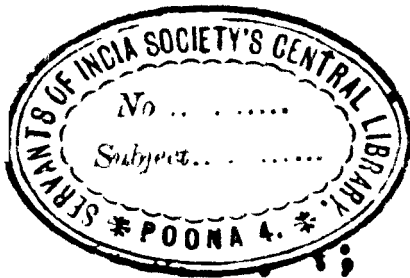


FEDERATIONS

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Rare section



FEDERATIONS

A Study in Comparative Politics

BY *Rare section*

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WITH A FOREWORD

BY

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HUMBLY DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
THE LATE HON'BLE MR. G. K. GOKHALE
MEMBER, IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FOUNDER OF THE SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY AND
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND ECONOMICS IN
THE FERGUSSON COLLEGE, POONA

FOREWORD

I HAVE done no more than glance very hastily at the proofs of this book. Consequently I can neither vouch for the accuracy of the facts, nor endorse the opinions of its author. Nevertheless, although Mr. Karve is a stranger to me, I cannot refuse his courteous, and indeed gratifying, request, for a few words of prologue to his work on *Federations*.

In the sphere of Government, the future, I am convinced, belongs to Federalism. 'It is', said Lord Acton, 'the only method of curbing not only the majority but the power of the whole people, and it affords the strongest basis for a Second Chamber, which has been found the essential security for freedom in every genuine democracy.' In that judgment I concur; and I welcome the evidence afforded by this book that Indian students of Politics are applying their minds to the complex and difficult problems which every form of Federalism presents.

For no two Federations are exactly alike. If they were, we may be certain that one or other of them would speedily proclaim itself a failure. The best wine can be drunk in perfection only in the country of origin. Political institutions are a product at least as delicate as wine. They do not, as a rule, bear transportation—save, of course, in the case of Colonies which carry into new lands the traditions of the older home.

For this, as for other reasons, it is remarkable that the federal system of Government has not commended, among Political Theorists, much more attention than has hitherto been accorded to it.

It is, indeed, true that the inductive method,—the only scientific method properly applicable to Politics—has not, as yet, got much material to work upon. That method Mr. Karve has very wisely adopted, and, (so far as a hasty glance enables me to judge) he seems to have collected, and systematically arranged, the whole available material. What conclusions, if any, he draws therefrom I have not sought to discover. It is better not. I might be led on to approval, or maybe to criticism. As it is, I content myself with the expression of a hope that other Indian students may be led to follow Mr. Karve's industrious and laudable example, and that the study thus induced may fructify to the advantage of the great sub-continent in which they dwell.

J. A. R. MARRIOTT

LONDON

August 1932

PREFACE

At a time when in many parts of the world there are clear indications of a revived interest in federalism, very little apology is needed for the production of the present book. Federalism and federal constitutions have always been a subject of the most engrossing scientific and practical interest to students of politics and history. Indeed, several learned treatises bearing on particular types and groups of federations have been published in the past. But there are few recent publications which treat of federal constitutions in a historical, comprehensive and comparative manner. The present work is an attempt to meet, howsoever partially, this long-felt want of students of political institutions. The author is only too conscious of the fact that he is inadequately equipped to do full justice to the task he has chosen. In particular the first-hand touch with the actual working of constitutions discussed in the book, which is such a refreshing feature of some of the best known books on modern governments, is likely to be missed by the careful student. An attempt has, however, been made to use all the material available through English and it is hoped that the book will be found of some interest to serious students of the theory and practice of federalism.

The author is very deeply indebted to the eminent English historian and political scientist who has so kindly written a foreword to this book. It is superfluous, if indeed it is not altogether presumptuous, to mention that Sir John Marriott is in no way responsible for any

statements of facts or views contained in the book, for which the author is alone responsible. I take this opportunity to thank Sir John for his encouragement.

I have also to thank the authorities of the University of Bombay for a grant towards the expenses of the production of this book.

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