

SWATANTRA

On Sale Every Saturday

Vol. X May 21, 1955 No. 16.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
EDITORIAL	3
SOTTO VOCE	4
SIDELIGHTS	6
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD	7
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES	8
FLOOD OF FREE FOOD TO THE NEEDY	9
THIRTY THIRSTY COUNTRIES	11
A PEEP INTO HOLLYWOOD	14
BRITISH ELECTORAL SYSTEM	16
CHASING THE MARGINAL FLOATER	18
LIMITS TO DEFICIT FINANCING	20
AGELESS RAJAJI	23
DANISH FARMING AND ADULT EDUCATION	25
FRENCH ART OF THE 19TH CENTURY	28
EARTH IS ROUND	30
PEARL DIVERS	33
NEW BOOKS	34
MALCOLM MACDONALD	38
WONDERS OF ATOMIC AND ELECTRONICS	40
SOCIAL REFORM IN EGYPT AND THE SUDAN	41
FILMS	43
CORRESPONDENCE	46

ON THE COVER:

Sir Mirza Ismail opening the Srinivasa Sastri Hall at Mylapore, Madras on 15-5-55.

All communications should be addressed to the Editor, SWATANTRA, 2 Brodies Road, Mylapore, Madras 4. Manuscripts for publication should be typewritten on one side of the paper only and must be accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope. The editor cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage.

Subscription rates (including postage); for one year; inland Rs. 20; Foreign, £1-18sh., or \$8; Half-year: Inland, Rs. 10; Foreign, 18sh., or \$4.

Advertisement rates can be obtained on application to the Manager.

Out along this line

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Make certain that you get your copy of SWATANTRA regularly by completing this form and posting it to the address boxed to the right

To:
The Manager,
SWATANTRA,
2, Brodies Road,
MYLAPORE : MADRAS 4.

I enclose remittance of Rs. 20; £1-18sh; \$8 for one year's subscription (or) Rs. 10; 18sh; \$4 for a half-year, including postage.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Be flower-fresh
flower-lovely...use

HAMAMI
TOILET SOAP



Made in India with
Indian Capital and Management.

THE TATA OIL MILLS CO., LTD.

SWATANTRA

Vol. X.

MAY 21 SATURDAY 1955

No. 16

NEWSPRINT IMPORTS: A NEW RACKET?

MYSTERY surrounds the circumstances in which the Government of India decided to remove newsprint from the Open General License and control imports by licenses. The mystery is deepened by the fact that within six weeks of the promulgation of the new order, it has been amended two times, each time to placate certain groups of importers. On April 2, it was announced that newsprint imports would be regulated by licenses and that quotas would be issued at the rate of 110 per cent of the best year's imports in any of the three years preceding April 1, 1955. Immediately the interests affected got busy and a few days later another notification was published putting back the period within which the choice of the year of maximum imports could be made by the importers to 1945. This was obviously intended to placate those who had not imported on a large scale during the past three years but had done so in earlier years. And then came another notification which extended some more concessions to importers. Curiously enough, this notification was so worded that it was calculated to benefit unduly a very small group of importers. By this notification the Government offered to issue licenses for imports from the dollar area and the non-dollar area with the option to importers to choose for imports from each area the year most advantageous to them. Thus if an importer had imported in 1950, 5000 tons of newsprint from the dollar area and 500 tons from outside and had imported

5500 tons of newsprint entirely from the non-dollar area in 1953, he could have licenses for importing 110 per cent of 5000 tons from the dollar area and another 110 per cent of 5500 tons from the non-dollar area. That this would give an unfair advantage to some importers as against others who had drawn their imports predominantly from one source is obvious. What is worse, it would help some people to "make the best of both worlds" as it were boosting their quotas unfairly. The right course in such a case would have been to limit the over-all quota for the year for combined imports from all areas to 110 per cent of the average of the total imports for the two years chosen by the importer. If this has not been done so far through sheer inadvertence, the Government should rectify the position immediately.

That shortage of foreign exchange is not the reason for the introduction of newsprint import control is evident from the fact that quotas are to be issued on a liberal basis. What gives a sinister aspect to the whole proceeding is that any form of import control at this stage, when there is a great shortage of other kinds of paper within the country and when publishers other than newspapers have gone in for newsprint on a large scale as the cheapest paper available, would inevitably give rise to a flourishing black market in newsprint. It may be that newspapers themselves might not be adversely affected by the black market as the Government propose to safeguard the post-

tion of newspapers.. It may even be that some papers would find it more profitable to sell their newsprint in the black market than print unsaleable copies of their newspapers with it. (It is well known that such transactions took place during the war and the immediate post-war years.) And the existence of the black market might be made the excuse for bringing into existence the monopolistic State-trading corporation for newsprint recommended by the Press

Commission. Once that happens, the newspapers' dependence on official favour would be complete. It is high time the Press examined the dangerous implications of the reintroduction of newsprint import control at the instance presumably of elements which do not have the larger interests of the Press at heart. The Commerce Ministry should not be allowed to bring a new racket into existence while nobody is looking on.

Sotto Voce

THE PUFF PREPOSTEROUS



THE piquant but rather belated controversy about the B.C.G. vaccine started by the ex-Premier of Madras may for the general public have a human rather than scientific interest. C. R., while pitting himself against specialists with the calm assumption of omniscience that comes so naturally to him, makes an admission of weakness which is so unusual that it must disconcert his ecstatic admirers. Mass vaccination with B. C. G. had begun in his regime; and the world had no reason to suspect that he was opposed to it. We are now told that he had succumbed to Rajkumari Amrit Kaur's pressure so far as to permit the campaign, but "had conscientiously refused to be a party to it." Here is a new low-down on N.C.O. as practised by the Congress's ace administrator!

After this engaging confession it will not surprise the reader to be told that this distinguished votary of Gandhian non-violence has no objection to 'live poison' being injected

into monkeys and guinea-pigs in the sacred interests of Science. The same mellowness of approach is discernible in his acceptance of vaccination for smallpox as on the whole sound. But there are large numbers of people who are violently opposed to vivisection and have strong conscientious objections to vaccination. Surely their views are as much entitled to respect as those of the parents of children who, C. R. complains, have not been consulted in regard to B.C.G. But he has never to my knowledge espoused the cause of these unfashionable minorities.

I shall no doubt be told that Jenner's discovery has so long held the field that it would be heresy to doubt its efficacy. But time does not always expose frauds; it too often makes them part of the collective dream-phantasy. C. R. wants a straight answer to two questions: "Is there no danger in mass inoculation by live B.C.G.? Does the vaccine create an immunity against the normal human infections?" To neither of these ques-

tions can the mere efflux of time provide the complete answer. Controlled experimentation and careful collection and collation of data, in which C. R. with his wholesome respect for Science must needs believe, may produce a statistical smoke-screen behind which doctors will go on making their ignorant guesses.

We shall never know whether the deaths from cholera and smallpox in old India were more numerous than they have been since we were compulsorily inducted into the benefits of British Rule. But unlike the masses of mediaeval Europe, who were decimated periodically by such epidemics and whose descendants even today get most unscientifically rattled if a stray case appears in their midst, we had developed our own methods of immunisation and environmental hygiene; and they were at least as effective by and large as those which Lister and Pasteur have produced. Vaccination for smallpox confers neither complete nor permanent immunity. If the traditional safeguards adopted in Hindu homes were renounced and the people depended only on the vaccine it is a safe guess that the loss of life and disfigurement would be far greater.

In a democracy governed by commonsense as well as humanity the pretensions of the men of physic will not be allowed to over-ride the free will of the citizen. Whatever perfection any nostrum-vendor may claim for his panacea, his glib assurance should not be backed by the police power. The pros and cons should be stated fairly and the consumer allowed to judge for himself in the light of expert knowledge and prolonged practical use by volunteers in the cause. The medical man has a very low opinion of the layman's intelligence. And it is true that the average parent in this country is too ignorant and too far removed from sources of sound knowledge to be a confident judge where the interests of his children are concerned. All the greater is the need to avoid the kind of ballyhoo which is inseparable from mass propaganda.

Every profession, including Medicine, has been corrupted by the example of the political demagogue. Take the topical case of the Salk vaccine for polio. Because infantile paralysis seems to be a recurrent epidemic in America, public opinion has been excited to a hysterical pitch by the announcement of the discovery made with all the fanfare that is normally accorded only to the progress of Royalty or the press conferences of celluloid sirens. This is not the first time that fantastic claims have been made for insufficiently tested American specifics which have later had to be unobtrusively retracted. I have painful memories of the way in which a wonder-drug which claimed to cure cataract without the surgeon's knife, was boosted, and not merely in the lay press. The disappointment among sufferers, when the hoax was exposed, was as keen as had been the hopes excited. The days of miracles may not be past: but the puff preposterous may too often mimic the prophet's halo.

VIGNESWARA

PANDIT MOTILAL NEHRU

Pandit Motilal Nehru was a prince among men and his name will ever be enshrined in letters of gold in the history of India.

He lived a full life and whichever cause he took up, he served it with full vigour and strength. He belonged to that race of intellectual and moral giants who will remain unrivalled in our annals.

It is a noteworthy feature of our country's inherent vitality that even during the days of her bondage she was able to produce men of distinction and eminence in various spheres, men who could easily hold their own against the best of their contemporaries in other lands. They made lasting contributions towards the enrichment of civilisation and imperceptibly prepared the way for the emergence of India as a great and free nation. Their lives will serve to hearten the people who are still suffering from colonial and foreign rule, labouring ceaselessly for their liberation in other lands.

—Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant

SIDELIGHTS ::

SOME twenty three years ago, in the days of British rule, I was drawn into one of the picketing campaigns of the Mahatma. The police then did their worst to disperse the picketers. When it came to my turn they commanded me to leave the place and get away. Having worked myself by long pre-meditation into a mood of absolute defiance of authority as it was constituted in those days, I defied the police command and refused to budge an inch from where I was. I was then surrounded by a sergeant and about ten constables who belaboured me with the iron-knobbed leather-encased heavy ends of their canes. The shirt I was wearing was torn by the impact of the blows. In some places the skin was peeled off and raw flesh appeared. It was like liquid fire being poured inside the system. The police desisted after a time only because they could do no further violence to a maimed body and stood appalled in their conscience by the bleeding sight that confronted them. Another fellow-journalist shared the ordeal of that day with me. I recall the incident now, with some natural reluctance for dwelling on so personal an experience, entirely for the sake of the sequel which has a moral for our Congress governors now. The sequel was that I was hauled up before a magistrate for obstructing the traffic and he obligingly convicted and sentenced me to an appropriate period of imprisonment!

I am not certain that our present rulers possess the virtues of their predecessors, but the more repellent of their vices they have acquired with astonishing zeal. One of these vices, undoubtedly, is gross intolerance of political opposition which results in various forms of personal harassment, some of which can be in effect even more cruel though not so barbarous as the use of the rod or the whip. The temptation to silence inconvenient criticism by

summary methods is one which unbalanced politicians find it difficult to resist when they are clothed with a little brief authority, suffering as they do from a lack of comprehension of the duties and restraints that pertain to good government; but in their own interests if not out of respect for justice, let them recollect the fate that overtook even mighty empires when they dared to interfere with the personal liberties of men like Gandhi. This warning is particularly addressed to Sri Gopala Reddi, the new Andhra Chief Minister, with the hope that he will profit by it.

There is in Andhra a good Samaritan who shuns the limelight. His name has never figured in the newspapers as a public benefactor. But hundreds of persons helped by him in school and college and set up for life in independent professions worship him every day with eternal gratitude. To them he is a god on earth. In matters of personal expense I know of none more abstemious. His thrift borders on parsimony. It stems out of a philosophy that regards wealth as a social trust. Towards poor people in need, particularly of the submerged communities, his generosity is boundless. He pays wages to men employed by him on a scale far in excess of the ordinary, and is properly cursed for it by other employers. He has never sought any favour for himself from anybody. He has showered favours on innumerable people. He is held in the highest esteem in his neighbourhood, and I regard him as a great citizen of the country who has exemplified in practical life many of the grand concepts of social service of the Mahatma to which Congress Ministers ordinarily render lip service only. Any Government that thinks it proper to treat such a man as a potential malefactor will find it difficult to convince public opinion of its good faith.

(Continued on page 46)

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

U. S. Lawmakers' Daily

DURING the last session of the U. S. Congress, Senator Herbert Lehman rose from his seat and addressed the president of the Senate:

"I am sorry, Mr. President, that as usual, the junior Senator from Minnesota and I are talking to empty chairs."

Senator Lehman, looking around the floor of the Senate, could see very few Senators on hand to hear speeches that he and Senator Hubert Humphrey were about to make.

Yet neither of the two Senators let that stop him from making his speech. Both men knew that every word they said would be in front of every Senator and Representative the next morning—when that day's *Congressional Record* was published.

The *Record* is Congress' official journal of each day's actions and debates. No matter who sits or doesn't sit to listen to speeches, expert shorthand reporters take down every word that's said—whether it be a few short sentences or a lengthy filibuster.

The next morning three copies of the *Record* are distributed to each Congressman. One goes to his home, another to his office, and the third is placed at his seat in either the House or Senate.

A journal of Congressional proceedings has been kept officially since the first session in 1789, as provided in the U. S. Constitution. Originally, private publishers issued them at different intervals. In 1873, the U. S. Government took over the publishing and since then has issued the *Congressional Record* every day that Congress is in session. There is thus a continuous record of Congressional activities from the first day of the First Congress right up to the present.

An average day's *Record* contains about 100 pages. It may run from only a dozen (on a short business day) to 400 or 500 (during a long filibuster).

About one-third of the *Record* is the Appendix, where a Congressman

may insert letters from his constituents, editorials from local newspapers, or any other item he wants to put "on the record." In this manner, each of Congress' 531 members is something of an editor. He can insert his own remarks or someone else's on any subject he wants to bring to the attention of his fellow Congressmen. He can write his own headlines and be sure that nobody will change or reject his manuscript.

Some of the headlines that turn up in the *Record* would scarcely fit the well-established formula which most newspapers have for "newsy," objective, straight-to-the-point headlines. An article by a California Representative who didn't like the policies of former President Truman turned up in the *Record* with this headline: "Pendergastian Philosophy Purposely Propounded to Pollute the Public with Phony Political Patronising Propaganda."

If Congressmen are their own editors, then who are the reporters? The House and Senate each have seven or eight special reporter-clerks, at least six of whom work on any one day. As a Congressman starts to speak, one of the reporters writes down in shorthand what he's saying.

The reporters work in relays, with each man taking a turn throughout the day. As fast as each reporter is relieved, he takes his shorthand record to a nearby office. There he reads his record into a dictaphone. A secretary then types it from the machine. Then a page boy rushes the notes to the Congressman who had made the remarks. The Congressman makes any changes he thinks necessary—for example, if he got wound up in a particularly long sentence, he may rewrite it for the record. Special messengers then rush the corrected copy to the Government Printing Office.

By midnight (unless the House or Senate is still in session) the day's proceedings are in type ready to go to press. High-speed presses turn out the new day's *Record* in about two hours. Messengers deliver copies early each morning to all Congressmen, the President, and all cabinet members.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

By **VAIKUNTH MEHTA**

Chairman, All India Khadi and Village Industries Board

THE aim of the Community Development upon which we have now embarked in rural India is to initiate a process of transformation of the social and economic life of the millions who dwell in the countryside. Such transformation, undoubtedly, includes the expansion of literacy, the improvement of village sanitation, the supply of drinking water, the provision of roads and organization of similar social services and amenities. But our conception of a Welfare State should not be a narrow one. The transformation that we seek to bring about should first comprehend a programme for awakening the spirit of self-help and mutual aid among the rural population. Secondly, we should strive to make the villagers economically stronger by increasing productivity and by providing increased opportunities for work other than agricultural. And, lastly, all such efforts at increased production in the field of agriculture or industry should have as their basis the prime consideration of social justice.

No student of India's rural economy can fail to take note of the havoc that has been wrought by the decay of our village crafts and industries. The direct outcome has been for people to crowd on the land and to create a disequilibrium between agriculture and industry. Rural communities, as a consequence, enjoy no longer a sense of self-sufficiency, they have ceased to be self-reliant, and mutual aid has almost ceased to operate as a cementing force.

Hence it was that Mahatma Gandhi, ever since he assumed the leadership of the nation, urged us to revive and revitalize our village industries, the principal among which was, and still is, the manufacture of Khadi, the weaving of cloth on handlooms out of handspun

yarn. It was this industry, more than any other, that helped to make our rural economy a balanced one and that provided employment for millions in the countryside in an occupation which involved no large outlay of capital, which called for no high degree of skill and which could thus be practised universally. By emphasising this, Gandhiji did not, however, exclude other rural industries, crafts and occupations suitable to the countryside, if they could draw sustenance from local raw materials, tools, skills and labour.

During his life-time, under the political conditions that obtained till the advent of Swaraj, the resuscitation and reorganization of the Khadi and other village industries represented a purely unofficial effort, the success of which was dependent on the resources in men and money that the institutions set up by Gandhiji could command. Where the State was not hostile, it was indifferent. Such economic policy as obtained in those days attached no importance to the need for reviving and reorganizing village industries as an integral part of plans of rural development. In fact, the tendency all the time seemed to be, once the policy of *laissez faire* was abandoned, to favour industrialization of the modern variety.

Now that national policy is moulded by those who drew their inspiration from Gandhiji, the outlook has changed. However, it is neither ideological considerations nor sentimental attachments, but the basic facts of our economic life that are responsible for this change in outlook. The change is also reflected in the Constitution of India. In the Directives of Social Policy, the State is called upon to "endeavour to promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operative basis in rural

areas." National economic policy has now to be moulded to give effect to this Directive.

One of the best ways in which this Directive can be translated into action, is to recognize the promotion of village industries, whether new or old, as an integral part of the programme for Community Project areas or under the National Extension Service. To quote the Planning Commission, "this should be as much a matter of concern as the increase of national production." With the easing of the food situation and with the relief that this affords from the strains imposed by conditions of shortage, it should be possible for the Community Project Blocks to formulate plans for the promotion of various village industries such as those that were covered by Gandhiji's constructive programme. But before such plans can be implemented with some prospect of success, two conditions will have to be fulfilled. In the areas where the new plans of rural industrial reorganization operate, no scope should be allowed for the further development, much less the introduction, of mechanized industries. While the aim of the former is to provide opportunities for productive employment, the latter have the effect of adding to the volume of unemployment; while the one secures decentralization of productive effort, the other process brings about concentration of economic power.

The second requirement that has to be fulfilled is to provide facilities for imparting the simple training that is needed by the rural population before they take to the new occupations, creating, at the same time, interest in and zest for fruitful labour. For this, personnel may be available under the National Extension Scheme and among the specialists attached to the Community Project Blocks. Where this is the case, no new workers need be recruited. Arrangements will, however, require to be made to equip the entire personnel, from top to bottom, with the knowledge of what the village industries movement stands for and on what lines at-

tempts should be made for revitalizing old local industries or promoting suitable new ones.

This type of vigorous organized effort is called for, first, because unless it is made there can be no significant addition to the volume of employment in industries, no appreciable increase in rural earnings and hence no rise in the standard of living of the bulk of the people. As A.E. (George Russel) aptly observed years ago: "it would be an excellent thing for humanity if its civilization could be based on rural industry mainly and not on urban industry." The integration of the programme of rural industries, in harmony with Gandhiji's concepts, in the Community Development Plans gives to my mind, just the opportunity we need to create this very desirable pattern of rural civilization.—Broadcast from A. I. R., Bombay



FLOOD OF FREE FOOD TO THE NEEDY

By H. N. MUKHERJEE

DURING the past eight years India has received more than 500 shipments of a new multi-purpose vitamin food for free distribution as and where needed. The shipments represent more than 77 lakhs of full and nutritious meals. These meals were a part of more than 360 lakhs of free meals supplied by a voluntary U.S. organization to 100 countries.

The source of these meals has been The Meals For Millions Foundation, a private, non-profit, voluntary agency established in 1946 in Los Angeles. It was established to prove that modern advances in technology and scientific knowledge could create new foods to provide adequate and economical nutrition for the world's hungry.

The idea of cheap but nutritious food germinated in the mind of a Los Angeles restaurateur, Clifford Clinton, a deeply religious man who was troubled with the sight of hunger that he saw around him as he toured the world.

In 1944 he approached the California Institute of Technology with a \$5,000 (Rs. 23,750) grant to be spent in search for an inexpensive food. What he wanted was that, in addition to being cheap, the food must have proper nutritional values, could be easily shipped, could be stored for long periods, and must not offend any religious or racial groups. It was Dr. Henry Borsook of the Institute who discovered such a food.

Using protein-rich soyabean solid matter, or grits, left over after crushing oil, as his base, he developed a formula which with minor changes is still used today. It is approximately 90 per cent soy grits, with minerals and vitamins added. It cooks in 10 minutes. Boiled in water, it produces nourishing soup, or mixed with a little wheat flour it can be baked into bread. It can be added to other foods to stretch their nutritional values. Three two-ounce servings supply all daily needs of protein.

Mr. Clinton named it "Multi-Purpose Food" (MPF). What was most pleasing to Mr. Clinton was that one whole meal could be manufactured, packed and shipped for only three cents or two and a quarter annas.

With the discovery of this food, all that Clinton needed to feed the hungry millions all the world over was funds. And so the Meals for Millions Foundation came into existence. Concerned Americans were invited to send voluntary contributions "for relief and prevention of starvation." Church and civic clubs were formed throughout the country, and school children saved their pennies. Soon funds began to roll in. The Foundation has been able to raise more than \$1.25 million (Rs. 59.37 lakhs).

The MPF shipments started rolling out to the famine-stricken areas of Europe and Asia. They came to India via various voluntary relief agencies. And all over the world it was enthusiastically received—not only because it was needed but also because of its wholesome effect. "There is a demand from all institutions . . . all the children using MPF have put on weight," Mrs. Mary C. Clubwala, the honorary secretary of the Guild of Service in Madras, wrote. "I perso-

nally visited institutions and the reaction of the children and voluntary workers is that they love and relish this food." This flood of food is still continuing unabated.

Miss Florence Rose, executive secretary of the Foundation, recently visited India to acquaint herself with local conditions and how the Foundation could be helpful in providing further assistance. Her visit also marked the birth of a Meals for Millions Foundation in India, established during a recent meeting in New Delhi of the Council of Voluntary Agencies.

As Miss Rose points out, the primary purpose of the Meals for Millions Foundation is not merely to provide relief to the hungry, important though it is, but it aims to provide MPF as a symbol of what modern technology can accomplish in the sphere of food, as well as demonstrate that MPF could create similar food in other countries.

In India, for instance, Miss Rose points out, the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore has already developed a MPF, using ground-nut as its base. Additional field demonstration of the Indian product will be carried on with the cooperation of the Meals for Millions Foundation and relief agencies.

Thus the dream of an American restaurateur for cheap food has opened up the vision of food for all, and a new link has been forged in the chain of international friendship.

This is a world in which each of us, knowing his limitations, knowing the evils of superficiality and the terrors of fatigue, will have to cling to what is close to him, to what he knows, to what he can do, to his friends, and his tradition and his love, lest he be dissolved in a universal confusion and know nothing and love nothing. It is at the same time a world in which none of us can find hieratic prescription or general sanction for any ignorance, any insensitivity, any indifference.

—J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER,
"Prospects in the Arts and
Sciences" *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*

THIRTY THIRSTY COUNTRIES

By J. VIJAYATUNGA

LORD BYRON claimed that gin and water was the source of all his inspiration. He did not say in what proportion lest others knew his secret and became his competitors. Not only the Byrons but the bourgeoisie and the proletariat have throughout history sought inspiration in the concocted drink. Though not so acute a problem as hunger, drink has exercised the imagination of men, from dukes to dustmen. Plain water, *aqua pura*, has not satisfied mankind.

From the earliest times Man has used his ingenuity to transform water into something rare and strange and potable at the same time. There is no civilisation which has not tried to improve upon water. No tribe, however primitive, but has invented a drink. Even middle-aged spinsters in our civilised society cannot resist the temptation to gather herbs from their back gardens and concoct home-made "wines." Roots, flowers, grain have all been utilised by Man for this purpose. The older the civilisation the greater the ingenuity shown by those who belong to it in perfecting alcoholic beverages.

India has had her full share of the general contribution to Alcohol Anonymous. In Vedic times no ceremony, religious or social, was complete without the prescribed quota of Soma. Kshatriyas and Brahmins quaffed ale in company. With their example the lower orders took to the custom with avidity and soon excelled their betters in their capacity for holding liquor and the frequency with which they regaled themselves. Of course when it came to quality then, as now, the prelates and princes drank of choicer wines. But the common man did not do so badly either. Perhaps better than the common man today, who unable to afford the fully-matured choice liquors of Rajasthan, such as Kesari Kasturi and Jag Mohan, must make

do with raw country liquor. Very soon as Prohibition extends itself he will not have even this safeguard. Forced to get what he can from illicit stills he will drink anything with a kick in it, the nastier the kick, the better the stuff. The consequences of Prohibition are not only in the coming into being of bootleggers, but widespread alcoholism resulting in blindness, and shortened lives. I happened to be in New York during the Prohibition era and not only was a premium put upon drinking—more people, especially the younger set, took to drinking because it was prohibited—but a plentiful supply of bootleg liquor ensured. But the poor man could not get his pint cheaply and of the usual standard. Bums, hoboes and the destitute took to drinking methylated spirits and all kinds of poisonous brews, and cases of blindness as a result were staggering. Imagine the happy-go-lucky Gonds of the Central Province being deprived of their *mohwa* drink made of the flowers of the *mohwa* tree. They would have to buy some raw murderous stuff from a bootlegger.

The chief ingredient of alcohol is grain, though the grape has been pressed for wine from ancient times. In times of scarcity it would be a crime to use grain for making liquor, but at other times there is an excess of rice and barley which if not utilised by liquor manufacturers would go to waste. China, Japan, Nepal and Bengal have used fermented rice for favourite drinks for centuries. The Chinese claim to have perfected the finest rice wine while the Japanese *sake* has earned a more cosmopolitan clientele. The *raksha* of Nepal has a satiny whiteness and a potency suited to the high-spirited men who inhabit that mountain kingdom. *Raksha* can compare with any liquor once its "ricey" smell has been removed. The Chinese rice wine also suffers from the same

defect but the smell is milder: the amber colour of the liquid charms the eye so much that the nose is not allowed to get in the way.

POTENT and popular as the drinks derived from grain are, the romance of drinking is associated with the grape. The pressing of the juice of the grape was practised by the peoples of Central Asia and Asia Minor long before it came to be known among the European races. Who has not heard of the vineyards of Nabob? the wines of Shiraz which held in thrall young Babur? But today the growing of the vine on a commercial scale is confined to European peoples. (Australia and South Africa too produce wines of a high standard though they are never likely to supplant the world's finest wines which are French.) France produces not only the best wines but more wines than any other country in the world. Seventy-four out of her eighty-eight departments (districts) are wine-producing areas. It is not possible in this article to go into a comparison of the various

French wines, white, red, sparkling. Brandies are distilled from the wines of certain districts—cognac is really called after a town of that name—and the grapes for brandies must be pure, fresh and of the best quality. Brandies are also distilled from cider and perry and those made from fruits are named *kirsch*. The alcohol content in wines, light beer, cider and perry is very small and the French call these drinks, "boissons hygieniques" to distinguish them from "alcohol." However the consumption of wines in France is today high and it was perhaps from considerations of the nation's health that M. Mendes-France campaigned against alcoholism by penalising the use of medicinal alcohol and by encouraging the manufacture of "hygienic" and non-alcoholic drinks and by reducing taxes on fruit juices. But M. Mendes-France did not perhaps realise how much the French economy was bound up with wine-growing and wine-exporting. There was a howl of protest from the wine-producers and some keen lobbying

though his defeat cannot be ascribed solely to his love of milk.

Germany also produces some of the world's best wines and the Germans have given them such expressive names as "Dragon's Blood." The Rhine Valley produces some of the best German wines and a Rhine wine like Reinhartshausener is something to write home about.

Social drinking and alcoholism are two different things. For example, of the sixty-one million Americans who regularly drink alcohol in some form or other 3,250,000 are excessive drinkers, and 750,000 chronic alcoholics. Alcoholism has taken such a strong grip upon Americans that there is today that curative institution named Alcoholics Anonymous.

When there is .15 per cent alcohol in one's blood one can be termed an alcoholic. One's life is in danger when the concentration is .6 per cent, and at .8 death is inevitable. It is to such an alcoholic that the doctor said, "There is too little blood in your alcohol stream!"

Since the war the rate of consumption of alcohol in Canada also has risen high. Whereas in 1943 fifty-nine per cent of the population drank, by 1949 the rate had risen to 65 per cent. Sweden is another country which is alarmed at the high rate of drinking among its population. She has introduced various laws, some of them rather cumbersome, but these laws have not helped to reduce the consumption of liquor in Sweden.

ACCORDING to today's rating the thirstiest countries are: France, Spain, Belgium, Italy, the United States, Germany, Sweden and Great Britain. Except for the fact that one of the pledges of the Indian Congress party was the abolition of drinking India is still safely non-alcoholic as a nation. She will remain so unless hasty and ill-advised legislation forces drinking underground and makes it look a vice instead of a habit, a bad habit, if you like. Bombay's experience and that of Madras has in neither case been so encouraging. Home stills



A National Extension Scheme was inaugurated at Pondicherry on May 15 by Sri Kamaraaj Nadar. Picture shows Sri Kewal Singh, Chief Commissioner, speaking at the inaugural function



Picture shows the audience at the inauguration of the National Extension Scheme in Pondicherry witnessing a dance performance given by the local women's association

have made children familiar with drinking. Toddy, the poor man's drink, is certainly healthier than badly fermented raw liquor. Toddy comes from the palm and within a few hours of its coming goes down thirsty throats—of our dockyard workers, movers of heavy loads, road workers and all those who do ten hours or so of manual labour under conditions which prevailed in the American cotton plantations more than a century ago. That is to say, Indian coolies still do jobs that are today done by machines in other countries. These jobs cannot be performed on coffee and tea and neera. Moreover a cup of coffee at three annas and a coconut-shellful of toddy at three annas make all the difference to a poor cooly.

The meaningless, snobbish, showing-off heavy drinking among the *parvenu* and new rich is to be condemned but let not the poor man and cooly suffer.

A PEEP INTO HOLLYWOOD

By V. P. V. RAJAN

A VISIT to Los Angeles means necessarily to Hollywood, "Mecca of the world's film industry." But unfortunately I found that Hollywood is not a compact package of glamour. There is a lot of it provided one seeks it out for oneself because the movie and radio studios, and the homes of stars are so widely separated.

Early afternoon on a smoggy September day a brand new Cadillac drew in before the spacious Colliseum Hotel, where I was staying in Los Angeles, and drove me to the Universal Pictures studios along the Hollywood Freeway, one of the high-speed eight-line motorways in the city. I was received by Louis Blaine, one of the executives. Blaine is one of those rare persons who can give you any information about a studio in a jiffy. Production at Universal International was the highest at any time in the last two years, and employment at the studio had reach-

There are many superstitions about alcohol. Heart, kidney and other organic damage is not caused by alcohol. Nor is alcohol a stimulant—in fact it depresses—nor is it an aphrodisiac. According to Dr. Raymond Pearl of Johns Hopkins Hospital who made a study of 5,000 family records covering three to five generations, moderate drinking had no effect on longevity. Heavy drinkers of course had very much shortened lives."

While the import of foreign liquor must surely be reduced India, has no need to legislate against the moderate use by tribal peoples and inhabitants of certain provinces of their indigenous drink, whether it be palm toddy, or mohwa, or rice liquor. Legislation never removed an evil like alcoholism. Prohibition will affect the poor people, ruin their health, and drive them to illicit drinking of badly brewed liquor on a larger scale.

ed an all-time high, with 2,146 persons on the payroll. This includes more than 60 top-name film stars, and 13 directors, and about 28 writers working on as many different scripts. Universals has now one of the largest player rosters of any major company in Hollywood, and it was this factor which made me pick it out for a visit.

Driving round the studios I was impressed by the facilities. That is the London Tower, said Blaine, and from a distance it really looked like the London Tower I had seen in London. Going further, I was shown the "Niagara Falls," and then streets lined with houses and shops. These will be fully "inhabited" during the shooting. I saw many of the name boards on houses and shops and advertisement posters. It really looked like streets, but without the people. They are so realistic that no doubt the scenes which we see in pictures are naturally so. Then there was a place with a few huts. "That is an Indian village," he said, "We use it when we have to shoot pictures with an Indian background." I went in,

and saw the huts. They were really impressive.

Then we drove along small streets with rows of modern small houses. They are for the use of the stars. Do they live here, I asked, but was told, "No." They are intended for their rest hours during the shooting of the picture. This is in addition to the mobile rest houses at the shooting spot itself for the stars. Universals believes in giving the best treatment and facilities for its stars to bring out the best in them.

What about seeing the actual shooting of a picture, I suggested, and we went to the scene where a scene for "The Looters" was being shot. There were Julia Adams and Rory Calhoun starring in the picture, and I saw them on the scene. It was a big enclosed hall, with a number of technicians and people working there. The film is based on a story of looting a wrecked airliner of a fortune in jewels. And there was half of an interior of an aircraft, and the director in slacks and sports-shirt smoking cigarettes in chain, with powerful lights, cameramen, technicians, and others. I chatted with them for some time before they actually went on their job, and realised that much work has to be gone through, every minute detail attended to, before the job is undertaken.

These men who produce pictures for our enjoyment deserve praise. There is indeed a good deal of intellectual and physical strain, but the leading actors steal all the praise. Every one connected with the production of a picture deserves credit. I was very much impressed with the team work.

Back in the office, Blaine and myself chatted for awhile, and a friend later drove me to Beverly Hills, where most of the movie and radio stars live. The city takes pride in its trees, each street planned to a different variety. My friend showed me the houses of the leading stars. Each has characteristics of its own—a house of green shingles and shutters with tall hedges belonged to Rosalind Russell, and Maureen O'sullivan's had an ivy lawn and olive trees. There was a Spanish style house with green

awnings, and driveway of varicoloured stones—Ronald Colman. The house of Charlie Chaplin was hidden by tall trees. My friend told me that he was not sure whether Charlie still owned it or not, but Hollywood believed that he might not return to the place. It seemed his wife was there some time back.

The place is picturesque, and really there is a halo of glamour attached to this place where those who have carved a niche in the hearts of millions of people all over the world live.

There are also two other places in Hollywood, which greatly impressed me, Hollywood Bowl, a spectacular outdoor amphitheatre where, I was told, over 250,000 people hear "symphonies under the stars" every summer. There is also a Chinese theatre in the forecourt of which in cement are the footprints of Roy Rogers and Trigger, noseprint of Bob Hope, and the fistprint of John Wayne.

Surrounding Los Angeles are hills, and the smoke from industrial plants and the fog which the city has, creates smog, which is indeed a nuisance to the film capital of the world. The city fathers and the people are worried about it, for it irritates your eye, and makes clear vision impossible. And certainly it makes anybody most uncomfortable. But to overcome this there are other attractions in Los Angeles like the Long Beach, and the Palisades Park, in Santa Monica, where you see two miles of palms and lawn along the brink of the high sea cliff. Millions enjoy their first thrilling look at the Pacific Ocean from the Park.

OBJECTS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION

"To give every citizen the information he needs to transact his own business;

"To understand his duties to his neighbours and his country, and to discharge with competence the functions confided to him by either;

"To know his rights; to exercise with order and justice those he retains;

"And, in general, to observe with intelligence and faithfulness all the social relations under which he shall be placed."—THOMAS JEFFERSON

BRITISH ELECTORAL SYSTEM

ENSURES STABLE GOVERNMENT

By MAURICE EFFINGHAM

On May 26, the people of Britain will go to the polls in 630 constituencies to elect a new House of Commons.

THE characteristic feature of the British electoral system—not only in Britain but in other countries where it has taken root—is the choice it generally offers between two great political parties each ready and able to take the reins of government without more ado when the electors' will is made known. This system has ensured stable government through the most critical periods of Britain's history, and has avoided, constantly recurring political crises.

Since the end of World War I there have been 10 general elections, and in only two—1923 and 1929—has either of the great political parties failed to obtain a clear majority. Even so, the King's Government—as it then was—was carried on without difficulty.

In 1923, although the Conservatives were returned as the largest party—258—Labour, Liberals and Independents formed more than half of the House of Commons (357 seats out of the then total of 615). Hence Labour, with 191 seats, formed a Government and carried on with the help of the Liberals. The year 1929 saw the formation of the second Labour Government, but even then, with 288 seats to the Conservatives' 259, Labour had not a clear majority, but were dependent on the support of 59 Liberal and nine Independent members.

Two main parties

Today, the two great main parties contending for the mastery are Conservatives and Labour. The Liberals have almost ceased to play a decisive part in British political life—a fact which many people, remembering the great traditions of the past, regret profoundly. After the 1951 general elections, the state of par-

ties in the House of Commons—where the number of seats had increased to 625—was: Conservatives and their allies (the National Liberals) 321; Labour 295; Liberal 6; Irish Nationalist 2; and Irish Labour 1.

It will be noted that the Conservative overall majority was not large—17—but they carried on without difficulty for three-and-a-half years, just as Labour, after the 1950 general election, had carried on for a year and eight months with an overall majority of only six.

Before the second World War political leaders used to doubt if it were possible to carry on for long with a working majority of less than 40 or 50, but the last two elections have proved that to be a fallacy.

Changes in Constituencies

The increase in the number of seats in the House of Commons from 615 to 625 was due to the activities of the Boundary Commissions. The electoral constituencies in Great Britain and Northern Ireland are divided into boroughs and counties—town and country divisions. Before and during the war, great movements of population had accentuated older inequalities and some of the constituencies had over 100,000 electors, while some had as few as 17,000.

Obviously, this needed to be rectified as soon as possible, so in 1944 four Boundary Commissions were established by Act of Parliament, to survey separately the position in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Their recommendations, as amended by Parliament, were embodied in the Representation of the People Act, 1948, and hence the number of constituencies was increased by 10, consisting of

England, 506; Wales, 36; Scotland, 71; and Northern Ireland, 12.

These Boundary Commissions are permanent bodies and are authorised to keep electoral constituencies under review and to recommend further changes which appear desirable owing to movements of population or other causes. Recently, they made such recommendations, and, although many members of all parties have expressed the view that it is too early to make these alterations, and the Home Secretary has promised to examine the matter, Parliament has accepted these recommendations and the number of constituencies has been increased to 630.

Apart from the creation of new constituencies, there have been substantial changes of boundaries and areas in 177 constituencies, and minor changes in 43. The aim of the Boundary Commissions has been, roughly, to allot a representation of about 50,000 or 60,000 to each constituency.

Electoral register

Broadly speaking, every British citizen, male and female of the age of 21 and over, is entitled to vote for one candidate, and one only. The basis of qualification for voting is the electoral register, which for this election came into force in February 1955 and remains in force until February 1956. This register has been compiled from returns made last autumn by householders, and every person whose name is on it is entitled to vote.

The election of a candidate is simply by a clear majority, no matter whether two, three, four or more candidates have been nominated. In practice, this works very well, and does give a fairly accurate result of political feeling in the nation. There must, of course, be some seats in which members are returned by a minority of the votes cast. At the last general election, there were 47 such seats, and no fewer than 44 successful candidates had majorities of less than 1,000 votes.

To prevent "freak" candidates there is a statutory obligation on

every candidate, when nominated, to deposit £50 with the returning officer. This is forfeited if the candidate fails to poll more than one-eighth of the total votes cast in the constituency. At the last general election, 96 candidates forfeited their deposits. The highest rate of losses was among the Liberals; of their 109 candidates, 66 forfeited their deposits. Others who did so included 10 Communists.

Women equally eligible

Women are equally eligible with men to become members of the British Parliament, but they have never been returned in large numbers. Of the 74 nominated last time, 17 were elected—11 Labour and six Conservatives. Since then two more have been successful at by-elections.

Since 1950, for the first time for nearly 350 years, no university members have been returned to the House of Commons. The university seats were abolished under the Representation of the People Act, 1948, and their passing ended a distinctive feature of the British electoral system which had sent to the House of Commons many prominent figures. University representation began in 1603, and by the time it was abolished no fewer than 12 members were returned for seven universities.

In one respect, indeed, this institution was outside the British tradition. These members were elected by proportional representation, but all that is now a thing of the past. Neither of the two main parties favour proportional representation, the alternative vote, or a second ballot. They prefer the system of straight majority election.

★

It is no new thing for man to confront perils in his upward struggle. Life has always been hazardous; civilization has always been threatened; our individual deaths have always been an inevitable certainty. But men have faced uncertain futures before with courage and even a light heart. Life, whatever else it may be, is not dull.—VANNEVER BUSH

CHASING THE MARGINAL FLOATER

By ANDREW ROTH

LONDON: Many people are under the impression that the election campaign in Britain is aimed at the whole 35 millions expected to go to the polls on May 26 to decide whether Britain shall be ruled by a Conservative Government under Sir Anthony Eden or a Labour Government under Clement Attlee.

This is far from true. In fact Labour headquarters Transport House and the Conservative Central Office are really only interested in 60,000 electors.

Britain is such a stable country and the political allegiances of its people are generally so well fixed that, except for exceptional years like 1945, it is possible to predict how the people of various social strata will vote. The seven million middle class voters voted three-to-one for the Conservatives in 1945 and five-to-one for them in 1951. The upper middle class—the well-to-do proprietors and managers and the higher professions—voted in 1951 twelve to one for the Conservatives.

More interesting, however, is the fact that the working class electorate of 22 millions produced 11.3 million votes for Labour in 1951 and 6.2 millions for the Conservatives; the remainder voted for Liberals, Conservatives, other minor parties or did not vote.

The result of this sort of distribution is that within any given constituency the result is virtually predetermined by its social composition. An ambitious Labour politician would never seek out a constituency in a middle class suburb or at the South Coast resorts where retired Army officers and colonial civil servants yearn for warmer climes. A young Tory politician only contests the mining valleys of South Wales or a working class district in the East End of London to show that he is a political Daniel. As a result of 4 such

decided leanings, one way or the other, 550 of Britain's 630 constituencies will almost certainly produce a predetermined result on May 26.

The crucial constituencies are those in which there is a balance between traditional Labour voters and traditional Conservative voters, leaving a narrow margin of, say, 1% between the winner and the loser. Thus, in 1951, 51 seats were won by majorities of less than a thousand. Thirty of these seats were won by the Tories and 21 seats by Labour. If Labour wins all the 30 Tory seats held by under 1,000 votes it will be the new Government. If, on the other hand, the Conservatives secure a shift of only 1% in the 21 marginally-held Labour seats they will have the 60-odd seat majority in the House of Commons at which they aim.

In addition to those constituencies clearly marginal on the basis of last election's results, possibly another ten have been made marginal by the work of the boundary commissions which have affected substantial changes to 177 constituencies.

On the Brink

It is the crucial character of these marginal constituencies which explains why the Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden, broke his journey at Doncaster on May 9 for three-quarters of an hour, to be followed in five days' time by Mr. Attlee. Doncaster is a marginal or floating seat. In 1950 ex-railwayman R. J. Gunter, Labour, beat Conservative barrister Anthony Barber for the seat by 878 votes. In 1951 Barber managed to overcome this, winning by a margin of 384 votes in an electorate of 57,581.

The striking picture of the Conservative Government first cutting the purchase tax in half and then abolishing it entirely on some lines of

cotton goods is explainable largely by the fact that Lancashire—center of the cotton textile industry—is replete with marginal seats. There are 43 constituencies in the belt where cotton mills are thickest, 39 in Lancashire and 4 in adjoining Cheshire. In 1951 they returned 25 Labour, 17 Conservative and one Liberal candidate. In that election the Conservatives gained four seats in the area, which means that a quarter of the gains from Labour in the 1951 election were made in this district, which contains only one-fifteenth of the constituencies in the United Kingdom.

Barbara Castle, the fiery red-haired Bevanite, will be fighting for her political life in Blackburn. In 1951 she won the eastern half of the city by the narrow margin of 2,632. But now the eastern half of Blackburn has been joined with the western half, in which the Conservative margin was virtually identical. The fact that Mrs. Castle's seat is in real peril may explain why, although very left-wing on most subjects, she is as protectionist as any local manufacturer on things concerning textiles—such as Japanese competition, for example.

Harold Wilson, the deft economist who resigned from the Labour Government with Aneurin Bevan, also holds a marginal Lancashire seat, Huyton, by the narrow margin of 1,193 votes. Unlike Bevan himself, (majority 21,529) who is fighting the election on the theme that Eton-educated Conservative "morons" cannot be trusted to govern Britain in the H-bomb age, Wilson is selling himself as a constructive diagnostician of Lancashire's ills. It was Wilson who worked out and propounded Labour's solution for the cotton crisis; the centralizing of the import trade in a system of bulk purchases, and the creation of a Cotton Goods Import Commission, part of whose duties would be to eliminate imports derived from 'unfair competition'—including Indian textiles.

Marginal Bomber Base

East Anglia, the southeastern extension of Great Britain where

many of America's bombers are based, is another marginal area. The reasons for it seem two: although an agricultural area, it is a stronghold of the National Union of Agricultural Workers; further-more it is a traditional Liberal area in which ex-Liberals seem to tip the balance now one way, now another.

At any rate some of the most acute professional organizers in both parties insist that East Anglia is the most reliable touchstone. At present there are enough touch-and-go Conservative seats to completely extinguish the Government's majority in the Commons should there be a trend toward Labour in this region alone. Conservative fears spring from the fact that in the Norfolk South by-election in January 1955 the Conservative percentage of poll dropped by 3%. If this trend repeats itself on May 26, it would lose the Conservatives 8 marginal seats in East Anglia alone.

If, on the other hand, the Labour vote slips by as little as 1-2% at least four present Labour seats would topple. Typical is the seat held until now by the well-known Bevanite journalist Tom Driberg. He first won the seat as an Independent at a 1942 by-election and then held it for Labour from 1945 onwards. In 1951 his majority had fallen to 704. He is not standing again and his own personal popularity may take with him the small margin required for victory.

Another 'Bevanite', Geoffrey Bing, is standing again for Hornchurch, in the same area, which he won by a margin of 1034 votes in 1951. But he is in a more fortunate position than another embattled 'Bevanite,' journalist—efficiency expert Ian Mikardo, who feels he is "sub-marginal" at Reading. Mikardo feels the redrawn Reading constituency now leans toward the Conservatives by about 600 votes.

Not all marginal seats on the Labour side are held by 'Bevanites.' E. A. Shackleton, son of the famous explorer and close associate of Herbert Morrison, held Preston South in 1951 by a mere 16 votes. J. H. Hoy, another moderate Labour M.P., held

the Leith division of Edinburgh by a mere 72 votes.

How to Win

The key problem, in both the Conservative and Labour parties, is how to win over the necessary 1,000 votes in each of the approximately 60 marginal seats. The Conservatives clearly feel that by giving more efficient government, by increasing pensions, by decreasing income tax and by general plumping for economic "freedom" against Labour's "austerity" they will win over the marginal voter.

One of the biggest arguments in the Labour Party is over just how to win over the marginal voter. The Morrison-Gaitskell wing conceives of him as a middle-class ex-Liberal who can only be attracted by a moderate programme and repelled by extremist "class war" slogans. This group insists that Bevan's "lower than vermin" description of the Conservatives cost Labour 50-60 marginal seats in the 1950 election.

The 'Bevanites'—more particularly those who do not hold marginal seats—hold another view. They say that the Labour Party has no need to chase the middle class but should concentrate on the six million working class people who voted Conservative in the 1951 elections. They point to the recent study of the 1951 election: John Bonham's *The Middle Class Vote*. On the basis of a detailed analysis of the Gallup Poll the author comes to the conclusion that

the Conservatives would have no hope of office if they had to rely solely on the middle class (10.5 million, including the fringes of the lower middle class), leaving Labour to harvest up to 22 million working class votes. On the other hand "in 1951 the Labour Party would have got more votes if it could have exchanged all its middle class supporters for one half of the working class people who voted Conservative."

My own private questioning indicates that the British electorate is making a pretty shrewd estimate of the two contending parties. My plumber, for example, says he has always voted Labour but that he is not sure now. His reasoning? "Labour has good ideas but doesn't seem to know how to carry them out." He says he favours the idea of nationalized industries but finds that they are so big and impersonal that they become inefficient as he found out when he worked for one. "You could die in a corner and no one would notice until you began to stink," he said pithily. My guess, however, is that this industrial voter will wind up voting Labour. I wound up by betting him that Labour will get more votes than the Conservatives but that they will not win more seats. Because of the peculiar concentration of Labour votes it actually needs a lead of 3% in the popular vote to win the necessary margin of marginal seats. And of such a lead there is no indication as yet.

LIMITS TO DEFICIT FINANCING

By M. S. PARTHASARATHI

WITH the second Five-Year Plan on the anvil, there has of late been a great deal of discussion on the extent to which deficit financing can be used during the period of the Plan. This is an important matter because the size of the Plan will depend on the amount of deficit financing that can be safely used. In considering this problem, it is necessary to bear in mind the fact that the extent of deficit financing which would be possible will itself depend on the nature and content of the Plan and on the taxation policy of the Central and State Governments.

The essential point about deficit financing is that the money is NOT obtained from the citizens, either in the form of taxes or in the form of subscriptions to loans. It is just printed either by the Government itself—(this method is not usually adopted)—or by the bank of the country which advances it to the Government. But the money so obtained is only a medium to secure command over goods and services and *these can come only from the people*. That is, services and goods which are purchased with the "deficit-financed" money are obtained by depriving some or most citizens of their normal share. This is inevitable since even in the most quick-yielding investments the money disbursed as wages and salaries will begin to be spent long before the products start arriving in the market. Until production gets going, the effect of deficit financing will be to increase the total demand for goods and services. Prices will consequently tend to rise and, if this tendency is not countered in time, either by the arrival of the products of the newly-established industries or by some other measure inflation may be the result.

But deficit financing need not always lead to inflation. In fact its use can be justified only if it does

not give rise to inflation. If deficit financing is to be successful in this sense, certain circumstances favourable to its use must exist. The most appropriate time for undertaking deficit financing is when production of essential goods is expanding without a proportionate increase in total demand. Normally under such conditions prices will tend to fall. But the use of deficit financing for implementing development schemes places additional purchasing power in the hands of the people and thus helps to increase demand and thereby to maintain the price level and productive activity. Production might actually receive a fillip.

There is a danger here which must be guarded against. The additional demand generated by deficit financing may exceed the increase in the available supply of consumer goods. To put it in another way, demand may increase at a faster pace than production. If this were to happen, prices will begin to rise, and if deficit financing is not slowed down or even stopped completely, the gap between demand and supply may widen; prices may continue in an upward direction, culminating in an inflationary spiral.

The only way to prevent an inflationary situation from worsening is for the Government to cut down as far as possible the rate of spending. This means that there can be no final decision beforehand on the amount of deficit financing that can be safely resorted to, though the Government can gain a fair idea of how much will at all be possible. Naturally the size of the development plan cannot also be fixed in advance. Perhaps only minor adjustments will be needed as the plan progresses and the effects of deficit financing are begun to be felt.

One difficulty which may be experienced in putting a stop to deficit

PATRUDU'S

"BALASANJEEVINI" R
E
G
D.

Best Remedy for Infantile LIVER & SPLEEN Disorders

For free advice consult:

DR. PILLA PAPIAH PATRUDU & BROS.,

19, South Mada St., Mylapore, MADRAS-4. Phone: 85254.

Branch:

7, Sarangapani Koll East St., KUMBAKONAM.
(Enclose 2 Annas Stamps for Free Advice)

financing once it has been begun must be mentioned. After a programme or scheme of development has been launched it may be difficult to slow down expenditure, much less stop it, since the Government might have already entered into contracts with parties and payment cannot be refused when it falls due. But it is open to the Government to postpone or stagger the placing of new contracts and this should be done to the maximum extent possible so that the rate of deficit financing may be curtailed.

Assuming that the Government can slacken the pace of development when it so desires, the amount of deficit financing possible will depend on five factors. Four of these relate to the character of the concerned country's economy and the fifth is an external factor. If an economy has some unutilised capacity, particularly in consumption goods industries, deficit financing can be resorted to without any fear of evil consequences till the entire capacity is fully utilised. In fact it was the existence of such idle capacity in many industries which was the main reason why the deficit financing during the last four years has not had any adverse effects on the country's economy. There is still bound to be some unutilised capacity in many consumption goods industries, both large scale and small scale, and it will be necessary to estimate their extent. It is, however, obvious that the capacity remaining unused at the end of the First Plan will be much less than at the beginning, since progress in many industries in the last four years has been mainly in the direction of making a fuller use of existing capacity.

The second factor which will influence the rate of deficit financing is the rate of development possible in the economy, that is to say, on the resilience of the economy. Where the production of consumer goods can be easily increased—and this excludes the expansion that can come about through the use of idle capacity—deficit financing will be possible at a rapid pace without any

ill effects. Where the economy is an expanding one and the country also possesses capital goods and heavy industries to supply the machinery needed for the development of consumption goods and other industries, production can be increased pretty quickly to satisfy the increasing demand that will be generated by created money. In a country like India, on the other hand, where the economy is in a comparative state of inertia and there are no machinery-manufacturing industries, deficit financing may have to be accompanied by some controls on consumption, which may have to be continued for some time. At the same time, it must be conceded that deficit financing is perhaps the only way to inject some activity into a stagnant economy.

A THIRD factor which governs the extent of deficit financing possible is the nature of the schemes which are financed by the created money. If the money is used for establishing industries which will yield results quickly, where the time lag between investment and production is not very much, the safety limit will not be exceeded soon. It will also help to maintain the rate of deficit financing. At the same time it must be borne in mind that a part of the money should be used for establishing heavy industries which will impart resilience to the economy.

The extent of deficit financing which will be possible will also depend on the amount of idle money in the hands of the people, or in the hands of that section of the people which has money to spare. If private investors, for instance, decide not to invest Rs. 500 crores out of the amount saved out of current income by them, the Government can safely use so much of created money. It may even be possible for the Government to discourage or to prevent businessmen from investing their savings in new ventures with a view to itself undertaking investment by deficit financing to the extent of their savings. But difficulties will arise if private individuals, denied opportunities of investment, decide

to spend their savings on luxury consumption goods. It may be possible for the Government to deal with such a shopping spree by heavy taxes on such goods, but obviously no distinction can be drawn between, say, a doctor who buys a car for his professional work and another person who is adding a fifth or sixth car to his fleet because he does not know how else to spend the money.

AGELESS RAJAJI

By K. ISWARA DUTT

I WRITE this for SWATANTRA unreservedly, indeed unabashedly, since the Editor will be the first to concede to any what he claims for himself—the right to differ. I must at once say what I feel, and can't help feeling, about his pulverising performance *anent* Rajaji's 'atomic' explosions in the Press and on the platform.

It is one of the peculiar privileges of a journalist to make friends as well as enemies: it is all in the day's process: it is also part of the game to make friends enemies and enemies friends in proportion to the opportunities they provide by their own utterances or activities or actions in public life. Some are, however, apt to be a trifle puzzled when it becomes difficult to adjust themselves to the moods of an Editor who with generosity raises one to the top one morning and with equal vehemence hurls the same man down the abyss on another. But to one who is familiar with the complexities of the journalistic occupation there is little or no surprise that some men are as easily deposed as they were once deified, or applauded one day and assailed on the next. Nevertheless, the Editor's present reaction to Sri Rajagopalachari passes one's comprehension while his unqualified strictures leave one breathless.

I must confess I came to the

Th final factor in determining the amount of deficit financing is the extent of foreign aid. Estimates regarding this will necessarily have to be tentative since it depends on others to fix the amount and the size of the aid may change from year to year according to the state of the world and the domestic political situation in the country offering assistance.

same conclusion that the Editor did, that by the line he has of late taken in shaking the Americans or in shaking them off, Sri Rajagopalachari has perilously drifted nearer his Public Enemy Number One. I am leaving aside the merit of his argument but only concerning myself with its effects. But then, many of us know well enough how certain other top-ranking leaders, at home as well as abroad, found themselves launched in the same unenviable predicament on occasions. By some of his own writings the Editor himself had almost given the impression—I know it was a wrong impression—that he was arguing either this brief or that. There would perhaps be no hitch—at any rate it would be more generous if we do not take (or mistake) a strange coincidence for a deliberate alignment. It is widely known that there are some, perhaps several, Congressmen, who, with absolutely no Communist leanings, would rather deny themselves American aid. Whether in thinking so, they are right or wrong, wise or foolish, is a different matter.

Over the style—the present-day style—of Sri Rajagopalachari's dialectics, there is hardly any need to raise a furore. All the world over and across the centuries—long before "The jungle of Communist journalism" commanded attention—politicians engaged in heated controversies or spirited conflicts have made a lavish display of rhetorical fireworks. It is out of such eruptions that anthologies of invective have emanated. I, however, take it that

in Sri Rajagopalachari's case, it is more a question of indignation than of invective. Of course, having given no quarter, he cannot ask for any. Maybe he has asked for trouble.

Yet, to go to the length of saying, as the Editor does, that "the nation pays the ex-Governor General a pension to enable him to live in dignity without getting involved in unsavoury controversies" is perhaps not too 'civilised' a way of disposing of an eminent elder statesman whose only offence seems to be that he was hard on some "foreign-statesmen of sovereign status, leaders of people in their respective countries," in turning a crusader against the forces of devastation let loose in the name of civilisation.

We are told by Sir John Kotelwala that Sri Rajagopalachari's is "the talk of a man in his dotage." "Who knows," he says with a sense of forgiveness, "when I reach his age I may be worse." It is a pity that the Prime Minister of Ceylon does not seem to realise that he need hardly grow older to merit the rebuke which he thought fit to administer to Sri Rajagopalachari on a wrong assumption. Whatever may be said of his aged opponent, it must be acknowledged that age has left his intellectual alertness undimmed. An 81-year-old British editor of eminence once said 'concerning rest.'

"I may be permitted to say, in order to allay the apprehensions of thousands of good friends, that I am not ill. Neither am I reckoned old for my age. Nor am I by any means at the end of my mental tether. My fitness is not due to exercise, for I have had leisure for little. It is due, if I may mention the fact, to application, from my teens up, to work in which I have been keenly interested, to keeping myself in as close touch as I could contrive with new ideas and the younger generation, and to abstemious habits which are no self-denial but give a sense of well-being—a fact which it is useful, perhaps, to state when so many persons are still deceiving themselves with alcohol and tobacco."

Well may Sri Rajagopalachari say this of himself.

At an older age, when he fought with passion for the cause in which

he believed, it was Gladstone's ill luck to have been called 'half crazy' by Queen Victoria, described as "a lunatic" by one high up in the court, dismissed as 'an unprincipled maniac' by Disraeli, and represented by others as 'an unscrupulous politician avid for power.' And it was of the same Gladstone that in the latest assessment, his biographer, Sir Philip Magnus, recorded thus:

"Gladstone only talked of retirement in order to refresh his mind. He now conceived that he was tied to politics by a divine summons to make a Christian response to a series of political challenges. As he grew older he came to regard the character of that response as of far greater importance than any practical or immediate results which it might achieve. He no longer hoped to live to see many such results, but he was increasingly convinced that, among the statesmen of the age, he alone could be trusted to make the lofty but humble moral response which he regarded as essential if civilization were not to be submerged beneath the rising materialist tide."

It should matter less that Sri Rajagopalachari in his argument was off the track or on the wrong track than that he was wrestling, as it were, with destiny, for the triumph of certain moral values when the earth seemed to be rocked and rent by the forces of evil.

It is as graceless to advise Sri Rajagopalachari to sit by the fire-side and meditate as it would be to advise Sir Winston Churchill. It was in posing this question about the British leader that Mr. Beverley Baxter the other day hit out thus:

What nonsense! His mind and spirit are ageless. Destiny is not finished with him. Nor is history.

Would it be too much to plead for intellectual charity in writing or speaking of one involved in one of history's loneliest fights against powers and mightier elements? At any rate it would be a good substitute for a certain acidity which threatens to distort, if not destroy, values that are the very essence of a moral revolt, or of a political revolt of moral significance.

DANISH FARMING AND ADULT EDUCATION

A LESSON FOR INDIA

(By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

IF you leave out of consideration the fact that Denmark is a small country—17,000 square miles inhabited by 4,300,000 people—it has many lessons to teach us in India, not the least of them being the remarkable progress they have made in adult education during the last one hundred years.

Unlike the other Scandinavian countries Denmark has no mineral resources, nor timber, nor water power. It has only the Good Earth which the resourceful Danes have coaxed and nursed with exceeding care so that ninety-five per cent of the land is productive and 77 per cent is farmed. Moorland and heath which were formerly wasteland are today reclaimed and productive.

This has not come about by any miracle but by deliberate social and political reforms and by the establishment of cooperative societies. Denmark is today a farmer's cooperative commonwealth. Of more than 205,000 farmers in Denmark possessing more than two and a half acres of land nearly 200,000 are members of the various cooperative societies. There is even a cooperative manure supply society. Besides cooperative banks, dairy societies, coal societies, engineering and cement societies there are cooperative societies for accident and damage insurance, for pensions, and for running sanatoriums for tubercular and rheumatic patients.

Zamindari to Freehold Ownership

Until 1875 Danish peasants suffered very much the same hardships as Indian tenants under the zamindari system. Whereas we have abolished the zamindari system we have not like the Danes introduced cooperatives so that the Indian peasant's lot

today is not better than under zamindars who gave loans, provided seed corn, manure and agricultural tools. Like the Indian peasant the Danish too was rooted to the soil. There was no need to call him back to the land. Only (until his emancipation chiefly through the system of adult education) the Danish peasant had become a disgruntled, listless worker who worked because being a tenant under the lord of the manor he had to. According to Dr. Peter Manniche, author of *Living Democracy in Denmark*, and Principal of the International People's College at Elsinore, "They had to work two, three or four days a week on the lord's demesne, and even more in harvest time." (Dr. Manniche, it will be recalled, was recently in India at the invitation of the Education Ministry and toured the country advising on suitable methods of adult education. Four Indians have since gone to Denmark for training, and it is understood that the Bihar Government is going to introduce adult education on Danish lines adapted to Indian conditions).

According to the same authority the nobility was domineering. Though the King had taken away much of their power as far back as 1660 they still owned the land and the tenants. This feudal system lasted till the end of the last century. Of course in the Middle Ages there was no aristocracy as such in Denmark and "the King was the first among equals."

Schoolmasters and Farmers as Legislators

How did the Danish tenants break away from their thralldom? It was by means of the folk high schools. A folk high school principal, Anders

Jorgensen, described the condition of the tenant-farmer during the last quarter of the last century thus:

"What a pitiful sight it often was to see these small-holdings! Generally the holdings consisted of fields lying fallow, rye and oats with long stalks, and a couple of poor grass fields. The livestock corresponded to the fields. It consisted of one or two lean cows, one, or rarely, two pigs and some chickens. The feed for the cattle was very poor in quality. Consequently the manure was also very poor and the value of the soil therefore decreasing . . ."

Within a few years, largely by means of legislation introduced by farmers who had benefitted from the folk high schools, the picture became different. Vilhelm Lassen, a leader of the Farmers' Party, has described the condition of the Danish farmer at the end of the century thus:

"They are not in a class with the wealthier people of the parish . . . They dress like labourers and there is no doubt that they eat as people of small means. But one does not classify

them with the paupers of the parish either. For the village suspects that when the husband makes a journey to town twice or thrice a year, he invests a bit of savings in the savings bank . . . For they themselves manage to do what is to be done. Husband, wife and children do all the work outdoors and indoors . . . in social life they are proud that their butter and bacon fetch the top price along with that of big farms. This class of people are the efficient cotters holding land of their own, from four to ten acres . . ."

Since then progress of the farming community, socially and politically, has been rapid. To quote Dr. Manniche again. "The cooperative movement was their lever." The link between Danish butter and bacon and the Danish folk high school has resulted in making the Danish peasant one of the most enlightened in the world. The Danes produce almost all their food needs and seventy-two per cent of their exports are agricultural and dairy produce. Much of this success can be attributed to the



Dr. Peter Manniche, Principal of the International People's College, explains the Danish constitution to an Indonesian student and a girl student from the Gold Coast.

credit associations, a feature that with the abolition of the zamindari system, could well be introduced in India. "The independent farmer is still the determining factor in agricultural legislation in Denmark" and the Minister of Agriculture is invariably a farmer. How many Five Year Plans must we go through before we can have an educated farmer as Minister of Food and Agriculture?

The Folk High School

Grundtvig is credited with having been the originator of the folk high school idea. Perhaps his stay at Cambridge had shown him the value of the corporate life. He has also been influenced by Rousseau who extolled the virtues of the country life and by Fichte who propounded the theory of a "school for youth." Before 1850 the only adult education available in Denmark was at the university which existed only to turn out white-collar officials. Grundtvig agitated for schools for "that great part of the people who do not want to become, or cannot possibly become officials, but have to feed themselves and the officials, too."

"Only barbarians and tyrants can imagine that this root and kernel of the people—tenants and freeholders, large farmers and small ones, artisans of all kinds, sailors and tradesmen—does not need any more enlightenment than can be obtained behind the plough, in the workshop, on the boat and behind the counter . . ."

The folk high school as he envisaged it should have a farm attached to it and workshops of all kinds. The knowledge of the ways of birds and animals should be as interesting and useful as the knowledge of one's fellowmen. Books were not so important, but the teacher and the spoken word were. He also gave a high place to community singing in the school.

It was left to Christen Kold, "a rustic blend of Socrates and Pestalozzi," the son of a cobbler, to open the first folk high school. That was in 1950. The idea caught on and today "between one-third and one-half of all those farmers who have a

holding of their own have been either to a folk high school or to an agricultural school." The agricultural schools are an offshoot of the folk high school and the technical-agricultural training is more emphasised in those schools. The courses at these are of five to six months beginning in November. There is an extension course of three months. Plant-growing, stock-breeding, natural sciences—physics, chemistry, botany and zoology—are the main subjects together with the handling of agricultural tools and machinery. The idea has spread to industrial workers in the towns and there are today workers' high schools, on similar lines.

International People's College

Kold started his school in a two-roomed cottage. Today folk high schools are housed in small castles surrounded by gardens, and two or three students share a room which is centrally heated in the winter. Baths and swimming pools and gymnasiums are considered indispensable.

The best known internationally is the People's College, at Elsinore made famous by Hamlet. Founded in 1921 with the object that an international folk high school might help to create an international fellowship and educate for international democracy the school attracts students from as far as Indonesia and the Gold Coast. Dr. Peter Manniche who has been associated with it from the beginning is the Principal. Young farmers from abroad are specially welcome at the People's College. In June 1949 when UNESCO held its first conference for adult education at People's College students from forty nations participated. Elsinore is a beautiful town with a population of 21,500 and is a tourist attraction because of its association with Hamlet. Hans Christian Andersen, though born in Odense went to school in Elsinore.

Denmark's agricultural prosperity and the high percentage of her educated peasantry are directly traceable to the part played in her school life by the folk high schools.

FRENCH ART OF THE 19TH CENTURY

By BARNETT D. CONLAN

THE important ensemble of French painting "From David to Toulouse-Lautrec"—belonging to American Museums and private collections, now on show at the 'Orangerie' in Paris, affords a Panoramic view of French painting in the 19th century.

A retrospective of this sort allows us to detect the changes that are constantly taking place in painting, as in the other arts, so that the end of a century will often appear to be diametrically opposed to the type of art that obtained at the beginning.

There is no doubt that France was the principal theatre for Western art, at this period. The 19th century was one of the most creative epochs in art, and can compare with that of the Italian Renaissance for the acquisition of new ideals and the extension of boundaries.

David who imposed his neo-classic doctrine at the beginning of the century, in a dictatorial way, very much as Lebrun had done under Louis XIV, was hypnotised by his theory of the 'beau ideal' or perfection in art.

His portrait of Napoleon, painted in 1810, and now seen in Paris for the first time, shows what a meticulously unimaginative mind he possessed. It is executed with photographic precision.

Nothing could be in greater contrast with the art that Cezanne was practising in 1900.

Between these two extremes the painting of the 19th century appears in all its richness, variety and conflicting ideals. Much of it was a protest and a reaction to the pseudo-classical academic art of David and his followers.

This was particularly the case with Delacroix, the greatest of these painters, whose art eventually came to eclipse that of David exactly as the art of Rubens had succeeded to that of Lebrun. David, however, was not the only opponent that Delacroix had to contend with, for there was

Ingres and Courbet, both rivals for fame and in their way, fine artists.

We are, perhaps, in a better position to-day to estimate the importance of such an artist as Delacroix.

A striking phenomenon in Western art, and one which repeats itself through the centuries, is the tendency to look elsewhere for inspiration, whenever the Mediterranean tradition, which stems from Greco-Roman art, tends to run dry. Generally this takes the form of a window being opened towards the East—to the Byzantine tradition perhaps.

Rigid doctrines and academic conventions are very often the cause of a decline of art, and whenever the general outlook gets set and conservative new directions have to be explored to save it from becoming crystallized, not to say mummified.

The early years of the 19th century was a time when the cult of pseudo-Greek art had become a fashion. It derived partly from theorists like Winckelmann and artists like Raphael Mengs whose vision of the Greek genius was definitely academic. Something of this 'plaster-cast' vision of the antique still haunts the Beaux-Arts and the 'Institut' in France. It was Delacroix rather than Ingres or Courbet who brought about the change.

A son of Talleyrand, superior in culture and breadth of outlook to most of his contemporaries, he resumed all the great traditions of the past and all the opposing trends of his own time. Paradoxically he was the greatest of the Romantics and, at the same time, a great classic. One feels sure that his feeling for ancient Greek art was much more vital than that of Ingres who directed the Institute and professed a veritable cult for Homer. In his 'Journal' which is one of the masterpieces of French literature, Delacroix remarks that: "Rubens was more

Homeric than many of the ancients. His genius was similar in spirit, and in art it is the spirit that counts. Ingres has nothing Homeric, he only copies the outside." This remark shows how profound a vision Delacroix had of the past as well as of the present in which he was living. During his visit to Spain and Morocco he discovered that the living world of the Arabs, with their native costumes, was much nearer to the ancient Greek world than any of the classical images in the academies or in the art of David and Ingres. This oriental side of his painting allowed him to approach the classic forms of art so as to fuse together in the same style both the classic and the baroque. His contact with the English romantic poets, with painters like Constable and Bonington, and with the great German composers of his time opened up new avenues of inspiration so that his influence was not confined to his paintings but acted in many other ways on the spirit of his age.

One of these was due to his association with the poet Baudelaire. It was because of his connection with Delacroix that Baudelaire became the foremost art critic of his time. It is now known that the poet drew his principles of art criticism from the opinions stated by Delacroix. As he was able to express them in the best possible language Delacroix's ideas on art soon became known and had their effect on the spirit of the age.

The servile attitude of David, Ingres and Courbet to the outer world, the object, or the model seemed to Delacroix to mark a poverty of imagination. Like Shelley he held that imagination was the one important thing since it constituted the creative element in art.

In so far as its recognition is concerned, Individualism in art, therefore, dates from the time of Delacroix. He was the first to insist on the importance of the inner world of the artist in distinction to the outer world, and on his power of moulding the outer to the needs of the individual imaginative realm.

"I take refuge in the creative spheres, in order to flee the cruel reality of objects" are the words of one who feels himself a stranger in the unimaginative world of the object.

They also explain his fine critical discernment in matters of music, for he was a connoisseur of Mozart and Chopin and learnt much from personal contacts with the latter. Because of his rich culture and imaginative temperament he came to lay the foundations of modern art. With a profound psychological insight he saw that Realism in art was a fiction and an absurdity and that Courbet's beliefs were altogether puerile. Fortunately Courbet was a great artist and so he came to transpose the reality, which he worshipped, without knowing it.

He was not aware, as was the case with Delacroix, that: "A painter's work is tinted with the colour of his spirit."

One may say that Delacroix by insisting on the spiritual and imaginative power of art accomplished much the same thing as Kant had, a few years previously, in the world of philosophy.

He made it possible for the Impressionists, Renoir, Van Gogh and even Cezanne to accomplish their work; for in art, as in literature, everything takes place according to descent and tradition.

KAHANIYA

(Brightest English Short Story Monthly)

Available at all railway stalls and other agents on the first of every month.

Annual Subscription: Rs. 3

Single copy 4 as. (Post free)

Write to:

"KAHANIYA"

32, Pelatope, Mylapore

MADRAS-4.

Short Story

K. Venkataraman

EARTH IS ROUND

They say that opportunity comes but once in life and that we should take it by the forelock. Here really was a big opportunity . . .

"THE earth is round . . . it is like an orange," I almost yelled. But it is difficult to drive this home to a batch of boys of the third standard and you don't know how difficult it is unless you do it. Neither apposite illustration nor convincing logic was of any avail before these who seemed to believe that seeing is believing. Meanwhile the classroom had become a miniature Babel and shrill and incoherent voices filled the air, some commenting on the earth and many on the orange.

I fell back limp into the chair. Meanwhile "Eskimo," the peon, entered—he was very short and therefore had been so nicknamed by these intelligent boys who were extremely resourceful and imaginative in this business. (For your information, they called me the "Bone"—that being the VIP in my profile). He made me come to the earth again. He said in a reproving tone that "Aiya"—the Headmaster—was calling me.

I shot out of the classroom after making it reasonably silent and went into the H.M.'s room, staggering all the way.

H.M. was sitting in a chair, his face hard-set.

"You never fail to keep the class uproarious and I don't see what they see in you," he began caustically.

I did not answer for I knew a reply was not expected and if it was expected, I could not have given one. Well, his first thrust was not made for its own sake, but as a preliminary and justification for a bigger blow—still behind his sleeves. I wondered what that blow would be.

"I find you utterly incompetent in teaching and managing the boys . . ."

I wondered how he discovered it, but was glad that for once he spoke the truth.

"Er . . . we are dismissing you from service," he continued and concluded.

It was a severe blow but I thought I felt some relief.

Then I fumed up and in the next moment I became almost like dynamite.

In short I became courageous—and you know courage comes to me only when it is not needed. I poured forth mouthfuls of fiery eloquence relevantly and irrelevantly and then added: "I pretty well know the reason for your firing me . . . It is for installing your cousin's cousin's cousin in my stead. I pity that fellow . . . I am sure he will be kicked out when your cousin's cousin comes."

"Stop this d—d nonsense!" he cried.

"Yes, you are already full of it," I said and stormed out.

I HAD enough of that antedeluvian village and I started packing that evening. Packing is for me a tantalising art—unless, of course, it has anything to do with a pack of cards. So it was pretty late at night when I finished and started on a jolting makeshift of a cart to Villupuram Junction—where I was to board the train for Madras. There, in Madras, my brother lived and with him I was 'sticking.'

I unbelted before the booking office counter and asked for a third class ticket to Madras, hoping the Railway Ministry had not changed the name of 'Third class' in their annual tidying-up.

The clerk thrust a ticket into my hand and said "Rush up, the Express is starting in a minute."

I rushed up—my puny porter bent under the weight of my trunk doing his best behind me. The train was just moving when we rushed into the platform without any mishap—except the knocking down of a coffee vendor, which was a mishap for him, not for me.

The porter pushed my trunk into a third class compartment, but he did not push me; he pulled my hand for his 'coolie'. Before I had done him justice—and you know how difficult it is to do justice to porters—only the last two carriages were left. I just madly rushed and found myself landed on a moving foot-board.

As I came out of this welter of confusion, I wanted to step into the carriage. Then I got a shock of approximately 100 volts.

You are mistaken if you think that I had boarded a women's compartment. I was on the foot-board of a first class compartment with its door securely bolted.

I wrung my hands in despair. (Metaphorically speaking; if I had let my hold I would have ceased to worry).

I peeped through the window and found the compartment full with one person. He was a super-heavy weight and had lost his neck in his bulk. He was fairly old and gave the appearance of a prosperous businessman.

"Sir," I said meekly, "will you please open the door?"

He moved towards the window cautiously and with effort and peered into the moving darkness. I positioned myself, so that the light from the compartment could fall on my face. He fixed his searching eyes on me. His scrutiny can be paralleled only by what you get in the personality tests in the U.P.S.C.

I quite caught the current of his thinking. I said: "Sir, I am no thief, not a burglar, not a robber, not a marauder . . ." My vocabulary dried up. And then I feebly added:

"And you know this Express stops next only at Chingleput."

The eyes again began their work. They surveyed my heap of bones and then his own heap of flesh. "I'll knock you out, if you do any monkeying," he growled and then opened the door.

I had enough of my own thoughts to monkey with, as I sat before him. There was my trunk in one compartment. What will become of it? . . .

I then noticed that the super-heavy weight was looking worried. He was looking at some of his papers in his right hand, then at some blank papers in his left hand and then looked out blankly into the night. He had been doing it in the aforesaid order three or four times.

"Well, may I know what the matter is?" I made bold to ask.

He looked at me, the 'tone' of his eyes asking: "What are you going to do if I tell you my worry?"

Then he told me what the matter was. He had to write two or three urgent letters that very night and post them immediately. It was a matter of life and death to his business. "I always put a premium on neatness but my own handwriting is like hieroglyphics."

I nodded sympathetically and added that mine was like Urdu written from the left.

"The pity is my typist is not travelling with me now, but I am having his typewriter. He accompanied me to Trichy and there—d—n him!—took leave to visit some relatives . . ."

"I can be of help to you, sir," I said. "I have passed the Madras Government Technical Examination in Typewriting held in . . ." I proceeded in the full spirit of a job applicant.

"Is it so?" he cut in with surprise and then pulled out from under his berth his portable typewriter. He began to dictate and I began to type. I managed it pretty well despite the train's jolts . . .

We finished.

"Post them in the post-box in Chingleput Junction" he said.

The train steamed into Chingleput. I alighted and posted the letters and then went to look for my trunk. Luckily enough, some passenger had some concern for it and he was looking for me.

All this took a lot of time and hence I did not return to tell the gentleman that I had posted the letters.

As the train was running, the little grey cells began to work. I had gathered from the letters that he was the managing director of "Messrs. — and Co." What was wrong in asking him for a job?

They say that opportunity comes but once in life and that we should take it by the forelock. Here really was a big opportunity.

For quite a long time, I was dissecting the proposal and putting it under the microscope. At Egmore, I got down with my trunk, went up to him and said: "Sir, I posted the letters at Chingleput."

"Thousand thanks for you, boy!" he said cheerfully. "These letters may fetch me a profit of —" He was about to mention a sum which his business acumen warned him in time to swallow.

Then I stammered out a sentence, which I had been framing for such a

long time: "Since you say I have been of much help to you, will you please give me a job in your firm?"

This he probably did not expect. "Well, come to my house," he said, after some hesitation. He gave me his address and then went away, bag and baggage.

That evening I went to his house and stammered out my appeal again. He listened sympathetically and then pronounced slowly his judgment: "You see, I don't have any vacancy in my firm. Even if I create one, my relatives' friends and friends' relatives will swarm in. However, since you interest me I will make some other offer. I am the founder of an elementary school in my village. I will give you a teacher's job even if it means the dismissal of somebody else. Are you prepared?"

Now you can easily guess. I had no option other than to accept the proposal and the surprise came when I learnt that he was the founder of a school none other than that from which I had made my exit. To the *status quo ante bellum*, I thought!

I DANCED into the Headmaster's room in the mood of Napoleon returning from Elba. "I thought it was you," he muttered.

"I am very sorry that your cousin's cousin's cousin has to go out," I chirruped.

"Shut up," he snorted and then remembering that I was the founding father's nominee asked in a deferential and conciliatory tone: "Are you known to the founder?"

"Why? I am his cousin's cousin's cousin," I glibed and quickly started towards my class. Then I returned to add a *nota bene*: "One thing more. He has promised to make me the Headmaster"

I went to the class. It was still a Babel. I banged the table and said triumphantly: "Boys, the earth is round. Don't you see that I have returned to the place from which I started?"

PEARL DIVERS

The Place

NEAR jagged reefs of tow'ring peaks
Shadowing bays or deep-laid creeks
Whose whirling milkwhite drifts of spray
Hit neighb'ring rocks in swift relay—
And then within their clefts remain,
Or gently trickle down again;
'Neath fleecy clouds so softly blown
By breeze, on a platform of stone
The divers piose with confidence.

The Divers

FEW sturdy men—their frames spell health,
Their feats accord us ocean wealth,
Their rippling sinews lend them grace
To every movement that they trace
In their descent of harmony
In stately dive into the sea;
Their plunge defies a glaucous grave
Revealing traits both fine and brave
Of supreme skill and reliance.

The Search

THROUGH air they are a bronzed streak
To strike the water of the creek;
Upon the ocean floor they tread
And in many a weedy bed
Seek with serene, steadfast eyes
For oysters with pearls of dainty size;
They swiftly seek, as time is short—
Sights sharp, minds brisk and strength consort
With training, art and endurance.

The Reward

THEY rise and down they dive again,
Oft-times their search it goes in vain
Till should a stroke of luck reach them
The divers strike an oyster realm;
Then shells are picked and stones redeemed,
And buyers pay the price they deemed;
The prize that's sought for now is won,
Toll's over by the set of sun,
And sleep atones past encumbrance.

A. J. DE SOUZA

NEW BOOKS

The Culture of South-East Asia
by Reginald May Rs. 31- 8 as
The Story of our Civilization:
10,000 years of Western Man
by Philip Lee Ralph Rs. 13- 8 as
English Social Differences
by T. H. Pear Rs. 13- 8 as
Requiem for a Wren. A new
novel by Nevil Shute Rs. 9- 6 as
The Captain's Table: A new
novel by Richard Gordon

Rs. 7-14 as
Explaining the Atom by Selig
Hecht & Eugene Rabinowitch

Rs. 9- 6 as

K. MAHADEVAN

82-A Royapettah High Road,
MYLAPORE, MADRAS 4.

New Books

MOTLEY

BY VERRIER ELWIN

Orient Longmans Ltd., Madras

Rs. 8

THIS collection of essays is not motley in the sense that it is an incongruous mixture. Though Verrier Elwin ranges from Johnson's humour and Thurber's therapeutics to the gentleman called Peter Prim whom Macaulay employed when he was in Madras and the bear that Byron had for a pet in Cambridge, he concerns himself throughout the book only with literary men in a sense, women and children. The essays are modestly titled *Motley* because they are lighthearted and make no claim to be literary or critical. Amidst the spate of books which hold our spines rigid and exact more labour from us than do even the authors they discuss, it is comfortable to swim to a patch of land such as we are offered here and relax in the sunshine. Incidentally, Mr. Elwin reminds our strenuous selves that pleasure—just pleasure—is one of the things we can get from a pursuit of literature.

Mr. Elwin groups his essays under five heads, but I, personally, would like to look at them as dividing themselves naturally in two parts: the first part, which is about one-third of the book, being some results of a direct pursuit of literature (Johnson not exempted, since what he talked is also literature), and the other part being the results of an indirect pursuit—less the pursuit of literature than of those who have been making it. The first part analyses (if it is not too heavy a word) nine authors from Johnson to Evelyn Waugh from the point of view of humour. These essays are introduced by one on 'The Humorous Tradition,' which Mr. Elwin uses to probe into the genesis and nature of humour and also to show broadly the changes in general humorous taste over the centuries. He brings in one of those classifying

American scholars, Mr. Stith Thompson, who has prepared a ponderous Motif-Index on the world's folk-literature to help him do this. Unfortunately, Mr. Stith Thompson only spoils the freshness of the essay and, as far as I can see, Mr. Elwin could have easily written it without Mr. Thompson coming into it at all.

The nine studies themselves are not introductory essays, but what might be called 'post-essays,' essays which are to be read after a sufficient acquaintance with the authors concerned. The one on Johnson lightens the generally received sombre portrait, and 'Is Lear Really Funny?' has less external direction to it than the other essays, and a pleasing, fast pace. My only quarrel with Mr. Elwin in this section, or indeed in the whole book, is over the space he devotes to P. G. Wodehouse. I am faintly aware, in my sober moments, that taste in humour and wit can be extremely idiosyncratic, and I even met an Englishman during the war who could tolerate 'the yellow Japs' better than the humour of Dickens.

Mr. Elwin becomes much more entertaining when he goes about, in the rest of his essays, curiously investigating into the personal foibles and eccentricities of those dear to us in literature. He starts off brilliantly by looking at poets and men of letters in their relations with children and quotes Henry Croft:

poets, with reverence be it spoken, do not make the best parents. Fancy and imagination seldom deign to stoop from their heights; always stoop unwillingly to the low level of common duties. Aloof from vulgar life, they pursue their rapid flight beyond the ken of mortals . . . The prose of

ordinary occurrences is beneath the dignity of poets.

and adds his own clear reflection:

Little children are all poetry and romance, but the prose of adolescent discipline, of school-bills, of choosing and promoting a career is beyond the scope of many poets.

In support of the earlier part of it, we have Coleridge who was specially fond of little Hartley: . . . the child was a "very Seraph in Clouts" and the father went so far as to dry his diapers on his knee. But alas! we have also the children of Leigh Hunt with us, who, said Byron, were dirtier and more mischievous than Yahoos. 'What they can't destroy with their filth they will with their fingers—six little blackguards.' Swinburne came into a passion for children in his forties and alarmed nurse maids in the parks by stopping them and peering into their prams. He wrote:

If the golden-crested wren
Were a nightingale—why, then,
Something seen and heard of men
Might be half as sweet as when
Laughs a child of seven.

But all are not as happy as children in poets' gardens. Poets and writers have to marry and keep servants, and here they are mostly an unhappy lot. Disraeli has an understatement on the connubial infelicity of authors: 'a condition not well suited to the domestic life of genius, accompanied as it must be by many embarrassments for the head and the heart.' Some get wives like Durer's, who 'compelled that great genius to the hourly drudgery of his profession, merely to gratify her own sordid passion,' though it is also true that some women get husbands like Byron, 'whose heart always alighted on the nearest peach.' Walter Savage Landor, after being turned out of the house by his wife at the age of sixty, wrote an epigram in her honour:

From the first Paradise, an Angel once
drove Adam;
From mine a fiend expelled me; thank
you, madam.

Disraeli describes the ideal literary wife:

'How delightful is it when the mind
of the female is so happily disposed,
and so richly cultivated as to partici-

pate in the literary avocations of her husband. It is then truly that the intercourse of the sexes becomes the most refined pleasure. What delight must the great Budaëus have tasted even in those works which must have been for others a most dreadful labour. His wife left him nothing to desire. The frequent companion of his studies, she brought him the books he required to his desk; she collated passages, and transcribed quotations; the same genius, the same inclination, and the same ardour for literature, eminently appeared in these two fortunate persons . . .'

The essay on authors and their servants titled 'The Gentle Offices of Servitude' deals with little explored territory. Sidney Smith had Bunch, a little garden-girl as his butler, and Bunch soon became the best butler in the country.

A Mrs. Marcet came to call. 'Come here, Bunch,' he cried 'and recite your crimes to Mrs. Marcet.' Gravely, without the least hesitation the child answered, 'Plate-snatching, gravy-spilling, door-slamming, fly-catching, and curtsy-bobbing.' 'Explain to Mrs. Marcet what fly-catching is.' 'Standing with my mouth open and not attending, sir!' . . . 'Good girl! Now you may go.'

The long and amusing essay on the rival universities of Oxford and Cambridge does not suffer from the technical defect which detracts from the spontaneity of many essays in the book. These essays have their skeletons too much exposed. The skeletons are chronological, Mr. Elwin adopting the simple plan of treating his themes down the centuries from Chaucer or Johnson to Wodehouse and Waugh. This pattern may not impinge on us unduly in a magazine—and many of the essays in this book appeared originally in Indian newspapers and weeklies—but when these are brought together in a book, it does jar a bit to find the technique repeated in essay after essay. The art of the essayist should be to conceal his art.

The passionate and telling essay at the end of the book, 'The Puritan in Our Midst' is one of the outstanding essays in the collection. It contains a clear analysis of the origins and development of Puritanism (it must

be observed, in passing, that his wide reading sits lightly on Mr. Elwin's shoulders), and a pertinent warning to us in India about the dangers of letting 'reformers' come into power.

But there is no philosophy, no theory, behind modern Indian Puritanism. It is not even Indian: it has been imported to the country mostly by Western Protestant missionaries. But even if the modern Indian believes this human life to be delusion, he does not in fact regard it as evil; it is rather the microcosm of the Divine Goodness and Beauty, and logically the more we can immerse ourselves in its beauty, its laughter and its joys, the nearer we should approach to God. . . . Puritanism is not native to India. It is entirely alien to the minds of our greatest men. . . . It is of the first importance that its prurient and unclean influence should not inflict deep and incurable wounds on the soul of this tolerant, beauty-loving and traditionally happy land.

The personality of Mr. Elwin which emerges from this book is an extraordinarily pleasing one. Our country has been fortunate to have had him spend over two decades in it.—M.P.B.

The Best of A. J. Alan

Selected by Kenelm Foss
The Richards Press,
No. 8, Charles II Street,
St. James Square, London
10s 6d

THE name of A. J. Alan is not that of a great craftsman, nor of a very original writer in the sphere of the short story; a mystery attaches to this person who took the public by storm the first time—on January 31, 1924—through a B.B.C. broadcast of his short story entitled 'My Adventure in Jermyn Street.' Leslie Harrison Lambert was his real name and he belonged to the Civil Service, holding a good job at the Foreign Office. Those who heard his voice over the air, observes Kenelm Foss who writes an Introduction to *The Best of A. J. Alan*—"a penickerty, shy, languid, somewhat emasculate 'posh' voice of the kind which we are now only too familiar in radio announcers" remember Alan as "the initiator of the B.B.C. accent," a radio-personality more than as a

short storyteller. The publication of two volumes of his spoken tales, *Good Evening, Everyone!* and *A. J. Alan's Second Book* fortified his popularity, and he was accepted as a sheer delight whose talent in mixing drama and the absorbing quality of a yarn in just proportions was unique for its whimsicality.

Alan's range is limited, restricted to the upper-middle class to which he himself belonged. In his tales he is strongly inclined towards the macabre; there is the weird halo of the supernatural round his settings, both rural and urban, and his personae; in the middle of perfect merry-making, he will make a skeleton leap like a jack-in-the-box, and he will make you keep company with a corpse, "a murdered corpse, sometimes a putrefying one," and the utter insincerity with which he apologises for doing these things is wrapped in an ineluctable charm that doesn't show one grain of offense. All his stories have the invariable surprise ending, the peculiar quality of which is "less often drama than pure spoof." He is essentially a humorist. The First Person Singular manner of his stories is calculated to stress the element of the autobiographical, but Alan's experiences can be anybody's experiences and hence their abiding interest. *The Best of A. J. Alan* is a fitting tribute to this writer's quaint genius, and to enjoy the full flavour of it the connoisseur as well as the common reader of short stories will like to return again and again to such pieces as 'My Adventure in Jermyn Street,' 'Wottie,' 'The Diptych,' 'My Adventure at Chislehurst,' 'Charles,' 'A Joy Ride,' in the collection.

The Revolt of Mamie Stover

By W. B. Huie
A Signet Book
The New American Library
501 Madison Avenue, New York 22,
New York
25 Cents

THIS has been done before. Zola did a classic study in *Nana* and Alberto Moravia a half-satisfactory one in his *Woman of Rome*. But Mr. Huie's biographical sketch of a

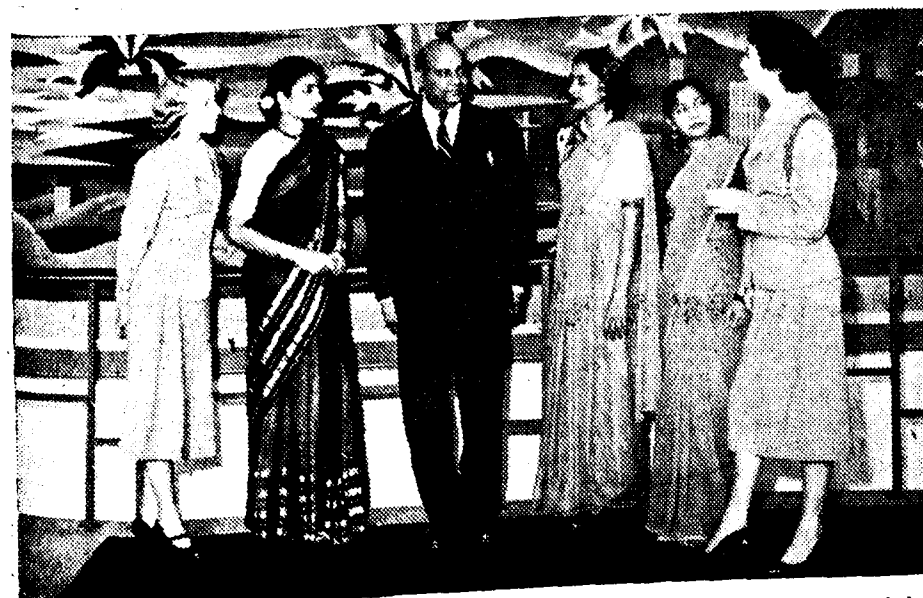
prostitute may be read once because it is probably the first time that she has been studied in the setting of a world war. A six-foot tall blonde, 'built like a race-horse' and called Mamie Stover, wins the title of Miss Cotton and a year's contract in one of the Hollywood studios. Her agents tell her to please 'the great Carroll Dexter,' actor and a power in Hollywood, if she wants to make the grade in the film world. She does so but Dexter gets tired of her soon enough, beats her up, pays for her abortion and when it looks as if a little bad publicity might develop, his guards 'beat her up, pack her up, bring her to a cargo-ship, pay her passage, give her fifty bucks, and warn her not to come back' to the U. S.

Thus Mamie Stover lands in Honolulu with little else but her body to sell, and Bertha Perchman, the most successful 'madam' on the island, exploits her Hollywood tag to put 'Flaming Mamie' over to her customers in a big way. And that would have been all that happened to Mamie and this book might not have come to be written at all but for the fact that the Second World War came along

just then, and Honolulu became a huge clearing-centre for the U. S. army in its operations against the Japanese.

How Mamie Stover used the 'war for democracy' to make a fortune, and 'became a partner, then a pensioner' of the United States Government, has to be read in the 'documented' pages of this book. These pages testify not only to the success of mass-production in more fields than one, but also to the unthinkable degradation engendered by the war which combatants on both sides were told to be crusades worth dying for. It is comforting to think that the next war will be so destructive that there will be nothing left for it to degrade.

The Revolt of Mamie Stover is not a novel, but a documentary. Mr. Huie is more interested in Mamie Stover's accounts and speculations in real estate than in her mind. But it can be retorted that the woman had little else in her mind but the overpowering desire to make money. How she makes it is mercilessly told. But a documentary has no cleansing effect, and that is the book's grave shortcoming.



Dr. P. G. Krishnayya, Indian editor and publisher of New York, entertaining visitors to the United Nations. Second from Left is Leela Rao, daughter of the late A. V. Patro who was at one time Commissioner of Police, Madras

MALCOLM MACDONALD

NEW U. K. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA

THE Rt. Hon'ble Malcolm MacDonald, Commissioner-General for the United Kingdom in South-East Asia has been appointed High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in India in succession to Sir Alexander Clutterbuck. Mr. MacDonald will take up his new post at the beginning of September.

Mr. MacDonald has been concerned with Commonwealth affairs for a great part of his life. He was born into politics, the second son of the late Ramsay MacDonald. He was educated at Bedales, the co-educational school, and went up to Oxford as an exhibitioner to Queen's College, taking an honours degree in modern history. He stayed on at Oxford to take a diploma in economics, and then made his first acquaintance of the Commonwealth at the age of 23—he was born in 1901,—as a member of a debating team of three which the University sent out on a world tour, visiting the United States, Canada, Hawaii, Fiji, Australia and New Zealand.

After his world tour he went out to the Pacific again as Secretary to the British delegation to the Conference of the Institute of Pacific Relations held in Honolulu, and attended the Institute's next biennial conference in 1929 at Kyoto, Japan. He travelled out via Vancouver, and returned by way of Manchuria, China and Siberia, with a brief visit to Moscow before coming home via Poland and Germany.

In 1927, Mr. MacDonald was elected to the L.C.C. as a Labour member and sat for three years; in the 1929 General Election he entered Parliament as Labour member for the Bassetlaw Division of Notts, which he had contested twice before, once when still an undergraduate.

He acted as secretary to his father, the Prime Minister, at the Naval Conference of 1930, and at the Impe-



Malcolm MacDonald

rial Conference of the same year was liaison officer to the Press.

Then came the economic crisis of 1931, the formation of the National Government, and the split in the Labour Party. Ramsay MacDonald gave his son the same advice that he gave to junior members of his Government—to consider their future as Labour politicians and to go into opposition, with his blessing, if they thought best. Malcolm, however, chose to throw in his lot with his father. He was duly expelled from the Labour Party along with the other Labour members who joined the National Government; but although it was a time of bitterness and feelings ran high, he retained the personal friendship of his old colleagues, who respected his loyalty if not sharing his convictions.

Mr. MacDonald became Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Dominions Office. On taking office he

made an intensive study of the history of the various Commonwealth countries and their economic relations with other countries; he went out to Canada to the Ottawa Conference in 1932 and scored a Parliamentary triumph with his speech in the debate on the Ottawa agreements, when he was given the signal honour of winding up the debate on behalf of the Government. In 1934 he went out to Australia again to attend the Victoria centenary celebration and went on to visit New Zealand; as Chairman of the Departmental Commission on Empire Settlement appointed in 1933 he made a special study of settlement problems and issued a report after his return.

In May 1935 Mr. Malcolm MacDonald became a Cabinet Minister as Secretary of State for the Colonies, and was created a Privy Councillor. Later the same year Mr. MacDonald became Secretary of State for the Dominions. Then came the General Election. Like his father, he lost his seat. He stood the next year in a by-election for Ross and Cromarty and won with a 3,000 majority. He remained at the Dominions Office until August, 1938; one of his successes was the Anglo-Irish agreement of that year, to whose consummation two years of hard work on his part and many conferences and discussions with Mr. De Valera had contributed in no small part. In August 1938 MacDonald returned to the Colonial Office, where he remained—taking on, in addition, the post of Dominions Secretary for a couple of months at the end of the year—until 1940.

When Mr. Churchill formed his government in May 1940, MacDonald was appointed Minister of Health, and for nearly a year worked on the home front concerned chiefly with evacuation plans and shelter problems of the Battle of Britain. In February 1941 he was appointed High Commissioner for the U.K. in Canada where he proved a great success.

Mr. MacDonald had retained his seat in Parliament while High Commissioner—it took an Act of Parliament to enable him to do so—but he decided not to stand again at the

General Election in 1945. It would have meant leaving Canada before the end of his term, and he was reluctant to do so. He left finally in the spring of 1946, to receive a new and important Commonwealth appointment; the Labour Government sent him out to be the first Governor-General of the new Malayan Union and the new colony of Singapore; his sphere of authority included also North Burma, the new colony of Sarawak and the protected state of Brunei.

HIS difficulties began at once, for the new form of government embodied in the Malayan Union was not popular, and MacDonald held consultations and discussions with the Malayan Sultans and the United Malay National Organisation and submitted new proposals. Eventually the new constitution came into being in February 1948 as the Malayan Federation. Shortly afterwards Lord Killearn's appointment as Special Commissioner to South East Asia, with special responsibility for the food programme came to an end, and his post was combined with that of MacDonald, who received the new title of Commissioner-General for the United Kingdom in South East Asia. In his relations with foreign territories he was given the personal rank of Ambassador.

Malcolm MacDonald in 1946 married Audrey Fellowes Rowley, a Canadian whom he met shortly before leaving Canada, widow of an officer killed in the Rhine campaign. The MacDonalds lived for a time in Johore Bahru in the Sultan of Johore's palace, but moved to Singapore island in December, 1952. The MacDonalds have one daughter and Mrs. MacDonald has a son and daughter by her first marriage. Mr. MacDonald has made a host of friends, British, Indian, Malayan and Chinese; like Lord Wavell in India, he has made a name for himself for his dislike of formality in dress as well as manners. Malcolm MacDonald's hobbies include golf and reading; he has a library of more than 5,000 books. He also is an authority on wild bird life and has written a book on the subject.

WONDERS OF ATOMICS AND ELECTRONICS

The Fabulous Future

IN a recent issue of *Fortune* magazine David Sarnoff, chairman of the Radio Corporation of America, looks backward at scientific achievements and forward to the progress which he believes will characterise the next 25 years.

Writing of "The Fabulous Future," he first recalls some of the developments of the past 100 years, a period that "compassed more technological achievement than the millennia that preceded."

Some of the most conspicuous inventions were electric light, power and communications; the radio; motor vehicles; mass production in industry; a knowledge of astronomy that has infinitely extended man's conception of the universe; and, in biological and medical sciences, the germ theory of disease which has led to the conquest of man's worst scourges in the field of disease, and the discovery of anesthetics and antibiotics or "wonder drugs."

Sarnoff then brought his survey closer to the present by mentioning several of the leading developments of the last 25 years. These included television, nuclear energy, jet planes, penicillin and the new synthetic fabrics.

He believes that in the next 25 years the world will see "centuries of development telescoped into a brief span," and he also makes the following striking prediction: "The quantity of the new powers and products and processes at man's disposal is important; but even more important is the increasing speed at which these things have come. It is not a case of continued increase, but of continued acceleration of increase. We need only to project the curve into the future to realize that we are merely on the threshold of the technological age."

Some of the developments of the

next 25 years, according to Sarnoff, will include electronic lighting that will change the appearance of our homes, stores, factories, streets and cities; nuclear power applied to the operation of factories and machines, including ships, locomotives, aircraft and automobiles; and atomic batteries that will provide electric current for years without recharging.

Other developments may be the practical use of power derived from the sun, tides and winds; new metals and fabrics; the extraction of salt from ocean water to irrigate vast desert regions; guided missiles for civilian use, such as transmission of mail; and pilotless aircraft.

In addition, we should see improved medical diagnosis and treatment that will greatly lengthen the present lifespan; electronic machines that will compute, remember and file information; automatic factory equipment that will select, test, check and handle raw materials and finished products; and practical ways of making available the oceans' wealth of chemicals and foods, in addition to the oil that is now being obtained from the ocean floor.

Such predictions coming from a less well-informed authority might seem exaggerated, but when a man of Sarnoff's reputation sees the possibility of such remarkable new developments, there is more than a possibility that they can be realised.

"The very fact that electronics and atomics are unfolding simultaneously is a portent of the amazing changes ahead," Sarnoff says. "Never before have two such mighty forces been unleashed at the same time. Together they are certain to dwarf the industrial revolutions brought about by steam and electricity. There is no element of material progress we know today—in the biological and chemical fields, in atomics and electronics, in engineering and physics—that will not seem, from the vantage point of 1980, a fumbling prelude."

SOCIAL REFORM IN EGYPT AND THE SUDAN

By EDWARD ALIYAH

ONE of the ironies of the history of Britain's relations with her former dependencies in the Middle East is that even during periods of political tension—and while these dependencies were striving for complete independence from all foreign control—they were, in many respects, following British examples in their political and social life. This is especially true of the period since the end of the war—that is to say, during the last 10 years, which saw the establishment of Britain's Welfare State, with its social-insurance, health, and educational services.

Awaking to the responsibilities of their new independent life, acutely conscious of their own social problems and seeing the danger of the growth of Communism in such conditions, the Arab States were greatly impressed and encouraged by Britain's success in establishing her Welfare State, and turned increasingly to her for inspiration and example in the field of social reform.

This was particularly the case in Egypt and the Sudan, though the reasons for it were different in the two countries, as was the manner in which the British example made its impact. In the Sudan the British were still, until a year ago, in supreme control of the Government, though they were training and preparing the Sudanese for independence.

Direct Relations

They and the Sudanese were in the direct relationship of masters and pupils, within the framework of one administration. British ideas could be communicated to the future rulers of the Sudan by those who were actually equipping them for the tasks of government and handing authority over to them. Moreover, the British were in a position to make a positive contribution to the structure of the new Sudan by initi-

ating, or helping the Sudanese to initiate, many measures of social reform and economic development.

In Egypt it was different. The British had no authority over the Egyptian Government. No direct teaching or learning went on between them and the Egyptians at the administrative level. But the influence of the British example became very strong from the moment the new military regime was established.

Two reasons contributed in a special measure to this result. First, the new Egyptian Government of Col. Nasser is essentially a reforming government imbued with the conviction that only timely reform of the whole Egyptian social and economic system can keep Communism out. Looking at the world around them, they see that one of the countries that have most successfully combated the Communist menace is Britain. Hence it is natural for them to seek inspiration from her.

English Background

Secondly, as a shrewd observer in Cairo pointed out to me, the present military Government is the first Egyptian government to be composed of British—rather than French-educated men. Civilian governments of the past derived mostly from the lawyer class, and their foreign language was French. The foreign language of the officers now ruling Egypt is, on the other hand, English, and in talking to them one can trace their political and economic ideas back to British sources—the London School of Economics, the Fabian Society, the Webbs, Bernard Shaw.

When I was in Egypt two months ago, I was struck by the extent to which both the conceptions and the terminology of the British Welfare State are a feature of the new Egypt. I visited the Social Services Commission, whose function is to plan

May 21 1955



Prepared from deodorised Neem oil by a special process. Its emollient and antiseptic rich lather removes germs and dirt, goes deep into the pores and cleanses the skin thoroughly. It thus tones up and revitalises the skin. It is delightfully perfumed and is harmless to the tenderest skin.

A CALCHEMICO PRODUCT

Madras Office:

5/149, Broadway,

MADRAS-1.

for reform and expansion in the fields of health and education. There I was delighted to meet an old friend of mine, a distinguished Egyptian doctor who had studied medicine many years before at Edinburgh and gone back to Egypt full of schemes for combating tuberculosis and bilharzia, for improving health conditions in the villages, and for supplying peasants with clean drinking water.

For many years he had been unable to carry out any of these schemes, but now he was a medical adviser on the Social Services Commission, and many of the ideas he had derived from Edinburgh were being put into practice. I visited one of the so-called "combined units" which are being built in the provinces to provide medical, education, and agricultural facilities for the rural population.

Labour Legislation

In the Sudan, the British contribution is to be most clearly seen in the very up-to-date system of labour legislation introduced a few years ago, providing for the formation of trade unions with full rights to bargain collectively and to strike, and safeguarding the workers' interests in all respects.

The British contribution is equally visible in the widespread network of local councils through which the people are learning to administer their own affairs at every level and in the great nationalised cotton-growing industry of the Gezira scheme.

But whether in Egypt or the Sudan, the influence of British ideas and example is to be felt not so much in this or that particular project or department as in the now firm conviction that the Government must aim at the establishment of a Welfare State with adequate social services for all its citizens, and in the accepted principle underlying that conviction, that the welfare of the individual citizen is the responsibility of the community.

This, above all, is what Britain has imparted to the new Egypt and the new Sudan; and I felt it wherever I went in both countries.

May 21 1955

SWATANTRA

FILMS

By V. P. SATHE

A GUJRATI film weekly from Ahmedabad recently conducted readers' poll at the behest of progressive producers like Bimal Roy, Rajinder Singh Bedi, Abbas and others to find out whether realistic pictures were not liked at all by the audience.

The letters published by the weekly reveal that there are two distinct categories of picturegoers. A section of picturegoers wants pure escapist entertainment and nothing else; another section wants pictures to be instructive, realistic and purposeful. But such a section is in the minority. The conclusion that the editor of the weekly had drawn from these letters is that the picturegoers do not want too much of realism or too much of entertainment. A purely slapstick entertainer like *Joru Ka Bhai* has as little chance of success as a truly realistic film as *Garm Coat*.

Indeed time and again, it has been proved that just pure slapstick comedy never succeeds at the box-office in India. The comedy has to be supplemented by romance, drama and music to make it palatable to our audiences. That is why Agha and Om Prakash are 'hits' as side comedians but when they become the star-heroes, their pictures invariably flop, as is evident from the failure of *Duniya Gol Hai*, *Ghungroo*, *Nazare* and other pictures.

On the other hand, a grim tragedy has also never been successful, especially if its theme is not emotional but economic as in the case of *Dharti Ke Lal* or *Garm Coat*. The realism can be sold with robust optimism, showmanship and music as Raj Kapoor has successfully done in *Boot Polish*.

So in future all progressive producers will have to take into considera-

tion the picturegoers' antipathy towards grim realism and their liking for music and light entertainment in shaping their progressive and realistic themes into screenplays.

But more than the failure of *Garm Coat*, *Naukri* the amazing success of *Nagin* has astonished the progressives. They are yet unable to understand how a picture which most of the critics—including this humble scribe—criticised severely and predicted a flop has proved to be the greatest box-office hit of all times. Why is *Nagin* such a success? Is it because of its songs which have undoubtedly now proved popular? Is it because of the Gevacolor dance of Vyjayantimala and her youthful personality? Or is it the haunting *Been?* There must be something more to attract people so much to see a picture the story of which has been told so often in different garbs in our films.

While the producers are busy analysing the formula of success of *Nagin* the picture itself is expected to do double the business of *Anarkali* and *Chandrulekha* and establish an all-time record for every city, state and the whole nation. Unable to find any cogent reason for its success, most of the critics ascribe its success to the phenomenal luck of Jalan, the boss of Filmistan today.

Picture of the week

Nakshab was one of the really good poets of our filmland; but since he became a producer he seems to have lost interest in poetry and become a businessman.

As a producer, his first failure in *Nishana* shook him; but the success of *Nagma* restored all his confidence with the result that he made *Raftar* on his own without selling the picture for any territory confident that it will yield great profits.

Raftar is made with both eyes on box office and as such it would be futile to expect any delicacy or artistry that characterizes Nakshab's lyrics and Gazals in it. Based on an intriguing story by Akhtar-Ul-Lon, *Raftar* has all the twists and gags to make the story appealing at the box office.

It begins in an orphanage where the elder brother takes on himself the blame of stealing a watch, to save the younger brother. The younger brother Rajan, is adopted by a rich man; while the elder brother runs away from the orphanage and later becomes a dacoit.

Rajan grows up into a fine youth and is engaged to a dancer whose behaviour he loaths. He comes into contact with Nirmal, a coolie-cum-chauffeur who ultimately turns out to be a girl, and falls in love with her. Rajan's father, however, persuaded Nirmal to leave the house and town.

By accident she comes into contact with the elder brother whom she nurses and who in turn falls for her. The triangle is thus perfect and it ends with the elder brother sacrificing for Rajan and helping the lovers to unite.

On the credit side of the picture is Talat's excellent performance as Rajan. He seems to have got over his nervousness and for the first time

he acts with ease and sureness on the screen. Nadira is good when she is dressed up as boy. Their romance is well handled though the taking of songs is rather amateurish and artificial. The page-boy hair style gives a very un-Indian appearance to Nadira, and ruins the effect of most of the scenes in which she appears as the girl. The music itself is very catchy, and the tunes like *Preet Ki Reet Nibhana* are bound to be very popular.

On the debit side is the crude handling of the whole story and the comic interludes of a servant speaking in feminine voice. Moreover, a talented artiste like Baby Naaz is utterly wasted in a superfluous role. It is a pity that Nakshab who has presented Nadira and Talat so well could not utilize the talents of Baby Naaz.

The success or failure of *Raftar* will be dependent on how people take to Nakshab's formula of box-office; but apart from its alleged box office appeal, there is nothing in the picture to boast of.

INDO COMMERCIAL BANK LIMITED

(Established 1932)

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudalliar, K.C.S.I., D.C.L., (Oxon.)
(Chairman)

OFFICES IN MADRAS CITY

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Road: Triplicane;
Mylapore: and Theagarayanagar.

BRANCHES

Ambasamudram, Ambur (N. A. Dist.), Chidambaram, Cuddalore, Erode, Kancheepuram, Karaikudi, Kumbakonam, Mathurai, Mayavaram, Palghat, Pudukottah, Ramnad, Shiyali, Tanjore, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli Town, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Vijayapuram, Villupuram & Virudhunagar.

DEPOSIT RATES

Rates of interest on Deposits are as follows:

SAVINGS BANK: 2½% p.a.

MONTHLY DEPOSITS & CASH CERTIFICATES will yield 4% to 4½% p.a. according to period

FIXED DEPOSITS:

City: 3% p.a. for 1 year and 3½% p.a. for 2 years
Mofussil: 3½% p.a. for 1 year and 4½% p.a. for 2 years.

S. KRISHNASWAMI,
Secretary.

Personality of the week

At last an Indian star has won international acclaim. And this honour for the first time bestowed on an Indian star has not gone to any veteran artiste, but teen-aged Baby Naaz for her wonderful performance in *Boot Polish*.

It will be recalled that at Cannes International Festival, two Indian pictures were shown, viz., *Boot Polish* and *Biraj Bahu*. And this is the first time that an Indian picture was mentioned in the award-list; true, the picture itself did not get any award. But Baby Naaz won a special prize for portrayal in *Boot Polish* along with Pablito Calvo, a Spanish star.

The prize was well-merited. For there is no doubt that Baby Naaz's performance in *Boot Polish* was an outstanding piece of work. All the Indian critics had acclaimed it.

Baby Naaz has been acting on the Indian screen for the last few years; daughter of a film personality who is still interested in film production, she was born to be an artiste. And yet, but for *Boot Polish* she did not get a single assignment worthy of note. Even after her sensational triumph in this picture, during the last year and half she has not been able to get any good role as is evident from pictures like *Raftar* and *Chandni Chowk*.

The real fact is that we have no stories affording real scope to child artistes; and as such all our child stars including Ratan, Romi and Naaz are stagnating.

Talented as she is, Naaz of late has become rather too precocious and talks in a manner which hardly becomes her age. Moreover, she is growing fast and within a few years she might grow up into a full-fledged heroine. Meanwhile, it is hoped that she will get an opportunity to display her talent and score another triumph like *Boot Polish* which has brought her international praise.

On this happy occasion one extends hearty felicitations to her and to Raj Kapoor who was in no

small measure responsible for Naaz's success.



INDIAN STUDENTS IN U. S.

THE past three years have seen a steady increase in the number of Indian students enrolled at American schools and colleges with the total today reaching between the 1700 and 1800 mark.

A survey just completed by the International Institute of Education reveals that the total is more than 400 above the enrollment three years ago and is almost 20 times the number of Indians who came to the United States to study a decade ago.

Male students, the survey shows, outnumber female students six to one but the Institute notes that the feminine representation is growing year by year.

Among the academic fields chosen by the Indians engineering is a consistent favourite, with mechanical, chemical and electrical specialities ranking at the top of the list. Next among the favourites are the physical and natural sciences—biology, chemistry, geology, mathematics and physics.

Third most popular academic choice, the Institute reveals, is social science with medical science, the humanities, business, agriculture and education following in that order of preference.

Popular centers for Indian students are the University of Michigan, Wisconsin, Chicago, Ohio State and Purdue.

Employment prospects when students return home are bright and positions are offered to the majority of the students. In some fields, however, students find it difficult at first to adjust to lower salaries than they expected.

Indians, according to the International Institute represent the third largest group of overseas students studying in the United States. Canada ranks first and Nationalist China second. The total overseas student population in the United States this year is estimated at over 34,000.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor welcomes letters on subjects of general interest or topics arising out of articles printed in SWATANTRA but reserves the right to abridge them.

Rajaji's Campaign For Ban On Nuclear Weapons

Sir,—May I say a few words in defence of truth to correct certain mis-statements in Sri P. N. Sampath's article in last week's Swatantra "In defence of Rajaji"?

He asks: "Where was this 'pure humanity' (of the United States) when famine was taking a heavy toll of lives a few years back and when we were desperately wrestling with the food problem? Those were days when surplus food was wantonly destroyed in America. The burning of coffee, and the destruction of wheat represented a serious misdirection of productive power that was badly needed elsewhere. When they at last decided to supply us wheat, it was too rotten for human consumption. All this is common knowledge." I submit that this is not common knowledge. On the contrary, an avowed anti-American could not have more completely distorted the facts. The fact is that the American Government, as distinct from some Republican Congressmen, wished to make a gift of wheat to India to relieve the food shortage, but the Indian Government, for their own reasons, preferred to receive it on a loan basis. The supervision of wheat exports was done by Indian Embassy officials and if some "rotten wheat" was sent the mistake was at least as much that of Indian officials as of Americans. It is absurd to suggest that all the two million tons of wheat received in India were "rotten." Neither coffee nor wheat was being burnt at the time India was facing food shortage. In any case, if the coffee grower in Brazil—the U.S. by the way is not a grower but an importer of coffee—preferred to use his coffee as fuel instead of exporting it at uneconomic prices, there is no meaning in accusing the American Government for that.

That all atomic weapons should be brought under international control as quickly as possible if humanity is to be saved is one thing. This cannot be achieved by describing America as the villain of the piece. Nor is any purpose served by continuing the issue of Prohi-

bition of atomic tests with the question of accepting American aid. India's acceptance of such aid, which is governed solely by considerations of India's interests, is irrelevant to the question of bringing the pressure of international opinion on all countries to observe the principles of humanity and decency in carrying out atomic tests.

Madras

V. K. NARASIMHAN

(ii)

Sir,—The observations of Sri Sampath have not convinced me in any way. To my mind the views of the Editor represent the intelligent opinion of the majority of Indians who are bound more by their momentary material gains than the spiritual benefits one may derive by the policy advocated by C. R. As Sri V. K. Krishna Menon said the other day, accepting or not accepting foreign aid is a national decision and in this respect we must follow what the Government desires in the country's interests. I do not therefore see any reason why one should chafe at the Swatantra editorial.

Nandyal

P. NAGARAJA RAO

(iii)

Sir,—With all the respect due to Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, it is difficult to follow his arguments that America should unilaterally abandon atomic tests, atomic weapons and the use of atomic power for

(Continued from page 6)

The Government can no doubt find technical justification for any high-handedness it would like to practise. And Sri Gopala Reddi has not, even after becoming Chief Minister, totally rid himself of unwholesome influences. Thus a highly disreputable figure in the local politics of his district on whose moral turpitude in a famous case the High Court had passed the severest strictures, still continues to be one of his closest hangers-on. If Sri Gopala Reddi were to practise patronage of the infamous with persecution of the noble-minded no majority in the legislature could save him. Sri Dhebar should start his campaign of purifying the Congress at Kurnool. The policy of persecuting good men will make Andhra go over to the Communists long before the next elections for all the plans with the crores poured into them that the Congress is so busy about.

SAKA

peaceful purposes, and that India should boycott American aid as a protest against American atomic policies. His main argument is that if America and Britain led the way, Russia would follow suit. It depends more on faith than on reason. It is true that America was the first nation to develop and use the atom bomb. It does not, however, follow that having since developed atomic weapons, Russia will abandon them just to follow America. C.R. has himself declared Communism as his Enemy No. 1, and did his best to stamp it out in India. Russia has made no secret of its mission to universalise Communism by violence. Its mission is not yet fulfilled.

Both America and Russia are conducting atomic tests. And the tests are equally dangerous to the world. The only difference is that more is known of the American than of the Russian tests, because of the greater freedom of information in the former than in the latter. Further, there are scientists and laymen in America who can and who do tell the world of the dangers of atomic tests and weapons. It is doubtful if there are any of the kind in Russia. If any country needs friendly warning from India, it is Russia and not America.

To advocate the abandonment of atomic research for peaceful uses lest an accident should destroy the world seems more the result of unnecessary panic than reasoned fears. All that can be urged is that all possible precautions should be taken to avoid it. Even such warning seems superfluous for the researchers may themselves be its first victims.

The plea that India should boycott American non-military aid as a sanction against American atomic policy needs a lot of convincing. India is likely to lose both ways; she will lose the aid and not restrain America. There is no need for India to decline American aid lest it should affect the independence of her policy. Even if it be granted that the other nations which took the American line in Bandung did so because of the American aid they received, India has proved, by the different line that she took, that she was not hampered by the American aid that she too has been receiving.

Let India plead for the abandonment of violence, and more particularly of atomic violence, by everybody, and not seem to condemn America and condone Russia.

Bangalore

P. KODANDA RAO

(iv)

Sir,—Apropos your editorial in Swatantra of the 8th instant, permit me to state that I was surprised to find such slashing criticism against C.R.'s proposal for

banning nuclear weapons. I would have been glad indeed had it been less personal and more purposeful, but instead, it tended to be one more chapter to the serial invective that is heaped on C. R. for anything and everything.

You have completely missed the fact that C.R., while making his proposal, had no personal axe to grind but was voicing the anxious thoughts of millions and crusading for the cause of peace and humanity in general. Had the same emanated from one of less stature politically and morally, it would have been lost in the wilderness. His appeal to the Government to reject aid from U.S. stems from an anxiety to vindicate the moral uprightness of our country. Sri Deshmukh has stated that the foreign aid expected during the second Five Year Plan period is 250 crores, whereas the Plan amount is 6,000 crores, thus working out to less than 5 per cent. Even assuming that the entire amount comes from U. S. can our country go without it when more than 1,000 crores are to be met by deficit financing alone?

To expect unilateral action in destroying the stockpile of nuclear weapons from America, may not be a commonsense solution to the problem. Perhaps C. R. might have been deluded by the much vaunted moral superiority of the West, standing as they claim for the preservation of God's creation. But he would have been sobered by now after seeing U.S. reject the Soviet proposal for abolishing nuclear weapons by trying to tag to it all sorts of impossible conditions.

Your argument against C.R.'s theme solely rests on the incorrect premises that the present political tension is a result of fear of Russia's might. It is repeatedly admitted by Western strategists that the stockpile of nuclear weapons with the West exceeds Russia's and the West's inferiority in ground forces does not matter much in the present day strategic warfare. After going through your editorial I am rather forced to conclude that your defence of America is prompted not so much in approbation to her acts in the international field as a disinclination to accept C.R.'s views. But you pose no alternative to the dreadful suspense we are living through now, and there C.R. is far better, however impracticable you may consider his suggestion to be. For one who has the courage to speak out not only his mind but those of millions of others and is prepared to show the warring world a way out, to be told that his pension is a gag on his freedom to speak and his endeavours to save mankind, smacks a bit of ingratitude smeared with insolence.

Hyderabad

P. PADMANABHAN

May 21 1955

(v)

Sir,—Your editorials on Rajaji's appeal for drastic action to prevent thermo-nuclear explosion tests were well written; but they seem to have overlooked the main point involved. Rajaji's appeal for refusing American aid has always been made in the particular context of the atomic tests. The refusal was intended to shock Americans into the realisation that the Indian people would not mind suffering on their own slender resources if that would help in saving the world from the awful aftermath of diabolic madness. The refusal to take aid, considered in this context, is a mode of approach quite in accordance with the technique of the Indian people as represented by Gandhiji. To tag this approach to the Communists' game would be just —er—not so wise for an adult.

Personally I feel that, on the face of the unchallengeable evidence of eminent scientists, enlightened people have but one course before them viz, to condemn, with all the power at their disposal, the powers and the Governmental bosses who go ahead with the production of these weapons and the tests incidental thereto. Refusal of aid may perhaps not be, in your opinion, an effective method of condemnation. The alternative, however, would not be to dabble in an academic argument but to use the powerful medium of the journal under your editorial control for the prevention of these tests, adding if possible, your own suggestion for remedy. Anyway in this matter, let us all constantly bear in mind one supreme factor: let not the flowers of the future wither into deformity by the heat of our madness.

Mysore

B. RAMACHANDRAN

Inter-University Discrimination

Sir,—The question as to whether admission to Utkal University colleges can be refused to students from other Indian universities has been referred by us to the Ministry of Education, Union Government.

The need for referring the matter to the Education Ministry (Central) arose because the management of the Berhampur Kallikote College has refused admission to a student (P. Sundarasankara Rao) who passed his S.S.L.C. from the Kesari High School, Madras, on the ground that "the courses of study of the S.S.L.C. of the Madras University and that of the Utkal University are fundamentally different." This is the view taken by no less a man than the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court who is the Vice-President of the Kallikote College managing committee.

The Assistant Registrar of the Utkal University to whom a reference was made in this connection, however, wrote saying that a candidate who has passed the S.S.L.C. examination from the Madras University is eligible for admission into the Intermediate course of Utkal University.

But admission as stated above has been refused by the authorities of the Kallikote College which is affiliated to the Utkal University. The matter has therefore been referred to the Union Education Ministry as no relief came from the University authorities and as the boy had to forego his studies on this account during the whole of last year (1954-55).

In connection with this matter the Union Education Ministry referred the case to the Utkal University and enquired as to whether candidates from the Madras University are refused admission to Utkal University quoting the case of this particular student.

The question has also been taken up with the Central Education Minister by Dr. Lanka Sundaram, M.P. who was kind enough to send me the text of the reply he got from Mr. Humayun Kabir, Educational Adviser to the Government of India. Mr. Kabir says: "The Ministry fully agrees with you that there should be uniformity in the recognition by Indian universities of qualifications awarded by them. The matter was taken up with the Inter University Board as early as 1952. The Board suggested that specific cases of non-recognition be brought to their notice. Accordingly some specific cases of non-recognition of some of the universities by others were referred to the Board and settled satisfactorily. This practice is being followed in any fresh instance of non-recognition that may be brought to the attention of this Ministry. We are however taking up again the general question both with the Inter University Board and the University Grants Commission. So far as the case of Sri P. Sundarasankara Rao is concerned, we are making enquiries from the Utkal University."

It is well that the Central Education Ministry has taken up this matter. What is surprising is that a college affiliated to the Utkal University should have refused admission to a student from the Madras University on the ground that there is a fundamental difference in the courses of study of the two universities while the Utkal University authorities see no such objection. It is hoped that as a result of the Central Education Ministry's intervention such anomalies will cease to recur.

Berhampore

M. V. RAMANA RAO

29/9/55

93664