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Topics of the Week

Ordinances

THE Viceroy has issued ordinances and Parliament has passed the India Act Amendment Bill, which was shelved for some time, the practical effect of which would be to nullify provincial autonomy in so far as it affects action to be taken during the international crisis. Everyone knows that in war-time stringent restraints have to be placed on the normal powers of the legislature. But, in a self-governing country, the legislature itself imposes such restraints, and they are such as are admitted by the public at large as necessary. In an autocratically governed country the people have no opportunity of complaining if even the little freedom they ordinarily enjoy is restricted. But in a country like India the people cannot cheerfully submit to restrictions to which they are subjected by the order of superior authority.

It is clear that their sympathies are all on the side of those who are fighting Germany. This being recognised, the Viceroy and the British Government should not assume that the Provincial Governments and Legislatures will obstruct measures which are essential to the winning of victory. And if this assumption is not to be made, there is no reason for issuing the ordinances and passing the Bill. The Viceroy admits that popular freedom is nowhere honoured and prized more than in India. This admission comforts ill with the assumption underlying the measures taken in hot haste without consulting public opinion. And it may also be added that while India values freedom for other nations, she

does not despise freedom for herself. It being so, it is not sheer opportunism to plead with the British Government that if they desire to call India's undoubted sympathy with the Anti-Aggression Front into full activity they should endow her with self-government. One is naturally reluctant to give under compulsion what one would enthusiastically give of one's own free will.

Russia's "Double-Dyed Treachery"

IN the debate in the House of Commons on 26th August, Mr. McGovern of the I. L. P. spoke as follows on the Soviet-German Non-Aggression Pact:

The one country in the world which desired war was Russia. She wanted a prolonged struggle in which the conditions would be suitable for world revolt or, if she did not secure world revolt, she wanted at least to weaken those nations which were dominant and which were feared by her. The leaders at the Kremlin were prepared to sacrifice 20,000,000 or 30,000,000 lives in that gamble for themselves.

If there was a doubt in Hitler's mind as to making war, the Russian Pact had driven him along the course of war, because it had removed the fear of a tremendously powerful factor with bombing aeroplanes, artillery, and mechanized armies on his frontiers. It was bound to increase the momentum towards war.

Treachery of the most double-dyed kind had taken place on the part of the Kremlin in regard to the British and French nations. How could anyone conceive of inviting military, naval and air force leaders to a country and discussing with them problems of defence and probably pooling ideas in circumstances of that kind? If we were to believe the conclusions of the past, there were spies in the Comintern at one time who were prepared to sell Russian secrets to Britain. Was it not possible on the same analysis that there might be some of the same kind there who were prepared to sell the allied plans to von Ribbentrop and Hitler in order to bring about the destruction of the French and British nations?

Even if we did conclude a pact with Russia it would, in his estimation, give no real aid. Russia was like the man who went to the sea and proclaimed that he was going in to bathe, but only paddled his feet in the water. (Laughter.) That was all Russia would have done, to fan the flames, to bring about that extended period of war.

Sir Rights in U. P.

THE U. P. Tenancy Bill is now being debated in the upper chamber, where the Congress party, as a correspondent says in the *Leader*, is "in a

microscopic minority." But the Government, by making concessions to the zamindars in certain respects, seem to have ensured the passage of the Bill. This became clear when the definition of *sir* was discussed in the Council. All the amendments moved by the landlord opposition were thrown out by a large majority, and it appears certain that the restrictions placed on the extent of *sir* of the so-called larger landlords will not be relaxed in the course of the further stages of the Bill.

* * *

THE main concession made to the zamindars as a price of which the provisions concerning *sir* will be maintained intact is in respect of ejectment of tenants on account of non-payment of arrears of rent. The Bill as passed by the Assembly provided for ejectment of a tenant from half his holding if he failed to pay within a year the rent due from him for the previous year and the current year. If he defaulted again the following year he would be liable to ejectment from the other half of the holding also. As a result of negotiations carried on with the zamindars, the Government have agreed to drop this intermediate stage of ejectment from half the holding and propose that when ejectment takes place it should be from the whole holding. This strengthening of the stringency of measures for the recovery of rents induced several zamindars to agree to the provisions of the Bill as a whole, and indeed the Government have stipulated that they would stand by this and other concessions only if no opposition was offered to the other provisions of the Bill.

* * *

AMENDMENTS were moved by some zamindar members to clause 7 defining *sir*, which, if carried, would have removed all limitations proposed to be placed on the extent of *sir* that a zamindar may possess. One amendment was to the effect that all landlords paying more than Rs. 250 as land revenue should be allowed to retain all their existing *sir*, though the Bill proposes to take away from them the *sir* land which they acquired under the Oudh Rent Act and the Agra Tenancy Act. Another was to the effect that such landlords should be entitled to hold 50 acres of *sir*, not in the province as a whole, but in every subdivision in which they paid land revenue. As the Minister of Revenue pointed out, a landlord as a result of this latter amendment would be enabled to hold 800 acres of *sir* in his possession. A third amendment sought to confer upon zamindars power to create new *sir*, which the Bill proposes to abolish altogether. All these amendments were moved in the supposed interest of agricultural labourers as well as zamindars, the contention being that the larger the size of *sir* a zamindar has the larger will be the number of labourers he will be in a position to employ. In order to show how unreal was the solicitude of the zamindars for landless labourers, Mr. Harihar Nath Shastri moved the following amendment:

Land, which immediately before the commencement of this Act was *sir* under the provisions of the Agra Tenancy Act of 1926 and the Oudh Rent Act of 1886, shall automatically go in the hands of the Government to be administered in the interests of the landless labourers in such manner as may be prescribed by rules framed under this Act by the Provincial Government.

It need hardly be said that the zamindars were not in favour of the amendment.

* * *

WHEN the clauses dealing directly with *sir* were reached, further amendments were moved with the object of increasing the size of *sir* land. The limitation of 50 acres in the case of a larger landlord who pays land revenue of Rs. 250 or more was sought to be removed in favour of a limitation of 100 acres, and there were several other similar proposals, but all of them were defeated, leaving this part of the Bill unchanged. At the end of the debate, Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, the Revenue Minister, in answering the objection that the sacred rights of the zamindars were being trampled upon, explained how these sacred rights had come to be acquired. Formerly, all land cultivated by the zamindar used to be entered in the patwari's books as *sir* land, but if the same land was found in the following year to have been let out to tenants it ceased to be classed as *sir* land. The Government would be quite prepared to follow this ancient practice if the zamindars preferred it; but it would hardly suit their purpose. There was at present no limit on *khudkasht* land that a zamindar might hold. The limit of 50 acres would operate only in the case of land which could be let without the tenants acquiring hereditary rights. Nor was the limit too low. About 90 per cent. of the zamindars in the province did not possess more than 50 acres of land in the aggregate. The larger landholders ought to be satisfied with 50 acres of *sir*, when they were to have as much land as they desired for personal cultivation.

* * *

A Rap on the Kunkles

THE Bombay Government has received a rap on the kunkles from the High Court for their order establishing a censorship in regard to the property tax. Such a censorship is unheard of in any civilised country in peace time, but Mr. Munshi requires very little provocation to take the most rigorous measures of repression. There was a disturbance in Bombay City on 1st August; the disturbance was in connection with a procession organised to protest against the property tax. These two facts were apparently enough to the Bombay Government to make them conclude that publication of even comments in newspapers on the tax must be controlled, and orders were accordingly issued to five newspapers prohibiting them to publish uncensored comments.

* * *

THE capacious Section 144, Cr. P. C., comes handy to any administrator bent upon repression. He has only to state that a breach of the public peace is likely, and he can under the Section use preventive powers of almost unlimited scope. The only effective remedy against arbitrary use of these powers is a vigilant public opinion which will call the administrator in question to account. But in a legislature dominated by one political party public opinion becomes powerless before the ruling party, and outrages on civil liberty can be committed with impunity. It is a matter of sincere satisfaction, therefore, that in this particular case where the legislature could give no relief the judiciary could. The High Court set aside the order against which application was made by the publishers of the *Jam-e-Jamshed* as being outside even the wide scope of Section 144, properly interpreted. In his judgment the Chief Justice says:

Prima facie, in a country which enjoys liberty of the press, the applicant is entitled to publish in his newspaper any news and to make any comments which he chooses, provided he does not infringe the provisions

of the law. A Magistrate acting under Section 144 may no doubt restrict that liberty, but he should only do so if the facts clearly make such restriction necessary in the public interest, and he should not impose any restriction which goes beyond the requirements of the case.

* * *

ONE would have thought that if a prohibitory order was to be issued, the Magistrate would issue it only against papers which habitually incited its readers to rioting and violence. But the *Jam-e-Jamshed* is a very respectable paper of over 100 years' standing and throughout its long career has expressed its views with dignity and restraint. It was such a paper that he thought fit to penalise. The Chief Justice says:

The Magistrate, however, gives no reason whatever, as to why he proceeded against this particular newspaper, and why he selected certain newspapers and omitted others. He says that after due and careful inquiry he had decided to issue the orders only on certain newspapers. He does not attempt to answer the evidence put in on behalf of the applicant and supplies no evidence as to why he selected this paper and what connection there was between this paper and the disturbance on August 1. That being so, the order cannot stand.

It has been attacked on a good many other grounds, and certainly I think the fact should have been very strong indeed to justify such an order as in this case, particularly that part of it which prohibits publication of news regarding protests against the Property Tax except as are approved by the Public Relations Officer.

* * *

THIS Public Relations Officer's duty is that of "advertising the benevolent activities of the Government"; but he was made in this instance a hand-maid of the Magistrate. The Chief Justice says about this officer:

My only official experience of this officer has been that I received an order from him directing me to take part in a political demonstration on August 1, the very day on which the riot occurred. It is true that I received the order about a week after the procession took place. But it is within my knowledge that other Judges of the High Court also received a similar order. I must confess that a public official, who knows so little of constitutional propriety as to imagine that Judges are to be ordered to take part in any political procession is not one in whose discretion the Magistrate could safely rely.

That brings me to another ground on which this order is clearly illegal. The Magistrate has delegated to this Public Relations Officer a discretion which he should himself exercise. In my opinion to say that a person should refrain from doing something which a third party does not like is not an order that a Magistrate can make. It is for him, and not for the third party, to judge the nature of the matter which a newspaper is asked to refrain from publishing. In my opinion the order of the Magistrate is not one that falls under Section 144, Cr. P. C., and it should be set aside.

* * *

MR. MUNSHI cares little now what criticisms are made against him for violations of civil liberty. He apparently thinks that they all proceed from doctrinaire politicians who do not understand the requirements of practical administration. To prove that the Congress Government can be as strong as the old bureaucratic Government in maintaining peace and order seems to be his most

passionate ambition, and it must be conceded that in this he has achieved undreamt of success. He has demonstrated not only that the Congress Government can be as ruthless as the bureaucratic Government in suppressing individual freedom if required, but that it can be even more ruthless. And now that the Anglo-Indian press and the European community are shrieking that he is going too fast and are crying halt to repression, there is a possibility of his imposing a voluntary restraint on his overzeal.

* * *

Divorce Bill

THE debate in the Central Legislative Assembly last week on Dr. Deshmukh's Bill on Divorce contained the same dull chain of arguments against the measure that were advanced hitherto from many platforms. It was emphasised that Hindu marriage was a sacrament and not a contract; and as a direct corollary it was even contended that customary divorces prevalent among many castes had no religious sanction behind them. Ninety-nine per cent. of the Hindu women, it was alleged, were opposed to the Bill. Finally, came the warning that domestic peace and harmony would be destroyed by the introduction of a system which brought unhappiness and misery and wrecked homes in the West.

* * *

AS Mr. Aney, who chose so stalwartly to champion the cause of the status quo, himself put it, absence of religious sanction does not mean that this or any other reform should not necessarily be attempted. And it would be ridiculous now to deny the sanction of religion to a practice freely in vogue among the so-called lower castes and also resorted to by not a few of the so-called upper castes. Verily, the above two arguments, viz., that divorce is not sanctioned by Hindu religion and that even the divorce common among a large section of the population is irreligious, merely beat about the bush. The real obstacle to this rational reform lies in the obstinate mentality, complaisant in its selfish privileges, of men accustomed to dominate in a social system unjust to women. The slave ever shrinks from making a bid for freedom, though one doubts very much the authenticity of Babu Baijnath Bajoria's remark that women themselves were against this measure. Those who say that the measure is ahead of the times may be said to have a poor apprehension of the present social problems demanding prompt attention. Though admittedly cursorily drafted, Dr. Deshmukh's Bill correctly diagnoses the situation and prescribes a proper remedy for it, inasmuch as the Bill is founded on the recognition, as he himself puts it, "that the Hindu wife has a human personality."

* * *

IT is a pity that the principle of the Bill was not explained and its utility emphasised from the point of view of its present urgency. Muslim members admirably backed it up in theory; and Mr. N. M. Joshi pointed out very clearly the weakness of the standpoint of those who opposed it. Still one feels that a very important plea for Social Reform went this time rather undefended. Mr. Aney gave the impression as if he could not support the Bill because it was not comprehensive, because the benefit of it would accrue only to women and not be extended to men. This inequality could be removed, but that is certainly not the main ground of Mr. Aney's opposition.

His objection goes far deeper, and he probably would not mind for what reason the Bill was defeated, provided it was defeated.

* * *

Sagotra Marriages

THE Bombay Presidency Social Reform Association has drafted a Bill of which the object is to remove the existing ban on marriages between parties belonging to the same *gotra* and *pravara* among Hindus. The statement of objects and reasons, which fully explains the necessity for the introduction of such a Bill, is as follows:

It is no doubt true that under the Hindu Law marriages between members of the same *gotra* or *pravara* have been regarded as null and void. It might be that in the most ancient times the membership of the *gotra* was confined to a small group living close together and connected by actual ties of blood. The times have changed considerably since then and at present it is impossible to trace the reason on which this prohibition came to be based. Research during recent years has shown that neither the *gotra* nor the *pravara* is indicative of the ancestry of a person. It is further to be noted that originally only the Brahmins had the *gotra* and the Kshatriyas used to adopt as their own the *gotra* of their priest or *purohit*. In this respect Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer observes: "The interdiction of marriage between *sagotras* can only be regarded as a surviving taboo, based upon no reason or reason which has long since disappeared. This interdiction is a needless and vexatious interference with personal liberty, and circumscribes the choice of a bride or bridegroom."

In recent years attempts have been made to circumvent this prohibition by giving the bride in adoption into another *gotra*. It will have to be conceded that an adoption of a girl is opposed to the very principle of the institution of adoption, and it would be a debatable question whether the giving of the girl in adoption before marriage would ensure the validity of a marriage, if tested in a court of law.

In the Baroda State, the Government, after considering the opinions of medical men and other experts, has removed this restriction. This action has not caused any social resentment in Baroda. Even in the Province of Bombay opinion is gaining ground that this restriction ought to go. The removal of this restriction would cause no grievance or inconvenience. This legislation should have retrospective effect so that the validity of marriages resorted to in violation of this restriction with the help of adoption, etc., should be placed beyond doubt or question.

This Bill is not intended to affect in any way the rule of prohibition based on the *sapinda* relationship between the parties to a marriage.

* * *

Drive for Industrialization

OUT of evil cometh good—sometimes—if we are wise. The European war will dislocate India's foreign trade. The normal imports from the belligerent countries will dwindle, if not cease altogether. So also the normal exports from India to those countries. If India be not alert, neutral countries will attempt to capture India's markets. And India will have to look for other markets for her exports. The war gives India a great opportunity to accelerate her own industrialization, the manufacture at home of goods hitherto imported from abroad and of utilising the raw produce which she has been exporting. The circumstances are most propitious for a big industrial drive in India. Great Britain, which has hitherto taken a step-motherly interest in Indian industrialization, will now be glad to take a motherly interest in it, for she is not anxious to hand over the Indian market to other countries, if she cannot reserve it for herself. In fact, the war-needs of England will make her solicitous of India's industrialization. Thus the cordial co-operation of the Government of India may be counted upon. The Provincial Governments, both Congress and non-Congress, can also be depended upon to give all possible encouragement. It now remains for the people of India to take full advantage of the propitious—for this purpose—circumstances and forge ahead with an active and intense programme of industrial development.

* * *

INDIA has the resources in men and materials for an all-round industrial development. What is needed is an organization to mobilise these resources. Above all, a new psychology in favour of industrialism has to be developed and the general run of people enthused about industrial development. It is necessary to have a great campaign sponsored by the most influential leaders in the land. If the drive is conducted with vigour, India will be able to take full advantage of the unique opportunity offered to her unsought for industrial development. It is up to the Planning Commission to rise to the occasion and preach with all the zeal of a crusader the gospel of industrialism for India. The main problem before India is not one of a better sharing of her present poverty, but of creating more wealth, in order to share it at once more richly and more equitably.

WAR AGAINST NAZIISM

"**S**HOULD French and German blood flow again as 25 years ago, in a longer and more horrible war, then both nations will fight, confident in their own victory," wrote M. Daladier to Herr Hitler in a final attempt to persuade the latter to give up the method of unlawful force in favour of the method of reason and negotiation on a footing of equality. And this dispatch M. Daladier concluded with the very true, if poignant, observation: "The victors will most certainly be destruction and barbarity." However righteous the cause, no nation can come out successful in a modern war without

suffering the most terrible privations. Great Britain and France have resolved to bear the worst sufferings in order to succour a victim of Nazi aggression. As Sir Archibald Sinclair said in the House of Commons on 24th August:

What is at stake in Herr Hitler's demand for Danzig is not some triviality which we could concede without damaging the interests of Britain. If we yield to that we should have to face in the near future further demands, each one more threatening to our vital interests, and we should have to face such demands weakened and discredited by our betrayal of the Poles, to whom the support of Britain is

pledged in honour. We should be a nation on which our best friends and allies would hesitate to rely with diminishing power and increasing loneliness, incapable of appealing to the conscience of the world in the name of freedom, law, and justice, for we should have proved ourselves unwilling to make sacrifices for those causes. We should have to await the onslaught of dictatorship on the power and wealth of the British Empire and the homes and liberties of our peoples.

The issue, speaking broadly, is not one of the status of Danzig or the Polish Corridor or even of the independence of Poland; nor is it one of preserving the interests of the British Empire, though it is all these. The issue is one of the overthrow of Nazism and of the establishment of the reign of international law and morality. It is an issue from which no peace-loving and justice-loving citizen of any country can withhold sympathy, and the hearts of all must go out to the British statesmen who have finally decided at a tremendous sacrifice to give battle to lawlessness and brigandage.

One only hopes that the sacrifices of those engaged in this cause will not be too great and that the cause itself will ultimately win. But to those like us who are not acquainted with the comparative military strength of the opposing forces the enterprise appears hazardous. Mr. Chamberlain evidently feels that without the assistance of Russia, Great Britain will still be in a position to enforce the guarantee given to Poland, and one wishes he is right. But misgivings cannot but arise in the minds of those who place a high value on the military assistance that could have been forthcoming from the Soviet Government and on the strategical position which Russia occupies. One thing at least seems to be certain, viz. that after her pact of non-aggression with Germany, Russia will be estopped from giving any military help to Poland. It is being said by the apologists of the Soviet Government that the Russo-German Non-Aggression Pact does not militate in any way against Russia joining an Anti-Aggression Pact with Great Britain and France. But there is no "escape clause" in the Non-Aggression Pact, and it should be remembered that Herr Hitler made the very fact of Polish-British guarantee of mutual assistance the ground for denouncing the Polish-German Pact of Non-Aggression of 1934, which was concluded for ten years and which gave no option to either party to denounce it before the lapse of this period. As a matter of fact, the Pact of 1934 was based upon the Peace Pact of Paris, which made the specific reservation that "every signatory Power which would henceforth seek to promote its State interests through war will have to be deprived of the benefits of the present Treaty." The Polish-British guarantee was not thus incompatible with the Polish-German Non-Aggression Pact, since the guarantee would come into effect only when Germany committed an act of aggression by breaking the Pact herself. The truth is that the Pact was designed for iso-

lating Poland and making it impossible for her to participate in any general international collaboration. Poland, knowing this, agreed to the Pact at the time since it gave her at any rate, as is well said, "the temporary immunity promised by Polyphemus to Ulysses—of being the last to be eaten." Will Herr Hitler tolerate Russia joining the Anti-Aggression Bloc any more than he could tolerate Poland doing so? M. Stalin may well have been mistrustful of British diplomacy in the beginning, when the policy of appeasement was still dominant. But he sees now that that policy has been thrown to the winds and war has been declared against the aggressor. Nor is Russia so powerless a country as not to be able to checkmate a policy of appeasement being followed again by Great Britain after a little show of strength, if such is M. Stalin's fear. Poland has now waived her objection, if she did not waive it before, to Soviet armies passing through her territory. Aggression is being committed; a fight is waging to resist the aggressor; and yet the Soviet does not move. The Nazi gangster has held it captive. Mr. Brailsford aptly says: "He (M. Stalin) has gone out of his way to make an unprovoked attack on Poland easy and safe. Europe has become a finishing school for cynics. Munich was the kindergarten; Moscow is the graduate's class."

The military effect of Russia's *volte face* would be extremely favourable to Russia. As Mr. Brailsford says, "With Russia a friendly neutral, blockade has lost all its terrors. The Germans can now supply themselves with Russian oil, Russian iron and Russian grain. Without conquering the Ukraine, they have won access to the raw materials of victory. The entire calculation on which we in this island had built has crashed in a night." Again, without Russia's help, Rumania's position will be almost impossible. "Heroism will be unpleasant; compliance will be profitable. If they (the Rumanians) should follow the fashion set by Moscow, the Germans will have two oil-fields and two wheat-fields on which to draw." There is one element of comfort. The war will ultimately be a war of finances. Great Britain and France, unable to reach Poland, will try to establish a naval and aerial supremacy on the western front. In this they are likely to succeed. Great Britain has increased her strength considerably, and the strength of British and French forces will go on increasing. For every aeroplane brought down many more will be supplied from Canada and U. S. A., but every German aeroplane brought down will be a net loss to Germany. She cannot hope to replace it on account of her extremely low financial condition. Germany's friends make up a large population, but they are all in the utmost economic straits. And no one will be so foolish as to sell armaments to Germany except on cash, which she cannot spare. Though thus, in the geographical situation in which they are placed, Great Britain and France may be unable to achieve a decisive immediate victory, they will make a

good showing at sea and in the air in a long drawn-out fight, as this is bound to be. The duty of all lovers of freedom is at this hour plain. It is, as Mr. Brailsford says, "to do all that in us lies to defeat the enemy of any civilisation worth preserving. To go under without fighting would be to doom all Europe to slavery." And the enemy is not the German people, but the gangsterism of the man who happens to rule over them.

"MEIN KAMPF"; ^{a review article}

VALUABLE as are all the Oxford Pamphlets on World Affairs so far published,* none is of more topical interest than the one called "Mein Kampf" by Mr. Ensor, in view of the European War and the part played by Herr Hitler in it. As Mr. Ensor says, "Few great men of action have ever disclosed beforehand so clearly as Adolf Hitler the principles and purposes that guide their acts." And the frankness with which he disclosed his views, even when they were brutal and cynical and uncomplimentary to his followers, is amazing to a degree and is perhaps unprecedented. Here is his sizing up of mass psychology:

The mentality of the people at large is not sensitive to anything hesitant or weak. . . . The masses would sooner be dominated than supplicated, and feel more reassured by a doctrine that brooks no rival than by one which offers a liberal freedom of choice. With the latter they hardly know how to deal, and tend therefore to feel let down. Of the barefaced intimidation practised upon their minds or the violent outrage committed upon their human liberty, they are no more conscious than they are of the whole doctrine's fallacies. They see only the ruthless force and the brutality of its determined assertions, to which in the end they always submit.

This is of the essence of authoritarianism, with which reason and democracy have ever been in conflict, whether in the home, or the city or the state or in international affairs, in religion or in politics; in fact, in all human affairs. It is no new discovery of Hitler, nor propounded by him alone. It is much more universal. Mr. Ensor aptly recalled Browning's lines:

Oh, the crowd must have emphatic warrant . . .
Right arm's rod-sweep, tongue's imperial fiat;
Never dares the man put off the prophet.

Only Hitler makes no bones about it; he does not apologise for it. As Mr. Ensor says:

Herr Hitler has never put off the prophet. He bases principle and practice, if ever a ruler did, upon the gulling of gullible humanity. And yet (such is his strange candour in that and many other matters) this sinister source of power, this *arcanum imperii*, is not concealed from the gulls, but paraded before them.

* *The Prospects of Civilization*, by Sir A. Zimmern; *The British Empire*, by H. V. Hodson; "Mein Kampf," by R. C. K. Ensor, and *Economic Self-Sufficiency*, by Prof. A. G. B. Fisher. Oxford Pamphlets on World Affairs, published by the Oxford University Press. 1939. 3rd. each 32p.

The Oxford University Press, Bombay, are prepared to send a free copy to all applicants who send them one-anna stamp to cover postage free of all obligations.

Regarding the practice of his principle, Hitler first ridicules the technical method of the Social Democrats and suggests his own superior recipe:

They (the Social Democrats) would select the adversary whom they thought formidable, and on a signal given would bombard him with a regular drum-fire of lies and calumnies. They kept it up, till the nerves of the other side broke down, and to regain some peace they sacrificed the victim of the odium.

Only, they never got their peace, the fools!

Repeat the same performance over and over again; and dread of mad dogs exercises through suggestion the effect of paralysis.

It is hard to beat the brutality of this cynical fiendishness. Here again one may ask oneself if this technique is peculiar to Hitler or is more universally practised by other people in other circumstances, though not with such open avowal and bombast. Hitler is no sanctimonious Satan.

II

Hitler's starting point is his theory of the hierarchy of races. The Nordic race is superior; it is the source of all civilization, culture and progress. Its preservation and extension is vital to civilization and to all mankind. At the other end of the hierarchy is the Jewish race, which is aggressive and acquisitive. This race does not deserve to survive and should be destroyed. In between are the other races of the world whose business is to labour for the benefit of the Nordic. To preserve the purity of the Nordic race, miscegenation should be prohibited. To provide for its extension, more territory must be annexed to Germany. The other races must be conquered and subjugated to the Nordics. Mr. Ensor explains that even liberal-minded Germans acquiesced in these theories and this programme because they bitterly resented the post-War settlements on the eastern frontiers of Germany and the subjection of German minorities to non-Germans.

When, therefore, Herr Hitler reaffirmed the Germans as a ruling race, and denounced the post-War treaties as an infamous violation of their natural rights, and declared his intention, not only of cancelling them, but of bringing all Germans under the German flag and of immediately extending the German habitat, he won some measures of assent from most of his hearers and readers.

Even these theories of race superiority and race consolidation do not seem to be peculiar to Hitler. For instance, Mr. Ensor himself seeks the analogy of the U.S.A. to exemplify the attitude of the Germans.

They felt somewhat as an American would if a foreign conquerer were to put the Southern States under negro rule.

It is to be found within the British Empire itself, as in the race relations in South and East Africa and in Fiji; in fact, everywhere. Hitlerism in this sense is not confined to Germany, but is more universal.

Hitler desires that not only should the Nordic race expand for the benefit of mankind, but that enough territory should be made available for the enlarged Nordic race, even if it means the annexation of other territories. An increasing population may be supported either by increased manufactures for export or by the acquisition of new territory. Hitler does not favour the former for reasons which recall Mahatma Gandhi's own aversion to industrialism. He hates the urbanization and proletarianization of the German people.

He is at heart a country-bred; his hatred for what he saw and suffered in working-class Vienna is blistering; he regards great cities and factories as man-eaters, farms and craft-trades as man-makers. Beyond the industries required to provide war-material he does not want any more than will create an autarkic reciprocity between town and country, each deriving all that it needs from the other and consuming the whole of the other's output. His conception of the future of Great Germany is essentially a rural one.

As Hitler himself puts it, he does not want Germans to live "squeezed together as factory coolies for the rest of the world, but as peasants and workers, who reciprocally assure each other's livelihood by what they produce."

The necessary territory for the expanding German race can be had only by annexation. The German sword must prepare the ground for the German plough. "He does not flinch from saying outright that his policy must be one of annexation by force, or from naming the main victim to be despoiled, viz. Russia."

III

Hitler's character has in it a rich strain of high idealism, which Mr. Ensors says recalls St. Paul.

In an age of moral relaxation and hedonistic self-seeking he stood out against the German background as the unabashed apostle of effort, duty, self-sacrifice, the idealistic subordination of individual interests to those of the community; and he won his power on that appeal. Rarely has a man prevailed more conspicuously by his belief that spirit dominates matter, that where there is a will there is a way.

This aspect of Hitler's character is illustrated in his reply to the question asked and answered in his book when Germany was disarmed and prohibited from arming herself under the Versailles Treaties.

To recover Germany's power you must not ask 'How are we to manufacture arms?' but 'How are we to breed the spirit that makes a people capable of bearing arms?' If that spirit rules a people, they will find a thousand ways, any one of them, leading to armament! Give a coward ten pistols and when attacked he will fail to fire a single shot. He can do less with them than a man of spirit with a mere blackthorn.

And Mr. Ensor remarks that this was not rodomontade; it was truth, as subsequent events showed.

On Herr Hitler's accession to power in 1933 he at once began rearming with feverish energy in flat defiance of the other Powers. Round him they lay, each with their ten pistols—that is, with armaments that could have stopped his action by the motion of a finger, while he was still powerless to resist. And not one of them had the nerve to act. The man of spirit with a mere blackthorn rearmed Germany.

THOSE XB ENGINES

VI

THE whole edifice of the huge supply of the X class engines of the Pacific type is reared mainly on two pillars. One is the vision conjured up of a cloud of boomy traffic suddenly bursting on the heads of the Railway Board, burdened as they were with their new-found responsibilities for making the railways an efficient commercial undertaking. The other is the dire economic necessity of reducing the heavy coal bill by extending the use of the cheaper second grade coal. We have already shown in a previous article how very weak the first pillar is. As regards the second pillar, need for curtailing the fuel bill, the Pacific Locomotive Committee have in the concluding portion of paragraph 19 put the case thus:

It will be seen from these figures that, while the engine mileage between 1913-14 and 1923-24 had only increased by 12 per cent. on the Broad Gauge and by 4 per cent. on the Metre Gauge, the fuel bill had grown by 110 per cent. and 118 per cent. respectively. One way of reducing these costs was by extending the use of second grade coal, supplies of which were available over a wider area than first

grade, and were ample in certain collieries which had been acquired by the Railway Board as some measure of protection against continually rising prices. We understand, however, that an investigation into boiler ratios then indicated that existing types of locomotives would be unsuitable for the economic use of this coal, and that, to obtain the necessary boiler horse-power, wide fire boxes were considered to be essential. Hence the demand for the wheel arrangement of the Pacific type in place of the existing narrow fire box 4-6-0 type, if sufficient power was to be obtained to meet the anticipated need for heavier loads.

Again, paragraph 182 says:

No criticism can be raised against the Board's desire to reduce the fuel bill; indeed, it is much to their credit that they have developed Railway collieries and acquired others with a view to reducing and stabilising coal prices. That this policy has succeeded is shown by the fact that control of prices has been consistently effective since 1927.

As regards the unsuitability of the 4-6-0 type engines for burning second grade coal, as disclosed by an investigation of boiler ratios, it has no doubt since been found to be perfectly practical for engines of the 4-6-0 type to burn second grade coal. This perhaps is due to the stock

of the world's knowledge being so low at the time of the investigations of our experts!

In this connection we desire to invite attention to Sir Seymour Tritton's note of January 12, 1925 (Appendix V). This note was written full eleven months before the placing of the first order for these arrogant XB class engines demanding homage from railway track. As we read the concluding portion of his note, Sir Seymour seems to have then given it as his opinion that the 4-6-0 type engine could be built so as to permit of burning second grade coal. There is nothing in the published papers to show that he intended, as stated at the end of paragraph 30, that certain B. E. S. A. types should be retained *in addition to the new standards*.

Be that as it may, the success of the policy of developing existing Railway collieries and acquiring many new ones is, however, open to serious question. The Committee evidently rely on the figures furnished to them by the Railway Board and reproduced in paragraph 18. It is admitted by the Committee in this paragraph that the cost of coal is subject to considerable fluctuations. But there is nothing in such fluctuations to make it impossible to reduce the costs to comparable figures. The fact that neither the Railway Board nor the Committee have done so is evidence presumptive of such comparison not being favourable to the desired deduction, that actual gain in the shape of true money economy has accrued by the use of wide fire box engines. As a matter of fact, coal won from Railway collieries and issued to engines is priced at less than its *true* cost, so that the only result of the development and acquisition one after another of these collieries by railways has only been to spite private collieries without any material gain to the State. This reduction of the total coal bill is induced by doubtful methods. The process of artificial reduction of the total cost of coal consumed by engines has gone so far that, as stated by Earl Winterton in the House of Commons on 26th April 1928, "a great many of these (State-owned) mines supply coal to the railways *which is not charged for*." This extraordinary procedure means that railways in certain cases are free granted a subsidy in the shape of supply of coal of charge—at the expense of the general tax payer—and to that extent the results of the working of the favoured railways as a commercial undertaking are artificially made to appear better than they actually are. But, as we said in our article of August 3, 1939, Railway Accounts are a storehouse of a number of convenient irregularities available to be freely drawn upon to "suit the book." The collieries were acquired at a cost of anything up to Rs. 4 crores, but there is no account published to show that these investments are at least not losing and that we are not merely spiting private collieries by pursuing the mirage of quantitative and economic self-sufficiency. Some

meagre information relating to the net gain or loss resulting from the working of these properties used to be furnished up to the end of 1921-22. Appendix 18 to the Railway Administration Report for 1920-21 showed that out of the seven railway collieries named therein no less than five were losing concerns entailing a deficit of anything from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 7 lakhs a year, without reckoning charges on account of interest, sinking fund, etc. But with the advent in 1922-23 of the much boosted new regime ushered in with a fanfare of trumpets in the interest of commercial or business-like administration of railways even this meagre information has completely disappeared, with the result that the public is effectually prevented from knowing how the huge investments in these properties are behaving. Further, even such information as is vouchsafed to the public in the statistical section of Railway Administration reports is presented in a capricious manner. For example, the Sor colliery, which figured in the reports for the years 1918-19 to 1921-22 with a capital outlay of Rs. 10 lakhs, disappeared altogether from the reports of succeeding years; similarly the Jarangdih colliery with a capital outlay of Rs. 16 lakhs also disappeared from Administration Reports for the time being to emerge again three years later with capital outlay increase to Rs. 58 lakhs.

These columns have since as far back as 1922 repeatedly drawn attention to the economic aspect of the development and acquisition of collieries by railways. But then the spirit of facile optimism was rampant, and when the head swells the brain shrinks!

The Committee, it seems to us, have showered indiscriminate praise without testing the basis; they have not tried to find out the facts for themselves, but have merely accepted them, without any critical examination, in the form they were presented to them by the parties interested; and the whole report is coloured by the Committee's moral stamina hesitating, to quote their own words, "to be critical after the event." It is no wonder therefore that the spirit of a party pamphlet attempting to prove a case appears to pervade the report of the Committee!

EXCLUDED AREAS IN BOMBAY

THE Report of the Special Inquiry Officer, Mr. Symington, I. C. S., on the conditions and problems of Bhils, Katkaris and other tribal people in the partially excluded areas of administration in the Bombay Presidency make interesting reading.

In the four districts of West Khandesh, Thana, Nasik and Panch Mahals, the total population of these tribal people is 9,16,459. They are honest, simple and law-abiding people, cultivators of fields and forest labourers. Unaccustomed and ignorant of the sophistications of civilised people, they are

described as liable to be cowed down, degraded and exploited by their contact with other people. "Their problem lies not in their isolation from but in their contacts with the main body of the community," so much so that they are actually happier when they are cut off from the rest of the community.

Gross abuses arising from exploitation of these people are described in the Report. The inhuman system of Veth is nothing different from veritable slavery. Its extent is not so well-known outside because tale-bearers are victimised. Oppressors in this instance are landlords in the Thana District. All tenants belonging to these backward classes are liable to be pressed into service by their landlords as labourers. Assaults and cruel beatings are common occurrences; there are even rumours from the past of men being killed. Work on their own fields has to be postponed, and crops suffer substantial damage. Their opportunities of earning money as forest labourers are curtailed. Veth is demanded for work in field, for working coups in forests if the landlord is a forest contractor, for domestic work, for loading timber at depots, etc. Remuneration given is one anna per day; or rice is given that is barely sufficient for one man for one meal.

Mr. Symington has recommended that members of these backward classes should be granted rights of permanent tenancy after cultivating the fields for three successive years. This may lead to the removal of the constant fear of eviction and may be helpful in making them a little less servile in their attitude. But of itself it is no sufficient remedy to the removal of oppression of such a rank type and so deep-rooted.

Another instance of exploitation is that by sowcars in West Khandesh. To quote the Report of the Provincial Banking Inquiry Committee, "Advance on the crop is made even before the seed is sown. When the crop is harvested, the sowcar takes the whole of it and credits to the Bhil's account the value of the crop as determined by himself less the amount advanced to the cultivator. Loan accounts are kept on running indefinitely." Co-operative Credit Societies have already proved a failure among these people, Mr. Symington recommends the setting up of another elaborate organisation through the Co-operative Department, virtually to manage the affairs of these backward people and checkmating the evil influence of the sowcar. How far an official agency would be capable of carrying out this formidable task is a matter of doubt. Experiments tried in similar spheres like the Labourers' Societies in Bombay City have not proved a success. But if officials are selected with care, there is no reason why they should not succeed with the help of non-officials who take an interest in such activities.

The Local Bodies' Act has resulted in the absence of representation—so it has been stressed

in the Report—of the Backward Classes on Taluka Boards, School Boards, etc., excepting a few stray nominations here and there. Local affairs are managed for the aborigines "by members of the wealthier communities residing in towns." Mr. Symington further goes on to say, however, that "in the case of the jungle population, it is necessary to avoid most carefully any doctrinaire adherence to theories of representative government. What they need above all is strong government action to protect them from exploitation and supply them in full measure with their educational, social and economic needs." The remedy suggested is to exclude these areas from the jurisdiction of District Local Boards, and to be constituted into separate areas, directly under Government, managed by different Government departments. It is hard to understand how Government can be 'paternal' in one area, while it is subjected to the force of a free public opinion in surrounding areas and fully responsible to it. Nor do we believe that representative government will not do the right thing by the aborigines, public opinion is being instructed in these matters so rapidly.

A special problem about these tribal people is their addiction to drink. Births and marriages, Panchayat meetings, presence of guests,—all occasions are taken advantage of as excuses for drunkenness. Illicit distillation from Mhowa flowers used to be much availed of. Government then reduced the price of licensed liquor, hoping to save them from the crime of illicit distillation. This would be an excellent joke had it not been so tragic. The consumption of drink among the people increased beyond bounds as a result of this measure. Mr. Symington has advocated trying the policy of Prohibition. One hopes that his faith in the innate good sense of this community would be given a trial and be successful. It is a matter to be noted and pondered over that in Chhota Nagpur, where the Catholic Missionary bodies have done such excellent uplift work among the aboriginal tribes, these bodies, strongly opposed as they are to the policy of Prohibition in general, ask for enforcement of Prohibition in these areas on the ground that the amount of individual freedom that can and ought to be given normally to the public cannot be given to the aboriginal tribes who lack self-control.

Reviews

INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

SOME INFLUENCES THAT MADE THE BRITISH ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM IN INDIA. By M. RUTHNASWAMY. (Luzac.) 1939. 22cm. 660p. 21/-.

AT a time when great interest is evinced towards a study of political institutions and when precise knowledge is sought as to how various countries came to have certain governmental forms, the book

before us is bound to be warmly welcomed by all students of modern history and contemporary politics. In the book before us Professor Ruthnaswamy has dealt with the most important influences that have shaped the British administrative system in India and he has dealt with the subject in such a brilliant manner that the reader is able to comprehend better the phases of the evolution of the system. The book is the expanded and finished product of the Sir William Meyer Endowment Lectures delivered by the learned author under the auspices of the Madras University in November-December, 1937.

Professor Ruthnaswamy possesses many qualifications for the investigation of his subject. As Professor of History, Principal of the Law College, President of the Montford Madras Legislative Council and Member of the Public Services Commission, he has had special opportunities for the investigation of his subject, and we have great pleasure in saying that has performed his task with admirable fullness and clarity.

The learned author shows that the administrative system in India was the child of political circumstances and not of any set political theory. The East India Company that came to trade with India felt the need of an organised and systematic administration to keep the profits of commerce safe in their hands. Thus commercial motives drove the English to the gradual formation of an organised administration in India.

The author then points out how commerce drove the Company into Empire and in securing that Empire the Army was the chief helper. After narrating the history of the Army in India the author rightly draws attention to the danger of confining recruitment to the so-called "martial classes". The author puts forward a vigorous plea for a large *national* army fully equipped according to the latest military standards.

After the Army, the author discusses the influence of Land Revenue on the administrative system. He clearly points out how Land Revenue, besides supplying resources for the Government, has created rights of property and conferred them on large numbers of people.

The author next draws attention to the influence of the Frontier on the political development of India. The defence of the Frontier has brought the Indian States and British India together. The Punjabisation of the Government of India, the change in the equipment and fighting methods of the Indian Army, and the conduct of foreign policy are all due to Frontier influence, and these questions are examined with a clarity characteristic of the author.

In the last chapter of the book the author deals with the social and political ideas forged by the administration, and he points out how even social reform was dictated by administrative considerations. "The Company attempted to interfere with any evil custom or usage only when the ends of orderly and stable administration required it."

The learned author has made a brilliant survey of the most important influences on the British Administrative System in India. It is a book of most absorbing interest. Professor Ruthnaswamy has already written three deservedly successful books on contemporary politics. The present volume will strengthen his claim to be considered one of the most intelligent and best informed writers. The book is packed with interesting information.

What must strike the reader of the book is the extraordinary firmness of grasp maintained by the author over every part of his theme. We have no hesitation in saying that this book to the making of which there has gone superb scholarship is a very valuable addition to the growing literature on Indian Politics and Administration.

M. V. SUBRAHMANYAM

THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

THE AWAKENING OF INDIAN WOMEN. By KAMALADEVI CHATTOPADHYAYYA and others.

IN a series of articles, Kamaladevi and a small group of women have presented facts about India and her women. Mainly meant for American readers, the book makes interesting reading for Indians also, as it is seldom that the 'women's point of view' finds expression in such a clear, matter-of-fact way. Coming as they do from such eminent women as Kamaladevi, Mrs. Cousins, Shyamkumari Nehru, these views deserve careful consideration.

Speaking of the 'double standard', readers would find the instance of the city of Kumbakonam in Tamil country corroborated in many other places all over India, where education for boys was made compulsory seventeen years back, while it is not compulsory for girls even in one ward, though the Municipality has amassed a reserve of Rs. 45,000. Shyamkumari Nehru quotes case after case of how Hindu and Moslem women both suffer under inhuman marriage laws. Kamaladevi has laboriously pointed out how 'a masculine-dominated society imposes on women the creed of husband worship and stresses woman's importance as a breeder, and how as a result pernicious social growths like customs of Purdah and child marriage, etc. sap the vitals of society. While general opinion among women would not subscribe to the view that 'the male, savage egoistic passion' is striving to thwart women's efforts through legal statutes, religious canons and social codes, on the whole one feels that an eloquent argument has been put forward, meriting sympathetic consideration and humane treatment to women, 'the largest single minority in the country,' as one eminent Professor has put it.

Kamaladevi has rightly emphasized the fact that the women's problem is the human problem and not merely a sex-problem. Imperialism and its Indian allies—Princes, capitalists, middlemen, moneylenders—are pressing heavily upon a subject country, and the suppressed elements in society are trampled more and more to the bottom. Women's associations might well ponder over the point of view so clearly stressed, perhaps for the first time, as to how a hostile Government has almost choked in its origin all avenues of social welfare; how the great disillusionment of the Sarda Act came; and how, in spite of ceaseless representations of the All-India Women's Conference, nothing substantial has been achieved.

The organised women's movement would get food for thought through another weighty assertion in this book. "Richer classes of women with brains limp and inactive, and the toiling women with minds weary and exhausted," both are roped together as victims of a class-determined society. The women's movement must broaden its basis to advance its cause.

Altogether the book is a refreshing reminder of the insistence of the awakened Indian woman, pleading with Tagore's heroine Chitra: "Allow me to be by your side in the path of dancing and danger, then you will know my true self".

SHANTA BHALERAO

INDIAN STATES

WHAT ARE THE INDIAN STATES? (Director, Research Bureau, All-India States' People's Conference, Allahabad.) 1939. 21cm. 113p. As. 8

THIS is the first of a series of pamphlets which the All-India States' People's Conference proposes to bring out. This one contains information regarding the populations, areas and revenues of the 584 States in India classified according to their names arranged alphabetically, and according to their areas, populations and revenues. The book is a great convenience as a ready reckoner.

The form in which the information is presented is calculated to bring home the great amplitude of variation of areas, populations and revenues of the States. Hyderabad has a population of 14 millions and a revenue of 85 crores of rupees, while Bilbari has a population of 27 individuals and a revenue of Rs. 80.

The All-India States' People's Conference held at Ludhiana in 1939 suggested that only the States with a population of 20 lakhs or a revenue of Rs. 50 lakhs should survive as administrative units and the rest should be amalgamated with the neighbouring British Indian Provinces. It is doubtful if these limits are adequate. The smallest Province in population is Sind with a population of 39 lakhs; the smallest in revenue is the N. W. Frontier Province with a revenue of 172 lakhs, inclusive of subventions from the Central Government. It is very doubtful if these provinces are large enough in population and resources to constitute efficient administrative units. The standards suggested by the Ludhiana Conference are far below these limits. Even according to the Ludhiana standards, only 21 States have the right to survive.

It is to be hoped that further pamphlets in the series will soon be issued and will, when completed, constitute an encyclopedia of the States.

P. K. R.

SHORT NOTICES

FEDERATION AND ITS PROSPECTS IN INDIA. (Marathi.) By T. R. DEOGIRIKAR. (Chitrasahala Press, Poona.) 1938. 519p. Rs. 2.

THIS is a timely publication in Marathi. Sir Frederick Whyte was very probably the first who envisaged a federal basis for the future constitution of India. Since then the subject has attracted the attention of many a student, but most of them have presented the results of their study in English. The average reader, not knowing English, has to depend upon either newspaper writings which seldom give scope to any elaborate and fundamental treatment of the subject or upon an elementary school text-book or primer on the subject. Marathi books on subjects such as these,

even if written after a close study, seldom pay their way and therefore few undertake to publish them. Both the author and the publishers of the present book deserve the gratitude of the Marathi readers for having ventured on this enterprise. Mr. Deogirikar has not been content with simply describing the Indian Federation and pointing out its defects, but he has contributed a chapter on the theory of federation and given an outline of the federal constitutions at present prevailing in various prominent countries of the world. This enables the reader to take a comparative view of the subject and gives him an idea as to why the proposed federation is unwanted and what in fact is wanted in its place. The author, being a staunch Congressite, has advocated the Congress viewpoint—vague condemnation of federation but not its emphatic boycott, faith in non-violent resistance and an imperfectly worked-out idea of calling a constituent assembly. Even if the reader may have to differ from the author as a politician, he should certainly compliment the author on a successful and easy explanation of what the subject matter is. That in fact is the chief merit of the book, for which the author deserves every praise. In dealing with the financial aspect of the proposed federation the author's treatment has been merely descriptive. There are obvious difficulties in writing such a book in good Marathi and therefore we shall not find fault with the author, even if it has to be said that the book has neither the style nor the finish that good books in Marathi now-a-days have. We recommend the book to the Marathi readers, assuring them that they can with confidence turn to this book for understanding what the proposed federation is and what a Congressite has to say about it.

R. V. OTURKAR

THE MAHAR FOLK. By ALEXANDER ROBERTSON. (Y. M. C. A. Publishing House, Calcutta.) 1938. 18cm. 101p. Rs. 2.

THE book, though written with the aim of propagating Christianity, is a useful one both to the average reader and to those who are interested in sociological studies. The author had ample scope to study the Mahars as he was intimately connected with them for over thirty-five years. He deals with 'the Mahar in the village economy', 'the Mahar in his home', 'the Mahar in Maharashtra', 'the military record of the Mahars', 'the Mahar mind in cult and legend', etc. The book is written with an unbiassed mind and can be taken as a faithful record of the people. It contains, however, some misstatements. The author, while writing about the marriage ceremony, says on p. 38: 'The verses of blessing or *mangal-sutra* are then pronounced' As a matter of fact the word ought to have been *mangalshtak*. *Mangalasutra* is a necklace of black glass beads which a married woman wears. Similarly, he has given a proverb कानडा कपडा, तेलगू चोर आणि महार हसमसोर and has translated it as 'The Kanarase is a cheat, the Telagu is a thief, and the Mahar is an eater of forbidden food'. The reviewer thinks that the translation of the word हसमसोर is not as given by the author, but it can be expressed by the word 'rogue'. The book on the whole is interesting.

G. R. P.

HINDUISM AND THE MODERN WORLD.

By K. M. PANIKKAR. (Kitabistan, Allahabad.)
1938. 20cm. 115p. Re. 1-8-0.

IN this book, the author wishes to prove that the social organisation of the Hindus is suffering from unregulated growth, stagnation and fragmentation of society due to the twin institutions of the joint family and the caste. Hindu society can come into its own only by recognising that these institutions are of a secular nature, needing examination and reconstruction through the instrument of law.

The efficiency of legislation as an agent of social change is, however, not indisputable. One may have too much legislation as regards social conduct. Social legislation should aim at removing injustices, but should not go beyond.

The author has presented his thesis admirably in a very clear and vigorous style. Just when his condemnation of an institution is at its strongest, he turns aside to modify his statement showing that he appreciates the historical standpoint and the good that an institution may have done to the society in a former age.

IRAWATI KARVE

TALES OF BROTHERHOOD.

By W. M. RYBURN. (Ram Lal Suri & Sons, Lahore.)
1938. 18cm. 95 p.

THIS book is possibly intended as a non-detailed text-book in English for High Schools. Nonetheless it has its value for the ordinary reader as a series of short stories. Certain incidents from the history of the world are described from the point of view of the spirit of sacrifice shown by all races of mankind. The author grips the attention of the reader by his direct and flowing style, his choice of and concentration on particular situations and his collection of facts with a central purpose running through each story. The scenes of the stories are brought vividly to one's mind by the use of the direct language in describing the incidents, and sometimes the language and expressions used at the period of time when the event happened. The object of the author is to enrich the vocabulary of students by instructing them in useful and idiomatic expressions. Every story has a number of exercises set for students from this point of view. There are 13 stories in all, describing incidents connected with all races and all periods of history. The book ends with a short story of Mr. Gandhi and untouchability. We commend the book to the high schools and the reading public.

S.

THROUGH TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH.

By BASIL MATHEWS. (Edinburgh House Press.)
1939. 18cm. 160p. 2/-.

THIS little book was written immediately after the Conference at Tambaram, and gives the author's impressions of the situation of the Church in the world at that time. He sees the life and message of Christians in the setting of the several tragic circumstances which have arisen both in the East and the West, but he is given some hope for the future by the possibility of men, otherwise

divided, being able to meet at such a Conference as Tambaram.

The book will make agreeable reading to those who like journalism. To those to whom it is a torture to see words put to continual and unnecessary strain and stress, the reading will be painful.

W. Q. LASH

AFRICAN MIRAGE. THE RECORD OF A JOURNEY.

By HOYNINGEN-HUENE. (Batsford, London.) 1938. 22cm. 114p. 12/6.

STRANGE and remote places have a great fascination for many people. Much of Equatorial Africa, because of its inaccessibility, still remains a place where courageous travellers may see sights and have experiences which can be found in no other place.

"African Mirage" is the record of the author's travels in this little-known part of the world. This is the first book of Hoyningen-Huene, but he has long been known as one of the foremost of living photographers. This earlier interest is evident on every page of the book, for the descriptions of places and people are those such as only the eyes of an artist would see them. The book is really two series of pictures: one, the word pictures of the author; the other, 146 of his interesting and unusual photographs which he has used to illustrate his book.

The impression left by the book is one of regret on the part of the author that the modern age is reaching into these far-away places, and fast changing the lives and outlook of the peoples who live there. He regrets the passing of the variety and simplicity of the life that he saw there.

M. C. RAO

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