

THE Servant of India

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TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

THE twenty-second anniversary session of the Servants of India Society was held here between the 5th and 15th of this month. It commenced this year a few days earlier than usual in order to enable the members to bid farewell to their President, the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, before he sailed for South Africa on the 8th. The Society approved of his acceptance, in response to the unanimous call of the public, of office under the crown as Agent to the Government of India in South Africa, and permitted him to resign the Presidentship of the Society. His membership, however, continues, as there is a provision in the constitution of the Society, which will be brought into use in his case, for suspending in special circumstances in respect of any member the operation of any rule or rules except the one relating to the vows which every member has to take at the time of joining the Society. The Society has in addition deputed Mr. P. Kodanda Rao, one of its younger members, to be with Mr. Sastri in South Africa and help him as his private secretary. Mr. G. K. Devadhar, who was hitherto Vice-President of the Society, was elected President and Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, M.L.A., Senior Member of the Upper India Branch, was elected Vice-President. In the usual Presidential address on the Anniversary Day (12th June), Mr. Devadhar expressed in feeling terms the deep gratitude of the Society for the generous help which all sections of the public had rendered to the Society by subscribing to its Fire Relief Fund and announced that the construction of the new building for the location of

the Aryabhushan Press would be taken in hand immediately. There would be no diminution, he said, in the political activity of the Society during Mr. Sastri's temporary absence from India and Mr. Kunzru, who had given the closest attention to the study of political questions, would guide the members in such work. He also foreshadowed increased activity in the direction of rural reconstruction.—We publish elsewhere a brief account of the work done by Mr. Amritlal V. Thakkar as a member of the Society last year and intend to give a similar account of the work of some of the other members in future issues. A consolidated report for the whole Society is in course of preparation and will soon be ready.

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WHEN the SERVANT OF INDIA was revived about this time last year after the fire in the Servant of India the Arya Bhushan Press, we took our readers into our confidence and informed them that the paper was not an asset but a heavy liability to the Servants of India Society, making an appeal to our subscribers to take a personal interest in the journal and help us reduce our losses. The year's working, however, we regret to say, does not show any improvement in the financial position and the authorities in the Servants of India Society, who own the paper, are still concerned about its future as before. The Council of the Society have for the present decided to continue its publication for a year, at the end of which the question will be open for reconsideration.

* * *

THERE are at present 46 persons in jail under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment and the Detenues Act, eleven under Regulation III of 1818 and 95 persons are interned in villages or their homes. In the recent debate in the House of Commons Earl Winterton observed that "nobody liked any form of extrajudicial power if it could be avoided. Neither he nor the Government of India were anxious to exercise such powers a day longer than was necessary". He further said that these men were there because they were "guilty up to the hilt of participating in operations which nobody except a few lunatics could condone". What the Indian public wants is not periodical assertion that the Bengal Government are convinced of the guilt of the detenues but their immediate public trial or release. The mere fact that Lord Olivier sanctioned this policy does not invest it with the sanctity of law nor makes it an appropriate instrument of upholding order under normal conditions. The Government of Bengal do not exactly prove the guilt of the detenues by postulating their own infallibility.

WE have before us a copy of the address delivered by the Dewan, Mirza M. Ismail, in opening the birth-day session of the Mysore Representative Assembly. There is nothing specially noteworthy in the survey of administrative events which the Dewan makes except the fact that progress in all directions has been kept up. But the finances of the State do not seem to have yet been placed beyond anxiety or recovered sufficiently to enable the nation-building departments to receive their full due. There is a distinct worsening in the revenue position, the net result of the current year's operations being a deficit of Rs. 7½ lakhs. Under such conditions the allotment of Rs. 1½ lakhs for arrangements in connection with the forthcoming visit of the Viceroy to the State seems to be certainly uneconomic. We do not at all suggest that the State should let its welcome to such a distinguished visitor suffer in sincerity or enthusiasm. But we daresay that the spirit of hospitality could and should be kept within the bounds of strict economy without, in the least, affecting its genuineness and whole-hearted nature. There is no doubt that Indian States are generally accustomed to much unpardonable extravagance in this respect, and it is high time that this wasteful tendency is curbed. Mysore would be setting a very desirable example if it bears this in mind in its forth-coming display and makes the maximum saving out of the excessive allotment.

IT is not a little gratifying to learn from the Dewan's address that the Mysore Government regard the amelioration of Adi-Karnatakas as their special care. We note with pleasure the exceptional facilities provided for the education of the members of these classes which have already resulted in bringing 16,575 children under tuition. It should further be noticed that it is not an eternal policy of spoon feeding that the State is pursuing. It recognises that no external improvement has enduring quality without a corresponding internal improvement in the qualities of courage, hope and self-reliance, and therefore is making strenuous efforts to foster the co-operative spirit among these classes. The community, we are told, is also granted representation on all the constitutional bodies in the State, the Government being fully conscious of its duty to afford all communities the best opportunity for the development of their God-given gifts. The ideal which the State has set for itself in this task and the statesmanlike attitude adopted by the Dewan towards the question in spite of his being a Muslim in the address: "The aim should be to Hinduise them more and more—for they belong to the Hindu community really—and to offer them every facility to remain within the fold. Alienated they will introduce an additional element of heterogeneity which will further complicate the already difficult problems of administration.

Baroda Subjects Conference. THAT "their natural aspirations for a larger share in the administration had yet remained benumbed by a chilly silence of the State authorities" was the complaint of the president of the sixth session of the Baroda State Subjects' Conference held recently at Petlad—the Manchester of Baroda State. Some months back we had occasion to publish a series of articles about the setback in that once far advanced State of Baroda, which has now aglged so much behind several other States.

Mr. Purohit, the president, said: "The King is a custodian of peoples' interests. He perishes with his kinsmen in case of violation of "Dharma". The custodian in this particular case chooses to stay away for long periods from the trust under his management, and manages the same from a distance of 6000 miles, without parting with even a small part of his power in favour of his executive council. The constitution and powers of the Dhara-Sabha (or the Legislative Council) require to be revised immediately. It was hoped that Sir Sayaji Rao will do so, when he attained his sixtieth birthday over a year ago and his people celebrated his diamond jubilee. But the people were then given a rebuff instead of a boon. Retrograde measures have since been adopted within the field of compulsory education and the protection of forest tribes, and the resolution about prohibition in Amreli district in Kathiawar, surrounded as it is by dry states on all sides, passed successively three times by the Dhara Sabha, has not yet been given effect to. The most forward Baroda of a decade ago is now a straggler in the race of progressiveness and we do not know where it is drifting.

IDAR State has an area of 1669 square miles with a population of 226,355 and an annual revenue of Rs. 14,48,000. The Maharaja Vs. Popular Rights. subjects of the State met in a Conference on the 12th instant to discuss their grievances and to make representation for their redress. The holding of the Conference, though approved by the Dewan was strongly resented by the Maharaja of Idar. It appears that hired rowdies attempted to break up the Conference and the Maharaja himself made his appearance on the scene with drawn sword in hand accompanied by his lieutenants. The President of the Conference however, to his great credit succeeded in conducting the meeting peacefully under grave provocations and idiotic interference. The Conference was of the opinion that intervention of Bombay Government was necessary to set matters right and passed a resolution demanding responsible government in the State. The ruler who thinks that by indulging in mock-heroics and by outting capers a discontented people suffering under genuine grievances can be governed for any length of time, is grievously mistaken and deserves to be pitied. The Idar incident only confirms our view which we have expressed in these columns that the ultimate problem of the state subjects is not how best to muzzle autocracy but how soon to end it. We hope the Maharaja will show greater tolerance of facts around him, the foremost and the most obvious of which is that autocracy even if entrenched behind antiquity, tradition and glittering jewels, is doomed.

THE Indian demand for equality of status is resisted by white settlers in Kenya on the ground, amongst others, of the failure of Indians to take their due share in the defence of the Colony during the great War. Whether this was really so or not it is not our purpose to examine on the present occasion; but it must be noted that the statement has always been challenged by the Indian community. But even supposing it were true, it is a question whether this was due to their unwillingness or to their incapacity to fight consequent upon the lack of military training. If after having received military training they had fought shy of the War there would be something in this accusation. But even in India itself, they have been denied the privilege of personally defending their own

country. The blame for this must be laid at the Government's door rather than at that of Indians who have been clamouring for Indianisation of the military services. Kenya had recently under consideration what is known as the Defence Force Bill which apparently sought to introduce compulsory military service for Europeans. When the Bill was before the Legislative Council, regret was expressed on behalf of Indians that its operation was not extended to them. As expected, their desire to be included in the scheme of the Bill was met with refusal, which clearly shows that if Indians find themselves unable to be helpful, they cannot be held responsible for it.

OF all the resolutions passed at the third session of the Conference of Miraj State subjects the one that aroused the keenest interest related to the deplorable water scarcity in the town of Miraj. For the last six or seven years the helpless Miraj subjects have been clamouring for this necessity of life. The failure of rains and the consequent meagre supply of water has intensified this difficulty. To spend money in digging wells in these circumstances as the Chiefaheh has been doing, is sheer waste of public money. There is a perennial supply of water in the neighbourhood of this town which can be successfully tapped. Residents of Miraj have to pass daily a good deal of their time in the scorching heat of the sun to get their supply of water. The M. S. M. Ry. and Dr. Wanless of the well known charitable Hospital at Miraj, have by their combined efforts brought water to their respective establishments from the river Krishna. If the chief had joined the two parties, and it is reported that he was invited but declined to cooperate with them, the misery of his people with regard to water supply would have been over long ago. Whatever that be, we hope that the Chief, who is known to be enlightened, would give up his obstinacy. The other resolution of this Conference related to various items of good government which deserve serious consideration at the hands of the State authorities.

AN Indian resident of Trinidad writing to Dewan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai puts forward the suggestion that the Government of India should appoint its agents in colonies where Indians have gone in search of livelihood and settled. A similar suggestion recently came also from Kenya where the Government of India had their own Trade Commissioner. The post was discontinued after some time presumably because there was not enough work for the Trade Commissioner. But what the Trinidad resident has in mind is not an official concerning himself mainly, if not exclusively, with possibilities of expansion of Indian trade; but one who would help our countrymen in the respective colonies in safeguarding their interests. Such representatives of the Government of India have been in existence for some time past in Ceylon and Malaya, where, it seems, they are found of considerable use; and with all the difficulties of his position Mr. Sastri is also expected to prove a source of strength to Indians there. If therefore it is decided to give effect to the idea in the case of other colonies as well, there appears to be no reason why it should be attended with less satisfactory results. Such appointments appear to be all the more necessary in view of the arrangements made by different nationalities for safeguarding the interests of their own nationals.

TEXTILE TARIFF BOARD'S REPORT.

I

ON the application of the Bombay Millowners' Association requesting them to appoint a Tariff Board or a committee, similarly constituted and with similar powers, to enquire into the causes of the depression in the Bombay Cotton Industry and to suggest remedies to restore it to prosperity, the Government of India appointed in June 1926 a special Tariff Board consisting of Mr. F. Noyce, I.C.S. (chairman), Rai Bahadur Pandit Hari Kisan Kaul and Principal N. S. Subba Rao for the purpose of the enquiry into the industry. The terms of reference prescribed were:—(1) To investigate the condition of the cotton textile industry in India particularly in Bombay and Ahmedabad; (2) to examine the causes of the depression in the industry and to report whether they are of a temporary or permanent character; (3) in particular, to consider whether and, if so, to what extent, the depression is due to the competition of other countries in the home and export trade; (4) to report whether, having regard (i) to the fact that the industry has long been firmly established in India, and (ii) to the interests of the consumer and to all other interests affected, (a) the industry is in need of protection; and (b) if so, in what form and for what period protection should be given; and (5) to make any other recommendations that are germane to the subject. Soon after the Board assembled in Bombay on July 1, 1926, the Bombay Millowners' Association sent a statement in support of their application for protection reviewing the causes of the depression and putting forward the following proposals:—(1) The abolition of the duties on machinery and mill stores; (2) The abolition of the company super tax and the Bombay town duty of one rupee per bale; (3) Reduction of railway freights from Bombay to the principal up-country markets; (4) Negotiations with steamship companies for the reduction of shipping freights from Bombay to all export markets; (5) The appointment of Trade Commissioners in various countries to assist India's export trade; (6) The adoption of a scientific tariff which will protect goods manufactured in India from unfair competition from foreign countries; and, (7) in order to place the cotton textile industry in India on an equality with foreign countries in respect of costs of manufacture, additional protection to the extent of 13 per cent. and further protection to enable the mills to make the necessary allowances for depreciation to plant and machinery.

The Board prepared, on the basis of this statement, an elaborate questionnaire and invited replies from all the interests concerned. It made an extensive tour in India and visited important cotton textile centres such as Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Nagpur, Madras, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Delhi, Amritsar and Lahore for inspection and evidence. The Board held forty sittings in all and examined the representatives of the Bombay,

Ahmedabad and Baroda Millowners' Associations, fifteen Chambers of Commerce, four Labour Unions, six other bodies and also thirty-nine individual witnesses. Written statements from eight Local Governments, three railway companies, fifteen Government officials (some of whom were also orally examined) and twenty-seven other bodies and individuals were received by the Board. During the course of its enquiry it visited thirty-eight mills, seven cloth markets and four textile and technical institutes. The Board took nearly two and half months to go into the evidence and draft their report which was signed on January 27, 1927 and, sent to the Government of India. The latter took four months to consider the Board's report and on June 7 published simultaneously the report and their resolution containing their decisions thereon. They have also published in three volumes all the written and oral evidence that came before the Board.

Before coming to the recommendations of the Board, it is necessary to recall the views of labour unions placed before it on the subject matter of the enquiry, inasmuch as labour is equally, if not more, vitally interested in the industry as capital. Of the unions that appeared before the Board, the evidence of the Bombay Textile Labour Union covered wide ground and dealt with the important issues raised in the enquiry and its views were more or less shared by other unions. While leaving the question of depression in the cotton textile industry to the investigation of the Board, the Bombay Union stated as its considered opinion that unless radical improvements are effected both in the management of the industry and in the labour conditions, the industry would not be able to compete successfully with foreign countries and it would not be restored to its normal condition. It advocated the re-organisation of the industry in such a manner as to bring about utmost efficiency in management, effect economy in all directions and thereby reduce waste to the minimum; and it suggested, among other things, the purchase of raw cotton and mill stores, sales of cloth and their insurance on a co-operative basis, the abolition of the Agency system, the building up of reserves so as to provide for the equalisation of wages in lean years, elimination of the middlemen and restriction in the percentage of dividends. The Union narrated in great detail the plight of the workers and urged the abolition of the present system of recruitment of labour through jobbers and head-jobbers and the institution of public employment bureaux for that purpose, a limit being placed upon the imposition of fines, some provision being made against arbitrary and summary dismissals and for the education, both primary and technical, of the workers so as to enable them to increase their efficiency and the improvement in their housing conditions. As regards the competition from Japan, the Union stated that, if it was found to be *unfair*, Japanese goods should be prohibited from entering India till Japan im-

proved her labour conditions. In the matter of protection being given to the industry on the lines suggested by the Bombay Millowners' Association, the Union left questions of the abolition of the customs duty on machinery and mill stores and the town duty on cotton bales to the consideration of the Government of India and the Bombay Municipal Corporation respectively as being the parties interested in those taxes, had no objection to negotiations being opened with steamship companies for reducing the shipping freights and the appointment of Trade Commissioners, opposed the abolition of the company super tax and also the imposition of an additional import duty of 13 per cent. on imported yarn and piece-goods. However, the Union suggested that, if it was found that there was a necessity for giving some temporary help to the cotton textile industry, such help might be given by subsidy or loan without interest (1) to improve the mill machinery and put up automatic looms, if possible, (2) to introduce specialisation and avoid over-production in particular varieties and thereby eliminate internal competition, (3) to make experiments in the direction of improving production, (4) to make efforts for increased sales in India and other countries; and (5) to train workers to increase their efficiency and better their standard of life and service. Money required for this purpose, the Union further suggested, should be raised by a special direct tax which should be imposed on those who were able to bear its burden. The Union also made it clear that such help should be given only after the millowners radically improved the labour conditions and satisfied the criterion of efficiency and economy, i. e., in other words, if they agreed to the reorganisation of the industry.

The report of the Board which is an elaborate document of over 200 pages, reviews the growth of the cotton textile industry in India from 1899, deals with the nature and extent of the depression, examines the suggested causes of the depression such as world factors, external competition, currency changes, defects in internal organisation, internal competition, local taxation and the like. After dealing with the costs of production, the report discusses remedial measures such as (i) internal economies in raw material, fuel and power, water, stores, labour, and overhead charges, (ii) improvements in organisation, (iii) changes in the tariff and, (iv) other State aid, and has summarised its conclusions and recommendations under 127 heads. In the opinion of the Board the depression was not peculiar to India but was due to world conditions, that it was more acutely felt in Bombay than in other centres in India and that it presented all the features characteristic of a trade cycle. Among the causes of depression, the most important were, according to the Board, the course of the American cotton prices, the Japanese competition in yarn and cloth of counts of 30s. and above, the stabilisation of the rupee at 1s. 6d., over-capitalisation, unduly

high payments of dividends in the boom period, conservatism and lack of initiative in the Agency system, inefficient machinery and difficulties in arranging finance, loss of the China market, increasing competition of mills in Ahmedabad and other centres and high local taxation in Bombay. The Board holds that labour conditions in Japan being inferior to those in India in respect of hours of work and employment of women and children at night, there is an unfair competition between the two countries. Among the remedial measures in respect of internal economies, it suggests the single hedge contract as an ideal to be aimed at for the purchase of raw material, the employment of brokers who do not operate on their own account and who are not themselves in actual possession of cotton, a further reduction in the water tax in Bombay, closest supervision over all purchases of stores, reduction of the town duty to eight annas per bale, the fire insurance being undertaken by the Bombay Millowners' Association for its members, depreciation being made the first charge on profits, the discontinuance of the practice of employing an auditor related to the managing agent and the checking of mill stocks at audit. In the opinion of the Board, improvement in labour conditions will also greatly lead to internal economies in the mill industry and the true line of advance lies in increased labour efficiency. The Board recommends that the system of maintaining a labour reserve in Bombay should be adopted to provide against absenteeism, that the piece-work system should be extended to spinners and should be accompanied by an increase in the number of spindles allotted to each spinner, the disparity between the wages of spinners and weavers, calls the attention of the industry, that in order to improve the efficiency of the operatives jobbers should be made more efficient, that a definite period of rest to enable the workers to have their morning meal is desirable, that labour should be recruited directly by the mill and not through jobbers, that the practice of handing over spoiled cloth to the weavers should be discontinued, that scheme of standardisation of wages should be prepared, that Trade Schools should be established to facilitate technical education for operatives and that the preparation and distribution of technical hand books should be undertaken. The Board also strongly recommends reorganisation of the Bombay Millowners' Association. It suggests that arrangement should be made immediately by the Bombay Millowners' Association to secure a full range of samples and maintain a record of prices of all imported manufactures, that sub-committees of the Association to deal with questions relating to export and home markets, finance, labour, etc. should be constituted, that the practice of investing the surplus funds of mills with firms of shroffs and also that of lending the funds of one concern to another under the same managing agency should be discontinued, that

the production of goods of higher counts and of bleached, coloured, dyed and printed goods should be encouraged and stimulated, that the consuming centres should be visited from time to time and trade correspondents should be attached to them so as to enable the mills to be in touch with the character of the demand, that the finance of the industry should be investigated and that the feasibility of a combination of mills interested in the export trade should be considered.

As regards the protection to be accorded to the industry, the Board is of opinion that it has established a claim for protection in so far as it is affected by the unfair Japanese competition arising out of inferior labour conditions. In other respects, the industry is not, according to the Board's finding, at a disadvantage as compared with its pre-war position. The Board has, therefore, expressed itself against the imposition of higher protective duties on the scale advocated by the Bombay Millowners' Association, a protective duty of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. so as to provide for depreciation of plant and machinery, an additional duty on yarn, the export duty on cotton and the abolition of the company super-tax. The Board has made only three recommendations for protection, two of which are unanimous and the other is made by a majority, the President dissenting. The first unanimous recommendation is that the tax on mill machinery and stores should be abolished and the other is that, if a satisfactory scheme for a combined bleaching, dyeing and printing plant can be put forward, assistance from Government should be given. The majority recommendation is for the payment, for a period of four years, of a bounty of one anna per pound, or its equivalent, on the production of yarn of 32 and higher counts based on the output of an average of 15 per cent. of the total working spindleage in a mill. In order to provide funds to meet the cost of the proposed bounty and other proposals made by the Board, the majority of the Board has proposed an increase in the import duty on the cotton piece goods from 11 to 15 per cent. for a period of three years. This increase is also intended to reduce the rigour of Japanese competition. It advocates the appointment of only two Trade Commissioners, one at Baera and the other at Mombasa and has recommended to the Government of India to grant a sum not exceeding Rs. 251000 annually to supplement the expenditure that the Bombay Millowners' Association may incur on their representatives in the principal export markets, if it appoints them.

In their resolution reviewing the Board's report, the Government of India have rejected the proposal for bounty and, therefore, for the increase in import duty on piecegoods. They have agreed to remit, for a period of three years, the import duty on machinery and stores and propose to bring forward legislation abolishing this duty altogether. The other recommendations are still under the consideration of the Government of India.

LAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT IN BOMBAY.

I.

THE recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Government of India Bill, 1919, on the question of land revenue, has led to the introduction of land bills and discussion of land revenue principles in all the Provinces of India during the last few years. The principles, on which the land revenue policy of the provinces are based at present, were broadly enunciated in the Government of India Resolution of 1902. The Joint Committee, however, observed that they were "impressed by the objections raised by many witnesses to the manner in which certain classes of taxation can be laid upon the people of India by executive action without, in some cases, any adequate statutory limitation of the rates, and in other cases, any adequate prescription by statute of the methods of assessment. They consider that the imposition of new burdens should be gradually brought more within the purview of the legislature. And in particular, without expressing any judgment on the question whether land revenue is a rent or tax, they advise that the process of revising the land revenue assessments ought to be brought under closer regulation by statute as soon as possible...At present the statutory basis for charging land revenue varies in different provinces; but in some at least the pitch of assessment is entirely at the discretion of the executive Government...The people who are most affected have no voice in the shaping of the system and the rules are often obscure and imperfectly understood by those who pay the revenue. The Committee are of opinion that the time has come to embody in the law the main principles by which the land revenue is determined, the methods of valuation, the pitch of assessment, the periods of revision, the graduation of enhancements and the other chief processes which touch the well-being of revenue-payers."

In March 1924, the Bombay Legislative Council passed a resolution appointing the Land Revenue Assessment Committee to make recommendations embodying the opinion of the Joint Committee.

The committee reported in March last. Of the twenty-two members of the Committee only seven signed without qualification. The Committee by a majority recommend that section 107 of the Bombay Land Revenue Code* be amended as follows:—"In revising the assessment of land revenue regard shall be had to the profits of cultivation. The

* Section 107 of the Land Revenue Code reads as follows:—
"In revising assessment of land revenue regard shall be had to the value of land, in the case of land used for the purposes of agriculture, to the profits of agriculture:

Provided that if any improvement has been effected in any land during the currency of any previous settlements made under this Act or under Bombay Act 1 of 1865 by or at the cost of the holder thereof, the increase in the value of such land or in the said improvement, shall not be taken into account in fixing the revised assessment thereof."

settlement officer shall take into account the following factors:—(1) the state of communications during the previous settlement, (2) the proximity of markets, (3) the trend of prices, (4) the general economic conditions and history of the tracts, (5) the result of crop experiments and (6) rental value. In order to ascertain rental value the real rents paid in open competition by tenants to landlords during five years immediately preceding the revision settlement, excluding years of abnormal prices shall be taken into consideration." It is to be regretted that the Committee makes rather confusing recommendations regarding the Government's share of the produce of the land. In paragraph 38 the Committee say that they are unable to make any recommendation fixing a maximum percentage of the rental value as the assessment which the state is entitled to take. In the next paragraph the Committee, however, by a majority recommend "that the assessment should not exceed 25 per cent. of the profits of cultivation, i. e. the gross profits less all expenses incurred in deriving those profits". The Committee further recommend that "the limit of enhancement be fixed by statute at an all round rate of 25 per cent. making no distinction between groups, villages or holdings in the case of all talukas which have had their settlements revised for a second time" (para 41.) The Committee recommend that no departure be made from the existing period of settlement, that is, thirty years in the presidency proper and twenty years in Sind. (para 42) and that improvements should be exempted from assessment. The Committee further recommend the setting up of a standing committee for the purpose of putting the case of the persons immediately concerned viz. the agriculturists, before the Government in every case of revision settlement. "In their opinion there should be a statutory provision that all proposals for revision settlement should be placed before a standing advisory committee consisting of six members, of whom not less than four should be elected non-official members of the Legislative Council, elected by that body itself." The Committee leave it to the Government to appoint their own representatives on the committee who may be officers with special knowledge of settlement technique (para 44 B). The Committee further propose that in case the proposals on any revision settlement of the standing advisory committee are not accepted by the Government, "the said proposals shall not be put into force unless the sanction of the Legislative Council is obtained" (para 45).

The Government of Bombay in their Resolution on the Report of the Land Revenue Assessment Committee issued a few days ago have rejected all the major recommendations of the Committee embodying changes from the existing principles of land revenue assessment. Regarding the basis of assessment the Resolution says that "rental value, where it can be ascertained, must be adopted as the sole basis for fixing the assessment, all other considerations being regarded as merely

subordinate factors, useful only as explanatory or confirmatory of, or supplementary to, the foregoing factor". The Government therefore reject the amendment of Sec. 107 as recommended by the Committee and adopts with slight verbal modification the one proposed by the official members of the Committee which is as follows:- "The revision of assessment of land revenue shall be based upon rental value, but regard shall also be had to the general economic conditions and history of the tract. When in the judgment of the settlement officer the rental statistics are insufficient to form a basis for proposals his proposals for revision shall be based on the following factors: (1) the general economic condition and history of the tract, (2) the trend of prices, (3) the proximity of markets, (4) the state of communications and (5) the result of crop experiments. Rental value is measured by the price for which land is or would be leased (for the most advantageous use) as determined by the real rents paid in open competition during the five years immediately preceding the revision settlement, "provided that if an improvement has been effected in any land by or at the expense of the holder thereof, the portion of the rental value due to the said improvement shall be excluded from the assessable rental value." The Resolution says:- "The Governor in Council considers that he may appropriately adhere to the present practice of regarding 50 per cent. of the rental value as the maximum limit of the proportion which the state is entitled to take, and that this as a principle should be embodied in the law on the subject." Regarding the standing advisory committee the Resolution observes "the Governor in Council regrets that he is unable to recommend to the Government of India the insertion of a clause in the Land Revenue Code to give effect to this suggestion." The Government agree, says the Resolution, to the recommendation of the Committee regarding the limits of enhancement of assessment.

In view of this summary rejection of the recommendations of the Committee it is useful to recall the assurances given by the Hon'ble Sir C. V. Mehta, while winding up the debate on the Land Revenue Assessment Committee resolution in March 1924. Appealing to the members of the Council, he said:- "if as a result of the deliberations or report of the Committee they make any radical changes in the principles of assessments, we shall apply them with retrospective effect to the new revision, however few - I believe there will be very few, if any, - revised assessments that may be made." Sir Lalubhai Samaldas, while speaking on the resolution on the subject moved by Rao Bahadur R. R. Kale in March last made a statement from his position of responsibility as a member specially nominated for the occasion, which deserves notice. He said "I fear that my honourable friends opposite have laid greater stress on the minutes of dissent by official members of that Committee (Land Revenue Assessment Committee) than on the recommendations of the Com-

mittee itself. I drew the attention of honourable members to the end of paragraph 33 on page 20 where the Committee says that in fixing the assessment regard should be had to the 'profits of cultivation.' Rental value is not mentioned here, and though it is included in the list that follows it has not been put as the first item but as the sixth one. Those honourable members who stated that the Committee had recommended rental value alone as the basis will now see that the basis recommended is the profits of cultivation." Sir Lalubhai Samaldas acted as Chairman of the Land Revenue Assessment Committee during his appointment as Acting Revenue Member in the absence of Sir C. V. Mehta. It cannot be said that Sir Lalubhai correctly understood the official attitude regarding the existing policy of assessment of land revenue or the changes recommended by the Committee, either during his brief official career or when he made the statement quoted above. The Government Resolution may have caused some surprise even to him.

J. B. S.

(To be concluded.)

OUR EUROPEAN LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Paris, May 18.

FOR the moment, London is "the cynosure of neighbouring eyes." There are at least three distinct reasons for it, and together they serve as an excellent indication of the present international situation with all its possible actions, reactions, and interactions. The first of these is the sensational raid on "Arcos" made by the city police last week at the instance of the Home Secretary, Sir Joynson Hicks. Secondly, there is the visit of the President of the French Republic, M. Doumergue, to the British capital; and thirdly, the decision taken in the House of Commons, on the initiative of Mr. Baldwin, to apply the "guillotine" so as to ease the way for the Trade Disputes Bill. The more these factors are analysed, the more the present-day international complications become clear, and the conclusion is compelling that either Europe is face to face with a momentous war which will finally decide the issues, or a protracted struggle which will dissipate them, but along with them also the now contending forces. Either way there is little hope of salvation for the present order. But what behoves us to note, and note very carefully, is the part India will be called upon to play in any ensuing war in which England will figure large. This talk of war is no mere idle talk; every capital is anticipating it, and Foreign Ministers do not care to conceal that the present time exercises them more than ever, to avert a disaster. There are two things we should understand clearly: 1. Patriotism is nowhere so cheap to obtain now as in 1914 in Europe. Not only is there a strong peace movement except perhaps in Italy, but the average man has no illusions about war. Outside Italy nothing but real national peril can move the people to war and even when it is there, it would need all the propaganda that Governments are capable of to establish the fact. But for this well recognised reluctance the high-spirited Ministers would have driven their Governments into war long ago. 2. Power to-day is

vested in the hands of reactionaries, men for whom war knows no law. There is no limit short of which they would stop, and should there be any one among us who seriously doubts that in case of war the utmost of India's resources in men, money and produce, will not be strained, a severe disillusionment is awaiting him. In view of people's apathy in Great Britain and in the Dominions not only is this probable, but nothing else is possible. The Conservative Government is not one which will hesitate about it, and this time even the thin guise of indirect official pressure will be abandoned, and for excellent reasons which our Government will never be at a loss to find, the crushing burden will fall upon us. It is up to us to prevent it. Public opinion in Germany, France, and America fully recognises that the attitude which we in India will take in this matter will decide on which side Great Britain will incline—aggressive war or moderation. We could hardly believe less in ourselves. Besides, India's conspicuous participation in the last War has created the impression abroad that there was no oppression in the country and the entire people as one man stood behind the Government; Mr. Gandhi's renown may have contradicted it but it has not corrected it. And world opinion is not only indispensable for our cause, it is the entire ammunition we have.

THE RAID ON "ARCOS."

All the post-War diplomatic and commercial relations between Great Britain and Soviet Russia form the background for the sensational raid of London policemen upon the joint headquarters of Arcos Limited (The All-Russian Co-operative Society) and the Soviet Trade Delegation. The immediate background probably extends to the similar raid by Chang-Tso-Lin in Peking. It is believed that the raid which was prompted by information received at the Home Office and by Scotland Yard from the French Police, was to recover some important document concerned with naval construction alleged to have been wrongly secured by the Soviet House, London. But in the statement which the Home Secretary made in the House of Commons early this week he definitely said, "The document in question was not found" though, of course, he added: "The police have taken possession of certain papers which may bear upon the matter, and the examining of these papers is still proceeding"; and also, when Mr. Henderson demanded whether the Home Secretary would make a statement at a later date and whether the opportunity would be given to the House to debate the matter, "if the opposition desired to put down a vote of censure for their action in the matter a day would certainly be found for its discussion." The Government never succeeds in concealing its desire to force the General Election on an alarmist issue: if it is not China, let it be Russia once more!

But spectacular tactics such as these are a little lost upon the country at the moment; even Mr. Garvin mildly hints in the *Observer* "Judgment must be suspended upon the wisdom, as apart from the legality of this proceeding until it is known what was the precise occasion for it and whether the search has justified itself." This latter is a test which will always be answered to the satisfaction of the Government and already all criticism is forestalled by the carefully couched impression that it is undesirable to publish any information concerned as the case bears upon military and naval matters. But the wisdom is not only suspected, its contrary is fully confirmed. The Diplomatic correspondent of the *Observer* says: "It is known that the Foreign Office was not con-

sulted before the raid was carried out. Yet nothing short of a complete lack of imagination could make Scotland Yard and the Home Office assume that the raid would have no diplomatic interest. It is recognised in serious quarters that the action of the Home Office and Scotland Yard has forced the hand of the Foreign Office to declare its policy towards Russia at a moment when the Foreign Office had special reason for letting sleeping dogs lie. But since then the Home Secretary's statement in the House of Commons has revealed the fact that raid was effected with the knowledge and consent of Sir Austen Chamberlain: and that gives the Rothermere press an opportunity to deal with him. The *Paris Daily Mail* argues: "But he (Sir William Joynson Hicks) announced yesterday that both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary were consulted before the police were authorised to apply for a warrant of search. This disclosure deepens the mystery which attaches to Sir Austen Chamberlain's attitude to the Soviet. On Friday (May 13) the Soviet Charge d' Affaires in London, after the search of Arcos had begun, published a statement to the effect that so recently as February 16, Sir Austen Chamberlain had confirmed by a Note the right of the Soviet Trade Agent in London (whose premises were among those searched) to the privileges of official representatives of other Powers. But if this is so—and no official denial has yet been issued by the Foreign Office—Sir Austen first on February 16, gave the Soviet agent this guarantee; and then just a week later, on February 23, despatched his Note of protest to the Moscow Government." Nor is this all. The very next day after the raid London announced that a credit of £10,000,000 had been granted to Russia by an agreement signed by the director of the Midland Bank and the representatives of the Soviet Commercial Delegation. Though this has been refuted later as premature, the statement which Sir Allan Smith, Chairman of the management board of the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation, who is said to have been responsible for the opening of the negotiations between the Midland Bank and the Soviet Trade Delegation, made at the time is full of the most direct significance "I have been working towards this for some years. With this credit scheme, British industry will be able to carry on trade with Russia on a proper business basis and with none of the difficulties that have been experienced in the past. The credit is of the very greatest value to British trade, and has been made possible by the patriotic attitude of Mr. Reginald McKenna, Chairman of the Midland Bank, to whom I would like to pay a tribute. It is particularly unfortunate that at this time any trouble should have occurred, as the credit comes into operation immediately, and but for the Arcos raid the preliminary steps towards the placing of a number of important orders would have been already made." These statements and counter statements may not explain everything; but it should be obvious that the conclusion emerges clear from them that the present aggressive trend of British politics whether as regards China or Russia arises from one section of the Tories, who are in what Mr. Garvin has called a "nurrh-mood," and that the whole country is by no means behind them. Nevertheless, let us recognise, it is the mischief-makers who keep the power in their hands.

THE FRENCH PRESIDENT IN LONDON.

With the French President has gone to London also the Foreign Minister, M. Briand, in accor-

dance with usage; and while the London newspapers have been thriving on M. Doumergue's smiles and the classical scholarship that he displayed in his speech at Oxford, in Paris attention turns round the Briand-Chamberlain conversations. These are exacting times when certain things must mean everything or nothing, and that is true of the *Entente Cordiale* at the present moment: it cannot be fattened on presidential smiles and royal banquets alone. Such amenities have been none too rare even in the years immediately preceding 1914, and they have meant nothing in themselves. The visit has naturally occasioned considerable reflection and *Pertinax* writes in the *Echo de Paris*: "How many are the problems which every one treats in his own way without paying heed to the neighbour's reactions. As regards German affairs the differences of opinion are attenuated in appearance because the British conception has been imposed without contest (since the last election). But Locarno is above all a negation, the negation of an attentive and energetic defensive that we wished to adapt in order to give the European States, born or grown through the war time for establishing themselves on a solid basis. The treaties of October, 1925, are already obsolete and probably the feeble Sir Austen Chamberlain is the only one in the Foreign Office who puts an absolute faith in them. Most others have regarded them as nothing but as means of satisfying the demands made in the name of French security without being led into any annoying precise engagements. Will the two countries recognise some day that for them there is no rest but in the organisation of an alliance?" Who can mistake this tone which is the voice of the strong and victorious France speaking, conscious of her financial recovery and international position? It is the tone which M. Poincaré has adopted of late and to which even the Left papers have frequently asserted: it is also the tone which is exasperating Germany.

The position of Herr Stresemann in relation to the occupation of the Rhineland is becoming extraordinarily difficult. For sixteen months the German Foreign Minister has been asking both Paris and London why after Locarno should German territory be occupied. The only answer he has received has been in effect that he should be patient. He himself has shown all a German's patience but he could hardly be expected to submit his opposition in Berlin to similar endurance. Both M. Briand and Sir Austen Chamberlain regard Dr. Stresemann as one of the sides of the mystic triangle of Locarno. It is widely known now that Herr Stresemann, himself contemplates resignation, because he finds himself unable to defend the Locarno policy when Paris and London refuse to apply the Locarno principle to what is regarded in Germany as a test case. June 15 as the date fixed by the Council of Ambassadors for the fulfilment of the conditions for the Rhineland evacuation—that is the first and most important problem before the *Entente Cordiale*.

Besides, lately the belief has gained ground in England that there has been an increase of friendship between France and the United States through the discussion of the recent proposals for the mutual outlawry of war just when the American attitude in China is drawing asunder the two countries. Mr. Churchill's Note to Washington on the debt question has only deepened the cleavage. There has been no lack of recognition in France that Great Britain is raising at Washington the interest of Europe in general, but when has logic mattered in

diplomacy? It is enough to recognise that Great Britain and France have moved in contrary directions as regards America and that provides ample opportunity for deepening the international complications which characterise the time.

And lastly, British support of Italy in the Albanian Discussion has embittered France. Here again French opinion recognises that in what may become the critical relations between Great Britain and Russia, Italian support can more probably be counted upon than French by the former though that does not in any way alter the fact that the circumstance endangers the *Entente Cordiale*, specially in view of the relations between France and Italy. The Tory method of solving these problems is to hand them over to the Military.

MR. BALDWIN'S "GUILLOTINE"

In 18 hours which were spent on the Committee stage the result of oppositionist obstructions has been that only seven words of the Trade Disputes Bill were approved. The Prime Minister pointed out that at this rate it would take the House at least till the end of August or the beginning of September to pass even the first clause, and so, himself moved the "guillotine" resolution which gave another twelve days to the Committee stage, three days to the report stage, and one to the third reading. In reply to Mr. Baldwin's speech the Socialists walked out in a body and the Government carried the motion by 259 to 13 votes. It is also worth noting that when the Home Secretary answered questions about the Arcos raid in the House, a Socialist Member, Mr. Ponsonby, put the question: "May I ask whether this raid was timed to coincide with the Committee stage of the Trade Unions Bill?" and received from the Speaker the answer, "That kind of question carries an insinuation." No one who is acquainted with the state of public opinion in England on the Bill will accept that 259 to 13, expresses the sense of the country as regards the resolution even excluding the Socialist Members who walked out. Yet, there be no doubt that if the Government appealed to the country on some such issue as China, or what is now more probable Russia, it would be returned again with the same overwhelming majority. It is indeed well known that the Tories have been long wanting to force a general election on an alarmist basis. The paradox is due to the electoral system which has stood in need of reform for some time. To touch it will be to lose an obvious advantage, and the Conservative Government are not foolish enough to jeopardise their chance of passing off every goose in their legislation for a swan. And yet—what else can be the end of this sort of thing except an opposition which will grow increasingly restive and despair of parliamentary methods and a Government which will grow increasingly dominant and defiant of outside opinion? It is not for nothing that lately there has been so much talk of revolution in England and the London clubs are humming with rumours of a dictatorship.

It is widely known that there are strong differences of opinion in the Cabinet itself as regards the relations with the Soviet. The Diehards who urge a rupture with Russia and who invoke war count upon the poor finances of the Soviet Government. The Soviets are notoriously poor, and it is true they cannot afford a war. But then the Bolshevist Government, like every other, has a moral prestige to maintain with regard to its own subjects. It is by no means as stable as it appears to be and cannot long face the indignation of the Russian people consequent upon the flights to them, without some show of re-

taliation. Their philosophy may be abhorrent to all Europe alike, but the International situation contains factors against which philosophical differences cannot weigh, nor even lack of funds will greatly cripple one's influence. There never was ampler scope for intrigue and no one can say how and what will be the fight, once the forces of war are let loose.

REVIEWS.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF JAPAN.

THE INDUSTRY AND TRADE OF JAPAN.

BY S. UYEHARA, M. Sc. (P. S. King and Son, Ltd., London.) 1926. pp. 326. 8½ × 5½. 15s.

EVERYBODY interested in the economic development of India, especially the members of the Central and Provincial Legislatures, should carefully read and closely think over the pages of Mr. Uyehara's book because it clearly shows how a nation determined to do it can entirely modernise its economic structure within the short space of twenty-five to thirty-five years. Down till 1853 Japan was a typical, mediæval nation, with its feudal landlords and hungry tenants, ancient handicrafts, simple life and all the rest of it. For over two centuries since 1637, the Shoguns who administered the country in the name of the Emperor had enforced complete seclusion from the rest of the world on the island state. In 1853 Commodore Perry anchored his American fleet in Tokio Bay and let it be known through his guns that 'the rest of the world' did not intend to permit Japan to live like a hermit in the family of nations. The doors had to be opened to foreign trade. Within four years, Treaty ports, extra-territorial concessions, control over customs duties and all the other paraphernalia of Western aggression came definitely to be set up on Japanese soil. The whole nation felt humiliated. The prestige of the Shogunate Government sadly collapsed. The time came for the privileged classes to surrender their power and after a few years of internal commotion, the long established Shogunate administration came to an end with the Meiji Restoration of 1867. With that year the era of reconstruction on modern lines began in Japan. The new Government was convinced that its chief function was to teach its people by all possible means the modern methods of economic activity in all its branches. Had an Industrial Commission and a Fiscal Commission, anticipating the Indian model, been appointed by the Japanese Government in 1868 they would doubtless have reported that agriculture always had been, was and always would be the premier Japanese industry; that a nation with centuries of feudal tradition behind it could be industrialised only very, very, very slowly; that Japan had very poor resources in iron ore, that her coal fields were inconveniently situated; that the seams of coal were thin, that the coal was of poor coking quality; that Japan could not grow cotton or wool; that it was poor in capital, technical skill and organisation; that a policy of Protection would lead to the penalisation of the consumer, the creation of vested interests and the exploitation of workers; that, in short, the best thing for Japan was to concentrate on the improvement in quality and quantity of her natural products viz. rice, silk and tea and stimulate cottage industries connected with those national raw materials; and that for this purpose a Royal Commission on Agriculture and Sericulture should without loss of time be appointed. Mr.

Uyehara, however, does not mention any such Commission activity on behalf of the Government. What he does describe in no uncertain terms is how far a number of years the Government pioneered in the establishment and management of all sorts of industries on modern lines—cotton and woollen textiles, coal-mining, iron-smelting, steel-making, machinery-making, ship-building, railway construction, shipping and what not—by employing foreign experts and importing foreign experts and importing foreign machinery wherever necessary, but always with a view to substitute national personnel and equipment as early as could be done. After a period of state pioneering and also simultaneously with it, the Government encouraged private enterprise by means of loans, guarantee of dividends, import duties, subsidies, purchases of state requirements, etc. It was the policy of a mother teaching her child to walk and glorying in its achievements and independence. The chief details as to how this was done may be gathered from the pages of Mr. Uyehara's book where all the information, statistical and other, is given in an authentic manner. In the early eighties Japan shook off her shackles regarding treaty ports, extra-territoriality, customs duties etc. which China is still struggling against and by her success in the war with China in 1894-95 Japan showed that in twenty-seven years she had rebuilt her war and peace fabric on modern lines. Ten years later, Japanese success on the land and sea in the war with a first-class European power, Russia, left no doubt that a single generation was enough for an Eastern nation to learn Western methods of production of war-time and peace-time goods and services.

The handicaps referred to above in the way of the economic modernisation of Japan, viz. the lack of raw materials and of coal and oil and iron-ore are really very heavy and the wonder is that she could progress to the extent she has done in spite of them. But there are seeds of real anxiety in that situation for a Japanese thinker.

Though the matter in Mr. Uyehara's book is very informing to an Indian, the language is faulty in so many places that Indian readers need to be warned about it in advance.

A couple of maps of Japan and the Japanese Empire should have been given in the book to enable a reader to locate the various places mentioned in it which he may never in his life have heard of before. The arrangement of the various chapters in the book, too, does not strike one as particularly logical.

The price of the book is too high, even considering that these are the days of high prices, and that in the book trade in particular high prices are fashionable.

In spite of all this, the book ought to be read and thought over by every Indian interested in the long delayed economic rebuilding of his country and ought certainly to find a place in every college and public library in India.

R. M. J.

PSYCHOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY.

PSYCHOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY. By W. H. R. RIVERS. (The International Library of Psychology, Philosophy and Scientific Method). (Kegan Paul, London.) 8½ × 5½. pp. 317. 15s.

EDITED by Dr. Elliot Smith, these posthumous papers are frankly intended to illustrate and maintain the theory of the early diffusion of culture.

from a single source, already familiar to readers of the SERVANT OF INDIA. That they do so is undeniable; and there is no doubt that any collection of Dr. Rivers' papers and lectures, bearing on the point, would do the same. Himself a psychologist of the first rank, the late Dr. Rivers was the pioneer opponent of that psychological theory that makes different groups of men evolve identical social institutions and material inventions independently. He might not go to the extreme of asserting that the same thing has never been invented twice, but he demands proof of such parallelism and such proof can normally be only negative. Meanwhile, in many apparent cases of independent evolution he can bring proof of connection.

There are, however, other points brought out in this volume, of even greater interest to the general reader. One is, the dependence of primitive institutions upon religio-magical ideas rather than upon mutual benefits. It would be supposed, for example, that in trade, if anywhere, we would find an institution which had evolved to meet practical needs. However in the S. E. Archipelago of New Guinea "Some of the islands are fertile and grow extensive crops, while others are rocky islets on which food sufficient for the needs of the inhabitants cannot be grown. These smaller islands are the seat of definite industries, such as the making of pottery and canoe building, while the commodities so produced are bartered for the food of the larger and more fertile islands." This would seem to be a clear case of economic adaptation; but on the other hand the useful articles are only exchanged as an accompaniment of the ceremonial exchange of two entirely useless articles, existing only for the purpose, and going round a circle of islands, the one kind in one direction and the other in another.

Dr. Rivers shows that warfare and slavery similarly are magico-religious phenomena; the motive, when warfare takes place after murder or rape, is the adjustment of the community and not revenge, so that in some cases the murderer is taken into the tribe of the wounded man. It is even possible that the thought in the savage's mind, as he sows his crops, is not their use for food but their use in religious ceremonial.

With this conception of the meaning of life, it is more easy to understand the possibility of the loss of useful arts, which Dr. Rivers proves to have taken place in the case of pottery, canoes, and the bow and arrow. If a small body of immigrants possess the art of making these things, and preserve it, as savages do, as a religious rite, it is not impossible that they will die out, and the art be lost. Use of a thing does not imply the knowledge of how to make it.

Among the most interesting of these papers is that on intellectual concentration. Dr. Rivers attacks the popular belief that people of a low state of culture lack the faculty to maintain attention; and attributes this impression to the fact that the subjects on which people normally engage their attention are not interesting to them. "In subjects in which they can take an interest, over and over again, a conversation sustained not for 'a minute or two' but for three or four hours has reduced me to a pitch of mental exhaustion and incapacity such as I rarely, if ever, reach as a result of the most complex conversation at home, my companion remaining alert and enthusiastic to the end, apparently ready to continue the conversation indefinitely." Here is good news and encouragement for those engaged in the education and uplift of the aborigines of India.

WALTER O. FITCH.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

CHILDREN'S COURTS. By W. CLARKE HALL.
(George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London.) 1926.
7½ x 4¾, pp. 287. 7s. 6d.

IT is only within the last thirty years or so that even the most advanced modern States have begun to take a rational view of the child offender: that he breaks the law not so much because of an innate irremediable anti-social tendency as because of physical defects coupled with bad environment, such as parental neglect, bad companions, want of rational amusement or employment and the presence of special temptation or poverty. In dealing with him the object of the State therefore should be to correct rather than punish him. To achieve this object the first essential is to protect the young offender from contact with hardened adult criminals and also from the ordinary methods of the police. Hence the institution of separate Children's Courts, remand houses, medical examination of the offenders, probation officers, industrial and certified schools, etc. In this, as in other matters relating to child welfare, the United States of America have adopted the most enlightened policy; but their example is also being widely followed by most European countries. No better justification of this policy is called for than the steady decrease in juvenile crime observed in England between 1917 and 1924, where the policy was first adopted in 1908 and gradually extended. In 1917 as many as 51,323 children were charged before the juvenile courts, but in 1924 only 28,769. Even more striking is the reduction in East London, over which our author exercises jurisdiction as magistrate: in 1916 the number of children charged was 1050, but it steadily decreased to 311 in 1924.

We in India have just made a beginning. Madras, Bengal and Bombay have passed special Children Acts and started a few certified schools. There is a State-aided remand home in the City of Madras, while Bombay has very recently instituted a separate children's court with two whole time probation officers.

But what is done so far is only a drop in the ocean. The probation system, the most important item in the programme, has yet been adopted only in the city of Bombay. What difference this system makes in the subsequent life of the young offender is brought home to us by the experience of the United States, quoted in the book under review at pages 217-218. "It is claimed by Judge Lindsay that the records of the Denver Court now show that 90 per cent. of the children thus dealt with under its administrative and probationary care turn out to be good citizens, while the records of children brought to jails and Criminal Courts show that 75 per cent. of them return to crime." Probation work, which involves the study of the environment of each child put on probation, watching and helping him or her with advice and guidance and also finding suitable work appeals strongly to a good many educated people in Europe and America. Many university graduates, especially women, choose it as a profession, while others are glad to serve as voluntary officers. It is to be hoped that probation work will make a similar appeal to our educated countrymen also.

Mr. Hall has produced a lucid and interesting book of reasonable length. His sympathetic understanding of child nature has been enriched by an experience of some thirteen years as a Juvenile Court magistrate in London. He has therefore many useful suggestions to make. The book will be found invaluable to all interested in social welfare, particularly to magistrates and social workers.

V. VENKATASUBBAIYA.

SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY.

MEMBERS' WORK IN 1926-27.

MR. THAKKARS' REPORT.

MY work is mostly among the aboriginal and depressed classes of Gujarat, and for that purpose I have made Dohad in Panch Mahals my headquarters for nearly five years past. The Bhil Seva Mandal, founded and organized by me for the uplift of Bhils of Gujarat, is expanding year after year as funds permit. This Mandal is now conducting five boarding and eight day schools and has employed an itinerant Vaid. One of the boarding schools is situated in the Navsari district of H. H. the Gaekwar's territory. The Mandal has undertaken fresh work among another aboriginal tribe, viz. the Nayaks in Halol Taluka of the Panch Mahals, by opening a day school for their children, and a boarding school will also be opened shortly in that area. A social survey of this tribe has also been made and published in Gujarati. The Mandal has now 6 life workers (for 20 years), including one from the Bhil community among its workers, and they took their vow of service to the Bhils in the Rama temple situated in one of the Ashrams (or boarding schools) of the Mandal in February last. The annual expenditure of this Mandal is about Rs. 30,000. For the collection of funds for the Bhil Mandal's work I had to go about in various towns of Gujarat and in Bombay. Though one-third of the current expenses are paid by the Gujarat Provincial Congress Committee, the remaining two-thirds of recurring expenditure and the whole of the money required for erecting buildings has to be met out of small donations.

I am the President of the Antyaja Seva Mandal, a body of workers for the depressed classes of Gujarat. Several day schools and boarding schools are conducted by this Association, which is financed wholly by the Gujarat Provincial Congress Committee. Besides inspecting these schools in the various districts of Gujarat, I have also to supervise the erection of two buildings at Navsari and Bodal (Borsad Taluka) in connection with the same.

I also take interest in the social uplift work carried on by the Gujarat Provincial Congress Committee among the Kaliparaj, now called Raniparaj (or forest tribes). I am a member of the Raniparaj Enquiry Committee that goes round in the whole of Gujarat wherever these tribes reside and enquires after their economic, social and general condition and their relation with the people of the plains. The reports of this enquiry are published in the papers from time to time.

INTENSIVE WORK IN PANCH MAHAL DISTRICT,

As the sub-divisional town of Dohad is my headquarters, I am able to take part in all the public movements of the district. I am a member of the District School Board, which has charge of all the schools in villages and visit a large number of schools every month. I am the President of the District Branch of the Co-operative Institute and as such am in close touch with about 50 Bhil Co-operative Credit Societies and organize new societies in villages. I am also a member of the Executive Council of the Institute in Bombay and a member of the Taluka Local Board. In this capacity I have to supervise several works, digging of village wells and construction of roads. As member of the Excise Advisory Committee of

Dohad and Jhalod Talukas, I get an insight into the inner working of the Excise Department.

SCOUTING.

I have introduced the boy scout system in all my boarding schools and some of my day schools and have about 200 scouts all told. About 30 of my workers have received training as scoutmasters. Boyscouting is also introduced through my effort in all the District Board Village Schools, where it is becoming popular, the total number of boy scouts in the whole district, backward though it is, being about 1000. This is the work of the last 9 months only.

TEMPERANCE CONFERENCE.

The Gujarat Temperance Conference held in Godhra under the presidentship of Mr. Chunilal M. Gandhi was organized by me. The Conference passed several resolutions, which were sent on to several Indian States and the Bombay Government.

WORK FOR INDIAN STATES SUBJECTS.

I presided at the Bhavnagar State Subjects Conference in May 1926, and waited in a deputation upon the Administrator of the State, Sir P. Pattani, discussing with him the various resolutions passed at the Conference. Moreover I toured in villages of the State to make a first-hand acquaintance with the people and their grievances, if any. I was also elected President of the Kathiawad Political Conference which was to meet in March last, but for various reasons has not yet met. I am one of the Secretaries of the All-India States subjects Conference which is to meet in Bombay in July next month.

A. V. THAKKAR.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- THE INDECISIVENESS OF MODERN WAR AND OTHER ESSAYS. By J. HOLLAND ROSE. (G. Bell & Sons, Ltd. London.) 1927. 9 x 5½. pp. 204. 10s. 6d.
THE REVOLT OF MODERN YOUTH (Edition). By Judge Ben B. Lindsey, & Evans. Wain Wright. (Bon & Liveright, New York,) 8½ x 5½. pp. 364.

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