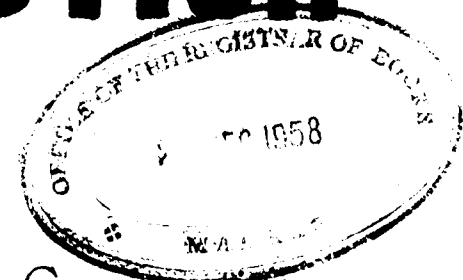


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# SOCIAL ACTION

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## *In This Issue*

Gandhiji observed many years ago that "India's soul is lodged in the depths of her village life. It is the village that is the India of the Ages. If the villages perish, India will perish too. It will be no more India. Her mission to the world will be lost." A few years later, the Royal Commission on Agriculture pinned its faith to the Co-operative Movement as the sole hope for the village and declared that "if Co-operation fails, there will fail the best hope of rural India." And ever since, an almost endless number of Commissions, Committees, State officials and social workers have repeated the same warning in practically the same words. The summary of the First Five Year Plan emphasised that "the re-orientation of the economy in terms of the objectives of the Plan involves a rapid extension of the co-operative form of organisation. The possibilities of co-operation in the vast fields of primary production, of cottage and small-scale industries, of marketing of agricultural produce, of residential housing, of wholesale and retail trade are immense. The encouragement of Co-operative enterprise in all these fields has to be given the highest priority." And in the Second Five Year Plan we read that "economic development along democratic lines offers a vast field for the application of co-operation in its infinitely varying forms." Despite such unqualified

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statements born of deep conviction, co-operation in our country is proceeding at a slow pace. In many cases it has come to grief; in others it is partially successful; while the fully successful co-operative enterprises can be counted on the fingers of one's hand. But this only reveals that co-operation is much more the result of spiritual energies than merely the desire to satisfy one's most urgent needs. To be successful, it calls for a large number of those moral forces like integrity, honesty, self-sacrifice and love for the neighbour that are hard to come by in a world bent on material gain and pleasure.

#### *Industrial Co-ops*

The first article deals with the limited field of industrial co-operatives in India. The author, who is a Deputy Director of the Small Industries Service Institute, Ministry of Commerce of the Government of India, is actively engaged in promoting the formation of such co-operatives. His information and experience in this field can scarcely be rivalled.

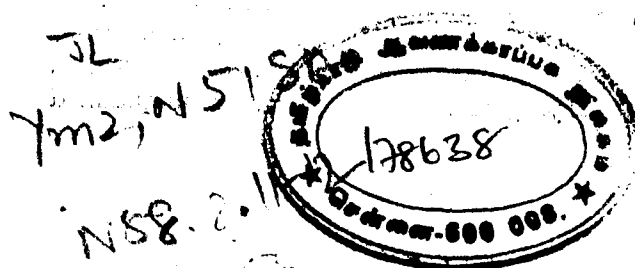
#### *Africa*

Another aspect of co-operation in the sense of the growing solidarity of mankind is the article on Africa. Resurgent Africa has found much sympathy in the minds of Indians who have recently gained their independence. There is a growing need to know more and more about the so-called 'dark' continent, and a synopsis of its problems and hopes is presented.

#### *Social Doctrine*

The social thought of the late Pope Pius XII has been briefly recapitulated. Other articles on the same topic have been planned for future issues because of the immense significance of papal thought on the social conscience of mankind.

The Editor



## *This Side and That*

### *The Silent Revolution*

At long last India who contrived the decimal system of numeration is having its system of mensuration adjusted to it. This marks a decided progress which the Anglo-Saxon world is reluctant to make; it takes after the regular upheaval which possibly was the most lasting result the French Revolution achieved a century and a half ago. It took some fifty years for the decimal system of weights and measures to be uniformly accepted in practice throughout France from where it spread to the European Continent.

Are we going to outpace the Western people? Officially of course we are given not more than three years of procrastination. The three-year transition period for the decimal coinage was fair enough, and if our mints work coining and recoining the small change that reaches them from railways, post-offices, and shops so as to secure a fair supply, compliance with the law will be easy enough. As to the new weights and measures certain spheres are indicated for a rapid change over: post-offices, railway and air services, basic industries in government management and control can be made to change over to the new system by a simple fiat of the administration. But mensuration uniformity will grow slowly in private transactions and will be sluggish in invading the various states and the many villages. Our seer actually ranges from eight to one hundred and sixty tolas, the maund boasts of over a hundred varieties in quotations, whilst the volume measures make a world of their own in the different corners of the land.

For years to come, the ordinary folk will be puzzled. School children grew enraptured when they were told that they would be spared a full year of school arithmetic and would be saved all problems of "compound practice" and

the like ; budding pedagogues are full of zest over the new text-books they will prepare when paper shortage will come to an end. Merchants and industrialists are scratching their heads ; weighing machines, petrol pumps, all manner of equipment must be revised and adjusted, whilst the bazar tribe is at pains to fabricate a new vocabulary that will allow profitable bargaining.

All such steps to get attuned to our silent revolution will take time, even after our pundits have agreed on the new lingo. But it is a sign of the people's determination to get modernized ; the legal enactments were well received ; even the leaders of the opposition had no alternative to offer. Uniformity in mensuration will be established long before uniformity in script or language. It will go a long way to foster unity in the country and to gear our economy to the modern tempo. Long live the silent revolution !

#### Foreign Trade

The felicitous outcome of our Finance Minister's tractions with the Western countries rejoiced everybody, even we may suppose the rabid anti-westerners who did their best to antagonise the negotiating parties. In spite of the help promised, caution in foreign trade remains imperative. Our monthly exports with which in the long run we have to pay for our necessary imports are liable to the conditions of overseas markets, as was proved these last months by the impact of the American recession all over the world. This impact was seriously aggravated by the dock strikes and labour troubles. The slump in the export earnings was not short of Rs. 500 million. At the same time, our imports, though slashed by delayed government measures, continued to deplete our reserve of sterling balances, whilst the basic need of buying foreign foodstuffs has grown more severe than ever. Our reliance on enlarged exports is badly shaken because of a fall in oversea demands for our tea and coffee, though textiles and jute manufactures can offer competitive terms on foreign markets.

There is thus need for curbing imports. The key question is, which industrial imports are to be favoured or at least tolerated. The Minister for Commerce and Industries has laid down the list of priorities : first industries which employ a large number of people, second the industries which have extensively developed indigenous manufactures, third the industries which cater for the mass of the people, as well as industries which have great export potentialities. It is expected that the first, second and last categories will absorb most of the various credits available. In consequence, the mass of the people must tighten their belt, and accept sacrifices in the immediate future for the sake of the next generation. It is as if we had lost the first battle for progress, and the actual losers must pay the costs. The solution adopted is much what happens after a war ; either the past generation is made to pay through an inflation which saps the value of their accumulated savings, or taxation places the burden on all who will come up later on. Let us hope that the burden will not be too heavy for our shoulders !

#### Our Foreign Friends

It was comforting to learn from the Central Minister for Iron and Steel that the large scale steel projects are proceeding satisfactorily. In Rourkela over 2200 houses have been completed and some 3500 are under construction ; in Bhilai 1500 houses are built up and 2500 taken in hand. In Durgapur some 470 houses are completed and some 1200 under construction. In Rourkela 7000 workers are employed directly by the project, 18000 in Bhilai and 1900 in Durgapur whilst 34500 men in Rourkela, 32000 in Bhilai and 16000 in Durgapur are in the employ of contractors. No foreigners are employed by the Government of India in Durgapur, only three Germans in Rourkela and 370 Russians in Bhilai : a striking disparity between the three plants. In any case it is expected that all those foreign experts will not be required after another 24 months.

What is noteworthy is the difference in landscape between the Bhilai and the Rourkela settlements. In Bhilai we have an extensive area occupied by the various classes of tenements for the different classes of workers, all grouped round the plant; day and night the workers will be obsessed with the sight of the factory in which they will work and before which they will live. In Rourkela the township is situated away, separated by a hill from the plant itself; so that the workers will not be obsessed day and night with their place of work; a great psychological relief for proletarians indeed and a human touch in the planning of the settlement which is well in accord with the most up-to-date industrial conditions.

In connection with this matter of foreign aid, the Indian Institute of Public Opinion revealed mistaken notions which Communist propaganda has fostered in a large section of the people. It would appear that about one fourth of people belonging to the 20-29 age group hold that Russia is assisting India most on the Second Five Year Plan, and that a higher percentage of matriculates, and even more among the income-group of Rs. 101-200 share the same opinion. In reality, the U. S. A. has given India Rs. 68 crores as grant and Rs. 246 crores as loan whilst Russia has made no grant whatever and offered a loan of only Rs. 123 crores. It is only fair that we should have precise estimates of the foreign aid given us; objective facts would help our mental clarity and give our grateful feelings the right direction. It is always awkward, to say the least, to go and thank the wrong person, leaders and editors should know that much.

#### **Plan and Practice**

Some time ago, Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy brought out some startling facts at which the ordinary citizen can only be amazed. According to his calculations, at the level of Central Administration, an average of ten per cent of the total revenues is being spent on the collection of taxes alone. One quarter of those revenues goes to meet the salaries and wages of the administrative staff; a large slice

is absorbed in stationery and printing. On the other hand the Planning Commission costs the country some seventy lakhs per year; it appears that those honourable gentlemen who were expected to render honorary services are drawing Rs. 2500 a month and their three advisers Rs. 3500 a month.

Such striking calculations suggest several proposals. First proper priorities should be laid down and the Finance Department should be made to watch over the tax-payer's money with the authority of the Auditor and Comptroller-General being fully restored. Moreover why not group the Central Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture and Industry into one single Ministry of National Welfare? Such a grouping would save overlapping in many cases, and also leave more elbow-room to the different states; it might eventually lead to a cut in the Rs. 2,600,000 which are annually spent on what is described as "development of cultural and international activities".

The drawback with Prof. Ruthnaswamy's proposals is that they are practical; what is adjusted to practical life, which is always fluid, is hardly suitable to the pigeon-holes provided in the solid frame-work built up by theoreticians and planners! Moreover now that the Commonwealth Conference at Montreal, and the discussions of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund at New Delhi have watered the rosy hopes of our planning experts and roused the vision of wealthy countries anxious to pour their surplus finances over our arid soil, who along our planners is going to pay much attention to recommendations on saving and economy? The money is with us for years to come, and we may leave future trouble to future generations... unless the Finance Ministry is strong and awake enough to the discreet admonitions scattered in the speeches of the foreign financiers whose good-will should not obscure the lessons they have had in other lands. Work, hard work and work alone will get us through the task of industrialisation and progress.

A. L.

## *Industrial Co-operatives*

Co-operation may be described as a form of organisation wherein persons voluntarily associate together as human beings, on the basis of equality for the promotion of their own economic interests. Yet, any activity in which a few persons co-operate with one another to produce results cannot be called co-operation in the technical sense. Co-operation, to retain the special meaning given to it, should take the form of a business organisation or an organisation which will promote the setting up of some business on co-operative lines.

Such co-operative organisations are organised under five categories, viz.

- (1) Co-operative Producers' Societies
- (2) Co-operative Consumers' Societies
- (3) Co-operative Credit Societies
- (4) Co-operative Production Societies
- (5) Co-operative Promotional Societies.

The first four types out of these directly take the form of business organisations and the last type i.e. Co-operative Promotional Society takes the form of an organisation which will promote the setting up of some business on co-operative lines. It helps the establishment and proper running of the business organisations by arranging for their audit, supervision, education, etc.

### *Industrial Cooperatives*

The main purpose of Industrial Co-operatives is to provide capital required by small producers, supply the raw material needed by them and assist them in selling their finished products without being exploited by middlemen. To examine how exactly all these objectives are achieved by Co-operation, we shall consider the case of a village artisan, say, a carpenter.

The village carpenter who wants to make, say, a table needs about Rs. 20 or 30 to buy timber. He usually borrows this amount from the village money-lender paying him 15 to 20 per cent interest. Or it may be a local dealer in the village who is interested in his product advances him the money. The carpenter gets his loan and manufactures a table or a chair. Having manufactured it, he has two problems to face. The first is to find a sale for it and the second is to repay the loan with interest to the dealer who lent him the money. He can repay the loan only if he sells his table but he is not able to sell it, because there is not much demand for tables or chairs in our villages. In such a situation the indebted artisan is forced to sell his product to the dealer who lent him the money. The dealer takes full advantage of this unfortunate situation and purchases the table for as low a price as possible. The carpenter is a victim to the greed of the dealer who exploits him. Suppose the carpenter has some money of his own and avoids playing into the hands of both the money-lender and the dealer, even then, he has the other problem — the problem of marketing. The table or chair he has made, has to be carried to the nearest district headquarters or commercial centre to be sold. This involves time and expense. So what the poor village carpenter normally does is to send the table to a wholesale dealer at any of these places. That wholesale dealer who undertakes to sell the table usually takes it on a consignment basis. That is to say he tells the village carpenter he will keep the table in his show-room and try his best to sell it and if he is not able to do so, will return it to him. If the wholesale dealer manages to sell it, well and good. He deducts a small commission for the service rendered and sends what remains of the sale proceeds to the carpenter. But when he is not able to sell the table he returns it to the carpenter charging rent, insurance charges etc. incurred when the table was in his possession. It may be that the

table is returned in a damaged condition or after the demand for tables has declined. So we find that a village artisan is hit hard in independent business.

"What is the solution?" The best way of helping the village artisans out of these difficulties is to bring them within the co-operative fold. Under the co-operative method the artisans engaged in a particular industry and within a limited area are got together and a co-operative society is registered for them. The artisans become the members of the society. Each member is asked to take at least one share in the Society. In a weaver's society, for instance, it is required that each member should take not less than a share of Rs. 25/- so as to provide the society with initial capital. If a weaver is not able to provide that amount, the Government gives a portion of the share to him as loan. Usually, the loan which the Government gives is 3/4 of the value of the share and it is repayable within a period of two years, i.e. if the share is specified at Rs. 25/- the member is asked to pay Rs. 6-4-0 and the remaining Rs. 18-12-0 is given to him by the Government as loan. After the share capital is collected from its members, the society is entitled to borrow from the Central Co-operative Bank upto a maximum of eight times its owned capital. It thus obtains a large volume of capital at a fair rate of interest upto 6% per annum. With this capital the Society procures yarn on a wholesale basis, and therefore at a cheap price, and distributes it to its members for being woven into cloth. The members are given wages by the society usually on the piece wage system. The Society then takes the finished products from its members and sells them either in its own sales depot or in emporia run by the Government or a Central Co-operative marketing organization. The sale price is fixed keeping generally 6½% on the cost of production as the margin of profit for the society. Out of the profits, the Society meets its establishment cost, transport charges, rates and taxes, con-

tingencies etc. What is left over after meeting all this expenditure in a year constitutes that year's *net* profits and is divided as follows :

- (1) 25% is set apart to the Reserve Fund of the Society.
- (2) A dividend not exceeding 6½% is given to the members on the paid up share capital of each.
- (3) 7½% of the net profits is set apart to a common good fund.
- (4) The balance is divided among the members as bonus on the wages earned by each member.

Under the co-operative method of doing business, therefore, firstly you find that there is no employer—employee relationship. The workers themselves are the masters of the society. Secondly, they need not go borrowing from money-lenders or traders paying an abnormal rate of interest. Thirdly, they have no difficulty in marketing their products since the society undertakes to market what they produce directly to wholesalers or consumers. In short, middlemen who exploit the poor artisans, both on the credit side and on the marketing side are eliminated and the profits they usually take away are preserved for the workers.

### Scope

What is the scope of Industrial Co-operatives? Take the case of the Weavers Co-operatives of Madras State, for instance. In the New Madras State there are about six hundred primary weavers producers societies. All these six hundred societies are affiliated to an Apex body known as the Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society. That is to say, they have all taken shares and have become members of the State Society. Shares of the member societies constitute a good part of the Funds of the State Society. There are also a few individuals and private institutions as members ; but they are of a negligible

number. In addition to these funds, the State Society also borrows from the State Co-operative Bank upto maximum of 10 times its owned capital. Thus the State Society commands a large volume of funds.

The main object of the State Society is to market the handloom cloth produced by its affiliated societies and to do everything that is necessary for the promotion of their sales. For instance, it has established a calendaring plant at Erode which gives a finish to the handloom cloth produced by weavers societies, and makes them attractive to consumers. It also arranges for the purchase of raw material and appliances and supplies them to its affiliated societies.

The executive management of the society is vested in a Board of Directors elected by the General Body of the Society. Usually, there are two or three Government officials as ex-officio directors. The elected directors are representatives of individuals and affiliated weavers societies. The Central Co-operative banks in the State are given one representative and there is also one representative of spinning mills nominated by Government so as to get their aid for purchases of yarn. There is an executive committee consisting of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and a few directors. They are all elected by the Board of Directors from among themselves.

### **Business**

Coming to the business side of the society, the Central Society makes bulk purchases of yarn from the spinning mills and distributes it to the primaries, keeping a small margin of profit on the cost of yarn. The affiliated societies convert the yarn purchased from the State Society into handloom cloth and sell the finished goods themselves; but they are unable to clear all their stock. Marketing is the crux of the problem facing the handloom industry. The Central Society has, therefore, been making systematic

efforts to tap both the internal and external markets. In the initial stages it opened emporia of its own within the State for the disposal of the cloth. It also appointed hawkers for the sale of cloth. At present the Central Society has one or more emporia in almost every district of the State which undertakes the retail sale of cloth of the primaries. Central godowns have also been opened in important Centres for the bulk sale of handloom cloth. Depots and emporia have also been opened outside the State. There are now depots in Trivandrum, Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Calcutta, Bombay, Bangalore and in many other States. Besides, the Central Society has recognised agents in other States for the sale of its cloth. Usually the Central Society purchases cloth on outright basis from the primaries and sells them through these agents, depots and emporia. The Central Society has appointed three Regional Marketing Officers. Their main function is to procure handloom cloth from its affiliated societies and find a sale for it. They enter into contracts with primary societies for the production and supply of specified cloth at specific rate. The cloth produced this way is disposed of not only within the country but also in foreign countries. The Central Society has opened emporia also in Colombo, Singapore, Rangoon, Bangkok and Baghdad. There are Marketing Officers in four of these places who push up sales.

As regards other activities the State Society has launched into, the dye factories may be mentioned first. It has opened dye factories in the State to dye and supply coloured yarn to the primaries. These dye factories use good dyes so that the yarn is of fast colour. To meet the competition of the mills, it is essential that the handloom industry should find ways and means to improve the quality of its goods, minimise its cost of production and produce goods which command ready sales. More particularly it is necessary that the pattern of cloth should be changed from time to time, to suit the varying tastes of the consumers. The Central Society has therefore established handloom factories also and installed frame looms where

improved varieties of fabrics are manufactured on trial and then introduce among primary weavers societies for bulk production.

### **Spinning mill**

The greatest achievement of the Central Society was the erection of a spinning mill at Guntakal in Andhra, before the Andhra State was constituted to produce the yarn needed by the affiliated societies instead of purchasing it. It got its affiliated societies to take shares in the Mill. The Central Society itself took many shares in the mill. Today the mill stands as one of the greatest achievements in the field of industrial co-operation in our country. The Ford Foundation International Planning Team wrote in the Final Report which they presented to our Government "we visited towards the end of our trip a co-operative handloom area together with its spinning mill. It is in South India. We found here, we believe, conditions which point the way to progress in Indian Industry. It was an inspiration. The owners of the new spinning Mill are themselves workers, who, script and saved from a meagre return to build the mill: a mill which is free from restriction, can and should pay a wage of a rupee per hour to its employees. These employees, mostly former village agricultural workers are for the first time being employed in the best environments including even air-conditioning. The mill can and will be almost a shrine in world's textile progress".

Although the mill produces only 600 bales of yarn per month while the weavers societies of Andhra and Madras need 6000 bales, the mill supplied these 600 bales to the State Societies in Andhra and Madras at rates cheaper than the joint stock spinning mills. This is because the co-operative spinning mill produces for the consumption of its members (Weavers Societies) and not for sale at a profit in the market. When the Andhra State was separated from Madras, the mill went to Andhra. The Weavers in

Madras who had seen the benefits of the mill are now busy constructing a similar mill on a much larger scale in Tinnevely.

### **Other industries**

One of the industries covered by the Khadi and Village Industries Board is the leather industry. There is a tremendous internal and external market for our leather goods. Two years ago, Prof. Lincoln Clark, Marketing Expert of the Ford Foundation conducted a market research in Northern India and found that leather utility goods like money purses, belts and spectacle cases had a very great demand in our villages. There is a great scarcity of leather in Russia and Russia has placed huge orders with the National Small Industries Corporation for the supply of boots, anklets, etc. The orders are so large that the Corporation has opened a separate Wing known as "Russian Order Wing", to meet the demand.

Ghani Oil Industry could be given a similar co-operative structure. It has got a tremendous potential market in the country. A new marketing organisation need not be started to sell oil. The existing Consumers' Co-operative stores in the region may be profitably made use of.

### **Co-operative Factories**

There is a second type of industrial co-operative societies where the workers are brought under a common roof to work as in a factory, e.g. a co-operative match factory. How does an industrial co-operative of this kind work? Here is a case of a certain gentleman and his wife who are manufacturing motor-car parts on a small scale at Bangalore. They have invested about Rs. 30,000/- in the business and are employing 25 workers. For better business and better labour relationships they have decided to convert their factory into an industrial co-operative. This is how they have planned to do it: all their workers will take a share of Rs. 100/- each in the business and will be called "A Class" shareholders. Rs. 30,000/- which the present

proprietors have already invested in the business will be treated as their share in the Society and they will be called "B Class" shareholders. The management of the Society will be vested in the hands of five members. The "B Class" members will be provided with two seats on the Board while the "A Class" members will be given three seats, i.e. the workers will have a major voice in the management of the society. The present proprietor of the concern will be the president of the society for a period of five years so as to contribute his technical knowledge and managerial ability to run the industry on successful lines. For this, he will be given a salary every month in addition to a share in the profits of the society at the end of the year. Under this arrangement all the workers will be part proprietors of the concern. They will get their usual wages every month and will also be given bonus on wages at the end of the year out of profits. This will not only increase their earnings but introduce contentment among them.

The assistance given by the Central Government to such industrial co-operatives is very encouraging. They give the workers 75 per cent of the shares they have to take in the Society as a two year loan, the balance has to be found by the State Government and/or the party concerned. 75 per cent of the actual expenditure on the scheme, i.e. the capital expenditure as well as the working capital, is given as a loan repayable in 10 years. The interest charged on these loans is only 2½ per cent. Further, 50 per cent of the recurring expenditure on the Technical Supervisory staff from a co-operative department is given as grant for the first three years. The products of such industrial Co-operatives may easily be marketed either through co-operative marketing organisations of the State such as the Industrial Co-operative Association of Bombay or through the National Small Industries Corporation of the

Government of India. It may be mentioned here that in Bombay, the Government Store Purchase Department has been ordered to procure its requirement as far as possible from co-operative production centres even if the prices they quote are 25% higher than the prices quoted in the open market. Regarding technical aid, the workshop may have its technical advice free of charge from the Small Industries Service Institutes of the Government of India which have been established in many parts of the country. In other words, for an industrial co-operative, practically all the usual business problems namely, the problem of credit, the problem of technique and the problem of marketing are solved by Government to a considerable extent.

#### Partnership Firms

There is yet a third type of industrial co-operative where groups of independent entrepreneurs or partnership firms engaged in the manufacture of similar commodities are brought under the co-operative fold, chiefly for the purpose of supply, sale and common facilities. This type of common facility co-operatives which are popular in Japan are not so desirable as the former types since the workers of the independent units that are brought under the co-operative do not benefit by this system. They still remain in the clutches of their employers. It is only their proprietors who are helped in their purchase and sale. The Government of India are of late giving importance to this variety of Co-operative. Their intention, however, is to try and convert such units into complete co-operative concerns, i.e. each little factory converted into a co-operative and federated to an apex body. Under the economic conditions of our country today societies of this variety are feasible only in cities, districts and commercial centres. For schemes of this nature the Central Government gives 75 per cent of the total expenditure i.e. land, buildings, equipment and

working capital which includes recurring expenditure on staff, as a loan. The loan is repayable in ten years time and is at the market rate of interest.

We are still in the first stage of rural industrialization. As we enter the second stage, which will be very soon, large sized industrial co-operatives will have a prominent part to play in reconstructing rural India. The difference between the cottage industrial co-operatives and industrial co-operatives of the factory type is that the former can merely build the community and give a living wage to its members while the latter would go a step further and improve the industry by adopting large scale production and modern methods and raise the standard of living of the workers. The former type, in fact, lays the foundation for building up the latter. Hence we may say, village, small scale and cottage industrial co-operatives serve a dual purpose. They help to relieve poverty and unemployment — the problems of the day — on the one side, and on the other are the foundation for building up large sized industrial co-operative units.

F. Ryan

## *Resurgent Black Africa*

Owing to the increase in world-solidarity, it will not be out of place to indulge in a short survey of conditions in Africa. It is often said that Africa is a poor country, but would it not be more correct to say it is a new country, scarcely explored by prospectors and savants? Its economic resources are unsuspected by most people. Yet it yields about 80 per cent of the world's crop of palm nuts, and of palm oil, some 60 per cent of the world's supply in cocoa, some 50 per cent of the sisal fibre, 80 per cent of cobalt, 60 per cent of gold production, nearly the diamond monopoly, without mentioning its world contribution in millets, antimony, copper, manganese, uranium, etc. and the oil fields recently discovered and exploited in the Sahara.

The graph of its agricultural and industrial production is a sharply ascending line, and suggests an intense economic change allied to social, political and cultural movements. Various specialists in social problems recently toured the African continent and recorded their views summarised here below,<sup>(1)</sup> which are preferred to many others because of their humanist import.

In general; one must note that in spite of the rapid development of African economy, the African's standard of living has deteriorated. The cost of living has gone up sharply from 1948 to 1954, the percentage increase being 50 in the Belgian Congo, 50 in the British territories, and some 66 in the French colonies. Wages and salaries did not follow this increase, and real remunerations for labour are below their pre-war levels. Hence the African worker who is developing consciousness feels handicapped

(1) Cf. J. Masson, J. Weerts, R. Beeckmans in "L'Avie Economique et Sociale", March 58; A. Rubbens in "La Revue Nouvelle" Jan. 58; A. R. in "Etudes", March, 58.

and frustrated. He complains that the real cost of living is above what is officially quoted, and that even the official quotations are artificially manipulated. In any case he rightly argues that wages and salaries should be on an equal basis and show no difference between the autochthonous worker and the foreigner; for equal work, an equal wage.

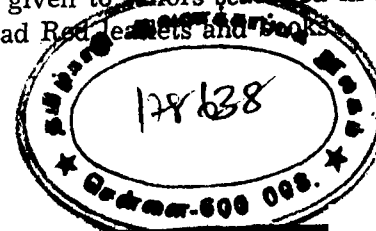
The economic conditions are allied to a social problem which is critical in the African world. African society for the last eighty years or so is passing from an agricultural economy to a mixed economy in which industry is gaining the upper hand, and in which agriculture itself is more and more concentrated on industrial crops. This evolution is drawing the labouring classes into the industrial and the commercial centres. The African, especially the Negro, is thus emigrating from his particular milieu which was ruled by strict custom and tradition to new centres in which his already toned down personality is immersed into amorphous groups. Accustomed as he was to live, think and feel in his native group, the Negro feels at a loss and is readily the victim of any type of messianism which would hold out promises of new leaders and a new paradise. Negro mentality, we are told, nurses a strong remembrance of a common origin and race which in the past fostered an inferiority complex but a present provokes a community of grievances, resentment and revenge. The Negro has also a weakness for secret and sacred associations in which ritual and mystery nurse his sense of brotherhood and ambition. He keeps as well the hope of a more or less vague "golden age" which is to witness Negro dominance and abundance. In short the Negro and in general the African has changed his attitude towards the white man; from docile he has become impatient, from trustful diffident. He has grown self-conscious; in many cases he gave vent to his resentment and indulged in explosive assertions of his origin, race and rights. This development is quite normal and calls for psychological awareness and sympathy.

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The focus of this self-consciousness is political autonomy. Ethiopia, Liberia, Lybia, Nigeria, Togoland and Ghana have reached sovereignty. Ruanda-Urundi and the Cameroun claim it for the near future. As revealed in the manifesto 'African Conscience', the African peoples stress their claim and their right to independence, not necessarily against Europe but certainly independently of Europe. In short, rapid economic expansion, overthrow of ancestral customs and traditions, awareness of the birth-right to self-disposal have created in Africa a turmoil of impulses, passions and expectations which may lead to chaos or to serene liberation.

As was to be expected, communist agents were not slow in trying their hand at directing such a social upheaval towards their goal of universal domination. From 1927 the plans of conquest were published and the programme framed; the class struggle was to be organised and carried on in Africa with systematic determination. Everywhere strike committees, trade-union committees, racial and class consciousness were to be fostered; well-trained and reliable agents to rouse and direct colonial youth groups in Africa and in Europe; the armed forces to be worked upon and detached from their imperialist officers; the League against Colonial Oppression to be organised and spread the world over.

The types of activities were thus clear from the start. Action in Africa was to be connected and synchronised with the Communist world propaganda. Agents from each metropolis were to be sent as the militant leaders in the colonies; local leaders of the national cause to be brought under the Red sway and Africans to be trained in Moscow or Prague. The milieux to be tackled and won over were the armies, the proletarian masses in the countryside or the industrial centres, and the African students in Europe. Special importance was given to sailors scattered in all harbours, and ready to spread Red leaflets and books.



The Red agents were instructed to sponsor all grievances; they established themselves in the ill-settled migrants to industrial areas, and sought out the potential leaders of the new settlements. In the political line, the U. S. S. R. was to be pictured as the unfailing champion of all coloured peoples, a role Russia could assume as her treatment of satellite countries was not well known in the Negro world in contrast with the publicity given to all the misdemeanours and mistakes of the colonial powers. This role was readily attributed to Moscow until further experience made some nations somewhat wiser and led them to opt for an "acting neutrality" independent of all blocs.

What are the results of Communist propaganda in Africa in the course of the last twenty-five years? The answer is somewhat difficult to elaborate and to focus correctly, and the impact of recent Russian initiatives are especially beyond correct assessment: World Conference for Peace (Colombo, June 57), World Festival of Democratic Youth (Moscow, July 57), IV Congress of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (Kiev, August 57), World Conference of Education (Warsaw, August 57), Afro-Asian Conference (Cairo, December 57).

It would appear that Sudan is attracting the particular attention of the Communists: enlarged embassy personnel, multiplied scholarships and stipends to students, sportive associations, etc. Much the same tale about Ethiopia: a legation with forty members, cultural house, permanent exhibitions and films, hospital with quick tempo training for local nurses, etc.

The French West Africa and Equatorial Africa are worked through the French Communist party and Trade Union, the Cameroun being the main area of penetration with local strikes and riots in towns and terrorist guerilla in the countryside. Parallel activities are noted in the regions under British administration or influence, as well as in

South Africa. But caution should be had to make out what is communism and what is mere nationalism, a distinction which is not easy since colonial governments, and especially the South African administration are prompt to put the label 'Communist' on any movement or initiative for a better standard of living or for a quicker approach to autonomy or independence. As a typical illustration, have we not the Gold Coast colony which was painted red before independence and which now is struggling against Communist propaganda.

What of the Belgian Congo? It is possibly little known to our readers though it covers an area twice as large as India; its population nears the thirteen million mark with one lakh of foreigners. It has a complete educational system from the village schools to the Universities of Leopoldville and Elisabethville, and sends to European universities students who have long ago swept away the broadly accepted prejudice which took a mental arrest at adolescence as a mark of Negro mentality. Its international trade has grown to unsuspected dimension and variety. Some fifty years ago, exports were limited to rubber and ivory, at present they cover vegetable oils, foodstuffs, industrial crops, minerals and textiles. They are despatched to over sixty countries and circulate under the free trade regime. The Brussels international exhibition boasts of a large number of stands which narrate the various Negro arts: sculpture, paintings, music, literature etc,<sup>(1)</sup> about which Picasso and Matisse were not slow in showing their appreciation. In short there is a Negro renaissance in Central Africa, the standard of living is rising, indigenous agriculture and industry follow the curve of economic development, education grows apace, social life seeks proper adjustment to the new conditions and lastly political democracy is being organised.

<sup>(1)</sup> M. De Backer in *Infor. Congo*, 1958.

Such conditions naturally attracted Communist attention; the focus of the Red efforts was evidently the proletariat seeking a settlement in the harbours and industrial areas and also the negro sailors shuttling between Antwerp and the Congo. Strikes were duly fostered; kibangism and other animist revivals were given a political touch, and popular slogans were publicised, the most novel being that "Negroes have red blood, and thus should follow the red bag".

On a general survey of African conditions, one must note that Communist propaganda exploits similar grievances, economic grievances born of individual cases of injustice or general inferiority of wages and salaries; psychological grievances arising from lack of educational facilities, colour bar realities, restrictions on labour organisation; political grievances created on right to self-government and independence. The groups especially worked upon are the proletarian masses, the educated youth, and the trade-unions.

In spite of the Red efforts, there remain steady blocks of resistance, particularly the Islamic bloc and the Christian communities which have witnessed an extraordinary expansion in the last twenty-five years. It should moreover always be kept in mind that in many cases what is labelled as Communist either by private agencies or by governments is nothing but the outburst of the growing self-consciousness of an Africa which is still poor, ignorant and impatient. The resurgence of Negro Africa is a modern phenomenon which calls for sympathy and assistance, from all who are broad-minded enough to rejoice at seeing the whole of mankind becoming a little more humanized.

A. Lallemand

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*The Social Teaching of Pius XII*

Since this section of *Social Action* has been devoted to the publication of papal pronouncements on social matters, it is only proper that at least a brief outline of the social teaching of Pope Pius XII should be attempted at this time to commemorate the memory of a Pontiff who could give so much thought and write so pointedly about the existence and the causes of the social problem as it occurs in our present century, and propose solutions of far-reaching intent. Pius XII was a man of his times, and his keen intellect could readily grasp the intricacies of the social and international difficulties among various peoples and nations. His sympathetic mind enabled him to suffer with them in their perplexities and at the same time suggest the requisite remedies.

*The Pope of Peace*

Barely had the Pope assumed the tiara than the Second World War broke out six months later, despite his fervid attempts to prevent hostilities. It was in these days of anxiety that he published his five peace points. They were as follows:

1. The right to life and independence of all nations, large and small, powerful and weak must be respected and safeguarded.
2. Disarmament is an absolute postulate to ensure continuous peace.
3. The erection of a juridical institution as guarantee of international good faith and loyalty.
4. That attention must be given to the needs and just demands of nations, populations and racial minorities.
5. Governments and peoples must submit willingly to that spirit which alone can give life, authority, and binding force to the dead letter of international agreement, i.e. they must govern according to the law of God.

Despite the fact that his plans for peace failed, Pius XII, all through the War, did what he could to alleviate the sufferings of the war-stricken, and to strive for peace. In his Encyclicals and Allocutions, the Pope constantly expressed his longing for peace and condemned the apostasy from religion as one of the chief causes of the absence of peace. The year 1941, however, marked the Fiftieth Anniversary of 'Rerum Novarum' or as it is commonly known 'The Worker's Charter', and the Pope drew attention to the great benefits resulting from the publication of that document by Pope Leo XIII in 1891. He especially noted that 'Rerum Novarum' gave rise to Catholic social teaching and orientated its methods for social reconstruction. It benefited the worker and his family by ensuring respect for his human dignity. It served to change the attitude of the state from one of non-interference in economic matters to one of active interest in the promotion of social welfare, especially where the poor and weak were concerned.

All through the war years, Pius XII continually appealed for prayers for the peaceful solution of strife between the nations. But he was also interested in alleviating the sufferings of war stricken peoples and in 1946, spoke on behalf of rendering help to the multitudes of homeless and indigent children, the innocent sufferers of the war. Ever since, the papal allocutions and encyclicals in one form or another have referred to the social question in one aspect or another. A brief summary of their main ideas is attempted here.

#### ***The Church and the Social Order***

Since man has to work out his salvation in society, the Church is interested in the social order. She does not claim to be able to solve the social question by Herself, but She nurtures and fosters those social virtues in individuals without which no social order can exist. Her social doctrine is based on the Natural Law and on the precepts of the

Gospel. It is true that today man is disappointed with the achievements of the so-called "second industrial revolution". It has not brought him the consolations he expected. But technology and economics are spheres of human knowledge subject to human limitations and human fallibility. Therefore to build up a social structure on the findings of technology and economics alone is doomed to disaster. The Pope goes on to condemn both Liberalism and Totalitarianism. He advocates instead a social order fashioned on a basic understanding of man's obligations to society and his sense of justice. A proper value of science, technology and economics can be great aids to social progress. It is not enough for Catholics especially to know their social doctrine; they must conform their conduct to its norms and guidance.

#### ***Workers' Associations***

On many occasions, associations of workingmen visited the Pope to listen to his advice and seek his blessing. Even the representatives of the International Labour Organisation during their Conference in Rome were received in special audience by Pius XII and favoured with an address. On these occasions, he spoke of the deep roots of the unity provided by a common faith inspiring a mutual love holding Christian workingmen together. He denied that the associations of Christian workingmen had split the unity of the labour movement. On the contrary they had helped to build up the solidarity of workers' associations, because of the precept of charity that had been given them by Christ. The International Labour Movement however had almost been split asunder by the intense nationalism of diverse groups. Even the appeal to class-war and class-consciousness had failed to achieve any lasting unity. The Christian worker on the other hand could advance the unity of the working class by living in accordance with the principles of his faith, and by the honesty of his conduct. Thus he could and should lead the working classes in modern society. This obligation of the Christian worker is appre-

ciated and encouraged by the Holy See, whose deep interest in the working classes is witnessed to by history. Moreover in her work for peace, the Church needs the help of the workers all over the world.

The domestic workers, and especially domestic women workers, have their own special problems. Their labour however is no less necessary to the common good than that of other workers. It follows therefore that their interests demand as much attention as that of any other working group. Young women engaged in domestic service are exposed to special dangers in large cities. Often they are ignorant of these dangers, and yet not a few of them live healthy sound moral lives in very difficult circumstances. Others unfortunately have fallen victims to the snares of evil-doers. Domestic workers can enoble their services by making them worthy of God, because when they serve their rightful employers, they actually obey God.

Industrial technicians enjoy a special role in industry. Placed as they are between management and labour, they have the difficult and yet essential task of making these groups work together for the good of the whole enterprise. In this purpose they can be greatly helped by the social doctrine of the Church which by its insistence on the dignity of man, the respect due to legitimate authority and the responsibility of all for the common good can bring about peace and harmony in the industrial world.

The Pope had also during his Pontificate to settle the acute question of whether the right to manage industry was a natural right of the worker, as claimed by a certain section of the German workers. The Pope clearly denied any such right in natural law and declared that there was no obligation on the part of the Government to frame a law to this effect. He maintained that the full implication of the right of property implied that the rights of management of such property should vest in the hands of the owner. Obviously the common good required the state to interfere in case there was an abuse of such rights.

### **Business Activity**

Pius XII addressed Conferences of Small Business and Big Business on several occasions. He would often repeat that business activity, like every other human activity, must conform to Christian principles. The first essential, therefore, was that economic freedom must so operate in business that it advances the spiritual and religious freedom of men; otherwise economic activity soon establishes a dictatorship which suppresses all freedom. Next, business activity must serve the common good. Private enterprise correctly understood means a business concern which while privately owned, operates both for the benefit of its owner as well as for the common good. The success of all business concerns will depend on the one hand on reasonable freedom from state interference and on the other on conditions of fair competition.

The functions and duties of the businessman are often misunderstood. He is by no means a mere middleman, for on him to a large extent depends the health and activity of the business world. He must stimulate production and distribution; give consumers easy access to markets and call upon the spirit of enterprise and initiative in individuals. The good businessman must therefore possess many qualities such as professional training and integrity, moral responsibility and leadership. One of his chief assets should be to bring about harmony and co-operation among the many and various units in the business world. The Pope praised the new attitude of the businessman in many countries, especially his aim to raise the standard of living of the people, and social utility to the community.

Small businesses were useful to bring about the stability of the social order and lead to a more equitable division of property. They should be helped by the State in their competitive struggle with big business.

The Pope also spoke with appreciation of People's banks, which have helped to induce the small savings of the people

for purposes of investment and security. He explained that the Administrators of such banks were in duty bound to place the interests of the clients of the bank before all considerations, such as, bringing of spectacular operations in the money market. Another strong source of security for the small-income family was life insurance, which provided it with a safeguard against the needs of old age and sickness. Finally no reform of the business society is possible without keeping in mind that the spiritual order must be given priority over economics and business.

### Industry

Pius XII was keenly aware of the rapid changes being brought about by the advance of technology. He also saw the consequences it was having on workingmen. In spite of all its promises, it had failed to bring about industrial peace. He therefore insisted that healthy industrial relations can only flow out of a right attitude in regard to the worker's dignity. In particular the contract which sets up the management-labour relationship does not imply that the employer owns the worker, but rather that thereby the worker is made a collaborator in an enterprise which must function for the good of all. The dechristianisation of society has come about by the denial of God as the Author of social life, and this has been aggravated by the separation of economics from ethics. This unreal separation has involved economics in being completely false to human reality. The final purpose of economics is the satisfaction of human wants. If this is so, the capitalistic insistence on the maximisation of profits means in reality the denial to a great number of the satisfaction of their wants and implies an exploitation of the many by a few.

The Classical School by trying to give their theory a 'scientific' basis, took into account only the quantitative material elements of economic life to the neglect of the human factor. On the other hand, the Marxists laid great stress on the fundamental part played by the material

productive process in social organisation and the establishment of cultural institutions. But this system is hate-ridden and devoid of all spiritual values and can therefore never succeed.

Economic society is so delicate that there must be a constant balancing of factors, and allowance must be made for the hard periods of "imperfect equilibrium". Hence the economist must keep in mind both economic facts as well as human nature because on his discoveries and guidance many modern statesmen depend and through them the fate of millions.

### Rural Society

The Pope's wide sympathies drew to him people from all ranks and sections of society and prominent among them were the peasant populations of various countries. Pius XII maintained that society must look after its peasantry and create social and economic conditions that would foster among them a better distribution of ownership and among rural workers opportunities for a fair and just wage. The great differences between the earnings of the industrial and agricultural worker should not be allowed to continue.

On the other hand, the farmer has his duties and obligations towards society. He must not be content with primitive methods of work, but must employ the most recent and scientific methods for increased production. The national life of the country is closely bound up with the welfare of the farmers. The farmers are nearer nature and understand her secrets better than the townsman. This should help the rural dweller to deepen his faith and spiritual life.

The Pope is only too well aware of the attractions of the life in the towns on the young peasant folk. But he warns them that there is little the city can offer to compensate them for the calm, rich life of the rural areas. A change should be made only for serious reasons.

### *Children and Prisoners*

The weaker sections of the community received the attention of Pius XII in a special manner. During the War, he actively intervened on behalf of helpless and abandoned children, and recently when he was visited by a number of waifs from Belgium, he insisted that children should be anxiously cared for by society, and especially by their parents. He deplored the increase of juvenile delinquency and traced its origin to the lack of a good home and devoted parents.

As for the prisoners, the Pope distinguished between punishment and rehabilitation. He laid stress on the need of the prisoner to accept the punishment laid on him in such a manner as to achieve his own improvement through suffering. At the same time the prisoner had to be treated with love, sympathy and understanding by society and not abandoned to his evil ways. In this manner he could be reclaimed from his past and made a useful member of society.

### *International Society*

Acutely aware as he was of the trends leading towards the formation of an international society, Pius XII in striving for the peaceful solution of the conflict among the nations often indicated the principles which should provide the basis for such international unity. Thus he stoutly declared that the first and essential condition for the establishment of peace is a firm trust and hope that peace can be won. Trust and hope however should not render the individual inactive; on the contrary it is necessary to work for peace in every sphere of human life.

The enemies of peace try to lull people into a false security by suggestion, discussions and meetings. But what good can come out of such meetings and discussions when the parties who meet cannot agree on fundamental

principles. There can be no co-existence except in truth. The preservation of peace in modern society can be attained only when courageous nations are united in action.

No one expects the United Nations to do the impossible, and the Pope sincerely welcomed the establishment of this assembly when it was first formed. But he believed that unless some action is taken against the members who flout the authority of the United Nations, the organisation will never be a success. The first step towards outlawing war is disarmament, and this can be done effectively only within the framework of the United Nations.

### *Conclusion*

This is a brief summary of the papal position on the causes and the solution of the social problem as it appeared to the mind of Pope Pius XII. From his elevated position he could scan at a glance the development of history during his pontificate, and certainly he was very well informed of the movements of events all over the world. He was not only a man of his times, but he shared the joys and the sorrows of his universal flock, and like them could feel the desire for peace and the excitement of the new era that technical advancement was opening for mankind. There is no doubt that his universal interests endeared him to the millions who came to see him, and his words of advice and warning were hearkened to by the greatest scholars and scientists from every part of the globe. And he was afraid neither of the present nor of the future. Nor did he hesitate to underscore the spiritual aspect of his message. No wonder then that his words will remain, even though he has gone to his eternal rest.

A. Fonseca

## BOOK REVIEWS

THE NAKED GOD by Howard Fast, published by F. A. Praeger, New York, pp. 197.

This is another of those tragic books written by a man who has been disillusioned by a system in which he believed wholeheartedly and unreservedly, the defects of which he tried to overlook, but who in the final analysis was too sincere to hold on to his blind attachment any longer. For thirteen years Howard Fast was one of the foremost writers of the Communist Party in the United States and his books sold by the millions behind the Iron Curtain. But Khrushchev's revelations of the insane workings of the innermost Council of the Soviet Communist Party in his secret report to the Twentieth Party Congress and many other private confessions from well-known Party members about the horrors of the Communist system in practice, forced Fast to break with the Party. In doing so, he had much to suffer from the anguish of sundering intimate friendships with sincere party comrades, and the misunderstandings of the blind admirers of Communism, who refused to see it in all its naked reality.

This book is largely concerned with the fate of the writer in the Communist World and the Soviet Union. Creative work requires freedom of expression, and the right to criticise the basic philosophy of the Government or to disagree with its methods should be permitted, if the voluntary co-operation of the people in choosing their government and submitting to its supreme authority is to be ensured. But the fate of dissenting writers in the Soviet Union and behind the Iron Curtain has been worse than that of the most despicable criminals. It appears that the Communists are more afraid of the slightest shade of divergence from their monolithic ideology than they are of crimes against their citizens. Unquestioning loyalty of the mind is demanded and insisted upon with a kind of frenzy that borders on paranoia. But for the writer and the poet,

such absolute adherence to a system that he inwardly rejects as absurd and debasing becomes intolerable and he rebels. For many writers however fear of the consequences of such rebellion for themselves and their families compel either silence or feigned consent.

Fast's book, though brief and unexciting in its relation, is marked by the tragic emotions of a man who has been deeply disillusioned about his firmest beliefs. His style is brilliant and moving. And in these few pages, the author has been able to lay bare his soul with great delicacy of feeling and great sincerity of purpose. One cannot help but accept its poignant conclusions.

A. F.

THE SOCIAL TEACHINGS OF POPE PIUS XII: 1956, edited by the Rev. Cyril C. Clump S.J., and published by the Catholic Social Guild, Oxford, pp. 115, price 2/6 sh.

This is a brief conspectus of the social teaching of Pope Pius XII drawn from his various speeches and writings during the year 1956. Fr. Clump has taken the trouble to assemble the Pope's social thought under such headings as The Social Order, The Christian Labour Movement, Church and State, Business Society, Industrial Society, Rural Society and International Society. Finally there is an appendix containing a full translation of the Pope's address to Catholic obstetricians and gynaecologists on "Painless Child-birth".

It is not easy to find within the covers of a single volume and in the English language a comprehensive review of the social doctrine of the late Pope, and so Fr. Clump's work will come in handy as a book of reference as well as a compendium of knowledge on what the Church holds in regard to the recent developments in the social and economic sphere.

Each chapter is suitably introduced by the author so as to place the subject in perspective and a brief summary follows the quoted passages from the papal speeches and writings.

The book is excellently printed and attractive in appearance, which is another reason why it should sell well in this country.

A. F.

AN INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK IN INDIA, by K. K. Jacob, printed at the S. F. S. Press, Kottayam, and available from the author, Loyola College, Madras, pp. 148, price : Rs. 2-50.

Mr. K. K. Jacob has done a very useful piece of work in providing students of social work with a brief introduction to Social Work in India. Since professional social work is still in its infancy in this country, this book will help the reader to acquire a general picture of the meaning and the fields of social service, during its period of development to full stature.

There are two main parts in the book. The first is a theoretical treatment of modern methods of social work such as social case work, social group work, community organisation, and social administration and research. The second is concerned with describing the fields of social work in India. There is an extensive survey of what is being actually done in the sphere of social service. There is also a special chapter on 'Students and Social Work'. This is a much debated topic at present, but Mr. Jacob has expressed his opinion very clearly in favour of such activity, provided it is properly guided and channelled.

The printing of the book leaves much to be desired and it might have been more advisable for the author to have paid greater attention to the general format and the appearance of his work.

All the same it is a useful book for students who wish to know something of the essentials of social service. It has the advantage of a wide coverage of subjects.

A. F.

JOURNAL OF SOCIAL RESEARCH, Published bi-annually by the Council of Social and Cultural Research, Bihar. Editor: L. P. Vidyarthi. Vol. 1, No. 1. September 1958. 100 pp. Price per volume Rs. 7-00.

This new journal is the organ of the Council of Social and Cultural Research, Department of Anthropology, Bihar University, Ranchi College, Ranchi. It is a bi-annual journal and intends to publish papers written by the members of the above-named Council on questions of theoretical anthropology and sociology, as also the results of field-work done in India, research news and book reviews.

This first issue is given god-speed by Dr. Zakir Hussain, the Governor of Bihar, and by other prominent persons connected with the Ranchi College in an official or unofficial capacity. The purpose of the journal is explained in the Editorial by Prof. Dr. L. P. Vidyarthi, its editor.

The papers published in this first issue are of diversified character and of varied value. One paper, by B. S. Cohn and McKim Marriott, deals in a highly theoretical manner with "the Networks and Centres in the Integration of Indian Civilisation". These terms are typical for American Diffusionists and, as the authors show, can be aptly applied to Indian cultural diffusion. S. C. Dube writes on "Approaches to the Study of Complex Cultures" leaning in his terminology heavily on American anthropologists. Surajit Sinha contributes an interesting article on the progressive Hinduisation of Bhumij festivals, while K. C. Sahoo writes

on traces of Saora influence on the Hindu Ramayan. Sachhi-dananda describes the youth dormitory of the Oraons and mourns its decay, while L. P. Vidhyarthi gives a short survey of the tribal cultures in Bihar. O. P. Sinha contributes a paper on the cultural ecology of the Birhors, a food-gathering tribe in Bihar.

A welcome novel feature is the short introduction of the author at the beginning of his paper. The *Research News* are few, while *Book Reviews* are altogether lacking in this first issue. The journal needs a more careful editing in future, as several misprints can be found on almost every page.

We wish the enterprising Council of Social and Cultural Research in the Department of Anthropology, Bihar University, good luck in their new venture and hope that the next issues of the journal will be as interesting and instructive as this first one.

S. F.

## Social Survey

### Newsprint

With the coming of independence the number of newspapers, magazines and periodicals of all types have increased enormously. This has posed a very serious problem as far as newsprint is concerned. While before the Second World War the estimated annual consumption of newsprint was about 37,000 tons; at present it has risen to 80,000 tons which is expected to rise to 100,000 tons by 1960-61. During 1957, 55,649 tons of newsprint were imported.

Until the setting up of the Nepa Mills all the newsprint was imported. The Nepa Mills went into production in 1955. The production which was about 2,500 tons in 1955 has risen to 14,489 tons in 1957. So far it is the only unit manufacturing newsprint in India.

The Second Plan envisages the setting up another mill with a production capacity of 30,000 tons per annum. It will be located in Andhra. Since India is lacking in the conventional raw material (firs and spruce), bagasse abundantly available in the country will be utilised.

### Rice

Though India and China have the largest area under rice cultivation the yield per acre is one of the lowest. Strange as it might sound Spain has the highest yield. The following figures are interesting. Yield per hectare (about 2½ acres) in 1956: Spain 5,810 kilograms (one kilogram is equal to about 1.2 seers); Egypt 5,430; Australia 5,290; Italy 4,690; Portugal 4,230; Japan 4,220; and India 544 kilograms.

In India the area under rice cultivation extends over 78 million acres. In 1957-58, the top five producers of rice among the States were West Bengal 4,185,000 tons; Andhra 3,468,000 tons; Madras 3,134,000 tons; Uttar Pradesh 2,284,000 tons; and Bihar 2,198,000 tons.

India will in the coming months import 3.1 million tons of food-grains from the United States of America, including 2.8 million tons of wheat. There is a possibility of getting further supplies from Canada.

### **Women Workers**

During the 50 year period 1901-1951, there was greater loss of work opportunities for women in the non-agricultural sectors of the economy than in agriculture. The number of working females decreased from 43 million in 1901 to 40.7 million in 1951 while the female population during the same period increased from 149.9 million to 173.4 million. Thus there was a decrease of about 2.3 million working women as against the actual increase of 23.5 million female population. A general decrease has taken place, in absolute numbers as well as relatively, in the employment of women in production other than cultivation, commerce and other services and miscellaneous sources. Transport, however, recorded a rise in women's employment. During the fifty year period, the employment of women recorded a rise in coal mining, tobacco, iron and steel and non-ferrous metal industries, transport equipment, bricks, tiles and other structural clay products, furniture and fixtures, educational services and research, municipalities and local boards, hotels, restaurants, tea houses and legal business services. The employment, however, declined in miscellaneous food industries, grains and pulses, non-metallic mineral products, retail trade in fuel, sanitary works and services and laundry and laundry services.

During the period 1950-56 there has been no appreciable change. Some industries have shown an increase in the number of women employed while in others there has been a marked decline.

In the textile groups, the employment of women in jute industry decreased from 37,000 in 1950 to 21,000 in 1956. The employment in "bidi" and match industries was good. Cashewnut industry and tea factories showed a significant fall in the employment of women. In the mining sector, women's employment showed a considerable rise in manganese and iron ore mining but recorded a fall in coal and mica mining. (Labour Gazette).

### **Legal Assistance**

The Kerala Government has appointed a full time Government Pleader to appear in cases of original petition in labour matters

before the High Court and to render necessary assistance to workers for the proper conduct of labour cases before the Tribunals and Labour Courts and to assist Government Prosecutors in the prosecution of cases of violation of labour laws and non-implementation of awards and conciliation agreements.

It is not known whether the Government pleader would render assistance to non-union workers.

### **Employees' Insurance**

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation had, till the end of 1957-58, a surplus fund of Rs. 139,091,575. It is proposed to utilise this amount for constructing hospitals, annexes to existing hospitals and dispensaries for insured persons. During the year 1957-58 a sum of Rs. 66,711,495 was collected under the Scheme and Rs. 43,799,697 were spent.

### **Old People**

Under the Old Age Pension the U. P. Government is paying pension to 4,000 old persons of whom 50 per cent are women. 75 per cent of the old age pensioners have to look after themselves alone.

### **Workmen's Compensation**

A Bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha by the Union Labour Minister seeks to make several very important changes in the present Act. We shall give here some of the more important changes proposed.

Clause 2 — This clause removes the distinction between an adult and a minor for the purpose of workmen's compensation. At present the Act prescribes different rates of compensation for adults and minors for death and permanent disablement on the ground that a minor will have, as a general rule, no dependants. There will be no distinction hereafter.

The definition of minor — one who has not attained the age of 18 years — for all other purposes remains unchanged.

Clause 3 — This clause reduces the waiting period of 7 days to 5 days as prescribed in the I. L. O. Convention on Workingmen's Compensation (Accidents), 1925. It also empowers the Commissioner to apportion the liability for compensation between different employers in certain cases where the workman has been employed in the same employment for a specified continuous period under more than one employer.

Clause 4 — In clause 3(1) it has been proposed to reduce the waiting period to 5 days. No compensation will therefore be payable in respect of this period. In order, however, to reduce the hardship of a workman in case he suffers an injury which incapacitates him for four weeks or more, a provision is being made for payment of compensation for the waiting period also.

To this clause an explanation of great importance is added. It read: 'Any payment or allowance which the workman has received from the employer towards his medical treatment shall not be deemed to be payment or allowance received by him by way of compensation within the meaning of clause (a) of the proviso.' The compensation is for loss of future earnings and not for getting medical treatment.

After section 4 of the principal Act, the following section, which will be much appreciated by workmen, is being added:

"4A. (1) Compensation under section 4 shall be paid as it falls due.

(2) In cases where the employer does not accept the liability for the compensation to the extent claimed, he shall be bound to make provisional payment based on the extent of liability which he accepts, and, such payment shall be deposited with the Commissioner or made to the workman, as the case may be, without prejudice to the right of the workman to make any further claim.

(3) Where any employer is in default in paying the compensation due under this Act within one month from the date it fell due, the Commissioner may direct that, in addition to the amount of the arrears, simple interest at the rate of six per cent per annum on the amount due together with, if in the opinion of

the Commissioner there is justification for the delay, a further sum not exceeding fifty per cent of such amount shall be recovered from the employer by way of penalty."

Clause 7 raises the sum payable for the funeral expenses from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50.

Clause 8, — This clause lays down that as the limitation period of one year for preferring a claim before the Commissioner is not sufficient the period be extended to two years.

Clause 9 requires that the employer report accidents which not only result in death but also those which result in serious bodily injury.

Clause 13 — This clause enhances the penalty laid down in section 18A from a fine of Rs. 100 to a fine of Rs. 500.

Clause 14 — To protect further the interests of workmen and their dependants section 24 of the principal Act has been replaced by a new section. It reads:

"24. Any appearance, application or act required to be made or done by any person before or to a Commissioner (other than any appearance of a party which is required for the purpose of his examination as a witness) may be made or done on behalf of such person by a legal practitioner or by an official of an Insurance Company or a registered Trade Union or by an inspector appointed under sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Factories Act, 1948, or under sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Mines Act, 1952, or by any other officer specified by the State Government in this behalf, authorised in writing by such person, or, with the permission of the Commissioner by any other person so authorised."

The Schedules to the principal Act have been drastically recast and have been made to include a large category of workers who were so far outside the purview of the Act. The list of occupational diseases has been revised. The Schedules now conform to the standards laid down by I. L. O. Conventions and modern standards.

Schedule IV, however, remains unchanged except for the dropping of the word "adult".

The Industrial Disputes Act is also to be amended drastically. The Government will introduce a Bill for this purpose in Parliament shortly. Meanwhile there is a proposal to codify the whole labour legislation, bringing it in time to modern standards prevailing in other advanced countries. Incidentally codification will help both the courts and the litigants.

### Doctors

Dr. C. S. Patel, the President of the Medical Council of India, has said that the Council had informed the Central Government that there should be only one system of medicine in the country, namely the modern system of medicine, with a uniform standard as prescribed by the council. The Council does not favour the simultaneous teaching of modern medicine and either the indigenous system of medicine or Homeopathy to undergraduates taking courses in modern medicine. The reason for this, Dr. Patel said, was the "fundamental difference in theory and practice" between modern medicine and indigenous system of medicine and homeopathy. The Council has suggested that the indigenous system and homeopathy should be taught only as post-graduate courses after the intending practitioner had obtained the basic qualification in modern medicine as was the case in the United Kingdom, Europe and America. According to the Council the basic qualification for medical practitioners is the M. B. B. S. degree. If the suggestions of the Council is given effect to the large number of quacks and half-baked medical practitioners who do immensely more harm than good could be eliminated. Besides with the basic qualification already obtained those who wish to practise the indigenous system of medicine or homeopathy would be able to do much better both in the curative and preventive field.

The Medical services in India have made rapid strides in the past few years. Whereas in 1951 there were 30 medical colleges in the country, today there are 51 which number will increase to 67 by the end of the Third Five Year Plan. The number of admissions to medical colleges had risen from 2500 in 1951 to 4,600 in 1956-57. The number of medical practitioners in India in 1951 was 59,000. Today we have 80,000 of them and by the end of the Third Plan the number will increase to 100,000. The number of hospital beds

in 1951 was 113,000, which has now increased to 155,000 and would be further increased to 360,000.

In spite of all the increase in practitioners and hospital beds India has yet to go a long way to bring medical care within the reach of all.

The Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, which is to be shortly enforced, devolves on the Indian Medical Council great responsibility. Among other things the Council is required to maintain a register of all person qualified to practise medicine in India. Those on the register will be permitted to practise in any part of the country.

### Democracy

Ever since his return from his recent European tour Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayan is going about preaching his latest cure for all ills from which the country is supposed to be suffering. His prescription can be reduced to two items: pension all the political parties and form a Government of men taken from all parties which believe in democracy; and secondly change into Mahatmas all top leaders and let them loose in the country to whip up popular enthusiasm for all development programmes. The reason for these suggestions seems to be his belief that democracy as it exists in the country today is not fitted to the genius of the people. Moreover he finds that the Congress has failed to rally the people and infuse into them an enthusiasm for development of the economy of the country.

Some have the impression that J. P. travels pretty fast. From Socialism to Bhoodan and then to Gramdan and now to a partyless non-partisan democracy. What is coming next is anybody's guess. Uncharitable people are saying that the real reason is a desire to step into Nehru's shoes when the latter decides to step down. For this purpose they say it is necessary for J. P. to get into the Central Government, or at any rate close to Mr. Nehru. Some critics have suggested that instead of making these vague and utopian proposals Mr. Narayan should rejoin the P. S. P., put life and order into it, and make it a national party capable of challenging the Congress Party effectively. Right now the P. S. P.

but in Bombay and West Bengal it is actively co-operating with the Communists thereby aiding the latter to make great progress. A leader of Mr. Narayan's calibre, the critics say, could do much to revitalise the P. S. P. May be the role of a Mahatma is much more easier and sweeter.

### **Kerala**

Police firings in the Red Paradise are becoming frequent occurrences. In recent weeks the police opened fire several times in the tea plantations on workers. While in Jamshedpur the Communists were loud in their demand for adjudication in Kerala they have rejected it as injurious to the interests of workers. Efforts are being made to settle the dispute between the employers and their workers. As long as the aim of the Communists is to throw out British businessmen from the country there is likelihood of continuing trouble in these foreign-owned plantations.

### **Disabled Persons**

The Bombay Government have sponsored a scheme to help disabled persons to rehabilitate themselves. Under the scheme sheltered workshops will be set up to impart training and provide employment to the physically handicapped and for the general rehabilitation of such persons. The workshops will provide opportunities for the personal growth of the handicapped and the disabled, who by reason of their physical handicaps, are unable to earn their living in an honest way.

Vocations and handicrafts like carpentry, typography, tailoring, cane work, cloth printing, weaving sign-board painting and such other items as may be considered suitable for them are to be included in the programme of the workshops. They will be provided with such instruments and equipment as is suitable for them and which they can use with safety.

The scheme will be sponsored through voluntary agencies and grants-in-aid will be sanctioned on the following basis to such institutions as would come forward to undertake this work :

#### **Recurring grant ;**

Two-thirds of the actual audited and admitted expenditure including expenditure on hostel, or Rs. 30/- per month per student, whichever is less.

Non-recurring grant : fifty per cent of the admitted expenditure on equipment and also of the total expenditure on building.

These voluntary agencies which desire to undertake the scheme are advised to approach the Director of Social Welfare, Bombay Somawar Peth, Poona-2.

Persons who are anxious to help the beggars on our streets have golden opportunities here.

### **Progress of Banking**

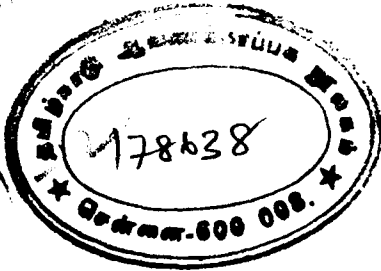
Some months ago the Reserve Bank, in a report on the Trend and Progress of Banking in India, referred to the corrective measures adopted by the Government of India and the Reserve Bank to bring about an improvement in the economic situation badly mauled by the stresses and strains of previous years, especially 1956 and 1957. The heavy investment programme under the Second Five Year Plan and the consequent growth in money incomes had tended to raise the aggregate demand in the economy at a much higher rate than the increase in national output. This difference had caused an appreciable rise in the index of wholesale prices. Food prices in particular had risen considerably causing much hardship to the consumer.

The impact of the steep rise in investment had similarly been felt at the sensitive level of the country's external payments. The balance of payments deficit in the first quarter of 1957 had increased by Rs. 82 crores and then by Rs. 150 crores in each of two subsequent quarters. The increased import of food grains and capital goods had been responsible for the mounting deficit in external payments. The situation was further worsened by the decline in exports in certain commodities.

The situation called for effective and urgent corrective measures. Additional taxation, mainly through excise duties, to the tune of

The exceptionally large deposit expansion in the banks was a striking feature of the banking situation in the country. But the Reserve Bank discouraged the practice of giving credit against certain commodities like paddy, rice, wheat, sugar, etc. It saw much opportunity for the banks to open new branches and spread the banking habit.

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