

# OUR CIVIC PROBLEMS

*Incorporating the proceedings of the Bangalore Civic Workers' Convention held on 26th June 1960, together with other articles of civic importance.*

**Public Affairs Pamphlet—4**

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## FOREWORD

Problems relating to civic welfare are, in nature and purpose, almost the same everywhere in the world. The mechanism of the tower-clock differs from that of the wrist-watch not so much in principle of operation or structure as in dimensions. Town differs from town, and city from city, more in the scale and size than in the substance and texture of the problems. The same inertia of the average citizen, the same indolence of those who undertake to be watchful, the same pressure of private interests, the same slipshod workmanship of the executive staff, the same puzzlement of the responsible officer at the very magnitude of his charge, the same scantiness of resources, the same lack of intelligent public co-operation, the same feeling of insignificance in the individual, the same stupefaction of the community at the unattainability of unity of aim and the inescapability from its own inner cross-movements,—such are the bafflements that the earnest worker for civic improvement has to face in town or city everywhere.

There can be no way to a solution for him except in the study of experience. There is no metaphysical subtlety or the abstractness of mathematical theory to baffle him here. The things to be dealt with are concrete and tangible,—too too tangible indeed. Drains, dustbins, gullies, garbage, filth-covered road-edges, leaky water-taps, shaky culverts, jagged footpaths, potholes and puddles, congested hovels, befouled public squares, the heedless rentier, the howling tenant, the street-polluter, the jaywalker, the strike-threatening scavenger, the many-mastered sanitary inspector,—such are the raw material of civic work everywhere, at any rate in India. Perplexities of a new kind are those presented by (i) industrialization, (ii) immigration and (iii) suburbanism. The subject has thus a universality of content and appeal.

This explains why we consider that the proceedings of the Bangalore Civic Workers' Convention, held on the 26th of June, 1960, would be of interest to a far wider public than the citizen-

community of Bangalore and why we thought of issuing this brochure as a part of this Institute's journal *Public Affairs*. We wish to record here the G.I.P.A.'s sense of its obligation to the Bangalore Civic Workers' Convention and its Working Committee for their having enabled the Institute to publish this as part of its publication series.

These pages have been published also separately as a Souvenir, for the use of the Convention and its affiliated organizations. The Convention was a notable event in the civic history of this great city. Initiated by the Gokhale Institute of Public Affairs, Bangalore, the Convention had the benefit of participation in its work by as many as twenty-five civic institutions representing the several areas of the city. I think it is not out of place to state here that the Working Committee of the Convention has been working steadily in pursuance of the objects defined by the Convention. The Committee had an informal meeting on the 13th of November, 1960, with the Mayor, the Commissioner, other representatives of the Corporation, and representatives of the affiliated institutions. The resolutions of the Convention were then considered and an understanding was reached as to the implementing of the resolutions. Some of the questions have since been in part attended to by the authorities, and others have been the subject of correspondence with Government. Those who wish to get further information about the B.C.W.C. and its working may kindly address the Hon. Secretary of the Working Committee, B.C.W.C., c/o the G.I.P.A.

The work of the Souvenir was entrusted to a Sub-Committee of Messrs. K. S. Ramaswami and S. M. Sagar. Mr. K. S. Ramaswami helped in the editing and Mr. Sagar in regard to illustrations.

Mr. T. Parthasarathi of Messrs. Parthasarathi & Co. was of help to the Convention, and his assistance in the production of the Souvenir has been very valuable. We sincerely thank him.

Our grateful thanks are due to our esteemed advertisers. They have contributed materially towards our resources, appreciating the public usefulness of this work.

I should in conclusion add this, with all the emphasis I am capable of: that without more active and more liberal public support, especially in the form of donations, no worth-while organization can go far or go on for long, however great the enthusiasm and devotion of the workers. Publicity costs money; and publicity is the very life-breath of a public institution. I say this with reference to both the B.C.W.C. and the G.I.P.A.

SUBBANARASIMHAIYA  
Hon. Secretary, B.C.W.C.

D. V. GUNDAPPA  
Hon. Secretary, G.I.P.A.

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### CORRECTIONS

(1) By inadvertence, the pagination of the first eight pages (containing a Report of the Proceedings of the Convention) is given as from 57 to 64. Readers are requested to correct the page numbers as from 1 to 8.

(2) Under the heading *Recommendations* (on pages 6 & 7), among propositions referred to the Working Committee, should have been included the subjects sent by the Samskriti Kendra of Malleswaram, given on page 36.

We regret the mistakes.

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*With best compliments from:*

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