

MADRAS INFORMATION

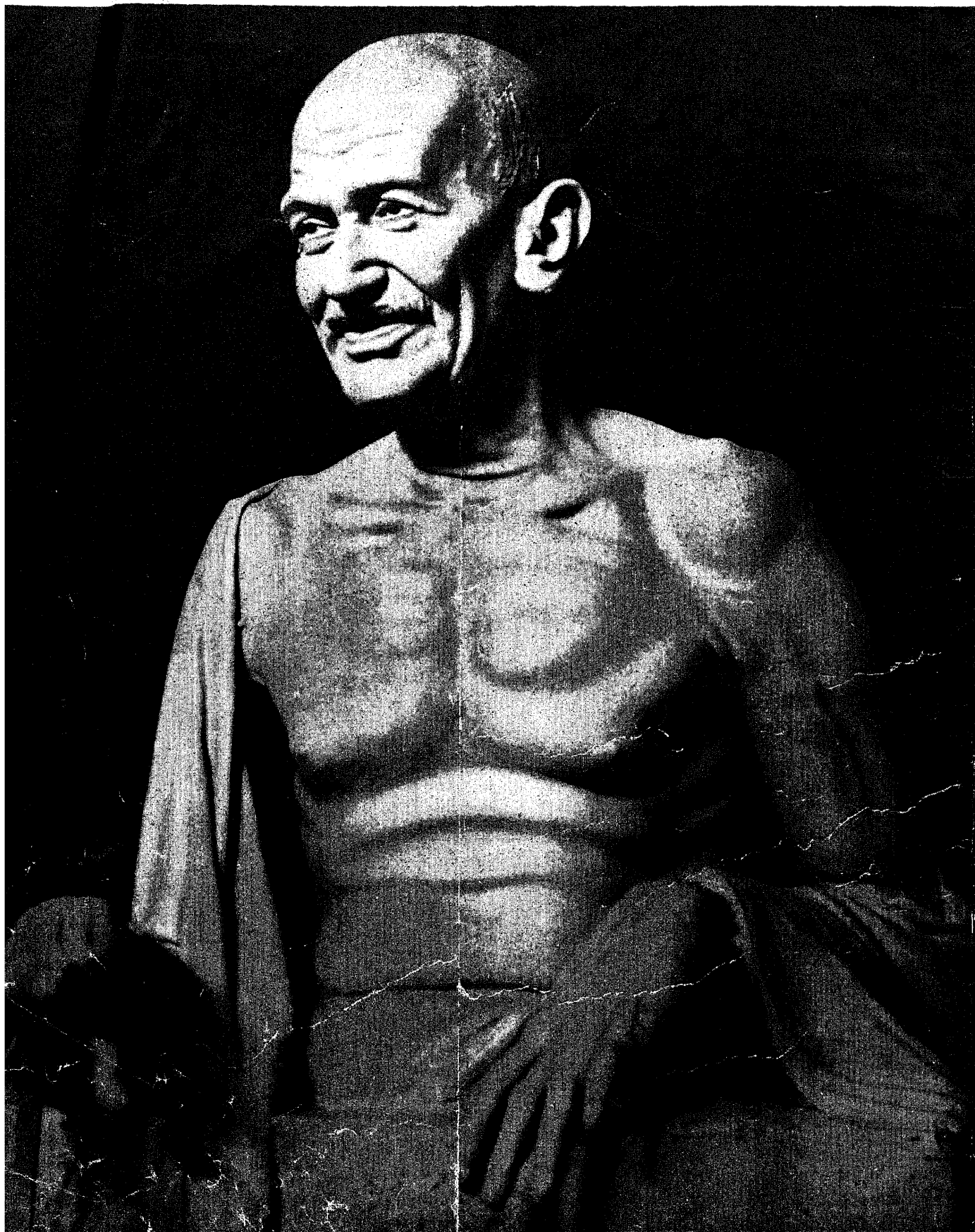
VOL. II

MADRAS, 1st JULY 1948

NO. 12



Price 2 annas



Bust of Gandhiji in clay executed by Sri Devi Prasad Roy Chowdhury.

Madras Information

Published every fortnight by the Director of Information and Publicity
Fort St. George

Vol. II, No. 12

"WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE"

July 1, 1948

350757

Late Mr. DANIEL THOMAS

In the death of Mr. Daniel Thomas, which sad event took place on the night of 15th June 1948, the public of this Province has lost a distinguished figure, the Indian Christian community, an ornament and his friends a sincere counsellor. Mr. Thomas was ailing for some time past and had been discharged from the hospital a few days prior to his death. He seemed to be on the way to recovery and nobody thought that the end would come so suddenly. He was aged 59.

Mr. Thomas had lived a useful and successful life. He graduated from the Christian and Law Colleges and started practice in 1918 at Tinnevely. For over 35 years, he had been one of the dominating members of the Tinnevely Bar and built up an extensive practice especially on the criminal side. He was the Municipal Chairman of Palamcottah for ten years and was also the Vice-President of the Tinnevely District Board for six years. He was also the President of the District Education Council for the same period. He took keen interest in Y.M.C.A. activities, was the President of the Y.M.C.A. at Palamcottah for 15 years and an active member of the church and diocesan councils. He had also been a member of the Madras University

and a member of the old Legislative Council under dyarchy for 12 years. When Mr. Prakasam formed his Ministry in 1946, Mr. Daniel Thomas joined as a Minister for Local Administration. Under the present Ministry he was holding the portfolio of Prohibition and Transport.

To his abilities as Minister, the Hon'ble Premier has testified in his funeral speech. Prohibition and Nationalisation of Motor Transport owes much to his enthusiasm. His interests were wide and varied, and ranged from social work to administration. He was a wide reader and possessed one of the biggest private libraries in South India.

Uniformly courteous and affable, he won the affection of all who knew him and his death is widely regretted. His Excellency the Governor of Madras in the course of a message has testified to his wholehearted work for the Province.

His death is an irreparable loss to this Province. In their hour of sorrow, Mr. Thomas's family has the heart-felt condolence of the entire Province irrespective of caste, community or creed. May his soul rest in peace!

IN THIS ISSUE

Late Mr. Daniel Thomas—*Frontis-piece.*
Notes and Comments
Press Notes, Releases, etc.
Departments' Corner

Prohibition Jottings
Agricultural Notes
Problems and Solutions
Special Articles

Other Provinces and States
Obiter Dicta
Clippings from Gandhi's Writings
Our Book-shelf

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The First Indian Governor-General

Twenty-first June 1948 is a memorable day in the history of India, for on that day the first Indian Governor-General entered upon his high office. His Excellency Sri Chakravarty Rajagopalachariar's appointment as the first Indian Governor-General has been welcomed in all parts of the globe. Lord Mountbatten, the last British Governor-General, observed that no one was better qualified to fill up the responsible office of the Governor-General. *The London Times* said that the successors of Sri Rajagopalachariar as Governor-General of India "will include no one with a clearer record of long and independent minded service to India. He is a patriot and a statesman," the paper added. In similar strain the press and the public in the various parts of the world have paid warm tributes to the new Governor-General. The nation as a whole has welcomed the appointment with unique pleasure. Sri Chakravarty Rajagopalachariar combines in himself courage with experience, tolerance with probity and a long career of self-less service to the country. He brings to the responsibilities of his high office a mind enriched with hoary wisdom and inspired by high ideals. These qualities are sure to stand him in good stead in the days ahead. His speech at the swearing in ceremony was typical of his eminent qualities of head and heart. His Excellency observed: "Our problems have multiplied beyond

all expectation, and are such as may perturb even the most adventurous spirits among us. The only remaining interest in life, which moves my colleagues who are entrusted with the charge of the affairs of India, is the happiness of our people and the good name of our country. This is the passion that binds them together. India is unchangeably committed to the policy of making everyone within her borders find pride and joy in citizenship irrespective of caste, creed or race." He pleaded for the abandonment of all communal and territorial isolationism. "No one will suffer any disability by reason of the community to which he or she belongs. It is necessary that all communal and territorial isolationism should be abandoned and the best talents in every community should seek to serve the whole State. Communities should spread themselves rather than build walls round themselves. Whatever be the technical phraseology which public law may use to describe it, what disturbs the peace of India now is internecine discord, pure and simple, and it is utter folly." These noble sentiments need to be noted and acted up to by every citizen in this great land. Only then will India be able to pull through the difficult days ahead. It is indeed a happy augury that at this juncture there is at the helm of affairs such a great statesman as His Excellency Sri Chakravarty Rajagopalachariar.

Communists

In the recent past some of the world's greatest leaders have had occasion to warn the world not to be misled by communists' activities. Speaking at Ootacamund, India's Prime Minister in the course of a speech said that the communists had gone the wrong way. The Prime Minister pointed out that the economic problem of India was the biggest that remained to be solved. While admitting the disparity between the rich and the poor which needed levelling up, he condemned the activities of the communists and categorically stated that no State could tolerate murder and arson. Personally he was not opposed to communistic principles called scientific socialism.

Even socialism, he said, could not be introduced overnight.

These words need pondering over. Speaking about communists as a whole one writer recently dwelt at length on the method of their operation. The communists worm themselves into the ranks of all kinds of organizations, communal, sectional or national and try their perfected technique of intrigue and manoeuvres. Before long by means fair or foul they capture places of responsibility and make use of their position to consolidate their power still further and dominate the organization.

It is said that once we permit them to get anywhere near us, we can

be sure that in nine cases out of ten they would not leave us till they have strangled us. This statement has been made primarily with reference to the communist activities in the west. In the east, however, the communists may prove a similar menace unless effective steps are taken in time. It is in this light that we have to view the Government's new ordinance. Much has been made in certain quarters about the effect of this ordinance on civil liberties. It is too easy to cry "wolf" at any restrictive ordinance but ordinances which are primarily intended to safeguard law and order, are to be judged in the light of the conditions which they are sought to remedy. A serious malady needs a drastic remedy. When communists have taken law into their own hands and when murder and arson are frequently resorted to, it is incumbent on any Government which possesses a sense of responsibility to devise ways and means whereby such atrocities can be put an end to and the life of the peace-loving citizen made safe. To allow subversive elements to have free play in the name of democracy or civil liberty is to betray the fundamental functions of a Government. It has been pointed out that the communists constitute a rival party and measures against them are not in keeping with the traditions of a democratic state. But a rival party has to function constitutionally if it has to become eligible for democratic treatment. When on the other hand the party descends to criminal activities, then it ceases to have any claim for such treatment.

Political facts have to be faced squarely without sentiment or prejudice. No constructive activities are possible anywhere without peace and order, and to maintain these, every Government has a right to use the resources at its disposal.

To die without killing
requires more heroism.
There is nothing very powerful
in killing and being killed
in the process. The man who
offers his neck to the enemy
for execution but refuses to
bend to his will shows
courage of a far higher type.

—MAHATMA GANDHI.

Agrarian Trouble

Sound advice was given by the Hon'ble Premier to the mirasdars and kisans in Tanjore district when he went there along with the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works to settle their differences amicably in order that they might concentrate their efforts on increased production of food, which is the crying need of the hour. The Premier said that every one must realize the present situation in the country and must co-operate with the Government to solve the various problems facing them. He emphasized that each section should not go on insisting on its own demands but should adopt a policy of give and take. He also appealed to the mirasdars to adapt themselves to the altered conditions. It is a matter for satisfaction that, thanks to the efforts of the Hon'ble Premier and Hon'ble Mr. Bakthavatsalam, a settlement has been arrived at. It is, however, important that the parties should observe strictly the terms of the settlement. The need of the hour is increased food production and every thing else has to be subordinated to

this. Government cannot increase production by any magical process. The tiller of the soil, as the Dominion Food Minister recently pointed out during his tour to this Province, has an important part to play. In the recent past, Hon'ble Ministers of the Madras Cabinet as well as those of the Dominion Government have pointed out repeatedly the need for increased food production and the major responsibility of the agriculturists in this regard. These pieces of advice have to be taken to heart seriously by everybody in the Province so that the food problem may not prove a menace in the future. Elsewhere in this issue is published extracts from a broadcast talk by Hon'ble Sri Jairamdas Doulatram appealing to the cultivators to concentrate on increased production. Self-sufficiency in food is the basis of Provincial autonomy. It has to be achieved at any cost. To this end the tiller of the soil, the labourer in the field, the agriculturists at the farm—in fact all who are concerned directly or indirectly with agriculture have to play a vital part.

the high school course is that it does not prepare the student for any vocation in life and that he has to undergo another course of apprenticing to make him fit to earn a living. The bifurcation of courses in the high school stages is intended to remedy this glaring defect. The introduction of courses like Civil Engineering, Secretarial, Agriculture, Teaching Practice, Domestic Science, Drawing and Painting, Music and Dancing, to mention the most important, is intended to turn out trained men who could readily enter some walk of life, the moment they had left the portals of the high school. At present it is the intention of the Government to introduce this bifurcated course in some selected high schools, work them efficiently and make them examples for those that would follow later.

The Hon'ble Minister referred also to another important aspect of the present reorganization scheme. It is the different curricula for boys and girls in schools. It is a matter of common knowledge that provision of the same curricula for both these types of schools has not resulted in giving proper training to our girls. With the object of giving such training, home craft has been made the basic craft for all girls' schools so that it will train them for life. In the bifurcated courses also suitable courses for girls have been provided.

Finally the Minister came to the question of languages. The position of languages under the reorganized scheme was explained in the following words:—

Secondary Education

The essential principles that have guided the Government in the reorganization of Secondary Education formed the main theme of a talk by Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, the Minister for Education, at a Conference of Pressmen held in the Secretariat on June 17th, 1948. Reiterating the main charges levelled against the old system of education—that it was bookish, that it aimed at mass production of clerks and that at best it developed only the intellect at the expense of character and civic sense—the Minister declared that it was the specific intention of the Government to remove these defects and bring about a thorough psychological change in the very conception and basis of our education. The extension of the principle of basic education, i.e., education through crafts, from elementary schools to the middle school classes, the introduction of citizenship training and the new outlook on the social studies are all there with the idea of creating a new and all-round personality, a citizen in the fullest sense of the term.

in examinations was considered an achievement par excellence. The keynote of the present reorganization of education is to provide a variety of experiences to the student so that he can seek knowledge in its true and proper setting in harmony with the greater currents of life, of which he is to form the part.

This new conception was very much in the minds of the framers, when every item of the reorganized scheme was chalked out. The introduction of crafts as basic activities in the schools in middle school stages, as a continuation of the principle of basic education accepted in elementary schools and the introduction of citizenship training and the new outlook on social studies are among the fundamentals of the reorganized scheme. The citizenship training is intended to foster in the mind of the young student the feeling that he is part of a society and that his individual good should harmonize with the good of the society at large and that he has no exclusive well-being to aim at, apart from the society of which he is an integral part.

“The regional language gets its rightful place as the first language and then we have to consider the position of Hindustani, the National language and the *lingua franca* of India. We have also to consider the position of Sanskrit and other cultural languages, which some of our boys and girls like to take up. Thirdly there is English. Though English has lost much of its political significance now, so long as our own languages are not so highly developed as to have within themselves sources of highest knowledge, English remains for us as the gateway for such knowledge in various subjects and so it is necessary that at least for some time to come we will have to study it as a language.”

Pointing out the defects of the old system of education the Minister said that it was centred round books and cramming them and their reproduction

Another complaint against the old system of education especially against

The Hon'ble Minister then quoted the Government Order regarding the position of languages.

"Our future in All-India politics must to a large extent depend upon our knowledge of Hindustani. We want to prove to those people of mistaken notions that their view is wrong and that the large mass of students and parents will, even if left to themselves, choose Hindustani voluntarily. I may make clear in this connection what I have once said in the course of an interpellation in the Assembly, that the Government are contemplating the amending of the rules to make knowledge

of Hindustani as one of the additional qualifications for Government service."

The Minister also revealed that the Government are actively considering the question of reforming the present system of examinations. Answering questions on bifurcated course of studies, the Minister explained that preference will first be given to those who have passed the Secretarial course for jobs in the Government services and when sufficient number of trained candidates are

available, clerical posts would be open only for those who have undergone the training. And similarly reference for admission for higher courses in Polytechnic would be for those who have taken Civil Engineering in the High School stage. Asked whether communal Government Order would apply in the matter of appointments of those who have passed, the Minister replied that admissions to schools are not based on communal considerations.

PRESS NOTES, RELEASES, ETC.—A DIGEST

Harijan Welfare Committees

The Government have directed that the meetings of the District Harijan Welfare Committees should henceforth be convened at the taluk headquarters so as to enable the members of the Committees to establish close contact with the Harijans living in the villages and find out their needs.

[June 11]

Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards.

The Government of Madras, with the concurrence of the Government of India, have accepted the scheme submitted by the Director of Resettlement and Employment for the reorganization of the Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards, as the said scheme is efficient and economical. They have accordingly passed the following orders, which will take effect from June 15, 1948.

2. The Deputy Director of Resettlement and Employment will be the ex-officio Secretary of the Madras Provincial Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board, and the Employment Officers will be the ex-officio Secretaries of the District Sailors', Soldiers', and Airmen's Boards concerned. The Nilgiri District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board will be abolished, and the Employment Officer of the Coimbatore office will be ex-officio Secretary of both the Coimbatore and the Nilgiri Boards.

The posts of Secretaries of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's

Boards and the temporary staff of the Provincial Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board will be abolished with effect from the afternoon of 14th June 1948. The post of Secretary, Madras Provincial Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board will be abolished on the date of expiry of the leave proposed to be granted to the present Secretary of the Provincial Board.

The permanent staff of the Provincial Board, consisting of two upper division clerks, one lower division clerk, one typist and a peon, will be transferred to the Directorate of

Resettlement and Employment, to work under the Deputy Director of Resettlement and Employment, who will be the ex-officio Secretary of the Board. The staff will continue to draw their present pay and allowances.

3. The ministerial and inferior staff of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards will be transferred to the Employment Offices concerned. Sanction is accorded for the employment up to 31st March 1949 of 63 lower division clerks and 25 peons.

[June 12]

All the photographs published in "Madras Information", both on the cover pages as well as the inside pages, are available for sale to the general public. Those who want to have copies of any of these photographs, either singly or in bulk, may get them at the rates mentioned below:—

Size.	Price.		
	Rs.	a.	p.
12" × 10"	1	0	0
8½" × 6½"	0	12	0
6½" × 4½"	0	8	0
4½" × 3½"	0	4	0
3½" × 2½"	0	4	0

Apply to:

The Director of Information and Publicity,
Fort St. George, Madras.

DEPARTMENTS' CORNER

Labour Department ✓

Labour Situation in the Province

The Government of Madras have, under section 45 of the Madras Non-Power Factories Act, 1947 (Madras Act XXXVII of 1947), permanently exempted the Non-Power Factories belonging to or under the control of the Government of India from the provisions of the said Act.

The Government have referred the disputes between the workers and the managements of Cigar Factories in Madura, Ramnad, Tiruchirappalli and Tanjore districts to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, for adjudication.

The Government have appointed Sri M. V. Hayagriva Rao and Sri C. Bhaktavatsalu Nayudu (retired District and Sessions Judge) as Industrial Tribunals, Vijayawada and Madura, respectively.

The Government have appointed Sri P. Markandayulu, retired Judge, City Civil Court, Madras (who has been a District and Sessions Judge) to be Industrial Tribunal, Madras, with effect from 1st June 1948, in place of Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Industrial Tribunal, Madras, resigned.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the Cochin Commercial employees and the members of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication.

The workers of Messrs. Lipton's and Planters' Company, Limited, of Brindavan Properties, Limited, Coonoor, who struck work on 14th April 1948, resumed work on 3rd May 1948 on the advice of the Commissioner of Labour and the Labour Officer, Coonoor.

The workers of the Chittivalasa Jute Mills Company, Limited, Chittivalasa, struck work on 11th May 1948 as a protest against the dismissal of five workers convicted in a trespass case. The workers have been advised to resume work immediately as any strike during pendency of adjudication is illegal, and to make representations to the Industrial Tribunal, Bezwada, to whom the dispute between the workers and management has been referred for adjudication.

In more than half a dozen cases, the Government have passed orders on the awards of Industrial Tribunals.

[Second Fortnight of May 1948.]

Miscellaneous

(1) The Government have sanctioned a scheme of anti-malarial measures for controlling malaria in the Kodaikanal and Palni Hills in the Madura district.

(2) The School of Indian Medicine, Madras, which was abolished in 1947 has been revived with effect from July 1948. It will be run side by side with the College of Indian Medicine. The Government have also sanctioned the construction of temporary buildings at a total cost not exceeding Rs. 1 lakh to provide additional accommodation for the college and school and for the Hospital of Indian Medicine, the bed-strength of which has been raised from 110 to 210. An additional staff of 5 Professors, 6 Assistant Professors, 13 Tutors, 8 nurses, etc., has been sanctioned.

* * *

(1) *Free Seeds for Yenadi Colonies.*—In pursuance of the Grow More Food Campaign, the Government have sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 6,180 for the free distribution of paddy, ragi and horsegram seeds to the members of the Yenadi Reclamation Colonies in Chittoor district during 1948-49.

One of the most effective measures to increase the yield of paddy to meet the deficit on account of the failure of the last North-East Monsoon is the extensive application of green manure to the paddy crop in areas where there are irrigation facilities for green manure. [The Government have therefore sanctioned a scheme for the distribution of green manure seeds to the ryots in the Cauvery-Mettur Project area to enable them to grow green manure crop between June and September 1948, immediately after water is available from the Mettur Reservoir, so

that the green manure leaves could be ploughed into the land for the Samba crop of paddy in September—October 1948. The seeds will be distributed by the Agricultural Department at the rate of 10 lb. per acre at half the cost price to ryots owning three acres and less and at cost price to others.]

The Government have sanctioned the opening of an Agricultural Training School in Orathanad, Tanjore district. The school is expected to begin to function in June 1948.

Public Works Department Tigaluru Scheme

The Government have sanctioned the execution of the scheme for the formation of a tank across the Tigaluru near Eguvacherlapalli in Markapur taluk of the Kurnool district at an estimated cost of Rs. 7,29,180 including direct and indirect charges. The scheme is expected to bring under irrigation an additional extent of 600 acres and to produce 300 tons of rice yearly. The return from the scheme is expected to be only 0.77 per cent which is very poor. The scheme was, however, sanctioned in May in view of its Grow More Food value and in view of the fact that it is to serve a famine affected area.

The question of revival of the Tank Restoration Scheme operations was under the consideration of the Government for some time past. Owing to the shortage of technical staff, it was considered that it would not be possible to revive the Tank Restoration Scheme operations immediately in all the districts of the Province. The Government have decided that they should be revived at the earliest opportunity at least in some of the districts which are badly in need of irrigation facilities. The formation of a subdivision has accordingly been sanctioned for a period of one year in each of the districts of Anantapur, South Arcot, Ramnad and Chittoor, for the carrying out of Tank Restoration Scheme Operations.

MADRAS MINISTRY'S RECORD

"MADRAS MARCHES ON" is the title head of a new publication of the Provincial Government recording the activities of the Ministry during 1947-48. It is packed with information and throws a flood of light on the various directions in which this Province has made strides. It is priced only As. 12 a copy and can be had of the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras.

PROHIBITION JOTTINGS

Ameliorative Activities

The following is a brief summary of the reports received from Prohibition districts on ameliorative activities. The reports mainly relate to the month of May.

Tanjore.—One Palmyra Jaggery Manufacturing Society was started on its work on 13th May. Twenty-seven licences were issued to ex-tappers. Firka Association for one firka was organized and was started on its work.

Kurnool.—Street cleaning days were observed in some villages. Reading rooms were started in two places. Prohibition is having a wholesome effect on ex-addicts. One ex-addict was able to discharge a prior debt of Rs. 170. A firka tournament was conducted. Two dramas were staged. Rural games, bhajanas, and music performances formed other important items of activity.

Bellary.—Rural games took place as usual. Dramas were staged frequently. An Agricultural Exhibition was also arranged on the occasion of a jatra. A radio set was installed in one place. A Conference of District Ameliorative Staff was held on 21st and 22nd May. Useful subjects were discussed and decisions taken. The conference proved extremely useful. A firka tournament was conducted in one place.

Nellore.—Thrift days were celebrated in some places. Thirty hundi boxes were distributed among the members of two co-operative societies. Weavers' Co-operative Societies in three places have accepted a housing scheme.

Chittoor.—In Chandragiri division, a grama sangam and a rural recreation club were organized. Rural games were conducted in 39 villages in three divisions. There was a taluk tournament also in which several teams competed. Inter-village matches also took place. Bhajanas were performed in six villages in Chittoor and seven villages of Chandragiri division. There was a competition in singing among school boys and girls in one place. Harikathas were performed by ballad singers in several places. Thrift days were also celebrated. Street cleaning drives were launched in several villages. Stone sign posts indicating names of villages were put up in a few villages.

A school building is being constructed in one village as a result of public effort.

Trichinopoly.—Fifty hundi boxes were distributed free to Harijan ladies in one place.

Malabar.—There was a function in connexion with the closing of the rural uplift school at Tellicherry on 18th May. Prizes and medals were distributed to winners in sports and firka tournament held during the week. A drama was also staged by the students.

Salem.—The Salem Firka, Taluk and District tournaments were held during the latter part of May. A cattle show and rural exhibition was held in Salem Municipal College premises in this connexion. There were also entertainments provided by students. There were exhibits from the departments of Agriculture, Forest, Health, etc. Demonstrations in khadi spinning and palmyra jaggery making were arranged. Prizes were distributed to winners and certificates awarded for the best exhibits. There was also a display of fireworks.

Coimbatore.—Rural sports were held as usual. There was competition in many items and prizes were distributed to winners.

Cuddapah.—A Committee of eleven was formed to assist the prohibition staff in the detection of crimes.

South Kanara.—There was a chedugudu tournament in one place. Seven teams competed. A Weavers' Co-operative Society presented a silver trophy to the successful team.

North Arcot.—A grama sangam has purchased a site for the construction of a village community centre. There were rural sports as usual. The Youths Tamil Association in another place has purchased a site for Rs. 500 for building a library and reading room. A firka tournament was held in one place and competition took place in several interesting items. Physical exercises were also demonstrated in one place.

Madura.—Thirty-seven grama sanghams were formed during the week ending 27th May. A co-operative society for the coir workers of Sholavandan was organized with a view to

providing credit and marketing facilities for the members. A night school has been started in one place. One grama sangham repaired a path at a cost of Rs. 300. Street cleaning was arranged in one place. A school building is being built out of public donations. Bhajanas were held on every Saturday. Ex-addicts have saved substantially as a result of prohibition. Scavengers in one panchayat board saved to the extent of Rs. 460 and discharged prior debts. One is spending Rs. 10 a month on the education of his son. Another ex-addict has saved Rs. 100. Yet another has saved Rs. 150. Another saved Rs. 75 and purchased a cow for Rs. 60. There are several cases in which savings had been utilized for discharging prior liabilities and invested in capital items.

Nilgiris.—Sports and games were organized in some villages. Bhajanas were also held in a few places. Women folk in one place are saving substantially through hundi boxes.

Prohibition—People's Primary Need

“A better deal for the bottom dog is the guiding principle of the Government. The Government has accepted the task of building up a strong State based on the principles of equity justice and fair deal; and that is why all the constructive schemes are receiving top priority to-day” said Mr. Morarji Desai, Home Minister of Bombay, when he presided over a meeting jointly organized by the City Prohibition Committee and the Labour Welfare Centre, Worli, at the Centre's Recreation Hall recently. The meeting was attended by about four thousand persons.

Prohibition was the primary need and social welfare was closely linked with it, said the Home Minister. The habit of drink had brought misery and ruin to the masses and it was necessary for people to co-operate with the Government in eradicating the social curse, he added. He appreciated the fine humanitarian and social welfare work undertaken by the Centre and said the Government would lend the fullest support to its useful activities.

Earlier, the Home Minister gave away prizes to successful participants in the contests organized by the Centre; and the function concluded with an interesting programme of entertainment with song and powada recital, dance and exhibition of cine-films.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES

Cultivation of long staple cotton in Madras ✓

The references to cotton in the Law Books of Manu place its cultivation and conversion into fabrics in India earlier than 800 B.C. Most of the subsequent reports on the cultivation and manufacture of cotton in Asia, Europe and Africa up to until the discovery of American cotton in the New World by Columbus in 1492 A.D. relate to varieties of Levantine and Occidental cottons which correspond to the present day desi group. The New World cotton was grown for the first time by the Colonists on the rivers of Virginia in the year 1619 A.D., and the later expansion to the present production targets was entirely due to inventions in spinning machinery and remarkable achievements in cultural methods.

A Retrospect

The first efforts for the introduction of the American varieties of cotton in India were made by the Court of Directors of the East India Company who in the year 1790 distributed about 420,000 pounds of Malta and Mauritius seeds throughout the peninsular India. They met with little success and the only surviving relic of these trials is the naturalised Bourbon cotton now found as a sprinkling in the perennial indigenous types of Nadam or Ladan cotton grown in the districts of Coimbatore, Salem and Tinnevely. The experiments conducted on four cotton farms established in 1819 at Tinnevely, Coimbatore, Masulipatam and Vizagapatam met with no greater success than before. Three American planters were brought to Madras in the year 1840 and they started work at Tinnevely where the farmers declined to sow the American seed or adopt the American method of cultivation unless they were assured of the purchase of the produce by the Government. The venue of the trials was shifted to Coimbatore in 1842, and continued till 1845 with New Orleans Bourbon and Sea Island varieties. The Government were so dissatisfied with the results that two of the planters were sent to Bellary and Tinnevely respectively. Dr. Morris who was in charge of Bellary met with failures and died in 1846. The final period of 1847-1849 marked the commencement of a heated controversy between Dr. Wright and Mr. Finnic regarding their respective methods of cultivation which

led to the termination of both their services by the Madras Government in 1849. Dr. Wright, however, succeeded in his appeal to the Court of Directors who allowed the experiments to continue until 1853 when he had to retire consequent on severe criticisms passed on his work. His departure marked the end of endeavours by East India Company in the introduction of exotic cottons in India.

The interest in the American varieties was once again revived with the opening of the Saidapet farm in 1878 when systematic experiments were conducted on New Orleans, Upland American, Brazilian, Yea Valley, and Sea Island varieties. Later in 1905, other varieties like Egyptian, Caravonica and Peruvian were also tried at the new farms opened in Bellary, Hagari, Attur and Taliparamba but in all cases without any success.

The year 1906 is memorable in that it marks the successful introduction of an exotic type from Cambodia in Indo-China by Mr. Steele of Harvey & Co., Virudupatti, and Mr. Benson of the Madras Agricultural Department. Its response to irrigation when grown in the backyards at Virudupatti, and the sustained interests evinced by some of the enterprising cultivators in the earlier years, brought it to the lime light and hastened its spread. The subsequent extension of the acreage was rather spontaneous, and reached the figure of 305,000 acres in 1920 with the assistance rendered by the Agricultural Department in the shape of seeds and propaganda.

The acclimatization of the exotic Cambodia created new problems in the matter of quality, yield, pests and diseases. In order to tackle them properly and stabilize the cultivation of American varieties in Madras, a whole time cotton specialist was appointed in 1921. The first fruits of selection were two new strains, viz., Co. 1 and Co. 2. The latter proved to be a hardy, vigorous, productive and quality strain.

It was also found suitable for cultivation as unirrigated crop in red soils receiving adequate rains. Its release in 1929 helped considerably the extension of cultivation to new tracts, and added to the profits of the farmers both

on account of increased yield per acre and better quality of lint. Its staple length of $\frac{7}{8}$ inch was about the best available in Madras at that period and the variety formed the main stay of the expanding mill industry of southern districts in their spinning of 20's and over.

Later Developments

The taste of the consumers on the matter of manufactured textile goods was undergoing a steady change towards finer cloth, and the varieties grown in India were unsuited for spinning higher counts of yarn than 40's. This meant that we should either continue to import finer yarn and piecegoods, or long staple raw cotton needed by the mills. Both these steps would adversely affect the monetary resources of the country and would reduce as to a state of dependency on foreign countries for regular supplies. It was therefore thought imperative that Madras should look ahead and concentrate her efforts, on the evolution of staple cotton equivalent to the foreign imports. A very large number of varieties from countries like America, Africa and Russia was obtained, studied and crossed since the year 1932. Early success was obtained in crosses involving local strain Co. 2 and South African varieties from Uganda. Remarkable improvements were registered in habit, and quality. The growth period of Cambodia which was roughly seven months was brought down to six months, and the staple length was advanced by about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. These changes were reflected in the agronomy of the cotton tracts. The Coimbatore taluk which adhered to the intensive cropping of sorghum-cotton preferred to grow 4463 in place of Co. 2. The water stress open soils, and poor quality of cotton in Salem district improved under a switchover to the new early maturing strain Co. 3 both as irrigated and rainfed crop to the exclusion of other indigenous varieties. The release of Co. 4 marked a mile-stone in the progress of the cotton improvement in Madras on account of its spread as off-seasonal crop in tankfed paddy lands of the southern districts in summer months. All the three new strains represented cottons which could be classed equal to the imported styles, and of which Co. 4 by virtue of the season of its growth would fall under 1-1/16 inch staple like the bulk of the East African varieties. Its present estimated annual production of 30,000 bales is likely to mount up to about 50,000 bales in the near future, on account of intensive cultivation of lands receiving supplementary

sources of irrigation water from new wells dug during the recent food campaign. A modest estimate of ten lakhs of rupees would represent the extra income the farmers of masipattam cotton are realizing annually since the evolution and introduction of the strain Co. 4. In order to ensure the pure seed supply to growers and to make available large quantities of good staple cotton to textile mills, a scheme for the multiplication and distribution of Co. 4 in Ramnad district has been inaugurated in February 1948.

In addition to the crosses made between similar foreign groups, dissimilar varieties like Sea Island and Egyptian were also employed. The type of work is very difficult and time consuming. In slow stages two strains, viz., 7682 and 7733 were evolved but they lacked the requisite vigour and adaptability of local varieties. Continued selection has removed the defective traits in them and one of them, viz., 7682 has acquitted itself better than Co.4 in the summer trials at Palur for the past three years, in yield earliness and quality. The reduction in maturation period by one week opens up vast possibilities in the programme of area extension to new tracts especially paddy lands which can be cultivated with such cotton during summer between two paddy crops.

The next phase of attack on the problem of staple improvement was directed towards the conversion of all winter cropped area and coastal as well as inland belts receiving adequate rains, into regions cultivable with $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch staple varieties. The work was commenced in the year 1943 and the experiments conducted so far have amply demonstrated that it was only a matter of time for the realization of the objectives. The preliminary experiments have further shown that a common upland variety of $1\frac{3}{16}$ inch staple length for the whole of the American cotton belt—whether winter or summer cropped—could be evolved and that Sea Island cotton could be introduced in parts of South Kanara and Malabar especially as subsidiary crops in coconut plantations and modan lands.

The small-scale experiments conducted by a gentleman at Udipi in his backyards, showed that rain grown Sea Island crop, planted in June and harvested in October, was free from pests, diseases and defective boll opening, that the staple length reached $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and that fineness and maturity were as good as West Indies cotton. Intensive experimental research is proposed to be

undertaken at Coimbatore, Salem, Ramnad, South Kanara and Malabar districts very shortly.

Greater Production Needed

A developmental plan for greater production of quality cotton without encroaching on the food campaign is an imperative need. Madras has to clothe a population of fifty million, has to look ahead in the matter of changing fashions and demands for finer fabrics and has to provide for increasing spindlage, local consumption and yarn exports. The estimate in the postwar period is placed at $8\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of bales of which more than half should be long staple American. The present imports of American cotton into Madras account for 167,000 bales from Pakistan, and 40,000 bales from other countries. The division of India and rehabilitation of war scarred countries have already created problems of supply and the prices of good cotton have soared very high in recent months. The price of East Africans which was round about Rs. 900

per candy during last year, is now quoted at Rs. 1,300 per candy. The cost of Egyptians is fabulous, the rate being over Rs. 2,200 per candy. If the textile goods produced by Indian Mills should sell cheaper than foreign and if the textile industry should survive competition from other countries and alternate sources of supply like rayon, India should develop her resources of raw materials and produce them cheap. In order to achieve these, the co-operation of the farmers and traders are needed. Use of pure seeds adequate manuring, proper cultivation care in processing stages, and sale after grading in regulated markets would be indispensable. If all these are done, India can rely on herself for long staple cotton and shake off her dependence on foreign supplies as she shook off the foreign domination. I appeal to the farmers of Madras to pay frequent visits to the experimental farms and follow the advice given to them by the Agricultural Department in all matters pertaining to cotton.

Biological control of insect pests

One of the latest advancements in the science of Entomology is the control of these pests by their own natural enemies, which is popularly known as the Biological method of control. The main principle involved in this method is the fact that a certain balance of life is maintained in nature wherein either the undue multiplication or decimation of plant and animal life is controlled by certain natural agencies such as weather and climatic conditions, availability or otherwise of food, the activity of parasites and predators which prey on other organisms, etc. The object of this short note is to deal with the last aspect of the phenomenon and as to how it could be utilised for our advantage. It is a well known fact that insects form the main item of food for a number of animals, reptiles, rodents and birds. Besides these, certain categories of insects like Mantids, beetles, bugs, flies, wasps, etc., have specialised in their habit of feeding on other insects. Mantises, assassin bugs, beetles, dragon flies, etc., devour their prey on the spot. Some groups of wasps like the digger wasps, potter wasps collect their prey, paralyse them by stinging and store them as food for their young ones which feed on them and reach the adult stage. Yet a few more species of wasps and flies have the habit of seeking out their hosts and lay their eggs either on their body or thrust them inside. The young

ones hatch out and in their turn feed on the tissues. The evolution of the parasitic habit is so perfect that most of the parasites have their own specialised range of hosts. It has been computed that the largest amount of benefit is accrued by this category. Lastly there are one or two outstanding examples where the aid of insects has been called in for the destruction of obnoxious weeds. Entomologists have taken advantage of these facts and utilised these agencies for pest control wherever it was possible.

A short account of the work done by the Madras Agricultural Department in this line and of the results achieved thereof is given below:—

1. *Nephantis serinopa*—The black headed caterpillar of coconut.—This is a serious pest of the coconut palm. The caterpillars scrape up the lower surface of the leaves and construct long galleries of the frass inside which they live. The pest has now become more or less a permanent feature over some areas along West Coast, Coimbatore, Salem, Northern Circars, etc. The damage is serious and the infested plantations present a scorched up appearance. Investigations have shown that the pest is attacked by a number of natural enemies, of which two are comparatively more efficient and easily rearable in the Laboratory. One is a Bethyloid wasp feeding on the

caterpillars and the other an Eulophid attacking the pupae only. These two parasites have since been reared in their thousands under artificial conditions and liberated in the infested areas all over the Presidency. Spectacular results have been achieved in most of the areas.

2. *Icerya purchasi*—*The cottony cushion scale*.—This is a foreign insect which has earned great notoreity as a serious pest of fruit trees. It got an entry within our shores recently probably along with some exotic plants. It has since established itself on the Nilgiris and Kodaikanals and spread to an alarming extent on a variety of wild vegetation. It has also taken to *Wattles Acacia decurrens*—on a severe form and to a mild degree on *casuarina* and loose jacket oranges. The only recognised method of control of this scale is the introduction of the predaceous beetle—*Rodolia cardinalis*—the adults and grubs of which feed voraciously on all the stages of the pest. Efforts were immediately taken to address Entomologists all over the world and a few specimens were ultimately procured. With this nucleus stock, thousands of beetles have since been bred in the Laboratory and liberated in the infested areas. A proper host—predator ratio has not been established and the work is being continued to prevent the recrudescence of the trouble.

3. *Argyria sticticrasis*—*the early shoot-borer*.—This is a serious pest of the young sugarcane crop, causing a high mortality among the germinating cane shoots. A minute wasp—*Trichogramma minutum*—has been found to parasitize the eggs of *argyria*. The parasite is a polyphagous creature capable of thriving on the eggs of most other insects. It is being bred in its

Do You Know?

Facts about the Madras Presidency

The total area of the Presidency including the States of Pudukotta and Banganapalle is 127,768 square miles with 420 towns and 36,000 villages.

The distance separating the farthest points in the country North to South is 900 miles as the crow flies.

The longest distance from Madras City to the Northern frontier is 500 miles.

The total population is 49,840,564.

The main towns are about 50 in number including Madras and the headquarters of the 25 other districts. The population ranges from about 12 lakhs in the City of Madras to about 50,000 in the small towns.

According to the 1941 census 41,879,082 people live in villages and 7,961,482 live in towns.

The number of elementary schools in the Presidency is 37,239 and the number of pupils attending is 3,456,445. The number of secondary schools is 901 and the number of students is 441,425. The number of Colleges including technical colleges is 103 and the number of students 38,644.

millions on the eggs of the meal moth—*Corcyra cephalonica*—and liberated in the sugarcane fields at Nellikuppam. The trials have given encouraging results since the incidence of the hour has been considerably reduced in the fields where the parasites were liberated.

4. *Prickly pear*.—This was originally used as very useful fence; but subsequently proved to be an obnoxious weed, encroaching on cultivable lands, the check of which was not only costly but impractical too. A small mealy bug—*Dactylopius tomentosus*—has been found highly destructive to this thorny bush.

Systematic colonisation of these humble insects in different parts of the country as decimated the troublesome prickly pear which would not have been possible by any other agency.

While presenting the encouraging picture of the beneficial activity of the parasites, it has also to be admitted that it is not a panacea for all insect pests and are effective application of the method is subject to a number of limitations.

The Government Entomologist, Lawley Road P.O., will be glad to furnish any further information on the subject.

PREPARATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Research is an important activity of the Agricultural department. In the recent past the researches have borne ample fruit. Here are two of the preparations of the department.

1. **Agri Tree Killer**.—This kills unwanted trees. It is manufactured and supplied by the Government Mycologist, Lawley Road, P.O., Coimbatore.

2. **Food Yeast**.—This is another valuable preparation. It contains 100 per cent Vitamin B. It can be taken with milk, coffee, tea, etc. It is also manufactured and supplied by the Government Mycologist.

6 JUL 1947

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Rent Reduction Work

NOTE.—*The Government have decided upon the abolition of zamindaris. As a preliminary step they are engaged in the reduction of rents in zamindari and whole inam areas. These rents are exorbitant now and need levelling down. The procedure adopted in levelling down the rent was lucidly explained by Mr. S. K. Chettur, I.C.S., in the course of a broadcast recently. He said:*

The elementary fact that the zamindari ryots were paying rents to the zamindars which were comparatively much higher than the corresponding assessments paid by the pattadars of Government land for soils of similar fertility, has been a source of much dissatisfaction for several years. There are many causes for this disparity in rates. The first and most important is that the land under the direct control of Government was carefully surveyed, and the assessments of soils of different fertility was accurately fixed by settlement parties who worked in district after district until the work was completed. It has been computed that the process of land revenue settlement in the ryotwari tracts of the presidency took as many as 87 years to complete. This is longer than the biblical three score years and ten which is supposed to be the life of a healthy man.

Disparity in Rent—Reasons

2. On the other hand, in the zamindari tracts, there was often no regular survey in large areas, and even where they were surveyed, the rents were often fixed on a rough-and-ready basis without any accurate classification of soils which is an essential prerequisite for any scientific determination of the assessment. Moreover, before 1908 the zamindars from time to time increased the rents as his fancy or cupidity directed him and in some cases he gave lands at favourable rent to his favourites with the result that the prevailing rates of rents in the zamindaris seem to be based on no scientific principles whatever. But when the zamindari ryot compared his rent with a Government tenant who was his neighbour and found that he was paying more for the same

kind of land he naturally became incensed at the injustice of it and the agitation for reduction of zamindari rents gathered in volume.

Government's Solution

3. Obviously, the only sound way of reducing zamindari rents to the ryotwari level in the adjacent areas is to do a regular survey and then carry out detailed settlement operations with the large and well trained field staff that is required for soil classification, accurate inspection and classification of irrigation sources, and the determination of crop out-turns on the various types of soils in order to assess their fertility. As these operations will take several years to complete, the present Madras Government has introduced a preliminary measure, the Madras Estates Land (Reduction of Rent) Act, 1947, the object of which is to provide for the reduction of rents payable by ryots in estates governed by the Madras Estates Land Act, 1908, approximately to the level of the assessments levied on lands in ryotwari areas in the neighbourhood.

How the Solution Operates

4. The *modus operandi* set forth in the Act is as follows. The Special Officer appointed under the Act shall first of all determine the average rate of cash rent per acre prevailing at the commencement of the Act for each class of land in the zamindari village such as, wet dry or garden. The Special Officer shall then select a Government village in the vicinity which has similar soils, irrigation sources, marketing facilities and means of communication and proceed to find out the average rates of cash rents for the various classes of land in that village. By making a comparison of these averages he can determine the ratio by which the zamindari wet rates must be reduced to be levelled to the Government wet rates and so on for the zamindari garden rates and zamindari dry rates. Suppose the proportion arrived at is 8:3 for wet lands, it follows that all zamindari wet rates in that village will be reduced to 3/8 of what they are now and the new rates alone will be operative

as from fasli 1557. A practical example will make this clear. A certain zamin village 'A' of Narasannapetta taluk, Vizagapatam district, has soils of the black regar loam variety and is irrigated by channel water taken from the Vamsadara river. An ordinary field bund separates these wet fields from the wet fields of an adjacent Government village 'B.' Here also the soils are black regar loam and irrigation is by Vamsadara channels. Yet, on examination, it is found that the zamin ryot of 'A' is paying on the average Rs. 22-8-0 per acre for his wet land whereas the Government ryot who is ploughing the field next to him in village 'B' is paying only Rs. 7 per acre. Both these cultivators raise paddy crop on their lands and the yield per acre is identical. The comparison of the rates in these two cases clearly shows that the zamin wet rate is just over three times the Government wet rate. The Special Officer in this case will obviously suggest a reduction of the zamin wet rates to 1/3 of what they are now in order to bring them approximately to the level of the ryotwari assessment. This, of course, is a simple but typical case. Over ten thousand and odd zamin villages are scattered in 18 districts of this presidency. Apart from this there are several hundreds of so called "whole-inam" villages which are technically "estates" under the Estates Land Act of 1908, to which also the Rent Reduction Act will apply. The proportions that are arrived at are much more complicated and intricate than a simple one-third and when studied the comparisons show a very wide diversity in the proportion between the zamindari and the Government rate of assessment from estate to estate and from district to district, and even as between villages in the same estate. Nevertheless the Act is being pushed through and the cash rents are being reduced and the new rates will be duly notified by Government in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

Complications

5. Complications also arise where the collections of rents in the zamin village are not in cash but in kind. Where rent is paid by the waram or sharing system or by way of grain rents a special proviso in the Act enables the Special Officer to arrive at the proportion of reduction in the following manner. He first of all selects a village in the same estate having cash rents which is similar in soils and fertility and irrigation sources to the waram village and

proceeds to find the average rate of cash rent in that village. If there is no such cash rent village in the same estate he must find a similar cash rent village in the nearest adjacent estate. He then proceeds to compare the rate of rent in this cash rent village with the rates prevailing in a Government village which is similar to the original zamin village. In other words the proportion of reduction is arrived at by a double comparison. Zamin village A having waram shares for rent or rents paid in grain is compared with zamin village B with cash rents which is similar to it. Zamin village B is then compared to Government village C and the ratio of reduction arrived at between B and C is applied to the waram shares or grain rents in village A. Suppose the waram is the sharing of the produce half and half on the

threshing floor between proprietor and ryoti tenant. Suppose the proportion of reduction arrived at by the comparison of village V and village C is 4:3 this means that all waram rents in zamin villages. A must be reduced 3/4th. Hence the proprietor will get not a half share but only 1/2 of 3/4th share or 3/8th of the produce. The ryot will get the remaining 5/8th. All this sounds complicated, but is really quite simple.

6. It remains for me to indicate what progress has been made in this rent reduction work. The staff of 12 Deputy Collectors Special, Assistants working under me each in one of the 12 zonal areas into which the Presidency has been divided have succeeded in submitting preliminary proposals already for as many as 2,000 villages.

—By courtesy A.I.R., Madras.

Increased Production

Some important aspects of food production were dealt with by the Hon'ble Jairam Das Daulatram in the course of a broadcast recently. He said "I do not know how far my voice to-day through this radio talk will reach those whom I would fain address face to face on a topic of the greatest national importance. I want to speak out my thoughts to those great builders of a prosperous India whom we know as the tillers of the soil. Scattered in laes of villages, working on millions of fields, it is you who are creating the basic wealth of India. More than even those citizens of our country who labour over the desk or in the factories, it is you who sow and reap in numberless farms of India, who make the life of the people of this country happy and contented.

You and the rest of us have laboured and striven hard these thirty years to end India's political bondage and win for its people freedom from foreign rule. You and the rest of us have been yearning to harvest the fruits of this struggle in terms of peace, justice and prosperity for all. But this process of harvesting these fruits is proving to be tedious and tiring. It needs the co-operative effort of us all to shorten this process and bring soon within the nation's homes a sense of both freedom and happiness.

But how can such feelings fill people's hearts if, in spite of our political liberty, we are yet under foreign domination in a matter so fundamental as the economy of our national life? There can be no true political freedom

unless it also spells full economic freedom. But economic freedom has no meaning, if in a matter so basic as food our country is every year at the mercy of some international council or other to give us rationed doles of rice and wheat and other grains for the poor man's hearth in every one of the numberless hamlets that fill our countryside. Distant Australia, and more distant Argentina, have now to feed the villager in the remotest corner of our land.

'End Dependence on Foreign Doles'

It was with a view to end this unwholesome dependence on foreign doles that your Government felt that it was time we planned out a programme for India's freedom of food to supplement the political freedom we have just gained. A Committee on which able men worked vigorously and hard has recently reported upon the measures which must be taken to achieve this freedom of food. That report is now before us. The Committee has made valuable recommendations and Government will be coming to their conclusions in regard to these recommendations as soon as Provinces and public organizations have expressed their view on the contents of the Committee's Report.

Large multipurpose projects, coupling irrigation with electric power, and stupendous schemes for the reclamation of waste and weeded lands have been broadly outlined by the Committee. These will no doubt cost much money and occupy several years

of strenuous, efficient and co-ordinated work. This task will fall within the jurisdiction of Government. It is in this field that we must work with a far-seeing mind and a big heart and draw in and secure the co-operation of various elements of our national life, whose conjunction would lead to quickest success.

Measures for Immediate Adoption

"It is not the purpose of my to-day's talk to dilate on these projects and schemes. These must await consideration and implementation by the Government of the country in such a manner as may give us the best results. Other proposals of smaller dimensions and well within the power of Provincial Governments have also been recommended for immediate adoption. They relate to more intensive cultivation and use of improved methods on the very farms which to-day cannot fully feed us. It is in this sphere of action that every one of us is to be tested in the coming few years. You, the tillers of the soil, have also to share in the test. And after all, what is the effort which you have to put forth?"

Public Servants' Duty

I cannot but think at this moment of the thousands of those public servants of the Agriculture Departments of our Provinces and States, who on an occasion like this, can fittingly function as the true guides, philosophers and friends to those who produce the nation's food. These, the creators of our basic wealth, need individual help and guidance to overcome their numerous little difficulties. There could be no nobler mission for the officials of the Agriculture Department than to move in the midst of the nation's producers and help them with materials and advice so as to liberate India from its bondage for food. The rule of the tiller of the soil can be as great as that of the greatest architect of India's biggest projects, and those officials of Government, who with earnestness and assiduity guide the cultivators to achieve the national goal of economic freedom, can share with them the glory of the achievement. Should we not all, non-officials and officials, feel the tragedy of the situation?

With nature's magnificent gifts of the Himalayas and the Vindhayas and their daughters, the mighty rivers, which supply the bloodstream of our economic life, with a soil which, if well tended, is suited to vast multipurpose agricultural production, with a man and cattle power which has the potentiality, if properly used, to feed half

the world and feed it well and sumptuously—with all these factors in our favour—we in India seem to be destined to beg our food from half a dozen countries in the East and West for several years to come. This is a position which no self-respecting nation can tolerate. It is a position which no self-respecting member of our nation should long tolerate.

Have we ever realized that, if anything happens to interrupt the free passage of food ships across the seas, India would have to face relentless starvation?

It is a great national task which is making its call both to the tiller and to the official, and all great tasks well done cannot but evoke appreciation and recognition. Let us all fulfil our parts in the great task of making India self-sufficient in food for its rapidly growing population.

Food, the first priority

Agriculture is the fountain of national wealth. Food must form our principal agricultural product. We must plan for food production along more than one line.

Schemes which will take some time must be coupled with schemes which can be implemented immediately. Both need our attention. It is these latter which I am anxious to-day to commend both to the agriculturists and the officials of our numerous Provinces and States. It is in this sphere that our own will and determination can largely give us the fruit. It is in this sphere that our own capacity for co-operative work can produce certain results. It would be a great pity if the qualities, which carried us through to success over thirty years of political struggle, should now suddenly be unavailable when the battle for the economic freedom of India has yet to be won to supplement the achievement of political liberty.

Pass the Test

The nation is, as I have ventured to suggest, passing through a fresh test. I hope we shall pass the test successfully. We are even now entering upon the next sowing season in the country. Our efforts during this season are to be the beginning of that test. I know that many Provinces have been planning for this season. I hope full and free co-operation between the officials and the agriculturists will help the nation to achieve its first success in its march to economic freedom. Will the tiller and the public servants disappoint the nation's hopes?

Educational Reconstruction

Education Minister's Address

Speaking recently at the Local Board Educational Conference at Masulipatam, the Hon'ble Minister for Education said :

Elementary education is the foundation on which the whole edifice of the country must be built. To-day, the type of education that we want to introduce in elementary schools is basic education; basic education has within itself the seeds for developing the minds and the personalities of our children. By being educated through activities and experience in basic education, children will be intellectually better equipped and become physically more fit. A basic craft provides a constructive activity to the child. I would like to make it clear that education through a craft does not mean that everything should be taught through the craft alone. Utilizing all our experience round about our life such as school garden, school hygiene, the kitchen, the village festivals and every other aspect of social life is also part of basic education. In basic education, every child is trained to take up responsibilities as the future citizens of this land. I hope both the teachers and the parents will appreciate these implications of basic education. I must hasten to make it clear that mere spinning is by no means basic education.

Ideas behind reorganization

The Government are anxious to apply this salutary principle of education through activity in the secondary schools also. In fact, the reorganized scheme of secondary education provides for extension of the principles of basic education in secondary schools. The introduction of crafts and the introduction of citizenship training and the bifurcation at the IV Form stage for technical education, etc., are the important elements that have been newly introduced in the reorganized scheme of secondary education. It is not enough if a man merely grows in intellect. It is absolutely essential that he must grow with a social sense, with the full consciousness of his being a part of the society in which he lives and to which he owes a duty. Developing the intellect without character is a danger. The citizenship training aims at training children with a social sense and character. What we want is a complete change of outlook in education. Mere mugging of a few lines or getting marks in examination should not be construed as the mark of

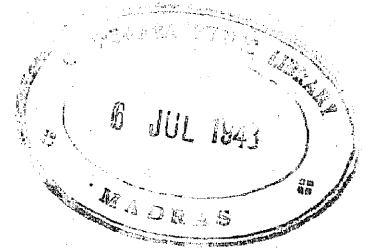
education. Character, devotion to duty and to service and a striving for higher ideals should be the hallmark of culture. The new reorganization of elementary and secondary education has been done mainly with these great ideals in view. On this point, I would like to point out that the matter of reorganizing the examinations is also receiving the attention of Government. The test of one single examination at the end of six years cannot be presumed to test properly the development of the child or even his knowledge. Consistent with the reorganized curricula, our tests must also undergo a change. While there will be some examinations in future also, the value to be attached to them will certainly change. The development of the child's personality and qualities of leadership must also be measured through his efficiency in activities and social service. This matter of reorganization of examinations on new and modern lines is under active consideration of the Board of Secondary Education. The Government hope that they will be able to issue final orders in the matter before the end of this calendar year.

Efficiency in Education

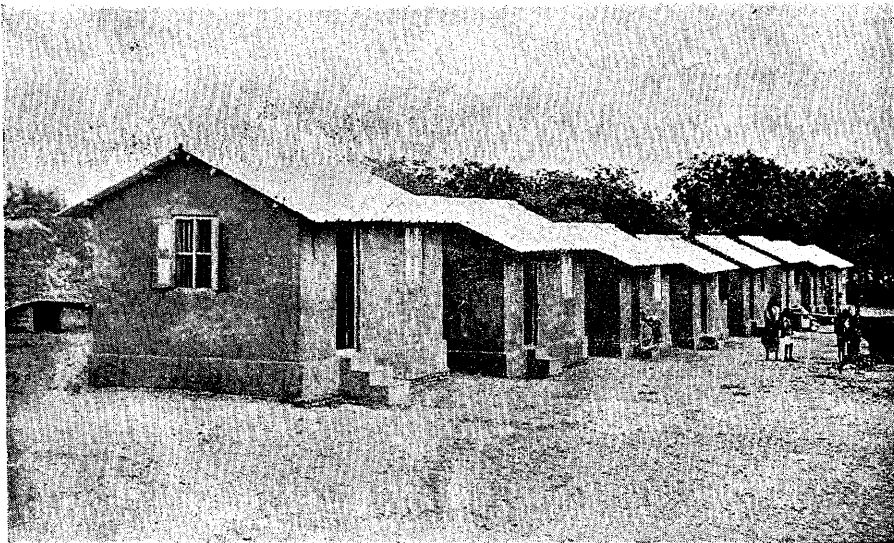
Efficiency in education is one of the most vital matters in our country if we are to keep pace with the rest of the world in every direction. One of the main reasons for inefficiency has been said to be indiscipline among students in this area. Strikes in the schools and colleges in the northern region of our Province have been too many. In the year 1946-47, the worst year for strikes, there have been as many as 95 strikes, of which 52 were in Andhra, 17 in Tamilnad and 26 in the West Coast. In the year 1947-48, there were 29 strikes, of which more than half, i.e., 15 were in Andhra, nil in Tamilnad and 14 in the West Coast. These strikes have resulted in dislocating work in schools and colleges and have also created an atmosphere which is not congenial for academic purposes. Whatever may be the reason for these strikes before, after August 15, they have no meaning. These strikes in these days are tantamount to suicide in that they are sabotaging the studies and the equipment of the future citizens of this great country. A calm and an even-tenor of life is absolutely essential for scholastic life whether in the school or in the college. I

SLUMS ARE PLAGUE-SPOTS
GOVERNMENT HAVE PLANNED TO WIPE THEM OUT

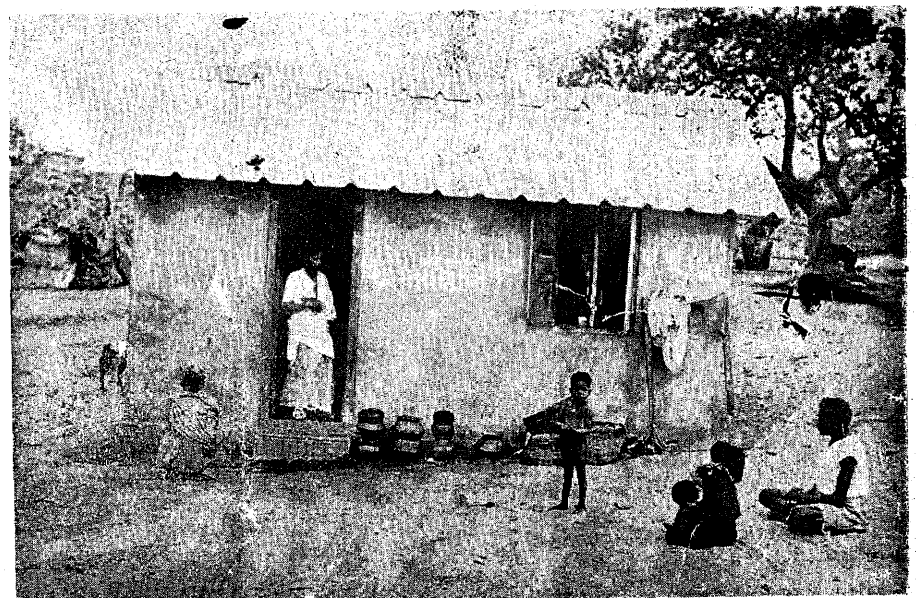
A typical slum in Madras City



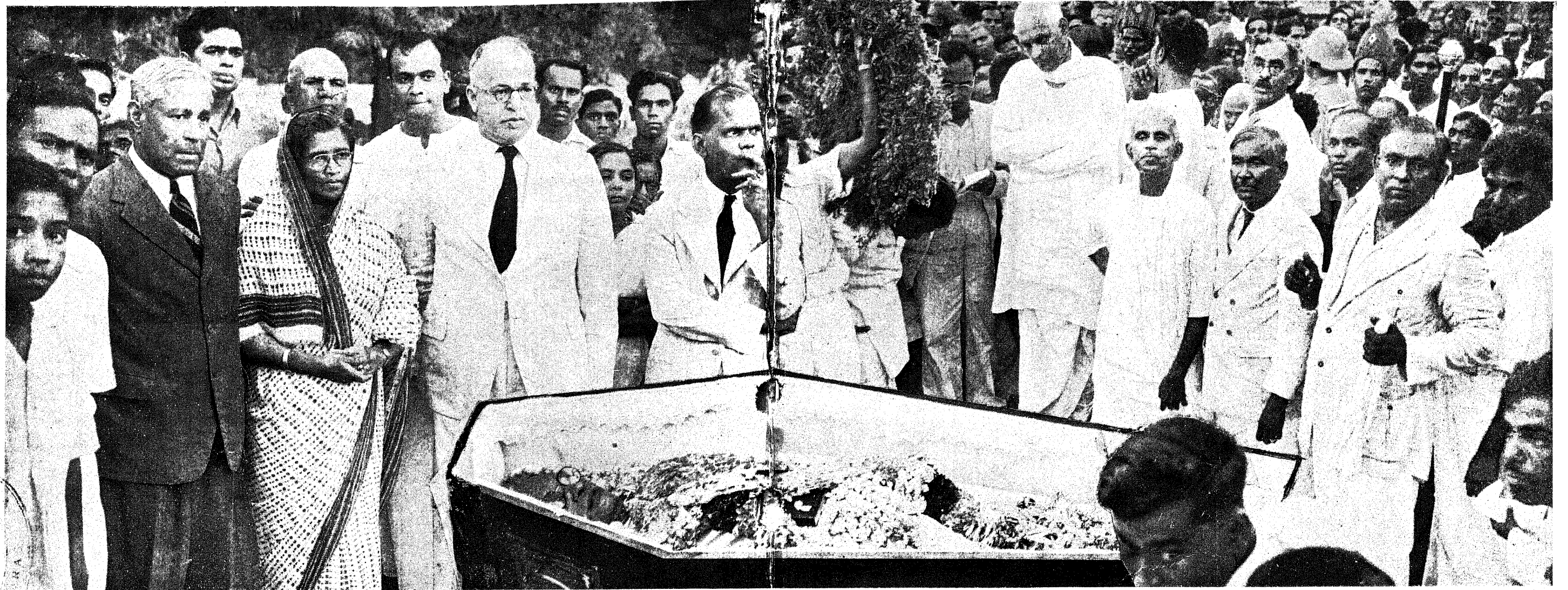
*The old slum has disappeared and
new houses have been built*



A model new house in an old slum area



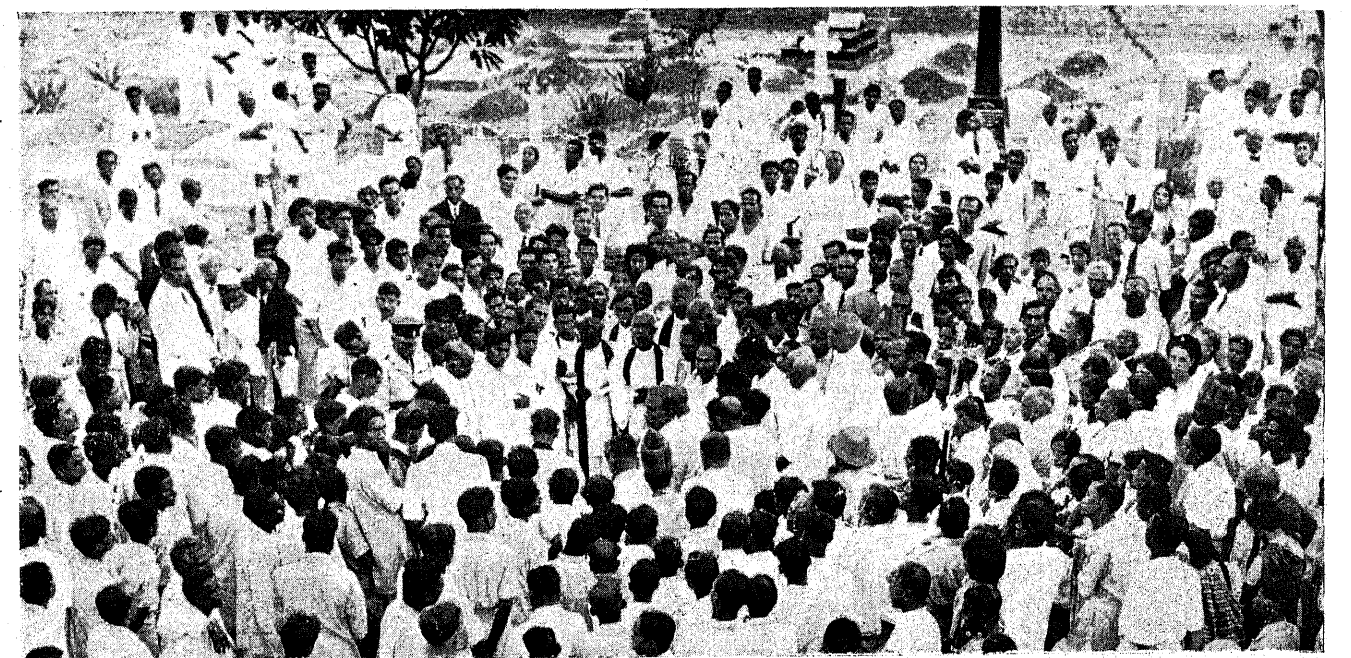
Scenes from the Funeral of Mr. Daniel Thomas



The body of Mr. Daniel Thomas lying in State. In the picture are seen Hon'ble the Premier of Madras with other Ministers as well as Dr. and Mrs. John Mathai

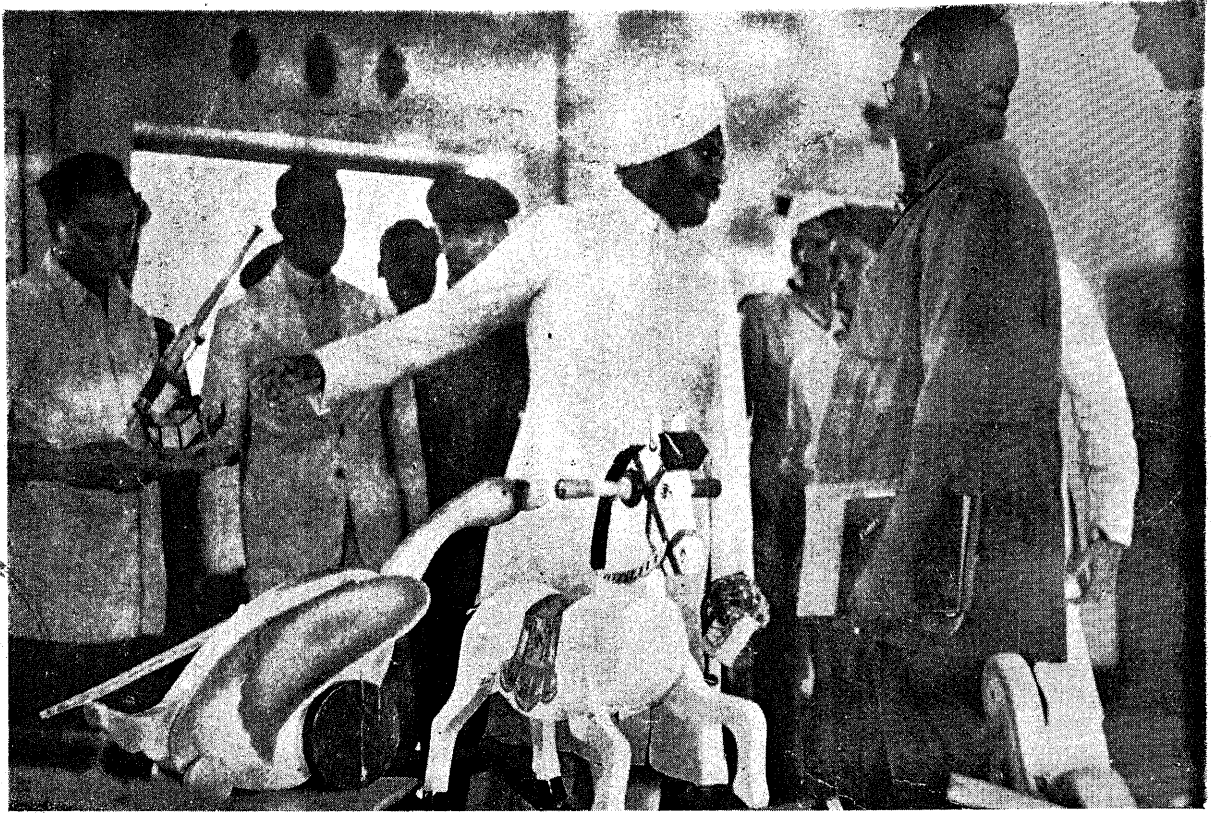


The Funeral Procession

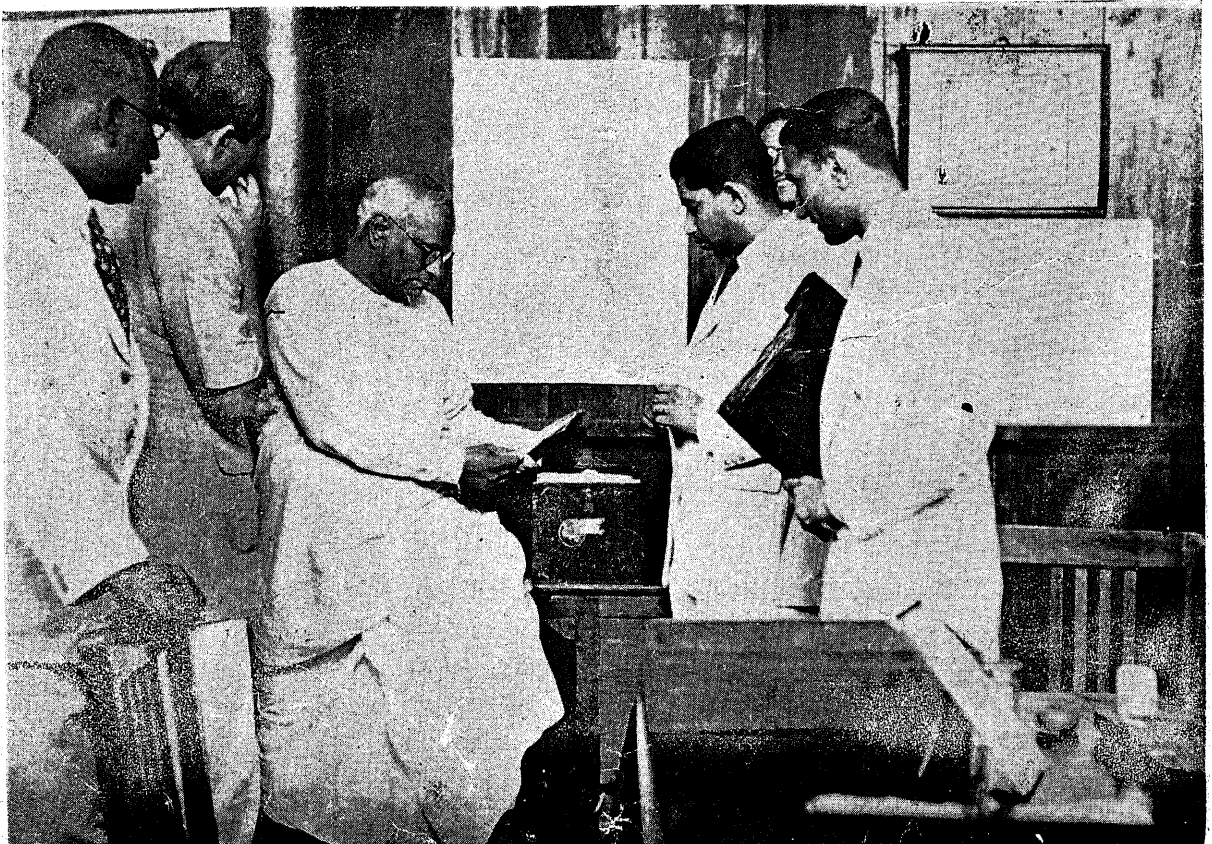


In the cemetery where Mr. Daniel Thomas was interred

SPOT-LIGHT ON EX-SERVICEMEN



A disabled ex-serviceman presented the Defence Minister a toy anti-aircraft gun when he visited the toy-making section. "An excellent workmanship indeed!" observed the Defence Minister



The Employers' Index Cards being scrutinized by Mr. V. V. Giri, High Commissioner for India in Ceylon and Mr. Azeez, President, Ceylon Indian Congress during their visit to the Regional Employment Office, Madras

would appeal here to students as well as public men who have influence with the student community to help in the creation of such an atmosphere in our educational institutions, for that will be in the best interests of the students and the country. The Government on their part have determined to do what all they can to create the desired atmosphere.

Discipline

I would like to point out that the matter of maintaining discipline is a psychological problem. It must be dealt with by positive rather than negative measures. The young throughout the world are restless to-day. They are conscious of a new power within them but unfortunately, this enthusiasm and power have not been properly channelized. When they are not used properly, they sometimes get into the hands of people who cannot guide them properly which results in such undesirable activities as strikes. We must recognize the new spirit in the minds of our boys and girls. We must channelize their new energies and their new consciousness of power to a good purpose. Active organization of social help, presenting them with new ideals of service to the country, giving them new scope for sharing responsibilities in schools and in colleges will, I am sure, go a long way in changing their outlook. The introduction of crafts and citizenship training and military training in schools and colleges about which the Government are contemplating will, I hope, go a long way in utilizing their energies.

One other important reason for this indiscipline in schools is to be found, if I may be pardoned for saying so, in the teachers and managements of schools. In a school where there is unity and respect between teachers and where a common ideology prevails, there have rarely been problems of indiscipline. But, in schools where one set of teachers abuses another secretly or in the open or proclaim their differences in public, indiscipline is bound to result among the students and the students are bound to be divided into two camps. This is what I have found wherever I have gone throughout the province. If the students are to live in discipline, we, who are in charge of the teaching profession, must learn to be disciplined. There are many schools in which teachers actively join the political parties, abuse each other and canvass against each other. In such a school, it is no surprise that the

students fight against each other. The discipline amongst students therefore is to a great measure dependant on the teaching staff in each school and this equally applies to managements, whether it be local board or aided institutions. Where there is division of opinion within the local boards and the managing committees, this is bound to be reflected in the schools themselves.

In the interest of the proper upbringing of our children who are the greatest treasure that the nation possesses, I would like to make an earnest appeal to the members of the teaching profession as well as to those who have the management of schools under them to kindly eschew politics, party or personal differences out of schools. There are some things too sacred for us to quarrel about. The atmosphere in the school must be considered too sacred to introduce party politics or any other differences, for by such acts we soil the minds of our children throughout their lives. I would earnestly appeal for your best co-operation in this great task of creating a better and a happier atmosphere in our schools so that these little ones may study and carry on the work which we have to hand over to them.

Elementary Education—Slow progress

You would have seen from figures that have already been published that collegiate education has expanded by 100 per cent or more in the last eight years. The number of students that studied in the colleges increased from 19,416 in 1940-41 to 38,590 in 1946-47. Secondary education has increased by nearly 60 per cent. The statistics for 1947-48 will also show that there is a steady increase in the number of students admitted in colleges and high schools, but unfortunately, elementary education has increased only by about 16 per cent in the last five years, in spite of the fact that for elementary education, the Government are spending now nearly three times as much as before. This cannot be said to be a very satisfactory state of affairs. The reasons for this poor progress in elementary education have been dealt with in my speech at the Madura conference which has already been distributed to you. It is necessary that we should tackle these problems earnestly and well. To avoid inefficiency and waste in elementary education, Government have already issued orders with regard to the amalgamation of the boys' and girls' ranges in elementary schools and also

the amalgamation of uneconomic schools of whatever management.

Compulsion in Elementary Education

The Government, as you all know, have been trying to spread compulsory elementary education in the various areas of the province in a progressive manner. In connection with this, there is one other aspect of the problem which I would like to put before you. On the one side when we are trying to do compulsion, a great deal of resistance is found in the working of compulsion, many of the parents being unwilling to send their children to schools. Local people are not readily co-operating with the educational authorities in sending children to schools and finding place for them in villages.

On the other hand, it is a matter for deep regret that about 3,764 places with a population of 500 and above, where a school can easily exist, have not been provided with schools till now. I am sure that providing opportunities for education in places where there is a good number of school-going children will be by itself a very good method of spreading elementary education. I would request the local boards and municipalities where money is saved by the amalgamation of schools and the elimination of uneconomic schools that money may be utilized to open schools in these schoolless areas. I would like to invite aided agencies and public spirited men who want to open schools and endow for educational purposes to come forward to do so in these schoolless areas and I promise on behalf of Government that the department will be willing and anxious to co-operate with these philanthropic friends in this great war.

Swaraj has been won. It must be retained and maintained properly and to do that, every one of us must put up tremendous efforts. It is only by striving to work hard that we can succeed in building up a great future for this great country. Spreading education is very essential to achieve this. We must also give a new meaning to education. It is not merely learning to read and write or merely to equip for a job. Education must give us the qualities to make us men, in the words of the Great Swami Vivekananda; it must give everyone of us the courage, the strength, the daring and the capacity for continuous effort which alone will succeed in building up a glorious future for our country.

Prohibition—a vital experiment in Social Reform

Speaking recently at a meeting in Madras Sri A. Palaniappa Mudaliar, Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition, referred *inter alia* to Prohibition. He said :

Prohibition was a cause which was most dear to the heart of the late lamented Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Indian Nation. It is an experiment in social reform of far-reaching importance. It is a human experiment, the object of which is to promote the uplift of the masses. Any such programme has necessarily to include the eradication of the drink-evil which is responsible for the unhappiness in many homes especially among the poorer classes. Thanks to the teachings of the various religions which have taken root in our country, drinking of intoxicants is generally regarded as a sin. It saps the physical energy of the drinker, clouds his senses, depraves his nature and reduces him to the level of a beast. He has no respect for his neighbour and besides himself becoming a physical wreck, he sadly neglects his family and other immediate responsibilities. It is to save the families of a large section of our people who suffer endless miseries on account of the drink-evil that Mahatma Gandhi inaugurated a campaign for prohibition. The Congress is wedded to this policy from its earliest days.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has repeatedly said that the true wealth of a nation depends upon its manhood and womanhood even more than its material resources. Ours is one of the poorest countries in the world and the standard of living of the masses is miserably low. Many factors have contributed to reducing our splendid manhood to its present low state. It is universally recognized that the drink habit is widespread among the people and that those who drink spend such a large part of their wages on drink, as they have less than the absolute minimum necessary for a healthy physical existence. India has gained political independence. But, if she is to take her rightful place in the family of nations by virtue of her population and the traditions which she has inherited not only from her past but also from Mahatma Gandhi, we have to do everything that we can to raise the economic, social and moral level of the masses. This can be done not only by increasing their earning capacity—a matter which is seriously engaging the attention of

the State, but also by eliminating all wasteful expenditure so that their earnings are utilized to the best advantage to promote their well-being. It is considered that no single measure of reform can help the masses and raise their social and economic level to the same extent as total prohibition can.

The introduction of prohibition involves a loss of nearly Rs. 17 crores of rupees to the Madras Government. They are nevertheless prepared to forego this revenue for the reason that the introduction of this reform will save millions of our people from starvation, misery and debt and help them to lead a life of peace and prosperity in happy surroundings and they are convinced that this policy will ultimately enrich the wealth of our province. In October 1946, prohibition was introduced in the eight districts of North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Chittoor, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Bellary and Anantapur. It was extended to eight more districts on the 1st of October 1947, viz., Guntur, Nellore, Madura, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, The Nilgiris, Malabar and South Kanara. Two-thirds of the Madras Province have thus become dry. The programme of the Madras Government is to complete the introduction of prohibition all over the province by October 1948. Of all provinces, the Madras Government have taken the lead in implementing the scheme of prohibition as one of the foremost schemes for the amelioration of the people of this province. In a recent message on the occasion of the Madras Budget in the Legislature in March last to the Hon'ble Minister for Finance, whom we have the privilege of having in our midst today, His Excellency Sri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor of West Bengal and Governor-General designate of the Indian Union congratulated the Madras Government on the extension of prohibition throughout the province and observed as follows :—

'It makes me feel a sense of achievement when you have extended prohibition to the whole of the province. I hope the people and especially the de facto leaders of men in the rural areas will co-operate with officials and make this great reform the Kama-dhenu, it can be . . . I convey to you and to your Premier my grateful appreciation of courage and enterprise shown in completing the edifice of prohibition in Madras which was my

dream. You have by this raised a great memorial for Mahatma Gandhi.'

The enforcement of prohibition involves the changing of the habits of a large section of the people. For its success propaganda and ameliorative work among the ex-addicts are as important as detection and prevention of crime and the punishment of the offenders under the Prohibition Law. With this object in view, Government have introduced various ameliorative measures in the districts, in which prohibition has been introduced. In a message to the Hon'ble Minister for Prohibition on the eve of the introduction to eight more districts in October 1947, Mahatma Gandhi enquired as follows :—'Are you following up the law by doing instructive and educative work I pointed out the other day in the columns of Harijan?' In the *Harijan* under the caption 'Prohibition of Intoxicants,' Mahatma had referred to the measures which the Madras Government have adopted such as the opening of refreshment stalls, organizing game and counter attractions, etc. Sri C. Rajagopalachari stressed the same point of view in his recent message to the Hon'ble Minister for Finance. In the course of that message His Excellency has said: 'We should immediately devise effective measures for a widespread savings bank movement and for a programme of joy in rural and industrial areas to replace the undoubted physical consolation that drink had hitherto been given to the miserable. Without this total prohibition would become a dead sea-fruit however great the enterprise might have been.'

The introduction of prohibition is not for its own sake but to promote the well being of the poorer classes. It is not a mere negative programme of abolishing the drink evil. It is a positive programme of reconstruction of rural life. Simultaneously with the introduction of prohibition, thrift campaign should be launched and full use made of the occasion for organizing rural uplift work. It aims at building up a more healthy and prosperous society of men and women of the land. It therefore behoves one and all of us to do our mite and make the cause of prohibition a great success. One of the greatest monuments that could be ever raised to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi is to the work of prohibition successfully. And it is the fundamental duty of every citizen to co-operate with the Government and make this reform a complete success.

SPECIAL ARTICLES

Government and Publicity Work

NOTE.—This article embodies extracts from a pamphlet put out by the Department of Information and Publicity some time ago. It is important to realize the place of publicity in a modern State. Days were when Governments functioned under purdah, but they are gone for good. Democracy has come to stay and a democratic Government lives on public opinion. Hence the education and nourishment of public opinion is one of the fundamental duties of a modern State. This work is done by the Department of Information and Publicity. It is said that an ignorant man is a danger to democracy. The aim of publicity is to dispel such ignorance as far as possible and to disseminate correct information among the masses.

Criticisms have sometimes appeared in the press questioning the necessity for a Publicity Department for the Government. The critics urge that Government do not require a publicity organization when there is the newspaper press to publicize Governmental activities, that there is a forum provided by the Legislatures which can be utilized for the purpose, and that the Ministers can avail themselves of opportunities during their tours to publicize the activities of the Government. The conclusion is drawn that Government do not need a Publicity Department.

Such criticisms do not take into account all the relevant considerations. Publicity has many highways and by-ways. It can be done on many fronts and from numerous angles. The methods vary with the subject and it is not the monopoly of any one organization or agency. The field for publicity is vast and there is room for any number of organizations. It is common knowledge that commercial organizations and social, political or humanitarian associations employ publicity officers to popularize their causes. Such a well-known millionaire as John D. Rockefeller found it necessary, about 1912, to employ a Public Relations Officer in order to remove public misapprehension about his business and to counteract the sinister propaganda against him. Different

organizations do publicity work from different angles. No doubt the newspaper press occupies a unique position in the field of publicity, but it is not necessarily in a position always to interpret Governmental policies or publicize Governmental activities as effectively as the Government themselves, as the authors of these policies or activities, can do. It is a commonplace that an author is in a better position to explain his writings than a third party, and Government are in a better position than any other organization to explain their principles and policies and publicize their activities in the most effective manner. Moreover, newspapers are not unattached entities. They generally support a particular political party or school of thought. In England, for example, the great political parties, e.g., the Conservative, the Liberal or the Labour Party control a considerable section of the press while in India there are many papers supporting the nationalist school of thought, while others are controlled by communal organizations. These interpret men and events from their respective angles and their interpretations often differ widely. Of late, there has been a tendency for "Big Business" also to control the press. Newspaper chains are a familiar phenomenon in America. A Government cannot reasonably be expected to leave its entire publicity business in the hands of newspapers which in the nature of things may not be to do publicity work from the Government's angle.

Again, the forum provided by the Legislatures suffers from the handicap that the Legislatures do not meet daily or even monthly but only for limited periods and occasionally during a year. The Government cannot always afford to wait till they meet. Public reactions to Government measures are quick and these have to be followed up quickly when it is desirable to do so. The same argument applies to some extent as regards Ministers doing publicity work during their tours. They do not tour regularly and they cannot afford to be away from headquarters for long periods. The time at their disposal during tours is short and is generally fully occupied by engagements. It is

hardly possible for them while on tour to explain the intricacies of Government's policies in detail. Publicity is a technical affair and, as has been said by more than one writer, it is one thing to have a message for the villagers and another thing to deliver that message effectively. For the latter, the technique has to be studied and learnt, and has necessarily to form the special field of persons technically qualified for it. It is thus obvious that Government's publicity work cannot be done effectively without some Government organization to supplement other forms of publicity.

The State and Publicity

In this connexion, it is often asked whether publicity is one of the legitimate functions of the State. There would have been some point in such a question some decades ago when the conceptions of the functions of the State were much narrower. The modern State is an 'all-pervasive' structure and includes within its range activities of all kinds which affect the well-being of human beings in every way. In earlier days, the State, which was generally authoritarian in character, concerned itself mostly with the maintenance of peace and order and the collection of revenue. The ruler acted largely on his own without consulting the wishes of the people. The position is different now. If the State in earlier days depended mainly on the army, the modern State depends upon the opinion of the people. Under a democratic dispensation, the opinion of the people counts for much and it is one of the fundamental functions of every Government to see that the people are enabled to form correct opinions on the activities of the State. This postulates the need for publicity by Government. The functions of publicity have been defined as 'to instruct, to inform and inspire,' and that is indispensable in the modern State.

Publicity in the Post-War Era

If publicity should be a normal function of a democratic State, it is all the more necessary in the post-war era. The second World War marked the end of an era and the beginning of another. The common man has come into his own and everywhere Governments have initiated schemes to ameliorate his lot. Post-war Reconstruction, Rural Reconstruction and the like are things with which everybody is familiar now-a-days. In this country, almost all Governments have got big schemes

of rural reconstruction involving expenditure of crores of rupees. Incidentally, there is some misapprehension about the term "Rural Reconstruction". One author has observed that people talk of rural reconstruction as they talk of patent medicines. It is regarded almost as something which by mere application would produce the desired result. This is clearly an erroneous notion. Rural reconstruction is a complex affair and its success postulates full co-operation between the Government who spend money and carry out the plans on the one hand and the masses for whom these plans are intended on the other. Government can only implement schemes and unless enthusiasm is created in the people to take advantage of the schemes and to utilize them to the fullest extent possible, then the amount spent cannot yield the full return. The Government have to mobilize this enthusiasm and this can be achieved mainly through publicity work. In this connexion, the words of Sir Sultan Ahmed, ex-Information Member of the Government of India, may be recalled. Addressing the Publicity Advisory Committee in September 1945, Sir Sultan said :

"We may go ahead and build our roads, electrify the countryside, establish flourishing industries, produce more and better crops, build schools and train teachers, but we still both delay our progress and lose much of the value of our effort if we do not also make a heroic effort to explain to as many people as we can reach what the ultimate purpose is, what the steps that we propose to take are and what assistance we need from the public at large."

These words indicate the importance of publicity in the working of the state machinery. Publicity is otherwise defined as preparation. It consists mainly in preparing the mind of the people, so that the measures initiated by the Government or the reforms they carry out or the schemes they implement may find a ready response from the people. This preparation, which is a necessary preliminary, cannot be overlooked. Publicity is also information, its main objective in this regard being to interest the masses in the plans and schemes of the Government and to make them anxious and eager to make the best use of, and desire the maximum advantage from, those schemes. Publicity is also education in the sense that it seeks to disseminate correct ideas about things and thereby dispel

ignorance, prejudice, and misunderstanding. The present age is, therefore, one in which Governments require publicity organizations just as much as they require nation-building departments.

Publicity in Post-War India

It is a happy augury that there is in the present era, a widespread realization of the importance of Government publicity, judging from the fact that in almost all the major Provinces in India as well as in the major states there are separate departments for publicity work. Bombay, Bengal, the Punjab and Bihar to mention a few, are reported to have efficient publicity organizations doing useful work. It was recently reported that in the Punjab, during the riots, the Directorate of Public Relations had been able

to do much through pamphlets, posters and otherwise, towards the restoration of communal harmony. The same thing is said of Bihar also. In some Provinces there are also District Publicity Units to carry on educative publicity work among the masses. States like Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore and Cochin also have elaborate publicity organizations. In Hyderabad the department was recently expanded and a similar expansion is being carried out in Mysore where provision has even been made for propaganda vans. Madras is the biggest Province in the country and if smaller administrative units cannot dispense with publicity organizations, Madras can do so only with greater prejudice to her interests.

Publicity is preparation, publicity is information, publicity is education.

A Peep into the Museum

Botany Galleries

By SRI M. S. CHANDRASEKHAR, B.Sc.

There are still some people who, without paying a single visit to the Botanical galleries of the Museum, think it a fashion to say "Oh, these galleries contain only trees with which we are more than familiar." Their number is now fast dwindling down, which is certainly a change for the good. When such people are somehow induced to go round these galleries, and then asked if they are "familiar" with at least 10 per cent of the "trees" exhibited, they try to smile and attempt to change the topic. This only shows the general disregard for exact knowledge. What exactly then is the type of knowledge imparted here? This question can, by no means, be answered in a word or two.

The importance of plants in our daily life requires no special mention, as most of the things we need, have got their origin in some plant part or other. Although our country is very rich in natural resources, a vast variety of goods are imported from abroad. A good number of imports can be avoided by a knowledge of the various plants and plant parts from which the raw materials can be tapped with best advantage. Mere theoretical knowledge on these matters, which can be easily obtained from books, leads the industrialists nowhere, as accuracy in identification of plants and plant parts is an indispensable factor for success in industrial enterprises. It is only this practical knowledge that forms the main objective of these

galleries where the actual specimens themselves are shown to the public, with explanatory labels which are brief and to the point.

Prominent index labels for the respective groups of exhibits serve as a good guide in the galleries. In addition the labels relating to the individual exhibits contain, wherever possible vernacular names, too. As it is impossible in this article to describe in detail the large number of exhibits in the galleries only a few of outstanding interest are enumerated here.

A mushroom or toadstool of gigantic size, near the entrance to the Botanical gallery is worth a few minutes' attention. It is one foot tall with a circumference of 8 inches at the base, while the top spreading portion has a diameter of 7 inches. How many of our readers have seen its equal?

Exhibited among the various South Indian timbers which number well over 300, are transverse sections of large trunks of two timber trees. One is rose-wood and the other, teak-wood, the circumference of the former being 21 feet, while that of the latter, 23 feet 9 inches. The rose-wood is claimed to be 200 years old at the time of felling and the teak-wood, a little over 500 years. The age is calculated by counting the number of annual rings on the specimen, each ring corresponding with a growing season of each year of the plant's life. Starting from the centre every hundredth ring on the specimen

of teak wood, is painted in white, so as to represent the circumference of the plant at the end of every hundred years of its growth. The size of the trunk in the year, 1400, when the tree began growing, is indicated by a dot. Mentioned on the specimen, are also a few historical events, with dates, that took place during the lifetime of the tree.

Large-sized bracket fungi, not commonly met with by the public, are also on show here. The largest specimen in the collection measures more than a foot in diameter and at least three inches and a half in thickness.

Herbarium sheets of the Flora of the City of Madras, lie accommodated in drawers specially devised for them. Residents of the City would derive help from these exhibits in identifying plants which they see every day in their neighbourhood.

Visitors would, indeed, develop an urge to beautify their gardens with varieties of ferns, on seeing the different types of ferns in the herbarium collection.

It may, at first, sound strange to city-bred people if they are told that plantains bear seeds of the size of beans. The statement is true to the letter; and the author would only request the stay-at-homes to personally verify it by looking at the exhibits here.

Those interested in pencil manufacture will always stand to gain from a visit to these galleries where the different stages in the manufacture of pencils are exhibited.

Among the numerous exhibits that bring out the importance of cotton, the miniature model of a handloom will be found very interesting to many of the visitors, although the technically minded few will study only the various staple-lengths shown.

A couple of show-cases of toys not only provide amusement to children but also furnish valuable information on raw materials required for making toys.

A large collection of plants and plant parts which are required for extraction and manufacture of various drugs, and some of which are indigenous and some others cultivable in our own country, occupy a considerable portion of the galleries. These are, however, not exhaustive. Our country's resources are, indeed, vaster.

Raw jute fibres which are not quite familiar objects in our Province, are attractively displayed.

An exceedingly wonderful specimen of the bark of "Upas tree" measuring

over 5½ feet × 3 feet commands admiration from one and all. The "Rishis" of yore perhaps clothed themselves in such barks, as this! In some parts of the Western Ghats, it is still employed as a ground sheet, while its chief use is in making bags and paper.

It is gratifying to observe that Botany is becoming more and more popular now a days, and that men and women of all ages who come here, never go back disappointed. It is, therefore, high time for our readers to visit these galleries of the Museum if they have not already done it.

OTHER PROVINCES AND STATES

Gram Panchayat in Bombay

Every revenue village in the Province of Bombay with a population of 1,000 and over will have a village panchayat as a result of the decision taken by the Government of Bombay. Revenue villages with populations of less than 1,000 can have a Gram Panchayat if at least 50 adult residents of the village apply for the same.

The Government has further decided that where a revenue village consists of hamlets or wadis or groups of hutments situated at such distances as to render their grouping into one panchayat administratively inconvenient, or where grouping of hamlets is likely to cause friction or arouse animosities, then separate panchayats should be constituted for such areas.

Village Panchayats already established in areas with population of less than 1,000 will continue to function as before.

No group Village Panchayats (i.e., two or more villages combined for the purpose of establishing one panchayat for the whole area) will be established, unless a large majority of the residents in each village agree to such a grouping or such panchayats have already been established and are working satisfactorily.

Tanning in Bombay

A scheme of starting the Tanning Demonstration Centre (Finishing Unit) at Satara, with a view to providing facilities to the tanners in their profession, has been approved by the Government of Bombay.

Eradication of illiteracy in Bombay

The Government of Bombay has approved the ten-year scheme of the Bombay City Adult Education Committee for eradicating illiteracy in the

City of Bombay and has agreed to help the committee with a grant of 50 per cent of the cost of the scheme. A provision of Rs. 2,07,000 has accordingly been made in the current year's budget.

Scholarships in Bombay

The Government of Bombay has sanctioned the institution of five scholarships to the students belonging to the Province of Bombay at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, with effect from the academic year 1948-49.

The scholarships will be open to the candidates of either sex and the value of each scholarship will be Rs. 60 per mensem.

Aid to Physical Education in Bombay

After having considered the recommendation of the Physical Education Committee (1945-46) that the grants-in-aid on physical education—recurring and non-recurring should be 50 per cent of the admissible expenditure, the Government of Bombay has decided to pay physical education grants at 33 1/3 per cent of both the recurring and non-recurring admissible expenditure to the non-Government secondary schools from the current financial year for a period of ten years in the first instance.

Spinning Wheels for Schools in Gwalior

During the course of inspection of Middle Schools at Kolaras, Pachhar and Bhilsa, the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Sri V. C. Parashar, noticed that the School libraries did not contain enough books on nation-building subjects. The Education Minister, therefore, ordered that such books be immediately sent for the School libraries. Orders have also been passed

for sending Yerwada spinning wheels for Middle Schools at Ater, Kolaras and Pachhar.

* * *

Adult Education Centres in Gwalior

A large number of adult education classes for spreading literacy amongst the masses are being opened in the State. An adult literacy camp, where 51 teachers are being trained, was recently inaugurated at Shivapuri by Hon'ble Shri V. C. Parashar, Education Minister, Gwalior Government. It is understood that by the end of July 1948 nearly 100 such classes would start functioning in the State.

* * *

Military Training in Gwalior

A military training class, organized by the Education Department, Gwalior Government, was opened at Ujjain on 24th May 1948. Addressing the trainees on parade ground at Ujjain, Hon'ble Shri V. C. Parashar, Education Minister, Gwalior Government, said that they should even be prepared to go on active service whenever required for the service of the motherland. After the completion of the training, the trainees are expected to serve as instructors in their respective educational institutions.

A large number of applicants had to be refused admission on account of limited number of seats. The present class consists of 192 trainees.

* * *

Anti-Malaria Exhibition in C.P.

The Central Provinces Public Health Department arranged a Public Health Exhibition at the Ramtek fair last month. About 25,000 persons visited the Exhibition stall, looked at the models with keen interest and would not budge unless they had a full round of sections in the exhibition and understood the details, which normally took about an hour.

The exhibition depicted a typical village, showing actually how malaria is made by man, peasant, engineer and natural breeding places. Models explaining these were made in proportionate sizes out of clay, cardboard and earth in colours. Both protections and cures of the disease were explained. Protection included mosquito-net and its proper uses, repellents (Culicifuges) and screening of houses. It was illustrated as to how the destruction of adult mosquitoes and its larvæ

could be done through traps, fumigants, sprays, chemical and vegetable larvicides, proper drainage and use of oil. Amongst cures, were included Ayurvedic and Allopathic systems.

The nutrition section presented its instructive charts, diagrams and natural food stuffs which explained how by eating plenty of green leafy vegetables and a balanced diet, a person could keep fit and free from most of the diseases.

* * *

National Cadet Corps in Assam

Following the proposal for the introduction of military training in the schools and colleges of India, the Government has drawn a scheme for the raising of a National Cadet Corps to be composed of suitable school and college students. The launching of this ambitious scheme required in the first place, the training of capable professors and teachers who, after completion of their course will be charged with the task of putting the scheme into operation.

* * *

Irrigation in C.P.

A scheme for the world's biggest multi-purpose project is under examination of the Provincial Government. The project will be constructed on the Wainganga River and when completed will be providing 250,000 k.w. of electric power, 1 million acres of irrigation and 320 miles of navigation in the first stage, power generated increasing to 600,000 k.w. later by the construction of subsidiary dams. The estimated costs are about Rs. 34 crores and Rs. 50 crores for the first and second stages, respectively. This will be the biggest man-made lake in the world when constructed. It is proposed to construct a storage reservoir on the Wainganga to impound water to be utilized partly for irrigation and partly for power supply; incidentally navigation is also facilitated. An important feature of the proposed reservoir is that the entire flow is bottled up, as at the Boulder dam, and the outflow is regulated as not to exceed ten feet depth of tail water. The total storage capacity of the reservoir up to 145 feet will be 33.3 million acre feet. After deducting the utilized level of the dam, the net available storage will thus be 30 million acre feet. At the full supply level, 640,000 acres will be submerged. Of these 248,000 acres will be under cultivation and 392,000 uncultivable waste. As the productive power of the area

brought under irrigation will increase the area can support four times the population.

Government have sponsored schemes for developing aluminium, newsprint, paper, cement and other minor industries in this area.

* * *

Basic Education in Bihar

The basic education in the province is managed and looked after by the Bihar Basic Education Board appointed by the Government for the purpose. The system, according to the report submitted at the Fourth Session of the All-India Basic Education Conference held at Bikram (Bihar) recently, has been vastly expanded and developed. The best work has been done during the last two years. At present there are 7 basic training centres and 55 basic schools in the province. The Government have further decided to start 6 more training centres and 45 more basic schools by the end of July 1948. During the coming five years, the Government propose to open 32 training centres and 1,600 schools besides 160 schools for post-basic teaching. The Government's basic education scheme also makes provision for the expansion and development of the non-basic primary and middle schools on similar lines in order to convert them into basic schools after five years when sufficient trained staff will be available.

* * *

Improved Paddy Seeds Scheme in Bihar

Under the Agricultural Department of the Provincial Government, a scheme for the multiplication of improved paddy seeds is functioning which produce 15 to 30 per cent extra yield over that of the local paddy. These paddy seeds are sold to the big cultivators through the Credit Agricole. With a view to arranging the sale of these seeds to them, the Government have opened a number of sale depots in the various parts of the province.

Those cultivators who have intimated their requirements to the Department will be supplied the seeds on credit. The cost will be realized at the time of harvest. The registered growers, have however, to deposit a cash security of Rs. 50 each. These cultivators who can provide large acreage for the multiplication of improved seeds can also utilize the services of the Agricultural Staff free for necessary guidance and supervision.

Irrigation Facilities in Bihar

In order to protect and irrigate about 50,000 acres of lands in the district of Monghyr, the Government of Bihar have decided to build a headwork and take off a canal on the right bank of the river Sakari at Powrah. This river changed its original course about 25 years ago and thereby rendered a large area of land barren. The Government are also considering, it is understood, the construction of two canals on the river Gandak in the north Bihar which will provide irrigational facilities in the districts of Saran and Champaran. These districts at present have no such facilities. It is proposed to cut an anicut at Tribeni, just below the off-take of the Tribeni Canal. The construction of this canal will be complete in about 6 years and will cost Rs. 11 crores.

* * *

Social Service Training in U.P.

Five hundred and fifty young graduates are working as "labourers" in the Almora hills—ploughing fields, felling trees, breaking stones and constructing roads.

These young men are cadets at the social service training centre under final training.

At present the scheme is introduced on an experimental basis, but if it proves successful, training under the scheme will be a compulsory qualification for service under the U.P. Government.

* * *

Roads in East Punjab

The East Punjab Government have prepared a comprehensive scheme for the construction of 2,189 miles of roads in the province. About 1,435 miles of roads will be constructed in rural areas and 699 in villages.

* * *

Anti-corruption Measures in West Bengal

The West Bengal Government have set up an anti-corruption department at the provincial headquarters and appointed district anti-corruption officers in each district, in implementation of their declared policy of stamping out dishonesty and corruption from every sphere of the administration.

A Press note issued in this connection states that the organization has been investigating such complaints and a large number of cases of

corrupt practices have been detected and investigated.

Inviting further co-operation from the public, it adds that if anyone who has personally been a victim and who has been compelled in the past to pay any illegal gratification or bribe to any

Government servant, now admits the full and true facts of such cases in writing to the anti-corruption officers within two months, the Government would not prosecute him for the offence of having offered illegal gratification or bribe.

OBITER DICTA

Rajaji's advice

"Whatever the constitution may be, the Governor of a province should, I think, consider it his particular duty to give friendly personal advice to everyone of the permanent service who comes to him with any difficulty or problem," said Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, speaking at a farewell party given in his honour by the staff of the West Bengal Secretariat recently.

His Excellency said that it was the Governor's function and duty to foster a spirit of mutual helpfulness between all classes of public servants and also between them and the ministers.

When they had settled down to democracy, he felt sure that the permanent service in India would feel as happy and proud in the discharge of their duties as the permanent Government servants did in England. He mentioned England because, in his view, democracy which functioned in England, had by age-long test and trial and adjustment, become more efficient than any other democracy functioning anywhere else in the world.

Mr. Rajagopalachari continued that Government was a many-limbed organization and it was very necessary that every limb should be properly adjusted and function with smoothness and efficiency. Otherwise the best Government would fail. He had found by experience that the people of our country appreciated the proper discharge of duties by officials quite as much as the people of other countries.

Young men sitting in offices and working day after day in the same kind of monotonous atmosphere might often fall into a feeling of depression and bitterness, said His Excellency. They should realize that every screw in a machine was equally important and when a machine was set up, each screw must remain in its proper place and must not try to move about. Everyone must be content and find joy in doing the work allotted to him.

He remembered that in the Spinners' Association young men used to complain to him that in looking after carders and spinners and weavers they were not doing national work, but mere routine work of no importance or variety. He told them that no one could have the pleasure of growing cotton, carding, spinning, weaving and finally wearing the cloth thus produced, all by himself. When properly organized, however noble and patriotic any work might be, it tended to become mechanical and each part of that machine would have to be content in its own sphere.

* * *

Value of Social Education

"Every uneducated person is a social danger. Education of the masses of people is vital for building up of a safe future for the country. The cost of such education is insignificant, considering the risk without it," said Hon'ble Pandit Dwarkaprasad Mishra, Originator of the Central Provinces Government's Social Education Scheme and Minister-in-charge, in a broadcast appeal calling upon literary men and women throughout the country to take a hand in the Provincial Government's battle against ignorance.

"Ignorant masses cannot build up a true democracy. A society with its bulk of people ignorant is potentially insecure."

* * *

Value of Libraries

"I visualize the library of the future not as a collection of books but as a live and vigorous cultural centre which would not be content with the issuing of the books but will try to organize various kinds of literary and cultural activities suited to the needs and psychology of the people," said Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier of Bombay, on the occasion of laying the foundation-stone of the Khar Residents' Library and Free Reading Room recently.

CLIPPINGS FROM GANDHIJ'S WRITINGS

New or Basic Education

This is a new subject. But the members of the Working Committee felt so much interested in it that they gave a charter to the organizers of the Hindustani Talimi Sangh which has been functioning since the Haripura Session. This is a big field of work for many Congressmen. This education is meant to transform village children into model villagers. It is principally designed for them. The inspiration for it has come from the villages. Congressmen who want to build up the structure of Swaraj from its very foundation dare not neglect the children. Foreign rule has unconsciously, though none the less surely, begun with the children in the field of education. Primary education is a farce designed without regard to the wants of the India of the villages and for that matter ever of the cities. Basic education links the children, whether of the cities or the villages, to all that is best and lasting in India. It develops both the body and the mind, and keeps the child rooted to the soil with a glorious vision of the future in the realization of which he or she begins to take his or her share from the very commencement of his or her career in school. Congressmen would find it of absorbing interest benefiting themselves equally with the children with whom they come in contact. Let those who wish, put themselves in touch with the Secretary of the Sangh at Sevagram.

Adult Education

This has been woefully neglected by Congressmen. Where they have not neglected it, they have been satisfied with teaching illiterates to read and write. If I had charge of adult education I should begin with opening the minds of the adult pupils to the greatness and vastness of their country. The villager's India is contained in his village. If he goes to another village, he talks of his own village as his home. Hindustan is for him a geographical term. We have no notion of the ignorance prevailing in the villages. The villagers know nothing of foreign rule and its evils. What little knowledge they have picked up fills them with the awe the foreigner inspires. The result is the dread and hatred of the foreigner and his rule. They do not know how to get rid of it. They do not

know that the foreigner's presence is due to their own weaknesses and their ignorance of the power they possess to rid themselves of the foreign rule. My adult education means, therefore, first, true political education of the adult by word of mouth. Seeing that this will be mapped out, it can be given without fear. I imagine that it is too late in the day for authority to interfere with this type of education; but if there is interference, there must be a fight for this elementary right without which there can be no Swaraj. Of course, in all I have written, openness has been assumed. Non-violence abhors fear and, therefore, secrecy. Side by side with the education by the mouth will be the literary education. This is itself a speciality. Many methods are being tried in order to shorten the period of education. A temporary or permanent board of experts may be appointed by the Working Committee to give shape to the idea here adumbrated and guide the workers. I admit that what I have said in this paragraph only points the way but does not tell the average Congressman how to go about it. Nor is every Congressman fitted for this highly special work. But Congressmen who are teachers should find no difficulty in laying down a course in keeping with the suggestions made herein.

Women

I have included service of women in the constructive programme, for though *Satyagraha* has automatically brought India's women out from their darkness, as nothing else could have in such an incredibly short space of time. Congressmen have not felt the call to see that women became equal partners in the fight for Swaraj. They have not realized that woman must be the true helpmate of man in the mission of service. Woman has been suppressed under custom and law for which man was responsible and in the shaping of which she had no hand. In a plan of life based on non-violence woman has as much right to shape her own destiny as man has to shape his. But as every right in a non-violent society proceeds from the previous performance of a duty, it follows that rules of social conduct must be framed by mutual co-operation and consultation. They can never be imposed from outside. Men have not realized this truth in its

fulness in their behaviour towards women. They have considered themselves to be lords and masters of women instead of considering them as their friends and co-workers. It is the privilege of Congressmen to give the women of India a lifting hand. Women are in the position somewhat of the slave of old who did not know that he could or ever had to be free. And when freedom came, for the moment he felt helpless. Women have been taught to regard themselves as slaves of men. It is up to Congressmen to see that they enable them to realize their full status and play their part as equals of men.

This revolution is easy, if the mind is made up. Let Congressmen begin with their own homes. Wives should not be dolls and objects of indulgence; but should be treated as honoured comrades in common service. To this end those who have not received a liberal education should receive such instruction as is possible from their husbands. The same observation applies, with the necessary changes, to mothers and daughters.

It is hardly necessary to point out that I have given a one-sided picture of the helpless state of India's women. I am quite conscious of the fact that in the villages generally they hold their own with their men folk and in some respects even rule them. But to the impartial outsider the legal and customary status of woman is bad enough throughout and demands radical alteration.

Education in Health and Hygiene

Having given a place to village sanitation, the question may be asked why give a separate place to education in health and hygiene? It might have been bracketed with sanitation, but I did not wish to interfere with the items. Mention of mere sanitation is not enough to include health and hygiene. The art of keeping one's health and the knowledge of hygiene is by itself a separate subject of study and corresponding practice. In a well-ordered society the citizens know and observe the laws of health and hygiene. It is established beyond doubt that ignorance and neglect of the laws of health and hygiene are responsible for the majority of disease to which mankind is heir. The very high death

rate among us is no doubt due largely to our gnawing poverty, but it could be mitigated if the people were properly educated about health and hygiene.

Men's Sana in corpore sano is perhaps the first law for humanity. A healthy mind in a healthy body is a self-evident truth. There is an inevitable connection between mind and body. If we were in possession of healthy minds, we would shed all violence and, naturally obeying the laws of health, we would have health bodies without an effort. I hope, therefore, that no

Congressman will disregard this item of the constructive programme. The fundamental laws of health and hygiene are simple and easily learnt. The difficulty is about their observance. Here are some :

Think the purest thoughts and banish all idle and impure thought.

Breathe the freshest air day and night.

Establish a balance between bodily and mental work.

Stand erect, sit erect, and be neat and clean in every one of your acts,

and let these be an expression of your inner condition.

Eat to live for service of fellow-men. Do not live for indulging yourselves. Hence your food must be just enough to keep your mind and body in good order. Man becomes what he eats.

Your water, food and air must be clean, and you will not be satisfied with mere personal cleanliness, but you will infect your surroundings with the same threefold cleanliness that you will desire for yourselves.

OUR BOOK-SHELF

" ESSENTIALS OF HINDUISM "

By PROFESSOR P. N. SRINIVASA ACHARI, *Visistadvaita Sabah, Mysapore.* Price Rs. 2-8-0.

Professor Sreenivasachari is well known in the world of Indian Philosophy as a lucid exponent of its principles and precepts. He is one among the very few Indian Philosophers who can take a detached and impartial view of things without much of sectarian predilections. Though an ardent student of Visistadvaita, he is able to give an impartial survey of the other systems of Philosophy about which a specialist or an expert will have no reason to complain. The book under review coming as it does from his mature pen is an excellent manual on Hindu religion dealing with the fundamentals of its different aspects; and can be recommended as a suitable text book for beginners.

There is one aspect of the Professor's survey which deserves some comment. That Hinduism as he rightly observes is not capable of definition as it cannot be traced to any one particular prophet or seer like other religions of the type of Christianity, Islam, etc. no one will deny. But to say that its sources such as Shastra or Veda or Sruti are "not composed by any one, at any time and in any one place and that it is not even the word of Iswara" is to beg the question. Hinduism must have had some origin. It could not have dropped from heaven or any other place in a finished form. Recent researches have revealed that the "Veda" did not exist at the time of the Indus Valley or Mohenjo-Dare civilization. But we have

sufficient evidence to show that Siva cult and Mother cult were in vogue at that time. These two have been later absorbed into Hinduism. This takes us to the view that Hinduism is an Aryan religion and that non-Aryan elements have crept into it in the course of its evolution which fact the Professor, however, does not take cognisance of. We have the authority of the Puranas that the Veda was divided into four parts by Vyasa, the reputed compiler of the Puranic lore and some of the Vedic hymns were definitely assigned to Yagna-Valkya and Gargi and a few others. So the conception that "it is impersonal and that it, even in Pralaya, is not destroyed", needs to be qualified. This theory also implies that we have had no progress for the last several centuries which hardly redounds to our credit. While the hands of the Rishis are traceable in the Upanishads, etc. and that of Lord Krishna in the Bhagavat Geetha, that the Veda alone could not be assigned to any definite source or authorship hardly stands to reason. It is possible that one individual or Iswara is not responsible for its creation and it is a compilation of fundamental truths or hymns by different Rishis, who have realized the Brahman. But that is, however, by the way. Its innate virility is unquestionable. Else it would not have withstood the onslaught of adverse forces for centuries.

A few statements of the Professor stand in need of further elucidation. "A Jiva belongs to God and is essentially pure and perfect; but somehow it forgets its divine home and heritage and wanders in the world of Samsara and suffers from its sorrows".

(Page 20.) This lapse of Jiva into Samsara is ascribed to Avidya or Karma whose origin according to our Professor is again a mystery, although Jiva is responsible to no one else either to Satan or God for this degradation. (Page 21.) He therefore makes the frank statement of "The question why virtue is swayed by vice and becomes its victim stares us in the face and it is the complaint of the common man as well as the riddle of the Philosophers. (Page 22.) It is high time that thinkers like the author of this book should investigate this problem and find out a solution especially in view of the fact that Hinduism has solved many of the great mysteries of the universe. The nature of Prakriti is again another bedrock on which many other solutions depend. "The study of philosophy, the Atman or self," the professor says, in one context, is of greater value than that of prakriti though both are eternal. (Page 32.) In another context, he refers to Prakriti as a *perishing phenomenon*. These two contexts need reconciliation. In a third context, he discards the theory that the Hindu idea of God "starts with the crudest forms of Fetichism and Totamism like the worship of stones, trees, animals and departed spirits". (Page 34.) While describing the scheme of the four asramas, Pithr Yagna or offering to the ancestors (Page 55) is recognised as an item of Grahasta-Dharma. The worship of ancestors is supposed to be a non-Aryan practice. Such practices lend weight to the view that several non-Aryan elements have also been absorbed into the Aryan religion as the Dravidian Gods like Muruga and Ayyanar have found their way into the Hindu Pantheon. These are a few points for the earnest consideration of the Professor. The chapters on the Philosophy of Hinduism and "Modern Hindu Movements" are

particularly has been illuminating. One would like to ask in this connection why theosophy is omitted. Does not the author believe in its fundamental appeal? The essence of Hinduism as a universal religion is admirably summed up in the immortal words of the Geetha—"Whoever worships me in whatsoever form reaches me through that form".

—K.C.N.

"THE BOOK OF INDIAN ANIMALS"

By S. H. PRATER, O.B.E., C.M.Z.S.,

Published by the Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay.

Price Rs. 16.

This is an attractive publication of the Bombay Natural History Society, providing a popular and profusely illustrated account of the commoner or more conspicuous mammals of India. The author has endeavoured to create and stimulate in India an intelligent interest in the fauna of the country and a clear understanding of the role they play in maintaining the balance of life. Some of the Indian species have no parallel in the world, e.g., the Indian bison is the largest of existing bovines, the lion and the tiger the most magnificent of all great cats, our painted bat, the most vividly coloured animal in the world. The wild life of a country, apart from the interest evoked by their symmetry of form, largeness of size, beauty of colouring, strangeness of structure of habits, is a source of game and enjoyment to its people and a magnificent asset to the land. But the gradual conquest of forests and waste lands by man have had a disastrous effect on the wild life of our country. To quote the author's own words "The magnificent fauna is being driven to its ultimate retreat into the fast diminishing forests and is today threatened with extermination." Therefore it is urged that there should be certain areas where the shooting of animals is regulated and where the laws for their protection are rigidly enforced. Further there is need for the creation of some public opinion on the subject of protection of wild life in India by producing cheap and popular literature dealing with the natural history of the land, intelligible to the average reader. That is the main object of this book.

The author under the topic "What is a mammal?" describes some of the

characteristics which distinguish mammals from other animals, their diversity of structure, life and habits; ability for self-protection from enemies and nature, the care of the young, etc. The classification of mammals which have the same relationship and affinities and their zonal distribution with special reference to the animals which inhabited in the country during past eras are dealt with in the succeeding pages. The species are broadly grouped according to "Natural Order" into the following sections, with a detailed general description for each section. They are, apes, monkeys and lemurs; the bates; civets; mongooses; hyaenas; the dogtribe; bears; the weasel tribe; insectivores; bats; rodents; elephants; horses; rhinoceroses; tapirs; wild oxen; sheep; goats; goat antelopes and gazelles; deer; pigs and pangolino. Individual descriptions of species which fall under each section are given with local names, distinctive characters, size, distribution and habits, together with their illustrations. As the author has stated in the preface the information is based on the observation of sportsmen and naturalists who have contributed to the pages of the journal of the society and much remains to be learned by scientific and systematic experiments and investigations about the animal life "whose kingdom is the whole world and whose most perfect the man." This fascinating book is excellently got up and will serve as a valuable reference book on Indian wild life. Seventy-three plates in colour, 17 in line, 86 in half-tone and a map showing the geographical races of Indian giant squirrel enhance the value of this book.

—M.A.K.

"THE LITTLE SAILOR BOY"

By K. S. CLARK. Published by the "Times of India," P.B. No. 213, Bombay. Price Rs. 3.

This nicely got up and well bound book is bound to be entertaining and instructive to youngsters. Although the Sailor Boy is an English, yet an Indian reader will feel the thrill of seafaring with him and aspire to visit the various parts of the world and learn about the habits and customs of the various peoples inhabiting the Universe. Such literature is very essential in moulding the thoughts of our youngsters, the future citizens. English libraries abound in Children's

literature but in India such attention is yet to be paid to this important step towards nation building. Publication of several books on such diverse subjects instilling courage and love in the hearts of children is an imperative need. The price of the book under review is very high and it ought to have been less to suit the Indian purse.

—S.A.H.

"HEROIC STRUGGLE IN HYDERABAD"

By KESHAV ABHYANKER. Published by Union Publications, Mylapore, Madras. Pages 66. Price Re. 1.

The decision of the Nizam of Hyderabad to remain independent and Sovereign on the lapse of paramountcy has in its trail brought about many political deadlocks. This booklet exposes the adroit political manoeuvring of Hyderabad Government, the fanatic attempt made by the Ittahu-Mussalmeen, a communal organization which is said to be dictating and shaping the policies of the Government, and the consequent hardships and miseries of the vast majority of the population. The author blames the Nizam for tyrannical administration and bigotry and also for encouraging separatist tendencies to form a purely Islamic State by developing communal bond with other Muslim countries and the infiltration of foreign Muslims; the British for unholy alliance with the Nizam and the Government of India for tactlessness in handling the Hyderabad situation. He talks in glorious terms of the heroic struggle of the State Congress, under the guidance of Swami Ramnanda Teerth with indomitable courage and grim resolve, against the age-old tyranny, despite the third degree methods employed by the police and Military, the rank communalism of certain organizations and the fabrication and pampering of communist opportunists.

While admitting the political danger to the peace and security of South India created by the Hyderabad tangle, the reviewer is constrained to remark that the author himself succumbs to the disruptionist tendencies which he himself has vehemently condemned in the course of this present volume.

—M.A.K.

“ DELHI DIARY ”

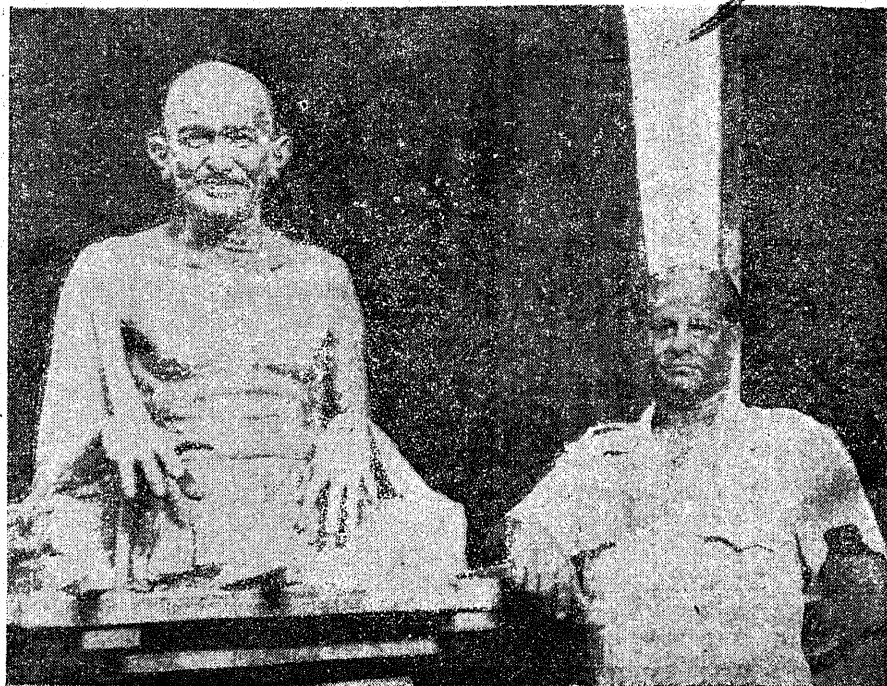
By M. K. GANDHI. *Navjivan Publishing House, Ahmedabad. Pages 406. Price Rs. 3.*

This volume is a collection of the post-prayer speeches delivered by Gandhiji in Delhi.

The cry of anguish that was wrenched from the heart of Bapuji, who was afflicted with sorrow, at the sins of his fellowmen, rings poignantly through these pages. Every speech is in itself a Gita, a sermon showing the true way of life. Every problem, from cleanliness to communal unity, has been discussed in its true perspective. The clarity of thought and sincerity of feeling that are the true characteristics of words spoken from the heart, leave a profound impression on the readers.

This is Bapuji's last testament, and is worth cherishing as a book of all times. The light that was guiding us in the darkest hours in the history of our nation has been cruelly put out. But the living words which he has left behind him will resound and re-echo, as long as truth and justice live.

—K.D.



This bust in clay of Gandhiji has been commissioned by the Madras Government and executed by the well-known sculptor Devi Prasad Roy Chowdhury. It is the Government's plan to make replicas of the bust available to the public at a moderate price. Acclaimed his 'magnum opus', Chowdhury took three months to make it, often putting in a 12-hour day.

“ DAKHINI HIND ”

The magazine you require most is out.

1. The “Dakhini Hind” is the first and foremost monthly of its kind. It is published by the Madras Government in India's **lingua franca**, Hindustani;

2. It is the standard-bearer of South Indian culture;

3. It portrays prominently the lives of the great saints and seers, poets and philosophers of the South;

4. It gives glimpses of the centuries-old, wonderful shrines of South India;

5. It dives deep into the ancient lore and literature of the Dravidian languages and South Indian art and architecture;

6. It provides a vivid idea of the customs and ceremonies of the South;

7. It acquaints you with the all-round activities, welfare measures and policies of the Madras Government;

8. It improves your knowledge of Hindustani;

9. It aspires to construct a cultural bridge between the South and the North.

ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF

Outside cover page—Single insertion :	Rs.				Rs.
„ Full page do.	..	150	Inside page—Single column Full length..		40
„ Half page do.	..	80	„ „ Half length..		20
Inside cover page :			„ Double column Full length..		75
„ Full page do.	..	125	„ „ Half length..		40
„ Half page do.	..	65			
Any inside page :					
„ Full page do.	..	100			
„ Half page do.	..	60			
„ Quarter page do.	..	30			

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

			Rs. A. P.
Annual	3 0 0
Half-yearly	1 8 0
Less than half-year's subscription will not be accepted.			

WHY SHOULD YOU SUBSCRIBE TO "MADRAS INFORMATION"

SEVEN REASONS

1. It is cheap being priced only 2 annas per copy, 4 annas a month and 3 rupees a year.
2. It gives a bi-monthly account of the various and varied activities of the Government of which one must know as a dutiful citizen.
3. It supplies you with a consolidated digest of important press notes, releases, etc.
4. It contains topical articles bearing on Government policies and Nation-building activities.
5. It is profusely illustrated.
6. It gives interesting glimpses into the activities of other Provinces and States.
7. It is a reference book to the public servant, light reading for the arm-chair reader and a mine of information for all.

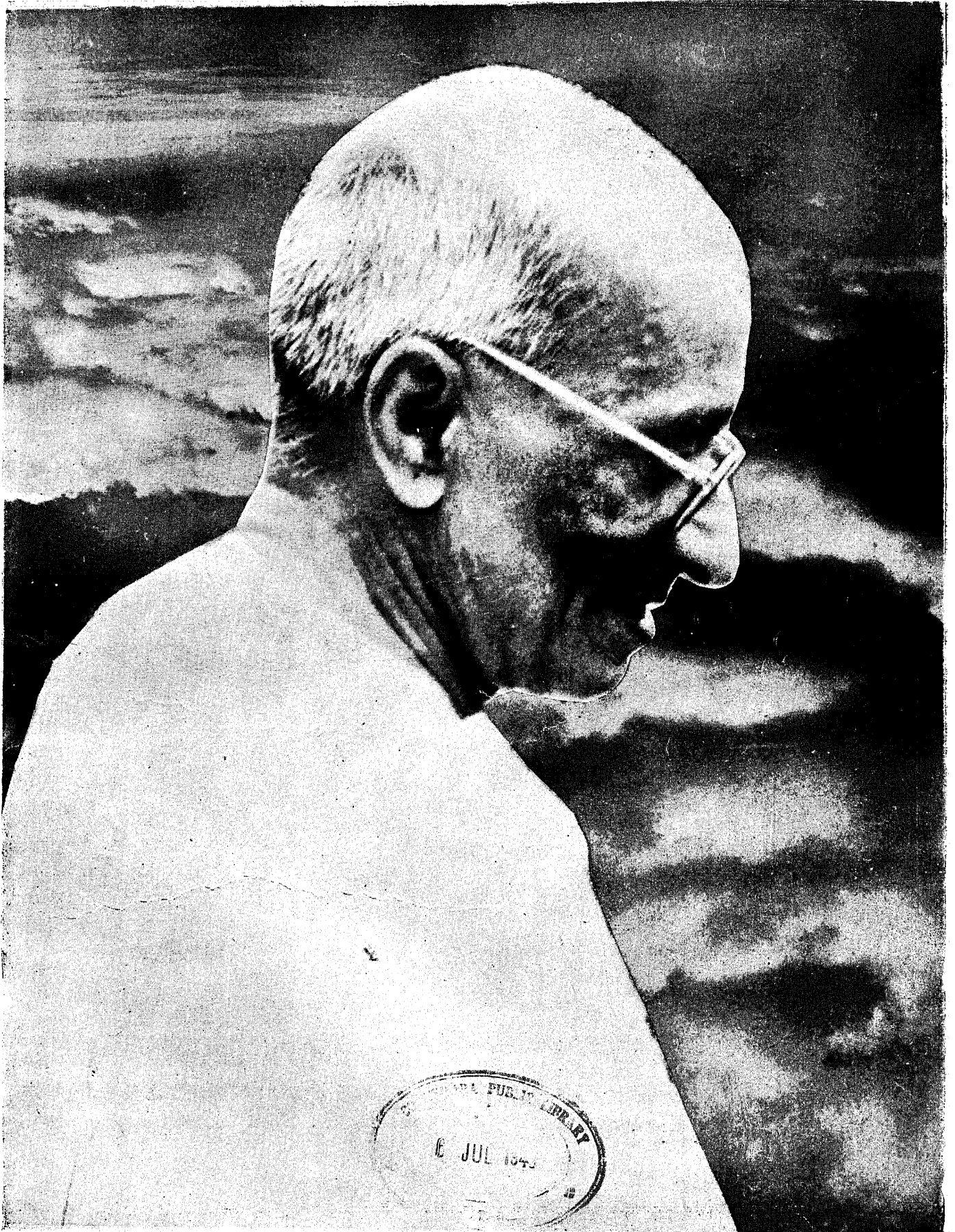
The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

Anything except pictures appearing in this journal may be freely reproduced.

Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

THE FIRST INDIAN GOVERNOR-GENERAL



His Excellency Sri Chakravarty Rajagopalchariar

Registered No. M-4787.

DIAMONDS EMERALDS

Made by
BAPALAL & CO.,
RATTAN BAZAR — MADRAS.
PHONE . . . 2696

BAPALAL & CO.,

**Diamond Merchants and Manufacturing Jewellers,
Rattan Bazaar, Madras-3**

Telegram : "NECKLACE"

Telephone : 2696