

THE Servant of India

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TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

THE thoroughly representative and distinguished deputation that waited on H. E. the Viceroy on Saturday last to give expression to their apprehensions in regard to the East African Federation Commission suffered from a very serious disability in that they did not know what exactly were the decisions of the Colonial Office, as announced by the Governor of Kenya, in regard to the Feetham Committee's recommendations and an increase in European representation in the Legislative Council of Kenya. Sir E. Grigg's announcement took place in Nairobi on 30th August and the deputation waited on Lord Irwin on 17th September and yet, although as many as eighteen days had passed, our legislators had no authoritative version of the official announcements regarding momentous changes impending in the East African constitution. This fact throws a lurid light on the lack of organization both here and in East Africa, which can be remedied at no great expenditure of money. If unofficial members are so unready and unbusinesslike, the officials are not more prompt in the discharge of their duties. The Viceroy in his reply re-echoed the deputation's inability to get a cabled report of Sir E. Grigg's speech, and, coming as it does from the Viceroy with all the resources at his command, the helplessness voiced by him sounds most pathetic. "As regards Sir Edward Grigg's speech," he said, "on his return to Kenya, they had cabled for it, but had not yet received the official version of either the speech or the Feetham Commission's recommendations." If only the deputation had waited for another day, they would have received by mail the full text of Sir E. Grigg's speech in newspapers, as we in Bombay and Poona had received it at the time the Viceroy was receiving the deputation, and yet Lord Irwin was unable to obtain a report of it by cable eighteen days after the speech was

delivered! So much about Sir E. Grigg's speech, but why did not the Viceroy receive the Feetham Commission's recommendations by then? Why on earth was there any need for him to cable for them? For these recommendations were available to the public at least a month before Sir E. Grigg arrived in Kenya and are being discussed in the Colony up and down, for a little less than two months, and still our Viceroy has to cable for these recommendations and, what is more, is unable to obtain a reply. This is not a solitary instance of the remissness of the Simla Government. Sir M. Habibullah had not seen on 18th August a copy of the Hansard containing a speech delivered by Mr. Amery on 19th July; he had to rely upon newspapers for a report of that important speech, while non-official members, as Pandit Kunzru told him, had Hansard ready with them. Mr. Bajpai's admission that he had not heard even of the appointment of the Feetham Commission however caps all. Just a little expenditure of money on such necessities as Hansard and other official publications by the Government of India, which spends with both its hands on trifles, will not be amiss. Or if they will be so penurious in the matter of purchasing publications, why do not they make Poona their headquarters? We should be glad to lend them the use of our library which we have built up with our poverty! Or is a will to consult publications that are by their side that is the real lack? To be serious, the Government of India has shown itself to be guilty of criminal neglect in regard to this matter, and this, we fancy, is typical of their way of handling Colonial affairs.

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THE Viceroy in his reply assured the deputation that the Government of India were fully alive to the gravity of the situation and would do, when occasion arose, all they could to relieve it. Perhaps the reply gave satisfaction to the deputationists too, but we for our part feel that Lord Irwin does not appreciate to the full the far-reaching implications of the new White Paper and the complete reversal it makes in the British Government's former East Africa policy. "The only important respect," said he, "in which the White Paper of July, 1927, differed from the previous White Paper was in respect of the possibility of bringing about closer association in the discharge of the responsibilities and trusteeship of the Government." This attempt to belittle the revolution in the East Africa policy that is now imminent as if it were a minor change would be regarded as disingenuous in any one whose sincerity was not above question as is Lord Irwin's, but against the Viceroy we have a right to make this complaint, that he has not as yet paid sufficient attention to the new orientation of policy, familiar as

he undoubtedly is with the broad lineaments of the problem. The concentration of native trusteeship in His Majesty's Government and a rigorous exclusion of all immigrant communities from it are the keystone of the colonial policy as it has been in force. The British Government evolved and at any rate enunciated, this policy in 1923 and, with the help of it, negated the just claims of Indians. There was really no logical connexion between the trusteeship doctrine and the rejection of the Indian demands. But the Government could plausibly argue that, because they held native interests supreme, they could not concede all that the Indians were asking for. Now however Indian agitation has been successfully countered, they can afford to throw on the scrap-heap the doctrine of native trusteeship and give rein to the white exploitation policy which had temporarily to be put into the background. An Indian can legitimately contend that the theory of the trusteeship of the natives was from the beginning a deliberate pretence set up for no other purpose than that of putting a good face on an ugly policy. Lord Irwin stated, in order to assuage the feelings of the deputation, that Mr. Amery still held by the terms of the White Paper of 1923 inasmuch as self-government was not being conferred; but that White Paper had ruled out an unofficial majority just as sternly as responsible self-government, and yet the first thing Sir E. Grigg, the Governor of Kenya, does since returning to Kenya after his confabulations with the Colonial Secretary is to discuss with his Council what rearrangements will be necessitated in the constitutional machinery after an unofficial majority is conceded! It is best in the interest of all that this pretence of native trusteeship is given up once for all. Lord Irwin, if he cannot set matters right, should at least try to persuade the British Government to abjure cant. If he succeeds in doing this, he will have performed a service of real value in the interest of truth.

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THE organization of commercial conferences is a sure indication that the importance of commerce as an important avenue to national wealth and progress is being recognised by the younger generation. They could not however do without guidance from the older generation and have called stalwarts like Mr. Walchand Hirachand and Rao Bahadur Hanmantram to give them the benefit of their long experience and guidance for the future. The latter as chairman of the Reception Committee after recounting the history of Indian industries stressed the need for State aid but at the same time admitted that the main reliance must be placed on private enterprise. His appeal to the unemployed intelligentsia to seek outlets for their energies in commerce and industry will, we hope, revolutionize the outlook of our university men. Mr. Walchand's presidential address is just what we would expect from one who has risen to the highest post of honour in the Indian Chamber of Commerce by dint of patience and ability. Mr. Walchand has championed the cause of the State Bank and is decidedly in favour of the supervision and control of the Central Legislature on the question of the Reserve Bank of India. With regard to the controversial question of the exchange value of the Rupee, he plumps for the 1s. 4d. ratio and regards the deflation practised during the last two years as a grievous mistake and recommends a renewal of the agitation for the pre-war ratio. His demand for a net-work of roads, connecting rural and urban areas is perfectly just, but for this the District Boards should be held more responsible than the Local Government. Mr. Walchand's earnest plea for co-operation and combination amongst

industrialists ought to rouse them to the danger of competing among themselves. Nobody can dissent from his proposal to establish a Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce which will ensure concerted action and continuous effort to foster Indian trade and industries. Mr. Walchand pays a warm tribute to the simplicity of life and self-sacrificing nature of Maharashtra and addresses an appeal to its citizens to show the same sacrifice in the field of commerce as they did in politics. No better appeal could be made to young Maharashtra. As if suspicious of his Gujarat and Marwar friends striking out a path of their own, he does not forget to advise them to become members of the proposed new Chamber and work in union with their local confreres. We trust such an earnest exhortation from a business man of Mr. Walchand's eminence will be taken to heart by the business community.

* * *

IN carrying against Government the demand for Skeen debate in effect being given to the unanimous recommendations of the Skeen Committee, the Assembly has, it seems to us, correctly reflected Indian opinion. The attitude of the Government with regard to the Report has always been dubious. They took nearly six months in making it available to the public and when they did so, they resorted to the extraordinary course of adding an ominous foreword which virtually nullified the report. If the foreword was intended merely to disavow their support to the recommendations in the Report, nobody would have any quarrel with the Government; nor would publication of the Report have given rise to any misunderstanding as to their attitude. The foreword seems however to have been designed to achieve a more comprehensive purpose, viz. that of preparing the public for the same being shelved. The fairly liberal proposals of the Committee with regard to Indianisation will be reviewed by the Imperial military authorities with particular reference to their reaction on British recruitment and perhaps a totally different, and presumably, (to Indian opinion) very much less satisfactory method devised. Reports of Committees are generally followed by Government action with respect to such recommendations as find acceptance at their hands; but in the present case, as the foreword makes clear, the Committee's Report will be used "as a starting-point for discussion with His Majesty's Government to whom the Government of India will in due course forward their considered views on it." During the debate on the Report, the foreword naturally came in for much deserved condemnation. The Assembly did well in not listening to the Commander-in-Chief's advice for the withdrawal of the resolution, for it did not seem to be backed up any strong arguments. He made it clear that their views, which by the way were provisional, had been forwarded to the Secretary of State, but would give no indication as to the lines on which they ran. He apparently regards the establishment of public schools as a condition precedent to the establishment of an Indian Sandhurst and sets much store by the scheme of a public school which his colleague, the Hon. Mr. Das, has in mind. We do not know how long it would take for that scheme to materialise and are even prepared to concede that whenever it should do so, it will serve as a feeder to the proposed Sandhurst. But, as pointed out by Mr. Jinnah, such schools are not regarded quite a necessity in any other country and their absence ought not to be utilised by Government to delay the establishment of a military college in India. Sir Abdul Qaiyum seems to have changed his mind with regard to Indianisation since he appended his signature to the Report; for

unless he is misreported, he warned his countrymen against going in for "too much Indianisation." His caution appears to be quite superfluous, when it is remembered that what the Assembly wanted was nothing more than the translation into action of the Skeen Committee's unanimous recommendations to which Sir Abdul Qaiyum was himself a party. Col. Crawford could of course not be expected to be particularly friendly to the Report. So far as he was concerned, he made no secret of his feeling that what with the falling off of British recruitment and the lack of the necessary educational facilities, "the whole scheme had already fallen to the ground." He suggested a way out of the difficulty, viz. the constitution of a second army officered by Indians, which, though not wanting in originality, savoured of racial segregation and would also have considerably added to the already intolerable military burden.

* * *

THE reform about restricting the age of marriage has long been overdue and we think it a waste of time to circulate the **Child Marriage Prohibition Bill.** Bill for eliciting public opinion. Public opinion has declared itself all these twenty or thirty years and nothing new can possibly be known which is not already public property. It is surprising that Government themselves supported the motion for circulating the Bill; probably they did it for maintaining the attitude of religious neutrality to which they are pledged. Considering however that the Bill is sponsored by a non-official member, Government need have no compunction in the matter, especially in view of the fact that prominent Hindu politicians are not only in favour of the Bill but regard it as too cautious and halting. The prevention of child marriages is accepted by all sections of Hindus as part of their social creed and there ought really to be no dissentient voices. What troubles the minds of some Hindu leaders however is the thought that the legislation, even if passed, would not reach the masses except by way of undue coercion. The consideration that laws, even if coercive, set up a new standard which unconsciously acts upon the mass-mind by all-round imitation ought to satisfy their conscience. Even those who practise child marriage know that it is a bad thing and always appear to be apologetic. This piece of legislation therefore comes none too soon.

* * *

THE practice of dedicating minor unmarried girls to temples as *devadasis* is one of the blackest spots on Hindu religion. **Devadasis.** What this dedication means is a matter of common knowledge. The custom is luckily confined to particular castes and obtains only in some parts of the country. That however is no reason why it should not disappear as soon as possible. The question was recently raised in the Council of State by means of a resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Ramadoss Pantulu who asked for legislation with a view to put a stop to the detestable practice. Incidentally it is as comforting to find Swarajists using the legislatures for freeing Indian society of many of its evils, as to learn that Indian women generally and Devadasis particularly, have demanded such legislation. The remedy proposed by Mr. Ramadoss was an amendment of sections 372 and 373 of the Indian Penal Code "so as to make it clear that the criminal law of the land definitely assumed that employment as *devadasis* in temples was equivalent to employment for purposes of prostitution, casting the onus of proving the contrary on the girl's guardian and the trustee of the temple which promoted the dedication."

In this connection it is necessary to remember that the success of any scheme of reclamation of this unfortunate class of women is indissolubly bound up with the maintenance of suitable rescue homes at different centres; and the sooner Indian society realises their value and sets about the task of establishing them, the better. The attitude of the Government on this question is sympathetic and their two attempts, the one in 1913 and the other in 1925, came to nought only because suitable provision for the protection of reclaimed women was lacking and it was difficult to prove that dedication amounted to employment for prostitution. On the present occasion Mr. Pantulu was assured of their hearty co-operation should he promote any legislation on the subject. We hope the Government's offer of co-operation will be readily availed of.

* * *

A PASSING reference was made in a recent issue of this paper to the Press Act recently enacted in Janjira State and the view was expressed that it excelled in severity even the one proposed for Baroda. A study of the provisions of the Act fully bears out that view. Under the new Act, no printing press can be kept by anybody without a license, to be renewed yearly, from the District Magistrate. The prescribed fee is Rs. 10 for the original license and Rs. 2 for each renewal. The District Magistrate has been invested with unfettered discretion as to the conditions on which such license may be granted including the demand for a security varying between Rs. 500 and Rs. 5000 and the refusal to issue the license without assigning reasons. All cases of transfer of proprietorship of presses are to be treated as cases necessitating an original license. But this is by no means the worst feature of the new law. No book can hereafter see the light in Janjira without "the previous approval and sanction of the District Magistrate." This will of course be withheld if the book either directly or indirectly deals with any matter the publication of which is, among other things, "likely to (a) affect adversely any vital interests of the State, (b) to bring into hatred or contempt, or to shake the control of, the ruling authority or the highest officials in the administrative and the judicial departments of the State, (c) to encourage or incite disaffection against the ruling authority or the said officials or to lower them in the estimation of the public, etc." Thus even the mildest criticism of the Dewan and other departmental heads, which may be detected in any book submitted for the District Magistrate's approval, will justify him in prohibiting its publication. We have heard of contempt of court, but not that of administrative departments! It is here that Janjira strikes a line of its own. Hereafter the Dewan and his associates may safely go to sleep without the slightest fear of ever being bothered by so much as a whisper against their public acts. The provisions with respect to newspapers are even still more stringent. The ante-natal preliminaries in the case of a newspaper have been so devised that birth, if it at all takes place, may be a still birth. Previous sanction by the District Magistrate, payment of the heavy registration fee of Rs. 50, a security of Rs. 500 and a declaration that the journal will virtually abstain from any criticism of the State authorities and acts—these have been laid down as the pre-requisites to the publication of any paper. Even the Press legislation in Czarist Russia may indeed have to be characterised as liberal as compared to this draconian piece of legislation!

* * *

A TWOFOLD BREACH OF FAITH.

ALTHOUGH the East Africa White Paper of July last refers broadly to "immigrant communities" instead of singling out "white communities" as those which are to be taken into partnership with His Majesty's Government in discharging the responsibilities of Native Trusteeship—a fact on which Sir Muhammad Habibullah seized with such avidity in the Legislative Assembly as affording a salve to his conscience—Mr. Amery, as we pointed out before, referred in his speech exclusively to the whites and indeed used arguments in justification, which have (in his mind) a validity only in so far as they relate to the white population. The same holds true of the speech which Sir E. Grigg, Kenya's Governor, made to his Legislative Council in expounding the principles underlying the new White Paper: he never even once mentions Indians when he speaks of sharing the trusteeship or extending the political power; he refers only to Europeans, and, like Mr. Amery, adduces arguments which have no bearing upon Indians. The inference is plain that, in the constitutional developments that are impending in East Africa, the whites will be invested with power to control the policy, while Indians will be left out in the cold. This point is of such great importance that it is best to quote Sir E. Grigg's *ipsissima verba*. He says he heard of only two objections to the proposed association of the "Colonists who have made this country their home" in the exercise of the responsibilities of trusteeship and proceeds:

"The first was that East Africa in no part of it is a white man's country."

Sir E. Grigg then disposes of this argument. The implication of it is however plain that no question of sharing trusteeship responsibilities would have arisen if there were no white population in Kenya, for the only justification in the eyes of Sir E. Grigg of the new policy is the existence of white settlers in the Colony. It follows therefore that in developments that will follow power will be conferred only upon the whites. Sir E. Grigg then goes on:

"The other argument was that it was not right to trust settlers with power over the general policy of the Colony because their training was not adequate and their numbers not sufficient. I reply at once that it is not a question of numbers but of character and education. *If 12,500 odd is not a population to be trusted*, there is no reason why 50,000 should be more trusted, or 100,000. Everything depends upon the character, the experience and the education and not upon numbers. *There is only one school in which a population such as our white population here with its inherited character can learn, and that is the school of political responsibility.* No one, I verily believe, has more to gain than the African from a policy which draws out, in the settled population, its natural bent of honour towards the weak, its sturdy political sense and its instinct for fair play."

Sir E. Grigg, in answering this argument also, is

thinking only of the Europeans and we are sure he will not credit Indians with "the natural bent of honour towards the weak, sturdy political sense and instinct for fair play" to which he refers above. Indeed we are certain that when Indians will prefer a claim for equality he will use this very argument to defeat it. He will say: "it is not a question of numbers but of character and education."

The point, however, which we wish to make now is that Sir E. Grigg takes it for granted that the Federation Commission will recommend an unofficial majority and this, if it comes about, is contrary to the White Paper of 1923, to which adherence is professed. "But if the Commission," he says, "is to recommend the important constitutional transition from an official to an unofficial majority, certain other changes in the Legislature are essential. There must be of necessity a reduction in the strength of the Government benches, and the Government will be left with no working majority. It will not have the power to carry on. It is an old constitutional maxim, old in English history, that the King's government must be carried on and I think therefore that you will have to consider carefully the special power to prevent deadlocks and so on, which are necessary to a Government to carry on the King's government in a Legislature without a working majority. That is one of the constitutional problems which must be faced." The proposed change in the composition of the Council, which it would appear from Sir E. Grigg's speech has already been determined upon, is clearly against the injunction of the former White Paper which put an interdict not only on self-government, but on an unofficial majority. For the relevant words of the White Paper are: "His Majesty's Government cannot but regard the grant of responsible self-government as out of the question within any period of time which need now be taken into consideration. Nor, indeed, would they contemplate yet the possibility of substituting an unofficial majority in the Council for the Government official majority."

The breach of faith goes further than this. When decent opinion was alarmed at the time Sir E. Grigg went to London by the confident expressions used by white settlers that the Governor would secure an elected European majority in the Legislative Council, Lord Arnold raised the question in the House of Lords on 17th February of this year. Lord Arnold said on that occasion:

"The weighty pronouncement in the White Paper completely rejects for a very long time any idea of self-government, and it is scarcely less emphatic with regard to the possibility of substituting an unofficial majority in the Legislative Council for the Government official majority. . . . Yet within only three years of that ruling and with no advance whatever towards a native franchise, we have this demand put forward by Lord Delamere",

and supported, by the Governor. For, said Lord Arnold, Sir E. Grigg,

"I understand, is on his way home. I should like to ask the Government a few questions. What is the Government's attitude in relation to this demand for an elected European majority? Is he coming home to support that demand—nay more, is he coming home to press that demand? I have a report of a speech made by the Governor, I think on November 30 last, in which he refers to a resolution that he had received from the Convention of Associations urging that the time had come for a further step to be taken towards self-government in Kenya. He goes on to say that he understands that this view is widely shared and adds that it has his instinctive sympathy. I confess that I am surprised that the Governor should say this, having regard to all the circumstances and to the emphatic pronouncement in the White Paper of 1923."

Finally Lord Arnold asked for an assurance that His Majesty's Government would abide by the terms of the White Paper, whatever Sir E. Grigg might urge. And the Earl of Clarendon, answering on behalf of Government, gave the required assurance in the following words :

"In the circumstances which I have explained to your lordships the only statement which I can make at this moment on behalf of His Majesty's Government is that they adhere to the principles laid down in the White Paper, to which the noble lord has referred and which is known as the Kenya White Paper of 1923."

One of the main principles of the 1923 White Paper is the rejection of the whites' demand for an unofficial majority, and this assurance given in such explicit terms with specific reference to this demand should put an extinguisher on all talk about such a dangerous proposal and yet Sir Edward Grigg not only revives it as a proposal for consideration, but already speaks about it as if a recommendation to that effect had been made by the Commission yet to be appointed and the recommendation had been accepted by His Majesty's Government !!

Sir E. Grigg goes on in his speech to argue that communal representation must be an inescapable feature of the transitional constitution in which the unofficials are in a majority in the Legislative Council but possess no power to remove from office an executive which does not enjoy their confidence. How this follows we are unable to understand, but we are not concerned at the moment to traverse his proposition, but only to draw attention of the reader to the fact that his utterances, which for their effrontery are hard to beat, are in contravention not only of the cardinal principles of the White Paper of 1923, but of the assurance given by His Majesty's Government as late as February last.

THE LAW OF BLASPHEMY.

THE Select Committee in response to the conscientious objectors to the Bill on the ground of its curtailing the elementary right of freedom of speech has considerably amended the main clause of the Bill.

The addition of the words 'deliberate and malicious' to the word 'intention' leaves untouched the criticism of a reformer or a sociologist whose object cannot possibly be the hurting of the religious feelings of anybody. A considerable section in the country not only supports the Bill but has actually voiced a demand for it and to that extent the Bill may be said to satisfy a public demand. The various amendments proposed to specify writings for the purpose of comparative study or revival of religious beliefs as not coming within the definition of an insult to religious beliefs are clear proof however that a too wide application of the Bill is seriously apprehended. In this matter at least we must trust ultimately to the good sense of the judiciary for ensuring that the law operates only for the specific purpose mentioned in the preamble. It is clearly no use being ultra-sensitive about possible perversions against which there is always the check of healthy public opinion. The question however remains whether in cases where ill-feeling and enmity between classes of His Majesty's subjects is not produced, that is when 153—A does not apply, an insult to the religious feelings of any class should be penalised at all or, if penalised, should meet with a deterrent punishment. Mr. Belvi's fears that the Bill would stop the expression of honest opinions of scholars and historians are exaggerated no doubt; but such fears are significant of the suspicious attitude about the new Bill which is sufficiently wide-spread. A solace in the last resort is supplied by the promise of the Home Member that the words "deliberate and malicious intention" left no room for ambiguity about scholarly opinions being beyond the ambit of the new section. With all our solicitude for the interest of communal peace which is endangered by scurrilous writings we cannot bring ourselves to acquiesce in the creation of a new offence. It is contended by some that the Bill is necessitated by the abnormal situation created by the present communal tension. In that case we are justified in asking for a declaration that the Bill would operate only for two years or some such specified period and would automatically lapse at the end of the period. The dissenting minority of the Select Committee are quite pertinent when they say: "we consider it a regrettable concession to intolerance as we understand it." Mr. Sherwani however goes too far when he says that the Bill would encourage fanaticism instead of discouraging it. We cannot gainsay that really scurrilous literature in the field of religious controversy, inevitable when communal passions are roused, will be very largely checked by the new section. We are rather thinking of the wider question whether temporary ebullitions of feeling are better corrected by drastic laws or by the development of a sense of responsibility by means of a healthy public opinion and education in the widest sense. We wonder whether it is suggested by those who welcome the Bill that the phenomenon of scurrilous attacks against religions is going to be a permanent feature of our public life.

An important point that arose in the course of the discussion was whether the power to initiate proceedings should vest in the Government. On the

one hand people are not willing to trust the impartiality of the Executive to decide in these matters; the administration of 153—A at the hands of the Executive has caused widespread dissatisfaction. On the other hand to place the power of setting the law in motion in the hands of private persons would foster litigation and in times of communal tension defeat the very object of the Bill which is to ensure social peace. We think the second will be the greater evil and it is therefore well that the Executive is made the sole judge of the cases in which proceedings are called for. If the Government are at any time found to be remiss in their duty the Legislature ought to remind them of it by interpellation and other methods open to it. This ought to be a sufficient remedy against the failure of the Executive to hold the scales even.

Sir Hari Singh Gour has done well in pointing out that the Government of India are not the defender of the faith as His Majesty the King is in Great Britain, but are the preservers of peace. In spite of Mr. Jayakar's serious warning the offence is made non-bailable and this is calculated to make the Bill still more unpopular.

THE WORK BEFORE GENEVA.

GENEVA OR LOCARNO ?

(FROM OUR EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT.)

MARSEILLES, September 1.

WHEN the Council of the League of Nations meets at Geneva today and the Assembly next week, besides getting through the comparatively insignificant work on the agenda, they will have most likely to occupy themselves with rehabilitating the League's position and putting down the political temperature in Europe. The only controversial item is in the agenda of the Assembly and comes from the British Foreign Secretary who proposes to reduce the number of the regular annual sessions of the Council from four to three. His contention is that four excursions a year from the capital is more than what an important and busy official may be reasonably expected to make and that the nomination of a substitute will complicate the delicate question of foreign policy by importing a dual element into it. The smaller Powers who have been viewing with marked constraint the growing process of the eclipse of Geneva by Locarno, on the other hand, will not attempt to disguise their pointed disapproval of the domination of the Council and, more especially, its extra-League propensities. For them the League is above all the embodiment of a new political principle which seeks to work out by open discussion matters which had to be settled by stealth before; and an assemblage of free and equal sovereign Powers, no matter of what size or importance. Logically it would follow that they are concerned to make Geneva the effective and permanent centre of world's affairs and to force matters in such a way as to develop a greater responsibility on the part of the Council towards the Assembly than at present it need be inclined to feel.

The force of this theory was felt only the other day when M. De Jouvenel, a noted French publicist,

announced to M. Briand, the French Foreign Minister, his reluctance to take further part in the French delegations to Geneva. He charged the Great Powers with belittling Geneva and deliberately encouraging the old habit of secret compacts in supercession to the League principle. The essence of his accusation in other words was the sacrifice of Geneva for the much-vaunted Locarno. And now just on the eve of the Council's and Assembly's meetings comes Lord Cecil's resignation from the British Cabinet. His letter to Mr. Baldwin communicating the decision makes the grounds of difference public. In spite of Mr. Baldwin's retort that, having decided upon resignation, Lord Cecil had exaggerated the differences, it will be difficult to convince that Lord Cecil had not patiently for long tried to reconcile the attitude of his colleagues in the British Cabinet and the League ideals and had not resorted to this step reluctantly and inevitably. The immediate cause of Lord Cecil's resignation would seem to be what in his opinion was the lack of readiness on the part of the British Government to make the recent Three-Power Naval Disarmament Conference a success. He also makes his letter the occasion to point out that not only the future of British Empire but even that of the European civilisation depends on disarmament. According to him, it is by far the most important public question of the day and in saying that he shows his agreement with many distinguished observers and students of contemporary Europe. No one can doubt that with the League in disrepute the political situation in Europe will become doubly deplorable. It is the only moral force and ultimate ideal which gives some sort of stability to the disjointed European body-politic. And, broadly speaking, there are only two policies, allied and central, which go to make the League, and with which it stands or falls. One is disarmament and the other is the development of the principle of the equality of all Nations, great and small. Because in their opinion the League has proved unequal to maintain them, in quick succession, in France and Great Britain, two publicists of the first rank have sought to dissociate themselves from Geneva. It is as great a blow as any organisation can withstand, and the League cannot acquire that moral prestige which is its mainstay except by the association of men who are known for their independence and who are beyond the suspicion of being compromised by the exigencies of office.

Neither the internal situation in the Western European States (to speak of them only) nor their inter-relations would warrant running the risk of despending with the League or making it ineffective at this moment. The lack of every element which makes for certainty is the predominant characteristic of the present political situation in Europe. The Tories in Great Britain, Poincarism in France, and a perceptible return to Nationalism in Germany—triumphant reaction everywhere. It may be that the recent demonstrations in Europe against the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti are exaggerations; it may be that there are no proper correlations between causes and effects.

in them; but they have given some foretaste of what reactions can result on the other side when faced with great and incessant provocations. There can be no mistake about the tenseness of the situation which prevails in Europe. And Europeans know it. Also, "figure to yourself" as the French would say, the insistent talk of security in France when the Rhine-land occupation is in question; the corresponding disillusionment and hardening in Germany; the British attempts to steer clear between the two and import into the situation their own troubles; the startling significance of Italy; the vague uncertainties and concealed threat which Russia implies; the Anglo-American tension as a consequence of the collapse of the Naval Disarmament Conference and the mutual accusations; and the developments in the Pacific where Japan tends to take a decisive rôle. Yet the finer spirits in Europe are being driven to the conclusion that the Governments have proved unequal to the task at Geneva and the peoples must take it in hand. Unless the high priests of Locarno bestir themselves at Geneva and rehabilitate the League's position, they would have let it slip out of their hands.

OUR PARLIAMENTARY LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SIMLA, 18th September.

RESERVE BANK BILL.

THE Reserve Bank Bill still continues to engage the attention of the speculating minds of the members of the Assembly, although it is not on the agenda of the Session. That the hand of Whitehall was there was made clear by the resignation of Sir Basil Blackett, who is not a man to take things lying down. There was naturally a flutter in the Swarajist dovecot and the only way to express their resentment at the withdrawal of the Bill was to propose a vote of censure on the Government of India. But what would it lead to? The Swarajists thought that a vote of censure in those circumstances would in effect be a vote of confidence in the Government of India, and the Finance Member would be in a position to fight the Secretary of State and enable him to bring the Bill again before the Assembly. That was in fact what many leading lights of the Party desired to do; but they had to contend with the forces from outside, especially from some Bombay people, who in their hearts never cared for such a Bank. The Swarajists held meeting after meeting but they could not see their way out. At last Bombay opinion prevailed through Mr. Jamnadas and they decided discretion to be the better part of valour, and excused themselves from the responsibility, saying that they had shown their resentment in unmistakable terms by the 'walk out' on Thursday last. It is an open secret that the Bombay people who carried weight on this question were pulling the wires and the Press reports show that they have been jubilant over the fiasco. The Nationalists were divided among themselves, the leaders having radically differed on the point. Mr. Jinnah, as is always the case with him, held the trump card and would never care to lay it on the table. Till Tuesday morning, therefore, all were silent, eager to help Government out of its difficulties but at the same time trying to keep an air of aloofness; the official and the non-official European bloc was thus in a sorry plight; after manoeuvres and counter-manoevres, as far as the

confidential information goes, Mr. D. Chamanlal was persuaded to give the notice for adjournment. Very few people knew anything about it, as it is reported that the motion was received only half an hour before the commencement of the business. The House was surprised to find that a Swarajist should have tabled it in defiance of the decision of the Party. They thus found themselves again in a fix, and reluctantly and after a hard fight over it, decided to support it to save their faces. It was a sight to see Mr. Jayakar stand to support the motion in the name of the Nationalist Party. Pandit Malaviya, who followed, showed in unmistakable terms his hostility by saying that he would be glad if the Bill was dropped once for all, and no more time wasted on its further discussion! Still more astounding was the sight to see Government benches sitting silent, when the sense of the House was expressed, none raising even a solitary dissentient voice against it. It was merely a make-believe censure of the Government of India, which in fact meant a motion of support by the Assembly. Confidential information gains ground that Sir Basil would be able to bring the Bill before the House at a special session of the Assembly in November.

KHARAGPUR LOCKOUT.

There was another adjournment over the crisis at Kharagpur in the B. N. Railway workshops. Things have never been quiet there since the strike last winter. Government have decided to reduce the strength of the workshop by 2000, which, according to the opinion of the Labour Union, is nothing but an act of victimization. They have already turned out about 180 men and have given notices to about 600 men, although some of them have put in more than 15 years' service. Last week an attempt to draw the attention of the House failed, the President ruling it out as not very urgent. On Saturday matters came to a head when other workers in sympathy with the workers who have been discharged refused to work; the authorities then locked them out thus affecting 10,000 workers. Mr. Acharya's motion was admitted by the President, and after he moved it, Mr. Joshi supported it in an appealing speech. With the help of the information available to him, he showed that the action was nothing less than victimization, and that the plea of economy could not hold water when about 300 new men were employed, superior staff strengthened and the usual work given out to private contractors, which the Railway authorities had admitted to be more costly. He questioned whether the official members of the House would be prepared to go out under such conditions without a pension and asked Government if the State had no duty towards the poorer workers. The Commerce Member in reply said that it was nothing else but economy, which was long overdue, as new machinery was installed and as the workshops were overstaffed during war-time. He said the same steps were taken by other Railways. The motion was carried by a large majority.

SKEEN COMMITTEE.

The discussion of Dr. Munje's resolution was resumed on Wednesday. Mr. Cocke advised the members not to divide the House on this point and counselled patience to give the Government time for consideration of the report. Munshi Iswar Saran retorted that it stood in wide contrast to the hurry in giving effect to the Report of the Lee Commission. He echoed the feelings of many when he said: "It hurts our national self-respect that we cannot defend our own country and have to depend upon others for it." It was shocking to see Sir Abdul Qaiyum urge that India should concentrate herself on the gift of the Territorial Forces and not hurry up with the

Skeen Committee to which he himself was a willing signatory. Mr. Jinnah's was the speech of the day and he ably discharged his responsibility as a member of the Committee. He rightly wondered (as did the *Week*) whether Col. Crawford represented the better mind of the European community in the country, and declared that not a single British officer upheld the Eight-Unit Scheme and regretted he could not quote the Sub-Committee's Report. He also warned Col. Crawford that utterances like these diminished the faith of the Indians in Government. He contended that the Report of the Sub-Committee was unjustifiably withheld which would have helped Indians to form a correct judgment on the Report. He questioned the wisdom of waiting till Mr. Das's scheme for a public school materialised. The House passed the resolution with a large majority; but the question remains as to what Government would do to satisfy public opinion.

HINDU CHILD MARRIAGE BILL.

The discussion on this Bill brought by in R. B. Harbilas Sarda showed that there was still a strong section of people who stood as champions of orthodoxy. The Bill is a necessity when we find the prevalence of child marriages and its dire effects. Government proposed that the Bill should be circulated for eliciting public opinion. Mr. Jayakar ridiculed the very idea of it and asked the Home Member if he wanted to ascertain whether a child of only 12 years or under should be either in the nursery or in wedlock. He wanted to know if Mr. Crerar was not aware that agitation on similar lines was carried on from Raja Ram Mohan's time. Mr. Belvi, who led the opposition, said that it was violating the religious feelings of the people who were illiterate and ignorant. Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar assured the House that 'religion in danger' was only a bogey, and in no way would religion suffer if the Bill was passed. Pandit Malaviya bitterly complained that the Bill had no backing of the masses and it hurt his feelings to see that people should hurry in a vital matter like this. Munshi Iswar Saran warned the House that the Hindu race was dying and he was staggered at the arguments trotted out before them in the name of religion, when they were threatened with extinction. He appealed to the House that it was necessary to change with the changing times. Orthodoxy, however, won and it was decided to send the Bill for ascertaining public opinion.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill is the fruit of the exigencies of the times; the recent inflammatory writings attacking religions and leading to bitter feelings of the communities concerned, compelled the Government to bring in a Bill to bring an offender to book. When it was first introduced leaders of the Parties like Mr. Jinnah, Mr. Jayakar, Mr. Malaviya and Mr. Iyengar wholeheartedly supported it without looking to the repressive sections in it. The Select Committee's report brought out a serious division of opinion but they had to rest content with the suggestion that a statement should be proved by the prosecution to be malicious and intentional. It was found that the Press would be unnecessarily affected. When Mr. Crerar moved for the consideration of the Bill as seen by the Select Committee, opposition was led by Messrs. Rangaswami Iyengar and K. C. Roy. They contended that the existing law was sufficient and that it was merely adding to the list of the repressive laws. As the leaders had blessed the Bill their followers were in an awkward position. The Muhammadan bloc solidly stood by Government and the opposition was ineffective. Government carried their point at every amendment and in the 'slaughter' of amendments that followed not a single one out of about 25 amendments was carried. The House was divided against itself

as the leaders never cared to consult the wishes of the party-members and everyone was left to vote freely. There was thus no discipline and it was a sorry sight to see leaders and followers in opposite camps.

THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

The Council of State as usual had a number of resolutions withdrawn after the Government's reply was given. The Hon'ble Mr. Ramadoss moved a resolution to prohibit the dedication of minor girls as Devadasis, Muralees, etc. The resolution received support from many members of the House, but Mr. Ramadoss withdrew the motion after an explanation from the Law Member that there were various difficulties in accepting it. The resolution advocating the levy of an import duty of 50% on foreign liquor was lost. The resolution of Kumar Shankar Roy Choudhary that 40% of the revenues got from the export duty on jute should be used to eradicate the water hyacinth pest was also lost. Government explained their difficulty that if they accepted the resolution Bombay and Burma would similarly demand a share in the export duty on wheat and rice respectively. Mr. Brayne, however, made an important announcement that Government had under consideration proposals for the modification of the Meston Settlement and that the Provincial Governments were being addressed very shortly. Mr. Rama Rao withdrew his resolution for imposing an export duty on oilseeds and manures. Government asked the House to await the Report of the Agricultural Commission. The Council did not succeed in carrying any of the non-official motions on Wednesday. Resolutions about the waterways of India and slaughter of milch cows were withdrawn. Mr. Ramadoss' Resolution on the privileges of the members of the Legislature evoked a good deal of fruitless discussion, which also was ultimately withdrawn.

REVIEWS.

VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

RURAL INDUSTRIES OF ENGLAND AND WALES. By FITZ RANDOLPH, HELEN E., HAY, M. DORIEL. 3 vols. (Clarendon Press, Oxford.) 1926. 8¾ x 5¾. pp. 239, 159, 168. 15s.

THESE three volumes describe in detail the results of a survey made on behalf of the Agricultural Economics Research Institute at Oxford. Just at a time when attempts are being made here to revive old rural industries and handicrafts, these volumes come in handy as showing how, even in England and Wales, handicrafts are encouraged, what place they occupy in rural economy, to what extent they can be developed, and what their limitations are. There is such a wealth of information in these books that it is difficult to give a complete survey of it in a short review. With certain slight modifications due to differences in the habits of the people, it seems feasible for the methods adopted for the encouragement and revival of rural industries in England, to be followed here with equal success. People interested in this subject ought to make a careful study of these volumes.

"In any consideration of the development of the countryside, the place and function of local industries in rural life must occupy a prominent position." "It may be that rural industries can continue to supplement agriculture in the complete rural community, by providing subsidiary employment for the part time land worker and the small holder, by affording the chance of employment in their own homes or villages to the various

members of their families, by providing certain requisites of agricultural industry." These sentences appearing in the preface ought to give a lead to those who are engaged in the work of "Rural Reconstruction." The terms of reference for the survey were quite comprehensive. They were:—

1. To consider the existing rural industries and the causes of their establishment in particular localities such as easy access to local supplies of raw material and labour, and local markets for the finished products.
2. To consider the various types of organisation in these industries, such as small factories and workrooms or individual production, organisations for the purchase of raw materials or the sale of finished products. Educational facilities and the possibilities of technical instruction were also to be borne in mind in this connection.
3. To consider the economic and social effects of rural industries, the conditions of labour attendant on them, the connection between rural industries and agricultural employment, and how far such industries tend to depress or ameliorate the lot of the agricultural worker.
4. To consider the prospects of development of existing industries and of the introduction of new enterprises, or of the resuscitation of former industries now dead or in a state of suspended animation. In this connection the existence of competition, both urban and foreign, was to be borne in mind, and consideration given to the conditions under which rural industries can compete with urban production. This forms an admirable basis for rural development work, and a survey on these lines ought to be undertaken here if we mean business.

The book deals with so many industries that it is possible to make but a passing reference to most of them. Rural industries have been defined as "small industries carried on in country districts, dependent either upon some local supply of raw material, or some local demand for the finished product, and being of the nature of craft work rather than of machine production." The nature of the subsidiary industries found in any part of the country is largely influenced by the agricultural practices and the natural products of that place. Where rushes and reeds are available basket making flourishes; where sheep rearing is carried on, the weaving and knitting of woollen fabrics flourish; where cattle rearing is done, tanning of leather and boot making flourish, and so on. Some industries like basket making flourish all over the country, as baskets are in demand everywhere. The rural industry fills its own place where the needs of the community constitute a demand sufficient to support two or three workers, but not enough to tempt a large commercial organisation into the market.

The existence of a supply of labour which is not needed in agriculture or its subsidiary industries, has in some cases led to the establishment of an industry otherwise often unconnected with local conditions. The recently started or revived 'handicraft' industries generally owe their origin to conditions quite different from those which affect the existence of other rural industries. As different industries owe their origin to so many varied causes, so their future development is likely to be on diverse lines. Summarising the general conditions and prospects of each separate industry, one of the most outstanding facts is the *lack of young workers in the traditional crafts*. If crafts are of value to the community, it is useful to consider how recruiting can be encouraged. The whole problem of rural education in general is involved, particularly of the technical classes in villages, which have in so many cases been discontinued in the interests of economy. The success of these village classes seems to depend upon personality; a teacher or organiser with a real

interest in village life, and an understanding of the circumstances and needs of the pupils, can relate the instruction to actual conditions and practical possibilities, and thus make the craft seem to the pupils a real and interesting part of their lives.

The future of many rural industries depends, probably, very largely on the extent to which they can make use of labour saving machinery, and at the same time retain the valuable characteristics of individual craftwork. Another factor which will influence the future of rural industries considerably is that of markets for the finished products. By co-operation, the village craftsman can get over the disadvantages involved in buying and selling in small quantities. This enquiry has brought home the importance of *education*, and of organising the rural industries in a way which will attract the younger generation to take to them.

Among the underwood industries are discussed those of bowl making and turnery products, fencing and hurdle making, charcoal burning and oak-bark tanning. Most of these are being organised on a proper basis and under certain conditions the same thing could be done in certain parts of this country. The village workshops like the wheelwright's place, the blacksmith's shop, the saddler's shop, and the making of ropes, nets and halters are discussed at length. It is common experience that these are dying out in the rural parts owing to lack of organisation and patronage. In an agricultural country like India, the existence of these workshops are very important and all attempts should be made to encourage their re-establishment in rural parts. The installation of power to make the work easy and rapid, the making available of raw material like timber advantageously, and *education* which will enable the workman to appreciate the necessity for keeping accounts; all these will materially help in putting the rural industries on their legs again. The making of ropes, if properly organised, would provide a living to a good number of rural folk.

Basket making is treated at great length. The demand for it comes mainly from farmers for handling fruit and vegetables. Lately the industry has been dislocated a good deal and the market is often supplied with imported baskets at cheaper prices. The reason for this is said to be cheapness of material and of labour in other countries, especially Holland; specialisation; large scale organisation; and cheap sea transport. Cane and wicker work of first class quality seems to be immune from foreign competition. Makers of baskets for local farmers suffer least of all. The prospects for the future development of the rural basketry industry depend upon so many factors that they cannot be estimated with any certainty. The point which stands out most clearly is the necessity for more co-operation, both between individual basket makers and between the makers and the growers.

Many of the factories situated in rural districts are more closely connected, as regards processes and organisation, with the large factories of the industrial areas. They are however of a certain importance from the point of view of rural economics, because the labour employed is drawn from the rural population. Outworkers are employed by factories to carry out in their own homes some process of manufacture. The process done by the outworker is usually one small stage in the manufacture of the article and one which cannot be economically carried out by machinery. Some factories which depend to some extent on the labour of village workers are themselves situated in villages and country towns and draw their indoor workers also from the rural neighbourhood. The presence of even a small mill in a coun-

try town or village gives rise in the course of time to an industrial population, and when one industry dies out often through the competition of a larger kindred industry, the existence of the idle workers and the empty mill often leads to the foundation of some new industry to utilise them. In country districts where there is a considerable 'residential' population of the wealthier classes, the rural factories are not found, for there is plenty of work as domestic servants, gardeners, etc.

Outwork is done chiefly by women. It is done in many different kinds of industries, but one essential condition is that the materials for it should be light and small and easy to transport. The hosiery industry, the lace factories, tooth brush and collar factories, some handsewing of boots, the straw hat industry, ribbon weaving, the doll industry, shuttle cock making, making of raffia cases for scent bottles, mat making factories, gloving industry, leather dressing factories, all these employ outworkers to some extent. The outworkers call for their work at the factory or at a depôt, or it is taken to their homes in vans. Finished articles are collected and paid for and new work is distributed at the same time. The payment is always by piece rates and the work is done in the worker's own time. This system is often condemned as helping to keep down agricultural wages, and moreover the system is peculiarly liable to the evils of sweating. Then too homes may be as badly neglected through outwork, especially when it is done under the urgent necessity of earning a supplementary wage, as they may be when the housewife goes out to work, and the additional evil of child labour has to be considered. The employer often finds the outworkers unsatisfactory because he cannot rely on them to finish their work within a certain time, and there is no one to oversee the workers and prevent bad work. Since outworkers are scattered and their conditions of work so irregular, any organization among them is impossible. To independent temperaments, it is more satisfactory to choose the hours of work, and again it suits married women who may have many odd moments to give it but who could not leave home for the day. Delicate girls also find it a convenient occupation. Outworkers who do the more highly skilled type of work are in a more satisfactory position than others. The whole question of outwork has many points in common with that of the home crafts and industries.

The craftwork and industries do not supply the demands of local groups of people, their customers being linked together by a community of taste, though often widely scattered. The industries produce not so much the mere necessities of life, as its ornaments. The handicraft worker's asset is that he can express his own individuality by producing things for the taste of individual customers. The workman shaping his materials with his hands or with tools directed by his hands, can adapt his work more exactly to the natural idiosyncracies of the material than is possible with a machine.

Various groups of craft work have been described, such as jet and serpentine working, pottery industry, hand weaving and spinning industry, lace making, and others. Yarn which is spun by hand is generally considered to be stronger, because less strain is put upon the fibres by the spinner. Also the machine can spin the poorer sorts of wool with shorter fibres, whereas the handspinner can only deal with the long fibred material. Cotton is only used by hand weavers in the form of machine-spun thread except when handspun yarn is obtained from India. When silk is woven, machine-spun thread is generally used unless it is obtained from Assam or India ready spun by hand. Spinning is done on a wheel or simply with a spindle, but in England the

former method is nearly always employed. The worker in the ancient home-spun industries of Scotland become expert spinners at an early age and therefore acquire the necessary speed to enable them to work for piece rates which are low compared to those asked by English women who have learnt the craft late in life and probably give only a few hours each week to the work. None of the traditional loom makers have survived in England. Modern weavers usually prefer looms of pine wood on the Swedish pattern which is simpler than the English. Many weavers who have chosen this craft because of the opportunities it offers for the exercise of their talent for artistic creation, prefer to work alone or with only one helper, because they consider that the originality of design can only be expressed in their own handiwork. Several cases indicate that the crafts of spinning and weaving are readily taken up by village women, who find in them a source of interest and a sufficiently profitable whole or part time occupation while other cases indicate the very opposite. This is due to various causes. The first is locality. Where there are groups of handicraft workers, many of whom have settled there for years, a general interest in handicrafts has been aroused, but where the idea of any such enterprise is a new one, the villagers are very conservative. The second is one of expense. The third is the rate of wages. The fourth is personality.

In the case of weaving carried on by feeble-minded girls in institutions, these girls seem to learn both spinning and weaving without difficulty, although they are slow at work. When they first enter the institutions, they are very difficult to train. After they have worked for some time, wonderful improvement is shown in the development both of character and intelligence. The weavers might, by co-operation, solve some of the problems connected with the obtaining of raw material, the spinning of wool by hand, and the finding of a market for their goods. To the handicraft worker on a small scale, a connection with a suitable market is of the greatest importance. Handwoven goods appeal to a somewhat limited class. Materials cannot be satisfactorily sold unless the customer can see beforehand what he is buying. Exhibitions of handicraft work provide this opportunity. On the whole, the demand for handwoven materials seems to be on the increase, a number of new industries having been started since the war. One of the points of greatest importance in the future development of the industry is that of training in technique, design and business methods. Spinning is in some respects an ideal craft for a home industry. It is easily learnt, does not require close concentration, is not particularly tiring or trying to the eyes, can be well done in a poor light, and the wheel does not take up a great deal of space.

A great many kinds of home crafts, pottery work and flint work are described at length. This survey brings home to us one outstanding fact, and that is that rural welfare is bound up closely with the prosperity of hand crafts and home industries. A good deal of success has been obtained in the direction of the revival of many of these in England and there is no reason why similar success should not be obtained here. When we consider the economic condition of our rural folk with that of those in England, it seems as if efforts in this direction will be more fruitful in this country. The results of this economic survey, conducted purely from the point of view of rural prosperity ought to put heart into those who are engaged in the work of encouraging home industries and hand crafts, especially hand spinning and weaving.

GUNDAPPA S. KURPAD.

ADULT EDUCATION.

THE HANDBOOK AND DIRECTORY OF ADULT EDUCATION. Compiled under the auspices of the British Institute of Adult Education. (H. F. W. Deane & Sons, London.) 1926-1927. 8½ × 5½. pp. 190. 2s. 6d.

THIS is a very useful guide for those who want to study the adult education movement in England. It gives reliable information regarding the main facts about the important organisations working for the spread of education among the adult population of that country. Part I explains very briefly the meaning and scope of Adult Education, the recent growth of the movement and its main forms existing in the country. Adult Education is defined in the Handbook as "the pursuit by men and women in their leisure hours of those liberal and non-vocational studies by means of which a man may understand himself and his world, determine the personal and social values that shall govern his thought and action, and learn to serve his generation in whatever way seems to him most vital. Such studies teach him, in other words, both how to enjoy life and how to use it to the full." "The first pre-requisite in adult education is freedom regarding the subject to be studied, the tutor to be appointed, the methods to be adopted and the atmosphere to be created. There must be no restriction upon liberty of thought and expression, no pronouncements of authority with regard to conclusions."

One of the risks in adult education is the fear of half-truths. "For a deliberately narrowed knowledge of life or conception of the art of living may be worse than a whole-hearted ignorance. The Adult Education Committee of the Ministry of Reconstruction took what must surely be accepted as the sound view when it affirmed that: "Truth is many-sided, and out of study and discussion of controversial problems from many different points of view the truth will probably emerge. Moreover, we would point out that education is its own safeguard. The cure for the prejudices of partial knowledge and one-sided thought is more knowledge and more thought."

The need of voluntary agencies is thus emphasised:—"Voluntary organisations play a special and indispensable part in adult education. They create and maintain the atmosphere of freedom, friendliness and mutual confidence without which success in this sphere cannot be achieved. Essentially they are the guardians of intellectual and spiritual liberty. But the Universities and Local Education Authorities have important contributions to make to adult education, e. g., setting standards of teaching, partly supplying well equipped tutors, &c. State aid in the form of suitable grants and helpful legislation is an important factor in the full development of adult education, but freedom of the voluntary organisations from outside control is essential for their success". Part II of the Handbook gives important facts relating to the constitution and activities of the chief organisations working for adult education under the headings—The Board of Education, Adult Education Committee, The British Institute of Adult Education, Universities, Voluntary Associations, Local Education Authorities, Libraries, and Prison Education.

Part III (called the Geographical Section) summarises activities in the field of non-vocational adult education for each country and borough. This portion is of special value to those who want to know what is already being done for the education of adults in any particular district of England. The summaries appear to be fairly comprehensive. The book contains a mine of useful information in a condensed and convenient form and should be carefully studied by Indian social workers and educationists.

HARADATTA SHARMA.

SHORT NOTICE

THE KORAN. Translated by GEORGE SALE. (Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd., London.) 1927. 7¼ × 4¾. pp. x, 608.

THE publishers of the Chandos Classics Series deserve to be congratulated upon their beautiful new edition of Sale's translation of the Quran. The book is indispensable to everyone interested in Islam and Islamic literature. It would have been better if Sale's Preliminary Discourse to which the reader is often referred in the notes had been included in this volume. That the translator had been the moving spirit of the S. P. C. K. does not in any way detract from the faithfulness of the translation. Those who for comparison desire to know the orthodox view should refer to Maulavi Muhammad Ali's Translation of the Quran in which extracts from Arabic standard commentaries are given as notes. As pointed out by Sir E. Denison Ross in his introduction to Sale's book, Sale does not seem to have made first-hand use of the Arabic commentators and that his tribute to Marracci falls far short of his actual indebtedness.

M. T. PATWARDHAN.

MISCELLANEA.

S. I. S. FLOOD RELIEF OPERATIONS.

MR. DEVADHAR'S TOUR IN SIND.

MR. G. K. DEVADHAR, President of the Servants of India Society, has been touring with Mr. C. S. Deole, Rao Bahadur Pritamdas and Mr. Lalchand Advani in Tando Division, comprising the four talukas of Tando, Mohamed Khan, Matli Badin and Tando Bago, which are the parts of Hyderabad District most affected by the floods, and has been studying the nature of the distress, the extent of the areas affected, and the measures of relief necessary. Interviewed by a representative of the *Associated Press*, Mr. Devadhar said that he was collecting information with regard to the loss sustained and the demands of the people for relief and was having discussions with local leaders and officials, after which he intends to prepare a statement and submit it to the examination of his friends and officials.

He was grieved to see that thousands of acres of cultivated land were still under water. Mr. Devadhar is of the opinion that the people in this part of the Presidency have suffered very heavily, perhaps as much as their brethren in Gujerat though the area affected is less, and if the measures of relief adopted by the Government and private agencies are found to be inadequate, that in his opinion is the result of scanty information having been supplied to the public, the feebleness of the public voice and the inaccessibility of several parts of the affected areas. His inquiries about tagavi loans and the relief granted by private agencies have led him to believe that these measures have been insufficient. Several people had approached him with genuine needs which deserved more liberal treatment at the hands of Government officials. Private relief had not even touched the fringe of real distress, and much larger funds were still required both from the Government and the public.

CHEAP AND FREE GRAIN.

Mr. Devadhar continued that he had been fully discussing the details of arrangements necessary to give adequate relief to the people. He has started a cheap grain shop at Natli and a free grain shop at Gulab Laghari, in the interior of Matli Taluka. These two shops would benefit the members of co-operative societies in the neighbourhood and poor and depressed classes like the Bhils, Meghvals and Koils. He has also been giving some relief to lower middle class traders who have lost their trade. He is strongly of opinion that for immediate relief, the need for which is being felt by several classes of poor people, the provision of cheap grain shops for all classes affected is very urgent.

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING.

He added that the suggestion for the formation of flood relief co-operative housing societies in urban localities is finding favour, and that he has already received a number of applications for the speedy formation of such societies with the aid of Government loans at cheap rates of interest, repayable in easy instalments, extending over ten years. He said that he intended to prepare a detailed statement after he and his colleagues had toured through the affected area. This would embody his observations and definite recommendations regarding measures of relief to meet the needs of all classes affected by the floods. In the meantime he has wired to his friends in Bombay for more funds.

HOUSING THE "DEPRESSED" CLASSES.

Messrs. A. V. THAKKAR and K. J. CHITALIA of the Servants of India Society who are in the flood-stricken areas in Baroda, have launched forth a scheme for housing the "depressed" classes. In a communication to the press they say:—We have devoted our serious attention to the great necessity of assisting the poor depressed class people, Bhangis, Dheds, etc., living in the city of Baroda, most of whom have suffered heavily during the abnormal flood at the end of July last, in the matter of rebuilding their houses. We have not the exact figures of the number of the houses that have suffered, but almost the whole depressed class population have suffered.

The form of assistance that is proposed to be given consists mostly of the supply of corrugated iron sheets for roofing. Wooden posts and purlins to support the roof were not carried away by the floods except in rare cases and are being re-erected by the people themselves.

The Baroda Municipality are building chawls after the Bombay pattern, for the use of the Bhangis only. These will provide, as we are informed, for 130 families only. Each unit will consist of one room only, 9ft. by 11 ft., with a passage in the front of 5 ft. only and costs about Rs. 150 per roof. But it seems the Bhangis are not willing to exchange their own commodious houses, built on their own

land, for these small rooms in lines, for which a small rent will be charged.

The Baroda City Relief Committee had not commenced giving assistance to these depressed class people on the 1st instant, on the day following which we commenced to issue corrugated iron sheets, getting an assurance from the Dewan Saheb of Baroda that half the cost of the scheme would be borne either by the State or any of the public funds at his disposal, if we were prepared to pay the other half.

The cost may be estimated on the basis that each house owner will have to be given for covering about half his roof area, about 12 or 14 sheets. The cost per house will be about Rs. 36. Taking 600 houses as the basis of our calculation, the total cost will be Rs. 21,600 or say, with contingencies, Rs. 22,000. Making due allowance for the Municipality's scheme, the actual cost might be put at the round figures of Rs. 20,000. Half of this will be paid, by the State or Dewan's fund and the other half by public funds from Bombay. We suggest that the Women's Council Fund be requested to contribute Rs. 5,000 and the Servants of India Society Fund be asked to pay another Rs. 5,000, thus meeting in full half the cost of the scheme.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- HOW EUROPE MADE PEACE WITHOUT AMERICA. By FRANK H. SIMONDS. (William Heinemann, Ltd., London.) 1927. 9½ × 6½. pp. 407.
- THE GOVERNMENT OF EUROPEAN CITIES. By WILLIAM BENNETT MUNRO. (The Macmillan Company, New York,) 1927. 8½ × 6. pp. 432. 15s.
- THE MIRROR OF INVESTMENT, 1927. By PAT LOVETT. (Banna Publishing Co., Calcutta.) 1927. 8½ × 5½. pp. 492.
- MASTERS OF WAR AND OTHER HISTORICAL ESSAYS. By NEVILLE D'ESTERRE. (George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. London.) 1927. 8 × 5¼. pp. 277. 8s. 6d.
- GENERAL DISARMAMENT OR WAR? By RENNIE SMITH. (George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., London.) 1927. 7½ × 5. pp. 111. 3s. 6d.
- THE FOUNDATIONS OF NATIONAL PROGRESS. By J. N. GUPTA. (R. P. Mitra and Sons, Calcutta.) 1927. 10 × 6. pp. 282.

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