

# The Servant of India

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## CONTENTS.

	Page
TOPICS OF THE WEEK. ... ..	405.
ARTICLES :—	
Mahatma and Government. ... ..	408
Mr. Gopal Krishna Devadhar—An Appreciation. By Vaikunth L. Mehta. ... ..	409
Labour in India.—V. By P. G. Kanekar. ... ..	410
Citizenship Contest in Canada. By R. R. ... ..	411
OUR EUROPEAN LETTER. ... ..	412
REVIEW :—	
Plea for Economic Cooperation. By S. V. Ayyar. ... ..	413
SHORT NOTICE. ... ..	414
MISCELLANEOUS :—	
The Servants of India Society—Report of Work. ... ..	414
BOOKS RECEIVED. ... ..	416

## Topics of the Week.

### Change of Government.

THE financial crisis in Great Britain has precipitated a change of government. It is not yet known definitely which Labour Ministers will be forced out of the Cabinet and which representatives of the other two parties admitted to it. But it is clear that the new Ministry will be much less radical than the present and will have to face the determined opposition of a large majority of the Labour members at present sitting in the House of Commons. The present Parliament cannot therefore long continue, and in fact a dissolution is expected early in October. If so, the Round Table Conference on India will proceed with its work under different auspices, of which the character cannot yet be precisely determined. There is however no doubt that the changed atmosphere will be generally much less sympathetic to reform. But even the first Round Table Conference had to deal with all the three parties together and not with the Labour party alone. For, though Mr. MacDonald had announced that the Government would on its own undivided responsibility formulate measures after the conclusion of the R. T. C. in which the other parties were participating, it is well known that the Government would in fact have proposed only such measures as in its judgment would be acceptable to a majority of members of the other parties. The present change in the Government and the future change in Parliament would not therefore affect the

proceedings of the second Round Table Conference as much as it otherwise would have. (As we go to press, we learn that Sir Samuel Hoare has taken the place of Mr. Wedgwood Benn as the Indian Secretary. In personal sympathies there is a world of difference between the two, but nothing to which Sir Samuel Hoare was hostile had much of a chance before. So the statement made by us above does not need to be substantially altered.)

### Mr. Devadhar's Diamond Jubilee Celebration.

WE are glad to inform our readers that the diamond jubilee celebration of Mr. G. K. Devadhar, President, Servants of India Society, organised by the Poona Seva Sadan Society on Friday last, succeeded beyond expectation. The organisers had to work under handicaps, not the least heavy of which was the shortness of the time at their disposal for making the necessary arrangements for the celebration and for approaching the very wide circle of Mr. Devadhar's friends and admirers scattered all over the land. This led them originally to doubt whether the purse fund would even amount to Rs. 5,000. Actually however it more than doubled that figure and the purse presented to Mr. Devadhar contained a cheque for Rs. 10,500—an eloquent testimony of his personal popularity and the wide appeal that his work makes. The contributions have come from people of all classes and communities, the Viceroy and the Governor of Bombay, to mention only two from among the official contributors, sending Rs. 100 and Rs. 200 respectively. Mahatma Gandhi, in regretting his inability to attend, sent a message which bore testimony to the admiration which he felt for Mr. Devadhar, divided though they were by political differences. The celebration began with a collective prayer for long life to the object of the celebration, which must have been taken part in by about 2000 persons. For the congratulatory dinner in the course of the day more than an equal number of people turned up. But the really important function connected with the celebration was held in the afternoon when the presentation took place. This was preceded by about two dozen appreciative speeches, the speakers including H. H. the Ranisabhab of Sangli, the Chief of Ichalkaranji, who presided, Rev. J. Mackenzie, Vice-Chancellor of the Bombay University, Rao Bohadur R. R. Kale, M. L. C., Mr. B. S. Kamat, M. L. C., Mr. N. C. Kelkar, Mr. Rajbhoj, a leader of the depressed classes,—an outburst of gratitude on his part must have been peculiarly gratifying to Mr. Devadhar,—Professor Maydeo on behalf of the Indian Women's University, and last but not least, by Mr. Vaikunth L. Mehta, an appreciation of Mr. Devadhar by whom appears elsewhere in this issue and will, we doubt not, be highly valued by our readers. The speeches referred principally to

Mr. Devadhar's unlimited capacity for work, his power of organisation and his wonderful gift for attracting the affection and regard of his equals and the devoted service of his juniors. By invitation he visited that morning Prof. Karve's Hindu Widows' Home—a sister institution—where too laudatory speeches were delivered by some life-members of the institution. A congratulatory meeting was arranged the previous day by the Bharat-Sneha-Samvardhak Mandal, an association having for its object the promotion of good will among the people.

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#### Com. Kenworthy on Indian Army Indianisation.

THE most notable speech in the India debate in the Commons of July 31 last was the one by Commander Kenworthy. He did his best to rouse the British democracy to a sense of its duty in the matter of Indianisation of the army in India. Reuter's cabled summary represented him as having branded the Chetwode proposals for an Indian Sandhurst as altogether inadequate. His full speech now available in this country shows that he went much further. He plainly told his hearers that the bonafides of the British people would be judged in India by the manner in which they would deal with the problem of Indianising the Indian army. The average annual wastage of officers by retirement, death, etc. in the Indian army is 120; and if, as proposed by the Commander-in-chief, a Military College with an annual intake of 60 officers was set up in India, it would, according to Com. Kenworthy, take as long as 70 years to officer the Indian army with Indian officers. Should the capacity of the College be doubled, complete Indianisation would not be brought about before the lapse of 35 years.

It should be noted that this does not take account of the prospective reduction of British troops upon which the Defence Sub-Committee of the R. T. C. laid so much stress. If this were to proceed side by side with the substitution of British officers in the Indian army by Indian ones, it is clear that India's requirements in the matter of the supply of trained military officers would be greater. The fact is, as pointed out by Com. Kenworthy in the debate as also earlier in his book *India: A warning*, that one Military College for the whole of India will not do, but that more than one such College,—Com. Kenworthy says "several,"—are required to be set up as soon as possible if the British Government is at all serious about tackling the problem of Indianising the Indian army. In this connection he warned the authorities against a blind imitation of similar colleges in the West. He said: "The conditions are absolutely different in India. If you are Indianising the army, for Heaven's sake Indianise the training." We hope the warning will have the desired effect in the proper quarters.

Some Conservative diehards, willing to use India's inability to defend herself without British aid as an excuse for delaying the grant of self-government to India, are opposed to any acceleration of the pace of Indianisation, Com. Kenworthy, while thoroughly disapproving of their reasoning in such a vicious circle, remarked: "We shall really have to tackle this matter as an emergency question. When we needed officers for our own Army in the War we did not set up elaborate Sandhursts or Woolwiches. We took them and trained them and sent them to the front . . . All this complicated training is quite unnecessary." He also dismissed all talk about Indian soldiers belonging to different communities not serving alongside one another as "utter bunkum". Com. Kenworthy's speech will we are sure serve as an eye-opener to those military pundits who do not

regard army Indianisation as at all possible within any period of time they can think of.

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#### Postal Retrenchment.

THE exhaustive memorandum regarding retrenchment in the Post and Telegraph Department submitted by the All-India Postal and R. M. S. Union to the Retrenchment Advisory Committee of the Department affords one more proof of how when the need for retrenchment is felt the axe invariably comes down on the subordinate staff. The Inchcape Committee which sat eight years ago found that while the number of officers in the Department had increased by 32 per cent that of the other staff had risen only by 17 per cent. It recommended 88 officers to be retrenched which would have effected an annual saving of six lakhs. In stead of carrying out this very wholesome suggestion of the Committee, the Department retrenched 3 per cent of the subordinate staff which included such low-paid employees as sorters and postmen and members of the lower ranks. While the recommendations in a similar sense of two further official inquiries were disregarded, no scruples were felt in the matter of effecting considerable retrenchment in the lower staff.

But to come to the present campaign for retrenchment. When reports about the necessity of cutting down departmental expenditure reached the Union, like the Railwaymen's Federation, it suggested that whatever retrenchment proposals the Department wanted to frame should first be discussed with representatives of recognised Unions of the departmental employees. But the suggestion apparently failed to commend itself to the authorities. Even a much more moderate request for a copy of the retrenchment proposals that may be departmentally submitted to the Advisory Committee also shared the same fate. No wonder if any action based on such one-sided proposals eventually fails, as in the case of the subordinate railway employees, to win the approval of the subordinate staff where, according to the information contained in this memorandum, there is no scope for retrenchment. So far as this part of the departmental establishment is concerned, the Union contends on the strength of opinions expressed by some official committees themselves that in view of the heaviness of the work and the absence of adequate provision for the usual leave reserve post offices are as a matter of fact undermanned, so that any retrenchment in that direction will mean sacrifice of the departmental efficiency, which will ultimately react prejudicially on its service to the public. But the Union does not content itself by indulging merely in destructive criticism. It suggests that the top-heavy expenditure should be cut down both by reducing the number of officers and also their salaries, and even mentions the posts that can be conveniently retrenched. We hope these proposals will be carefully considered by the Retrenchment Advisory Committee so that the necessity for retrenching the subordinate staff may be minimised as much as possible, if not altogether averted.

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#### The Hyderabad Herald.

WE have pleasure in welcoming to the ranks of Indian journalism the *Hyderabad Herald* which will make its appearance every Monday from Madras and which will be edited by Mr. Syed Asadullah. Our welcome is all the warmer owing to the broadmindedness of the attitude the paper will adopt on the subject of communalism. Its attitude with regard to communal matters is thus explained in the first issue:—

We are no believers in communalism. Communalism, in our opinion, has always stood in the way of our poli-

tical progress. It has more than often misdirected our energy and has consequently prolonged our subjection. It has never succeeded either in awakening or in raising the economic condition of the masses except that it has served as an effective weapon in the hands of a few exploiters. The Muslims in India have particularly been serious victims of this epidemic. They have been sometime carried away by a feeling of brotherhood for their community at home and some time for their coreligionists abroad. Divided between communalism and pan-Islamism they have often failed to contribute to the development of their national life . . . They do not realize that they have lost their traditional vitality, and that their pan-Islamic ideal is now no more a force of universal brotherhood as in days of old and that it is nothing beyond a happy idea to keep them exultant and deceived and thus make them side-track the real path.

This right path for the Muslims, in our opinion, lies neither in the increase in the number of their representatives nor in their securing of weightage in councils; it lies—and lies very definitely—in their 'efficiency' which they can get only through their joint struggle for a common cause along with their sister communities. If thus they learn to live and die for a common cause and adapt themselves to the modern conditions of life, we need hardly assure them that they will have no fear of being superseded by the majority communities in this country. The case of a handful of Englishmen governing a huge British Empire or the Muslims, less than a crore in number, having ruled over India for several hundred years, is quite enough to establish the validity of the theory of efficiency. Constitutions may come and go, can be made and unmade, can be built up or smashed altogether any day or any moment if the Indian Muslims form themselves into an efficient group suited to the existing conditions of life.

The name of the paper gives ground to suppose that it will devote itself largely to Indian States' affairs. We hope that in dealing with them it will champion the cause of the subjects of Indian States rather than that of their rulers. If the paper is conducted on these lines we have no doubt it will have a career of great usefulness before it.

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#### Serious Situation in Junagad State.

AN account of the hard times through which the Hindus in Junagad State are at present passing principally owing to the communal prejudice of the State authorities has recently reached us. It is not the fact of the Hindus being the victims of this official high-handedness that induces us to draw pointed attention to the happenings in the State. So far as we are concerned, the communal character of the sad events is quite beside the point. Whether it is the Hindus that are victimised by the Mahomedan ruler, as is said to be the case in Junagad or whether it is the Mahomedans that are so treated by the Hindu ruler, as is alleged to be happening in Kashmir, are matters with which we are not in the least concerned. The fact that such happenings as form part of the account published by the Junagad Hindu Praja Mandal are possible in these civilised times is, it seems to us, a matter of disgrace as much to the State administration as to the Paramount Power which is supposed to stand between the State subjects and oppression and misrule. The insecurity of life and property in the State in consequence of such happenings is shown by the large numbers of Hindus that are leaving the State, even the Chief Judge who happens to be a Hindu being forced to join in the Hindu exodus as a result of the receipt by him of threatening letters. The account of the assassination of the five Hindus at Verawal, which, if the Mandal is to be believed, seems to have been pre-

arranged, sounds like fiction and appears at first sight to make a too heavy demand on one's credulity. But the allegations are of such a serious character that no one who knows the consequences of his action would think of making them light-heartedly. But whether, as alleged, the Hindus in the State are being terrorized and oppressed with official connivance, if not with official support, we cannot help regarding their demand for an impartial and independent inquiry into recent happenings in the State as eminently reasonable. The requirements of the situation will not be met by a mere official contradiction, as a result perhaps of some whitewashing inquiry, which will of course not command public confidence. What is necessary to reassure the public mind is a searching inquiry by an impartial tribunal which should be set up without further loss of time.

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#### Bombay Industries Department in 1930-31.

ONE of the questions framed by the Bombay Retrenchment Committee tries to ascertain public opinion with regard to the possible abolition of the Industries Department. It is of course undeniable that in the existing state of the Government's finances there is little likelihood of the Department having much scope in the near future for extending the sphere of its work. But its abolition on that ground would, it is feared, be strongly resented by public opinion. For even if the Department be unable to extend its activities, there is little doubt that the work it is able to do under the present circumstances is widely appreciated. Of this the report of the Department for 1930-31 furnishes several instances. To mention only one or two, it is reported that the estimates prepared by the Department for the conduct of several small-scale industries were found very useful by a number of small investors who could not afford suitable consultants. Similarly the technical advice it gave in regard to the processes of manufacture in some cases was found to be of much practical good. It is generally believed that there is much field for cottage industries in this as in other presidencies. But owing to want of funds the Department could not do much by way of investigation into their possibilities. So far as this presidency is concerned, the principal cottage industry, as the report points out, is hand weaving. It is estimated by the Department that there are nearly 1000 centres where this industry is carried on and cloth worth Rs. 4½ crores manufactured. During the year the Department very properly concentrated its attention on this and allied industries. It tried to popularise improved appliances and made itself useful to the industry even in other ways. The good it was able to do will of course take time to manifest itself in the improvement, both qualitative and quantitative, of the manufactured goods. It appears from the report that this presidency affords much scope for the manufacture of vegetable ghee and glass bangles, the imports of the former amounting nearly to Rs 64½ lakhs' worth and the imports of the latter into this Presidency being half of those for the whole country. That Indians should not come forward to capture this large market by producing these articles in requisite quantities is unfortunate. So far as vegetable ghee is concerned, the result of the indifference of Indians is going to be that "another non-Indian firm, with international resources and interest" will step into the field. We heard a little while ago about a scheme for the starting of a vegetable ghee factory in Poona, but do not know how far it has since progressed. That is a venture which the Department should do its best to encourage.

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## MAHATMA AND GOVERNMENT.

WITH the publication by Mahatma Gandhi of his charge sheet and with the answering publication by the Government of its defence, it seemed at one time as if all hope of an amicable settlement between the two was at an end and that a revival of civil disobedience could not be long stayed. But just when the aspect of affairs appeared most threatening, an announcement was made that Mahatma Gandhi had sought an interview with the Viceroy and that it was not altogether unlikely that as a result of it the Mahatma might yet sail for England, and that in post-haste by the first available steamer. The Viceroy's reply to Gandhiji's letter of the 14th inst., which savoured somewhat of an ultimatum, asking whether the truce was to be regarded as having terminated, and warning that in the absence of adequate relief forthcoming "defensive measures" would be necessary, did not sound to our ears as particularly conciliatory. On the other hand it seemed to us rather stiff. To the pointed query whether the settlement was going to be regarded by the Government as at an end, the Viceroy gives no direct answer, but says, "The settlement involved no suspension or abrogation of the ordinary law and left complete discretion to the Government of India to pursue the policy they have hitherto followed to restrict action to the requirements of the specific situation and in particular to avoid resort to special measures so far as this is possible. But so far as this action may relate to the activities of the Congress, its nature and extent must depend primarily on the nature of these activities and the Government of India are unable to fetter their discretion or that of Local Governments in this respect." This answer would appear to most people as harsh and stern. Mahatma Gandhi, however, was able to put upon it a favourable construction. "I do not consider the Viceroy's reply to be at all bad or disappointing", he declared, and interpreted it to mean that the Government too on its side wanted the truce to continue. In asking for an audience of the Viceroy also, he underlined the plea which he had put forward before, that an arbitration or other tribunal was not altogether indispensable, and that he would accept any other means which promised to give reasonable satisfaction to the Congress. So much emphasis was laid on this point that the headlines in newspapers announced that the demand for an inquiry had been abandoned by the Congress, and even Congress papers interpreted this change in tone as a climb-down on the part of the Mahatma. Thus was an occasion which in other hands would have provoked angry controversy utilised by Gandhiji to promote an understanding!

What the issue to these conversations will be is not known at the time of writing. But we may briefly express our own view as to what is regarded by both parties to this dispute as a question of outstanding importance. Particular breaches of the terms of the settlement, though important, are to Mahatma Gandhi of small moment by the side of the Bardoli question. In his

article in *Young India*, appropriately headed "The Real Issue," he says: "In spite, however, of my belief that Provincial Governments had committed serious breaches of the settlement, I was prepared, so far as my departure for London was concerned, to be satisfied merely with securing relief in the matter of the Bardoli collection under coercion." In the Bardoli question he felt that a great principle was at stake, the principle being no other than that the Congress must be regarded as representative of the Indian community and must be used as an agency for recovering land revenue which was withheld by people in pursuance of the Congress agitation. This claim is regarded by the Government as nothing short of a complete supersession of their own authority and to concede it is to them no less than an abdication of their functions. As we have said before, the claim on either side can be pushed too far, and no solution would be possible if attention were concentrated upon the correct theoretical position. The best way is to take a commonsense view of the matter, leaving legal trappings on one side. And when this is done, the Congress standpoint can be easily understood.

So far as the letter of the settlement of March 5th is concerned, no further obligation rested upon the Congress, in the matter of recovering land revenue demand, than to discontinue "the movement for the non-payment of land revenue and other legal dues" as provided for in § 5 (2). The obligation was of a negative kind: it was not to carry on the no-tax campaign. The Congress did not undertake to recover the whole or a part of the dues or even to give help in such recovery. But Mahatma Gandhi took a larger view of his duty than was strictly necessary. He went about and advised the peasantry to pay up their dues; he urged and exhorted them to do so. As he now claims for the Congress the status of being an intermediary between the Government and the whole country, so he undertook on behalf of the Congress the performance of those duties towards the Government which the Government expected the country at large to perform. If his conception of the rights of the Congress was unduly wide and spacious, so was his conception of its duties. He used the Congress agency to collect Rs. 19,00,000 out of the current dues of Rs. 20,00,000 in Surat district, when he need not have used the agency to collect a pie. He could as well have left the revenue officials to their own resources. Undoubtedly they would have been able to collect the dues by employing coercive processes. Such processes, however, would necessarily have embittered the feelings of the people who had just ceased their anti-Government activities, with an imminent danger of these activities recrudescing in one shape or other. Mahatma Gandhi would still have been able to claim that he had observed the letter of the agreement, inasmuch as any such activities could be attributed to economic distress rather than to hostility to Government.

But Gandhiji considered that this would be contrary to the spirit of the settlement, and the observ-

ance of the spirit, according to him, required that he who had prompted the civil disobedience movement should, on a promise of cessation of the movement, make himself responsible for bringing about results which would have naturally followed had no such movement been started. He therefore used his unique influence with his followers, not merely in dissuading them from the non-payment of their dues, but in persuading them to make the payment, and he did so by effecting a radical change in the attitude of the people towards the Government. In thus persuading the peasantry he had to promise them that the Government would use no coercion if they of their own accord honestly paid what they could. And such an appeal to their conscience did in fact succeed in the realisation of almost all the current dues. The same earnest effort was made to collect arrears of revenue too; but if, in spite of all such efforts on the part of the Congress, arrears could not be collected in full, is it not the obvious duty of Government, dictated by commonsense no less than moral considerations, that they should consult the Congress workers before setting coercive processes in motion? This is not a matter of legal or theoretical right at all; but the first instinct of any one with a spark of imagination would be to run to the Congress agency for that co-operation which had made these processes unnecessary so far. That the processes were, however, brought into requisition over the heads of the Congress workers leaves in our minds no doubt that the local officials were unable to forget that those who were now offering their co-operation were at one time their enemies, whose power must be broken. They would indeed have liked, as Mahatma Gandhi says, to recover a small part of the current dues without reference to the Congress rather than recover nearly the whole dues through the Congress. It is this spirit which, Gandhiji contends, and rightly, is in flat contradiction to the spirit which ought to permeate those who are genuinely anxious to carry out the settlement. That is where the breach of the agreement mainly comes; and is more inexcusable than its violation in any particular instances quoted by Mahatma Gandhi.

We therefore cannot resist the conclusion that Mahatma Gandhi's complaint is substantially justified. To say this, however, is not to admit the validity of his reasoning that he cannot for that reason attend the R. T. C. The Conference is intended to make both civil disobedience for the attainment of political power and a pact for its cessation unnecessary in the future. That a pact entered into for the purpose of liquidating the recent civil disobedience movement was not observed by the bureaucracy does not render the Conference which is expected to result in putting permanent constitutional checks on the bureaucracy less urgent but much more urgent. Far from abstaining from the Conference, Mahatma Gandhi should have been led by the breach of truce to strengthen his resolve to make a complete success of the Conference. Nor does its success or ill-success depend upon the will of the officials who have been guilty of betrayal to the

spirit of their pledges. The betrayal indeed would put the enemies of Indian self-government in England so grievously in the wrong that it would only tend to make the ultimate success greater than it otherwise would be. The *Indian Social Reformer* has put this point exceedingly well: The purpose of the Round Table Conference is to devise a system of government which would make abuses of all kinds, irrespective of the Pact, permanently impossible in the future. "The present complaints were additional arguments which the Congress delegation might and should have urged in furtherance of that purpose. They were, therefore, reasons for strengthening and not for withdrawing the delegation. To generalise from the action of the Bombay and even the Indian Government is wrong, because the Round Table Conference is called solely with the purpose of setting up a responsible system in their place. The withdrawal of the Congress delegation on the ground that officials in several places have failed to observe the spirit of the Delhi Pact, strikes us as sacrificing the means of achieving a permanent reform to the feeling of annoyance—perfectly legitimate in the circumstances—at a temporary discomfiture." But we trust that Gandhiji will, as generally expected, decide to go to England, and we therefore refrain from pursuing this line of criticism.

#### MR. GOPAL KRISHNA DEVADHAR.

##### AN APPRECIATION.

IT is with a certain amount of hesitation that I pen these few lines offering the felicitations of my co-workers and myself to Mr. G. K. Devadhar on the completion of sixty years of a life most nobly lived. My hesitation is due to the fact that I look upon Mr. Devadhar as my *guru* in more spheres than one of public life, and it is against traditions for a pupil to sing the praises of the preceptor during his life-time. However, the occasion prompts me to ignore the tradition. The celebration of his own diamond jubilee nearly coincides with the celebration of his silver jubilee as a Servant of India with an uninterrupted career of twenty-five years, if not more, dedicated wholly to the service of the country.

Of the spheres of public activity where circumstances have brought Mr. Devadhar and myself together, the most prominent is the co-operative movement. It is his first love and, if one may judge by his reawakened enthusiasm in rural reconstruction, it will be his lasting love, whatever his co-workers in the Seva Sadan may say. With most of Mr. Devadhar's co-operative activities I have been so closely associated that it would be improper for me to assess the value of his achievements in the field. Without any fear of contradiction I can say, however, that Mr. Devadhar has been a pioneer in several directions in the co-operative movement itself. He was one of the first in India to realise the need for the systematic training of the members and secretaries of village societies, and the humble beginnings he made in the organization of training classes led to the foundation in Bombay of the Co-operative Institute,



the educational activities of which extend over the whole of this Presidency. Mr. Devadhar was thus one of the founders of the Co-operative Institute which, if not today, will in course of time be the instrument through which the de-officialization of the movement will be secured and co-operators will be able to mould the policy of the movement. But Mr. Devadhar's vision was not confined to this Presidency, and it was he who first conceived the idea of bringing together in an All-India organization the central institutes and apex federations in different provinces. And there is another field of co-operative activity where too Mr. Devadhar is a pioneer. It is he who first preached the gospel of co-operation among industrial workers and started societies for those engaged in factory labour and other manual workers. If co-operation is now recognized as an essential part of welfare work the credit for the initial attempts in that direction goes to Mr. Devadhar. There is one characteristic of Mr. Devadhar's co-operative activities—as probably of other branches of his public life—to which I cannot help referring here. I have seen Mr. Devadhar presiding at and guiding distinguished gatherings of co-operative experts assembled in the provincial conferences. I have also watched him preside at and guide meetings of humbler folk held in village *chavdis*. To Mr. Devadhar his work at the one is as important as at the other, and to the meeting of the village society he devotes the same attention, studies the problems in the same interest and extends his help in the same measure as he would in respect of the more distinguished and vaster gatherings.

It is not only in the sphere of co-operation that Mr. Devadhar has been a pioneer. He is one of the earliest of workers in the field of social service. He is one of the founders of the Social Service League of Bombay, one of the first institutes of its type in India, but his active interest in the cause of social service commenced even earlier. And during these last twenty-five years and more he has always been to the fore in organizing measures for relief of those in distress, wherever there have been fires, floods and famines. He is a recognized expert in handling problems of relief, as deft in this line as he is in conducting campaigns against diseases and even death when epidemics like cholera, plague or influenza levy a heavy toll of human lives. And the greater the miseries, the keener is Mr. Devadhar's desire to succour; that is why he is looked upon as an old and trusted friend of the depressed and suppressed classes.

The cause of women he has made peculiarly his own. Maharashtra has had the good fortune of having possessed a succession of thinkers and leaders who preached nearly half a century ago the gospel of equality between woman and man, and held that without the cooperation of women India could not rise in the scale of nationalism. Without meaning any disrespect to the memory of Agarkar, Mahadev Govind Ranade and Gopal Krishna Gokhale, one may say that what these forerunners preached it was left to Prof. D. K. Karve and Mr. Devadhar to put into practice.

The peculiarity of Mr. Devadhar's service to the cause of women consists in this, that he has passed beyond the stage of schools and colleges for women as his interests lie less in the academic field. He wants to make women—girls, married women, widows and others—serviceable to the community instead of being a drag on it in the economic sense. From being social parasites he wishes to transform the wonderful energies they possess for the uplift of the nation and for the service of the community, and the Seva Sadan is the process of thus awakening them to their duty to society or to a renewed interest in life. Mr. Devadhar brought light and hope into numerous homes in Poona and other centres in Maharashtra. He has brought joy and happiness not only into the drab lives of widows and friendless women but also into the lives of those better placed in the world, those who miss the zest of life because of the absence of opportunities for the service of society. What work can be nobler than this?

In going about with the begging bowl for the cause of women and for other causes, Mr. Devadhar has made himself famous, not notorious, all over India. Begging for a public cause has been developed into a fine art by Maharashtrians and when Swarajya comes and the titles he now enjoys disappear, Mr. Devadhar, along with Prof. Karve, deserves to be honoured with the designation of the Beggar-General of India. Mr. Devadhar has kept alive the traditions of the Brahman cult not only in the effrontery—or is it the holy joy?—with which he goes about in his begging missions, but he is true to the traditions of his birth in inculcating—not by words but by practice—the ideals of service and self-sacrifice and by inspiring those who come in contact with him with some of his own infectious enthusiasm and zest for work in the cause of the community. May he be spared long—that is our prayer—to bring joy and happiness into the lives of those low down in the scale of humanity and to inspire growing numbers of men and women to noble endeavours.

VAIKUNTH L. MEHTA.

## LABOUR IN INDIA.

### RESULTS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION'S ENQUIRY—V\*

#### SEASONAL AND UNREGULATED FACTORIES.

SOME special problems are presented by seasonal factories, i. e., the factories mainly employing power machinery, open for a part of the year only, and concerned for the most part with the handling of a particular crop as it becomes available. The Factories Act makes little distinction between seasonal and non-seasonal factories. But in practice the former enjoy latitude in matters of exemption and enforcement, the degree of latitude varying from province to province. This renders the law somewhat arbitrary and ambiguous. The Commission have, therefore, come rightly to the conclusion that the law should recognise more definitely the special

\*Previous articles in this series appeared in our issues of July 23 and 30, and August 6 and 13.

position of seasonal factories and that the aim should be to establish standards which may not be identical with those of perennial factories, but which will be enforced with as much vigour as is applicable to the latter. The Commission were convinced of the fact that workers are asked to work for excessive hours when others are available to take their places if necessary and that little regard is paid to the statutory requirements in respect of compensatory payment for overtime. It has been, therefore, recommended that in seasonal factories the present maximum working day of 11 hours and the maximum working week of 60 hours should be enforced, whereas in respect of perennial factories a 10 hour working day with 54 hours in a week is advocated. In view of the Commission's admission that 10 hours' regular work in a day in a mill or factory is a physical impossibility, their recommendation of an 11 hour day is obviously inadequate and unsatisfactory. The Commission's recommendations with regard to provision of ventilation and the installation of dust-extracting machinery in cotton ginneries require to be carried out immediately in view of the scandalously unhealthy conditions obtaining in many of them. Also it is desirable to require, as recommended by the Commission, the owners of seasonal factories in which women are employed in any process creating an impure atmosphere, to set up some temporary shelter in the compound for their infants. It is simply monstrous that babies of the working class women should be allowed to be poisoned with dust or fluff so that the capitalists may be at liberty to employ the cheaper labour of women. Seasonal factories being widely scattered in rural districts, their inspection presents special difficulties and in the absence of proper inspection of these factories the amendments in the Factories Act that may be made with regard to them are likely to be evaded by the owners. Not a few of these factories are left without a visit by the inspecting staff even once in a year. Therefore, the suggestion made by the Commission that selected officers of the grade of deputy collector or sub-divisional magistrate be given a short intensive training, should prove helpful in overcoming the difficulties about inspection to some extent.

Some industrial establishments have escaped legislative control, being outside the purview of the Factories Act. The places most in need of such regulation fall into two categories—those using power machinery but employing less than 20 workers, and those using no power machinery but employing a substantial number of workers. It is estimated that the number of industrial establishments employing more than nine and less than twenty persons is not less than two thousand. The Commission recommend the general extension to them of only a few sections of the Factories Act. These sections relate to the powers of entry to inspectors, health and safety, and penalties and procedure. Mr. Joshi and Dewan Chaman Lall go a step further than their colleagues and recommend that those sections of the Factories Act relating to hours and the weekly rest day should also be applied and extended to all fac-

tories employing more than five persons. In view of the large number of unregulated factories at present and the excessive hours of work in most of them the adoption of this latter recommendation is quite necessary. The Commission also advocate that provincial Governments be given power to apply the sections specified above to similar places employing less than 10 persons where they have reason to believe that the prevailing conditions constitute a danger to life or limb. The Commission mention the fact that a number of factories employing many more than 20 persons escape the provisions of the Act by dividing the workers into shifts. The provincial Governments have already the power to bring factories with 10 or more workmen under the Factories Act. But time has now come for the application of the Act being made compulsory.

Very few of the tanneries come under the present Factories Act, and the conditions prevailing in the unregulated ones are simply abominable. As the handling of skins and hides is obnoxious to most castes, the workers in this industry come largely from the depressed classes. The lack of adequate sanitary arrangements make these places even more offensive than is inevitable from the nature of the industry. The absence of adequate drainage, heaps of evil-smelling refuse, pools of filthy water, absence of washing arrangements and lack of latrine accommodation characterise the unregulated tanneries. The workers have even to eat their food in the midst of such surroundings. The hours are long, often 12, and sometimes in excess of 12, and in the Madras Presidency children of from 8 to 12 years as well as older boys are employed. Their hours sometimes exceed those of the adults and they receive no additional cash wages, but merely two *dhotis* a year. The Commission, therefore, rightly feel that the statutory protection of the workers in this industry is essential because of the nature of the work and the class of workers employed, which from long social tradition is peculiarly powerless to help itself.

P. G. KANEKAR.

#### A CITIZENSHIP CONTEST IN CANADA.

THE *Times* Ottawa correspondent gives an account of an experiment on the part of the Colonisation department of the Canadian National Railways which cannot fail to interest some of our social workers engaged in rural reconstruction work or in civic education. The object of the experiment is to bring about a close relationship between various communities of Continental European immigrants and the older Canadian racial stocks but its results seem to have already had a wider significance. The means adopted was to constitute a board of judges consisting of two men, one of whom belonged to the local university, and one woman, familiar with rural life and country work. At intervals the judges visited the communities which had entered for the contest and made a survey of their progress in such matters as agriculture, social welfare and arts and handicrafts. The attainments of the pupils at public and high schools and of the students of the universities

and agricultural colleges and the qualifications of teachers were taken into account. On the farms the judges awarded marks according to the quality of the buildings and general equipment, the cultivation of fields and gardens, the quality and numbers of the livestock and their feeding and management. Special consideration was given for pure-bred sires and the number of farmers in each community who belonged to cooperative organizations was noted as also the numbers of agricultural boys' and girls' clubs. Marks were also given for cooking, blacksmiths' work, carpentry, ragmaking, weaving, knitting, embroidery, basket-weaving and the like, as well as for musical and dramatic work and folk dancing. The aim of the judges was to discover which community had taken the greatest advantage of the natural resources available and of the agencies provided by the Government for the advancement of the social welfare of its members.

The experiment was begun last year with a community contest limited to three Provinces and three prizes, the first of two hundred pounds, the second of hundred and the third of fifty, were offered for each Province. The competition was so successful that arrangements have been made to continue it for at least four years, and several municipal officials have been studying how to improve the position of their areas in the contests. And not the least notable or interesting result of this experiment has been to dissipate doubts and prejudices concerning the value of certain communities of immigrants in the social life of the country.

R. R.

## Our European Letter.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, AUG. 12.

### THE SITUATION IN GERMANY.

A feeling of considerable relief is the immediate reaction everywhere here to the failure of the combined Nationalist and Communist assault upon the Prussian Government last Sunday. If the Referendum had succeeded, it would have overturned the Prussian Government and severely shaken the Government of the Reich, which is supported by much the same combination of parties. A victory for the extreme parties would have brought to an abrupt end all the present attempts to remedy the German financial situation and the displacement it has produced in other monetary centres by normal measures. It may now be possible for the Powers to take some concerted action. But of what sort? That is the question.

In answering it several factors must be taken into consideration. In the first place, as the semi-official *Paris Temps* has observed :

It is a very disturbing fact that, even menaced by failure and bankruptcy, there should still be in Prussia nearly ten million people in favour of a political upheaval, either as a Hitler dictatorship, which would imply war, or as a Communist Dictatorship, which would imply revolution. At the best it amounts to this, that in dealing with Germany progress can only be made with the

greatest foresight and after all conceivable precautions have been taken. The Prussian people has not closed the door to a wide policy of European co-operation. It has shown that it prefers a Republican coalition to Fascist or Communist adventures. That is a noteworthy result but it would be dangerous to pretend that there was anything more in it than that.

Other French papers make the same sort of comment and French opinion cannot be ignored in this connection. The *Echo de Paris* says that even if the German people have recoiled at the prospect of war they have equally recoiled at the idea of rapprochement with France founded on the acknowledgment of existing treaties. It is admitted that the result is a great gain in that it excludes the immediate likelihood of further financial complications and does not close the door to a policy of reason. But a warning is everywhere uttered against underestimating the difficulties that lie ahead in the pursuit of this policy.

### THE BRITISH FINANCIAL POSITION.

The publication of the Report of the Economy Commission in England revealing the serious budgetary position in that country and the fluctuations in the exchange of the pound sterling in these last few days, notwithstanding the measures taken by the Federal Reserve Bank, the Bank of France and the Bank of England in conjunction to safeguard its position, have introduced a vastly complicating factor into the international situation. Mr. MacDonald's hasty interruption of his holiday to confer with Mr. Snowden in London and his previous conversations with Mr. Stimson while in Scotland have had the effect of creating a great deal of uneasiness in the public mind about the soundness of British finances in the present crisis.

### GERMANY'S FINANCES.

Competent observers cannot help asking themselves what really can be done to save Germany and of what avail exactly is the breathing space afforded by the failure of the Referendum. The financial situation of Germany is beyond repair, unless radical changes in war debt and reparations payments falling little short of cancellation are contemplated, and assuming that these changes are somehow brought about, what is the result apt to be? The answer forces itself that a confident Germany, relieved of her financial embarrassments and possessed of a renovated industry and flourishing commerce, will proceed to assume her proper place in the political system of Europe, that very place which she fought for in the Great War, impatient of the existing order and breaking through the network of existing treaties. On the other hand, if Germany were left to herself in her present condition, things simply cannot continue to be what they are or have been. One or the other extreme party, Fascism or Communism, will soon get the upper hand and proceed to revolutionise the country by pulling the existing social order to pieces and rebuilding it according to a new plan. What that plan will be it is impossible to say but that it will be revolutionary is certain. The way of escape from this dilemma is hard to find.

The same sort of searching enquiry as regards Great Britain leads to similarly pessimistic conclu-



sions. With unemployment what it is and what it is likely to be next winter the substitution of the present Government by a Conservative regime is hardly to be contemplated as a cure. Moreover, whether for dealing with the Indian question or with the now equally serious problem of finding a proper solution for international difficulties, the Conservatives will be in a far less satisfactory position than the Socialists. A great part of the financial, imperial and foreign complications of Great Britain today is an inheritance from the Conservative rule and the Unionists themselves know that their traditional attitude is a handicap in dealing with these matters. But the Labour Government cannot make itself responsible for an economy programme including drastic wage cuts and serious diminution in the social services without cutting itself adrift from its natural sources of support.

The condition, almost inevitable for the restoration of European stability, would therefore seem to be the maintenance of whatever order exists at present in the various countries, preventing precipitate changes by the suspension or modification of the normal working of the constitutional machinery, if necessary, and the gradual but determined and deliberate enforcement of international authority. Disarmament, if seriously desired by all the Powers and sought after earnestly, will not only provide the much needed means of economy, but also render the Versailles settlement forceless. European recovery can come only through some such way. An experienced journalist at Geneva, analysing the situation, concludes:

The world is *mutatis mutandis* in the same situation as in 1913 or in the beginning of 1914. Perspicacious people saw the war coming but no one could affirm that it was inevitable. With wisdom and energy the statesmen could perhaps have avoided it. Will they have the wisdom and energy to save us from a revolution?

## Review.

### PLEA FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION.

#### CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE OF WORLD ECONOMICS SINCE THE WAR. By

FELIX SOMARY. (King.) 1931. 20cm. 221p. 7/6.

It has often been said that "the enemy of a subject is the Professor thereof." It is not often that a specialist avoids the jargon of his trade and expresses himself in simple language. Dr. Somary, not being a University Professor, but a practical banker has put before himself the ideal of simplicity in expressing his ideas. The book is admirable in its own way and the opinions expressed by the author are in many cases arresting.

Dr. Somary deals with the recent political and economic conditions of Europe and America and examines in some detail the tendencies in economic thought in Europe. Dr. Somary is vitally interested in the rehabilitation of Europe and the progress of production and has definite suggestions to make to bring about a revival.

Dr. Somary's book is divided into 17 chapters each of which has a topical interest but his chapters on the British Empire, on Russia, on the relation between Europe and the United States, and on France

and Germany, deserve close appreciation. In his very first chapter, Dr. Somary examines the relationship between Liberalism and Socialism and suggests that Socialism today cannot afford to be international. "Between two Socialist States, trade, industry and movements of the population become political questions, commercial and foreign trade policy become matters of high politics."

Writing on the British Empire, Dr. Somary thinks that the Labour party seems destined to decide the future of the British Empire. "The Labour Government—Socialist—must make some *vital* changes in its principles when dealing with the self-governing dominions or India. Dr. Somary brings out the principles of Socialist administration in contrast to some of the methods followed in some of the colonies and India. Dr. Somary also suggests that an economic union with the colonies would be of great advantage to England.

In the chapter on England and the United States, Dr. Somary writes:—"For the last 25 years America has been advancing all along the line while England has been on the defensive". England has been completely excluded from trade with Cuba and the Philippines, Canada's trade with the States has continually increased and England has lost her position in the Canadian money market. According to the figures given by the author, 'America's exports to Canada, India, Japan, China, Australia, have all increased at the expense of England, and if this tendency were to persist England is bound to suffer very badly indeed.' Dr. Somary warns England of the dangers of allowing China, Canada and Australia—India?—to come under the States' commercial influence and suggests close co-operation between these countries during the next 25 years if only to avoid war.

In his discussion of the future of Europe the writer is strongly of opinion that unless there is close co-operation between Paris and Berlin Europe cannot expect to rehabilitate itself. America cannot be expected always to keep a sustained interest in European securities. Dr. Somary wants some formula for the commercial co-operation of Europe, if she is to maintain her economic position in the future and in his view there is no chance of such development unless France and Germany co-operate to the best possible degree.

Dr. Somary's views on Russia are interesting: "It may sound paradoxical," says he, "when I say that from the economic point of view the greatest effect produced on me by the Bolshevik regime is its insignificant effect on the Russian economic system. However much it may have altered the distribution of the population, however terrible has been its effect on their lives, it has had no power to alter the main features of Russia's economic policy. The Russian economic system might have been materially changed if a peasant's party had seized power, had renounced rapid industrialisation, and put into practice a policy of industrial and economic freedom. Russia has not succeeded in getting a foreign loan, which would be the only means the Socialised State possesses of procuring long term capital since individuals under the Russian economic system do not possess financial power in the generally accepted use of the term." Comparing the economic systems of America and Russia Dr. Somary writes: "If the historian of the future deals with the period in which we live he will probably be astounded at the vast difference shown by the unprecedented swiftness of the advance of the United States and the slowness of Russia."

Dr. Somary recognises that there is a great tendency towards monopoly in many industries in many countries, but believes that there are advantages in

such a tendency and these could be conserved by a system of profit-sharing.

His examination of Socialism is exceedingly interesting as the author himself writes with a Liberal bias. Socialism strengthens the despotism of the state and as in Russia greatly restricts the forms of international intercourse whether in regard to goods, capital or labour. Socialism of a type may exist for a time in Russia at great sacrifice but would be intolerable in the smaller European states. 24 separate European Socialised states would be an even greater danger to Europe than the present position. If Socialism is to be tolerated in any degree it must aim at the creation of great economic areas and must avoid narrow nationalism. Dr. Somary is not convinced that as things are Socialism can have even a sporting chance of realising even a part of its fundamental aims. "Property will remain," says the author, "the central legal institution in spite of the social struggles." Dr. Somary wants the barriers between nations to be loosened and the demand should be satisfied on a wider and more generous scale. His plea for economic co-operation is sensible in an eminent degree but the system of small economic entities and the prejudice against the foreigner make it extremely difficult to realise the very wise suggestion of the author of this noteworthy book.

S. V. AYYAR.

#### SHORT NOTICE.

**INDIAN CURRENCY, BANKING AND EXCHANGE.** By H. L. CHABLANI. (Oxford University Press.) 1929. 19cm. 166p. Rs. 3.

THIS is a reprint of the first part of the author's *Indian Currency and Exchange*. The author aims at a non-controversial representation of the historical development of the Indian currency and banking system with a brief and lucid statement of the theory of money and foreign exchanges tacked on so as to be of great help to the average readers who wish to understand currency and banking problems. We have no hesitation in recommending this monograph as an excellent introduction to the subject for the use of students who aspire to have clear and concise notions on this subject. Mr. Chablani maintains the view that India has committed a mistake in stabilising the rupee-gold exchange at a time when the course of world prices was uncertain.

B. RAMACHANDRA RAU.

#### Miscellaneous.

#### THE SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY.

##### REPORT OF WORK.

*The report of the Servants of India Society for the year ending 12th June last is just published. The following extracts from the Report are reproduced here for the information of our readers :—*

On the 12th June, 1931, that is, at the close of the year under report, the Society completed twenty-six years of its existence. In last year's report it was explained that the Silver Jubilee of the Society had to be postponed owing to the political crisis through which the country was passing and the absence from India of some prominent members of the Society, including the Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri. The Society was hoping to hold the celebration this June. But though the political situation has improved, the economic depression has become far worse

and Mr. Sastri and some other members are absent from India this year also. The idea of holding the Jubilee had therefore to be dropped this year also.

Nonetheless, the Society takes this opportunity to express its grateful thanks to the public generally and to its friends in particular for having enabled it to exist and serve the country according to its lights and to the extent of its limited ability for the length of a generation. When the Society was started in June 1905, few indeed were those that felt confident of its future. Some, no doubt, recognised the great advantage it had in being started by a public worker of Mr. Gokhale's eminence, but they were none too hopeful about its continuance after him. Again, persons familiar with missionary organisations doubted whether the desire to serve one's country could by itself be a sufficiently strong force to bind and keep together members drawn from different parts of a vast country and brought up in different environments; in other words whether patriotism could take the place of religion as the basis of a consecrated life. That patriotism can do so is shown not only by the history of the SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY, but also by the coming into existence of another institution on its model, the Servants of the People Society at Lahore, by the adoption of the system of life-workers in the Seva Sadan Society of Poona and other social service institutions and by the founding of *ashrams* under the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi, who claims the founder of the SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY as his *guru*. That their ideal of service and sacrifice should thus spread in the country without being based on religion is a source of immense gratification and strength to the members of the Society.

During the year under report the Society had the misfortune to lose a great friend and supporter in the untimely death of Rao Bahadur D. Lakshminarayan of Nagpur, whose large-heartedness and real love for public causes is shown by his will in which he has bequeathed almost the whole of his large property to public institutions, the Nagpur University receiving Rs. 30 lakhs. It was his generous financial and moral support that mainly kept up the Nagpur Branch of the SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY and its bi-weekly English paper, the *Hitavada*, and he has bequeathed the munificent sum of a lakh of rupees for the future upkeep of that Branch. While paying a grateful tribute to his memory, the Society prays that his noble example may be followed by others, though some of these may not have as much to give.

Another event of special importance to the Nagpur Branch is the resolution of the Gokhale Memorial Library Society, Nagpur, to hand over its assets, consisting of a building and a library valued at Rs. 6,075 and Government Promissory notes of the face value of Rs. 6,200 to the SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY in order that the objects of the institution may be carried out in future by its Nagpur Branch. Since the establishment of the Memorial, the office of the Nagpur Branch of the SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY and the *Hitavada* press have been located in the building of the G. M. L. Society, but the transfer that is now in the process of being effected will give legal permanence to the arrangement. For thus strengthening the position of its Nagpur Branch the SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY is very thankful to the G. M. L. Society.

*Our Strength.*—At the beginning of the year under report the Society had 23 members and three probationers who have been since admitted to membership. Thus the present strength of the Society is 26.

A fairly large number of applications is received every year for admission into the Society and the

advancing age of senior members and the expansion of work already undertaken require that every year some new members should be admitted. But unfortunately the financial condition of the Society does not permit of this requirement being fully satisfied.

*Visits to Foreign Countries.*—When the year under report opened, Messrs. Sastri, Joshi, Vaze and Dube were in England, the last on a study and propaganda tour and the others in connection with the Royal Commission on Labour. Mr. Dube returned to India via Syria and Mesopotamia in September 1930, while Messrs. Sastri, Joshi and Vaze stayed on in England for the Round Table Conference and returned only in February 1931. In October 1930 Mr. Kunzru was requested by the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association to proceed as its delegate to England and put the Indian point of view before the Parliamentary Committee. He was also elected leader of the Indian deputation which was appointed by the Indian community of Kenya to lay its case before the Committee. Accordingly, he went to England in November last, but on account of the unexpected postponement of the examination of unofficial witnesses on East African affairs till April he returned to India in February 1931, visiting Egypt, Palestine and Syria en route. His work had necessarily to be confined to informal talks and private interviews with the authorities and influential public men. Within a few weeks after returning to India in February, Mr. Sastri was requested by the Government of India to put the case of the Kenya Indians on behalf of the Government of India before the Parliamentary Committee which was expected to take evidence in May. Accordingly, he sailed for England on the 18th April, accompanied by Mr. Kodanda Rao as his secretary in May. Mr. Bakhale sailed for Europe to represent Indian labour at the International Labour Conference at Geneva.

#### ACTIVITIES.

Before presenting an account of the various activities of the Society and its members, it is perhaps necessary to repeat once again the caution which previous reports have always given, viz., that the members of the Society lay no claim to exclusive credit for any work in the execution of which so many others have collaborated. There are some kinds of activities, such as the conduct of the various journals in English and the Indian languages for which members of the Society alone are responsible. But they also work in various other fields through organisations which have their own governing bodies or committees. Members of the Society often hold important positions in such bodies and in some cases they are the main driving power behind them. But those who have understood the nature of the work that the members of the Society have been hitherto doing or attempting to do will have no difficulty in recognising in each case what part they have played in building up and organising the various institutions to serve as so many instruments for promoting public good. With this much of caution by way of introduction, this report will proceed to deal with the activities of the members of the Society in accordance with the plan of division that has been followed in previous reports.

#### POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

During the greater part of the year under report, the country was convulsed with the Civil Disobedience movement started by Mahatma Gandhi. The Society found itself unable to participate in the movement itself. At the same time it considered it its duty to expose the unconstitutional and high-handed acts of the executive, and of the police in particular, in combating the Civil Disobedience movement. On this account some members received the special

attention of the police, and Mr. Amritlal V. Thakkar who works in Gujarat, the nerve centre of the Civil Disobedience movement, had it in an abundant degree. While observing the picketing of a liquor shop at Mehmedabad, where the rough handling of the picketers by the police for three days previously had been alleged, he was arrested on the 2nd August 1930, kept in lock-up for two weeks and then released on his own recognizances. He was tried on the 23rd September 1930, and sentenced to six months' hard labour. An appeal was made against this before the Sessions Judge of Kaira, who set aside the conviction on technical grounds and ordered a retrial. But before the latter could take place the Picketing Ordinance expired and the case automatically lapsed. This incident well illustrates the way things were happening at the time. Mr. Thakkar continued to enquire into cases of police high-handedness and illegal attachments of properties of non-co-operators by the revenue authorities and report them in the papers from time to time.

*Borsad Enquiry.*—On the 21st January, 1931, a procession of nearly 1500 women at Borsad was charged with lathis and butt-ends of rifles by the police. All Gujarat, nay, the whole country, was aflame with indignation that violence on a large scale—and unnecessary violence too—should have been used against women. Mr. Thakkar hastened to the spot to make enquiries, but he was externed from Borsad for two months. Thereupon the Society deputed Messrs. Bakhale and Chitalia to enquire into the matter. They made a thorough enquiry and their report, containing a number of sworn statements from injured women, was published soon after by the Society. Mr. Thakkar also took round prominent public men like Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and Sir Lalubhai Samaldas to the villages of Gujarat and helped them to see the real state of things for themselves.

*Round Table Conference.*—Unable to ignore the dangers lurking in civil disobedience or to condone official high-handedness, the Society strove for a better understanding between the contending parties. It is much to be feared that its role as a peacemaker was not appreciated by either of them, but in pursuance of its policy Mr. Sastri fully utilised his long stay in England in connection with the Royal Commission on Labour in meeting members of different political and social groups and informing them about the true state of affairs in India and as to what was required to satisfy the legitimate political aspirations of Indians. His position in the public life of India as the true successor of the late Mr. Gokhale, his conspicuous services to India and the Empire, especially in South Africa, his character and his attainments—all gave him exceptional opportunities to influence public opinion in England, and he utilised them fully for the benefit of India. To various audiences he showed the utter inadequacy of the Simon Commission's proposals. He wanted to bring out in book form his criticism of these proposals, but the attempt had to be given up as his health failed. He took a prominent part in the promotion and the deliberations of the Round Table Conference and served on the Federal Structure, Minorities and Defence Sub-Committees. On arriving in India in the early part of February 1930, he was incessantly occupied, along with Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr. Jayakar, in bringing about a personal understanding between the Viceroy and Mahatma Gandhi and in getting the terms of truce accepted by Congressmen on the one hand and the Government on the other. The Society feels humbly thankful that in this work of reconciliation, so true to the Gokhale tradition, it should have been given to one of its members to play so useful a part.

Mr. N. M. Joshi was another member of the SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY who took part in the Round Table Conference. He represented Indian labour and put forth the views of working men. He was a member of the Provincial Constitution, Minorities and Franchise Sub-Committees.

Mr. Vaze helped Messrs. Sastri and Joshi in the Round Table Conference work and was also Secretary of the Liberal group of the British Indian delegation. He also tried, through different delegates, to have the point of view of the people of Indian States expressed at the Conference.

*Indian States.*—While the Society as a whole is keenly interested in the promotion of constitutional reforms in the Indian States, Messrs. Patvardhan, Thakkar and Vaze are devoting special attention to the problems of the States. They have been taking a leading part in the conferences and the political organisations of the people of the States. They endeavoured to have representatives of the people of the States nominated to the Round Table Conference and are now striving to secure for the people of the States direct representation in the future federal legislature. As Joint Secretary of the Daxini Sans-than Hitavardhak Sabha, Mr. Patvardhan continued to conduct *Sansthani Swarajya*, which is a Marathi weekly with some English columns. He also published on behalf of the Sabha several pamphlets regarding the problems of the States. He is a member of the Legislative Councils of Aundh, Sangli, Phaltan and Bhor. By these Southern Mahratta States his advice and help were frequently sought. He was a member of the Working Committee of the All-India States' People's Conference and bore a heavy responsibility when some of the other members were in jail in connection with the Civil Disobedience movement.

Mr. Thakkar continued to take an active part in the States' people's organisations of Kathiawad and other Gujarat States. He also took a prominent part in the organisation of the All-India States' People's Conference recently held in Bombay.

Mr. Vaze presided over the Deccan States' People's Conference held at Poona in March 1931 after his return from England and in his address made a strong criticism of the Round Table Conference from the point of view of people of the States and forcefully pleaded for their direct representation in the proposed federal legislative bodies.

*East Africa.*—As already mentioned, Mr. Kunzru was deputed in November last by the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association of Bombay to lead the Indian deputation before the Parliamentary Committee which is considering the Closer Union Report, but as the latter postponed its sitting from time to time Mr. Kunzru returned to India in February last. He however met influential men, political groups both in England and at Geneva and put before them the case of the Indians in East Africa. At the urgent request of the Government of India Mr. Sastri left, accompanied by Mr. Kodanda Rao to help him, in April last to put before the Parliamentary Committee the views of the Government of India on the subject.

Mr. Krishna Prasad Kaul was the General Secretary of the Lucknow Swadeshi League which was started in October 1930 with the object of promoting *swadeshi* by practical methods. The League decided (1) to prepare a directory, (2) to establish a permanent show-room, and (3) to hold an exhibition. This last was held in the modified form of a Swadeshi Bazaar from the 8th to the 22nd of March last and was a decided success. Much material has been

collected for the Directory but it is not yet ready for publication. The permanent show room has been fitted up and located in the Ganga Prasad Varma Memorial Hall at Lucknow, which with its well equipped reading room is being looked after by Mr. Kaul. The work of the League has occupied most of Mr. Kaul's time since its inception. Mr. Dube was a member of the executive committee of the League and helped in propaganda.

In the different provinces the members of the Society continued to be office-bearers or Committee members of the Liberal Party organisation. Mr. D. V. Ambekar continued to be an active Secretary of the Deccan Sabha and gave a good part of his time to its work and to the construction of the Gokhale Hall which is now nearing completion.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru who, in sympathy with the view of his constituency, resigned his membership of the Legislative Assembly as a protest against certain aspects of the policy of the Government of India continued the study of political questions and wrote some articles in the foreign press. In England, France and Geneva he addressed different groups of people on the political situation in India. He visited Cawnpore after the recent regrettable communal disturbances and tried to organise relief on non-communal lines but found it impossible to do so. Mr. Kaul served on two non-official committees appointed to enquire into alleged police excesses in the U. P.

( To be continued )

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

- THE TASK OF HAPPINESS. By C. A. ALINGTON. (Student Christian Movement Press, London; obtainable in India from Association Press, Calcutta.) 1931. 20cm. 144p. 3/6.
- THE WAY TO PRAY. A Study of the Lord's Prayer. By ARTHUR W. ROBINSON. (Student Christian Movement Press, London; obtainable in India from Association Press, Calcutta.) 1931. 20cm. 126p. 3/6.
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