

ROADWAY TIMES

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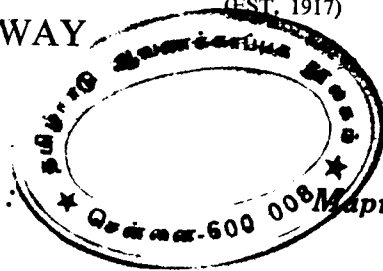
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Editorial

THE OIL CONTROVERSY

The three western oil refineries have been having a tug of war with the Indian Government regarding the pricing policy of their raw material-crude oil. The two "contestants" have already entered into several agreements as how they should proceed without offending each other. The agreements give full freedom to the oil companies to make their own arrangements for the importing of crude oil for their Indian refineries. Yet, subject to certain conditions, regarding prices and quality, the refineries are obliged to give preference to Indian produced crude oil.

In a developing country like India, static agreements may not hold good as time passes. In the context of changing conditions, it is only desirable that the oil companies should be willing to revise certain provisions of their agreements instead of insisting on their strict adherence and continuance. It is certainly to the credit of the refineries that they have shown a spirit of accommodation on more than one occasion in matters vitally affecting their policy. The surrender of concessions by the companies in relation to protective duties on petroleum products is a case in point. The companies have already agreed for a further reduction in the price of crude oil. Still the central minister in charge, feels that there is room for a larger cut. Whether a reduction in the price of crude oil will benefit the government financially or whether it will also help our foreign exchange position by enabling us to import more crude oil is not quite clear. In either case it is surely a matter of great importance to the country that we should be able to get crude oil on the best terms possible. Our commitments in the development projects are of a great magnitude. When Mr. Malaviya appealed for a change in approach of the oil companies he was not for them to give up their legitimate rights. He agreed that these companies have been co-operative with the government in the past. He expressed the hope that the changed conditions in the world market for crude oil should be noted when we discuss a pricing policy. The prices of crude oil in the middle east have come down considerably in recent months. No doubt there is an appreciable increase in the supply of crude oil which is responsible for the emergence of a "buyers market" in the oil industry. Further the Soviet Union has stepped into the market with a large supply of crude oil and at a comparatively low

price. The refineries in India are not willing to accept the supply of crude oil from the Russian Sources. The government has not made up their mind to accept the Russian offer mainly due to the opposition of the western oil companies.

It is accepted that the present world supply of crude oil far exceeds the demand. Consequently there has been a steady decline in the price. The refusal of the western refineries to accept lower priced Russian Crude Oil cannot be accepted as a deciding factor in the pricing policy of crude oil. It is only desirable that we should benefit on a reasonable scale when elsewhere crude oil is offered at a much cheaper rate than what we are paying at the present time. We agree that it may not be always feasible to buy goods and services offered at the lowest prices. But a blind eye to the world prices for an indefinitely long period is surely not in the best interests of a "capital-shy" land like ours. A more reasonable stand must be taken by the refineries while we expect the Government not to hamper too much the initiative of these well established combines.

A DECADE OF INDIAN PLANNING

BY

PROF. K. VASUDEVAN

'India has entered the planning era', this trite observation of a foreign student of Indian affairs is fully justified. We have begun to talk quite confidently that India will enter shortly the period of self-sustained growth. This expectation has formed one of the objectives of the Third Five Year Plan. In the draft report on the Third plan, it is stated that "a principle aim of the Third plan is to secure a marked advance towards self-sustaining growth." Self-sustaining growth spells that the savings and investment in the economy will increase enough to secure a high rate of growth of income on a continuing basis. This confidence is in marked contrast to that of the earlier period of the plan when there were several critics who ranged from questioning the need for a plan to those who accused the planners of wasting the valuable and limited resources in an adventure tailored to a limitless ambition regarding the standard of life of the people of India. We have gone through almost a decade of planning and it is quite in the fitness of things, that we attempt at a stock taking of the two plans not in a spirit of over optimism, not in a spirit of pessimism either, but in a spirit of confidence consistent with certain realities.

Sometime ago the London Economist in a study of economic growth in India, observed, that "by a chance of history, India's experiment in economic growth stands at the centre of two of the most original developments in human thinking in the post-war world. One is economic—the dominating influence in economic thought and practice of the idea of growth in the economy. The other is political—in the sense that relative success in attaining this growth may determine the allegiance and the destiny of the two-fifths of humanity living in the underdeveloped and non-communist

lands." In judging the achievements of the Indian Plan we have to take into consideration certain factors which influence a decision on economic matters. For instance the universal vote in India has brought millions of our villagers with the right to participate in making decisions regarding economic matters. An attempt is being made to modernise the huge peasant population, who may or who may not save. It is observed that there was no choice in Meiji, Japan, none in Russia during collectivisation none in China today. In Democratic India reorganisation in agriculture must be by the slower way of persuasion.

One of the vexed points discussed in the context of planning is the limits to state interference. There are some who feel that the State in India has grown like an octopus and with its legislative tentacles, is controlling and sometimes stifling, the spontaneous economic growth. But this apparently is an overstatement for when economic development is undertaken in a backward country like India, the state has to play an increasing role and any move towards this direction can be construed as a fresh dose of statism. Some of the foreign observers have correctly appreciated the position of the State in India when they discover that there are limits to state action in India. Let us quote again the London Economist, which wrote, "the Indian Government does not enjoy unfettered action in any sphere. Advance depends on what people can be persuaded to save. The hammer blows of totalitarian government cannot be used. The great unsettled issue is whether it will be too slow to achieve anything like self-sustaining growth in the next two decisive decades."

The First and the Second Five-Year plans mark the first phases in fulfilling the basic objec-

tives of economic development in India. An evaluation of the achievements of the plan so far shows a steady raise in national income, agricultural and industrial production and in the development of India's human resources. The total investment in the economy during the first two plans will be little over Rs. 10,000 crores of which outlay in the public sector will amount to Rs. 6,560 crores. During the First Five Year plan the national income increased by 18%. The Second plan represented a larger and a more broad-based effort than the first. The increase in the national income during the second plan period is expected to be about 20%. Taking the first two plans and their period, 1951-1961, national income will have increased by about 42%, per capita income by about 20% and per capita consumption by about 16%. Agricultural production will have gone up by 40% and industrial production by about 120%. It is true that we have to go a long way in achieving self-sufficiency in food. But we have to take note of the fact that the rural scene has begun to change and in the earlier years of this transformation there is bound to be some setbacks but taking a longer view, we can foresee a time when food production would have increased to cover up the food deficit. The community development movement has so far met with a mixed reception, but the failure need not be attributed to the government agency alone. The movement deserves greater public response. Among the agricultural programmes mention may be made of the reclamation of four million acres of waste land, extension of green manuring to 22 million acres and soil conservation programmes extending to 2.7 million acres.

Industrial development during the past decade shows progress in basic, capital and producer goods industries especially machinery and engineering industries. There has been substantial increase in the production of consumer goods like cotton textiles, sugar, bicycles and automobiles. The manufacture of a number of new products was established in the country for the first time for example industrial boilers, milling machines and other

types of machine tools, industrial explosives. The period has also registered considerable development in village and small industries.

The path of the two plans was not always smooth. The first plan was not really a serious attempt at economic development. It was more or less the addition of a number of desirable investments to a number of projects under execution. Nature favoured the first plan and thanks to a couple of good monsoons, it achieved its target. But the second plan met with heavy weather. There were some miscalculations. The estimates of population increase, during the second plan period has already proved to be a guess estimate. The second plan assumed a population of 408 millions in 1960-61. But it is now evident that 425 millions will be nearer the mark. A second unexpected factor which affected the course of the second plan adversely is the diversion of resources to defence. We are a long way from solving our differences with Pakistan. China has appeared on the horizon with a militant attitude. Further inflation has marked up the cost of the projects in the second plan. In 1957 there appeared an economic crisis which very nearly made many people lose faith in planned development. Some cynics remarked that we have planned for a crisis and not for progress. The government adopted drastic measures relating to licensing of imports and the plan for the public sector was adjusted with the emphasis on the 'hard core' of the plan which mainly related to steel, coal, transport and power. The determination with which the plan was carried on and the ideology behind the plan evoked subdued admiration of the friends of India and they have agreed to help us though it is a pity that we are not in a position to know in advance the quantum of help available for the planned period. Somehow the heavy disaster predicted by some was averted again due to natural factor—the weather. Foreign aid also reached us in time. The second plan thus which at one time looked like being abandoned, at last with some modification is now on its last lap and the targets set have very nearly been achieved.

While the Indian plan has done fairly well, still purely from psychological angle and from a critical assessment, it has been said that the plan has raised a lot of dust without achieving anything worthwhile. One observation about the drawback of the plan relates to the frustration that prevails among the public which has made them look on the plan as a decoy of a political party to conceal the economic disease of the country. This disease can be explained in terms of increasing population, the vagaries of the weather, or inflationary pressure which is due not so much to the abnormal increase in the quantity of money, but to the attitude adopted by a class of people who want to exploit the situation. It is therefore of primary importance that the public should be enthused about the plan. There is no use in adopting methods like appealing to the sentiment or by painting a picture of plenty in course of time. It must be done on the basis of appealing to the self interest in the individual and that can be done only when the individual feels that the plan has brought about some improvement in his living standards. In this connection we have to note one factor, which has been with us ever since planning began, and will continue to be with us for a pretty long time unless we take radical measures to eliminate it and this is inflation. Inflation alone will prove that it is the real obstacle to planning because from the individual point of view he finds that his position has slid back and after ten years of planning he is worse off faced with a number of problems which

are not his making. Unless inflation is eliminated, no satisfactory solution can be found to the problem of lack of enthusiasm on the part of the public in making the plan sail smoothly. While there is so much talk about the price policy and holding the price line, little attention is paid to a public expenditure policy. It is better that we for a time adopt measures which figure in orthodox public finance.

Planning experts have observed that the effort to build the economy of India depends upon a number of supporting programmes and the most important is education. Technical education must get the priority. There has been expansion in this direction, but expansion has led to some lowering of standards and efforts should be taken to maintain a high standard.

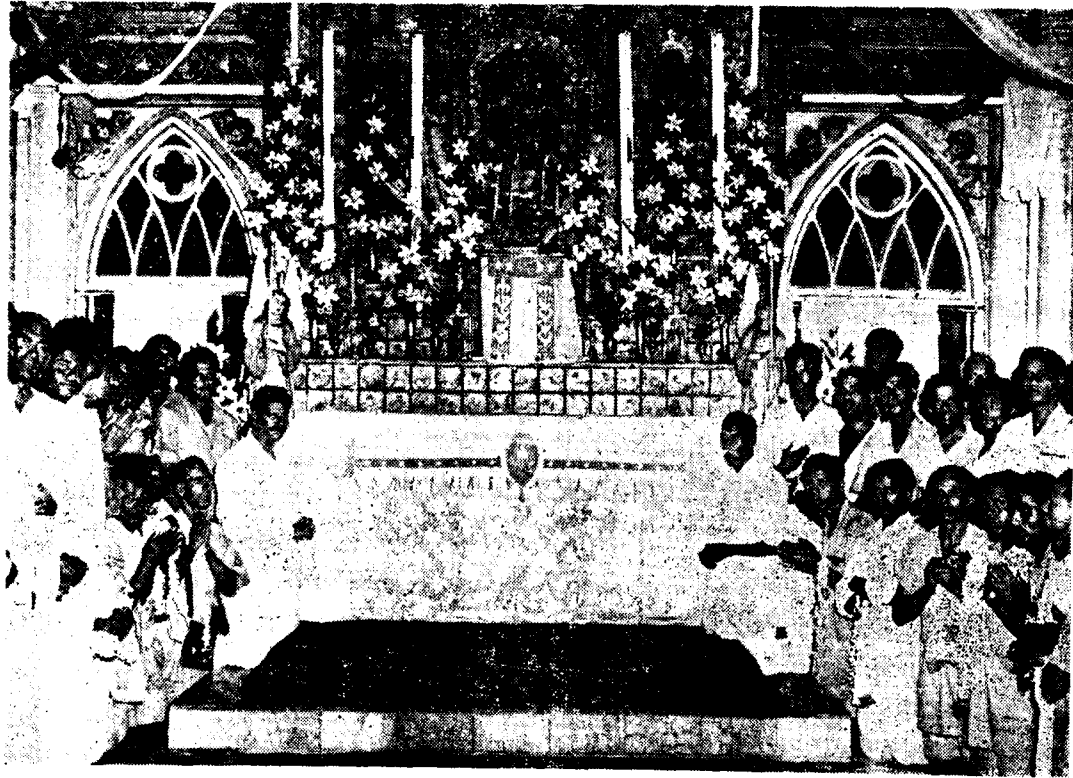
By and large we have done well with our plans and we have achieved certain gains in the economic field, but there is a lot to be done. In this work public co-operation is essential. What is disconcerting to-day is not the slow pace in our economic advancement, but the appearance of certain factors which will undermine the unity of the country. If these factors take the upper hand then everything will be undone. Perhaps these blemishes which have marred the fair face of India are inevitable in a young democracy trying to build herself by a process of trial and error.

Vailankanni Festival

WHERE VIRGIN MARY GAVE HER VISION IN SOUTH INDIA

BY

N. ELAYATH



From Saturday, August 27 to September 9, the small fishing village of Vailankanni, in the Tanjore District just six miles south of Negapatam, will hum with extra human activity. To its four thousand population, at least four lakhs of people would be added as visitors, to attend the annual Roman Catholic Festival in the Church of *Our Lady of Health*. During these days, pilgrims will pour in there from all parts of the country, particularly from South India.

On each day of the festival, as dusk sets in, crowds surged into the Church compound to see the procession of *Virgin Mary*, placed in a decorated chariot and drawn by devotees with closed eyes, the pilgrims then prayerfully murmuring *Mathave, Mathave* (Mother). Behind the chariot went *Bhajan* parties, singing hymns of praise for *Our Lady* in *Tamil*, *Malayalam* and *Telugu*. The *Rosary* is uttered in the Church even in *Hindi* and *Marathi*, by Roman Catholic priests, coming over from various parts

of India. Once the Church flag is hauled down, at the conclusion of the festival, it is taken to the Sanctum of the Church and then, allowed to be kissed by the pilgrims.

The Shrine of Vailankanni is dedicated to the Madonna, otherwise called *Our Lady of Health*. The significance of the place is in the Madonna giving Her vision twice. In all Asia, it is only here that She offered Her vision. She once appeared before a shepherd girl Bernadette at Lourdes, in France, and before three little girls, Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia in the village of Cova da Iria in Portugal. The European visions are of recent times, say, within the last hundred years, but the Vailankanni visions are about three centuries back, as tradition has it. There is no historical data about it.

The first of these visions was to a Hindu crippled boy, selling curd under a banyan tree in Vailankanni. The Madonna bought some milk and asked the cripple to run to Negapatam to tell a particular person of the vision. The boy pleading physical inability, was cured on the spot of his ailment. Since he was cured,

the Madonna here came to be called *Our Lady of Health*.

The Madonna again appeared, now before a milk-vendor of the same place. She asked for some milk for the infant Jesus in her arms, and he gave, when the vendor reached his Master's house, his milk jug was full again. It was a miracle !

The Church here is said to exist since the middle of the eighteenth century. Some Portuguese sailors who made a vow for survival in the *Bay of Bengal*, when caught in a heavy storm, appeared to have built it, in fulfilment of their vow.

Vailankanni is associated with many miracles. Many have been cured of physical illness. Gifts to the Church here have come from many parts of the world, and they are all displayed in a Museum, adjacent to the Bishopery. Overseas Roman Catholics Christians even send to this Church their offerings of coins in a little hollow bamboo pole, which they cast into the sea, and they say, it did reach Vailankanni miraculously enough ! The fishermen here know what it is, and take it to the Priest of the Church.

NO WANTON WARNING

BY

POTHAN JOSEPH

When Mahatma Gandhi launched his last passive resistance movement in South Africa, there was a natural reaction of sympathy in India. In those days we prized "Imperial citizenship" and our leaders were not sophisticated enough to say that it was the duty of the South African settler from abroad to submit himself loyally to the prevailing Government of the country. The conception of human rights surpassing territorial obligations had not yet crystallised; indeed its incorporation into the Charter of the U.N.O. and the Trusteeship principle became an instrument of power only at the end of World War II. The oppression of strangers within the gate under the British flag appeared to be a monstrous mockery, and during the agitation in India, Lord Hardinge summoned up courage to deliver in Madras a speech proclaiming India's sympathy for her struggling nationals and mildly opposing the Botha Government on its policy of ruthless discrimination. Before his appointment as Viceroy of India, Lord Hardinge has been Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign Office. His words raised a storm of protest amongst the British diehards who charged him with interference in the affairs of a self-governing member of the Empire, and the *Morning Post* openly called upon the Secretary of State and the Prime Minister to pull up the Viceroy for his diplomatic indiscretion.

The Anglo-Indian press of the time feared that Lord Hardinge had for the moment "gone native" and that he should bridle himself up, keeping out from a high-level controversy, which should concern His Majesty's Government alone and not any subordinate branch, as Lord Curzon regarded the India Office. The *London Times* gave a corrective by asking Britons if they could justly criticise the Viceroy, in complacency at home, when the occasion drove a

statesman of Lord Hardinge's responsibility and experience to join in the protest of the millions of India. That he could not save his face by observing silence when addresses of welcome during His Excellency's tours alluded to the tragedy was the greater reason for the people in England to realise the danger ahead.

Alarm

Similarly, it would be folly to adjudge the emergence of Mr. C. Rajagopalachari at the Head of the Swatantra Party as the quixotic interference of an old man, with dilapidated views, to spring out from the top-shelf and disturb modern planning in order to thwart the prospect of the socialistic pattern of existence so assiduously contrived by the Congress Party who today cannot a-bear contradiction. There is the Nagpur product about farming co-operatives under Panchayat-raj merging separate ownership so that the common harvests enthusiastically heaped at the end of the agricultural season could be divided amongst the inhabitants on the principle of equal sharing.

Actually when it comes to implementation, the Chief Ministers are found to render only lip-service and the matter is continuously on the drift since State legislation which deals with details cannot be brought into uniform pattern. It is all very well to say that in Rajasthan they reorganised agrarian economy in pyramidal order, but we owe it to Congress Committees assessing alleged success to be told that the result is confusion, besides retardation of productivity. That land tenures cannot be torn out of traditional law must be plain as pike-staff but the pioneers of the millenium are not bothered by such miscarriage of intention when their supreme concern is party-solidarity as prescribed by the Prime Minister and the perpetuation of power making elections into a sham show.

Timely plea

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari (whose writings in my opinion are so lucid and trenchant as to be more effective than any casual address to mofussil audiences) has with the witness of practical farmers brought out the fallacy of textbook economics. Not content with the negative course, he proposes for the sake of averting the risk of much litigation, the issues raised in the change of system had better be weighed by the Supreme Court on a reference from the President, according to law. President Rajendra Prasad who is acquainted with the problems of the peasantry and the conventions of society is not himself an enthusiast, as could be gathered from a published letter which no doubt the Prime Minister put in the freezer. What the petitioners led by Mr. Rajagopalachari wanted was a judicial anticipation of probable consequences; a kind of know-how enquiry for which the founding fathers (out-of-date fellows in the eyes of Leftist reformers) had provided in the Constitution.

We are told that the Congress High Command with its local echoes has set its face against the suggestion. This is preposterous when we recall what happened on the question of ceding a handkerchief-sized area like Beri Baru was referred to the Supreme Court to ascertain the exact legal procedure needed for carrying out that part of India's obligations accepted by Mr. Nehru in a pact with the then Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Best advice

The Supreme Court judges who could not

be excelled in their advice of law, gave their opinion telling the Prime Minister how to go about for the fulfilling his commitments without violation of the law and its vexatious liabilities. What is there presumptuous in the proposal of a private test of the panacea? Surely C.R. and his colleagues cannot possibly think it as a frivolous pastime when they are in dead earnest about sparing the ryots and the villagers an endless period of quarrel and litigation disrupting peaceful life as a probable consequence of enforcing an academic thesis favoured by the Executive, which means the Congress High Command today, and its tame organs, cogs in the wheels in the language of Francis Powers before the Moscow Court.

What is the answer to this request before ceiling and co-operatives are made to pass muster under the guise of fresh bills in State Legislatures? The aim of the critics is apparently being misconstrued as cussed opposition whereas the apprehension of a disorderly sequel is the reason.

Merry revellers

That mature leadership with faith in methodical advance feels so alarmed about such novel programmes in itself goes to prove that the fate of the peasantry and the quantum of production on which the ruling party harps are in actual jeopardy. When Cincinnatus called for his old sword and armour, there was no need to broadcast to the people that Rome was in danger, albeit under the masquerade of overweening revellers with swagger-sticks in the arena.

THE DEAD CAN HELP THE LIVING

BY

DR. VLADIMIR DEMIKHOV

(A leading Soviet surgeon describes here how, many human lives can be saved, and many rejuvenated by transplanting vital organs taken from dead bodies . . . Ed.)

(Dr. Demikhov is one of the most famous Soviet surgeons who leads the work on transplantation of vital parts of the body at the First Moscow Medical Institute. He has devoted himself for a long time to the problem of transplanting healthy organs to replace badly injured ones.)

Even temporary connection of a revived heart, lung or other organ from a dead body will be able to save the lives of those whose own organs have been badly damaged.

Successful Transplants

A number of human tissues have already been successfully transplanted. Transfusion of blood—"liquid tissues"—has, for example, saved millions of lives. Thousands of people have had their eyesight restored by the transplantation of cornea by Professor Filatov's method. Transplantation of the skin in cases of large burns is currently practised.

Even when the skin takes root only temporarily, these transplants save the lives of people who would otherwise be doomed. It may incidentally be mentioned that it was a Soviet scientist, Professor Shamov, who first proved that blood could be transfused to living men from corpses.

The first attempt at transplanting a kidney from a corpse to a living man was also made by a Soviet scientist, Professor Voronov. As a result of this daring operation he was able to observe, for a period of seven days, the revival of the transplanted kidney and its functioning.

Temporary help

It must be noted that, in many cases, when the patient's condition is dangerous, a vitally

important organ can help his recovery, even if it functions only temporarily after transplantation.

But the time is not far off when the transplanted organs will function permanently, not temporarily.

Together with my colleagues of the laboratory of organ transplantation, I have, for many years, experimented on transplantations of the heart, lungs and other organs.

From a surgical and physiological point of view our experiments show the possibility of transplanting any vital organ, even the heart and the brain.

Although the animals operated on lived for a few days or weeks only, and in rare cases over a month, we believe that it is possible to apply the positive results of our experiments in the hospitals or clinics.

Of course, we do not intend to experiment on men or risk human lives. But even in the first stage we shall be able to save many lives by temporary and safe connection of a revived heart, lung or other organ from outside the patient's body.

Artificial lungs and hearts have been developed of course, and they are undoubtedly of immense value during operations. But natural organs are much more perfect. When natural revived organs are connected with another organism, they are capable of functioning for days and weeks instead of hours.

If a revived heart or lung is connected with the patient's body (externally at first—for safety) and blood from the same organism transfused to the patient, we may expect the organ thus

temporarily connected to be able to function for a long time, perhaps permanently.

In that case the organ connected externally can be transplanted internally, into its natural place.

The transplantation of a very great quantity of tissue is accompanied by a phenomenon called "immunological paralysis"—a state in which the organism stops resisting the implantation of a great quantity of tissue or a whole organ.

The Soviet scientist, Zotikov, for instance, has established that small pieces of skin, transplanted within the limits of different organisms, do not take root, while large pieces of skin transplanted under the same conditions, take root well.

Other Soviet scientists, including myself, have observed that the skin and muscles of whole organisms join well (within the limits of one biological species).

In our experiments with the transplantation of whole organs, when the animals we experimented on lived over ten days after the operation, we observed that the transplanted organs took root and functioned very well.

The complications which prevented the experimental animals from living longer have been studied and can soon be eradicated.

Premature Death

At present most people die prematurely

from diseases, without reaching natural old age. Transplantation will enable the doctor to reconstruct the patient's whole organism and even postpone the advance of old age, besides saving him from premature death.

Weaker metabolism is a characteristic symptom of approaching old age. Some of the endocrine glands stop functioning, the heart and lungs work more slowly, man gets short of breath, gets easily tired, etc.

If the endocrine glands, heart and lungs of a young organism be transplanted to an old person, a considerable degree of rejuvenation could safely be predicted.

The Soviet scientist, Andreyev, succeeded in reviving the heart 112 hours after a man's death. But nobody had so far succeeded in reviving the brain more than ten minutes after death.

It is my belief that in the near future, dying men's lives may be saved quicker and more effectively owing to new achievements in medical science.

The important thing is to keep the brain functioning and then replace the irretrievably injured organ with a healthy one.

While trying for the present to make use of healthy organs, taken from men who have died as a result of accidents, scientists are seeking for other sources of organs and tissues for transplantation. But this still requires a great deal of research.

SMILE = A = WHILE

1. The report confirmed—An old woman was unable on account of her many infirmities to attend church on Sunday. The pastor made her a visit during the week and she explained to him her reasons for not being present.

"Well," replied the pastor somewhat jokingly, "I suppose you did not miss much."

"That's what they told me," she replied.

2. A Strong Will—"My husband," remarked a Philadelphia matron, "was a confirmed smoker with a tobacco heart when I married him a year ago, but today he never touches the weed."

"Good," said one of the group. "To break off a lifetime habit requires a strong will."

"Well, that's what I've got," said the wife.

3. Asking for too much—In some parts of Mexico hot springs and cold springs are found side by side. The women often boil their clothes in the hot springs and rinse them in the cold springs. A tourist who had been watching this procedure remarked to his Mexican friend, "I guess they think old Mother Nature is pretty generous."

"No, senor," the other replied, "there is much grumbling because she does not supply the soap."

4. A real convert—The story is told of a Welsh miner who was converted during the great revival. His fellow labourers thought they would vex him to see how he might behave, so they stole his dinner pail. Expecting an angry oath they were surprised when he smiled and said, "Praise the Lord! I've still got my appetite. They can't take that."

5. Colourful speech—*She*: "How about giving me a diamond bracelet?"

He: "My dear, extenuating circumstances perforce me to preclude you from such a bauble of extravagance."

She: "I don't get it."

He: "That's what I just said."

6. Sins well paid for—A Negro minister discovered two men playing cards on Sunday and for money.

"Rastus," said the minister, "don't you know it's wrong to play cards on de Sabbath?"

"Yes, passon," answered Rastus, ruefully. "But, believe me ah's payin' foh mah sins."

7. A short essay—The class was told in the course of an examination to write a short essay which introduced the words "calm and collected."

The following was written by one pupil: "One day an absent-minded professor was crossing the street when, to his consternation, he discovered traffic bearing down upon him from all directions. With great presence of mind, he stood quite calm. The traffic passed and he was collected."

8. Etiquette—To those who are not accustomed to social functions etiquette may prove to be a veritable nightmare.

"Don't forget to eat your sweets with a fork and not a spoon, dear," said the fond mother, giving her son a final piece of advice before he went to the party.

Later, at the table, soup was placed in front of the boy, and he began to get a little muddled, because he couldn't remember his mother's instructions.

After many vain attempts to eat the soup with a fork, he turned pleading eyes to his hostess.

"Please may I have another fork?" he asked. "This one leaks."

9. Applied English—An office clerk prided himself on his mastery of the English language. He sent the following telegram in announcement of his mother's death: "Regret to announce that hand which rocked the cradle has kicked the bucket."

10. A similar job—*Superintendent*: "It is our custom to let a prisoner work at the same trade in here as he did outside. Now, what is your trade—shoe-maker, blacksmith, or....."

Prisoner: "Please, sir, I was a travelling salesman."

11. No chance today—*Gruff Father* (to son): "Why don't you go out and find a job? When I was your age I was working for three dollars a week in a store, and at the end of five years I owned the store."

Son: "You can't do that nowadays. They have cash registers."

12. Education—A rich old aunt was paying her nephew's college expenses and her visitor asked her if it was expensive.

"Well," said the aunt, "some of the languages run pretty high. My cheque this month covered Rs. 10 for chemistry, Rs. 20 for French and Rs. 150 for Scotch."

13. More catchy—Some of the newspapers head the column "Vital Statistics", but an editor in a small Pennsylvania town always made the heading for births, marriages and deaths read "Hatched, Matched and Dispatched."

14. Nearing heaven—A very small country boy was for the first time in a big city. Taking an elevator to the top of a skyscraper, they had shot up thirty stories at breath, taking speed when the little lad, grasping his father's hand, asked timidly, "daddy, does God know we are coming?"

15. Where was John?—A San Francisco woman whose husband had been dead some years went to a medium. She produced the spirit of her dead husband.

"My dear John," said the widow to the spirit, "are you happy now?"

"I am very happy," John replied.

"Happier than you were on earth with me?" she asked.

"Yes," was the answer. "I am far happier now than I was on earth with you."

"Tell me, John, what is it like in heaven?"

"Heaven!" said John. "I'm not in heaven."

16. Locating Jonah—Bishop Carpenter, while addressing an open air meeting was asked by an atheist if he believed that Jonah was swallowed by the whale.

"When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah," said his lordship.

"But supposing," the other persisted, "he is not there?"

"Then you will have to ask him," was the quick retort.

17. Prediction—Adolf Hitler was known to frequent astrologers, soothsayers, and others of that ilk. A certain astrologer was asked by him, "On what day will I die?"

After peering over his charts the astrologer announced, "You will die on a Jewish holiday."

Much perturbed, Hitler demanded, "Which one?"

"I do not know," replied the astrologer.

Hitler became very angry, "You must know," he shouted, "I insist upon the truth."

"I do not know," persisted the astrologer, "because any day you die will be a Jewish holiday."

INDIA'S JUTE INDUSTRY

BY

K. PARTHASARATHY

The status of Jute Industry in India is enviable and enduring. It is the "second largest earner of foreign exchange" for India. It has a promising future despite all impediments. Hence the study of the Jute Industry becomes essential and interesting too. In the context, a study of "Jute growing" in India is also relatively of primary importance in the evaluation of the "Indian Jute Industry".

"The industrial life" is impossible without Jute and Jute products.

Raw jute is a fibre extracted from jute plant by a process of retting it in water. India is essentially an agricultural country and the farmers have an acumen in tilling the ground and cultivating crops. Modernisation and rationalisation of agriculture, no doubt have their own advantages in producing the products of agriculture, achieving high levels of quality and quantity. But on that score, the farmer's traditional skill and knowledge coming down the ages, cannot be dismissed. It is more so in the growing of the Jute plant and in the native process of extracting the fibre from the plant by retting it in water. Jute growing in India is an ancient one, and has become a regular systematised extensive agricultural practice. Broadly classified, there are two kinds of jute fibres; the white jute and the red jute, also called tossa jute. The red jute or tossa jute, fibre is accepted, as the finer, softer and stronger one than the white jute fibre and consequently treated as of more economic value.

Jute and jute products are primarily used for packing materials and in the international sphere of trade, its significance is great and fast growing, by virtue of its indispensability to the world at large, under modern conditions

of commerce. Jute fibre unlike others of its kind has certain natural qualities namely strength, which is a good agent of hard wear and resistance when twined. A strong twine is an instance of the purpose it serves. Besides jute fibre is relatively cheap. These native enduring qualities of jute broke fresh ground for jute manufacture to hold an unique position in the world market in the teeth of various attempts to popularise substitutes like cloth and paper bags.

The jute industry is one amongst the large assets in the country's balance of payment, contributing a major portion to the dollar and hard currency earnings. For a long time, India was enjoying almost a monopoly in jute products and its manufacture. But there was a shifting of the scene. Politics had a hand, with no pretext to the industrial life of the country. *The partition of India took place in 1947. Facts were facts.* The pre-monopolistic position of India, regarding the jute industry, could not be maintained after the partition of the country. Vested interests at home, disruptive elements of competitions abroad, placed greater responsibilities on the shoulders of the Indian Government, to steer clear of all agitation and dictation in the industry. The Government in a mood of fitting response and abiding vision have launched a scheme with the best of their initiative and the results are enduring. With the loss of considerable jute growing area to Pakistan after partition, India, though could not maintain the monopolistic status of jute industry on the world graphs, yet it ranks as one of the most important major industries of India and as the second largest earner of foreign exchange.

India's foreign exchange earning from this industry is as under :

Year	Rupees in lakhs	Percentage of the Total
1952-53 ...	129	22.2
1953-54 ...	114	21.7
1954-55 ...	124	21.5
1955-56 ...	118	20.0
1956-57 ...	119	19.58
1957-58 ...	111	18.06

The total area under jute cultivation in India, before the partition took place was 19.11 lakh acres. A considerable acreage went to Pakistan, as a result of partition, with the result that only about 8 lakhs of acres, with an yield of about 20.27 lakh bales were left to India.

To combat the trying situation created by the partition, the Government took a three-fold action. To make India, self-sufficient in raw jute a "grow more jute" campaign was launched. In the first place, a minimum price was fixed for the raw jute, in consultation with the Indian Jute Mills Association and measures were taken to ration the available supplies to various mills. Secondly, severe restrictions were imposed on the export of raw jute. Finally to expand the internal production of raw jute, reclamation of waste land into jute growing area was keenly carried on. In addition to this the diversion of some areas for jute from that of paddy was also undertaken. Doubling crops of amam lands also markedly helped the "grow more jute campaign". Use of scientific equipments like fertilizers and adoption of plant protection measures, not only produced quality jute but increased the produce beyond expectations. The unreserved labour and discerning attention of the Government, in the furtherance of this industry, yielded much results.

The acreage of jute industry in India today is about 18.27 lakhs as compared to about 8 lakhs, on the eve of partition and in the matter

of yield 51.78 lakh bales as compared to 20.27 lakh bales, soon after partition.

The above steps of the Government also solved in 'a well contemplated manner' the repercussions of the devaluation of the Indian Currency in September 1949 while there was non-devaluation by Pakistan of her currency, the consequences of which were the upsetting of the exchange parity and thereby to a breakdown of normal trade relations between the two countries. In short the price-control, the rationing, the 'grow more jute campaign' all in a gripping co-operation dismissed the obstacles in the path of the Indian jute industry after partition and created a new ground for fresh ventures.

There is a substantial improvement in the production of jute from 1.7 million bales in 1947-48 to about 5 million bales in 1958-59. Even after partition West Bengal alone produces about 80.13% of India's total output.

Acreage and production of jute in India at present is as under :

States	1958-59		Yield in bales per acre
	Acreage (000)	Crop in (000) bales of 400 lbs. each	
West Bengal...	8.76	2596	2.96
Tripura ...	22	58	2.63
Assam ...	323	989	3.06
Bihar ...	455	1216	2.69
Orissa ...	99	177	1.79
Uttar Pradesh.	92	142	2.73
Total ...	1867	5178	2.83

The problem of raw jute is of great importance from two aspects, one that of adequate supplies to the mills for full production, the other from the standpoint of the cost of production. The

industry requires about 0.5 million bales of raw jute for consumption and it becomes necessary to import from Pakistan to a certain extent. However the supervising body for jute cultivation set up in 1957, is trying to achieve the target of 5.54 million bales fixed for the Second Five Year Plan.

Turning to the export side of Indian jute after World War II, it can only be said there was sharp fall, for the first years, in succession, due to shipping difficulties and heavy demand for internal consumption. Since 1955-56, export of raw jute to outside countries lost its significance. By this decline in the export of the jute, the growers of West Bengal, Assam and Bihar faced economic depressions. Added to this, when bumper crop was there, the slump in prices came in. To redeem the jute growers of the states of West Bengal, Assam and Bihar from this predicament, the Government of India in December 1958, allowed the State Trading Corporation to purchase from producing centres themselves and the jute thus obtained were made available for export.

The requirements of the raw jute by the industry may be placed at 7.2 million bales, if the mills are to work at full capacity. For ex-factory consumption, about 1,50,000 bales may additionally be required. The Second Five Year Plan has fixed the target at 5.6 million bales. Intensive cultivation of quality crop is carried out with the object of achieving 3 bales per acre. With the assistance and co-operation of the community projects and N.E.S. blocks, it is decided to increase the acreage in Assam and West Bengal. Improved types of seeds, fertilizers and agricultural equipments, are now provided for the cultivators to educate them more in the efficient methods of producing quality jute with economy in labour. The top-dressing of jute with ammonium sulphate and to fertilize 50% of the area under jute cultivation by the end of 1960-61, is decidedly engaging the attention of the Government, in expanding interest, of the Indian jute industry, while a strong core of

resistance is also built against all disruptive elements.

Having studied and analysed the potentialities and possibilities of "the raw jute growing in India", in relative terms of the Indian jute Industry, it becomes essential, now to acquaint ourselves with the graphic survey of the Indian jute industry. The industry is the Second-largest earner of foreign exchange and also one of the two major industries of vital importance in the economy of North East India, in as much as 95% of jute goods produced in India come from this area. Though the ground for this industry is strong and secured, yet it has to face many problems and uncertainties of the bitter competition of the world markets.

By way of direct employment it provides livelihood to more than a quarter of million people, in and around Calcutta and apart from this, many thousands of cultivators eke their bread by jute growing in the districts of West Bengal and other neighbouring states.

India has a loomage of 68,958, excluding 3,830 looms other than hessain and sacking which is 52.9% of the world's total.

Location of Jute Mills in India

State	Location	Number of Mills
West Bengal	Calcutta and suburbs	101
Andhra	Nellimarla	1
	Vizianagaram	1
	Ellore	1
	Guntur	1
Bihar	Katihar	2
	Muktapore	1
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	2
	Sahjanwa	1
Mahdya Pradesh	Raigarh	1
Nepal	Biratnagar	1

There are in total 113 milles, of which about 100 mills are concentrated in and near about

Calcutta. Andhra and Bihar possess four each. There are three in Uttar Pradesh and one in Madhya Pradesh. On the basis of a single shift of 48 hours, production in the various mills, is around 11 lakh tons of jute goods.

Export of gunnies comes to 9 lakhs. Of the total loomage 64 per cent is hessain and 36 per cent is sacking. The value of the total export of jute is about Rs. 150 crores of which Rs. 60 crores are contributed by hessain shipment.

The total capital invested in the Indian jute industry is estimated to be about 30 crores of fixed capital and 37 crores of working capital. The labour employed comes to about 2,70,000. The industry has a wide scheme and a good structure of manufacturing. Several lines of fabric, like linoleum cloth, rugs, carpets, upholstery fabrics with floral and other deft designs are being produced. At present there is no Government control over the production or distribution of goods. The only control is exercised by the I.J.M.A. in the light of their working time agreement, the main object of which is that production and supply are on a par with the world demand. However one depressing aspect of the industry, is, that it continues to work with 12½% of the looms sealed, in the mills. Yet the mills are manufacturing some specialities like cotton bagging a loose fabric meant for packing of cotton in U.S.A. and "wide hessain" used as carpet backing in U.S.A., jute tarpaulins, paperlined hessain jute carpets and jute webbings. The Indian Central Jute Committee formed in 1936, has assumed the responsibility of the scientific side of production, and also bestows upon the industry all discriminative and well studied measures, to achieve a healthy self-sufficiency.

The early history of the Indian jute industry is striking and well based. The birth of the jute mill industry dates back to 1792, when the directors of the East India Company deputed their officers with instructions to investigate into the possibility of obtaining indigenous fibre suitable for the manufacture of ropes out

of twines. Imbued by the first flush of enthusiasm an amount of certain good ground work was carried on, with the result that by 1838 the Indian jute mill industry was established in Dundee. From 1850 onwards hand-woven jute goods were exported. Just as steam-power usurped the handloom industry in cotton, the development of jute mills worked by steam in Dundee and India, extinguished the handloom jute industry. The credit of establishing the first mill in India in the year 1855 goes to Mr. George Auckland, which turned out an output of 8 tons per day. This mill had to face many vicissitudes, which led to its merging with the Wellington Jute Mills in 1869.

George Henderson & Co., in 1859 established the first power-driven jute mill at Barnagore, the second mill was established at Gourepore in 1862, the third one 1866 at Sirajgunj, all under the above management. By 1869, there were five mills with 950 looms. By 1875, a total of 17 mills, with a rated capacity of 3,500 looms came into being. But between 1880 and 1895, only five mills came into existence. With the rapid growth of mills, there was the threat of over production for the industry. To overcome the situation, the mills were compelled to seek new markets like San Francisco, Australia and New Zealand. The Indian Jute Mills Association, formed in 1884, constituted the back bone for the industry and production expanded gradually with a healthy policy of exports. By 1900, the industry struck deep roots into the ground. It was a firmly established industry whose contribution to the trade and commerce of the country became important and by 1912-1917 the annual export was Rs. 31,95,000.

The World War I gave a tremendous fillip to the industry. Sand bags for military purposes were in urgent demand. War seemed impossible without sand bags at one stage. The result was not only the existing mills worked to full time, but the establishment of new mills, new companies became absolutely necessary. However there was the depression of 1929 which led to the curtailing of the working

hours and finally the closing of some mills temporarily.

But from 1938 onwards conditions improved gradually. Many political changes were taking place in the world. The Second World War, bursting forth, brought unprecedented fortune to the industry and the mills were compelled to work even for 60 hours a week.

Profits realised were fabulous. Handsome dividends were paid even after meeting high taxes like Excess Profits Tax, Business Profits Tax, Income-tax and Super tax. Though the war terminated in 1945, till the partition of India in 1947, the demand far exceeded the production in the Indian Jute Mill Industry.

As a result of partition, India lost about 71% of the total jute growing acreage but retained all the 113 jute mills. The Government fought the situation very successfully by extensive and intensive scientific cultivation measures. The jute growing acreage was increased to 18.27 lakhs today with a yield of 51.78 lakh bales.

The Indian Jute Mills Association thought of establishing direct contacts with consuming interests abroad and in 1953 and 1958, deputed delegations to Australia, New Zealand and other Far East countries. Investigations revealed that comparative lower prices would give the Indian jute products and the industry, much scope for enduring commercial zeal, and this urged the industrial expansion of the jute industry, towards reliable self-sufficiency and progressive exports. There is the competition of Pakistan but the discerning export policy redeems India from the disruptive agencies.

An export duty on jute manufacture was first imposed in 1916, with a view to increasing the revenue to meet a part of the war-time expenditure in 1914-18. This continued even after the war. However with effect from 15th September 1953, the export duty on hessian was reduced from Rs. 275 per ton to Rs. 120 per ton, which stimulated exports substantially. As soon as Pakistan announced the devaluation of her currency at a parity with that of the

Indian Rupee on 1st August 1955, the Government of India announced the abolition of export duty on jute manufacturers. The abolition of export duty advantageously placed the Indian Jute Mills, comparing favourably with the mills situated on the continent, for better and expanding commercial ventures abroad. To push up sales in U.S.A., the Indian Jute Mills Association, took a great initiative and launched schemes of vigorous drive. The export earnings of jute goods in 1955 amounted to Rs. 126.29 crores.

The industry fared better during 1958, though having worked with 12% of its looms sealed. The production of gunnies during 1957-58 amounted to 1,056.2 thousand tons;—Actual exports in 1957-58 was 832 thousand tons. A higher production of jute goods is carried out at present. There is also a move for greater efficiency of the mills, by modernisation and rationalisation. Modernisation concentrates on the latest scientific machinery equipment for the manufacturing of jute products. Rationalisation relates to mechanisation of manual work, reorganisation of production techniques and reduction of hands in departments which have excess labour. Utmost care has been taken to ensure that it does not increase unemployment.

An export target of 9,00,000 tons has been stipulated in the Second Five Year Plan. The total exports and domestic requirements by the year 1960-61, are expected to be around 1.2 million tons. In spite of the progress achieved so far, yet, there remains much ground to be covered. Substantial and enduring achievement becomes imperative for this monopolistic industry which is the biggest dollar earner, to hold its own status against growing competition of world market.

With a view to rehabilitate and modernise the jute industry, the National Industrial Development Corporation appointed in September 1955 a jute loans advisory committee,

(Continued on page 28)

MEN AND MATTERS

BY

C. H. V. PATHY

The world is gradually sliding down the slippery slope which will eventually lead to the eternal bonfire. Those who had nursed the illusion that the international jitters were only a passing phase have been disillusioned.

Africa has become the focus of the world. In the whole of that Dark Continent there are only three independent nations—Liberia, Ethiopia and South Africa. The rest of the country is parcelled out among the European imperialists. Today all this has changed. Day after day, somewhere in Africa, new National flags are sliding up the flag poles. Departing colonial officials are saluting their successors.

From China to Peru every country is concerned with what happens in Africa. It looks as though 1960 is going to be Africa's year of freedom. Independence has come or will shortly come to sixteen nations. Though political prophecy is hazardous, it can be forecast that in two years' time, more than 30 African nations will sit in the United Nations.

Congo bursts into the headlines almost every day. Here, the grave of the Belgian Empire is being dug. After seven decades of absolute control, a land 80 times as large as Belgium is shaking off its foreign grip. Belgians are blaming the United States for siding with Lumumba in the Congo show down. They also feel bitterly toward NATO for failing an ally in trouble. A few hours after the U.S. and Britain voted in the Security Council for Belgian withdrawal from the Congo, Premier Gaston Eyskens said that Belgium might pull its two NATO divisions out of Germany.

Most Belgians believe that their government blundered away the Congo. The first mistake was to offer the Congo independence without properly preparing the people. The second was to agree to set up a unified Congo; then suddenly to support an independent Katanga.

Sensing an opportunity, Belgium's powerful opposition Socialists demanded and got an emergency session of Parliament a few days and asked the Government to resign. But Eyskens, the Premier whose middle-of-the-road Socialist party rules with support from Belgium's third party, the conservative-minded Liberals, is determined to hang on.

To resolve the crisis, the United Nations sent an army which itself is facing difficulties. Some of the Army men have been attacked and the United Nations Headquarters itself is not safe from danger.

Things are moving rapidly. All whites have been advised to gather in urban centres for safety. How long the present jittery spell will last in Congo and Katanga, none can say. But it can be said that the days of white domination are over. The Communists who always fish in troubled waters, are seeping in from China and Russia and doing their best to turn African eyes to the east. In the end it is Africa that will determine its own destiny.

The Congo crisis is a test to the United Nations. Through no fault of his own, Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary General of the U.N. had to return with his mission only partly accomplished. Ralph Bunche, his personal representative is quitting and his place will be taken by India's Rajeswar Dayal.

The Congo, in the heart of equatorial Africa comprises an area one third as large as the United States. It is inhabited by 14 million blacks. They are grouped in some 200 tribes which speak at least 38 different languages.

The Congo produces one half of the world's uranium, 75 per cent of its cobalt and 70 per cent of its industrial diamonds.

The dilemma confronting the U.N. force now stationed in this troubled region is plain.

It has a mandate from the Security Council to take all necessary action to secure the withdrawal of the Belgians. But the U.N. contingent has no directive to use force to obtain its objective. Its units are entitled only to act in self-defence.

U.S. Presidential race

In the United States, decks are clear for the Presidential race in which Vice-President Nixon is pitched against the Democratic candidate Senator Kennedy. Nixon is 47 and his opponent 42. The recent activities and statements of both these key figures are indicative of the respective strategy they would adopt. Nixon harps on the fact that his rival is too young and inexperienced for the hard task of the President. Kennedy attacks the administration and its policy. According to him, Nixon has shifted positions and has demonstrated a lack of fundamental convictions. Both the candidates have taken personal command of their parties.

If the Democrats win, they would try to push through a handful of progressive measures for the country's welfare and their own capacity for leadership.

The Republicans on the other hand would try to press their own programme while denouncing the Democrats for reckless spending and political expediency. Through the smoke of battle there would be looming the towering figure of Eisenhower. Neither party could afford to forget his popularity with the electorate.

Powers gets ten years' sentence

America's Francis Powers who figured in the spy drama which incidentally was responsible for the wreckage of the Paris Summit Conference, has been sentenced to ten years' prison. Considering the seriousness of his mission the sentence must be considered lenient. He confessed before the court that he took off from Turkey and was on a flight over strategic posts in Russia, halting in Pakistan en route. He was in detention for three months and was interrogated on more than one occasion.

There was an element of high drama in the historic trial. Lawyers came from all over the world, from India and Virginia, from Tokyo and London. Diplomats crowded the vast court room.

It was the first such trial in Russia since Stalin finished his great purges of the 1930's. The trial took place in a giant theatre which could accommodate over 2,000 persons. In it was Powers' 23-year-old wife Barbara and his heart stricken mother Ida as also his father Oliver. All of them had flown to Moscow in hopes of interceding with Khrushchev for a pardon.

Mr. Chavan

The bifurcation of Bombay and the resultant creation of the two States of Gujarat and Maharashtra has pitchforked into power two Chief Ministers. They are Yeshwantrao Chavan who is the pilot at the helm of Maharashtra and Dr. Jivraj Mehta who heads the Cabinet team in Gujarat.

These two were arresting figures in the political landscape of undivided Bombay. Mr. Chavan was the Chief Minister and Dr. Mehta was one of his colleagues.

Yeshwantrao coasted to power after the last general elections in Bombay with Morarji Desai standing down from the contest.

Stemming from a peasant stock, Mr. Chavan has something of the rugged grandeur of Lokamanya Tilak. He is an amiable person who believes that it is easier to catch the fly with honey rather than with vinegar.

More than three years ago, when Mr. Chavan was called upon to govern Bombay State, the metropolis was caught in the fury of a violent storm consequent on the linguistic agitation. Police unleashed a hail of bullets on fanaticised persons who rent the welkin with the cry of separatism. Streets resounded with sectarian slogans. Shops were looted, godowns burnt. We witnessed an almost undeclared civil war. But Mr. Morarji Desai who was the then Chief Minister was not rattled. He stamped the sparks of revolt with a stern hand.

It was soon after this unsavoury interlude that the party in power had to choose its leader. The natural choice would have been Morarji but he insisted that unless he was voted to power unanimously, he would not care to accept the political crown. However, this did not happen and Chavan was also a contestant. Mr. Morarji stood down and his whilom Ministerial colleague became the Chief Minister.

There were not wanting people who were of the view that Mr. Chavan may join the ranks of the communalists and stoke the agitation for Samyukta Maharashtra. Unmoved by the tumult and the shouting around him, Mr. Chavan courageously proclaimed: "My devotion to the nation is greater than my devotion to Samyukta Maharashtra."

Bold and timely words of patriotism, principle and prudence. It is a piece of dramatic irony that he himself had to figure in the role of the architect of the new State. If he did so, it was because he had to bow to the popular will.

From a moppet in Devarastra in Satara district where he was born on March 12, 1914 to the presiding personality of Sachivalaya in Bombay is the romance of Mr. Chavan. In the process he had to wade through years of constant struggle, of detention and underground terms. The revolutionary later wore the emblems of office when the Congress quitted the barren policy of negation and assumed power.

When a mere teenager in school, Mr. Chavan drew his brows together and wondered why India should be ruled by a foreign power. Gandhiji was then stumping the country with the cry of revolt. His teachings stirred this sensitive young man. He understood the meaning of unity and organised students to fight out injustice.

In 1930 came the Mahatma's call for civil disobedience. Yeshwantrao, then only 18, led processions, holding the national flag aloft, thundering anti-British slogans, with defiance in his voice, conviction in his flaring eyes. The young rebel was soon bagged by

the police, tried and sentenced to a term of 18 months' imprisonment. With chins up, he walked into the jail.

When the civil disobedience was revived in 1932, he plunged more vigorously into it and ended behind prison bars. A couple of years later, he stepped into the class room with the textbooks left unattended. He passed his matric from the Tilak High School, Karad.

The importance of education soon captured his imagination and he was out to try his hand in it. Rajaram College of Kolhapur had him in its register and the list of graduates announced in 1938 carried his name too. From Kolhapur he moved to Poona and joined the law college, taking LL.B. degree. He was not cut out for a legal profession. Politics was in his blood. Satara populace found no better person to be entrusted with the post of President of the District Congress Committee.

With rumbles of Nazi outrage spreading far and wide, Union Jack collapsing at Singapore, India was almost hovering on the brink of Japanese invasion. A revolution was in the making all over our country. The Defence of India Act, clamped down by the British to nip the members of revolt only helped to worsen the situation.

In Satara, the regional Congress chief, known for his chivalrous deeds in the past, nonchalantly defied the British by setting up a parallel government. The authorities sensed trouble here and alerted their watch dogs to catch the man. He eluded capture by going underground, yet leading the struggle. Then came the official proclamation of a reward of Rs. 1,000 to anyone who would assist in capturing him. He was fettered in Phalton.

War came to an end in August 1947 and to heroic Chavan as to many others came freedom. On the crest of a wave of success, Congress party came to power in many States. Chavan too got elected. His first important assignment was Parliamentary Secretaryship for Home and Revenue under B. G. Kher. He underwent a gruelling apprenticeship and became an outstanding success. No wonder Morarji

elevated him to the rank of a Minister who was put in charge of the difficult portfolio of civil supplies, when supplies were poor and demands preposterous.

If one expects a Chief Minister to look weary with all the carking cares of office, you cannot farther wrong. But Mr. Chavan wore the toga of power with effortless ease.

Chubby with a dark, shining tan, a set of sparkling teeth, broad forehead and dominating lips, he would have made his mark in any career that he had chosen. Chief Ministership to him is not an honour but a footstool for service.

Like Kamaraj of Madras, Mr. Chavan is a man of the masses. There can be no doubt that he will get over the teething troubles of Maharashtra and make it one of the premier States of the country.

The Palai Central Bank

From the politically unstable Kerala came another bombshell, this time the crash of the Palai Bank. The crash came with stunning suddenness, affecting thousands of depositors. The affairs of the Bank were degenerating for a long period. The Reserve Bank of India knew this ; but they were reluctant to apply the closure till they found that it was difficult to salvage the Bank. The management of the Bank is entirely responsible for its downfall. Not only in Kerala State but even in far off places such as Delhi and Bombay, Malayalees had put all their earnings into the coffers of this Bank. It was but inevitable that they should be deeply concerned over the crash.

Both the Chief Minister of Kerala as well as his deputy flew to Delhi in an attempt to prop up the bank, but the Finance Minister made a lengthy statement in Lok Sabha, indicating the nature and extent of the crash. It was not possible he stated for the Reserve Bank to come to the rescue of this bank. All that he could do was to allow people who had deposited Rs. 250 to withdraw the entire amount; others would be paid pro rata. Taking into consideration the assets and the liabilities of

the Bank, it can be stated that they would be able to pay only 8 as. in the rupee.

Alongside with this we also heard the distressing story of the crash of the Lakshmi Bank.

Legislation would be soon be brought to tighten up the affairs and arrange for some form of insurance to guarantee the safety of depositors. If there are other bank crashes also, there is the possibility of the nationalisation of banks. But the authorities would be reluctant to embark on this unless they are driven to it.

* * *
Radio Cairo recently reported the collapse of the Shah of Iran's rule. And from somewhere in Russia, a secret station reported rioting in Teheran. But these reports were found to be fictitious. In fact, Teheran is quiet at the moment. The ruler and his bride Fara Diba are busy choosing maternity clothes, for, the Queen's baby is due any time. Nasser is apparently angry because Iran's ruler has recently sanctioned trade with Israel. How long things would be peaceful in Iran cannot be forecast. Significantly, only recently, the Secretary General of Nasser's Arab League flew to Moscow. Western intelligence reports foresee a more direct move against Iran and its ruler. There may be a coup any moment.

Ethiraj and 'Bhat'

In Madras we had a sad month. We lost two towering personalities in the sphere of law and sport. Mr. V. L. Ethiraj, who had a roaring practice on the criminal side died of heart attack. He had stomach trouble and had proceeded to England for treatment. He returned to the city only four days before his demise.

Stemming from a well known family at Vellore, Ethiraj after graduation went to England where he took bar-at-law degree. He apprenticed under a couple of English lawyers practising in Madras High Court and later joined the chamber of the late S. Swaminadhan.

He developed a distinct mode of advocacy and appeared on one side or the other in almost all the leading criminal cases in Madras.

Of a deeply religious nature, Ethiraj was a prince of philanthropists. He donated almost all the money that he earned for a women's college which was started in his name.

He was a keen gardener and a good tennis player. He trained many juniors and paid them well in cases in which they appeared with him.

He married an English woman and has one son through her, who is a practising doctor in Great Britain. In his death Madras loses an eminent lawyer and a great gentleman.

Another great loss to Madras was the passing of M. Venkatramanjulu, known as "Bhat." He was a great cricketer who basked in the limelight for over four decades. Along with his brother Baliah and Ramu, they constituted a threesome whose cricket was a delight to watch. Bhat used to hit out however dangerous may be the bowler. Some of his sixers used to land in the Buckingham Canal, from the M.C.C. ground.

He was also a good bowler. Riding, tennis and golf were also dear to him. A few hours before his passing he was indulging in a game of golf. He complained of acute pain, was taken home and passed away peacefully.

His son Babji is also a good sportsman. He is very proficient in tennis and has figured in many tournaments both in Madras as well as in Ootacamund.

History is created

Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar has created history, being elected as the Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, for the seventh time. Younger by two hours to his equally illustrious brother Ramaswami Mudaliar, both were born at Kurnool. They look so much alike that for the superficial observer, it is difficult to distinguish the one from the other.

In 1937, C.R. appointed Lakshmanaswami as the Principal of the Madras Medical College. From then on his career has been one of roses. One of the best doctors that Madras has produced, he devoted quarter of a century to develop Egmore Maternity Hospital which is

considered to be one the best in Asia. He has also led many deputations to Europe and America.

Aside from being the Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, he is also a member of the Madras Council where he leads the opposition. He recently crossed swords with the Madras Minister of Education, Mr. C. Subramaniam.

Naga State

Those who had thought that with the split up of Bombay State into Gujarat and Maharashtra, we had seen the end of linguism have been disillusioned. With dramatic suddenness, the Prime Minister announced the birth of India's sixteenth State—Nagaland. This was the sequel to a representation made to him by a delegation from Nagaland.

The activities of the Nagas for the last few years have been anti-Indian. The country from which they operated earned the distinction of being one of the most turbulent spots in a troubled world. It is dotted all along India's northeast frontier. Curiously enough the new State does not include all the Nagas. Only 350,000 out of a population of 500,000 come into the picture. While the eastern border of Nagaland is contiguous with unsettled North Burma, at no point does the newly created State touch China.

Dag's role

One of the key figures wrestling with the current international complications is Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary General of the United Nations Organization. In the last two months alone he has flown over 25,000 miles. His physical resilience is amazing. On the 38th floor of the U.N. building, he drives his staff hard. When he leaves New York they breathe a sigh of relief.

Dag is a bachelor and manages with two hours' sleep daily. He is passionately devoted to neutrality. He likes our Prime Minister Nehru.

For relaxation he enjoys reading, Joyce, Proust and Eliot. He spends his evenings with a group of intellectuals.

Somalia

On July 1, the United Nations Trust territory of Somalia, Italy's former East African dependency became an independent State, five months before the Italian Trusteeship mandate assumed at the end of 1949 was due to expire. In relation to the external political problem facing Somalia and the new State's social development and its economic backwardness, this slightly accelerated emancipation has little significance.

With its Muslim population, Hamitic, predominantly nomadic, Somalia belongs more to North Africa than to Africa south of the Sahara. The country covers an area of some 194,000 square miles and runs from British Somaliland in the north round the eastern flanks of Ethiopia along the Indian Ocean coasts to the barren plains of Northern Kenya in the south. Much of the region is semi-desert, and with its sparse rainfall and torrid heat fit only for the pastoral nomadic existence to which the majority of the Somalis are dedicated.

Troubles in Andhra and Mysore

Inter-party feud has highlighted the politics of two states. They are Andhra and Mysore. In both of them, the existing ministry is facing danger. There was a keen fight for the Presidency of Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee where the leader was dethroned and another one elected. His opponents are trying to bring a vote of no-confidence against him. Madras Chief Minister Kamaraj flew into Hyderabad to compose Congress party differences but his mission was not much of a success.

Down south, Chief Minister Jatti of Mysore is facing an avalanche of opposition. Those bent on dethroning led a deputation to Delhi and represented matters both to the Congress President as well as the Prime Minister. Sanjeeva Reddi who flew to Mysore on a mission of pacifying the differences has not been able to resolve the crisis. It will erupt when the local legislature meets. It will be a miracle if the present ministry survives.

In Kerala too, Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai is reported to meet with some sort of opposition from his own Cabinet colleagues. However, there the situation is not so taut with tension as in Mysore and Andhra. Mr. Thanu Pillai should be able to ride the storm. It will be a major calamity if the present Congress Ministry which is hardly six months old is thrown from power.

Films

Elsa Martinelli, the 25-year old Italian film star and the Count she married three years ago were legally separated recently.

The action before the court in Rome ended the fairy tale story of the marriage of a girl from the back streets to a member of Rome's aristocracy.

Elsa was one of a large family which she helped to support by working as a model. Modelling led to films, fame and eventual marriage with Count Marcinelli Scotti, a handsome young socialite.

By terms the separation to which Elsa and the Count agreed, their daughter, Christania, now aged two, will live with her mother until she is thirteen. Thereafter she will be under her father's care until she is eighteen.

* * *

That Charlie Chaplin is a genius is evident from another recent report concerning him. He composed a musical note for his latest film, "The Chaplin Revue." It begins at 10 a.m. on the shores of the Lake of Geneva. A Chaplin car duly deposits a British pianist at the comedian's front door. A butler wearing a white coat and a big smile leads him to a 40-foot lounge. Chaplin enters briskly, gives him a warm handshake. He starts humming a melody. And the butler not quite at home in this kingdom of comedy as he is in his London flat, scribbles down note for note, trying to keep up with the mass of melody. And at the end of each day's work, the composer becomes the host. At the end the butler says: "What shall we put; music composed in spite of Charles Chaplin."

That gets a big laugh.

MEETING FIRST SPACE TRAVELLERS

BY

V. SMIRNOV AND V. SHIROKOV

Only a short while ago these two small dogs, whose names are now known throughout the world, sped through boundless expanses borne in the cabin of a satellite-spaceship. And now Belka and Strelka, wearing vests of bright green and red, sit calmly next to one another and narrow their eyes because of the glaring lights.

The medico-biological experiment carried out by Soviet scientists in outer space has evoked great interest among millions of people of different countries. The scientists have told us the main features of this remarkable experiment.

The flight of the test dogs in a spaceship is an interesting event having tremendous historical importance. The solution of medico-biological problems is of vital significance. It is quite clear that this is necessary for the preparations of safe manned flight in outer space. However, there are still many difficulties in this matter which have to be overcome.

Everyone recalls the occasion in 1957 when test dog Laika made the first flight in outer space. At that time it was technically impossible to bring animal space travellers back to earth. This task has in essence been solved now.

Strelka and Belka have returned to earth from outer space without suffering any adverse effects of the flight.

Other participants in the Space Voyage

We have also seen the other participants in the space voyage. The white and black mice and the white rats can be seen through the transparent walls of their containers. A plant with long, narrow leaves is kept in a special vessel, and flies in flasks.

Black mice are particularly useful for all kinds of research linked with changes of hereditary characteristics in living organisms. Besides, certain changes are caused by cosmic radiation. For instance, if the mice were affected by cosmic radiation, then some time later their hair will turn grey.

Bags with highly nutritious jellied food with water were secured to the walls of the test animal containers. The animals were able to eat and drink during the flight.

Two plants were put on board the spaceship for test possibly having general biological significance.

The plant vessel had a layer of earth on the bottom, indicating that a bit of our planet was also flown to outer space. The plant did not feel like 'fish out of water' while making such a distant and unusual journey: it serenely continued to grow during the flight.

The little fruit flies kept inside the plexiglass flasks have been thoroughly studied as far as the transmission of hereditary characteristics are concerned. Hence, their future generations will be subjected to detailed study.

As was already reported, the satellite-ship also carried fungi of microscopic size as well as some other organisms invisible to the eye. They are now undergoing laboratory treatment.

Characteristics of the Test Dogs

The two test dogs are not of strict breeds. Such animals are usually suitable for space flights because they behave best of all in the experiments. These dogs are distinguished by their intelligence and calm disposition. They are suitable for all laboratory and biological tests.

The dogs have the usual rations up till shortly before a flight when they are put on a strict regimen of diet. They receive food of higher calorie content and in jellied form over a definite period of time. The animals are trained to eat their food without the help of human beings. This is done by special automatic devices which set food before the dogs twice a day.

Strelka and Belka behaved quietly during the space trip, but, naturally, there were periods when they were a bit more active. They were restless, for instance, in the spaceship's orbiting stage. This conclusion has been drawn on the basis of preliminary data obtained while observing the test dogs on a TV screen and also

on information gleaned from the readings of a special pick-up. There were periods in conditions of zero-gravity when the motor activity of the animals rose somewhat.

The animals frequently are given names which fit their outer appearance. Belka got her name because she is white (Belka is derived from the Russian word 'Bely' which means 'white'). As for her space flight companion, "Strelka" got her name because she has some resemblance with an arrow (Strelka is an endearing derivative of the Russian word, 'strela' which means arrow').

New victories of Soviet scouts of outer space and still greater achievements of Soviet science and engineering lie ahead.

(Continued from page 20)

to study and grant suitable loan applications. The committee started functioning in Calcutta since 1956. On 20th January 1959, 40 applications were received from 37 jute mills, for loans totalling to Rs. 9,29,31,000 and 22 applications have been approved for an aggregate amount of Rs. 4,44,52,000. Others are under consideration for approval. Scientific research is also contemplated to assist the industry

produce its best—qualitatively and quantitatively. At less expense, substitute materials have also steadily grown. It is assuringly hoped, that with the modernisation and rationalisation launched quite expeditiously, the cost of manufacture could be reduced and competition could be squarely faced, thus enabling the industry to keep its gravity at home and abroad, in self-sufficiency and exports.

Personality Sketch

B. C. ROY

BY

KASHYAPA

In politics as in a cobbler's shop one may get into boots that are too small or too big (or just right—as the shaving soap advertisement says). With this difference—in the case of a shoe that is too small it is the wearer who knows where the shoe pinches; but in politics if one is too big for his boots, it is the feet of others that feel the pinch! In Indian politics there is one man who has been content to stay in a position that he can be said to have outgrown many years ago. This voluntary restriction on his advancement has caused no trouble to him—on the contrary he has thriven very well indeed. But it is the others who suffer by his contentment, for he fills an office which is so much below his personality that his political inferiors sitting in hierarchically superior positions cannot but bend their heads below their knees to look upto (and not down on) him. Such ventriloquism does not come naturally to politicians in office who are wont to stick their noses up in the air and sport an attitude of greatness (which generally they do not possess). How can they comfortably unbend themselves in order to be on a level with a giant who happens to sit at a lower plane—but whose stalwart frame in such as to move than compensate for his lower seat? Like the giant Hanuman who could sit on his own great tail and look down upon Emperor Ravana—this man, though not even a Deputy Minister in New Delhi—is able to look down on even the highest offices in the land. This giant in Indian politics is Bidan Chandra Roy.

* *

A gargantuan in every sense of the term—B. C. Roy is the most dreaded man in and by the Congress High Command. He has been



Chief Minister of Bengal, it seems, practically from Adam. For his seniority and capacity a seat next to the Premier in Delhi would have been no difficult affair to fix. Had he only indicated a preference to come to the Centre no power on earth could have stayed his progress. But he, unlike Pant, did not yield to this temptation, or succumb to the plaintive offers emanating from the emaciated treasury benches. B. C. Roy has been happy to remain a Bengali first—and last. India's loss has been Bengal's gain for he has been able to keep his State still in Congress hands. Had he only gravitated to Delhi, and placed personal above public interests, Bengal would have become another Kerala. To Roy goes the special credit of having preserved Bengal from non-Congress forces. Roy may have been ruthless in his ways. Yet in administration, ruthlessness is sometimes called for and a really capable administrator should always be equal to it. Politics, particularly government, is no game for sissies. The rowdier the better. Few come rowdier than Roy.

The nation has heard of "Dr. Roy," along with Dr. Jivaraj Mehta, as the personal physicians of the Mahatma during the fateful years of the Freedom Struggle—when the periodic fasts of the high souled Gandhi took him as near to death's door as is possible for a living man to venture. It was then, the daily, hourly task of Dr. Roy to feel that feeble failing pulse of the fasting leader and issue bulletins to an anxious nation about the health of their idol. British Imperialism listened with even greater keenness to Dr. Roy's reports—for the smallest whisper in them that the Mahatma was dying, stated as a medical prognosis, would have set off a terrific convulsion all over the land. The story goes that Dr. Roy had once to disguise and hide an allopathic drug in some other medium and give it to Gandhi (who was as against drugs as against the British). Gandhi—say some reporters—discovered this and refused

to take it. I prefer to think that Dr. B. C. Roy must have deliberately allowed Gandhi to discover it once—so as to put him off his guard on a subsequent occasion!

B. C. Roy is no mean physician. He is perhaps one of the ablest doctors in the country. A Fellow of the Royal College, a consultant of nearly five decades experience, he can walk into any medical gathering in the world and be received with respect. I was told in Calcutta that he still practices his medicine. My informant said this in a disparaging fashion—but I corrected him. A doctor's mission is a noble one. His art and duty of healing is something that must not be denied to an ailing man. If Dr. Roy is able to save a few lives now, why should his Chief Ministership stand in the way? After all he cannot be said, "to use his official influence" over Nature! nor is he an unrecognised practitioner to get custom by dint of his position. He is so pre-eminent a physician, that he would be doing a grave wrong if he refused to give his professional advice to a sick man.

Few Chief Ministers of Indian States would have had the guts to call off Independence Day celebrations on August 15th owing to conditions in the State. Roy did it this year and his action was not so much a measure of precaution or security as an indication of his protest to the Centre.

It was the same Roy who—it is gathered by close observers from the Kher Commission report—who stated that if Hindi were imposed against the wishes of the people of his State, he would 'secede' from the Union!

These instances can be multiplied to establish that this old Bengali has still the old fire in him. If one is asked to describe Roy in a word, there is just one word, in the whole vocabulary for him.

It is : GUTS.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

BY OUR SPORTS COMMENTATOR

Tennis

Neale Fraser, the Wimbledon champion who sustained two defeats recently, one at the hands of R. Krishnan, has been seeded Number 1 for the men's event of U.S. National Lawn tennis championship. He is the holder of the singles title. His fellow countryman Rod Laver is seeded second.

Miss Maria Bueno of Brazil, Wimbledon titles holder has been top seeded for the woman's singles title.

The British players, Miss Ann Haydon and Miss Christina Truman have been seeded second and third respectively. Miss Darlene Hard of the United States comes fourth.

Olympics

Pakistan, strongest challengers to India for the Hockey gold medal, qualified for the quarter finals of the Olympic games, trouncing Japan by ten goals to nil.

Pakistan incidentally have won all the three of their elimination matches and have so far scored 21 goals without conceding one.

It took Pakistan only 21 minutes to score their first goal against Japan. Their win has equalled India's feat of scoring ten goals in one match against Denmark.

Betan in the women's high and springboard driving events by Germany's Ingrid Kramer, the U.S. took a crushing revenge in the last two swimming finals.

Carolyn Schuler took the 100 metres and Bill Mulliken beat all the favourites in the 200 metres breast stroke.

India's Hockey Victory

India's hockey team supposed to be the best in the world swept Denmark off its feet at the Olympics on August 27, Indian players had no difficulty in getting over this hurdle as the Danish team put up a very poor performance, only excelling in defensive tactics in which their goal-keeper outshone everyone else and saved many goals.

Over and again the Indians proved that they now specialise more in converting penalty corners than the forwards scoring on their own.

Prithipal Singh scored in the first minute off a penalty corner and again in the 15th and 16th minutes. This 3-0 lead spurred the forwards to score on their own. In the 20th minute, outside left Bhela crowned a grand solo effort with a great goal. He scored ten minutes later off a pass from Udham Singh.

In the second half, Denmark was nowhere in the picture and the Indian players scored as they liked.

The match was played in ideal weather on fine turf.

Athletic Records

The International Athletic Association have announced the ratification of 61 world records including the controversial 10.0 seconds for 100 metres run by the German Armin Hary, in Zurich in June. They have also ratified the 10.0 seconds, run by the Canadian H. W. Jerome in Canada, in July. Britain's Peter Redford had his world records of 20.5 for 200 metres and 220 yards round a bend ratified.

One of the performances ratified dated back 19 years, the high jump of the South African girl, E. Van Herden, set up in 1941, but not before put forward for ratification. Miss Herden's jump was 5 feet 3 inches. Also ratified as the latest world record was the six feet $\frac{3}{4}$ inches of Iclanda Balas of Rumania, jumped in Bucharest in June this year.

Channel Swim

Brojen Das, the 29-year-old Pakistani who set off from Cap Griz Nex recently, completed his swim across the British Channel. He was in water for thirteen hours, 43 minutes. This is the fourth time that he has Swum the Channel successfully. At one time it looked as though he would break the France-to-England record of 10 hours 50 minutes set up ten years ago by an Egyptian. But four miles off the Kent Coast, the wind freshened and the sea became choppy, forcing him westward down Channel.

Book Reviews.

Birth control pills are condemned as immoral and sinful in a new book by a Roman Catholic priest. The book, "The Catholic Marriage Manuel," 21 s. by the Revd. George A. Kelly, has official Roman Catholic Church approval both in Great Britain and the United States.

In an attack on the use of pills—known as life pills—Father Kelly says that they are artificial means of preventing birth and as such immoral.

"A couple using artificial contraceptive devices any time is guilty of a serious sin because this interferes with nature in a serious way. The primary purpose of the marital act is the conception of human life," he says.

He adds, "The same act affords an opportunity for the spouses to maintain love toward each other and to satisfy their legitimate sexual needs."

"To maintain God's purpose impossible of achievement by deliberate interference and at the same time to seek the pleasure that He intended as a reward for willingness to assume the work of parenthood, is a complete violation of the Divine plan," he concludes.

One Man One Vote

The present situation in Africa has produced a spate of books. It is not suprising that the black man's cause should suddenly produce a number of supporters.

"The Tokolosh" is the name of a recent book written by the editor of "South Africa," a paper which for its criticism of the Government has been banned in South Africa. The story in the form of a simple parable, tells of a boycott organised by the Africans because of a bus fare increase. By staying away from work, they render the city they serve almost helpless. The "Tokolosh" or good Spirit helps them to launch at the absurdities of apartheid restrictions and encourages them to take action.

The book is a satire, told in simple language, which may irk the more sophisticated among us, but it throws light on a situation where, though numerically superior, the Africans are impotent in the face of authoritarian restrictions.

FROM THE NEXT ISSUE, WE ARE STARTING A SERIES ENTITLED

'INSIDE INDIA'

BY

Prof. K. VASUDEVAN

In this section the writer will discuss matters relating to economics, banking and finance with special reference to India. Emphasis will be given to current economic developments.

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Editorial

GULLIBLE TITLES

In a country like ours, where banking and other credit institutions are still in a developing stage, any hazards affecting any one of them are bound to have far reaching consequences. We refer here particularly to the bank crashes in the last two or three decades. Whether these bank failures were due to mismanagement or due to the 'vendetta' of influential persons, as some allege, cannot be accepted since both these deprive the depositors of their money, entrusted in the coffers of the closed banks. The closure of Arbuthnot, Travancore National & Quilon, Laxmi and recently the failure of the Palai Bank are cases in point.

These Bank crashes have caused untold suffering and hardship to thousands of people who were unfortunate to lose their earnings, in many cases, their life earnings. At the same time we are not forgetting the dislocation of business resulting from these bank closures. There are signs of a loss of confidence in banks as a whole on the part of the public and surely this is not a conducive atmosphere in a developing economy.

What is a bank? A bank is primarily an institution for the keeping, lending and exchanging of money, though they undertake to perform other functions also. The most important connotation is confidence. No bank can survive without the confidence of a certain section of the public. Now, to get this confidence, the ordinary depositor is dependant on several factors, the prestige of the Board of Directors, general impressions and so on. But the intelligent one looks to the Reserve Bank of India, under which function all these commercial banks. How a particular bank is estimated by the Reserve Bank; is its working well certified by the R.B.I.? Here the question of title plays a big part. Often we hear people say, 'put your money in Bank A or B, they are scheduled banks, hence your money is safe.'

Recent discussions both within the Houses of Legislature and elsewhere have given an exaggerated notion attached to the fact that a bank is called a Scheduled Bank. Is it only a gullible or a deceptive title as is often proved by the failures of the so called scheduled banks? This view is not confined to the ordinary man is illustrated by extracts

In books on banking. In certain cases these authors give emphasis to titles like scheduled and the like. Here is an extract :—

“ Protection to creditors of a bank could take several forms. The most obvious form of protection would be a scheme to guarantee the deposits of banks. In the first place it is clear that the scheduled banks do not stand in as urgent a need of such a scheme as those others which are not scheduled. The fact of scheduling is itself some evidence of their respectability and fair management.”

The Reserve Bank of India Act
Section 42 States—a Scheduled Bank

- (i) Should have paid up capital and reserve, if any, of the aggregate value of Rs. 5 lakhs.
- (ii) Should deposit with the Reserve Bank certain percentages of the several classes of deposits.
- (iii) Failure to do the above brings on penalties on the bank and its Directors.
- (iv) On continued failure in this regard, the Reserve Bank may prohibit the scheduled bank from taking any fresh deposits.

Thus so long as a scheduled bank complies with the above conditions which are not burdensome, it can play ducks and drakes with the depositors' money. It is thus clear that neither the Reserve Bank nor the Union Government guarantees the sound functioning a scheduled bank.

Occasional statements regarding the workings of certain Commercial banks or drastic measures like 'orders to close' are not expected of the Central Bank of a country. Penal action taken against the Directors of the 'closed' bank is no solace to the depositor who has lost his money in the bargain. A definite stand must be taken by the Reserve Bank of India, in this regard to ensure the depositors of their 'savings' in the bank coffers.

Therefore we suggest, in the interest of the general public, the requirements for a bank to be styled a scheduled bank should be categorically stated by the Reserve Bank of India and clearly understood. The Reserve Bank is expected to ensure solvency of commercial banks and in this sphere, we expect them to take immediate steps to strengthen weaker units and bring them to more regular inspections. The Central Bank must jealously guard the interests of the depositors who ultimately are the most important constituents in a banking system.

INSIDE INDIA

AN ECONOMIC COMMENTARY

BY

PROF. K. VASUDEVAN

From this month I have been asked by the Editor of Broadway Times to contribute a feature entitled 'Inside India'. The caption will recall to many of my readers the famous series written by that well-known American journalist John Gunther, in the form of books. In his books, 'Inside Asia', 'Inside Europe', 'Inside America' and the latest one 'Inside Russia', Gunther chose a large canvas relating to the various countries which formed the subject matter for his books and dealt with men and matters which can be clubbed under a political theme predominantly. The series which I am going to do will concern India in its economic aspect. Of course one will be tempted to touch upon political theme as well to understand, which way India is progressing, in the political field. There are some who see in her journey, a negation of democratic ideals and there are others who feel that a nascent democracy like India is apt to do a lot of mistakes and provided we have a steadfast goal which is to attain a full fledged democratic state, we need not bother even if there are some temporary deflections in her path sometimes leaning to the left. But what is more important, is not a discussion in terms of political labels only, but what she can do to meet the growing economic needs of her millions, who, provided they are assured of basic needs of everyday life, will form sound and enthusiastic votaries of democracy. India has been called an awakening giant, by westerners and this refers chiefly to her economic possibilities and provided, leaders of India do not promise many things even before a modest plan of economic progress is realized, the expectation of the Western observers will not be mere wishful thinking. Not only our economic

objective must conform to our cultural pattern, but it must also be realistic in the sense that it must take into consideration the resources actual and potential, and should also decide about the pace of the progress. Economic development of a country is a complex affair and more so if it relates to a country which is a backward one. In analysing therefore the economic scene we will have to devote attention to certain trends which appear in the form of either minor institutional changes like bank failures or the techniques adopted from time to time by authorities concerned with the economic change.

We must keep in mind the limitations of an economist. He should not dogmatise, and in saying this we are not saying that an economist is like a diplomat and only difference is that he is talking about economic problems couched in diplomatic knowledge. He is perhaps doing this not because he wants to shift the responsibility, but because he is only an expert in a limited field of knowledge, no doubt vital to mankind in the ordinary business of life as Alfred Marshall put it years ago, which should be interpreted in the context of the present day cross currents. I have heard it said on good authority that a new education of our rulers, should be undertaken very largely in terms of economics, because it is the legislator who in the last analysis should understand and be prepared to implement the advice tendered by the economists. Very often we find the sad spectacle, of politicians who agree with the diagnosis of an economist of a particular problem, cold-shouldering the solution suggested by him with the result that the public have been uncharitable towards an economist, for

his supposed ignorance, completely forgetting that it is the politician who has sabotaged the efforts of an economist. So the cry goes more of practice and less of politics.

The Banking Scene

In recent months quite a few banks with established reputation have failed, causing misery to hundreds of people who have trusted these banks with their savings. For a time the bank failure in northern India did not attract attention, till the failure of Palai Bank and from then we find important debates being carried on in the public and in the Indian Parliament. Naturally a number of issues have been raised, touching upon the responsibility of the Reserve Bank of India, the attitude of the finance minister, and the steps that should be taken to ensure the continuity of banks and to nurture good banking tradition in this country. We can at once say that the Reserve Bank of India has not come off well in these critical situations, which fact was noticed very clearly in the case of Palai Bank. The Reserve Bank, is the Central Bank of the country and even though it is claimed that in the case of some banks that the management, 'does not listen to advice and chooses to be recalcitrant.....the Reserve Bank would have no option but to force the bank to close down in the interests of depositors', the situation could be managed adroitly by bringing to bear on the erring management, the personality of the leader of the Central Bank. Too often, it is quoted that there are no set rules which will guide the Central Banker, in dealing with critical situations, but it is forgotten, that the problem to certain extent is a problem in leadership. In this connection let us refer to the personality of Mr. Montagu Norman who was the Governor of the Bank of England for nearly two decades. It is said that his personality was so compelling that 'he could manage to give directions to other central bankers in Europe. Once he told the Bulgarian governor that his bank rate was too high and that he would have to reduce it and he was capable of calling the bank governor of a lesser country to his hotel room and giving

him a dressing down for some piece of policy of which he disapproved'. It may be that many factors conspired to make Norman the supreme pontiff of central bankers throughout the world, but there is no denying the fact that the business of banking in England was shaped for well over fifteen years by the personality of the great Governor of Bank of England. To say that the management of some of the banks are recalcitrant is to declare the bankruptcy of leadership of the Central Bank of the country, and make all the clauses bristling in the Banking Companies Act which provide ample powers to the Reserve Bank of India, in pulling up an erring bank, a legal fiction. Enough has been said about the personality which should go with the central banker that we can sum up by saying much can be done by 'behind-the scene-operations'.

It is reported that between 1947-51 as many as 180 banks in India failed involving wastage of several crores of rupees worth of capital, and freezing of a much larger volume of deposits. One of the methods suggested, to ensure the stability of the commercial banks, is to put through a system of deposit insurance for India which was suggested by the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee in 1950. In 1954 the Shroff Committee on the 'Financing of Private Industries' also recommended that the system should be adopted after some enquiry. The Reserve Bank of India at that time was not for a system of deposit insurance as it was held that the time was not ripe. But the time has come when deposit insurance should be introduced. The main aims of deposit insurance are prevention of a run on the banks by creating confidence in the minds of the depositors that their savings are safe with their banks and in seeing that a healthy banking tradition is fostered mainly as a result of the initiative of the banks themselves, instead by imposition of the Central Bank of the country. There is some difference of opinion about the coverage in the amount of insurance. There are some who hold that primarily deposit insurance, should guarantee smaller deposits and total

coverage should be ruled out because for one thing the cost of insurance will be high and the banks will be reluctant to join a scheme of deposit insurance. The Shroff Committee recommended insurance of bank deposits upto a limit of Rs. 5,000. But these are debates regarding details and so far as the necessity for deposit insurance it has been accepted and in passing we can mention that a compulsory insurance to cover deposits up to Rs. 5,000 may be introduced with an option to take advantage of higher limit in the case of big banks who by the virtue of their reserve position stand on a better footing. The bank cost may not loom large if we adopt a rate of 1/12th of 1%, the rate in force in U.S.A. calculated on the total net deposits. Further the cost of insurance can be brought down if the State undertakes the responsibility of contributing to a fund placed at the disposal of the Deposit Insurance Corporation which can be considered as a legitimate charge on the public revenues of the country, for the development of banking is important, from the point of view of promotion of savings in the community.

Holding the Price Line

The term "holding the price line" has become a "manthram" with politicians as well as economic commentators. Frequently in discussions on price raise, figures are paraded, to show that the rise in the cost of living index in India is not as high as in the case of other countries and then measures which can be adopted are detailed. One wonders whether if this is the proper way to treat the most urgent problem in the Indian economy which clamours for drastic measures namely the problem of inflation. Right through the plan period, it has been treated in official quarters, that inflation is inevitable, and everything will be alright if people of India would suffer only for a time the inevitable birth pangs of economic regeneration. Index figures cannot be made to speak the tragic tale of helplessness, which can be discerned among India's nine tenths. A well-known Indian economist recently wrote as follows: 'there can be no disguising the

fact that inflation will continue to beset the Indian economy for several years. It is an inevitable accompaniment of the process of rapid development. The country must accept the consequences of some inflationary pressures and certain degree of inflation tolerance.' But the question is, is it necessary that the community should be called upon to bear the heavy hammer blows of inflation, which itself distorts the entire planning process. In other words can we not have economic progress without inflation for the achievement so far registered has been of 'the dog feeding on its own tail' variety. In the debate now posed, it is not only a question of suffering inflation for some-time, with the fond hope that it will be over-powered by a tremendous increase in the production of wage and consumption goods in the future, but a reconsideration of the so-called basic strategy of planning in India. One wonders when people in high authority speak of all-out planning, whether they are not echoing the observations of rulers of Russia made, in the early years of the Russian Planning. It was said 'that Lenin conceived planning in terms very similar to military strategy, with its single-minded concentration on a strategic objective, on a crucial timing and crucial line of thrust. In such a situation the rules and habits of normal continuity in development are rudely broken; and economic targets lose their character of cold prediction and assume an evocative role'. Indian planners, were influenced no doubt, by the poverty of the people, the size and growth of population and the urgency to find a solution to these problems, but the controversy is one relating to their approach. They set the targets, which according to them were irreducible and then set out to find the resources which became a difficult task. Then a strategy was adopted which whatever their theoretical soundness may be, led to an adoption of a policy which made the planners count on deficit financing as a resource for the plan. This logic led them to countenance inflation. It is unfortunate that even though it has been realised that inflation will neutralise away a good portion of our achievement,

the planners have not summoned up enough courage to do away with inflationary method of financing. It is high time that we realise that progress through inflation is illusory, but progress without inflation is permanent.

During the recent Lok Sabha debate on the draft outline of the Third Five Year Plan, there was pointed reference to the spurt in prices. Views which have become more or less of a set pattern were expressed with a view to counter-act inflation. The official spokesmen as usual pointed out that the situation was not as bad as painted by pessimists. But the Reserve Bank's Annual Report on the currency, pointed out that the outstanding feature of 1959-60 was the growth of inflationary forces especially those due to monetary factors and these forces have begun to permeate in the economy. The Report also pointed out that price increases are no longer confined to the food group as before but have effected industrial raw materials and manufactures.

Several measures have been suggested like building up of buffer stocks of foodgrains, effective control of the forward markets in some of essential commodities, fuller utilisation of installed capacity in consumer goods industries and so on. But these are temporary palliatives which cannot counteract continuous inflationary pressure which has its origin in the money supply and the impact of massive public expenditure. This is what the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India said, 'considering that both agricultural and industrial production were maintained in 1959 at high levels, a conclusion that is difficult to resist is, that monetary pressure in relation to available goods and services proved somewhat excessive'. It follows that a policy of containing inflation will not be the proper one. A bold and drastic policy to eliminate inflation is indicated and I shall have occasion to revert to this later.

Crisis again

Once again the foreign exchange crisis has reared its head. This time we cannot find the excuse that we did not anticipate the exchange crisis for a note has been made of the exchange

requirements and according to the draft outline the Third Plan the plan starts, unlike the first two, with a low level of foreign exchange reserves and it will therefore be essential in the Third Plan to exercise the utmost vigilance in respect of imports and to enlarge foreign exchange earnings to the maximum extent possible. It was also realized that one of the principal problems connected with the Third Plan will be the repayment of substantial part of the loans borrowed during the Second Plan. As most of the loans fall due for repayment during the third plan it was also clear that sufficient foreign exchange for this purpose should have to be found over and above the requirements for financing the imports required for the third plan. Even though the above calculations were made, and these were also taken into account when drafting the third plan, the crisis which has occurred was let in without any notice. It was commented that in the Lok Sabha debate on the Third Plan there was no mention about the exchange situation.

When during the Second Plan period, a similar situation arose. India possessed some foreign reserves on which she was able to fall back but today at Rs. 140 crores (excluding gold) the foreign reserve position is none too happy. Imports today are at a minimum. Yet, the irreducible minimum of imports exceed the maximum exports by about Rs. 200 crores annually. The value of maintenance imports is placed at Rs. 3,750 crores and it has been estimated that the net capital transaction would mean an additional foreign exchange liability of Rs. 500 crores. To these has to be added Rs. 2,100 crores of foreign exchange expenditure under the Third Plan for importing capital goods for the plan projects and components etc., for increasing the production of capital goods within the country. We have thus, a grand total of about Rs. 6,170 crores of foreign exchange which must be secured during the Third Plan period.

It has been suggested that to tide over the payment crisis, India should ask the I.M.F.

for a stand-by credit. The I.M.F. lends in currency of any member country on a stand-by basis, for three to five year term at 2% to 5% interest per annum plus service charges. But it is said that India may not be prepared to approach I.M.F. because she already has to pay \$200,000,000 of which a large portion has to be paid in 1961. Further I.M.F. may place certain conditions which may curtail her freedom in the matter of planning even.

It is pointed out since the above approach is not feasible she can adopt the following alternatives. She can request the members of the 'Aid India Club' to give her more untied loans. India can request her creditors to grant her time for repayment and use the amount thus saved for raw material imports. Finally she can go all-out to boost her exports.

Regarding the first of the above suggestion it is unfortunate that India is able to get mostly tied loans and the prospect of getting untied loans is none too rosy. Regarding asking for deferment in payment due in the Third Plan period, which can be converted into additional loans for maintenance purpose. Mr. B. K. Nehru, India's Commissioner General for Economic Affairs in the United States, rightly remarked that 'this was the most remarkable piece of double accounting of which he had heard.' About the third one, boosting her exports, it is a fact that exports are not expanding fast enough. Further India's traditional exports like tea and cotton textiles are facing increasing competition in the world market, in terms of price, as well as quality, from goods marketed by Japan, Indonesia, Ceylon, Pakistan and some African and Latin American countries.

In addition to the above difficulties, we must understand the full implications of the repayment burden. The primary burden is purely a quantitative one. A certain volume of repayment represents a definite reduction in national income, which would have been available for increasing either the consumption or savings of the country. The country obtains nothing in return for the resources it transfers

abroad. It is further to be noted on account of payment difficulties, the country will be forced to follow certain policies, which may be in conflict with the aims of planning, like encouraging the foreign trade sector at the expense of domestic trade sector, and following a policy of reduction of export cost which may have repercussions in other sectors; not all of them favourable. Perhaps the most important problem, is the one connected with the conversion of resources available for repayment into foreign exchange. This problem may not arise in the case of loans to be repaid in rupees, but it is present in the case of repayments in foreign currency. So when evaluating the ultimate gravity of the exchange crisis not only have we to estimate the total exchange required but must also take into consideration some of the effects of the foreign exchange problem, described above.

What others said

'The Indian scene has two characteristics that lend special urgency to an adequate programme of American loans to that country. The first is that the present Indian leadership has quite clearly centred its bid for national unity on a common effort to achieve constructive economic goals, in a frame work of democratic consent. Economic development goals are a live political issue in India as they are not (to anything like the same extent) in any other underdeveloped country.....The second characteristic of the Indian scene that gives it special urgency is the interesting relation between private and public economic activity that has begun to reveal itself in the last two years. The fact that public and private investment are not alternatives but can support each other in the early take-off stage of development has been nicely demonstrated by the Indian experiment. In spite of socialist ideology private investment in India has recently been booming. The private sector has in the first 18 months of the Second Five Year Plan, undertaken as much investment as planners initially expected it to undertake over the entire five years' (M. F. Millikan and W. W. Rostow)

MEN AND MATTERS

BY

C. H. V. PATHY

A Pact is signed

Prime Minister Nehru of India and President Ayub Khan of Pakistan signed the historic Indus Basin Water Agreement at the President's house at Karachi.

I witnessed the simple ceremony from an aisle seat in the Press stand. This pact puts an end to the seven year old Feud between Pakistan and India about sharing the waters of Indus and its territories.

According to the terms of the pact, Pakistan will have full control of Indus and its two tributaries in the west, while India will have undisputed right for the waters of the three rivers on the east.

The "Cold War" over the waters was waged with intensity and India at one stage told Pakistan that she will stop the waters of rivers stemming from India completely in 1960.

Pakistan made repeated representations to the Western Powers that unless she was allowed a reasonable share in the Indus and its tributaries, she will become a barren and arid waste. This would amount to economic strangulation.

Thanks to the initiative of Western Powers, a way out was found a couple of months back and the terms arrived at by Mr. Iliff were agreed upon by both the countries.

The signing of the pact is only the beginning. Thousands of miles of canals and some dams have to be constructed in Pakistan. In this, generous help has been promised by the Commonwealth countries, United States, Canada and West Germany.

Pandit Nehru at the speech he made before signing the pact viewed it as a great step in co-operation among nations. He also said this was the beginning of better relationship between the two countries.

President Ayub Khan also spoke in identical terms.

Both the President and the Prime Minister praised the help rendered by the World Bank and its Chairman. From Karachi, both Prime Minister Nehru and Marshal Ayub Khan took off to Rawalpindi. They had discussions in Murree, whereafter both emplaned to Lahore.

British High Commissioner

Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, the genial British High Commissioner in India will shortly quit his job.

The last son of the illustrious Ramsay Macdonald, one time Prime Minister of Great Britain, Ramsay was born into politics. He also developed a passion for fine arts.

He told me while I met him first at Singapore in 1955 that his first dream was to become a painter, but he abandoned it, having realised that he might not go far parent and brush.

So, after taking an economics degree at Oxford, he settled down in a peaceful British Countryside for two years, and at the end of it produced a novel with a love theme. That too was an attempt. After two publishers had rejected it he plunged into politics as the next best thing open to him.

After two decades of politics during which he rose to be a Minister, Churchill appointed him as High Commissioner in Canada. However, he returned his seat in the House of Commons. By the time of the General Elections in 1945, he had made up his mind that diplomacy would suit him better.

In Malaya, he was known for his unorthodox life. He carried on administration, sitting in his office with bush shirt. He entered the haunts of terrorists in a helicopter.

He is interested in bird watching and promoting friendly relations among people.

M. Molotov's Re-emergence

Churchill called him "a cold blooded ruthless man of outstanding ability."

This was the unsmiling M. Molotov, one-time Premier of Russia who hit the headlines recently after three years of exile in Outer Mongolia. As Ambassador, he had been repeatedly rumoured as intriguing with Communist China against Moscow. Now he has been transferred to China as Soviet delegate to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Molotov's re-emergence, according to some political commentators marks a new indication of Khrushchev's decline in power.

Indirani

Madras lovers of fine arts are of late being subjected to periodic doses of 'Bharat Natyam' by a foreign exponent of this intricate art.

She is none other than Miss Inez Metili, a girl from New York who arrived in Madras city about three years back. Even in the States, she developed a passion for Indian dances and mastered its technique through books.

As a Ford Foundation scholar, she had nothing much to worry about expenses. She stayed at the outset at Dasaprakash but moved later to a flat in Alwarpet.

Her career as an artiste was not all roses. At first, she joined Bala Saraswathi's School of Dances but was almost cold-shouldered there. The technique of the *maestro* was too much for 'Indirani' (for that is Miss Metili's Indian name) to master. So she branched out and took private lessons from Canjeevaram Ellappa Pillai.

A few days back, she made her debut at Museum Theatre. She won universal praise for her first performance. Later, she has made some more appearances.

She will shortly return to the United States where she will popularise "Bharat Natyam".

Indirani is an arresting personality. She is a vegetarian and wears Indian saree on almost all occasions.

Cultural Delegation

An Indian cultural delegation left New Delhi recently on a visit to Sudan, the U.A.R., Turkey, Greece and Iran.

The members of the delegation are Shanta Rao, Bharat Natyam dancer, Damayanthi Joshi, Kathak dancer, Bahadur Khan, Sarod player and Shanno Kjurana, singer.

The tour which has been arranged at the invitation of these countries will last about two months.

Shanta Rao who hails from Mangalore has been to many countries before. She is one of the best exponents of not only Bharat Natyam but also Kathakali. She had her training under Vallathol.

Obituary

The death occurred at Delhi in the first week of September of Feroze Gandhi, son-in-law of the Prime Minister. He was 48.

Stemming from a well-known Parsi family at Allahabad, he was sucked into the vortex of the struggle for freedom in India. He met Srimathi Indira Gandhi in Great Britain. They later married. They have two sons, both schooling at Dehra Dun.

His death came as a shock to the country. He was an eminent journalist and a front rank Parliamentarian, devastating in his attack and immatched in the collection of facts and figures.

He succumbed to a heart attack. Indira was by his beside. He was cremated in Delhi and the ashes taken for immersion in the Ganges at Allahabad.

In view of her bereavement Indira Gandhi has made some slight alterations in her foreign tour programme.

Films—Diploma of merit

Apana Sansar, the Indian Film produced and directed by Ray has been awarded a diploma of merit at the 1960 International Film Festival.

27 diplomats were awarded at the Festival, for which there were 244 entries from 36 countries. Other films were entered by Britain, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France,

Germany, Hungary, Mexico, Russia, Sweden and the U.S.

British films won the largest number of diplomas—six. The U.S.A. was next with four.

Films at the festival were seen by 21,000 and delegates attended from 18 countries on the Commonwealth, Europe, America and Asia.

The space age has at last arrived in Indian films.

'Film Sausor' a company floated by a group of Bombay film workers has featured a travel to the moon in their maiden production. "Rocket Girl" with Kumari Naaz and Sudosh Kumar in the leading role.

Naaz who plays the role of a scientist's daughter agrees to travel to the moon accompanied by her fiancé, Sudosh Kumar.

Director Nanubhai Bhat, after completing major of the film, is at the moment busy shooting scenes in the interior of the rocket at Bombay's Asha Studios.

Mrinalini Sarabhai, talented danseuse and daughter of Srimathi Ammu Swaminadhan will shortly appear in a British film, to be produced in India by a British director.

She will be cast in a leading role. A few other Indian stars will also be roped in.

The picture will be shot in India.

Lecture tour

Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, Director of Indian Institute for Population Studies, Madras, has been invited to undertake a lecture tour of colleges and universities in 16 West Asian and African countries. He will visit Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, U.A.R., Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, England, Canada and United States.

Dr. Chandrasekhar will speak on India's social and economic progress during the last 13 years of her freedom, China's population problem and other topics. He will also collect material for a book on Africa's population problem.

The trip is being sponsored by an American foundation.

An important case

The Madras High Court is humming with activity following the filing of a petition by an advocate, Mr. A. Ramachandran for a *writ of mandamus* to the speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly, directing him not to take up for consideration the privilege motion tabled by Mr. S. Lazar or similar motions, arising from the judgment of Justice P. V. Balakrishna Aiyar (now in retirement) in the writ petition questioning the appointment of Mr. A. Alagiriswamy as Government Pleader.

In this wordy tug-of-war naturally the executive is brought in since the said judgment is supposed to have cast reflections on the Executive.

This is indeed a vital issue and its importance is highlighted in a federal constitution like ours. Are there encroachments or overlappings of powers between the organs of Government? Will the interpretation of the constitution by the judiciary decide once and for all the moot problems that are being now considered? There is enormous interest in this salient case. The final decision is keenly awaited. Mr. M. K. Nambiar and Mr. Mohan Kumaramangalam have been examining this situation in a detailed manner citing experiences in other countries before a Full Bench of the Madras High Court. In this context it is often asked "is this a deadlock in our constitution?"

* * *

Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar will be 82 on November 1.

He is one of the most arresting figures in the social, legal and political landscape of the country. For the last few years, he has been living happily in retirement in Ootacamund, amidst a shining array of books and an Alsatian dog to keep him company. The books overflow the study room of his Italian type of villa and occupy part of the kitchen.

His star-studded life which spans the most formative era in Indian history is the romance

of the scion of an aristocratic family whom several fairies must have blessed at his birth. His career both at the bar and in the administrative sphere has been a saga of success for which we have few parallels anywhere.

To the stray visitor who bumps into him, whether in his meticulously kept garden at Teynampet or in the richly decorated drawing room at "Delisle", he creates the impression of an actor posing for an audience. Hundreds who have had the good fortune to have met and talked with him must be having before their mind's eye, the vivid picture of a handsome man.

There is no trace of snobbishness in him. He greets you with an effusive smile and puts you at ease, whether you are a student seeking a donation or a client trying to brief him. When he goes out, he is dressed in dhoti or in trousers with a closed coat. Morning hours at Ooty will find him in Plus Fours.

His turban is a sartorial landmark. It is perched on his head without losing its balance for all the frequent nods and shakes of his head. He has wide eyes which can penetrate your inmost thoughts. His half-closing eyelids reveal his protruding pupils in a rather sweeping fashion.

After a brilliant academic career, "C.P." nursed the ambition of becoming a teacher but due to persuasion from father who was a renowned lawyer who later became a judge, he took the law degree and set up practice in the High Court. Those were days of great lawyers and the new entrant had to struggle hard to keep himself going. In the first year (1909), his fees did not go beyond a three-digit sum.

Law did not monopolise C.P.'s entire attention. His dynamic energy was to find outlets in public life. If India had been a free country half a century ago, Ramaswami Aiyar would have been a darling of literary saloons or a multi-lingual author, escaping from the looming realities of life into a rossete flower garden, hedged round with the aura of a dilettante.

As it is, he was destined to play a vital part in politics.

Early in his career, C.P. created an outstanding impression as a trial lawyer. Quickness of grasp and easy mastery of the subject that was offered gave him enormous confidence. Instead of lining up his pockets with all the fees, he insisted on junior being engaged in all the cases and that junior got his share of the fees. There were many who grew under the shadow of his greatness. Out of them one of the survivors is Mr. M. Subbaroya Iyer. C. P. never rammed home a point with unbecoming hardihood.

Though Gandhiji was stumping the country with the cry of revolt C.P. was never sucked in the vortex of non-co-operation movement. However he was in the Congress camp for a while and acted as General Secretary.

He figured as lawyer in one of the most exciting cases conducted in the High Court for the custody of the theosophic twins, Krishnamurthi and Nityananda. Dr. Annie Besant, the Irish rebel was in the opposite camp. He won the case. Curiously enough, he became friends with Dr. Beasant. That friendship was destined to last till her dying day. Not only was C.P. an ardent Home Ruler but also wrote the leading articles for "New India" when Besant was in detention.

C.P. launched the late G. A. Natesan on his political career. Another close associate of his was the late T. R. Venkatarama Sastri.

He is free from communalism and one of his juniors was a Harijan. Though his mother and wife were of a deeply orthodox nature, Ramaswami interlined with members of all castes and communities.

He declined a judgeship which was offered very early in his career but later accepted the post of Advocate-General. This happened on the eve of his election victory for the Legislative Council.

His official innings in Madras Government rounded off with his becoming an Executive Council member. He was virtually the Madras

Government with Lord Willingdon as the titular head. In the legislature he matched his wit and debating skill with giants like Satyamurthi, A. Ramaswami Mudaliar and C. R. Reddi.

Returning to the bar at the end of his term he found that many of the judges before whom he had to argue cases were persons appointed by him. It was an embarrassing situation and so he quit active practice. It was then that he got a call from Travancore where the newly installed ruler appointed C.P. as constitutional adviser. From this to Dewanship was an easy jump.

His vision and insight were in full play in improving what was then a subfeudal State into one of the most progressive ones in India. He beautified the capital beyond recognition and set the pace of industrialisation. Art, music and literature found in him a great patron. The magnet of his personality drew tourists from many parts of the world.

C.P. is one of the most travelled men in the country. He has been to many lands and seen many faces. He addressed the League of Nations at Geneva in the twenties.

A dastardly attempt at assassination cut short his career in Travancore and he settled down in Ootacamund, devoting all his time to reading and writing. Even at this age, he works 18 hours a day. He does not even have a cat nap in the afternoon. When he relaxes after lunch, he regales himself with gramophone records, many of which are western musical tunes.

He is self-sufficient. From his morning shave to his evening drive down the delectable valley, everything personal is attended to by him. His energy is amazing. He can argue a case non-stop for eight hours a day, address a public meeting in the evening and dash off an article for publication at night. He reads all letters addressed to him and dictates replies to his faithful Secretary, Mr. S. Chidambaram who has been with him for half a century.

C.P. has a capacity to spring surprises. He can silence an unruly election audience by brandishing a revolver, saying that he can

protect himself. He can throw up a bitterly contested elected seat in the legislature to accept a job and he can throw up the highest job ever offered to an Indian for the sake of a principle. No work is too small for him, whether it be reviewing a book for newspaper or responding to the call of Rukmini Arundale to preside over a concert at Kalakshetra.

Asanas, a regulated life and freedom from worry are responsible for his perennial youth and longevity. He used to play tennis and golf and also have horse riding. But owing to the impact of age he has given up these though he walks about three miles a day in some lonely spot.

He is a vegetarian and a teetotaler. His one big meal is his midday lunch which consists of many dishes, rice and pudding. Invariably, he has some guest or other. At the lunch table he is in a reminiscent mood and keeps his guests engaged with stories of old forgotten far off days and battles long ago.

Thus for six decades, C.P. has been in the full glare of public life, sometimes acclaimed as the hero of a situation, sometimes accused as the villain of a piece. But he has never once faded out of view, has never been dimmed. This is due to the fact that there is an element of magnificence in his physical and mental make-up. With his head slanted sideways he strikes a pose on a platform, his palms locked in caressing embrace. This magnificence finds full play when he faces a menacing crowd with dauntless courage or when he brings down a Parliamentary opponent with unassailable logic. He gleams brightly when he is on the crest of a popular adulation as much as when he is caught up in the swirling currents of widespread opposition. He has treaded the path of glory without passing through the fires of suffering and sacrifice.

He is a composite personality in a synthetic mould. In his lectures, one can hear the murmuring rhythm of poetry as well as the creaking jingle of an armoured knight, careering for a fight, the unending rattle of a controversialist and the sage counsel of a statesman.

The hydro-electric project at Pykara which he carried out in the teeth of opposition is today a monument of his foresight. He was also responsible for the Mettur Dam, the Vizag harbour and the Tuticorin port. At every stage, he was mauled by a terrific blizzard of opposition. But C.P. stood his ground and those who scoffed have remained to pray.

Once when accused by a member of the Justice Party that he was a proved pro-Brahmin in the distribution of official favours, he threw facts and figures on the table which proved that he had tilted the scales overwhelmingly against the members of his own community. And in a withering speech which followed he showed that he had done more for non-brahmins than most of their own leaders.

While the Travancore State was stirred by his suppression of the Congress, he set the entire country singing his praise by his temple entry proclamation. While the Catholics were creating a campaign against his educational policy, he carried through a measure of reforms that had not been granted by any other State. He abolished capital punishment and established a University for Travancore.

His devotion to friends is almost legendary. His Secretary has been with him for half a century, the gardener in the Ooty villa is there right from the day that the estate was purchased and his Malayalee chauffeur is going strong even after 35 years of service.

Once at the staging of the play "Shakuntala" at the Presidency College, he said that he remembered two decades ago, standing on the same platform and acting a role in that drama.

"What were you," asked an irreverent lady student.

Flashing came the retort: "Let me comfort my interlocutor that I was then not a pretty girl."

While he was the Law Member of the Madras Government, he was driving fast along the beach road to attend an important Cabinet meeting when his car was stopped by a sergeant.

"Do you know whom you are holding up," asked C.P.

"Of course I know that I am holding up the Law Member because there is target practice opposite and I have to carry out orders," replied the sergeant.

The next day, instead of getting a sack he got a lift.

At 81, C.P. has all the bounce of a youth of eighteen. He walks erect.

Every day in his life is an adventure, every night placid with emotions recollected in tranquillity. Judging by his physical vigour and intellectual alertness, it can be safely prophesied that he will hit the century mark and sail along with Dr. Visveswaraya and Prof. Karve.

The United Nations

The U.N. Assembly is in session as we go to the press. By the 26th of September most of the political leaders would have assembled at New York to take part in the deliberations of the present United Nations meeting. Mr. Nehru of India and Harold Macmillan would also be there. Mr. Krushchev's announcement to visit New York to attend the United Nations Assembly has burst like a bombshell in western capitals. Western diplomats are left guessing what is up his sleeves. Apparently the leader of Soviet Russia had decided to use the forum of the U.N. Assembly for a peace offensive. Francis de Gaulle is reported to be not in a mood to attend the U.N. sessions. Even then, we will have the stage set for the emergence of a possible Summit Meeting out of which may emerge a relaxation of International tension.

The 97 nation U.N. Assembly convened to meet at New York from September 20th will have virtually all the world's major problems dumped on its lap and many lesser ones as well. It will undoubtedly be the most important International convocation for years. President Nasser will be there to attend, so will Marshal Tito. The Burmese Prime Minister U Nu has also decided to take the trip to New York.

It will meet against the background of an Africa aflame and disarmament still a pious dream.

SRIRANGAPATAM, THE HISTORIC ISLAND FORTRESS

BY

MATHEW CHERIAN

On the Bangalore-Mysore Road, twelve miles before you arrive at the garden City of Mysore by car, you will be in the vicinity of the historic fortress of Srirangapatam or Srirangapatna. We have on record pages and pages written about this ancient stronghold of the hardfighting and chivalrous father and son, Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan. Depending on their intensity of prejudices, some historians have no doubt thwarted the true story of these independent and masterful rulers from South India. Though Srirangapatam became a non-entity on the political map of India nearly two centuries ago, it is always interesting and refreshing to dwell upon the story of these tough warriors.

Srirangapatam is an island washed by the tributaries of river Cauveri. After it converges into the lovely Krishnaraja Sagar dam a few miles up stream, the Cauveri splits into tributaries and flows round Srirangapatam till they join at a place, known as 'Sangama' and continue to flow along about fifty miles to help to generate electricity at Sivasamudram. A modern road has been constructed through the centre of this Citadel of Tippu and Hyder Ali.

I have been to this place of historical importance many a time. Many of you would have been there yourself. For the benefit of the less lucky ones, let us take a trip round these ruins. When you reach Srirangapatam from the Bangalore side, take a small deviation to the right. You will at once see the massive historic fortress of Srirangapatam. The walls are built out of huge blocks of rocks. There is a road leading you right inside the fortress. The entrance into this fortification is controlled by a couple of massive gates. We are told

that the waters of the Cauvery surrounded this fortress though at the present time, at many places you will come across dry land in some parts just outside the walls. The guides, who are not many, unlike other places of importance, will take you straight to the infamous 'Dungeon' built by Tippu more than 180 years ago. Here, we are told, Tippu used to 'entertain' the captured British officers in the Mysore Wars. The Dungeon covers only a very small area and is made out of thick blocks of rocks. Come right inside with me. You will see the small holes on the wall which was used to tie the iron chains around the captured. More informed ones, tell us that the British officers were made to stand there all the twenty-four hours till they collapsed, due partly to starvation and partly to suffocation. An old French Cannon now lies in the middle of this Dungeon which was supposed to have been mounted on the Dungeon. Incidentally the French supported Tippu in his fight against the British. The most important 'guest' in this Dungeon was Col. Baile who was captured by the combined forces of Hyder Ali and Tippu in the II Mysore War in the year 1781. He was locked up in the Dungeon. He died there after a few months. In order to commemorate his heroic fighting, a monument was erected by his nephew, another British officer, round about 1816, about two miles away from the Dungeon. Though it is easy to move about inside the Dungeon now, we are told that it was pitch dark inside when it was used as a prison.

Let us come out of this grotesque structure. One interesting thing you will note on the fortress wall is a 'three dimensional' observation hole, through which the guards kept a vigilant

watch on the fortress. Opposite the Dungeon you can see a lovely, yet very ancient temple, the Sri Ranganath Temple. Let us proceed. A few yards away from here you will read on a plaque, "The Body of Tippu Sultan was found here." They found the dead body of Tippu on this spot from where it was removed to its present resting place, a couple of miles away. You are already in the vicinity of Tippu's Winter Palace; now it lies in ruins. A few yards away you will come across the gun powder houses where Tippu's soldiers used to store gun powder. A little away, nearer the Bangalore-Mysore road, is the mosque built by Hyder Ali. This 'Jumma Masjid' attracts a number of visitors and you can see all around Srirangapatam from the ramparts of this 200 year old prayer hall used both by Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan.

Now we shall cross over the road to see the Dariya Dowlat or the Summer Palace of Tippu. It is not very far. This palace is 176 years old. It is a wooden building. All over the building you will observe paintings depicting the Mysore Wars—the army, the elephants, the enemy and so on. They look very fresh even at the present day. As is customary, you are asked to pay a small sum, to see this place. It is surely worth the price. In this palace you will see the Durbar Hall where Tippu and his advisers and ministers used to hold Durbar. From the Durbar hall, Tippu could see the Band Stand where everyday the band used to play in salutation of their king.

Let us now proceed to Sangama, i.e. the meeting place of the Cauvery tributaries about which I told you earlier. On this road you will see the monument of Col. Baile, who was captured at Perumbaukum and died later on the 13th November 1782. A little away you can see two pigeon cages opposite to each other. In those days, in the absence of telegrams and a well developed postal system, pigeons were used as message carriers from place to place.

Now we are heading to the most important place at Srirangapatam, the Gumbaz or the burial place of Hyder Ali and Tippu. This is

about 2½ miles from the Dowlat or the Summer Palace. Before we reach the family cemetery of the freedom loving Hyder and his famous son it will not be out of place to dwell upon the fighting spirit of these great warriors. The conquering British did not find it easy to capture Tippu, whom they called the 'Tiger of Mysore'. They fought gallantly against the intruder and Tippu tried his best to get French support in his struggle for survival. In the IV Mysore War Tippu lost his life. It is said, he would not have been defeated but for the deceitful and underhand dealings of his two advisers, Dewan Purnia and Mirzasadique. Let us not accuse them. That is already part of our history. But this is certain, Tippu put up a heroic fight and he died fighting. History will always remember him as a great fighter.

We may now enter the Gumbaz or the burial place. Outside the main building, several tombs of Tippu's family members can be seen. The pillars of this building are made in black marble. On the Verandah of this great building, there is the tomb of the Ayah or Nurse of Tippu which is made in black marble unlike others in white marble. Now we have reached the main door, in fact the only door of the towering tomb. An interesting lock is used on this door. The watcher told me that it is handed down from the times of Tippu. Inside this mausoleum there is an air of dignity and silence prevails. Incense is burnt throughout. The three tombs of Tippu, Hyder Ali and Tippu's mother are constructed in a row in the middle of this room, in black marble. Colourful clothes are used to cover these three tombs. On the walls of this building as in the Summer Palace, beautiful paintings can be seen. The entire atmosphere is Solemn. You are not allowed to wear shoes or sandals inside this magnificent building. All around this tomb, you will see rooms built to accommodate the pilgrims who visit this place in large numbers. You will see flowers on several of these tombs. As you come out you will see an interesting notice 'No cooking allowed in the rooms.' Surely, this is hardly the place for cooking.

Whenever I visit Srirangapatam, pages and pages of Indian history come back to my mind. As I was driving out of this historic island, I was thinking of the 17th and 18th century India, when battles, feuds and political intrigues were daily occurrences. I hope I am not repetitive when I say that we should at times

remember this Sultan family of Srirangapatam who showed courage and guts to stem the tide of a more powerful intruder. 1960 is hardly the time to recall these incidents, when many harp for greater co-operation and friendship between India and Britain. But certainly, it is no crime to think of your past at times.

HORIZONS BIG AND SMALL

BY

POTHAN JOSEPH

When one goes to a matinee show and is late by ten minutes, one becomes a nuisance to the audience already rapt in the sight on the screen, not because the visitor intends any disturbance but because of a change in vision as he passes from the glare of the Sun to the darkness of the auditorium. If there are steps to negotiate and if the attendant armed with his torch goes for tea, he himself would be in peril; but in any case, as one endeavours to find one's seat in the stalls on the strength of ticket marked D-7, the late-comer finds he has to get past a pillar, beside which is ensconced an intimate pair, and then along the line a number of growling nondescripts. Disturbance is caused in neighbouring rows as well until, by indulgence, the late-comer reaches his place and begins to apprehend the lie of his surroundings. Not that he is a blind man, but the change from glare outside to the darkness inside without a breather for adjustment makes him into a groping stumbler.

When the Prime Minister returns from his U.N.O. triumphs, there is the danger of analogous difficulties. In the General Assembly, he had been in more senses than one under the arc light—the observed of all observers. Pandit Nehru's outlook spread there over vast horizons and the perils encompassing mankind. As he suddenly changes his venue in thirty-six hours, there is the probability of hazy outlines of problems afflicting India.

In New York, Nehru's theme was colonialism and imperialism, but down in India we have the scourge of linguism and casteism. I have sometimes wondered why some spokesmen, critical of India, do not, in the resolutions of the General Assembly, condemn "casteism" along with colonialism, so as to turn the searchlight on what is a mockery in India's titles of demo-

cracy—in the general denunciation of age-long faults of mankind which is still in the throes of the struggle towards perfectionism. Pandit Nehru, in deploring the Assam riots, observed that in any event the tragedy had turned the light inwards into our own mind and our cupboard-skeletons.

Khrushchev flayed the West charging it with "imperialistic monopolism." The Soviet Bloc is in a position to lambaste nations that exploited Africa, since the Czarists of old had, on account of their European parochialism, never thought of fitting out expeditions by sea, possibly for lack of warm-water ports. Anyway, the Communist inheritance leaves Moscow in a position to castigate the old expansionists, enjoying the consciousness of enforced virtue and making capital out of it. In reply, the slow and sloppy diplomats of the West, in their politeness, refrain from speaking of "Communist slavery" or the totalitarian tyranny or some other blistering phrase to make the debate even.

Pandit Nehru's position was unique in its detachment, but mentally (to adopt another metaphor) there will be a descent from high altitude to sea-level when he is back in India. One danger for which he is not to blame is that he would be tempted to denounce party-problems in different States as "petty matters" compared with the affairs of the Space Age and nuclear tensions in the wide world. Still, we have to get on with a certain degree of assurance and happiness in our own little world in India. Problems in more than one State are real and cannot be waved aside as just trivialities.

The party organisation itself is undermined by the preservation of a grave anomaly. If each state has a personality of its own, it should not be condemned to a harried existence, a

plight implicit in dual authority. The Congress High Command has the power to say Yes or No and declare local wishes as overruled. The prevalence of power without responsibility has been traced by political philosophers to the oldest profession in the world, which need not be specified among adults. The two wings of the Congress in each State have to function in concert, but we have more than one case to point how they flap without co-ordination making a farce of the institution and its basic concepts.

In Bangalore, when the Prime Minister arrived in September, it was assumed that there would be some positiveness in his verdict on the discord within the Congress ministerial party itself. What he said was that he did not represent the High Command, that a glance at the 29 charges against the Ministry made them appear trivial, and that in one or two major accusations, steps may be taken to inquire,

if anybody was keen on it. Anyway, his Delphic summing-up left both sides claiming justification for their respective stand.

No less ambiguous is the position in Andhra, the Punjab and now Uttar Pradesh where the Chief Minister is confronted with the election of an opponent as head of the Pradesh Committee. These contradictions cause tension in India, quite as conducive to misery as tension abroad. The telescope and the microscope can hardly be put to concurrent use in the same spot of research.

While domestic problems are being aggravated, the vision necessary for analysing issues, big and small, will depend upon the elasticity of the political cornea. If powers of local autonomy are not respected, lifting State politics beyond the purview of no-confidence tests, there is the risk of even Planning running into fatal difficulties.

A Short Story

A HUSBAND IS A FAMILIAR THING

BY

PROF. S. P. ADINARAYAN

It was twelve noon in Suburbia. Mrs. Ram was nearing the end of her morning chores. The most arduous of them—the cooking of lunch was over. Now she was on to the last and pleasantest bit—the cleaning of the drawing room carpet with her newly acquired vacuum cleaner. She loved this cleaner. Using it was more fun than work. She loved the efficient, high-pitched humming noise that it made, the ease with which it sucked in dirt from the most unlikely and inaccessible of places and above all the power of its little motor. It dragged her against her will in all directions and sometimes nearly pulled her arms out of their sockets. She often wondered what would happen if she let the thing go.

The carpet was soon clean. Mrs. Ram clicked the motor off and pulling out the plug threw the chord over a chair. Leaving the cleaner standing where it was in the middle of the carpet, she helped herself to a cup of coffee from a thermos standing on a side table. Then indulging in a prodigious yawn, she sank into the settee and composed herself for a short nap. Lunch was only at one. She could sleep for an hour provided she was not disturbed. She needed at least that much rest before she could face the food that was of her own creation. She wished that she could get another cook. It was nearly three months since the last one had left. But then cooks were so difficult. What the poet Tennyson had said of women was more true of them—uncertain, coy and hard to please—and cheeky and expensive to boot. She would have dearly loved to have booted the last cook she had but he gave her no chance. He had just disappeared

one fine morning. With him had vanished three silver tumblers. She must buy some more tumblers before she thought of engaging another cook.....The price of silver was going up.....The price of everything was going up.....What was the Congress government doing.....

Her reverie was disturbed by a loud knocking at the door. Mrs. Ram sat up. "Visitors must call at the most awkward time imaginable" she grumbled and then shouted "Come right in, the door is unbolted." Hesitant steps crossed the threshold and then stopped dead in the hall. "Some stranger" said Mrs. Ram to herself and again shouted "First turning to the right, I am in the drawing room". A neatly dressed youngman entered. He was wearing a pair of dark flannel trousers, a white shark-skin bush coat and was carrying a somewhat battered canvas bag in his hand. On seeing her, he politely removed his hat and wished her "Good day."

"Well what can I do for you?" asked Mrs. Ram.

"Madam, I am an agent" he replied.

"I thought so. But I buy all my things from a nearby co-operative stores. I can always return them in case I do not like them and also there is some kind of dividend which is supposed to come to you but rarely does. So please do not waste your time trying to sell me things that I do not want."

"Madam, I deal in an unusual line, in something that most co-operative stores in this country do not sell."

"What is it?"

"Before I tell you could you please let me know whether there are any men in the house at this moment."

"None at all. As a matter of fact not even women besides me. My cook left me three months ago and the daily help left at ten in the morning. All my children are at school."

"Sure your brother has not come to pay a visit."

"Young man, I am an only child."

"Thank you. I sell weighing machines."

"Then this is your unlucky day. Only last month my father brought me one from the U.S.A."

"But this is not an ordinary weighing machine. It is built on psychological line."

"What is the difference?"

"Well, let me put it like this. Today most young ladies are worried about their weight. They start to slim. They starve. They take exercise morning and evening. After a week of hard work and self-denial they weigh themselves. What do they see? Weight just as before. Result—discouragement, loss of self-confidence, love, romance etc. On the other hand in this weighing machine that I have here there is a little knob that you turn on the day you start slimming. Thereafter it shows five ounces less than before every time that you weigh yourself. Result—tremendous sense of achievement. Bubbling enthusiasm."

"But wait a minute. You know that you have turned the knob on and that what the weighing machine says is not true. Therefore the decreasing weight registered by it can have no effect on you."

"That is where you are wrong. Madam is no doubt aware that the psycho-physical organism is a unity."

"I was not aware of any such thing. What on earth does that mean?"

"It means that the mind has some effect on the body and vice versa. As every day

you see your weight going down, even though it is not true, yet it has a beneficial effect. The idea of decreasing weight which is mental has some effect on the body which in some cases is very much material. In fact this weighing machine is built more or less according to the recipe of Monsieur Coué."

"What a funny name. Was he a cook?"

"No, a psychologist. He said that if you repeat to yourself every morning about fifty times the statement 'Every day, in every way I am getting better and better' in course of time you will actually get better. And now let me give you a demonstration, beautiful lady!"

"Thank you for calling me beautiful so early in the day."

"Does not your husband ever call you beautiful?"

"Well, occasionally in the night but never in the morning."

"Is he blind?"

"Not at all. But I must confess that he is somewhat short-sighted."

"The beauty of the night is deceptive beauty. A faked-up affair, rooted in cream and powder, soft lights, silk and flowers. It owes its power more to Elizabeth Arden than to nature. But the beauty of the morning is the real thing. She that can be beautiful with uncombed hair, unpowdered face, unkempt hands and the odours of the kitchen still clinging to her—she is the truly beautiful woman."

"I do smell a little of onions. I have been chopping a lot of them this morning. After so much flattery I could hardly refuse to see the machine. Bring it out and let us get it over."

The agent unzipped the canvass bag, took out the weighing machine and put it on the floor. Mrs. Ram said, "I suppose I first weigh myself and know the truth. Then you turn the button on and let the psychology in."

"That is the idea. But before you weigh, could you please remove all your jewels."

"What a funny idea. I am sure their presence will make very little difference. I am a poor woman. I have on only twelve gold bangles, three necklaces and five rings."

"Will you please do exactly what I want you to do?"

Something in the agent's tone sounded strange. Mrs. Ram looked up and found him smiling and holding a revolver in his hand. "So that is it!" she exclaimed, "you are not an agent."

"No. I am a day-light robber."

"You do not deal in weighing machines but in gold instead."

"Well I am not too fussy. Gold is the main thing but diamonds and other precious stones I do not object to. Platinum rarely comes my way."

"I suppose you will feel insulted if I add my silver anklets to the collection."

"Now that you mention it, I do not mind. One has to be accommodating in my profession. But please hurry up. I cannot spend the whole morning here."

"No, I quite understand that. You have other business calls to make, so to speak."

"Yes. But not in the same locality."

Mrs. Ram quickly divested herself of all her jewels, tied them into a bundle in an handkerchief and handed it over to the 'agent'. "And now" she said "as a last favour to a dying woman—I mean a robbed woman—would you please allow me to weigh myself. I am anxious to see how the magic machine works."

"O.K. get going. I will be losing precious minutes but have always been a soft-hearted kind of a chap, especially where beautiful women are concerned."

Mrs. Ram stood on the weighing machine and immediately exclaimed "Something is wrong with it. It is not registering anything."

"How silly of me to forget. It is electrically operated. Here, take this flex and plug it in at the switch-board over there."

Mrs. Ram took the flex in her hand and slowly walked towards the switch-board. As she passed the chair over which the wire from the vacuum cleaner was hanging she deftly made an exchange and plugged the chord from the cleaner in. Immediately there was a terrific buzzing noise and the vacuum cleaner started moving. It dashed across the room and hit the bewildered 'agent' squarely on the legs. He let out an yell and jumped on to a chair. In the resulting confusion his revolver slipped from his hand and fell on the floor. Quickly Mrs. Ram picked it up. "Stay where you are" she shouted, "if you make the slightest movement. I will shoot. It is only fair to warn you that I have never so far touched a revolver in my life. So the chances are that I will hit you in the heart first shot and kill you."

The 'agent' began to laugh boisterously. "Sorry to disappoint you lady, but it is not loaded. Loaded revolvers are funny things. They go off at all sorts of odd and inconvenient moments and make a lot of noise. As you will readily understand I am not very anxious to call attention to myself when professionally engaged. Besides I may accidentally kill someone. I am a day-light robber, not a murderer."

"And I" said a fat, bald man entering the room at this juncture "am the avenger." He wore glasses with very thick lenses, had a protruding front and carried a gun in his hand. "This gun is loaded" he continued "and I could shoot a cigarette off your mouth. Therefore you will oblige me by continuing to stand where you are."

"Who the devil is this?" exclaimed the 'agent'.

"What the devil you mean by calling him a devil!" retorted Mrs. Ram.

"There are far too many devils about this business. What I mean lady is this—who on earth is this gentleman."

"He is not a gentleman, he is my husband."

"What is he doing at home at this hour of the day? Has he no office to go to? Men like him are the curse of our profession."

He has no office to go to because he works at home. He is an author—writes novels, short stories, poems and things like that. So far no one has evinced the slightest desire to publish them but we keep on hoping."

"How then did you get all those jewels?"

"My father is a rich man. But surely you are not interested in middle-class finance besides flattery and faked weighing machines."

"They are sort of inter-connected. But my immediate interest—forced interest—for the next few months is going to a cell in the nearest prison." He shrugged his shoulders and went on "How true you were lady, when you said that this was not my lucky day." He turned towards the husband, "Could you please ring for the police, sir, and get this thing over. I am not a sportsman and therefore know when I am beaten."

"I will do nothing of the kind," replied the husband. "I have been listening at the door for some time. You came in pretending to

sell weighing machines and a weighing machine you are going to sell me. I am going to pay for it and then kick you out of the house."

"What is the idea? Trying to make an honest man of me?"

"Exactly. How much will you take for that thing over there?"

"It is difficult to set a price. It is literally worth its weight in gold to me. The little knob and the psychology was all eye-wash but it is a sturdily built affair and it does weigh though so far I had used it only as a means to an end."

"And now it is the end. Will you take Rupees twenty?"

"Well, make it thirty. And I hope you did not mean that bit about kicking literally."

Mr. Ram counted out three ten-rupee notes and handed them over to the 'agent'. "We will skip the last bit," he said. "Now clear out."

"Before I go, as a last favour to a dying daylight thief, I mean a reformed robber—will you please tell me madam, why you told a lie. Why did you say that there was no man in the house when you knew all the time that your husband was at home?"

"I had no intention of deceiving you. You see, it is like this. One, sort of gets used to one's husband pottering about the house. One takes him for granted, does not count him in, *A husband is a familiar thing.*"

SMILE-A-WHILE

1. An out-West method—In a hotel in Montana is the following notice: "Boarders are taken by the day, week or month. Those who do not pay promptly are taken by the neck."

2. Taking no chances—A tall, gaunt-looking person entered a hotel where several fires had occurred and applied for a room at a price which entitled him to lodging on the top floor of the house. Among his belongings the proprietor noticed a coil of rope, and asked what it was for.

"That's a fire escape," said the man, "I carry one with me so I can let myself down from the window without troubling anyone."

"Good plan," said the landlord, "but guests with fire escapes like that pay in advance at this hotel."

3. Wrong place—While on her honeymoon the young bride had gone out alone one afternoon to make some purchases. Back in the hotel, she got off the elevator at the wrong floor. She went down the corridor until she reached what she thought to be the door of her room. Finding it locked and having no key with her, she knocked upon it and called softly, "Honey, oh, Honey."

There was no response. After a while she knocked again, calling somewhat more loudly, "Honey, oh, Honey."

After this had occurred a number of times a blatant male voice roared out from within, saying, "Madam, this is not a beehive, it's a bathroom."

4. Strictly honest—"Yes, I can give you a job. You can gather the eggs for me if you are sure you won't steal any."

"You can trust me with anything, lady. I was manager of a bathhouse for fifteen years an' never took a bath."

5. Does a good job too—"Are your neighbours honest?" the old Negro was asked.

"Yasir, day is."

"But you keep that loaded shotgun near your head."

"Yas, day is."

6. Not at home at home—"Ah, old fellow," said a man meeting a friend in the street, "so you are married at last. Allow me to congratulate you, for I hear that you have an excellent and accomplished wife."

"I have, indeed," was the reply. "Why, she's at home in literature, at home in music, at home in art, at home in science—in short, she's at home everywhere except—"

"Except what?"

"Except at home."

7. Not like father—Many a mother still has very positive convictions about the qualifications a man should have who wants to marry her eligible daughter.

He was shy and retiring and had waited half an hour at the gate of Mary's home, hoping she would come out. Suddenly the door swung open and a formidable-looking woman emerged.

"What are you waiting for?" she snapped.

"F-o-r f-o-r Mary," he stammered.

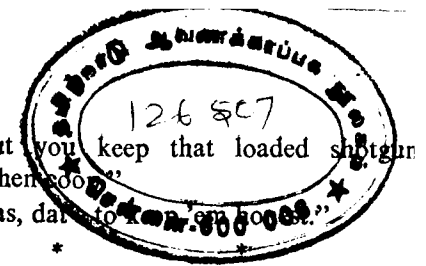
"Then you'd better clear out," came the reply. "You're not the sort of man we want for her. Why, when her father was courting me and I didn't turn up he climbed the garden wall, strangled the watchdog, forced a window, locked my father in his room, put the ring on my finger, and told me we would be married that evening. That's the kind of a man for Mary!"

8. She won—"How did you get along with your wife in that fight the other night?"

"Oh, she came crawling to me on her knees."

"What did she say?"

"Come out from under that bed, you coward!"



9 War in heaven—Soon after the death of her wealthy husband the widow caused to be erected to his memory a monument, bearing this inscription :

"Rest in peace."

It was discovered on probaton of the will that for some reason the husband had not included the widow among his beneficiaries.

The widow then had the inscription modified by adding the following words :

"—Till I come."

10. Definition—A student in comparative religions wrote in his examination paper : "The Christians may have only one wife. This is called monotony."

11. Setting him straight—The former vicar and his wife decided to attend the church social of his old parish.

The new vicar greeted his predecessor heartily. "I'm very pleased to see you again," he said. "And is this your most charming wife?"

"This," the other replied reprovingly, "is my only wife."

12. He took a chance—*Magistrate* : "What induced you to strike your wife?"

Husband : "Well, your honour, she had her back to me, the broom was handy, and the back door was open, so I thought I'd take a chance."

13. Unkind cut—*Bill* : "That was the unkindest cut of all, as the poet says."

Harry : "What was?"

Bill : "I showed her one of my boyhood pictures with my father holding me on his knee, and she said, 'My, who is the ventriloquist?'"

14. Wasted—A man had met with an accident and was carried into his home and a doctor summoned. When he arrived and started to take care of the patient, the agitated wife asked :

"What's that stuff you're giving my husband?"

"An anesthetic," replied the doctor.

"After he has taken it he won't know anything."

"Then don't give it to him," the wife exclaimed. "He doesn't need it."

15. Too late then—A young woman came into a drugstore and asked if it were possible to disguise castor oil. "It's horrid stuff to take, you know. Ugh!" And she shuddered.

"Why, certainly," said the druggist. Another young woman sat down and ordered a chocolate ice-cream soda. The druggist asked the first patron if she would not have one too. With a smile she accepted the invitation, and drank it down with much gusto.

"Now tell me, how would you disguise castor oil?"

The druggist beamed all over. "Aha, my dear young lady, I just gave you some—in that soda."

"Good heavens! Why, I wanted it for my sister!"

16. Theology easily upset—An illiterate Negro preacher said to his congregation : "My brethren, when do fust man Adam was made, he was made of wet clay an' set up again de palings to dry."

"Do you say," said one of the congregation, "dat Adam was made of wet clay an' set up again de palings to dry?"

"Yes, sar, I do."

"Who made the palings?"

"Sit down, sar," said the preacher sternly. "Such questions as dat would upset any system of theology."

17. Crazy over him—A man managed to get into conversation with a pretty girl during a railway journey. He was very pleased with himself and when the train arrived at his destination he said to the girl : "I have to thank you for making this other wide dull journey a very pleasant one. I'm afraid you wouldn't have been so nice if you had known that I am a married man."

"Oh, as to that," said the girl, "you have no advantage over me. I'm an escaped lunatic."

MR. KHRUSHCHEV AND THE WEST

BY

R. K. RAGHAVAN

The death of Stalin marked the culmination of an era of ruthlessness and the advent of a saga in which Mr. Khrushchev began to play a domineering role, rocking and surprising the world outside with his bellicose utterances, but sometimes unexpectedly coming out with avuncular perorations towards a few countries. Particularly after he became the Prime Minister, an euphemism for a cold-blooded dictator, Mr. Khrushchev achieved everything possible to aggravate the already on-the-brink world situation. The cold war between the Western and the Communist blocs instead of tempering down, worsened during the decade, which may partly be due to the malevolent and unrelenting aspect of Khrushchevism. Yet it would be a folly of the highest magnitude to view Mr. Khrushchev in this light only. There has also been, fortunately, a bright patch on his picture, which may be too clearly perceived in his unequivocal declarations of his desire to help the underdeveloped countries. His asseverations to relieve the African countries from the fetters of 'Western Imperialism' are a judicious mixture of both good and bad intentions.

It would be an idle prattle if we brand Mr. Khrushchev as a total war-monger, who has no aspiration for peace as the Western diplomats accuse him to be. But it seems he carries his 'anti-imperialism' to such an extreme that his acrimony is typified bellicosity. Also the impalpable truth could be that Khrushchevism aspires for a world order permeated with Soviet predominance, the Western bloc playing the underling, as the West believes to be. Thus we are confronted with an enigmatic Khrushchev, the dissection of whose characteristics is indeed an unenviable task.

Mr. Khrushchev at the Paris Summit could only be likened to a furious hurricane trampling all well-nourished plants (of friendship) in its way. People all over the world were rudely shocked at the way in which he stated the proceedings. After all the Summit discussions on Disarmament and allied problems rose above a trivial spy-plane incident. Even if the U.S.A. was not willing to tender an apology—after all it is inglorious for a Big Power to apologise, even it be Russia—why did not Mr. Khrushchev brush aside the incident and sportingly agree to participate in the parleys, particularly when he professed he desired only peace in the world. Whatever he had in mind it was rank bad diplomacy. The series of unhealthy incidents reached a nadir when Mr. Khrushchev started hurling abuses and insults at the American President, the like of which one can see only among school-children and not among the so-called 'statesmen'. It would be interesting to know whether, Mr. Khrushchev would keep quite when the brickbat is hurled at him.

Mr. Khrushchev's attack is always directed toward what he calls 'Western Imperialism'. It is indeed hard to understand what he means by 'Imperialism'. But he often boasts that imperialism is alien to the Russian soil. This is indeed a dubious assertion and cannot be readily swallowed. He always asserts that Russia would strive to weed out imperialism anywhere in the world. Mr. Khrushchev readily came to succour to Cuba when the latter was afflicted by 'Western Imperialism' and 'American economic aggression'. Unfortunately Dr. Fidel Castro, the Cuban Premier has failed to understand the dangerous implication of the Soviet aid and the bloody aspect

of Khrushchevism. Mr. Khrushchev now badly needs a military base in the American Continent and Cuba is just going to present it to him as gratuity. The ebullient spate of their revolution and antipathy towards the U.S.A. have spread dust over the eyes of the Cubans. Let the Cubans wake also from their enthusiasm and realise their entanglement in the Communist quagmire. While he solemnly declares that he is anti-imperialistic why did not Mr. Khrushchev declare himself against the Chinese incursions into the Indian territory? Was that not imperialism and expansionism in Mr. Khrushchev's jargon? Probably the Chinese aggression was justified just because she was a Soviet ally. When he adopts such double standards, how is he justified in accusing the West alone of 'Imperialism'? Just opposed to Mr. Khrushchev's attitude to Chinese aggression was President Eisenhower's policy towards Britain and France when they attacked Egypt. Did not the American President give an ultimatum to the two countries to withdraw their troops from the Suez Zone? Really anti-Imperialism is a far-cry to Mr. Khrushchev and not a propinquity.

Recently Mr. Khrushchev has surprisingly come out with an attack on Mr. Hammarskjöld for his actions in the Congo. Also he has suggested the replacement of the U.N. Secretary-General by a three-member executive committee. This is indeed a ridiculous suggestion under existing conditions. It would only render the U.N. impotent still more, and thus pave the way for its destruction. Mr. Nehru rightly remarked that he wondered how a three-member committee, with each man pulling in his own direction, would function efficiently. The Soviet suggestion has not been favourably

received by many of the countries and is sure to be rejected. Here is where the danger lies. It would not be surprising if the Communist bloc begins to boycott the U.N. just because of this. Mr. Khrushchev, at least once, would be doing good to the present and future generations if he does not wantonly nullify the U.N. activities. He won the plaudits of many by his sensible proposals on Disarmament. The world looks to him hopefully to follow it up with a genial embrace with the West in fructivorous parleys. This should be the pattern of his conduct if his real intentions are to establish peace in the world.

A word is also due to the Western bloc. The Western powers should realize that the efforts for the establishment of international peace lie not only on the side of the Communist bloc. They should make their own attempts and should somehow imbibe the virtue of listening to and tolerating the other bloc's view also, without rejecting it *prima facie*. The West should not give cause for a finger of accusation to be shown against it for its relentlessness. It should realize that Colonialism has become obsolete and thus force Spain, Portugal and other countries to grant self-government to their colonies. Only then the West can start with an undefiled slate in its negotiations with the Communist bloc. The U.S.A. should set an example to its allies by its attitude of friendship toward all countries and by an earnest desire to help solve the economic problems of under-developed countries. This moral strength would influence Mr. Khrushchev also, for he cannot stand still in a land of acrimony and antipathy. The corrective would come his way and he would have to bow.

Personality Sketch

SIVAJI GANESAN

BY

KASHYAPA

After roaming all over the world and this country to choose our monthly personalities, I have this month been asked by the Editor to write about one, who is so near us, and so much part of our daily lives, that my reader perhaps knows even more than I do about this personality. And yet I bend myself to my task with cheer and satisfaction, for I have long wanted to pay my written tribute to this well-graced actor. What is lacking in this essay by way of richness of biographical detail, or minuteness of critical review of his films will I hope be more than amply compensated by my sincerity of expression.

* * *
My childhood memories of the Tamil screen still give me nightmares. Grotesque *rakshasas* engaged in battle with effeminate *devas*, and invariably (and surprisingly) losing to the latter; plump heroes dallying with plumper heroines and making love by the strange process of running round trees; comedians who could only manage to invoke a weak smile where a burst of laughter was aimed at; such like are the scenes that one remembers with horror. Then came a Renaissance and a Revolution on the screen. Crisp and powerful dialogues replaced the ugly colloquialism, social themes depicting life as we know it replaced the mythological melodramas, acting in its truest style replaced amateurish efforts. The child of this revolution was Sivaji Ganesan.

* * *
Ganesan came to the limelight by his vivid portrayal of the leading character in the film "Parasakthi" which was at once a box office hit and a matter of much controversy. This picture created a stir in the film world of the South and when this was followed by *Manohara*, another box office hit, Ganesan's reputation was established. But I must not fail to mention



that the Ganesan of those days was a different Ganesan from the Ganesan of today. Then, as now, he was an actor *par excellence*, but the style was different. The Ganesan of "Parasakthi" was a boisterous revolutionary character,

went to deliver himself on the screen of powerful dialogues couched in haste literary style, and preach sermons on social evils. That was a political Ganesan for he was then associated closely with the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. The Ganesan of today is a mellow, soft character who can take on any role from that of a simpleton to that of a cripple, and by sheer acting talent, captivate the minds of the audience. This is a non-political Ganesan. No sketch on Ganesan will be complete without this reference to his past, for a definite stage in his evolution as an artist was spent in a political atmosphere—which he found too stifling, as he grew.

The taste and culture of the people is constantly changing, and an actor of talent must learn to adapt himself to these changes, and not get stereotyped. Ganesan has shown himself to be the master that he is, by adapting his acting to the new roles that are now in demand. If he had stuck on to shouting long verbiage and over-acting, as in the earlier pictures, he would have become a back number long ago. But he quickly changed his style, and has become a more mature and great artist. His recent performances in *Baga Pirivinai* and *Padikkatha Methai* will be remembered for many decades. The Tamil Screen today is finding a level—after oscillating from one extreme of mythological fantastic subjects and coarse colloquial dialogues to the other extreme of super-sermonical social reform subjects and too high flown flowery Tamil dialogues. Today the demand is for ordinary life incidents portrayed as they may take place in any house and spoken in the language of the people, neither too vulgar nor too literary. Ganesan is now on the top because he is just suited to this. And the maximum acting talent is required to act as if one is not acting! To make my meaning clear, almost anybody if dressed up in appropriate costumes can pass off for a screen God or a well-known figure. But to act like an unknown rustic simpleton, calls for the highest degree of ability and this Ganesan possesses in no small measure. In spite of this change in his style, Ganesan can still bring off a swashbuckling role with

success—as evidenced by the success of his *Katta Bomman* where it was all battle and bombastic speeches. In short, Ganesan is what I may call, in the manner of Walton, the Complete Actor.

* * *

In writing about Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, the inimitable Gardiner has said: "It does not matter what he plays in: he shapes it to his own fine mould. It becomes glided with 'skyey tintured grain'." I can adopt the same phrase to describe Sivaji Ganesan. The greatness of an actor lies in his ability to make us forget him and think of the character portrayed. Greatness equally lies in impressing every character portrayed with the stamp of the actor himself. Some actors can do the first of these two things alone, others can do the second alone. But very few in the world can do both—and Ganesan is one of them. He has been hailed as the Marlon Brando of the Tamil Screen. I do not think comparisons can do him justice. Given Brando's chances and scope, Ganesan might have outshone Marlo even. The limited technical repertoire that is available here, the natural limits on the outlay on a picture in Tamil, and the peculiar demands of the audience have all placed fetters on Ganesan. In Hollywood, under a Cecil De Mille, if asked to play Othello or Hamlet, or any historical role or even a Cary Grant role, Ganesan may show the world what stuff he is made of. But within the limitations under which he is forced to work, he has already risen very high indeed.

* * *

As a man, Ganesan is simple and unassuming. He is very fond of friends, and I do not think he likes to be anywhere except in their company. His promptness in business dealings, his sympathy for the plight of the producer, his consideration for his co-artists and his great desire to do his job perfectly and with least bother to others, have all endeared him to the industry. This credit which he enjoys is much more valuable than even his bank balance, but what is more it itself leads to the latter!

SPORTS IN BRIEF

BY OUR SPORTS COMMENTATOR

India's 32 year old hockey supremacy ended at Rome Olympics where Pakistan lowered her colours.

The threat to India's supremacy first came at Melbourne when India just managed to edge out Pakistan in Olympic final, and India had a grim reminder at Tokyo when the Indian team was faced to accept a draw against the Pakistan team.

Though the Indian side put up a heroic fight, it was unavailing at Rome where the better side won. The margin of defeat was only one goal but it would have been more had it not been to the sported defence put up by the Indian team.

Well Done Milkha

India's top athlete Milkha Singh also flattered to deceive. He failed to bring home the gold medal for 400 metres run.

However, he came fourth after an all-out effort to beat down his rivals. His misfortune

was to do the running in the outside lane, where he has to run almost blindfold. A few days ago he expressed his desire to retire for a while.

The Indian football team too did well. They too were beaten but not disgraced. It was cruel to chase them back from Rome where they had no time even to relax for a spell.

A New Record

Tamara Press, the Russian winner of the Olympic Women's discus silver medal broke her record at Rome recently with a throw of 57.15 metres.

The previous record was 57.04 metres, set by another Russian girl, Nina Dumbadze, eight years ago.

Miss Press was competing in a Post-Olympic athletics meeting. She finished second in the Olympics discus event to Nina Ponomereva, also of Russia, and won the gold medal in the shot put.

Book Reviews.

Synchronising with his 100th birthday, India's Engineering wonder, Dr. M. Visveswaraya has come out with his autobiography, titled "Memories of My Working Life".

He was 100 on September 15th. He has served the country in various capacities. He served three Governments. His life is remarkable for the richness of its variety and the range of his experiences.

He was the father of planning in India. He is of the view that no progress of the country

is possible without proper planning and clean and effective administration.

His advice to the younger generation is to acquire knowledge of world affairs. In the several capacities he has served the people, he is known for his impartiality though at times he carried this trait in his character too far.

The book is published by the Publication Division of the Government of India and is priced one rupee seventy five naye paise.

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- INSIDE INDIA — AN ECONOMIC COMMENTARY
— K. VASUDEVAN
- POTHAN JOSEPH'S ARTICLE
- A SHORT STORY — INDIRA ANANTANARAYANA
- SPORTS IN BRIEF — Our Sports Commentator
- KASHYAPA'S PERSONALITY SKETCH

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Editorial

DEMAND FOR GOLD

The month of October witnessed an unprecedented demand for gold in the European Markets especially at London and Paris. Both the London and Johannesburg Stock exchanges carried high quotations for gold. In London the price soared to 40 dollars a fine ounce against the "official" 35 dollars paid by the United States.

The sudden stimulation in the price of gold was caused by some European buyers who ordered dealers to buy gold "at best"—that is without any limit on what they were prepared to pay. Indirectly, when the foreigners bought gold in London the sterling also turned harder because they had to buy sterling to pay for the purchase of gold.

This enormous rise in the price of gold in the European market, appears to have little effect in the internal Indian Market. The Indian price of gold is already much higher than the International price, Rs. 115 per tola as against Rs. 75 in the International Market. The abnormal rise in the International gold price indicates the growing inflationary trend in world economy, particularly in the United States. Greater spending on imports and lower exports have both widened the American trade gap. The continuance of the gold boom will necessarily force the U.S.A. to reduce imports and devise measures to expand exports and also necessitate a cut in their foreign lending. Any cut in their foreign aid will affect us to a considerable extent. India will also have to make gold purchases abroad at a higher rate to meet her obligations to the International Monetary Fund since a part of the payment is always made in gold.

Gold production in India is not sufficient to meet our internal demand. Many in India consider investment in gold as a very safe one. India does not permit import or export of gold and the tremendous private demand is met by smuggled gold. The great disparity between the Indian and International price has encouraged gold smuggling on a large scale. Fortunately or unfortunately we are blessed with a wide expanse of coast line and this has greatly increased the work of our anti-smuggling squads. Despite strict customs checks, gold smuggling continues though at times we hear of seizers of gold by the customs authorities. So long as the gap in prices of gold is there, there is bound

to be temptation on the part of the gold smugglers to continue in their profession. If the gold boom continues and a greater vigilance is instituted to restrict contraband supplies of gold to India, there is likely to be a rise in the internal price of gold.

More often we hear of the plausible proposal that the Government should mobilise all the gold in private hands against bullion certificates to finance our enormous planning expenditure. It is doubtful whether such a scheme would work since realists know that India is a land where gold is security and also part of many religious rituals, and is not easily parted with.

MEN AND MATTERS

BY

C. H. V. PATHY

The captains and the kings who assembled for the greatest show on earth at Manhattan have returned to their respective destinations and the United States has been caught in the swirling tide of the Presidential election.

The biggest attraction of the United Nations meet was the presence of the Prime Minister of Russia, Nikita S. Khrushchev. For days before his take off to his homeland, he had been tantalizing reporters that he might stay until after the American election so that he might have a heart to talk with the person who would succeed Eisenhower at White House. Even after setting a departure date, he told newsmen that he would stay put until agreement was reached on disarmament. But curiously enough, this unpredictable man finally boarded the plane to Moscow to chew the cud of the innumerable interviews he gave and the spate of speeches he made.

His was literally a 25-day political extravaganza, the like of which the world had never seen before.

The news conferences were only irreverent interludes in the main plan which K. had mapped out in his mind. They were that the West should agree to disarm—with no inspection until later; that all Colonial rule should be ended immediately and that the Assembly should condemn the U-2 incident with no mention of Soviet spies.

The delegates of 99 nations who had assembled heard this queuer man argue all these points with violence both of body and mind.

“We are not afraid of war,” he cried out once. “If war is to be foisted on us.....we shall gain the victory.”

He added, “Production of rockets is now a matter of mass delivery.”

The Russian leaders histrionics were less an expression of real temper than a diplomatic method he has made his own.

He gained and lost.

The only vote he won was on colonialism. He lost on every other issue. He wanted the removal of Hammarskjöld. He lost 70 to 0.

He wanted the United Nations to admit Red China. He lost 42 to 34.

He wanted an immediate debate on disarmament. He lost 54 to 10.

He wanted the Assembly to forget the repression on Hungary. He lost 54 to 12.

He wanted to condemn U-2 flights. He lost 54 to 10.

From Moscow he has hurled further threats at the United States. It looks as though he is intent on a hot war.

Prime Minister Nehru of India who flew into New York who made an outstanding impression by his gentlemanly approach to the world problems was the victim of a base trick which robbed him of the laurels to which he was entitled.

He made a resolution to the effect that the Assembly must accord its sanction to a meeting between Eisenhower and Khrushchev. Instigated by the Western Powers, Argentine moved another resolution virtually sabotaging Nehru's move to pull the chestnuts from the fire.

The methods adopted for this were questionable and Nehru returned to Delhi, a wiser but sadder man.

In an address to members of Parliament he is reported to have accused the United States for its melancholy part in this dirty diplomatic game. The obvious conclusion that we can

draw from this that either openly or covertly, India will swing towards Russia.

It is not as though all is lost. There is bound to be another round of high power talks after the results of Presidential election in the United States are known.

It is too early to write off the Russian Prime Minister as a joker. He has one of the shrewdest heads in the world, backed up by the greatest military power that a country has gathered after the Hitler Era. He can make or mar the history of the world.

As Prime Minister Nehru so eloquently spoke at the United Nations Assembly, the choice before the world today is either peace or utter annihilation, in which there will be neither victor nor vanquished. It is not a question of who should lead or who should follow. We all face one universal problem—how to peace in peace in a world where the war drums shall beat no longer.

The United States cannot act alone and the United States' most natural allies are the nations of the West. The Western Powers cannot face the Communist empires alone. The United States needs the friendships of the non-Communist nations of both Asia and Africa. But because of the existence of the nature of nuclear weapons, there cannot be in the world two polarized ideological camps.

A partnership between Asia, Africa and the West can work. Freedom will not survive either in Asia or Africa unless they can achieve a decent standard of living. The greatest achievement of an alliance if when and when it is forged should be to compel all nations to join in an attack on war itself.

Disarmament would never take place if negotiations are left only to Russia and the United States. Someone must bring Asia, Africa and South America into the picture. India's Nehru was eminently fitted for such a role. But he was tricked in the United Nations Assembly where some of the powers are keen about keeping up the tempo of the cold war.

There can be no progress towards peace unless the powers are in a position to control the weapons of war. There can be no progress on controlling the weapons of war except as we reduce the tension and potential causes of conflict between the Communist and non-Communist worlds. There is no hope of reducing these tensions unless progress is made at the same time on the problem of disarmament. So the whole thing revolves in a circle. Leadership is not the responsibility of any one area in the world. Unless we have it from all the peoples and governments of the world, there will be precious little left to lead.

The world will not achieve disarmament if it leaves the negotiations to the great rival camps. We must bring the representatives of the great other areas of the world, of Asia, Africa and America, into the discussion. This is a world problem, and the whole world must take part in solving if we are to do anything except to engage to futile negotiations savouring more of propaganda warfare than of a desire for peace.

Policy of U.S.

The policy of the United States for political and economic hegemony of Asia and Africa is fast falling to pieces.

The United States faces its greatest postwar opportunities for constructive leadership toward peace not in Europe but in Asia. It held the future of most of Asia in her hands but was forced to drop it.

The Truman administration had no Asian policy at all, except with respect to China and Japan. Its China policy was disastrously wrong. Its policy in Japan must await the verdict of history.

The Eisenhower administration also pursued a fatally wrong policy towards Asia. Its two cardinal errors were involvement in the Chinese civil war and the rearming of Pakistan. U.S. now faces dangerous Communist opposition not only from China but also Russia.

The rearming of Pakistan particularly has angered India. Pakistan is a member of the

seato and Baghdad Pacts. The Pact has disastrous consequences. It has forced our country to devote huge sums to a counter balancing rearmament, thereby jeopardising the Five-Year Plans. It has turned Afghanistan towards Russia.

The late Mr. Dulles in his Pactomania not only stirred the Chinese dust but has also stirred up several Asian hornets' nests as well.

It remains to be seen whether there would be any radical change of American policy by the next President.

Peace Bid

Although there is some sort of agreement between Soviet and the Western Powers regarding the nature of peace, these are shaped by their respective attitude towards war. Whereas Western attitudes have, on the whole been relatively optimistic, Soviet leaders seem to view peace as a mere or less accidental interlude between wars—so long as Capitalism exists. With nuclear war a potentiality, East and West maintain what Churchill once aptly called "*a balance of terror*". But so long as the Soviet and Western leaders value their personal self-survival, as well as that of civilization, they would refrain from launching all-out aggression.

The greatest threat to the West is the Soviet strategy of piecemeal expansion which relies on a combination of military power and local subversive movements. In large part, the Soviet threat is more political than military.

The West can best counteract this by helping under developed countries to eradicate conditions under which Communism can flourish, but neither foreign assistance nor cultural relations are a panacea. In the long run, the winning-system will be the one which appears best to satisfy the aspirations of mankind.

New African Leaders

The once Dark continent of Africa is no longer dark.

It is today the focal point of world attention. Colonies once parcelled among Western powers

are shaking off the foreign yoke and becoming independent. And along with the new found national consciousness, we also witness the emergence of new leaders.

One such is Nkrumah of Ghana. He has been the leader of that country for over ten years. Now he has become its first President.

The son of a goldsmith, he was released from jail after serving a term for political agitation. He is the dynamic architect of African independence who has brought political power on its highest level. A rather strange man to the less informed, he carries the full backing of his people for his frank and forthright approach to political and domestic problems

"Zik": From neighbouring Algeria has emerged Dr. Azikiwe "Zik" as he is called is only 56. He has been working for West African nationalism since 1934, as journalist, propagandist and politician. He is leader of Algeria's National Councils and one of Africa's most vigorous campaigners for nationalism. The son of a civil servant, he has studied at the American Universities of Lincoln, Harvard and Pennsylvania. He is an expert in finance. He contributed a great deal to the founding of Ghana as a sovereign State.

Lumumba: Next comes the mystery man of Congo, Lumumba. He has been shuttlecocked from place to place. He was the first Prime Minister of the Congo. He is a disciple of Ghana's Nkrumah.

At 35, he was moved from jail to which he was confined, to the top of Central African politics. In 1958, he set up the first nationalist movement in the Congo. Today he is being accused of Communist leanings and has been chased out of power. But he has not yielded yet and manages to pop up from odd corners of the world.

Tshombe: Self-styled President of the Congo province of Katanga is Moise Tshombe who is 42 years of age. It is doubtful whether he can keep control of Katanga.

Son of an African merchant, controlling stores and a hotel, he took over the family

business nine years ago. After a few years, the business failed and Tshombe turned to politics. He is more a businessman than a politician.

Dr. Banda : Then comes Dr. H. Banda of Nyasaland. 55 years of age he is the leader of his country's nationalist movement. His main aim is to break the territory's link with Northern and Southern Rhodesia.

As a boy he earned his living in South Africa's gold mines and hitchhiked 1,000 miles to get there. He saved up and went to the United States for study and became a Doctor. He migrated to London and practised in Willesden. In 1958, he returned home to lead the fight for independence. In 1959 he was jailed for a year for political activities.

Last but not least comes Nyerere of Tanganyika. His party has won the general election. So the leader is assured of a majority in the Legislative Council. He is an Edinburgh University graduate and only 38 years of age. Son of an African chief, he was a school master before taking to politics.

Dilemma for Sri Prakasa

To resign or not to resign : this is the dilemma that confronts India's seniormost satrap, Sri Prakasa.

The recent judgment of the Supreme Court on the Nanavati case, calling his act as illegal has queered the pitch of his career as the first Governor of Maharashtra.

When the news item emanated from Delhi, Sri Prakasa was on a pilgrimage to Badrinath and reacted quickly, asking the President to relieve him of his post. Then, on the way to Bombay, he met a few newsmen to whom he seemed to have stated that he was thinking of giving up his job. But then, when he reached Bombay, he made another statement to the effect that the report about his relinquishing the Governorship was unauthorised.

Even if he ultimately chose to resign, it would be on grounds of health, stated those who were in intimate touch with him.

Sri Prakasa is one of the most colourful personalities in the Indian political pantheon. I have known him for over three decades. The first time we met was at "Sevashram" his book-filled home at Banaras. At that time, his father, the venerable savant Babu Bhagavandas, was alive. Sri Prakasa showed me the shining array of books that filled the miniature library. They were mainly the collection of his father and after these have been donated to the Banaras University.

Then we met at a Political Conference held at Banaras ; in the lobby of Parliament ; on innumerable occasions at Karachi where he functioned as India's First High Commissioner in Pakistan.

At times I used to feel that he was a square peg in a round hole. He was carved out by the deity who presided over his birth for the career of a teacher or a scholar dabbling in literature. But by a strange quirk of fate, he strode into the undefined realm of politics. Even in politics, his instincts are liberal, though he wears the Congress label at his back.

Left to himself, he would have pursued a serene life of study and contemplation, developing healthy country occupations, but circumstances and social responsibility forced on that aristocrat the Parliamentary career in which he distinguished himself and official favours which came to him unsought.

Sri Prakasa started life as a teacher in Khasi Vidyapith, founded and financed by that great philanthropist, the late Sivaprakasa Gupta. Then he took a sudden liking for Dr. Annie Besant who moulded his life to a considerable extent. He has written a book on her.

When the now defunct "Independent" was organised by the late Pandit Motilal Nehru, Sri Prakasa, who gravitated from his class rooms to the sea of journalism had already put in a short period in "Leader", but he stepped into his right place as co-adjutant to Syed Hosain. At that time Jawaharlal was only a hesitant figure in the purlieus of newspaper office. He was distracted by the problem of production and telegraphed to Horniman

to send him a talented writer. Syed Hosain was the choice.

To the credit of Sri Prakasa, it must be said that he kept aloof from the Bohemian fringe of Indian journalism, and when the non-co-operation movement swept the country, he found himself at the crest of the U.P. tide. He inherited a healthy scepticism about the permanent value of the charkha in this industrial age, but believing in the discipline of the Satyagraha movement, he vowed himself to the full performance of the Mahatma's varying programme.

Five times he was interned in jail, but whenever he emerged he looked none the worse for the wear and tear of jail life. As Editor of "AJ", he exerted a powerful influence in the Hindi speaking world.

Soon he bade adieu to journalism and took to politics. He careered to Delhi as a member of the Central Assembly and distinguished himself as the Puck of the House. Immensely companionable in the lobby, there was a kind of crawling briskness about his delivery and his humour bubbled during question time.

One of his notable characteristics which endeared him in the affections of the Prime Minister was his utter honesty. When a Press magnate rubbed him in the wrong, the P.M. came out with a spirited defence of his Cabinet colleague.

Extremely sensitive by nature, he was appalled by the terrible consequences of the partition of the country. Nehru sent him on a risky assignment to Karachi as the first Indian High Commissioner for Pakistan.

I remember his quiet arrival and taking up lodging at the palace hotel. He pelted me with a number of questions about the plight of the Hindus. After a while he moved to a private house belonging to a commercial magnate, Mr. Niranjana Prasad.

He had in Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan an old friend and they got on well, but proud Jinnah never cared to take Sri Prakasa into his confidence. He even stated on one occasion to a

friend that Sri Prakasa was not the man for a diplomatic job.

Sri Prakasa had the courage to tell the creator of Pakistan that his two-nation theory was a bad one and would bring about disastrous consequences.

It fell to my lot to convey to him the sad news of the Mahatma's assassination and he sobbed like a child. At the anniversary of the Mahatma's assassination, he was refused permission to place a wreath at the foot of the saint's statue. This infuriated him to such an extent that he asked the P.M. to relieve him of his post. He took over the Governorship of Assam and then returned to Delhi as Commerce Minister. He also functioned for a while as Minister for National Resources and Scientific Research.

Though both were born in U.P. it was at Cambridge that Sri Prakasa came into intimate touch with Nehru.

We all know the great impact his personality had on the public life of this State as Governor. Whether it be Rajaji or Kamaraj at the helm, both treated the Governor with respect. He was at the beck and call of any organisation that sought his services.

Reading is one of his prime hobbies. In olden days, he used to play good tennis. He also takes a delight in riding and when he took up his job at Delhi, President Prasad gave him one of his choicest horses.

Latterly, a series of domestic calamities darkened his life and he is feeling fettered by the carking cares of office. A few weeks back his name was mentioned as a possible successor to Srimati Vijayalakshmi, but I have a hunch that he said "No" to the Prime Minister. Whether in office or not, Sri Prakasa will arrest attention.

The Big Three

The Big Three of the Union Cabinet, Pandit Nehru, Pandit Pant and Morarji Desai have of late been applying their minds jointly on the Congress affairs in various States. The struggle for power within the State Congress parties

has assumed major dimensions as the period for the next general election approaches. The one remedy suggested by Delhi is to give an assurance of continuity to such of the sitting Congress members of the legislature as are being regarded as the backbone of the organisation. Generally, one third of the sitting members are changed. It is suggested that it would be made clear from now on that the selection of members for the next election will not be left to the Pradesh Congress Committees or to the Chief Ministers of States. It will be done from a panel of three names, without reference to each seat to be submitted to the Central Parliamentary Board for the Pradesh Congress Committees assisted or otherwise by the Chief Ministers. Such a course, it is felt, would strike at the root of power politics, because neither the State Parliamentary parties nor the Pradesh Congress Committees would have any say in the selection of candidates. This plan would also mean the elimination of many men who would have been floating on the surface either in the shape of Chief Ministers or the Pradesh Congress Presidents.

U. K. High Commissioner

Delhi will have a new face in its diplomatic colony. It will be that of Sir Paul Gore-Booth, the new United Kingdom High Commissioner who will succeed Malcolm Macdonald.

Sir Paul has been Deputy Under-Secretary of State (Economic Affairs) at the British Foreign Office since 1956. From 1953 to 1956, he functioned as Britain's Ambassador in Burma. During this period he spent a few days in India spread over several occasions. Sir Paul's experience in economic affairs at the Foreign Office and also his work for the United Nations has made him fully aware of the great part that India can play in the economic future of the Commonwealth.

Films : Wedding Bells for Padmini

Thousands of her adoring fans will soon miss South India's top-ranking cinema actress and versatile danseuse Srimati Padmini who will marry within three months' time. The

bridegroom is from Travancore and the wedding will take place at Madras or at Trivandrum.

Consequent on this decision she has cancelled all her contracts to act in films barring one in which she has agreed to act for a film that is being produced by Satyapal.

Padmini who will be 26 this December began her dancing career at the age of eight, being a disciple of Gopinath. With her sisters Lalitha and Ragini she formed a dancing trio who have delighted audiences in India, Malaya and far off Russia. She had recently been to Egypt also and from Cairo visited Paris and London.

After marriage she will quit the footlights and be a housewife. It is understood that she would write her memoirs.

Srimati Padmini and Srimati Ragini are being approached to give a couple of benefit dance performances at Delhi in aid of the Lady Mountbatten Fund in the month of November. In all likelihood they will agree.

The performance will be held under the auspices and in the immediate presence of Prime Minister Nehru. In all probability these will be their farewell performances at the capital.

Mr. M. O. Mathai is the Secretary to the Lady Mountbatten Fund.

* * *

Those who think of Hollywood as the film capital of the world ought occasionally to keep moving their sight east until they come to the Far East. Of the leading motion picture producers in the world, three by recent counts were Asian countries.

According to UNESCO statistics, Japan ranked first in the production of films in 1957 with a total of 433. The United States was second with 378, followed by India (295), Hongkong and France.

In 1958 Japan increased its production to 504. Since there are only six motion picture productions in Japan, the rate per company was nearly two per week.

The export market for Asian films may be dated back to 1951 when "Rashomon" won the Grand Prize at the International Film Festival in Venice. From 1948 to 1950, Japanese film exports jumped to 5,00,000 dollars per year.

The Triple Alliance

Kerala cannot discard the triple alliance in the State consequent on the downfall of the Communist regime. The people seem to have come to this conclusion. In spite of Communist overtures to the masses, there is no fear that Thanu Pillay Ministry will crash. Mr. P. T. Chacko, the strong Home Minister of Kerala State recently emphasised this fact in a statement to the Press. It is now more than eight months since the ministry was formed. It is working as a happy team. Mr. Chacko warned

Congress workers that none of them had any right to undermine the unity of the democratic forces.

Kerala's Governor Mr. V. V. Giri recently denied that there was any rift in the Ministry.

Purposeful plays

At a local function, Mr. Justice P. V. Rajamannar said that he was inclined to write film plays. He was the guest of honour at a function got up to commemorate the 110th day of the Bala Movies, "Padikkatha Methai" (Illiterate Genius). In a lighter vein, the Chief Justice said that after seeing the film he felt like writing such purposeful plays, and added amidst laughter that his first work would probably be "Padicha Muttal" (Educated Idiot.)

WALK-OUT AS PARLIAMENTARY TECHNIQUE

BY

POTHAN JOSEPH

When the Parliamentary History of the world is comprehensively written, it will be found that among the techniques practised in democracy, the resort to the walk-out originated in India. The systems of Government which expanded from the conception of the God-King to democracy, not to mention our own Socialistic Pattern of Society as designed at the Avadi Congress, has been like an evolution from the reign of terror to the conception of fraternal collaboration, with equality as the final aim. In such a development, monarchs would dilute their absolutism with the grant of opportunities of advice on behalf of the people, until ultimately the mechanics of administration come to the stage of *Vox Populi Vox Dei*—in actual practice.

In this progress of liberalism, it is inconceivable that representatives should belittle their chance of eminence or deprive their constituents of the right of ventilating grievances for Authority to hear. In British history it crystallised into a fight between the King and the Commons, the Peers being but the creation of the sovereign at his pleasure. In the matter of taxation and the levy of troops, the King claimed absolute authority and more than one King in Europe had to lose his head for royal zeal to retain power, the spokesmen of the people being just tolerated for the letting of by safety-valves, subject to the King's prerogatives.

The people struggled for mastery and if they had indulged in any walk-out device, the rulers would have welcomed the procedure and banged door at Westminster. The technique of popular representatives was to cling to their seats and not to troop out of the forum in high dudgeon. Willingly they never quitted; on the contrary,

they are known to have prolonged their parliamentary tenure by thirty years through methods of arbitrary self-perpetuation until a whole generation had been exhausted. Cromwell turned out the Commons by sheer goondaism, but the parliamentary instinct planted in the breast of the people could not be rooted out by the Protector of the Realm.

Moreover, in the tradition of the kingship, anyone summoned to the presence could not dream of withdrawing in a huff. People had to walk from the court backwards, with their face gratefully focussed on the imperial countenance. The mere notion of a walk-out would imply treason and liquidation, and when it comes to voicing the rights of the people at large, it would be dereliction of duty to desert the field of battle. The dilemma created heroes. The fear of the king and the sense of devotion to the people made popular representatives remain on the floor as long as it was physically possible. Pride's Purge to clear the House had been violent, and the implied challenge called for methods of a walk-in rather than any ruse of a walk-out.

The reason why in the twenties and thirties, the innovation of a walk-out arose in our Imperial Legislative Assembly is that the basis of democracy was being broadened from precedent to precedent. The Viceroy presided; that is to say, the Representative of the King functioned over the legislative forum. The process began under very restricted franchise coupled with direct nomination. As in graduated stages of reforms, the nominated panel kept shrinking and the elective membership increasing, the tendency was for a kind of self-realisation among popular representatives so that

they could foster a democratic personality developing in the unofficial benches. They made bold to assert themselves, and when in 1926 the question of Council-entry was canvassed in the Congress, there was still a no-change party clinging to the first Constructive Programme of Mahatma Gandhi which contained the boycott of Legislatures as an important plank in the non-co-operation struggle. When ultimately Mahatma Gandhi yielded to Congress participation through the Swaraj phalanx in the legislatures, he had his qualms.

Motilal Nehru's misgivings about joining the civil disobedience movement had been partly due to his trained faculty as a lawyer. He had felt that if laws were brought into contempt, such defiance might persevere even after success in the agitation. With difficulty he shouldered the risk, but at the other end Mahatma Gandhi had his apprehensions. The Swaraj party had advertised that their strategy would be to wreck the constitution from within, and Mahatmaji sensing warweariness gave in very reluctantly, whilst the middle-of-the-road Responsivists spoke of co-operation wherever possible and opposition whenever necessary. Polarised against Motilal Nehru's reservations, Gandhiji also had his doubts which, I well remember, angered Motilal Nehru whilst pleading for Council-entry.

Musing deeply, Mahatma Gandhi spoke. Would not obstruction within the Legislature amount to a species of violence especially in the light of the swearing-in prelude of allegiance? Motilal Nehru had understood the difference between violence and non-violence without any metaphysical over-refinements when Gandhiji started thinking aloud on the issue; and Nehru (*pere*) actually lost his rag over further hair-splittings and emerged from the room as if for a quiet smoke to curb his sense of irritation. The whole urge was to go-in and not to keep out.

However, a crucial stage came when the Congress Opposition party in the Central Legislature Assembly staged a walk-out for the first time as a demonstration against foreign auto-

cracy represented on the Treasury Bench. It looked so daring that the country gasped, and Speaker Vithalbai Patel rose from his chair and turning to the Government wing expressed the hope that in such circumstances no controversial measures would be introduced in the House. Executive Councillors functioning in the House were in a blue fit, and the Law Secretary, Sir Launcelot Graham, challenged the opinion asserting that the Government would pilot whatever Bills they deemed necessary for good government irrespective of the walk-out.

"Pedestrian Politics" was the caption of a contemptuous article in the Anglo-Indian press of the time. The novelty of it wore away in a few months. Just as sight-seers at a circus who shudder first at the daring of an infant-artist on a trapeze, soon get used to it, the country as a whole looked at the tactics that changed from the light of a sensational act to the stretching of an overused elastic.

The awe behind highlighted disrespect to the regime was lessening while the people's representatives were becoming more assertive. The question of courtesy and etiquette receded when Lord Willingdon as Viceroy was on his antics to tame the Gandhian opposition with the big rod of correction. Here a novelty occurred to one of the juniors in the Swaraj party. It was proposed that when the Viceroy appeared next time to give his inaugural address before the joint-session of the Legislature, Congressmen should absent themselves, leaving it to the empty benches to speak for themselves. Turning pink but with firm resolve, Lord Willingdon read his speech and subsequently complained at another function in the afternoon about what he called the discourtesy shown to him. Noticing the gaps in the Opposition Bench, Sir Frank Noyce, a doughty Executive Councillor, cried at the end of the sorry speech from the throne as His Excellency was dragging his feet on the way back: "Three cheers to His Excellency." There was a sheepish response; and in later frequencies the walk-out appeared to be so sloppy and commonplace that all traces of sensation went dry.

Not that resort to it has ended as an Indian peculiarity. Whenever there is a forum not involving permanent risks, the walk-out could be enacted. For instance, the Soviet delegation recently borrowed the technique from us when the Formosan spokesman rose to address the 15th session of the U.N. General Assembly. The Soviet delegation haughtily performed a walk-out and returned after indicating their contempt for the K.M.T.'s existence in Taiwan. There was nothing to lose by it since such conduct never entailed any forfeiture of rights earlier in the country of its origin or in any other harmless seminar. Of course, in India October witnessed large number of walk-outs during deliberations in several Legislatures ranging from the Punjab to Assam. In party-meetings also this species of parliamentary

pada yatra has been indulged in, with as much calm as any village-transit of Acharya Vinobha Bhave in his propaganda of peace and plenty through voluntary renunciation.

I imagine that India will long enjoy freedom of the walk-out as a proof of her democratic regime in contrast with the possibilities of Pakistan where any agitation for a walk-out even from a college-boy in mock-Parliament would be deemed a case for military directives from President Ayub Khan's staff-room. This walk-out, on the whole having originated in India, seems admirably suited our diversionary politics in its purposeless phases. In future editions of May's *Parliamentary Practice*, there is bound to be at least a foot-note on India's contribution in the listing of parliamentary innovations.

Inside India

AN ECONOMIC COMMENTARY

BY

PROF. K. VASUDEVAN

Monetary Policy

Ever since the planning period began much thought and discussion have been devoted to what is comprehensively termed monetary policy. This in a nutshell means that the monetary authorities in India are adopting a policy of altering the interest rates to vary the volume of credit which will flow out of the banking system with a view to finance the economic activity. This is a delicate operation, since an extra twist of the monetary screw may not only hinder the uneconomic activity like speculation in the stock market, but also will stifle, genuine business activities, on which will depend not only creation of more wealth in the country but also gearing up of the employment level. If therefore the technique of monetary policy is not properly framed, it will be a case of throwing away the bathwater with the baby. In the near past the monetary authority, adopted a number of weapons known to Central bankers, such as quantitative restrictions, selective credit controls, variation in the statutory reserve requirements and open market operations which meant the buying and selling of government securities by the Central bank.

The effectiveness of monetary policy cannot be assessed precisely in India, purely by a reference to the changes in the price level. In India we have what is called the non-monetised sector where transactions may take place without the use of money and further there is the unorganised sector of the money market where there is an appreciable amount of money existing outside the banking system which is not amenable to the rigours of the monetary policy. In spite of this, it is admitted by experts

that the monetary policy has a useful role to play in the maintenance of price stability which is of utmost importance in India at the present day.

In September 1960, the Reserve Bank of India announced a fresh instalment of credit restraint with a view to bridle the inflationary tendency present in our economy, so that we can achieve 'economic development with stability'. The Bank diagnosed that, our economy is suffering from an overdose of bank credit which has pushed up the price level by some 8% during the past one year and some thing should be done, to check this tendency. Of course prior to the present policy, the Reserve Bank had put through, a number of specific restraints like the selective controls on food grains, sugar and groundnuts, which were in the nature of directives to the banks with regard to the lending policy which will be adopted by them. Further, special deposit system, ban on direct financing by banks of transactions in shares, a ceiling on clean advances, were already there, but the monetary authorities were not satisfied with the cumulative effect of these measures. In the report of the Central board of directors of the Reserve Bank issued in September 1960, it was observed that there was rather a slow contraction of credit in the 1960 slack season. On May 8, 1960, the Governor of Reserve Bank issued a circular calling upon banks to effect a reduction of Rs. 110 crores in bank credit in the 1960 slack season with due regard to credit requirements of the expanding productive sectors of the economy. But the present figures indicate that there has been very little contraction—the contraction being less than Rs. 5 crores. The

total of bank credit, stood at Rs. 1,126 crores, which indicated a drop of only Rs. 4 crores since the end of April 1960. During the same period of last year, there has been a drop of Rs. 96 crores. The total borrowings by the banks from the Reserve Bank of India was about Rs. 50 crores in September 1960 against about Rs. 2 crores a year ago. These facts indicate that the money that has flowed in to the national economy, to cope up with the transactions in the busy season, has not flowed back, in the slack season, contracting, the volume of money with the results that it served as a good appetiser to the rising trend of prices. This was a disconcerting trend and the Reserve Bank announced some new measures in September 1960. The new measures are novel in their approach in the sense that they have not touched the Bank Rate. Usually in any monetary policy adopted to off-set inflation the raising of the bank rate will be the first item. But this move will have undesirable effects especially if there are a number of people and institutions who have invested in government bonds, for with every upward movement of the bank rate the market value of the bonds will fall. Frequent changes or tinkering with the bank rate will also lead to the loss of faith in public credit. So this time the Reserve Bank of India instead of altering the bank rate as was anticipated by financial observers, announced a series of minor assaults on the privileges enjoyed by the banks. It was announced that the banks will not be given a loan beyond a certain limit or quota unless the banks are prepared to pay penal rates of interest. This, it is expected will control the expansion of bank credit. Further the Reserve Bank have asked the banks to put up the lending rates from 1st October 1960, to a minimum lending rate of 5% on all advances and it has also fixed a maximum for payment of interest on short-term deposits. The scheme now announced is sufficiently flexible in the sense, that the banks can borrow to their heart's content provided they pay the penal rates which are on a slab system. Another important feature of the scheme is the levelling up of

lending rates of banks. The new credit curbs, is somewhat novel as far as this country is concerned, but not so with regard to central bank technique adopted in other countries. The practice of central banking institutions, lending to the commercial banks at varying rates of interest above a specific limit prevails in Japan, France, Greece and some Latin American countries. It is pointed out that the present policy of the Reserve Bank of India seems to be patterned after the Japanese system.

Some of the financial analysts predict better profits for the banks since they have been asked to charge more for their advances. But there is the other side of the balance sheet, which means a loss due to the fall in the price of government securities, which will come about when the banks who want funds for their lending operations, will have to sell the government securities with them and thus will incur a loss due to a fall in the market value of the securities. But this contingency may be avoided and it is likely to happen, if the Reserve Bank will lend support to the price of government securities. There is the other question, viz., will not the lending rate now in force affect some of the industries at least, and thus lower the tempo of production? The question can be somewhat differently posed by asking, whether the interest rates are not already high so that even a small leverage in the rates will worsen the situation with regard to the level of production scheduled. If we can rely on some empirical study made in the western countries, we can safely assert that no one need shed a tear if the interest rates are put up for they will have very little effect on the business decisions of the entrepreneurs. As a matter of fact the biggest headache to any businessman in the production line today is the attitude of the labourers. As a writer in the Harvard Business Review pointed out that labour is the real factor today worth watching.

We have to wait and see to know what will be the effect of the latest trend in the monetary policy of the country. Some have already

expressed a doubt about the outcome of the policy. They have pointed out, that if the objective is to put down speculative activity it would not succeed because, the speculators will have access to money in the unorganised sector. Thus while the speculators can snap their fingers at the Central Bank, the poor victims will be the genuine borrowers from the banks who will have to pay the penal rate of interest. But then, it will do some good because, borrowers will be a little more calculating which will encourage sound ventures.

Price Policy

As long as India is going through the pace of planning, she has to devote major attention to the Price Policy to be pursued so that economic progress she has achieved so far will not be of one step forward two steps backward variety. The suffocation of the public from inflation has not abated and will not be, for a long time to come unless more attention is paid to a sound price policy. Changes in prices of commodities need not always be condemned because they are indicators of what is going on in the economy. It is recognised that prices have a useful role to play when a country is adopting a planned economic development. But if the prices behave erratically as they do when there is inflation then it becomes imperative that the planners take certain measures to neutralise these trends. While it is easy to harangue about the need for a price policy, much difficulty will be met with when an attempt is made to define the contents of a price policy. One of the chronic charges laid at the door of the planners is that they have failed to formulate a price policy and when they are confronted with a difficulty they propound *ad hoc* policies, which are more in the nature of psychological palliatives.

We may note that the draft on the Third Five-Year Plan has devoted some attention to the need for a price policy. The draft declares that the task of policy is to ensure that prices, especially of consumer goods, remain relatively stable, despite pressure on prices. It is also observed that price policy has to act at a number

of points, through fiscal measures, through monetary policy and through direct allocation and controls where necessary. This statement simply underlines the complexities involved in putting through a price policy. The major contents of a price policy should be one concerning the price of consumer goods. Since it is argued that the bulk of goods and services which enter into the consumer price index will come from the private sector, the formulation and implementation of production programmes in that sector will be very important. In the consumer goods, textiles and food articles play a significant role. With regard to textiles, it is observed that textile prices have been steady over the years. Taking 1952-53 as the base year, for the period 1953-59 the price index for textiles varied from 102 to 106, which is tolerable when we take into consideration the increasing demand for textiles on account of the advent of new income groups. But at present the textile industry is very much in the picture with its own problems which will adversely affect consumer interests unless some steps are taken especially with raw material position concerning the industry. Mr. Lala Bharat Ram, Chairman, Delhi Cloth and General Mills, speaking at the Annual General Meeting of shareholders on the 17th October, 1960 rightly pointed out that steps should be taken at once to increase the availability of cotton not only for the current season, but over a period of years. It is suggested that the Government should immediately import cotton not only to meet the needs of this season but also must build up a sizable surplus buffer stock which would have a stabilising effect on the price of the cotton, which in turn would enable the prices of cloth to be kept at reasonable level. We may also mention in passing that the textile policy, regarding the encouragement of handlooms on the basis of a subsidy, should be thoroughly examined, because in certain circles who know their own grounds well, the figures relating to the production of handlooms have been questioned. While the problem of handloom industry should not be seen only from the point of view of the capacity

to supply the community with certain fixed yardage of cloth, the question how far the industry has benefited by the subsidy should be examined dispassionately.

The other article which is occupying an important place in the domestic budget is sugar. When we mention this article, there is much confusion, because there is no other article in the domestic budget which has behaved so erratically as sugar. One view which is substantially correct, refers to the tendency for the trade in our country which has made it 'a fine art in turning marginal deficits into large deficits, and, similarly small surplus into gluts.' The Government too have been guilty of unnecessarily publicising their export policy in the past years. For instance in 1959 the Government decided to export one lakh tons of white sugar, which acted as a notice to the trade to profiteer. But actually that year only nine thousand tons were exported, but this fact was not given sufficient publicity. But by this time mischief had been done and the poor consumer was penalised. We need not go into the question as to who was responsible for this muddle, but the point is that many factors conspire to make the article upset the consumers' budget.

There has been some discussion with regard to the price policy from another angle. Speaking at the annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Mr. J. R. D. Tata has said that the government policy itself is to a certain extent to be blamed for the wrong approach to the price policy. According to Mr. Tata the emphasis laid on basic and capital goods industries in the Third Plan is going to make the task of containing the price line extremely difficult. As a result of the increased tempo of investment envisaged during the next five years, there will be a sizable increase in the purchasing power of the people of the country. Since the basic industries will take a long time before yielding results, the investment which percolates among the community especially in the form of wages, would have pushed up the prices. Hence it

is suggested that greater attention should be paid to consumer industries. This suggestion has been made before but the possibility of adopting the suggestion should have to be examined. One solution is to encourage small industries and cottage industries.

There is the problem of physical controls which assume an importance in a discussion on price policy. Somehow the opinion has been nursed that physical controls are undemocratic and must be practised only in an emergency. When control was lifted some years ago, many people no doubt felt that a big burden had been lifted off their shoulders. Events later proved that scarcity and high prices were not ruled out. At present there is some rethinking and adoption of some strategic controls is being discussed. Controls, of course will not solve the problem of scarcity with regard to consumer goods, but it is a rational method of distributing the available stock on the basis of urgency of requirement and ability to pay the price charged. The decision by the Madras Government, to sell rice at a reasonable price through co-operative organisation to low income group is a welcome move in holding the price line.

Import Policy

The import policy for October, 1960 to March 1961 was announced on October 1st, 1960. This policy is of great importance for a variety of reasons. We are faced with sufficient lack of exchange resources and therefore the policy has to be adjusted taking into consideration the exchange resources available and the needs of the industries for raw materials. The indigenous production has been increasing rapidly in some direction and the import control authorities have to take this into consideration and allow such as those items which are absolutely essential for our rapidly expanding industrial base. But this problem is not easy to tackle because, along with increasing production which increases the indigenous products, new industries which have come up, are in need of raw materials and thus what has been saved should have to be allocated to feed the new

industries. The latest policy it is claimed, "is geared to the developmental needs of the plan and will have repercussions on those engaged in trade as distinct from industry."

It has been announced for some items—twenty in all—the import policy will be announced later. These include certain varieties of paper, photographic negatives, watches, and tyres and tubes as well as some producer items. These items have been kept over, to find out the quantum of foreign aid available so that the something firm may be laid down. Thus the question of developmental imports, has been causing some anxiety. At present except in respect of tied and sanctioned projects, no new orders can be placed. Developmental as distinguished from maintenance imports are at a standstill except for what can be imported on rupee account. It is also said that there is bound to be some slowing in the pace of Indian industrial development. The last years of the Second Five-Year Plan will not carry the same tempo as the previous period of the plan. What is more disconcerting the Third Plan starts with a good deal of handicap with regard to the foreign exchange content of the plan, and this will not only vary the pattern of industrial development, but what is more fatal will have created a lot of unutilised capacity in Indian industries.

Foreign Aid

Mr. Morarji Desai, India's Finance Minister has returned, and he has said that there are good prospects that India's expectations about the amount of foreign aid will be fulfilled. If there are some who would suspect that in the statement of the Finance Minister there lurks an element of auto-suggestion, they need not be branded as professional pessimists, for in the past the strategy of obtaining foreign aid was mistaken by the aiding countries. For instance in America in certain circles it was stated that India, forced the foreign exchange crisis, with a view to get the foreign aid which she would not have normally obtained. It may be that this view is voiced by a prejudiced minority, but it is bound to have a repercussion

not at all favourable to India if she jockey herself into a foreign exchange crisis, as she has begun to do just now.

Just at present, perhaps the most important country which has understood India aright is U.S.A., but she is experiencing some difficulty with her balance of payments position, which has provoked some gold outflow. Mr. R. B. Anderson has stated that the present phase in the U.S. economy reflects an adjustment to a new position. It is a fact worth noting that for the first time in many years, the country is remaining to live without inflation. Another country which has also realised the importance of foreign aid to India is England, who on account of her past ties, would be responsive to India's request for help. But both U.S.A. and U.K. have expressed more than once that other countries especially in Europe must come forward to extend help to underdeveloped countries. If we take into consideration the total amount of financial aid extended by certain countries to less developed nations U.S.A. comes first with \$ 12,000 million, out of a total of about \$ 17,000 million. The one country which has been criticised at the present day for not contributing her share to the pool of help to backward countries, is Germany. It is said that Germany, has achieved a miracle by staging a magnificent economic recovery within a short period, and she must have extended her help generously and spontaneously which would have been a fine gesture to backward countries in their attempt in building up their economy. Of late the strength in this criticism has been realised by West Germany and her great leader Dr. Erhard has observed "that it is only now that the German economy can undertake in larger measure to co-operate energetically in the extensive work of development aid." We also owe a great deal to the World Bank, which not only has granted from time to time loans especially for railway development, but also took the initiative in bringing into existence a consortium of lending countries which was formed to help India with foreign exchange essential for her plan. This Aid-India-Club, which is a popular name for this

consortium, met in September 1960 in Paris and again will meet in March next year. There are some who feel that the object of the Aid-India-Club is laudable, but they seem to hold a secret conclave which discusses without coming to a decision and India is unnecessarily being forced to occupy the unenviable role of a debtor without getting paid for this stigma. To a certain extent this is true, but when India, has to borrow and that too not directly from the World Bank the next best thing is to accept the contingency of answering the Aid-India-Club, with the satisfaction that it is not wholly a club of money lenders crying for a pound of flesh, but an institution for dispensation of foreign aid which has been sponsored by the World Bank. Perhaps we can expect in course of time, World Bank itself coming on to the stage and accepting a more direct role in the negotiations conducted and thus save much embarrassment to India. We should not omit to mention the aid from U.S.S.R. for observers have predicted a greater role for this type of aid, which will not create the problem of repayment in the lender's currency.

The Lure of Gold

The gold fever has gripped the monetary capitals of the world. The yellow metal which has not lost any of its charm in spite of severe criticisms from many economists lead by Lord Keynes, who compared it to an autocratic monarch who must be dethroned, in the interest of humanity, has hit the headlines with a bang. Gold is purchased by the governments of many countries for monetary purpose for gold is still the unofficial international 'currency'. It is also sought after, by people with money to invest, for the metal offers the best insurance in a world of gyrating inflation and political instability. The price of gold is fixed at \$35 which is the official price ruling in the gold bullion market, though a slight variation on either side is allowed to reflect the ebb and the flow of gold in the bullion market. Several attempts were made in the past by South Africa

to change the price and fix it at a higher level but America would not allow it and the official price still ruled. On the 20th of October 1960 a sensational thing happened. The price of gold in London Gold Market soared to \$41 an ounce which was \$6 above the official price. Bullion dealers declared that the London Market had never known such conditions and called it 'phenomenal', 'fantastic' and so on. This sudden spurt is ascribed to the fact that people who are holding dollar balances especially in Switzerland have been advised by their bankers to change their holdings into gold, since they anticipate that the American money will be devalued after the Presidential election which means that it will lose some of its purchasing power in other countries. This has made the panicky people convert their dollar balances into gold so that at a later date they can if they like sell their gold hoardings for dollars and collect a bigger balance in terms of dollars after devaluation. One has to pay more American dollars for an ounce of gold.

So far as India is concerned, she has remained untouched by this gold rush for there is a ban on gold import and export, except under a licence. Traditionally India has always displayed a hunger for gold in recent years, and her appetite for gold, has been to a certain extent satisfied by smuggled gold, which was on a very large scale. In recent months gold smuggling is believed to have been considerably reduced following the introduction of special rupee notes for circulation in the Persian Gulf territories of Kuwait, Bahrein, Qatar and parts of Muscat, the chief operational theatre for gold smugglers. The Indian rupee is the principal medium of exchange in these areas. The reduced supply of smuggled gold, will certainly push up the price of gold in the coming months in India and this will be fanned, by the new trend in international price of gold. It is somewhat strange that two factors gold and atom bomb seem to rule the destinies of mankind.

A Short Story

SALUTATION TO THE WASTE-PAPER BASKET

BY

INDIRA ANANTANARAYANA

On that particular day Nityanandam went to his office very early. While going to the office he was cursing all those who were detaining the postman. His wife Kamala had gone to her mother's place for confinement. Her father had written to him two days previously that she had given birth to a boy and was having slight fever. Nityanandam had not received any letter further. He was worried about Kamala's condition. So it is a wonder that he cursed those who waylaid the postman?

Nityanandam had only one servant who was an old woman. Either she was really short-sighted or she was pretending in order to shirk work! When Kamala was getting into the train it was about the old woman that she talked to her husband.

She said, "You dismiss this old woman and engage an active boy. He will be helpful to you to get meals from the hotel or to go to the post office and in case of an emergency."

Nityanandam replied, "Yes, he will also steal when he will get an opportunity. The old woman has been working in our place for a long time. Now, suddenly if she is turned out, what will she do for her daily bread?"

The old woman used often to remark:

"Mistresses have no mercy on servants. Masters are better."

That evening Nityanandam checked up whether the postman had thrown in any letters through the window. There were none on the floor.

The next day the servant brought the waste-paper basket in Nityanandam's presence and

turned it upside down. She checked all the papers as usual. He jocularly said to her, "I dropped a ten-rupee note yesterday." "Do you mock at me because I cannot see properly?" asked the old woman. While talking to him she was looking at a letter intently, turning it both sides. Nityanandam suspected that it was an unopened letter and took it from her. As he thought it was an envelope that was not opened.

"Granny, have you thrown the letter that the postman had delivered yesterday, into the waste-paper basket? As 'Amma' said, it is difficult for you as well as for me, to have you here." So saying he tore open the cover and read the letter. The letter read as follows:

My dear Nityanandam,

Kamala is having high fever. Since even telegrams do not reach quickly I am writing an ordinary letter. Kamala wants to see you.

Start by the evening Mail without fail.

Your affectionate father-in-law,
Subbarayan.

Nityanandam was greatly enraged. He ought to have seen that letter the previous day itself. He told the granny the news and added, "I have to catch the train to-day. Do not come here from tomorrow onwards."

Just at that moment the newspaper man delivered the newspaper. The granny brought it to Nityanandam. It was published in bold letters that the railway line had been breached

(Continued on page 28)

TENNIS AT WIMBLEDON

BY

MATHEW CHERIAN

London occupies a pre-eminent place in International games and sporting events. Most of the well known sports events are staged in and around London, year after year. Every year the summer season in England is highlighted by the world famous Foot-ball Association Cup finals at Wembley, held usually in the first week of May, followed by a fortnight of brilliant Tennis at Wimbledon—a suburb of London—generally arranged in the month of June. Talking of international events in the sports world, let us not forget the cricket fixtures at the Lords and the Oval both in London, which have earned undying reputation as premier cricket fields. In this connection it is worth while recalling the famous Boat race between Oxford and Cambridge held annually in London's Putney river. These are only a few of the important events in sports held year after year in the English metropolis. The annual track events at the White City in London, the Table tennis and Badminton tournaments, the Ascot and the Derby at Epsomdowns and a variety of games take their worthy places in England's sporting menu. We have deviated a little from the title of this article. Let us now get back to Wimbledon and its Tennis.

A few minutes ride outside London on a tube train will take you very near the Wimbledon Tennis Courts. For a month or so this otherwise drab London suburb beams with activity attracting thousands of Tennis enthusiasts. For, during the Wimbledon season the cream of amateur Tennis stars from all over the globe assemble on this turf ready to fight it out among themselves the selection of the Wimbledon Champions, in the various Tennis events. This well known turf, one hundred and thirty-four feet

long and seventy-two feet wide surrounded by ivy-coloured walls becomes the cynosure of the world press for a fortnight.

It is the ambition of every Tennis player to appear on Wimbledon's centre court. Though the Wimbledon champion is not officially titled as the world champion, the world unofficially acclaims him so. The Wimbledon Championships used to be known as the World Tennis Championships. Due to the objections raised by other Tennis-playing nations, the word 'world' was dropped, but the organisers at Wimbledon cunningly renamed it as The Lawn Tennis Championships on grass.

Between the Wimbledon seasons, the centre court and the equally famous No. 1 court are protected and nurtured with great care. There are altogether seventeen courts. These are watered, cut and rolled under the expert supervision of the veteran groundsman Edwin Fuller, for a period of over eleven months. As soon as the tournament is over Fuller and his assistants start making preparations for the coming year. These courts were set over fourteen inches of top soil, way back in 1921. The turf is mowed by hand. The grass on the courts is cut down to a uniform one-eighth of an inch. Heavy rollers are used to level the surface.

Last year Wimbledon had a record number of entrants—about five hundred. Unlike the twenty five players who witnessed the first Wimbledon tournament, the year 1960 brought twenty-five thousand to watch the tournaments. It is reported that nearly forty nations took part in last year's Wimbledon.

The yearly profit at the Wimbledon tournaments is estimated at almost £ 50,000. It is

interesting to note that two hundred officials are employed to control the crowds and hundred and fifty umpires to supervise the matches. Just before it is used for play, each ball is weighed and kept in an ice-box on court. It is said that over ten thousand Tennis balls are used during every season at Wimbledon.

Each year brings some new celebrities to Wimbledon. It is the superb tennis which really draws the crowd. The centre court has been the venue of thrills and upsets as well as triumphs and heartaches. Wimbledon has produced ace Tennis stars like Gonzales, Hoad, Trabert, Budge Patty and a host of others. Many are the disheartened ones who have come many a time but failed to impress. A notable player in this latter class is S. Davidson of Sweden. On the whole it can be said that the world supremacy in Tennis is shared between Australia and the United States. Only rarely do we come across champions from other countries. It is indeed less gratifying to think that the Asian countries have contributed only very little to these championships. The solitary hope of India, perhaps of Asia is the young Ramanathan Krishnan who did extremely well in coming upto last year's semi-finals. The Wimbledon Crown is certainly within the reach of this promising Tennis player and it is encouraging to note that Krishnan has beaten all the leading Tennis stars of the world today including the reigning champion.

Jack Kraemar the doyen of World professional Tennis who is currently touring India

with his troupe, is always waiting so to speak at the Wimbledon gates to enrol the victor. He offers fabulous sums to the leading amateur in world tennis and convert them as professionals. Lew Hoad was given \$ 125,000 (over Rs. 6 lakhs) soon after his Wimbledon triumph.

The Duchess of Kent who is the president of the All England Club which runs the tournament is a regular visitor to the Wimbledon turf. Recently princess Margaret joined her in the royal box, to see Alex Olmedo winning the men's title. Queen Elizabeth II is a rare visitor here though she was present on a single day in 1957. It is recorded that the Queen's father, the late King George VI participated in the men's doubles of 1926, though lost in the first round.

The atmosphere at Wimbledon is indeed sporting. Every player, no matter where he or she belongs to, is applauded and appreciated for their court craft. From the players view point many are reported to have said that the game in the centre court requires 'nerves'. The winners at Wimbledon are entertained at a dance which is held immediately after the tournament. For the losers there is always the consolation of knowing that there is another Wimbledon next year. Whether a winner or a loser the following inscription seen just above the players' entrance to the centre court is worth considering :

"If you can meet with triumph and disaster,
And treat those two impostors just
the same."

TOLSTOY AS A TEACHER

BY

T. NOVIKOV

Like Rabindranath Tagore, Tolstoy was not only a great writer, but a great teacher as well. His contribution to educational theory and practice retains its importance to this day. In 1859, he established in his native village, Yasnaya Polyana, a school for peasant children, where he himself taught. He introduced new and progressive methods of teaching which yielded fine results, and which soon enough won wide recognition. The foremost educationists of his time paid tribute to him for his novel and more humane methods.

Before he established this school, Tolstoy went around in the country and abroad, and studied the working of village schools in Russia, as well as Germany, France and Switzerland. He came to the conclusion that the schools for peasant children, whether in Russia under serfdom or in 'enlightened', Europe, were completely divorced from life. They did not develop the children, they stifled them. The pupils were forced to learn by heart incomprehensible and quite often senseless, texts. The rod and the whip were generously used for this purpose.

School of a New Type

On returning to Russia, Tolstoy literally plunged into pedagogical work. He set up the school to which we have referred above. It was the school of a new type, where the teacher lived the life of his pupils, and maintained warm, friendly relations with them. There was no cramming, and no flogging. The children were told interesting stories, which broadened their mental outlook, and aroused in them a desire to learn. Study became a pleasure.

One of the teachers of the school, P. Morozov, later wrote: "The school did not tire me because there was nothing cut and dried about

the teaching. Nobody was required to stand at attention. Everybody felt at home. This, however, did not imply disorder. On the other hand, such was the order of our teaching The Count (Tolstoy) taught not by didactic textbooks, but by the plan, which his wonderful brain elaborated with an idea of turning the school into a family. And he achieved that."

Tolstoy went abroad again in 1860 to make a fuller study of the system of public education in the West European countries. He visited Germany, France, Belgium, Great Britain and Italy. He returned utterly disappointed. He said that he could write volumes about the ignorance prevailing in French, Swiss and German schools.

On his return, Tolstoy started working in his school with still greater vigour and enthusiasm. He greatly expanded his work, and set up dozens of schools in the vicinity of Yasnaya Polyana. Students of the Moscow University were invited to join the teaching staff in these schools.

To popularise his educational ideas and the experience of his school, Tolstoy brought out in 1862 a new magazine called "Yasnaya Polyana." He published in it articles on his system and methods of teaching, on the problems and perspectives of public education in Russia. Supplements to the magazine, which attracted the attention of many progressives of the time, included stories for school children and their compositions.

Tsarist Interference

In May 1862, Tolstoy, in need of rest and medical care, left for Samara province. In his absence, the tsarist police searched Yasnaya Polyana, looking for an underground press and banned literature.

Tolstoy was deeply offended by this interference with his favourite work, and even felt like leaving Russia. He understood that the authorities were displeased with his efforts to provide education to peasant children. The search was the main reason for the closing down of the school. The journal also ceased to come out. How greatly was he affected by this event can be seen from one of his letters to a close relative:

"You know what the school meant to me, how I came to open it. It was my whole life..... All the work in which I had found happiness and peace was shattered."

In the next seven years, Tolstoy concentrated all his attention on writing his great novel, "War and Peace". But even while busy working on his novel, he pined to go back to teaching. In 1865, he wrote to his relative:

"I still think a great deal about education, and am impatiently awaiting the time when I can teach my children again. I shall open a new school then, and write a summary of everything I know about education....."

Tolstoy's "New Alphabet"

On completing "War and Peace", Tolstoy returned to his school work (1870-76). During this period he concentrated on the matter of teaching the children to read, write and count. He compiled his "Alphabet", and published it in 1872 in four parts. In spite of the fact that each part had a great deal of reading matter—fables, fairy tales and legends—his "Alphabet" was a failure. Undaunted, he prepared a "New Alphabet" in just a few months, and this time the book really became popular.

In pre-revolutionary Russia, "New Alphabet" went through 30 editions. Generations of Russian children learned to read and write with its help. The wonderful stories contained

in this book have been included in the textbooks now in use in Soviet schools, and are great favourites with the children.

Tolstoy retained his interest in the problems of education and upbringing of children to the very end of his life. In this old age, he fondly recalled the "radiant period of my life", the "wonderful time" when he was surrounded by children, wrote books and opened schools for them.

Tolstoy's Heritage

The Soviet people cherish Tolstoy's heritage in the sphere of education, as in other spheres. His contribution to educational theory and practice has been thoroughly studied and everything of value in it has been put into practice.

His love for children, wonderful talent for teaching, bold reforms in the upbringing of children are to this day incomparable examples worthy of emulation on the part of Soviet teachers.

The log house in Yasnaya Polyana in which Tolstoy gave his first lesson is no longer there. Neither are the peasant children whom he fascinated with his fairy tale of "The Three Bears". Today, the great-grandchildren of Yasnaya Polyana peasants study in their secondary school, opened in Soviet years to honour the memory of the great writer and teacher. The school is housed in a large, stone building, and is equipped with fine study rooms, workshops and a large experimental plot of land. A big marble statue of the great Russian writer, whose name the school bears, stands at the entrance. There is a hospital, kindergarten, creche and a public library with a reading room.

All the children and teachers of the school revere the memory of the founder of their school, and its first teacher—Leo Tolstoy.

A Letter to Young Folks

STRELKA AND BELKA

BY

T. NEKISOV

I am sure you already know about Strelka and Belka, the two Soviet dogs, about whom children all over the world are talking so excitedly! All the newspapers have published their story and their photographs. For only recently they returned from a voyage into space. They were actually not the first to make that voyage; as you know, the first living being to venture into outer space was Laika. It was almost three years back. But although Laika went round and round the earth at a great height, she could never return to it. She laid down her life in the cause of human progress. Dogs have made many sacrifices for men, but Laika's sacrifice was indeed unique and matchless.

Following Trail Blazed by Laika

Strelka and Belka followed the trail blazed by Laika. But they blazed a new trail too. For they not only went round and round the earth, they also returned to it, as hale and hearty as ever. And that is why Strelka and Belka became famous overnight.

The two dogs made their journey into outer space in a hermetically sealed cabin in the second Soviet space ship. As you know, it was launched on August 19 this year. The Soviet scientists devised wonderful instruments and gadgets to ensure the health and safety of the cosmic passengers. You know of course that as soon as you move out of the force of gravity, your body loses weight, you can just float in the air like a feather, and if you try to take a glass of water, it may scatter in all directions instead of going down your throat. The dogs were therefore fed by an automatic device at regular intervals. They had a special 'space diet' of course—a jelly-like substance of high nutritive value. They had long got

used to this diet and the method of taking it. For, the dogs had to undergo a long and rigorous period of training. It is no joke to go into outer space. You have to long prepare for it.

You will be surprised to know perhaps that the Soviet scientists on earth could watch the movements of the canine passengers in space on a television screen. The space ship was equipped with a special radio-television system for this purpose.

In Outer Space

You will perhaps be keen to know how Strelka and Belka actually behaved. As soon as the rocket was launched, they pricked up their ears, and looked in bewilderment at the floor of the cabin. Perhaps they were scared by the unusual noise. In the first few seconds, they were almost frantic and tried to rush about. As the ship's speed was accelerated, they were gradually pressed to the ground by the increasing force of gravity. Strelka, the younger of the two, tried to resist by pressing firmly with her legs, and anxiously looked around her. Then Strelka and Belka both stood still. The ship had reached its orbit. After the great overload, a condition of weightlessness set in. The dogs found themselves in 'mid-air' in the cabin. Their heads drooped, and their bodies were limp and listless. They seemed almost lifeless at the first glance. For a few moments the Soviet scientists down on the earth were greatly worried. But they were re-assured when they saw the telemetric readings: the pulse and respiration of the space passengers had gradually returned to normal. The Soviet scientists realised that Strelka and Belka were simply resting after the "excitement" of the take-off. They were getting used to the new and extremely

unusual sensations. Gradually they started to raise their heads and move their paws. But it was all so strange and different from the earth. They found to their bewilderment that they had lost control over their movements. Belka's paw seemed to hang in the air when she wanted it to rest on the ground. Belka even lost her temper and started barking. Gradually however Strelka and Belka got used to the condition of weightlessness—one gets used to everything, you know. They recovered their composure and started to eat. Weight or no weight, one has to eat, of course. Strelka and Belka got down to their first lunch in outer space. They began to feel almost at home.

Back to Earth

Strelka and Belka sailed in space for 24 hours. The scientists had already collected the data they wanted. The space ship had completed seventeen revolutions round the earth. As it entered its 18th revolution, it received a 'Command' from the earth to descend. When it had already descended to a low altitude, the space capsule with Strelka and Belka in it was ejected from it. You know why? It was to ensure that the animals had a safe landing.

After all it was the first time that a space ship was being brought back to the earth.

The landing took place on a smooth meadow surrounded by farmland. Some collective farmers working in a nearby field were the first to appear on the scene—the scene of the historic landing. They all gathered round the great ship that had returned from a voyage into space. An observation plane soon appeared over the field. It brought experts to open the doors of the ship.

When the porthole was opened, Strelka and Belka leaped out. They had stood the ordeal well enough. They were happy to be back on earth and to be in the fresh air. To express their joy, they started frisking and running and jumping about. They barked happily and made a fuss over people.

An hour later a physician arrived on a helicopter. He examined Strelka and Belka thoroughly. It turned out that they had not a single scratch and bruise and they were both absolutely fit. They had come out of a journey into space unscathed.

You see now why Strelka and Belka have become such world celebrities?

SMILE-A-WHILE

1. Strange, strange !—A clergyman had occasion to preach to the inmates of an insane hospital. During his sermon he noticed that one of the patient's paid the closest attention, his eyes reveted upon the preacher's face, his body bent eagerly forward. Such interest was most flattering. After the service the speaker noticed that the man spoke to the superintendent, so as soon as possible the preacher inquired, "Didn't that man speak to you about my sermon?"

"Yes."

"Would you mind telling me what he said?"

The Superintendent tried to sidestep, but the preacher insisted.

"Well," he said at last, "what the man said was, 'Just think, he's out and I am in'."

* *

2. Made a difference—A distinguished visitor to an insane asylum went to the telephone and found difficulty in getting his connection. Exasperated, he shouted to the operator: "Young lady, do you know who I am."

"No," came the calm reply, "but I know where you are."

* *

3. Picking up business—The girl at the switchboard answered a call one morning and heard a woman's voice say: "Hello, is this the Fidelity Insurance Company?"

On being assured that it was, the woman continued: "Well, I want to have my husband's fidelity insured."

* *

4. Biblical repartee—A clergyman who had been invited to preach in a country church one Sunday was annoyed to find the room so dark that his eyes could hardly penetrate the gloom. Beckoning to one of the deacons, he asked him to open the blinds and let in more light.

"We expect light from you," the deacon remarked facetiously.

"But I must get it from heaven first", was the quick rejoinder

* *

5. Danger signals—An ingenious American has invented a device to prevent such motoring accidents as arise from overspeeding. He describes his contrivance as follows: "While the car is running fifteen miles an hour, a white bulb shows on the radiator, at twenty-five miles, a green bulb appears, at forty a red bulb, and, when the driver begins to bat 'em out around sixty, a music box under the seat begins to play 'Nearer, My God, to Thee'."

* *

6. Caught—A man in the hotel lobby closed his letter abruptly by writing: "I would say more, but a big tall Irishman is reading over my shoulder every word I write."

"You lie, you scoundrell" said the Irishman.

* *

7. A Wise Justice—A city lawyer was trying a case before a justice of peace in a rural community. After long discussion over a certain point the justice ruled against the lawyer who thereupon arose, opened a copy of Blackstone, and began.

"If Your Honour please—"

"Stop right there, young man. Ye might just as well sit down. I've already made up my mind and I never change it. I know law and I don't need nobody to tell me nothin'. I'm absolutely and unalterably right."

"Why, Your Honour," said the lawyer, "of course you are right. I merely wanted to show you what a big fool Blackstone was."

* *

8. Description—A Chinese thus describes a trial in the English law courts: "One man is quite silent, another talks all the time, and twelve men condemn the man who has not said a word."

9. With the Stringhalt—"But, my dear madam, there's no use consulting me about your husband. I couldn't possibly handle this case."

"And why couldn't you, doctor."

"Why, you must know from my shingle that I'm not a physician. I'm a veterinary surgeon—a horse doctor."

"That's just why I came to you. My husband is a chronic kicker."

* *

10. He knows your measure—On one occasion a wealthy woman, whose husband had recently died, heard Billy Bray, the quaint English preacher. She noticed that his clothes were somewhat worn and shabby. At the close of the service she told Mr. Bray that her husband had left some excellent suits of clothes to which he was welcome if they fit him.

"Did the Lord tell you to give them to me?" asked the preacher.

"I think he did," was the reply.

"Well, then, if the Lord told you to give them to me you need not fear about their fitting me—the Lord knows my measure."

* *

11. Bible knowledge scarce—The Sunday-school superintendent said, "We will now read a chapter in concord."

A pupil whispered to his seat mate: "Tell me quick, is concord in the New Testament or in the Old Testament?"

* *

12. Oh !—"Have you any children?" demanded a landlord.

"Yes," replied the other solemnly.

"Six—all in the cemetery."

"Better there than here", said the landlord consolingly, and proceeded to execute the desired lease.

In due time the children returned from the cemetery, where they had been sent to play, but it was too late to annul the contract.

* *

13. Legalities—A lawyer thus illustrates the languages of his craft: "If a man were to

give another an orange, he would simply say, 'Have an orange.' But when the transaction is entrusted to a lawyer to be put in writing he adopts this form: 'I hereby give and convey to you, all and singular, my estate and interests, right, title, claim, and advantages of and in said orange, together with all its rind, juice, pulp, and pips, and all rights and advantages therein, with full power to bite, cut, suck, and otherwise to eat the same or give the same away with or without the rind, skin, juice, pulp, or pips, anything hereinbefore or hereinafter or in any other means of whatever nature or kind whatsoever to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.'

"And then another lawyer comes along and takes it away from you."

* *

14. Too Personal—A young lawyer spent most of his time trying to appear busy and prosperous. He went out for a while, leaving on his door a card neatly marked: "Will be Back in an Hour." On his return he found that some mischievous rival had inscribed on the sign "What For?"

* *

15. Sure of that—An eminent rabbi met two members of his congregation at the home of a lawyer whom he considered too sharp a practitioner.

"Rabbi," asked this lawyer ungraciously, "tell me something about these two members of your flock—do you look upon them as white sheep or as black sheep?"

"I don't know," answered the rabbi dryly. "Whether they are black sheep or white, but I do know that if they are here very long they are pretty sure to be fleeced."

* *

16. Giving a character—A shop keeper had in his employ a man so lazy as to be utterly worthless. One day, his patience exhausted, he discharged him.

"Will you give me a character?" asked the lazy one.

The employer sat down to write a non-committal letter. His effort resulted as follows : "The bearer of this letter has worked for me one week and I am satisfied."

* * *

17. He caught them—The minister announced : "Next Sunday I mean to preach on the subject of liars. As a preparation for my discourse I should like you all to read the

seventeenth chapter of Mark." On the following Sunday the preacher rose to begin, and said, "Now, all of you who have done as I requested and read the seventeenth chapter of Mark, please raise your hands." Nearly every hand in the congregation went up. Then the preacher said, "You are the people I want to talk to. There is no seventeenth chapter of Mark."

(Continued from page 19)

near Jalarpet and a train had derailed. Many people had met with danger.

Nityanandam was in anguish the whole day. He was worrying about the condition of his wife. In the evening he received a telegram.

"It was good that you did not start yesterday. We read in the papers about the derailment near Jalarpet. Kamala is better. The doctor says that there is no danger."

Just then the old woman entered the house, frightened. Nityanandam, pretending to be angry, scolded her :

"Yesterday I told you not to come any more. Why have you come?"

"Yesterday in an angry mood you told me so. To-day also if you forbid me, I will go. What

can I do?", said the granny and saluting him turned to go.

Nityanandam, called her back and said, 'The postman threw the letter through the window and it has fallen straight into the waste-paper basket. What can you do for that? Then he took out his purse and gave her a ten rupee note and remarked :

"Do not throw this away, mistaking it for blank paper!"

He related to her about what had taken place. The old woman was extremely happy as though she had received a hundred rupees. She eagerly said, "I want to see 'Amma' with the new baby soon."

Nityanandam folded his hands and saluted the waste-paper basket.

Personality Sketch

MORARJI DESAI

BY

KASHYAPA

It takes all sorts to make the world ; it takes a few sorts more to make a Ministry ! This is what Pandit Nehru is finding in India today. The infinite variety of human personality sometimes falls short of the needs of a Cabinet maker who has perforce to implore the high Heavens to send him another and newer creature. If the Lord is on a vacation, a ministry might fall ; if He is present and voting (forgive me) a crisis may yet be averted. A few of these *ad hoc* personalities make good, and many of them don't. In the lists of the former the Abou Ben Adam is Morarji Desai.

At a time when the Finance Ministry was consuming its incumbents like some hungry and voracious sea monster, and Finance (to quote the planners) continued to be the stumbling block of our Economy, Morarji Desai was sent by the Gods to fill the void, and it looks like he will be there for keeps. When I said he was sent by the Gods, I was merely employing a trite figure of speech ; but Morarji believes it to be a sacred fact. And not without reason. He is one of the cleanest, coolest calmest, quietest, and most consummate operators ever to sit on the Treasury benches. He is a very Moral person. Almost, one may say, he was *Moralji* Desai. More of this later. For the time being, I was only wanting to say that in Morarji, the Prime Minister has one thoroughly efficient and dependable administrator, who can be trusted to look after his portfolio without landing anybody in the soup. When ministers both in Delhi and in the States were committing one *faux pas* after another in quick succession, Morarji stemmed the rot, and stabilised the administration. What is wrong if one felt he was a Divine dispensation or a present of Providence to an anxious and overwrought Premier?

The Finance Minister of India has always been considered the most potent in the Cabinet, next only to the P.M. himself. That very potency rendered him a potential successor to the Chief. This possibility had all along

been somewhat mitigated by filling that office with non-politicians. Shanmukham Chetty—



a non-Congress financial expert ; John Matthai—a non-political professor of economics ; Deshmukh—a non-political Civil Serviceman. Krishnamachari—not quite non-political, but hardly to be called a Congress politician—was he not Lever Bros. agent when the others were in Jail? This string of 'foreign' talent has been broken for the first time with Morarji Desai. T.T.K. was fast becoming a Congress boss but the unfortunate Mundhra episode terminated his career. I am not concerned with rumours about who brought it about. However the fact remains that for the first time the powerful office of Finance Minister became vested in one who combined in himself a record of national service, and a firm backing of a good section of the party caucus. And he is a young man (comparatively speaking of course). Unless he plays his cards very badly, or gets into nasty scrape like his predecessors, Morarji may well be the next P.M. of India. He is also a North Indian, and a Hindi speaker, unlike previous Finance Ministers. Not a poor guess, I dare say.

I shall anticipate what some cute reader is about to ask : But wasn't Morarji practically driven out of his own home State of Bombay, and was he not the unfortunate who had to face a hostile mob in his State shortly before he left (somebody said fled) to Delhi? Quite true. But then, that was a *composite* state of Bombay, wasn't it? And may I ask, who is the leader in India who can today claim to have a uniformly warm reception everywhere in this huge country. Some are not even known in other States. And there is no question of the next P.M. being an idol of the masses. Those days are gone. We may have a lot of local heroes—Tamil Titans, Gujarathi Gods, Delhi Divinities and what not—but all India heroes, No. It is possible that anyone of these locals, when elevated to the Supreme position may just manage to catch the imagination of the people all over. Morarji, if he wants to be that one, must try very hard. He must sit back and think, what is it that makes Chacha Nehru so popular. This is what takes me to Morarji's much spoken-about-puritanism.

Morarji, when Chief of Bombay state, acquired a 'notoriety' for his over insistence on abstinence. He wanted the earth to be a 'better' place, with no vice and no evil, with no 'blushful Hippocrenes', with no gorgeous lovelies swinging a shapely hip now and then, with no vicarious entertainment on the screen, except

the Ten Commandments or the Ramayana, with no Nicotine, in fact with nothing except porridge and prayers. I have heard a Bombay wag remark, that one more year of Morarji in Bombay, and there would have been Controllors of Married life, to regulate the frequency of conjugal rights, as provided in the Schedule to the Act, with long forms to fill up, and nosey Inspectors to prevent any stolen kisses. This is just the sort of thing that makes a man unnecessarily unpopular. I am not sure whether Morarji really deserved to be dubbed such a Kill-Joy, but the fact is that he was so viewed by Bombayites. I am not wanting him to openly connive at all the rot in the world, but there is such a thing as a Nelsonian eye. To make my meaning clear, have you ever heard Pandit Nehru holding forth on the evils of life, and need to live a pure and pious life? Never. He might speak for hours on the need to work, and not to eat ; on the need for peace, etc., but you can never catch Nehru haranguing on the evils of tobacco, or the pictures. That is the secret of his popularity. He smokes, he sees pictures, and enjoys almost anything that is pleasant. That makes him so much of a normal human being, that everyone is drawn to him. The pattern of Mahatma Gandhi is something to be *admired*, not *emulated*. Nehru knows this ; Morarji must learn. Rajaji is trying to repeat the Mahatma's phrases, but you and I know that he is fighting a losing battle in the Atomic Age. To be a little irrelevant and mythological, the days of the Kali Yuga are drawing to a close, and nobody can put the clock back. Things will worsen (according to a point of view). Ideas about Good and Bad will change. Definitions of Virtue and Vice will get cock-eyed. But that is the philosopher's headache—not the politicians'. Morarji must see this, and begin to disabuse the public about himself. Once he does that, the odds in favour of his being a successful successor, will be very heavy.

And of course, Morarji musn't forget that India, that is Bharat, is not Gujarat. There may be many interested in using him for the betterment of his native land, but he must firmly brush aside these people, and always bring to bear a larger outlook on the problems before him. Why is Kashyapa so keen to offer so much advice to Morarji, instead of sketching his personality? Because, Kashyapa, like anybody else, in this age, likes to be on the right side of the Man of the Future !!

SPORTS IN BRIEF

BY OUR SPORTS COMMENTATOR

For sometime now Prince Phillip has shown an increasing interest in the sport of swimming under water with aqualung equipment. Recently he agreed to become President of the British Sub Aqua Club which is frequently concerned with the instruction of youth in the pleasures of this unusual sport. The Prince has been trying aqualung equipment on a number of occasions. There is a perfectly good swimming pool in Buckingham Palace which is ideal for private experiments. Presumably, the Prince has been practising here.

The fifth Asiatic Table tennis championship will be held this year in Bombay, commencing from December 10. It will last for eight days. It will be held in a temporary indoor arena that will be put up at St. Xavier's School sports ground, where facilities for practices and practice halls will be made available for competitors.

The Madras Race Club

To mark the visit of Queen Elizabeth in this country, the Madras Race Club has decided to include in their eighteen days' programme on February 19, 1961 a Cup event for Indian

three-year-olds. Called the Queen Elizabeth II Cup, it is a handicap race over seven furlongs. The winner will get Rs. 12,000 as stakes in addition to a Cup of value of Rs. 3,000. The second and third horses will get Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 1,500 respectively. Only those horses who have placed first, second, third or fourth during the 1960-61 season are eligible to compete in this race.

The Pakistan Cricketers

Fazal Mahmood has been selected to captain the Pakistan Cricket Team which will tour India from the middle of November. The name of the Vice-Captain will be announced after the team has been selected.

Cricket circles attach great significance to Fazal Mahmood's selection although he has been Pakistan's Captain for the last two years. A. H. Kardar, former Test Captain underwent an operation in London recently and is not in a position to play. The Pakistan team will be a more mature side than the previous ones which toured India. It will include several world class players.

BROADWAY TIMES

November 1960

Book Review.

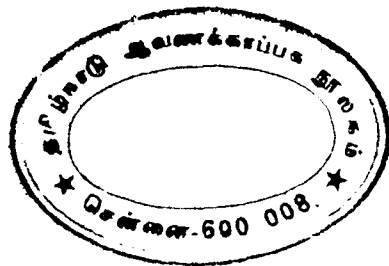
The Gloves are Off:

Hodder and Stronhton—London 15 shillings

Ever since he put off his gloves Godfrey Evans, one of the greatest cricketers of England started writing books on the game he played both technically and academically. Numerous are his exploits behind the stumps. He could watch and judge the efficiency of bowlers and the calibre of attack. His impressions are embodied in this book.

Essentially it is the story of his whole career, beginning from his early boyhood and his decision to become a cricketer. The book also

contains some of the incidents that have earned a prominent place in the history of the game. Retirement has given him the opportunity to enrich the cricketer's bookshelf. He wields the pen with the same grace as he wielded the willow. The book is crammed with juicy stories. Particularly interesting is his description of Alec Bedser's memorable feat against the Australians in 1953. He also narrates the exploits of Statham and Tyson at Melbourne and the record breaking feat of Laker at the Leeds match.



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