post of the

Judge of the Administrative Court and the Administrator of the village communities. You also let your vindictive intention transpire in the following terrible threat: 'The Minister for Colonies will decide whether you shall go to Cape Verde or some other colony'."

Justifying his attitude in not signing such a protest letter, Dr. Furtado said: "I am above all an Indian *jus soli* and *jus sanguinis* and an 'assimilated' Portuguese according to the Colonial Act through the mere political accident of Goa happening to be ruled by the Portuguese just as it might have been by the French, Dutch or the British. I can understand that as a representative of a Colonial Power, Your Excellency should try to force me not to be against the power you represent, but I would never allow you to trample on my birthright of being for India in order that the most beautiful sentiment which is second only to God's will, might not be defiled."

## Rhod

### ● Rhodesian Leader's Visit to India

Shri Godwin A. Mbikusita Lewanika, President of the Northern Rhodesia African Congress, came to India recently with a message of goodwill and friendship from his country. Speaking in Madras about Indians in North Rhodesia, Shri Lewanika said that they were carrying on their trade under secure conditions. They did not suffer from any handicaps which they were experiencing in the other parts of Africa. In regard to citizenship, the rights enjoyed by European nationals were available to Indians also. Outlining the aims and objects of the Northern Rhodesia African Congress he said that its aim was to work for the welfare of the Africans in the political, economic and social spheres and to unite Africans into one single unit. The Congress also endeavoured to promote cooperation between Africans and members of the other communities residing in Northern Rhodesia. There were about 75 Indians who were Associate Members of the Congress.

While in Delhi, Shri Lewanika visited the offices of the All-India Congress Committee and had a discussion with Dr. N. V. Rajkumar, Foreign Secretary of the Congress, about the political and economic situation in Rhodesia. He was entertained to tea by the General Secretary of the Congress, Shri Shankarrao Deo, at his residence. Shri Lewanika expressed his great appreciation of the work that the Indian National Congress was doing in this country and said that the African people could learn a lot from its principles and mode of working. Shri Lewanika visited important cities and centres of constructive work in the country during his tour.

## Siam

### ● Thai Premier's Assurance to Indian Residents

Thailand's new Immigration Act would be applied 'leniently' in the case of hundreds of Indians who might find themselves in the country without proper immigration documents, stated Marshal Phibul Songgram, Prime Minister of Siam, in an interview. The new Immigration Act is designed to control entry of foreigners into Siam. From next year, a quota of 200 immigrants per year has been uniformly fixed for every foreign country. All foreigners resident in Thailand have been asked to register themselves with the authorities by the end of the year. This will create hardship for a very large number of Indians and Ceylonese who during the Japanese occupation found their way into Siam either because they were in the outlying areas or because they had already found jobs for themselves in Siam. Under the new immigration laws, they will be illegal immigrants if they do not register themselves. The Indian Minister, Mr. Bhagwat Dayal, has been discussing this question with the Siamese authorities for some time. Marshal Phibul stated that certificates of immigration would be provided to these Indians enabling them either to return home or to remain in Thailand.

### ● Study of Sanskrit in Thailand

Siam is beginning to revive her contacts with Sanskrit and ancient Indian culture under the enthusiastic efforts of Swami Ajrananda of the Ramakrishna Mission there. Nearly a hundred students in the Thailand Chulalongkorn University qualified this year for receiving prizes for proficiency in Sanskrit. Nearly half of them are girls and the student who received the first prize is a girl, Miss Watana Subhabhundu of the IV year class in the University. Swami Ajrananda expects he will have an increasing number of students in the coming years. Three students are proceeding on Indian Government scholarship to study Sanskrit in India. The Swami has been teaching in Thailand's University for over two years now. He also lectures to the yellow-robed Buddhist monks in their monasteries.

When King Bhuniphol presided over the convocation in May last, 91 prizes for proficiency in Sanskrit were announced. The first prize was a gold medal out of the funds of the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge of Bangkok—an institution promoting understanding between Indians and Siamese of which Swami Ajrananda is an active worker. A few other prizes were out of proceeds of funds donated by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to the University during the Japanese war. The Indian merchants through their Chamber of Commerce, paid for two prizes. The rest were by private individuals, Siamese and Indian. In the Swami's opinion, the best way to revive Siam's old ties with India is by spread of Indian

culture, Buddhism and Sanskrit. The State religion in Siam is Buddhism and many amongst the Buddhist hierarchy look forward with eagerness to visit India. It is the Swami's cherished desire that some day, either the Indian Government or Indian philanthropists would find the means to establish a faculty of Sanskrit and Indian Culture in the Chulalongkorn University.

## South Africa

### ● The Group Areas Bill (Population Registration Bill)

The South African Indian Congress met in Durban on 22nd April, 1950 to discuss the Group Areas Bill and issued the following statement:

"The Group Areas Bill is the latest in a series of racial legislation passed by the Malan Government since its assumption of office less than two years ago. It is a desperate attempt by the Nationalists to bring about complete *apartheid* in South Africa by segregating and separating the different racial groups. The Bill is also an attempt to distract the attention of the racially minded supporters of the Nationalists from the mounting cost of living, the daily increasing unemployment and restrictions on civil liberties by arousing their racial passions. At the same time the Bill is designed to humiliate, degrade and economically suppress the non-white South Africans to a degree that will reduce them to a state of serfdom and slavery. The Group Areas Bill will create separate zones for the occupation and ownership of land and property by the different racial groups in the Union where each section will be completely isolated from the other socially, economically and politically. For the disenfranchised non-white people of South Africa, this will mean a further lowering of their economic status, greater social degradation and their confinement and neglect in slums and ghettos. For South African Indians the new Bill in its effects will be more devastating and ruinous than even the Ghetto (Asiatic Land Tenure) Act of 1946, which aroused so much resentment and united opposition of the Indian people resulting in the Passive Resistance Struggle. The 280,000 Indians in South Africa constitute only two per cent of the Union's population and their economic survival in complete isolation from the other sections of the South African population, as envisaged in the Bill, will be impossible. The measure is clearly motivated by the declared policy of the Malan Government to expatriate all South African Indians by ruining them as an economic unit. The Bill is a direct affront and challenge to the United Nations. For, while the Union Government has in pursuance of the United Nations Resolution of May 1949 agreed to hold a Round Table Conference with India and Pakistan to discuss the racially discriminatory treatment of Indians in South Africa, the new Bill seeks to bypass the Round Table Conference even before it is held and to defeat the very purpose for which the Conference is to be convened. The pertinent question that arises is whether there is any sincerity on the part of the Union Govern-

ment in agreeing to a Round Table Conference on the one hand and continuing its repressive anti-Indian legislative programme on the other hand. Will the Round Table Conference achieve any useful purpose in the face of this, the most devastating of all racial Bills ever to be introduced in the Union Parliament? The South African Indian Congress will mobilise all its forces to oppose and prevent the enactment of the Group Areas Bill."

On 25th April, the South African Indian Congress cabled to the Secretary-General of the United Nations asking for UNO's intervention. "The Bill is a direct affront and challenge to the United Nations whose decision on the treatment of Indian minority in South Africa, taken in May 1949, it violates and flouts in spirit. The action of the Union Government in agreeing to hold a Round Table Conference with the Governments of India and Pakistan in pursuance of the United Nations decision, and almost simultaneously introducing a most devastating racial Bill of all times in the Union Parliament, is reminiscent of fascist Japan's foul tactics at Pearl Harbour. The South African Indian Congress appeals to the United Nations to intervene immediately on the question of Indians in South Africa and to take active measures to prevent the Group Areas Bill becoming law."

Dr. G. M. Naicker, President of the South African Indian Congress, also wrote to Dr. D. F. Malan, the Union Prime Minister, protesting against this new law. His telegram reads, "South African citizens of Indian origin are gravely alarmed at the introduction in Parliament of the Group Areas Reservation Bill. They are unanimous in their condemnation of the Bill as a further measure to ruin the Indian people economically and to force on them your party's policy of expatriation. What South Africa requires is greater cooperation between her multi-racial peoples. To isolate each racial group behind an iron curtain, as envisaged by this Bill, is to increase race tension within the country, tension which is already leading to violence and instability. This Bill is another discriminatory measure for in effect it will relegate the non-white people of the Union to neglected ghettos and locations, a fact which is borne out clearly by existing segregated residential areas set aside for non-white people of the country. We do not agree with the Government memorandum on the Bill that it will lead to beneficial influence on South Africa's relations with the Governments of India and Pakistan, for both these Governments fully realise that under its provisions South African Indians will suffer most severe hardships. The Bill, on the contrary, will lead to further world condemnation of our country, South Africa, which we, in common with all her people, love, and will make it almost impossible for the successful holding of the Round Table Conference agreed upon by the recent tripartite talks held in Cape Town. In view of these facts we make this urgent appeal to you to withdraw the Bill immediately in the interest of racial peace."

The South African Institute of Race Relations said on 4th May that non-European peoples in the Union had "grave misgivings" about the

Government's Group Areas Bill which proposes to house the various races in South Africa in separate areas. The Institute, a non-political body which studies questions affecting non-Europeans and relations between them and Europeans, said in a statement. "Excluded from the franchise or without effective parliamentary representation, non-European peoples (in the Union) cannot but view the Group Areas Bill with grave misgivings as to its effects on their future prospects. If the current deterioration in race relations is to be arrested and harmony restored, it is essential and urgent that non-Europeans should be given reason to view the future with hope and confidence. Constant emphasis, as in the Bill, on the negative restrictive aspects of segregation is destructive of hope and therefore a menace to internal peace and development."

On 26th May, 1950, the Transvaal Indian Congress urged India and Pakistan to break off all relations with South Africa in protest against the Group Areas Bill. The Congress sent telegrams to the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan appealing to them to prevail upon the United Nations to impose sanctions and to take all positive steps to prevent South Africa passing what they described as "this fascist legislation". The Natal Organisation appealed to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Nicolaas C. Zeylstra, to intervene on behalf of the South African Indians. On the same day the South African Indian Organisation in Durban also appealed to Mr. Attlee and President Truman to use their influence with the Union Cabinet to abandon the Group Areas Bill. Cables sent to the British Prime Minister and the United States President described the Bill as "an insult and affront to the Indian people and the Indian Republic and Pakistan".

In view of the unanimous Indian opposition to the Bill, the Government of India have since announced their intention not to proceed with the idea of a Round Table Conference to settle the Indian question in South Africa, as they feel there is no possibility of its successful solution in the present circumstances.

The population Registration Bill, as it is officially entitled, provides for the classification of all South Africans into three racial groups as follows:—(1) European—a person who is obviously European from his appearance or who is generally accepted as a European; (2) Native—one who is a member of a race indigenous to South Africa or who is generally accepted as such; and (3) Coloured—one who is neither European nor native. This has now become law, having been passed by the South African Parliament and received the sanction of the Governor-General of that country.

### ● Malan Urged to call Conference of Leaders

Two European parliamentary representatives of the African population have asked South African Prime Minister, Daniel Malan, to call a Round Table Conference of political leaders including Africans to discuss the colour problem in the Union. Mrs. Margaret Ballinger and Senator

**E. H. Brookes**, both experts on African affairs initiated this latest move to solve South Africa's non-European problem.

### ● Swami Bhawani Dayal Dead

Swami Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi, former President of the Natal Indian Congress, died at Ajmer on 9th May, 1950. Born on September 10, 1892, in Johannesburg, Swami Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi served throughout his life the cause of the Indian community in South Africa. He participated in Mahatma Gandhi's satyagraha in South Africa along with his father, who is mentioned as a valued colleague in Gandhiji's autobiography. Swami Bhawani Dayal was imprisoned for his championing of the South African-Indian cause. A great speaker and writer in Hindi language, the Swamiji recently established the *Pravasi Bhawan* (Indian emigrant home) at Ajmer, from where he published *Pravasi*, a monthly journal devoted to the cause of Indians overseas. Swami Bhawani Dayal's *Pravasiki Atmakatha* (autobiography) with a preface by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, is considered to be one of the classics in Hindi literature. The Indian Colonial Association of Etawah published a biography of the Swami in English in 1939.

## United Kingdom

### ● New Indian Students' Hostel Buildings

The foundation-stone of a new Indian Students' Union and Hostel was laid in Fitzroy Street, London on 5th May, 1950. On the marble slab had been inscribed these words once used by Mahatma Gandhi: "I do not want my house to be walled on all sides nor my windows to be shut; I want the culture of all lands to blow about my house as freely as possible; but I refuse to be blown off my feet by any of them." During the last 30 years nearly 10,000 students have lived in the hostel. A further 10,000 have availed themselves of its social and cultural facilities. Its work has been recognised by the Government of India and the Indian Provincial Governments. The building fund for the new hostel now stands at more than £40,000. The highest contribution of £17,863 came from the International Committee of the Y.M.C.As. of North America. The Government of India have given a grant of £10,050 and promised further support. The Governments of the major Provinces and States of India have subscribed £11,000. Cables were received welcoming the event from all over India. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru sent the following message: "India's cultural link with the United Kingdom will endure long and although Hindi, India's national language, will soon become the medium of instruction in our universities, the quest for knowledge through the medium of English will long continue to draw students from this country to the English universities, among which London has always held a high place in their affection. I take this opportunity to wish the Union and

Hostel an active and fruitful role in the care of Indian students resident in London and congratulate all those whose efforts have made the construction of the new building possible." Viscount Addison, Lord Privy Seal, conveyed the good wishes of the British Government. The Indian High Commissioner, laying the foundation-stone, said the new hostel would be an international centre where Indian students would meet those from Britain and other countries. He said it would be a total loss to India if her students returned home without having made contact with the local people, shared in their joys and sorrows—and learned from the daily experience of their lives. It was not the intention of the Indian Government that students should be isolated in hostels. They must live the lives of ordinary men and women and become part of the country. Sir Frederick James, Chairman of the Building Committee, thanking the High Commissioner said, he had made for himself the untiring and unceasing advocate of the friendliest relations between India and Britain. Sir Ewart Greaves, Chairman of the Committee of Management, presided. Sir Francis Low, Vice-Chairman, read messages from the President of the Indian Republic Dr. Rajendra Prasad and members of the Central and State Governments.

## United States

### ● New York Indians Urged to Unite

The Indian Consul-General in New York, Mr. R. Saksena, in an appeal at a dinner given by the Indian community to honour him on his receiving the personal rank of Minister from the Government of India, said that during the two years he had served in New York he had noticed that the Indian community was not able to pull its weight to the same degree as other foreign communities such as the British and the Dutch. "I must express my disappointment that for various reasons we have lagged behind. We have different organisations. The time has come when, regardless of one's own likes and sense of personal importance, we must get together under one roof and work under one organisation."

### ● J. J. Singh re-elected India League President

Mr. J. J. Singh has been re-elected President of the India League of America for the ninth consecutive year. Mrs. Pearl Buck and Dr. Lin Yutang have been re-elected Honorary Presidents. The League in a resolution welcomed the Indo-Pakistan agreement reached in New Delhi.

### ● Exhibition of Indian Art in New York

An exhibition of Indian modern art was opened in New York on 30th May, at New India House. The exhibition has been organised in a move to foster cultural relations between the United States and India.

There were reproductions of Indian designs in textiles, metal work, pottery, terracotta, inlaid stone and marble, outstanding specimens of Indian craftsmanship in these fields, and examples of modern commercial art, including calendars, posters and press advertisements. The section on design was the result of a survey conducted by the Indian Institute of Art in Industry at the request of the Government and leading businessmen and industrialists.

#### • Educational Conference in New York

Major problems of educational reconstruction in India were considered by Indian students in the United States and experts in the field of Indian education when they met recently at Teachers' College, Columbia University, for a three-day conference on "Education in Free India". The Conference, final phase of a symposium on Indian education held last year at the college, was conducted by faculty members, Education Secretaries of the Embassy of India in Washington, Indian representatives in the United Nations and other eminent Indian visitors to the United States. Dr. William Russell, President of Teachers' College, opened the conference by urging Indian students to "sift all you are learning, test every theory and make sure American practices and precepts of education are scrutinized before adopting them as improved methods for Indian education". He warned that ideas derived from the educational practices in the colleges of America and England or any country, should be placed in "quarantine" by Indian students just as plants, seeds and animals are held in quarantine before being unloaded in a foreign port. Group discussions at the Conference were based on papers prepared by 13 Indian student leaders of the College who have been studying the role of education and the implication of democracy in free India. Discussions were led by Chairmen selected for their interest in Indian education.

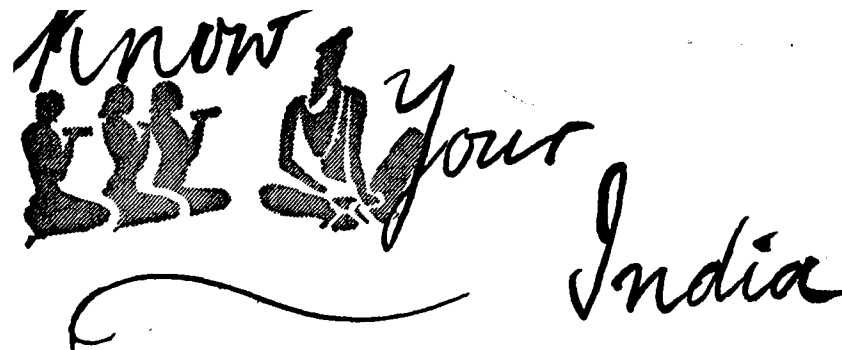
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#### • Britisher prefers Nehru

A tribute to Pandit Nehru was paid during an impromptu BBC broadcast show, "Have A Go," on March 29. The feature of the show is that people from the audience are brought to the microphone and asked various questions. One competitor was an old soldier, now a minor official in Macclesfield Yorkshire Corporation. One question put to him was: If you had the choice, whom would you best like to invite to your house for the week-end? Without hesitation, he replied: "Pandit Nehru, the Prime Minister of India".

\* \* \*

#### • Fijians came from India

The Polynesians are certainly a composite people, and consequently their appearance varies. Some of them are strikingly European in appearance, but others, Tongans and Fijians for example, are more like Melanesians. There are good grounds for thinking that one element in the population was supplied by peoples allied to the Mediterranean folk, who centuries ago lived in the valley of the Ganges, from whence they migrated to Java. They remained there long enough to acquire a knowledge of seamanship and to adopt bread-fruit as their chief food in place of rice. From Java they proceeded through the Molucca Strait and down the north coast of New Guinea to Fiji and Samoa and then to other islands, New Zealand being colonized in A.D. 1350.

\* \* \*

#### • Industrial Chemistry in Ancient India

Varaha Mihira speaks of many powders and the preparation of these. He tells us of *Vajralepa* or cement which is 'strong as the thunderbolt'. These powders were used in the

temple architecture of the Buddhist period. The ruins of these temples and *Caityas* still reveal the quality of the cement employed. *Varaha Mihira* also refers to *Sitadarana*, *Sastrapana*, *Vrikshayurveda* and people versed in *Yantras*, besides those learned in manufacturing dyes, colours and spices. He has also discussed the manufacture of synthetic substances having the smells of *Bakula*, *Champaka*, *Utpala*, *Atimuktaka* and so on. He arranges compound scents in a sort of scale according to the proportions of certain ground essences used in their preparation, and determines by the mathematical calculus of combination (*loshtaka prasara*) the number of variations of the different notes in this scale.

To these classes of professional experts were due three of the great Indian discoveries in the chemical arts and manufactures which enabled India to command for more than a thousand years, the market of the East as well as the West and secured to her an easy and universally recognised pre-eminence among the nations of the world in manufactures and exports: (i) the preparation of fast dyes for textile fabrics by the treatment of natural dyes like *Manjishtha* with alum and other chemicals (e.g. sulphate of iron); (ii) the extraction of indigo from the indigo plants; (iii) the tempering of steel in a manner worthy of advanced metallurgy, a process to which the mediaeval world owed its Damascus swords. It was this applied chemistry which, more than handicraft skill, gave India her premier position in the Middle Ages and earlier in exports and manufactures.

\* \* \*

#### ● Latest Population Figures

India's population is estimated at 347.34 millions as on 1st March 1950. The population of the States, in millions, are as follows: Assam 8.51; Bihar 39.42; Bombay 32.68; Madhya Pradesh 20.92; Madras 54.29; Orissa 14.41; Punjab 12.61; Uttar Pradesh 61.62; West Bengal 24.32; Hyderabad 17.69; Jammu and Kashmir 4.37; Madhya Bharat 7.87; Mysore 8.06; PEPS Union 3.32; Rajasthan 14.69; Saurashtra 3.96; Travancore-Cochin 8.58; Ajmer 0.73; Bhopal 0.85; Bilaspur 0.13; Coorg 0.17; Delhi 1.51; Himachal Pradesh 1.08; Cutch 0.55; Manipur 0.54; Tripura 0.58; Vindhya Pradesh 3.88.

### Labour Legislation in India.

*This article, special'y prepared by our Labour Department, gives a matter of fact account of what has been done in India for the betterment of labour conditions and for raising the living standard of workers.—Editor.*

THE development of an industrial working class in India is a comparatively recent phenomenon. The vast majority of the population has always been, and still is, dependent on agriculture. For a long time the surplus village population was absorbed in cottage industries. Up to the end of the 18th century they supplied the markets of Europe, West Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, the Indian archipelago and Japan with India's famous muslins, calicos, chintz, silks, saltpetre and other products of cottage industries. With the gradual decline of Indian handicrafts due to competition from cheaper imported machine-made products, cottage industries could not provide adequate and regular employment. In the middle of the 19th century large-scale productive works like irrigation, road and railway developments began to attract an increasingly large number of village workers to the cities and towns. By 1892, when factory statistics were first compiled, there were 656 factories, with 316,816 operatives in employment. A steady growth was maintained through the years with the result that by 1939 the number of factories and workers had increased to 10,466 and 1,751,137 respectively. Average daily number of workers employed in factories in the Indian Dominion in 1947 was 2,230,568. Among the categories of industrial labour, the factory industries group forms the largest. Next comes the plantations group, followed by the communications and the mines groups. Though the factory industries group tops the list with its varied and widespread centres of activity, the other groups, especially the communications group, are no less vital to the economic life of the country. The following table shows the number of workers in the different groups in 1947:

| <i>Groups</i>                 | <i>No. of workers</i> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Factory industries .. .. . | 2,230,568             |
| 2. Plantation .. .. .         | 1,172,828             |
| 3. Communication .. .. .      | 914,155               |
| 4. Mines .. .. .              | 407,263               |

Important labour laws have been enacted from time to time to protect the interests of the workers and to provide them with benefits and amenities. The labour laws in force in India today include the Factories Act, Payment of Wages Act, Workmen's Compensation Act, Maternity Benefits Act, Plantation legislation, the Indian Mines Act, Transport legislation, Industrial Disputes Act, the Trade Unions Act, the Indian Dock Labourers' Act and the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act. This comprehensive labour legislation provides many benefits and safeguards for the workers. Yet, with the advent of a national government, the major objective of the government's labour policy is focussed on giving to the workers the highest practicable standard of living. In government's view no industry which cannot afford to pay a living wage to its workers has a right to survive.

The Five-Year Programme of labour reforms which the Government of India have devised, is intended to improve the condition of the working classes not only in organised industries but also in others. It includes the promotion of fair wage agreements, organization of industrial training, improvement in conditions of contract labour, promotion of industrial peace and measures for social security, housing and welfare work.

During the first two years of independence much was achieved in the sphere of progressive labour legislation. The principle of social insurance has been introduced in the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, which would benefit about 2,500,000 industrial workers. The Act ensures the right of labour to social security. It provides for health insurance, maternity and employment benefits as well as medical care for employees in factories other than seasonal factories. It also provides for the constitution of a State Insurance Fund from the contributions of employers and the employees, supplemented by government grant to meet two-thirds of the administrative

cost of the scheme. The proceeds of the Fund will be utilised for the grant of benefits in respect of sickness, maternity and industrial accidents to the workers in all factories other than seasonal factories. The Act also provides for the extension of its provisions to other establishments—industrial, commercial, and agricultural. Incidentally, this is the first enactment in social insurance in all Asia.

Another Act, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, provides for the regulation of wages in industries where the workers have not yet adequately developed bargaining power. The Act came into force on the 15th March, 1948. It covers agricultural workers and workers in industries like woollen, carpet-making, rice mills, tobacco plantations, oil mills, building operatives, lac, mica, motor transport and leather manufacture. Under the Act, the minimum wage in these industries has to be fixed within a period of two or three years, and in agriculture within a period of three years of the coming into force of the Act.

The decasualization of dock workers is provided for in the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948. A committee has completed its work of preparing a scheme for regulating the employment of stevedore labour in the Bombay Port. The scheme will be the first of its kind in India. About 47,000 workers in major ports are benefited by it.

The Factories Act, 1948, has completely revised and overhauled the old Factories Act, which was not in keeping with the new social standards of the working class. The new law is a very comprehensive enactment. It consolidates the law regulating labour in factories and incorporates several new provisions relating to safety, health, canteens, creches and rest rooms. Under the Act, the construction of new factories will be subject to previous licences, whereby the proposed lay-out and other details of the factory would be required to satisfy definite standards before construction can be started.

As regards child labour, ample protection is afforded by the Factories (Amendment) Act of 1940, the Employment of Children Act of 1938 and other measures. The object of the Employment of Children Act is to raise the minimum age of children employed in the handling of goods on railways and at ports to 15 years. The Employment of Children (Amend-

ment) Act of 1939 prescribes that no child, who has not completed his 12th year, shall be employed in any of the following ten occupations mentioned in the schedule:

Bidi-making; carpet-making; cement manufacture; cloth printing, dyeing and weaving; manufacture of matches, explosives and fireworks; mica cutting and splitting; shellac manufacture; soap manufacture; tanning; wool-cleaning.

Efforts have been made to ensure better conditions for India's 250,000 coal-miners. The Payment of Wages Act was extended recently to all coal-mines. The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Act, 1949 provides measures for promoting the welfare of labour employed in the coal mining industry, including housing and dispensary services. The Act also makes provision for financing these measures. The Amendment Act enables the Housing Board to attend to all construction works financed from both the general welfare account and housing account of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund. The programme includes building of 50,000 miners' houses. The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes Ordinance was promulgated on the 23rd April, 1948 to confer powers on the Central Government to frame provident fund and bonus schemes for persons employed in coal mines. This Ordinance was later replaced by the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Scheme Act, 1948 and it came into force on 3rd September, 1948. This will benefit about 360,000 coal-miners.

As regards agricultural labourers, who are ten times the number engaged in industry, the Government have set up a fact-finding enquiry which will collect, according to a questionnaire, relevant details concerning chiefly the average daily and piece wages for men, women and children of different agricultural operations. There will be a general family survey and detailed investigation in respect of the family budget, the earnings of each member, indebtedness, unemployment, etc. When scientific data have been collected and studied, ways and means of improving the conditions of rural agricultural workers will be evolved.

The contemplated Industrial Relations Bill will, in addition to remedying certain defects noticed in the working of

the Industrial Disputes Act, provide for the conclusion of collective agreements between the workers and employers for an all-India Appellate Industrial Court.

On the basis of the experience gained in the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923 and in the light of modern international practices, revision of the Act is under active consideration of the Central Government. In the new Act, it is proposed to provide for the payment for overtime work at double the normal daily rate, reduction in the number of working hours underground, provision of first-aid facilities underground, issue of medical certificates of fitness to workers, more elaborate provisions for providing drinking water, latrines, urinals, etc. for workers and other welfare measures. The age limit for persons employed underground is also proposed to be raised from 17 to 18 years. It is estimated that about 4,07,000 miners will be benefited by the proposed amendment in the Mines Act.

A Fair Wages Bill is also under active consideration of the Central Government which will implement the recommendations of the Fair Wages Committee of the Central Advisory Council of Labour. Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 and the Payments of Wages Act, 1936 are also being revised and necessary amendments are being suggested to be placed before Parliament to remedy the defects and difficulties experienced in the working of the Acts. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Industrial Committee on Plantations, a bill for the purpose of ameliorating the conditions of workers in plantations is being drafted by the Labour Ministry of the Government of India.

On the whole, India is forging ahead in the matter of progressive labour legislation. The safety and stability of a country depends to a great extent on the contentment and prosperity of the working population who form the backbone of its economic and social structure. It is no wonder, therefore, that India has seriously taken up the question of improving labour conditions and changing the life of the worker from one of mere toil and sorrow, into a life with a purpose and of leisure to develop one's inborn talents and faculties.



*India Bound and Free:* By P. K. Anantanarayan, Publisher, S. Viswanathan, 14, Singanna Naick Street, G. T., Madras. pp. 56. Price As. 12.

Some stray thoughts and reflections prompted by the Independence Day celebrations from the nucleus of this little book which begins with the conquest and subjugation of India by the British, goes through the various phases of our struggle for Swaraj and ends with the post-partition happenings in this country. A very ostentatious aim for a small book! Nevertheless, the author has succeeded in tracing the main historical and political developments of this long period. Written in a lively and engaging style, it makes good reading.

--N. V. R.

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*Party System and Parliamentary Government:* By Dr. P. N. Masaldan, Khoj Parishad, 24, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta 13. pp. 22. Price As. 12.

This lucidly-written pamphlet explains what is meant by a political party and how the party system functions in a democracy. The writer maintains in this connection that no single party should have an overwhelming majority as it tends to make it dictatorial. There is no doubt that this is a danger to true democracy. Dr. Masaldan is quite right in thinking that "democracy is something more than simply the rule of the majority" and that it also implies "full regard for the views of others and accommodation of the views of the minority which differs, as far as possible". Political parties constitute the keystone of the democratic arch, as no representative government can be worked without them. A very useful study of the subject for all who are interested in public affairs.

--N. V. R.

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