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# INDIAN REVIEW

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No. 3.

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By Mr. Eleuterio Soares

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By Mr. Brian Cox

**Food Production in Relation to Population**

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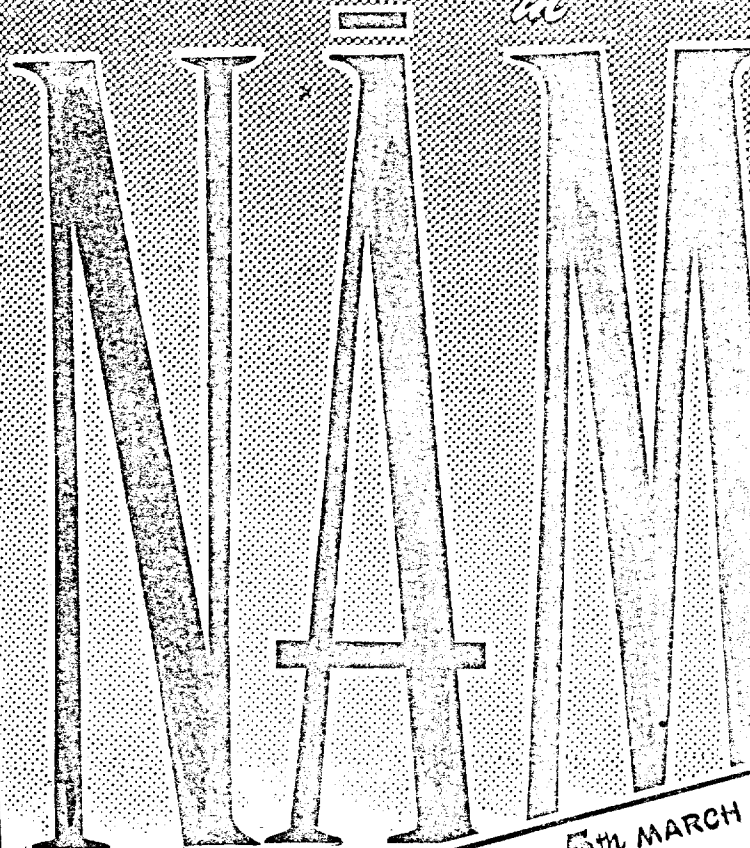
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# THE INDIAN REVIEW

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

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## THE DEFENCE OF DEMOCRACY

BY MR. ELEUTERIO SOARES

THAT, despite all the talk about peaceful co-existence, Democracy and Communism are fundamentally irreconcilable is no longer a debatable point. A violent hostility towards democratic principles is inherent in the very philosophy of Communism and in a more concrete form in the avowed communist objective of a world revolution. Under no circumstances can a retreat from this attitude be expected since such a step would not only be in conflict with the Marxist dogmas but prove detrimental to the survival of Communism itself. Communism thrives on intolerance and the communist powers are never lacking in zeal and determination in pursuing their proselytising mission.

Communist propaganda and fellow-travellers may endeavour to convey a different impression but there are unmistakable signs that the efforts to promote the cause of universal communism are being increasingly intensified. There is a constant search for fresh fields and pastures anew for exploitation and even such seemingly innocent undertakings like peace offensives, goodwill delegations, economic conferences and gestures of generosity, are directed towards the attainment of the same objective. The ultimate end is never lost sight of and it is in this light that Stalin's offer of help to comrades all over the world made at the recent Communist Party Congress in Moscow must be considered. The declaration, one may be sure, was not inspired by entirely peaceful motives.

In fact the myth of the peaceful intentions of the communist powers has been well and truly exploded by contemporary developments. That is of course nothing surprising, because the pursuit of peaceful aims is fundamentally incompatible with an intolerant ideology like Communism, with its trappings of dialectical materialism and class war, and its utter disregard for ethical values. The so-called peace movement is in reality no more than a device to lull into complacency the prospective victims of the aggressive designs of the Cominform and a cover to the warlike preparations going on behind the Iron Curtain. It is a cloak to hide the unsheathed sword of aggression.

In the face of these facts it is indeed inevitable that the Western Democracies should concentrate on defence with undivided attention. The intense anxiety to ensure the safety of the free world so widely manifest in the western world is only a natural reaction to the growing red menace. The threat of communist expansionism is rightly considered by the Western Democracies as a matter of life and death, demanding unflinching vigilance and perpetual readiness to face any situation. Under the circumstances rearmament by the Western Powers, although by itself a serious threat to the peace of the world and economically undesirable, is not only prudent but imperative. The alternative would be fatal.

That, however, is only one side of the picture for military preparedness is no effective bar against the advancing tide of communism. Apart from the fact that

an ideology-can never be destroyed by material force, military conquest is only one of the many other methods the Communists utilise to extend their sway. Nor should it be forgotten that mere economic stability is no antidote to Communism because contrary to what is commonly believed although poverty may help the communist cause, prosperity does not necessarily hinder it. Moreover the crux of the problem facing the world is not just to guarantee the political independence and territorial integrity of nations or choose between conflicting socio-economic systems. The situation is much more serious than that and poses a choice between fundamentally contradictory values.

The communist challenge therefore has to be met with something more than atom bombs and dollar doles. Situations of strength, collective security and "point four" schemes, may have their role to play in the defence of democracy but the one weapon without which Communism can never be overcome is a philosophy morally and materially superior to Communism. The situation calls for a way of life which will incorporate the economic security which the Marxist Utopia promises with the human values which democracy seeks to uphold, a socio-economic system that will solve the problems created by the technical advancement of our age without trampling underfoot individual freedom and liberty. Democracy is essentially a dynamic ideal and if it is to be acceptable to the modern men, it has to guarantee not only political rights but social and economic justice as well. Faith in democracy thus built up alone can constitute an impregnable barrier against Communism.

Such a philosophy of life is all the more indispensable in view of the fact that the present social order has reached an advanced stage of disintegration. For example competitive capitalism can no longer meet the requirements of present day society, and however well it might have served mankind at a particular stage of social evolution, to give unrestricted scope for private enterprise nowadays is like mortgaging the welfare

of the people into the hands of vested interests. The conception of property rights has also undergone a fundamental change and there is a growing revolt against imperialism and colonialism and their offspring, racial discrimination. Colonialism and imperialism may not yet be dead, but their incongruity in a world that is growing increasingly conscious of the equality of all men and the principles of universal justice, is conspicuous.

These trends represent very powerful forces, which, although they have not yet reached the zenith of their influence on human affairs, cannot be trifled with. They have to be canalised to promote the greater welfare of mankind and how best to do it has been the principal problem of our times. Communism has tried to seek a short cut by imposing a solution that goes counter to these evolutionary forces with dire consequences to the progress of civilisation. Communism with its rabid materialism and its contempt for spiritual values cannot solve the problems of men, who despite Marx and Stalin, have a body and a soul to be catered for. Communism has failed to satisfy the modern man's thirst for a progressive social order and democracy can hope to survive only by effectively succeeding where Communism has failed. The important question therefore is what the free world is, or rather the western democracies, the self-appointed defenders of democracy, are doing to promote this new order the germs of which, as we have already seen, are present in our environments and need only to be tended to produce the desired results. Are the western democracies moving in the right direction?

One wishes the answer could be an emphatic assertion, as it indeed ought to be if the western powers were sincere in their professions. Looking at the way things are shaping nowadays however it is no exaggeration to say that the western bloc, under the economic and military leadership of the USA, is inclined to falter. Under the spell of negative anti-communism, which has become such a conspicuous feature of public life in some of the western

countries the democracies today are drifting away from the path of wisdom and sanity, counter to the spirit of the four freedoms and the Atlantic Charter. Today the West has practically identified itself with preservation of the status quo and the suppression of the new forces that seek to shape the pattern of human society. The anti-communist crusade is tending to become a campaign for the protection of vested interests, the revival of dying imperialism and the perpetuation of the exploitation of the weak by the strong. Instead of revitalising the democratic forces, the western democracies seem to be intent on discarding some of their democratic attributes and emulating the more deplorable practices of the communists.

For example the eclipse of democracy in Eastern Europe and the total subjugation of this section of Europe by Kremlin are the major tragedies of our times, but the charge that Western Europe has to dance to Uncle Sam's tune is not entirely unfounded. The shadow of the Capitol extends almost over every country that has received dollar aid, with perhaps the solitary exception of India, where this policy has so far not been rigidly enforced. Not only are American forces stationed in Western European countries, but by virtue of utter dependence on U. S. economic aid, these nations have to formulate their internal and external policies in accordance with the wishes of the State Department and the Pentagon. And the voice of America does not always speak on the side of progress not to say anything of the strong tendency prevalent across the Atlantic to behave as though Uncle Sam alone knows what is good and bad for the rest of the world. This may be a sound business policy from the point of view of a money-lender, but certainly there is very little democratic about it, particularly since it depicts Capitol in a role somewhat similar to that of Kremlin.

The parallel does not end there. For example the apidemic of anti-communist hysteria that widely prevails in the West is only a variation of the hate-mongering that goes on behind the Iron Curtain. Fear and suspicion are the

main props of Communism but then MacArthysm seeks to follow the same path. Executive inroads into civil liberties are growing by leaps and bounds and fundamental rights no longer command the same respect as of yore. While we rightly condemn the dictatorship of the party in the communist countries, we cannot ignore the fact that in the democratic countries too, political gangsterism and the gilded hands of vested interests, seldom allow the common people to mould their destinies. The indiscriminate red baiting going on in some of the western countries is rivalled only by the political purges and peoples' trials of the Communists. And if communism is a materialistic philosophy, can we deny that the pursuit of material wealth and comfort is the Keystone of western civilisation?

It may be good strategy to fight the communists with their own weapons but it does not reflect to the credit of democratic traditions. Similarly it may be sound diplomacy to reject Mao and his New China, but certainly it is not in keeping with democratic principles to prop up Chiang Kai Shek and his Formosa. The Korean War may be a vital factor in the defence of democracy but not so Syngman Rhee who has not been slow to show his contempt for democratic principles. Nor is support to Tito, even if it is only a reward for having the courage to defy Kremlin, compatible with democratic ideals, for Tito is as good a communist as Stalin himself. Then Ho-Chi-Min may be a Communist but Bao-Dai is no tribune of his people. But then the only consideration that seems to shape the policies of the western democracies, particularly of the USA, appears to be the acquisition of as many anti-Soviet outposts as possible, no matter what happens to democracy in the process. The tragedy of it all is that the communist threat is offered as a justification for policies that are not only weakening the fabric of democracy from within but are driving the world deeper into the widening jaws of Communism.

It has happened in Indo-China. The failure of the French authorities to move with the times has ended in the

transformation of a genuinely nationalist struggle into a side show of the Communist movement in Asia. French policies in Tunis and Morocco are calculated to fare no better while the British having followed France in their approach to the Malayan problem with identical results have been doing a good deal to invite Communism in Iran, Egypt and Kenya. Then there is Daniel Malan, with his Hitlerian monstrosity of *apartheid*, a total negation of all democratic principles, being directly or indirectly supported by at least some of the democratic countries. In their anxiety to fight the Communists, the western powers seem to be busy creating potential communists, so much so that democracy appears to be in need of being rescued not only from its enemies but from its ardent friends as well.

In a way the more one ponders over the manner in which the Western Powers are managing their affairs or rather meddling with those of others, one is inclined to wonder whether the western democracies are really interested in the defence of democracy or merely in crushing the Soviet bloc so as to ensure their own domination over the world. The real issue at stake seems to be whether Russia or USA should rule the world in the future.

No wonder therefore that countries like India, although committed to the

democratic way of life, fail to be inspired by the anti-communist crusade and prefer to pursue the perilous path of neutrality. They are alive to the menace of communism but they see no safety for democracy in the policies pursued by the western bloc. It is not suggested that the two blocs are on the same level and that there is nothing to choose between the two. It is true that the failings and imperfections of the West are mere mole hills compared to the mountains of Communist crimes but they are more dangerous than the red menace because they tend to destroy the very roots of democracy. And the only foreseeable outcome of the policies today pursued by the western democracies can only be a disastrous East-West war, but whichever side wins, democracy will have been the principal casualty.

All, however is not yet lost, if only, the western democracies will without slackening their vigilance on the military front turn their gaze inwards and undertake a sincere examination of conscience. Perhaps it will be in the interest of mankind if the western countries discard their superiority complex and pay greater heed to the voice of those countries, which are still free from the prejudices of cold-war and yet preserve a refreshing independence of judgment. Given that the West may yet regain its soul and save democracy.

## TURNING POINT

BY MR. BRIAN COX

Now it is done.  
I was not certain until now  
When sweet contrition fills my heart.  
Can you forgive me my long sinful doubtings?  
Can you say  
You will accept my praise and my caresses?  
You are so gracious and so grave, my Sweet,  
You have drained strength from my steel muscles  
These glorious brief years, and drenched my blood  
With a reluctant and slow terror of your beauty.  
But now the zenith of my courage rises.  
You are mine.  
This knowledge I have brought you through  
the gateways of dumb sleep  
And solitary thought, my Sweet.

## Food Production in Relation to Population

BY DR. S. M. BOSE, M.Sc., Ph.D.

THE subject of "Food Production in relation to population in India" is of vital importance to the country, especially at this critical juncture when we are in the grip of food-crisis. The Prime Minister has repeatedly mentioned that our food problems must be tackled on a war basis. It is high time we should recognise the urgent need for a determined approach to this important problem. The present article has been objectively planned with a view to critically assessing our present position and presenting the problem in all its manifold aspects as also making useful and practical suggestions for its lasting solution.

The food resources of a country and its population are intimately related subjects and the adequacy of the former cannot be determined without due consideration of the latter. One of the chief causes which have driven our country into the present food-crisis is the tremendous growth of population. According to 1951 census, the total population of India is 361.82 millions. This represents an increase of about 43 millions or about 13.5 per cent increase over the population of 1941, which was 318.86 millions (adjusted to the present area). As per the available statistics, the population of our country increased by about 50 millions in the earlier decade of 1931-41. There has been, therefore, a steady increase in the population.

The calculation of density of population, however, shows that according to 1951 census estimate, India has a population of 296 per square mile. Compared to the figures available for the density of population of Japan, United Kingdom, Germany and Italy, which are 579, 536, 506 and 397 per square mile respectively, the density of India's population is much lower. This would mean that the present food-crisis of India is due not only to the increase in population but also to the lower productivity of the country. The productivity has not kept pace with the growth of population although vast lands

are available for agricultural development. Added to this, the country has suffered from severe food losses due to droughts, floods, earth-quakes, locust invasions and such other unforeseen calamities. The effects of the last World War, and later the loss of some of the best producing regions as a result of partition and the migration of millions of refugees to India, have greatly aggravated the already existing food shortage in the Country.

The first and foremost problem before the country is, therefore, how to avert the present food-crisis and how best to produce, from year to year, the extra food for the present net increase of about 4.5 millions per annum. This means that about 5.5 lakh tons of extra food gains per year will be required even though as per the present rationing, the per capita allowance is continued to be only 12 oz. per day which is not sufficient for satisfying the hunger of the majority of our people. As contemplated in the Five-year Plan if the daily per capita allowance is raised in order to restore it to the level of pre-war availability, the figure for the additional quantity of food-grains needed will be obviously much higher. All these considerations clearly indicate the magnitude of the task that lies ahead.

The Government of India have been able temporarily to tide over the present food-crisis and have barely escaped a large-scale famine by importing lakhs of tons of food-grains worth several crores of rupees from various countries especially from the United States of America. Imports of food-grains are by no means a solution to the acute food problem of the country. This has naturally resulted in a heavy drain on our financial resources. Again, because of an increase in the cost of imported food-grains as also because the Government would otherwise pay an extra subsidy over and above the subsidy already paid, there has been recently an increase in the controlled prices of rice

and wheat. If, however, prices go on mounting, the country will have to give up all hopes of economic development. Prices must be stabilized, if not brought down. This emphasises the necessity of procuring as much food as possible internally and reduce imports to the minimum possible. The whole position thus still continues to be serious and requires the utmost effort of the people.

There is, therefore, urgent need for enhancing the productivity of our land already cultivated, as well as, for bringing additional land including fallow land under cultivation, on a steady year to year basis. The yields per acre in our country are very low compared with those in other countries, for example, the yield of rice in India is about 988 lb. per acre as against 2433 lb. in China and about 3070 lb. in Japan. The low yield per acre in respect of rice and several other food-crops in our country points out the vast possibilities of stepping up our food production through intensive cultivation. By proper scientific development reorganisation of our agriculture along sound practical lines, we can reasonably expect to increase the yields.

The provision of irrigation facilities in all forms is of primary importance in increasing agricultural production. The construction of both major and minor types of irrigation works, such as, canals, multi-purpose reservoirs, wells, tanks, installation of lift irrigation pumping sets etc., should be undertaken on a grand scale. Our National Government have already realised this and have given first priority to the great river valley projects over which crores of rupees are being spent. The major river valley projects which are already in hand or will soon be started, are (i) Damodar Valley (West Bengal), (ii) Bhakra-Nangal (Punjab), (iii) Hirakud (Orissa), (iv) Kosi (Bihar) and others. Some progress has already been made in respect of these river valley projects. The completion of these multi-purpose development projects will, besides controlling floods, provide perennial irrigation facilities for several millions of acres of land and will hold out a great prospect of production of plenty of cheap electric

power for industrialisation. All these projects are of a permanent nature and will naturally ensure increased food production every year. What is needed now is speed in the execution of these projects. The principal emphasis in the Five Year Plan is on agriculture, irrigation and power schemes. This shows that the Commission has taken a serious view of the country's food problem and industrial development.

An extended use of manures and fertilizers offers a promising line for increasing our food production. The practice of using different types of manures, such as, (i) farm-yard manure, (ii) Compost made from night-soil, village and town refuse, etc., (iii) green manure, (iv) oil-cakes, (v) bone-meal, fish manure, etc., (vi) chemical fertilizers, should be encouraged in all irrigated areas. The Government of India have already started a fertilizer factory at Sindri, which is the biggest fertiliser factory in Asia. The liberal use of ammonium sulphate which will be produced in lakhs of tons by the Sindri Plant, will give a substantially increased yield of food-grains.

Land improvement and reclamation should be undertaken as one of the major projects to tackle our food problems. Many of our lands are deficient in plant nutrients. By proper scientific treatment of the soil, however, it can be made to grow food paying crops. Waste lands in various parts of India should be reclaimed to augment our food production. Intensive research both in laboratory and field should be undertaken throughout the country to solve the problems of unproductive lands.

Mechanization of agriculture is the order of the day in all progressive countries of the World. The time-worn bullock-driven methods of tillage in India should be gradually replaced by improved mechanised methods in order to enhance our food production. Tractor-ploughing should be encouraged as far as possible. For the last few years, a somewhat steady march of machines has been making headway into our agricultural field, especially, amongst a newly

growing class of enlightened farmers. India needs more tractors, modern agricultural implements and lift irrigation pumps so as to introduce mechanised methods of agriculture in all areas where cheap electric power is available.

It should always be the practice of using improved varieties of seeds of different food-grains. Effective action should also be taken to control pests, plant diseases etc. Crop protection against wild animals is also necessary. Control of malaria and other diseases among our rural population is in general essential to the satisfactory progress of our agriculture. No less important is the improvement of the live-stock in the present agricultural set-up of the country.

The problem of Indian agriculture and its development with the application of modern techniques essentially require a good deal of land reforms in all aspects. It is urgently needed to rebuild the over-all agricultural structure of the country so as to adjust it with the modern mechanical devices of production. The small uneconomic size of the holdings, the antedated land tenure system and the financially unstable condition of the peasants are not helpful for any spectacular agricultural development of the country. With a view to consolidating fragmented holdings and creating better farming facilities so as to make agriculture really progressive, some form of co-operative cultivation should be immediately introduced and financial assistance to the farmers in the form of grants and loans from the Government should be liberally extended. The abolition of the Zamindari system and such other reforms should also be expedited throughout the country.

In pursuance of the Grow More Food Campaign which was initiated in 1942, measures have been taken to increase the production of food-grains, mainly cereals, through extension of cultivation, double cropping, diversion of land from non-food crops to cereal crops, increased irrigation, extended use of manures and fertilizers and an increase in the supply and distribution of improved seeds. Although some progress has been made

by the Grow More Food Campaign during the past few years, the results achieved have not been spectacular because of several difficulties with regard to inadequate irrigation facilities and short supply of manures and fertilizers. As we have said several big irrigation and fertilizer projects are, however, now sponsored by the Government and some of them are already in progress. It is, therefore, hoped that in future our agricultural development will not be so much handicapped. In the five-year Development Plan, the Planning Commission has made detailed proposals for rural extension service for organised intensive work at suitable areas consisting of groups of several villages.

The great river valley projects for improved irrigation, fertilizer projects, mechanization of agriculture, land reclamation, land reforms and such other schemes for harmonious development of agriculture in different spheres will, however, take time to complete, particularly in the present financial stringency of the Government. In the meantime, however, the increasing population will have to be fed. Then how else to produce enough food for them within a short period? The Government may not be prepared to import food-grains again and again except for building a reserve stock or meeting any grave unforeseen calamity.

We are particularly short of cereals and the deficit will go on increasing with the growth of population. It will be a difficult task to feed the entire population on cereals alone. There is, therefore, urgent need to search for other high yielding subsidiary food-crops which are rich in calories and can be cultivated easily and used as partial substitutes for cereals. Certain crops such as potatoes, sweet-potatoes, tapioca and plantains give higher yields of calories per unit area than cereals. Tapioca can be easily grown even on poor soils. The present average yield of tapioca and sweet-potato in India is of the order of 5-6 tons per acre, which is equivalent to about 1½ to 2 tons of dry food. Even this is about three

times the yield of cereals. By adopting improved methods of agriculture, it would be possible to get much higher yields of tapioca of the order of 10-15 tons per acre. It is, therefore, evident that one of the effective ways of meeting our present food shortage is to increase the acreage under high yielding tubers which will be used as supplementary foods and will thus minimise the pressure on cereals.

Tapioca and other tubers are, however, very poor source of protein. These tubers should, therefore, be consumed only as supplementary foods along with sufficient quantities of other foods richer in protein, such as, cereals, pulses, fish etc. Experiments conducted in the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, with experimental animals as well as with human subjects have shown that rice in our diet can be most conveniently replaced by tapioca to the extent of 25 per cent. The same Institute has also succeeded in suitably combining tapioca with specially prepared groundnut cake flour which is a rich source of proteins, vitamins and minerals and has produced synthetic grains. Good quality groundnut cake flour when prepared by suitable methods can also be consumed as a supplementary food by mixing with wheat or rice flour in suitable proportions. If the Government take up the production of the synthetic grain on a commercial scale and if these comparatively cheaper food-products are popularised, it will go a long way towards meeting our food shortage.

There is great scope for developing such other food-products which are fairly abundant but which are not normally considered as important food-sources. Such materials when suitably processed, offer great possibilities for augmenting our food resources. There is, however, a good deal of prejudice against the use of such forms of supplementary foods. This is largely sentimental and has no scientific basis. Neither prejudice nor tradition should stand in the way of changing people's food habits in times of emergency, especially when there is enough scientific evidence for utilization of these less

commonly used food materials. The use of such subsidiary foods should be popularised by practical demonstrations through special canteens. The All-India Women's Food Council has been trying to popularise tapioca-flour and *Soji* and other subsidiary foods.

Again, mere satisfaction of hunger should not be the ultimate aim of a satisfactory solution of India's food-problems. Our people need adequate supply of "protective" foods and well-balanced diets in order to tide over the present state of malnutrition. The increased growing of vegetables and fruits, especially green plantains and bananas, should be encouraged by all possible means. One of the potent methods of augmenting our food-supply is to produce increasing quantities of vegetables which can be grown in a very short time and the yield of which also, is quite high. The development of sea and inland fisheries is also one of the most promising means of meeting the present food scarcity and of improving the diet of the people. The Government Fisheries Departments of the states are doing useful work in order to improve the position in regard to adequate fish-supply. Additional dairies and poultrys should also be started so as to supply more of protective foods at a cheap rate. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, have amply demonstrated the immense possibilities of the production and consumption of vegetable milks, such as, soya-bean and groundnut milks which are valuable substitutes for natural milk. Production of such milks on a large scale would also go a long way towards meeting the present milk shortage of the country.

A satisfactory distribution at a low price of available food materials without any sort of hoarding and black-marketing is an essential task for feeding our entire population. Rationing should be extended to all other towns so as to ensure equitable distribution of food-stuffs. Again, quite a lot of food materials undergo spoilage during storage prior to distribution. Elimination of all wastage

by adopting improved scientific methods of storage and preservation of different types of perishable food materials is, therefore, equally important for solving our present food problems. Even partly spoilt food-grains can be reclaimed by scientific methods and can be rendered suitable for human consumption. No less important is the development of several food industries on sound economic lines. These are all problems of good management.

A permanent solution of the food problems of India lies not only in augmenting our food resources but also in checking the growth of our population. The population itself should be commensurate with the food produced. If the population goes on increasing indefinitely, its growth at some stage or other will outstrip the food-supply, even though considerable success in increasing our food production could be achieved. We can, therefore, safely say that we will have to try the path of some sort of social reforms and movements in inducing people to control the number of births, if we are to be self-sufficient in food on a permanent basis. It seems,

clear, therefore, that the state must encourage the practice of birth-control or what is called family planning. The success of social reform with regard to family limitation will depend mainly on public co-operation. The State, however, should provide adequate facilities for giving the individual families the practical education and advice on such matters. Most of the leading thinkers have voiced the opinion that a rise in the standard of living is an essential preliminary to family limitation. The postponement of the age of marriage may also have some effect in reducing population growth.

From the above considerations, it is concluded that India's food problems can be permanently solved by checking the growth of our population on the one hand, and on the other, by augmenting our food resources by all available means. It is also obvious that science occupies a most prominent place in solving our food problems in all aspects. The growth of scientific knowledge and technology has opened up abundant opportunities for the development of our food resources on a permanent basis.

## A TIME OF DESIRE

BY MR. EDWARD A. JAMESON

Time before and time after,—

The echoes of memory:

Eyes containing laughter;

Lips addressing me.

Time then and time before;

And a World that had just begun,

With the morning sun at our door

And a love that made us one.

Time before and time after,—

A time of desire and memory;

Eyes containing laughter,—

Lips addressing me.

Time bequeaths its total sum

Of time future with all time gone,

And only the remembering drum

Stirs now the heart of one.

# THE WATER PROBLEM IN INDIA:

## SUGGESTIONS FOR A PERMANENT SOLUTION

BY MR. FRED W. CORBETT

THE recent scarcity of drinking water in our large cities, particularly Madras, Bombay and Calcutta due to continued drought has brought home to us the unwisdom of depending entirely on large scale water supply schemes from rivers and reservoirs through long pipe lines. At the same time, the laudable, energetic and successful efforts of the engineers of the Madras Corporation have also taught us the practicability of obtaining fairly large supplies of good water from sub-soil supplies in and around our large cities.

Dependence entirely on pipe-borne water from a central reservoir, however large, has always proved unsatisfactory. The supplies prove inadequate for the growing needs of the city every few years. There is an acute shortage if the rains hold off in the catchment area, and worse still, if the supplies are cut off at any time by accident, enemy action or civil disturbance, the entire city goes without water. This is happening in Rangoon at the moment of writing, as insurgents have cut the 12 mile long pipe-line for the 10th time in eighteen months, and water brought from the nearby lakes is being sold at Rs. 1/8 per bucket. Fortunately Rangoon has large lakes nearby. The position elsewhere where there is not this advantage may well be imagined. It is desirable—nay, very necessary therefore, that we should profit by these experiences, and arrange for two parallel sources of water for all our large cities—one from a large reservoir, and the other from a number of wells sunk at suitable intervals around the perimeters of each city. If these are located away from the more populated areas, and protected against contamination, they can prove a useful source of supply at all times and an invaluable standby in times of need.

Nor should we stop at supplies for our larger cities only. Our whole policy in this respect needs to be changed in the light of the experiences of the last few years, where successive failures of

the monsoons have led to much loss and distress and perhaps with greater loss and more distress in the rural areas and small towns than in the larger cities.

Instead therefore, of embarking on expensive water supply schemes for the smaller municipal towns which cannot afford them, we should seriously consider whether a series of wells around their perimeters, with pump sets to pump the water into small reservoirs on the surface, will not be cheaper, more convenient, and more reliable than constructing one large reservoir damming a nearby river or stream at great cost, and leading the water through long pipelines into these smaller towns for use. Instead of expensive pipe lines which these small towns cannot afford, a small reservoir at the head of each bore well, and short pipe lines for connecting all the wells together to facilitate distribution as required would appear to be cheaper and more reliable than the present system of one central reservoir depending entirely on rainfall.

The same policy may be adopted for the agriculturist also. Too long have we depended entirely on the vagaries of the monsoon for our food crops. Too long have we gazed vainly at the cloudless skies, while copious supplies of precious water, cooled, purified, and filtered by nature, flow beneath our feet at accessible depths. While continuing to create as many small reservoirs as possible by damming our rivers and streams at suitable intervals, we should not depend entirely on them. The climate of India is too hot, and evaporation from surface waters is too excessive. The hotter the weather and the longer the drought the greater the loss from surface evaporation, and the loss of valuable water. Nor need we bother about these newfangled ideas of producing artificial rain, which have still to prove successful in India. There is plenty of water at workable depths below the surface, and we should tap it, not only to augment but to be an important source of water supply for town and countryside at all times.

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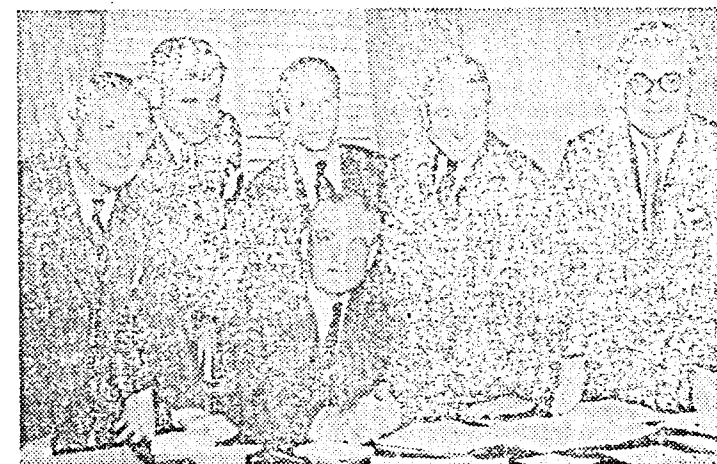
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According to the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Eluru, there is a contiguous zone 130 miles long and 30 miles broad, or an area of 3900 square miles in the Krishna and Godavari Districts alone, where underground water is met with at depths of from 60 to 160 feet. In connection with the pilot scheme for exploiting the lignite deposits in the South Arcot District, it is reported that water was encountered at fairly shallow depths. There must therefore be scores of such extensive but undiscovered reservoirs of underground water all over the country. In the drought stricken areas of North Madras, army engineers have been successful in extracting copious supplies of much needed water from the apparently parched earth. The situation there has been somewhat eased by the recent rains, but there should be no let up, nor slackening off in our efforts to provide water from subterranean sources. Now that our eyes have been opened to the possibilities of this source of supply we should adopt a vigorous policy of locating all such sources of supply and of bringing them to the surface for use.

This does not mean that we should neglect our large and small dams and our large and small river schemes. The

construction of a large number of small reservoirs at suitable sites depending on the contour of the land should also proceed apace with the larger and more expensive schemes. At present only six per cent of the water in our rivers and streams is usefully employed, while no less than 94 per cent flows uselessly to the sea, causing at times death and devastation on the way. We should continue these river schemes until we impound at least thirty per cent of the available water for our use. Side by side, we should develop extensive parallel supplies from our underground resources, to supplement the river supplies in normal times, and to serve as a stand by in times of continued drought. The peasant then need not have to wait long months, and perhaps in vain for the elusive rains, but may proceed with this sowing, assured of sufficient supplies of water to raise two, or may be three crops a year, while everyone, whether in town or country can be assured of a sufficient supply of drinking water, whether the rains are in time or sufficient in quantity or not. This combination of rain supplies with underground supplies appears to point the way to a final and lasting solution of this eternal problem of water supply for India.



Mr. John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State (seated) with members of Foreign Affairs Department of the United States.

# INDIA'S CULTURE ABROAD

BY ASHA DHAR, M.A.

THE high ideas and ideals of 'Greater India' were spread by our ancestors beyond the Himalayas and the deserts of Central Asia. Inspired with the spirit of noble adventure, they crossed the oceans to distant lands, following the ancient motto of Vedic Rishis, "Move on, move on." From the dawn of civilisation, India realised the essential oneness of the human race. With every age she made fresh advancements, both in the inner and outer fields of human activity, and what she achieved she regarded and shared as the common property of mankind.

## CULTURAL AMBASSADORS

Culture is the characteristic way of life of a people which has persisted down the ages. It shapes the social institutions and gives a peculiar direction and purpose to the intellectual and aesthetic outlook of the individual in society. Reflected in the collective outlook of the people, India's culture possesses a unique continuity of tradition. Unlike that of Egypt and Greece, it never lost its vitality of fundamental values, in spite of varying civilizations and tragic vicissitudes of history. Like a tower of light India's culture of self-perfection radiated its light throughout the wide world, beckoning man on to the realisation of his highest spiritual destiny. "Like the gentle dew," said Swami Vivekananda, "that fell unseen and unheard and yet brings into blossom the fairest of roses, has been the contribution of India to the thought of the world. Silent, unperceived yet omniscient in its effect, it has revolutionised the thought of the world."

Despite geographical barriers and primitive means of communication India spread the gospel of Vedanta to distant corners of the world. From the Rishis went forth the call of the Upanishads to the whole of mankind to come and share with them the delight of their spiritual vision. In a word, the Vedanta, as the Upanishads are called, represents the highest spiritual idealism of ancient India. India had intercourse with Europe

as early as the 10th century B. C. Manned by oars and muscular power, ships launched from India, carrying cargo as well as cultural ambassadors to the distant royal courts and seats of learning of the Mediterranean region. There was a return of the compliment. This regular exchange of ideas had a mission and a purpose: a quest after realisation, a divine perfection.

Thus did ancient philosophers of Rome and Greece derive their knowledge from Indian Rishis. The University town of Taxila was the favourite haunt of Greek scholars. Many Greeks made India their home and embraced Hinduism or Buddhism. Plato, a disciple of Socrates and a great admirer of the Pythagorean school, was greatly indebted to India. While on a cultural tour in Asian countries he is said to have visited Persia and stayed in India too. His idea of the Sankhya philosophy that soul is bound to matter is Indian in origin. Says Hopkins: "Plato is full of Sankhyan thought." His thesis in *the Republic* is only a restatement of Indian ideas. His divisions of the society into guilds is nothing but the Hindu caste system. MaxMuller holds that it is sometimes startling to find similarity between Plato's language and that of the Upanishads. Likewise Plotinus was influenced greatly by the Sankhya thought. The doctrine of reincarnation of Pythagoras is undoubtedly of Indian origin.

## BUDDHIST INFLUENCE AND LORE

To Central Asia in the north, to Indonesia and Ceylon in the south and from Persian lands in the west to China and Japan in the East, India disseminated its rich culture, ripe religious thought and unique art and literature. In post-Vedic times Buddhism was the powerful force of India's cultural expansion. It is supposed to have influenced Christian faith considerably. Among the Greeks Plotinus was greatly influenced by the Buddhist conception of Nirvana. Ashoka, the first internationalist of history, sent out goodwill missions to different lands—Mediterranean shores in the west and

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Ceylon and Indonesia in the east—thereby 'conquering' the three continents with his spiritual weapon of world peace and world fellowship.

Fables and stories of India form a substantial part of the folklore of the west. The oldest folk stories and fables of India contained in the *Panchtantra* and the *Hitopadesha* spread to distant lands through sailors and merchants. These stories of the *Panchtantra*, acclaimed to be the best in the world, were later translated into almost all the languages of the world. Aesop's Fables are originally the Greek translation of the stories of the *Panchtantra*. The Arabian Nights, Sindbad the Sailor (filmed in Hollywood and India) have Hindu origin and many Indian references.

Not only in thought and literature, but in the exact sciences Indian influence on western thought has been remarkable. India gave to the world the place-value of the most valuable of all the numerals 'Zero.' Algebra and Geometry owe their origin to India and were carried by the Arabs to the west.

No other medium expressed the soul of India as did dancing. Classical Indian ballet and other dancing is one of the great contributions of India to the modern world art. Indian dance styles are extant in South-East Asian countries. The troupes of Uday Shankar, Menaka, Ram Gopal and Mrinalini Sarabhai, who combine the old and the new styles of Indian dancing, have won laurels abroad.

## CHINA AND TIBET

The interesting epoch of India's cultural expansion began in the year 60 A.D. when the Chinese Emperor Ming-ti saw a vision of the Buddha and sent missionaries to trace out the Buddhist cult in India. Thus dawned Indo-Chinese cultural ties. The relations between India and China date back to over 2,000 years but these had never been political. The two oldest people of history have thus been united by a strong bond of cultural relationship. Chinese arts, crafts, music, painting and sciences like astronomy, pharmacy and medicine bear the impress of Indian ideas. Scholars from China studied at the Nalanda University,

Much more evidence could have been available of Indo-Chinese kinship in so many spheres but the relics of their relationship were destroyed by Muslim iconoclasts along with the famous Nalanda University. Happily, much of that material does exist in Chinese. With the present-day cultural exchange between India and China, many of those ancient priceless relics may be brought to light.

In mid-fifth century dawned the Indian influence in Tibet when a Nepalese princess married a Tibetan King—Chancellor of the University of Vikramila, Dishankar (the Buddhist saint of Bengal) founded in Tibet the 'School of Tantrik Buddhism' at the request of the King of Tibet. In the 3rd century B.C. Buddhism was carried to Ceylon by Ashoka's younger brother, Mahendra.

Literary and Archaeological evidences prove that the entire culture and civilization of Burma is of Indian origin. The art and sculpture of Burma are manifestly Indian in spirit and workmanship. In Siam Ramayana episodes are illustrated on the walls of the royal temple of Bangkok. The effect of Indian culture is very much manifest in Kambuja. Kambuja rulers followed the Kautliya Hindu policy in administering the country.

About 2nd century A. D. Indian ideas entered the provinces of Annam. Sanskrit was the court language. Various forms of dance and music in Annam were directly Indian in origin and the great Epics of India were familiar to the people. The group of islands comprising the Malaya archipelago has been another outpost of Indian culture.

In the 4th century Fa-hein found Brahmanism flourishing in Java. The art of Java is a creation of Indo-Javanese collaboration. Likewise, geological and other evidences go to show cultural influence in Borneo. Indian influence is evinced in the handicrafts and in the old names of the coins used in the Philippines.

## BEYOND THE ATLANTIC

Not only in Asia and Europe, but in America also have been found traces of Indian culture. An icon discovered in Mexico shows that the Hindu god Ganesha was worshipped there. Temples

in Mexico are based on those of South India. The poetry of Peru bears the imprint of the Ramayana on each page. Says Chamanlal in his epoch-making book *Hindu America*: "The beliefs of these Americans in the four Hindu *yugas* (epochs), their *Gurukula* scheme of education, Panchayat system, worship of Indra, Ganesha and other Hindu gods, practice of Hindu religious dances, and child-birth, marriage and death ceremonies, including *Sati* prove beyond doubt that the Hindus were the first to discover America," (concluding italics mine.)

Eminent scholars like Hewitt, Mackenzie, Tod Pocke and Mrs. Muttal have shown that America had been under the sway of Indian culture. The dancing of the people at the time of harvesting and reaping of crops and the belief of American rulers in the four *yugas* of the Hindus prove this thesis. The Red Indians still observe the Hindu festival of Dussehra. In the words of Hewitt, the Bengali ceremony of Charak Puja still exists in America." Perhaps this historical (cultural) background has contributed to the devotion and following that India's modern sages have had and are continuing to be in the New World.

#### MODERN RENAISSANCE

India has been attempting to explain to the world the truth that shines undaunted in her soul. The most important event for India to come in American thought was the voice of Swami Vivekananda as the Hindu delegate at the Parliament of Religions in 1895. Said he: "Once more the world must be conquered by India." His conquest was to be had through spirituality, philosophy and the brotherhood of man through Vedanta. Swami Ram Tirtha also preached Vedantic ideas throughout the world. Modern Ireland has had Indian ideas infused in her, ideas very much apparent in the Irish literary renaissance. Morvena Donnelly, a noted Irish writer, eulogised Sri Aurobindo's philosophy. Romain Rolland's work on Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi show the understanding reverence with which he studied them.

India's culture forms the subject of special study at many places in the east and the west. *Institut de civilisation Indienne* is a well-known institution in France which aims at promoting the study of India's life and culture. Indologists of Europe and Russia have added to the cultural heritage of the world through their researches on the evolution of India's thought and culture. Yoga Ashrams in Holland, Norway, London and different cities of the United States not only give training in India's yoga but also ideas about her ancient and still dynamic culture.

In the words of Sisir Kumar Mitra, "The rise of Rabindranath Tagore to world-wide fame is another cause of India's figuring more prominently in the intellectual horizon of humanity." This great interpreter of India's thought was fortunate to receive the world's homage during his lifetime. Visva-Bharati is a standing monument unto his noble endeavours; in the Poet's own words, "Visva-Bharati acknowledges India's obligation to offer to others the hospitality of her best culture and India's right to accept from others their best." The spirit of India's culture is being imbibed here by scholars from all countries.

The brilliant expositions and works of Radhakrishnan have indeed had a stirring appeal to the mind of the modern man and raised India to eminence in the world. Aldous Huxley has interpreted this philosophy to the west. India's contributions to modern art, and science has been acknowledged in western countries.

Somerset Maugham, the great English novelist, is so much enamoured of the Indian culture that he advises prospective writers to come to India for knowledge of the higher values of life. The greatest spiritual force of the world, India nourishes fountain sources of eternal life, which are the only hope for the spiritual resurrection of humanity—badly needed in the atom-bomb age. Heralded in India, a new age may come upon mankind. This is how India will fulfil her ancient vision—manifested in her unique culture down the ages—and fulfil her peaceful and peace-giving mission.

## THE KASHMIRI LANGUAGE

BY SRI J. L. K. JALALI

THE Constitution of India has recognised Kashmiri as a regional language. The Government of Kashmir has introduced Kashmiri as a medium of instruction in the Government schools upto the fifth standard. And text books have been written printed and published accordingly. But the medium of writing is not the same old Sharda script previously in vogue in the country when Sanskrit was the written and spoken language and when later Kashmiri also used to be written in private, un-official and non-Government communications. Upto the fourteenth century Sanskrit was the recognised language, and when the Government changed hands and Sultan Shamsuddin, a refugee from Swat, deposed Kota Rani and usurped the throne of Kashmir, Sanskrit began to make room for Persian and Arabic terminology till it was finally ousted from the field, and Persian became the Court language. The result was that since Kashmiri could not be conveniently written in Persian characters, even private correspondence was conducted in Persian just as it is still done in English nowadays.

It is a laudable step that the Government of Kashmir has taken in reviving Kashmiri as a written language when there is a real need for it and especially when a rank of honour has been conferred on it by the Indian Constitution. The only question is whether the script should be the Persian one or the old Sharda or some other script. The Government seems to have the consideration of the majority in adopting the Persian script. There is apparently no objection to having this script, but when one examines the script at closer quarters he finds that the alphabet for the Kashmiri language has become cumbersome and confusing. The Persian alphabet has been kept intact, and in addition fresh vowel symbols and diacritical marks have been introduced as have increased the number of vowels and consonants. Kashmiri language makes no distinction between different sounds of several letter-groups; for example, ze, zoad, zoi and zal; se, sin and soad; tui

and te; kaf and kaf; e and ye; fe and phe; he and he; de and dal; ghain and gaf. But when these letters have been retained in the script though unwanted in the Kashmiri language, naturally the objection arises. This is met by the sponsors of the script by the argument that since in Kashmiri, Persian and Arabic words are used which are written by given letters, it would be wrong to change them in the Kashmiri language and replace them by different letters which is bound to cause confusion. Apparently this has force: but when we weigh this argument in the practical balance of adaptation and infantile-brain taxation the contention falls to the ground. The point is that the Kashmiri language has to be remade and for this purpose the script should be simple and easy and not involuted and weighted to the learner's disadvantage. America is simplifying the English system of word-making: Russia has adopted the phonetic system. To think of writing a certain Persian or Arabic word with given letters and thus make the script too heavy is putting clogs on the progress of language making. If the majority consideration weighs with the Government or the Committee in charge of the Kashmiri language, the one thing that they can do to simplify it is to eliminate unnecessary letters and content themselves with as small a number of vowels and consonants as would make it easier to learn, read and write the language. The present experience is that it is very difficult to read and write the language in the script as devised by the Committee concerned. All the same they deserve to be congratulated for their ready compliance with Government's wishes.

To revive the old Sharda script and adopt it instead is a good idea. I would be the first person to do so. But a consideration, greater than all other local and cultural considerations, weighs with me. India has after regaining its independence made Hindi in Devanagiri the *lingua franca* of the country; and when there is practically no difference between the Sharda and Devanagiri so

far as their alphabetical content is concerned, it is more patriotic to adopt the Devanagari script as that would on the one hand help learning Kashmiri and on the other introduce the learner to the Rashtra Bhasha of Hindi. Sharda would become isolated and it would mean learning a third script for reading and writing of HINDI. And Sharda would have the same objection from the Government as Hindi seems to have. It is said Kashmir is a non-Hindi area but so far as the State as a whole is concerned it cannot be called so. Jammu reads and writes Hindi, in Kashmir the non-Muslims read and write Hindi though they are not averse to Persian or Urdu which is written in the same characters as Persian and in which the general correspondent writes his communications. My only justification for having Devanagari script is not that it is the script of the All India Language, but because it is far easier to write Kashmiri in this script with a little change in the vowel-symbols of the Devanagari. I have printed a Kashmiri Primer in Devanagari script and it has been appreciated by Kashmiri scholars and outside linguists. Dr. Raghu Vira, Director of the International Academy for Indian Culture has called it "simple and beautiful". I do not press the adoption of the script, in place of the Persian, but do suggest its recognition as an alternative so that in course of time the non-Hindi knowing Kashmiri may also take advantage of the script and be able to learn the Devanagari script for learning Hindi which every one in India has to and must learn; and since Kashmir has also acceded to India, every Kashmiri should learn Hindi as a citizen of India and in this the Kashmiri script in Devanagari will be helpful.

I have written two Kashmiri Dramas in Kashmiri Language in the simplified script. I have suggested to the Government to have a Drama printed in both scripts or if they publish it in their script I shall print it in the alternative script. These are the first Kashmiri Dramas for none have so far been written or even attempted. And since it

is the earnest wish of every Kashmiri to make the Kashmiri language a rich and commodious regional and feeder language, the public should not feel the fetters of script and bias hampering its mental unfoldment. It is true Persian influence has been very great in Kashmir, and Kashmiri scholars adopted Persian as their second mother-tongue. Kashmir has now rightly rejected the two-Nation theory of Pakistan; not only politically but culturally and educationally, and as such the Government should not think in terms of palatability or otherwise of a word or script, because after all Kashmiris have as components and constituents of the Great Indian Republic to become real citizens of India in the true sense of the term.

Sharda has the only commendation of being the script of the Kashmiris in the past before the advent of Islam; but after the Muslim ascendancy and conversion of Hindu masses the language itself changed from Sanskrit to Persian, and from Persian to Urdu under the Dogras; and simple Urdu is now the Court language. If for some time Urdu continues to have this privilege, in course of time it shall have to make room for the Hindi language in Devanagari script. As such the adoption of the Sharda script does not seem to fit in with the future curriculum regarded from the all-India standpoint. If the Government of Kashmir adopted the alternative Devanagari script it would prove useful to the Kashmiri in more than one ways.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

THE Editor solicits contributions on all topics of general interest, and in particular on subjects bearing on the political, cultural and economic condition of India. Short articles on topical subjects and short stories are preferred. Contributions accepted and published will be paid for.

It may be stated that a page of the Review takes in about 600 words.

All contributions and books for review should be addressed to the Editor, *The Indian Review*, George Town, Madras.

## FROM MY NOTEBOOK

BY "BEE"

### GRAY'S PROPHECY

*One of the most remarkable prophecies ever recorded was made by Thomas Gray, the poet. These lines were written by him in 1737.*

The time will come when thou shalt't lift thine eyes

To watch a long drawn battle in the skies; While aged peasants too amazed for words Stare at the flying fleets of wondrous birds. England, so long the mistress of the sea Where winds and waves confess her sovereignty

Her ancient triumphs yet on high shall bare And reign the sovereign of the conquered air.

*Students of literature are familiar with the lines in Tennyson's Locksley Hall where the poet dips far into the future and sees argosies of magic sails and the nations' airy navies grappling in the central blue—till the battle flags are furl'd in the Parliament of Man and the Federation of the World-ideas so closely approximating to the United Nations and its General Assembly. Here are the swinging lines with the cadence of a marching song:*

For I dipt into the future, far as human eye could see,  
Saw the Vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be:

Saw the heavens fill with commerce,  
argosies of magic sails,  
Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping down with costly bales:

Heard the heavens fill with shouting,  
and there rain'd a ghostly dew,  
From the nations' airy navies grappling in the central blue:

Far along the world-wide whisper of the south wind rushing warm,  
With the standards of the peoples plunging thro' the thunder storm:

Till the war-drums throbb'd no longer,  
and the battle flags were furl'd,  
In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world.

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### THE COMING OF SPRING

*As every season seems best to us in its turn, so the coming of spring is like the creation of Cosmos out of Chaos and the realisation of the Golden Age, says Thoreau in his "Walden."*

A single gentle rain makes the grass many shades greener. So our prospects brighten on the influx of better thoughts. We should be blessed if we lived in the present always and took advantage of every accident that befell us, like the grass which confesses the influence of the slightest dew that falls on it; and did not spend our time in atoning for the neglect of past opportunities, which we call doing our duty. We loiter in winter while it is already spring. In a pleasant spring morning all men's sins are forgiven. Such a day is a truce to vice. While such a sun holds out to burn, the vilest sinner may return. Through our own recovered innocence we discern the innocence of our neighbours.

### BRITISH ARISTOCRACY

*Michelet saw in British history the success of a selfish aristocracy in keeping its power.*

"England defended its aristocratic abuses," he wrote, "by finding scope outside: in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in North America and the spoliation of Spain; in the eighteenth in the spoliation of France and the conquest of India; in the nineteenth in her colonial expansion."

*Another aspect of the tenacity and vitality of this governing power was described in Mr. Belloc's famous satire on a modern general election:*

The accursed power which stands on Privilege  
(And goes with Women, and Champagne, and Bridge)  
Broke—and Democracy resumed her reign:  
(Which goes with Bridge, and Women, and Champagne).

## ENGLAND IN 1940

Mr. Churchill made these startling revelations about conditions in 1940 :

If Hitler had invaded Britain, there would have been a terrible shambles in this country because we had hardly a weapon. . . We had lost all our equipment at Dunkirk and in France, and, indeed, we were spared an agonizing trial. Britain would have gone on fighting almost entirely without them. . . In the crisis of 1940 it was no more than sober truth to say that Britain saved the freedom of mankind. . . I have a feeling sometimes that some guiding hand has interfered. I have a feeling that we had a guardian because we serve a great cause and that we shall have that guardian so long as we serve that cause faithfully.

## THE POET AND NIAGARA

Edward Carpenter, visited America in his twenties and received impressions which were to prove lifelong. He met Emerson, Russell, Lowell, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Whitman. "The other thing that fascinated me," he writes in his autobiography, "was Niagara.

I stayed there four days all alone, looking at the falls all the time, feeling their earth-shaking roar under my feet by day and in bed at night, and watching that strange calm sentinel, that column of white spray which, like a great spirit, exhales itself into the immense height of the sky over the roaring gulf, and which, rainbow-tinted in the sun or glistening mysterious in the moon by night, seems to overlook the land for far and wide around. It was the only thing I saw which seemed quite to match Walt Whitman in spirit."

## THEMISTOCLES AND HIS SON

"My boy," Themistocles, the soldier and statesman, once said to his young son, "you are the most powerful person in all Greece."

"How can that be?" asked the lad.

"Because," answered Themistocles, "the Athenians command all of Greece; I command the Athenians; your mother commands me; and you command your mother!"

## DECLARATION AND CONSTITUTION

The famous phrase "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" often mistakenly attributed to the American Constitution actually come from the Declaration of Independence of eleven years earlier (July 4, 1776.)

"We hold these truths to be self-evident," the passage begins, "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

But the Constitution of 1787 also has its stirring opening :

"We, the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

The erratic capitals are those of the original texts.

## THE CHINESE WAY

In the 16th century, before Japan had closed herself to foreigners, she was ruled for the Emperor by Hideyoshi, a would-be Napoleon. He had dreams of Asiatic conquest as extensive as those of Japanese militarists in the days before Pearl Harbour. After he had unified Japan, he decided that he would next take over China. Accordingly, he sent a message to the Chinese Emperor demanding submission. The answer was peculiarly Chinese.

The Emperor sent an envoy to Hideyoshi with an imposing document rolled up in a scroll. Hideyoshi was jubilant. A magnificent ceremony was arranged, and with appropriate fanfare the envoy delivered the scroll.

Imagine Hideyoshi's surprise when the scroll was unrolled and he read that the Chinese Emperor was pleased to appoint Hideyoshi "King of Japan."

## CHARACTER

Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.

— Abraham Lincoln.

## THE SANCTUARY

One of the significant points of discussion at the Gandhian Seminar at Delhi centred on what is known as the Sanctuary system. Whatever may be the modern practice there is no doubt it was in vogue in medieval England. In one of his Short Studies on Great Subjects, the historian J. A. Froude throws curious light on the habits of the times. A Bishop of the twelfth century, St. Hugo of Avalon who became Bishop of Lincoln, riding thro' St. Albans, met the Sheriff with the posse comitatus escorting a felon to the gallows. The prisoner threw himself before the bishop and claimed protection. The Bishop reined in his horse and asked who the man was :

"My Lord," said the Sheriff shortly, "it is no affair of yours; let us pass and do our duty."

"Eh!" then said Hugo. "Blessed be God; we will see about that; make over the man to me; and go back and tell the Judges that I have taken him from you."

"My Lords Judges," he said, when they came to remonstrate, "I need not remind you of the Church's privilege of Sanctuary; understand that where the bishop is, the Church is. He who can consecrate the sanctuary carries with him the sacredness of the sanctuary."

The humiliation of an English King at Becket's tomb had been a lesson too severe and too recent to be forgotten. "We may not dispute with you," the Judges replied; "if you choose to let this man go we shall not oppose you, but you must answer for it to the King's Highness."

"So be it," answered Hugo, "you have spoken well. I charge myself with your prisoner. The responsibility will be mine."

The historian adds there was probably something more in the case than appears on the surface. "The Sanctuary system worked in mitigation of a law which in itself was frightfully cruel, and there may have been good reason why the life of the poor wretch should have been spared. The Bishop set him free."

## MENTAL STOCK TAKING

How can a man perform a mental stock taking, asks Arnold Bennett. How can he put a value on what he gets from books? How can he effectively test, in cold blood, whether he is receiving from literature all that literature has to give him? The test, he tells us, is not so vague nor so difficult, as might appear.

If a man is not thrilled by intimate contact with nature; with the sun, with the earth, which is his origin and the arouser of his acutest emotions—

If he is not troubled by the sight of beauty in many forms—

If he is devoid of curiosity concerning his fellowmen and his fellow animals—

If he does not have glimpses of the unity of all things in an orderly progress—

If he is chronically 'querulous, dejected, and envious'—

If he is pessimistic—

If he is of those who talk about 'this age of shams,' 'this age without ideals,' 'this hysterical age,' and this heaven-knows-what-age—

Then that man, though he reads undisputed classics for twenty hours a day, though he has a memory of steel, though he rivals Porson in scholarship and Sante Beuve in judgment, is not receiving from literature what literature has to give. Indeed, he is chiefly wasting his time.

## WITH NO MALICE

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations.—From Second Inaugural Lincoln's Address (1865).

# Nomination of Candidates for Election

BY SRI SRI RAM SHARMA, M.A.,

Director, Institute of Public Administration, Sholapur.

FOLLOWING earlier practices, the election law at present provides several stages in the emergence of candidates to fight elections. There is first the filing of nomination papers. The ranks of the candidates might be thinned at the next stage when scrutiny of nomination papers is held by the Returning Officer. He is authorized to consider objections raised by some. One having the right to do so—against either the candidates or their capacity to fill in the form correctly. The first takes the form of asserting that the candidate has attracted anyone of the 'disabilities' which destroyed his right to contest the election. The second is, of course, a reflection on his capacity to be a good legislator. If he cannot correctly fill even his nomination form, he could not be, it is assumed—and rightly—a fit candidate for election to a legislature. The scrutiny over, the list of the validly nominated candidates is ready. The law assumes, however, that some of the candidates might change their minds and some might have filed nomination paper just for fun and not with a view to contest the election at all. Three days are, therefore, allowed for withdrawal of candidature. When this period is over, a list of contestants for the election is published.

The conduct of the last election shows that some of these provisions were either needless or promoted undemocratic if not dishonest practices. The interval of three days between scrutiny and publication of the final list of candidates, however necessary in the personal interest of some candidates or partisan interests of some political parties, failed to make the nomination of candidates that final and decisive affair which it is in most democratic countries. Why assume that some candidates would like to withdraw after they had been validly nominated? Of course, several candidates did withdraw their candidature in the last election; that was because the law allowed them to stand even when they

had no intention to contest the election. However inconvenient it may be to some 'professional' politicians or to some political parties or groups, it is time that we stopped such frivolous if not pernicious candidature. No withdrawals need be permitted at law because political parties ought to be able to make up their minds whom they are going to set up as their candidates at the time of the nomination i.e., 10 days earlier than at present. Just as the law frowns on frivolous litigation it should frown on frivolous candidature for election as well. It should, at least, do nothing to encourage such candidature.

This brings us to another aspect of the election. Filing of nomination papers and scrutiny thereof are at present two processes seven days apart. Whatever reasons there might have been for this interval when constituencies were immensely large and when candidates needed time to look into the case histories of their rivals, there is no reason why this provision should continue to disfigure the Statute Book now that the constituencies are much smaller. At present the returning officer is entitled to consider objections raised against a nominee by persons authorized to make objections. Seven days' interval is probably intended for the purpose of giving would-be objectors' time enough for raising objections. Two types of objections have usually been raised so far. A candidate may be so ignorant or so incompetent—or the party putting him up may so lack experience—that he fails to fill in the nomination form correctly in some essential matter. This is a matter primarily for the returning officer to settle and there is no reason why he should not be able to decide it as soon as he receives the form. Neither need the candidate be inconvenienced in this process; he can bring his legal adviser with him to help him answer such objections as may be raised against his competency to fill the form correctly. . . .

But there remains the second type of objections against a candidate. He may

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have attracted 'disabilities' under the law and may therefore be not competent to stand for election. The first thing required of a would-be maker of law should be that he knows the law as it applies to him in this first plunge in the legislative arena. The nomination form should contain a declaration by the candidate that he is competent to stand for election. The election law should provide that a false declaration would be a major electoral offence and disqualify the candidate for standing for six years. This provision would certainly lead to a candidate's looking into his own qualifications—or disqualifications—with more care. No one need then feign surprise if the law took its course. . . .

The correct thing to do is to assume now—after the first election—that no party is so barren of political talent that it would try to set up a candidate who was disqualified under the law or so lacking in political sagacity as to raise frivolous objections against other candidates. Nor is it too much to ask that if a citizen thinks himself wise enough to set himself up as an independent candidate he should at least know the law about his disqualifications. Even if he did not, the declaration would make him do so. And if he finds it too much for his talents, nobody need sympathise with him if the returning officer politely tells him that he is debarred from entering the political arena.

The declaration could be made as ample and as full as possible. It could set down every disqualification known to the law and make the candidate deny each in turn. It would thus put the onus of stating the law—bare law only—on the election commission and give the candidate enough help in the matter. It would also make it impossible for some of the legislatures to attempt to remove the disqualifications of some of their members by *ex-post-facto* legislation. . . .

Of course, it would be possible to other candidates to raise objections to a candidature on matters of fact. They do not need a week for finding flaws in the qualifications of their rivals. They would have all the time they need in the prenomination period. No candidate can afford to keep his candidature secret till the last day

of the nomination. If he does, his election campaign is likely to suffer.

The scrutiny of nomination paper should see a final declaration of the candidates seeking election. The acceptance of nomination papers should be not a partisan affair but a civic function in which the administration and all the candidates should be participating. An improper rejection entails considerable public expenditure and fines all the candidates the expenses of a new election. It should be the duty of the government to appoint such persons as returning officers as may be expected to know the law. The experience of the members of the various election tribunals can be well utilized at the next general election by making some of them returning officers. It can be easily secured that public servants likely to be appointed returning officers should have at least six months' notice of their likely appointment though they need not be told where they are likely to be posted. It should be the official duty of a government advocate to be present in order to assist the returning officer in ascertaining the law. In performing this function the Government advocate should represent not the administration but the Election Commission. As has been suggested earlier, the returning officer should be called upon to scrutinize all applications on his own. This would avoid the spectacle of a returning officer accepting a nomination paper of a candidate obviously—on official records—disqualified because no objection was raised against his nomination. . . .

It may be said that this provides no guarantee against improper rejection. But nothing can provide a remedy against human frailties. All that the law need provide is that persons who are vested with the power to scrutinize nomination papers would be competent enough to do so. If a machinery for appealing against alleged improper rejection speedily is provided, it may be so inundated with application as to become incapable of functioning effectively during the period provided for the purpose. If appellate machinery is to be provided on such a large scale as to enable it to sit in

judgment on almost every rejection, the same purpose could be easily served by vesting the proposed appellate authority with power to scrutinize nominations in the first instance and dispose of them finally. This would avoid the cost of providing for and arguing an appeal and allow the elections to be held speedily, even more speedily than the last elections. Of course, it may be necessary to reconcile the judgment of the election tribunals in matters where they happen to be contradictory. This can be done effectively only at the highest level. When all the cases arising one of the first election have been decided the President may refer the varying interpretation of the law by the election tribunals to the Supreme Court for its advisory opinion. This would become the law of the land at the next election.

It is suggested therefore that the present law be modified by amending

Section 30 of the Representation of the People Act. Clauses B and C should be dropped so that there is no withdrawal of candidature and no separate date for scrutiny. The present section 35 should be repealed so that there is no publication of candidates nominated. Section 36 should follow Section 30. Sub-section (1) should be omitted and the rest of the section should become section 35. Section 37 should be omitted. Section 38 should come, with appropriate changes, at the end of the new Section 35. Similar and consequential changes will have to be made elsewhere as well. Clause (c) of Section 100 will have to be omitted so that improper acceptance or rejection will not be a ground for declaring an election to be void.

This procedure will not need any amendment of the Constitution. Only the Representation of the People Act will have to be amended. . . .

## ESTATE DUTY BILL

BY SRI V. P. KRISHNAN NAMBIAR, M.A., B.L., Advocate.

### HISTORICAL

THE Estate Duty Bill which was introduced in the Indian Parliament in the last November Session is a wholesome measure which had been delayed all these years for one reason or other. Recently in the February Session, the Finance Minister sought the permission of the House to extend the time for the return of the Select Committee Report till 31st March 1953. Article 269 (1) (a) of the Indian Constitution provides for the levy of duties in respect of property other than agricultural land, by the Government of the Indian Union. Under Section 137 of the Government of India Act 1935 duties in respect of succession to property other than agricultural land was to be levied and collected by the Federal Government. But there existed serious doubts as to whether the Central Government could levy an Estate Duty or Succession duty based on the English model. On a reference by the Governor-General in 1944 under Sec. 213

of the Act for opinion, the Federal Court of India by a Majority of two to one held that such a duty will not fall in any of the legislative lists. Consequently the Act of 1935 was amended to confer power on the Central Legislature to levy an estate duty in respect of properties other than agricultural land. The provision was maintained in the Government of India Act of 1935 as modified and adapted by the India (Provisional Constitutional) Order 1947. The new Indian Constitution of 1950 placed the matter beyond doubt by providing for the levy of an Estate Duty as well as Succession duty by the Union Government. Article 269 (2) lays down that such collections shall not form part of the consolidated Fund of India but shall be assigned to and distributed among those States in accordance with such principles of distribution as may be formulated by the Parliament by law.

### ESTATE DUTY EXPLAINED

Though the occasion for the levy of the duty under either category is the

death of a person, the two taxes differ widely. Estate duty takes into account the value of the property constituting the estate of the deceased, and the duty is graduated with reference to total account of property so passing on the death of a person independent of the individual on whom it devolves. The succession duty on the other hand, looks not to the size of the estate left by the deceased, but to the size of the separate shares received by the beneficiaries, and as the windfall element increases with the distance of relationship to the deceased, it is often graduated further on that principle. The levy of Estate Duty has been the leading feature of all progressive countries in the world in their financial system. Such duties have found special recognition in the financial system of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The Australian and the Canadian constitutions have also provided for such duties. The Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee in their Report in 1925 strongly advocated the levy of an estate duty by the Central Government who should distribute the proceeds to the respective provinces. But hardly had the Committee made its recommendation when the British Government appointed the Simon Commission in 1927 to review the entire Indian Constitution. The protracted deliberations were settled only in 1935 by the passing of the Government of India Act. The 27 years that have elapsed after the Committee first recommended an Estate Duty for India have confirmed the wisdom of the measure and the imperative need for such taxation. The main object of an Estate Duty is to assist the States to Finance their development schemes and their nation-building projects which require large capital and to leaven their disparity in their social services. The commercial and industrial magnates that have sprung up in the land in recent years, and the enormous private fortune made by individuals during World War II (1939-45) aggravating the grave inequality which already existed, have further demonstrated that the Bill is a wise measure in the right direction at the opportune moment. The Duty will go a long way to stave off the great disparity in wealth between class and

class, and will set the country moving towards the more equitable distribution of national wealth and property according to the concept of a Social State to which India is moving under the "inevitability of gradualness."

The Bill does not provide for the rate of duty or the taxable minimum above which the duty will be imposed. They are to be decided by the Annual Finance Acts. Under Clause 50 of the Bill every legal representative of a deceased person, every person to whom any interest, however small it may be is liable to pay the estate duty on the whole estate. In the event of any dispute among rival claimants to the Estate, the Controller appointed under the provisions of the Bill is to decide the dispute, and there is a right of appeal to the Central Board of Revenue at New Delhi, whose decision shall be final. The valuation of the estate left by the deceased is to be done by the Controller on the basis of the list supplied by the legal representatives with the help of valuers if necessary. In the absence of any such list, the Controller may make his own investigation. The jurisdiction of the Civil Courts, including the High Court and the Supreme Court is excluded in such matters, except in a very restricted sense under Clauses 59 and 60 which permit a reference to the Superior Courts under conditions specified therein.

In the case of joint Hindu families the duty is payable to the extent to which the benefit accrues or arises on account of the ceasing of interest of a deceased member of a coparcenary. The Bill makes an exemption in the case of property which passes to the widow on the death of her husband. Duty realised in respect of agricultural land in a state shall be assigned to that state after it has passed the necessary legislation for such levy.

### OBJECTIONS ANSWERED

Much of the criticism against the Estate Duty Bill is one-sided. The Indian Constitution provides that the Estate duty shall be levied and collected by the Union Government and shall be distributed by the Centre thus guarding against possible difference in the rate of levy if left to individual States. As for the doubts as to whether

the return under the duty will be commensurate with the cost of collection, there is no conclusive data to express one way or the other. The Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee who enquired into the question did recommend such a duty as a profitable source of revenue to the Government to finance their various schemes. The powers given to the Controller to decide the disputes regarding the extent of the levy and estate, and the restricted right of appeal to Civil Courts are wholesome checks, under a taxation measure where the parties should not be subjected to a prolonged and tedious course of litigation and the consequent uncertainty that hovers around. Like the Indian Income-Tax Act which provides a reference to the High Court and the Supreme Court under Sec. 66 (A) against the decision of a hierarchy of income-tax tribunals, the Estate Duty Bill also provides for a reference to the superior courts. The fact that every year the non-taxable minimum and the extent of the duty on the rest of the estate is to be determined by the annual Finance Act is an effective guarantee that the economic condition of the country will be taken into account by the Government of the day. When a new tax is imposed the general trend of administration has been to retain it for all time. But there have been instances in the past where the Government of India has granted reliefs when conditions justified the step. Soon after the World War II ended, the exemption limit under the income-tax was raised, the Excess Profits Tax was abolished, and considerable relief was granted in the matter of Super-Tax on incomes. There is no reason to doubt that in future a responsible Government impervious to a vigilant public opinion will be slow to react to their demands.

The objection that the new Bill might lead to the disruption of joint Hindu families in India and the Malabar Tarwads in the West Coast is beside the mark. The disintegration of the joint Hindu families started long ago consequent on new economic theories, mode of life and calling, English education and the impact of western

ideas have further contributed to such disruption. In Malabar the Madras Marumakkattayam Act of 1933 permitted individual partition among members of a joint family, except when the mother was alive. In the latter case the mother and her descendants could claim division in one separate group. The Hindu Code Bill introduced in the Union Parliament has further accelerated the pace of disruption of the joint Hindu families.

Hostility to the Bill has been expressed on the ground that the economy of the country even after five years' of independence is in a fluid state which cannot stand such a bold taxation measure. But it has to be said that hardly any country with one or two notable exceptions can at the present day claim a stable economy. No new tax is welcomed by the public, the more so on agricultural land. The criticism that the Estate Duty on movables like jewellery of a deceased person in the absence of documentary evidence or inventory taken on the spot may prove a hardship on the beneficiaries are matters capable of easy adjustment and satisfactory solution by appropriate modification of the provisions. It does not affect the principle of the Bill. Yet another fear has been expressed that the Bill might affect private enterprise. It is true that the State cannot dispense with private enterprise for a long time to come, but the state has a right to expect every citizen to contribute his mite to the national exchequer by way of tax without demur. The possibility of evasion of new tax or the secreting of assets by beneficiaries are matters which would come into grip with the officers of the Union Government. These are objections which hardly justify the suspension of the Estate Duty Bill, much less, the plea for dropping the Bill altogether. Once the salutary principle underlying the Bill is conceded, much of the criticism against it or the difficulties in its actual working appear to be unsustainable. Individual cases of hardship which the tax in collecting might bring in its trail do not weaken the policy underlying it or the economic barrier among people which it seeks to displace.

## Home and Foreign Affairs

BY "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

### Third Bloc or Third Area

IN a forthright speech in Delhi, Mr. Aneurin Bevan, the Labour leader, discoursed on the familiar thesis of the third bloc to strengthen the common front against tyranny. He advocated the creation of a third great bloc of nations to hold the world's balance of power, so as to compel the two great giants, the Soviet and the Western bloc "to listen to what they have to do." Russia is rigid and America is unstable, he said, and both are dominated by fear. "If India belonged to any one bloc she would merely become the creature of one of these and would cease to have any influence whatever." Pandit Nehru, speaking in the Council of States pointed out with a sense of realism that it is not only undesirable but impossible for any Third Force of relatively impoverished nations to match the military power or economic and financial resources of either the United States or the Soviet Union.

What can a country like India do? We cannot influence others by force of arms or money. We cannot deal with international affairs by expressing strong views.

We cannot shatter and remould the world as we desire, but we can help create a climate of peace.

Nor has India any ambition to play the role of leader in the international arena. We have troubles enough nearer home to engage our full time energy. It would be presumptuous for us to meddle with any sense of fitness in a wider sphere with so many of our more urgent problems unsettled and crying for prompt solution. Mr. Nehru said:

There has been some mention, of a third world force. I am not able to understand what exactly it means. If it means something like a power bloc or a military bloc, then I just do not think it possible, apart from the fact that I do not think it desirable. Even the biggest countries are small today compared with the two giants and for a number of countries of Asia to club together and call themselves a third force, or bloc, in the military sense, has no meaning whatsoever.

Thus India's Prime Minister summarily dismissed Mr. Aneurin Bevan's suggestion.

Yet free India is not altogether unfit to engage in more modest undertakings.

We may have failed, but at least we have not added to the illness of the world.

Every action India had taken, he said, was subject to this test: Does it lessen the existing tensions or added to them? Deprecating demands for strong language on the international situation Sri Nehru said: "India is a mature nation. We should not shout. It is not a sign of maturity."

Yes, we can help create a climate of peace. By persuasion and example India can bring about a change in the atmosphere charged with hate and fear. It is possible to draw peace-loving and peace-seeking nations together in what he called a "third area." Witness the new *entente* consisting predominantly of the Asian and Arab nations. Mr. Bevan, of course, thinks that his own "third bloc" is not different from the Prime Minister's "third area." But there is a fundamental difference. The "third area" completely eschews force. But then we can have no quick results from the operation of this new force in world politics bereft of modern weapons of offence or defence.

### The Central Budget

As we go to press the Finance Minister, Mr. C. D. Deshmukh, presenting his budget for the coming year, made the welcome announcement that there would be no major changes in taxation, but only some "readjustments" converting the revenue deficit of Rs. 1.05 crores into a small surplus of Rs. 45 lakhs. Indeed there are few surprises in Mr. Deshmukh's budget. The final estimates are as under:

Revised Budget 1952-53 Budget 1953-54 (including fresh proposals)

|                 | Lakhs       |             |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
|                 | Rs. 4,18,64 | Rs. 4,39,26 |
| Revenue         |             |             |
| Expenditure Rs. | Rs. 4,22,43 | Rs. 4,38,81 |
| Deficit         | Rs. 3,79    | Surplus 45  |

Increase in expenditure in 1953-54 is mainly for development purposes. The Capital budget for 1953-54 provides for

Rs. 77 crores as capital outlay and Rs. 131 crores as loans to the States. The Capital budget follows broadly the pattern laid down by the Planning Commission and takes into consideration the need for increasing the tempo of development expenditure.

Mr. Deshmukh reported a marked improvement in the economic condition of the country as evidenced by the fact that prices on the whole remained steady at lower levels, and industrial as well as agricultural production showed an increase facilitating a slightly more favourable balance of payment provision than that of the preceding year.

A welcome feature of the proposals is the raising of the exemption limit for personal income-tax from Rs. 3,600 to Rs. 4,700 for individuals, and from Rs. 7,200 to Rs. 8,400 for Hindu undivided families. This is a greatly needed relief to the much suffering middle class who have been hard hit by the alarming rise in the cost of living in recent years. A second "relief proposal" was to reduce the export duty on the jute sacking from Rs. 175 to Rs. 80 per ton.

While these proposals have given general satisfaction to the middle classes and have been welcomed as steps in the right direction, they are more than offset by the increased rates in postal charges for parcels, book packets, registration and insured covers which will adversely affect the small trader and the business community at large. The increase in the import duties on toilet requirements, textiles, crockery, motor cars, and precious stones and diamonds will doubtless affect the importers of foreign goods and the fashionable strata of society. But some one must pay. And if the alternative is between motor cars and daily bread, the Finance Minister could have only one choice!

There will always be this difficulty until the mounting expenditure on Defence services is brought to reasonable proportions. Rs. 200 crores or nearly half the revenues are swallowed up in military expenditure. Perhaps this was inevitable in the first uncertain and critical years following Independence.

Now that we have turned the corner and are comparatively free from the pressing demands for rehabilitation of refugees and food subsidies every effort must be made to cut it down to the requirements of a poor country. That is one way to find the necessary resources for development schemes.

An "important announcement" made by the Finance Minister was the constitution of a Taxation Enquiry Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. John Matthai. He expressed the hope that the labours of the Commission would lay the foundations of "a taxation system best fitted for the development of the economy of the country on a firm and sound basis."

#### Finance Commission's Recommendations

The recommendations of the Finance Commission, which have been accepted by the Government envisage the transfer of a sum of the order of Rs. 86 crores annually to the States by way of Central grants and devolution of revenue. This represents an increase of Rs. 20 crores over what the States have been getting in recent years. Allocation to States of a share in Central Excise duties like tobacco, matches and vegetable products and an increase in the percentage, from 50 to 55 of the net proceeds of income-tax to be assigned to the States, form the main features of the report which was presented to Parliament by Finance Minister Mr. Chintaman Deshmukh.

The main recommendations of the Finance Commission are:—

- (a) Increase in the percentage, from 50 to 55, of the net proceeds of Income-tax to be assigned to the States;
- (b) Increase in the grants-in-aid by the Centre to the four States of Assam, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal in lieu of their share of the export duty on jute and jute products;
- (c) Allocation to the States of a share in certain Union excise duties, viz., tobacco, matches and vegetable products;
- (d) Increased and additional grants to certain States which are considered by the Commission to be in need of assistance; and
- (e) Grants to certain less developed States for expansion of primary education.

The Commission have also laid down certain general principles to regulate grants-in-aid to States by the Centre.

#### The President's Advice

Speaking at a public reception by the citizens of Madras, President Rajendra Prasad made a reference to the prospect of division of Madras, State and earnestly appealed to the people to divide in a spirit of mutual helpfulness and trust and without bitterness.

Those charged with the responsibility, the President said, were thinking furiously how to solve the difficulties they saw and if any advice was given from the Centre in this connection, he added, people should not get impatient, but take it as "advice coming from a party which is neutral and which wishes well of everyone."

The strength of India depends on the strength of every link and every unit that goes to constitute it. We cannot afford to allow any unit to get disturbed by its own weakness. We have to do our best. I know there are difficulties, great difficulties. I know that the people who are charged with the responsibility are busy thinking furiously about the difficulties and the ways and means of overcoming them. And, therefore, do not be impatient also. If any advice comes from the Centre, please take it as advice coming from a party which is neutral and which wishes well to everyone.

#### Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya

Like the late Gopalaswamy Ayyangar whom we lost only the other day, Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya who has passed away in his 78th year was a well-known civil servant of Madras, who distinguished himself in a wider sphere as diplomat and statesman in later years. A veteran of varied interests he was perhaps best known for his services as Dewan of Udaipur for eight difficult years. His record in Madras was no less distinguished. Always kindly and helpful to the young, this ripe old man with the coloured turban was a picturesque figure in the city. There was a lightness of touch in his talk as in his writing which endeared him to many. His geniality and social graces won and retained for him many friends whom he seldom failed to entertain with reminiscences and recollections of the giants of an earlier generation. Sir T. V. was a valued contributor to this *Review* while his later efforts in the regional language marked him out as a man of wide culture and genial temperament.

#### The New President of the Theosophical Society.

We offer our felicitations to Mr. Sri Ram on his election as the fifth President of the Theosophical Society. The Society is an international organisation with branches practically all over the world. During the 77 years since its foundation in New York, there have been four Presidents—Col. Olcott, Dr. Besant, Dr. Arundale and Mr. Jinarajadasa—all distinguished for their learning and integrity and imbued with deep love for India. By electing an Indian to this high office in an international brotherhood, the members have shown due regard not only to one who has served the cause with unflagging zeal and devotion but to a country which in its new role, as free India, is doing its best to further those ideals and principles for which the Society stands. That ideal is the brotherhood of man and the fellowship of Faiths in the pursuit of truth through study and research in ancient wisdom.

In a competitive world where even the highest offices in service as in power are sought by contentious elections, Mr. Sri Ram's method of approach was singularly happy. There was no rough and tumble fight for the place, no boisterous assertion of superiority, no decrying of other contestants, but a quiet and dignified appeal to the members' sense of fitness. Mr. Sri Ram truly said in his statement:

He who seeks wisdom and the service of wisdom can seek no lesser things, neither position nor praise. In a society constituted for the purest brotherhood, there can be no electioneering, even of the sort considered legitimate in the world. I ask no one for his vote, I shall be happy if each one votes in absolute freedom according to his own individual and uninfluenced freedom.

What a contrast to the hectoring tone usually adopted in electioneering! Nevertheless, he has been elected president by a 70 per cent vote of the society's members.

A fellow worker with Besant and Arundale and Jinarajadasa, Mr. Sri Ram is well known in the Theosophical world as a student of Theosophy and an international lecturer.



# The WORLD of BOOKS

(ONLY SHORT NOTICES APPEAR IN THIS SECTION)



SOVIET CIVILIZATION. By Corliss Lamont. Philosophical Library, 15, East 40th St., New York 16.

The truth about Soviet Russia is becoming more and more difficult to know. It was said that an impenetrable iron curtain shuts out Russia from the rest of the world. The fact, however, is that there is such a plethora of literature for and against Russia that one is at a loss to know what is true and what is false. Propaganda and counter propaganda have flooded the world with a mass of literature steeped in prejudice and wanton malice. Soviet propaganda makes it appear that life in Communist Russia is all that one could desire, while foreign propaganda decries it as the veritable hell on earth. Strangely enough, even those who have visited the country are equally divided in their opinion. Some who hailed it as a paradise on earth have now changed their view and have not words enough to condemn it as worse than perdition. An objective study of Soviet conditions seems impossible as every one brings to it a bit of his own prejudice or preconceived notions.

Dr. Lamont has been in close touch with Russian affairs for over a score of years and his studies have been fortified by two extensive visits to Russia. Calmly and objectively he discusses the position in Russia—social, economic and political—and he stresses a middle course avoiding both extremes. He finds much in Russian society and the Soviet plan that is altogether admirable and praiseworthy. But there are some distressing features in Soviet dictatorship which are frankly over-emphasised in our estimate of things Russian. It is a mistake, he says, to think of communism in the same terms as fascism, as the two are poles apart. There is much in common between the democracies of U. S. and Britain and the Communism of Russia which it would be wise to foster. Dr. Lamont discusses controversial issues like the American—Soviet relations and discloses

that the fault is not all on one side. Indeed he avers that Stalin is genuinely anxious to bridge the gap between the East and the West; and his efforts at disarmament and world peace, far from being merely tactical, are in truth inspired by excellent intentions. He shows how on a dozen occasions his attempts to prove his goodwill and friendliness, and the efforts of his deputies in the U. N. to foster good relations have been thwarted by suspicious diplomats on this side. Dr. Lamont is frankly critical of certain aspects of Soviet life and institutions but he laments the wholesale condemnation of Communist Russia "based on onesided overemphasis of its negative points. The complete and manysided story is what is needed for a just evaluation." He discounts the common notion that communist China is under the leading strings of the Soviet. She is, in his opinion, big enough and strong enough to go her own way. Typical chapters that throw light on Soviet thought are "Contrasts between Socialism and Fascism," "Soviet Foreign Policy" and "co-existence or Co-destruction." Dr. Lamont shows that with clearer understanding and sympathetic approach there is every feasibility of lasting peace between U. S. A. and U. S. S. R. which will help solve disarmament problems and restore normal trade relations grounded on mutual self-interest between the two great nations.

THE STATE. By K. P. Mukerji. The Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar, Madras. 383 Pp. Rs. 7-8.

This is a critical study of the conceptions of the State through the eyes of a philosopher steeped and believing in Hindu tradition. Prof. Mukerji defines the State as an "evolving legal order working in subservience to and reflecting the value-sense of an expanding moral order (or Community)." His book is an attempt to justify this definition.

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TOBACCO ROAD. A Three Act Play by Jack Kirkland (A Signet Book). The New American Library, 501, Madison Ave, New York 22, N. Y.

Erskine Caldwell's *Tobacco Road* has had an extraordinary audience as a novel, a motion picture and a play. The story is about a group of persons whose destiny it was "to be born where they were born, to live where they lived and to do what they did." Such a theme seems to have universal appeal, for all its coarseness, as is evidenced by the fact that in one form or another it has appeared in 21 countries and has been widely popular. The play, dramatized by Jack Kirkland, had a precarious beginning; but it has since established a record number of performances throughout America and translated versions of the play have appeared in several countries of Europe. This complete and unabridged Edition is illustrated with scenes from the American, British, French, Finnish and Italian productions. We are told that wellnigh 4 million copies of this book in different Editions and languages have been sold.

NEW WORLD WRITING. (Second Mentor Selections) The New American Library, 501, Madison Ave, New York 22.

The first Mentor Selection of New World Writing published in April last had such a resounding success that the publishers have followed it up with a second volume of equal interest. They took the cue from John Lehman's New Writing in the Penguin Series and produced a volume, richer and more varied in its scope. The New World Writing is now a truly international literary journal—an unusual blend of book and "little magazine." The present volume includes twenty-eight writers from the U. S., four from the British Isles, two from France, two from Italy, four from Greece and one each from the Philippines, West Indies, India, Pakistan, Australia, Denmark and Poland. Poetry, fiction, drama, criticism—there is every kind of literary fare to satisfy different tastes. We have no doubt that this second series will be as welcome to readers and critics as the first one.

GUPTA POLITY. By V. R. Ramachandra Dikshitar, M.A., General Editor, The Madras Historical Series. University of Madras.

Yet another volume of interest to students of History is the latest addition to the Madras University Historical Series which has covered different regions and periods of Indian history. The XX volume before us deals with the Gupta Polity which might be taken as a fitting companion volume to the author's well-known book on the Mauryan Polity.

After the Mauryas the Gupta rulers established a vast empire covering large portions of North India. Chandragupta I the first Imperial ruler of the dynasty ruled over a comparatively small area around Pataliputra but it was given to Samudragupta his son and heir to expand the small kingdom into an Empire of considerable dimensions. It was Chandragupta II Vikramaditya, the third and greatest of the Guptas who added more territories to his heritage and consolidated the Gupta Empire.

Prof. Dikshitar, as might be expected of such a seasoned student of research, has availed himself of all material, historical and archeological, in his coverage of this important period though it cannot compare with the Mauryan period in the wealth of available source material. He has drawn light from the Kamandakiya Nitisara, the inscriptions and coins of the Gupta rulers, and the accounts of the Chinese pilgrim Fa-hien for a knowledge of the Gupta polity. In the chapter devoted to the examination of the extent of the Gupta Empire, Prof. Dikshitar shows that it included not only portions in the Deccan and South India but certain colonies in the Far East as well. And then there are special chapters devoted to the study of the Central administration, Military organisation and Provincial Government besides a close examination of the religious conditions in the Empire. "It is my firm conviction," says Dikshitar, "that the Imperial Guptas were not really Vaishnavas as they are usually taken to be but are Smarthas by religion worshipping different Gods like Siva, Vishnu, Karthikeya and Devi."

**MAHADEV DESAI'S EARLY LIFE.** By Narahari D. Parekh. Navajivan Publishing House, Ahmedabad.

Mahadev Desai lived so completely in and for Gandhiji that it is impossible to think of one without being reminded of the other. He was what Crito was to Socrates. For wellnigh thirty years he was Gandhiji's faithful and very competent secretary.

In the 23 chapters that make up this book Mr. Narahari, a close friend and schoolmate of Mahadev, tells the story of his early life with intimate knowledge and understanding. Mr. Narahari was engaged in editing Mahadev's letters and had ample material at his disposal for writing this interesting life of his friend till the time of his joining Gandhiji. We have in this book Gandhiji's own testimony to Mahadev's character and competence. Mr. Narahari reveals how anxious Gandhiji was to have Mahadev as his *Chela* and how invaluable he was during the most eventful period of the Master's life.

**COMBINATION MOVEMENT IN INDIAN INDUSTRY.** By Dr. M. M. Mehta. Friends' Book Depot, Allahabad. Price Rs. 3-8-0.

This book is a fact-finding essay. It does not indulge in commenting but describes the movement trends concentration in Indian Industry. It is seen that a small group of Managing Agency Firms control and manage more than 600 industrial establishments in India. Of these more than 250 are controlled by 9 British Agencies. These agencies do not control only particular industries or complementary industries to them. The Dalmia-Jain group controls every variety of industrial undertaking—from tiny glass, soap and oil mills to gigantic engineering works. Another feature is the amalgamation of big trusts with vast resources. The system of "multiple Directorship" has led to industries being controlled by a handful of magnates. The Managing Agents practically nominate the Directors of all their companies and they nominate one another. A corollary is the development of

"interlocking Directorships." Saddest of all, the leadership of industry is in the hands of financiers, who with control of Banks, insurance companies and investment trusts achieve great control of public resources.

There is no doubt about the evils of this concentration. A horizontal or vertical combination in industrial units is itself fraught with social dangers but they are at least justifiable on the basis of production economy. But mere financial and managerial control through Trusts and Managing Agencies introduces an element of indifference towards long range benefits as opposed to quick returns and offers scope for balancing the losses from one firm from the income of another so far as the Managing Agent himself is concerned. The public have to be content with watching this show and parties in power never seriously interfere with big business which is an election purse. Altogether all that makes for the steady concentration of control in the hands of a few financiers (to whom any industry that pays 5 per cent is better than any industry that pays 4 per cent) is present in India. One is perturbed and helpless.

**BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION IN BOMBAY:** J. R. B. Jeejeebhoy, Bombay-314 pp.

Mr. Jeejeebhoy's sense of history and nemesis is strong; hence this book. Here is a catalogue, couched in flowery language, of the baser side of human nature, from the earliest known periods of Indian history upto current times. The account is amusing, but one cannot help wondering whether this amazing scholarship could not have been put to better use.

**BE STRONGER, LIVE LONGER:** V. W. Goyle, Careers Institute, New Delhi—186 pp, Rs. 5.

The title savours of Gaylord Hauser's "Look Younger, Live Longer"; the contents are a hotch-potch of his dietetic recipes and various exercises and incomprehensible fads.

**THE GOSPEL OF GURU-GRANTH SAHEB.** By Duncan Greenlees. The Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar.

This is the eighth volume in the World Gospel Series which includes appropriately the Gospel of Islam, of Jesus, of Buddha and Zarathushtra. It is very appropriate too that the Series should have emanated from the Theosophical Society which recognizes truth in every religion and seeks to understand and interpret ancient scriptures in the light of modern knowledge and research.

The series being planned to present the essence of each of the world's great scriptures the present volume offers at once a detailed and inspiring interpretation of the religion founded by 'Guru Nanak and built up and fostered by the devotion, energy and self-sacrifice of successive Gurus. Apart from a pleasing and very readable English translation of

the jappi and important portions of the Guru-Granth of the Sikhs the author has given an elaborate introduction dealing with the lives of the Sikh Gurus, and detailing the way the blood of the martyrs cemented a nation of strong, self-reliant and heroic people. Mr. Duncan Greenlees, of course, writes with deep knowledge and sympathy for the tenets and teachings of Sikhism. The historical background of the lives and achievements of the Sikh gurus is furnished with proper perspective.

Not only are the religion and the scripture of the Sikhs interpreted with sympathy and understanding but the heroes of Sikh history and the effect of their resounding deeds are appropriately portrayed.

It is a valuable cyclopædia of Sikh history and Sikhism which the followers of Guru Nanak and people of other faiths as well will equally value.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

**RELIGION AND POETRY.** By K. Chandrasekharan. Copies can be had of Sri Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore, Madras 4. Price 8 as.

**DILWARA TEMPLES.** Publications Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, New Delhi.

1. **BHAGAVADGITA FOR STUDENTS.** By Swami Venkatesananda.

2. **GITA MEDITATIONS.** By Swami Sivananda.

3. **GITA FOR THE YOUNG** By Dr. Lakshmi Mirchandani.

All the above Three Publications are Published by the Divine Life Society, Ananda Kutir, Rishikesh Himalayas.

**VOICE OF SUPPRESSED KASHMIR.** Kashmir Democratic Union, 30 Fairy Bazar, Delhi.

**REBUILDING OUR VILLAGES.** By M. K. Gandhi. Navjivan Publishing House, Ahmedabad.

**HYMNS TO THE GODDESS.** Translated from the Sanskrit by Arthur and Ellen Avalon. Ganesh & Co., (Madras) Ltd.

**INTRODUCTION TO TANTRA SHASTRA.** By Sir John Woodroffe. Ganesh & Co., (Madras) Ltd.

**THE OCCULT TRAINING OF THE HINDUS.** By Ernest Wood. Ganesh & Co., (Madras) Ltd.

**INDIA AND SOUTH EAST ASIA.** The Publications Division, Govt. of India, Delhi.

1. **TRIPLE YOGA: 2. DIVINE STORIES.** By Swami Sivananda, Ananda Kutir, Rishikesh, Himalayas.

**SHAKESPEAREAN COMEDY.** By C. N. Dasai, M.A., Ph.D. The Agra University Press, Agra.

**BABAJI'S MASTER KEY TO ALL ILLS.** By V. T. Neelakantan & S. A. A. Ramiah M.A. 1-1, Arulananda Mudali Street, San Thome, Madras 4.

**JUNGLE CHILD.** By Caroline Davis, Methuen & Co., Ltd., London.

**VEDANTA FOR MODERN MAN.** Edited by Christopher Sherwood—George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF INDIAN COINS.** Part II, by C. R. Singhal. Numismatic Society of India, Bombay.

**SOUTH AFRICA ON THE NAZI PATH:** Indian Overseas Central Association, New Delhi.

**THE NEGRO IN AMERICAN LIFE:** The United States Information Service, Madras.

# DIARY OF THE MONTH

:o:

Feb. 1 Indo-Pak travel made easier by Passport Conference at Delhi.

Feb. 2 Ike orders removal of U. S. Fleet guarding Formosa.

Feb. 3 Malaya Government settles Malaya Indians on land.

Feb. 4 Governors and Rajpramukhs meet in Delhi.

—A fourteen-man team of World Medical Scientists arrive in Madras.

Feb. 5 All-India Handicrafts Conference meets at Trivandrum.

Feb. 6 C. C. Desai appointed India's envoy to Ceylon.

Feb. 7 Justice Vanchoo submits to Govt. his report on Andhra separation.

Feb. 8 Mao-Tse-tung of China challenges U.S. to fight to the finish.

Feb. 9 Death of N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Defence Minister, at Madras.

Feb. 10 Concessions under Smuts-Gandhi Agreement in S. A. withdrawn.

Feb. 11 Parliament's Budget Session opens with President's address.

Feb. 12 Self-Govt. for Sudan: Pact signed by U. K. and Egypt.

Feb. 13 Finance Commission's report presented to Parliament.

Feb. 14 S. African Govt. bans entry of Indian wives.

Feb. 15 President on tour of South India arrives in Vizagapatam.

Feb. 16 Aneurin Bevan addresses members of Parliament in Delhi.

—Mr. Sri Ram elected fifth President of Theosophical Society.

Feb. 17 S. A. Assembly passes Public Safety Bill.

Feb. 18 Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri presents Railway Budget.

Feb. 19 President lays foundation stone of Engineering College at Karaikudi.

—Mr. Dulles, in his first Press Conference explains U. S. policy in Far East.

Feb. 20 A Supreme Court judgment in Pretoria gives legal right to Indians to own lands in Transvaal.

—Australian Press delegation in Madras.

Feb. 21 Prime Minister opens Tilaiya Dam, first stage in Damodar project.

Feb. 22 The President in Madras urges Tamils and Andhras to trust the Centre.

Feb. 23 Nahas, former Premier of Egypt charged of profiteering.

Feb. 24 U. N. Assembly meets in New York and debates Indian plan for Korea.

—Master Tara Singh and nine Akali leaders arrested at Amritsar.

Feb. 25 U. S. cruiser bombs North Korean coast.

Feb. 26 President back in Delhi from Madras.

—Indians to boycott Racial Zone sites in South Africa.

Feb. 27 Finance Minister Deshmukh presents a balanced budget for 1953-54.

—Mr. George V. Allen nominated U.S. Ambassador to India.

Feb. 28 Pro-Shah riots in Teheran.

—10th All India Textile Conference inaugurated by Dr. C. V. Raman at Coimbatore.



THE LATE SIR T. V. ACHARYA



## READERS' DIGEST



### POPULATION PLANNING

Summing up his exhaustive study of Population Planning in India, in the course of an article in the *Modern Review*, Prof. C. B. Mamoria observes in conclusion that ideally, in order to maximise real income, the population policy of India should include at least three measures: a programme of strategic emigration, a sustained and vigorous birth-control campaign, and a scheme for rapid industrialisation, because no one of these complex measures can be a substitute for other measures or promise the maximum effect if pursued alone. Emigration, he says, should be encouraged

with a view to losing as little as possible in terms of skill and capital and gaining as much as possible in terms of remittances. Birth control should be diffused with the help of films, radio, ambulatory clinics, and free services and materials; aided by research on both the techniques of contraception and the methods of mass persuasion; and linked clearly to the public health and child-welfare movements. Industrialisation should be pushed up by central planning and control, by forced capital formation, by intensive training programmes, by sweeping agricultural reforms, and by subsidies to heavy industry. The skilful and vigorous pursuit of such a broad policy would probably shorten the rapid growth. It will mean that control has been deliberately extended to fertility as well as to mortality that the demographic transition has quickly achieved by planning. It would also mean a higher standard of living and a more abundant life for future generations.

But there is little likelihood that such a comprehensive policy will be adopted, for our means are limited and the family behaviour is too intertwined with religion and more to be manipulated in a purely instrumental way.

But rapid industrialisation would not result in slackening the population pressure unless the conditions for the individual should be of such a type as to give a powerful personal incentive for limiting births. The birth rate should then drop and a modern demographic balance be achieved. To check this birth rate, we must necessarily incorporate planned parenthood as an essential element in any programme that actually raises the standard of living to the maximum possible limit and gives us the greatest national strength. Our unwillingness to do it will necessarily result in perpetual poverty or in absolute catastrophes.

### A THREAT TO INDIA

It is customary for a cautious job-hunter to deny that he is after a job or it has been offered him until he has actually bagged it. This is precisely what Pakistan is doing in respect of her bid for membership in the projected Middle East Defence Organization, says Mr. G. P. Jain.

All that emerges from the statements made either by the Pakistan authorities or the British or the Americans is that no formal invitation has so far been extended to Pakistan. It does not, however, mean that behind-the-scenes talks are not going on between the parties concerned, nor that the parties are least interested in it, nor that the event will not be consummated at a future date.

Pakistan is eager to get into the big league, which is perhaps natural from her standpoint, considering her neighbour India's rising stock in the international field.

When an individual—this is true also of a nation—is down and out, but the fires of ambition still burn within him, the most logical thing for him to do is to secure a rich and powerful patron in whose reflected glory he can bask. As a partner of the Anglo-American powers, even though her role may not be more than that of a supplier of cannon fodder and a few clods of grounds for air bases, Pakistan would have something to brag of.

Were the MEDO partnership aimed only to provide Pakistan a poultice for her wounded pride, India would have no quarrel with that.

But it is bound to have wider ramifications. MEDO is not a cultural organisation, but it will be a military body, its object being to erect "edifices of strength" for future use against Soviet Russia. Russia's valuable Baku oil-fields are but a couple of hours' flight from points in Pakistan.

If the Anglo-American bloc is successful in making Pakistan the base of its military operations, the cold war will have come that much closer to India's borders, and her chances of keeping out of a shooting war, when it takes place, that much remoter.

A more immediate consequence of Pakistan's alignment with America and Britain and of her vastly increased rearmament under Anglo-American auspices would be that greater pressure would be put upon India to let Kashmir go to Pakistan. At any rate, there will henceforth be more reality to Pakistan's talk of "Jihad" against us,

## JAPANESE METHOD OF RICE CULTIVATION

The February issue of *Indian Farming* has a very instructive article on Rice Cultivation as practised in Japan. The method has many advantages and has practical value for Indian farmers who are struggling in vain to reap the best out of their land.

In the Japanese method of growing paddy you must:

A. Grow stronger seedlings for transplanting.

B. Grow a better main crop.

The first part must be done right or the second part will suffer.

The second part must be done right or grain yields will be no more than you now produce.

If both are done right your yields can be doubled or tripled!

As it is a matter of vital interest to us in India we have no hesitation in presenting it in extenso:

### 1. Plan for fewer seedlings per acre:

Most farmers in India sow too many seeds. The amount sown depends in part on custom. A farmer today will plant his seed as his father did before him. But by this new method he can save seed which means, he can save money. Many good farmers plant only 20 pounds of seed for each acre to be put in paddy. Amount of seed sown will be different for different parts of India. Ask your local agricultural officer how much seed to sow on your land.

### 2. Make a raised seed-bed:

You should plough paddy land right after the harvest. If ploughing is not done after harvest, the land should be dug up and clods broken.

Your nursery seed-bed should be four feet wide and three inches above the level of the ground. A space one foot wide should be left between the beds. This allows you to work and weed the seed-bed without injuring the plants.

For each acre you plant in paddy 1/20th of an acre must be sown for seedlings.

You sow 20 pounds of paddy seed for each acre planted to the crop. This many pounds of seed should be sown in a seed-bed of 1/20th of an acre. The seedlings grown in this area will be enough to plant 1 acre of land in paddy.

Stir into the soil one basket (30 pounds) of compost or cowdung manure for each eight feet of bed.

For each eight feet of bed sprinkle a double handful (half pound) manure mixture. This mixture

is made of equal parts of superphosphate and ammonium sulphate.

Smooth the soil, and then cover it with fine compost manure about 1/8 inch thick. Then cover the bed with a thin layer of ashes.

The bed is ready for the seed.

### GOOD SEED NEEDED

#### 3. Selecting good seed:

Get the best seed. Ask your agricultural officer what seed you should use. Put these seeds into a bucket of salt water. The poor seeds will come to the top. Skim these off and save only the heavy seeds in the bottom of the bucket for planting.

After the seeds have been selected place them into petenox mixed with water. Leave them in this mixture for 20 minutes.

#### 4. Planting the seed in the Nursery:

Two or three days before the rains, plant the seed.

Cover the seed with 1/8th inch of fine earth.

If rains do not come in time, water the bed by water cans.

Where there is canal and tank irrigation, this is not done and planting may be earlier.

#### 5. Caring for the seedlings:

Seven or eight days after your seedlings come up, go through the beds and carefully remove all weeds. This is important and must be done. If proper amount of water is given, and weeding done, strong seedlings will be ready early. Your seedlings will be ready to transplant when the sixth leaf has formed. The plant will be 6 to 8 inches high at this time. In no case should your seedlings be left in the bed after they are ready. Late transplanting lowers yields. It is better to transplant early than late.

### GROWING THE PADDY

#### 1. Preparing the field:

You should plough your paddy fields right after the harvest. Following the first monsoon rains the field should be ploughed again. Your yields will be higher if a green manure crop is grown for turning under before transplanting.

Be sure to fill at cracks in the bunds. Pack these well to stop rats and crabs.

To get more out of the land, you have to put more in Manure. It must be used to get larger yields. Fifteen to twenty cartloads of compost or cowdung manure is needed for each acre. This manure should be ploughed into the land before puddling. One hundred pounds of ammonium sulphate mixed with 100 pounds of superphosphate (or bonemeal) may be used on each acre, but local officers should be asked about this.

#### 2. Transplanting seedlings:—

The Japanese treat each seedling as a baby. They pull them out one at a time and are careful not to bruise the stem or break the roots. If the soil they are pulled from is hard, it must be broken with some tool so that the roots can be saved. You should not jerk or hammer plants to remove soil.

## HOW ARE U.S. LAWS PASSED?

Before a legislative draft, or bill, becomes a law in the U.S., it must be passed by both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and signed by the President.

Any member of Congress may introduce a bill on almost any subject which he believes affects the nation's interest. His proposal often is introduced jointly in the House and the Senate. It is promptly referred to an appropriate Congressional or Senate Committee which holds hearings to obtain the views of Government officials, interested organizations and individuals and the public.

The committee then acts on the bill by majority vote. Members may pass it without any changes, make minor revisions, or even rewrite it completely. In any case, they attach a report explaining the measure and their reasons for their approval. Printed copies of the bill and the text of its hearings are made available to all members of Congress and to the public.

The bill is then placed on a list of pending business, called a "calendar," in each house where it waits its turn before coming up for debate. If the bill is important enough, it is given priority consideration.

During debates members may offer amendments before the bill itself is put to a vote. If the two houses do not adopt the same version of a bill, it goes to a conference committee which draws up a compromise bill.

The final version is then submitted to both houses for approval. If they accept it, the bill is sent to the President for his signature or veto. A two-thirds majority vote in each chamber is necessary to override the President's veto. But if he does not sign a bill within ten days after it reaches him (excluding Sundays), it automatically becomes law without his signature.

When pulling up the seedlings, weeds must be removed. Weeds transplanted in the fields grow faster than rice and lower the yields of grain.

The Japanese have shown that planting 15 to 20 seedlings to a hole is a waste. Four is the most that should be planted. In Bombay where the method is yielding twice as much as the local method, farmers using the Japanese method never plant more than four seedlings to the hole.

By this method the seedlings are planted straight up rather than at an angle. You hold your fingers along the side of the plants and push them into the soil ahead of the seedlings. This way your fingers make way for the tender roots. The more roots you save the stronger your plants will be.

### TEN BY TEN

Your plants should be set in 10 inches squares. This is done by planting them in straight lines 10 inches apart in the line. There is 10 inches between each line.

To speed up planting have two workers hold a long string in a straight line, and on this string put markers 10 inches apart. The seedlings are placed in the soil at the markers. Then the string is moved over 10 inches and the planting at the markers is done again.

#### 3. Caring for the crop:

No weeds should be allowed to grow in the crop. After the crop has grown for two weeks the farmer must go through and remove all foreign growth. To get the highest yield, you may use 100 pounds of ammonium sulphate mixed with 100 pounds of superphosphate one month after transplanting (get local recommendations.) You should work this manure into the soil around the roots of the plant. Working around the roots increases yields.

From time to time you should move a soil scratching tool between the plants. About two weeks before flowering, field work should stop. Any more cultivation will lower yields.

## U.S. AID TO FORMOSA

Credits opened by the Mutual Security Agency included \$26,000 for China (Formosa) including \$23,000 for aviation equipment, military bases and the remainder for technical assistance.

Other credits were: \$1,657,000 for Indo-China including \$1,497,000 for lubricating products and fats from U.S. and \$150,000 for farm equipment from U.S. and Europe and the remainder for technical assistance; and \$15,000 for Thailand for electrical supplies, motors and turbines, industrial equipment and scientific instruments from U.S. and Japan.

## THE INDIAN PRESS

India has more than 5,000 periodicals published in fifteen languages. Of these about 450 are dailies, 1,800 weeklies and 1,900 monthlies. Nearly one-fifth of them are published in Hindi, India's national language understood by over 160 million Indians. English comes next. One-fifth of the total are published in Madras closely followed by Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bombay. Fourteen newspapers have a circulation of more than 50,000. The *Times of India*, one of the oldest dailies of India, reached in 1952, a circulation of over 100,000.

The history of the Indian Press shows vitality and nationalism. Within seven years of 1773, when the Act creating the Governor-Generalship and the Supreme Court in Bengal was passed, the first modern newspaper appeared in Calcutta called the *Bengal Gazette*. Other newspapers such as the *Calcutta Gazette* and the *Bombay Courier* soon followed. Although these pioneers were foreign enterprises, Indian-owned newspapers in English as well as in the Indian languages were not long in making their appearance. In 1818 the first newspaper in an Indian language appeared.

The revolution of 1857 spread the newspapers to other cities in the interior like Delhi, Agra and Gwalior. The growth in the number, in the influence and in the contents of Indian newspapers and periodicals reflected the pace of development of nationalism, steady in the later half of nineteenth century and leaping ahead in the twentieth.

It was during this period of struggle for national independence that the great national dailies achieved their fame. *Hindu of Madras* (1878), *Amrit Bazaar Patrika* (1868) from Calcutta, *Hindustan Times* (1923) from New Delhi, the *Times of India* (1838) and the *Free Press Journal* (1930) from Bombay, *Hitavada* (1911) from Nagpur, *Swadesamitran* (Tamil, 1882), *Kesari* (Marathi, 1888), *Dnyan Prakash* (Marathi, 1849), *Bandemataram* (Urdu, 1920) are today household names in the world of journalism. The *Statesman of Calcutta* (1873) was the spokesman of British interests, influenced both by Government

and financial circles. Mention must also be made of weeklies of the *Harijan* group, and of a few monthlies which by their missionary zeal and the high standard have become institutions by themselves. Mahatma Gandhi's *Harijan* set the moral tone to the Indian Press and was in this respect unique in the world of journalism.

Some of the most eminent public men and leaders of modern India rose to their high status through the school of practical journalism. Gokhale, Tilak, Gandhi, Bose, Ramanand Chatterjee, Brelvi and Lala Lajpat Rai took to journalism to popularise their ideas.

The freedom of the Press is the jealously guarded birthright of Indian journalism since its early days.

There has been a tremendous growth in recent times of periodicals, monthlies and weeklies devoted to non-political subjects.

The influence of the Indian Press and its international significance is shown by the Press Trust of India merging with Reuters. The All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference has become a body whose co-operation and goodwill is sought by all.

## INDIAN AUTHOR'S NOVEL

The Michigan State College Press will embark on an unusual publishing venture on April 1 when it introduces to American readers a novel by the distinguished Indian author, R. K. Narayan.

It is almost unprecedented for a collegiate press in the United States to publish a fiction work, particularly by a foreign writer. But the editors of the Michigan State College Press are publishing Narayan's novel, "The Financial Expert", because they were impressed by its high calibre and want to give Americans an opportunity to read it. They are planning to publish another Narayan's book, "The Bachelor of Arts," later this year.

For the past 36 years, Narayan's works have been widely read in England and other countries, but they have never appeared in the United States.

## RESURGENT NATIONALISM IN ASIA

When the Japanese took "Asia for the Asians" as their slogan, in their declared intent to establish the "new order in East Asia," they submitted in four words a case against the white man in the East whose psychological potency could not have been exceeded in four thousand, says Marc T. Greene, Asia for the Asians rather than for the European—an end of his long dominance, material if not cultural, and an Eastern world as opposed to the Western and freed for all from its influence!

All this and more was comprehended in the slogan. Asia for the Asians. It took hold upon the Asian peoples, from Mukden to Mandalay and from Canton to Colombo. True, not all were happy in envisaging an implementation of the slogan under Japanese dominance. But even then the picture of an Asia for, by and of Asians could not but stir every Asian heart.

One of the many Japanese blunders was the promptness with which they impressed upon every part of the East that came under their sway in the early months of the war that what was really meant was "Asia for the Japanese."

It very soon became clear that this was the real objective and that no method, however harsh, would be neglected to achieve this.

Yet here the Japanese had a slogan of incredible potency. They had but to implement it with tact, wisdom, and, above all, sympathy, to put the West on the defensive everywhere and make its task immeasurably more difficult than it was indeed, perhaps impossible.

The mistake much of the Western world is making today, and a very dangerous mistake it is, is to conclude that with Japan's defeat "Asia for the Asians" lost its potency as a slogan and as an ideal with the majority of the Asian peoples.

In fact, that potency has been increasing ever since the Chinese revolution of 1926-27 when it first began to be openly enunciated on a wide scale.

Its psychological force was strongest during the first flushes of the Japanese victorious campaigns. Yet with the end of those victories and with the final downfall of Japan, that force was little diminished. With the adoption of much the same position by the Chinese Communists and other revolutionary movements throughout the East, the potency of "Asia for the Asians" becomes more than ever a power with which the west much reckon. Not a few informed people, neither alarmists nor pessimists, hold that the "White man's day is done" in the East.

That is what Asia for the Asians in the final analysis actually means.

## CONTROL OF INFLUENZA

According to experts of the World Health Organisation, medical science is on the point of mastering influenza whose annual winter outbreaks have serious economic consequences in many countries. This progress, they state, has been made possible through the co-ordinated efforts of a network of 55 "influenza centres" in 44 different countries working under the overall guidance of W.H.O. in conjunction with World Influenza Centre in London.

In India the three W.H.O. influenza centres are situated at the Haffkine Institute, Bombay; the King Institute, Guindy, Madras, and the Pasteur Institute of Southern India at Coonoor.

The rapidity with which exchange of information has taken place since the first signs of the present epidemic has made it possible to determine with certainty that the virus concerned in 1953 is the A-prime virus. This, in turn, has made possible the immediate use of vaccines prepared from it and the carrying-out of large scale vaccination, whose results will be of immense value in the prevention of influenza. Thus, in Holland, workers and employees in large works and factories have been vaccinated. In the United States, Canada and Great Britain mass vaccination has been carried out mainly in barracks and hospitals, ideal places for the transmission of the infection.

According to the report of the first W. H. O. Expert Committee on Influenza, the main difficulty slowing up advance in this field is the variety of influenza viruses, which comprise an extensive range of antigenic variants. Thus, at the present time, research workers are confronted with three groups of viruses—A, B and C, each of which includes several sub-categories.

In their report, the W.H.O. experts express serious doubts as to the value of quarantine measures against influenza, stating that

the isolation of groups within a community has not been shown to limit the spread of infection. Quarantine at a national level would only be likely to be effective in the case of islands and geographically isolated communities. There is no evidence that in the case of large areas quarantine could be applied effectively.

# INDIANS OUTSIDE INDIA

## South Africa

### PUBLIC SAFETY BILL

The South African House of Assembly passed the Public Safety Bill on Feb. 16 giving the Government wide powers to deal with resistance to its apartheid (racial segregation) laws.

Only nine members voted against the third and final reading of the Bill which empowers the Government to declare a State of emergency and to legislate by proclamation.

A Labour Party amendment that the Bill should be read in six months' time—tantamount to killing it—was rejected.

The United Party, the main Opposition group, supported the Bill in principle because it was "essential there should be peace and security" in the country.

Dr. Colin Steyn, Leader of the Orange Free State United (opposition) Party, suggested that non-Europeans should be consulted about the Government's Safety Bill.

He associated himself with the policy of the United Party (Opposition) in supporting the Government. But, he added, in the debate on the third reading: "The Government should try to gain the support and goodwill of non-Europeans." The reason why his party supported the Bill in principle was that it was essential that there should be peace and security in South Africa. He added, "It would be a great pity if non-Europeans got the impression that the Bill is directed against them or their development. The Bill is directed only against law-breakers."

Mr. John Christie leader of the Labour Party which opposes the Bill, said it would make iniquitous inroads into the rights of the citizens and nobody could feel safe.

The Government is unfit to govern a free people if it has to pass legislation of this kind, Mr. Christie said.

The Bill has since become law, having received the Governor-General's assent.

## Malaya

### MALAYAN INDIANS

Contributions from Indians in Malaya, particularly from South Indians, to the Tamil Nad Cyclone Relief Fund opened by the *Tamilnesan*, Indian-owned Tamil daily of Kuala Lumpur, continue to flow in and might easily reach a lakh of rupees shortly. This was revealed by Mr. S. Natarajan, manager of the *Tamilnesan* who arrived in Madras last month from Malaya on a brief visit.

They had already remitted Rs. 50,000 in two instalments to Madras to the Tamil Nad Congress Committee and they hoped to collect an equal amount in the next few months, he said.

Mr. Natarajan denied reports in a section of the Press that Indian immigration was causing concern to the Malayan Government and said there was a growing demand for skilled Indian labour in the Federation. The Malayan Government had also sought India's help for supplying them with qualified teachers, doctors and engineers, he said.

## Ceylon

### INDIAN LABOUR IN INDIA

There was no question of the repatriation of about 50,000 Indian labourers in Ceylon to India, as a result of the Ceylon Government's actions, said Sri Nehru, Prime Minister, intervening during question time in the Council of States on February 6.

He added: "But it may be that those of them who, an account of the steps taken by the Ceylon Government, have got into difficulties will have a tendency to come to India. It will be for us to consider what we should do."

Replying to further supplementaries, the Prime Minister said that the real issue was not about the illegal immigrants and others, but about those who considered themselves nationals of Ceylon, but who, for the moment, were not recognised as citizens there. They were not Indian citizens and hence became Stateless as a result of the Ceylon Government's actions

# MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS † DEPARTMENTAL † NOTES

## QUESTIONS OF IMPORTANCE

### STATES' SHARE OF CENTRAL REVENUES

Under all the recommendations made by the Finance Commission, this is what each State might expect to receive annually (figures in brackets showing average amounts received under the Deshmukh Award, which was in force till the end of 1951-52):

Assam Rs. 3.45 crores (Rs. 2.21 crores);  
Bihar Rs. 8.55 crores (Rs. 6.55 crores);  
Bombay Rs. 11.25 crores (Rs. 11.60 crores);  
Hyderabad Rs. 3.59 crores (Rs. 1.25 crore.);  
Madhya Bharat Rs. 1.46 crores (Rs. 6 lakhs);  
Madhya Pradesh Rs. 4.20 crores (Rs. 3.35 crores);  
Madras Rs. 11.10 crores (Rs. 8.56 crores);  
Mysore Rs. 3.68 crores (Rs. 3.45 crores);  
Orissa Rs. Rs. 3.74 crores (Rs. 2.91 crores);  
Pepsu Rs. 65 lakhs (Rs. 16 lakhs);  
Punjab Rs. 3.82 crores (Rs. 3.43 crores);  
Rajasthan Rs. 2.89 crores (Rs. 10 lakhs);  
Saurashtra Rs. 3.02 crores (Rs. 2.75 crores);  
Travancore-Cochin Rs. 3.23 crores (Rs. 3.22 crores);  
Uttar Pradesh Rs. 11.70 crores (Rs. 8.88 crores);  
West Bengal Rs. 9.60 crores (Rs. 7.54 crores);  
Total Rs. 85.93 crores (Rs. 65.12 crores);

The amounts received till 1951-52 are average for three years in the case of Part A States and for two years in the case of Part B States.

The actual amount accruing by way of devolution of revenue will obviously vary from year to year.

### I.T. ARREARS

In addition to the share of revenues under the Commission's scheme the States will also receive the outstanding arrears of their share of income-tax in respect of the period before Apr. 1, 1952. The budget for 1952-53 assumes that these arrears will be Rs. 5 crores, and if the actual amount is of this order, Madras will receive Rs. 87 lakhs, Bombay Rs. 105 lakhs, West Bengal Rs. 68 lakhs, U. P. Rs. 90 lakhs, Punjab Rs. 27 lakhs, Bihar Rs. 63 lakhs, Madhya Pradesh Rs. 30 lakhs, Assam Rs. 15 lakhs and Orissa Rs. 15 lakhs.

### MIDDLE EAST DEFENCE

Replying to a question of Mr. A. C. Guha in the House of the People, the Prime Minister said the Government of India viewed "any developments connected with the proposed Middle Eastern Defence plan with concern."

Mr. Nehru said that

in the event of the establishment of MEDO, certain consequences will naturally follow and certain existing balances in the Middle East might be affected. The Government of India are, therefore, naturally interested in this matter. He, however, added that the Government of India had not sent any formal communication to the other parties concerned "as it directly concerns the relations of other countries; but naturally our viewpoint is made clear to other countries whenever the need arises."

The Prime Minister added that Government had received no official information about MEDO, nor had they been invited or approached by any other Government to join this organisation. "It has been stated on behalf of the Pakistan Government that certain discussions have taken place or are taking place, but no final decision has been reached."

### INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

Prime Minister Nehru, expressed in an interview with the UPA his willingness to meet the Pakistan Prime Minister, Khwaja Nazimuddin, to discuss problems between India and Pakistan, including the Kashmir issue.

Earlier Mr. Nazimuddin had told the UPA that he was willing to talk face to face with Mr. Nehru if an agenda could be worked out.

"Why fix an agenda"? Mr. Nehru asked in the interview on February 13:

An agenda is used for the United Nations or other meetings but when two men sit down, they talk about matters of common interest. I would be willing to meet to discuss any matter of common interest,

## THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Addressing the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on February 11, President Prasad reviewed the events during the nine months since he addressed Parliament last and said that internally, advances had been made on many fronts, industrial and agricultural.

In the international field, the President expressed "grave concern" over some of the recent developments in regard to Korea. "Certain statements recently made and the consequences that might flow from them in extending the war in Korea," he said, "have caused considerable apprehension in the minds of people all over the world."

Referring to the movement against racial discrimination in South Africa, and the racial conflict in East Africa, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said:

There are many people still who do not realise that racial domination and discrimination cannot be tolerated in the world today, and any attempt to perpetuate them can only lead to disaster.

The President noted that India's relations with her neighbouring countries in Western and South-Eastern Asia continued to be close and friendly, and that there was an "increasing measure of co-operation between us."

Other points dealt with by the President included the following:

**New Andhra State:** I hope that there will be no great delay in establishing the new Andhra State. Any such change, as the establishment of a new State, demands the fullest co-operation of all those concerned with it, and I trust that this will be forthcoming.

**Agitation in Jammu:** I trust that this misguided agitation will cease, and the people of Jammu and Kashmir will co-operate for the progress and advancement of the State in the larger union of India. Where there are legitimate grievances, they will undoubtedly be inquired into and every effort made to remove them.

**Five-Year Plan:** I am glad to find that this plan, and the 55 community projects that have been started in the country are evoking a considerable degree of enthusiasm among our people.

**Finance Commission:** The Commission's recommendations have been accepted by my Government, and necessary action will be taken to implement them.

## MR. BEVAN ON INDIA'S ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS

The need for a third bloc of nations to hold the world's balance of power was advocated by Mr. Aneurin Bevan on Feb. 16 while addressing members of Parliament. Mr. Bevan paid a tribute to India's achievements during the last few years both in the domestic sphere and in the field of foreign affairs. Referring to India's foreign policy, Mr. Bevan said:

During the last few years, not only have you very many domestic accomplishments to your credit but the voice of India in the councils of the nations has recently been of the utmost importance. When I read in the Indian newspapers of the fact that India does not have any influence in world affairs because she does not belong to this or that bloc of nations, I do not believe that. If India belongs to any one of the blocs of nations, she would merely become a creature of one of the two blocs and have no influence on them. (Cheers.)

The fact is the world at the moment is divided between two great giants, neither of whom appears to be able to influence the policy of the other. Russia and the whole Soviet mass is suffering from rigidity and the United States of America is suffering from instability. Both are hag-ridden by fear and both are so powerful that they think they can afford to dispense with wisdom because only the weak need wisdom. Therefore it is from the weaker nations that the most sense is being spoken at the present time.

I believe not only for you but for mankind it is necessary that there should be a realignment of the forces of the world, that there should emerge a third bloc of nations holding a world balance of power and compelling these two giants to listen to what they have to say.

In the course of the last few months India has taken the initiative in the United Nations and though her advice has not always been accepted, do not make the mistake of supposing it has not had its influence. Though perhaps the change of policy may come from another nation, initiative in changing the direction of forces can often come from nations like India leading the others in the United Nations.

**Mr. Bevan added:**

Therefore for those of us who were members of the British Cabinet when India realised her independence, we have a deep sense of pride not only in what India is doing inside India but when we open our newspapers and read that the Indian Prime Minister, or the delegate of India at the United Nations has been moving this resolution or presenting some formula in some crisis in mankind's destiny at the present time, we feel a deep sense of pride that perhaps what we did may yet be fateful in the history of mankind.

## EVACUEE PROPERTY

The House of the People passed on February 20, the Administration of Evacuee Property (Amendment) Bill which among other things, will abolish at one stroke all the clauses in the Act dealing with intending evacuees. There will be no more intending evacuees and all those who have been declared to be such in the past will be freed from all restrictions.

The Rehabilitation Minister, Mr. Ajit Prasad Jain, said that the Bill left untouched the position of those who could be declared evacuees straight off.

During the debate some of the members expressed doubt whether Government intended to carry out their promises of compensation to refugees. Mr. Jain assured them that Government stood by all their promises. The scheme of compensation, he said, was under consideration. He hoped it would be placed before the House and the public in no distant future.

The Evacuee Property Bill also seeks to amend the relevant portions of the Evacuee Property Law to provide that any transfer for valuable consideration of any property the value of which is less than Rs. 3,000 need not, in future, be liable to confirmation by the Custodian.

## INDIAN DELEGATION TO U.N.

The Indian delegation to the second part of the seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which met in New York on February 24, 1953, is composed of the following:

**Representatives:** Srimati Vijayalakshmi Pandit (Leader), Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon.

**Alternate representative:** Mr. Rajeshwar Dayal, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York.

**Advisers:** Mr. T. J. Natarajan, Mr. B. Rajan, Mr. Avtar Singh and Mr. P. K. Banerjee.

Mr. G. H. Jansen will be the Public Relations Officer to the delegation.

## GURKHA SOLDIERS ON TRANSIT

Prime Minister Nehru said in Parliament that the Government of India had made it clear to the U.K. Government as well as the Nepal Government that India could not indefinitely allow the transit facilities even on individual basis for the Gurkha recruits to the British army across India.

The Prime Minister stated this in reply to Prof. H. N. Mukerjee, in the House of the People.

The position taken up by the Government of India in regard to the closing of the British camps in the territory of the Indian Union for the recruitment of Gurkhas, said Mr. Nehru, had been accepted by the U.K. Government. The matter was under discussion between the Governments of Nepal and the U.K. Under the tripartite agreement signed in 1947 between the Governments of the U.K., Nepal and India, the Government of India agreed to give transport facilities through India to Gurkhas from Nepal. This agreement continued and no fresh assurance had been given.

## POWER SUPPLY TO W. PUNJAB

India and Pakistan have signed a fresh agreement to continue supply of electricity from East Punjab to West Punjab for another one year. The present agreement expires by the end of March.

It is stated that under the existing agreement West Punjab is getting 6,000 kilowatts at the rate of 1.35 pias (Indian currency) per unit.

## CONCESSION TO SMALL PRODUCERS

The Government of India has agreed to the representation of State Governments to exempt small producers from the provisions of the Food-grains (Licensing and Procurement) Order 1952. This order prescribes a limit of 15 maunds of food-grains which a person can store without a licence.

### SOCIAL EDUCATION ORGANISERS

A detailed programme of the training or Social Education Organisers, who will work in the Community Project areas, was finalised at a two-day Conference of Directors or Training Centres of Social Education Organisers, in Delhi.

Sri S. K. Dey, Administrator, Community Projects, presided. Those who attended were Dr. J. M. Kumarappa, and Srimans K. Roy, K. P. Chowdhury, T. A. Koshy, G. G. Ramachandran, and P. H. Patwardhan.

The Conference decided that the Community Projects Administration should make an appeal to the public to bring to the fore suitable folk literature, which might already exist, or which is being currently produced in the upsurge of freedom but has not yet come into popular use. Such material would be screened by a Special Committee to be set up for the purpose.

### DR. RADHAKRISHNAN ON TRAINING FOR LEADERSHIP

Referring to the role universities played in moulding character and behaviour of young men on the right lines, Dr. Radhakrishnan emphasised the need for universities playing their part well now at the Silver Jubilee Convocation of the Andhra University:

If we wish to avoid totalitarianism of the right or left variety and make democracy a live thing and again if we do not want to compromise with social evils which were undemocratic which in their turn would lead to development of other undesirable "isms", a university should do its function truly and well, namely to produce leaders, who will be endowed with abiding faith and conviction in what they think and do and we will work not for the world which is dying but for the world which is struggling to be born. And this in my view is the main function of a university.

It is very essential for the greatness of any civilisation to emphasise the freedom of the human mind. Look at the magnificent achievements in art and science and literature. They are products of personal vision and work in many cases. If they stifle the human mind they kill the very spirit behind individual initiative and make at all individuals duplicates of one another with the result that society will stagnate.

In our country, we are uncertain, we are afraid, we are confused and we do not know what

is the type of society to which we have to train our youth. This position is being exploited to our disadvantage. Fortunately for us, we have in our Constitution, a social philosophy, a truly social democratic philosophy, which believes in justice, political, economic and social, believes in liberty of society and association as long as we do not interfere with the interests of others. We believe in equal opportunity to all; we believe in fraternity. Here is the very essence of democratic faith. This is in consistence with the ideas of our civilisation...

Man high or low has in him the possibility of rising to divine stature. All religions have accepted this truth that the individual is precious, and they should preserve his dignity and sanctity. If this is not preserved, the civil State would go down. Democracy is on trial now. At present, the democracies are facing a very critical situation. It is now that the democracies will have to put forth leaders of faith, character and courage.

### GOVT. SCHOLARSHIPS IN ANDHRA VARSITY

The Central Government have sanctioned 33 senior scholarships in the Andhra University, out of which 18 carry Rs. 206 each for a month, and 15 Rs. 100 a month.



DR. C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR  
The New Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University.

### ELECTION LAW TO BE AMENDED

The Law Minister, Mr. C. C. Biswas, told the House of the People on Feb. 19 that upto February 1, ten election petitions were disposed of in respect of the House of the People, 72 in respect of State Legislative Assemblies, three in respect of State Councils and one in respect of the Council of States. The number of elections declared void by the Election Commissioner upto February 1 was 38. The reasons for declaring the elections void were improper rejection or acceptance of nomination papers, corruption and illegal practices.

With a view to preventing elections being set aside in future on the ground of improper rejection or of improper acceptance of nomination papers, Government intended introducing a Bill to amend the law, providing for a summary appeal from the returning officer's orders at an early stage and giving absolute finality to the list of validly nominated candidates. It was not, however, proposed to take any action to prevent elections being set aside in future on the grounds of corrupt and illegal practices.

### PROVISION OF DIVORCE FOR HINDUS

Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Vice-Chancellor of the Annamalai University, suggests that a plebiscite on the question of divorce for which provision was to be made in the Hindu Code would be very profitable.

Dr. Ramaswami Aiyar, who was Observer in a mock-Parliament held under the auspices of the General Council of Associations of University, said that any provision for divorce in the Code must also provide economic securities for the divorced wife and her children. He praised the Islamic law of marriage which insisted on the return of the mahr (dowry) in divorce cases. He hoped that the framers of the Hindu Code would consider this point.

### INDIA'S PRISON SYSTEM

Recommendations which would drastically revise India's prison administration and penal code, have been made by a United Nations expert.

The expert, Dr. Walter, C. Reckless, a Criminologist at Ohio State University on loan to the U. N. Technical Assistance Administration, has completed a survey of the entire administration and has suggested new legislation which may be proposed to the Indian Parliament.

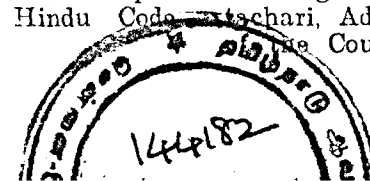
Dr. Reckless stated that the first step to be taken should be a revision of the Gaol Manual and the Indian Penal Code. He also strongly recommended the introduction and application of the probation system and urged that prison administrators change their concept of the purpose of imprisonment.

He said they must regard confinement as a period of social rehabilitation and training for good citizenship and not as a custodial, punitive experience. In order to accomplish this, he said, it must be assumed that a majority of prisoners could be improved and that only a minority was incorrigible.

Dr. Reckless said that the present Gaol Manual and Penal Code used the custodial concept of long punitive sentence and rigorous commitment. He suggested a Government commission to draft revisions.

### HINDU MARRIAGE & DIVORCE BILL

The Madras Bar Council at a recent meeting expressed its general approval of the terms of the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill, but pointed out that there was no justification for retaining the provisions relating to judicial separation; and that with regard to Clause 19 read with the definition in Clause 3 (b) the jurisdiction should be vested in courts like the City Civil Courts in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, so that the cases need not be filed in the High Court. Mr. V. K. Tiruvenkatachari, Advocate-General and Chairman of the Council presided.



### THE RAILWAY BUDGET

The Railway estimates presented to Parliament on Feb. 18 by Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri anticipate a net surplus of Rs. 9.31 crores for 1953-54. Gross traffic receipts and working expenses are estimated at Rs. 272.28 crores and Rs. 191.20 crores respectively. The dividend to General Revenues will be Rs. 34.77 crores.

The revised estimate for 1952-53 reveals a net surplus of only Rs. 9.48 crores as against the Budget estimate of Rs. 23.47 crores, representing a fall of Rs. 13.99 crores.

The Railway Minister announced no variations either in the freight charges or in passenger fares. The abolition of Class I in all trains would be completed by October this year and travel concessions for teachers and volunteers working in community projects would be introduced, he declared.

Mr. Shastri named 12 new lines to be constructed or surveyed during the forthcoming year. Survey would be undertaken in respect of seven other projects.

Class I accommodation will be withdrawn from all trains with effect from April 1, 1953, except on some of the express and mail trains and completely by October next.

### "TRAVEL AS YOU LIKE" TICKETS

Mr. Shastri announced travel concessions to parties of teachers of recognised schools, concession tickets to volunteers working on community projects and introduction of "Travel-as-you-like" tickets for Class III passengers for a fortnight in the first half of April.

### ERADICATION OF CORRUPTION

The Railway Minister announced the setting up of a committee which would include Members of Parliament to investigate the problem of corruption in railways and suggest remedial measures, both administrative and legal.

### PASSENGER AMENITIES

A sum of Rs. 3 crores has, as usual, been provided in the next year for passenger amenities. The Minister said that a substantial portion of this allotment would be devoted towards improving passenger amenities at comparatively smaller stations also.

The drop in the surplus for 1952-53 is mainly due to a decrease of Rs. 10.14 crores under passenger earnings, of which Rs. 2.19 crores is due to upper class traffic and the balance under Class III traffic. The fall in goods traffic earnings is put at Rs. 1.10 crores.

The final accounts of 1951-52 has resulted in a net surplus of Rs. 22.06 crores which is Rs. 6.28 crores more than the revised estimate for that year.

### INDIANISATION IN FOREIGN FIRMS

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, informed Mr. K. K. Basu in the House of the People on February 20 that 75 per cent. of the foreign controlled firms and companies in India had sent returns in response to Government's questionnaire on the subject of employment of Indians.

"It is the declared policy of the Government," he said, "to encourage the employment of Indians in an increasing measure in such foreign concerns. The Government will certainly do all that is possible and use such influence as it possesses to make these concerns employ as many Indians as possible."

### LOANS FROM WORLD BANK

The Finance Minister, Mr. Deshmukh, gave details of the two loans recently received from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The first loan amounting to 31.5 million dollars to the Indian Iron and Steel Company would carry an interest of 4½ per cent. and was repayable in 30 half-yearly instalments. The loan was given for the expansion programme of the company and the Government of India had guaranteed the loan. The amount represented the foreign currency cost of plant and machinery to be obtained by the company.

The other loan of a sum of 19.5 million dollars to the Damodar Valley Corporation carried an interest of 4-7/8 per cent. and was repayable in half-yearly instalments over a period of 25 years.

### WOMAN SAINT TO FORM PARTY

Shraddhamata a revered woman saint, announced at a recent Press Conference in Delhi her intention to form a new party to be known as the "Lokatma Sangh." She said the aim of the new party would be the establishment of economic and social equality.

She regretted that religion was being made a tool of exploitation of the masses. In her opinion true religion meant the absence of social and economic inequality. The new party would try to bring about a change in the present social order through peaceful and non-violent means, she said.

Shraddhamata hails from a princely family of Uttar Pradesh. She renounced the world at the age of 25 a decade ago and came back recently from the Kailash mountains where she had gone for meditation.

### 7,200 FOREIGN WOMEN STUDENTS IN U.S.A.

In the last academic year a total of 30,476 foreign students, nearly 7,200 of them women, were enrolled in more than 1,400 American colleges and universities, according to the Institute of International Education, New York (U.S.A.)

India alone had 1,133 students, and along with China, Mexico, Germany and Canada lead in foreign student enrolment.

### GIRL GRADUATES IN OXFORD

Oxford University girl students are worse dressed than the ordinary shop assistant, complains *Isis*, the undergraduates' official magazine.

It declares that fluffy pullovers, wind-swept hair and sack like skirts "are sufficient indication of the tepid, sluggish flowing of their blood."

The University's women are accused of being divided into two classes: those who go there after a degree and a husband—and those who go there after a husband.

### 12 WOMEN TO SERVE IN NEW U.S. CONGRESS

A record number of women members will serve in the new 83rd U.S. Congress, according to the latest election returns reported in Washington.

There will be 12 women holding seats in the House and the Senate, if final returns confirm the present election reports. This is one more than the number serving in the outgoing 82nd Congress. Only once before—in the 79th Congress—had there been 11 women members.

Nine women Representatives were re-elected and two new-comers were elected. The only woman member of the upper chamber of the U.S. Congress Senator Margaret Chase Smith, Republican of Maine was not required to run for re-election this year.

### INCREASED RIGHTS TO WOMEN

Women in 23 countries have been granted full or limited political rights since the U.N. Charter was signed in 1945 according to the latest U.N. annual report. There are now 57 nations that grant women equal voting rights with men.



Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, wife of the President of the United States.

### WORLD CHURCH LEADERS IN CONFERENCE

More than 150 World Church leaders, who had gathered at Lucknow in January last condemned with one voice the cult of Master Race practised in any part of the world. In a five-point resolution on the racial problem in South Africa, the Governing Body of the Central Committee of World Council of Churches affirmed that all discriminations based on race, whether political, social or economic, were contrary to the "will of God as expressed in the Christian gospel."

The resolution which was carried unanimously concluded with a call to all member churches to do "all in their power" to end racial discrimination wherever it existed.

The five points of the resolution are:

1. The Central Committee "is glad to recognise that constructive conversation has begun between the South African member churches and the World Council concerning the Christian attitude to problems of relationships between races and lays stress on the desirability of asking representative non-European Christians in South Africa to share in these deliberations.

2. The Central Committee "desires that conversation with South African churches should be continued and considers that for this purpose full participation of South African churches in the Commission on inter-group relations, set up in preparation for the Second Assembly, is essential.

3. The Central Committee gives encouragement to all those in South Africa and elsewhere who are labouring for a solution of the racial problem in keeping with the Christian gospel and calls upon all Christians to uphold them in thought and prayer and in acts of reconciliation.

4. The Central Committee would use the opportunity to express its strong conviction that the first and foremost contribution which churches everywhere can and must make to a solution of the race problem is to manifest in their own life that in Christ all racial division is overcome and that any policy of enforced segregation in any aspect of church life is incompatible with the very nature of the Church of Christ.

5. The Central Committee holding strongly convictions expressed by the First Assembly affirms that all political, social and economic discriminations based on groups of race wherever they may exist are contrary to the will of God as expressed in the Christian gospel. Recognising that the existing racial discrimination is increasing the tension and bitterness in various parts of the world, the Committee calls upon member churches to engage in Christian Ministry of reconciliation and to all in their power to end such discrimination wherever it exists.

### THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

A special function was held on Feb. 17 at the Headquarters of the Society in Adyar, when the retiring President, Mr. Jinarajadasa, declared Mr. N. Sri Ram elected President of the Society for seven years. After garlanding him, he conferred on Mr. Sri Ram the Ring of Madame H. P. Blavatsky, the President-co-Founder, which has been in custody of successive Presidents since the time of Dr. Besant.

In a brief speech, Mr. Sri Ram laid emphasis on the importance of the work before them.

### PLASTIC LENS, FOR EYES

Plastic lenses are being put into human eyes, Dr. Harold Ridley, Ophthalmic Surgeon of London, told the International College of Surgeons' Congress at Chicago.

The plastic lens replaces the eye's natural lens lost through cataract, which often causes blindness.

The eye specialist takes out the clouded lens and substitutes a little disc of clear, pure plastic, said Dr. Ridley who in three years has done 65 such operations.



DR. FELIX BLOCH

Professor of physics at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, has been awarded a Nobel Prize for 1952 for his work in nuclear physics.

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RAJ-JYOTISHI

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

This powerfully gifted great man can tell at a glance all about one's past, present and, future, and with the help of Yogic and Tantric powers can heal diseases which are the despair of Doctors and Kavirajas, can help people to win difficult law-suits, and ensure safety from dangers, prevent childlessness and free people of family unhappiness. His three important predictions (prediction about the British victory on the very day—2nd September, 1939—of the declaration of last World War, prediction of the achievement of independence by the Interim Govt. with Pandit Jawaharlal as the Premier made on the 3rd September, 1946 and prediction regarding the future of India and Pakistan which had been sent to the Prime Minister of India on the 11th August, 1947 and subsequently published in various Newspapers) have proved correct to the detail, amazed people the world over and have won for him unstinted praise and gratitude from all quarters including His Majesty George the Sixth, the Governor of Bengal and eminent leaders of India. He is the only astrologer in India who was honoured with the title of "Jyotish-Shiromani" in 1938 and "Jyotishsamrat"—Emperor among astrologers and astronomers—in 1947 by the Bharatiya Pandit Mahamandal of Calcutta and Baranashi Pandit Maha Sabha of Benares—a signal honour that has not been endowed on any astrologer in India so far. Panditji is now the Consulting Astrologer to the Eighteen Ruling Princes in India.

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

### A FEW OPINIONS AMONGST THOUSANDS.

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

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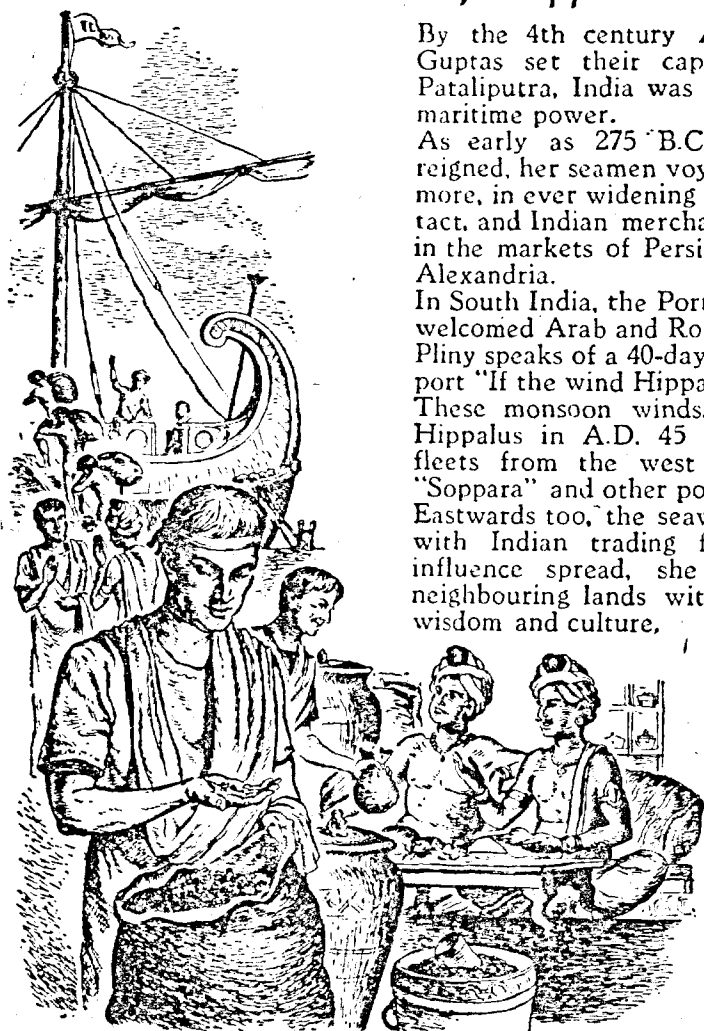
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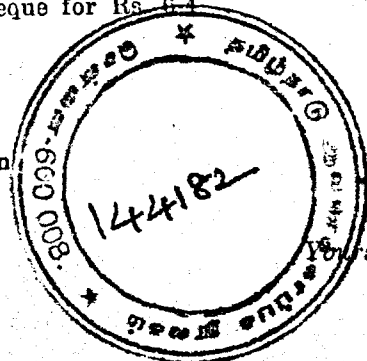
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