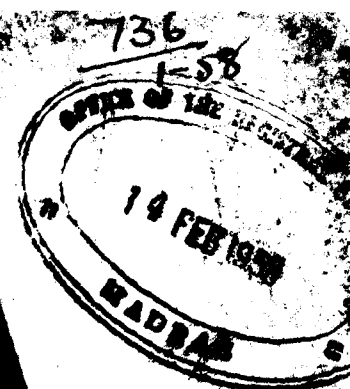


The INDIAN REVIEW

59th Year



Vol. 59. FEBRUARY 1958 No. 2

CONTENTS

Editorial

The Trials of our Democracy
By Dr. Sampurnanand

Private Enterprise in Economic Growth
By Mr. Robert L. Garner

India and F.A.O.
By Mr. J. V. A. Nehemiah

The Tyagaraja Legacy
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By Sri Manian Natesan

Congress and Conferences
A Diamond Jubilee Souvenir
By S. Y. Krishnaswami

Indians Outside India
Diary of the Month
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etc., etc.

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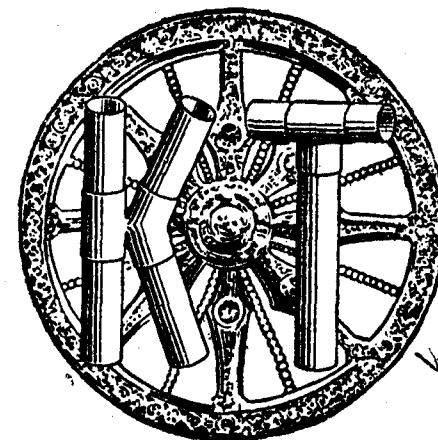
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Vol. 59]

FEBRUARY 1958 : DETAILED CONTENTS

[No.

Editorial	...	49	A Diamond Jubilee Souvenir	...	8
The Trials of our Democracy	...	53	By S. Y. Krishnaswami	...	8
Private Enterprise in Economic Growth	...	57	Indians Outside India	...	8
By Mr. Robert L. Garner	...	57	Diary of the Month	...	8
India and F.A.O.	...	60	Readers' Digest	...	8
By Mr. J. V. A. Nehemiah	...	60	Questions of Importance	...	9
The Tyagaraja Legacy	...	62	Utterances of the Day	...	9
By Dr. Narayana Menon	...	62	Political	...	9
A Date under the Chestnuts (A Short Story)	...	64	Educational	...	10
By Mr. Novak Novakovic	...	64	Legal	...	10
Bapu and I	...	66	Trade and Finance	...	10
By Sri Manian Natesan	...	66	Women's Page	...	10
Congress and Conferences	...	71	General	...	10

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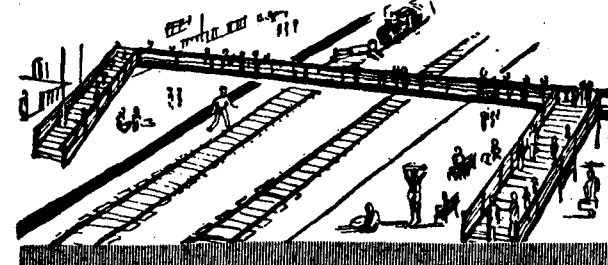
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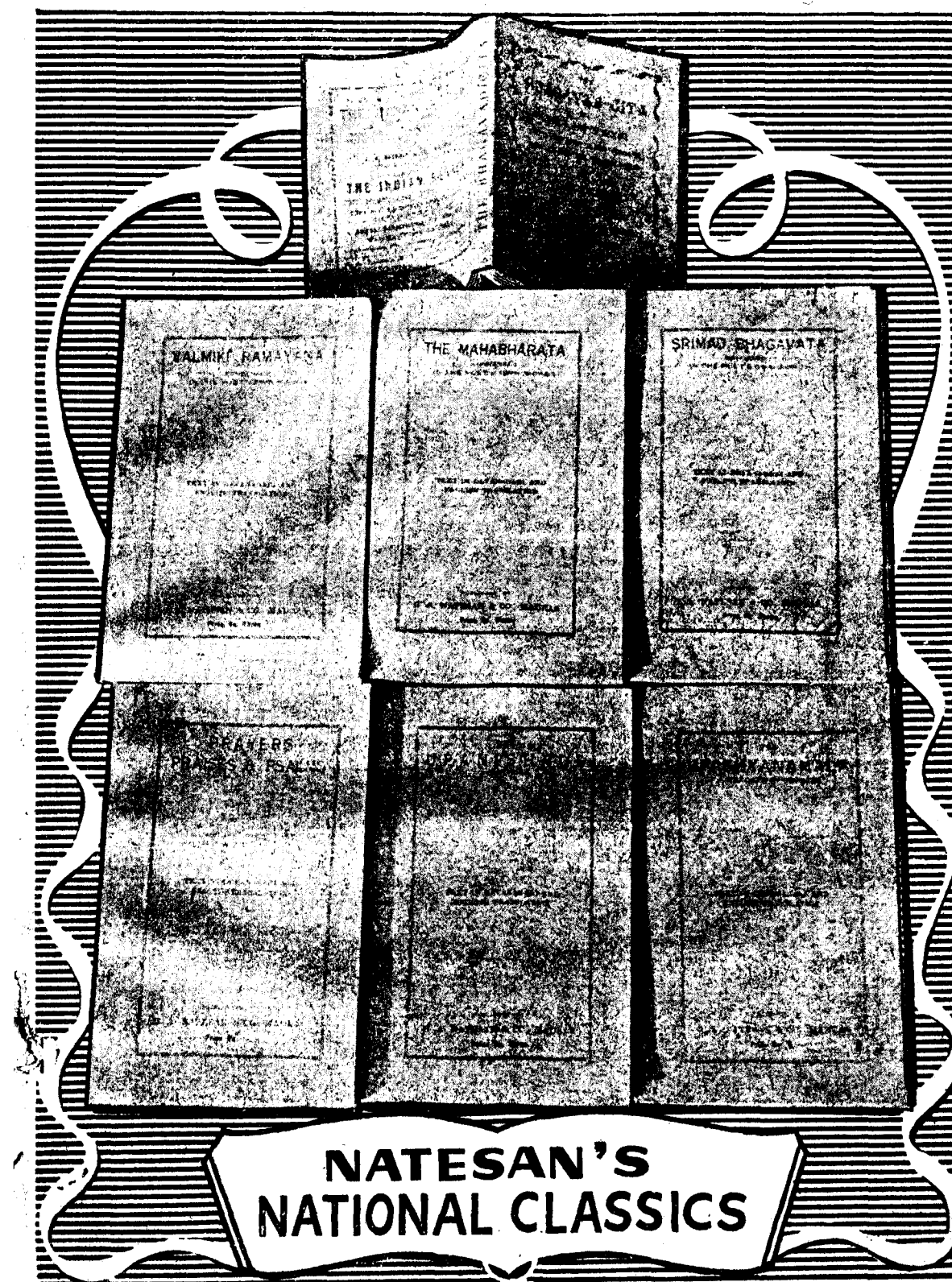
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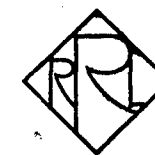
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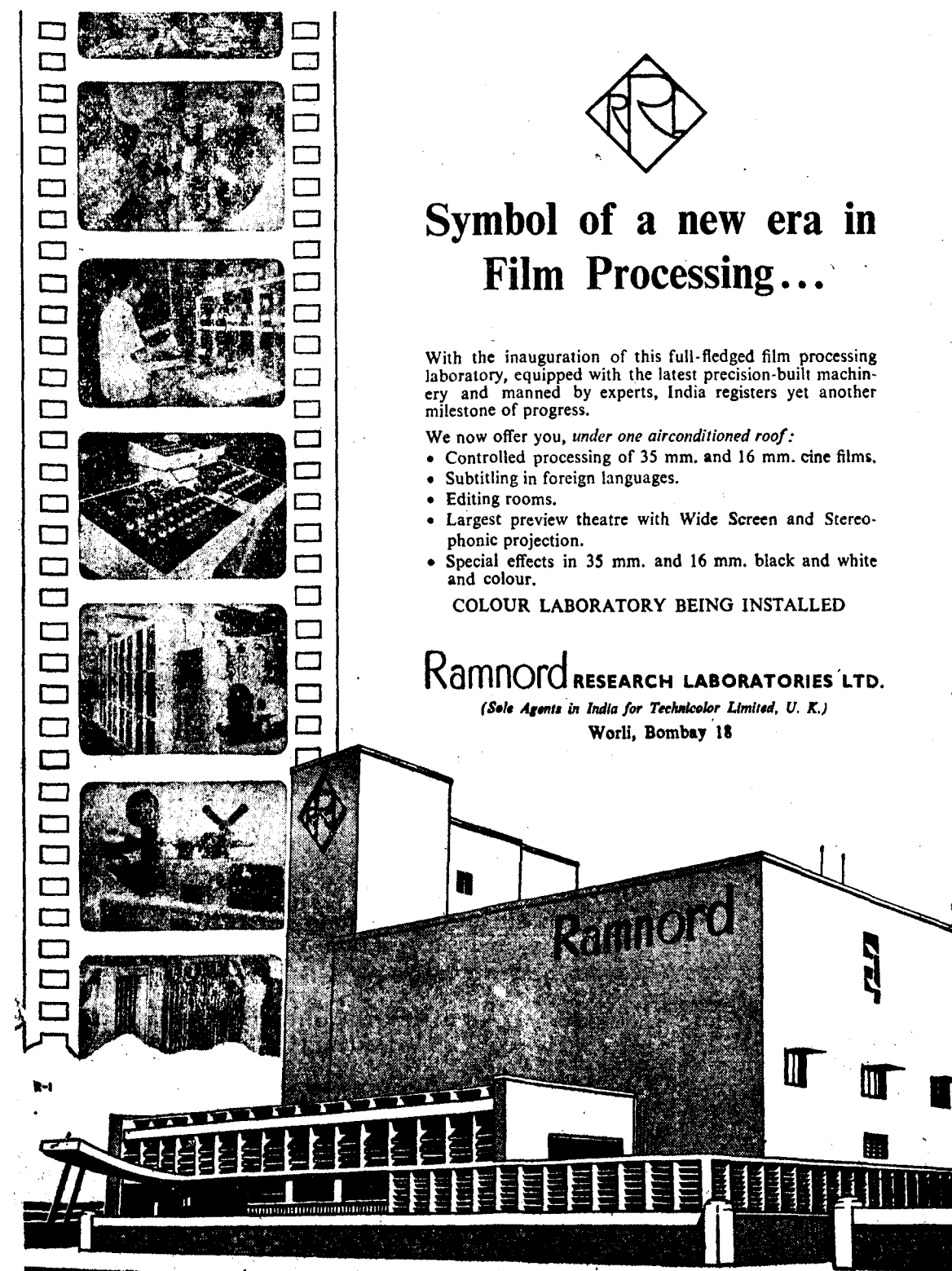
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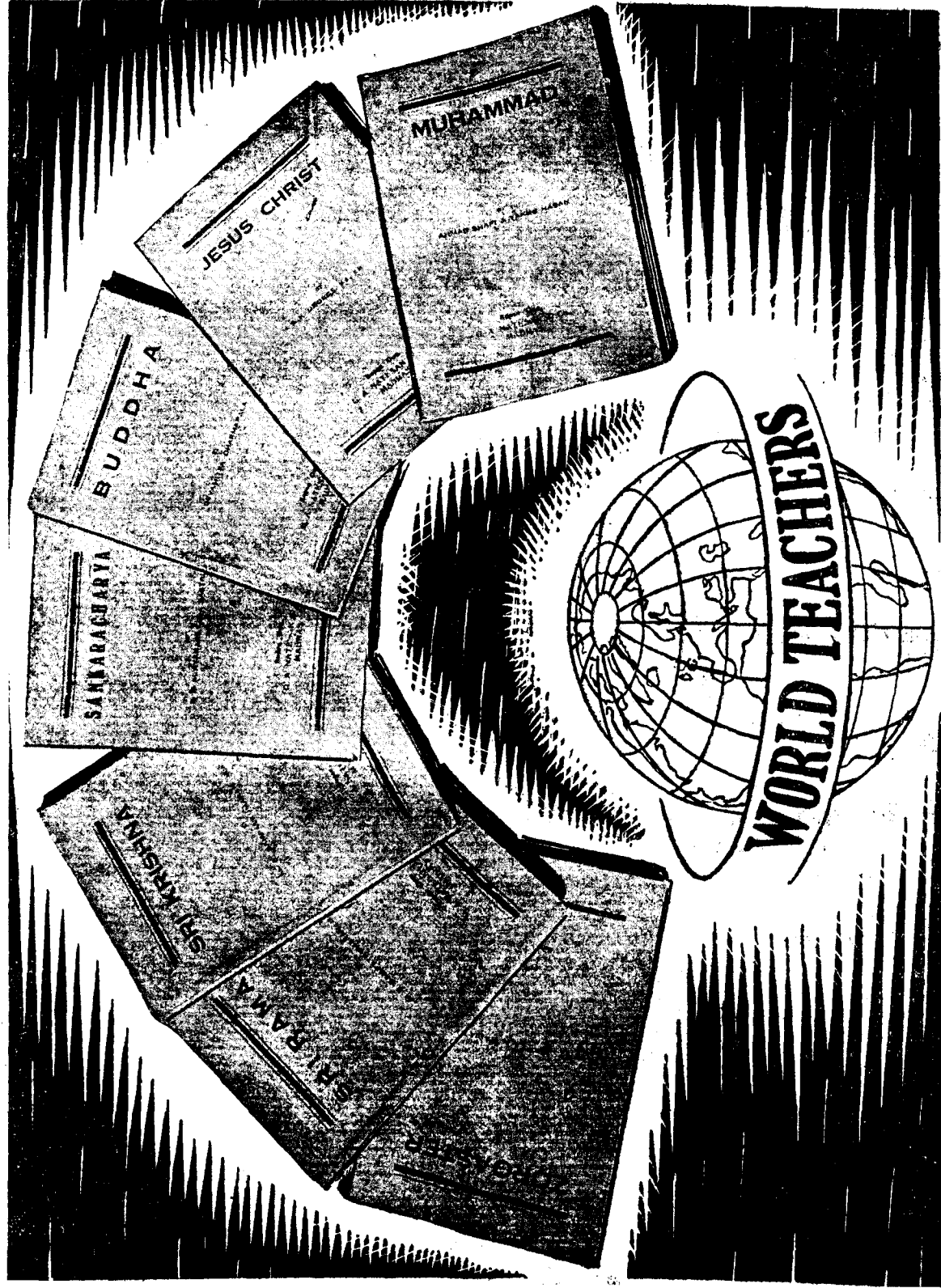
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the earliest opportunity. Some voice should protest against the world becoming the oyster of the Bomb owners. A neutral initiative is bound to snow-ball itself into growing volume, and exert a moral pressure which cannot be ignored.

It is idle to solve the problem by giving up nuclear tests or agreeing to maintain an atom free zone in Europe. The logical conclusion of the former is to kill off all those who can make the weapons once again. The latter means less than nothing in the context of the inter-continental range of the new missiles. The atom is recognised as an immense reservoir of power, and in a world where oil and coal are being used up with alarming speed, a major source of power like the atom is of inescapable significance. Research takes no account of objectives. One does not abolish fire or poison. In the Calder Hall Station in the United Kingdom electricity is already being produced from a nuclear furnace, in a normal sized generator, and in the same way as elsewhere, by raising steam to operate the turbines, which drive the electric generators, so that electric power is delivered to the grid. This, according to Professor Appleton, is undoubtedly a monumental feat of technology, but the more relevant point is that "The industrial firms who have constructed it have been able to do so only because of the outstanding progress made by the scientists and engineers of the Atomic Energy Authority at Harwell and Risley."* More recently, in the United States, The Argonne National Laboratory has announced its experimental boiling water reactor, safely operating at a level of 50,000 K.W., at a competitive cost.** And now just before going to Press news comes from U.K. that hydrogen fusion has been achieved, thereby opening up a vast field of beneficial exploitation of the hydrogen atom.

* "Science and the Nation," Reith Lectures, 1956, by Sir Edward Appleton.

** Time, dated January, 6, 1958, page 44.

Atomic research has therefore to go on, and will go on. It will at no time be impossible to switch over to war-production.

One therefore sees no solution to the problem of saving humanity except by the voluntary agreement of the concerned nations. Stopping a test or neutralising a zone is not even a palliative, it is an eye-wash that ultimately strengthens a growing blindness.

THE SCIENCE CONGRESS

The Science Congress, which met in Madras in the first week of January, carried through an impressive programme of 1357 papers in 13 different sections, 20 presidential addresses, 15 special lectures, and five popular lectures. Professor Thacker, who presided, pointed out how science developed independently of the useful arts, but only after the social organisation had created a class of thinkers with sufficient leisure and intellectual curiosity to inquire into and understand the world of nature. He regretted the present dependence of India on foreign inventions and pleaded for developing science and technology in such a way that we are able to develop our own inventions and our own pattern of industrialisation.

Professor Rossini of the Carnegie Institute, who spoke on the 'popular' platform, traced the evolution of scientific knowledge and emphasised the disappearance of the lone scientist and of compartmentalised research, and the emergence of an era of scientific interdependence at the present time.

The distinction between what Rossini calls 'basic research' and 'planned basic research' has great bearing on the future of India. The former fits in with the pursuit of knowledge in the strict sense of the word. But politicians and patriots are not interested in knowledge. They want results. They are anxious that science should serve mankind. Therefore the applied scientist, the inventor of gadgets, the technologist who cuts costs, and the whole

army of men who learn, to earn, achieve a primacy that is denied to the great men who hitch their wagon to a star and are apparently impervious to the demands of social service. The borderland between science and technology is not always clear, but countries that have attained to technological superiority are not necessarily in the forefront of intellectual advancement, and one recalls to mind the fact that atomic fission may have occurred in the U.S.A., but that it was the result of the speculations of a German Jewish refugee, Einstein, the explorations of an Italian, Fermi, and of a Danish scientist, Nils Bohr, and a second generation American, Oppenheimer. The scholastic tradition of India has always apotheosised disinterested intellectual curiosity and this accords ill with the pragmatic impertinence of the question "will it work," which may be taken as the formula of applied research. The mingling of the sciences mentioned by Rossini will bring to the forefront the greater and not the lesser men of science, and surely, it is not the intention of Professor Thacker to harness them to the task of making Indian inventions!

The moment we swerve from the rectitude of unmotivated search for truth, be it in the realm of the spirit or in the realm of physical phenomena, the urge for success will warp the vision and influence thought. It is to be hoped that science will not fall from its high estate into the trough of planning for prosperity, a better life for the common man, higher standards of living and other such ladders to a technological paradise.

THE CONGRESS AT GAUHATI

The sixty-third session of the Congress was held at Gauhati in January. A perusal of the proceedings leave one with four separate impressions.

Firstly, the address of Sri Debhar showed that the old conflict between the ideology of simple living and the necessity for accelerating

national achievements and prosperity is still clouding the minds of the leaders. Sri Debhar alternated between the need for land reform and for looking after the man behind the plough, and the urgency of fulfilling the grand targets of the Second Five-year Plan. His mind kept swaying from the village with its thatched cottages to the factory with chromium fittings.

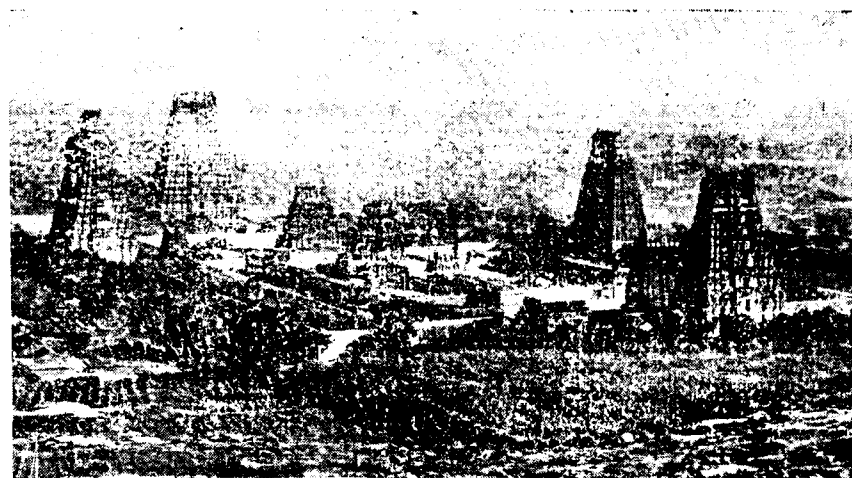
Secondly, it proved that Pandit Nehru is still the most important person in the Congress organisation. He intervened in every debate, and he spoke more frequently and longer than any one else. There is an ill omen of 'after me the deluge' in this state of affairs. It is a defect of the Congress that it lacks alternate leadership and the presence in its councils of younger men who have come of age, alas! after the August Sacrifice of 1942; and one feels uneasy that such a Carlylean conception of history should have come to pass. The Congress is the most powerful and the best organised political party in the land, and its influence has, by and large, been for good, and the lapses from political integrity which are inevitable when a party is in uninterrupted power for over ten years have always evoked a certain measure of opposition from within. Its potential for democratic achievement is immense, and it is to be hoped that it will yet belie the hopes of its opponents.

Thirdly, the session was dominated by the language issue. Here one may make bold to say that the Congress has flirted with the opposition to Hindi, and the compromise of allowing English to continue till such time as Hindi is advanced enough to serve as the national language is a putting off of the evil day in a weak manner. The partisans of Hindi are numerically strong, both in the Government and elsewhere, and the very argument that Hindi is not now well developed will be used to push it all along the line, and this by itself will serve to create policies and

incidents (like Hindi on post cards) that will widen the cleavage. Nor does it appear that the distinction between the language of the people, which is the regional language, and the official language of the Central Government, which is by no means a national language, has been fully understood.

Fourthly, the Session showed the purposelessness of a grand biennial *jamboree*, with elephants and exhibitions, and the costly creation of temporary cities, for what is in truth,

the general meeting of a political party. Such a show was necessary and politically advantageous when the Congress was fighting for the freedom of India. Today it savours of a ceremony from which the animating purpose and spirit have departed. Indeed, it is reported that the public attendance was noticeably thin, and one is not surprised that it was so. A more business like session, with the primaries voting the delegates to an enlarged AICC, seems called for in the present circumstances.



View of the Temple from the Hill—Tiruvannamalai (Madras State)

The Trials of our Democracy

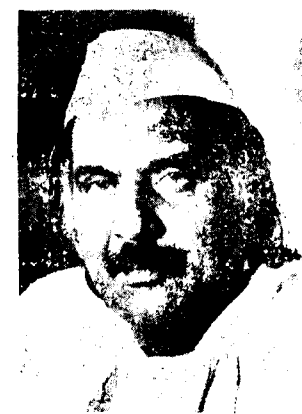
By

DR. SAMPURNANAND

Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh.

DEMOCRACY, while it is one of the most vigorous forms that a social structure can assume, is, at the same time, a very delicate mechanism. It is a system of checks and balances more difficult to co-ordinate and more likely to get mal-adjusted than the assortment of springs and levers which make

difficult. Dictatorship and absolute monarchy are easier to understand. There will be whims and vagaries but they will be the whims and vagaries of one man as against the whims and vagaries of the large numbers of men and women who have to function effectively if democracy is to succeed instead of degenerating into government by a small caucus.



up the most delicate instruments known to physical science. The scientist deals with material objects which are very well known and whose behaviour, not excluding misbehaviour, can be foretold with great precision. Such accuracy is unobtainable where we have to deal with living things. Human behaviour, for all our knowledge of psychology, is not calculable and patterns of thought and action do not lend themselves to statistical treatment. Every individual is a unique problem in himself and that abstract quality, personality, can upset all prognostications based on elemental urges and social instincts. It is this fact which makes the practice of democracy so

It may be assumed that even dictators govern with the tacit consent of the governed. Modern dictatorships go a step further. China and the U.S.S.R. assert that they are democracies in the truest sense of the term, that the government functions, not only with the tacit consent, but the active and willing support of the people. We need not go more deeply into this but it is obvious that there is one essential difference between, this type of democracy and the one with which we in India are more familiar, the one that we have adopted as the basis of our constitution. The difference lies in this that we take it for granted that in a democracy there must be constitutional and non-violent methods by which the people can pass judgment on the government and replace it, if they feel so inclined, by another more likely to govern according to their wishes. In a democracy, the ultimate responsibility of the government to the people is not merely a philosophical dogma but a positive fact which is demonstrable through a prescribed and specific procedure.

It is this fact which makes the task of governing in a democracy so difficult. No member of government is worth his salt if he plays to the gallery, if he does not act strictly

in accordance with the dictates of his conscience and judgment, allows himself to be swayed by fear or favour. But while all this is true that the government derives its strength not from the Police or the Military but the support of the Citizenry. For this reason, what it does in the name of the people must, to say the least, not be repugnant to the general will of the people. The government has, therefore, to carry the people along with itself, to appeal, and appeal successfully, to the reason and the emotions of the people. One cannot expect the general mass of citizens to look very far ahead into the future, to the apparent detriment of their immediate interests, or to be emotionally so stable as to withstand the demagogue and the persons interested in misrepresenting the acts and intentions of the government. Such men there are bound to be in every country. They are the castaways, the frustrated, the congenial cynics. They have nothing constructive to offer, their role is destructive criticism.

And then there are the regular opposition parties, groups of people whose approach to questions of public interest is fundamentally different from that of the group to which the government belongs and who are not merely critics but have policies and programmes of their own which, they feel, are more likely to serve the public weal. Quite naturally, they lose no opportunity to show the public the short-comings of the government and the disastrous consequences that are likely to result if it is allowed to have its way for long.

India, like any other country which chooses to adopt the democratic way of life, must be prepared to accept this general frame-work. We have accepted it willingly and, on the whole, have worked our democratic institutions fairly successfully. Compared to the tasks before us, our resources were woefully meagre but the use we have made of them, the constructive effort the country has made, has earned for us the general admiration

of those most competent to judge. We have risen to an honourable place in the family of nations and our advice is listened to with respect and attention. Many of the basic needs of the population are nearing satisfaction and, although much remains to be done, there is an atmosphere of hope, of spiritual resurgence, of self-confidence, in the country that is a sure augury of our success. The fact that we have been able to maintain the peace over this vast land is itself an achievement of which we may well be proud. Anyone who is not blinded by prejudice will admit that the post-war period of seven years has been utilized by us, as well as was possible in the circumstances.

This qualifying clause is important. One would naturally think in this context of our paucity of resources in money and trained personnel, the terrible food scarcity which the country had to face, the refugee problem, the Kashmir issue and the disturbing influence of Pakistan on our national life. The international situation which, for instance, involved us in the Korean conflict even though we refused to play the role of belligerents, also had its share in adding to our worries. All this no doubt prevented us from making the progress which might, otherwise, have achieved. But this was not all. There were other factors which contributed to making the totality of circumstances even less favourable to steady progress.

There was, first, the presence in our midst of parties which are not prepared to subscribe to the basic principles of the Constitution. Indian ideals have no meaning for them and Gandhism is only an object of amused contempt. They trust to achieve their objective by violent methods. With this end in view, their consistent effort has been to stir up disaffection and to undermine the main faith of the nation in its leadership. They are never tired of belittling the efforts of Indian govern-

ments and to extol the achievements of other nations, like Russia and China, under a leadership owing allegiance to principle which are really alien to our culture, our traditions and our history. These men were a strong bulwark of foreign rule during the nation's struggle for independence but pose today to be strongest champions of popular rights, in so far as these rights consist in organized defiance of lawfully constituted authority. Nothing would please them more than the prevalence of utter chaos and lawlessness in the land.

One could perhaps understand, though no patriotic Indian can condone, such treasonable activities. They come from people for whom the term India is nothing but a convenient geographical expression. But what shall one say of the tactics of the Praja-Socialist Party which forms the official Opposition in many States and hopes to form a government if the Congress is overthrown at the next general election. This Party has renounced violence and, in its ranks, are men who have been in the fore-front of the fight against alien domination. It was expected of such a group that it would help in the evolution of healthy conventions in our young democracy and live up to the best traditions of the Opposition in countries where democracy has had a longer trial. No one expected them to be blind supporters of the government but an Opposition is not committed to the role of blind critics, either. An opposition which indulges in all-round criticism of the administration merely because it belongs to a different party will, by the very logic of words, be compelled to enunciate principles and policies which it will find it impossible to implement, if it ever comes into power. The Opposition, therefore, has to act as a responsible body, exercising considerable restraint upon itself. It has to demonstrate by its sobriety of speech and conduct that it is worthy of the confidence of the public and able and willing to carry on public business with wisdom and dignity.

Judged by this criterion, and no other criterion is possible, the record of the opposition in our legislature has been extremely disappointing. In some of the States, it has crossed all bounds of decency. Opposition is practised for the sake of opposition and irrelevancy is cultivated as a valuable adjunct to rhetoric. This is not all. Mortally afraid that it will be driven off the stage by the Communists, the P.S.P. which is the main Opposition party, tries to imitate Communist tactics. It indulges in violent language, stages demonstrations in which offensive slogans are the chief attraction and sponsors so-called Satyagraha campaigns which are normally out of place in a democracy. What is most surprising is the fact that members of the legislatures do not hesitate to ask people to break laws which they themselves have helped to place on the Statute Book.

Then there are the campaigns, whispering and open, of vilification, attributing graft and nepotism to members of the government and senior officers. One can have recourse to the law of defamation once in a lifetime but this remedy is of no avail in the face of an organized campaign of libel.

This is not the way to run a democracy. Hitting below the belt is unsportsmanlike but democracy demands a high degree of sportsmanship from everyone. There are unwritten conventions and canons of conduct which must be observed if the transaction of business within the legislature is not to degenerate into the thrust and the parry of the fish-market. The Opposition must be guaranteed certain privileges, if it is to function effectively. The executive must learn to put up with pungent criticism and not allow itself to show its resentment by punitive action against its critics. But the Opposition cannot abuse its privileges with impunity. It would be a parody of democracy for a minority party to function as the official opposition on the floor of the

legislature and to incite people to break the laws, at the same time. For the same man to function as a legislator and a rebel is to give shape to a logical contradiction.

All this is what is being attempted in our country before our eyes. Lawlessness is preached by men who pose as champions of progress and democracy, in utter oblivion of the fact that such activity merely strengthens the hands of those anti-social parties whose one interest is to create the chaos which is so important a step towards the fulfilment of their aims.

Such a state of affairs causes a tremendous nervous strain, as surely as a cold international war. Attention is distracted from useful work and time and energy have to be canalised along non-constructive channels. Money which can be ill-spared from national planning has to be spent on jails and the police. The moral and psychological effect is most depressing. An atmosphere of doubt and uncertainty is created in which it becomes difficult to act with confidence and determination. The people's faith in its leaders is shaken. Taking steps to curb such activities is called repression and is attended with results which no democratic government particularly likes. On the other hand, to ignore them is to allow the very foundations of our democracy to be undermined. Much to its distaste, the government is, therefore, compelled to take strong action at times, knowing all the while that its immediate programmes are likely to be delayed in fulfilment thereby.

It was to these elements in our environment that I was referring when I used the word "circumstances." It is not possible to assess, in terms of money, the harm caused by them. The expenditure necessary to meet this immediate menace and the menace caused by the encouragement received by lawless elements in the population to take advantage, for their personal objects, of the general atmosphere of unrest and challenge to Law and Order created by organised political parties is great, the tax on our time and energy is heavier but more harmful than all this is the moral and spiritual looseness, the lack of patriotic fervour, the cynicism and want of faith, that is born of the insidious poison that is incessantly poured into the ears of the people, both educated and uneducated. This is the great trial democracy in India has to face. One sometimes feels that a modicum of autocracy would not have been a bad wet-nurse for our infant democracy.

Human nature is the same all the world over and it has happened elsewhere, and may well happen here, that democracy run riot, with an utter disregard of all those conditions under which alone it can successfully function, leads to some kind of dictatorship. Those who are not prepared to let democracy have a fair and sympathetic trial, may well ponder this. If democracy breaks down in India, not only is the good name of our country besmirched but the future becomes dark for democracy and Liberal institutions over the whole of Asia, to say the least.

Private Enterprise In Economic Growth

By

Mr. ROBERT L. GARNER

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ON balance, there seems to be some growing recognition in countries seeking development of the helpful role which can be played by private enterprise, both local and foreign.

The rate of development of such enterprise in these countries depends primarily upon the extent to which the countries take constructive and practical action to encourage it.

This applies to local as well as to foreign capital, for both are available where the investment climate is propitious.

It is a fairly common practice to afford some tariff protection for new industries which are considered of significant benefit to a country's economy. Reasonable protection is sometimes warranted for such industries, but I feel impelled to sound a note of warning against a program of industrialization built upon excessive tariffs and quota restrictions. This can well lead to inefficiency through lack of competition with the consequence that consumers pay unduly high prices for inferior products.

I am convinced that this is not the road to sound economic development, nor to spreading its benefits to the maximum number of people.

On the other hand, proper incentives to attract both foreign and local capital into soundly based enterprises can greatly speed the process of development — incentives such as reduction in whole or in part of import duties on industrial equipment and appropriate exemption from taxes for a reasonable period of time.

These do not remove urge for efficient operation, but merely increase the attraction for venture in capital to take the risks of starting up new business. The increased production and employment may well compensate quickly for the public revenues which are foregone.

Another procedure which has proved successful is for public authorities to furnish plants or other facilities on lease to qualified private business. If sufficient private capital is not available, this affords a means of public assistance without injecting government into ownership of private enterprise.

The extraordinary industrial development which has taken place in recent years in Puerto Rico, under a well organized and managed development program, and through the use of incentives and assistance of the above types, is an outstanding example of their effectiveness.

If private investment is to spread and grow to its full potential, it is important, on the one hand, that there should be an increasing understanding by the governments and the peoples of the developing countries of what private business is and how it operates; and on the other hand, a recognition by business of its responsibilities as well as its essential rights. The long-term mutuality of interest needs to be kept in mind—the worthy motives and rights of all parties deserve respect.

For the country desiring the benefits which can flow from vigorous, expanding private business, I consider the prime essential to be the development of an attitude of friendliness and co-operation, rather than of suspicion and obstruction. This may sound too obvious to mention, yet we see too many examples of legislation, regulations and administration which reflect, at the best, mere tolerance to business, and frequently actual hindrance.

In practical terms, the often cumbersome, time-consuming and expensive procedures of administration steal much of the energy of management away from its job of getting on with the business. Public authorities might

well give serious attention to removing some of these frustrating obstacles.

Then there is the fact that in many countries laws and practices regarding business and commerce are antiquated and not well suited to modern requirements. In the highly industrialized countries the body of corporate and commercial laws has been developed to meet the changing forms of business, such as the now prevalent form of corporate organization with multiple owners. There has been built up adequate protection for minority stockholders without permitting such minorities to obstruct or disrupt the business.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is realizing in particular the need for greater flexibility in laws governing the issuance of corporate securities. We have met with difficulties in providing for obligations convertible into stock, for options on stock, and for profit-sharing features—all of which we believe are important in venture-capital financing. Business laws need to be modernized just as traffic rules have necessarily been changed to meet the needs of modern transport.

We are being faced with problems in connection with some of our projects which involve procedure not before used in the particular country. As we gain experience we hope that IFC may find it possible to assist in modernizing some of these laws and practices. New legal and business procedures can be as useful in forwarding economic progress as are developments in technology.

I have been speaking primarily of direct investment by business in initiating or expanding its operations. There is also the important role in development to be played by the financial investor, who throughout modern industrial history has supplied so much of the capital for the growth of business. He entrusts his capital to the professional management of others, and his returns are dependent upon their success.

Much of the past record of foreign invest-

ment has tended to make this source of capital wary of sending funds overseas, and it can only be interested as conditions become more favourable. There are currently signs of increasing interest by some financial groups in the United States and Europe. Many of these groups have expressed the desire to consider participations in projects in which IFC is prepared to invest, and in bringing to us proposals which come to them. An important New York group has joined with IFC in the Chilean copper project, and several other deals are under joint consideration by IFC and private financial interests.

In most of the less developed countries themselves, there is substantial local private capital which could be applied to industrial enterprise. It is common knowledge that large amounts of such capital have sought refuge outside its own country because of inflation, political instability, or lack of confidence in local business. The same factors which can attract the capital of foreigners will tend to repatriate such local funds.

The foreign businessman, looking overseas for opportunities to expand new markets, to substitute locally produced goods for markets previously served by his or competitors' exports, and to make attractive profits, does well to take into account the extractions of the countries in which he locates.

These countries have the natural desire to develop their resources by the use of imported capital and experience at a faster rate than is possible by their unaided efforts, and to be less dependent on imports for the things they need or want. It should be realized, however, that much as they wish development and assistance from abroad, they do not wish domination by foreign interests.

I think it can be stated with assurance that modern private business from the developed countries does not wish to dominate nor to participate in political maneuvers. It has learned both at home and abroad that, if it builds its business on a foundation of political

deals and influence, it is much more vulnerable than if it builds on the solid basis of supplying useful goods and services at reasonable prices.

There is no doubt, also, that there is a growing appreciation on the part of foreign business of its responsibility to make its activities not only profitable to itself, but useful to the country in which it operates. On the whole, it seems to me that the important foreign firms are setting examples of enlightened business and are conducting themselves as good citizens of the communities in which they are operating.

However, there exist in many of the less developed countries memories of the past when different conditions and attitude existed, and foreign investors are wise to consider means of minimizing the fears generated by these memories. Two tangible ways are through local participation in ownership of the enterprise and by offering maximum opportunities for local personnel to achieve attractive positions in the business. Less definite but equally important, is devoting attention to the public relations required to acquaint the community with the benefits which it receives from the enterprise.

Furthermore, it seems to me that particularly in large enterprises, such as the development of natural resources, there is much to be said for combinations of business from various countries, as illustrated by the Iranian Oil Consortium. By spreading ownership among several nationalities the fears that too much influence will be exerted by any one can be minimized.

"I believe deeply that the most dynamic force in producing a better life for people, and a more worthy life, comes from the initiative of the individual—the opportunity to create, to produce, to achieve for himself and his family—each to the best of his individual talents.

"And this is the essence of the system of competitive private enterprise—20th century

model—as it has been developed by the most enlightened and successful business concerns.

"It holds the promise of rewards according to what the individual accomplishes.

"It is based on the concept that it will benefit most its owners and managers if it best satisfies its customers; if it promotes the legitimate interests of its employees; if in all regards it acts as a good citizen of the community.

"It is moved by the desire to earn a profit—a most respectable and important motive, so long as the profit comes from providing useful and desirable goods and services. It is my belief that the best services and the best profits result from a competitive system wherein skill and efficiency get their just reward."

By whatever name you may call it—"competitive free enterprise" or "people's capitalism"—this system relies upon and releases the initiative and resourcefulness of the individual—and when the energies and aspirations of countless individuals are called into play there is generated a force and a momentum of unmatched vitality.

In those countries which are striving to achieve a better level of living, the enlightened self-interest of the people and their leaders should indicate the wisdom of following the proven path to economic prosperity, rather than the path to the end of the rainbow.

All of our member countries—those economically most advanced and those which comprise the new frontiers of economic growth—have a mutual self-interest in the full development of their human and natural resources.

It is my deep conviction that this mutual interest can be most fully developed, of their free private enterprise—not merely its capital and its machines and its techniques, but its concepts, initiatives and experience.

No other import into the growing economics can compare with its power to multiply the production of goods and services and to divide them broadly among the people—thus to answer the universal aspiration for a better material way of life.

India and F. A. O.

By

Mr. J. V. A. NEHEMIAH,
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FAO, or the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, was founded as a Specialised Agency at the end of World War II to help particularly the underprivileged nations to achieve freedom from want. The late President Roosevelt, moved by the threat of universal hunger, called a conference at Hot Springs in 1943, where the idea was born to set up an international organisation to bring countries, both rich and poor, together with the common objective of redressing the tragic imbalance in economic conditions and living standards in different parts of the world through increased agricultural production.

India became a founder member when 42 countries signed the constitution of the F.A.O. and took the pledge to fight collectively against hunger and misery. Today 77 countries are members of this Organisation.

There are some who doubt whether an international agency without any legislative or executive powers can be a real action agency. It is true that important proposals such as building up of a food reserve against famines as well as others that require modifications of existing structures were unable to get past the barrier of prejudice and fear. Nevertheless, there have been a number of promising developments which will strengthen the habit of inter-governmental co-operation.

Although the post-war period opened with heavy agricultural shortages, in the last few years surpluses have begun to appear in several countries. But this increase in production has taken place mainly in the well-developed countries of the West, and not in the backward zones where want continues to flourish on a scale more or less identical to that of pre-war times when there was practically no policy of international co-operation in the agricultural

field. Thus, the gulf that separates the countries of hunger from the countries of abundance far from narrowing has actually widened.

At this critical point the F. A. O. stepped in to prevent repetition of what happened in the economic depression of the thirties when millions of bags of coffee were burnt and enormous quantities of food destroyed in exporting countries to keep the price level artificially bolstered up while millions in other parts of the world over were virtually starving. It proceeded to move its member-countries to solve the distribution problem so that the surplus food might not only be made available to areas where it was most needed, but also used as valuable capital for the economic development of underdeveloped countries.

The first pilot study sponsored by F. A. O. on the uses of agricultural surpluses to finance economic development was conducted in India in 1955. A group of experts studied and reported on the idea that surplus agricultural products, acquired as free grants, loans or on special concessional terms, could be used to raise the nutritional levels of certain groups of the population sufficiently to improve their working efficiency and thus speed up the economic development of a country.

F. A. O. also laid down certain guiding principles in regard to the disposal of surpluses so that such transactions might not adversely affect potential grain exporters.

A standing committee on surplus disposals was also set up. This Committee meets frequently to help countries in the disposal and utilisation of surpluses on F.A.O. principles.

A good example of the way in which the Committee works and resolves difficulties is provided by the Indo-U. S. agreement of August, 1956, for the sale of surplus agricultural commodities, largely wheat. Today the

FEBRUARY 1958]

INDIA AND F. A. O.

61

disposal of such surpluses in accordance with F.A.O. principles has opened up new vistas of economic development in underdeveloped countries and has shown how international co-operation can serve humanity as a whole.

It was when the United Nations Expanded Technical Assistance Programme (ETAP), through Specialised Agencies, was started in 1951, the F.A.O.'s field programmes received real stimulus. It is under these programmes that academic discussions give place to solid action for the promotion of true economic development.

In 1951, the Uttar Pradesh Government obtained through F.A.O. the services of a Dutch specialist for improving the quality of hides and skins produced by small village industries. The slaughter of cattle is prohibited in U.P., and of the 2.2 million hides produced there annually, valued at 60 million rupees, more than 95% come from 'fallen animals'—that is, animals which have died a natural death often miles away in the open country. Under these conditions the village flayer has to carry out his work under the most difficult circumstances, without suitable equipment.

The expert arranged training classes on improved methods of handling hides and skins. He also introduced improved equipment for "carcass conversion." Another innovation was to collect in 'gosadans' animals found in a moribund or senile condition, so that soon after death they may be handled by skilled flayers from the training centres. By using new curing and flaying methods, *chamars* are now earning 15% more than previously. Also by the use of better methods the terrible stench associated with these operations is reduced to the minimum.

By 1956, no less than 24 centres had been established under this project for flaying, curing and carcass utilisation, six of them being run in conjunction with 'gosadans.' Besides 32 rural tanning centres have been set up. Encouraged by the success of the project, the

Government of India is starting a similar scheme for the whole country.

Another outstanding example is the useful work done by an F.A.O. specialist assigned to India for setting up a regional training centre for master-fishermen. Although neither he nor the fishermen could understand each other's language, by practical demonstration he was able to teach them as if they were men from training school in his native town. The secret of his success was that he never asked them to do anything he did not do himself. As a result of his successful methods, he was requested to set up further training centres at Cochin and Tuticorin and this project—namely, the development of fishermen's training centres has now resulted in a well established system being set up.

Another notable example is the interest which F.A.O. has stimulated in the control of rinderpest, for many years the greatest killer disease of livestock throughout a large part of Asia. India is currently engaged in a mass campaign of vaccination against rinderpest. But eradication of the disease in India without similar action in neighbouring countries, such as Nepal and Pakistan, would be ineffective because of the constant danger of infection seeping through from these countries. F.A.O. is, therefore, helping in the co-ordination of this campaign so that the problem can be simultaneously tackled in all the countries concerned.

No account would be complete without a reference to the part F.A.O. is playing in the control of locusts. This dread plague which can create famines overnight is a recurring menace. But the marked reduction in the locust visitations to this country in recent years is largely due to the effective locust control measures undertaken, with the assistance of F.A.O., in the West Asian countries where the locusts breed.

It should not be assumed that India is always at the receiving end with regard to F.A.O. assistance. We are in fact one of the

six largest contributors to the regular budget of F.A.O.

The introduction of new types of rice, principally into the countries of the Far Eastern region, is a significant contribution which the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, has made under the sponsorship of F.A.O. One important aspect of the work was the development of new varieties by crossings between Japonica and Indica types for the benefit of the region as a whole.

In the field of agricultural statistics also, Indian technicians at F.A.O. headquarters and in other member countries are doing valuable work. In other spheres also, Indians are playing an important role. This will be seen from the fact that apart from fifteen Indians in the regular staff of F.A.O. eighteen Indian technicians in different scientific fields are serving as F.A.O. specialists in different parts of the world such as Nepal, Thailand, Burma, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Egypt, Costa Rica and Columbia.

India occupies a prominent position in the F.A.O., and Indian delegates to F.A.O. conferences are held in high esteem. India is generally credited with championing any proposal, however unpleasant to some members,

that is in the best interests of the Organisation as a whole.

It was through the initiative taken by India at the Conference in 1955 that F.A.O. constitution was amended to permit non-self-governing countries to join the Organisation as Associate Members and participate in its various technical meetings.

That India is contributing significantly to the working of F.A.O. is evident from the fact that she is represented on practically all the important Standing Committees—namely, the F.A.O. Council, the Programme Committee, the Financial Control Committee on Commodity Problems. Further, an Indian citizen is at present the head of this great Organisation.

F.A.O. has not, of course, won a decisive battle against hunger, but it has made the world conscious of the existence of surpluses and waste in some parts and of problems of poverty and hunger in others. It has also brought about a measure of international co-operation in the field of agriculture which never existed before. Through its efforts there may progressively come small total victories over hunger in certain areas of the world; and these would do further honour to F.A.O.'s objective, aptly called "human elevation."

The Tyagaraja Legacy

BY

DR. NARAYANA MENON.

SOME 110 years ago died Tyagaraja, the greatest composer of Southern India. Except for brief pilgrimages to places like Tirupati and Srirangam, he spent the whole of his long life (approx. 1759 to 1847) at his ancestral home in Tiruvayyar, a little village less than ten miles from Tanjore. There, for three days in January the great musicians of South India gather annually to do homage to the memory of the great composer.

The Kaveri delta gave birth to the three greatest composers the South has produced—Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri. They were contemporaries, and any place must be truly blest to have had three such masters flourishing simultaneously. All three have sung of the glories and beauties of their birthplace, its five rivers, its temples, its deities.

Thyagaraja was not a composer in the sense Beethoven or Brahms was; not even in the sense that Hugo Wolf, essentially a composer of songs, was. During his lifetime he composed thousands of songs—not as a professional musician or composer would go about his task of artistic creation—but as a devotee of God singing his praises and dedicating his life to him. He had no patron like so many of his contemporaries. He adorned no princely court. In fact, he declined the invitation of ruling princes to sing before them. Even so generous and cultured a patron as Sarfoji could not tempt him to his court adorned by every contemporary musician celebrity.

Thyagaraja was in fairly affluent circumstances and frugal life he lived was self-imposed. His needs were few and obtained through *unja virthi*. It was inevitable that both fame and recognition should come to him because he had gathered pupils round him who were astonished not merely by the deep devotion of their master but also by his great musicianship and his daring musical innovations. Tyagaraja was both poet and composer—a rare thing either among poets or musicians. And his songs therefore have a unity and that rare quality in song which comes only when music and words create the same emotions with equal intensity.

Of the many thousands of songs Tyagaraja composed, only a fraction has come down to us and been preserved. Fortunately there is an unbroken line of musicians who can trace their musical lineage to Tyagaraja so that in spite of incomplete systems of notation, the songs as we know them now are fairly authentic. The melodic line is not always unnecessarily complex or intricate. Often it is deceptively simple—the technical simplicity or facility which often clothes profound musical thinking.

With few exceptions all the songs conform to one set form. They are all built on three musical motifs, as it were—*pallavi*,

anupallavi and *charanam*. If we call the *pallavi* A, the *anupallavi* B and the *Charanam* C, then the form of a typical Tyagaraja song will be A B A C B A., i.e., *pallavi*, *anupallavi*, back to *pallavi*; *charanam*, a recapitulation of the *anupallavi* (with different words), back to *pallavi*. There is a remarkably clear, balanced interdependence of these parts. And what is more, they show a rhythmic and melodic proportion rare in any music.

Almost all Tyagaraja's songs from the simple to the most complex follow this pattern though there are, of course, exceptions. Any danger of monotony is got over by the use of a device known as *sangatis*, a *sangati* being a variation of the melodic line. This device was not entirely unknown in Karnatak music, but it was Tyagaraja who perfected it and made it the stock-in-trade of song writers in the days to come. The range of ragas he employed was incredible. For many ragas we know of today, Tyagaraja's songs are the only framework of reference. He unearthed old ones which had fallen into desuetude, created new ones of his own.

The main bulk of Tyagaraja's songs are in praise of Lord Rama. But he has also written a few songs in praise of other deities, and some with a strong philosophical and metaphysical content. In many he has spoken of music as a *Yantra*, an apparatus of worship, and in some like *Nadopasana* and *Nadasudhara* he speaks of *nada*, sound as the highest aspect of creation. And though devotion is the keynote of all, it is expressed through a wide range of moods—anguish, pathos, wonder, joy, anger. The musical treatment ranges from the extreme simplicity of songs which can be sung by children to musical subtleties and complexities (*Ne Jivardhara*), or the *Pancharatna Kritis* are good examples which baffle even practised professionals.

There are two works of Tyagaraja which can be described as operas—*Nowka Charitram* and *Prahlada Vijaya*—and it is possible that

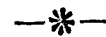
he had in mind an 'opera' even on a larger scale based on the Ramayana. There are hints here and there in his songs of a desire to sing the story of Rama, and in one song a doubt expressed as to his ability to undertake such a task. Research might unearth whether some of the songs we know are in fact parts of the projected work, in which case the task of putting together the fragments should prove fascinating.

No composer seems to have dominated a musical system as much as Tyagaraja has dominated Karnatak music in the last hundred years. And it hadn't been a lean period by any means. Few in the history of music have been able to transmute into a musical language with such effect the simplicity of faith, the ecstasy of a prayer granted and above all, a feeling of the immanence of God. To my own mind, the miracle of Tyagaraja is a musical miracle.

The silk of his music is never worn out as it is handed down from generation to generation. Each singer embroiders on its surface his contribution and variation to the pattern which runs with a subtle and discreet definition through the weave. The central thread of the melodic line is poised in serenity, but around it other threads make deep emotional curves from sadness to happiness. And it is strong. Strong because the very stuff of these threads is the living spirit of the people of South India.

Tyagaraja's own spirit shares the glow of the universal spirit. He acknowledges this in a personal dedication to God in every song. What greater lesson is there in his music than that only a spirit of dedication and self-effacement can create great art, that music is all?

(A. I. R.)



A Date Under The Chestnuts

By

Mr. NOVAK NOVAKOVIC

ONE day I was walking along the street. A slender woman in a smart gray suit was coming my way. A smart suit, and smart shoes too. It was my wife.

"Why, I hardly recognised you!"

"I noticed you gaping at me like a fish!"

"But, I've never seen this suit before!"

"Well, have a good look at it now."

We laughed.

"Going anywhere?" I asked.

"Not at the moment. Later I've got a meeting at our literary club, and after that I've got a conference."

"Why, this is simply wonderful I've finished my lecture and now I'm free. Let the future take care of itself! Lets go to a cafe."

"All right. The main thing is we're together so it doesn't matter where we go."

I took her arm, we threaded our way through the crowd. The passers by jostled us and pushed us, but we pushed back. They swore at us for not looking where we were going. We begged them to be patient just for this day. I shall continue, afterwards, to proceed with caution, to be careful not to tread on anyone's corns. But today was a special occasion. Today I was walking with my wife, and I looked neither right nor left, but only at her.

It was a bright day and the sunlight bathed the whole street in gold. Her hair shone in the sunlight like blue-black steel. That my wife is pretty goes without saying. But she's even prettier than I had thought.

"We scarcely ever see each other in the sunlight!" she observed, guessing my thoughts.

"That's true. At night we're too tired and

we see each other only by electric light, or we don't see each other at all."

"And the next morning we have to rush off."

We entered the cafe, went up to the second floor, where the students usually go, and sat down in a corner. I gazed at my wife, and I began to tell her all sorts of things. She kept interrupting me, and in a moment we were both speaking together. We wanted to tell each other everything at once — all the things we had never managed to say, and that would remain unsaid after our tete-a-tete in the corner of the cafe.

"We were together the whole afternoon the Sunday before last, right up till evening!" I reminded her. "But still we didn't have much to say. Don't you remember?"

"Of course I do. But we had visitors."

"Oh yes, that's right. So, actually we weren't together, after all."

Except on Sunday, we never have lunch together. On week days, while I'm having lunch she's still got two whole hours to work with her pupils. In the afternoon our ways part. While I take the number ten tram from my work she's taking number seven to school, and while I'm on number fourteen on my way to the institute or a meeting, she's taking a tram to a course or a conference or private lesson. Often in the evening our trams pass each other. Now and then we catch a fleeting glimpse of each other through the windows, but before it has even occurred to us to wave, the faces in the windows have vanished. Only the vision remains in the mind's eye till the moment when the course or conference begins. Really, dear visitors! it's a shame to take our Sundays from us!

Now we were sitting in the cafe, talking. We still had a good half hour and more. I paid the waiter immediately as we did not want to waste time waiting for him. And at that moment... Oh, what's the good of talking about it. All I can say is that a friend and his wife were sitting down at our table. One of those couples who spend half the day kissing and petting, and then go off looking for someone to keep them from being bored with each other the rest of it.

My wife and I are kept apart the whole day long, it is true, but we are often together in our thoughts.

"I'm sorry but we've paid and were just leaving," I told our friends, and I made a regretful face.

"I'm so sorry!" added my wife, who was also a picture of sorrow. "We're just going, we're in a hurry, you know."

As we emerged into the street we exchanged winks.

"Good. We managed to escape."

"Perfect!" she said. "We've grabbed another half hour."

As though by mutual consent we turned towards the small square near the old tower. Nightfall closed in as we walked and talked. Time passed so quickly that there was hardly a moment left to make another date. It turned out that we could meet again the next day between six and seven, and the day after between six and seven thirty.

"Where!" she asked as the first drop of rain lighted on her forehead and trickled down.

"Here, I think."

"Wonderful. Someone would probably join us if we went to the cafe."

"If it rains, we'll meet under those chestnuts."

"Let's go there now. Only for a minute."

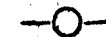
My wife was already asleep when, at about eleven, I crept in like a thief to keep her from waking. In the morning, as we stood drinking our tea, we just had enough time to say *Hullo*. We didn't mention our date. But immediately after lunch I shaved and dressed. No one who knew me would believe it, but I bought three carnations that day. My wife hurried to our meeting-place straight from the hairdresser's.

"I got through my work a little earlier only to get a hairdo."

You must not ask me to tell you what we talked about under the chestnuts. The next day we were together even longer.

And we kept meeting there till one day a report reached us. Someone said that every evening my wife met a man in a light rain-coat under the chestnuts near the old tower. Then we heard another bit of gossip: I had been seen on several occasions under those chestnuts near the old tower in company with a woman in a suit. That there was something fishy about it was evident from my pretending not to notice even my best friends, and from my hurrying off in the dark with her.

We continued to look forward to our trysts. We are happy to be left to ourselves in this way. We are only afraid we may be found out.



Bapu and I

By

Sri MANIAN NATESAN,
Mg. Editor, *Indian Review*.



THE scene is Madras. On April 17, 1915 at the Central Station a little after dusk, a vast crowd of people of diverse communities is assembled on the platform craning their necks eagerly looking out for the incoming train that steams in to schedule. The anxious gathering was waiting for a look at the man who was to be in their midst after years of self-sacrifice in the cause of Indians in South Africa. Who was he? None but Gandhi accompanied by his devoted wife Kasturba. They received a hero's welcome from the multitude who thronged the station. The enthusiasm was befitting the occasion.

My father, G. A. Natesan, Mahatma's first friend in South India, was his host in Madras. He with others on the reception committee was greatly disappointed when a careful search made in the first and second class compartments failed to spot him. But Gandhiji stepped out of a crowded third class with no posh travel trunks but bundles of old clothes, like a family of peasants.

The enthusiasm of the crowd of admirers was very great. I still have vivid recollections of what, as a boy of nine, I saw. The patriots were not allowed to get into a waiting car, but were seated in an open coach, the horse unharnessed and the loving people dragged the carriage themselves from the station to our house where they were to stay. Cries of Jai and Vandemataram were not in vogue then but three cheers, hip, hip, hurrah and other slogans of praise rent the air. At our house I remember Gandhiji laughed over the arrangement of furniture, cots, tables, chairs etc., and insisted on their immediate removal out of sight.

More than all his achievements in South Africa, Gandhiji's ascetic simplicity, his self-denial and the lofty character of his private and public virtues had endeared him to one and all and the inspiration of such an example of saintly life can never be over estimated. In the early days and also to the very end of his life Gandhiji discussed topics of var

interest, from physical exercise and dietetics to popular education and the mystery of the Trinity, with a constant congregation of devoted visitors.

Gandhiji visited Mayavaram to meet the bereaved family of a harijan (Nayakar) who was shot dead in the South African struggle. He returned to our house with a boy of eight to whom he had become god-father. When his caste was made known to our family, there was a mild flutter in the beginning but soon my grandmother, (father's mother) rose to the occasion to the wonder of the family and firmly said that whatever Gandhiji did was right. Gandhiji later used to say that what Natesan preached loudly and thundered on platforms for the cause of harijans, was ushered into Natesan's own house by an act for which he (Gandhiji) alone had full credit. Gandhiji

used to mention this incident on several occasions and profess his regard for my grandmother whom he called a great and noble lady. Days later I recall the Nayakar boy running high temperature and in spite of father's protestations, Gandhiji made the youngster stand under the pipe, bathed him in cold water and bundled him to rest. While my people were greatly worried and apprehended some tragic sequel the boy recovered soon after, shaking off the fever and was himself again as if nothing had happened. Even to this day we consider Gandhiji's treatment a miracle.

I may mention an incident to bring out Gandhiji's fondness for children and their pranks. One day in our house he caught me and a few youngsters making inroad into his food granary which consisted of nuts of



Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi with their host Natesan—1915—The figure at the left end is Yakub Hasan a friend of Natesan

different varieties, dates and dried fruits, all stored in small cloth bags, to which, we had not only full access but of which, we had generous helpings. Gandhiji seemed to be angry with us for doing a wrong act and said sternly that as a punishment for what we did without his knowledge, we should share the evening meal with him every day till he left. How eagerly we used to look forward to the evenings!

It was my privilege then to attend to Gandhiji's needs as my father used to leave home to attend to his business. Once Gandhiji wanted a pencil and I gave him a small pencil from our Geometry box. Little did I realise then that this pencil incident would go down into history. Sjt. Kaka Kalelkar has published this incident in his anecdotes of Bapu, how when Gandhiji, immediately after arriving at Bombay was found seriously engaged in looking out for something that he had mislaid. Kaka Kalelkar seemed to have asked Gandhiji what was worrying him and Gandhiji said "I have lost my pencil." Immediately Kaka Kalelkar gave him a couple of pencils. But Gandhiji seemed to have said 'No thanks—I want that particular pencil which young Natesan gave me with a lot of affection.' Kaka Kalelkar observed that till it was found Gandhiji was not happy.

My memory goes back to 35 years when Gandhiji's son Devadas came to stay with us for a year with directions from Bapu to lead a hard life, to teach Hindi to Tamilians and to learn Tamil. My brother and my cousin were then too young to make any sense of a strange young man in our midst and Devadas never ceased to remember with affection how my father used to protect him from our jokes and pranks. Devadas could not in those days eat in the family room, a disability of which my father heartily disapproved and which made him take extra care to look after his needs. Later, when Devadas fell seriously ill, with typhoid and suffered badly my father and other members of the family looked after him with great care and concern. I remember how angry my father was with Gandhiji when, to his frantic telegrams reporting Devadas's serious illness which caused us no little anxiety, Gandhiji simply sent a post-card which arrived days later, to this effect—'Devadas has behaved badly—I know he is in safe hands—no need for us to come—Bapu.' I don't have to say that later on my father was quite pleased with Gandhiji's attitude. Soon after Devadas's recovery I fell ill with typhoid and my cousin followed and at that time Gandhiji came to our house and in his usual way demanded the presence of all the "imps" (as he used to call us). When he was told that my cousin was still ill in bed, I remember how he rushed



Devadas—Manian Natesan

upstairs, lifted my cousin bodily and kept him on his lap for half-an-hour, I can never forget this touching scene.

Whenever Gandhiji visited Madras and even when my father was not in station we always used to have the privilege of his visiting what he used to call 'his old home.' It was in September 1927 when my father was away in the United States, that both Mr. & Mrs. Gandhi came to our house with Sri C. R., his daughter Srimathi Lakshmi (Mrs. Devadas) and spent nearly an hour visiting the rooms he usually occupied, recalling incident after incident and my grandmother's magnanimity. He found my mother and wife appearing in silks and he asked my wife how it was that she was not wearing Khaddar. Immediately my wife answered that as a good daughter-in-law she followed her mother-in-law in all respects! Gandhiji burst into a laugh and chafed at my mother 'I like your daughter-in-law's answer—you are responsible for her neglect of Khaddar. When you come to Srinivasa Iyengar's house tomorrow to see me, I am going to be a salesman to you—you must buy some Khaddar and also wear them.' Next day when we called at Srinivasa Iyengar's place, Gandhiji opened a big bundle and displayed the wares and he was satisfied not with what we bought, but for the readiness with which we agreed to do our best.

His last visit to Madras, I well remember—then we had moved from Thambu Chetty St., to our Mylapore home. The Gandhis were then staying in Nageswara Rao's place adjacent to ours. My father was not in Madras at that time and when we requested Gandhiji to visit our new home he said 'I know Natesan now has a palace—but I like my little room in T. C. Street, nevertheless, we will surely come to see it.' They were there at the appointed time when K. B. S. the famous south Indian singer and ardent devotee of Congress was also present and Gandhiji listened to her

Bhajans and invited the whole lot of us to Srijat Nageswara Rao's house that evening.

When my father took seriously ill in 1947 and when a common friend who visited Mahatmaji at Delhi apprised him of his critical condition Bapu wrote to father a loving post-card—"you were ill and bedridden—you have no business to be ill—"

15-7-47
N. P. Delhi
Dear Natesan,
Anna - bawihun
Sharma - told me
you were ill &
bedridden. you
have no business
to be ill your
work is not
finished. Who is
older - you or I?
yours so - g
m. K. Ganish

Mr. Dhebar recalled that the Congress had in its election manifesto made many promises to the nation. It was the duty of the Congress to work for all, that it had promised.

He was saying this, Mr. Dhebar said, because he saw at every step fallacious beliefs growing in India about democracy. "Self-discipline is the acid test of faith in democracy. Because discipline is not imposed, it demands greater vigilance. The second condition of democracy is the sense of equality. There is no room for gradations in social status. Casteism, communalism, provincialism and all other sect-ridden influences, have got to be rooted out if the plant of Indian democracy is to flourish to its fullest growth. Another condition is the respect for the rights and the views of others. This is the soul of democracy. We may not always agree, but we have a duty to listen respectfully to others. A true democrat is a guardian not only of his own rights but everybody else's including his opponent's. This assurance is the arch on which the edifice of peaceful evolution of the society rests."

Speaking of land reforms, he asked: "Have we been able to abolish the fear of evictions from the mind of the tenants? The farmer, wrinkled and worried, is eagerly waiting for the title to the land on which he and perhaps his old father have spent a lifetime of toil, sweat and tears. His is a claim for bare justice. He wants stability. There are other interests, however. There may be something to be said in favour of them, but there can be only one answer to the cry of justice. He who labours must have the first claim. Similarly, there is the demand for application of ceilings. This is necessary in the country's interests, apart from being just."

There was lack of clarity neither on the subject matter nor on the solution but on the basic issue of "basic loyalty." I beg humbly to submit that what we have to build up is the loyalty to the ideal. Physical organisation, study, training, equipment, activity, etc., are of value in their own places. But without the fundamental loyalties to the ideals of the organisation, all of them are of little consequence, as we noticed at the time of the States re-organisation difficulties. Disruption in the organisation cannot be ended unless its components seal up their loyalties and break the distance between profession and practice. The

Congress has something to learn from this truth."

Mr. Dhebar said that land reform was but one aspect of the whole picture, and added: "A gram Panchayat, a basic education centre and a co-operative society seeded in an 'exploitation-free' and 'dictation-free' village will give us in a decade's time a new socio-economic base rooted in the soil of the country."

Referring to the Second Plan, Mr. Dhebar urged that constant watch should be kept on the schedule of ten million jobs envisaged. "The two things that will carry conviction in the effectiveness of the Congress' economic policies and generate faith in the social values it stands for are substantial reduction in the disparities in the social and economic life of the country and, even more than that, the capacity of the Plan to make a substantial dent in the figures of unemployment and under-employment both among the educated and the uneducated. This will be more so in the case of educated people, especially young men."

The difficulties in relation to foreign exchange, Mr. Dhebar said was a crisis of growth and should not create any depression in their minds. They should, however, guard against developing a psychology of dependence on foreign aid. He added: "The emphasis all the time should be on mobilisation and maximum utilisation of internal resources."

Declaring that there was immense human power still unutilised in the country, Mr. Dhebar suggested a system of voluntary labour by men and women. "Two days voluntary labour by men and women of India in the service of the country very month would give the country Rs. 250 crores per year at the rate of Re. 1 per day. I am taking into consideration participation in this effort by ten crores of people. If we take into consideration the other scattered resources, the figure would be prodigious... I am convinced that the revival and intensification of the idea of maximum self-sufficiency through self-help is imperatively necessary to make a direct appeal to the people's enlightened self-interest."

The Congress President referred to the food problem and said that unless they succeeded in raising food production by 30 per cent, as originally fixed, they would not be able to fulfil the commitments by the people to implement the Second Plan.

Mr. Dhebar warned against the tendency to take shelter under the comforting possibility of importing foodgrains and urged that the country and the State Governments must realise that the economic progress and development depended on food and agricultural surpluses. He urged that the new Congress Mandal teams should concentrate on food production drive in groups of villages in conjunction with the Community Development and National Extension Services.

The Congress President listed Kashmir and Goa as problems which "affect us and cause us some concern."

Mr. Dhebar made a brief reference to the international situation and said the cold war was now taking an overt shape. They seemed to be drifting towards a 'strange destination' in the nuclear age.

Mr. Dhebar urged that the world powers should separate the question of the manufacture and the use of nuclear weapons from the question of general disarmament and come to concrete conclusions on the question of cessation of nuclear tests.

Mr. Dhebar said: "We are thankful to America for the loan of some 225 million dollars announced recently. But what about our inexhaustible resources—the idle lands valued at about Rs. 15,000 crores?"

Mr. Dhebar said, Finance Minister Krishnamachari had told him that India would have to import not six but ten to eleven million tons of food during the next five years or so. This meant spending about Rs. 500 crores for ten million tons. During the past three years India had paid nearly Rs. 70 crores as freight alone for food imports. Unless the country solved this problem of food, progress was not possible.

He was glad, Mr. Dhebar said, that Mr. Krishnamachari had told him that agriculture was "not only the core of the Five-Year Plan, but the foundation." Congressmen must make up their minds and take a firm decision at this session about land reforms through which Russia and lately China had solved their food problem, the Congress President said.

Mr. Dhebar said to speak frankly, whenever they tackled the problem of abolition of landlordism the problem of abolition of landlordism, the question "what will happen to Congress if zamindari is abolished?" raised its head. On one side the question was judged by the yardstick of socialism and on the other

by the yardstick of modern politics. Bills on land reforms had been passed by Congress Governments and others were in the select committee stages, but the desired land reforms had not been achieved yet. "I do not blame any Government. It is the result of the weakness of us all," he said.

The Congress President said that the question of getting votes need not worry them. There were two ways of getting votes, one through a deal and the other through loyalty to conviction. He said that after land reforms had been introduced in his State (Saurashtra) a kisan was shot at in an election fracas. When he met the kisan, he told Mr. Dhebar that he had given a pledge to the Congress and vote for the party, the Congress President said.

Mr. Dhebar said to make progress India must utilise her two potential resources—land and man-power. They should consider at the current session how best to utilise these resources.

Mr. Dhebar also made a reference to the Subjects Committee debate and said that Mr. Krishnamachari was criticised for additional taxation amounting to about Rs. 50 crores, but, if every adult in the country offered two days' voluntary labour in a month, the Finance Minister would be presented with a gift of Rs. 200 crores to 250 crores a year and the national income would increase to that extent.

In his speech Mr. Nehru said that the new Congress Constitution, with a Mandal Committee at the base, should take the roots of the organisation deeper and strengthen its links with the masses.

Mr. Nehru referred to constitutional amendments ratified by the session earlier and said the changes were all to the good. Before the amendments were brought forward, he had a feeling that the District Committees had become useless.

He said that actual achievement of its goal could sometimes be a most dangerous thing to an organisation because that fostered a sort of indolence. This seemed to have come over the Congress after independence. But in the last two or three years, the organisation had to face some problems. Because of this fact, the danger of stagnation had receded.

"When you return home from here, remember two things—the great Himalayas and the mighty Brahmaputra. They are the signs of India's strength," Mr. Dhebar concluded.

"When I see big mountains and big rivers," he said, "The history of thousands of years come to my memory. But they also make me look to the panorama of the future."

The Congress President said that future sessions of the Congress should be much more businesslike than demonstrative and spectacular. "A little propaganda and demonstrations will still survive," he added, "but that should not be at the cost of business and positive work."

Mr. Dhebar said that the Congress should realise that implementation of what was professed was the need of the hour and not merely demonstrations and propaganda. In fact, the Working Committee had intended this session itself to be businesslike avoiding things like a big pandal and elaborate decorations, "but because of past habit something of the usual nature of sessions persisted."

THE SCIENCE CONGRESS

The 45th session of the Science Congress met at Madras on 6 Jan. Prof. M.S. Thacker presided. Pandit Nehru inaugurated the Session.

Prime Minister Nehru called upon scientists to develop something of the wisdom of the sage and something even of the compassion of the saint, for, he said, "we have come to a period when unless something is done in that spirit, there might be a very big disaster."

Mr. Nehru, who was inaugurating the 45th Session of the Indian Science Congress, at the special pandal erected to the south of the Examination Hall, Marina, referred to the apprehension entertained by people in all parts of the world about the possible misuse of the tremendous powers of nature discovered by science and observed that obviously there was some kind of a big lag between the achievement of science and the capacity of the human mind to adapt itself to think in the right way.

"If we make science and the pursuit of truth a kind of hand-maid to set policies, then the temper of science is affected and the approach to science is not exactly what it should be. There is a certain way of looking at things which India possessed." The Prime Minister thought that science and scientists being neutral agents, should develop the qualities of a sage and a saint. "Unless something of that quality comes, you are not quite fully grown into full human beings," he added.

Among the foreign delegates who attended the session the following may be mentioned:—

Sir Ian Ross and Mr. Butler (Australia); Prof. Chou Tun Ching and Mr. Shen Chia Jui (Chinese); Dr. Otto Jirovec and Dr. Hruban (Czechoslovakia); Prof. G. Hertz, Prof. K. Mothes and Dr. Johannes Rudolph (East Germany); Prof. Richard Kuhu (West Germany); Dr. K. Kimura (Japan); Prof. J. Litwiniszyn (Poland); Prof. J.B.S. Haldane, Dr. D.A. Allan, Dr. Leslie J. Harris and Dr. E.G. Richardson (United Kingdom) Prof. Frederick D. Rossini and Dr. Hadley Cautril (U.S.A.) Prof. H. Alfén (Sweden) and Madame Khouvine (France).

Among the Indian delegates who attended are: Dr. M.S. Krishnan, Prof. Mahalanobis, Prof. T. R. Seshadri and Prof. P. Maheshwari (Delhi University), Dr. S.K. Pande (Lucknow University), Mr. Mukherji, Director of the Control B. Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, and Dr. Gururaja Doss, Director, Central Institute of Electro Chemistry, Karaikudi.

"Science is a delicate plant, exacting in its demands and can thrive only in the warmth of encouragement and deference. Wise administration can go a long way, a very long way, in providing conditions which would enable scientists to give of their best to the nation" observed Professor M. S. Thacker, in his presidential address. In a spirited defence of what he called "the scientific way of thinking," Professor Thacker pleaded for increasing the social awareness and support for the scientist, especially among the youth of our country.

Prof. Thacker made a departure from the convention of addressing the congress on a specialised field of science or technology and spoke to them on the question of "Advancement and promotion of the cause of science in India."

"From the vantage point of mid-twentieth century", he said, "we may take a peep into history to learn the nature of the causes which operated inexorably through the various epochs to give science and technology the dominant position they have come to occupy to-day. History teaches us that science and society inevitably act and react on each other with consequences to both. While the impact of science has always been to revolutionise the conditions and conventions of society, the latter tends to resist the changes. Science has progressed in those periods of history, and in

those geographical areas, where society has not only acquiesced in, but has actually encouraged science and its applications. While there is a prodigious amount of literature, including fiction, on the impact of science on society, comparatively little appears to have been written on the role of society in the evolution of science. Most historians of science take science as the main theme for exposition and everything else as secondary consequences flowing from discoveries, but such treatment does not permit the examination of the social background which made possible the great developments which have made the present, the Age of Science and Technology.

"Science came into existence at a comparatively later stage in man's history, long after religion, long after man had adapted himself to community living, and only after he had outgrown the antiscientific tendencies and inherently false approaches of primitive cultures. It developed independently of the usual arts, but only after the social organisation had created a class of thinkers with sufficient leisure and intellectual curiosity to inquire into and understand the world of Nature. The great founders of science sought intellectual satisfaction and no more, only theoretical, contemplative *Weltanschauung*. Practical applications of knowledge were not their concern. This disinterested desire "to know, to understand" has continued to be the main impulse actuating scientists in their discoveries from the ancient period down to the present day. It is stated that one of the rare occasions when Newton laughed was when a friend, to whom he had lent a copy of Euclid's Elements asked him of what use or benefit in life the study of the book would be!

"The possibilities of applying the method of scientific deduction for practical ends were recognised and demonstrated even in the heyday of Greek civilisation, as for instance, by Archimedes, although they were not extolled or made much of by the scientists themselves. We know, on the authority of Virgil, that the seed of technology was sown at a comparatively early period in history. Due to the paucity of records in the pre-printing age, a proper appraisal of the developments in the earlier periods has not been possible. The social environment from the time of the Italian Renaissance onwards became favourable for technological adven-

tures in Europe, and great writers of the period acclaimed the importance of discoveries and inventions. It was during the Renaissance period that people in Europe threw off the yoke of Middle Ages and the restraining bonds of theology. The French Revolution found use for physicists and chemists and the New Republic 'hired' them for systematising weights and measures. In the age of the Industrial Revolution, the rule of aristocracy bowed down before the rise of the middle class. The practical applications of science gained emphasis over the disinterested pursuit of knowledge and social support for science became available. The rise of capitalist industrialism created a demand for inventions and the secular universities which came into existence gave a dominant place to science teaching and scientific research. The potentialities of science for catering to the material comforts of man came to be deliberately explored.

"Science has emerged as a carrier of a new socialism, realistic in emphasis and rationalist in aim. In an astonishingly short period it has wrought radical changes in the patterns of industry and in the organisation of science itself. The scale of scientific and industrial activity outgrew, long ago, the social institutions which gave rise to the Industrial Revolution. Research has come to be recognised as an industrial asset and invention, as an occupation of professionals. Laboratory research has found new meaning and new purpose.

"If our faith in science and technology as a promoter of public good is sincere, then our clear duty is to create those conditions which will permit us to pursue science and promote its applications. The lesson of history and the requirements for scientific progress all point to the need for promoting the public understanding of science, and it is to the creation of this understanding that we should dedicate ourselves. Our success will be determined by our sincerity and zeal, and in tackling a problem of this magnitude, we should act collectively as disciplined armies, not individually as 'guerilla' fighters. Scientists, engineers and technologists must willingly and gladly shoulder this responsibility. Let us get together without loss of time, formulate programmes of action and strive forward with all the zest and zeal at our command, to achieve the desideratum for progress.

SEMINAR ON BASIC EDUCATION

The All-India Seminar on Basic Education had its deliberations for 3 days at Bangalore on Jan. 9 and succeeding days. It accepted a number of recommendations embodying tentative decisions arrived at during the course of the two-day discussions and the advice tendered by Acharya Vinoba Bhave when the delegates met at his camp at Haunsbhavi village in Dharwar District (Mysore State), with Dr. K. L. Shrimali, Minister of State in the Union Ministry of Education, in the chair.

Earlier, the delegates met Shri Vinoba Bhave and held discussions with him on practical difficulties which they were facing in different parts of the country in implementing basic education schemes. Putting a number of questions to the Acharya, the delegates elicited his views regarding the criticism that basic education was proving to be more expensive. Shri Bhave held that basic education like all other good things might cost more but the State should find necessary funds for providing minimum education to children regarding productivity in basic education on which the seminar laid great emphasis. Vinobaji explained that the most important aspect of this issue was that produce should be not only beautiful but also should have utilitarian value even though it might be small in quantity. Shri Bhave expressed surprise how teachers found it difficult to practice correlation which meant giving knowledge from real situations. On the contrary he would have appreciated the difficulties of the teachers in teaching through books which were an artificial medium. Vinobaji agreed with the recommendations of the seminar that no dual system of education at secondary stage should be encouraged in order to reduce the gap between multi-purpose and post-basic schools. He suggested that every multi-purpose school should have agriculture as a compulsory subject in addition to other subjects and that all students should be examined both in theory and practice.

The All-India Seminar, before concluding, made eight recommendations touching all important aspects of basic education. In the first resolution, the seminar recommended that the period of training for under graduate teachers in basic education should be a minimum of two years wherever it was not so. The second resolution which referred to the conversion of non-basic schools into basic schools

recommended that two or three classes be taken up simultaneously for conversion in the same year. In the third resolution which related to reducing difference between basic and non-basic schools recommended that immediate introduction of certain basic school activities should be taken up wherever they had not been introduced so far in non-basic schools. It was also recommended that the pamphlet brought out on the subject by the Union Ministry of Education could form the basis of a suitable programme for this purpose. Another step in this direction was to introduce the syllabus of basic schools in non-basic schools with necessary modifications.

That the whole of Education Department should be geared up for implementing the policy of basic education and that in every State Directorate of Education, a senior officer with full powers to execute the basic education programme should be put in exclusive charge of elementary education including basic education was the recommendation contained in the fourth resolution that was adopted by the seminar. It was also recommended that State Governments should take up suitable programmes for giving orientation training to all inspectors at various levels regarding theory and practice of basic education.

In its fifth resolution, the seminar recommended that productivity was an important aspect which should be adequately emphasized. It was also urged that realistic targets of production should be laid down in such a manner so as not to lower academic standards.

By another resolution, the seminar recommended to all the State Governments to devise agencies for disposal of produce of basic institutions. For this purpose help should be taken of existing agencies like the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board and Government Stationary Departments etc., on commission basis. Profit of accruing from disposals should be utilised for the benefit of children.

The seminar also recommended that the funds available for other developmental activities such as village industries and small scale industries should also be utilised for development of basic education through proper co-ordination.

By another resolution it was emphasized that there should be no parallel systems of education at secondary stage.

UNION LANGUAGE CONVENTION OF S. INDIA

The Union Language Convention of S. India met at Madras on Dec. 22. It was presided over by Dr. C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer. Sir Mirza Ismail inaugurated the convention. The convention was supported by all the political parties in S. India and several eminent leaders participated in the proceedings, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari moved the resolution stating that English should continue as the official language of the Indian Union and that the constitution of India should be amended accordingly. Rajaji reiterated his view that it would be suicidal to throw away the advantages derived by the use of English during the 150 years of British Rule. The following is the text of the resolution :

The Union Language Convention of South India, recognising that the paramount need of the hour is to promote the emotional integration and preserve the complete unity of the nation.

Taking into consideration : (a) the feelings and difficulties, present and future, of the non-Hindi speaking peoples, who form the bulk of the population in all except the Central Region of India :

(b) The decidedly disruptive consequences of any change in the status quo by the substitution of Hindi for English, on top of the centrifugal forces already generated by the reorganisation of the States on a linguistic basis ;

(c) The principle that in no circumstances should the views and feelings of a minority be disregarded, and an overall majority be allowed to overrule them on an issue of such importance thereby negating the basic principles of true democracy.

(d) The fact that Hindi with its variations is not spoken by more than forty-two per cent of the population of India (vide Language Commission Report) and is confined as mother tongue to the people of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar and commands no usage in the other areas of this vast country :

(e) The further fact that the English language has been in official use for administrative, judicial and legislative purposes throughout the country, for over a century, including the last ten years after independence, and that any disturbance of this existing arrangement will inevitably lead to such a fundamental change in the entire educational field as to

result in a marked deterioration in efficiency in all the departments aforesaid ;

(f) The intimate connection that exists between University education and the language of the Public Services, as well as between University education and the secondary school courses leading up to it ;

(g) The necessity for continuing to use, in the higher grades of academic study, the source books in English, and in particular the growing volume of scientific and technological literature, and the fact that translations of such books and literature even if made available, cannot serve the purpose ;

(h) The circumstance that every regional language is already accepted as the language of administration in the respective States and the consequential absence of any conflict with the doctrine of unity of language between people and Government in the event of English being continued as the official language of the Union Government ;

(i) The overwhelming convenience of English as a medium of inter-State and international intercourse ; and

(j) the need for educating to the minimum the language burden in the course of education which qualify for entry into the public services ; and remembering that in every State all departments of Government will function in the regional language, into which all Acts and Proceedings of the Central Government will have to be translated resolves (1) That English should continue as the official language of the Indian Union ;

(2) And that the Constitution of India should be amended accordingly.

The Convention constituted an Action Committee for taking practical measures from time to time in the furtherance of the resolution with Mr. C. R. Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Prof. M. Ruthnaswami, Mr. P. Kodanda Rao, Mr. P. T. Rajan, Mr. A. Subbiah and Mr. S. Chellaswami as members.

ALL INDIA ORIENTAL CONFERENCE

The 19th All India Oriental Conference met at New Delhi on Dec. 27 under the presidency of Dr. A.S. Altekar, Director of the Jayaswal Research Institute of Patna. Over four hundred scholars, thirty five of whom were from European countries like Germany, Czechoslovakia, Britain and U.S.A. and Iran, attended the session.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad inaugurated the Session. In his speech Dr. Prasad asked historians and Scholars to interpret the present "topsy-turvy" atomic age in the light of the past which laid more stress on human spirit. He said this alone would make humanity respect not the weapons of destruction but things which made life happier and better for every individual.

He said the history that they read in school and colleges, was nothing but a chronology or the defeat and conquests of Kings and stories of invaders and their tyranny. Sometimes historians were worried about the fixation of date and time of some of these defeats and conquests of big rulers or king or the events in their lives.

While he did not minimise their importance, he felt that in the writing and study of history, more attention should be given to the life of the ordinary people and the lessons which can be learnt from the life of great and good men. He said: "Our ancestors are accused of ignorance of history and their disregard for history because it was impossible to fix the dates of certain great works and great authors but it matters little for humanity whether a book is written 500 years before or after if it is good in its contents."

Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University and the chairman of the Reception Committee welcomed the delegates. He said that it was a matter for regret that they did not have in India a central institution for the encouragement of oriental studies in, the special context of India or what might be called Indological studies, though they had in different parts of the country a large number of organisation and centres for studying one or the other of the branches of Indological studies. Many of these concentrated on a regional rather than the national coverage of these studies. But there was no integration amongst them. Finance was also lacking, he said and added under the circumstance, it was difficult to visualise how the field of Indological studies could grow to the extent it was capable of doing if only the necessary facilities of organisation, integration, and finance were available to the oriental scholar on a centralised basis.

Delivering his presidential address Dr. Altkar said that they should resolve to widen and deepen their contacts with the ancient and medieval culture of the Eastern and Western

neighbours. He urged Government to extend substantial help in the establishment of an Indological Institute. This institute he said, would co-ordinate and assist the research work being done already in some branches of Indology in different centres and supplement it by its own activities, starting or strengthening new branches of study like Assyriology, Sinology, Tibetology, bearing on Indian history and culture as also initiate a vigorous drive for collection of microfilm copies of valuable ancient and medieval manuscripts in Sanskrit, Pali, Siamese, Sinhalese, Persian, etc.

Proceeding he said: "Indological studies have a further value still. Free India is aiming at having cultural and friendly relations with a number of nations and the study of Indology shows that we had such ties with our near and distant neighbours in the past. The close cultural ties that connect India with Indonesia, Siam, Tibet, Central Asia, China and Japan are well known. Most of these countries regard Pali or Sanskrit as their sacred language and India as their holy land. In the sphere of religion, philosophy, sculpture, architecture and literature there has been considerable Indian influence on these countries, and they are now in a position to pay back their debt through the Indian literature and manuscripts and pieces of sculpture and architecture which they have preserved, and which are very valuable for the study of the development of our culture and civilisation."

He said "India is now endeavouring to have closer friendly ties with her neighbours in Asia and a knowledge of similar ties in the past will naturally be of great help in this connection. The study of Indology is therefore one of vital and practical importance in modern India and deserves to be prosecuted with greater and greater vigour and comprehensiveness."

ALL-INDIA WRITERS' CONFERENCE

Fraternal delegates from many foreign countries and delegates from different parts of India attended the All-India Writers' Conference which met and held its three-day session at Calcutta, beginning from December 23, 1957.

Sri C. Rajagopalachari was to have inaugurated the Conference; in his absence, Shrimathi Mahadevi Varma of Uttar Pradesh opened the session.

Welcoming the delegates, Dr. Humayun Kabir, Chairman of the Reception Committee, said that the supreme function of writers was self-expression. By achieving that self-expression they would be able to get communion with others and bring solidarity among mankind which could be one of the greatest contributions of the human society. He added that writers had their own tradition; by exchanging their views and experiences they should build up a common platform for Indian literature to enrich the country's history and culture.

Srimathi Mahadevi Varma, in her address, said that "though we have lived so many years in slavery, we have continued to bear unsullied and undamaged what was great in our culture." She observed that writers always differed with political thinkers, that the sympathy of a writer was universal while the views of a politician were moulded by his party. Writers, she said, were social beings; uniting the individual self with the universal they became the world's possessions; the appreciation and awareness of beauty enshrined in their works was of the whole world.

Sri C. Rajagopalachari in a message to the Conference, observed that the writers of the country should keep clear of Government patronage, develop independent power and look upon the reading public as collaborators in thought. "Great writings and great writers," he remarked, "cannot be made to order. For a country where many millions speaking each of the ten major languages, it should not be difficult to produce a few great writers in each of them. We must liberate thought from conventional boundaries and from fear."

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, addressing the Conference, was very forthright in what he said. "How many people in the name of literature," he asked, "talk the most absolute bosh? They presume they are leaders of the generation and ask themselves and each other which way shall be led the generation. Everyone who puts pen to paper, he added, is not a superior being; every politician who can win the election by making speeches or other means is not wise, honest, or farseeing. Yet out of these numerous ordinary politicians can come a great statesman, out of all the scribblers a great writer. The writer must therefore be given the freedom to write even if he writes rubbish. He,

however, advised the writers to exercise restraint while dealing with the vital national problem, emphasising: "Literature or no literature we should above all other things encourage unity of India and oppose all fissiparous tendencies."

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India, speaking on the subject, 'Meeting of East and West in Literature,' said that the two parts of the world were getting nearer each other; the impact of their literature was a "spiritual encounter," with the distinction only one of "emphasis and not of kind." "We have had great scientists in India and China," he said, "and great mystics in the Western world also. So far as literature is concerned, there has been one common ideal in both the East and West."

Dr. Mulk Raj Anand expressed the hope that the English language would be recognised under the country's Constitution. He however, realised that the development of the Indian languages was at the same time very much necessary for the emotional and intellectual integration of the people.

Sri A. G. Venkatachari, President of the Tamil Writers Association, and the Leader of the Writers' Delegation from Madras felt that the needs of good Government and the unity of the country were far more important than making Hindi the official language. "Our attitude towards the whole question," he declared, "must not be emotional but pragmatic."

SCIENCE ACADEMY

Presiding over the 23rd Annual Session of the Indian Academy of Sciences held at Tirupati on December 28 Dr. C. V. Raman outlined a new approach towards an understanding of the chemical behaviour of carbon. He described carbon as "that amazing element" and said it merited the appellation since the number of its known organic compounds approached the half million mark-whereas the compounds of all the other known elements did not in the aggregate reach a tenth of that figure.

The Session was inaugurated by Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddi, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh. Mr. S. Govindarajulu Naidu, Vice-Chancellor, Sri Venkateswara University, under whose auspices the Session was held, welcomed the Chief Minister, Dr. C. V. Raman and other delegates and Fellows of the Academy.

ALL-INDIA CORRECTIONAL CONFERENCE

The third All-India Correctional Conference met at Trivandrum on the 26th December, Dr. B. Ramakrishna Rao, Governor of Kerala inaugurated the session. In his speech Dr. B. R. Rao said that the scope of this conference was limited in the sense that the conference tried to reform the nature of those unfortunate persons, who were confined in jails or reformatories or on probation or required attention by way of after-care.

"It is a modest enough objective and yet even its fulfilment bristles with many problems and difficulties which this conference endeavours to solve in its annual sessions from time to time."

It was now recognised that man was not born a sinner or a criminal, but became so under certain circumstances created by his environment and under certain mental conditions which resulted in the urge to commit an offence, thus rendering him an unsocial being. "It is this new outlook that is the fundamental basis of all endeavours that are being made by civilised nations."

The main and radical remedy according to the Governor, was the building up of an enlightened society, based on a fundamentally just and moral structure. The society must also be free from all economic and social evils which engendered frustration and bitterness in life. But, he said in the meanwhile crime had to be tackled at different points through various means, such as psychological, corrective and punitive. It was of the utmost importance to realise that every individual person to whom the efforts were directed had to be studied in his peculiar psychological environment.

Casuals and juveniles came in two entirely different categories. The former were found to be creations of special circumstances acting under special irrepressible emotions and urges and the strongest attempt would have to be made for their reformation as an alternative to penalisation.

The conference adopted a resolution expressing the opinion that sentences of imprisonment for short terms, that is, for periods of three months and less usually serve little useful purpose. But on the contrary cause harm to the offender and loss to the society and State.

Recommending suitable alternatives, it suggested that legislation be taken in hand to prohibit imposition of sentences of imprisonment

of less than three months without giving reasons, and that whenever courts imposed such sentences they should record reasons why other methods of treatment were not appropriate to the case.

The conference also recommended abolition of those sections of the Penal Code or other punitive acts making a sentence of imprisonment obligatory for offences for which imprisonment of less than seven years is prescribed.

It further suggested that a beginning be made for starting compulsory work centres, with standard wages part of which would go for making restitution to the victims of their crimes.

The conference held two sessions one on "Short-term sentences — its alternatives" and the other on "Life convicts and their treatment."

On life convicts, the conference adopted a resolution suggesting the desirability of having uniform terms of imprisonment to life convicts throughout India.

Support to the view that short-term imprisonment would do more harm than good, was given earlier by Mr. Justice A. S. P. Ayyar, of the Madras High Court, who presided over the sectional conference.

THE GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE

The conference of Governors which met at the Rashtrapathi Bhavan New Delhi on Dec. 12 and 13 discussed political and law and order situation in the country.

The conference was inaugurated by the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Except for the Governor of U. P. Mr. V. V. Giri, all the other Governors, Yuvaraj Karan Singh, Sadr-i-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir and the Lt. Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Raja Bajrang Bahadur Singh were present. Vice President Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Nehru and the Union Ministers for Education Home affairs, Planning and Finance and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission also were present.

The discussion on the political and law and order situation was initiated by the Home Minister.

The conference discussed the food and economic situation in the country, with particular reference to progress of the Second Plan. The Maharaja the Sadr-i-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir and the Lt. Governor of Himachal Pradesh gave a resume of the food situation

in their respective areas, and Mr. A. P. Jain, Union Food Minister, presented the overall picture of the country as a whole, with particular reference to drought affected and scarcity areas. This was followed by a statement on the economic situation by Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Union Finance Minister.

On the 2nd day the Prime Minister gave a resume of the internal situation.

TAMILNAD COMMUNIST CONFERENCE

The Tamilnad Provincial Special Conference of the Communist Party of India, which concluded its four-day secret session on 23rd December at Trichy, has firmly condemned the communal activities of the Dravida Kazhagam and its leader Mr. E. V. Ramaswami Naicker.

Mr. M. Kalyanasundaram, M.L.A. presided.

Mr. P. Jeevanandam, Communist leader, warned the Dravida Kazhagam against violent acts in its campaign for eradication of caste system and said the Communists would resist the resort to violence against any community.

The Conference in a resolution released to the press has charged the Kamaraj Government with affording all encouragement to Mr. Naicker.

The resolution says Communism whose goal is a casteless society has been at its best to abolish the caste system. While drawing the attention of the people of Tamilnad to this fact, the Conference wants to make it clear that the Communist Party does not consider as useful certain actions taken in the name of caste abolition. To-day in the name of abolishing caste, movement has been started under the leadership of Mr. E. V. Ramaswami Naicker, which decries the members of a particular community for the sin of having born in it. The agitation has taken the uncivilised form of attacking them and their houses. Instead of abolishing the caste system these fanatical acts will have the effect of stirring communal feeling creating a communal war. The Conference firmly believes that this agitation does not oppose any tangible caste tyranny. Mr. Naicker's campaign to burn the Constitution, Gandhi portrait, etc., can never create and promote the feeling in the minds of the people to do away with caste. On the other hand they will provoke the righteous indigna-

tion of innumerable patriots of the land. Also the campaign helps to undermine the growth of democracy. For instance, Mr. Naicker has been supporting the Madras Government for the sole reason that it is headed by a non-brahmin though that Government is indulging in several measures which were against the interests of Tamil people. The underlying purpose of Mr. Naicker's agitation is to help all reactionary forces. Therefore, the Conference very strongly condemns this movement which is not only against caste abolition but which actually promotes caste feuds and undermines the democracy. It points out that it is the duty of all people interested in the welfare of the country to arrest these activities.

Referring to the national flag, he asked if Mr. Naicker could treat this as a mere piece of cloth. They should remember that India got independence under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. The acts of the Kazhagam would alienate the sympathies of other parties, he stated.

SRI VAISHNAVA CONFERENCE

Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, Home Minister, deplored the demand by a section of the people in Tamil Nad for performing *archanas* in the Hindu temples in Tamil and also the agitation against Brahmins.

The Minister, who was inaugurating the 32nd annual Sri Vaishnava Conference at Madras on Dec. 22, said though acquisition of material wealth was essential to lead a decent life, it could not bring either happiness or joy to people unless they had *bhakti*. He said though Vaishnavism was founded by Sri Ramanujacharya, a Tamilian, it had spread throughout the length and breadth of this country. The various Alvars had shown the right path which people should follow for leading a better and happier life.

Making a reference to the demand for performing *archanas* in Tamil in the temples instead of Sanskrit, Mr. Bhaktavatsalam said though Tiruppavai was composed in Tamil, it was being recited by all Vaishnavites in South India. He had found Tamilians doing *pujas* not only in Brindavan but also at Simhachalam in Andhra Pradesh. *Bhakti* alone should be the yardstick to judge a person and all true Vaishnavities believed only in one caste and one religion.

Remarking that the agitation against Brahmins was fraught with grave consequences, the Minister said our Alwars were not only great philosophers but also great composers well-versed in Tamil literature. They did not think in terms of caste or language. Our temples were the best examples of socialism in practice. In the precincts of the temple all were equal, whether rich or poor. No useful purpose would be served by speaking about the greatness of the various *prabandhams* of the Alwars if they did not make arrangements to teach them to the coming generation and make them understand the real meaning and greatness of the teachings of the Alwars.

Mr. A. K. D. Venkataraju, retired District Judge, in his presidential address, advised the people to follow the Karma, Gnana and Bhakti *margas* for achieving salvation. It must be the endeavour of all well-wishers of Hinduism, he said, to propagate and popularise the great religious works and classics. It would be a good thing if they had similar Vaishnava Sanghams in various parts of this country and such sanghams must utilise the services of great Bhaktas on the occasion of temple festivals by organising religious lectures for the benefit of all.

Earlier, Mr. K. Venkatasami Naidu delivered his welcome address. He explained the work the Sangham had been doing during the last 32 years to popularise works of Vaishnavite Alwars. He requested the Government to undertake the renovation of old temples in the State.

THE MUSIC CONFERENCES

THE MUSIC ACADEMY

Music which was "moral law" and a divine art, had degenerated in the present day due to lack of perfection in knowledge of musicians and the temper of "non-co-operation," said Sangita Ratna T. Chowdiah at Madras on Dec. 22.

Presiding over the thirtyfirst conference of the Music Academy, Madras, Mr. Chowdiah paid tributes to the Academy, as one of the oldest institutions of its kind, for its unceasing effort to promote perfection and scholarship in music, remedy the defects and arrest its degradation.

Mr. Chowdiah also appreciated the efforts of the Central and State Governments to foster scientific systems of the Carnatic and

Hindustani music and preserve their authentic idioms.

The Governor of Mysore, who inaugurated the conference, spoke of the purpose and place of music in life according to the traditional Indian concept. A large and distinguished gathering was present at the function which took place in a special pandal at the premises of the P.S. High School Myslapore.

THE TAMIL ISAI

Poet Namakkal Ramalingam Pillai said on the same day that Carnatic music was not alien to Tamil Isai, and the compositions of the South Indian Musical Trinity and Saint Purandara Dasar were based on traditions and techniques of Tamil Isai and not on the canons of any alien musical concept.

Poet Ramalingam Pillai, who was delivering the Presidential address of the fifteenth Tamil Isai conference, which opened at said that the real meaning of Tamil Isai was it was science of music which Tamil language had given to the land.

Mr. M. A. Manickavelu, State Minister, who inaugurated the conference, said that if music had to reach the zenith of its excellence it could be achieved only by rendering the songs in the mother-tongue of the listener.

Both the Poet and the Minister paid unstinted tributes to the services rendered by the Tamil Isai Sangham in fostering Tamil music.

THE INDIAN FINE ARTS

Mr. P. Rajagopalaan, Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, inaugurating the 25th South Indian Music Conference and Festival at Gokhale Hall, Armenian Street, Madras on Dec. 24, deplored the controversy in a cultural field like music, like other components of our culture, must be a cementing force, and that controversy must be avoided 'at least in the field of music and its allied arts.'

Mr. E. Krishna Aiyar, Secretary, State Sangeetha Nataka Sangam, presided. A large and distinguished gathering was present on the occasion.

Mr. S. K. Sundararamier, President, Indian Fine Arts Society, explaining the activities of the Society, said they celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the Society last year and they had been keeping up the highest traditions of Carnatic music and Bharatanatyam in Madras by providing a sumptuous fare of high class music, dance and drama.

THE VEGETARIAN CONGRESS

The 15th World Vegetarian Congress which met in different parts of India during the last week of November had its concluding session at Madras. Mr. Sri Prakasa, the Governor of Bombay inaugurating the session said that "Vegetarianism is not merely a question of not eating flesh of animals for food; it stands for a definite code of conduct, a way of life, and an attitude of mind."

Mr. Sri Prakasa said it would not be enough if vegetarians felt self-righteous themselves, but should consider it their responsibility to see that animals were taken good care of and much of the evil that went on unchecked around them was stopped.

He said it would perhaps be never possible for all human beings in the world to be vegetarians, and therefore, they should make sure that the need for killing animals was reduced to the minimum, and killing was done in a manner that would inflict the least amount of pain on the victim.

His Highness Sri Jaya Chamaraja Wadiyar Governor of Mysore opened an Exhibition in connection with the Congress at Rajaji Hall. He said that, "it is too much to hope that the Vegetarian Congress and Propaganda will make vegetarians of all men; but it is not unreasonable to hope that these efforts will bring about a gradual change of heart, and an appreciation of what vegetarianism stands for."

His Highness said the exhibition would be an eye-opener to those who still believed that there was more nutrition in meat, than in fruit and vegetables.

"There is no scientific basis for the view that a man becomes stronger and healthier on a meat-diet than on a vegetarian diet, he said.

His Highness said the Congress had brought some of the world's most eminent personalities together for common purpose.

"The sponsors and well-wishers of this Congress are fervent idealists who are striving to make ours a better world, peopled by beings who are human in the real sense of the term."

To them vegetarianism is not just a matter of food; it is a way of life which benefits not only the body but also the mind and spirit of man.

The World Vegetarian Congress was attended by delegates from twenty-two Nations.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

The Asian conference of the International Press Institute, at its session at Kandy on Nov. 29 discussed "News within Asia."

Presiding over the conference, Mr. C. R. Srinivasan, Editor, "Swadesamitran", Madras, dwelt on the importance of the economic aspect of news in Asia. He said many of the Asian States, which had emerged into freedom from foreign rule, were "busy translating their political freedom into economic freedom". News was to them more interesting from the economic rather than the political view point.

Mr. Srinivasan also dwelt on the need to bring into the focus of news all developments that had a bearing on social and economic justice, and progress of society.

The conference discussed ways and means of fostering more balanced flow of news from Asia to the West.

The conference carried forward the work already initiated by the Institute in Tokyo two years ago when the flow of news within Asia had been discussed.

Mr. C. E. L. Wickremesinghe (Associated Newspapers of Ceylon) who inaugurated the session stressed the importance of free flow of newspapers between Asia and the West and described it as "the most important problem facing the Press".

About hundred members of the Institute from nineteen countries attended the conference.

Several speakers took part in discussions. They included Mr. Alastair Hetherington (*Manchester Guardian*), Mr. Frank Moraes (*Hitavada*), Mr. G. A. Johnson (*Statesman*), Mr. Ichitaro Takara (*Manichi Simbun* of Tokyo), Mr. Abdus Salam Khurshid (Punjab University, Lahore), Mr. Robert H. Estabrook (*Washington Post*), Mr. Charles C. Lane (*Associated Press of America*), Mr. A. M. Rosenthal (*New York Times*), Mr. D. R. Manekar (*Times of India*), Mr. V. K. Narasimhan (*The Hindu*), Mr. Felix Naggar (*Agence France Presse*), Mr. William Clark (*Observer*), and Mr. Graham Jenkins (*Reuters*).

Complaints were made that political developments captured space in newspaper columns at the expense of "less sensational" type of news occurring in economic, social and cultural fields which was nevertheless as important as political news.

INDIAN HISTORY CONGRESS

Mr. K. M. Munshi, former Governor of Uttar Pradesh, and noted Gujarati literateur emphasised the supreme necessity of accepting the "discipline of facts" as the fundamental creed for the true and honest historian at Vallabha Vidyannagar on Dec. 30. This was particularly important, he said, when there was danger of history being degraded into propaganda in these days of mass communication.

Mr. Munshi was delivering the presidential address at the Twentieth Session of the Indian History Congress. Over 300 delegates, including a large number of noted historians, attended the session, which was held for three days in a special shamiana at the open-air theatre of the Sardar Vallabhai Vidyapith, an university established in rural setting.

Mr. Munshi said that the greatest danger to which the historian was exposed was the imponderable pressure brought on the intellectuals by Governments anxious to make history the handmaid of their policies, by politicians who would make it the instrument of their personal or party ambitions, and by the masses who had an appetite for palatable history suited to their tastes and whims.

Earlier, welcoming the delegates to the session, Mr. Bhailalbhai Patel, the Vice-Chancellor of the Sardar Vallabhai Vidyapith and Chairman of the Reception Committee of the session, said that historians should make serious efforts to discover the internal causes of India's weaknesses and defects in the political and social structure that led to the defeat of Indians in practically all major wars against foreign invaders during the last two thousand years.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENCES OF INDIA

Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis, President of the National Institute of Sciences of India, emphasised at Madras on Jan. 5 that Rs. 300 crores of foreign exchange invested in suitable basic industries over a period of five years in this country would establish a second foundation for future industrial development and would enable them to manufacture essential capital goods within the country.

He was addressing the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the National Institute of Sciences of India at the Senate Hall, University Buildings, Madras.

"I am not suggesting," observed Prof. Mahalanobis "that we should reduce our im-

ports. On the contrary, we should try continually to expand our foreign trade. But we must attain as soon as possible a position in which, if necessary, we shall be able to manage on our own in an emergency."

Making other suggestions in the course of his lengthy address, the Professor said that it seemed to him that there was held in India for a functional scientific institution which would be outside Government but which would take up, by agreement with Government, such scientific work or research or promotion of science of the co-ordination of scientific activities as could be done conveniently and efficiently by a non-official agency with the help of a wholetime staff of competent and high level scientists.

CHEMICAL ENGINEERS' CONFERENCE

Presiding over the tenth annual session of the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers, at Madras on Jan. 2, Dr. L. A. Bhatt stated that chemical engineers should apply their knowledge and experience in creating project reports for various industries and indicating the most suitable location for such industries as a guide in the Government as also to private sector.

The session was held at the A. C. College of Technology, Guindy, and was attended by a large gathering. Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, inaugurated the session. Mrs. Tara Cherian, Mayor of Madras, declared open the Chemical Engineering and Technology Exhibition on the occasion.

Dr. Mudaliar, in his address, expressed the view that there was not enough of chemical engineers in this country and even 10 or 20 times the number of engineers at present would not be sufficient. If they wanted to develop science in the proper manner, he said, the standards for research workers should be evolved that those who were doing good work were retained in the field.

Dr. Bhatt also made a suggestion in his address that if their Constitution had made it an article of faith not to encourage local consumption of alcohol in its literal sense "we can at least manufacture and export wines and spirits to those countries who need these and earn foreign exchange. He added: "Even if it is a sin to earn such foreign exchange, in my opinion, it is far less so than begging for loans from other countries and being refused, a loss of morale for the whole nation."

CONFERENCE OF ANATOMICAL SOCIETY

There is abundant material pertaining to anatomy in ancient text-books on Ayurveda and Yoga which have to be examined and studied dispassionately and on purely scientific lines without any bias whatever, Mr. P. V. Rajamannar, acting Governor, said while inaugurating the 7th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of India.

Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor, Madras University, explained the proposal of the University to institute a three-year course for degree of Master of Surgery in Anatomy.

The Acting Governor, the Vice-Chancellor and Dr. Y. Appajee, who presided over the conference pleaded that English should be retained as the medium of instruction for professional education.

The 3-day conference met at the Madras Medical College, and was attended by eminent anatomists from all over India.

COMMISSION FOR SYNOPTIC METEOROLOGY

Over 20 weather experts from 31 countries and International Organisations assembled at Delhi on January 21 at the second session of the Commission for Synoptic Meteorology, which was inaugurated by Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri, Union Minister for transport and Communications.

The Commission is concerned mainly with world weather reporting and mapping and the organisation and maintenance of tele-communication facilities for the collection and distribution of weather information all over the world. The session was presided over by Dr. W. Bleeker, President of the Commission.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri stressed the importance of meteorology to India.

"In an agricultural country like ours, where floods and droughts are so frequent," Mr. Shastri said, "meteorology can play an important role and its utility for us is indeed very great. We suffer, greatly and science in many ways can help us in relieving these situations."

Mr. Shastri listed various fields benefitted by meteorological services like transport, communications, agriculture, public health, flood control and town and water project planning.

INDIAN ROADS CONGRESS

The importance of good roads not only to enable human beings to travel and goods or commodities to be transported but also traffic of ideas to flow through, especially in a country like India was stressed by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of India, inaugurating the 22nd session of the Indian Road Congress at Vigyan Bhavan at Delhi, on Jan. 5. Mr. M. S. Bisht presided over the session.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad said that "this social and cultural aspect of roads is not in any way less important than the economic aspect and I, therefore, consider the existence of good roads as a vital factor in determining whether our society can become an equalitarian homogeneous one or will continue merely as a conglomeration of social groups leading their own separate lives and maintaining different levels of social and economic development."

I. N. T. U. C. SESSION

Inaugurating the Ninth Annual Session of the Indian National Trade Union Congress at Madurai on Jan. 1, Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, Union Minister for Planning and Labour, appealed to the working class to bear in mind that in its struggle for a better life it should not be concerned solely with its immediate occupation and employer, but must extend its interests and attention to embrace the entire ensemble of social and economic factors, which together formed the picture of their national economy.

Mr. S. R. Vasavada, President of the Indian National Trade Union Congress, presided over the session.

MEDICAL CONFERENCE

Dr. D. V. Venkappa, President of the All-India 34th Medical Conference which met at Bangalore on Dec. 26, urged all State Governments clearly to declare their medical policy in no ambiguous terms, and give the right lead in the matter of medical relief to its people.

In shaping that policy, he wanted the present methods of medical relief to be replaced by a uniform system of State Medical Service in which every available medical practitioner should be employed and increasingly large numbers of hospitals built and equipped, at least one for every 5,000 population.

The Governor of Mysore, Mr. Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, inaugurated the Conference, which was attended by about 400 delegates.

A DIAMOND JUBILEE SOUVENIR*

By Mr. S. Y. KRISHNASWAMY



Prof. K. B. Ramanathan, Mr. G. A. Natesan, Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri & Mr. G. A. Vaidyanathan, (1907)

The Diamond Jubilee Souvenir of G.A. Natesan and Co is a fitting symbol of sixty years of commendable and continuous effort in the field of publication. A mere recital of the facts, that the firm has to its credit the publication of a thousand books, and a high class journal *Indian Review* that has always drawn contributions from scholars and statesmen in India and abroad without interruption during the whole of this period, is sufficient to justify a retrospective satisfaction. I almost said conceit!

The Souvenir represents the old and the new in one. Reading about the early days of the freedom struggle in India, of the part played by the firm of Natesan in fostering the movement by means of handy books that caught the imagination of the young men who later grew to leadership, one drifts back into the warm reminiscence of recent history, one is enveloped in the glow of yesterday's evening. Then one turns to articles on Indian Shipping, Aspects of Planning in Madras, State Trading, City water supply and others that pull one into the troubled present and arrest one's attention. Similarly, the lives of the leaders of a generation that is past take

* G. A. Natesan and Co. (Sixty years of Publishing)
A Diamond Jubilee Souvenir, Publishers G.A. Natesan & Co. Madras-1. Price Rs. 5.

one into history, while the accounts of the growth of Indian industry are compact of information and inspiration for the present and the future. The story of the House of Tatas, in fact, is a summary of the early efforts, the intermediate struggles and the final success of Indian Industry in general, representing as it does, not merely all the leading lines of production, but also all the social and economic measures of amelioration that go with modern industry. And finally, the six little books—the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Bhagavatha, Prayers, Upanishads, and Upakhyanamala, a set that deserves to endure as an indispensable equipment of all Indian students. They bring together the old and the new by focussing attention on the eternal that annihilates the distinction between the two.

While Ambal and Chandru and B.N. (Manian Natesan, Chandran Natesan & Sri B. Natesan) deserve the praise of the discerning public for having brought out what is indeed, a most readable volume, one that has to be read and kept aside and then re-read, before being carefully added to one's library, Satrugnan of the P.A.S. Press has to be congratulated on the technical excellence of the production; the choice of the print, the reproductions, the illustrations, the little marginal and postscript drawings, all of which show that an artist has been at work.

Altogether a fine piece of publishing.

INDIANS OUTSIDE INDIA

MALAYA

INDIANS IN SINGAPORE

Singapore's Chief Minister, Mr. Lim Yew Hock, last month told the Legislative Assembly that his Government had decided to gazette India as a Commonwealth country under the colony's Citizenship Ordinance. This would mean that any Indian living in the island for two years can become a Singapore citizen without undergoing the difficult process of first becoming a United Kingdom and Colony citizen (as laid down under the existing law) and then—in a matter of a few months—apply for Singapore citizenship.

The Chief Minister, however, said that while the Indian Government had discretion in accepting applications from Singapore citizens the Singapore Minister had no such discretion in the case of citizenship applications from Indians.

He said, "we are taking this step and making it easy for Indians to register in recognition of the Indian community's role as an integral part of our society."

S. AFRICA

INDIANS IN S. AFRICA

Eight hundred Indians who live in the lovely little Transvaal town of Rustenburg are fighting hard against proposals under the Nationalists' racial laws to remove them to a new site on the bare veld two miles outside the community.

Their champion is a European—Mr. C.W.M. Gell, a one-time member of the pre-independence Indian Civil Service, who for the last 12 years, had to live in an "iron lung."

Mr. Gell, although a sick man, organised opposition among the fellow-Europeans to the Council's plan and gave wholehearted support to the protest of the Indian community. He said that the Indians, who had been an integral part of Rustenburg ever since it became a recognisable village, should be allowed to stay where they were and not disturbed.

He was not permitted to make the long journey to Rustenburg when the Group Areas Board held sittings there to study the Council's plan and the case for those who opposed it. But he was one of the 37 Englishmen who had "briefed" the council to support the Indian plea that they should not be evacuated.

One of the witnesses for Mr. Gell was a 95-year-old Indian woman, Mrs. Fatima Bhat, the oldest member of the Indian community. In her evidence she recalled that her husband had helped President Kruger during the Boer War and said that she and her family had been in Rustenburg since the town was "a farm."

She added: "The relations of the Indians with the Europeans have always been friendly. I have lived in the same house since 1887, and it is impossible for me to go anywhere else now."

BURMA

INDIANS IN BURMA

The Burmese Premier U Nu said at Bodh Gaya recently when he came to India that the grievances of Indian settlers in Burma were of a "very mild nature" which would be settled quietly in consultation with the Governments of Burma and India.

He told P.T.I. that India and Burma were "friends for long and shall remain as such for ever." Any grievances of Indian settlers in Burma would be settled amicably, he said.

The Burmese Indian settlers had submitted a memorandum to the Indian Prime Minister during his visit to Rangoon in October last stating that the recent amendment to the Burmese rehabilitation law would result in large-scale exodus of Indian settlers.

The memorandum also stated that the entry fee for an Indian into Burma had been increased from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50. It further said that due to nationalisation of lands in Burma a large number of Indians who were cultivating lands as theirs for years had been doing in the past, were likely to be evicted because they had not been recognised as citizens of Burma.

Foreigners in Burma are perturbed over a notification issued by the Burmese Trade Development Ministry stating that personnel of export and import firms will from Dec. 31 are treated as foreigners, if they are not in possession of their citizenship certificates, U.K.

INDIAN OFFICIALS IN U.K.

Senior revenue officials from India are at present in the United Kingdom on a ten-weeks' study of the British taxation system. After having attended a series of lectures, they are now gaining firsthand experience by working in different offices.

READERS' DIGEST

TELEPHONE TAPPING

"Telephone tapping as a device to help the intelligence services of the Government is now increasingly coming into vogue even in such countries as Great Britain and Switzerland," says *Thought*.

"This manifest encroachment on an individual's private life is justified in those countries as a necessary precaution against a few for the ultimate benefit of many. Whether the statistical argument on such a vital issue as the sanctity of private life is morally tenable is a problem engaging sensitive minds. But in the countries, such as those referred to the practice is directly related to the exigencies and evils of the present cold war."

The complaint Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, a Communist member of Parliament, made in the Rajya Sabha cannot, however, be dismissed on the grounds understandable in countries like Britain and Switzerland.

"Time and again we are assured that India is free from the cold war. In fact denunciation of the cold war and the approach it compels has been for some years this country's chief distinction in relation to foreign affairs. It is therefore obvious that what makes wire-tapping a moral plausibility and a political necessity is not applicable to India. Mr. Gupta therefore has raised a question which, assuming his complaint is based on facts, has a relevance to politicians and non-politicians alike."

Why must the Government of India take recourse to a practice which is as reprehensible in principle as deliberate overhearing of bedroom talk and disputes between husband and wife, asks *Thought*.

"That the complaint comes from a communist is also no reason to dismiss it as non-serious. In fact what one has to think about seriously is why the Communists alone should be allowed to appear as lovers of liberty and champions of the individual's inalienable right to privacy? Let it not be said, as Acharya J. B. Kriplani implied the other day, that yesterday's fighters for freedom have become the tyrants of today. If telephone tapping has indeed been resorted to by the Government it is time to end it. But if the present complaint has arisen from mere hypersensitiveness let it be authoritatively recorded as such."

LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION

The primary function of the Supreme Court is to relate law to the constitution. How it performs that function varies with the personnel of the court at any given time. Commenting on the shift toward a renewed concern for personal rights which the Supreme Court of the United States has recently shown in its judgments Mr. Luther A. Huston observes in *The New York Times* :—

History is replete with incidents of a court of today discarding a constitutional interpretation of a court of yesterday.

No more notable example can be found than the High Court's ruling in the school segregation cases. There the court of 1954 discarded the separate-but-equal doctrine laid down by the court of 1896.

The present court is less disposed than some of its predecessors to stick to "stare decisis," which means, roughly, stand by the decisions of the past. If any description fits the court of today it is that it makes up its own mind, whether on the basis of law or its own ideas of how the law should be applied.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN AMERICA

A study of higher education must begin with an initial distinction between professional and technical education and general education which prepares for both graduate training and for life, and which is, in America at best, the province of the 'liberal arts' colleges. The distinction is particularly important in America says Rainhold Niehurch in *Confluence*, where the liberal arts and the 'humanities' are rather more vigorously assigned to the colleges than in European countries.

"No educational enterprise can completely free itself of the dominant forces of a culture. But it is fair to ask whether there has been a sufficient conscious resistance in the universities to the perils of standardization and conformism in a technocratic society; or a sufficiently patient and resolute determination to guard the long-range ends of humanistic learning against the short-range pressures of a business civilization; or a sufficient imagination in preserving the richness and variety, the breadth and depth of the arts, against the vulgarities of mass communications.

ECONOMIC AID TO INDIA

The *Manchester Guardian* calls for economic aid to India, in particular, and for other nations in Asia and Africa.

"India, after all, is the outstanding instance of a country that has proved its capacity to develop speedily, given the resources, and where progress is now being held back by the lack of foreign capital."

"Yet, it has fared no better than others in the attempt to raise money in the West."

"One does not have to look far to discover reasons. Distrust of Mr. Nehru's policies is widespread in the United States and also, perhaps, in some city and Government circles here. Many Americans feel that too little scope is being allowed to private enterprise in Indian planning. There is more than a suspicion that the Indian Government expects things to be made too easy for it."

"Tactically, it may have erred in launching the ambitious Second Five-year Plan without first inquiring what foreign money would be available. The British Government has reasons of its own for hesitating to promise a fresh loan. The sterling area mechanism has already been subjected to a heavy strain on account of India's withdrawal of reserves."

There is a feeling that we ought not to offer further assistance when turning down the requests of other Commonwealth countries. But is economic prudence all, asks the *Manchester Guardian*.

"The wealthy nations must be ready to sacrifice more for the poor. They ought to do it, regardless of any political gain, simply because the disparity of standards cannot be allowed to go on. And towards the Indian experiment, particularly, the British should give practical encouragement. Probably, no other country in the Commonwealth has done so much to help itself in so short a time, and no other holds such a critical position in Asia."

"If the Indian experiment fails, the consequences will be felt throughout the Western world. Because of the density of India's population, the only hope of a substantial improvement lies in the large-scale development of industry. This is what is now being threatened by the lack of overseas capital."

"The British Government says that it cannot afford to help, and yet it spends almost as much on the Royal Air Force in one year as the whole of India's requirement in foreign exchange for the five years of the current plan."

"We ought to think again about our responsibilities towards India, especially, and towards other strong claimants in Asia and Africa. We should not expect gratitude in return, but in those countries greater strength, prosperity and independence for their own sake."

THE SHIFT IN CEYLON

Mr. M. A. de Silva, writing in *The New Leader*, says that within the brief period of a year and a half, Ceylon's foreign policy has completely changed from pro-Western neutralism to pro-Communist neutralism. Ceylon's strategist position, as well as her development from colonialism to independence give her a special significance in Asian politics.

"In the past year, a host of Ceylonese goodwill missions—parliamentarians, trade-unionists, teachers, students, women and others—have visited the Communist countries and returned full of praise. The ban on travel to Communist world which was enforced by the UNP governments has been lifted. When Chou En-lai visited Ceylon last February, he was given a tumultuous welcome. Prime Minister Bandaranaike is scheduled to visit China."

Meanwhile, offers of economic aid have come not only from Russia and China but from Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany and Yugoslavia.

"Moscow and Peking have offered not only to buy Ceylon's rubber but to provide capital for further industrial expansion. The present government's foreign and trade policies have been enthusiastically supported by the Ceylonese Communist party."

Ceylon's shift from a strongly pro-American stand to one of friendliness toward the Communist world shows

"That the mass of people in an under-developed country judge their government's foreign policy on the basis of the material benefits it brings. By and large, the Ceylonese regard as friends those countries which help them economically, regardless of ideology. In Asia, politics is food and food is politics."

PREVENTING WAR AND CIVIL WAR

Commenting on the recent crisis in the Middle East *Thought* says that two apparently mutually contradictory conclusions may be drawn from two of the recent developments in the Syrian situation. International peace may yet be saved but a regular civil war may ensue in that country. The arrival there of Egyptian armed forces "as a symbol of Arab solidarity," it says, carries the promise of the first and the second is threatened by the distribution of arms to the so-called "resistance groups" by the Syrian Army High Command.

"President Nasser's intention in sending his armed forces to Syria evidently is to wean that country from dependence on "friends" outside the Arab world for meeting what has been represented as a threat to its security. With his troops on Syrian soil—by itself a historic event by implication—President Nasser should be in a position to assure the Syrian Government that it could count on Egypt and that it would therefore be unnecessary and unwise for it to look for assistance from outside. His own example during the Suez crisis last year should be an inspiration to the Syrian Government or those in it who prize independence within the framework of Arab solidarity. In the worst of times President Nasser never entertained the thought of inviting Russian "volunteers" to participate in Egypt's defence against the Anglo-French and Israeli forces. At the same time it would be necessary for him to persuade his Syrian brethren to accept the continuation of joint Military Command as the best guarantee of security. Under the Treaty envisaging joint defence, the Supreme Command of Egypt's and Syria's joint forces will vest in an Egyptian. The present incumbent, General Abdel Hakim Amer, has had an enviable patriotic background."

It is, however, common knowledge that the Syrian Army is almost wholly impregnated with Soviet influence. The Syrian Military Command as well as the Ministry of Defence is under the control of Communists and crypto-Communists and the Intelligence Section with Col. Serraj at its head is unabashedly Communistic in composition and purpose.

"President Nasser can be under no illusion about such a situation. He may therefore be expected to take steps to see that the Syrian Army becomes an integral part of a truly Arab force led by him and that his own army serves

as a prototype to Syria. He has accepted Soviet arms but never permitted the local Communists to infiltrate into any significant positions in his armed forces. Obviously, President Nasser, were he to show this expected and desirable inclination and insight into the present Syrian trouble, ought to be encouraged by all those who genuinely seek peace and stability in that highly mercurial region of the world. The annoyance and even antagonism that this implied extension of power and prestige of President Nasser might provoke in Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Iraq would seem to be a cheap price, considering that the alternative might well be large-scale war. There really seems to be no other way of guaranteeing peace and stability with sanctions from within the Arab world itself."

UNUSUAL BIRTHS

Writing in the magazine section of *Hindu Weekly* Mr. David Gunstan says that the size of the new-born baby is always a topic of primary interest.

The largest human baby ever born weighed 22 lb. That was in New York, in 1955, but there is an unconfirmed report of a 25 lb. infant being born in the Harlem district of the same city in 1916. But anything even approaching that weight is extremely uncommon. The biggest British baby was that born to a Crewe mother in 1935 which weighed, according to the *British Medical Journal*, just 20 lb. In 1950, a coloured woman in Transvaal, South Africa, gave birth to a stillborn 19½ lb. baby, which record is closely followed by the liveboy of 19 lb. born in Beaver, Ohio. The heaviest recent baby is probably that of Mrs. Mary Kinch, of Bray, Eire, which tipped the maternity scales at 17 lb. 3 oz. She has four other children, all of them girls, and it is a noteworthy fact that these extremely large infants are seldom if ever first children. And they are nearly always boys.

As for tiny babies, the claim for the smaller ever born alive and healthy seems to go to the premature daughter of another New York mother, Mrs. Max Post, who weighed only 11 oz. Another exceptionally small baby was reared quite successfully a few years ago on the island of Mauritius. She weighed just one pound at birth, was only 13 ins. long and her head was no larger than a cricket ball. Yet at the age of six months she had reached 7 lb. and was last reported as thriving normally. The English record is thought to be the New-

castle plasterer's son of 13 oz. birth-weight. He too thrived and quickly reached a more normal weight, 20.30 oz. babies are much commoner.

A record baby of a rather unusual one was that born a year or two ago to Mrs. Lovanda Evans, a claimant to the title of "the smallest woman in the world" since she is only 1 ft. tall. Her baby, which unfortunately died after a few days, weighed 3 lb. 12 oz. when born. A happier but equally remarkable case is that of Mrs. Myrtle Carrington, an American woman. Four days after breaking her neck in a serious motor smash, she gave birth to her nineteenth child, a 9 lb. girl. Both were none the worse for the ordeal.

Mr. Gunstan says that it is a various aspect of birth where there is a long interval between sets of turns, triplets and equals.

There have been cases of twins being born two and even three days apart, but probably the longest interval in recent years was the four-and-a-half days that separated the birth of the twins born to a Yorkshire woman in 1946. Numerous sets of twins have been born 24-30 hours apart, and a recent set of Australian quads arrived at intervals of 26, 18 and 6 hours, although the famous Good quads, born in 1948, arrived within 45 minutes. But perhaps the oldest separated multiple birth was the experience of a 24-year-old Norfolk mother. She had triplets, the first baby arrived on December 30th, 1951, and the other two within ten minutes of each other exactly a week later—in 1952! At the time the British Medical Association commented "very unusually but not phenomenal."

For a baby to be born with a complete set of milk teeth is also extremely rare, but not unknown. The last record was of a baby in Israel in 1950. A year later, Paula, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Alexander of Maidstone, quite broke all the rules at her birth in 1951 by arriving with two lower front teeth—a chance estimated at around one in 10,000. The chances of being born with one tooth—again usually a lower front one—are much greater. In fact two boys arrived with such teeth within ten days in New York a few years ago. Thick long hair at birth is less rare, but the experience of a young Surrey mother, Mrs. Claudine Hart, is less common. At two months her daughter Carol had light-brown hair to full shoulder length, making a temporary "sausage roll" coiffure necessary.

The persistence of one sex in a family's births, perhaps for many years, is a baffling yet fascinating problem. A daughter born in 1932 to Sir Robert Jan Algernon Forbes-Leith was the first girl in his family for 189 years. Even more striking, and widely known, is the persisting shortage of male members of the Dutch royal family, to which only 15 sons have been born in the past 400 years. Holland has had two queens in succession, and Queen Juliana's children are all girls.

THE COLOMBO PLAN

Participating countries of the Colombo Plan spent about seven million pounds on technical assistance during the seven years of operation of the Colombo Plan Scheme of Technical Co-operation since its inception in 1950, according to the annual report of the Colombo Plan Council for Technical Co-operation for 1956-57 just published.

Till June 30 this year, 5622 students from the countries of the area received advanced training in technology and 792 experts helped in the planning and implementation of development projects. Special equipment for the use of the trainees and experts, valued at £1.4 million, was provided. At the end of June this year, 1,858 trainees were studying abroad and 207 Colombo Plan experts were working in the countries of South and S.E. Asia.

The report recorded among the notable outcome of the Colombo Plan the following schemes: The Technical High school in Rangoon, the Rehabilitation Centre at Surakarta in Indonesia, the Railway Development Programme in Cambodia, Tele-communications Programme in Pakistan, Scientific and Industrial Research in Ceylon and Atomic Energy Research in India.

In all these programmes, it said, while the primary initiative and a substantial part of the expenditure were of the Governments concerned, their efforts were assisted by member-countries of the Colombo Plan.

Initiated in 1950, the Colombo Plan Technical Co-operation Scheme aims to provide technical assistance to the countries of South and South-East Asia for their economic development.

The main donor-countries under the scheme were Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and the U.K. They provided training facilities and experts and special equipment for training and research.

HEAT FROM EARTH

U. S. Scientists are eyeing the earth beneath us as a possible new energy source. Mr. Edwin Diamond contributing an article on the above title to the *Sunday Chronicle* says that studies are under way to determine how the superheat trapped in the earth's core can be liberated and turned into a source of power, particularly to turn sea water into fresh water and "make the deserts bloom."

Once this feat is achieved, the way would be open for harnessing earth heat for domestic tasks such as turning turbines and lighting homes.

Mr. Edwin continues: "It is well known that the earth's temperature increases on the average of one degree Fahrenheit for every 60 feet of depth. Based on this 'thermal gradient,' water boils at a depth of two miles. Thirty miles deep, temperatures hit 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit, the point at which basaltic rocks melt.

Getting at this heat is the problem. One method would be to drop pipes through drilled out shafts and run surface water through the pipes. The water would be superheated by the molten earth and then returned to the surface as steam to run turbines.

Because drilling is expensive—one California oil company used 141 tons of pipe to drill a 21,482 foot deep well—only a big outfit with big plans can even dream of the earth heat project.

Man's previous attempts at harnessing earth heat have been limited to only tapping volcanic and hot spring sources. But the following countries try to use the earth's heat for different purposes.

New Zealand is building a power station at Wairaket in North Island's volcanic region where "pools boil, fumaroles and geysers erupt and mudpots churn furiously." The New Zealanders are using steam bores to bring up the volcanic steam and put it to work driving turbines and generating electricity.

Similar projects are planned or under way in Mexico and El Salvador.

Larderello, Italy, is credited with being the first place where volcanic steam was tapped for industrial power.

In this so-called Valley of Hell sitting on top of an unborn volcano, volcanic steam power is

used in Larderello's boric acid extracting industry. Some of it is converted into electricity and piped away to other Italian industries.

ADULT EDUCATION IN ENGLAND

Prof. A. G. Stock commends the methods of the Workers' Educational Association (W.E.A.) in a paper published in the *Bulletin of the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture*. The W.E.A. has never been a mass movement, he says. It sets out to find the people in any locality who want to learn, to find out what they want to learn, and to satisfy them. "I think this is a good approach, for grown men and women cannot be dragooned like adolescents into learning what their betters think they ought to know. A man who has reached middle life without extending his education will not see why he should make the effort to do it so late, unless he has both determination and a strong reason of his own for wanting to learn; he is an unusual individual, and has to be treated as such. But such individuals have an influence out of proportion to their numbers, and in recognizing their right to learn, rather than imposing it on them as a duty, the State is liberating a great deal of initiative and constructive energy, as well as discharging an obvious duty of its own.

WHO OWNS OUTER SPACE?

What are the right of the world's nations in regions beyond the atmosphere? Since artificial satellites will soon be invading outer space, this is no longer a subject for a Jules Verne fantasy, or a problem for supermen. Aviation experts discussed a report on the subject at the Tenth General Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization, held last in Caracas, Venezuela.

The ICAO Convention on International Civil Aviation gives each of the 67 countries adhering to it complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above its territory. The question whether this sovereignty extends into outer space was not, however, mentioned in the agreement.

Since there is at present no U.N. Specialized Agency responsible for working out agreements on rights and privilege in this area, ICAO is the body chiefly concerned. In its report, the agency notes that any space craft would have to pass through the atmosphere before reaching outer space, and ICAO is therefore interested in the question.

LITERARY HAUNTS

In the *Coming Events in Britain* is an article on the above topic. The writer says:

"It was on the great northern road from York to London about the beginning of October, and about the hour of eight in the evening, that four travellers were, by a violent shower of rain, driven for shelter into a little public-house on the side of the highway, distinguished by a sign which was said to exhibit the figure of a black lion."

The opening words of *Sir Lancelot Greaves* by the eighteenth-century novelist Tobias Smollett will probably strike a familiar note even to those who have never read the book, for so many other tales of adventure have started off in just such an engaging fashion. "All good novels", a well-known critic once remarked, "are full of inns": and this is not surprising, for no writer could choose a more promising location for his story. Chaucer, Shakespeare, Goldsmith, Smollett, Scott, Dickens, George Eliot...almost all the great figures of literary history have set some of their best-loved scenes in inns, often in real-life inns whose hospitality we may still enjoy to-day. In Dickens' *Pickwick Papers*, for example, we are told that Mr. Pickwick and his companies stopped to dine at the Hop Pole in Tewkesbury; and was not the Saracen's Head at Towcester also commended in *Pickwick* for its "good little dinner, and everything clean and comfortable"?

Dickens, more than any other literary figure of the past, is the one whose name is most closely associated with the old inns of Britain: so much so that their special atmosphere of cosiness and hospitality, for which they were famous long before his day, is now frequently summed up by the adjective "Dickensian." No lover of the works of Dickens should omit a visit to the Leather Bottle at Cobham and the Bull at Rochester, both in Kent, two fine old inns to which he would often repair from his nearby home at Gad's Hill.

The poet Robert Burns was another who felt at home in the friendly surroundings of an inn—most of all, perhaps, in the Globe at Dumfries, where he inscribed one of his verses with his diamond ring on a window-pane. He was also a frequent caller at two other inns at Dumfries, the King's Arms and the Hole i' the Wall, and many admirers of Burns's epic poem *Tam o' Shanter* make a point of visiting the Tam o' Shanter Inn at Ayr, which is the

supposed scene of some of the early episodes in the work. Much in favour with the romantic novelist Sir Walter Scott was the County at Selkirk and the Tibbie Shiels, an inn which is beautifully situated by St. Mary's Loch in Selkirkshire, the "lone St. Mary's silent loch" in Scott's *Marmion*. Scott is also remembered at the Cross Keys at Peebles, whose one-time proprietress is said to have been the original of Meg Dodds in Scott's *St. Ronan's Well*.

At the Rose and Crown at Halifax, Yorkshire, Defoe wrote part of *Robinson Crusoe*; at the Burford Bridge Hotel, near Dorking, Surrey, Keats wrote much of *Endymion*; at the Red Horse at Stratford-upon-Avon, Washington Irving worked on his *Sketch Book*; John Ruskin was a regular visitor at the Crown and Thistle at Abingdon, Berkshire, and the Trout at Godstow, Oxfordshire, faces the stretch of the River Thames upon which Lewis Carroll first told the story of *Alice in Wonderland*; and, coming to the present century, Hilaire Belloc in that ever-delightful book *The Four Men* described the Spread Eagle at Midhurst, Sussex, as "the oldest and most revered of all the prime inns of his world."

Perhaps his enthusiasm was rather running away with him when he penned that tribute, but that is always liable to happen whenever one gets on to the subject of one's favourite inn.

DANGEROUS PORTENT

The recent armed clashes between the Hindu communities in the Ramanathapuram district of Madras State spotlight the internal stresses and strains to which Indian social life is yet subject observes *Freedom First*. The clashes between the Maravars and the Harijans which started in an obscure village following the murder of a Harijan Christian, developed, in less than a fortnight, into a huge conflagration. "Communal feuds, which are not entirely new to this country, have rarely reached a pitch of violence witnessed during these riots. The two communities setting fire to each other's houses, and murdering several people including women and children, surely makes a shocking reading. This despicable incident is yet another rude reminder that we have yet to go a long way in achieving harmonious relationship between different communities. Tolerance, loudly boasted to be a particular virtue of our culture, has yet to strike roots in our social soil."

DHARMA IN PRACTICE

To the serious Buddhist, the essence of Dharma contained in the scriptures consists of several strands, observes Sri S. M. Banerjee in the course of a paper published in the *Bulletin of the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture*.

"There is the insight of the Buddha into the cause of suffering; there is the way of release from suffering in the eightfold path; and there is also the law of causation and its working out in the law of Karma. Regarded from these aspects, Buddhism is certainly a *gnosis*, a way of knowledge and enlightenment. There is, again, the ethical teaching of the Buddha, summed up for the ordinary man in the 'five great commands,' binding on every Buddhist, namely (1) do not kill; (2) do not steal; (3) do not be unchaste; (4) do not speak untruth; and (5) do not drink intoxicants."

"The Sangha or the Brotherhood consists of two classes—the novices (*koyin*) and the fully ordained monks (*upazin*). Any male of over seven years of age may be ordained as a novice and, in practice, almost every Burmese boy enters the monastery for a period. It may be for several years, or a year, or for as short a period as a fortnight, or it may be for a Buddhist Lent (*wa*). Any fully ordained novice may leave the Order at will at any time. Until he becomes a novice, a Burmese boy is not looked upon as having come to maturity either in religion or in membership of the nation."

To become a full monk, a man must be at least twenty years old, must be free from debt, government service, and certain diseases and deformities.

"For five years after ordination, the new monk remains under the instruction of an *acarya*, and when he has acquired ten years of seniority in the Order he becomes a Thera or Elder."

"The monk has to observe no less than 227 rules, his whole life being regulated for him. There are four deadly sins which involve immediate expulsion from the Order—murder, unchastity, taking others' things by violence or fraud and claim to superhuman powers."

There are two important monastic practices:

"The first is the *uposatha* or fortnightly chapter at which the list of offences given in the *Vinaya* is recited and confession is made by each monk of infringements. The second is the keeping of the *wa*, which covers three months of the rainy season; this period is to be devoted to religious retreat, and travelling during this period is forbidden."

THE STATE AND THE INDIVIDUAL

In a paper published in the *Aryan Path* for October Dr. E. Delgade, a British educationist and international banker, points out the danger inherent in any Welfare State. When the benefits to a population reach a certain point, which will vary in accordance with the degree of economic development reached by the country, the addition of any further benefit, he says, entail the control of economic resources.

"The State may, for instance, discourage the building of cinemas, hotels or office blocks so that the resources that would have had to be used—including labour—may serve to build homes instead. This will be done by a system of licensing or prohibition. When the control of resources is total, the State is said to be a totalitarian State. As we have said, economic resources include labour—perhaps the most important of them all—so that individuals in such a country lose their personal liberty. As these measures will certainly be unpopular, restraint will also be placed on our means of expression, and no one will be able to write or read what he pleases; and, to make assurance double sure, the young will be introduced in the new way of thought (or of lack of thought). At that point we will lose all liberty. In a country like India, that point is much nearer the start than it is in a rich country.

He concludes with John Stuart Mill's words:—

"A State which dwarfs its men, in order that they may be more docile instruments in its hands, even for beneficial purposes—will find that with small men no great thing can really be accomplished."

And again:—

"The worth of a State in the long run is the worth of the individuals composing it."

THE PROBLEM OF WORLD PEACE

Discussing the problem of world peace, in *The Theosophist* Mr. C. H. Hunter invites attention to two main features — the problem of fear and the problem of freedom. The main cause of the World's unrest according to him is fear; and he examines some of these modes of fear as they affect the relationships of the people of the world.

How should we go about banishing fear and what will we substitute for it?

"There are two weapons that banish fear: Brotherhood and Freedom. We banish fear by believing in and practising brotherhood, by having confidence in the good or higher part that we must appeal. This higher part of man will ever respond to our thoughts and actions of love and brotherhood, if our thoughts and our appeal are sincere and genuine.

The idea of sharing our benefits and our freedom is only beginning to be dimly sensed by the peoples of the world; and so we have the first attempts to share our knowledge and our resources on an international scale in the United Nations and its agencies that are helping the backward countries.

"We are beginning to see that our progress, our security and our peace are bound up with world-security, world-peace, and world-progress. We are beginning to see the idea of One World, and this is beginning to be accepted by most of the peoples of the world. This idea of One World, of world-unity, is the idea of the present and the idea of the future. The time is ripe for world-unity, and when the time is ripe for a world-idea, it is as impossible to stop it as it is to stop the tide. We see its beginning and we see it gathering momentum from year to year, even from week to week. The future belongs to the idea of Unity and Brotherhood, the essence of which is sympathy, understanding and thoughts of kindness for others. When we produce in our hearts and minds purity, peace and love, then we are practising brotherhood, and we discover a new and friendly world, a world without fear, a world of peace, of sharing, and of love."

THE SCHOOL CHILD

In the recent issue of the *Child-Family Digest*, Dr. Winifred de Kok, an English

authority on child welfare, writes about the problems of school-going children.

The first problem when sending a child to an elementary or preparatory school is its getting acclimatized to the new surroundings. The new daily separation from home and the rough treatment from other children at school combined with the strangeness of the teachers tend to make the child show signs of strain. He may occasionally have a wet bed, have bad dreams and night terrors and may become listless and overtired when he comes home and show an inclination to bully his little brother or sister. In the case of a child over-protected at home the reactions will be unmistakable. But there is no reason for parents to get worried over this. It is well that the parents should recognize the symptoms as more or less normal so that the child may be treated with understanding and not scolded for behaviour which he cannot help. The father can help here by playing rough games with the boy and encouraging him in boyish pursuits. The parents should also visit the school and discuss the problems that arise with the teachers concerned.

When at last the child has settled down to school life, from about seven years onwards, he begins to assert himself in quite a new way. That shows that the child is beginning to think of himself as being a person separate from the rest of the family. He likes being contrary and what is forbidden is what appeals to him most. He forms gangs and secret societies with his schoolmates. But this is a necessary stage in a child's development. He learns to associate with his equals, begins questioning his parents' opinions and likes argument. Parents should not take this too seriously or regard it as naughtiness. The child must learn to assert himself. Learning to argue with equals is an essential part of growing up. The rough games that they plan out and play will not necessarily lead to real gangsterdom in adult life. Free activity at this age is of much more value than organized games under adult supervision. Quarrels with their mates are frequent at this time and they also serve a useful purpose. If the parents take too much notice of the child's noisy quarrels, argumentations and inclination to disobey, which are only normal at this age, they will forfeit his love and respect. They must notice him when he is being 'good,' not only when he is naughty.

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS

DEPARTMENTAL

NOTES

Questions of Importance

USSR'S BID TO EASE TENSION

Russia announced on Jan. 9 that she intended to call within the next two or three months a conference of Heads of Governments to consider a series of definite proposals for easing world tension.

The announcement came in letters from Marshal Nikolai Bulganin to Mr. Harold Macmillan, President Eisenhower, and leaders of 17 other countries, including all members of the Atlantic alliance, Moscow Radio reported.

The letters suggested the conference should be held within the next two or three months and that apart from the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries, India, Egypt, Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, Sweden and Austria should attend. They added that Russia would not, however, oppose a smaller number of States attending.

The Soviet Prime Minister's letter to Mr. Macmillan welcomed his recent expression of support for the idea of a non-aggression pact between East and West, and said it "makes the outlook.....far more promising."

The one to President Eisenhower, which commented, "I know how interested you are in the fate of peace," acknowledged that Russia and America bore the chief responsibility for mankind's future and added: "We have no right to disappoint the hopes of the nation."

The letters, accompanied by others on easing world tension, which were sent to all NATO members and several other States were handed over on the eve of the NATO discussions on the Western replies to Marshal Bulganin's last round of "peace letters."

NEHRU'S CALL TO KESHI

Mr. Jawaharlal, Nehru has called upon Mr. Nobusake Keshi, Japan's Prime Minister, to work with him in easing international tension, according to official Government authorities.

An official spokesman said Mr. Nehru's invitation was handed to Mr. Keshi during a meeting with Mr. C.S. Jha, Indian Ambassador, on Jan. 22 at Tokyo.

It was reported that Mr. Nehru informed Mr. Kishi, that the Soviet Union was in favour of such a conference but the United

States appeared to have given the impression it was reluctant to hold a top-level meeting.

NO-WAR PACT

Mr. Nikita Khrushchev wagged a serious finger over the cocktail table in Moscow on Jan. 27 and said earnestly to Western Ambassadors: "Why don't we begin to reach agreement gradually? Let us start with the *hors d'oeuvres* and work up to the fish and meat course."

Mr. Khrushchev went on to propose that the West must take the Soviet proposal for a non-aggression pact seriously.

Mr. Khrushchev, Marshal Nikolai Bulganin and Deputy Premier Anastas Mikoyan, were the principal guests at Indian National Day reception in the Sovetskaya Hotel.

Mr. Khrushchev found himself in the centre of a knot of Western Ambassadors.

"Listen you NATO Ambassadors, now is a good time to talk about agreement," he said.

"We want to be friends with you. Why can't we sign a non-aggression pact? What's wrong with that? You say you are not going to attack us—we are not going to attack you."

As the ambassadors of Britain, France, Italy, Norway, Canada, Turkey, Pakistan and other Western alliance States began to crane their heads into the centre of Mr. Khrushchev's circle the Soviet leader gazed around at the piled up food and drink and said "Why don't we begin as one begins a meal? We start with *Akushi* (Russian for *hors d'oeuvres*) then we go on to the fish and then the meat."

"Let's put the simplest things first," he said.

ACCESSION OF KASHMIR

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, the ruling party, declared on Jan. 23 that any attempt to alter the present relations between India and Kashmir "will open possibilities of international conflict."

The issue of plebiscite, it said, was no longer valid. The Constituent Assembly of the State had already confirmed the State's accession to India. "This decision is irrevocable both in fact and law and any attempt to alter it will lead to grave consequences in the entire sub-continent."

Utterances of the Day

DR. PRASAD'S REPUBLIC DAY SPEECH

In a broadcast to the nation from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on the eve of the Republic Day, President Rajendra Prasad said: "Whatever one might think of India as a whole or of any one of our problems, the one thing which is beyond the pale of doubt, is the fact that we are pledged to follow the democratic way of life, and nothing can deflect us from our resolve to follow this path we have chosen for ourselves."

Referring to international developments, Dr. Rajendra Prasad pointed out that the world to-day was witnessing great events in the realm of science and other spheres of knowledge and declared: "Vast vistas are opening up and knowledge and resources being placed in the hands of man, which can add infinitely to his material prosperity all the world over, if only man knows how to utilise them in the proper way for the benefit of all and not of any limited sections of humanity."

MR. MEDHI ON TASK AHEAD

Speaking on the Republic Day, Mr. Medhi, the Governor of Madras said:

"There has been an end of our struggle for political independence. But a battle, greater and more difficult is yet to be won. That battle has been launched throughout the country against disease, squalor, illiteracy and poverty and for economic freedom and social revolution. Our freedom will only be complete and real if and when our efforts are crowned with success in that grim struggle."

GAITSKELL ON NON-ALIGNMENT

The Leader of the British Labour Party, Mr. Hugh Gaitskell, said at London on Jan. 25, that India's foreign policy of non-alignment with other blocs and the British policy of being a member of the Western bloc were both justified and right.

Speaking to a largely Indian audience on the eve of India's Republic Day Mr. Gaitskell said: "It is natural that having gained your independence you should prefer to be genuinely independent and not be associated with one or other of the power blocs. It is in keeping with the traditions of Mahatma Gandhi that you should adopt such a rule."

"There is not only justification for a policy of non-alignment, but there is a positive value. Sometimes we have to build bridges in the world and it is useful to have bridge-builders who are not associated with either bloc."

RUSSELL ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Philosopher Bertrand Russell (Earl Russell) said at London on Jan. 19, that the world had 20 years at the most to overcome the H-Bomb menace.

"If we can get this one great problem out of the way, mankind can face a greater future than anything it has known in the past," the 85-year-old writer said on television.

Lord Russell declared that Britain's manufacture of nuclear weapons did not serve the interests of the country. It merely enhanced the prestige of British Ministers at conferences.

If Britain renounced manufacture and possession of the bomb, it could use its influence to abolish it altogether, he said. It would then be easy enough to stop other Powers getting the bomb, if Russia and the U.S. combined.

ATTLEE ON INDIA'S ACHIEVEMENT

Earl Attlee told an "India Day" meeting at London on Jan. 27, that the great democratic experiment initiated when India achieved independence and self-government was of "extraordinary significance" to the whole world.

Its success, the former Labour Prime Minister declared, was of paramount importance to the future of mankind.

Speaking at a meeting organised by the India League, Earl Attlee said: "I do not believe the battle between autocracy and democracy is going to be fought out in war. It is going to be fought in the minds and souls of men. That is why the Indian experiment is being watched so closely and with such interest by the rest of the world."

BAKSHI ON KASHMIR

Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed, Kashmir Prime Minister, declared amidst thunderous cheers at a Republic Day parade at Srinagar on Jan. 26: "Kashmir is, and for ever will remain, an integral part of the Republic of India. No amount of slogan-shouting can alter that fact. Dr. Graham may come and go, but his mission is quite immaterial to us."

SIROKY ON INDIA

Czechoslovak Premier Villiam Siroky in a farewell message broadcast by All-India Radio on Jan. 26 said: "Our visit to India took place at a time when the nations of the whole world are intensifying their effort to avert the threat of an atomic war and to secure a lasting peace."

Political

PAK COALITION GOVT.

The Republican Party leader, Dr. Khan Sahib, has discounted rumours of a possible crack up of the coalition Government of Pakistan.

The present Government, he said, would continue until the general elections in Pakistan.

Talking to Pressmen on Jan. 10 Dr. Khan Sahib said that the Government was very stable and the session of the Pakistan National Assembly which ended in Dacca was a testimony to it.

The session, he said, had shattered the hopes of the Muslim League which had anticipated a break up in the structure of the coalition Government on issues like the Security of Pakistan Act. The attitude of the Awami League and the National Awami Party, which were parties to the coalition, clearly indicated that they wanted "business", Dr. Khan Sahib said.

He also ruled out any possibility of change in the West Pakistan Government, led by Sardar Abdur Rashid.

AMERICAN DEFENCE

President Eisenhower is to take over personal command of U.S. defence reorganisation, in an effort to speed up missile production by wiping out inter-service rivalries.

It is widely believed that the President would himself take over direction of the present command structure which is headed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with the assistance of Mr. Neil McElroy, the Defence Secretary.

The President's overall plan for a stepped up missile programme and the building of nuclear submarines and ships, as well as concentration on maintaining the present deterrent of the strategic air force, seemed today to win general approval, although Democrats criticised what they have described as a lack of urgency on the President's part and thought he could have given the country "a more dynamic approach to the challenges represented by Soviet outer space achievements."

MAC'S TRIBUTE TO INDIA

The British Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Macmillan, said at New Delhi on Jan 10 that the dynamic social and economic progress, which India had been making fully justified her great and growing influence in international affairs.

Broadcasting over the All-India Radio, Mr. Macmillan said that the principles of political

life and individual liberty and economic policies, which India had adopted constituted a great enterprise and great challenge.

The British Prime Minister said that in the first five years after India had become independent. British investment was 10 times greater than that of any other single country.

"I am very happy as well as very proud to have the privilege of visiting India as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. I was touched by the warm welcome which was extended to my wife and me on our arrival. The same kindness has been shown to me in the villages which I visited. All this has touched my heart."

MR. NEHRU ON STRIKES

Prime Minister Nehru told a labour rally at Gauhati on Jan. 16 that India had launched a battle, not against any country, but against poverty, and any strike or hartal by workers would hamper the execution of the development plans and affect the battle against poverty.

Mr. Nehru said a country could prosper only by increasing its wealth by more and more production in the field as well as in factories. It could not be done by magic or by any other means. America, Mr. Nehru said, was a wealthy country but it took the people of America, 200 years to produce their wealth, India could not wait for such a long time.

Mr. Nehru said untold power had come into the hands of men in the shape of atomic energy. It might be of immense benefit to the world or might be a means of destruction. But people had to work hard to attain this power. In India, he said, the main problem was poverty. It could not be removed by passing legislation. It required hard labour and more production. When production increased, the country became prosperous and it meant more wealth to the people. India was poor because she did not produce much either from the field or from the factory. She had therefore to take up the Five Year plans immediately after attainment of independence.

In the First Plan, Mr. Nehru said, emphasis was put on the production of food by adopting a number of river valley schemes which helped irrigation of fields, even if there was no rain, and produced hydro-electric power for factories. In the Second Plan, they were setting up big steel plants.

INTER-UNIVERSITIES CONFERENCE

Presiding over the Inter-University Board of India, Burma and Ceylon at Kandy on Dec. 18 Dr. V. S. Krishna, Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University said the languages of the region had not reached the state of adequacy of the languages of the West for expression of scientific ideas because the cultural activities and life which they reflected were organised differently.

"We should consider the whole issue and claims of different languages in a dispassionate manner.

"The mother tongue seems to be the appropriate medium of instruction in subjects like history, philosophy and fine arts, though even there a certain amount of spadework in evolving an agreed terminology will be needed.

"For all sciences, English is the obvious choice. As this cannot be altered in the near future, it will be an act of prudence to give our students a suitable and effective instrument of language for comprehension and expression of the concepts of the sciences," he said.

The highlight of the three-hour open session was the inaugural address by the Governor-General of Ceylon Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, in which he dealt with the objectives of education with particular reference to Ceylon.

He said that the challenge facing universities to-day was not only to produce good scientists and good teachers but that they should grow up in the University with a complete awareness of the objectives of their land.

This theme was elaborated by Dr. Krishna in his presidential address, when he spoke of the impact of scientific advances which had changed the concept of education from one centred on the pupils to one centred on the community.

"It has been more or less widely accepted," concluded Dr. Krishna, "that a University has not only to train the mind of its young students, but also to fit them into useful occupation. Rigid application of a corporate plan is not conducive to the growth of great minds, but there is a planning for freedom. The creative minority may go its own way—the bulk of University men will have to be conditioned to a certain extent. This is a feature of our times, from which there is no running away."

ALL-INDIA EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Delivering the Presidential address at the thirty-second All-India Educational Conference, which met at Madras on Dec. 18, Mr. C. D. Deshmukh emphasised the importance of providing "social or fundamental education" to the people of our country if parliamentary democracy is to fulfil its purpose.

To critics of the "Scaling Down" of allotments for education in the Second Five-Year Plan, Mr. Deshmukh made the suggestion that the onus lay on them to show how the approved allocations could be put to the maximum use so as to secure the optimum improvement in the educational system.

Stressing the importance of women's education, Mr. Deshmukh announced that "the Government are about to appoint a Committee to survey girls' and women's education in the elementary, secondary and adult stages and to report on whether the present system of education was helping them to lead a happier and more useful life."

GENERAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The General Education Conference sponsored by the Union Ministry of Education met at Hyderabad on November 29. It was inaugurated by Mr. K. G. Saiyidin, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India who was of opinion that if General Education had to become a vital and lively movement, they should have a variety of approaches in technique and other matters. There was no point in formulating a rigid formula, a set and uniform pattern.

Mr. Saiyidin referred to the complaint that students lacked general knowledge and committed howlers, and said that if education did not give the students clarity of thinking, its major object would be defeated. There had been a considerable reconstruction of syllabus, methods of teaching and marking in the examination, giving importance to class work. The general temper of the universities was conservative but still changes had been effected. If education should make a contribution to the development of human personality it should draw from the sources of natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. The question to-day was not whether general education was necessary or not but how to introduce it efficiently.

JUDICIAL OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

The Executive and the Judiciary were the two limbs of administration and the Judiciary should not only interpret the law of the land but also see that in administering the various legislations passed by the legislatures they were observed in letter and spirit, stated Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, Home Minister, inaugurating the Madras State Judicial Officers' Conference at "Mohana Vilas," Royapettah, Madras on Dec. 30. Mr. V. Subramaniam, Judge of the Madras High Court, presided.

Mr. Justice P. N. Ramaswami welcomed the delegates and requested the Minister to inaugurate the Conference. The object of the Conference was, he said, to make the Judicial Officers to do greater and greater service to the public as in these democratic days, good and efficient work by public servants was of utmost importance.

Mr. Bhaktavatsalam said the Judiciary in Madras State has been enjoying great reputation and it gave him great pleasure to come into contact with them. While other States were not very enthusiastic about the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive and even politicians were holding different opinions on that issue, the Madras Government set an example by separating the Judiciary from the Executive and the implementation of this reform had been carried out successfully and satisfactorily.

MR. S. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR

Mr. S. Ramachandra Ayyar, 54-years old Advocate, has been appointed by President Rajendra Prasad as a permanent Judge of the Madras High Court and he assumed charge on 31st January.

MR. K. SUBBA RAO

The President has appointed Justice K. Subba Rao, formerly Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, to be a Judge of the Supreme Court with effect from the date he assumed charge of his office.

Justice P. Chandra Reddy, Judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, will perform the duties of the Chief Justice of that Court until further orders.

ADDITIONAL JUDGE FOR ORISSA

President Prasad has appointed Mr. Satya Bhusan Barman, to be an Additional Judge of the Orissa High Court for a period of two years.

TREASON TRIALS IN S. AFRICA

The International Commission of jurists intends to send two observers one from Britain and another from a country representing a different system of law—to watch the 'treason' trials launched by the South African Government against "natives, Indians and Europeans" in that country beginning in April this year.

Disclosing this at a meeting organised under the joint auspices of the South Indian National Association and the T'Nagar Cultural Association at the Srinivasa Sastri Hall, Madras on January 24, Mr. Norman S. Marsh, Secretary-General of the Commission, said the object was "to show that it is not purely a domestic concern between two countries within the Commonwealth, but a matter of concern for all lawyers who deeply believe in equality under the Law and fair operation of the Rule of Law."

THE NEW COPYRIGHT ACT

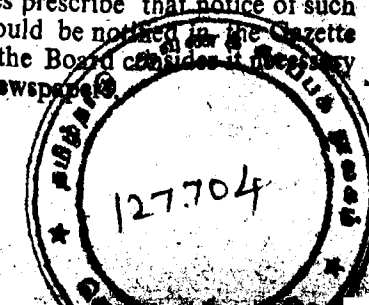
The Central Government have enforced the Copyright Act, 1957 (14 of 1957) with effect from January 21, 1958.

This has been announced in a notification published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary issued on January 21.

Besides the Government have issued three other notifications also relating to the Copyright Rules, extending the Copyright Act to some foreign countries and to certain international organisations.

The notification regarding Copyrights Rules prescribes the procedure and the forms to be adopted by applicants in regard to matters covered by the Act.

The Act provides for the issue by the Copyright Board of licence for the production and publication of translations of literary or dramatic works in those cases where a translation had not been produced and published by the author himself or by a duly authorised agent of the author, within 7 years from the date of first publication provided that the applicant has proved to the satisfaction of the Copyright Board that a licence for the publication of the translation was refused by the owner of copyright. The rules prescribe that notice of such applications should be notified in the Gazette of India and if the Board considers it necessary in one or two newspapers.



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INDIAN STANDARD CONVENTION

Inaugurating the third Indian Standards Convention on December 22 at the Senate Hall, Madras, Mr. Morarji Desai, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, said that at the present time when food and agriculture assumed importance in the country, which faced a ten per cent food deficit, the work of the Indian Standard Institution could help considerably in meeting the shortage by prescribing proper standards not only for handling and preserving foodgrains but also for better methods and intensification of farming.

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari also addressed the Convention. He emphasised that Indian goods to be exported for sale abroad should be of good and uniform quality. Welcoming the gathering, Mr. M. A. Chidambaram, Chairman of the Reception Committee said the importance and value of standardisation as a means to economy and efficiency in production could not be overemphasised. Standardisation provided a common language and a medium of communication well understood by all groups concerned on the basis of which contracts might readily be executed and all unnecessary delays, disputes and wastes, eliminated. Standardisation contributed to economic prosperity through increased production of quality goods and characteristic of the complex industrial structure especially in the modern days.

A. I. T. U. C.

Mr. S. A. Dange, General Secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress, outlined a 17-point plan adopted by the A.I.T.U.C. in dealing with national and international problems at Ernakulam on Dec. 21.

Mr. Dange, who was presenting an 86-page report dwelling on the problems affecting the working class people and their organisations vis-a-vis national economic development, declared that the workers and the trade unions were patriots having the interests of their country and class at heart alike.

Inaugurating the session, the Kerala Chief Minister, Nambudiripad said that they had laid down that in the matter of labour disputes as far as possible the legitimate demands of the working classes, as had been laid down by the AITUC—most of which had the support of other trade union organisations—were secured to the utmost extent possible.

AMERICAN AID FOR INDIA

A Press communique dated Jan. 16 issued by the Government of India announced the United States Government's offer of loan of 225 million dollars. The terms and purposes of the loan, partly from the Export-Import Bank and partly from the Development Loan Fund, are to be negotiated in Washington.

The announcement said that the U. S. Government was considering additional measures to assist India in meeting her food shortage.

An Indian delegation led by Mr. B.K. Nehru, Economic Secretary, will soon be reaching Washington.

The following is the text of the Finance Ministry communique on the loan programme: The United States Government desires to assist the Government of India in meeting its current economic problems. It has accordingly, informed the Government of India of its willingness to discuss a loan programme of approximately 225 million dollars, about Rs. 1,125 million rupees, from the currently available resources of the U.S. Export-Import Bank and the Development Loan Fund. In addition, the United States Government is considering, on an urgent basis, further measures to assist India in meeting its present grain shortage.

YEN CREDIT FOR INDIA

Japan agreed to offer the entire amount of 18 billion yen in the form of Government loans at yen credit talks between the Indian delegation and Japanese negotiators on Jan. 23.

Originally, Japan had proposed half the credit amount in Government loans and the balance in commercial loans. According to observers, India sought the entire amount in the form of Government loans because of the higher interest rates she would have to pay for commercial loans.

According to the Japanese Foreign Office reports, the credit will be given to the India Government or to projects authorised by the India Government through the Japanese Export-Import Bank.

It was also agreed that the credit amount in the first year, would be five billion yen. The money will be made available through proportionate reduction from the Import Bank's budget for the coming fiscal year. Both sides agreed that credits will be made available after examination of each project by the Export Import Bank.

ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Presiding over the 27th session of the All-India Women's Conference at Hyderabad on Dec. 23, Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, Union Deputy Minister of External Affairs regretted that the Progress of Girls' Education in India was very slow.

She said the disparity between girls' and boys' education still continued, and caused anxiety. This was more so in rural areas, where many girls were compelled to give up school due to absence of high schools. This resulted adversely their search for village leadership.

She added: "Some of the problems associated with social welfare programmes for rural areas can be solved, if facilities for higher education are made available for girls. We suggest that in areas, where there are high schools for boys, and where social customs do not favour mixed schools, two shifts should be introduced one for boys and another for girls. Such a method will have two advantages, the existing buildings can be put to the maximum use, and the presence of a woman teacher will itself be a liberalising influence on the village community in breaking down social obstacles.

"The problem of accommodation for working girls was taken up by this Conference three years ago, and some of our Branches have taken up the question seriously, and are running hostels for working girls. Daily more and more young women are coming forward to work away from their homes. Many more hostels are needed to implement our well-planned and thoughtful social welfare programmes.

"One of the reasons why young women are hesitating to go to rural areas is the lack of protected accommodation. This need is felt not only in rural areas but also in urban areas like Delhi, Bombay Calcutta and Madras.

"While Governments show great anxiety to have rescue homes for women, I wonder whether it will not be preventive work to have perhaps an equal number of hostels, substantially subsidised by the State, so that one of the causes which expose young girls to moral dangers could be eliminated."

Mrs. Menon explained how the Conference was providing workers and participants in the developmental activities sponsored by the Government such as small savings campaigns,

and popularisation of the Second Plan. She hoped the Union and State Governments would make use of their organisation more and more for popularising their programmes and policies among the people. Referring to the food problem she said smaller countries with limited resources had been able to achieve remarkable results by human effort, and women felt that such an effort should be possible in their country also.

GIRL CADETS OF N.C.C.

The Defence Minister, Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, advised girl cadets of N.C.C. to make the best use of the training that was being ordered to them.

Mr. Menon, who was inaugurating the Gliding Day for girl cadets at the Delhi Flying Club, on Jan. 25 said at present the National Cadet Corps was not large enough to absorb every boy and girl in the schools and colleges of the country. Those who were already in it were privileged and the success of the N.C.C. largely depended on their performance, he said.

The inauguration marks the opening of the new Air Wing for girl cadets of the N.C.C.

HELP FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION

The Government of India have approved in principle the scheme for expansion of girls' education and training of women teachers.

A provision of Rs. 2.5 crores has been made for the purpose in the Second Plan, and States will be given assistance by the Centre to the extent of 75 percent of total expenditure.

There are certain aspects of the scheme which do not involve any financial commitments and the State Governments have been asked to implement them without delay.

T. W. A's AIR HOSTESSES

Trans-World Airlines is to recruit between 40 and 50 British girls as air hostesses in the United States for training.

Some were engaged experimentally last year and proved, says the company, eminently satisfactory.

Pin-pointing one of the major snags about training air hostesses, Trans-World says the British girls can look forward to joining "the most marriageable group of females in the world." For the rate of "wastage" in the ranks of air hostesses due to marriage is high. Some girls get married to passengers within a few months of completing an expensive training.

General

THE BRAHMINS' CONFERENCE

A resolution calling upon the State Government to take effective and speedy steps to maintain law and order in the urban and rural areas and pointing out that both the State and Union Governments had a special responsibility to protect the minorities was passed on Jan. 1 at the Tamil Nad Brahmins' Special Emergent Conference at Srinivasa Sastri Hall, Mylapore, Madras. Mr. K. S. Ramaswami Sastri, presided.

The conference deplored that in the State communal hatred, propagated by certain sections of the people had developed to such an extent as to lead to a feeling of insecurity.

It was also decided to communicate the resolution to the President of India, the Prime Minister, Home Minister of India and to the State Government, and leaders of communities who sympathised with the plight of Brahmins.

Mr. V. G. Ramachandra Ayyar, Tirukoilur inaugurating the Conference said the Brahmins did not uphold caste hegemony and were not caste-minded. They wished to preserve the Hindu dharma and had nothing to do with ideologies which ran counter to dharma. He appealed to Brahmins to set a high standard of conduct.

He added that the leader of the Dravida Kazhagam, Mr. E. V. Ramaswami Naicker was only playing the game of leadership and spreading hatred against Brahmins.

Mr. K. S. Ramaswami Sastri said it was unworthy of Tamil culture to spread hatred against any section of people. They should strengthen the hands of the Government in its efforts to uphold law and order and ensure justice to all.

The conference decided to form an *ad hoc* committee to take steps to form a united Brahmin organisation to protect the rights of Brahmins.

THEATRE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Vice-President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, inaugurated the Indian People's Theatre Association's eighth national conference and festival at Delhi on December 23.

Over 1,000 artistes from all over the country assembled there to participate in the dance, music and drama festival which lasted 10 days. A delegation of the Soviet Theatre Workers' Association participated in the Conference.

A number of messages from prominent personalities in India and abroad were received.

President Rajendra Prasad in his message said: "The theatre occupies an important place in the social development and cultural awakening of a people. It is, therefore, only proper that the Indian People's Theatre Association should be gaining strength in India in recent years. I send my best wishes to the conference which is being attended by a large number of delegates and artistes from various States."

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that service to humanity through music, dance and drama had been with the Indian people from beginning and it served as a great cultural inspiration. In earlier days when there was purity and truthfulness, it was only through art that the message of this great land was spread throughout the world.

SOCIAL WELFARE CONFERENCE

The need for "some clear thinking about our social policy in its relationship to our objectives of a Welfare State and evolving a national policy for social welfare" was emphasised by Mrs. Hansa Mehta, President, Indian Conference of Social Work, in her Presidential Address at the Decennial Session of the Conference held at Rajaji Hall Madras, on Dec. 28.

Mr. P. V. Rajamannar, who inaugurated the Conference said a social worker should create public opinion against social evils, social injustice and social insecurity. There should be intensive propaganda which would ultimately lead to social welfare legislation in different spheres.

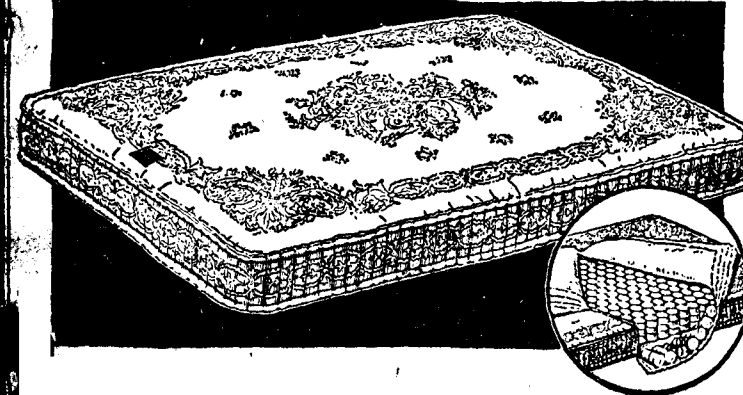
Mr. C. Subramaniam, Chairman of the Reception Committee, pleaded for planning their work properly, avoiding duplication of effort by various social welfare agencies. He also stressed the need for spreading out their social service activities in the rural areas in an increasing measure.

INDIA'S INDEBTEDNESS

India's total foreign indebtedness up-to-date is about Rs. 600 crores.

In reply to a question at a press conference on Jan. 16 whether it was wise for the Government to increase India's loan burdens, Mr. B.K. Nehru, Secretary for Economic Affairs in the Finance Ministry, emphasised that India herself preferred assistance in this way, but that very careful watch was being kept on our indebtedness in the context of the country's economic position.

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