

The Servant of India

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Topics of the Week.

Sacramental Scavenging.

THE Mahatma sprung another surprise last week-end by entering on another fast, which happily lasted but one day only, though there is still the danger of its resumption. The facts of the case seem to be as follows. Mr. S. P. Patwardhan, one of the select disciples of the Mahatma, and now a civil disobedience prisoner in the Ratnagiri jail, desired to be given the task of scavenging in the jail. Permission was refused by the Jail authorities, upon which Mr. Patwardhan went on a low-ration strike; he cut down his food consumption to a small fraction of the normal. Persistence in this course was bound to lead to his slow death by starvation. The Mahatma came to know of this and made representation to the Government that Mr. Patwardhan should be allowed his wish. It was turned down. The Mahatma himself then went on a sympathetic hunger strike. The Inspector-General of Prisons promised to take up the matter to the Government and persuaded the Mahatma in the meanwhile to suspend his fast. The Mahatma did so, reserving to himself the right to resume it if he did not get satisfaction.

The Mahatma's action in putting his own life in jeopardy in order to save that of his comrade is certainly most chivalrous and honourable, and will wring admiration even from his hostile critics. But even his friends and admirers may well doubt its justification. All honour again to Mr. Patwardhan for his high-minded resolve to demonstrate in his own person that scavenging was no ignoble profession; that it was as honourable as any other, and that its followers should not be looked down upon as untouchables but honoured and thanked for doing a very necessary service to society. But he is a prisoner in jail and the Mahatma himself had ordained that while in prison the jail discipline should be cheerfully submitted to, except when one's

conscience was outraged. By no stretch of imagination can scavenging in the jails be said to be a matter of conscience. If Mr. Patwardhan is keen on scavenging he may seek opportunities for it when he comes out of jail. His example might well reform and revolutionise the profession. But that is best inaugurated outside the jail. Inside the jail his claim might lead to disorganisation of routine, for his zeal for scavenging is, we take it, more sacramental than serviceable. The manner of his protest has placed not only his own life but that of the Mahatma also in peril.

The Mahatma may well have attempted to save his *chela's* life by persuading him to abandon his idea of scavenging in the jail and his slow starvation strike. Instead, he goes on a sympathetic fast. It is difficult to follow the Mahatma in this step of his. We confess to a feeling of futility in attempting to reason with him. He has again and again repeated that he enters on his fasts at the call of God, whose ways are mysterious and inscrutable and transcend reason. We may discuss and debate the ways of persons who base their actions on human reason and then invoke the blessings of God on their enterprises. But to cast a doubt on the acts of the inspired is to question the direct commands of God and this would be bootless blasphemy.

The Government for their part might have been more imaginative and accommodating. After all, Mr. Patwardhan's case is unique. Not many cases of the kind will occur. It may be that amateurs at scavenging will be less efficient than professionals and will only add to the work. But by taking up a rigid attitude, they have not avoided trouble but only increased it many times. The question has assumed an all-India character, and quite unnecessarily so, involving, as it may be thought, the prestige of the Government. Nevertheless, we hope Government will see their way readily to grant the permission asked for and let all those who are keen on scavenging do so to their hearts' content, even if it involved going over the whole work again by professional *bhangis*. All that they need do is to protect themselves against a possible charge of having given scavenging work to high-class Hindus in order to humiliate them. This can be done by getting the prisoners to say in writing that the work was assigned to them at their own request.

An Iniquitous Decision.

THE imposition of a collective fine of Rs. 80,000 on Chittagong as a punitive measure against the terrorist outrages taking place there, with such painful frequency, has recently been notified by the Bengal Government. It has also been made clear that the fine would be recovered only from the Hindu residents. In his speech delivered in Calcutta last

week on the occasion of the St. Andrews' dinner, the Governor of Bengal tried to justify this discriminatory policy. His main excuse for it in effect was that as persons involved in the outrages were found to have belonged to the Hindu community and as the Hindu inhabitants failed to give information about terrorists there was nothing wrong in throwing the entire burden of the fine exclusively upon that community.

Whatever the truth in the Governor's aspersions on the Chittagong Hindu community, the Bengal Government's decision is sure to strike all normally minded persons as unjust and iniquitous. In the first place, this "crude and unsatisfactory instrument" deserves severe condemnation because it hits the innocent along with the guilty. In the second place, the blame attributed by His Excellency to the local Hindu community for its alleged failure to co-operate with the authorities in tracing terrorists presupposes the possession of the necessary information on its part. For aught we know, the Governor's assumption may be wholly unfounded. Unlike other political parties, the terrorists work in secret and underground; and information about their movements or intentions is by no means easy to get even by their relatives or friends.

The activities of the inhabitants of a particular locality resulting in the formation of watch and ward committees had apparently convinced the local Government of their bona fides to the extent of temporarily suspending the collection of the fine from them. With the best will in the world the locality found itself unable to assist Government by information; but the reward for its goodwill has been that it has been ordered to shoulder its part of the burden of the fine! Does this not prove the utter unfoundedness of Sir John Anderson's assumption that the Chittagong Hindus do possess information leading to the apprehension of terrorists which they wantonly refuse to place at Government's disposal out of a spirit of non-co-operation? The fact really seems to be that as elsewhere the general community in Chittagong is law-abiding and free from complicity in terrorist activity and it is invidious to discriminate against one section, as the Bengal Government has apparently made up its mind to do.

Linseed.

IN our issue of week before last we said that when the question of giving preference to empire linseed was considered in the House of Commons on 31st October the British Government admitted the need for allowing a drawback on exports of manufactures in which foreign linseed had been used, but they were not prepared without further consideration to issue orders to this effect without referring the matter to the Import Duties Advisory Committee, as they had been urged to do by their critics. The question was raised again two days later, and the Secretary to the Board of Trade announced that as the Advisory Committee was prepared, contrary to the general apprehensions on the subject, to consider applications for a drawback without delay, and even before the formal passage of the Ottawa Agreements Bill into law, there was no reason for Government to depart from the usual practice of submitting all such cases for examination by the Committee. Whatever be the machinery that is used for applying the drawback system, there is no question that a drawback will come to be automatically granted to all exporters of goods manufactured from foreign linseed.

If it be true, as is obvious, that the drawback will amount in practice to the repeal of the import duty on foreign linseed, it seems very strange that

no reference was made to this important change in the Ottawa agreements in the course of the debate in the Assembly by any official member. Surely it cannot be that the Government of India was not made aware of the British Government's intentions. These were announced in Parliament on 2nd November, and Sir Joseph Bore dwelt at length on the advantages which India stood to gain from the duty on foreign linseed on 7th November. Indeed in his speech Sir Joseph referred to the complaints which some members of Parliament had made about the injury the duty would inflict upon the British manufacturers as proving that it was to the advantage of India, but he did not mention in what way the British Government had agreed to meet those complaints. Was it due to the fact that he was not fully informed on the subject? It is difficult to make such an assumption, but it is impossible to believe that he deliberately withheld from the Assembly the information he had received on the subject. This matter surely requires to be cleared up.

THE Assembly Committee have cast a doubt upon the estimate given by the Indian delegation in its report that the preference would enable India to increase the area under linseed by some two million acres in a year or two. The Committee think that the gap between the prices of Argentine and Indian linseed is too great to be covered by a 10 per cent. duty. The Empire Marketing Board's recent publication on "Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils" gives a table of monthly average prices of Plate and Calcutta linseed shipped to London for the years 1929, 1930, and 1931, which shows that last year the price of the Indian seed was from 19 to 39 per cent. above that of the Argentine seed, or on an average the former was 25.5 per cent. dearer than the latter. If that is the case, it is not easy to see how a 10 per cent. preference to Indian seed will be able to displace the Argentine seed from the British market, as it is expected to do. But as we have shown above, even this 10 per cent. preference has been practically wiped out by the drawback system which the British Government has decided to apply to foreign linseed.

U. P. Ordinance Bill.

THE U. P. Ordinance Bill was enacted into law last week not, however, before the Opposition led by Mr. Chintamani had succeeded in amending it in some important particulars in the direction desired by public opinion. Indeed, it would be correct to say that the non-official members in the U. P. Council were able to introduce more improvements in the Bill as officially drafted than those in any other provincial Council or for that matter, even in the Assembly. Despite these desirable amendments, the measure, as so pithily pointed out by Mr. Chintamani, becomes only less objectionable and can by no means be said to be free from objection. Unlike similar legislation in some other provinces, the U. P. Ordinance law would not be automatically operative throughout the province as soon as it is placed on the statute book; but would have force only in those parts to which its application is notified.

Its life was limited to three years by the select committee, but popular representatives were apparently unwilling to allow it to disfigure the statute book even for that period. It was pointed out with great force that there was no reason why the executive should be armed with such wide and arbitrary powers as were embodied in the Bill for a longer period than one year and an amendment was moved which sought to allow only one year's lease of life to the obnoxious Bill. In deference to public opinion and following the precedent set by the

Bombay legislative council, the U. P. Government agreed to restrict its life to one year in the first instance, taking power to themselves to extend it, as and when necessary, for a maximum of two years more.

One of the amendments made by the select committee lays upon the executive the obligation of not issuing any orders controlling the movements of suspected persons before making itself acquainted with what they had to submit in explanation or extenuation of the objectionable act attributed to them. It will be observed that this provision is analogous to the one introduced in the Bombay Bill by which the suspected person would be given an opportunity to rebut the accusations made against him. The introduction of this provision cannot, in the existing circumstances, be expected to result, in many cases, in the restoration to liberty of persons officially regarded as inconvenient, but is undoubtedly a step in the right direction and gives a valuable opportunity to the aggrieved party to show how the Government's displeasure in this case is undeserved. Even so it is too much to expect the public to be uncomplainingly reconciled to a piece of legislation which, after all is said and done, cannot but be described as a serious menace to popular liberties.

* * *

Agrarian Trouble in Alwar.

IF press reports are to be trusted, the land policy of Alwar State would appear to have aroused deep discontent in the peasantry. It is complained that the land assessment is heavier than in the adjoining British territory, that it is realised without due regard to the agriculturist's condition and convenience, and that remissions and suspensions are not very much known in Alwar. The ryots are stated to be dissatisfied with the forest policy of the State against which too they seem to have many grievances. The discontent is so deep and wide-spread in a part of the State inhabited largely by a tribe known as the Meos, which is not exclusively Hindu or Muslim, that when the State officers went to collect the State dues, they would appear to have been assaulted and subjected to physical violence.

The farmers in this part are also reported to have purposely placed the roads leading to their villages into complete disorder so as to make any more visits of revenue officers impossible. The system of licensing schools recently introduced in the State, with a view, it is officially pointed out, to ensuring a better control of instruction imparted in them, contributed its own share in further complicating a situation which was none too easy. But apart from this there is little doubt that the trouble is essentially agrarian and has led to the exodus of a considerable number of Alwar ryots to Delhi and other adjoining British districts.

In a recent public utterance the Maharaja attributed it to instigation by outsiders. While it is conceivable that outside agitators helped to aggravate the situation it is making too heavy a demand on public credulity to try to make it appear that but for this outside intervention everything was easy and smooth in the State. Surely outside intervention cannot create discontent out of nothing. The matter is really too serious to be so easily explained away. The ryots' complaints against the State policy need to be sympathetically looked into if a further worsening of the situation is to be avoided. It has been made public that the farmers' grievances will be gone into by the Revenue Minister alone. His inquiry would doubtless have inspired greater public confidence if one or two non-officials enjoying the trust of the people had been associated with him.

* * *

Untouchability.

THE All-India Anti-Untouchability Board held its first meeting at the Servants of India Society last week-end and discussed its programme of work with Mahatma Gandhi in the Yerawada Central Prison. The deliberations referred mostly to organisation and co-ordination of work. In defining the objects and scope of its work the Board was faced with the difficulty of defining Untouchability and delimiting its scope. No simple and uniform definition is possible for the whole of India, without doing positive injustice to certain communities which suffer from disabilities but are not Untouchables as some other communities are. The whole of the Hindu Society is a hierarchy of castes with grades and shades of untouchability running through it. Ultimately the following definition has been suggested:—

By Untouchability is meant the pollution of a person by the touch or approach or sight of another person, but as the practice of classifying people as Untouchables in the different provinces does not always conform to the definition and having considered the variety of practice the Servants of the Untouchables Society has decided for the time being to confine its activities to or work for the removal of the following among other disabilities so as to secure for these classes the same status as the other Hindus enjoy:— Prohibition to use public temples, wells, roads, schools, parks, dispensaries, hospitals, crematoria and the like.

It is however understood that removal of Untouchability shall not include inter-dining as it is generally understood or inter-marriage.

This is as good a definition as can be evolved under the circumstances.

* * *

Deccan Agricultural Association.

THE report of the Deccan Agricultural Association for 1931-32 shows what rapid strides the rural uplift work conducted under its auspices is making year by year. Started in 1909, the Association showed some praiseworthy activity for about the first twelve years of its life. It then lapsed into a state of suspended animation, so much so that in 1929 it was seriously considering the question whether it should at all continue its uneventful existence and whether the more straightforward course would not be to announce formally its own closure. When its affairs were in that deplorable condition it came under the influence of Mr. G. K. Devadhar who has been since conducting its activities with his customary zeal. The year under report witnessed a further development of its work by the addition of a water-finding department. The possibilities of the poultry industry as an occupation subsidiary to agriculture were being explored by the Association during the year under report, but its investigations on the subject had not concluded before the end of the year. The public would doubtless be greatly interested in the conclusions at which the Association might arrive. A noteworthy feature of the Association's work during the year was the holding of the second session of the Rural Uplift Conference, to the success of which the presence in the chair of the Rajesahab of Sangli appears to have contributed not a little. In explaining the magnitude of the task before rural uplift workers, the report does well to draw pointed attention to some important facts disclosed by the last census. Provision for medical relief is deplorably deficient in the villages and it has been computed that the total of about seven lakhs of Indian villages cannot boast of more than a thousand dispensaries or hospitals! Another very disquieting circumstance is that

out of the total indebtedness of the Indian people amounting to Rs. 1500 crores, nearly two-thirds or Rs. 950 crores falls to the lot of those living in villages. The vastness of the problem is indeed appalling and requires the attention of numberless bodies like the one whose work is noticed here.

* * *

Uplift of Untouchables.

ELSEWHERE are published copious extracts from the interesting annual report of the work of the Depressed Classes Mission, Mangalore, which is one of the oldest of indigenous institutions, at any rate in the Madras Presidency, for the uplift of the Untouchables. It was founded by the late Mr. R. Ranga Rao, who about a decade ago invited the Servants of India Society to make themselves in a special measure responsible for the continuance of his pioneering work. Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rao has been a most devoted Secretary of the Mission and his report indicates the progress of the institution, achieved in the face of many difficulties and among them public apathy and financial depression. We hope the Mission will share in an ample measure the benevolence generated by the wave of enthusiasm for the uplift of the Untouchables now passing over the country due to Mahatma Gandhi's apostolic zeal for the cause.

Articles.

R. T. C.—SECOND WEEK. SAFEGUARDS.

THE crucial question of Safeguards or restrictions upon the powers of a responsible ministry in the Provinces and at the Centre was discussed in the R. T. C. last week, and the Government's view on it announced at the end of it. It would appear that the discussion has served to dispel doubts on both sides, the Indian delegation feeling that the British Government is more friendly and sympathetic to their aspirations than they had hoped and the British delegation feeling that the Indian attitude is more reasonable and realistic than they had feared. Sir S. Hoare himself paid a compliment to the Indian delegates in his speech and he was complimented in turn by members like Sir A. P. Patro and other members who are not amongst the most progressive of Indian delegates. But it should also be remembered that although Liberal delegates preferred to express no opinion, Mr. Kelkar, a strong Nationalist, was optimistic. To the London correspondent of the *Hindu* he said that to his thinking the Government statement on the whole was not unsatisfactory inasmuch as it disclosed a desire to keep the Governor-General's and Governor's powers within reasonable limits so as not to impinge unduly on the Ministerial responsibility, though, naturally enough, Mr. Kelkar would not bind himself to all the provisions suggested by Sir Samuel Hoare without full consideration.

Safeguards for Minorities.—The safeguards to be inserted in the constitution for the protection of minorities loomed very large in the discussions in the early part of the week. The Hindu and Sikh delegates from the Punjab went the length of asking that, until the communal award was drastically altered, law and order should remain a reserved subject, and

in fact that no constitutional advance should be made—at least in their province. Representatives of some other minorities like the European and Anglo-Indian were willing to have law and order transferred, but subject to certain reservations. The Governor and Governor General must be endowed with special powers so that the police would be under their special protection. The same view was expressed by Sir N. N. Sarkar on behalf of Bengal Hindus. It was also suggested that the Governor and the Governor General should be required to consult an advisory committee composed of members of important communities before they employ their extraordinary powers for the preservation of the public peace or the protection of minorities. But all these suggestions were unacceptable to the progressive section of the Indian delegation who insisted, first, that law and order must be exclusively in the hands of the responsible minister, and, secondly, that the necessary protection should be given to the minorities by inserting provisions to that effect in the fundamental part of the constitution which the legislature should be effectually prevented from repealing or watering down and by entrusting the implementing of these provisions to the Supreme Court.

The Government did not accept the latter suggestion, for they held that while a Charter of Minorities' Rights might usefully find a place in the constitution, in which case all alleged infringements thereof would come under the scrutiny of the Courts, that would not afford enough protection to the minorities. It was necessary that the Governor and the Governor General should receive specific instructions to interfere with the administration in certain circumstances. What those circumstances would be and what would be the extent and character of their interference might be laid down in as precise terms as possible in their Instrument of Instructions, but there was no escape, they argued, from some kind of special powers being conferred upon the heads of the Provinces and the country. In any case, the British delegation contended, this safeguard was demonstrably in the interest of India herself. The suggestion for setting up an advisory committee was turned down, and quite rightly too, for the reason that, in the first place, it would interpose delay where possibly urgent action was of the first importance, and, in the second, it would only transfer higher up the communal discord that might exist in the legislature and the Cabinet, without resolving it in any way. It might perhaps be observed that Mr. Chintamani at the first Round Table Conference agreed to the insertion of a clause giving a limited power to the Governor to override his Ministers, if necessary, in discharge of his special responsibilities towards minority communities, but subject to this single qualification he insisted that the Governor should in every respect be a thoroughly constitutional Governor under an obligation to act on the advice of his Cabinet.

Reserved Subjects.—It is already common ground between the Indian and British members of the R. T. C. that all subjects in the central government

should be transferred to the control of the central legislature excepting two, viz. defence and foreign relations. Paramountcy is not properly to be regarded as a reserved subject; for it is a subject which is not, like the above two, to be temporarily excepted from the central legislature's control, but which is altogether removed from the central government's jurisdiction. This position is made clear in the statement made by Sir Samuel Hoare. The Indian demand is that there are some minor matters connected with defence and external relations, in regard to which the Minister in charge may be made responsible to the legislature instead of to the Governor General. The Government has agreed to look into this aspect of the question. At the last R. T. C. the question of commercial treaties with foreign countries was raised, and it was asked that these should be in the portfolio of the Commerce instead of in that of the External Relations Minister. The relevant portion of the fourth report of the Federal Structure Committee may here be cited. "Commercial, economic and other relations," it said, "would fall primarily within the purview of the legislature and of ministers responsible thereto; in so far, however, as questions of the latter character might react on political questions, a special responsibility will devolve upon the Governor General to secure that they are so handled as not to conflict with his responsibility for the control of external relations." Sir Samuel Hoare merely dotted the i's and crossed the t's of this passage. The actual conduct of the negotiation of commercial treaties may be in the hands of the External Relations Minister but the Commerce Minister will settle the policy so long as the commercial relations do not trench upon political relations with foreign countries, in regard to which the final authority is the Governor General.

Indian States.—Relations with Indian States form a subject apart. Neither the central legislature nor the central government will be concerned with it in any way; it will remain a special charge of the Governor General. Machinery will of course be provided for adjudicating in disputes between the federal government and the States or between the Crown and the States, but in addition both to the exercise of the rights of paramountcy and the adjustment of justiciable matters there is another class of cases which for the first time the British Government brought forward before the present R. T. C. as requiring some special provision. The recent disorders fomented in Kashmir by British Indians from the Punjab were cited as an example, in which intervention by an authority external to the federal government was obviously necessary. Sir S. Hoare therefore suggested that it would be proper to provide for the Governor General's intervention in such cases as an addition to his powers as a representative of the paramount power. This aspect of the question was never referred to by the Indian delegates before, and it is not known therefore whether they regard it as a serious limitation on the scope allowed to the federal ministry.

While on this subject we may conveniently refer to the views of the States on the question of the administration of federal subjects. They desire that, wherever possible, the agency of the federal government for carrying out its policy in regard to federal subjects in their own borders should be their own officials, but they realise that even in such cases the federal government must have the right to supervise the execution of the policy. They claim, however, that the supervision should not be imposed from above but that it should be supplied, as it were, by the States themselves. For instance, Sir Manubhai Mehta suggested that the inspection report of the federal inspector should be submitted, not to the federal government, but to the ruler of the State, and any action that becomes necessary as a result of the inspection should be ordered by the ruler himself. This point however does not seem to have been dealt with either by British Indian representatives or by the British representatives in their speeches.

The Services.—The two important questions of financial safeguards and commercial discrimination are to be referred to sub-committees for report, and Sir Samuel Hoare in his statement did not dwell upon them. But he insisted that special safeguards were necessary for the protection of the services. Indian delegates maintained that the Public Service Commissions, which would be constituted in all the provinces as well as at the centre, would see to it that no injustice is done to the existing members of the services, and that no further provisions would be necessary. Sir Samuel Hoare however disagreed with this view, and maintained that in view of the complete transformation that would take place in the duties to be performed by the services a statutory guarantee for fair treatment under the new dispensation must be given. It would be remembered that the Services Committee of the first R. T. C. proposed that provisions should be inserted in the new constitution for the maintenance of the rights and safeguards now guaranteed to them by the Secretary of State, including safeguards for the payment of pensions and provident funds.

Imperial Relations.—The last point in regard to which a safeguard was asked for by British representatives concerned the "preservation of good relations between India and other parts of the Empire." This safeguard was refused by all Indian members, including Mahomedans who offered to provide only for such safeguards as were provided for by the Dominions. Lord Reading thought this kind of safeguard would be good, but was not convinced that it was essential. Sir Samuel Hoare himself in his statement has promised to give further consideration to the matter. But he assured the members that in no case would the federal government be under a disability to deal as it pleased with questions like the protection of the Indian community in Kenya and South Africa. What he had in mind in asking for a safeguard was the question involving "the danger of a breakup of certain parts of the Empire." He has promised to consult with experts in order to find out whether the desired result cannot be obtained in any other way that may be acceptable to Indian opinion.

Ordinances.—It would be remembered that at the first R. T. C. Indian delegates maintained that the Governor General should no longer have the power of issuing Ordinances. Sir Samuel Hoare now insists upon them, but the Ordinances he has in mind are of a different character from those to which Indian delegates took exception. The Ordinances that he wants the Governor General to be given the power of issuing would be issued on the request and with the consent of the Ministers. They will be special measures in the sense that they will be promulgated over the head of the legislature, but they will not be promulgated over the head of the Cabinet.

However, this is not the only special legislative power which Sir S. Hoare would see conferred upon the Governor and the Governor General. If the fulfilment of their special responsibilities as e. g., one in connection with the protection of minorities, requires legislation they must have the power to obtain it. It does not mean that whenever the Governor or the Governor General feels the need for such legislation he shall straightway promulgate a special law to that effect without reference to the legislature. On the contrary, he will in most cases find it expedient to have the matter placed before the legislature and indeed, if possible he would try to persuade his

Minister to accept responsibility for it. In the latter case the legislation that will result will be legislation of the ordinary kind without resort to special powers by the head of the government. If, however, the Minister does not agree to make himself responsible for the legislation, even then the Governor or Governor-General would like to give a chance to the legislature to adopt the measure. But, as a last resort he must have the power to give legislative effect to any measure that he thinks essential for the discharge of his special responsibility. When the Ministers decline to take responsibility for the measure it will be promulgated as the Governor's or Governor-General's Act, thus making it known that the Ministers have no responsibility for it. In a similar way we suppose the Governor or Governor-General will have the right to take from the Treasury whatever money is required for carrying out his special responsibilities, irrespective of the legislature's consent thereto. This particular matter however does not figure in the statement of Sir Samuel Hoare, though Lord Reading made a prominent mention of it.

This is broadly the picture of the restrictions that the British Government think must be placed upon the powers of the Ministry and the legislature in this country.

AFTER THE STRESA CONFERENCE.

AT the time when the Stresa Conference started its deliberations, we gave our readers a short survey of the problems which it was preparing to deal with, and the particular difficulties of each one of the Central European States.

The question may appear of secondary importance; yet it is coming up again at present (the *Times* of November 24 honours it with a long editorial) and this is justified for more than one reason. European countries are being forced step by step to realise their interdependence—I was going to write "their solidarity", but the word sounds too generous to be true. The economic crisis; the attitude of America regarding war debts, which might jeopardise the results so laboriously reached at Lausanne; the fall in the pound; the increase in unemployment; the political uncertainty of Germany; the coming World Economic Conference, all these questions as well as many others are more or less directly related by vital links to the economic and financial problems of Central Europe.

The League of Nations has appointed a Committee of Experts to examine the recommendations resulting from the Stresa Conference. A report relative to the scheme of monetary normalization has lately been circulated to the Governments concerned.

Under the chairmanship of M. Germain Martin, our Finance Member, M. Georges Bonnet (member of the *Chambre des Deputes*, and ex-member of the Cabinet) who organised and conducted the Stresa Conference, gave a public lecture under the auspices of "L'Ecole de la Paix," the same organisation that

invited the Rt. Hon. Sastri to address the French public last year.

M. G. Bonnet spoke before such a large and attentive audience, and the questions put to him in the end were so numerous and so pertinent, that there can be no doubt about the interest of the French people in the subject. (By the way, somebody asked M. Bonnet why the Stresa Conference had met at all; could the work not have been done in Geneva by the League of Nations? The answer given was that "European questions must be settled among Europeans." This started me musing; and I believe a few years from now other continents might well surprise Europe by the expression of similar exclusive views.)

M. Bonnet said that France had been accused of intending to rule and manage the Conference in her own way; this was not correct. In fact France had made it a rule to listen to all the other countries so as to understand them better and examine their own plans before giving any suggestions. At every moment of the Conference the utmost had been done to refrain from exercising pressure on anyone and to favour an atmosphere of good will and confidence through better understanding of one another. The Conference had taken place on Italian soil, because it was of special interest to Italy.

The economic crisis has been more acute in Central Europe than anywhere else. The wealth of these countries lies essentially in their agricultural production. The fall in prices for agricultural products has been enormous, and also very sudden. It has resulted in considerable losses, and also in lower-

ing, proportionately, the buying capacity of the population. Financial and industrial difficulties had come as natural consequences; then, protection had been sought by excessive tariff barriers, and further, large loans had been raised and engulfed—all to no avail. After a comparatively short time, these countries had, so to speak, no more budget and no more credit.

What had been the solutions proposed at Stresa?

The principal one was a scheme for the valorization of agricultural products, and especially of cereals which constitute the most vital element of Central European trade. A percentage of 10 francs per quintal had been suggested.

How could this be realised, practically speaking? On the one hand by the creation of a common fund, amounting to 350 million francs, and on the other hand by agreements between the States concerned.

Some States would agree to absorb part of Central Europe's production in cereals according to the valorisation tariff, others could do it on the basis of a preferential system, in certain cases the same benefit would be granted by lowering customs duties in the same proportion. Those countries which have no duties on the imports of cereals ought not to be allowed to evade the sacrifice; they would be invited to devote spontaneously a corresponding contribution to the common fund. To this point England has objected, and the reasons are too obvious to be emphasised. Provision has been made for free bi-lateral agreements between any interested countries on the basis of the above principles, and such agreements are not far from being realised now.

Another and complementary solution proposed is that Central European countries should lower their tariff walls in general. In fact, in the whole world tariffs, quotas and prohibitions are continually increasing, and are a considerable handicap to exchanges and to the revival of prosperity.

A vast programme of public works has also been drafted at Stresa, with a direct bearing upon agricultural production; it would increase the latter's efficiency and also modernise the means of transport.

The financial problem has been examined as well and the delegates tried to devise means for balancing budgets which have sunk to a practically hopeless condition. Up to now, the tentative remedy has naturally been loans, and very large ones too, some of them raised at very high rates. In prosperous times this bold process might receive justification from actual results. But at present it has become almost impossible to pay even the interest. The policy of loans cannot be expected to save the situation any longer and should be abandoned at this stage. But the burden of debts remains. There again direct agreement between debtor and creditor should be resorted to. Creditors, on the one hand, have been advised to show some generosity, and, for instance, to lower the rate of interest. Debtors, on the other hand, have been made to understand that not doing honour to one's signature amounts to destroying one's credit.

How much easier it would be to find a cure for Central Europe's monetary crisis if prosperity could

be revived! Yet even in the present circumstances, it seems necessary to create a monetary fund in favour of those countries who have no more reserves. An appeal has been made for European collaboration. What will be the response?

A practical proposal has been put forward by the French delegation. Since most countries are themselves suffering at present from a financial crisis and can hardly be expected to raise large sums on their deficit budgets, why not create a very small duty (2 per 1000) on all goods? The average customer would not feel the weight, and the money could be entrusted to the Bank of International Settlements in Basel, or to a special international committee of a non-political and merely technical character.

These and other proposals will be examined by the Committee of Studies for Inter-European Union in Geneva.

What will be the influence of the Stresa Conference on international relations? Conferences can only draft resolutions. Translating those resolutions into action depends on the governments themselves. A doctor can prescribe a cure, but that is of no avail if the patient refuses to carry out the prescription. Prosperity cannot be expected by any country so long as their neighbours remain in misery and disorder.

M. Georges Bonnet is confident that the realisation of the Stresa recommendations would mean a great step towards peace and good-will in Europe, and a great asset in view of the coming World Economic Conference.

Paris.

L. MORIN.

Our London Letter.

(From Our Correspondent.)

(BY AIR MAIL.)

LONDON, November 25.

THE CONFERENCE AT WORK.

NOW that the remaining delegates, with one insignificant exception, have reached here, it has become possible for the Round Table Conference to get seriously to work. From the outset two important divisions have been noticeable. First, there is the difference between the Musalman block and almost all the rest of the British Indian delegates. The Musalmans have come here to make the best bargain they can, founding themselves substantially upon the Communal Award. With the exception of Begum Shah Nawaz, who, I have reason to believe, is feeling very uncomfortable at the invidious position in which she finds herself among her co-religionists, there is a singular unanimity in the Mohammedan attitude of conservative obstruction. On the question of the franchise for women, with the exception of the Begum, there has been no disposition whatever on the part of the Musalmans to realise that an extension of the women's franchise is now overdue. I have reason to know that the overruling of this attitude of obstructionism and obscurantism disguised under an alleged religious sanction was heavily discounted as a result of speeches by the Begum herself, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, and Lord Reading, whose sturdy liberalism never shows itself to greater effect than when he contemplates the possibilities of

women's co-operation in the production of useful legislation on those social questions that go so deeply home in India.

As was to be expected, too, the Musalman delegation is plumping for the maximum of powers to be left with the Provinces. That section of Musalman opinion that is represented at the Conference has no great affection for a strong central government, whether under a federal system including the States or under a constitution affecting British India only. It is significant that Sir Annepu Patro finds his soul's salvation in collaboration with the Mohammedan group wherever possible. It is whispered in unusually well-informed circles that his inclusion in this Conference has been at the expense of the omission of a great Indian statesman, and that he will usually be found in any camp opposed to that in which Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar will be working.

The other special problem in which there is some division of opinion is that in which the States are concerned. Here, whilst paying lip-service to the federal ideal, Sir Akbar Hydari is understood to be leading the Opposition. So far, though of course Hyderabad is a State of first importance, it is believed to be a small Opposition, the greater proportion of the States represented at the Conference, directly and indirectly, being loyal to the federal idea. On one thing the States are unanimous. They absolutely refuse to tolerate the communal principle to enter into representation of the States in the Federal Legislature. They are fully alive to the dangers that are latent in the suggestion that it should so enter. The result is that the Mohammedan delegation has been obliged to couch its demand for special representation in the Lower House in somewhat modified terms. The demand, which is not assented to by the rest of the British Indian delegates, is for twenty-five per cent. of the entire number of seats, or approximately thirty-eight per cent. of the British Indian representation. One of the most pleasing features of Wednesday's discussion in the Conference was a powerful speech by Nawab Liakat Hayat Khan of Patiala, in which he strongly adhered to the federal principle. His speech was, I am told, widely commented upon, and was the subject of warm congratulations, except in those corners of the room where federation is looked upon askance. I shall be surprised if the States, with the possible exception of Hyderabad and Rewa, resile from the standpoint taken by the Patiala representative. Another question upon which there remains some difference of opinion is as to the size of the Lower House of the Federal Legislature. Sir Mirza Ismail is understood to hold somewhat strong views on this subject, but he is, I think, unlikely to hold out if he sees that the British Indian delegation generally supports to the end the recommendations on this point of the Lothian Commission. Lord Lothian, I have reason to know, is reasonably well satisfied with the manner in which his Committee's Report has been received by the Conference.

It is unlikely, however, that any of these minor questions, including the residuary powers and the relations between the two Houses of the Federal Legislature, will become a centre of conflict leading to the breakdown of the Conference. The crucial test will be when the questions arise (a) as to the hiatus between the coming into force of the two parts of the Constitution Bill, dealing respectively with provincial autonomy and central responsibility, and (b) the quality and content of that responsibility. Except perhaps for the Musalman block, there is general agreement among the rest of the delegation that the very shortest period of time possible should elapse between the coming into force of provincial autonomy and the setting up of Federation with Central responsibility. One of the most distinguished of the

British delegates with ample experience of Indian conditions is credited with an inability to understand what provincial autonomy divorced from central responsibility is. As this distinguished personality will play a very considerable part in the discussions relating to finance and commercial safeguards, it is reasonable to expect him to view sympathetically the arguments of those who are presumed to represent primarily Indian national interests. And here let me say that just as the Musalman block loyally aided by Sir Annepu Patro acts as a unit, so does another strong group led by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru in a very different direction. It consists, besides the very highly capable Allahabad leader, of Mr. M. R. Jayakar, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas, Dewan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Sir N. N. Sircar, Pundit Nanak Chand, Mr. N. C. Kelkar, Sirdar Tara Singh and Dr. Ambedkar. This group has already reached well-defined ideas and conclusions on some of the fundamental questions facing the Conference, and it has already decided upon its plan of action in certain eventualities. Even if some of the members of this group should weaken, it is believed that the residuum will be so important and influential as to make it difficult to get through recommendations of a definitely reactionary character.

During the week Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr. Jayakar have had some very important and, it may be, far-reaching conversations with the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irwin, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Baldwin. So far they have had no opportunity of having more than one discussion, and that on procedure, with the Secretary of State for India. It is believed that the relations of these two delegates with him are likely to prove less formal and infructuous on this occasion than at the two previous Conferences. The conversations with the Conservative leaders are understood to have taken place at a private dinner given by Lord Irwin on Wednesday night, when the Government held a large and picturesque Reception at Lancaster House in honour of the Round Table Conference delegates. It is regarded as of the highest importance that the Moderate leaders should have been able to place their point of view without reserve before the heads of the Conservative Party, and it is hoped that the free exchange of ideas and the frank discussion that is said to have taken place will have opened the way to a better understanding in this country of the realities of the Indian situation. Both the Moderate leaders and Mr. Joshi have also had important discussions with leading members of the Labour Party who are as ever full of unconvincingly good reasons for the Parliamentary Party's abstention from the Conference. I hear, by the way, that there is widespread criticism in the Labour Party at large at the Parliamentary Party's decision. Arrangements are also being made for the Moderate leaders to address important Conservative groups at the House of Commons and elsewhere. It is a great pity that such arrangements should not have been made last year, for if they had been much misunderstanding might have been avoided. This evening Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr. Jayakar are meeting the Indian Conciliation Group at 119 Gower Street. The Group is in closetouch with very influential religious and secular centres of opinion in this country. Owing to the Premier's immediate preoccupations with Parliamentary and foreign affairs, the Moderate leaders have had only one comparatively brief talk with him. It was, however, of a very friendly and cordial character, and they are well satisfied that the allegations that Mr. MacDonald is no longer interested in Indian affairs, or that he distrusts the Indian Moderates and is inclined to "sell them a pup" are ill-founded.

Before I conclude this part of my letter I should like to pay a tribute to the Women's International League that has made a special point of communicating to its members a very valuable summary of recent events in India and their meaning, including the campaign for the removal of untouchability and the various unity conferences that have of late been held in India. As a result, too, of the Indian Conciliation Group, various Church leaders, headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, have issued a call to prayer on behalf of India and for the success of the present Conference. It is well to realise that the influence of the Churches in this country remains very considerable, and that the organisation of that influence on behalf of India should go far to produce widespread and good results.

THE NEW SESSION.

With sessions of Parliament it is as with sweethearts, off with the old and on with the new. So no sooner was the old session over last week than preparations were made for opening a new session this week. The King's Speech contained a skeleton sentence relating to India, and the work of the Session commenced with an irritable duel between the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister. There are strong temperamental differences between these two eminent personalities, and they have been intensified by the feud that arose immediately after the downfall of the Labour Government and Mr. MacDonald's leadership of the National Government. It would not be at all surprising to find this feud at the bottom of the decision of the Parliamentary Labour Party to abstain from the Conference. Mr. Wedgwood Benn, who is supposed to have advised the Party on this point, is bitterly hostile both to the Prime Minister and to the Lord Chancellor.

Whilst extending the sympathy of "one fractious invalid for another", as Mr. Churchill humorously remarked in opening the second day's debate on the reply to the King's Speech on Wednesday, Mr. Churchill made an important and interesting reference to India. His views on the subject are of course thoroughly well-known, and he did not add to our enlightenment in any material respect. One thing, however, was clear, namely, that he was looking to the stage when the Constitution Bill is before the Joint Committee of Parliament, in order to make his attack. He sought to emphasise the fact that, in his judgment, the worthy Indian delegation, now in this country at the Round Table Conference, had been invited here in order to enable the Government to discover their mind on the subject of the forthcoming reforms, without in any way binding Parliament, as a good and sufficient reason for discounting the Conference, and he urged the Government to give people of his persuasion a chance of making their views clear by not packing the Joint Parliamentary Committee with their own nominees, whether of the Conservative, Liberal, or Labour persuasion. Mr. Lansbury must have been surprised to hear his Party described in effect as a more enthusiastic supporter of the prospective official proposals than the Government's own followers. I find that some of my Indian friends are still disposed to take Mr. Churchill and his influence in the Conservative Party councils at his own valuation. I am convinced nevertheless that he has far less support to-day than he ever had in the House of Commons on this question, and that the young Conservatives in particular will not follow him. I was present at a private luncheon to-day when the fear of Mr. Churchill's cohorts was voiced by a member of what may be called the non-Muslim group in the Conference. He was promptly corrected by one of the most active of the young

Conservative Members of the House, who demanded to know who these cohorts were.

Reviews.

INDIAN PROBLEM— A STAKE-HOLDER'S VIEW.

THE INDIAN HORIZON. By the MAHARAJA OF BURDWAN. (Benn, London.) 1932. 22cm. 106p. 3/6.

THE author visited America a few months ago on the self-imposed mission of enlightening the people of that country about Indian conditions. The lectures he delivered there form the basis of this book, which, as he explains in the preface, is brought out "on the suggestion of good friends." The Indian public is familiar with the politics of the Maharaja and can easily form some idea as to the contents of this publication. The Maharaja is an important stake-holder and like all people similarly placed is only to be expected not to be too enthusiastic about any change in the existing order of things. It need hardly be said that such a man cannot be classed amongst Indian politicians of the progressive type; while his place in British politics is, by deliberate choice, in the ranks of the Conservative party. The extent to which he enjoys the confidence of British Tories may be judged from the fact that when his intention to enter Parliament was made public, the Maharaja was reported to have experienced hardly any difficulty in finding a safe Conservative seat. It is unnecessary to inquire why he did not actually offer himself for election. It is enough for our present purpose to remember that the Conservatives made no bones about adopting him as their candidate which shows his complete identification with them. Such is his fondness for that party that even in his present book he is found to deplore the fact that "nothing corresponding to a Conservative party able to make itself felt as a national organisation has developed" in India (p. 62). No wonder therefore that his former chief, Lord Zetland, should have found nothing against his grain in contributing a Foreword and commending the book warmly. The opinions expressed in the book are so indistinguishable from those held by His Lordship that he might as well have adopted them as his own without doing the slightest violence to his conscience.

It is unnecessary to follow the Maharaja in all he says in order to make our readers realise what a hopeless back-number he is. He can apparently envisage responsible government both at the centre and the provinces as a result of the labours of the R. T. C. (p. 104). Only his conception of provincial autonomy is as different from that held by progressive Indian opinion as white from black. While Indian political reformers are looking forward to having constitutional Governors as heads of provinces under provincial autonomy, the Maharaja would like to see them invested with "large overriding powers, not only to preserve the safety and tranquillity of the province but...to protect the rights and privileges of minorities" (p. 23). He does not allow us to remain in doubt as to the kind of minorities the prospective Governor will be expected to take under his wings, but without much ado instances the wealthy and powerful land-holders of Bengal who, he insists, must be secured in the enjoyment of the Permanent Settlement. The Maharaja really makes too heavy a call on our credulity when he asks us to believe that in the absence of the Governor's protection his class will go to the wall.

under the new regime. Incidentally he is also, perhaps unconsciously, misleading the British public if he wants it to imagine that the truncated autonomy for the provinces of the nature described by him will satisfy anybody in India. If he sincerely holds that view, he must prepare himself for a thorough disillusionment.

He shares the Churchillian dislike of the policy of conciliation towards the Congress followed by Lord Irwin, whose Government, he thinks, "allowed the weakening of law and order to go on unchecked longer than was good for the prestige of Government." But he does not stop here. In the approved bureaucratic style he gives a tip to those responsible for the conduct of Indian administration which might serve as a beaconlight to them in their future dealings with the Maharaja's countrymen. He adds: "A strong hand at the beginning is very often more effective for a country like India, than a long-drawn-out struggle against mob rule for the maintenance of law and order." (p. 71.) The policy of the firm hand in force in India since the beginning of the year of course finds in the Maharaja a strong supporter. Nor will his opinion about the Congress come as a surprise to anybody. "Such political parties as the Indian National Congress", says he, "exist more to disseminate hatred against the ruling authority than to think about and work for the good of India itself and to assist in a constructive programme." (p. 75.) In speaking so disparagingly of the national organisation the Maharaja is doubtless voicing the feelings of a very small section of Indians. The existence of the Congress he uses as an argument to strengthen his case for the transfer of "real responsibility" to the people. It remains to be seen how far his plea commends itself to those who have to part with power.

In what he writes about the Indian States his desire to paint them as progressive is evident. But he does not seem to have realised that in doing so he was to some extent contradicting himself. He seems to be aware of the fact that most of the Indian States lack constitutional forms of government and even the reign of law, the first requisite of civilised government, and that their rulers have yet no civil list fixed on a reasonable basis. (p. 28.) And yet the Maharaja talks about the "wonderful progress" (p. 26) of Indian India! Discussing the possibilities of the Indian federation materialising he asks: "Are the Princes going to be so patriotic in their desire to see India become a nation and achieve Dominion Status one day as to assist in such a federation by some surrender of their rights and prerogatives?" (p. 32) He has his doubts. We need not wait long to see if these doubts come true.

We think enough has been indicated of the contents of the book to make our readers realise how out of touch with Indian public opinion the Maharaja is. With all that one cannot withhold from him a word of praise for his trouble in trying to interest the American people in the Indian problem.

D. V. A.

SHORT NOTICE.

THE POWER FIGHT. By STEPHEN RAUSHEN-BUSH. (New Republic, Inc. New York.) 1932. 20cm. 308p. \$1.00.

THE book deals with the power fight that is going on in respect of the management of huge public utility corporations with special reference to the conditions prevailing in America. These corporations managed for the most part by private companies exercise enormous influence and enable the shareholders to

secure enormous profits by virtue of the usefulness of electric power to everyone in the country. The question of bringing these industries under adequate effective control is discussed and the conclusion is aimed at that if the Municipal Corporations take up the work of establishing and managing these companies, more useful results from the public point of view would ensue and the evil incidental to the private management of such big concerns will be removed. The power companies will, it may be expected, do anything in their power to prevent the achievement of this consummation which is bound to result in huge losses to them and the author concludes by saying that it is around this point that the real power fight of the future will centre.

C. V. HANUMANTHA RAO.

Miscellaneous.

THE DEPRESSED CLASSES MISSION, MANGALORE.

REPORT OF WORK FOR 1931-32.

THE year under report has been one of exceptional difficulties. The trade depression in general, the financial stringency experienced even by Government and the contraction of private charity have all contributed in no small measure to the curtailment of the expanding activities of the Mission. But it may be of some consolation to the well-wishers of the Mission that in spite of all these difficulties every effort has been made to maintain the level of efficiency of the institutions of the Mission and, wherever possible, to increase their usefulness within the limited means available for the purpose.

EDUCATION.

The Court Hill Higher Elementary School continued to attract a larger number of pupils. The strength of the institution rose from 112 to 138 and of these 30 were girl pupils. The number would have gone higher if admissions to Boarding Houses had not been restricted. The attendance was as usual satisfactory and the efficiency and tone of the school remained high. The policy of encouraging pupils of other communities to seek admission was continued. Greater attention was given to the study of subjects such as English to enable pupils fit for higher education to avail themselves of the facilities afforded by the Mission. Hand work of various kinds received special attention. An extract from the inspection remarks may as well be quoted here:

"Practical instruction is given in carpentry, bookbinding, cardboard modelling, cocconut shell work, paper cutting, collection of botanical specimens, stamps etc. and gardening with observation notes. Drill and games inclusive of Indian Kasrat receive attention. This is the only school where there is provision for medical inspection, with subsequent medical treatment for rectification of defects noticed.

The two increasingly popular Boarding Houses for boys and girls, the practical instruction given, the steady increase in the number of communities from different parts of the district taking advantage of the training given in this institution, the steady rise in the pupils' attainments and the sense of self-respect that has been infused into them show the success of the efforts made in this institution."

During the year the school and its allied institutions were visited by many distinguished visitors including Dewan Bahadur Munuswami Naidu, Chief Minister to the Government of Madras, and Dewan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiar, Minister for Education, and they all wrote appreciative remarks. The visit of Mr. M. Shiva Rau, President, Puthur Taluk

Board, with a party of thirty teachers employed under the Board and the valuable suggestions they gave during the visit, need special mention.

The number of scholarship-holders remained the same as last year viz., 11 from the Labour Department and 3 from the Education Department. The need for granting more scholarships especially to girl pupils has been more than once represented to the Commissioner of Labour and it is hoped that during the coming year our representations will receive favourable consideration. Rules governing scholarships are the same both for boys and girls and it has been often pointed out that these rules prevent the girl pupils from receiving scholarships just at the time when the parents need encouragement. Grown-up boys, though anxious to get themselves educated, do not receive scholarships owing to age and other restrictions. The Savings Bank system which has been the special feature of this school continues to be popular and has been a great source of help to the pupils and their parents in times of dire necessity.

While the Mission continues to encourage boys who are not fit for higher education to study in technical schools, the difficulty of finding employment for them after they finish their courses has been very great. There are at present two boys who have completed their course as fitters and drivers in the St. Joseph's Asylum and Orphanage and both of them are unemployed. Efforts made to secure employment for them have been of no avail. It is a fact, however regrettable it may be, that while there is a great deal of talk and sympathy for the Depressed Classes, there are very few who are bold enough to translate that sympathy into action. The difficulty of securing admission into other trades is equally great. The Mission cannot afford to send them to far-off places for training as that would mean extra expenditure. Anyhow every possible effort is being made to secure entry into different trades and with the changing signs of the times, the Mission hopes the difficulties now experienced will gradually disappear. But to all those who have helped in this task, the Mission feels deeply grateful.

The Manual Training class attached to the Court Hill Higher Elementary School continued to work satisfactorily. The difficulty of securing a trained instructor has been solved by the deputation of a teacher to the Manual Training Class at Saidapet. Mr. Porrett, Advisor to Government on Manual Training, has been greatly helpful in affording all facilities to the deputed teacher and his valuable suggestions for the proper working of this section have been of considerable assistance. Much as it is desirable and necessary, the Mission has not been able to enlist a larger number of apprentices as no grant is received towards the payment of wages during the period of apprenticeship. There are many in the rural parts who have completed a course of elementary education and who would like to take advantage of training in carpentry as well as in weaving which the Mission hopes to provide. Either a hostel where free boarding and lodging are provided or payment of sufficient wages to meet their cost of maintenance, is a necessity. When the financial position of the Government improves, the Mission hopes to receive a grant for this purpose. It is not desirable to admit the apprentices as boarders in Dr. Karnad's Boarding House and Orphanage where admission is restricted to children only.

As the number of pupils in Standards IV to VIII has increased considerably and the task of providing manual instruction in carpentry alone is becoming difficult, the Mission made arrangements for introducing weaving also. Necessary looms etc., have been purchased and fitted up. When the Mission

applied for a recurring grant, the Commissioner of Labour could not give it owing to financial stringency. Representations have again been made and it is hoped they will receive due consideration.

As already stated, in addition to instruction in carpentry, different kinds of hand work are taught in the school. Girl pupils receive instruction in needle work. The experiment of encouraging teachers and pupils to interest themselves in hobbies has been very successful.

Mid-day meal continues to be the special feature of the school.

The Library Association and regular talks and lectures arranged under its auspices were continued during the year. Sri Krishna Jayanti Day was as usual celebrated. The pupils of the school also participated in the Gita Jayanti celebrations and four boys were recipients of prizes kindly awarded by Mr. S. Ramachandra Iyer.

A Scout troop was organised during the year under the direction of Messrs. M. S. Ekambara Rau, B. A., L. T., and Kundaji. The troop participated in the Mangalore Scout rally and in spite of the shortness of notice and inadequate training the troop managed to stand fourth among the competing troops.

Another important event of the year is the participation of the schools in the South Kanara Educational Exhibition. Articles prepared in the hobby classes, card-board models, writing pads, statistical, story and physiological charts and pictures etc., articles of furniture and needle work were exhibited. Two medals and four certificates of merit were awarded by the Exhibition Committee.

The two Day Schools at Attavar and Derebail with the three standards continued to work satisfactorily. Every effort is being made to bring the teaching in these schools into line with that in the Court Hill Higher Elementary School.

The Adult Education Centre at Derebail started for the purpose of affording facilities for the education of adults continued to work fairly well. In the curriculum adopted, imparting of general knowledge is an important item. Besides lessons given in the class in such subjects as civics, lectures and bhajanas were organised and scout camps were held. Realising the importance of visual instruction, the Mission has purchased a magic lantern and slides from the D. M. R. Trust, Calicut, and the Education Department are used for the purpose of propoganda. The Mission feels the need to own sets of slides so that more frequent use may be made of the magic lantern. The question of removing the centre to Pandeshwar where there is a large colony of scavengers who are more eager to avail themselves of opportunities provided for their betterment is being seriously considered by the Mission.

The Adult Night School at Attavar was closed during the year as the attendance was not satisfactory. Efforts were being made to revive it at the end of the year.

It is gratifying to state that one boy appeared for the B. A. examination, another for the Intermediate examination and the third for the S. S. L. C. examination. There is one boy reading in the fifth form while another is in the fourth form.

The Koraga Boarding School at Puthur near Udipi is continuing to do useful work. The number of pupils in the school was 16. They are all fed, clothed and taken care of as in an Orphanage. The parents of children and the children themselves are slowly realising the advantages of settled habitations and benefits of education. There are great possibilities for this work. The immediate need is a building which can serve both as a school and a dormitory.

In 1931, Mr. Gray, I. C. S., was so well impressed with this work that he promised to consider our request for a grant for the school-building. Plans and estimates were prepared and sent. But as it was the fag-end of the official year the consideration of the question was postponed to this year. Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Labour informed us that in view of the financial stringency no fresh proposals for expenditure would be considered by Government. While the Mission fully realises the difficulties of Government in these times, it cannot help saying that this work is of such a nature that Government can, if they like, find the necessary funds. But Madras is far off. Still it is earnestly hoped that our representations in regard to this matter will receive sympathetic consideration and the school at present housed in sheds will be provided with a decent habitation. Meanwhile the Mission is making arrangements to build a modest structure. Whether it would be possible to complete the structure will depend on the financial support received from the public and Government.

Besides these educational institutions, the Mission spends on the maintenance of boys receiving higher and technical education, in some cases to supplement the stipends or scholarships received by the pupils.

BOARDING HOUSES.

In Dr. Karnad's Orphanage and Boarding House attached to the Court Hill Higher Elementary School there were 56 inmates. The health of the children was fairly satisfactory. In the interests of efficiency the Mission appointed a whole-time Resident Warden. There is a Medical Attendant who also carries out the medical inspection of children of all schools of the Mission. For this the Commissioner of Labour was pleased to make a grant. All the work in the Boarding House, garden etc., is done by the boarders. In the management of the Boarding House the prefect system has been working satisfactorily. Every attempt is made to inculcate and maintain the idea of dignity of manual labour. The demand for admission into the Boarding House is great and insistent. But the Mission is not in a position to maintain a large number.

The Boarding House for girls which started with a small number is slowly becoming a permanent feature of the Mission's work. One of the lady teachers, Miss Bangara, continued to act as the Warden. Mrs. N. Lalithabai Subba Rau acted as the Superintendent. The Mahila Sabha kindly provided badminton bats, net etc., besides other gifts made by the members of the Sabha.

Already mention has been made of the Koraga Residential School at Puthur. The Mission is greatly interested in extending the scope of this work.

In all the Mission maintained three Boarding Houses with the following strength:—

Dr. Karnad's Orphanage and Boarding House	56
Girl's Boarding House	7
Puthur Boarding School	16

Besides a monthly grant of Rs. 320 for 40 boarders the Commissioner of Labour was pleased to sanction four boarding grants for eleven months. But as the Mission was maintaining 35 boarders more than the number for which the grant was received, the deficit must necessarily be large. From the statement of accounts it will be noticed that while the receipts under this head were Rs. 5187-3-4 the expenditure was Rs. 5597-7-11, leaving a deficit of Rs. 410-4-7. The deficit would have been larger

but for the extreme vigilance in expenditure exercised consistent with efficiency and needs of boarders.

INDUSTRIAL SECTION.

Mention has been made earlier of the provision made for the training of apprentices in the Carpentry Workshop attached to the Court Hill Higher Elementary School. Arrangements have also been made to introduce weaving. To realise the desire of the Mission, to organise a Residential Industrial School and teach different trades, large funds will be necessary. If the work of uplift of the Depressed Classes is to be tackled seriously funds should be forthcoming for the purpose. The public and the Government should come forward to help the Mission in this venture.

COLONY WORK.

The Adult Education Centre at Derebail, the Adult Night School at Attavar, the Star Hall at Bijjai and the Boarding School at Puthur are slowly becoming community centres. The institutions located in the colonies of the Mission have tried to bring a ray of hope and cheer to the people living in those areas. The task of reconstruction of the community which has for ages suffered indignities and has been made to cultivate a spirit of slave mentality is by no means easy. A sense of self-respect has to be roused and a spirit of divine discontent with their lot inducing them to put forth efforts to improve their condition has to be created. All this means persistent and patient work carried on, often under discouraging circumstances. During the year four Koraga families were settled in the Koraga Colony in Mangalore with the assistance of materials kindly given free of cost by some merchants. Our sincere thanks are due to them.

CO-OPERATIVE WORK.

There is a Co-operative Society conducted by the Mission for the benefit of the Depressed Classes. It has passed through many vicissitudes and at one time it appeared to be beyond redemption. Thanks to the untiring efforts of Messrs. Ramachandra Iyer and U. Govinda Rao the defects have been rectified and transactions are conducted now on sound co-operative principles. The Mission can venture to state that it is now serving the purpose for which it was organised.

FINANCES.

The statement of accounts will indicate that the financial position of the Mission was not satisfactory. There was a total receipt of Rs. 11,542-0-11 while the expenditure was Rs. 12,954-2-9. The Court Hill Higher Elementary School itself cost the Mission Rs. 930-11-11 more than what was secured as grant. As already pointed out, the Boarding Houses are responsible for a deficit of Rs. 410-4-7. There are various other items of a recurring and non-recurring character which need large funds. It is very discouraging to note that while interest in the lot of the Depressed Classes shows signs of increase, receipts for work carried on for their benefit are decreasing. A cursory perusal of the statement of accounts will show that the Government grants are more than the public subscriptions and it would be clear that but for them the Mission would not have been able to conduct the various institutions. But even the Government grants cannot be got for all items of work and much greater public support is absolutely necessary. Will it be forthcoming? Will the Mission be enabled to increase its usefulness and play its part in the uplift of the Depressed Classes? The Mission appeals to all its helpers for increased support and to the public it makes an earnest appeal for help.