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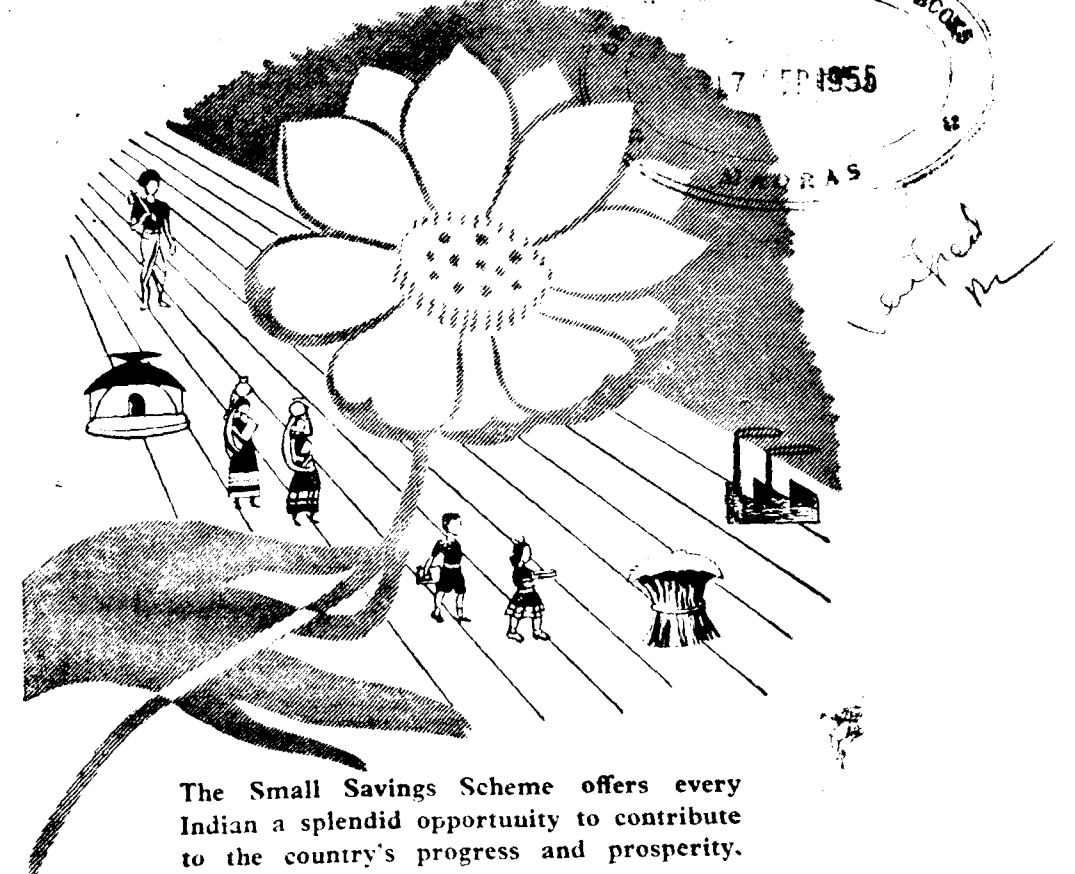
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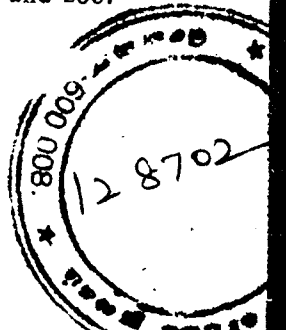
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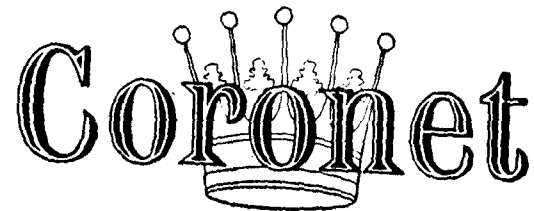


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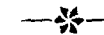
Vol. 56]

AUGUST 1955

[No. 8

French Africa Afire

By Prof. K. C. PETER, M. A., LL. B.



FROM imperialist bondage, Africans are steadily marching towards freedom. But Western imperialist powers are busy striving to put them in their places. In Kenya (British colony), when Captain Gerald Griffiths gave his men 5 shillings per Mau Mau suspect shot dead and kept up a scoreboard in the military canteen, the Wakamba tribe, who fought the Germans shoulder to shoulder with British troops, is tempted to turn against the government. Called 'Men of the moon' by Arabs, the Wakambas, whose tribal dances still exhibit the loops, somersaults and acrobatics that remind us of modern ballet in its primitive intensity, now reveal a stout pro-Kikuyu attitude. The 'African weekly' denounces child labour in practice. It says: "The age of the children is about 6 to 7 years and they come mainly from Nyasaland and Serra in Portuguese East Africa. Many of them look miserable, stunted and dirty while others are dwarfish and stocky. Not a few shows signs of malnutrition. The children are employed in tobacco warehouses, factories and in domestic service—some put in a day's work of 8 to 9 hours!" In Mozambique, over a million Muslims rise up against Portuguese oppression. In French North Africa, the people suffer the worst repression; martial law is the order of the day. Nationalism is on the upsurge. Terrorism has flared up—the French against the Africans and the Africans against the French. Catholic missionary head, Fr. John, J. Considine's enquiries to White teachers in African

universities expose that "African students are intellectually equal to American students". "The cruel wrong to this race is to regard them as having few human gifts, simply because they have suffered so grossly from the White-man's inhumanity" says Considine. Belgium has its richest economic eggs in the Congo. And she isn't ready to let them slip through her fingers. Anywhere in Africa, writes Fr. Considine, the conversation turns to self-government within 15 minutes. Africa shouts as she reaches into the second half of the 20th century—shouts for freedom. Africa's society of peoples looks forward to a fullness of life on its own. No power on earth can deny them their birth-right, the right to freedom.

MOROCCO

Morocco (area: 172, 104 sq. miles) having 7 million souls is in the grips of 400,000 Frenchmen. In the 8th century A. D. the Arab world broke up. A rebel governor shook off the Caliphate to shape up his own kingdom of Morocco. Caliph Harun-El-Rashid poisoned him to death. Some of his followers met the same fate. Sultan Moulay Ismail wanted to marry French monarch Louis XIV's daughter, built a new capital Meknes. But the French king's ambassador reported that Emperor Moulay had killed 36000 men himself, had 549 wives, over 1000 concubines and 867 children. In 1902, the French came, got Morocco by the Anglo-French treaty which gave other powers other places in Africa. In 1912 Morocco became a French

protectorate. French Resident-General Gen. Lyautey (1912-25) made Morocco modern. Railways, roads and hospitals sprang up here and there. For decades, the French put down every nationalist upsurge. By 1934 there was peace in Morocco. Then walked in the nationalist 'Istiqlal' to fight the French who retaliated with equal fervour.

Sultan Mohammed Ben Yousef was exiled off on August 15, 1953, because he refused to sign the (Resident-General's) statutes thrust under his nose. Moreover, he supported Moroccan nationalism. Protests rang far and wide. But the French terrorised the Moroccans into quiet. Wanting a docile old Sultan in whom nationalist feelings had died down, the French enthroned Sidi Moulay Mohammed Ben Arafa, pope (head of religion), king (Morocco is theretically independent), puppet (for the French run the show) and prisoner (for the French may depose him any time if he disobeys) all rolled into one.

Morocco is split up into three zones—the French, the Spanish and Tangier (international port). Berbers came first to Morocco, which since then was victim to Arab, Roman, Portuguese, Spanish and French conquests. Arabs hate shaking hands, want visitors to leave after the third cup of tea following the meal; they hate others making passes at their women and cutting native bread with a knife. Arabs smoke, but do not drink liquor. Rabat (business centre), Casablanca (chief port), Fez (nerve-centre of Istiqlal), and Marrakesh (capital of pro-French Moroccan chief Pasha El Gloui) are Morocco's famous cities.

As their literature amply reveals, the Arabs have strong interest in the erotic. "Silk was invented so that women can go naked in clothes" says an Arab proverb. City of Bousbir, famed as "the largest and most spectacular brothel area in the world" has no fewer than 11,000 registered prostitutes. Though polygamy is on its way out, a husband

may divorce his wife at will by declaring so before the local *cadi* (judge); the wife cannot divorce the husband. "When marriage is consummated a servant tosses a blood-stained handkerchief out of the window as proof to the crowd (waiting below) of the bride's virginity" says John Gunther. He adds: "Legends say that she often has a live chicken handy whose throat can be slit if necessary."

Rom Landau narrates all about the Ghedra, the exotic dance he saw one night in the Officers' Mess at Goulimine. Men sang delectable ditties clapping their hands in tune, while a specialist did beat the tune with bare hands in tune, while a specialist did beat the tune with bare hands on the sheepskin-covered earthenware pot called *toe Ghedra*. The dancing girl knelt on the floor and let her head, shoulders, arms and fingers jerk in rhythm with the music. As the rhythm ran up, the jerks gathered momentum. She threw back her hood, exposing her attractive hair-do, luminous eyes and the vibrant life in her full red lips. Then came another girl and another; the rhythm varied and also the handclapping. As evening wore on, the girls unfastened their jackets exposing breasts and torso. The dancers worked themselves into a frenzy and more clothes went off. On and on the dum-dum-dum dum-dum-dum dum-dum of the Ghedra went, till the exotic rhythm coursed through the blood of all, stirring up the primitive in men.

The Istiqlal nationalist party is the storm-centre of Moroccan nationalism, though weak and ill-organised. The French condemn this body as the asylum of half-baked intellectuals, wishy-washy marxist-stalinists, leading Morocco nowhere but to fascism. The French turned down the exiled Sultan's request to give his subjects freedom to form free trade unions and to appoint tribal chiefs. He demanded revision of 1912 French-Moroccan treaty in vain. He refused to give extra-strong French representation in municipal councils.

because it will give the French citizenship minus its obligations. The French deposed the Sultan. Out of 6 top Istiqlal leaders, three are behind bars, one deported and two sought shelter abroad.

French repression has passed the point of human endurance. On Islam's greatest feast day 'Aid El Kabir'—in memory of Abraham sacrificing a sheep in place of his own son Ishmael, the ancestor of all Arabs—the Sultan has to cut the throat of the chosen ram in Rabat. The last two times he showed up his face in public, he narrowly escaped death at the hands of the exiled Sultan's followers. Hence, the Sultan conducted the ceremony in the palace itself. And the animal arrived still breathing—a good omen. By then, 8000 to 10,000 Arab discontents had gone on a rampage in the 'Medina'; they killed 7 Whites. The French hit back. The 'ratisse' (raking-in) began. Tanks rolled out. And the French legionnaires. They surrounded the 'Medina' (native quarter), collected 20,000 men (beating back the protesting women). The captives were lined up. The brutal show-down began. Listen to 'TIME' correspondent Frank White's eyewitness account: "He (police colonel) smiled broadly, then hit a middle-aged Arab with his right fist below the belt. As the Arab went down, the colonel kneed him in the groin. The Arab tried to get up; another cop caught him across the jaw with a club. Down went the Arab and the next cop kicked him twice. He got up again and ran into the arms of another policeman who poked him into a sitting position with the muzzle of a carbine!" Even French Whites helped the cops in the process. The 'ratisse' ended with 20 Arabs dead. Can brutality go farther? Riots broke out.

Last year, Moroccan terrorists killed off 200 men, wounded 500. As native bombs burst here and there killing the people, not all European guns were used in self-defence. Morocco's French colonial vigilantes have

organised 'The White Hand', 'Agir' (to act) and 'Organisation de Defence anti-terroriste'. In lonely spots, they gather to discuss plots over glasses of pastis. Says 'Time': "The earliest targets were moors picked off in dark alleys, but in time they moved on to bigger game, like the prominent Moroccan lawyer Omar Sloui who was shot last August by two Frenchmen posing as police. Small Moroccan businessmen are frequent targets, and so are native school teachers. Frenchmen suspected of favouring Moroccans are also singled out for quick punishment. 'Pig, you have sold out to the rats; you will be a feast for the worms' ran one threatening letter to a government official which was signed 'The True Frenchman'. 'Blood for blood' is the order of the day. The French settlers had 40 votes ready to upset Premier Mendes Frances's appellation. He was voted out of office. Nonetheless, Moroccan nationalism grows unchecked and is out to wrest freedom from unwilling French hands.

TUNISIA

Tunisian nationalism today is the proverbial bull in the chinashop of French imperialism. 3½ million people are bottled up in Tunisia, a French protectorate 48,313 sq. miles in extent. 25,000 Whites lord over 3.4 million natives having a per capita income of Rs. 150. 70 years of French rule benefit the masters; they take away a million ton of phosphates a year, 8 lakh tons of iron ore, 2400 tons of lead, 12,000 tons of zinc ore. 84% of the people, ill-clothed, ill-fed and ill-housed, attacked by flybourne diseases, plagues and venereal diseases, are illiterate. The administration works on a system of bribes and grafts. National discontent gave way to the Neo-Dastour party. The party's chief Bourguiba was arrested and deported. Military courts did quick work of political trials. The violent rise of Arab nationalism, the breaking away of Syria and Lebanon from French protection, nationalist upsurge in Egypt and Sudan, India's triumph over British imperialism—all these accelerated and sharpened Tunisia's urge for freedom.

Immediately after World War II, Neo-Dastour, the majority party, declared Tunisia free. Resident General Mast indulged in syrup talk, promised Tunisia freedom, asked Tunisian leaders to head the government. In 1947 French-Tunisian relations were smooth. In 1951 December the French disowned past promises and turned down Tunisian demands. And national agitation headed by Neo-Dastour began. The French unleashed police action. Charged of fomenting trouble, of fanning anti-French fire to flames, the Bey of Tunis, refusing to be nose-led, declared that he signed statutes under duress. Terrorism flared up.

Ferhat Hached, the Trade-union chief, was shot dead. More gunshots; more Tunisian leaders fell. It was the work of the 'Red Hand' (French terrorist organisation). No arrests. How can the French arrest their own men? Preyed upon by 'Red Hand' (Le Main Ruoge) guns, the Tunisian terrorists, impatient and angry, marched out with hand grenades, bombs and guns.

At long last, the exiled nationalist leader Habib Bourguiba and the French premier Faure met in the latter's residence (Hotel Matignon) in Paris. Result: French-Tunisian agreement. AGREEMENT: Defence and Foreign Affairs in French hands, Arabic as national language, 3.7th French representation in town councils, instead of the French Resident-General a High Commissioner, control of police in Tunisian hands within two years, courts to be transferred to the Tunisian government within 20 years. "This is our wedding day" said Ben Amar (Tunisian premier) wiping tears of joy. "We must wipe the slate clean" put in Faure.

51-year old, handsome hero Bourguiba's home-coming was a colorful event. Cheering crowds thronged the road as Bourguiba in a car flanked by 16 camel riders and men on

motor scooters moved forward through a seething sea of waving admirers, despite Tunisia's Frenchmen white with rage. From a raised platform, Bourguiba (who spent 10 years in exile or French prisons) proclaimed: "We have become masters of our land... The agreement must work in practice; it must eventually go all the way to independence". "Otherwise" he warned "there will be trouble in North Africa. An ideal can always find a gun."

ALGERIA

Algeria, having 8 million people spread over 847,500 sq. miles, is a French colony. Twice America under Washington and Jefferson had to punish Algeria for plundering American ships. Stephen Decatur led an American fleet and defeated the pirates. In World War Two, Allied troops based in central Algeria launched the offensive against Southern Europe. The climate is mild with warm days and cool nights. Winter is the tourists' season. The French exploit Algerian metal and mineral deposits; mercury, antimony petroleum, iron ore, corals and sponges are the main exports.

The Berbers have lived longest in Algeria. Now there are more Arabs than Berbers. 85% of the people are Muslims. Europeans number 1½ millions. Jews too have helped to develop the land. Algiers, the hillside city overlooking the bay, founded by the Moors in 944 A.D., is the capital; it is more French than Paris. Oran (port) and Constantine (built by Emperor Constantine) are other cities. Ancient Hippo where St. Augustine was bishop (395-430 A.D.) is called Bone today, a city of importance.

Algeria, a Roman colony called Numidia, was invaded by Vandals. Then came Arab conquest and Islam. In 1830 the Bey of Algeria insulted the French consul. The French army goose-stepped into Algeria. Till 1871, Algeria was under French military

rule; civil government was developed later. In 1919 the French gave full citizenship to Algerians who fought in First World war and also to property-owners who could read and write. The Governor-general of Algeria is Paris-appointed.

Today, Algeria has come of age and demands freedom. The Whites have taken hold of the lands most fertile 1 million hectares. 200,000 Algerians have reached France in search of jobs; half of them are still jobless.

The freedom of worship, Algerians enjoy, is peculiar. The French have confiscated mosque-properties, starving out charity endowments and religious schools. Nationalism has filled the cultural vacuum thus created. Years back, when Nehru and Soekarno issued the anti-imperialist manifesto, Algerian national leader Messali Haj signed it. Messali received his education in Paris the hard way. During off-hours he hawked newspapers in the streets. Messali's North-Africa-Star society, People's Party and Triumph-of-Democratic-Liberty organisation were banned by the French. And Messali had to leave Algeria.

Back in Algeria in 1945, he shaped up the nationalist movement. Though the French killed off 30,000 patriots, the national organisation is on its march onward. Algerians have a proverb: "When it is very hot in Tunisia and Morocco, it is warm in Algeria." But in 1954 November, Algeria, for the first time in 9 nine years, was insufferably hot. Terrorists were abroad and sprayed bullets on Frenchmen. The French have airlifted from Paris 1600 paratroopers add 1400 security troops to reinforce the 10,000 soldiers already there. French armoured columns pursue the

3000-strong well-equipped Algerian guerilla bands in the jungles with fighter planes for cover.

Algeria demands nothing short of independence. "The only negotiation is war" says Paris. The angry nationalists quote a proverb in answer: "If you don't take a suit case, you will get a coffin."

OTHER POSSESSIONS

French West Africa, with barren sands of Sahara, tropical forests and rolling grassy savannahs covering 1,815,763 sq. miles, is too hot for Europeans to live in. The French companies exploit gold, Jasper, copper, manganese, ivory, cocoa and coffee produced by the region. The French Equatorial Africa (Area: 959, 256 sq. miles. Population: 3.7 millions. Europeans: 20,000) is too moist and hot; heavy rains help deep jungles to grow. Rubber, cotton, palm oil and coffee are the main products. Under Governor-General Felise Eboue (1940-44), the Paris-educated French Guiana Negro, the country made remarkable progress. Dr. Albert Schweitzer (Doctor of philosophy, of divinity, of Music and of medicine), the 1952 Nobel-peace-prize-winner, hailed as 'the man of the century' by New York National Arts' Foundation, serves the region whole-heartedly. The natives call this 78-year old, tall man with shaggy hair and greying moustache 'Oganga'; they say Oganga first kills the sick, then cures them and then brings them back to life, describing his surgical operations. Schweitzer has a solution for world peace—'Reverence for life. Madagascar is also a French possession. Nothing can keep Africans away from their birthright—Freedom.

B. C. G. Vaccination in India

BY DR. B. K. SIKAND, MBBS, DPH (LONDON).

A controversy on B.C.G. has lately appeared in the lay Press. The approach has been mostly emotional. Perhaps this could not be helped when a highly technical subject is dealt with in a lay fashion. In a subject like B.C.G., where even all doctors and bacteriologists would not feel competent to express opinions, it is only correct that the subject should be

viewed in the light of the opinion of the world scientists and world experience of its use.

The most exacting Laboratory tests extending over 30 years carried out in some of the finest laboratories in the world and in many countries, have established the non-pathogenic status of B.C.G. The protagonists of BCG

vaccination are some of the best and well known bacteriologists of the world. Apart from the bacteriologists connected with the Pasteur Institute in Paris, mention may be made of Prof. K. A. Jensen of Copenhagen, Prof. Frappier of Montreal, Canada, Dr. Serkog of New York State Laboratory and Dr. Rosenthal of Chicago. Epidemiologists and clinicians are following their advice in the application of this vaccination as a public health measure.

The experience of over hundred million vaccinations in different parts of the world has shown that BCG can be considered harmless. It is probably the most harmless of all vaccinations. It is in reality far less harmful than small pox vaccination which is commonly accepted and used compulsorily in many countries. World medical literature has quoted so far only three deaths associated with the BCG germ. Even here the BCG germs recovered from these fatal cases were still non-pathogenic to even the most susceptible of animals suggesting that it was that individual constitutional defects that caused these deaths rather than the possibility of the change of B.C.G. to a harmful organism. If BCG were harmful, its application would not have been extended to increasing areas and groups in many countries. Thus the present storm over BCG appears to be based on complete misunderstanding. Surely these countries do not love their children less than we do ours in this country.

A proof has been demanded of the value of BCG as a preventive measure against tuberculosis. It is difficult to assess the effect of a single factor in the epidemiology of a multifactorial disease like tuberculosis, unless controlled studies over long periods have been carried out. Such studies and reports from Norway, Canada, U.S.A. and Sweden bear

out the enormous advantages of the vaccinated against unvaccinated. Limited studies are also going on in this country, but it will take years for proper assessment. It is only correct to emphasise that such studies should be extended to many places, but that does not mean that the world experience should be rejected, till we find our own proofs. There might be some minor quantitative and qualitative differences in the experience of different countries; these ought to be investigated. In fact these are being investigated in India and also by World Health Organization Tuberculosis Research Office. But such minor differences are not of material significance so as to come in the way of adoption of this measure in India.

The claim that BCG would not have the same protective value in this country on account of the poor nutrition is not supported by facts. The marked benefit obtained by Japan from BCG vaccination in post war years supports this. The nutritional status of Japanese soon after the war were admittedly very poor and was possibly worse than ours. As a matter of fact poor nutrition is one of the cause of tuberculosis assuming an epidemic form, and therefore, is a special condition where mass vaccination should be considered urgent.

The argument against vaccination on account of the natural resistance of the large sections of the population is based on wrong premises. The so called resistance of the adult is acquired as a result of infection with virulent tubercle bacilli very often in childhood, and is at the cost of the death of lakhs of children and others every year. Even the so called resistant individual carries the potentiality of TB disease, because he often carries live virulent germs in his body. BCG vaccination by replacing this virulent with avirulent and non-pathogenic germ gives the necessary protection without any harmful effects. The protection by BCG is not absolute, therefore,

some amongst those who get BCG would get TB from fresh infection, but the vaccinated will have definite advantage over the unvaccinated as they usually develop a milder type of disease than those not protected. To try to secure this immunity from undependable and dangerous natural infection with virulent germs, is to ignore the loss of lakhs of lives by deaths, and the misery among millions. Not to take advantage of the protective value of BCG is to ignore this large toll of sickness and death.

BCG is not recommended as an isolated anti-tuberculosis measure. Raised standard of living and specific measures for diagnosis, treatment and isolation of tuberculous, are two other essential components of anti-tuberculosis programmes. The latter being costly,

is likely to take time and BCG being comparatively cheap and easily extendable to cover the whole population, was adopted only as a priority programme. Even for this comparatively cheap programme, we needed international help. No doubt other tuberculosis measures need to be encouraged and pushed as quickly as possible as our resources allow. But this is in no sense an argument for ignoring the useful preventive measure through BCG.

Nobody will deny that it is necessary to improve the machinery for dealing with complaints that may arise from those who are BCG vaccinated. All such complaints must be fully investigated in the interests of science and humanity and for the protection of the fair name of B.C.G.

Peace-Time Role of Indian Armed Forces

ON the morrow of the eighth year of freedom, the Indian armed Forces can look back with pride and satisfaction on another successful year in the service of the country, in conserving national security and further consolidating its defences. In the precarious peace that now subsists in the world, our Defence Services on land, in the air and on the seas, are maintaining eternal vigilance with a view to ensuring security to our people.

In evolving a balanced defence system for independent India, the emphasis has understandably been on the development of the Navy and the Air Forces, as the Indian Army, a product of longstanding fighting traditions built up over a century, is a fairly developed fighting force. Accordingly the efforts of the Government have been directed towards the promotion of the strength and efficiency of the Navy and the Air Force in order to make them worth fighting forces of compar-

able power. After Independence, the prime responsibility for the defence of the country has devolved on the Army, which, despite the reduction in its manpower and the phenomenal increase in its operational commitments following Partition, lived up to its high traditions of fighting efficiency and even improved upon them. The Army free India inherited was fairly modern, well-organised and equipped with conventional weapons.

CONTINUOUS TRAINING

Training for defence is a continuous process and will admit of no interruption. To maintain the fighting efficiency of our Services, unrelenting efforts have to be made even during peace-time in training. Our Armed Forces, or that of any other nation for that matter, are never and can never be idle. A soldier's is a dedicated life; he has pledged his life to the defence of his country and preparedness is the cost of vigilance. So

they prepare day after day, year after year, for an emergency which may never come.

Consistent with the imperative need for maintaining efficiency, every endeavour is made to achieve the maximum economy of avoidable expenditure. Of the various steps taken from time to time with this end in view, the most significant is the utilisation of surplus stores to meet current demand by relaxing specifications, wherever safe and necessary, and finding alternative uses for them, the re-organisation of the POL (Petrol, Oil and Lubrication) system in the Army Service Corps, etc. All these have resulted in a recurring economy of Rs. 6 crores and a non-recurring economy of Rs. 4 crores.

INDIAN NAVY

When Independence came, the Indian Navy was an infant force, but slowly and surely it has been and is still expanding. A cruiser, NIGERIA, which is renamed MYSORE, is now being re-equipped in the U. K. When it is commissioned in 1967, it will not only be the most modern ship in our fleet but will compare most favourably with the best cruisers of the Royal Navy.

The other ships of the Indian Navy are also being gradually replaced by now and more modern ships. A phased programme has already been drawn up and accepted by the Government and in the course of the next few years, new naval vessels will be progressively added. With a view ultimately to reducing our dependence on foreign supplies, a beginning is being made in the building of naval vessels in India. This is necessarily a slow process as the naval architects and specialised equipment necessary for the construction of naval vessels can only be built up over a period of years. With this end in view, the Hindustan Shipyard at Visakhapatnam has been asked to design and construct a coastal survey vessel for the Indian Navy.

The dockyard expansion programme is going according to schedule, and Army Engineers are already building into the sea. Vast tracts of land are being reclaimed, and after the completion of the reclamation, the next phase of the programme will be implemented which will provide two additional wharfs for ships and a cruiser-graving dock. The expanded dockyard, when it is ready, will provide facilities for annual repairs to our growing fleet.

NAVAL TRAINING

Thanks to this considerable expansion of training facilities, the facilities for naval training in this country are perhaps the best in the East. We have not only achieved self-sufficiency in the training of our own personnel but are also able to assist other countries to a limited extent.

Every year, ships of the Indian Navy visit various countries in East and West Asia and the Mediterranean. These cruises serve two important and useful purposes. Apart from the fact that such flag-showing visits help to enhance the prestige of our country, their significance in terms of training value for officers and men is immense. Also, the Indian Navy holds periodical exercises in conjunction with modern fleets of other countries. These exercises, where actual battle conditions are perseveringly simulated, help considerably to supplement the training facilities at home, and afford valuable opportunities for the officers and men of our Navy for training in anti-submarine, carrier-borne and other modes of modern naval warfare.

AIR POWER

The air power in modern defence has assumed vital significance. Rightly, efforts have been directed to develop and expand the bare skeleton of the Indian Air Force which we inherited in 1947 into a powerful modern Air Force. Although India cannot enter into competition with the Western countries, where more and more high speed and long range aircraft are being designed and developed, there is still urgent need for us to build up our air strength gradually and realistically. Our frontline Squadrons are today equipped with modern jet fighters, the Vampire jets and the Ouragone (since renamed Toofanis, after acquisition by the Indian Air Force.)

But more than dependence on foreign aircraft, as the Prime Minister declared during the defence debate in Parliament, "the real test of our advance in defence is in the growth of defence industries in the country". With a view to developing our own aircraft industry negotiations with foreign manufacturers have been in progress for some time and have reached a fairly advanced stage. In this context it would be useful to recall that India has already achieved signal success in designing and producing the HT-2 trainer aircraft. Moreover, Vampire jet aircraft are also being built and erected in the Hindustan Aircraft Limited under licence.

MAINTENANCE COMMAND

A modern air force requires different types of aircraft devoted to mutually exclusive purposes and, each of them is accordingly equipped with different types of aero-engines. One aircraft factory and another for aero-engines cannot, therefore, meet the entire needs of an Air Force. In consequence, if an Air Force is to be abreast of its times, it is imperative that modern designs of aircraft be progressively acquired. The Indian Air Force is maintaining a constant watch over the

evolution of new designs of modern aircraft in other countries and where these could be usefully incorporated with in the IAF, they are procured from the relevant country.

In peace as in war, maintenance is the life blood of a force. In order to keep each one of our aircraft flying fit and to ensure the maximum efficiency of their performance, a Maintenance Command was recently constituted with its headquarters at Kanpur. In the years to come, this Command will have more than justified its existence.

Furthermore, the Indian Air Forces have well-planned and efficient training schemes. In fact, our pilots and the ground staff, who maintain the flying fitness of aircraft, are claimed to be among the best in the world.

ORDNANCE FACTORY

The possibilities of manufacturing an increasing number of Defence stores and equipment were submitted to a detailed examination and 17,000 items were recommended for indigenous manufacture. Accordingly, the Ordnance Factories have already undertaken the manufacture of a number of these and others are under the process of development. The avowed objective of our Government is relative self-sufficiency in defence stores and equipment, consistent with the need for efficiency. Set up in 1949, the Imported Stores Screening Committee, which includes the General Director of Ordnance Factories and associates besides representatives of the Ministry of Supply and Disposal and of the Defence Services, screens all indents for the import of equipment. This Committee, which advises the Government on the procurement of stores, suggests from time to time suitable measures in order to enable the country to make a beginning in the production of specific commodities which were otherwise being obtained from abroad.

MODERNISED TECHNIQUES

Other defence industries are also being developed; for instance, the Machine Tool Prototype Factory in Ambarnath was set up early in 1953. A factory for the manufacture of modern ammunition and another for the manufacture of radio and electronic equipment is being established. The Baharat Electronics Limited, as the latter Company is known, is expected to go into production sometime in 1956. This electronic factory will manufacture a wide range of wireless and radar equipment designed to meet the major requirements of the Armed Forces as well as those of the Central and State Governments. Negotiations for the manufacture of other vital equipment in India are now at various stages of progress.

When the war-time equipment and stores became obsolescent, they were progressively replaced as and when necessary. Furthermore, the existing production facilities of Ordnance Factories were suitably extended in order to derive the utmost benefit from the costly stores and equipment brought forward from the last war. Concurrently, measures were also taken to procure new producer machinery in order to modernise the techniques of production in our Ordnance Factories.

SECOND LINE OF DEFENCE

Although the defence of the country is the prime responsibility of the regular Forces, the strength of a modern nation ultimately depends on the confidence, self-reliance and discipline of the people at large. In order to instil into the people that self-reliance, various schemes have been launched from time to time of which the Notional Cadet Corps programme is undoubtedly the most important. It seeks to infuse the youth of the country with a sense of responsibility and discipline at a most impressionable and amenable stage in their lives. The movement

is very popular among the youth of the country and by the end of this year over 120,000 students will have been trained under the Scheme.

The strength of the Girls Division of the NCC has now risen from 700 in 1953 nearly to 6,000. A Junior Wing has also been added to the Girls Division which caters for the school-going girls. As the training facilities provided under the NCC could not be expanded to keep pace with the phenomenal increase in the demand for them, the Auxiliary Cadet Corps was set up. Its popularity among the pupils can be judged from the fact that it has now five lakh students on its rolls.

The Territorial Army offers military training for adults who, without interference with their normal avocations in civilian life, can be trained to man the country's defences in an emergency thus providing valuable support for the country's regular forces as its second-line of defence.

Although its scope has been limited mostly by financial considerations, the recently inaugurated Natural Volunteer Force, which provides rudimentary military training for volunteers will hold 200 camps throughout the country every year for the benefit of a lakh of people. This scheme, however, does not entail any liability for military service. The first series of 36 camps inaugurated early this year has been extremely successful and the second series is now in progress.

A Surgeon was taking a walk with his wife when a young and vivid blonde greeted him effusively. The doctor's wife eyed him narrowly. "Where," she asked, "did you meet that person, my dear?"

"Just a young woman I met professionally," he explained.

"I see," murmured his wife. "Yours or hers?"

Can Russia Change?

BY MR. ARNOLD J. TOYNBEE

MANKIND, armed as it now is, has no margin of safety. So, at this moment, we are more than ever anxious to divine the Russians' intentions. Are they genuinely trying to change their policy? And, if they are trying, can the Russians really change their policy?

This is a pertinent question, because we have had recent experience of one totalitarian government—the late Nazi Government in Germany—that could not have changed its policy, even if it had wished. Hitler's course was set irrevocably for a world war from the moment of his seizure of power.

His remedy for the effects on Germany of the great depression was to re-create the German armaments industry and the German Army. After that, he could not have dismantled them again without producing a new, and worse, economic crisis in Germany and would have led to his own overthrow. If he did not go to war, he had to go under in a domestic revolution. So he had left himself no other choice than war.

A failure to understand this plain truth about Hitler was perhaps the main reason for the disastrous miscarriage of Mr. Chamberlain's policy toward him. Mr. Chamberlain was mistaken in assuming that Hitler had it in his power to behave as a good neighbor if he were treated justly and considerately. If we make the same assumption about the Russians now, shall we be making the same mistake and inviting the same disaster?

Looking back over the thirty-eight years of the Soviet Union's history up to date we can see that the recent apparent *volte face* is by no means unique. There have been other such reversals before, and some of these have been quite as dramatic. There was Lenin's switch over from the first bout of totalitarian socialism to "the New Economic Policy." There was Stalin's reversal of that. There was the deal with Hitler in August, 1939. There was the wartime alliance with the West, and the break with Russia's Western allies when the war was over.

These precedents, if they are relevant, are not reassuring. The "N. E. P.," the Stalin-Hitler pact, and the Western alliance were all short-lived, and, as it looks to Western eyes, were all short-lived because they were insincere. Such opportunism was characteristic of Hitler, too, we recall. The pact of Aug. 23, 1939, was no more honestly meant on his side than it was on Stalin's. Hitler's previous pact with Poland in 1934 was also made to be broken. If this year's striking change in the Russian Government's outward attitude should prove to be just another such political maneuver, this flicker of light on the international horizon would be no more than a false dawn.

CHANGE ON THE WAY

Can the present indications of a change on the Russian side signify something more than a mere political maneuver? Is it reasonable to hope that, this time, a more sincere and more durable change may be on the way? Can the Soviet Government make a genuine change in its policy without repudiating some of the fundamental tenets of Marxism? These are some of the questions that we have to ask ourselves. I will give the gist of my own answer at once, before explaining how I arrive at it.

It seems to me unlikely that any of the fundamental tenets of Marxism will be, or could be, repudiated in a country in which this ideology has been the officially established faith now for nearly forty years. At the same time, it seems to me possible that a sincere and durable change in Russian policy may be on the way. This seems possible because there have been cases in the past in which hallowed tenets have unavowedly been put into cold storage.

Let me illustrate what I mean by taking two familiar examples.

One of the tenets of Islam is that the Islamic world is in a permanent state of war with the non-Islamic world, and that this war

is a holy war because the conquest of hitherto non-Moslem countries is the Moslem's religious duty. One of the tenets of the Roman Catholic Church is that, in carrying out its mission to bring all mankind into its fold, it ought to call in the aid of the secular arm, when the secular arm is willing to put its force at the church's disposal for the church's purpose. Today, both these tenets are, in practice, "dead letters." We no longer worry about them, as we are worrying now about the tenets of Marxism.

So far as I know, neither tenet has ever been repudiated by the official custodians of the faith. If, in 1955, one were to ask a doctor of the Islamic law whether the jihad was still incumbent on Moslems, I believe he would be bound to reply that it was. If one were to ask a Roman Catholic theologian whether it was still the church's duty to invoke the secular arm, I suspect that it might be difficult for him to reply that it was not.

The great majority of Moslems and Christians, we believe, are today either powerless or disinclined to propagate their religions by force. A majority of this majority probably lacks both the power and the will.

MARXIAN 'DEAD' LETTER

Is it not conceivable that the Marxian doctrine of the World Revolution may go the same way as the Islamic doctrine of the Holy War? It may never be repudiated. It may still be cherished by some fanatics. But it may become a "dead letter," all the same. The power and the will to apply it on the grand scale may vanish, "softly and silently," like Lewis Carroll's snark.

The greatest force working for a change is surely the Soviet Union's need to give first place to its own vital interests. Ever since the Bolsheviks seized power in 1917 there has been a tension in the Soviet Union between Russia's interests and communism's. Is Russia to be communism's tool, or communism to be Russia's? This was the issue between Trotsky and Stalin, and, in that round, Russia's interests won.

It is one of the ironies of the situation that the issue becomes acute when another great country, besides Russia, is converted to communism by Russian efforts.

This problem would have confronted the Kremlin in 1923 if Germany had gone Communist in that year, and it confronts the Kremlin now, since China did go Communist after 1945. What does it profit Russia to spend her resources on building up the strength of another great Communist country that might repay Russia, one day, by snatching from her the leadership of the Communist world?

Perhaps this risk might be worth running for the sake of acquiring a first-class ally. But what profit is there in an alliance if it is going to lead to an atomic war in which everybody is going to be wiped out? The Soviet Union needs all its resources for its own development. Like the United States in the nineteenth century, the Soviet Union has a subcontinent to open up.

One of her needs would be to husband her resources for her own development. Another of her needs would be peace, to give her a chance of repairing the miscarriages and carrying the enterprise through to completion. This looks like a powerful force in favor of a genuine change in foreign policy.

PRICE OF INDUSTRIALISM

There is an allied force working in the same direction. Industrialization is the Soviet Government's aim. You cannot industrialize a primitive peasant country without calling a new class of workers into existence. You must have plenty of managers, designers and engineers, and you must have trained foremen and skilled technicians in vast numbers.

You must not only have them; you must have them doing their work effectively; and you cannot get this kind of work out of human beings by the brutal methods that are effective (more or less) for making a galley slave row or a plantation slave hoe. Skilled work cannot be exacted by force; it has to be coaxed out of people by inducements.

The Age of Imperial Kanauj

BY "SOCRATIST"

THIS is Volume IV* in the History and Culture of the Indian People prepared by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan under the directions of its President Dr. K. M. Munshi.

The interesting aspect of history is that unlike exact science so called it can be written and re-written and very often better written by those far removed by time and distance from the events as they occurred. Thus, John Churchill, the first Duke of Marlborough, could unashamedly say that he was content to take his History from the plays of Shakespeare. He did not distinguish some of the plays as Historical Plays but took all of them to have historical philosophy and content. His remote successor, Sir Winston Churchill, has been able to bring to the making and writing of history, a vigour of action and a delicacy of description probably unsurpassed at the present time. The Eighteenth Century England was content with Hume's History of England but the atomic age prefers H. G. Wells and Jawaharlal Nehru and their probable successors. So, though nationalistic sentiment may consider that Indian History which passed away a thousand years ago can only be best appreciated in the variety of languages in which it was written and acted, a thousand years ago reads more interesting and intelligible in the compressed English of this volume.

In a very detailed Foreword, Dr. Munshi has expounded the scope of the work as seen by him and it would be impertinent on the Reviewer's part to try to summarize what itself is a pithy epitome of the essence of the matter.

* THE AGE OF IMPERIAL KANAUJ prepared under the directions of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's President Dr. K. M. Munshi and with a Foreword by him—Published by S. Ramakrishnan, Registrar, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chaupatty Road, Bombay 7. Edited by R. C. Majumdar and A. D. Pusalker—Pages 629 Price Rs. 35.

In regard to the general scheme of this series, the political history is practically disposed off in the first eight chapters of 176 pages only while the more important cultural aspects of life in those days are set out at length in the succeeding 270 and odd pages.

Naturally the Rashtrakuta Empire practically south of the Tropic of Capricorn takes the first place of honour with a brilliant monograph by Dr. Altekar. The Rashtrakutas were great in peace and war and were one of the earliest kings in the whole world to respect non-indigenous faiths as seen in their cultured treatment of the Muslim invaders. Chapter II deals with the Pratihara Empire and Chapter III with the Palas. Here again an acknowledged expert like Dr. Majumdar has been able to make the political administration live again before our eyes. Chapter IV deals with the Eastern India during the Pala period, again with Dr. Majumdar as our guide. Chapter V gives the history of Central and Western India by Dr. Ganguly. Already the Muslim invaders were gradually making inroads on India and in spite of the author's criticism of India's remissness in not preparing in advance, India was formerly only anticipating the present world ideology of being reasonably prepared and not excessively armed. I am perfectly certain that if India had followed the present League of Nations' philosophy of armaments race and invention of new weapons of destruction, we, the successors of a thousand years hence, would only have found a Sahara desert in India. Chapter VI by Dr. Sircar deals with the Deccan proper and the Eastern Chalukyas, the Eastern Gangas and the Somavamsis. In Chapter VII, Mr. Sathianathaier brings to bear his incomparable insight and knowledge of the sequence of events in the South. Though Ceylon may not accept it, Mr. Sircar adds a Chapter on Ceylon. (Chapter VIII).

In a sense as Carlyle said, this phantasmagoria of dynastic names, feuds and places is not the real objective of the historical approach to life first popularized by Montesquieu. What we want to know were what the people thought in various parts of India, what kind of life they led even down to what they ate and how they ate. As Governor Munshi himself said when he was Minister of Food "There is a cultured and there is an uncultured way of eating also" and that is why Mrs. Munshi introduced the Annapurna system of catering and service.

In our expectations we have not been disappointed by the rest of the book. Chapter IX on 'Language and Literature' by Dr. Devasthali really is more directed towards literature than language. While we have got Linguistic State Commissions and State Reorganization Commissions and Official Language Commissions all over our country to give leads and decisions, the Reviewer wonders whether it would not be better to entrust the whole work to the Universities rather than to Statesmen and Politicians. Chapter X on 'Political Theory, Administrative Organisation, Law and Legal Institutions' by Dr. Ghoshal is well written but suffers from excessive compression. Chapter XI on 'Religion and Philosophy' starts from the "General Review" by Dr. Majumdar and contains brief notes on "Buddhism" by Dr. Dutt, "Iconography" by Dr. Banerjee, "Jainism" by Dr. Pusalker, "Saivism" by Dr. Mahadevan, "Vaishnavism" by Dr. Sircar, "Tantrik Religion" by Dr. Bhattacharyya, and "Minor Religious Sects" also by Dr. Bhattacharyya. Dr. I. J. S. Taraporewala, formerly Professor of Comparative Philology in the Calcutta University, gives a short account of the Parsis. Dr. Bhattacharjee explains the 'General Development of Philosophy' and describes the crushing victory of Sankara. In Chapter XII, Dr. Ghoshal deals with 'Education and Social Life'. In an era when

we are abolishing all castes and saying that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and education are the fundamental rights of every citizen, it is depressing to read "A curious rule in the *Palakapya-samhita* requires the Brahmana to teach three, the Kshatriya two, and the Vaisya one *varna*, but forbids teaching even a virtuous Sudra." (Page 366) Whether this tradition of preferential sinful treatment of a Sudra especially in India persists or not in some portion of India even now is a matter for investigation. Similarly according to Matsya Purana a Brahmana guilty of serious offences can get off with banishment and branding with distinctive signs instead of the death penalty. According to Medhatithi even this corporal punishment and even a money-fine were forbidden. (page 369). The history of the individual is the history of the nation, and one cannot wonder at the fierce resentment which through the germ-plasm is still behind the traditional dislike of the Brahmin in some parts of India even now. We may all laugh at the story of the wolf and the lamb and the wolf telling the lamb that the lamb's grandfather must have been at fault. I am perfectly certain that among the lambs, the tradition of the wolf and the wolf's grandfather having ill-treated the lamb's ancestors would definitely be persisting. On the whole, it was not an unpleasant time as persons did not know their rights and so were not concerned and perturbed about how to gain them. As the writer says "we cannot but condemn the illiberal attitude towards Sudras and particularly towards the Chandalas, though we must also censure the illiberal treatment of women, we may well admire the love of learning and the spirit of charity and benevolence" subject to the above limitations. (page 391). Chapter XIII deals with 'Economic Life' and Dr. Ghoshal excels as usual. In Chapter XIV, Mr. Majumdar describes the fitful attempts at Colonial and Cultural Expansion

in Kambuja, Champa, Java, Burma, South-East Asia, China, Tibet and Western Countries. There is an excellent list of Bibliographies with a General Bibliography. The Chronological and genealogical tables seem to be fairly accurate, subject to tentative fixation of some dates. The index is fairly exhaustive. The three maps by Anil Mukherji deserve every praise.

In conclusion, one cannot help admiring the German thoroughness with which the whole scheme of writing a History of India

Development of Indian Shipping

The development of Indian Shipping has been given a very high priority by the Government of India, as it is an essential prerequisite for the promotion of trade and commerce of the country. For India to be largely self-sufficient in shipping and the carriage of a substantial volume of her export and import trade in bottoms owned by her own nationals, will require a tremendous effort and in fact it can only be a very long-ranged policy, one requiring enormous capital investment and very specialized organisation. But as a step towards achieving this ideal, the Government of India had appointed a Study Group composed of representatives of shipping interests to examine the target of expansion during the Second Five-Year Plan. The report of the Study Group has since been received and is now under consideration by the planning Commission.

The target envisaged is a net addition of 72 ships totalling 4.45 lakh tons gross of shipping at an estimated outlay of Rs. 80 crores, the private sector contributing Rs. 10 crores and the balance being advanced by Government. The target for shipping expansion envisaged in the First Five-Year Plan was six lakh tons gross and for this purpose the Plan provided a total sum of 23.2 crores by way of loans to shipping companies and investment in the Eastern

has been pursued. Political and Dynastic History has not been neglected but very properly real emphasis has been laid on the cultural, social and economic aspects. The present draws inspiration from the past and lives for the future and unless the continuity of life and experience is maintained by accumulated knowledge, the reversion to barbarism is inevitable. For the excellent got-up and the lovely paper and the quintessence of erudition provided, the price of Rs. 35 cannot be considered excessive in these days of heavy labour costs and high prices.

Shipping Corporation. Out of this sum, actual disbursements and firm commitments by way of loans up-to-date amount to about Rs. 20 crores and it seems quite probable that the balance amount will also be taken up before long. The Indian tonnage at present is about 4.7 lakh tons. Indian Shipping Companies have already on order in India and abroad, a total tonnage of about 98,000 tons and further orders and purchases to the extent of 33 to 40 thousand tons are expected to materialize during the current financial year.

There is thus every likelihood of India achieving the First Five-Year Plan target of 6 lakh tons of Indian-owned Shipping. If recent progress and the future programmes are an indication, there seems every chance of the target being even exceeded slightly. With tonnage nearing the 5-lakh mark, Indian ships now carry all the coastal trade, a fair volume of the adjacent trade and a small share of the Overseas Trade.

OVERSEAS TRADE

To make up our deficiencies in the overseas trade, the Government have assured ship-owners that they would help secure a fair share of Government cargoes procured from overseas, if only the companies would acquire the necessary ships. In the matter of acquisition of tonnage by these companies the Government have offered loans on generous terms; sanction during last year being over Rs. 8 crores.

The Government is also trying to secure the participation of some private companies in the establishment of a second Shipping Corporation will give an impetus to the expansion of tonnage as well as overseas trade in India bottoms. It is expected that after the end of the First Five-Year Plan period our overseas tonnage will stand at 280,000 tons. The Second Five-Year Plan envisages a net addition of 37 ships totalling 2,00,000 tons gross to this fleet.

Apart from giving loans at a concessional rate of interest for the acquisition of new fast ships, Government also render assistance by sponsoring the companies for admission to the various conferences, by helping them to secure a reasonable share of cargo owned and controlled by Government and by providing suitable clauses in trade agreements with foreign countries to ensure that a proportion of cargo arising out of such agreements move in Indian bottoms.

NOTEWORTHY PROGRESS

If it is remembered that Indian Shipping Companies have been operating in the overseas field for only about seven years, the achievement of these companies in gaining a stable footing in some of the important overseas routes is noteworthy. The resourcefulness displayed by two of our Indian Companies in maintaining their services on the India U. K. Continent trade have recently received recognition by their admission with unrestricted rights to full membership of the various Conferences concerned. Another Indian Shipping Company has found it possible as the result of friendly negotiations to enter the Indian-Persian Gulf trade on a liner basis, and one of our younger companies has entered the overseas trade on a tramp basis. Thus our Indian Companies, it is expected, will not only be able to give more regular and faster services on existing routes but also expand the area and scope of their activities.

COASTAL TRADE

A target of 400,000 tons gross for the coastal trade and another 50,000 tons for the adjacent trade during the next Five-Year Plan as against the present tonnage of approximately 250,000-300,000 tons gross has been envisaged. For a successful and economic

utilization of such large additions to the tonnage on the coast, proper co-ordination between the Railway and coastal shipping is very necessary. The Government have therefore appointed a Committee to go into all aspects connected with rail-sea co-ordination.

TANKER TRADE

The Government have decided to acquire and operate two tankers of 8,500 tons each which will form the nucleus of a tanker fleet. Specifications for the vessels to be acquired are about to be finalized and it is hoped that orders for these vessels will be placed before long. Government are also examining the possibility in consultation and by arrangement with the Oil Companies of employing on the oil trade a few tankers owned and operated by Indian Companies who may be interested in such a proposition.

PORTS

The post-war needs of shipping call for the rehabilitation and modernization of Port facilities. A new major port with an optimum capacity of 1.25 million tons is being constructed at Kandla in Kutch and the harbour works are likely to be completed by April 1957 at a cost of about Rs. 14 crores.

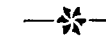
The Major Port authorities of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Cochin and Visakhapatnam have taken up for execution, development schemes designed to enable them to handle the existing traffic more efficiently. The overall expenditure on these schemes is of the order of Rs. 45 crores of which over Rs. 25 crores would be incurred during the First Five-Year Plan period. The remaining items of work as well as fresh schemes of port development will be taken up in the period of the Second Five-Year Plan. An agreed programme of development of the more important of the minor ports in the country costing about Rs. 2.5 crores is also being implemented in the period of the First Five-Year Plan with a view to equipping these ports for the efficient handling of the cargo and passenger traffic passing through them. Side by side with the extension of this programme to cover other minor ports, the feasibility of development of Tuticorin, Mangalore or Malpe in Madras and Paradip in Orissa is expected to be taken up for examination during the Second Five-Year Plan.

State Bank of India and Rural Credit

BY

MR. R. RAMAN, M. A., M. COM.

(M. M. A. College, Ghaziabad)



STATE Bank of India has come into existence from 1st of July, this year. It has taken over the Imperial Bank of India. The necessary legislation has been passed by the Lok Sabha. In this article we will study the formation of this Bank and the problem of Rural Credit that it will tackle.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA

The Imperial Bank has been the premier institution in this business of Banking in India. Formed by the amalgamation of the three Presidency Banks of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay in 1921, it acted as the Government Banker and also a commercial banker upto 1935. This dual capacity of a Government and a Commercial agent gave it a position of power and privilege. Now it is the biggest Commercial Bank in India, and acts as a Government banker in places not served by Reserve Bank. It has established in India the tradition of sound banking and financing. In the words of Sri Chintaman Deshmukh, 'Imperial Bank forms the backbone and it is in our interest to see that nothing is done to impair the value of the leavening in our present banking system, especially as we are making attempts to see that our banking is consolidated on sound lines with the help of the new Banking Act'. Although for a long time there had been complaints about its apathy towards Indigenous Bankers and merchants in India, it still controls the major share of business in India. According to the figures for the week ended 22nd April 1955, the total deposits of Imperial Bank were Rs. 218,97 Crores, about 23% of the deposits of all scheduled Banks in India.

NATIONALIZATION OF IMPERIAL BANK NOT THE SOLE AIM

Although the Government announced its decision to nationalize the Bank as early as 1948, but the recent action has been taken with a different aim and purpose. This does not aim at the pure form of nationalisation. It is only giving it a new garb, placing over it a new control, and widening the scope of its business. The Reserve Bank of India will take over all the assets and liabilities with all the rights and responsibilities of the Imperial Bank. The Reserve Bank will, then, form the State Bank of India, transferring to it all the assets and liabilities of the Imperial Bank. The State Bank will also absorb 1 state-sponsored Banks (which are minor editions of Imperial Bank in the words of 'Commerce' of Bombay) and other Banks who would like to be merged with the new bank. Many of the State Banks such as the Bank of Mysore, the Travancore Bank, the Hyderabad State Bank, and the Bank of Saurashtra are voluntarily coming into the merger. The Banks of Rajasthan are also likely to come into the fold. The difficulty is about the Bank of Baroda, the biggest of all State-sponsored Banks. For it a separate enactment may be made. A clause in the Act will enable the State Bank to take over, after due examination, some non-scheduled banks numbering about 400. The Reserve Bank will hold only 55% of the share capital of the new bank. The remaining 45% will be issued to the public with preference to old shareholders.

THE AIM OF RURAL CREDIT DEVELOPMENT

So the Imperial Bank is not being completely nationalized. In the Lok Sabha, in reply to certain questions Sri Guha, Minister for Revenue and Defence Expenditure said, 'For all intents and purposes, this is a bill for nationalization of Imperial Bank, although the sole purpose of the enactment is not nationalization but the improvement of the Rural Credit structure'. The chief basis for prompting this measure is the recommendations of the Gorwala Committee appointed by the Reserve Bank in 1951. The most important recommendation of this committee for rejuvenating Rural Credit system is the setting up of a state bank of India, as one strong, integrated, state-partnered Commercial Banking Institution, with an effective machinery of branches spread over the whole country for stimulating Banking Development, by providing vastly extended remittance facilities for co-operative and other Banks and following a policy which would be in effective consonance with national policies adopted by the Government, without departing from the canons of sound business'. So the purpose of the enactment is not merely to take over the Imperial Bank but to recreate rural life and to rejuvenate rural areas.

India lives in villages. The main problem in India is the rural problem and credit is the basis of all economic problems. We can provide legislation against Mortgage and alienation of land but we cannot prevent the Mortgage of the peasant and his products to the moneylender. To effectively implement the agrarian reforms on which this Government puts the highest priority, it is absolutely necessary for the Government to provide for the agricultural Credit also.

COMPENSATION

The shareholders of the Imperial Bank will be paid compensation for giving away their shareholdings. The basis of compensation is the average price of these shares for 12 months prior to 20th December, 1954, when the Government finally announced its decision to nationalise the Bank. There are 75,000 fully paid shares of Rs. 500 each, and 1,50,000 partly paid, to the extent of Rs. 125 - per share. The former will get Rs. 1765 10 and the latter Rs. 431 12 4. The shareholders are entitled to claim Rs. 10,000 in cash and the balance will be paid in the form of bonds. The shareholding is restricted to 200 shares except in the case of Public Trusts and Reserve Bank etc.

MANAGEMENT

The management will be vested in the Board of Directors composed of the following:

1. A Chairman and a Vice-chairman to be appointed by the Central Government after consultation with the Central Board in that behalf.
2. Not more than two managing directors to be appointed by the Central Board with the approval of the Central Government.
3. Six directors to be nominated by the shareholders other than the R. B.
4. Eight directors to be nominated by the Central Government in consultation with the R. B.
5. One (Official) Director to be nominated by the Central Government, and
6. One director to be nominated by the R. B.

The Central Office is to be located in Bombay. Besides, the Central Board of the State Bank, there will be local boards having local offices particularly at Madras, Calcutta and Bombay. More local offices may be opened according to necessity.

SPECIAL FUNCTIONS

The new function of the State Bank will be acquiring AND HOLDING SHARES IN THE CAPITAL OF OTHER BANKING COMPANIES, FORMING AND CONDUCTING ANY SUCH BANKING COMPANIES AS ITS SUBSIDIARIES. This will, as already stated, facilitate taking over state-sponsored banks and other banking companies. According to another provision it will have to open 250 branches within 5 years as suggested by Rural Survey Report.

R. B. OF INDIA AMENDMENT ACT

The nationalization of Imperial Bank and the formation of State Bank of India will not solve the whole problem. The R. B. of India Act is being amended to vest the R. B. with certain specific responsibilities calculated to enable it to play its dual role in the reorganisation of the Co-operative structure and enlarging and facilitating the supply of Credit through it. According to it R. B. will set up a *National Agricultural Credit* (Long Terms Operations) Fund and a *National Agricultural Credit* (Stabilization) Fund. In the former Fund, the Government proposes to credit Rs. 10 Crores to be applied exclusively for the making of Loans and Advances to State Governments for subscribing to the share capital of cooperative Credit Societies, for making medium-term loans to State Cooperative Banks for Agricultural purposes and for making long term loans and advances to Central Land Mortgage Bank. The latter Fund will be applied for stabilizing cooperative credit system. Money from it will be applied exclusively for the making of medium term loans and advances to State Cooperative Banks to enable them to convert short-term credit, whenever necessary owing to drought, famine, or other calamities, into medium-term Credit. Rs. one crore will be credited to this Fund.

OTHER MEASURES

Along with these measures it was disclosed in Lok Sabha that it is proposed to establish a Central Warehousing Corporation and a Marketing Board. It is more on the marketing portion of Agriculture that the co-operatives can help and this will be done by a Warehousing Corporation with its counterparts in all the States. It is also contemplated that there should be a planning and financial body at the centre to be called the National Co-operative Development Board to plan country-wide storage and godown facilities.

COMMERCIAL AND RURAL BANKING

Commercial Banking is different from Rural or Agricultural Banking. An agriculturist needs short-term, medium-term and long term finances for various agricultural operations, while a business man needs only short-term finance. A Commercial Firm can pledge movable security for a loan, while an agriculturist has nothing but landed property to mortgage specially for long-and medium-term loans. For marketing, he may need short term finance and there he can give his crop as security. So rural credit is a specialized work, and in most of the advanced countries of the world this is allotted to a separate institution.

So it is said that the State Bank, having been a purely commercial Bank up to this time, can not perform so efficiently the task of providing rural credit for the masses. The two business can not be combined profitably. In the words of Sri Tulsidas Kilachand, 'It is wrong to think that by merely nationalising the Imperial Bank they would achieve the objective of Rural Credit. Imperial Bank was primarily a commercial bank and did not concern itself with rural credit. If the R. Bank had not been able to function as a banker to co-operative Banking institutions in

the country, I am afraid the new Bank would also not be able to achieve the purpose.' The State Bank, retaining its commercial character would not be able to keep financing commerce and industry, in the usual way as most of the deposits (Rs. 125 Crores out of Rs. 220 Crores were applied to Commercial and Industrial Institutions) will now be diverted to Rural Credit. The Officers and the Staff who are well-versed in the Commercial Banking will have now to pick up and learn a new line.

But this criticism does not stand. There can be two separate departments of the Bank.—Commercial Banking Department and Rural Banking Department—on the Australian Model. It will have more branches spread over the length and breadth of the country and can offer more remittance facilities to Commercial Banks and others. It can also gather more deposits. It has further to take over State-sponsored Banks and others which can be of a great help in organising rural credit. Further in this work of Rural Credit, Funds proposed to be established will help a great deal. So it will not mean any contraction of finance to commercial concerns. Personnel for Rural Credit will have to be suitably trained.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL ON ABOUT HALF THE BANKING BUSINESS

Another fear that is generally expressed and was given vent to in the Lok Sabha is that this State Bank, controlling about half the banking business of the country and touching the very heart of India and under the complete control of Government can effectively dictate interest rates, discriminate between private and public sector. According to the 'Commerce' of Bombay, 'the danger of economic power being utilised for retaining political power, which ultimately leads to autocracy, is also one of our grounds for opposing the entry of the State into co-operative movement, however desirable it may be on other grounds.

CO-OPERATIVES AND RURAL CREDIT

The State Bank will rejuvenate Rural Credit through Co-operatives. But co-operatives at present supply only 3.1% of the Rural Credit and suffer from 'high interest rates, incompetent technical personnel, lack of assistance from other financing institutions and disloyalty of the most of the members of the societies.' If more co-operatives are started, it will first of all be difficult to get suitable technical personnel. It will take time to get the personnel suitably trained. Further, according to the R. B. of India Review of cooperatives for 1951-52 recently published, they have depended for most of working capital on borrowings from Reserve Bank and others. If cooperatives depend too much on borrowed money as it has been in the past, and as it is proposed by setting up the two funds above mentioned, will it be cooperation among the members? Cooperation is of the people and if there is too much of a share of outsiders, it is not cooperation. Gorwala committee has recognised the importance of cooperative institutions and has said there is eventually no effective alternative to cooperative form of institution, at any rate at the village level and for dealing direct with the cultivator. 'But to do away with the present shortcomings, the report says, 'what has to be available to the primary credit Society is not an orthodox cooperative system at the district and State levels but a strong institutional support at these levels.' The line of solution therefore, 'the committee suggests, 'would seem have to be that of the State taking up gap in the requirements of share capital, technical assistance, administration and organization to such an extent that immediate strength is imparted, but in such a manner that this paves the way for cooperative forces to gather strength and gradually replace the finances and services made available initially by the State.' So this arrangement is only temporary till the rural public feel the need of cooperation and start cooperatives, unaided by outsiders. But the history of Cooperative movement since 1905 does not support this view.

We have yet to see how the State Bank functions and tackles the RURAL CREDIT PROBLEM.

Vikramasila Monastery: A Seat of Learning in Mediaeval India.

BY Mr. MAHESH KUMAR MOONDHRA

Vikramasila monastery, a famous seat of learning in mediaeval India which has been mentioned invariably in many Indian and Tibetan works, was built by Dharmapala, a ruler of the Pala dynasty of the then Bengal and Bihar, towards the end of the eighth century A. D. As regards the exact location of this monastery the present day scholars are divided in their opinion. The main source of our information about it is 'The History of Buddhism in India' written in Tibetan language by the famous Lama Taranath, a Tibetan scholar of medieval times. Still the most competent scholars of our time hold that the monastery was situated by the side of the Ganges at the place now known as Pathar-ghat in Bhagalpur district.

Much of the constructions of this monastery are now demolished. Yet a lot of information can be gathered about this seat of learning from the remnants and the account given in the Tibetan works. Its founder and patron Dharmapala had constructed many beautiful buildings. In the centre of the monastery there was a big temple with an image of Mahabodhi. Dharmapala was a follower of the Mahayana sect of Buddhism. The total number of the temples there was 108.

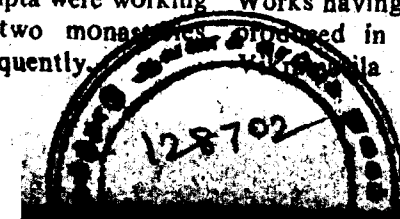
The academic activities of the monastery were directed by a committee of the senior scholars. The total number of the teachers was 114, out of which six were entrusted with the charge of the management of other affairs. It is said that the committee of Vikramasila supervised the activities of the Nalanda monastery also. As Dharmapala was the patron of both the monasteries, it seems to be much possible. Scholars like Dipankar and Abhayakar Gupta were working at both the places. The two monasteries exchanged their teachers frequently.

In the later period six seminaries each having a separate building were opened at Vikramasila. Each of these had 108 teachers. In the centre of these a big hall was constructed. It was called Vijnangriha. It had six gates each of which opened towards one of the six seminaries respectively.

Vikramasila attracted students, apart from each nook and corner of our country, especially from Tibet. It was extremely difficult to be admitted here. On each of the six gates of the monastery a scholar called the 'Dwara-pandita' (gate-scholar) was appointed. The following logicians were working in this capacity during the reign of Chanaka (955—93 A. D.):—

- (1) Eastern Gate.....Acharya Ratnakar Shanti.
- (2) Western gate.....Wagiswarkirti of Benares.
- (3) Northern gate.....Narop.
- (4) Southern gate.....Prajnakarmati.
- (5) First Central gate.....Ratnavajra of Kashmir.
- (6) Second Central gate.....Jnan Shri-mitra of Gour.

We do not have any reliable information about the method of teaching and the daily routine adopted there. Thanks to Hiuen Tsang and I-tsing, the famous Chinese travellers, we get reliable information about the daily routine of the people at Nalanda. But it is a matter of great regret that we do not possess any account of the same nature for Vikramasila. Yet it pleases us much to note that we get a large number of biographical sketches of the scholars who worked there. Works having great literary merit were also produced in large number. The scholars of Vikramasila translated many works from



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Sanskrit into Tibetan also. Apart from Dipankar, Abhayakar Gupta and the six 'dwara-panditas', Jnan-pada, Vairochan, Jetaree, Viryasingh, Tathagatarakshita, Ratnakirti, etc. were famous for their learning.

Kutubuddin Aibak was a great patron of arts and literature. Yet it is the irony of fate that one of his officers Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar destroyed this monastery during his campaigns in Bengal in the year 1203 A. D.

The writer of the 'Tabakat-Nasiri' has observed—'Most of the residents of that place (Vikramasila) were Brahmins (Bhikshus?) and their heads were shaven. All those Brahmins were killed. There were many books on Hinduism. When the Muslims saw these they wanted to call some Hindus who could explain the contents of these Books. But all the infidels were killed and there was therefore no one to explain these. When these books were read it was found that the fortress was a college which was called Bihar (Vihar) by the Hindus in their tongue.'



Indians Abroad

BY MR. JAMES TOMLINS

WHEN leading political or cultural figures among Indian communities overseas come to the British capital they usually visit the South London surgery of Dr. K. D. Kumria. They wish to consult him not as a medical practitioner but as the secretary of the Council for Indians Abroad.

In this role, Dr. Kumria takes a strong interest in the problems and difficulties of his estimated 2,000,000 countrymen who are scattered throughout the world from the West Indies to the Pacific.

They may be a strong, coherent group as they are in Mauritius where they number 271,000—63 per cent of the island population. On the other hand, they may be comparatively isolated in such tiny minorities as Malta (37), Cyprus (40), Nigeria (50), or Casablanca (75).

"Our aims are two-fold," says Dr. Kumria. "They are to safeguard the interests of Indians overseas, as well as to promote better understanding between people of Indian origin and local communities abroad."

At a conference in London in June, 1953, matters of mutual interest to all overseas Indians were discussed by their representatives. They naturally found that problems varied in nature and intensity according to the territory concerned, as well as the degree of "Indianisation" of the various peoples, depending on the "compromises" made with existing local conditions.

For instance, Indians in South Africa had totally different problems from those faced by Indians in the West Indies.

"In South Africa there are simply no rights at all for the Indians," Dr. Kumria said, "and government policy is framed to return them to India whenever possible."

By contrast, in the West Indies, the Indians have for long monopolised the distributive and retail trades as well as engaging in agriculture in strength. They are now demanding positions in government administration, hitherto occupied exclusively by West Indians. The upshot is a certain amount of friction and tension between the two peoples, said Dr. Kumria.

The Council is at pains to make its view on nationality clear. All Indian settlers who look upon the country of adoption as their homeland and sole object of their loyalty should be prepared to accept the full duties and responsibilities of citizenship. On the other hand, where they prefer to retain Indian citizenship, they should be prepared to accept the status of "friendly aliens."

Most Indians, however, follow the direction given by their Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru. He has frequently said that Indians are to regard themselves as settled populations of the country in which they are residing. In the majority of cases, the larger number of them in the British colonies have already exercised their choice by becoming British subjects.

In a number of British colonies—notably British Guiana, Trinidad, and Fiji—funds are still available to provide free return passages to Indian immigrants or their descendants. Only last April a ship called at Suva port for the Fiji group of islands where there are 148,000 Indians—to take some back to India.

"Some of our problems can only be understood with reference to the historical perspective," said Dr. Kumria. "The wave of Indian migration started in 1830, when slavery was abolished in the British Empire. Plantation owners had to find alternative labour to that of their former African slaves. They tried Portuguese, Chinese and then Indians."

These were sent out on five or ten year contracts as "indentured labourers"—the interested parties being the then Government of India and the colonial governments acting through the Colonial Office. Large-scale recruiting was done in two main regions of India—which were also the poorest. These were South India, around Madras, and West Bengal, around Bihar.

On expiry of the contracts the immigrants could sign up for a further term. The majority signed. The system continued until 1917, by which time many Indians had already established deep roots in far-off lands.

"Unfortunately these comparatively new ties were linked with old prejudices," Dr. Kumria said. "Even today one of our greatest problems is of our own making."

"For this reason the Council directs quite a lot of its activity against the spirit of communalism which is more or less rampant among overseas Indians. It stems from religious class, caste and provincial differences."

As an example of how religious feuds can endanger a whole community, Dr. Kumria cited the recent communal riots in Mauritius. "This was a shameful episode," he said, "and the first major disturbance between the two sections of the Indian population—the Hindus and Muslims."

* * *

"As though this split was not bad enough, the entire Indian community is victimised by baseless accusations that it is conspiring to have Mauritius annexed by India."

Dr. Kumria hopes that members of the Council for Indians Abroad will keep in touch with all such developments and try to avoid them by learning from the experience and social developments of others.

Indians residing abroad are mostly the third generation of the descendants of immigrants. Few of them—like the large Chinese communities—are able to speak their mother-tongue with any fluency. One of the exceptions to this rule, according to Dr. Kumria, is the Indian community in Mauritius.

"The compulsory language is French, and English is only the secondary one although Mauritius is a British Colony," Dr. Kumria

remarked. "But most Indians speak not only two languages but also Hindi."

Among the eight-man team of Mauritius who arrived in London some time back for consultative talks with the Colonial Office are two Indians—Dr. S. Ramgoolam, a one-time class-mate of Dr. Kumria, and Mr. R. Sreenivasan.

Apart from leading an active part among Indian societies and organisations in London, Dr. Kumria is the editor of a monthly magazine. The 24-page illustrated "African and Colonial World" is a political, cultural and trade review. It also constitutes a vigorous forum for members of the Council for Indians

Abroad. This publication first appeared in April, 1954, when it incorporated the monthly "Indian," which was also edited by Dr. Kumria.

The "African and Colonial World" sells widely, especially among Indian communities in Panama and Liberia.

"We do not claim special rights as Indian citizens, but we are anxious to safeguard religious and cultural interests," Dr. Kumria told NAFEN. "The development of the Indian film industry has had an amazing influence in reviving interest in all things Indian. The folk stories are recalled, and the costumes often copied and worn. Apart from this, there is a stronger impetus among Indians to learn regional languages."



MACHINE TALKS TO BLIND-DEAF

A machine which enables a normal person to talk to the deaf and the blind has been developed in Britain and will shortly go into production. The machine, called "Arcaid," resembles a small portable typewriter and easily fits into a leather case about the size of a woman's handbag. When the operator presses a letter on the keyboard a set of small pins brings up its Braille notation under the finger of the blind-deaf reader. In this picture a blind and deaf woman (RIGHT) is reading the Braille notations produced by a welfare officer attached to the Manchester Institute for the Deaf. Mr. A. R. Cooper, controller of the North-western region of the British Electricity Authority, is the inventor of the "Arcaid" and a non-profit making trust has been formed to handle the production and sales of the machine.

Libraries on Wheels

BY MR. D. D. RUDGE

MOBILE library services are not a recent innovation, but in Britain they have received a great deal of attention in the last few years. The post-war years have witnessed a great increase in the demand for efficient public library services. A rather unexpected boost for mobile units was derived from the fact that, with shortage of essential buildings, including houses, schools and factories, it was almost impossible for some years to obtain permission to erect libraries. Library authorities, especially county councils, therefore progressed in the only way open to them by providing mobile libraries.

The use Britain makes of mobile libraries varies from the larger trailer type, which is used in urban areas in the capacity of a branch library, usually until permanent premises can be erected, to the small travelling library which is used in very sparsely populated areas. Their stock of books ranges from 7,000 to 1,000 volumes. Between these extremes, there is the mobile library designed for use in moderately sized villages, hamlets and isolated houses, and this article deals mainly with this third type. It holds about 3,000 books on its shelves, can comfortably accommodate 16-18 readers at a time and is staffed by two assistants, a librarian and a driver clerk. The other larger or smaller involve adaptations of similar principles.

The population which a medium size mobile library can serve depends on three main factors—frequency of visit, intensity of service and density of houses.

The most usual frequency of visit is a fortnightly cycle, by visiting in alternate weeks on the same day at the same time. Interest is easily maintained by this method. More frequent visits may be extravagant, except for a large village. If monthly visits are made, it is fallacious to expect that the area covered would be twice as large, for, with greater distances, more time is lost in travelling.

Public interest would tend to flag and serious readers, having to wait long for their requests to be met, would be put off. But economic considerations might, in certain cases, necessitate the adoption of the less satisfactory method of a monthly visit.

As to the intensity of service, one method is to stop in villages only. The more intensive one is to stop also at isolated dwellings en route.

The density of houses is also of importance. The more sparsely populated the area, the smaller the population served and the more the time spent in travelling. Where distances are great, a less frequent visit-cycle is almost inevitable.

CHOICE OF CHASSIS

With the foregoing factors in mind, the choice of chassis may be considered. In the required range, "Karrier", "Commer", "Austin", "Bedford", "Morris", and others are in use. The main requirements to be kept in view are that the engine should be of about 30 h.p. and the weight capacity three to four tons.

The chassis must be low to ensure ease of access; there must be good springing, a long wheelbase, and forward control to give maximum floor space to over all length.

ACCENT ON SIMPLICITY

In planning the mobile library, it is important not to lose sight of the way in which it is to be used, and to arrange for these needs with the accent on simplicity.

In the over all plan, it should be noted that all work is done from within, giving the effect of a room on wheels. The chassis must be purchased without cab, and in construction the cab should be fully integrated with the body. To ensure maximum floor space for readers, projecting or island book cases should be avoided. The entrance should be on the

rear side (for right-hand drive), some three feet in rear of the driver and passenger seats. The counter should run transversely behind the two seats, or, if of hinged variety, might lower over the passenger seat. The main construction should be in seasoned timber framing, aluminium sheet and composition lining with insulation.

Bookshelves should line the three "walls" of the library with a break only for the entrance door. To retain books in transit the wooden shelves should be constructed with a tilt of one in five. If the roads are fair, the springing good and shelves kept well filled, no ropes, slats or other means of retention are required. If found necessary, the most easily manipulated and inconspicuous is a metal "gate", in vertical slides, which when not in use is hooked up to coincide with the front edges of the shelves, but in its travelling position is dropped so that the "bars" are midway between shelves, which should still be tilted. To accommodate the maximum number of books, shelves are to be made with less vertical interval for fiction than for non-fiction books. A slight retaining "lip" projecting beyond the width of the average book assists in retention.

ENTRANCE AND EXIT

Entrance and exit should be by the same door and the reason for the space between the top step and the counter is to ensure that readers standing at the counter do not obstruct the approach. A door sliding into a recess forward is sometimes used, or a pair of small doors which can be made to form the sides of a small porch with a panel which swings outwards to form the top.

Two steps will normally be needed and these should be built and protected by glazed screens to which handrails should be fitted.

The inside height should give a minimum of six feet six inches clear head-room. Ventilation is obtained by fitting caravan type glazed roof-opening ventilators or by rotating air extractors at the back. Natural Lighting of sufficient intensity is obtainable by fitting two fixed transparent plastic windows in the roof.

Artificial lighting may be by bulb filament lighting, by battery operated fluorescent through a power pack or by mains electric if available at longer stops.

The flooring may be of several kinds on the boards laid on the main members. The most commonly used are heavy weight linoleum, rubber squares, or plastic flooring cement. The last named can be obtained in various colours, is laid in its hot plastic state, and provides an exceptionally hard wearing and non-slip surface.

The counter should include necessary drawers and cupboards. The driver remains forward of the counter and the librarian mingles with the readers to assist them. With Karrier "Gamecock" chassis, the counter needs to be a hinged flap to allow access to the engine, and main cupboard space should be constructed from floor to roof to the rear of the driver's seat and clear of the engine covers.

SURVEY

To ensure full use of the mobile library's services as soon as it is available, a survey of the area to be covered should be carried out while the vehicle is still under construction. Based on this survey, a printed card giving particulars of the service should be distributed and the opportunity taken of giving verbal information to people who will be able to avail themselves of the facilities afforded.

At the same time, the exact stopping places can be noted, names and addresses taken, roads and their surfaces checked for their suitability for the vehicle. From the infor-

mation collected, the detailed routes should be prepared and notifications of starting date and time sent out. The journey schedules should be prepared according to the amount of work which the library can accomplish each day. An allowance (15-30 minutes) should be made each morning for preparatory work at the base.

The minimum allowed for one to three people at a stop should be ten minutes and this should be increased up to one hour for about 40 to 50 people. Wherever possible, it is better to arrange two stops of half-an-hour each for a large group, instead of stopping at one place for an hour. This has the advantages of being nearer for the users and of automatically cutting down the length of the queue waiting to enter the library.

Points to be specially noted in arranging the routes are: arrive at the larger villages at as convenient a time as possible, it is impossible to please everyone, so aim to please the

majority; be punctual; and keep mileage to a minimum as this is a recurring expense. Each route should serve as compact an area as possible, allowing approach journeys to be on main roads. This avoids undue running over minor roads, though some repetition is inevitable. Ensure that suitable turning space is available when the mobile library needs to retrace its route to its next halt.

It has been proved that the cost of operating a full-time branch library in a town of about 10-11,000 people is very similar to that of a mobile library on the fortnightly basis for a similar population in a rural area involving moderate distances by English rural standards. As, however, there is no known economic alternative to the mobile unit to take a large bookstock with trained staff to a rural area and thus give an effective library service, the cost comparison with other less adequate but cheaper methods of rural library service is not strictly relevant.

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The Free Spirit of Man

BY RT. HON. SIR JOHN LATHAM

(President, Cultural Freedom Committee, Australia)

THE conflict between freedom and authority cannot be settled or adjusted by the mechanical application of any absolute rule.

In some cases it is relatively easy to apply a rule, but a man cannot be a minister in a church and at the same time conduct a campaign against clearly defined fundamental principles for which the church stands. A man cannot be a member of a political party and repudiate the platform of the party by which all the members are bound. A man cannot be the editor of a theatrical newspaper and condemn all theatrical activities as vicious.

In these cases the person concerned has voluntarily promised to accept and to support and promote some principles or practices. He need not have done so, but, having done it, he has assumed an obligation of which he can free himself by resigning as minister or member of the political party or editor.

Completely different questions would arise if a man who disbelieved in the doctrines of a church were compelled to join a church, or if a socialist were compelled to belong to, or to subscribe money to, an anti-socialist party, or vice versa, or if a man who had strong

moral conviction of the wickedness of all theatres were compelled to work for the extension of theatrical enterprises. There have been periods in history when compulsory religion, with all its attendant cruelty and injustice, was the rule. For example, it was so during the Roman Empire when emperor-worship was compulsory, and later when believers in the doctrines of Arius were persecuted and killed. Such systems of thought-control have discredited themselves in nearly all civilised communities. Today, however, in some countries, the people are compelled to profess certain political and economic doctrines which in those countries have become dogmas. When the dogmas are changed, the people must follow suit.

All developed countries have laws against treason and sedition. The continued existence of any society requires some restrictions upon the liberty of the individual. But an individual person cannot, unless he lives on an uninhabited island which belongs only to himself, separate himself from every community. By living in a community he necessarily subjects himself to some restrictions. But those restrictions should be as few as possible. The maximum freedom of the human spirit is a condition of a civilisation that is worthy of respect. Unless men can think freely, subject only to a minimum of restriction in relation to action, the maintenance and development of a worthy civilisation is impossible. Prescribed conformity means the death of thinking. It leads to "corrective labour camps", "mass trials", and "liquidation" of dissentients. Tolerance of opposing opinion is a condition of real human progress. Compulsion in religious, political or artistic thought would possibly be defensible under the rule of an omniscient and completely benevolent dictator. But there are not and

cannot be such rulers—either as individuals or as religious, political or artistic organisations. When a man or a party believes, or professes to believe, that he or it is infallible, so that tolerance of opposition becomes tolerance of heresy on treason and is itself a form of heresy or treason—all who believe in the free spirit of man must resist. An Opposition is as necessary for the health of a body politic as a Government. But infallibility can tolerate no opposition.

The Committee for Cultural Freedom which has been formed in Australia consists of members of very varying opinions upon many subjects, but we all agree in resisting encroachment upon the free spirit of man. Penalties upon opinion are, in our view, a mark of decadence—of failure in human life. We in Australia are more fortunate in relation to this subject than many other countries. But it is wise to be on guard against intolerance and denial of intellectual or artistic freedom. The lessons of history and the experience of some peoples in the recent past and at this present time give warnings to us of which we shall do well to take heed. The Committee, working in conjunction with enlightened men in other countries, will do what it can, as occasion requires, to defend and to support the free spirit of man.

THE CUSTOMER IN!

The proprietor of a tobacconist's in New York was worried. A competitor was attracting crowds by employing a beautiful Spanish girl to sit in his window and roll cigars, meanwhile "giving the eye" to the men outside.

Then the other man had his idea. The next morning a luscious blonde was rolling cigars in his window—but with her back to the window. There was soon a crowd—inside the shop.!

WORLD OF BOOKS

HERE I STAND: A Life of Martin Luther by Roland H. Bainton. A Mentor Book, published by the New American Library of World Literature, Inc., 501, Madison Avenue, New York.

"What is in a name? A rose with any other name would smell as sweet" says a proverb. Chesterton says that when a man changes his name, in 99 cases out of 100, it is a piece of rascality. There probably is some significance in the fact that Martin Luther was so christened because his Christian name "Martin" means "of Mars, warlike" in Latin, and his German name "Luther" with its French form of "Lothaire" means "a famous warrior". It is 450 years nearly since Luther in 1505 A. D., frightened by a thunderstorm, and knocked down by a stroke of lightning resolved to become a monk. He thundered against the abuses of the Church and died on February 18, 1546 at Eisleben. He has been alternatively praised as a bold reformer, a great exponent of mental, moral and spiritual freedom and so forth and denounced as a Son of Inequity and belonging to the Legion of Lucifer.

This Mentor book, which is written in an attractive style with a fine analysis of the case for and against Luther, can certainly be recommended as the most up-to-date and authoritative introduction to the life of one who has founded his own Church.

FUNCTIONS, ORGANIZATIONS. PUBLICATIONS: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Madhya Pradesh. With Foreword by Finance Minister Brijlal Biyani.

This synoptic account is most interesting in giving a descriptive account in a small compass of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Madhya Pradesh and will be useful both to the politician and the student.

QUITE EARLY ONE MORNING broadcasts by DYLAN THOMAS. J. M. Dent and Sons Ltd. London-Price 10s. 6d net.

Melancholy interest attaches to this collection of broadcasts by Dylan Thomas as it was proposed by the author before he left on his last journey to New York. The subjects range from autobiographical and personal reactions to expository and critical literary studies. The humanity and inwardness of the approach and the unlaboured delicacy of touch are seen from the very first version of "Reminiscences of Childhood" in which tracing his birth in a large Welsh industrial sea-town he says "This sea town was my world: outside a strange Wales, coal-pitted, mountained, river-run," hinting that though the natives called themselves Cymric the English called them Welsh or strangers in their own native land. In the first part, the account of a "Visit to America" must be singled out for special praise and in Part II, the studies of Walter de La Mare as a prose writer and Sir Philip Sidney are outstanding. On the whole it is most delightful reading.

WALL OF BRONZE by Liu Ching, Foreign Languages Press, Peking 1954.

This is a very well-got-up book and starts with the inspiring words of Mao Tse-tung "...Comrades, what is the real wall of bronze? It is the people, the hundreds of millions who genuinely and sincerely cherish the revolution." This is an excellent war story of the Chinese War of Liberation. The characterization and description are excellent.

MOKSHA GITA, The Song of Liberation by Sri Swami Sivananda, Rishikesh, India, Published by Rt. Rev. R. J. F. Romano, Millbrae, California. (American Edition).

This essence of the Adwaita Vedanta philosophy by Sri Swami Sivananda is inspiring and lucid.

A DISCIPLINE FOR NON-VIOLENCE by Richard B. Gregg, First published 1941. Reprinted last 1954 Price Ten Annas. Navajivan Publishing House, Ahmedabad.

This reprint is most timely in view of Mahatma Gandhiji's warning in the Foreword d. 24-8-41 "However admirable this guide of Mr. Gregg's may appear as a well-arranged code, it must fail in its purpose, if the Indian experiment fails." In spite of Poojya Vinobha Bhavaji's Bhoodan and allied movements, how far are we still from the hope of the author summarised in his concluding sentences "Every State should have its own standing army of goodwill; expenses for such an army would be vastly less than those for our present armies and navies not to speak of the Air Force and Atom and Hydrogen Bombs," and thus our tax burdens would be immensely lightened:

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA by L. C. Gupta, M. Com., published by Ram Lal Puri of Messrs. Atma Ram & Sons, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

The veteran on Unemployment, Lord Beveridge has said "Jobs, rather than men, should wait." This intensive study very properly opens with an emphasis on getting accurate data and understanding the "Causes of Unemployment" before proceeding to "Action against Unemployment." The whole trouble is that in spite of Mr. Deshmukh's motto "Increased Work and Increased Production", there can be no sound solution unless there is a vigorous revival of the Swadeshi spirit by which when a type-writer was put before the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII and now Duke of Windsor), he declined to take it as it was made in Spain and not in Britain. Otherwise there will be a glut of things not required and incapable of consumption in spite of temporary easing of pressure of unemployment.

MORAL STORIES by David Wright, first published in 1954 by Derek Verschoyle Limited, London, made and printed in Great Britain by William Clowes and Sons Limited, London and Beccles—Price: 6s net.

These Moral Stories by the young poet David Wright are full of pathos and poignancy. All of us are more or less living in a 'prison' and as he says:

"The Cage-born one complain
With losing wing and voice,
That without a frame
The sky is hunger and loss."

The poet has achieved in spite of his self-epitaph "His life, like his times, was appalling; his conduct odd; He hoped to write one good line; died believing in God." In writing not one good line, but many good lines and very nice bits of charming verse.

GANDHISM AND COMMUNISM—Principles and Technique, by Ramswarup, published by Jyoti Prakashan. 5/47, W.E.A., New Delhi.

This collection of several articles written on several occasions and published under various titles in different papers definitely suffers from the difficulty of gathering them together in the one sustained thesis of attacking what the author calls "the aggressive forces of enslaving and deadening communism."

THE INDUS CIVILIZATION IN THE RIGVEDA by P. R. Deshmukh, Pleader, Yeotmal—Price Rupees Two.

Since the time that B. G. Tilak wrote his "Arctic Home of the Vedas," scholars have been tempted to speculate on the age of the civilisation and the geographical area which produced the Rigveda. This is another attempt of that nature which comes to the conclusion "The Indus Valley near Mohen-jodaro housed the enemies of the Vedic Aryans."

INDIANS OUTSIDE INDIA

Ceylon

INDIANS IN CEYLON

Prime Minister Nehru sent a communication to Ceylon on Aug. 20th explaining India's stand point on the disputed provisions of the Indo-Ceylon agreement on citizenship. Mr. D. B. Ellepola, Secretary of the Ceylon Government's High Power Committee on Indo-Ceylon Affairs, told P. T. I.

He said the communication, which was in reply to a reference made to Mr. Nehru by Sir John Kotelawala for clarification of these provisions, was due to be discussed by the Committee.

Meanwhile, informed sources said Mr. Nehru's communication was a much stronger reiteration of his views on the problem expressed by him earlier in the Parliament and subsequently explained by the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. B. N. Chakravarti, at his meeting with Ceylon officials.

As for co-operation to work the new Immigrants Act, the Indian position, as stated by the Indian High Commissioner some time ago, was that, in terms of the agreement, his liability to issue deportation papers would be limited to successful prosecutions launched with his concurrence and would not extend to cases where he was satisfied that no "prima facie" case existed for presuming that a person was an illicit immigrant.

Ceylon Government's high-power Advisory Committee on Indo-Ceylon affairs considered, on Aug. 24th the Prime Minister Mr. Nehru's latest communication to the Ceylon Prime Minister on problems of citizenship of Indian origin population.

Informed sources said the Committee considered in detail the communications received from Mr. Nehru in the context of the Indo-Ceylon agreement on citizenship. Mr. Nehru's communication, urges upon the Ceylon Prime Minister to try and reverse the unhappy trend in the implementation of the agreement, particularly in the matter of admission of Indian origin persons to Ceylon citizenship. He also expressed his inability to agree to the interpretation of some of the clauses of the agreement, put forward by Ceylon in the prevailing circumstances.

South Africa

INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

'Die Transvaler,' a pro-Government newspaper, reported on Aug. 24th that Mr. Eric Louw, South African Minister of External Affairs, had rejected an offer of an U. N. mediator in South Africa's dispute with India and Pakistan over the treatment of their nationals in South Africa.

The correspondence is stated to have taken place during Mr. Louw's recent visit to New York.

Mr. Hammarskjöld, the newspaper reported, wrote that it was his duty under a U. N. resolution of last October to appoint a mediator if there had been no direct negotiations between the three countries, and recommended as mediator Senor Luis De Far Junior, of Brazil.

In reply, Mr. Louw accused Prime Minister Nehru of rejecting South Africa's offer to discuss the question in a friendly spirit by attacking South Africa during an exchange of telegrams between South Africa, India and Pakistan which discussed the possibility of opening talks.

South Africa therefore abandoned the attempt at discussion, he said.

Malaya

INDIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN MALAYA

Mr. Anil K. Chanda, Deputy Minister for External Affairs, said in the Rajya Sabha on Aug. 25th that there were 349,388,26 Straits dollars in the Indian Scholarship Fund, opened under the trusteeship of the Commissioner for the Government of India in Malaya to help the students of Indian origin.

Replying to Mr. N. S. Singh, he said that three students were so far helped.

Mr. Bhupesh Gupta: "Having regard to the horrid administration that exists in Malaya, may I know if Government have cared to find out what kind of education is imparted to them 'by those Colonial killers'?"

Mr. Nehru: "The same as is given to others here, I suppose."

DIARY OF THE MONTH

July 1 The State Bank of India is inaugurated.

—Pakistan joins Turco-Iraq Pact.

—Belgrade honours Nehru by conferring "Freedom of the City."

—Burma & Russia sign a trade pact.

July 2 Mr. C. M. Trivedi, Governor of Andhra inaugurates work at the Nandikonda dam.

—Nehru addresses Yugoslav Parliament at Belgrade.

July 3 Tamil Nad Pradesh Congress Committee meets at Courtallum under the presidency of Mr. P. Kakkan.)

July 4 Maha-Rajpramukh of Rajasthan (Maharana of Udaipur) is dead.

July 5 High-ranking military officers of the Seato meet at Bangkok to plan for defence against Communist aggression.

—Mr. M.A. Gurmani is appointed provisional Chairmn of the Pakistan Constituent Assembly.

July 5 Marshal Tito and Mr. Nehru sign the joint statement advocating co-existence.

July 7 Pakistan Constituent Assembly meets at Murree.

—Mr. Harold Stevens becomes the first Negro Justice of New York State Supreme Court.

July 8 Mr. Nehru arrives in London and meets Mr. Eden.

July 9 Russia re-enters W.H.O. and donates 2 million roubles.

July 9 French National Assembly passed by 540 votes to 43 conventions granting Home Rule to Tunisia.

July 10 Government of India draws up a planned programme to replace English by Hindi as the official language.

—Twenty-two Chinese technical students kept up in U. S. since the Korean war are released.

July 11 Nehru in Cairo: Big popular reception is given to him.

—Nehru and Col. Nasser issue a joint statement advocating peace.

July 12 Nehru back in India after a six week tour of Russia and other European Countries.

—Khan Abdul Gaffer Khan is permitted entry to his province N.W.F.

July 13 Over 2,000 volunteers from all parts of India enrol for mass Satyagraha in Goa.

—Ho Chi Minh, President of the North Viet Nam meets Marshal Bulganin.

July 14 Pakistan Constituent Assembly adjourns to re-assemble on Aug. 14th at Karachi.

July 15 President awards the title of Bharata Ratna to Nehru.

—The official language Commission holds its first meeting in Bombay under the chairmanship of Mr. B. G. Kher.

July 16 Atlantic Council approves Big Three's western policy for the Summit Conference.

July 17 Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan enters Frontier Province after seven years.

—The 36th Eucharistic Congress opens in Rio de Janeiro.

July 18 Big Four conference opens today at Geneva.

—Frontier Cabinet is dismissed.

July 19 India and Pakistan sign a new trade agreement.

July 20 The Kanpur Textile Workers' strike is called off.

—Mr. J. Sivashanumugam Pillai is appointed member of the Union Service Commission.

July 21 Rioting in Saigon: India asks Eden and Molotov to take up matter.

—India decides to join World Finance Corporation.

July 22 Lisbon rules out peaceful ways to settle Goa issue.

—Russia rejects Ike's Arms plan: The West also declines to accept Bulganin's plan.

July 23 Cordell Hull, former U. S. Secretary of State is dead.

—The Geneva Conference concludes.

July 24 Train Service to Goa is suspended.

July 25 Rioting in French Morocco: Police open fire on crowd.

July 26 Prime Minister Nehru announces closure of Portuguese Legation in Delhi.

July 27 Congress obtains absolute majority in the Pondicherry State Assembly.

—India-Iraq air pact concluded.

July 28 Babu Rao is sentenced to six years' R. I. for attempting to cause the death of Prime Minister Nehru.

July 29 Seventh Congress of the World movement for World Federal Government meets in Paris.

—Lok Sabha passes the Decimal coinage Bill.

July 30 India replies to Pakistan's note re. Pandit Pant's statement.

July 31 Pakistan devalues its Rupee.

READERS' DIGEST

RE-ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE

"The News and Views from the Soviet Union," issued by the representative of *Tass* in India has an article by Mr. B. Vronsky under the heading "In the interest of re-establishing International Confidence." The article has reference to the Big Four Conference which met in July in Geneva. The writer discusses the Soviet-Government's policy with regard to reduction of armaments;

Soviet Government has accepted a number of proposals made by the Western Powers on the reduction of conventional armaments. The draft decision submitted at Geneva by the Soviet delegation envisaged that the following agreed levels should be fixed for the armed forces: 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 men for the Soviet Union, the United States and the Chinese People's Republic, each; 650,000 men for Britain and France, each. The level of the armed forces of all other states should not be in excess of 150,000 to 200,000 men each. The proposal proceeds from the idea that no power should have armed forces which could constitute a threat to peace.

* * *

The Soviet Government suggested that the reduction of armed forces and of armaments should be started immediately and that the big four should set an example in that respect by reduction of military contingents by the number of troops to be withdrawn from Austria. The Soviet Government has taken the initiative and decided to withdraw all the Soviet troops from Austria to Soviet territory and to reduce the USSR armed forces by this number by next October 1.

The Soviet Government did not refuse to discuss any other proposals, provided they would be made in an attempt to find a solution for the problem of Control. But the *U. S. Reporter* in a recent article on this subject points out that arguments against

atomic disarmament are somewhat in the nature of a delayed action bomb. Opponents of disarmament, the magazine goes on saying, do not let themselves to be known, since in the first place, their points of view are not popular with some circles, secondly, one word too much can jeopardise the propagandist position of the United States; and thirdly, there was no need to discuss the problem when the possibility of disarmament was remote. If the present trend, however, should develop further, the magazine points out, their words will strike like a thunder bolt. So, headquarters of opponents of disarmament are concentrated in the boards of Directors of the biggest monopolies, which influence both the stand of officials and the Press.

Mr. Vronsky says that such observations as the above lead one to conclude against one's will that these influential quarters are against not only the Soviet proposals, but against disarmament in general, against any measures which would result in the weakening of the armaments race. These quarters are worried by the Soviet proposals, since they bring the viewpoints of both sides closer together and create conditions for the establishment of necessary confidence.

The realisation of U.S.S.R's proposal, for reduction of armament and prohibition of atomic weapons promise the world good relief. The writer concludes:

This would, first of all, slash waste of money and useless destruction or material values. This would avert waste of human labour and recourses necessary to produce the means of destruction, and would open up broad vistas for the peaceful use of atomic energy. The Soviet proposals lead to the relaxation of international tension and to the re-establishment of confidence and mutual understanding among states.

WHAT HAPPENED IN GENEVA?

Under the above heading the *New York Times* writes editorially as follows:—

"The heads of the Big Four Governments have finished what could be done at Geneva in a week of working days, have made their amiable farewells to each other and leave the Palace of Nations in a sort of between-seasons quietness. What they did not accomplish their foreign ministers will now take up. In three months, more or less, the foreign ministers, in the coolness of a Geneva fall, will formally resume the task that their superior officers were not able to finish. These courageous gentlemen will be expected to try to agree on German unification, European security, disarmament (utilizing for this the U. N.) and how to lower the Iron Curtain.

Those who expected little in the way of immediate returns from the Geneva meeting were not disappointed. There were not, and could not be, large immediate returns. The blunders, mischances and evil deeds of ten years and more could not be undone in six days. They could not be undone even by supermen, and these were not supermen. Neither the electoral processes of the democracies nor the power struggles of a dictatorship can be guaranteed to produce supermen when needed.

President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Eden and Premier Faure could not promise to work miracles. What Premier Bulganin expected we have no way of knowing. The four men, aided by capable staffs of advisers, fenced with each other, discussing the main points of disagreement as though they might convince each other by a sufficiently plausible line of argument. Nobody was convinced of anything he did not believe before.

Agreement on all these points could have been followed by a peace treaty explicitly ending the cold war. There was no such agreement. The West would have liked to begin with German unity and proceed from there to a reduction of armaments and the creation of a security system. The Russians preferred to start with a "security system" which would have destroyed the North Atlantic Treaty alliance and the existing West European security system.

On an otherwise comparatively dull day President Eisenhower created a mild sensation by proposing to link a reduction of armaments with a system of inspection both by land and by air. It is difficult to visualize one or more airplanes, controlled in part by Russia, flying over American military installations on this continent with our consent, but that was what the President seemed to have in mind. It is even harder to visualize American planes inspecting Russian soil.

Except for some mutual expressions of goodwill, some of them formal, many more of them informal, the Big Four conference "at the summit" leaves us about where we were before. The heads of government may say with the author of the Rubaiyat that they, too, came out by the same door wherein they went.

Yet this conference was not futile. The fact that it took place at all is hopeful. Even the propaganda that came out of it may be hopefully interpreted. For if this were a world ruled entirely by force, if it were wholly a materialistic world, propaganda would not be necessary. The Big Four had to care what humanity thought about them. They may change their methods and procedures, but they cannot be indifferent to any proposals that will lessen the danger of a mutually disastrous war.

President Eisenhower, perhaps, won the moral victory at Geneva if there was such a victory. Nobody reading his words could doubt that he was full of goodwill towards all men and that therefore he honestly strove for peace. In that striving he represented what is best in this nation. His final words were encouraging. It had been, on the whole, he thought, "a good week" and "prospects of a lasting peace, with justice, well-being and broader freedom are brighter."

A word of caution is necessary at the end. We cannot disarm, we cannot wholly trust any agreement with Soviet Russia, until the Iron Curtain is down and freedom established on Soviet soil. First things must come first—and these are first things.

But a third World War would be no solution. A *modus vivendi* to avoid that frightful tragedy is essential, and we now seem a little nearer to it."

THE FAR EAST QUESTION

The settlement of the Far East Problem is largely unexplored, says Mr. Thomas J. Hamilton in the American Press. After Geneva there remains the problem of Communist China, which is clearly one of the most pressing in the cold war. Unless all the recent pronouncements emanating from Moscow are false, the Soviet Union is now willing to permit co-existence in Europe. But the Chinese Communists are apparently a different story, and some hard thinking in Washington will clearly be necessary about the two basic problems:

- (1) Are we willing to negotiate with Peiping, and, if so, when and how?
- (2) Since we are still unwilling either to give up Formosa to the Communists or to allow them to take over China's seating in the United Nations, what terms would we accept?

According to one diplomat with good Washington contacts, there simply have not been any developments in United States policy toward Peiping during

all the months of the *de facto* cease-fire in the Formosa area. As he puts it, the watchword at the State Department is to let sleeping dogs lie.

Since nothing has happened all summer, and since American newspapers and members of Congress are no longer making daily demands for the release of the eleven imprisoned United States airmen held by Red China, the reluctance of the Secretary of State to take up such an unattractive problem could be excused if the situation promised to remain static.

Midway in the Geneva conference, however, the Chinese Communists unexpectedly subjected Quemoy to its heaviest artillery bombardment in months. Although the Chinese Reds, like their Russian comrades, have been having serious trouble with their farm program, it is certainly within their capabilities to take the small islands just off the mainland.

It is uncertain whether their good behavior recently was suggested by the Russians, who wanted to avoid any unpleasantness that would mar the era of good feeling Moscow said it wanted to inaugurate at Geneva.

Other sources emphasize instead the Chinese Communists' desire to complete the airfields that will enable their jet planes to operate against all the islands, including Formosa.

Both factors may have been responsible. In any event, the airfields were to be ready by the end of July, the Geneva conference is over, and a resumption of the war of nerves against the United States is to be expected.

India's pressure for negotiations has also been resumed. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who presumably learned the Soviet views on his recent visit to Moscow, urged the British Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden, to take up the question in Geneva.

President Eisenhower has suggested to Mr. Nehru that the consuls general in Geneva of the United States and Communist China might now take up such peripheral questions as the imprisoned airmen, and that if they make progress, the ministers in Bern could then start negotiations on fundamental issues. The writer continues:—

However, for the past year, the consuls general have been negotiating off and on about American civilian prisoners with no result. It remains to be seen whether the Eisenhower Administration, in view of the concessions it would have to make to get

a settlement has made up its mind on definite negotiations.

It is uncertain whether the Chinese Communists prefer such a conference or will stick to their earlier suggestion for bilateral negotiations with the United States.

Since the United States is insisting that the Chinese Nationalists must participate if there are to be any negotiations, a general conference may be the only solution acceptable to all sides.

It is generally assumed that the reluctance of the United States to start negotiations results from misgivings over the concessions that would be necessary to get a settlement.

It is obvious that the Chinese Communists would agree to nothing less than the surrender of Quemoy and Matsu, some arrangement that would remove Chiang Kai-shek from control of Formosa—even if the Communists didn't get the island—and some implicit or explicit indication that Peiping could take over China's seat in the United Nations.

Acceptance of such a program would naturally create added difficulties for the Eisenhower Administration with the Republican Right Wing. But since next year will be a Presidential year, some authorities think that if such a deal is to be made it should be made at least a year from November.

According to most students of the problem, the best terms the United States could get would probably be following: Surrender of Quemoy and Matsu to the Communists; Nationalist China to remain a United Nations member, but with its territory restricted to Formosa; the Communists to be admitted to the United Nations as the representatives of the mainland. The writer concludes:—

The "two Chinas" solution has in fact been advocated by Arthur H. Dean, Secretary Dulles' law partner. While it has been studied in Washington, there are no signs that the Eisenhower Administration is ready to accept it.

These same students agree that if the United States prefers to "tough it out" when the United Nations General Assembly meets in September, it will once more be able to prevent the Communists from being seated.

Sentiment in favor of admitting Peiping is growing, however. If the United States does not get some sort of settlement this year, the Assembly might end up a year from now with a vote—not subject to Washington's veto—to drop the Nationalists and give China's seat, to the Communists.

As far as anyone can foresee, the United States Fleet would still be able to drive off a Communist attack on Formosa. But our legal and moral position would be seriously compromised if the United Nations had ceased to recognize any connection between Chiang Kai-shek and China.

INFLUENCE OF ISLAM ON INDIA

"Much of what India is to-day is due to the pioneer work of the Muslims," says Sir Azizul Haque writing in the *Review of Religions*. The history of Moghul rule in India is still spoken of by Historians as a brilliant chapter of government of one people by another.

With the advent of Muslims in India came the organization of India as one political entity. They gave to this land the name of Hindustan. The centres of their administration were in Delhi, Agra, Allahabad, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Golkonda and numerous other places—yet Muslims remained only a minority in these places.

Under the aegis of the Muslim kings and rulers began a new synthesis in the intellectual and social life of India. In its train came the rise and development of arts and literature, mathematics and medicine, architecture and engineering. Roads, bridges and irrigation canals were constructed; industry, trade and commerce flourished and provincial barriers were broken down. The entire administration, judicial and revenue, was organized on a planned basis. *Maktabs* and *Madrasahs* (schools and colleges) were established and thrown open to all classes and creeds. The sacred literatures of the Hindus, the ancient scientific and literary treasures of India, were translated. In the organization of government machinery, there was no distinction of caste or creed; highest military commands were in the hands of the Hindus; oppressive revenue collectors were summarily replaced without distinction of creed or race, jagirs and endowments were given to mosques as well as to temples, men of letters of all communities were equally patronized.

MOVIES ON TAPE

Mr. Jack Gould says that in America Commercial motion pictures will shortly begin to use electronic device in colour without film and that they will appear on tape in 1956.

The making of motion pictures without the use of film was said today to be perhaps only a year away from commercial introduction.

The Bing Crosby Enterprises, Inc., demonstrated the latest refinements in its method of electronic recording of moving images. The sound and pictures of a color television program were recorded off the air, compressed on to a half-inch tape similar to that used in sound recording, and then played back.

The images had an amazing stability and in resolution and definition seemed equal if not superior to today's kinescope film recordings. At times the reproduced pictures had a startling color fidelity; at other times they suffered from blurring overcasts, smears and poorer registration.

But over-all the tape color was better than many of the color demonstrations of only two years ago and the practicality of making movies electronically can hardly be in further doubt.

Frank Healey, executive director of the electronics division of the Crosby Enterprises—one of the singer's many business interests, estimated that the electronic video recorder was now about 80 per cent perfected and could be ready in another twelve months. A single recorder would cost about \$50,007.

A steady stream of executives from the major film companies have visited the Crosby Film Laboratory in the last few months and reportedly have been impressed by the rapid progress made. They and union officials are agreed that the coming of tape could have revolutionary implications for the entertainment world.

With tape a director could shoot a scene and then instantaneously see "the tape," saving the whole costly and time-consuming process of developing film. Similarly, a director could introduce television's mobility into motion picture making. With several tape recorders in simultaneous operation a director could take his pick of scenes "shot" from several angles.

Mr. Healey said that he believed with tape the shooting time for a half-hour television film could be cut from several days to a single day.

Theoretically, the Video tape recorder also could have a home application much as the sound recorder does today. With the television set of the future it might be possible for a house-wife to pick up a new tape movie at the supermarket or drug store and then play it back for the family on their home television screen. Such a development, while admittedly some years away, could make all the present complicated suggestions for pay-as-you-see television as old fashioned and unnecessary as the horse and buggy.

The principle of the video tape recorder is the same as for the audio tape recorder. In audio a person's voice or music is transformed into a succession of electronic impulses that disturb magnetic particles on the tape. When the tape is played back the different arrangements of the particles reproduce the different original sounds. In video the picture is also broken down into successions of electronic impulses that disturb the tape's magnetic particles.

In the improved Crosby video tape there are five separate "tracks," all within the half-inch width of the tape, to record a complete color program. There are separate tracks for each of television's three primary video colors—red, blue and green. There is a track to carry synchronizing signal infor-

mation, and a sound track. Only two years ago the Crosby tape was an inch wide and required twelve tracks. The reduction in size is itself indicative of the technical progress made.

For the demonstration the most recent appearance of Ethel Merman and Harry James on a color television program was used. The program was recorded off the air from a color receiver and sent into the tape machine, which in size is roughly akin to a studio turntable. The tape moves at the rate of 180 inches a second—a reduction from the previous Crosby rate of 360 inches. Fully wound, a fourteen-inch spool provides about eight minutes of programming.

The reproduced images of the Merman-James show had a somewhat bluish overcast and the tints frequently seemed harsh. But there were also sustained periods when both the picture and the sound were extremely good. Some of the defects were identical with those only too familiar to persons having a color receiver in their own home. The "jitters" and "ghosts" that marked previous tape demonstrations did not appear.

The next Crosby step will be to record color signals directly at their camera source, which should lead to substantial further improvement and would be more in accord with normal broadcasting station practice.

The Crosby tape was invented by John T. Mullin, chief engineer for the Crosby Electronic Enterprises, and Wayne R. Johnson, Cooperating with the Crosby Enterprises in their tape work are the Minnesota Mining Company and DuPont.

In New York, the Radio Corporation of America also is actively at work at furthering its method of video tape recording.

BUDDHIST MONASTERY IN PAKISTAN

Considerable progress is reported to have been made in the excavation of the Buddhist monastery at Mainamati, near Comilla in East Pakistan, which had been in progress for some months.

Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khan, who was directing the operations, is reported to have told the Dacca representative of *Radio Pakistan* that excavations carried out so far showed the monastery was a very big one and it would take them another two winter seasons to uncover the whole of the monastery and the *stupa*.

According to Dr. Khan, so far they had uncovered the 174-feet long brick-paved 'approach road' leading to the monastery and the *stupa*, the main gate-way to the *stupa* with a 74-feet wide frontage, a small chamber in the entrance hall of the *stupa*, the top plan of the *stupa* and fourteen cells of monks. It had also been possible to uncover 350 feet of the outer wall of the monastery on the western side. The northern wall had been uncovered in places. The work of uncovering the entrance hall of the *stupa* was now in progress. The hall, when completely uncovered, would measure 33 feet by 33 feet. The brick masonry of the gateway, was found to be in a very good state of preservation with visible traces of later repairs.

Dr. Khan reported the yield of valuable finds in the shape of terracotta plaques—excellent specimens of folk art depicting subjects like a lotus flower, a fish, a well-built horse, a wild boar, a seated buffalo with twisted horses, a lion in a hunting posture and female dancers. Those plaques had confirmed their earlier estimate that the remains related to the period between 800 A.D. and 1209 A.D. inasmuch as they depicted animal and plant forms which the early Buddhists did not accept. They represented a later period when the Buddhist and the Hindu elements had got mixed up together.

EGYPT AND GAZA AREA

In the *Egyptian Economic and Political Review* there is an interesting note on the above topic. The writer points out:

Not content with constantly disturbing the peace with its calculated and provocative aggressions over the Truce lines in Palestine, the Israeli Government now fills the air with threats.

Mr. Sharett in a much publicised interview the other day proclaimed the opinion of his Government that the Gaza area is really Israeli territory and that the Egyptians have no right to be there.

As quite evidently such an argument has neither logic nor reason to support it. We shall not insult Mr. Sharett by assuming that he really believes what he says. There is clearly quite another motive behind his words, and one is forced to conclude that Mr. Sharett's outpourings, the repeated Israeli attacks across the Truce lines, and the build-up of forces now proceeding on the Israeli side, are a prelude of something bigger to come.

The Egyptian reaction to all this has been calm and reasonable. Whilst ready to do their utmost in collaboration with the U. N. to keep the peace, the Egyptians have an intention of being intimidated by Israeli bluster, and the Israeli forces who had occasion to clash with the Egyptians had this point effectively driven home to them.

It seems evident that Mr. Sharett and the rest of his countrymen are suffering from an attack of nerves, and no wonder. Their position is unenviable. With the stranglehold of the Arab blockade tightening, outside support once so strong falling off, and increasing numbers of Israelis wanting to leave Israel, the prospects of an ultimate solution to their problem constantly recede.

Furthermore the coming elections in Israel are not far off, and although Mr. Ben-Gurion has now left his voluntary exile to throw his considerable weight in with the Government, it seems evident that there is strong public feeling against Mr. Sharett's policies, for it has been reported on various occasions that he personally had opposed the policy of armed and secretly inspired incidents.

The besieged Israeli can now look back on some eight years of constant strain and of unrelieved crisis. The enemies he thought defeated and routed are still there, stronger, better equipped and as determined to contain him as ever. As far as the Israeli economy is concerned, the drop in the value of the Israeli pounds since 1948, when it was on a par with sterling, has been constant and invariable—an excellent indication of the state of that economy.

It well may be that in such circumstances the Israeli Government contemplates the dangerous adventures of a resort to war. If so, it will be a counsel of desperation, for least of all the Middle Eastern peoples are the Israelis prepared for war. For in war one of two things generally appears—weakness or strength—and perhaps Mr. Sharett knows more than most that behind the boasting, bluff and ballyhoo of the last years, the Israeli army is still an untried, unhomogeneous and over-estimated force. Will he risk the survival of Israel on what could easily be a wild-emotionally dominated adventure.

Egypt in any case is ready,* and in the words of Gamal Abdel Nasser speaking to General Burns in Cairo sometime ago: "If what you fear take place (an Israeli attack on Gaza), it will mean war. And if war comes it will not be like it was in 1948. No one will restrain our liberty of action and I shall not allow the Egyptian Army to be exposed to one-sided truces decided upon in New York."

* The Western Powers are now concerned with the recent Gaza crisis. Ed. I. R.

GENETIC EFFECTS OF RADIATION

"Men may have smaller bodies and shorter lives because of the effects of atomic radiation" says the current issue of the *British Medical Journal*:

The journal was commenting on two attempts made in America, to measure directly, the effects of radiation on man. The first is being carried out on survivors of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, covering 2,000 births. So far only a preliminary report is available. The second is on radiologists in America.

The *Journal* said that no strong indication was found, from the Japanese study, of any effect on the sex ratio, the malformation rate, the still birth rate, or the birth weights of children, at least one of whose parents had developed any of the cardinal symptoms of radiation injury in the months after the bombing.

The survey on the American radiologists was made by a routine postal quiz to over 3,500 of them and the same quiz was sent to a similar number of physicians specialising in other things. There was a small and significant increase in the number of congenital malformations among the children of the radiologists.

In fine it points out that in view of incomplete response to the questionnaire, it could not be assumed that this small difference was due to irradiation. It added: "The authors of both surveys are nevertheless careful to make the point that their inconclusive results should not be interpreted as indicating that the genetic effects of radiation in man are small. Animal experiments have shown that the great majority of mutations, whether occurring naturally or following artificial radiation, are at least partially recessive and so unlikely to be detected in the first generation after exposure."

"Perhaps the effects most likely to be detected in the first generation are not still births and congenital malformations, but a reduction in adult body size and in average length of life. These would require longer follow-up for their detection."

BRITAIN'S OLDEST THEATRE?

"It was in 1847 that a St. Albans farmer came across an ancient and long-buried ruin in a field he was ploughing. The site was close to the forum of the Roman city of Verulamium, and it was soon confirmed that the remains were of archaeological value," observes Mr. R. Robert in a recent issue of Britain's well illustrated monthly the *Coming Events*.

"Not until 1933, however, were any serious excavations undertaken. In that year the Earl of Verulam, owner of the field, provided funds for archaeologists to commence work on laying bare the foundations of what was known to be a Roman theatre.

Circular in shape, it consisted, when built in the second century A.D., of an orchestra, a stage, and a sloping bank of earth which supported rows of wooden seats. The whole was surrounded by massive walls strengthened by stone buttresses. By piecing together the evidence provided by the stonework, as well as by pottery and coins discovered on the site, it was possible to date and to trace the history of the theatre, which, at the time that the excavations were made, was the only Roman theatre known to exist in this country. The original building was probably erected between A.D. 140 and 150, and was of simple and orthodox design.

The floor of the stage, or *pulpitum*, was supported on wooden uprights. Underneath the stage existed a deep hollow or pit, the object of which is not definitely known; but it may have served the dual purpose of draining away rain-water and improving acoustics. There was a room at the back of the stage for the use of the actors.

Other Roman theatres have recently been identified at Canterbury and Colchester, but it is probable that the carefully-preserved foundations of Verulamium may still claim the distinction of being all that the ravages of of time have spared, all that remains, of Britain's oldest theatre."

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS O DEPARTMENTAL O NOTES

QUESTIONS OF IMPORTANCE

LIBERATION OF GOA

The all-Party Goa Liberation Committee, which concluded its two-day session at Poona on Aug. 28th announced that in spite of the "wanton violence" unleashed by the Portuguese, it would continue the Satyagraha in its mass and individual forms till the attainment of final victory.

The Committee appealed to the people to continue their unstinted support to the struggle for Goa's liberation in order to end the last vestiges of colonialism on India's sacred soil.

It also announced that on Oct. 2, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, 500 satyagrahis would march into Goa as a step towards organising mass Satyagraha at a later date.

Meanwhile, the Committee disclosed that 95 Satyagrahis, drawn from different States, would be leaving for the Goa border. They would enter Goa in small batches during the coming weeks. The dates of their entry would be finalised by the Satyagraha Council of the National Congress (Goa) at Belgaum.

The Committee, which concluded its two-day session, appealed to the people to continue their unstinted support to the struggle in order to end the last vestiges of colonialism in India.

By another resolution, the Committee decided to open a "Martyrs' Relief" to help the dependents of those who laid down their lives and those who were permanently disabled as a result of injuries sustained. The Committee appealed to the people to contribute generously to the fund.

The resolution listed the following in the "roll call of honour of the heroic dead": Karmal Singh (Ludhiana, Punjab), Madhukar Chaudhari (Umarkhed, M.P.), Hirve Guruji (Panvel-Maharashtra), Rajabhai Mayankal (Ujjain-Madhya Bharat), S. S. Ramam (Vijayawada-Andhra), Bapu'aji Hotelwala (Madhya, Bharat), and Nathuji Kambale (M.B.).

The resolution further stated that the Satyagrahis, by their devoted adherence to non-violence in the face of the gravest provocations, "have conclusively rebutted the insinuation that mass Satyagraha might change the non-violent character of the struggle."

The Committee deplored "the passive and barren policy of the Government of India" and urged the Government to take positive and effective steps for the freedom of Goa.

U. K. MUST WARN PORTUGAL

Alan Taylor, well-known columnist of the Labour Party organ the "Daily Herald", has some plain words to say to the Britishers who have been sneering at Mr. Nehru, because of the Prime Minister's policy of trying to secure freedom of Goa by non-violent means.

In the column "I say what I please" Mr. Taylor writes under the caption "Black Goa". He says: "Goa is not much of a place. Just a tiny mark on the map of India. But it is one of the most important spots in the world today."

"Imperialism and freedom are fighting their old war. This time, freedom is fighting in a new civilised way."

"The Portuguese own Goa. It is theirs in the sense that India was once ours. In other words, they conquered it when they were strong and India was weak. Now India wants to complete her national unity and get rid of the last foreign rule in her continent."

"We gave up India; it was the finest thing we ever did. But it came only after many years of terrorism, massacre and oppression. Mr. Nehru is trying to free by non-violent means. He is trying to show that peace hath her victories no less than war."

"You would think people in this country would applaud him that they would like to see national freedom won without bloodshed. Instead, you hear sneers, as though Mr. Nehru were a second Hitler."



NEHRU ON WELFARE STATE

"Every person in this country—whether of the hills or of the plains or the frontier tribe—has equal rights and privileges and must have friendly contacts with others because we are all Indians and citizens of this great Republic of India which binds us all together" said Prime Minister Nehru, at Shillong on Aug. 28.

Mr. Nehru called upon the people to march hand in hand and co-operate in the country's pilgrimage towards economic swaraj. They were to lead India towards a Welfare State of a socialistic pattern.

Exhorting everyone to join in this great endeavour to work for a Welfare State, Mr. Nehru said "we go up when India goes up and we go down when India goes down."

Mr. Nehru said that the achievement of a Welfare State would involve social revolution but, revolution did not mean bloodshed. A revolution in bringing about social changes would affect a large number of people, he added. "We have to be disciplined and responsible; otherwise, our pilgrimage to a Welfare State may be hampered. Ours is a march peacefully and democratically towards a socialist State", Mr. Nehru said.

He told the people that all problems should be settled in a spirit of peace and co-operation. If India was to-day respected by the world it was because she stood for peace and acted peacefully.

Mr. Nehru told the audience that although they were from the north-east territory of India, they were equal sharers in India's rich heritage. He said:

"This country has many aspects, and all will not be the same from the Himalayas down to the plains of the south. There is a variety along with its unity, which makes this a great country. We have to preserve all these varieties and maintain unity at the same time. This is a problem. But Gandhiji gave

us the answer through the lesson of unity, brotherhood and co-operation: Whatever the religious and social differences, we must co-operate and should not do anything that would divide us."

DR. PRASAD ON THE FATHER OF THE NATION

Laying the foundation stone of the main building of Gandhi Vidya Mandir at Sardarshar on Aug. 28, Dr. Rajendra Prasad spoke about the father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi.

Paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi after whom the institution has been named, Dr. Prasad said: "The impress which Mahatma Gandhi has left on Indian politics is so indelibly deep that the contribution of his great personality in other spheres of life is sometimes lost sight of. Many people believe that Gandhiji was a revolutionary only as a politician."

He said that whatever Gandhiji did, he always kept the practical side of things in view. He knew that India was predominantly an agricultural country, 80 per cent of whose population lived in villages. Therefore, whatever Gandhiji did in the sphere of politics, social reform, cottage industries, removal of untouchability and education he did it, keeping always in mind the fact that a large majority of Indians lived in villages.

Dr. Prasad said:

"It was his (Gandhiji's) conviction that no public movement or reform of any kind could succeed in India unless the co-operation of the rural population was obtained."

"It was as a result of this conviction that the Basic system of education took birth in Wardha. When going into the merits or demerits of this system of education, I would only like to say that this system is entirely in consonance with the requirements and the way of living of rural India."

"Those who received their education according to this system will not, after completing their education, think of running to the towns or adding to the strength of the unemployment in this country."

Congratulating the people connected with the Gandhi Vidya Mandir, the President expressed his feeling that the institution would become, in course of time, one of the leading educational institutions of Rajasthan.



PEACE BASED ON JUSTICE

President Eisenhower said at Philadelphia on Aug. 24th that he was confident the Big Four Summit conference at Geneva gave the opportunity for an advance towards a peace based on justice and security."

He asked: "Can we achieve that sort of peace?" and answered "I think we can."

Addressing the annual convention of the American Bar Association the President said the United States was on a "crusade for peace" but it could never accept in an eagerness to avoid war the wrongs that the Soviets had done to men and nations.

Mr. Eisenhower said eagerness to avoid war could produce agreements to perpetuate the injustices and wrongs of the present. He added, "We must not participate in any such false agreement."

"In the judgment of history we would have sold out the freedom of men for the mirage of a false peace. Moreover we would assure future conflict. The division of Germany cannot be supported by any argument based on boundaries or language or racial origin. The domination of captive countries cannot any longer be justified by any claim that this is needed for purpose of security."

"An international political machine operating within the borders of sovereign nations for their political and ideological subversion cannot be explained away as a cultural movement."

DISARMAMENT TALKS

Tass quoted the Soviet Government newspaper, *Izvestia* as saying on Aug. 28 that Russia was ready to give serious consideration to disarmament proposals by other countries when the United Nations Subcommittee on Disarmament resumes its talks.

In a signed article, the newspaper said: "Mutual readiness should be shown by participants in the negotiations to consider attentively constructive proposals which has not always happened hitherto."

"For a practical solution of the question of disarmament, an attitude of reciprocity is essential," the newspaper added.

GROTIUS FOUNDATION MEDAL FOR NEHRU

The "International Grotius Foundation for the Renewal of International Law" in session at Munich on Aug. 28th awarded its medal to Prime Minister Nehru.

The medal given for services to International Law was also awarded to Dr. Max Huber of Zurich, President of the International Red Cross and to Professor Josephus Vanderyelden of Haarlem, Netherlands, who translated the works of Hugo Grotius from the Latin. Grotius (1583-1645), a theologian, jurist and writer, is considered to be the father of International Law.

PONDY STATE GOVT.

It is understood that the Central Government have approved the Pondicherry State Government's proposal to pay a fixed salary of Rs. 500 a month to all the Government Councillors. In addition, each Councillor will be paid Rs. 200 a month as house rent and travelling allowance.

This is the first time that Councillors have been paid salaries since 1947. It is also learnt that proposals have been forwarded to Delhi for payment of salaries to members of the Representative Assembly also on a monthly basis.

GOA IS OURS

"GOA is ours as sure as the day and we shall acquire it through peaceful means" said Dr. K. N. Katju, India's Defence Minister, addressing a public meeting at Jullundur on Aug. 24.

He said: "Not an inch of India or even Asian land could remain under foreign rule. Colonialism is a thing of the past".

Deploping the recent events in Punjab, Dr. Katju said controversies over language and boundaries should not be discussed in a communal atmosphere. "Let us wait for the recommendations of the State Reorganisation Commission whose members are impartial and whose nationalism is beyond doubt", he said.



FREE LEGAL AID

A lawyer, like a doctor is a public servant and should render free legal aid to the deserving, observed Mr. M. C. Setalwad, Attorney-General of India and Chairman of the Law Commission, addressing Law apprentices and students of the Law College in Madras on August 24.

Lawyers should remember, Mr. Setalwad said, that the bulk of India's population was illiterate and poor, and they should never do any thing to mislead them and take them away from the right path.

A lawyer was an expert professional agent whose function was to put forward the point of view of the client to the Judge. In the discharge of this function he owed a duty to the client, to the Court and to himself. Whatever the amount of fees given by the client, he should give his undivided attention to the case he handled. He should take it as a sacred trust and should never abuse the confidence reposed in him by the client. A lawyer should show extreme fairness to the other side, candour to the Court and accuracy in the statements he made both about facts and law.

Mr. Setalwad said that the lawyers' profession was as old as civilisation, and "in everything you do," he told the law apprentices, "your conduct must be that of a perfect gentleman in all respects." They should wait long before they made a name, but while they waited, they should work hard and equip themselves. Success in the profession involved continuous and unending work.

RETIRING AGE OF JUDGES

The Attorney-General of India addressing the lawyers of Madras on August 23 observed that there was a great deal to be said in favour of increasing the retiring age in the judiciary, as a whole. The younger aspirants to positions might not look at the suggestion with favour. He had no doubt that a majority of judges could carry on even for five years more and give to the country the benefit of their ripe experience and wisdom. That was a matter which required consideration at the concerned quarters.

PROBATION WORK IN MADRAS

The Madras Probation of Offenders Act is in force throughout the State of Madras. In addition to Probation work under this Act and the Madras Children Act, the Madras Borstal Schools Act and the Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, the Probation Officers are also entrusted with the work of making enquiries incidental to proceedings under Chapter XXXVI of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Maintenance of wives and children) and of supervising prisoners who are released prematurely under the Advisory Board Scheme or on parole.

ABOLITION OF WHIPPING

The Rajya Sabha on Aug. 25 passed the Bill providing for the abolition of whipping as a form of punishment. The Home Minister, Pandit G. B. Pant, replying to the first reading debate on the Bill, told the House that in choosing methods of punishment, care should be taken to see that "we do not brutalise society or turn men into brutes."

Pandit Pant, speaking on the Whipping Abolition Bill, said it seemed to be the opinion of almost all who had studied the subject of penology that whipping did not serve any social purpose. If that was accepted, then abolition of whipping became necessary and essential. In fact, Pandit Pant said, those who were subjected to this sort of punishment tenaciously adhered to the evil ways. They became still more desperate and sadists.

"We cannot forget that even when a person commits a crime he is a citizen and we have to use means that will wean him away from the evil course and rehabilitate him as a decent member of society," the Home Minister said.

CUSTOMS DUTY ON FOUNTAIN PENS

Fountain pens with gold tops or caps are liable to import duty only at the rate of 30 per cent. A ruling to this effect was given by the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Desai, at the Bombay High Court on Aug. 28 while dismissing the appeal filed by the Collector of Customs, from the decision of Mr. Justice Tendolkar who had directed the Collector to release a consignment of gold-capped fountain pens imported by one R. S. Wadhvani.



EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, laid the foundation stone of the main building of the Gandhi Vidya Mandir, at Bikaner on August 28.

Gandhi Vidya Mandir is the first rural university in India where experiment in public instruction is undertaken through Basic Education.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Prasad said, unless the requirements of the rural population were kept in view, no system of education would be of much use. Educational institutions situated in the country-side could prove to be of the greatest benefit to the village people.

He said: "If we proceed with the belief that the educated classes have to maintain the closest contact with our needs and the Indian way of life, along with towns, we shall have to make the villages also as centres of education."

Dr. Prasad said that the Basic system of education and the rural environments would act and react on each other to the advantage of both.

Referring to the educational system which the British adopted in India, he said that the system was formulated by the foreigners who could not be expected to know the conditions prevailing in India.

"Free India needs a system of education which besides being indigenous, may help the people in their day-to-day life," he said.

RECTOR FOR BOMBAY UNIVERSITY

The Senate of the Bombay University has decided to appoint a full-time Rector to "exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be delegated to him by the Vice-Chancellor".

His duties include presiding over meetings of all committees of which the Vice-Chancellor is the Chairman.

Mr. Justice P. B. Gajendragadkar of the Bombay High Court, who moved the resolution, said the office of the Vice-Chancellor being a part-time appointment, it was necessary to appoint a full-time Rector to complement the functions of the Vice-Chancellor.

LITERATURE IN NATIONAL LANGUAGE

Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University, said that if Hindi were to replace English as the official language within the next 10 years, as stipulated in the Constitution, the Central and State Governments should conjointly take steps to produce copious literature of thought and imagination in Hindi.

Dr. Iyer, who was speaking at the opening ceremony of the Bharatiya Bhasha Sangam Shikshalaya stressed the importance of the study of regional languages.

PLANT CELLS REACT TO MUSIC

The latest piece of research in the Botany Department of the Annamalai University, it is learnt, is the finding that the living protoplasm of the plant is so much activated by musical strains that some of the particles in it execute a rhythmic dance.

It has been known for a long time that the protoplasm is noted for its irritability. It is however all the more interesting that the plant-cells react in such a patent manner to instrumental music. The common water-plant Hydrilla exhibits this phenomenon.

NEHRU'S ROLE IN MODERN INDIA

The Nuffield Foundation has awarded a travelling fellowship for 1955-56 to Mr. Michael Brecher for researches into the life of Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru and the Indian Prime Minister's part in modern Indian history.

Mr. Brecher, who is to come to India later this year to conduct research here, is at present appealing for letters and documents relating to the years Mr. Nehru spent at Harrow, Trinity College, Cambridge and the Inner Temple.

TIRUPATI VARSITY

The University Grants Commission has accepted the recommendation of the visiting committee regarding the Venkateswara University and approved expenditure under various heads up to a total amount of Rs. 38.5 lakhs as detailed below: laboratory-22 lakhs, library-8.8 lakhs, scientific equipment-6.5 lakhs and books and journals-1.25 lakhs.

TRADE & FINANCE

RECOMMENDATIONS OF BANK COMMISSION

Following are the main recommendations of the Gajendragadkar commission on the Bank Award.

(1) Subject to certain modifications, the Appellate Tribunal's decision should be restored in the case of all Class A banks (Indian and foreign) all Class B banks (except the Bank of Bikaner and the United Bank of India) and certain Class C banks. This recommendation is to have retrospective effect from Apr. 1, 1954.

(2) The provision for the creation of an additional area (Area IV) as per Government's modified decision, together with the wage structure and dearness allowance prescribed for this new area, should be confirmed.

(3) The total exemption from the application of the award to areas with 30,000 or less population in Part B and Part C States (other than Delhi, Ajmer and Coorg) allowed in the Government's modified decision has been altered and the exemption will be limited to such areas in Travancore Cochin only and for a period of two years.

(4) The scales of dearness allowance prescribed by the appellate Tribunal for the clerical and subordinate staff should be restored for areas I, II, and III in respect of all Class A banks, Class B banks, (except United Bank of India and Bank of Bikaner) and certain Class C banks.

In respect of the branches of the above banks in area IV, the rates according to Government's modified decision will continue to apply.

(5) In regard to Class C and Class D banks other than those mentioned in sub-para (4) above and a few which have entered into agreements with their employees, displaced banks and banks incorporated in Travancore-Cochin (except the Travancore Bank), the rates prescribed by Government will continue.

(6) In the case of Class D banks, excluding those in Travancore-Cochin State and displaced banks, the provision that from April 1, 1959 they should automatically step into Class C should be set aside. The position of these banks at the end of March 1959 should be examined afresh for determining whether they should be promoted to C class.

(7) Banks incorporated in the Travancore-Cochin State (excluding the Travancore Bank) should implement the Government's modified decision subject to certain modifications.

WORLD MONETARY FUND

Mr. Rama Rau, Governor of the Reserve Bank, will lead a six-member Indian delegation to the tenth annual meeting of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which will be held in Istanbul from September 12 to 16 according to a Finance Ministry Press Note.

The delegation will include: Mr. H. M. Patel, Secretary, Finance Ministry, Department of Economic Affairs; temporary Alternate Governor of the International Monetary Fund, Mr. B. K. Nehru, Joint Secretary Finance Ministry, Department of Economic Affairs; temporary Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Mr. G. R. Kamat, Executive Director for India of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Mr. P. S. N. Prasad, Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund and Mr. V. G. Pendharkar, alternate Executive Director of the Fund and the Bank.

INDIANISATION IN FOREIGN FIRMS

In reply to a question by Mr. C. P. Matthen in the Assembly, Mr. Krishnamachari said the trend of Indianisation of staff in the foreign firms in the country was satisfactory.

The Minister for Industries, Mr. Nityanand Kanungo disclosed earlier that the number of Indians employed by foreign firms and paid Rs. 300 or more had increased by 17.4 per cent—from 18,642 on Jan. 1, 1954 to 21,904 on Jan. 1, 1955. As against this, the number of foreigners employed by these firms had declined by 2.1 per cent during the same period from 7,750 to 7,587.

COFFEE INDUSTRY

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, stressed at Bangalore on Aug. 29 the need for expansion of the area under coffee and coffee yield in the country pointing out how, among others, the development of the Coffee Industry would help to promote the economy of the respective coffee growing regions.

WOMEN'S PAGE

WOES OF A WOMAN DIPLOMAT

NDIA'S High Commissioner in London, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit said at Glasgow in August 27 that there could be no permanent peace until there was more equality in the world.

Mrs. Pandit—who was in Scotland to attend the Edinburgh festival—was speaking at a reception given in her honour by the Scottish National Council of the United Nations Association.

If the world was going to have underprivileged nations, Mrs. Pandit added, they would turn to means which would give them a quicker remedy for their position.

"It is all very well for a country like England to talk about democracy because you are the mother of democracy but try to tell a nation only seven years old what democracy is unless a man has something in his stomach and a reasonable home for his family," she added. Once you give him that then you can talk about a system of government. After two world wars people everywhere have learned that they don't want to be patronised and they don't want charity. They want the ability to raise themselves."

Earlier, Mrs. Pandit caused amusement when she recounted some of the trials of being a woman diplomat.

In Washington as Indian Ambassador, she said, "I had a battle from the day I arrived to the day I left impressing everyone that I was the Ambassador and no one else. I was 'honey' to so many people."

On the other hand in Russia—where she had her first political assignment she was always treated as the Ambassador from India and nothing else.

Mrs. Pandit said she had never been a feminist and unless the world was prepared to run its affairs in a joint partnership between man and woman it would never succeed.

She recalled that on being made President of the United Nations she did the customary thing and gave a Press conference. "The first thing shouted at me by a girl was 'Mrs. Pandit, what is the colour of your hair?'"

"I forgot I was a diplomat and lost my temper. I almost shouted at her 'Did you ask my distinguished predecessor the colour of his tie when you interviewed him?'"

"One thing has always been a trial to me and I am sure it is to all other women who occupy public offices and that is the efforts of the Press always to interpret us as women."

"It is very annoying after my speeches to read about the colour of my hair and the moments when I smiled."

TRAFFIC IN WOMEN

Britain's delegate told Congress of 100 women from 35 countries at Colombo on August 23 that the world's women must torment their Governments until they agreed to suppress prostitution and the White slave traffic.

Thumping the table, Miss Chave Colliason told the women at the Golden Jubilee Congress of the International Alliance of Women they must "stick pins" into their Governments until they agreed to adopt the U. N. Convention for repression of traffic in persons and exploitation of prostitution.

"There are no different moral standards for men and women," she declared. "You have got to teach the men of your country that prostitution needed two people—a man and a woman."

"Do not punish the woman alone. Punish also the people who bring others into prostitution."

The whole Assembly stood up and with right hands raised, swore: "I pledge myself to fight, organise traffic in women till I die."

MRS. E. QUIGLEY

Mrs. Esther Quigley who "locked out" her shop-steward husband and threatened to divorce him when his union called a strike said she would not let him back until she had seen his workmates return to their factory, says a Chicago message. Mrs. Quigley aged 35 and a mother of four evicted her husband Andrew from their home after opposing a strike called at his factory.

NEHRU ON GOA

Prime Minister Nehru said at Shillong on Aug. 28th that there would be a peaceful solution of Goa in accordance with the wishes of its people. He would not deal with the Goa problem militarily or in any other violent way. At the same time, he would not tolerate one country holding domination over another people.

Addressing a huge public meeting Mr. Nehru said: "You know how feelings ran high in our country about the recent incidents in Goa when a number of Satyagrahis were murdered by the Portuguese police. We did not allow ourselves to be overtaken by these provocations and we stuck to our peaceful policy."

It was easy to take Goa by military action, but India must adhere to her proclaimed policy of solving all problems peacefully. India's peaceful methods would take a little more time, but no foreign power could have such foothold in India for long.

ATOMS FOR PEACE

India is ahead of many western countries in the advance made in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and will catch up with France in the next five years, it was claimed by one of the members of the Indian delegation to the 'Atoms for Peace' conference in Geneva, which returned to India recently.

The member said that the gap between American advance and Russian advance in the field of atomic energy was quite narrow.

From the point of view of advance in the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, the countries of the world, the delegation member said, might be listed in the following order: America, not much behind Russia, much lower the United Kingdom and still much lower France.

The member of the Indian delegation said the Geneva conference marked a new epoch. Till the holding of the conference, everything relating to atomic energy had been kept top secret by the great powers. As a result of the conference there was an anxiety in them to place all their achievements before the world. The Russian exhibition at Geneva gave everything in detail, he added.

BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Dr. John Holloway, South African Ambassador, defending his country's policies towards blacks and coloured, said at San Francisco, on Aug. 26th that Mr. Nehru ruled over "the vastest mass of discrimination in the world—the 50 million untouchables."

Stressing the strategic importance of South Africa, he said the idea seemed to prevail at the U N. "that one can undermine the foundations of a structure and yet derive full benefit from its stability."

If the process of extension of political power to groups was applied in South Africa, it would simply mean "handing South Africa over to Communism on a platter," he added.

He expressed the view that the blacks of the Union, were "barbarians" who had just reached the fringe of Christian civilisation and needed a firm hand to guide them, so that they would not slip back into old ways.

He said the white man must civilise the black or "he will sink down to the primitive stage of the black."

Outlining White efforts to improve the social standards of the blacks, he said the literacy rate was now 27.6 per cent, and added: "According to figures published by the Government of India the figure for that country, which has an ancient civilised background, is only 16.6 per cent."

He dismissed the small group of professionally educated blacks as individuals who had made "great strides from barbarism", but said that "very few of them have thus far shown outstanding ability."

He said a South African Government that attempted to handle the race problem "without the assistance of discrimination must consist of either fools or knaves, most probably the latter."

THE PRESS IN INDIA

The Lok Sabha, at the conclusion of a three-day debate, on Aug. 22nd almost unanimously adopted Mr. K. Raghuramiah's motion "generally approving the recommendations of the Press Commission and requesting the Government to take steps to implement them as early as possible."

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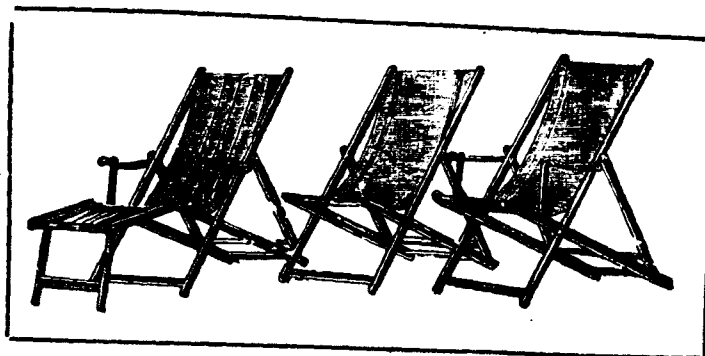
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