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JUNE 1957

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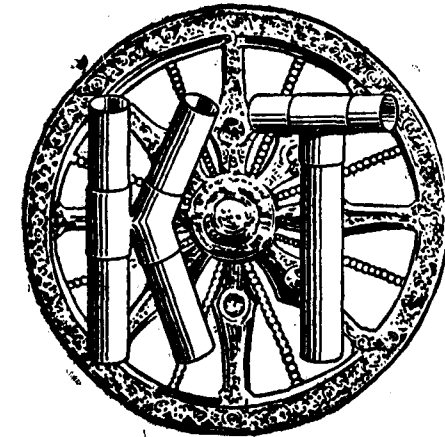
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JUNE 1957 : DETAILED CONTENTS

[No. 6

Urgency of Land Reforms By Shriman Narayan	241	The Tales (Clara Barton) By Verus	263
The Revolt of 1857 at Azamgarh By Dr. Nandal Chatterji	244	Tragedy and Sanskrit Drama By Dr. S. R. K. Rao	265
The Republic of India By Mr. Naren B. Joshi	248	World of Books	269
The Telugu Literature By Shri B. Gopal Reddy	250	Indians Outside India	271
The U.S.A. and the Baghdad Pact By Shri Aditya Prasad Sen Gupta M.A.	251	Diary of the Month	272
Sri Ramakrishna and Wordly Life By Dr. A. C. Das, M.A., Ph.D.	252	Readers' Digest	273
The Menace of Nuclear Radiation By Mr. P. N. Sampath	255	Questions of Importance	281
The Central Budget	256	Utterances of the Day	282
Rajput Painting—Its Characteristics By Mr. C. L. Jaha, M.A.	260	Political and Personal	283
Mauritius—A Forgotten Colony By Mr. R. H. Parker	261	Educational	284
		Legal	285
		Trade and Finance	286
		Women's Page	287
		General	288

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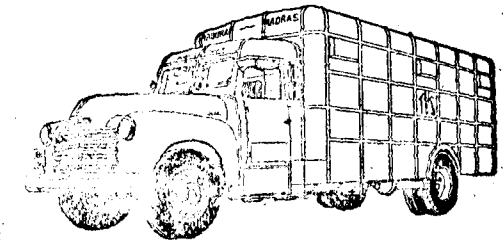
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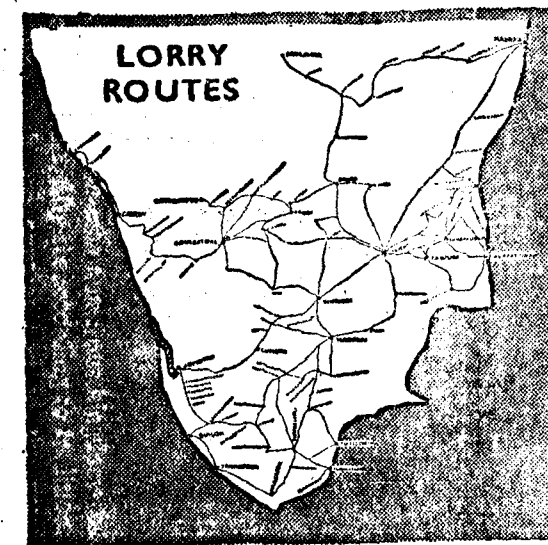
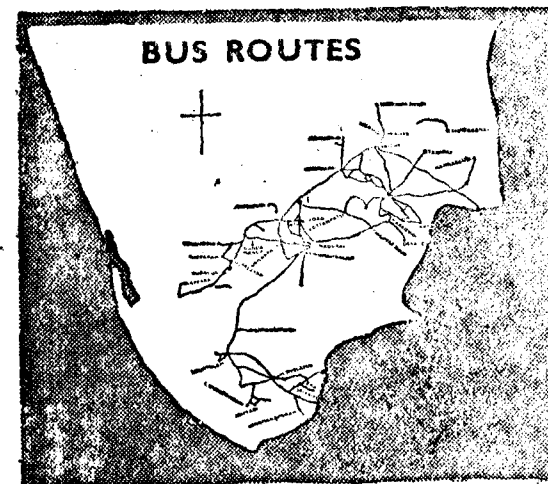
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Managing Editor: MANIAN NATESAN

Vol. 58]

JUNE 1957

[No. 6]

Urgency of Land Reforms

BY

SHRIMAN NARAYAN

AFTER the second general elections new Ministries are being constituted in the different States of India. People, naturally, look to these new Cabinets with renewed hope and expectation. The experience gained during the recent elections is very explicit at least on one point, namely that the people will support that party or candidates in whom they have implicit confidence to the effect that they would try their utmost to do good to them with efficiency and integrity. The next five years are of crucial importance from both the internal as well as international points of view. As we have often stated, the elections are not an end by themselves; they are only a means to the basic objective of ameliorating the social and economic conditions of the masses.

During the Second Five-year Plan we have to tackle firmly the problem of unemployment and under-employment. We have to increase by about 30 percent our agricultural production both in order to provide balanced diet to our people as also to earn foreign exchange for importing capital goods. We have also to try our best to raise the average income of the people by 25 percent. Besides the development of heavy industries, India has to spread a network of small-scale, village and cottage industries in order to absorb the idle man-power and to add to the meagre incomes of the middle poorer sections of our population. Implementing these provisions under the Second Five-

year Plan will require all the care and devotion of the new Ministries in different States. They will have to take up this work in right earnest without any loss of time.

But, more than anything else, the problem of land redistribution will have to be taken up in all seriousness almost immediately. Acharya Vinoba Bhave has been focusing the attention of the Indian leaders on the urgent need for distributing land to the landless labourers quickly through his Bhoodan movement. He has eminently succeeded in this important task and has collected about 4.5 million acres of land in different parts of the country. Although the distribution of land by Bhoodan workers has not been as speedy as was expected, the fact remains that Vinobaji's Bhoodan movement has proved to be one of the most revolutionary movement of economic reforms through non-violent methods. It has created a very healthy and favourable climate for the introduction of progressive and radical land reforms. It is our duty to take full advantage of this favourable atmosphere for introducing the requisite land legislation in different States. It must be admitted frankly that the progress of land reforms in India has not been as satisfactory as it should have been. Even foreign friends of India like Mr. Chester Bowles who are otherwise satisfied about the economic development of the country, have repeatedly

expressed their disappointment about land reforms.

We must now squarely face the fact that it will not be possible to create the necessary enthusiasm among the people without undertaking speedy land reforms both for providing additional employment to our population as well as for increasing agricultural production. Land is the basic gift of nature which man can neither increase nor decrease. Land reforms, therefore, should not be compared with other economic reforms and should be treated on a separate footing with a sense of urgency. It is sometimes argued that the Government should introduce progressive land reforms only after introducing similar economic measures in the urban or industrial sector. While there is some force in the argument, we should not lose sight of the fact that land cannot be treated on par with other types of wealth which are created by man out of raw materials. Moreover, those possessing land cannot be prevented from supplementing their incomes by other avocations and economic activities. For example, redistribution of land among the landless population by the imposition of ceilings could be followed by the development of small-scale and cottage industries in the country-side on a co-operative basis. That is how countries like China and Japan have been able to tackle the economic problem arising out of the increasing pressure of population.

Under the Second Five-year Plan, land reforms include the complete abolition of intermediaries. Although most of the States have already abolished the intermediary agencies, a few small pockets still remain where further action is imperative, such as temporarily settled estates in Assam, zamindaris in Rajasthan, minor intermediary tenures such as service inams and other minor inams in a number of States. It is also necessary to speed up the payment of compensation particularly to small intermediaries and to widows and minors. Abolition of intermediaries should not cause

undue hardship and harassment to those who are affected by it.

It is also necessary to enact tenancy reforms in order to give full security of tenure to all tenants and to stop forthwith various types of evictions and ejectments. Tenants and sub-tenants in various States have been subject to considerable difficulties owing to contemplated land reforms. A certain amount of delay in enacting such land reforms has given rise to numerous ejectments and it is essential to issue the necessary orders for stopping all such ejectments immediately. Much mischief has already been done and it is our duty to provide security of tenure and cultivation to the tillers of the soil without any further delay.

So far as the resumption for "personal cultivation" is concerned, it is necessary to define the meaning of "personal cultivation" in very clear terms. Putting in a minimum amount of personal labour on land should be a fundamental requisite for resuming land for personal cultivation. Merely investing capital and supervising cultivation generally should not be regarded as enough for this purpose. Because the definition of "personal cultivation" has been generally defective in the past, in a number of States crop-sharing arrangements which have all the characteristics of tenancy have not been regarded as such and crop sharers are denied the rights allowed to tenants. This defect should also be removed as early as possible.

Regulation of rent is another type of land reform which is now over due. In the First Five Year Plan it was stated that the rate of rent exceeding one-fourth or one-fifth of the produce should be regarded as requiring special justification. Progress in the regulation of rents has been uneven and in several States legislation lags behind. It is, therefore, desirable that the rents should be brought down to the level recommended in the First Five Year Plan. In addition to the usual form of regulation of

rents it may be useful also to fix the maximum rent as a multiple of land revenue.

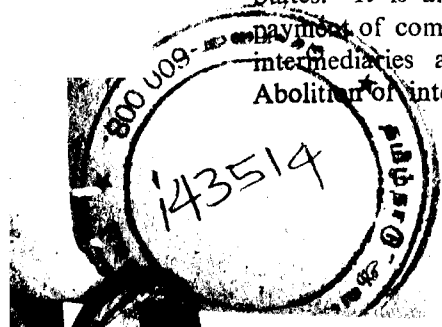
Above all, it is essential to fix ceiling on agricultural holdings in all the States without any further delay. The principle that there should be absolute limit to the amount of land which an individual may hold was commended in the First Five Year Plan. The Second Five Year Plan has laid down specific recommendations in regard to the fixation of ceilings on land holdings. The exemptions provided in the Plan are also fairly liberal. There should, therefore, be no fear that the total agricultural production will suffer as a result of the imposition of the ceilings. Experience gained in many countries clearly indicates that average production on land does not increase with the size of holdings. Mechanised agriculture on large farms does not increase productivity per acre; it only increases the productive capacity of one unit of labour. It is, therefore, wrong to think that imposition of land ceilings will tend to decrease the productivity of land in terms of the Second Five Year Plan. In fact, the redistribution of land holdings, together with various forms of intensive cultivation, will necessarily increase the total agricultural production in India. State Governments should, therefore, take up the question of ceilings on land holdings seriously and enact the necessary legislation without any further doubts or hesitation.

There has been considerable controversy in regard to the merits of co-operative farming in India. It is now generally believed that introduction of cooperative movement in various processes of agriculture will be very beneficial to the Indian farmers. For example, we must try to introduce cooperative methods in ploughing, weeding, harvesting, irrigation, marketing and manuring. It is, however, not necessary to pool large tracts of land in the form of big cooperative farms. As we have already indicated earlier, the productivity on land does not necessarily increase with the size of farms; on the contrary, production per acre rather tends

to decrease on bigger units of cultivation. It is, therefore, highly desirable, to introduce intensive method of cultivation in our country with the fullest application of cooperative principles. Excessive individualism has been the bane of Indian life through the ages. It is imperative for us to imbibe and practice the principles of mutual help for mutual benefit.

Merely enacting progressive land reforms will not be enough. Our experience shows that the introduction of radical land legislation without setting up a proper and efficient administration for implementing the land laws creates numerous difficulties and harassment to those who are the beneficiaries of such legislation. Even during the recent general elections, it was found that in several states where good land legislation had been adopted, both those who have been deprived of some portions of their land and those who are the beneficiaries, have voted against the ruling party. This should provide enough food for serious thought. Firstly, it is essential to maintain correct and up-to-date land records for the implementation of land reforms. In several States, the land records are being maintained in a very unsatisfactory manner with the result that all new land reforms are impeded at every step. It is also necessary to ensure clean and honest administration particularly at the village level, otherwise, much of the value of progressive land reforms is taken away due to inefficiency and corruption which the villager and the farmer have to face from day to day.

We are confident that all the State Governments will give top priority to the problem of land reforms in their areas as a matter of national duty. Acharya Vinobaji has shown us the non-violent way of solving the difficult problem of land redistribution. The Second Five Year Plan has also laid down a clear picture in regard to the future pattern of land reforms in the country. Both the Bhoodan movement as well as Government legislation should be able to go hand in hand and solve land problem in our country expeditiously. Vinobaji is very keen that this land problem should be solved by the end of this eventful year, 1957. If all the official and non-official agencies put their shoulders to the wheel and concentrate their attention on this aspect of our problem of economic development, it should not be difficult to fulfil the expectations of the Walking Saint.



The Revolt of 1857 at Azamgarh

By

DR. NANDALAL CHATTERJI, M.A., PH.D., D.LITT

SOME recently discovered official papers in Uttar Pradesh show that during the Revolt of 1857 the town and even the countryside of Azamgarh became for several months fully independent of British rule. This independence of course was shortlived, but still it is memorable in the history of India's freedom movement. It is not possible to reconstruct the whole story about the nature and extent of this brief period of freedom. It is a pity that adequate information is not available, for most of the records have perished and, among those which have survived, nearly all the contemporary documents relate to the British point of view. The side of the rebels is practically unrepresented, and, therefore, it is extremely difficult to visualise the story from the Indian standpoint. What little can be known about this is available only indirectly from the British records.

The story of the exploits of the rebels at Azamgarh is eventful, for it unfolds an epic of heroism and sacrifice which are unparalleled, and which unfortunately have not received from the European historians the attention they richly deserve. The European writers have not only ignored the achievement of the rebels, but have also distorted their story and have pictured them as lawless bandits. There is no doubt that when fuller details will be available the Azamgarh chapter of the Revolt will be immortalised in the history of India's freedom movement. From what is already known from the British records, it is quite clear that the rebels gave evidence of a wonderful power of organisation, matchless courage, and burning zeal for and love of the motherland.

On the eve of the Revolt, there were about five-hundred British troops at Azamgarh, belonging to the 17th Indian Infantry. These troops were brigaded with the 19th and 34th

Regiments stationed at Lucknow. Just when the British authorities suspected that a military rising might take place they hurriedly fortified the Collector's Court-House, closing up the verandahs with barricaded walls. Numerous sand-bags were placed over the parapets as additional protection, and the main entrance was commanded by two heavy guns, covered by a trench. On June 1, the trouble started unexpectedly. The authorities were taken by surprise when they learnt that the Indian Sepoys were holding a seditious meeting on that day. On the next day, some sepoy leaders tried to tamper with some of the troops who had come with Lieutenant Palliser to escort the spare treasure of Gorakhpur and Azamgarh into Varanasi. On June 3, some more treasure came to Azamgarh under the charge of another batch of sepoy. This was the signal for a rising. The sepoy leaders decided to loot a few lakhs of rupees which happened to be in the charge of the British officers. Most of the sepoy of the 17th infantry rose in rebellion in a body, and declared independence. They soon managed to subdue the British element and easily got possession of at least five lakhs of rupees.

The British authorities made a desperate attempt to save the situation, but their attempt was foiled. The rebels fought for several hours with a dogged tenacity and got possession of most of the fortified buildings. The Quarter-Master, Sgt. Lewis, was shot down and other officers had to escape to Ghazipur. The Magistrate, Mr. Horne, and the Joint Magistrate, Mr. Simson, finding that the situation was beyond redemption hurried to the Civil Station, leaving orders to the Kotwal to stem the advance of the rebel sepoy through the town. But the Kotwal was helpless and he had no means to stop the rebels. The jail was stormed and the convicts were taken out

JUNE 1957]

THE REVOLT OF 1857 AT AZAMGARH

245

by the rebels. These convicts were so much of a reinforcement to the rebels. The attack on the jail and the release of the prisoners were carried out in the midst of remarkable enthusiasm, which recalls the revolutionary attack on the Bastille during the French Revolution. Barring a small number, most of the sepoy had by now joined the rebels. Some officers like Lieutenant Hutchinson were shot down while they tried to persuade the sepoy to remain loyal. If the sepoy had cared to murder the Europeans, they could have murdered a large number of them, but it is worth noting that the sepoy did not wish to indulge in a senseless killing. What they needed most immediately was money, and so they tried to collect as much booty as possible. They could immediately get all the guns and much of the treasure available in the Government Treasury.

In the third week of June, some British fugitives tried to recapture Azamgarh and one of them, Mr. Venables, enjoyed full magisterial powers. He formed a small committee of public safety and collected a band of loyal troopers. A few eastern parganas of Azamgarh were recaptured, but a majority of the parganas of the district specially those which were under the Palwar Rajputs could not be regained. In the countryside the Palwar Rajputs were supreme and they maintained their independence with a superb bravery which has been completely forgotten at the present day. The British officers marched against the Palwars and near Koelsa there was a battle with them which lasted for three full days. This is one of those unrecorded battles which the British historians have completely ignored. In this battle the Palwars fought heroically and stoutly held their own. As the main engagement was fought with the Palwars at Koelsa, the whole operation may be called the battle of Koelsa of which details are unfortunately not known. This battle the rebels actually won, for the British records admit that Mr. Venables and his men became disorganised and were driven out. The victory at Koelsa filled the rebels with

a new zeal. They were now encouraged to march on the city of Azamgarh once again where Mr. Venables was reinforced by a large number of troopers recruited by Captain Catania. When the Palwars approached the city, Mr. Venables had to move out to meet them. He saw that the rebels had entrenched themselves in groves, their front overlooked by high crops. With the recent attack the defenders found that they could not meet the rebels effectively.

The battle of Azamgarh was fought bravely on both sides, but the Palwars proved their superiority and won a decisive victory. The Britishers were completely routed and they were forced to retreat. This retreat soon turned into a mad scramble. In their hour of success the rebels, however, failed to exploit the situation to the utmost. If they had been able to do so, the result would have been extremely perilous to the British. There was, however, a grim fight all over the city of Azamgarh in which the British matchlockmen took part, but they suffered great losses in the street fighting. The rebels also had to face losses on their side, but they steadily pressed on the British force. There was hard-fighting after this. The British were indeed on the point of retreating to Ghazipur, for they had no provisions left and the entire countryside was up by now. Even the loyal sepoy who had shown no appetite for warfare openly said that they could not fight so long as they were starving for food. If the Palwars had been better organised and led, the British would have found it impossible to retreat. As it is, the Britishers could stay on in the countryside for some time, while a large part of the district was virtually independent of British rule.

The tide at last turned with the arrival of the Gurkha Regiments who eventually saved the situation for the British. For the time being, however, the rebels were elated with success, and even got possession of the whole town. Such was the panic among the city merchants that they also went out of the city with their

valuable movable properties, while the Europeans evacuated Azamgarh. After this evacuation the British lines at Azamgarh were plundered and there was complete disorder in the whole town. The Indian Nazir and Sarishtadar who had been left behind were forced to leave for Ghazipur. The whole Police also quitted the city.

It is unfortunate that practically nothing is known about the manner in which the rebels ruled Azamgarh during the brief period of their power. It appears that, one, Brithipal Singh, leader of the Palwars, commanded the city and levied a contribution in the town so as to make both ends meet. It is also likely that there was some indiscriminate loot as a result of which many innocent people suffered losses. That only proves that the Indian rebels were lacking in administrative organisation and police efficiency. There were some difficulties also which the Palwars could not overcome. Firstly, most of their force was engaged in distant Parganas and so they could not collect an adequate force in the city itself. Secondly, Muzaffar Khan, a rebel leader, who had lately occupied Mahul could not send any timely reinforcements to the city. Thirdly, the chief Palwar leader, Beni Madho, who was engaged at Mundari, only nine miles from the city, had no reinforcements from any source and he had to take refuge at Atraula and had later to fly to Avadh when the Gurkhas appeared. Lastly, the time at the disposal of the rebels was wholly inadequate for the preparation of an effective defence of the city. The consequence was that the success of the rebels could not endure, and as the Gurkhas appeared the British sovereignty was restored at Azamgarh, at least nominally. Beni Madho, Brithipal Singh and Muzaffar Khan had to seek safety in flight.

Even though the city was recaptured, the rebels were still unsubdued in the countryside. The Palwars were only half-defeated, and the fact that they were still strong in some parts of the district is proved by the British overtures to

them to make peace. One British officer, Mr. Pollock, toured the countryside so as to induce the Palwars to settle down. Accompanied by a force, Mr. Pollock met the Palwar chief at Koelsa in a friendly conference. British diplomacy succeeded as it had always succeeded in the past. The Palwars were finally made to agree to British terms and they declared their friendship for the British Government. Such was the loyalty of these Palwars that they after this not only gave no trouble, but refused to help the great rebel leader, Kunwar Singh, when the latter came to Azamgarh in April, 1858. The ease with which the Palwar Rajputs were won over by the British diplomacy demonstrates the common weakness of the rebels in political acumen and diplomatic ability. Their disunion was naturally exploited by the foreigners.

The British success was initially short-lived, for the patriotic hero, Kunwar Singh, came and re-occupied Azamgarh for a short while. In 1858, the situation in Azamgarh proved favourable to the rebels. At this time the major portion of the British army was stationed at Lucknow, and so Azamgarh and the neighbouring area were devoid of adequate protection. This opportunity was brilliantly taken advantage of by Kunwar Singh, who was hovering in Western Bihar Uttar Pradesh and joining with a large number of rebels still at large in the vicinity of Azamgarh, he made a sudden attack on the town. His ultimate plan was to move from Azamgarh either towards Allahabad or Varanasi. Kunwar Singh's position was further improved when another band of rebels joined him at Atraula.

Kunwar Singh's memorable coup was highly successful and Azamgarh again temporarily became free from British rule. But, as before, the rebels were running short of supplies and materials. The number of combatants on their side was also not adequate. Leadership was woefully deficient. The consequence was that, despite his wonderful gallantry, Kunwar Singh could not hold on at Azamgarh for

long. In the meanwhile, his position became untenable for two reasons. Firstly, there was famine all round Azamgarh and food was scarce and it was difficult to maintain law and order in the city and maintain a fighting army in a condition of efficiency. Secondly, Kunwar Singh who lacked adequate organisation of his own could not keep down the criminal element to the town, and there was disorder which could not be checked. The anarchical conditions led to loot, brigandage and incendiarism which weakened Kunwar Singh.

Kunwar Singh's occupation of Azamgarh is a grim chapter in the history of his chequered career. Here he displayed wonderful energy and enterprise and ability for organisation, but individual brilliance could not compensate the lack of concerted action. The British soon collected reinforcements at Varanasi; Ghazipur and Allahabad, and marched on Azamgarh towards the end of March. The initial attack of the British under the command of Colonel Milman and Colonel Dawes proved unsuccessful. When the news of the British defeat reached Lord Canning at Allahabad, there was great anxiety. With a leader of the ability of Kunwar Singh taking the offensive the position was bound to be extremely grave. It was at this time that Lord Canning took personal interest in the military operation and sent Col. Lord Mark Kerr against Azamgarh. Kunwar Singh and his men were now outnumbered and his left-wing had to retreat forthwith. The English received further reinforcements from Lucknow. Even though Kunwar Singh occupied the town he found that the position all

round him was militarily untenable for want of resources. On the rapid approach of the British army, Kunwar Singh collected his forces along the banks of the River Tons, and decided to stop the British advance here, if possible. When he found that the British advance could not be stopped, he thought of marching in haste with all his forces to the Ganga, cross it, and attempt to retire to the wild country of Jagdishpur. The heroism which Kunwar Singh showed while fighting a rearguard action is indeed remarkable. He offered a stout and relentless resistance all along and fought with such bravery that the British had to suffer heavy losses at the great battle which was fought at the bridge over the Tons. The British lost one of their principal leaders, Mr. Venables. But Kunwar Singh knew that victory had cruelly eluded his grasp and retreat was the only alternative that was open to him. Azamgarh was lost this time once for all and the British regained it triumphantly. The flight and accidental death of Kunwar Singh form a different story, the poignant tragedy of which is no part of the present chapter.

Even after the fall of Azamgarh the district remained in a troublesome condition for some time, and was threatened from time to time by the rebels of Avadh, but except for temporary dacoity and disorder caused by the rebels, Azamgarh remained free from any serious trouble. That however, Azamgarh had freedom twice for brief periods in 1857-58 is a fact which needs to be recalled at the present day.

The Republic of India

By

Mr. NAREN B. JOSHI

OUR great Republic of India, is ushering into a new era of evolution, after the Second General Elections held during the month of March this year. There are likely to be great many changes with the beginning of the New Parliament and the New Government making the Independent Sovereign Democratic Republic of India to appear in a renovated form. The changes as given below are in full keeping with the administrative set up of our great country and consistent with important and responsible role that India has been playing before the United Nations as an independent and neutral Nation, without aligning with any Power Bloc, for the maintenance of a lasting peace in the world.

The political map of India has entirely been changed. In the new administrative set up there are 14 states and 6 minor states known as Union Territories viz. 1. Andhra, 2. Assam, 3. Bihar, 4. Bombay, 5. Kerala, 6. Madhya Pradesh, 7. Madras, 8. Mysore, 9. Orissa, 10. Punjab, 11. Rajasthan, 12. Uttarpradesh, 13. West Bengal, 14. Jammu and Kashmir and the Union held territories are 1. Delhi, 2. Himachal Pradesh, 3. Manipur, 4. Tripura, 5. N. E. F. A. and 6. Andamans and Nicobar islands. The New States are created in place of the erstwhile 28 states of A, B, and C classes formed after the achievement of our National Independence, when India was represented into true National colours, in one Unit under our National Government.

By May 13, 1957, New Parliament (Sovereign Body of our Republic) will sit to make legislation and plan out for the Socio-Economic upliftment of the masses.

In the new set up, Indian National Congress retains power, and has won the confidence of the electorate. The party in power, therefore, should chalk out plans to raise the economic

lot of people, eradicate poverty and rampant unemployment in the country.

The Indian Rupee, based on Decimal System, having the same value but comprising 100 pice instead of hitherto 64 pice is in circulation. The Rupee subdivided into pieces of half a Rupee (50 pice) Quarter a Rupee (25 pice), one-eighth of a Rupee (12 pice) and an anna (6 pice) but three annas have 19 pice instead of 18 pice. This is a sort of anomaly in calculation.

The Decimal system invented by the Indian Mathematicians in the ancient past, was adopted by many of the European countries, but India, unfortunately under foreign domination, had to adopt British system and accept certain ways of their transactions in every day dealings.

Decimal system of measurement of length, capacity and weight will again come in fashion for formal use with the beginning of our Budget next year. The new changes will amply justify by themselves by facilitating the trade and commerce system of our great nation. In the very initial stages, certain difficulties are felt, being accustomed to the old system, but the new system would become more useful in course of time for all sorts of transactions and day to day dealings.

On the very advent of our Second Five Year Plan, the new weather chart has also been brought into force. Now and onward, the degree of heat and cold will be determined by Centigrade system rather than erstwhile Fahrenheit.

Further, India has adopted a new and reformed calender based on Shaka Era with effect from March 22, 1957 and many other systems likely of Socio-Economic orders anew. We are sanguine that all the new systems

JUNE 1957]

THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

249

would add towards the all round development of our great Republic.

Within 10 years of the advent of our National Independence i.e. since 1947, India has made a good stride towards peace and progress with its own initiative. In the First Five Year plan (1951-56) certain development projects were completed and the Second Five Year Plan (1956-61) envisages bigger projects for all round developments, which would pave the way for economic freedom for the masses in every respect. Time and again our popular Prime Minister Shri Nehru has rightly said:

"Political freedom is of no importance, without economic freedom for the masses."

The Second Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 4,800 crores is in continuation of the development efforts, that began with the inauguration of the First Five Year Plan. The distribution of outlay in the II plan for development of the major heads is as following:—

1. Agriculture and Community Development	11.8 per cent.
2. Irrigation & Power	19 "
3. Industries & Mining	18.5 "
4. Transport & Communication	28.9 "
5. Social Services	19.7 "
6. Miscellaneous	2.1 "
Total ...	100

As an impartial observer, I feel that the Rightists and the Leftists except the Communist party of India, can come to a common platform and reconcile their policies and programmes. Communist Party of India, for the first time has succeeded to form its Government in Kerala, the smallest autonomous

State in India, and will owe its allegiance to the Constitution of India. Time and tide will only show how far the Communists in India, would succeed to spread their cult and creed to win the confidence of the masses of our great Republic. The biggest democracy of the world is at trial in India. For the all round development of our nation, we need a permanent Unity in Diversity for all times to come. The unity should be a sort of symbiosis as Mahatma Gandhiji used to call, a permanent union between organisms depending upon each other for their existence as fungus and alga composing lichen.

Our popular Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, who exerts his utmost for the upkeep of peace and tranquillity, may rightly be said as a Crusader of peace in the world. Shri Nehru is an internationalist in the real sense, for he believes more in internationalism than the National aspect of life and has the firm conviction that the progress and prosperity of every nation, big or small, in the East or the West are altogether dependent on mutual aid and lasting peace. As an internationalist among the world citizens, Shri Nehru full of courage and fortitude has always been championing the cause of peace and freedom in the world.

In 1857, the War of Independence had began and after exactly 100 years, we are ushering into an era of National Evolution and the renovated India will positively pave a way for Peace, Progress and Prosperity of mankind in the world.

The East and the West are developing fast, so masses in India also need to arise, awake and adjust themselves with the New Systems and changed circumstances for the advancement of life in the world.

The Telugu Literature

By

Shri B. GOPAL REDDY

(Finance Minister, Andhra)

A cursory glance at the history of civilisation reveals that languages and literatures too have their rise and fall like dynasties and empires. The Telugu literature which had its glorious period of creative work had also spells of decadence. Looking back, 18th century and the first part of 19th century were certainly periods which can be considered as dark and the few works that have come out are poor imitations of the old classics without their sublimity; the modern literature is born out of that decadence and today it is in full vigour with a wide range of creative work to its credit.

In the beginning of the new epoch, works were still dominated by Sanskrit and it was a long time before Telugu could entirely release itself from these old influences. The study of English language and literature, had stimulated a new interest and the early modern poets were indeed influenced by the English writers of the period of Romantic Revolt. To a certain extent the influence of Bengali literature is also felt, leading the Telugu to new paths and to exploration of new avenues of expression.

Telugu is essentially a Dravidian language fostered by Sanskrit and nourished by other modern languages. Though there were what could be called prose writers in the medieval period, it is in the modern period that the real prose and lyric have taken a literary shape in contrast with the epics and other long *kavyams* of the old period. It is curious that no Telugu of the past attempted the literary drama form after Sanskrit models and it was given to the modern writers to have the Sanskrit drama translated into Telugu and to write original dramas which include tragedies as in English literature.

The Telugu idiom took a definite form and came into prominence during this period while

there was no prejudice to the use of Sanskrit words which continued to have their vital influence on the modern Telugu language. The colloquial style is coming to the forefront and yet there is a strong movement in favour of some standardised literary styles with all the rules of Sanskrit Grammar being kept intact. The Universities in their text books have not yet accepted the colloquial style of prose-writing while the radio and news-papers have adopted it freely and without reservations. Thus there is still a conflict and it is often said that the line of demarcation has not yet been drawn between the purely grammatical and the colloquial. Perhaps in the next decade or two some of these uncertain trends may take definite shape and become standardised.

It must be confessed that the novel has not made much headway in Telugu and though there were some popular novels which won recognition, it cannot be said that the novel had reached its point of perfection. The short story has become increasingly popular and a few writers have come to be recognised as master hands in story telling. The Telugus have shown a definite indulgence for the stage and there was a great activity in most of the district towns and sometimes even in remote villages for staging plays. Telugu verse has a singular prosodic rhythm which verges on the music of the song and these verses can easily be sung attuned to classical *ragas*. This is a peculiarity which is not present in most of the other Indian languages. Some of the dramas have become exceedingly popular on account of this verse-singing besides the excellence of themes and the manner of treatment. From time to time quite a large number of good actors dominated the stage and it can be safely said that even after the advent of its potent rival, the screen, some of the drama and some of the

JUNE 1957]

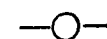
THE U.S.A. AND THE BAGHDAD PACT

251

actors still hold their own. Translations from Sanskrit like *Shakuntalam*, *Mudarakshasa* and *Veni Sambarana* and dramatised forms or *Mahabhartam* and *Ramayana* and original dramas like *Pratapudriyan* and some historical dramas like *Bobbill* have become household names in Andhra.

Literary criticism as understood in the West has not yet developed though a few pioneers in

the field had shown us the path. The late Dr. C. R. Reddi, Vice-Chancellor of the Andhra University for a long time, was a pioneer in this field of literary criticism. His *Kavitwa Patwa Vicharam* set up, new criteria of literary criticism and appreciation. His line is being adopted by some of his contemporaries and followers but, by and large, it must be admitted that literary criticisms is yet to come into its own.



The U.S.A. and the Baghdad Pact

By

Shri ADITYA PRASAD SEN GUPTA M.A.

THE Press Secretary of President Eisenhower states that America's joining the military committee of the Baghdad Pact is the inevitable result of the Eisenhower doctrine for the Middle East. The implication of this statement is that in keeping with her policy to shoulder the economic and military responsibilities for resisting communist infiltration in the Middle East. The U. S. A. has rightly decided to join the Baghdad Pact, an anti-communist organisation in this region.

Mr. Harold Macmillan, Prime Minister of Britain, met President Eisenhower recently at Bermuda. The result of their three-day discussions was that the U. S. A. decided to participate fully in the Baghdad Pact organisation. The U.S.A. no doubt joined its economic committee long before the Bermuda conference. But she came to acquire rights of full membership by joining its military committee, as a result of which what Britain and other four Muslim States associated with the Pact wanted so long had been achieved.

The Baghdad Pact itself was originally contemplated by the U.S.A. though she did not join it so long. In reality this pact resulted from the Anglo-U.S. rivalry that was going on in the Middle Eastern area. On the one

hand Britain was trying to include collectively all the Arab States of the Middle East in a military organisation with the help of the Arab League which used to have British backing. But the U.S. policy on the other hand was aimed at bringing about a split among the Arab States and putting diplomatic pressure on each of them so that it might not align itself with any western power other than the U.S.A. The conclusion of the military pact between Turkey and Iraq, an Arab State, in January 1955 clearly bore evidence to the success of the U. S. policy. *The New Statesman and Nation* a well known London Journal observed in its editorial dated 29th January, 1955 that the decision of Iraq to conclude a military pact with Turkey appeared to indicate success of the efforts which were being made during the last few years to unite Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan and to ensure extension of the U. S. influence through military aid to each of them. Such success crowning the efforts of the U.S.A. was prejudicial to the British interests, the Journal further observed. It was expectation of the journal that the Middle East Defence Organisation would be built on the basis of a strong Arab League. But it is now a matter of conjecture

only whether Britain could succeed in including collectively all the Arab States in a military bloc or in suppressing strong anti-western feelings of Egypt, Syria and Jordan with the help of the Arab League. But the Baghdad Pact concluded as per U. S. policy has occasioned such a split in the Arab world as has Western Powers to try to dominate over it. In a sense the Egypt—Saudi Arabia—Syrian unity has also been strengthened as a result of the conclusion of this pact. One may recall here that it was due to the efforts to bring Jordan within the orbit of the Baghdad Pact that there broke out in December 1955 a serious revolt which resulted in the decline of the British power in Jordan. It cannot be doubted that this pact as well as the anti-western attitude resulting there from have paved the way for Soviet infiltration in the Middle East.

The Anglo-U. S. friendship was evidently dealt a blow by the Anglo-French military action against Egypt. In order to place this

friendship again on a firm footing the U.S.A. has expressed her desire in favour of full participation in the Baghdad Pact. In the words of the *Economist* a well-known Journal, both President Eisenhower and Mr. Dulles were afraid that continuous non-alignment of the U.S.A. with Britain and France might lead to Soviet infiltration in the Middle Eastern area, though at first they expressed displeasure at the Anglo-French action which provided Russia with opportunities to intervene in the affairs of the Middle East. Incidentally it may also be mentioned that a few days back Mr. Dulles observed that no good result could be expected from joint movement of Anglo-U. S. troops in the Middle Eastern area. For that observation Mr. Dulles was bitterly criticized in some quarters in Britain. But now the U.S. participation in the military committee of the Baghdad Pact has practically paved the way for joint movement of British and American troops in that region of the world.

Sri Ramakrishna and Worldly Life

By

Dr. A. C. DAS, M.A., Ph.D.

IN this paper I propose to expound the teaching of Ramakrishna on the relation between spiritual and worldly life. There is, however, an ambiguity about the phrase "worldly life". Details apart, I can say without fear of contradiction that according to him, as according to its usage, "worldly life" means the life of a house-holder as against the life of a sannyasin. Now the question is whether, in Ramakrishna's view, worldly life is antithetical to spiritual life.

Ramakrishna repeatedly points out that the realization of God is the end of human life and that sex and wealth stand between us and our possible union with God. The mind of a

worldly man is like a mirror covered with dust. The sensuous desires are the dirt that prevents the light of truth from penetrating such a mind. Those who are drowned in worldly life think only of worldly things. When they have ample leisure, they find time hanging heavy on their hands, and they kill time by idle talk or playing at cards. They cannot realize their plight, however. But one may ask: Why should they be so if the world is the creation of a good God?

God, we are told, covers men's minds with the illusion of sex and sensuous desires just to keep the world going. That is His way, inscrutable way, indeed. God has the power of

maya wherewith He creates and sustains the universe. But His *maya* is a twofold power; it is the power of ignorance as well as the power of knowledge. He, on the one hand, keeps men in ignorance and, on the other, plants in them the principle of light, i.e., knowledge, which is calculated to lift them out of the rut of sense-life and to lead them eventually to the life of Spirit. But what is spiritual life-like?

To be brief, spiritual life is life lived for God or Self. And one lives spiritual life if one, unswayed by sensuous desires, ever aspires to realize God or Self. It seems, and some actually say, that spiritual life is apart and that it cannot be lived in society and the State. They are, indeed, of the opinion that one cannot attain to life for God for Spirit except by renouncing the world. Such an idea he seems to convey to us when Ramakrishna says, "Why can't one have a vision of God? Because one's mind is covered with sex and wealth." Does he then mean that spiritual life begins with the absolute rejection of worldly life?

On one occasion, two disciples of Ramakrishna were discussing the question of renunciation just before him. One of them said, "Without overall renunciation none can attain God." Thereupon the other snapped out, "The moment one's mind is fixed upon Him the world (samsar) ceases for one." On hearing all this, Ramakrishna appeared rather upset. He then said to them, "You say that the world would go. Where, then, will it go? For my part, however, wherever I am I feel I am in Ram's Ayodhya."

On another occasion, a certain person asked Ramakrishna, "Well, Sir, is the world illusory?" Thereupon with a flare of genius he replied, "The world is illusory so long as He is not realized." This view is very original indeed. We have so long been taught that on realization of *Brahman*, the aspirant reaches perfection and rejects the world as illusory. Ramakrishna, however, points out that on realization

the world appears very real to the *sadhaka*, in the sense that he now finds that God manifests Himself in the things and beings of the world. According to Ramakrishna, we, in our ordinary way, take the world as existing by itself and such a world is obviously false as it in fact does not exist in its own right. A problem nevertheless remains, namely, how could one with a yearning for God rise out of the false and reach the real world? In short, is life in society an obstacle to one's spiritual progress?

Society is a living whole and has its history. From a small beginning society by stages has come to its present state of existence. And the process of development is still continuing. Traditions of different kinds—economic, political, juridical, religious and the rest, which form our heritage, are accumulated experiences of the past generations. We are, indeed, under a deep debt to all those who in the past contributed to social development in its manifold aspects. There is no gainsaying the fact that we were born to a society and nurtured on the social institutions. We are what we are to-day certainly because of society. It is little wonder, then, that Ramakrishna emphasizes social life and insists on the strict performing of one's duties.

He makes an approach to worldly life from yet another side. He avers that everyone should perform his or her proper functions in life; nobody can avoid activity. One acts and has to act even when one goes out of society. So the aspirant should not think that he would progress in spiritual life only if he gets out of worldly life. That way, says Ramakrishna, the aspirant would only shirk his duties and the neglect of his duties would assuredly weigh upon him and retard his advance towards his goal.

Now, if one is to live in, and not to renounce, the world, what becomes of spiritual life? The difficulty is that worldly life, involving as it does sex and wealth, appears to be opposed to spiritual life. Ramakrishna, however, points out that there is no short cut to

the spiritual goal. Therefore, the aspirant should not be in a hurry or do anything at haphazard. He can proceed towards the realization of his ideal only by some stage, which are to be worked out of worldly life itself. But how?

Ramakrishna tells us that there are infinite paths to God. There are nevertheless three broad kinds of yoga, namely, the yoga of knowledge, the yoga of action, and the yoga of love or devotion. According to Ramakrishna, the yoga of knowledge is far too difficult for anybody to follow, and the yoga of action or karmayoga, though theoretically all right, is not quite practicable in ordinary life. Karmayoga, as expounded in the *Bhagavadgita*, is the spiritual discipline in which the aspirant is to perform all necessary actions and duties and to offer them as an oblation to God. In this yoga the aspirant is to put himself forth to the best of his capacities without any attachment to the fruits or results of his actions. As Sri Krishna puts it, "In karmayoga the aspirant has a right to action, but not to its result or results." He, indeed, appears very original when Ramakrishna says that although karmayoga fixes upon God, it posits the ego as the agent or doer and as offering the doings as an oblation to God. He means to say that in this yoga, more often than not, self-interest or selfishness creeps into the mind of the aspirant and renders the yoga a way of insincerity. Ramakrishna seeks to bring it home to our minds that one can become a karmayogi, in the strict sense of the term, only after the realization of God in His two-fold aspect—the determinate, and the indeterminate, when one is transformed and becomes only a channel of divine activity. After this realization, the *sadhaka* retains only the form of the 'I', the substance of the gross 'I' having been destroyed, and thus becomes best fitted for the practice of karmayoga.

Ramakrishna is all for the yoga of love or bhakti. It is narrated of the Enlightened One: "Full of hindrances is this household life, the haunt of passion. Free as the air is the homeless state". Thus he considered and went forth." Ramakrishna, however, does not disvalue worldly life, although he says that it is

difficult for a man in worldly life to practise *sadhana*, to follow a strict spiritual discipline. There is nevertheless a way out, according to him. This way is bhaktiyoga or the yoga of love, which consists in thinking God as the Creator and Ordainer, and praying to Him for love and faith, and singing His names. This is the way for a householder who has a yearning for God.

But how could he divide his mind between God and worldly things? There is doubtless no question of thus dividing his mind. Ramakrishna insists that the aspirant, though he lives in society, has to withdraw his mind gradually from worldly desires and fix it upon God. With the help of homely examples, Ramakrishna explains the procedure a person, enmeshed in mundane life, should follow in his attempt to achieve liberation. A tortoise, as we know, lays its eggs on land; but, as it moves about in water, its mind ever remains fixed on the place where the eggs were laid and left behind. Consider, again, the servants and maid-servants of rich people. The former do all their duties and look after the sons and daughters of their masters. In reference to the sons and daughters they even say, "This is my Ram", "This is my Gouri", and so on, though they know in the heart of their hearts that the boys and girls are none of their own. The servants and maid-servants work just for money and they always think of their homes and their near and dear ones. Similar should be the attitude, Ramakrishna tells us, of a householder in his spiritual life. The point is that he is not to reject life: he is to accept life by transcending it, i.e., by doing the duties appropriate to his station of life and concentrating at the same time upon God. And when his being is saturated with the thought of the Supreme Being, he becomes detached from empirical things. This is verily his way to the supreme goal—union with God.

Ramakrishna, however, points out that no rules are binding upon those who are seized with divine frenzy. From those who have become mad for God all duties drop off. Still, as Ramakrishna avers, it ultimately depends upon the grace of God whether one attains faith and love and union with Him.

The Menace of Nuclear Radiation

By

Mr. P. N. SAMPATH.

WHILE the poisonous fumes of thermo-nuclear radiation generated by the series of test explosions carried out so far by the big powers are fouling the atmosphere and bidding fair to engulf humanity in irreversible ruin, it is heartening to see real men of wisdom like Rajaji seriously engaged in their self-appointed task of pulling up the impetuous major powers from the doom which awaits them if they do not desist. Rajaji is a man endowed with an abundant gift of stripping a problem to its essentials. He has a power of setting forth his opinion with a lucidity which no one in this country can match. He is no longer ploughing a lone furrow. Eminent public men, scientists and intellectuals like Prof. Bertrand Russell, Prof. Otto Hahn, Dr. Albert Schweitzer, Prof. Joliot—Curie, Pandit Nehru, Dr. Monica Felton and Dr. Radhakrishnan have declared themselves unequivocally against the continuance of nuclear tests and the concerted effort to condemn man to a return to the cave.

Science and technology have endowed man with unlimited power to build and to destroy. The nations of the world have started an arms race. In other words, mankind has backed itself into an ecological trap. Prof. Toynbee has condemned this military perfectionism by stating that an improvement in military technique is usually, if not invariably, the symptom of a decline in civilisation. By resorting to uncivilised methods of warfare, mankind is reverting to barbarism.

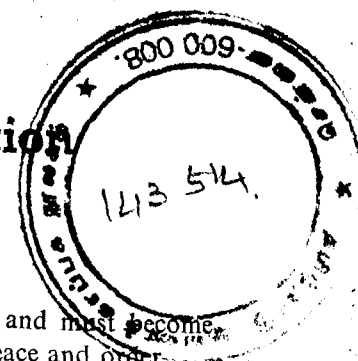
The arms race today is centred round the carriers of unclear weapons rather than the weapons themselves—the world already has a whole family of such weapons. Any nation so reckless of moral control as to seek only its selfish aggrandisement at whatever cost to the

world community becomes and must become the enemy of the world's peace and order.

International law has always been predicated on certain fundamental moral and ethical values to which civilised nations subscribe, even if at times their practices have varied from their faith. There can be no ethics in carrying out nuclear tests when all the evidence of the scientists and the available signs and scientific data prove them to be capable of dragging humanity to wholesale ruin. Although it would appear that radiation doses from nuclear explosions carried out so far are too low to have caused much genetic damage, the continuance of tests at the present rate might constitute a serious genetic hazard. The evil effects of radiation may not be visible immediately, but they will cumulatively add up to a point wherefrom there can be no retreat.

The constant acceleration of preparation may ultimately produce a spontaneous combustion. The enormous destruction to both sides of closely matched opponents makes it impossible for the winner, whoever it may be, to translate it into anything but his own disaster. Such unthinking action will tantamount to flying in the face of fact plus common sense. Prof. Eienstein had warned us, "There is no security for one if not for all. Security is indivisible." No nation can purchase security by multiplying their armaments or by threats of bringing final ruin on the nations opposed to it.

The peaceful co-existence of nations cannot be a reality if the arms race is not arrested. Why, the very existence of nations will become unconscionably miserable. The goal of a perpetual peace is a postulate of pure reason whose realisation must be aspired to even when it cannot be easily attained.



The United Nations Organisation is dead. Only in semblance does it live on and continue fighting international problems like the decapitated giant in Aristo's Orlando Furioso. It has signally failed in its duty to mark the trends and take appropriate preventive action. It is no use expecting the erring powers to see their own folly and correct themselves. It is therefore the humanitarian duty of the uncommitted nations to raise their combined voices to a pitch which will arrest the attention of the atomic competitors and make them abandon their foul designs. Among such nations, India occupies a pre-eminent place. No other important nation in the modern world has kept its own moral skirts sufficiently clear to be very convincing when it points to the ethical derelictions of others. It is but proper that Pandit Nehru and Rajaji have come out to condemn the test explosions which are in effect so many

nuclear assaults on Nature and the known elements.

International opinion is the consensus of individual opinion in the nations. It is therefore imperative that the ordinary peoples of the world, whose future is being gambled with, should bestir themselves and create a strong international public opinion for the banning of test explosions, and eventually, of the thermo-nuclear weapons, and for making the world safe to live in. The masses, most of whom are ill-informed and illiterate, cannot by themselves see the danger that threatens them. It is in this context that the services of men with comprehensive intelligence and foresight like Rajaji are most in need. The present generation as well as posterity are deeply and ever lastingly indebted to him for the crusade he is now carrying on against the scourge of the fission and fusion weapons.

The Central Budget

NO budget proposals received as much public attention as the estimates presented in Parliament on 15th May '57. At the cost of great personal popularity, the Finance Minister has sought to introduce an integrated and composite tax-structure with considerable foresight and of lasting good.

There has been wild criticisms, calling it a 'fleece-all budget' bringing in its wake "great oppression, utter misery and general demoralisation, opening the flood-gates of corruption". Some aspects are discussed here :—

The table below shows a comparative picture :

Budget Estimates (in lakhs of Rs.)

	Budget 56-57	Revised 56-57	Budget 57-58
Revenue	Rs. 527,39	571,49	634,97. (Plus 77,85 due to budget proposals)
Expenditure	Rs. 545,43	533,55	Rs. 668,09
Surplus Deficit	Rs. 18,04	+ 37,94	Rs. 33,12 + 77,85

Instead of an anticipated deficit, for 56-57, there was a surplus due (i) to 5% increase in revenue account and 2% reduction in expenditure. The taxation proposals for 57-58 are estimated to yield to Rs. 78 crores more taking up the Central Finances to Rs. 800 crores.

Budget is not merely a statement of account, but is an important lever for economic advancement. Its primary aim should be, besides making both ends meet, as regards receipts and expenses, within and without the country, to further the declared objectives, such as economic development, social welfare, etc., of the State. It is at once a short term and long term process. Its repercussions are far reaching.

We are avowedly a socialistic state in the grip of the Second Five Year Plan. It involves an outlay of Rs. 900 crores for this year. We are committed to develop efficient production and equitable distribution. At present on the Balance of Payments, we are in an unenviable position. Our imports are of the order of Rs. 1,000 crores, while exports, Rs. 650 crores only, leaving an imbalance of Rs. 350 crores. This casts a considerable strain on the national resources. On the domestic front, we are faced with an upward trend in price-level. The Budget proposes to remedy this situation.

Additional taxation is a 'must'. Both indirect and direct taxes contribute 75% and 25% respectively towards the additional levy.

The details are :

Indirect-Taxes.	(i) Revision of central excises ;	Rs. 53.20	crores.
	(ii) do. import duties	Rs. 6	"
Direct Taxes.	(i) tax on railway fares	Rs. 8	"
	(ii) „ on companies	Rs. 7½	"
	(iii) Reduction of exemption limit	Rs. 5	"
	(iv) tax on wealth	Rs. 5	"
	(v) postal rates	Rs. 85 lakhs	"
	(vi) expenditure tax	nil	"

The new taxes mean 12% additional revenues. (Last year 9% increase arose out of no additional taxes on revenue account). The primary task of checking price inflation in too much money following too little goods is sought to be achieved by taxes on the so-called essentials e.g., sugar, tea, coffee, tobacco, matches, paper, etc. The object is also to increase exports in the case of sugar, etc., so as to bridge the gulf on the Balance of Payments. This is further done by additional import duties.

The basic structure of direct taxation has been so broadened as to ensure (i) additional revenues, (ii) to integrate the structure by new levies and by alterations in the rate structure, &

(iii) to set the pattern for the Plan Period. The lower limit has been brought down to Rs. 3,000. Upto Rs. 20,000, the new rates are more favourable, between Rs. 20,000 & Rs. 1,00,000, they are higher, and again they are favourable on the top brackets—over Rs. 1 lakh. There is not really much hardship in view of allowances—for the middle income groups.

There are the Wealth Tax & Expenditure Tax newly introduced, and the latter coming into force with effect from 57-58 only. The former is on the basis of net wealth as reflected by the value of assets on the valuation date, sometimes including that of wife and others. It applies to all. On the first Rs. 2 lakhs, there is no tax, and the highest rate is

$\frac{1}{2}$ % The expenditure tax applies to individuals, families etc., but excludes companies, wherever total incomes exceed Rs. 60,000. The rates vary from 10% to 100%. Subject to allowances, 'Taxable expenditure' is only taxable and not the exempt portions—such as ordinary expenditure, marriage expenses per dependent upto Rs. 5,000, investments with banks, etc., etc.

Taxes on incomes, as at present, have been modified in a number of ways. The basic ability to pay is the criterion for this levy. From Rs. 4,200, the lower limit has been reduced to Rs. 3,000. There was no rationale in the past in fixing the limits. It was Rs. 2,000 in 46-47, Rs. 2,500 in 47-48, Rs. 3,000 in 48-49, Rs. 3,600 in 50-51, Rs. 4,200 in 53-54. As the tempo of the Plan increases, the number of persons with taxable incomes is sure to rise. Also, as the benefit of the Plan is enjoyed by all alike, it is but fair that persons on the smaller-income side should contribute their mite to the exchequer, so as to effectively participate in the Government. Setting as it does the pattern of taxes for the Plan Period, the lowering is of practical importance. The allowances for married persons, for children, etc., take away the 'sting.' From this source, the estimated revenues are Rs. 5 crores.

Any sound tax-system should not be self-destructive in killing the goose that lays the golden egg. The incentive to save and invest should not be lessened. As the propensity to save increases with larger incomes, taxation at the top levels should not affect these factors. Higher taxes are bound to have this effect. The planned progress cannot take effect unless saving and investment reach the necessary standard. There is the other aspect of tax-evasion, the problem being in direct proportion to the extent of taxes. The number being relatively less, there is no elasticity for this. At the highest slab, the present rate of Income-tax, Super-tax and surcharge comes to 91.8%. This has been reduced to 84% for unearned and 77% for earned incomes.

This scaling down costs the exchequer Rs. 7½ crores. Even Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao who otherwise defends the Budget, does, not approve of the extent of reduction. But taken as an integrated whole, at the present juncture, it is justified so as to remedy the existing situation. Evasion propensity is surely reduced by the lowering. The bias is so great in favour of earned incomes that the incentive to work will receive a considerable kick. Unearned incomes will run down. A person, to quote the example given by the Finance Minister with property worth Rs. 30 lakhs and living on unearned incomes will have to sell off his property to meet his tax liability in a couple of years.

During the debate, the levy on kerosine has been dropped, and the newsprint duty, being unintended, went away. Certain other adjustments are also likely with regard to other taxes, only the basic structure remaining unaltered.

While on the tax proposals, it is necessary to remember that it is not the plan merely that has necessitated this austerity. Defence alone consumes 50% of the allotments, a problem, which is political, and not economic, depending on world situation, where one has to face realities. The idea that no plan is good which is rigid, that there is nothing wrong in putting off the time-schedule or writing down the targets, is fraught with dangerous consequences. But once this tendency sets in on the part of Government to put off the date-line or water down the targets, there is no knowing where there will be a halt to this procedure. As a citizen, one may say anything on all these, but one should never suggest tinkering with the plan. If there is not the full value for the money sunk, etc. it is to be tackled differently and the solution does not lie at all in interfering with the time-table of the plan or the targets. Flexibility is not always a virtue, while rigidity is with regard to plan.

A study of the Budget shows that it is all not aimed at grabbing taxes only. It provides for a food subsidy for vulnerable points, it augments the resources of the States, the Rail-

ways, etc. The Plan should not be allowed to go by default even at the State's level.

While there can be no two opinions on the merits of the Tax proposals, it is entirely another thing to say that the Rules, Procedure, etc. should be so framed that not merely the interests of the tax-gatherer, but also off the tax payer, are united in happy wedlock. The wealth and expenditure taxes are going to be enacted, and there will be time to comment on them.

As has been the practice, even this Finance Bill has brought in certain amendments to the Income-tax Act. The proposals of the Taxa-

tion Enquiry Committee, and other Committees as well as the practical experience in working of the Act have suggested these. Sec. 10 (2) B has been amended dealing with the scheme of current profits deposits based on the depreciation allowances. Sec. 3 (A) has been drastically altered. The industrial companies are given an advantage. 45% is the minimum as against 60% at present. There are some minor amendments too.

The outline of the tax-structure is complete with the Bank Rate going up to 4%. The only question that remains is, would there be Devaluation?

Union Government Budget

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Union Finance Minister, on May 15 announced Customs Duty raised by "small amounts on 80 items."

Import Duty changes will yield Rs. six crores.

Duty on motor spirit has been increased to 125 Naye Paise from 98 Naye Paise per Imperial gallon.

Duty on kerosene increased from 18.75 Naye Paise per Imperial gallon to 20 Naye Paise per Imperial gallon.

SUGAR : Duty raised from Rs. 5.52 Naye Paise per cwt. to Rs. 11.24.

STEEL : Duty raised from Rs. 4 to Rs. 40 per ton.

Tax on bonus shares has been increased from 12½ per cent to 30 per cent.

The excise duty on tea has been raised as follows :

LOOSE TEA from 6.26 Naye Paise per lb. to 10 Naye Paise.

Package tea converted from loose tea from 18.75 Naye Paise per lb. to 35 Naye Paise.

Package tea (not so converted) from 25 Naye Paise to 45 Naye Paise.

Income tax has been widened by reducing the taxable minimum from Rs. 4,200 to Rs. 3,000.

Income tax payable by companies has been raised from four annas in a Rupee to 30 per cent, and Corporation Tax from 2-3/4 annas in a Rupee to 20 per cent.

Duty on cement has been increased from Rs. 5 per ton to Rs. 20 per ton.

Duty on coffee, tobacco, and paper has also been raised.

The Finance Minister also announced a levy on wealth.

The levy on wealth will be as follows :

For the individual, the first Rs. two lakhs will be exempted from the levy, and for the undivided Hindu families, the first Rs. three lakhs.

In respect of wealth exceeding this amount, the rate of tax will be half per cent for the first Rs. 10 lakhs, and one per cent for the next Rs. 10 lakhs, and 1½ per cent for the balance.

Agricultural properties are exempted from the tax on wealth.

The exemption in respect of companies' wealth will be up to Rs. five lakhs, and thereafter half per cent will be levied.

The Finance Minister announced a tax on expenditure on individual and undivided Hindu families, where income is over Rs. 60,000 per annum. But it will be for the financial year 1958-59.

He also announced a railway fare tax yielding Rs. 14 crores.

The tariff will be : Five per cent on distances up to 30 miles. Season tickets exempted.

Fifteen percent on 31 to 500 miles, and 10 per cent for longer distances.

The rate of postcards, single, will be raised from five Naye Paise to six Naye Paise, and reply postcards from 10 Naye Paise to 12 Naye Paise ; local cards, single, from three to four

Naye Paise, and reply from six to eight Naye Paise.

On inland telegrams, the charge for every additional word over the minimum of eight words will be raised from seven Naye Paise to eight Naye Paise for ordinary, and from 14 Naye Paise to 16 Naye Paise for express telegrams.

The new taxation proposals will earn for the Exchequer Rs. 77.85 crores. This will convert the deficit on revenue account of Rs. 33.12 crores to a surplus of Rs. 44.73 crores.

The rate of interest on Post Office Savings Bank account will be increased by half per cent. The Minister also announced a new series of National Plan Savings Certificates at 4.25 per cent compound interest.

Rajput Painting—Its Characteristics

By

Mr. C. L. JAHA, M. A.

COMPLETELY and quite contemporary to Mughal School of Painting there was an old School which flourished in Rajputana and Punjab. It is known as Rajput School. The expression of the painting of this school was totally Hindu in character. It was not only older but more profound than the Mughal Art, besides being a direct descendent of classic frescoes of Ajanta. Examples of frescoes are found in all the states of Rajputana especially in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Udaipur and Bundelkhand. In the oldest examples there were traces of individuality. The trend of the artistic feelings found expression in industrial Arts, sculptures, architectures rather than paintings. The domestic nature of the temple processions, feasts, festivals and exquisite rituals of religion, the preparation of ceremonial implements and utensils for worship, temple

fittings and furniture, all provided continuous and steady employment to a large number of artisans throughout the period. Plastic art found more significant place as the simple decoration of the Buddhist period could not satisfy the want of the time.

It is necessary here that a brief reference of the style may be made. In the broad sense the Mughal Art is aristocratic and realistic while the Rajput being similar in technique is democratic and in the real sense mystic. In the latter the technique of Ajanta is reflected. In subject matter too it is changed and is founded on the restless energy of Hindu pantheon. All aspects of Hindu life are embraced in this Art. It is only because there is the true picture of Hindu life of that time. The simple life of villagers, their work, religion and creeds are well represented in this Art. Paintings

depicting the common life, common journey, midday rest, Camp fires, resting scenes, all illumined by the combination of the moonlight and fire light are very common and ideas expressed in them are most skilfully portrayed.

Rajput Painting being a direct and indigenous art of India is the Art of time. Dr. A. Coomaraswamy said, "This vigorous archaic outline is the basis of its language, sensitive and tender it perfectly reflects the sense of self-control and sweet serenity of Indian life." At the first sight the Buddhist and Rajput Arts differ but when studied minutely they resemble in the undercurrent. In the other words frescoes are replaced by miniature ones and not on the wall surface but on the paper.

Besides other peculiarities the theme of the subject taken by the Rajput painters was epical and it was taken generally from Ramayan and Maha Bharat. The titles and descriptions of the pictures were given on the reverse, Vishnu, Shiv and Shakti are painted in variety. They were of the idea that Lord Krishna was the clearer and nearer manifestation of the supreme power. It is because Lord Krishna was the central figure throughout the Rajput style. In the animal life painted by the Rajput painters there is found a great difference when compared with the Mughal Art. The latter dealt with the materialistic aspect of the subject but the former dignified them by giving them the outward form of the deities. It is really a strange

way of painting the animal in this form. Hanuman and cow were worshipped by Hindus at that time. Thus Hanuman in the form of monkey god and cow as Goddess were typical examples.

Less important place was given to portraiture. They copied this fashion from the Mughal artists. In portrait painting there were two styles—Kangra and Jaipur.

Kangra portraits are brighter in colour possessing certain feeling for modelling and light and shade. They are softer in treatment observing the same underlying principles as are found in Jaipur School. Apart from Rajahs portraits they have painted portraits of Saints and Sadhus. Kangra painters painted pictures showing musical composition of Ragnala—a collection of forty two allied melodies.

Jaipur portraits are severely conventional in their intention usually rigid in profile and the colour expression is simple. Most of these portraits are in outline sharp and clear and in some cases the lines are as fine and bold as hair and throbbing with feeling and sensibility. They painted pictures of subjects of other literature too, and Indian Classical writings. Their attempt in other direction cannot be ignored.

Really Rajput painters raised the head of the country in maintaining the tradition and style for which we are proud of.

Mauritius - A Forgotten Colony

By

Mr. R. H. PARKER

WITHOUT doubt the island of Mauritius is one of the least-known of all British Colonies. Few English people seem ever to have heard of it ; many of those who have think it is still a French Colony. It is to be hoped that the visit of Princess Margaret will have done something to dispel this ignorance.

The island, which has an area of about 720 square miles, lies about 500 miles east of Madagascar. It was captured by the British from the French in 1810 and in 1814 became a British colony. French influence, however, is

still very strong. French, or a dialect of it, is the first language of the great majority of the inhabitants, with certain modifications the civil Code Napoleon remains in force, and the Roman Catholic Church is established. Both the National Anthem and the Marseillaise are played at official functions. When one day a band-leader forgot to play the latter, it was regarded by the French community almost as a deliberate insult.

The main problems of contemporary Mauritius are four :—(1) Too many people ; (2) Too

many different kinds of people; (3) a one-crop economy (sugar); (4) political advance. Mauritius is one of the most densely populated regions in the world. The average is 700 people to the square miles. In Plaines Wilhems, the main residential district, it is 1,900 which is as much as that of greater London. Not only is the population large but it is increasing at a phenomenal rate. In 1901 it was 371,000, at the last census in 1952 it was 501,000; by 1972 it is expected to be over 800,000. The birth rate is one of the highest in the world and it is still increasing. At the same time the death rate has decreased greatly, mainly because of the eradication of malaria. The population is increasing by over three per cent per annum, which is no less than five times the pre-war rate. It is doubtful whether the resources of the colony will continue to be able to support such a rapidly growing population. A Commission which reported in 1955 recommended high priority for the study of ways and means of increasing productivity, encouragement of emigration, and dissemination within the framework of the social services of advice on methods of family planning. The third recommendation has aroused strong opposition from the Roman Catholic authorities and seems unlikely to be adopted.

Despite its small size, Mauritius has an extremely varied population. The census figures divide the population into three groups: 'general' (about 30 per cent), Indian (66 per cent) and Chinese (4 per cent). The 'general' population consists of the descendants of the original French settlers, the descendants of the Negro slaves imported during the year 1645-1834, and the 'Creoles,' i.e. those of mixed European and African ancestry. Over three-quarters of the Indian population are Hindus; the remainder are Moslems. With the abolition of slavery, the freed Negroes refused to work on the plantations, so from the mid-1830s onwards Indian labourers were introduced. By 1910 this immigration had practically ceased. The greater part of the present Indian population is therefore Mauritian-born. Broadly, the French form an upper class of professional men and landowners, the Creoles fill the less important positions in the government service,

the Chinese and wealthier Indians are merchants, the poorer Indians work on the sugar plantations and the Negroes are general labourers and fishermen.

There is little love lost between the various races. The Europeans, Creoles and Negroes refer contemptuously to the Hindus as 'les Malabars' and regard them as pretentious upstarts. At the same time they are feared because of their numbers. Many of those of 'pure' French descent look down upon the Creoles and Negroes as descendants of slaves.

The value of the sugar exported annually from Mauritius represents on an average more than 97 per cent of the total value of all exports from the Colony. Thus the sugar industry governs the whole economy of the island. Since the war the Colony has been fortunate, sugar production has increased steadily and there has been an assured market in the United Kingdom. But there are obvious disadvantages in this over-dependence on one crop. A disastrous cyclone, such as that of 1945, may destroy almost an entire harvest. The prices of primary commodities in the world market are notoriously unstable.

Under a constitution of 1947 Mauritius is at present governed by a Governor aided by an Executive Council and a Legislative Council. Subject mainly to a literacy test all British subjects over 21 have the vote. In March 1956, however, Mr. Lennox-Boyd announced important constitutional changes which are planned to take effect this autumn. The most important change is the introduction of the form of proportional representation known as the single transferable vote.

What does the future hold for Mauritius? The advance towards greater self-government will surely go on but the colony is obviously too small and too weak economically to become eventually an independent Dominion. There seems only one solution, however far-fetched it may seem at this moment. This is integration within the United Kingdom, following the example of Malta. If that day ever comes, let us hope that English people will by then know much more about their forgotten colony in the Indian Ocean.

TRUE TALES—Clara Barton (1st of a series)

by VERUS



HUMANITARIAN.—Clara Barton dedicated her life to the relief of the needy and the suffering. Her concern was for troubled peoples the world over, regardless of race, creed or color. "To serve" was her motto. This is the inspiring story of America's "Angel of Mercy".



STUDY.—Born in Oxford, Massachusetts, in 1821, she began her career as a school teacher. Later she became a clerk, but during her spare time she read books on anatomy and care of the sick. She applied for a nurse's position, but was told, "A woman's place is in the home!"



BATTLEFIELD.—Not until the U. S. Civil War, did Clara Barton get her chance to serve suffering mankind. She became a volunteer nurse in the hospitals and on the battlefields, where her indomitable spirit was as healing as the medicine she applied. (Continued.)

TRUE TALES—Clara Barton (2nd of a series)

by VERUS



COURAGE.—The soldiers of both the Northern and Southern U. S. armies worshipped her. She worked through the long hours of the day and night, with no thought of rest, easing the pain of the wounded, comforting the dying. Often she could be found in the thickest of the battle, heedless of flying bullets.



MISSION.—Abraham Lincoln called Clara Barton, "One of God's noblest women". He chose her to conduct the search for missing soldiers. A lasting memorial to her efforts is a National Cemetery in the state of Georgia. She was responsible for the identification and making of the graves of over 12,000 men.



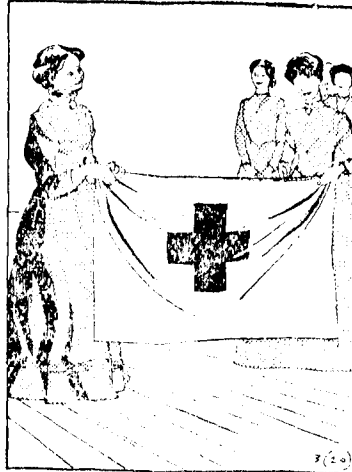
DEDICATED.—But her work had only begun. In 1871 she went to Europe where the Franco-Prussian war was raging. She organized hospitals for the care of the wounded. Germany rewarded her with the Iron Cross of Merit. The grand duchy of Baden gave her the Gold Cross of Remembrance. Her fame spread. (Continued.)

TRUE TALES—Clara Barton (3rd of a series,

by VERUS



PHILANTHROPIST.—War's aftermath left hunger and despair in Europe. Thousands were homeless. Clara Barton personally distributed relief to the poor of Paris and Strasbourg. The world marvelled at the compassion and unselfishness of the of this remarkable woman.



ORGANIZATION.—Seeing the need for a lasting humanitarian program, Clara Barton established the American Red Cross in 1881. To this cause she devoted her life. In 1881-1882 she brought her country into the International Conference for the Relief of War Wounded at Geneva.



DISEASE.—But her work in the field was not over. Yellow fever broke out in the Southern United States in 1882. Scornful of her own safety, Clara Barton became a nurse once more. The dread sickness checked, her name became a symbol of hope wherever disaster struck (Continued.)

TRUE TALES—Clara Barton (4th of a series)

by VERUS



REFORM.—Deep concern for all troubled people led her to service beyond hospital and battlefield. In 1833, she became superintendent of a woman's reformatory at Sherborn, Massachusetts. Her only qualifications were kindness and understanding. She left it a less forbidding place.



FOREIGN AID.—Her concern for the distressed knew no boundaries. She directed relief for the victims of the Russian famine of 1891. In 1896 she worked tirelessly for the survivors of the great Armenian massacre. No other woman has ever been more dedicated to what Clara Barton herself called God's work.



FLOOD.—Her untiring efforts in the cause of humanity began to take their toll. She was no longer young; she wanted to rest. But disaster struck again. A great flood engulfed Johnstown, Pennsylvania, in 1889. Clara Barton was 68 years old, but again she supervised aid for the sick and the homeless. (Continued.)

Tragedy and Sanskrit Drama

By

Dr. S. R. K. RAO.

SANSKRIT Drama is conspicuous by the absence of tragedies though the tragic element is present, at times dominating, in many works of the Sanskrit dramatists. In this one finds a contrast to the works of the Western dramatists wherein tragedy had reached great perfection. The originators of tragedies were the Greeks and the very word "tragedy" is a derivation from the Greek word "Tragos." The early Greeks imbibed the tragedies with delicate pathos and sensuous emotions. With civilization grew literature and with the development of literature developed human consciousness. The politico-socio-economic life of the Greek cities was to a great extent an accelerating factor in the development of tragedies in the Greek drama. The Greeks had all the myths and miracles, they had their innumerable gods, taboos and inhibitions. But all these could not give them solace and faith when a crisis happened in their civilization. Despair had led them to the inevitable conclusion that the ultimate end led in disaster. The Greek dramatist could not be an exception to this. When such a situation appeared in the scheme of his creation he found the end of his drama in the final departure from Hope. Neither his gods, myths, taboos nor miracles could suggest him a solution to the catastrophic situation which he had created. That was how "tragedy" became an indispensable solution to the mentally alert but spiritually unconscious Greek dramatist.

The Europeans and the English, who owe their very civilization to the Greeks, borrowed "tragedy" for their literature from the Greek drama. From the literary point of view they perfected the "tragedy" to suit the stage, but the continental and the English tragedies sadly lacked the depth and dimensions of the Greek tragedies. There was much of ornamentation and sophistication in them. There was too much of sentimentalism and determinism in their tone. "Tragedy" thus began and ended with the Greek drama.

To the Sanskrit dramatist "tragedy" was a thought of immaturity. He agreed that life was not always flora and fauna, and that situations would arise in life which would make a

man moribund. Crisis is but the culmination of odds and to yield to that is to surrender spirit to Matter. The Sanskrit dramatist believed that in the ultimate analysis it was Spirit that triumphed over Matter. In other words the conflict between Spirit and Matter was only superficial and external. To him Life meant an eternal process of cyclic activity, confining not only to this earth but embracing the entire cosmos. Birth and Death were not the beginning and end of life but they were only punctuations in the earthly manifestation of it. Beyond this he saw another life—Life Divine, which was eternal and enduring, which could be achieved by the triumph of Spirit over Matter. Applied to evolution the conflict between "Purush" and "Prakriti" was only ephimiral and in the final conquest of the latter by the former led the way to Life Divine.

To the Sanskrit dramatist tragedy was an unnecessary end. To him the tragic end was an inconclusive and illogical end. He believed that the end should be a Final one where Spirit triumphed over Matter. The tragic situation that developed in the process of the drama was only a temporary phase in the lives of the characters. Thus set in the philosophic background the Sanskrit dramatist abhorred tragedy merely for tragic end. Further, tragedy was repugnant to a civilization which was essentially religious in its way of life. The Hindu architecture, music, painting and dance reverberated religious sentiments in their theme. What else is religion but faith, faith in life? This set the dramatist against all odds and hardships that confronted his characters. Situations developed in due course of drama where tragedy seemed inevitable, but the dramatist with his dexterity and faith came out with a solution which showed a way to happiness. At times it was God who finally resolved the tangle, at times it was the sacrifice of an important character that brought bliss to other characters etc., etc. But all the time the dramatist was convinced of the ultimate happiness of life. It was this sincere conviction that made the very thought of tragedy repugnant to his emotions.

The Sanskrit dramatist was convinced that life which was eternal could never meet an

inglorious end and that life was not given to be ended hastily without running its full course. Tragedy was the result of the incapacity of the dramatist to find a solution to a situation which he had created. It is this incapacity that drove him to despair. Fortunately, the Sanskrit dramatist could visualise beyond such situations and show a way-out to the characters and thereby to the audience and breathe confidence and hope in life.

Let us take a few examples from Sanskrit literature. Valmiki's Ramayana depicts an ideal king who combines in himself an ideal Man, a brother, a husband and a son. There are many situations where tragedy seems inevitable. Banished from the kingdom, confronted by the demons at every step, and having lost his wife Ram appears to be doomed to a tragic end. But the since reconviction of the author in the ultimate triumph of Truth over Untruth and Good over Evil makes Ram the victor. Thus Ramayana which could otherwise have been an excellent theme for a great tragedy in the hands of a Western author stands today as an immortal piece of hope and joy to the millions of its readers. Not that Valmiki could not see the other side of life—the tragic side of human existence. The innumerable incidents in the great epic draw pity and sympathy of its readers to the central characters. But it is the end that makes all the difference.

From the dramas we can make a representative selection. Kalidas is ranked as the greatest Sanskrit dramatist. How is that even he did not create a single tragedy? Not that he could not, nor he lacked imagination for a tragic plot. *Shakuntalam*, *Vikrama-Urvasiyam* and *Malavika-Agnimitram* have happy ending. When thrown out by her husband the pregnant *Shakuntala* could have thrown herself out to despair and committed suicide. Thus Kalidas could have turned the play into a tragedy. But the dramatist's firm conviction in the ultimate triumph of Spirit over Matter made him to do otherwise. *Shakuntala* unlike *Ophelia* did not go mad and throw herself into a river. She boldly faced the odds. She bore a son in the thickets of the jungles, brought him up combining in herself a father, a mother, a teacher and a companion. She faced the ordeal set to her by Fate and in the end had all happiness which she richly deserved. Similarly in *Vikram-Urvasiyam* we find the love-lorn king wandering through the woods pining and crying for his Lady Love. Every moment since then offered ample scope to the dramatist to turn the

play into a tragedy. Romeo believed that Juliet was really dead. So too Vikram believed that *Urvashi* was lost to him. But unlike Romeo, Vikram had faith in life and in the ultimate happiness in love. So he did not kill himself like Romeo. Instead he saw his lover in every atom of creation and in it he found hope and faith in the ultimate union with his beloved. In the end his supreme love triumphed over the odds of life. Vikram got his *Urvashi*. Kalidas is no solitary example in Sanskrit literature. Take *Harsha's Nagananda* or *Bhavabhuti's Malati-Madhavam*. *Nagananda* is a story of sacrifice and greater sacrifice. To save the life of a commoner the king offers himself as a sacrifice to the diety *Garuda*. At this stage it is almost certain that the play would end in tragedy. But the conviction of the dramatist in the ultimate triumph of Good over Evil gives a twist to the plot by introducing supernatural element and the drama ends happily. Thus the dramatist believed that even in the worst moments of life it is Truth that ultimately triumphs over everything else.

Sudraka's Mritchakatika is a bold departure from tradition. It is a social theme with a difference. The hero is a brahmin and the heroine a prostitute. There are many court intrigues in the development of the drama. Neither the class conflicts nor the social inhibitions could prevent the play from a happy ending. Though placed in a better position *Romeo and Juliet* had to kill themselves as victims of a family feud. *Malathi-Madhavam* unfolds the delicate and sensuous story of two lovers who had to walk through many an ordeal before achieving the fruits of their love. Perhaps, the most pathetic story ever dramatized in Sanskrit is that of *Nishadham*. Not an incident is without pathos, not an event is without tears. There is many a slip between the cup and the lip. But the ending is invariably happy.

To the Western counterpart of the Sanskrit dramatist death is the only answer to all insolvable problems of human existence. He could not see beyond that. But the Sanskrit dramatist visualised beyond what the human mind could think of under the worst circumstances. Hence to him death was no answer to human miseries and calamities. He fought cataclysm with his faith in life and conveyed his conviction in the joys and bliss of life. To him Spirit was always more important than Matter.

LATE MR T. PRAKASAM

We record with deep regret the death of Mr. T. Prakasam, the veteran Congress leader and former Chief Minister of Andhra, at 7-37 p.m., at the Osmania General Hospital at Hyderabad on May 20. He was 86.

Both the Houses of Parliament paid homage to the memory of Mr. T. Prakasam, who passed away in Hyderabad. The members of both the Houses stood up in silence for two minutes before taking up the agenda for the day (21st May).

In the Lok Sabha, the Home Minister, Pandit Pant, described Mr. Prakasam as "the architect of the State of Andhra."

Pandit Pant said that Mr. Prakasam's whole life was devoted to the service of the country, "took a prominent part in the struggle for Independence, suffered privations and hardships and was always in the vanguard of the struggle. He was widely respected in Andhra and he was the architect of that new State. He was known for his courage and also for his constructive genius. He devoted his energy and his talents to the service of the people of Andhra primarily and of the entire country generally. The country is poorer by his death and I would request you, Mr. Speaker, to convey to the members of the bereaved family the sympathies of this House."

Prime Minister Nehru said: "I would like to add to the tribute paid to Mr. Prakasam. I was associated with him. I suppose probably for over 35 years. I can appreciate many of his qualities, even though sometimes we did not wholly agree about some matters. There was no doubt about the tremendous dynamic energy he possessed. Of course, as happens to all of us, with the passage of time and age, there was a certain physical weakness which came to him and he could not function lately as he used to function, but all those who knew him in those days will remember that dynamic energy he put into his work and his sacrifices. A great figure has passed away, not only great in terms of Andhra State, of which he may well be said to be the architect, but a great figure on the all-India scene. It is fitting that we pay tributes to his memory."

THE CENTRAL BUDGET: CHANGES IN TAX PROPOSALS

The Finance Minister, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, on May 31, announced in the Lok Sabha tax reliefs amounting to Rs. 5.05 crores for the current year on his taxation proposals.

He withdrew the additional charges on post-cards and parcels but raised the rate for inland envelopes from 13 naye paise to 15 naye paise. He withdrew the additional excise duties on tea and coffee, amounting to Rs. 3.25 crores.

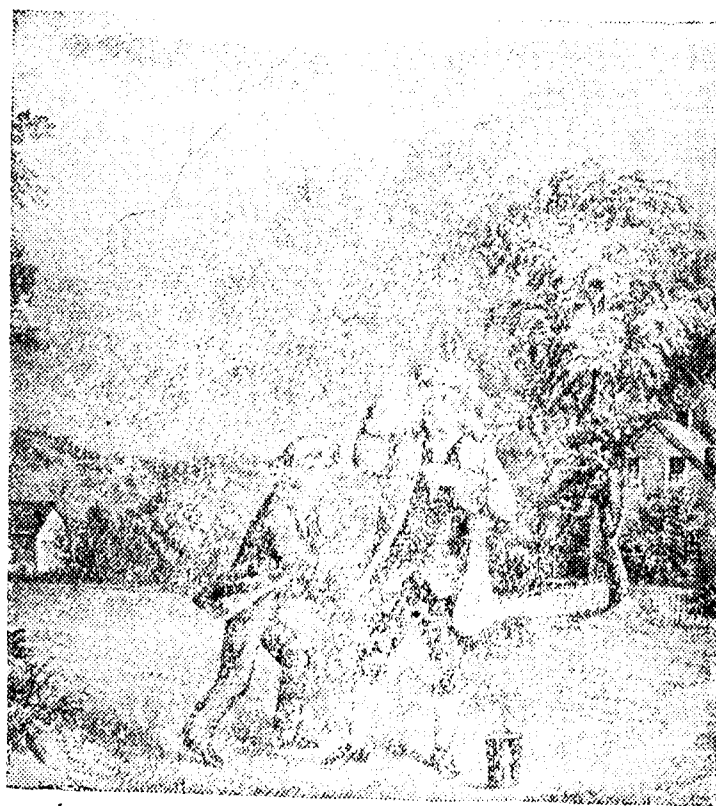
The Finance Minister exempted the first 15 miles of travel from his tax on railway passengers fares. Thereafter, there will be a tax of five per cent on journeys above 15 miles and up to and inclusive of 30 miles. The other slabs remain as already announced.

Mr. Krishnamachari, while refusing to raise the exemption limit of Rs. 3,000 for income-tax, announced a children's allowance of Rs. 300 per child subject to a maximum of Rs. 600. This allowance would be added to the marriage allowance already provided. The children's allowance, however, would not be admissible to persons with income above Rs. 20,000 in whose cases he also proposed to withdraw the marriage allowance of Rs. 2,000.

Other concessions announced by Mr. Krishnamachari included exemption from wealth tax for the first five years on the value of the assets pertaining to an industrial undertaking of a new company. Certain reliefs may be worked out later on expenditure tax.

"Suitable action" would be taken to give producers in the matter of excise on matches.

It had been represented to him that on account of the changes proposed this year certain varieties of tobacco would become assessable to the higher rate of excise even though hitherto they were being assessed at the lower rate. Mr. Krishnamachari said that it should be possible to remedy genuine difficulties.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ANNIVERSARY

This print, published by Currier & Ives of New York in 1876, shows Benjamin Franklin performing his famous experiment (1752) in which he flew a kite during a thunderstorm and demonstrated that lightning and electricity are identical. In addition to the lightning rod, Franklin is credited with many other inventions, among them an open stove, bifocal glasses, a musical instrument called the "harmonica," a clothes ironer, improved globes for street lightning, and a three-wheel clock.

WORLD OF BOOKS

SEARCH FOR PURPOSE: By Arthur E. Morgan printed in the United States of America by the Antioch Press, Yellow Springs, Ohio - Price: \$ 3.00.

This is a most interesting book. The first Chairman of T.V.A., in life, an engineer, educator, author, international consultant, Chairman Morgan has written a "spiritual autobiography." His personal approach was to be "thorough" in whatever he did. In the process of enquiry, he avoids idols against whose worship Lord Becon has warned us. As he says on page 39 "A course of life and action which for an individual animal will result in survival and posterity for the immediately following generation, is inherently disadvantageous to the long time survival and welfare of the species." As my old Professor Edwin Cannan said "Those who talk of the Survival of the Fittest" forget that the Fittest does not mean the Best or the Noblest but merely means those "Fittest to Survive." Thus after a Great War, the flower of the population is sacrificed while the scheming and the old and the corrupt survive. Postulating in Chapter V that Science is concerned with Values' in Chapter VI, Chairmain Morgan explains the continuity of the noble living and the noble dead. In Chapter VII, after glancing at the Christian church, he proceeds in Chapter VIII to the Proper Function of Conditioning. In Chapter IX, "The Control of the Physical World is examined, and in Chapter X, the author's own personal incentives. In Chapter XIII the Socratic Paradox of a human being doing things which do not promote his own happiness is analysed. The Strategy for Survival (Chapter XIV) is after all a strategy, the ultimate purpose being Peace on Earth and World Unity. In Chapter XV, our younger brethren in the animal and insect world are pleaded for. In Chapter XVI, the difference between emulation and cut-throat competition is distinguished. In Chapter XVII, the author takes a last glance at the Prospect before the world. The reviewer desires to echo the author's message: "playing with life as a dilettante has no relation to joy in living, nor to having suitable relation, enjoyment, leisure and pleasure along the way. The rigidity of cultural patterns is growing less, and the comparing of varied life patterns is increasing."

REPORT ON THE SURVEY OF INDIA'S FOREIGN LIABILITIES AND ASSETS: published by the Reserve Bank of India, Bombay Rs. 1-8-0.

This survey of India's foreign liabilities and assets (as on December 53) is interesting though obviously incomplete. The figures are revealing showing the financial wizardry by which England which was a predominantly creditor country in relation to India before 1929 collected all her assets and also borrowed and became a predominantly debtor-country in relation to India asking for and obtaining for political reason a settlement of her dues on a fractional basis like a bankrupt or an insolvent. I think the time is too early to assess in their true perspective the various arrangement made for settlement of sterling balances, and other international obligation as between India and England. On the one hand, one may go to the extreme of thinking that India was badly let down by negotiators instead of claiming the full pound of flesh when England still seems to be able to afford air, navy and land armaments to be respected in international discussions and to oppress backward communities in Africa and Malaya. On the other hand, it may be argued that the political gain of the goodwill of England and its patron, the U.S.A., is more than worth the material loss to the poverty-stricken masses of India.

STOPOVER FOR MURDER: By Floyd Mahannah. A Signet Book-Published by The New American Library, New York 25c.

This is one of the Murder Thrillers for American Millions which have become so popular now. There is dialogue, and there is sudden death, and as some reviewers have said, there is 'first-rate spine-tingling.'

THE PRIMITIVE: By Chester Himes: A Signet Book. Published by The New American Library, New York—price 25c.

This is a fierce and brilliant novel about a white divorcee who is given connection with India by being made the Registrar of the Goodwin Indian Institute founded by an American who almost became a Brahman. She has many Negro lovers. The whole story is a nightmare of drink and debauchery.

THE NATIONAL CULTURE OF INDIA

By Dr. S. Abid Husain. A Jaico Book—with a Foreword by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India—Published by Jaico Publishing House, Bombay—Price Rs. 2.

In respect of religion, increasingly we find that there is a common basis for all religions and that the understanding thereof is as vital as following a particular religion. As Mahatma Gandhi said 'A study of other religions was necessary to make him a better Hindu.' Dr. Abid Husain has shown how a study of the bases of Indian Culture and the contributions to it of Muslim Culture, Hindu-Muslim Culture, the Hindustani Culture and English Culture first brought a united national consciousness. This consciousness first took the shape of an unreasoning reaction against English Culture but is finally crystallising now towards a National Culture. As Dr. Radhakrishnan says in his Foreword "The universality of fundamental ideas which historical studies and comparative religion demonstrate is the hope of the future. And towards that hope, this book makes a substantial contribution."

THE GOOD ADMINISTRATOR—Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Lectures by C. Rajagopalachari—the Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

Rajaji has now become a classic in pithy essay writing. His inaugural talk, emphasising the qualifications of competency, punctuality sagacity, imagination and efficient execution is full of good meat for all readers.

AYURVEDIC TREATMENT OF CANCER:

By Dr. Prabhakar Chatterjee, M. A. (Cal.), D.Sc., (J.A.U.), Published by Kaviraj Sri Amal Kumar Chatterjee from the Institute of Hindu Chemistry and Ayurvedic Research, 61/1, Moore Avenue, Regent Park, Calcutta—40 Price Rs. 10.

This book clearly explodes the theory that Ayurvedic medicine only deals in noisome drugs and does not know scientific medication or delicate surgery. The various kinds of cancer like the cancer of the gum, throat, skin, lung etc., are analysed and surgical or therapeutic treatment advised in accordance with the requirements of a particular case. A very well-written book.

EAST AND WEST SERIES (No. 14)—The

Vision of a Village-Singer by T. L. Vaswani, Gita Publishing House, 10 Connaught Road, Poona-1, Price 4 annas.

The old sage of Hyderabad (Sind) continues to maintain his charming way of preaching great truths through the simple life of the poor. The story of Bekas is well worth reading.

COMMUNAL UNITY: By M. K. Gandhi Navajivan Publishing House, Ahmedabad. Price Rs. 4.

This is an omnibus edition of more than 1000 pages and it is a marvel of cheapness considering its mammoth size. This volume is a collection of Gandhiji's writings in *Young India* and *Harijan* on Hindu-Muslim problem in India which was worrying Gandhiji's mind for a long time. The book covers nearly three decades. Dr. Bharatan Kumarappa has edited this edition while Dr. Rajendra Prasad has written the Foreword.

SATYAGRAHA IN SOUTH AFRICA: By M. K. Gandhi. Translated from the original Gujarati by Valji Govinji Desai. Navajivan Publishing House, Ahmedabad. Price Rs. 8/-.

The first edition of this book appeared in 1928. The book gives in detail the geography and history of South Africa from the beginning of this century i.e. from the time of the Boer War. In giving the account of the Satyagraha movement which he started in S. Africa Mr. Gandhi refers to Mr. Natesan, the founder of this journal who (in Gandhi's own words), "perhaps stood alone in India as a student of the grievances of Indians abroad", Mr. Natesan's services for the cause of Indians overseas are eulogised by Mr. Gandhi. (Page 233). The book covers a long period and gives interesting details.

SELECTIONS FROM PALI JATAKAS (In Devanagari Script) by Prof. N. K. Bhagwat, M. A. Published by International Book House Ltd., Bombay—Price Rs. 3.

Professor Bhagwat has done an excellent piece of work in editing and publishing these selections which will not only help to remind us of the ocean of interesting tales but also come in handy during the Buddha Jayanti.

INDIANS OUTSIDE INDIA**CEYLON****INDIANS IN CEYLON**

The Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, said in the Lok Sabha in May 22, that in the course of his talks with the Prime Minister of Ceylon, a reference was made to the problem of people of Indian descent in Ceylon. No detailed consideration of this question took place at that time and no fresh assurances were either asked for or given. It was, however, agreed that both in regard to this problem and others, "further discussion should take place at a later stage and both the Prime Minister of Ceylon and I expressed our confidence that outstanding problems between India and Ceylon can and should be solved satisfactorily."

Mr. Nehru was replying to a short notice question sponsored by Mr. Narayanankutty Menon and Mr. Palaniandi.

Answering supplementaries, Mr. Nehru said that a distinction should be made between Indian nationals in Ceylon and people of Indian descent in Ceylon, who were not Indian nationals. So far as the Indian nationals were concerned, they were there normally with Indian passports and visas. Many of the visas were not being extended when they expired and many of these people perhaps came back. This had nothing to do with the people of Indian descent—estate labour chiefly—whom the Indian Government did not consider to be Indian nationals.

APPLICATIONS FOR CITIZENSHIP

"The total number of applications disposed of by the Government of Ceylon upto 31st March, 1957, in 1,87,636 covering 6,15,977 persons. The number of applications pending disposal is 38,997."

S. AFRICA**INDIAN IN NAIROBI COUNCIL**

The Nairobi City Council has broken with tradition by recommending an Asian, Alderman Mohan Singh, for election as Deputy Mayor.

The office has never been held by anyone other than a European. The appointment has to be endorsed at the annual meeting of the Council in a few weeks time.

Alderman Mohan Singh was born in East Punjab and farmed in India until 1933 when he joined his elder brother in firm of Nairobi builders and contractors.

MALAYA**INDIAN DOCTORS**

The Malayan Government will send shortly a Selection Board of three to India to recruit Indian doctors, a Government spokesman said recently. The spokesman said the Malayan Government was now awaiting word from the Indian Government on the number of doctors they would permit to recruit for service in Malaya. About 150 applicants would be interviewed by the Board, the spokesman added.

INDIAN ENVOY TO MALAYA

Mr. V. M. Madhavan Nair, the new Indian Commissioner for Singapore and the Federation of Malay States, arrived at Singapore on May 2. He was received by India House Officials and leaders of the Indian community in Singapore.

BURMA**INDIAN BUSINESSMEN IN BURMA**

The Burma Government have not yet sent a final reply to India's "approach" to them on the hardship caused to Indian businessmen as a result of the Registration (Importers and Exporters) Order of the Government of Burma which came into force on October 1, 1954.

This was stated in the Lok Sabha on May 22, by Mrs. Lakshmi Menon, Deputy Minister of External Affairs, in a written reply to Mr. S. C. Samanta and Mr. Raghunath Singh.

She had been asked whether it was a fact that large and long established Indian companies, firms and individuals in Burma who import goods into that country are not qualified for registration.

Mrs. Menon replied. Yes, Under the Registration (Importers and Exporters) Order, 1954, of the Government of Burma, no foreign firm can be registered unless it is registered under the Burma Companies Act and it had imported or exported any goods into or out of Burma before January 4, 1948. Under the same order no firm shall be registered or continue to be registered unless at least 50 per cent of its staff whose monthly emoluments are less than monthly emoluments are less than kyats 500 are citizens of the Union of Burma.

Many foreign firms or individuals, including Indians, doing business in Burma who are not qualified for registration under the Burma Companies Act are likely to suffer under the new regulation.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

- May 1. Soviet Defence Minister warns the danger of Atom warfare in his address on May Day celebration.
- May 2. Unemployed Farmers loot private granary in Patna.
- May 3. The Supreme Court dismisses the Petition filed by N. B. Khare re. Presidential Election.
- May 4. Former President Harry Truman said that policies pursued by the Eisenhower administration are driving to Socialism.
- Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, outlines basis of India's Defence Policy, at Indo-Arab Society.
- May 5. The Himachal Pradesh Secretariat Building in Simla with Govt. records is destroyed by fire.
- May 6. Atomic Weapons for Formosa—U.S. decision is disclosed by K.M.T.
- May 7. Indo-Pakistan Talks on Canal Waters at Washington under the auspices of World Bank is further extended upto Sept. 30th, '57.
- May 8. Fire disaster in Monywa (Burma) entire Town strip gutted.
- Land Evictions: Kerala Bill passed in the Kerala Assembly.
- May 9. Pay rise for Life Insurance Staff is announced by Finance Minister Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari at Bombay.
- Pak Police arrest Two Indian Officers and humiliated in Karachi.
- May 10. Babu Rajendra Prasad is re-elected President of India for a second term.
- New Lok Sabha meets and members take oath.
- India celebrates centenary of First War of Independence.
- May 11. Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Iyengar is unanimously elected Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- May 12. Mahbubnagar Railway Disaster Enquiry Report is released.
- Govt. of India appoints a committee for Amendment of Working of Companies Act under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. V. V. Sastri former Judge of Madras.
- May 13. Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Dr. S. Radhakrishnan are sworn in as President and Vice-President for another term.
- British Prime Minister announces in the Commons that British Ships will go through the Suez Canal.
- May 14. Railway Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram presents the Railway Budget in the Lok Sabha of increased Freight charges.
- Leading Newspaper Executives of the world meets at a Conference in Amsterdam.
- May 15. Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari presents Central Budget in the Lok Sabha.
- Britain explodes 5th Test of Hydrogen Bomb in Central Pacific.
- May 16. Bagdad Pact—Economic Body meets in Karachi and U.S. attends session.
- May 17. Pandit Nehru arrives in Colombo to participate in Buddha Jayanti celebrations.
- May 18. Increased Duty in Kerosene and Newsprint withdrawn.
- May 19. Publication of cheap books is stressed by C. R. under the auspices of Southern Languages Book Trust.
- May 19. Prime Minister of India and Ceylon issue a joint statement re Ban on Nuclear Weapons from Colombo.
- May 20. Mr. T. Prakasam, Valiant Fighter for Freedom and ex. Andhra Chief Minister is dead at Hyderabad.
- Pandit Nehru inaugurates Lignite Mining at Neiveli.
- May 21. New Taxes criticised in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- U. N. Council debates on the Suez Problem in N. York.
- May 22. India's Parliament unanimously adopts a resolution calling on U.S.A., U.S.S.R. and U.K. to suspend Nuclear Tests.
- French Govt. defeated—M. Mollet's Govt. resigns.
- May 23. Japanese Premier arrives at New Delhi.
- Finnish Govt. resigns.
- May 24. Prime Ministers of Japan and India issue a joint statement to suspend Nuclear Tests.
- May 25. French rule in Algeria.
- May 26. Congress Working Committee meets in New Delhi.
- Mr. V. K. K. Menon, in London enroute to New York.
- May 27. West German Chancellor meets Ike at Gettysburg for Talks on Disarmament and Western Defence.
- May 28. Eisenhower and Dr. K. Adenauer issue a joint statement re. Reunification of Germany.
- May 29. Security Council debates on Israeli—Syrian dispute.
- May 30. Prime Minister of Indo-China State of Laos resigns.
- May 31. Britain hands over her air base at Mafrq to Jordanian forces.

READERS' DIGEST

THE KASHMIR STRUGGLE

Eastern World, the Asia monthly published from London, has said that in his report on Kashmir, Mr. Gunnar Jarring "has taken back to the Security Council the view that there is a great deal of reality in Indian arguments" on the Kashmir problem.

This recognition, the magazine said, had come a little late, for "throughout the dispute, India's attitude has too often been condemned as unreasonable and her arguments called invalid." But "it is nevertheless good to know that matters will from now on be more in perspective."

"Although the Jarring report contains a note of regret that India should have rejected arbitration to decide whether or not Pakistan is in default of earlier U. N. resolutions in keeping troops in Kashmir, the reasons why India stands firmly against such a suggestion are clearly implied and the reasons are valid," *Eastern World* said.

The journal considered that "the Indian Government has every right not to accept any move towards a solution that would assume Pakistan to have legal standing on Kashmir."

"By taking note of the concern expressed in Delhi in connection with the changing political, economic and strategic factors surrounding the whole of the Kashmir question, together with the changing pattern of Power relations in West and South Asia," Mr. Jarring has given credence to a factor in Indian relations with Pakistan that has not hitherto been taken sufficiently into account in discussions of the Kashmir issue. It is a factor which Britain, America and other Western nations will not care to have aired at the forum of the United Nations."

Eastern World said that "Pakistan's membership of SEATO and the Baghdad Pact and her acceptance of American military aid have hardened India's attitude. The position of non-involvement in which India and other South-East countries have placed themselves is jeopardised by the existence of SEATO, and it is not unnatural for India to consider the strategic importance of Kashmir."

"The United Nations and the world ought now to come to recognise that Kashmir is not an issue that stands separately from the overall pattern of Indo-Pakistan relations. The improvement of those relations depends as

much upon Western policies as upon the action of the two countries themselves."

"The West is only too happy to have a non-progressive country like Pakistan as an ally in the region. It is only to be hoped that the situation does not become such as to give cause for alarm in India that that part of Kashmir under Indian control is threatened by Pakistan's strategic commitment to the West."

"The question of Kashmir remains now in a state of deadlock, but Mr. Jarring's report may go some way to convince members of the Security Council how outside influences call for the handling of the situation with utmost delicacy," the journal said.

ASIANS IN THE COMMONWEALTH

The admission of Asian members in the Commonwealth holds out great potentiality for better understanding between East and West apart from widening the sphere of its activities. Prof. Rushbrook Williams whose paper on the place of the New Asian Members in the Commonwealth is published in the *Asian Review* says that before long this non-Western Membership is likely to be reinforced from different parts of Africa, Malaya, the West Indies and so forth. "We can therefore look forward to having in the Commonwealth a real cross-section of almost the entire human race he says."

"We shall have that cross-section held together by the intangible bonds of common sympathy, affection and feeling which all derive from three fundamental ideas which the non-Western members have taken up and made their own and which from the beginning animated the older members of the Commonwealth."

The first is the rule of law; the second is Parliamentary democracy; and the third—you can call it what you like—perhaps aiming at the welfare state or something similar, derived from the feeling that a vote does not fill a belly. If the peoples of the Commonwealth are to be worthy citizens of the world they must be well fed, well educated, well looked after. It is on these three pillars that the future of all the different countries of the Commonwealth rests. It is because these three ideas are so firmly implanted in the minds of the statesmen and subjects of every Commonwealth country that a solid basis has been evolved upon which the structure of the Commonwealth can grow and develop."

VALUE OF THE RUPEE

The suggestion that the time has come for the Government of India to make it clear that it intends to maintain the existing value of the Rupee and "to demonstrate they are following economic policies that will enable them to do so" is put forward in the *Financial Times*, London.

The paper's financial columnist "Lombard" claims that, owing to continued deterioration in the Indian economic position, in both external and internal fields, fears have been aroused about the stability of the Rupee, and that "the wisest course now" for the Indian authorities is therefore to make it plain there is no question of devaluation.

The link-up of the Rupee with Sterling at a fixed ratio as well as operation of currency controls have held in check the tendency of money to move out of Indian currency, into other currencies but "Lombard" argues that within India itself, a shift from Rupee into precious metals is now in progress. He points out that the price of gold per tola and of Sovereigns has gone up by about seven per cent since the beginning of the year, and upward movement is tending to gather pace. About two-thirds of price increase recorded since January, has occurred over the last three weeks alone.

Two main fears are evidently to blame for this situation, writes "Lombard". One is the serious drain on the country's foreign exchange reserves, which may eventually tempt the Indian authorities to attempt to find a quick solution for the balance of payments difficulties by cutting the exchange value of currency. The second fear is that the rapid rise in internal prices may have the effect of taking Indian goods out of world markets, unless counteraction is taken in the form of appropriate alteration in the rate of exchange. "Wholesale prices in India over the last twelve months have risen to the extent of some 20 per cent, that is about three times as fast as in most other parts of the world".

"Lombard" concedes these fears may well be exaggerated. The steps that have already been taken to reduce foreign exchange deficit to manageable proportions may yet prove effective and it will not be possible finally to say whether any more drastic measures are

needed until later this year. Further, the fact that Indian exports were substantially higher in the closing quarter, last year than in the comparable period in 1955, seems to indicate that Indian exporters have "managed so far to overcome the disadvantage at which they are being placed by the rising trend in prices in India".

SOVIET MILITARY POWER

Growing Soviet air and sea power were discussed in an annual U.S. Defence Department summary report issued on May 9 at Washington.

Mr. Donald Quarles, Deputy Secretary of Defence, wrote: "The Soviet Union is now able to inflict catastrophic damage on this country in a single day. . . .

"We must anticipate the greatest threat of all to our national security—the intercontinental ballistic missile—and prepare an effective defence against it".

Mr. Charles Thomas, Navy Secretary, who recently resigned, said: "The Soviets have nuclear weapons and guided missiles and are well aware of the importance of adapting them to shipboard use.

"The Red Navy is developing rapidly far beyond defensive needs".

"The Soviets have a large and growing submarine force about 400, and they are building more".

The report covered the year ended last June 30.

The report included a summary of the overall Defence Department research and development programme for fiscal year 1956. In that year, the outlay for research, development and testing of weapons and equipment was 5,300 million dollars.

For the first time, the Army gave a detailed accounting of its Nike anti-aircraft guided missile programme. It said a total of 22 areas in the United States had been designated to receive Nike weapon protection.

By the end of the last fiscal year, the Army said, defence rings were installed around these areas: Washington-Baltimore, New York-Jersey City, Chicago-Gary, San Francisco Bay, Seattle, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Detroit and Philadelphia.

THE GAZA STRIP

Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's statement of policy presented in a summary form in *News from Israel* would make it appear that peace and prosperity to The Gaza Strip came with the advent of Israel administration. The Strip under Egyptian rule was the weakest point in the Middle East, says Ben-Gurion "in regard to security, the continuing economic crisis of its inhabitants and the problem of the refugees."

"An Israel administration with U.N. assistance would be in a position to solve all the three problems. Instead of continuing the nightmare which had existed under Egyptian rule, the Gaza Strip could become a beacon of light for the entire region.

For the first time in eight years there is peace in the Strip and its vicinity, and relations of mutual help exist between our southern villages and the Strip. For the first time in eight years economic projects for its development are being worked out; and now that the incitements and undermining activities of the Egyptian dictatorship within the Strip have been terminated, the U.N. can make a serious approach to a solution of the refugee problem in co-operation with the refugees and with Israel's assistance.

The restoration of Egyptian influence—directly by a return of the Egyptian army, or indirectly upon the entry of the U.N.E.F., is likely to block and eliminate all constructive prospects, and the Strip would revert to lawlessness, to its own misfortune and that of all the adjacent areas."

The Prime Minister claims that the heavy security burden that rests upon Israel, and her deep interest in the development of the area and in a solution of the refugee problem, make it necessary for her, to carry on with the administration of the Strip.

ART VERSUS LITERATURE

Mr. H. P. Shah's article on Art and Literature in the Divali number of *Prevana* the quarterly journal of Y. M. H. A. Bombay has provoked and inspired Prof. O. C. Gangoly to revert to the subject in the current issue in which he holds forth in favour of Art as the better and more popular and effective visual medium of Colour and Form. After discussing the role of painting, sculpture and architecture in unraveling the past he concludes:

"The Visual Art, as opposed to the Literary Art, helps to build up a University for the illiterate and the Poor, for they offer knowledge without tears—knowledge communicated through pleasure and entertainment. Painting, Sculpture and Architecture can *teach* as well as *entertain* and *educate*."

PENSIONS FOR PRESIDENTS

New York Times recalls that, after leaving the White House, John Adams wrote:

"Can there be any deeper damnation in this universe than to be condemned to a long life in danger, toil and anxiety; to be rewarded with abuse, insult and slander; and to die at seventy, leaving to an amiable wife and to five amiable children nothing for inheritance but the contempt, hatred and malice of the world?"

It goes on to add that authorities have long agreed with Adams (who lived twenty years longer than he prophesied) that the nation should do better by its former Presidents—specifically that some provision should be made for those in need. "Some ex-Presidents—including Herbert Hoover—have been wealthy. Others have not. U. S. Grant, for example, died deeply in debt. Harry Truman, who before becoming President was a small farmer, unsuccessful haberdasher and public servant, has since had a sizable income from writing and lecturing but estimates that it has cost him \$150,000 to pay clerical and other expenses growing out of his quasi-public position."

Recently the Senate voted to give former Presidents \$25,000 a year, office space in a Federal building, a staff, and the privilege of free mailing.

MUSLIMS IN INDIA

Public Affairs, the organ of the Gokhale Institute in Bangalore, has a number of thoughtful papers in its recent issue. The study of International Affairs by Nittour Sreenivasa Rau, Civil Service in a changing world by N. S. Ramachandra. The Elections and their significance by V. P. Menon are subjects of more than topical interest and are discussed with knowledge and competence. We invite attention to Editor Guundappa's dispassionate discussion on citizenship and criminality and Sir Mirza Ismail's wholesome advice to his fellow religionists in India. Sir Mirza says in his statement.

I am convinced that the Muslims of India should, in their own interest as well as in that

of India, completely identify themselves with the rest of their countrymen in all matters pertaining to the welfare of their motherland. For they are as truly citizens of India as any others living in the land and owe the same unquestioned allegiance to her. Let there be no doubt in anybody's mind about this.

It remains my firm view that Muslims as a community should have no separate political organization. They should play their part in the political field with the other citizens of India, not under a separate banner.

They should have their own social and educational associations to promote and safeguard their special needs and increase their fitness to take their place in the modern State. But in politics, let us join hands with others and not stand aloof.

PRACTICAL THEOSOPHY

In a paper read at the 81st. International convention at Adyar and published in the February number of *The Theosophist* Mr. H.S.L. Polak recounts some of his experiences in South Africa in association with Gandhiji. "I feel," he says.

"I have myself had the privilege of undertaking a certain amount of practical Theosophical work. In my early South African days, I come to know Gandhiji very intimately, and it was through my giving him to read Ruskin's *Unto This Last* that he was inspired to change his way of life from that of the middle-class lawyer to that of the simple Indian peasant and to take up handicraft, through the spinning wheel. I became the Editor of his weekly paper, *Indian Opinion*, and so came to study the racial problems affecting the Indian community. I realized then more clearly how he had learnt the meaning of untouchability, as a non-white. I did so, too, as his close associate. Because of that and of my own religious ancestry, and also because of the hospitality that I frequently enjoyed in the homes of Muslims, Hindus and Parsis, I felt that I could not stand aloof from the great struggle against the racial laws that were imposed upon the Indian community, and which continued until the Gandhi-Smut settlement in 1944, when he felt free to leave South Africa and return to India. I had to oppose reactionaries even in the Johannesburg Lodge, from which I resigned in protest,

with the approval of Gandhiji and, later, of Dr. Besant.

He also recalls an occasion when he had to appear before the Volksrust Magistrate in 1913, on a charge of aiding and abetting in the unlawful entry into the Transvaal from Natal of Indian passive resisters against the racial laws affecting them. It was untrue, he says.

"But I did not want to shirk imprisonment in the cause in which we had all been engaged. I pointed out that my own Jewish people had suffered from religious and racial persecution throughout the centuries, and that when I discovered that the Indians were being similarly persecuted on racial and religious grounds, it was impossible for me to hold aloof. I felt that as a Theosophist, I must take my stand by the side of those who were being degraded in this way and for no fault of their own saw that all race, colour and religion. I mention this personal experience for I am sure that there are times when if we who belong to this great international Society gave anything to contribute to the practice of our beliefs and to the realization of peaceful coexistence, we must face personal misfortune and suffering with courage and determination."

CIVILIZATION ON TRIAL

The tragedy of modern civilization, observes Dr. V. V. Bhat in the *Aryan Path* for March, is that the amazing array of scientific and technological discourses and inventions has provided us with "improved means to an unimproved end" as Thoreau puts it.

Life today, therefore, in spite of our material possessions and intellectual acquisitions has not given us happiness. The improved means are almost a curse on our civilization when our ends are not clear; for they serve as instruments of death rather than of life. Man is not at peace with himself. His warring impulses take away all harmony and order from his life. He develops a split-personality, experiences a corroding discontent and feels an emptiness in his life, what appears to him to be an unbridgeable abyss of vain longing and pining for what is not. The conflict within his soul gives him no peace or rest. His life is all astir with tumultuous passions and restlessness. He has the lamp but never the flicker of a flame.

The remedy lies in so organizing society as to leave the individual free from the conflicts of group or natural rivalry for possession and conquest. The lust for power and domination must go and there should be no exclusive privilege granted either to one man or to a group of men.

True socialist democracy and self-government all round, international co-operation and complete and simultaneous disarmament by all countries—these are the prerequisites for world peace and our survival. Only thus can the conflicts between classes and between nations be avoided.

THE BRITISH PRIEST

Francis Williams, in his Fleet Street Note Book, in the *New Statesman and Nation*, recalls "the mad gay days, of the Thirties" when four popular newspapers alone, the *Express*, the *Herald*, the *Mail* and the *News Chronicle*, spent money at the rate of £ 3,000,000 a year between them "clothing and equipping hundreds of thousands of the population who have offered mangles, overcoats, silk stockings, flannel trousers, ladies' underwear, boots, shoes, kettles and mining machines in return for their signature on an order form". Funny the way they try to increase circulation. A very substantial proportion of the present circulation of the *Daily Sketch* he says is undoubtedly due to its series of expensive competitions.

It has offered as prizes country inns, racehorses, and payment of the winners' income tax for life. It is currently cashing in on the Rent Bill controversy by offering to pay the rent for life of the winner of its latest competition. So far only the *Daily Mirror* has stood altogether aloof from this competition scramble, although the *News Chronicle* is participating in it in a notably restrained and sensible fashion by concentrating mainly on its "Be Your Own Boss" offer, which does require that competitors shall have some serious idea of what they will do with the money if they win. The *Express* is offering motor cars plus large money prizes; the *Mail* a "luxury kitchen installed in your own home," plus a mass of other prizes such as electric washing machines, cookers and refrigerators, in a competition closely linked with the Ideal Home Exhibition. The *Herald*, whose circulation—though a little healthier lately—has been giving consistent cause for worry over a long period,

has now jumped into the competition whirlpool with a mighty splash indeed. It is following directly in the *Sketch*'s footsteps by offering "A magnificent freehold village store (fully storeyed) and home, complete with petrol pumps and lock-up garages—a new life with a clear profit of £ 20 a week"; it is advertising this offer on commercial TV.

ATOMS FOR PEACE

Dr. Yoshitaka Horiuchi, pointing the Japanese view of the British Nuclear Test through the columns of *Thought*, observes that in the Atomic Revolution, all nations—all mankind—have only one two of roads of to choose: Co-existence or no existence, coexistence by atoms-for-peace or annihilation by atoms-for-war.

Atoms-for-peace can bring mankind undreamt of prosperity and enrichment of prosperity and enrichment of life exceeding the Agricultural-Spiritual Revolution of 8000 B.C. and the Industrial-Scientific Revolution of 1768. With atomic power (Uranium or Thorium) being 2.5 million times the coal energy, a uranium about the size of your fist gives fuel power equal to 19 train carloads of coal. The world's uranium A-energy reserves total 90 trillion tons of coal. Japan's atomic-energy reserve totals 750 billion tons coal; India's uranium energy reserve totals 2,250 billion tons of coal equivalent. With the world oil and coal resources rapidly depleting, making even the U.S.A. a "have not" nation by 1990, future world prosperity depends upon atomic industrialization, which can increase the present world human being's per capita annual income \$230 to \$5,750 or 25 times! This atomic garden will be our one mankind's reward if we only can become civilized world citizens to use atoms-for-peace, not atoms-for-war.

HOW HITLER LOST THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

"The Invasion that never took place" is the title of an article in the *World Veteran* by Jacques Boetsch. Commenting on Peter Fleming's "Invasion 1940" he says that it was in June 1940 that Hitler really lost the battle of Britain and the war.

If the German army had hurled itself at England instead of carrying out the occupation of French territory, it would have been confronted only with the demoralised and disorganized divisions that had been evacuated from Dunkirk and an unarmed, surprised and bewildered population. The English cannons had barely more than 150 to 200 shells apiece to fire. Three months later, the army had become a respectable combat force; there were a million volunteers in the Home Guard and the United States had sent arms.

It seems, for example, that the RAF escaped annihilation only because of Hitler's lack of judgement.

The German command had at first concentrated its air attacks on the airports in order to put the RAF out of combat. As the result of what is believed to be an error, bombs fell on the City of London. Churchill sent bombers to Berlin, where they made more noise than anything else. But Hitler could not tolerate the affront. The German air force was ordered to turn all its might against the cities themselves.

Though the war then became total, it might have gone even further. It is possible to imagine what it would have been if despite the risks, the Germans had landed in full force.

Churchill has written; "They would have used terror and we were prepared to go

to all lengths." The statement may sound vague. But the author of *Invasion 1940* reveals that the British command had decided to use gas, if necessary, to prevent the formation of an enemy bridgehead.

THE LEADERSHIP OF WOODROW WILSON

The current number of *Confluence* contains a number of articles dealing with different aspects of Woodrow Wilson's leadership, at home and abroad. August Heckscher says that Wilson's was the statesmanship of duty. It intoxicated men with a new sense of what they might achieve and what they might become. "For an unforgettable moment, under the spell of his eloquence, the image of a united mankind glimmered before the peoples of the world. The war had wearied and disillusioned them and made them ready for a fresh vision. Wilson supplied the vision..... The League of Nations was a symbol; the reality—and it was a reality so long as it lasted."

But words, even great words, can accomplish only a measure of what they promise or pretend. And reality is unfailingly obdurate.

"In the international sphere Wilson was dealing with rooted nationalisms and historic claims which even the most enlightened goodwill, most consistently maintained, could scarcely have dissolved overnight. He did not adequately appraise what the institutional underfinding of an international settlement should be or the need for a balance amid changing forces. So although he could lead men to within sight of the promised land, he could not carry them over. And the tragedy was that his style of preaching, which had made so immense an impression on the mind "in the time of it," did not leave those durable effects that "arise afterwards by a remembrance."

THE MENACE OF SMOKING

In the strictest scientific sense conclusive proof may never come of the exact role played by smoking in the terrifying spread of lung cancer, writes Roy Norr in the *New Leader*.

But enough is known for an enlightened state like Sweden to cease all tobacco advertising in the interest of youth.

There, the tobacco monopoly has offered a prize of \$2,200 for the best essay on how to control smoking among youth, and the Government has undertaken to see that the nature and effect of tobacco are taught in the schools.

In England, in view of the present health emergency, no cigarette advertising is accepted on either TV or radio.

Moreover, on the recommendation of the Standing Medical Advisory Committee, the most responsible medical committee there, the British Minister of Health last summer spoke out before Parliament on the issue of smoking and cancer. "Two known cancer-producing agents have been identified in tobacco," he announced. Statistically, the association between cigarette smoking and the incidence of lung cancer is now incontrovertible," he added.

An even greater challenge to human survival than cancer is heart disease, which kills more people under 65 than the next five causes of death combined.

It is largely another term for vascular ills—"one of the major health problems of our times," as President Eisenhower put it. The classic statement of the effect of tobacco on the cardiovascular system remains the one made in 1952 by Professor Grace M. Roth of the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research: "In normal individuals, the usual vascular effect produced by the

smoking of tobacco is a rise in the blood pressure and pulse rate, with simultaneous constriction of the peripheral blood vessels." No medical authority today dissents from this statement.

An editorial in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (1955) finds:

"There now seems to be definite evidence that smoking, even though it may not directly affect the coronary arteries, can have a damaging effect on the myocardium—the heart muscle itself. Dr. Paul Dudley White, President Eisenhower's heart consultant, has said: "Tobacco is a noxious weed and an unnecessary source of irritation to people's stomachs, lungs, blood pressure and cardiac rhythm."

And Dr Walter C. Alvarez, Senior Consultant in Medicine to the Mayo Clinic, makes no bones about how the issue has been confused by smoking medicals:

"I remember some of my close friends in the medical profession who knew all the dangers of the excessive use of tobacco and yet went on with their chain-smoking until in their early fifties they dropped dead with a coronary attack."

THE ARABS IN ISRAEL

Jewish Frontier claims that the minorities in Israel enjoy equal rights and opportunities in the social and economic life of the country. There are 200,000 non-Jews in Israel of whom 140,000 are Moslems and Government has guaranteed freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture. M. Yaron, quoting figures asserts that the Arabs have been progressively participating in the governance of the Country.

There were three Arab members in the First Knesset; there were eight Arab members in the Second Knesset; and there are eight Arab members in the present (Third) Knesset. 33,250 Arabs were entitled to vote

in the elections to the First Knesset in 1949 and 79.3 per cent voted. In 1951, there were 68,914 eligible Arab voters and 85.5 per cent voted. In 1955, there were 77,171 Arab votes and 91.2 per cent took part in the elections. The percentage of Arab voters was higher than the over all voting percentage.

In the matter of irrigation and health facilities Arab villages have received marked consideration. The law for compulsory education which was adopted by the First Knesset includes the Arab population.

Today, there is a school in practically every Arab village. There are more than three times as many pupils as there were in 1949. In the days of the British Mandate, there were 454 Arab public schools for the 783 Arab villages and 17 towns. Those schools served a population of over a million. Today, with a population of 200,000 Arabs in 110 Arab towns and villages, there are 115 public schools and 78 kindergartens. There are also six secondary schools. The number of Arab children receiving education in Israel is 33,000. More than 26,000 are in Government schools and the rest are in Christian missionary schools. For the first time, Arab girls are attending school as the boys do. Under the British Mandate, 48 per cent of the Arab school-age children received an education. Today, 74 per cent attend schools. Every effort is being made to increase the percentage.

THE OPPOSITION IN A DEMOCRACY

Commenting on the socialist party manifesto *Mankind* points to the radical revision of the duties of the opposition in Parliament. The sole function of the opposition is not to be confined to the criticism of Government on the floor of the legislative, in press and platform.

It is no longer possible to sustain the argument that, in as much as a particular political party has not been able to take over the reins of government, it is absolved from every effort to implement the programme on which it confronted the electorate. In the same way as the self-action of the people is the only guarantee of democracy and the means by which they can

help themselves, so the test of a political party's capacity and intentions cannot await its elevation to governmental office but must consist of its performance while yet an oppositional force. Numerous problems exist which can be solved or largely solved in spite of the indifference of the state, provided the co-operation of the people were forthcoming. It is an important test of a political party's character and ability to what extent it can rally and organise such popular co-operation. There are, no doubt, many other problems which must await solution until the machinery of the state can be employed for the purpose. But even in respect of such problems it would be unpardonable for a party in opposition to fold its arms while it awaits the winning of a parliamentary majority at a future election. Its obligation would much rather be to agitate and organise the masses in struggle for solving these problems ever under the government that exists.

STUDY AND POLITICS

The controversy centering round student role in politics is an ever old new topic, writes Sri Chuni Lal Mitra in *Prabuddha Bharata*, and from time to time it has assumed new forms and reappeared in new texture. Students should hardly find a respite to make extra work and mix up with extra problem other than the study.

Students of all types should be perfectly free from restlessness, disobedience, or impatient haste. None should disturb them and into active politics. Their time is sacred. I should be devoted solely for making a thorough, sober, patient, and close study of the selected subjects, including political science to the extent that it forms part of the syllabus. That would equip them properly for whatever political work they might decide to take up later. Their period of study at college is never too long to master at once their own subjects and those of their elders. It is the duty of elders too to make them realize that the available time ought to be utilized to become efficient in their own chosen subjects first. The determination and the power to be thorough in them can later on be applied to various fields or work, as and when situations arise.



MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS

DEPARTMENTAL

NOTES

Questions of Importance

GOA-PART OF INDIA

"Historically, geographically and ethnically Goa is part of India and Catholics of India shared the ideas and sentiments of their countrymen that Goa will soon revert to India. And Goa was part of India till 1510," declared His Grace Thomas Pothacamuri, the Archbishop of Bangalore on May 7. He added that the reunion of Goa with India could never mean the curtailment of the religious liberties of Goans. The example of Pondicherry gave no room for any misgivings in that direction. His Grace appealed to Catholics in India to try and disabuse their countrymen's minds of the prejudices and suspicions, about the patriotism and loyalty of the Christians.

The Archbishop unequivocally refuted the allegation made in some quarters that the Vatican favoured the claims of the Portuguese Government against India. The Catholic Church was Indian in India, stressed His Grace and obedience to civil power was not submission to force but a religious duty.

HINDU MAHASABHA

The Working Committee of the All-India Hindu Mahasabha, which concluded a three-day session has appointed a six-man Committee to prepare an economic and social programme to be adopted by the Mahasabha based on "Hindu Socialism", and to prepare a detailed scheme for "organising the whole country in the context of the reorientation in programme."

Hindu Socialism, described as the objective of the Mahasabha, is based, according to a resolution, on "real values of life as preached by our great saints and seers."

"The Hindu Mahasabha ideology includes what is today known as Democratic Socialism," the resolution said.

The Working Committee re-affirmed its faith in the Mahasabha ideology that Hindus were a nation by themselves and had a right to form a State of their own, and with this object in view were entitled to organise themselves into a political party.

"This conception," said the resolution, "positively stands for equality before law and

equality of opportunities and privileges to all citizens in all walks of national life consistent with the security of the State.

The Working Committee accepted Dr N. B. Khare's resignation of the Vice-Presidency.

NEED TO END ATOMIC TESTS

A warning that radiation effects from experimental atomic explosions involve considerable risks for humanity was sounded at Paris in May 25 by leading French doctors and physicians.

Professor Raymond Turpin, one of ten professors of the Paris Faculty of medicine who stated his views at a meeting with scientific and medical journalists, said that no increase of radiation, however small was tolerable from the genetic point of view. He said, the hereditary effects of radiation involved blindness, idiocy and haemophilia, and added: "At the present rate of the growth of radio-activity we may, in the space of a generation, see the incidence of these catastrophic effects doubled."

Professor Louis Bugnard, Director of the National Institute of Hygiene, said: "Artificial radio-activity, whether provoked by atomic explosions or by industrial or medical use of nuclear energy, is growing annually."

Professor Antoine Lacassagne, of the Academy of Sciences, said: "We are justified in asking—even if we are told that they does distributed are feeble—whether the future will not lead us belatedly to think that we have provoked an ill-starred process for humanity."

Professor S. Vassy said that radio-activity caused by the more recent test explosions had shown itself more durable than the earlier ones.

Professor Maurice Loeper, a former President of the Academy of Medicine, told the meeting: "Our unanimous desire is that these explosions should cease. But we are not the ones who decide."

PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Dr. Rajendra Prasad was sworn in as the President of the Indian Union in May 13 the auspicious Vaisakha day in the central hall of Parliament. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan was sworn in as the Vice-President.

Utterances of the Day

J. P. ON PARTY SYSTEM

Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, has expressed himself in favour of election adjustments with the Communists in order to strengthen the opposition. Though he believed that the party-system should go, he would like it to function as well as possible so long it existed.

Mr. Narayan who answered in writing a series of questions put by Managing Editor of 'Prem Samajam', further said that he would like to see the whole party-system radically transformed in the next five years, leading to a non-party democracy.

In reply to another question about the progress made in getting co-operation of all the political parties in connection with the Granddan movement, Mr. Jayaprakash said that 'so far this has not occurred on any appreciable scale.'

PT. NEHRU ON CONGRESS

(Prime Minister Nehru put the All-India Congress Committee in an intense self-introspective mood by declaring that the weaknesses of Congressmen, their "provincialism, casteism and communalism and isolation from the people" had been shown up to a "scandalous and shameful degree".

Mr. Nehru told the All-India Congress Committee, at New Delhi on June 1st that the recent general elections had brought them to the conclusion that the Congress organisation was in no good shape. In fact, he said, it was in no shape at all in many areas.

Mr. Nehru, who was speaking on a resolution for the reorganisation of the Congress, said no political party could function unless it had its grass roots in the country. If the constitution of the party was not serving the purpose for which it was intended it had to be changed. "A constitution is after all just a framework—the dry bones of an organisation", he observed. "We have to put flesh and blood into it. The flesh and blood comes from the spirit of the constitution and the way we work it. Obviously, a change in the constitution does not vitally change the organisation."

Mr. Nehru did not spare himself from the sweep of his criticism. "The Congress", he said, "has become ultimately rather a sect headed as in olden days by some old mahant like myself and others who stick to their 'gadi' and more or less prevent bright newcomers from functioning—even if they come in, they do not have much function."

But while flaying the organisation for its

shortcomings, Mr. Nehru also proclaimed his faith in the ability of the Congress to overcome its weaknesses and "function from the stage of history" as it had functioned in the days of the freedom struggle.

C. R.'S WARNING TO CONGRESS

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari said at Madras on May 23, the idea that the country should be taxed in the manner envisaged by the budget proposals in order to support the Plan they had already made, must open their eyes to examine not the abstract, ethical and psychological aspect of "defeatism" in not carrying it out, but the concrete question "whether the Plan is right and whether it requires to be altered."

Rajaji deplored that the Plan had given a "minotauric ear" to our public affairs, imprisoning them, within its "stone walls" and robbing them of flexibility. He added, if the Plan, as admitted by the Government themselves, had resulted in high prices and the proposed taxation measures raised the price-level still further instead of steering clear of it, and "if these are the essential parts of our Plan, it is better to look into it."

Referring to Rajkumari Amrit Kaur's plea for scrapping of Prohibition, in the Rajya Sabha the other day, Rajaji said it would be "ridiculous" to do so simply because of inefficiency of the administration to enforce it.

PRESIDENT TITO ON COMMUNISM

President Tito of Yugoslavia on May 1st condemned the idea that "violence" could be in the first place in a Communist system.

The Yugoslav Chief of State, in a special May Day interview with the Party newspaper, 'Borba,' said it was essential that a Government based on the "dictatorship of the proletariat" should be "deeply interwoven with humanism."

It was also wrong that Communists should take revenge on representatives of the old regime when they came to power.

President Tito's statement was seen as an indirect answer to recent Soviet criticisms that Yugoslav policy was opposed to "proletarian internationalism." However, the President did not directly refer to the present policies of the Soviet Union or the Communist Party.

"We have never talked against the dictatorship of the proletariat, but we have always stressed that we oppose that violence should be in the first place within the dictatorship of the proletariat," the President said in a full-page interview.

Political

REUNIFICATION OF GERMANY

President Eisenhower and Dr. Konrad Adenauer, the West German Chancellor, said in a joint communique on May 28 that a solution of the problem of German reunification must come before a comprehensive disarmament with the Soviet Union.

The Communique also said Dr. Adenauer advised President that the conclusion of an initial disarmament agreement might be an appropriate time for a Big Four Foreign Ministers' Conference on German reunification. The United States would consult with Britain and France on this matter, the communique added.

The communique stated that the United States intended to maintain forces in Europe, including Germany, as long as the threat to the area existed. "The availability of the most modern weapons of defence will serve to discourage any attempt to launch an attack."

President Eisenhower and Dr. Adenauer agreed that "efforts must be pressed in the United Nations to reach agreement on measures for disarmament, with respect to both conventional and nuclear weapons, under an effective system of international control."

They also agreed that if a beginning could be made towards effective measures of disarmament, there would be created a degree of confidence which would facilitate further progress in the field of disarmament and in the field of disarmament and in the settlement of outstanding major political problems. The reunification of Germany was said to be one of these major problems.

NEUCLEAR TESTS

The Lok Sabha on May 22 unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom to suspend immediately, their programmes for Nuclear test explosions, pending agreement on their discontinuance and abandonment of the production and stockpiling of such weapons.

The resolution, sponsored by the Defence Minister, Mr. Krishna Menon, urged that if any or all the three Big Powers could take the initiative and suspend the test explosions, it would be "a substantial contribution to rid the world of the fear which had led to the present armaments race and open the way for lowering tensions, progress towards disarmament and international co-operation and peace"

Mr. Menon said that the resolution was not intended to be a criticism of any Great Power and no foreign policy was involved in its consideration. Dealing at considerable length with the dangers to humanity by radiation from continued nuclear explosions, Mr. Menon said: "The destructive capacity of the nuclear bomb has been established beyond doubt and it is clear that it can destroy the planet we live in. Why then should anyone want to gain more knowledge of its destructive capacity by continued tests?"

NEHRU ON REDUCTION IN TAXES

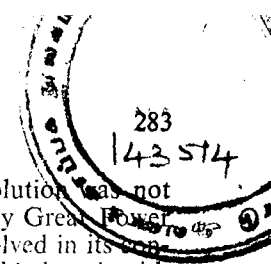
Prime Minister Nehru on May 29 said that any reduction in the present taxes must result in abandonment of certain projects which in turn would create a thousand other problems for the people. Mr. Nehru, who was addressing the women legislators' seminar organised at Delhi by the All-India Congress Committee, said that a reduction in the taxes might win plaudits from certain sections of the people but would retard the pace of production. It should be remembered, the Prime Minister said, that if production was retarded, then the resulting scarcity of goods could bring down the value of the rupee. In some countries like Germany, after the First World War, this inflation had caused tremendous havoc. "These are all complicated matters and cannot be solved by taking out processions or shouting slogans."

APPEAL TO SCIENTISTS

"On this great day, when we are celebrating the 2,500th Anniversary of Lord Buddha, I am ashamed to stand here before you as a man of Science. It is not that I have done anything very bad! But many men of science are today engaged in a task which is exactly opposed to the lesson of compassion which the Buddha preached to humanity.

"Scientists and nations are trying to excel one another in producing more and more weapons of destruction. This game is going on all the time among nations which can afford it, and weapons are being made one of which can wipe out the whole of Bangalore in less than half a second! How then can a man of Science presume to talk about Lord Buddha?"

So appealed Dr. C. V. Raman speaking at the Buddha Jayanthi celebrated by the Maha Bodhi Society, at Bangalore in May 14.



Educational

SCHOOL FEES IN KERALA

The Kerala Government have ordered that uniform fees be collected from pupils in schools all over Kerala State. The fees collected varied in former Travancore-Cochin, Malabar, and Kasargode areas.

Education will now be made free to all upto and inclusive of the English Standard (third form) in the Malabar area also. Children of non-Gazetted Government servants of the State irrespective of their income will be allowed half fee concession in high school classes. This concession is also be extended to children of invalidated Government servants (pensioners) who have put in qualifying service of not less than 20 years and whose annual income is less than Rs. 900.

The rate of fees in the High school classes has been fixed at Rs. 48 per annum to be collected in eight equal instalments. The order withdraws the discretion vested in the managements in the Malabar area to levy fees at higher or lower rates and specifies that all private aided schools throughout the State should levy fees only at the rates prescribed by the Government.

The order will come into effect from the school year 1957-58.

THREE YEAR COURSE

A phased programme for introduction of the three-year degree course in the country from the 1957-58 academic year, involving a total expenditure of Rs. 25 crores, has been recommended by the Three-Year Degree Course Estimates Committee, it is learnt.

The Committee headed by Mr. C.D. Deshmukh, Chairman of the University Grants Commission, is understood to have suggested in its report submitted to the Union Government recently, that during the Second Five-Year Plan period, at least 180 Intermediate colleges should be upgraded and 360 degree colleges reorganised to conform to the new pattern of a three-year course.

The expenditure on this during the Plan period is estimated at Rs. 15 crores (Rs. 9.90 crores non-recurring and Rs. 5.10 crores recurring) of which Rs. 7½ crores would be contributed by the Union Government and the University Grants Commission, while the other half would be made available by the State Governments as well as private managements.

AYURVEDA AND STUDY OF CLASSICS

Dr. Sampurnanand, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, inaugurated recently at Agra the joint Medical Conference of the Association of Physicians of India.

About 200 delegates from all over the country and several foreign delegates attended conference.

Dr. Sampurnanand asked the physicians to study classics of the Ayurveda system of medicine. Mere patronage to Ayurveda was not enough. Doctor's, he said, should not be repelled by the Ayurveda works containing discourses on subjects which did not find their place in modern medical books. Ayurveda had a basic idea of philosophy which modern science was trying to reach today in all its branches he said.

"It is unfortunate that medical men in the land which first saw the birth of medicine, surgery and medical chemistry, should draw inspiration from other lands and other people," he said.

The method adopted in China, Dr. Sampurnanand said, was a combination of modern medical science and indigenous medical practice.

Dr. Sampurnanand regretted that medical treatment in India was still costly and that the people had to go abroad for specialised treatment for certain diseases. He hoped it was a temporary phase and arrangements would be made in the country for giving the highest type of training.

SEGREGATION IN UNIVERSITIES

More than 2,000 professors, lecturers, students and members of the Council of the Witwatersrand University, S. Africa, marched recently through Johannesburg streets to the City Hall to protest against a Bill which aims at introducing *Apartheid* (racial segregation) in Universities.

The Bill against which they are protesting proposes to set up separate Universities for different ethnic groups in the country—white, coloured, Indian, Asiatic and various African tribes—and also to prevent "white" Universities from accepting non-white students.

Led by a standard reading "Against the Separate Universities Bill", grey haired professors walking six abreast formed the van of the procession. After them, came lecturers and then, the students of all races and graduates of the University.

Legal

PROOF READERS

Mr. Justice N. Rajagopala Iyengar at the Madras Vacation High Court on May 7, delivered judgement dismissing two writ petitions filed on behalf of the managements of *The Hindu* and the *Express* newspapers against the award of the Industrial Tribunal, Madras, which held that proof readers were working journalists within the meaning of the Working Journalists Act.

In dismissing the writ petitions, His Lordship said that he was clear in his mind that whether proof readers were journalists or not, they were working journalists within the definition of Section 2 (f) of the Act.

PRIZE COMPETITIONS

The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court recently held the Bombay Lotteries and Prize Competitions Control and Tax Act, 1948, to be valid.

Allowing an appeal preferred by the Bombay State High Court, the Constitution Bench held that the prize competition run by the R.M.D.C. was in the nature of gambling.

Delivering the unanimous judgement of the Court, the Chief Justice, Mr. S. R. Das said the Act did not violate either the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution or Articles 301 to 304 dealing with freedom of trade and giving Parliament and the State Legislature power to impose restrictions on trade and commerce. The Supreme Court dismissed the four writ petitions filed by the R.M.D.C. and three other promoters of prize competitions.

LIFE INSURANCE ACT

The Government of India have announced the composition of the Tribunal set up by them under Section 17 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, to adjudicate on various matters that may be referred to it. The subjects that may be referred to the Tribunal for adjudication include the quantum of compensation payable to the former Life Insurance Companies by the Corporation.

The Chairman of the Tribunal is Mr. P. P. Deo, retired Judge of the Nagpur High Court. Its members are Messrs. K. R. Krishnaiah Chetty, retired member of the Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal, and H. R. Agnihotri, Commissioner of Income-Tax.

The headquarters of the Tribunal will be at Nagpur.

LABOUR COURTS

The Government of Madras have notified, in a Gazette Extraordinary, the constitution of two labour courts, one at Madras and another at Coimbatore under the Industrial Disputes Act. The Labour Court at Coimbatore will have jurisdiction over the districts of Coimbatore, Salem, Nilgiris and North Arcot, the other districts coming under the jurisdiction of the Labour Court at Madras.

The Government have also constituted an Industrial Tribunal at Madras under the Industrial Disputes Act and have appointed Mr. Justice K. Ramaswami Gounder as the presiding officer of the Tribunal.

REVISION OF CENTRAL ACTS

The Law Commission has commenced consideration of the revision of some Central Acts including the Stamp Act, 1899; Indian Trusts Act, 1882; Official Trustees Act, 1913; Religious Endowments Act, 1863; Charitable Endowments Act, 1890; and Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920, says a Press Note.

The Commission will make recommendations as to the lines on which these Acts should be amended, revised, consolidated or otherwise brought up-to-date.

The Press Note adds: "The Commission will welcome the views and opinions of individuals or bodies interested in the subjects. These may be forwarded to the Joint Secretary, Law Commission (Statute Revision Section), New Delhi, by July 31, 1957."

AMNESTY IN KERALA

The Home Minister, Pandit G. B. Pant, told the Lok Sabha on May 21, that the Kerala State Government was not empowered to commute a death sentence in a case in which a Mercy Petition has been sent to the President.

The Communist Government of Kerala, soon after assumption of power had announced commutation of death sentences and an amnesty to politicals. One of the persons to benefit under the announcement was Mr. Vasu Pillai, Communist worker, who had been awarded the extreme penalty on a charge of murdering a Congress worker.

The previous State Government had rejected a petition for commutation on Mr. Vasu Pillai's behalf and a Mercy Petition had been sent to the President.

Pandit Pant said, "The matter is within the jurisdiction of the President and the President, the supreme authority, being seized of the matter no one else can deal with it except the President".

Trade and Finance

THE CENTRAL BUDGET

The Finance Minister presented to Parliament on May 15 budget, which, he described, as one imposing increased burdens on the near necessities of the common man. He recognised that his proposals "add up to a varied and somewhat formidable bill of fare."

He announced tax proposals numbering nearly 112 involving extensive changes in the existing taxes, and the addition of new ones. His proposals include the upward revision of excise duty on 13 items, raising of customs duty on some 90 items, imposition of a tax on wealth and a tax on expenditure, an increase in railway fares, the upward revision of certain postal rates, adjustments in personal Income-tax and Super-tax, an increase in the tax payable by companies, and increased taxes on tea, coffee, sugar and matches.

He expected that the new tax proposals would yield Rs. 92.85 crores of which Rs. 77.85 crores would come to the Central revenue and Rs. 15 crores to the States. The overall deficit of some Rs. 368 crores would thus be reduced to Rs. 275 crores.

The change in import duty will yield Rs. 6 crores.

The duty on motor spirit is increased to 125 naye paise from 98 naye paise per imperial gallon.

The duty on kerosene oil increased from 18.75 naye paise per imperial gallon to 20 naye paise per imperial gallon.

NEIVELI LIGNITE MINING

"We are anxious and impatient to advance fairly fast. But going fast or even taking some risk does not mean doing things foolishly without thought, without preparation and without planning," observed Prime Minister Nehru at Neiveli on May 20 explaining the Government's economic policy. He refuted the criticism that the Government were going too fast with regard to planning and undertaking too many burdens.

Mr. Nehru, who was inaugurating the earth-moving operation under the Lignite Mining scheme at Neiveli described the project as the symbol and witness to the development to follow and said that it promised to give a 'push' to the industrialisation of South India.

INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES

India's latest sterling balances are of the order of Rs. 426.42 crores, the Finance Minister, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari stated in the Lok Sabha on May 16 in reply to Mr. S. V. Ramaswami. It was being withdrawn at the rate of about Rs. 24 crores a month on the average since May, 1956.

BANK RATE RAISED

The Reserve Bank of India rate has been raised to four per cent with effect from May 16, 1957, says a communique issued by the Reserve Bank on May 15.

The Reserve Bank last raised the Bank Rate from three to three and a half per cent on November 15, 1951.

INTEREST RATES INCREASED

The Government of India has decided to issue a new series of 12-year National Plan Savings Certificates with effect from June 1, 1957, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance.

The existing seven-year and 12-year National Savings Certificates and ten-year National Plan Certificates are being discontinued with effect from the same date.

The new certificates will carry a higher rate of interest, yielding on maturity a return of 5.4 per cent per annum simple interest and 4.25 per cent per annum compound interest, free of income-tax.

I.M.F. LOAN TO INDIA

The International Monetary Fund had given India a short-term accommodation to tide over the foreign exchange difficulties now facing the country. The Finance Minister, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, told in the Lok Sabha recently that a sum of 127.5 million dollars had so far been drawn out of this total amount.

Mr. Krishnamachari said that under the arrangement with the Fund, India could draw upto 900 million dollars and 72.1 million dollars could be made use of up to March, 1958. "We are not, however, drawing on it."

Women's Page

MRS. HOOPER

Dr. Eden Donges, South African Interior Minister, said in an affidavit, on May 14 that the Government considered that the presence in South Africa of Mrs. Mary-Louise Hooper a wealthy American, was not in the public interest.

The Minister said in his affidavit that both before Mrs. Hooper's arrival in South Africa last September and since then, she had been actively associated with the African National Congress.

This was not known to the Government or Immigration Department when she was granted a permanent residence permit.

LONDON WOMEN PROTEST

A party of 23 women dressed in heavy mourning went to Downing Street, the Prime Minister's London headquarters, recently to deliver a letter asking Mr. Harold Mac-Millan to call off Britain's nuclear weapon tests.

The letter said, "Our survival as a nation, perhaps as a species depends on nuclear disarmament."

"British women are deeply shocked by the dangers of continued experiments of thermo-nuclear weapons."

CO-OPERATIVE SCHEME FOR WOMEN

A model scheme to manufacture radio components, particularly transformers and chokes, has been prepared by the small Industries Organisation of the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Industries. The process of manufacture of transformers and chokes is elaborately explained in a booklet issued by the Organisation. The booklet also gives the basic data regarding the requirements of machinery and equipment raw materials capital investment, manufacturing cost, etc.

The scheme can be worked on a co-operative basis and is ideally suited for women working either in factories or in their homes during spare hours. The cost of production will be cheaper if the work is carried on at home. The scheme envisages training of the workers for about four to six weeks at a central workshop in the process of manufacture. After training they can be supplied with tools necessary for coil-winding and assembling in their homes.

The radio receiver industry in India is of recent origin. Until recently it was primarily engaged in the assembling of radio sets with

the imported components. With the adoption of the policy of progressively stopping the imports of these components by the Central Government, the position has changed greatly and most of the parts except valves are now manufactured in the country.

Most of the raw materials required are produced in India, except copper wire. It is expected that copper wire also will be produced in the country at no distant date and the industry can be completely independent of imports. Copies of the scheme can be obtained free of cost from the Office of the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, New Delhi, and the Regional Directors of Small Industries Service Institutes in New Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.

SOVIET WOMEN

A huge number of women are employed in industry and construction at public cultural institutions and organisations. Women make up 45 per cent of the workers and office employees in Soviet industry, 30 per cent of the building workers, 49 per cent of the state employees, and 96 per cent of the librarians. There are 1,800 women in the 2,064 staff of the Lenin Library, the biggest state library in the USSR.

Women constitute 42.8 per cent of all the members of the factory trade union committee, 39.3 per cent of the members of the trade union central committees and 32.3 per cent of the members of the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions.

WOMEN IN PART-TIME JOBS IN U.S.

With the demand for part-time and temporary workers at an all-time high in the United States, a new business has developed devoted to supplying such workers to the nation's large and small companies.

Russell Kelly, who supplies "Kelly girls" for nearly 50 branches in more than 35 cities, says: "The vast majority of our women are married, have families and want extra money."

Typical of these women is a 40-year-old mother in Oakland, Californin, who works 15 hours a week to earn money to send her son to college. In Indianapolis, Indiana, a former model, now the mother of two growing children, does part-time work as a convention hostess, receptionist and consumer surveyor.

Many of the women work as typists, clerks, teachers, stenographers, sales personnel and store demonstrators.

General

MR. O. PULLA REDDY

Mr. O. Pulla Reddy I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Andhra Pradesh Government, has been appointed to the post of Defence Secretary of the Government of India.

Mr. Pulla Reddy has done great service to the state in dealing with the problems arising first out of the separation of Andhra from Madras State and, later, consequent on the integration of Telengana with Andhra.

Earlier in his official career Mr. Pulla Reddy had filled the posts of Commissioner of Madras Corporation, Home Minister of Mysore and Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University.

Mr. Pulla Reddy is the first officer from the States to be appointed direct as a Union Government Secretary.

SARDAR HUKAM SINGH

Sardar Hukam Singh was unanimously re-elected Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha on May 11.

The motion was moved by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and seconded by Mr. Satya Narain Sinha.

Tributes were paid to Sardar Hukam Singh on his unanimous election by Maulana Azad, the Speaker, Mr. Anantasayanam Iyengar, and leaders of the various Opposition groups.

AMERICA'S HIGHEST PAID EXECUTIVE

Mr. Eugene Grace (81), Chairman of the Board of Bethlehem Steel Corporation, was the highest paid executive in the U. S. last year, *Business Week* magazine reported in its current issue. He earned 809,011 dollars.

Next highest was Mr. Harold H. Curtice, President of the General Motors Corporation who earned 695,100 dollars.

"After the tax bite, take home looks considerably smaller," it said. "For instance, out of the 809,011 dollars Mr. Grace received, he only keeps about 133,000."

GENERAL THIMAYYA

A Defence Ministry announcement issued on May 9 said the Government of India had approved the appointment of Lt.-Gen. K. S. Thimayya, as Chief of the Army Staff, with the substantive rank of General to succeed Gen. S. M. Shrinagesh, who has vacated the post on retirement.

ARMY VEHICLES OF THE FUTURE

General Maxwell D. Taylor, United States Army Chief of Staff, has painted a picture of the future, highly mobile army of the atomic age where every vehicle is able to skim across any kind of country at speeds of up to 70 miles an hour.

"These vehicles flying a few feet above the ground, darting down valleys and ravines hovering behind woods and hills, and scurrying around and behind enemy forces, suggest the shape of things to come", he told a Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee recently.

"They have been described as group vehicles which do not leave foot prints", he said, adding, that nuclear fire-power would make it imperative for ground forces to be able to move faster than tanks, cars or other surface vehicles could carry them.

NEW UNION DEPUTY MINISTERS

The President, on the advice of the Prime Minister, has appointed Mr. Kotha Raghuramayya and Mr. Alungal Mathai Thomas, Ministers a Press communique from Rashtrapati Bhavan announced on May 17.

A communique from the Cabinet secretariat announced that Mr. Raghuramiah would be attached to the Ministry of Defence and that Mr. Thomas would be attached to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

RAILWAY BUDGET

Presenting the Railway Budget in the Lok Sabha on May 14 the Railway Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, announced that it was proposed to enhance, as from July 1, 1957, the supplementary charge on goods and parcels traffic from 6½ per cent to 12½ per cent, certain commodities being exempted as at present.

JUNE 1957]

THE INDIAN REVIEW

1

CONGRESS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES

(From 1911 to 1934)

This book contains full text of the Addresses of the Presidents of the Congress from 1911 to 1934.

As this volume is likely to serve as an authentic book of reference, advantage has been taken of the issue of this volume to supply a comprehensive and exhaustive index at the end.

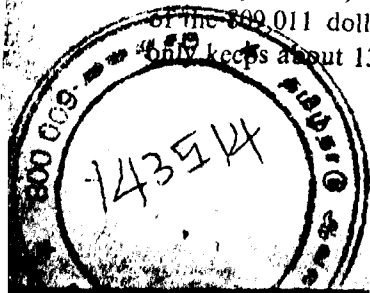
SELECT OPINIONS

The Hindusthan Review :—"A perusal of the speeches serves, to give a connected political history of the times and reveal the increasing complexities of the political problems. They form an interesting historical record of the politics of the country with a good deal of creative criticism of the present day problems."

The Official History of the Congress :—"The gratitude of the Public is due to this enterprising and patriotic firm—forerunners in the field of national literature—for this act of additional service to Indian Nationalism done in the "Jubilee" year of the Congress."

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MIRACLE MAN WITH UNRIVALLED POWER

Everybody in this country is aware of the fact that India's unrivalled and greatest palmist, Tantric, Yogi, vastly learned in the Astrology of the East and the West, gifted with supernatural power of predictions, permanent President of Internationally famed Baranashi Pandit Maha Sabha of Benaras and All India Astrological & Astronomical Society of Calcutta.



Jyotish Samrat

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

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

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