

The Servant of India

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CONTENTS.

	Page
TOPICS OF THE WEEK.	373
ARTICLES :—	
Statutory Railway Authority.	375
Political Conflicts.	377
Planned Economy in U. S. A.	378
International Economic Situation. By Madame L. Morin.	379
OUR LONDON LETTER.	380
REVIEWS :—	
Plea for International Outlook. By E. Asirvatham.	382
Review of Cooperative Activities. By Gundappa S. Kurpad.	382
MISCELLANEOUS :—	
Servants of India Society's Report for 1932-33.	383

Topics of the Week.

Vindictive.

THE arrest and the inevitable conviction of Mr. Devadas Gandhi is nothing short of a scandal. Mr. Devadas arrived in Delhi on the night of the 6th inst. He was served with an order from the Chief Commissioner to leave Delhi immediately. The order was dated the 31st July, nearly a week earlier, before the suspension of the civil disobedience by the Congress was due to expire. The conduct of Mr. Devadas between the 31st July and the 6th August must have convinced anybody with the least commonsense and acquaintance with the course of daily events that Mr. Devadas had not come to Delhi in a militant spirit of offering individual civil disobedience. If he had meant to follow the Mahatma's example, he would have, like him and all the other Satyagrahis, given due notice of his intention to the authorities. He did not. Even when his father, his mother and their followers recommenced civil disobedience on the 1st inst. and were arrested, he refused to be swept off his feet. Days after the arrests, he deliberately took a different road, both literally and metaphorically, even at the risk of much opprobrium from his erstwhile comrades in civil disobedience. He had thus given overwhelming proof that he had abandoned the path of his father. The Chief Commissioner would have known it if he had paid the slightest attention to the matter. But apparently, with amazing callousness, he allowed his order signed on the 31st July, perhaps before he could realise the purpose of Mr. Devadas' visit to Delhi, to stand and to be served. It was unforgivable

enough. Mr. Devadas took care to inform the Chief Commissioner soon after the externment order was served on him that he had no intention of offering civil disobedience and that he had come to Delhi to settle down in private life. He, therefore, requested that the order should be withdrawn. He added that if the order was not withdrawn he would be obliged to disobey it and take the consequences. After the express avowal of his intentions, the Chief Commissioner could not have been any longer in doubt. Nevertheless, he persisted in arresting him and putting him up for trial. Between the arrest on the 6th night and the trial on the 10th the Chief Commissioner had enough time to reconsider his order and withdraw it. But apparently because Mr. Devadas had said that he would disobey the order if it were not withdrawn, the Chief Commissioner peevishly persisted in his charge, knowing full well that the trying Magistrate had no choice but to convict as it was not open to him under the lawless law, the Ordinance Act, to question the discretion of the Chief Commissioner. It is to be hoped that this scandalous act of the Chief Commissioner will not be allowed to stand.

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An Obnoxious Law.

WHAT is commonly known as the Whipping Bill was enacted into law by the Bombay Legislative Council last week. It authorises the infliction of the punishment of whipping in addition to or in lieu of any other penalties prescribed by the Indian Penal Code on rioters or their abettors. In helping to place such a measure on the statute book the local council has shown itself hopelessly out of accord with the present tendency of world opinion in the matter of penal reform. This, it need hardly be pointed out, is in the direction of doing as far as possible without any form of corporal punishment, which is looked upon as dehumanising and demoralising in its effect upon the victim. Even in India public opinion has all along looked with abhorrence on this form of punishment, as can be seen from the feeling of indignation aroused by occasional resort to it in our jails. Why, then, did the Bombay Government make themselves responsible for proposing such an obnoxious measure? Their justification is that it was demanded by public opinion. We are afraid that the wishes of the public have been misunderstood. It is true that soon after the communal riots in Bombay about a couple of years ago, to which this law is to be directly attributed, considerable resentment was expressed at the dilatoriness of the judicial procedure which prevented the culprits being brought to book without avoidable loss of time. But what was really desired was not the validation of whipping as a punishment, but some sort of summary procedure to be followed by the magistrates in such cases. This piece of legislation admittedly makes no attempt to shorten judicial pro-

cesses, the satisfaction of the technical requirements of which involves considerable delay in restraining the mischievous elements of the population and will not serve the purpose for which it is designed. In these circumstances, in spite of the concessions made to public opinion in the later stages of the progress of the Bill through the legislature, we find ourselves unable to reconcile ourselves to it.

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A Warning for Princes.

IT is the fashion even with Princes popularly believed to be the most go-ahead to refuse to widen the scope of popular rights or liberties within their territories on the ground of the utter absence of a desire for them on the part of their subjects. The excuse is too hollow to be seriously taken at this time of the day and in ninety-nine cases out of hundred is nothing more than a cloak for the ruler's unwillingness to improve the political status of his people. But if evidence of how the minds of the Indian States' subjects are working on the point were required, it is furnished by the recent proceedings of the Cochin Legislative Council. The yearning of Cochin subjects for a larger measure of political advance has often found expression in independent newspapers published in the State and is really too pronounced to be mistaken. Attempts however to have it authoritatively expressed in the Council chamber have been foiled so far by the action of the Dewan President who seems to have consistently disallowed questions and resolutions pleading for a liberalisation of the constitution. The Council could not, however, be thus turned from its purpose of making itself heard and it got the opportunity it wanted when the Durbar came to it for a grant of Rs. 77,000 for "General Administration." Having been denied other constitutional means of expressing itself and taking its cue apparently from the doings of the Swaraj Party in the Assembly, it rejected the whole of this demand by way of protest against the unsympathetic attitude of the Durbar towards the question of constitutional reform. That only three non-officials could be found to vote the grant as against the 22 that voted against it shows how widespread is the public longing for the State constitution being further democratised. It is of course undesirable that owing to the wide diffusion of education in the State, thanks to its liberal education policy, public opinion in Cochin is more advanced than in many other States. Even so it is difficult to imagine that if people in other States enjoyed similar opportunities for self-expression, their verdict would be different. For our part we have no hesitation in looking upon it as representative of public opinion in Indian States. It is therefore to be hoped that the significance of the Cochin Council's vote will not be lost not only upon Cochin State authorities but upon those of other States as well.

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Kenya.

THANKS to the vigilance and energy of the new Executive of the East African Indian National Congress, a conference of prominent and representative Indians was held in Mombasa on the 22nd July last to review the situation created by the claim put forward by the unofficial Europeans of Kenya on the 3rd July. Encouraged apparently by the concession made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies that the Kenya Colony should be allowed to choose the form of taxation necessary to balance the budget, the un-official Europeans revived their old preposterous demand for a government in Kenya solely responsible to them and, as an interim measure, the handing over to them of the financial control of the colony.

They demanded that all financial proposals should be submitted in the first instance to the elected European members of the Kenya Legislative Council, who are eleven in number, and that if nine of them opposed a measure it should be dropped unless the Governor chose to certify it. The Europeans did not conceal their determined opposition to the sharing of the power with other sections of the people of Kenya. Considering the conservative character of the Government in England and the secret negotiations that had taken place between the Colonial Secretary and Lord Francis Scott, apprehensions were naturally raised in the Indian community that a conspiracy had been matured to concede the impossible demands of the white settlers and to hand over to their tender mercies the fate of the non-European populations, Indian and Native. Promptly and vigorously the Executive of the Indian Congress warned the Indian community in Kenya, the people and the Government of India and the friends in England of the impending danger.

A conference of representative Indians was speedily held in Mombasa, which entered a dignified but nonetheless vigorous protest against the selfish demands of the white settlers. The Conference reminded the authorities of the declarations made in the White Paper of 1930 that "the goal of constitutional evolution in Kenya, as elsewhere, is the establishment of responsible government by a ministry representing an electorate in which every section of Kenya finds adequate and effective voice and that the establishment of the common roll is the subject to be aimed at and attained with an equal franchise of a civilisation or education character open to all races." This fundamental basis of constitutional evolution the whites had again rejected and asserted that power should be concentrated in their hands. The Indian Conference, on the other hand, upheld this principle and demanded that steps should be taken to introduce the common roll, and pending such introduction, it demanded that the representation of Indians on the Legislative Council should be increased as recommended by the Joint Select Committee.

In the meanwhile, the Government of India published a communique on the 11th inst in which it was stated that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had contemplated no constitutional changes in Kenya and that he stood by the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee. This is satisfactory inasmuch as it is not proposed to increase the power of the European settlers in Kenya. But the same Report advocated an increase in the representation of Indians even on the communal roll. There is no reason why that recommendation should not be immediately given effect to. It is to be hoped that the Government of India will press the point on the notice of the British Government.

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Inauguration of New Constitution.

A DETERMINED attempt was made on behalf of the Indian wing of the Joint Select Committee to get the Secretary of State to commit himself to a definite date for the inauguration of the new constitution. Sir Samuel Hoare, on the other hand, with equal tenacity and firmness refused to be tied down to a fixed time-table, owing, as he put it, to the satisfaction of the conditions laid down for the promulgation of the new reforms being dependent on factors beyond anybody's control. Nothing more definite therefore than a reaffirmation of the commitments made in the White Paper on this point with the following commentary could be got out of him.

"Whatever other deductions may be drawn from Sir Malcolm Hailey's memorandum on the facts of the financial situation, it suggests to me, at any rate, that when

we have reached a stage at which Provincial Autonomy is a financially feasible proposition, we shall have gone a considerable way towards arriving at a situation in which Federation is a financially feasible proposition. On the other hand—and here I turn to a further question that has been put to me during the afternoon—an exact examination of the process by which Federation can come into operation shows that it is not a physical possibility until the constituents which are to form the Federation are effectively in being. It is clear, therefore, that even if all the conditions were favourable, there must be some interval between Provincial Autonomy and Federation; but this does not mean that the Federation which we are seeking to create in India can be left to form itself, and that all that we are called upon to do at the moment is to breathe the breath of autonomous life into existing geographical areas called Provinces. Perhaps I may now put my answer to the question shortly as follows: We have no intention of delaying the inauguration of Provincial autonomy beyond the point at which it is feasible, solely for the purpose of ensuring that the interval between it and Federation is short. On the other hand, we are doing, and will continue to do, all in our power to satisfy the conditions which the White Paper lays down as precedent to Federation."

Again reverting to the question of finance, he said:—

"The members of the Committee and the members of the Delegation will remember that I emphasised the fact the other day that the Provincial problem of finance was, in my view, more difficult to surmount in certain respects than the Federal problem of finance. That seems to show that if the financial situation is such as to enable the Provinces to start upon their autonomous development in satisfactory financial circumstances, there ought to be no insurmountable reason upon financial grounds to justify an indefinite delay between the two sides of the constitution coming into operation."

It is of interest to note that what he termed "the final financial inquiry into the position both at the Centre and in the Provinces" would be instituted either when the Constitution Act was under consideration by Parliament or after its passage by it. The inquiry will be so important that the fate of the whole reform scheme will apparently depend upon its results. Should it disclose a state of things in which a long or an indefinite postponement of Provincial Autonomy and Federation would be necessary Indian opinion will be called into "further consultation" as envisaged in para. 13 of the Introduction to the White Paper.

Flood Relief in Orissa.

READERS of newspapers are doubtless aware of the great havoc caused by recent floods in Orissa. It seems that on one day, August 3, as much as 13 inches of rain fell at Cuttack with the result that there was heavy loss of property. Many poor people lost their houses and belongings and the number of those rendered homeless is roughly estimated at 5,000. The calamity coming on the top of an epidemic of cholera which has been raging in the town for over three weeks has made the lot especially of the poor very difficult. The rivers being yet in high floods it is too early to form an exact idea as to the damage wrought by them in the villages. Even so there appears to be reason to suppose that some loss of life has resulted and property valued at thousands of rupees has been destroyed by the rising waters of the rivers. The situation calls for urgent relief measures on the part both of the Government as well as non-officials. From all accounts, the former seems to have already started distributing relief in Cuttack leaving the rural areas untouched; and Mr. Lakshminarayan Sabu who is in charge of the Cuttack Centre of the Servants of India Society, is also doing

his best to make himself useful to the flood-stricken people, by organising a non-official agency to the same end. In view of the wide extent of distress and the extraordinary poverty of the province, the need of external financial assistance is very pressing. May we appeal to the generous and charitably-disposed public to support liberally this movement to set the people in the flood-affected parts of Orissa on their feet again? Any contributions sent to the Secretary, Servants of India Society, Poona 4, will be thankfully received and forwarded to proper quarters.

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Vidya Bhawan, Udaipur.

THE first report of the Vidya Bhawan, Udaipur, shows what kind of nation-building work is being done by that institution under the leadership of Dr. Mohan Sinha Mehta. Considerations of space forbid any detailed notice of the work beyond a brief reference to some of its special features. In the first place, every attempt is made there to study individual children by giving close personal attention to their mental and physical development. This is done by forming them into small groups of fifteen to twenty in charge of two or three masters which enables the teachers and the taught to come into close mutual personal contact. The Staff Council consisting of all teachers discusses the progress of every pupil at least once every term, the resulting advantage being that the whole staff is kept in touch with all the pupils. Every care is taken to impress on the children the dignity of manual labour and home work is altogether avoided, work in the school beginning from 6-30 in the morning and going on up to sun-set, with suitable interruptions for taking food and rest for the children on the school premises. Promotion to a higher class does not depend, as in other schools, exclusively upon examination results, the boys' general progress with their studies and other work both in the class-room and the play-ground being also taken into account. Instruction in the Bhawan comprises, we take it, both the primary and secondary stages and the Bhawan is recognised for the High School examination of the Board for High School and Intermediate Examinations for Rajputana, Central India and Gwalior. The finances of the school are described as "gloomy." This can be easily believed in view of the fact that the recurring expenditure exceeds the income and that as much as Rs. 40,000 is owed by it to the State and the contractors. It is needless to add that the organisers will appreciate any financial assistance from those who value this kind of educational endeavour.

Articles.

STATUTORY RAILWAY AUTHORITY.

WHILE the proceedings of the Joint Parliamentary Committee are dragging on their tortuous course two businesslike conferences have arrived at concrete results of a fairly unanimous nature. The White Paper on Indian Reforms had foreshadowed the formation of a statutory railway board and the proposals for the future administration of the railways adopted by the London Conference will form the basis of the relevant provisions of the Constitution Act. These proposals are based on two fundamental principles. The first one is that though the policy of railway development and administration will be determined by the Federal Govern-

ment and the Federal Legislature much in the same way as is now done by the Government of India and the Indian Legislature the details of administration and the execution of policy shall be controlled by an independent Railway Authority. This Authority is to consist of seven members appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Federal Government—or so appointed at least for the majority of members. Besides this statutory body which will be in charge of the administrative direction of the railways there is going to be provided a technical head, namely the Chief Commissioner, who will be the supreme controller of the railway executive. This officer will be appointed by the Railway Authority subject to the sanction of the Governor-General. Excepting financial matters for which a separate Financial Commissioner will be appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Federal Government, the Chief Commissioner will be his own master, overriding if necessary his other colleagues, if and when these are appointed.

The Federal Minister responsible for railways will have the right to convene meetings of the Railway Authority and preside over them. Orders issued by the Federal Government regarding the carrying out of the policy of the railway administration shall have to be given effect to by the Railway Authority. The apportionment of the railway surplus shall be determined by the Federal Government for a period of five years and if a dispute arises as to the adequacy of the provision made for replacement and depreciation the matter shall be referred to the Auditor-General whose decision in the matter shall be final. The revenue estimates of the Railways shall be annually submitted by the Railway Authority to the Federal Government and the Federal Legislature but, except in the case of a contribution to railway account out of the general revenue account they shall not be open to the vote of the legislature. The programme of capital expenditure shall be submitted to the vote of the Federal Legislature.

Like the proverbial curate's egg the proposals of the London Conference thus outlined are good in parts. Both the principles on which the recommendations of the Conference are based will receive very wide support in this country. If a great business like the Railways is to be run by the state on efficient and economic lines it must be removed from the detailed interference of the legislature. The ultimate control of policy must rest in the hands of the executive government which is the custodian of the confidence of the legislature. This essential requirement is partially secured by making the Federal Minister for Railways the supreme director of railway policy. The legislature in voting the salary of the Minister will have adequate opportunity to discuss the general policy. The distinction between administrative and technical control is also justifiable in theory. Whether it will be possible to maintain it in practice without undue conflict of authorities between the Railway Authority and the Chief Commissioner is more than we can say at

present. Much will depend on the personality of the Chief Commissioner and the conventions that are developed in the early days of the new arrangements.

There are, however, several unsatisfactory features in the proposed arrangements. Inasmuch as the Railways are not a special responsibility of the Governor-General they must be unreservedly included in the list of subjects under the control of the responsible federal ministers. All the assurance that they will be run on sound business principles having been secured by the provision of a statutory railway authority there is no reason why the ordinary governmental competence of the federal executive in respect of railway administration should be impaired in favour of the irresponsible head of the government. All members of the railway authority as also other important office-bearers must be appointed on the advice of the Federal Government. If the policy concerning the railways is to be the policy of the Federal Government it must be completely free to choose its principal agents through whom that policy is to be made operative. The powers of removal proposed to be vested in the Governor-General must also be made exercisable only on the advice of the responsible Minister. In the formation of the Authority which is a purely business organisation considerations other than those of efficiency and national interest must not be allowed to have any influence.

The proposal to restrict the powers of the Federal Government and the Railway Authority in respect of Company-Managed lines is theoretically unjustified and practically harmful. That the contracts of these lines are entered into with the Secretary of State-in-Council is no valid bar to that authority consenting to delegate its powers to the Government of the future federation. If the control exercised by the Indian authorities over a large portion of its railway mileage is open to frequent challenge the efficiency and usefulness of railway administration is bound to suffer. The proposal to refer differences in respect of the appropriate allotment for renewals and replacements to the Auditor-General is also framed in a spirit of mistrust and on a wrong conception of the duties of that Officer. It is no part of the business of the auditor to *decide* what is a suitable provision. It is up to him to examine whether the policy laid down by competent authority is or is not followed. Indeed if on an experience extending over years the Auditor finds that a certain policy is financially unsound it is his clear duty to bring the matter to the notice of Government or other competent body. The Federal Government and Legislature who speak on behalf of the federal tax-payers and who are even under the proposed scheme the controllers of railway policy must be the final judges of all disputed matters.

By far the most unsatisfactory part of the present proposals is that concerning the administration of railway finance. Sticklers for the financial omnipotence of the legislature can be persuaded to entertain a proposal for taking away the railway

budget from the vote of the Federal Parliament only under one condition. The expenditure involved in the working of the Indian Railways is about the same as the total budget of the Government of India. It is a wise provision made in the London proposals that the minima and maxima rates will be fixed only in consultation with the Federal Government. But further precaution must be taken to ensure that the revenue tariff and the scheme of expenditure followed by the Railway Authority and the Chief Commissioner is financially sound. The present proposals are very vague about the exact position of the Financial Commissioner. He must be given more specific authority to exercise in relation to the railway expenditure, the same kind of control that is exercised by the Finance Member in relation to the spending departments of Government. Besides there must be a strong and representative committee of the legislature to scan the Auditor-General's report on the financial working of the railways. Perhaps this very body might be given the further powers of acting as an advisory and *liason* body between the legislature and the statutory authority.

Actual experience of the working of any fresh proposals is likely to lay bare many unsuspected defects. Moreover the conditions of railway management are likely to change from time to time. Under these circumstances it is most undesirable that the setting up of the Railway Authority should be provided by the Constitution Act in stead of its being left to the less cumbersome and more appropriate method of legislation by the Federal Legislature. If it is only a feeling of mistrust of the ability or the motives of the future Indian legislature that prompts the present course, it must be said in plain terms that weighting the constitutional machine too heavily with checks and hindrances is inviting an exasperated legislative body to have recourse to unusual methods of asserting its will. Not soundness and efficiency but irresponsibility and deadlock will follow upon a policy of mistrust.

POLITICAL CONFLICTS.

IN the present circumstances of the country conflicts of the kind now engaging the Bengal Government and the Calcutta Corporation seem to be inevitable. Notwithstanding that local self-government is a transferred subject under dyarchy, the Bengal Government represents largely the interest of the foreign ruling class administering the country through an irremovable bureaucracy. The Calcutta Corporation, thanks to the democratic zeal of the late Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee, is mainly a popular body. The conflict between the people and the Government in India as a whole gets reflected in the administration of local bodies as well. Just now the Bengal Government has a bill in the Legislature to amend the Calcutta Municipal Act. The objects of the Bill are to prevent the Corporation from employing in its service terrorists, persons actually convicted of terrorism, and persons convicted of taking part in the Civil Disobedience movement or in other anti-government activities and to prevent such per-

sons continuing in the service of the Corporation, and also to surcharge Councillors who authorise expenditure which is subsequently disallowed by audit.

The objective of the Bill is frankly political. The Calcutta Corporation has been "captured" by the Congress and its administration is naturally and inevitably charged with Congress tendencies. The Government accused the Corporation with having employed in its service persons who were convicted of anti-Government activities and incurring expenditure for pro-Congress purposes. When the Government some time ago called the attention of the Corporation to these features of its administration, the Corporation replied that it was not responsible for the activities of its employees outside office hours and that it was an autonomous body, which was responsible to the municipal voters. For the Corporation it has been further stated that the total number of persons whom the Government objected to was only 30 out of a cadre of 1,300; that some of the individual cases mentioned by the Minister did not answer to his description, that punishment awarded by the Courts or by the Government absolved the delinquent, that Government itself had condoned convicted people and employed them in its service,—a precedent which the Corporation might well follow, and that, as the Government admitted, the Corporation had no means of ascertaining the secret past of its employees and that it was open to the Government to arrest and put up for trial persons it felt aggrieved about, instead of curtailing the autonomy of the Calcutta Corporation, the premier municipality in India.

For the Government it was urged that the autonomy of the Corporation was subject to the overriding responsibility of the Government to ensure good and proper administration, that the entertainment in the service of the Corporation of people accused and convicted of sedition, terrorism or civil disobedience, even if the number was not large, was indicative of the anti-Government attitude of the Corporation, that it was too much to expect the Government to make large money grants to the Corporation if that money was, in part, to be utilised for anti-Government propaganda and that it was absurd for the Corporation to plead that it was not responsible for the conduct of its employees outside office hours and that, if the electorate, either from ignorance or temporary political passion, failed to realise its responsibility and returned to the Corporation persons who made it a point of encouraging anti-Government propaganda by its employees, it was the duty of the Government to step in and put a stop to it. If the Corporation had no means of knowing the antecedents of its employees, Government, who had the agency of the C. I. D. and the police and was enabled thereby to secure that knowledge, must legitimately claim to have a voice in such appointments. For the same reason, Government was in a better position to condone convicted persons than the Corporation and was entitled to reserve that right to itself.

While it is too much to expect the Government to finance, at it were, propaganda against itself, there is no getting away from the fact that the arrests and convictions under special laws, ordinances and executive orders carry no conviction of the guilt of the victims. This is particularly so in the case of those accused of participation in civil disobedience. The amending Bill savours of the ordinances which Government resorted to in order to combat civil disobedience. Its enactment will not cure the trouble ; it will intensify the discontent, which may take more

undesirable forms. Government may well pause to consider why the electorate of Calcutta, certainly not the worst equipped in India, persists in returning a majority of Congressmen not too friendly to the Government. Before promulgating the ordinance, as it were, Government may well appeal to the electorate to send to the Corporation a different type of representative. But perhaps it knows that it can obtain no hearing and has, therefore, resolved on truncating the autonomy of the Corporation.

PLANNED ECONOMY IN U. S. A.

UNLIKE the revival in commodity prices and industrial activity of June / September of last year which proved to be short-lived, the improvement that is seen in these respects for the last three or four months has all the signs of being more durable. Everything tends to show that the corner of the depression has now been turned. Recovery is most noticeable in the United States, owing no doubt to government policy, but extends in smaller degree to other countries also. The up-spring in business in the U. S. since the Roosevelt administration came into office in March is said to be at the most rapid rate ever reached in the economic history of that country. For during the second quarter of the current year industrial production there increased by as much as 41 per cent., whereas in previous depressions the increase was hardly half of it in any one quarter. Even so, however, the volume of business activity is much below the normal. It was 55 per cent. of the normal at the end of March and 77 per cent. of the normal at the end of June. In terms of the usual indices of business, steel operations increased between March 15th and June 24th by 233 per cent., car loadings by 8 per cent. and electric power output by 16 per cent. This is a startling rise which beats all previous records. The business recovery that has taken place has naturally given increased employment to workers and it is calculated that during the second quarter 1,600,000 jobless men were given work in the United States. To employ a million and a half out of the 12 to 14 million that are unemployed may not seem much, but if recovery continues uninterrupted in future months the result attained so far will be admitted as wholly satisfactory.

The rise in wholesale prices of commodities is also equally striking. It is the greatest in the United States, but is also observable to a less extent in England, which shows that the price advance in the U. S. is not wholly due to the depreciation of the dollar. In fact, even in the countries still on gold prices are being lifted. In six staples entering largely into international trade the rise in values was estimated to be 60 per cent. in dollar quotations and 30 per cent. in sterling quotations between February and May. In the case of certain commodities special factors have helped to send up the prices, but even where such factors are absent there has been a decided rise. A few instances may be given. In

four months since the end of March the American prices of wheat registered an increase of 89 per cent., of cotton 67 per cent., of rubber 129 per cent., of copper 53 per cent., and of tin 99 per cent., while the British prices registered increases respectively of 28, 35, 69, 35 and 51 per cent. All these commodities are subject to special considerations, but in order to show that the rise in price is general, the Westminster Bank Review from which the foregoing figures are taken says: "During June English hides rose by over 30 per cent., merino wool tops by 10.5 per cent., linseed oil by 13 per cent., and many other of the less prominent commodities to a comparable extent."

This spectacular turn-up in commodity values is from one point of view very gratifying, but from another it may well cause concern. For the upward movement is due to an increased speculative as distinguished from consumptive demand. There has been actually no inflation in the United States, the notes in circulation having in fact gone down from \$3,747 millions to \$3,061 millions in the second quarter. But President Roosevelt has taken power to inflate the currency if necessary and by all means in his power to bring about an internal rise of prices in the United States. In anticipation of this rise manufacturers and merchants have been increasing their stocks far in advance of an increased demand from ultimate consumers. It is obvious that unless there is a rise in the purchasing power of the people corresponding to the rise in the commodity prices and unless there is an increased consumer demand to absorb the increased output of industry, the present boom will collapse disastrously. And the great problem facing President Roosevelt now is so to build up the buying power of the mass of people that the fruits of the high business activity will go into active consumption at the new price level. The American Federation of Labour in its latest monthly statement points out what a great lag there is between the gains of industry and the consuming power of the people. "Workers' incomes increased only 7 per cent. from March to May, while factory production increased 35.6 per cent. Production in many consumption industries is at 1929 levels, but workers' buying power is still 57.7 per cent. below 1929." The Alexander Hamilton Institute has calculated that "an increase of 24.7 per cent. is now necessary in order to adjust wages to the April price levels, that is to give labour a fair wage

in compensation for increased productivity and to balance consumption with production."

The immediate task before President Roosevelt is to force the increased business output into consumption, without adding to the present unemployment and in fact side by side with considerably reducing it, and in order to do so he has armed himself with almost dictatorial power to control industry under the National Industrial Recovery Act. The object of the Act, in the President's own words, is "to put people back to work—to let them buy more of the products of farms and factories and start our business at a living rate again." This it seeks to achieve in two ways. First by entering upon a large public works programme at a cost of \$3,300 millions, which it is said will easily put three million men to work, and when the spending power of these people is used it will put another million or two to work. But the more important part of the Act consists in the provisions which give power to the President so to regulate industry as to increase the wages of workers and shorten their hours of work. Again, to quote the President's statement, "the idea is simply for employers to hire more men to do the existing work by reducing the work-hours of each man's work and at the same time paying a living wage for the shorter week." Further on he says, "I am fully aware that wage increases will eventually raise costs, but I ask that managements give first consideration to the improvement of operating figures by greatly increased sales to be expected by the rising purchasing power of the public. That is good economics and good business. The aim of this whole effort is to restore our rich domestic market by raising its vast consuming capacity... The pent-up demand of this people is very great and if we can release it on so broad a front, we need not fear a lagging recovery."

The Act definitely brings to an end the regime of *laissez faire* and uncontrolled individualism and substitutes for it a policy of economic planning and coordinated action. As the declaration of President Roosevelt says, "We are putting in place of old principles of unchecked competition some new government controls." The Act seeks to establish "a code of fair competition" for each important industry, that is to say, standards of working conditions including minimum wages and maximum hours. Employers and workers together may do it on their own initiative, and for this purpose both are given the right of collective bargaining, or else the administration would have the right to impose such standards upon industry. The law effects a revolution in the economic concepts prevailing in the U. S. It is essentially an emergency legislation and will remain in force only for two years, but the spirit underlying it will long outlive the Act itself. And the spirit consists not of course in abolishing all competition, but in abolishing ruinous or unfair competition, or, as was said by Senator Wagner who sponsored it in the Committee of Ways and Means, in making "the best judgment and the highest ideals in the industry

govern its competitive activities, replacing the now low standards of sweatshop, cut-throat competition."

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION.

THE World Economic and Monetary Conference adjourned on the 27th July after having held a last plenary session, but its life had been gradually ebbing away for almost a month. The press has been unanimous in deploring this agony. One paper put it humorously the other day by saying: "The Conference is actively preparing to go to sleep,"—more hopefully also, in a way, since falling asleep presupposes an ultimate re-awakening.

Whatever be the hopes as to the future, there is general recognition of the fact that the present endeavour in London has ended in confusion and failure, whatever may be staged to save appearances. This failure is most unfortunately another blow dealt to international ideals, and it can only strengthen the tendency of the various nations to preserve jealously and almost exclusively their own particular interests.

"Too many questions discussed, and too many people to discuss them," says M. Etienne Flougeré, in *L'Européen*, "that is the real reason of the failure Geneva has already proved that nothing practical can result from assemblies which represent the universality of nations. Languages, interests, moral and social aspirations, all are contradictory. We had better revert to more simple formulas and try to establish some measure of agreement between countries which are already linked by very ancient bonds. Such is the case with European nations."

One of the bases of this agreement could be some kind of stabilisation of currencies inside Europe. Since the United States are eager to subordinate their money to the value of goods, they must be allowed to try their own experiments. If they succeed, they may have something to teach us later on, but in the meanwhile European countries must unite to defend their own policy. Monetary union has meant a great deal in European civilisation. It has been at the root of German unity between 1857 and 1871. During the following years, it can be found as the germ of economic agreement between the Scandinavian countries; and ever since 1865, it has been a strong cement between France, Belgium, Greece, Italy and Switzerland. If a European monetary union could be agreed upon at this stage, many economic problems would find an easier solution.

One of the chief results of the Conference is perhaps that the main difficulties have become more clearly apparent, and that certain illusions are no longer possible. This is, of course, not sufficient to secure agreement at the present stage. In fact the various speeches delivered on the closing day of the Conference revealed a good many contradictions.

While Mr. Cox, Chairman of the Monetary Commission, claims that the Conference has achieved worth-while results, Dr. Colijn, Chairman of the Economic Commission, frankly acknowledges that no practical solutions have been agreed upon, which he says is both disappointing and discouraging be-

cause of the probable reactions of international public opinion. Mr. Runciman, who presented the report of the Economic Commission, holds the view that co-ordination between sale and production can no doubt be realised independently from the solution of monetary problems. Dr. Colijn, on the other hand, believes that the essential and foremost condition of any international agreement is the stabilisation of currencies. This is also the opinion of Mr. Guido Yung, the Italian Finance Minister, who openly proclaimed his faith in the gold standard. Economic isolation, said he, can only cease when the devaluation of currencies comes to an end. Dr. Schacht, speaking on behalf of Germany, emphasised the fact that the Conference had not come to satisfactory realisations on any one of the points of the Agenda.

But, as President Roosevelt said in his message to Mr. MacDonald, the results of the Conference are not only to be judged by practical achievements. The work of the experts will remain a useful basis for discussion and the fact that the various nations have freely expressed their point of view has obliged them to face each other's problems. This opinion is confirmed by Mr. Georges Bonnet who says that "the moral result of the Conference is a more lucid comprehension of our mutual difficulties" and that working in collaboration for six weeks will have helped the delegates to understand each other better and to form more generous judgments about their neighbours' dilemmas.

As expected, Mr. Bonnet insisted again upon the desire of France to maintain the gold standard. He expressed disappointment at the fact that the Conference had not been able to realise the stabilisation of currencies which seems a necessary prelude to the solution of all other financial and economic problems. To stand firm on their positions is the first duty of those countries which still remain attached to gold. They will thereby serve world interests.

We are passing through an exceptional phase of economic unrest which demands, or at least justifies, exceptional solutions for a time. The World Conference has been obliged up to now to circumscribe its activities to those immediate tasks which it was possible to tackle in the given circumstances. If the Conference has not progressed more satisfactorily, the reason is to be found not so much in doctrinal divergences as in the difference between the economic and financial conditions of the various countries concerned. National difficulties may require national solutions and there is something legitimate in the tendency of many countries to put order in their own affairs first. Yet a general and rational organisation of production can do much to restore economic balance to the present world. It may hasten the transition from the present exceptional conditions to a normal régime where an international monetary standard will put a stop to fluctuations in prices and currencies, and consequently to speculation.

The first thing to be done is to bring about even limited agreements between groups of nations. These may ultimately develop and lead to more extensive

schemes. At a further stage the World Conference can take up the threads and render great services by devising broad international solutions.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain did nothing to hide the disappointment of Great Britain at the meagre results of the Conference. He echoed the regrets of some of the other speakers, in particular as regards the inability to raise wholesale prices and to re-establish an international monetary standard. Discouragement was also the key-note of the Spanish delegate's speech. Needless to say that for M. Maisky (U. S. S. R.) the capitalist system is the cause of the World Conference's failure.

In his concluding speech, Mr. MacDonald acknowledged that inability to solve the monetary problem had stopped the progress of the Conference, since most of the financial and economic subjects to be discussed were intimately linked with the question of currency. The Conference adjourns, he said, not because it has failed, but because the Committees want a little more time to deliberate and reach conclusions. Mr. MacDonald said he hoped to welcome the delegates again in a few months from now.

The prevalent opinion in France is the necessity for the countries which have preserved the gold standard to maintain a common front, not by opposition to the others, but just as a man will try not to fall a prey to disease if his neighbour is having high fever. And the preoccupations of the French people are momentarily reverting to their own budget, a very anaemic budget at present; it is well known that anaemia can become only too favourable a ground for ill-health.

L. MORIN.

Paris.

Our London Letter.

(BY AIR MAIL.)

(From Our Correspondent.)

LONDON, August 4.

MORE DEPARTURES.

YESTERDAY there left for India four such different personalities as Mr. Mody, Mr. Joshi, Sir A. P. Patro, and Mr. C. F. Andrews. In what they formally represent there could not be a stronger contrast than between Mr. Mody and Mr. Joshi, on the one hand, and between the Madras ex-Minister and Charliehai on the other, yet one steamer will carry them all, and there is no reason to suppose that they will not safely reach Bombay on terms of good friendship with each other. Yet they are returning to India each in a very different spirit from the others, and with a different object in view. Mr. Mody, for example, is looking forward to the delegation of representatives of the Lancashire mill industry to Bombay in the autumn, mainly from the employers' point of view. Mr. Joshi intends to stand out firmly in the Assembly and elsewhere, as he has done here, for the rights and interests of the workers. Sir Annepu Patro's interests and his attitude are so well known that they need no further description or explanation, but the case is somewhat different with Mr. Andrews.

He has worked most nobly in the cause of peace and has spared himself no effort and taken no rebuff. In season and out of season, often with a complete disregard of convention, and in the personal manner that is unique to him, he has approached the high and the mighty with a plea for peace. I have reason to know that he has written equally faithfully and equally directly to friends in India, including the Mahatma himself. He was most earnestly of the opinion both that it would be wise in the extreme if the Congress had seen fit to abandon civil disobedience, in view of the general needs of the country, and that an appeal to the Viceroy from Mr. Gandhi in his personal capacity as a public man, for an unconditional interview and without commitments of any kind by either would be irresistible. He has seen all these hopes frustrated. Even though Mr. Gandhi's request for an interview was not of the kind that he had in mind, and though he realised the difference of such a request made with the background of the Poona Congress Conference, he nevertheless thought that when a man of the eminence of Mr. Gandhi made a request for an interview to explore the ways of peace, the Viceroy had been ill advised in refusing his request. It may be said that Mr. Andrews is an emotional man, who allowed his devotion to Mr. Gandhi to get the better of his judgment. That criticism, however, did not apply to an exactly similar view expressed to me to-day by a very distinguished Englishman who rendered signal service as a high police officer in India for several years, and whose sense of reality and of responsibility cannot properly be impugned.

THE NEW SITUATION.

Now that Mr. Gandhi, impervious to advice and resuming his old rôle of prophet, has thought fit to proclaim his adhesion to the doctrine of individual civil disobedience, and to act upon his principles, presumably in the hope and expectation and certainly the desire that the example of himself and his select companionship, would become infectious, so that the few will become the many and the many the mass, he has naturally attracted the attention of the authorities, who have put it out of his power to give effect to his programme. Nevertheless Mr. Andrews is in hopes that a way may still be found for reason and understanding, for sympathy and imagination to play their part and bring to an end, at any rate for the time being, the unfortunate alienation between Mr. Gandhi and his friends on the one hand and the Viceroy and the Government of India on the other. He has, therefore, left for India to-day on a private mission of peace. So far as I am aware, and I suppose that there is none who has been franker than myself on account of our long friendship, he goes without any secret purpose, without any official or unofficial mandate, but simply in the spirit of goodwill and with the object of restoring the ties, if not of affection, at least those of mutual respect that ought to unite the two countries that are so dear to his heart. It is to be hoped that he will be allowed by all concerned in India to pursue his modest task in the quiet and friendly way that is characteristic of him. If he should succeed even partially in improving these relations and in encouraging a spirit of peace, it will be an incalculable gain, for which the public gratitude could not be too high. Should his visit prove apparently infructuous, at least no harm will have been done. No high hopes need be aroused, no disappointment need be expressed. It is to be hoped that in any case no obstacles will be placed in his way, either on the official or the non-official side.

Meanwhile in so far as public attention here is not diverted from India by the coming of the holidays, in which most people are more interested, and will

continue to be during the next few weeks, than in anything else, people are wondering whether, now that there has been time for calm reflection, the Congress leaders and organisations will follow the line recommended for them by Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Aney or strike out a line for themselves. The general opinion is that Mr. Gandhi has taken the wrong turning, the end of which is merely the unlimited wilderness, and whilst, with the exception of the reptile press, most papers pay a tribute to his personal sincerity, almost all organs of opinion here are in agreement that the Government in the face of his challenge had no option but to do as they have done, a view that would probably coincide with his own opinion. On the other hand, it is the belief in well-informed quarters, friendly on the whole to Indian political aspirations (and here we may take *The Manchester Guardian* as the type), that the present situation will very likely result in such strong differences of opinion within the Congress as would involve a split in that body and a separation from Mr. Gandhi and his group of theorists of the great body of moderate Congressmen, who at the present time are believed to form the majority, and who are in no way enamoured of a continuation of civil disobedience in any shape or form, notwithstanding the Poona proceedings and who would therefore gladly abandon it altogether at this stage. A careful examination of the *Guardian's* editorial yesterday should be made in all thoughtful political circles in nationalist India.

THE MEERUT TRIAL.

The news of the result of the Meerut Conspiracy Trial happened to coincide with the holding of a memorial meeting of the late Mr. J. M. Sen-Gupta at Essex Hall, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ranga Aiyar. The result reflects no honour upon this country or credit upon its administration of justice in India, when the political prejudices are allowed to intrude. So far as can be judged from the comments that have so far appeared in the press, there is a general disposition to agree with the learned Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, that there is grave need of amendment of the procedure of the Indian Courts in such matters. These long drawn-out proceedings, whether or not with the assistance and partial responsibility of the defence is immaterial, have been an obvious scandal and disgrace, and they have served no good purpose in the maintenance of British prestige, either at home or abroad. The comments and criticisms of the High Court, so far as they have become known here, have a welcome ring, and it is significant that the learned Counsel of the defence Dr. Katju was able on the appeal to cut down the proceedings within very narrow limits, that several of the accused were acquitted of the offences charged against them, that other accused though found guilty have been ordered to be immediately discharged, that not a single one of the original sentences, savage and barbarous as they were, has been allowed to stand, and that the sentences for the remaining accused have been drastically reduced. I understand that the Meerut Prisoners Defence Committee has consulted Sir Stafford Cripps with a view to an appeal to the Privy Council on behalf of the prisoners whose sentences stand, whilst a strong effort will be made, both in Parliament and outside, to procure their release on the ground that, apart from technicalities, they took no active steps that could by a stretch of language be described in this country as waging war. It would be interesting, however, on this aspect of the matter to study the judgment of the Allahabad High Court, to whom a high measure of praise for its expedition, its humanity, and its relative sense of proportion is undoubtedly due.

BOMBING ON THE FRONTIER.

This week's bombing expedition on the Frontier has drawn the world's attention to the question of the aerial warfare and the Great Britain's stand on this matter. Two conflicting theories have been suggested: one is that it is a matter of great embarrassment to the British Government that this episode should have occurred at a time that the general question of bombing from the air is before the Disarmament Conference; the other is that special publicity has been given to the matter in order that the world should appreciate the British argument that punitive expeditions on distant and mountainous borderlands are more economically, efficiently and speedily conducted, and with less loss of life to all parties concerned by this method than by the more cumbersome methods of earlier days of border warfare. The obvious answer to this argument is that if, supposing it be true, it is allowed to stand in the way of general aerial disarmament, it is better if recourse has to be had to force for the settlement of border troubles to revert to the older methods than to produce a state of panic in thickly populated industrial countries by the maintenance of destructive armaments capable of desolating large cities by dropping a few deadly bombs from the air. It would seem that if for no other consideration the dictates of an enlightened self-interest should induce Britain to withdraw her objection to a convention that would go far to save civilian and non-combatant populations from the awful destruction with which they are menaced in any future conflict by these deadly engines of death. "Mr. Lansbury's fiery protest in the name of Christianity against the bombing of Indian border villages and homesteads was well worth making, and he is to be honoured for his sturdy humanitarianism. Perhaps the comparative peace of the holiday season, upon which we are now entering, will give us all time for pause and reflection. It surely cannot be that, after millions of years in which mankind has either by instinct or by the aid of a higher power been preserved from extinction and annihilation, it will now seek self-immolation through sheer greed, folly and fear.

INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Dinner and Dance of the Indian Medical Association was held at the Comedy Restaurant, Haymarket, on Sunday last, the 30th July, Dr. Menon, the new President, being in the chair. The toast of the Association was given by the High Commissioner for India and was responded to by the President, and that of the guests was proposed by Dr. Bhandari, the Secretary, and responded to by Begum Shah Nawaz and Mr. Hy. S. L. Polak. Indian music was an important and welcome feature of the festivities, and those present enjoyed themselves greatly.

Reviews.

PLEA FOR INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK.

THE INTERDEPENDENT WORLD AND ITS PROBLEMS. By RAMSAY MUIR. (Oxford University Press.) 20cm. 203p. 5/—

THIS is a timely and ably written little book. Its main thesis is that the present era is an era of interdependence and that politicians and statesmen and the public in general should change their proverbial thinking which runs along the narrow grooves of a self-contained, proud and militant nationalism. The annihilation of distance and the great scientific and tech-

nical discoveries which recent years have witnessed have turned the whole world into a single city. Therefore, whether we like it or not, the fortunes and misfortunes of States are inter-related, and if the world is to be saved from collapse we should have a much greater degree of well-thought-out international co-operation and action. In the economic, social, political and cultural spheres interdependence is becoming more and more manifest every day, and he is a fool who ignores the signs of the times. Post-war ideas like the "self-determination of nations," however laudable, are fraught with danger for the future of the world. The idea of the sovereign nation-State, absolutely free to follow its own policy or line of action, is still an axiom of to-day. Unless it be destroyed root and branch, there is little hope for the future of mankind. The only way to avert danger is voluntarily to limit the doctrine of absolute sovereignty and recognise the urgency of intelligent co-operation and international understanding. We want a collective system of peace, freedom of international exchange, stable money and a just distribution of wealth. A single world currency may be a desirable thing. But the world is not yet prepared for it. In the economic field, the tariff problem is, indeed, the greatest and the most fundamental to-day. "Tariffs are, beyond question, the chief cause of the world's suffering." (p. 170.) Tariffs should be swept away except for purely revenue purposes. Whether the countries of the world, tariff-ridden as they are, will have the faith and courage to follow such advice, is a question for the future. It may be necessary to bring into being a Free-Trade and Low-Tariff Club of Nations before freedom of international exchange becomes an accomplished fact. That each nation should strive for economic self-sufficiency and should sell more than it produces are both superstitions which deserve to be decently buried.

All this does not mean an essential disloyalty to the national spirit. The author does not advocate an easy-going cosmopolitanism nor a World-State with a world-government and an international police. He believes that the idea of a World-State is impracticable, and would be intolerable if it could be realised. Even world federation is not acceptable to him. All that he wants is a voluntary and intelligent curtailment of external sovereignty in specific matters like war, international trade, currency and a just distribution of wealth.

The thesis of the book is obviously correct. It is almost a commonplace. The cynic and the impatient idealist would want to know how many Disarmament Conferences and World Economic Conferences will be necessary before these patent truths will be accepted and acted upon by the statesmen of the world.

The book is a readable volume, charmingly and convincingly written. It will be of value both to the specialist and the student of general affairs. It deserves wide publicity.

E. ASIRVATHAM.

REVIEW OF CO-OPERATIVE ACTIVITIES.

YEAR-BOOK OF AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATION, 1933. Ed. by the HORACE PLUNKETT Foundation. (King.) 1933. 22cm. 204p. 12/6.

THIS is an annual review of co-operative activities all over the world, issued by the Horace Plunkett Foundation. The death of the founder, Sir Horace Plunkett, having occurred during the year, a very handsome appreciation of his work and ideals by Sir Daniel Hall, finds pride of place in the book. Plunkett's ideals are peculiarly applicable to Indian con-

ditions and his work for the small farmer to whom farming is a means of living rather than of making money, is well worth being taken as a guide by workers in India.

The world-wide economic depression during the year has only served to bring into prominence the strength and usefulness of the co-operative movement. Everywhere, more and more confidence is being shown in co-operative organisations, yet no development of the first magnitude has taken place either in the realm of national inter-cooperative trade or in international commerce. There is evident a tendency to reconsider the economic questions of the world on a basis of co-operation. Perhaps, the substitution of the principle of public ownership for that of private or capitalistic control, may be regarded as a roundabout way to co-operation. "At a time when many statesmen assume the failure of democracy and use their economic control for the promotion of conflicting national aspirations, co-operators are bound to examine the capitalistic developments carefully before taking the optimistic view of them." "With foresight cleared by observation and courage rekindled by recent experience, added to its acquired technique, co-operation should be not only the safety link it is, at its lowest estimate, in a period of change, but the deliberately planned foundation of a new social order".

Looking at the summary of co-operative activities in the various countries of the world, one notes the remarkable developments in the Danubian countries and the changes that have taken place in the United States of America, with regard to the centralisation of the control of the co-operative movement there. Progress everywhere is found to be largely a matter of organisation which is strictly dependent on the level of education or knowledge of the community in general. It is a matter for argument whether state aid in various ways should be freely available, in which case a certain amount of State control and, perhaps, interference is inevitable, or whether the movement should be completely free from it.

Useful information is appended about the important publications on co-operation and there is a comprehensive digest of co-operative legislation in all countries of the world. Altogether, the book is a valuable and helpful publication to all who are working in the agricultural or co-operative field.

GUNDAPPA S. KURPAD.

Miscellaneous.

SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY, POONA.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1932-33.

(Continued from our issue of August 10, 1933.)

Earnest efforts were made to get Harijan children admitted to common schools maintained or aided by public funds. Such admission was secured in the twenty panchayat schools organised by Mr. Sivaswamy and his collaborators, who besides successfully solicited the assistance of the Labour Department to sink six wells for the Harijans. Efforts were further made to secure the inclusion of Harijans in the panchayats of forty villages. A training class of 14 Harijan boys was held at Ramanadhapuram for four days. These trained Harijan youths have started social and educational centres of their own in a number of villages where education, sanitation, thrift and other means of uplift are promoted.

As Hony. Organiser of Village Panchayats, Mr. Sivaswamy organised 30 Panchayats during the year. In these and other Panchayats organised by him in the Mayanoor area, 5 school buildings were constructed, 32 wells dug and a road 2 miles long was made. Half the cost of these works was contributed by the villagers the other half being obtained as grant from Government.

The Mayanoor centre also helped the villagers in representing their needs and grievances to the different Departments of Government. Such representations related to the location or removal of liquor shops, water supply, schools, minor forests etc. It also promoted the settlement of village disputes by arbitration and made a special effort to educate the villagers in the exercise of the vote.

A new building to house the workers was opened last, December. It cost over Rs. 5,500. Steps have been taken to start a residential school to train young men in agriculture, cottage industries and citizenship. Mr. D. N. Strathie, I. C. S. Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras, has not only permitted but made a recommendation to the co-operative societies in the Tamil districts to help the proposed school from their common good fund. The Society is deeply grateful to him.

Mr. Dravid was appointed member of the C. P. Rural Uplift Board constituted by the C. P. Government. A training course for rural workers is being drawn up by a sub-committee of which Mr. Dravid is a member. Nearly every week he visited a village called Vihirgaon in connection with the Nagpur Dt. Red Cross work. He has surveyed the ground for starting rural work in the current year in two villages in Amraoti district and one village near Nagpur.

As Secretary of the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union and of its Rural Reconstruction Committee, Mr. Venkatasubbaiya continued to look after the R. R. centres of that Union. Its resources, however, were very much reduced during the year owing to the general economic depression and one of its centres had to be closed down, reducing their number from seven to six. Mr. Venkataraman delivered a series of four lectures on village service under the auspices of the Arcot American Agricultural Institute and besides gave several lantern lectures on rural reconstruction, co-operation, etc.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Under the auspices of the Poona Seva Sadan Public Health School, Mr. Devadhar arranged for a course of six lectures on Public health. He was able to secure a grant of Rs. 250 from the Indian Red Cross Society towards the salary of a lady Public Health worker, who has been trained in England and is working in the school. Mr. Venkataraman was the Joint Secretary of the National Health Association, Madras, which arranged health exhibitions last November in several slum areas in Madras.

Mr. Venkataraman gave the best part of his attention to the building up of the Madras Sanitary Welfare League, of which he was the Secretary. During the year fifty slums were surveyed with respect to their needs, and the results were tabulated and published. He was the convener of the subcommittee on "Social Legislation" of the Slum Welfare Conference organised by the Triplicane Sociological Brotherhood last November. He was one of the three representatives of the Madras Sanitary Welfare League who were invited by the Madras Corporation to a conference on the improvement of slums in Madras. Mr. Venkatasubbaiya was treasurer to the Sanitary Welfare League and participated in the work of the League.

SEVA SAMITI, ALLAHABAD.

Mr. Kunzru continued to be the General Secretary of the Seva Samiti, Allahabad, which has many branches affiliated to it in the U. P. and the Punjab. Its manifold activities include a high school, a hospital attended by six highly qualified honorary doctors, several dispensaries, night schools and a public library. The high school had 442 students on its rolls and was housed in a suitable building purchased recently for Rs. 66,000. A scheme is maturing for the building of a hospital in Allahabad on up-to-date lines for which help is promised by a friend.

Naik reform in the Kumaon Hills attracted much attention as the rules made by the U. P. Government under the Naik Girls Protection Act were enforced. The work done by the Seva Samiti during the last eight years has borne good fruit in that the Naik community has been roused to reform itself. Progress is being made with a scheme for the opening of an Ashram for Naik girls in a suitable locality.

During the year the Samiti organised social service at Harwar for the pilgrims attending the Ardh Kumbh Mela. The arrangements were in charge of Mr. Bajpai while several other members and probationers of the Society worked under him in various capacities. The corps of workers was nearly a thousand strong and consisted of volunteers from South India, Bengal, N. W. Frontier Province, Sind and other provinces in addition to those from the U. P. itself. They had to work at the railway station, the bathing ghats and on sanitary and detective duties. A large number of waifs and strays were traced by them and a good many criminals were apprehended, while at the dispensary several hundred patients were treated.

SCOUTING.

Mr. Sri Ram Bajpai devoted his time principally to Scout work, with which he combined Swadeshi and Harijan propaganda.

As Chief Organising Secretary of the Seva Samiti Boy Scouts Association, Mr. Bajpai toured for over six months in the United Provinces, Central India, Rajputana and the Punjab. He organised a Punjab Provincial Association with headquarters at Amritsar. A building worth over Rs. 5,000 was secured for the Association as its permanent training camp and health retreat at Sitlakhet, near Almora. Mr. Bajpai was the author of "*Scouting our Gram Seva*," which has been well received in the press. His other book, "*Balasangit*" was accepted by the Education Department in the U. P. and in the Kotah State for use in schools. He has another book, "*Swastha Praveshika*," in the press.

Mr. Kunzru was the Chief Scout Commissioner of the Association. Mr. Dube was the Dist. Scout Commissioner for Lucknow and a member of the Executive Committee of the National Council. Mr. Venkatasubbaiya was elected President of the Madras Scouters' Council, which was subsequently reorganised as the Madras District Scout Association.

CO-OPERATION.

Mr. Devadhar, as usual, gave a large part of his time to the promotion of the Co-operative movement in India. He was appointed President of the Co-operative Enquiry Committee recently appointed by the Travancore Government to review the progress of the co-operative movement in the State. He had done the preliminary work when it was interrupted by his ill-health. He presided over the Belgaum Dist. Co-operative Conference at Chikodi, the Co-operative Conferences at Bhusaval and Ahmednagar, and

over the Co-operator's Day in Poona. He was a director of the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank and President of the Hindu Co-operative Housing Society in Bombay which was saved from dissolution, and built four blocks of flats at Dadar at a cost of about Rs. 1,00,000 for the occupation of about twenty-five tenants. He was elected President of the newly formed Suburban Swadeshi Co-operative Stores in Dadar.

Mr. Venkatasubbaiya continued to be one of the Secretaries of the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union and, as its Office Secretary, was in charge of the routine administration. He was also Secretary of the Rural Reconstruction and Education Committee of the Union and visited five out of the six centres conducted by the Union. He delivered lectures to the students of three Co-operative Training institutions conducted under the auspices of the Union. From July last he is the editor of the Telugu journal on Co-operation which is a monthly published by the Union. He was also a Director of the Mylapore Co-operative Building Society.

Mr. Thakkar attended the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Conference in Poona in September last and continued to interest himself in organizing Co-operative Societies for Municipal employees. A scheme for debt redemption of the Municipal employees at Nadiad was worked out involving a sum of Rs. 19,000 in 1932-33. A similar society was formed in Baroda.

Mr. Sahu continued to be a director of the Bihar and Orissa Provincial Co-operative Bank and a member of the working committee of the Board. He attended the B. & O. Co-operative Federation Congress in February last.

Co-operative work formed an important aspect of the work of Messrs. Suryanarayana Rao, Sivaswamy and Sivasubramaniam, the last of whom was recently appointed an Hon. Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

SWADESHI.

Swadeshi propaganda and the organisation of Swadeshi exhibitions was a special feature of the work of the year.

Mr. Kunzru was the President of the Swadeshi League in the U. P. and took advantage of every opportunity afforded to him to push forward the cause of Swadeshi. He opened the Swadeshi Exhibitions at Gorakhpur and Lucknow.

Mr. Kaul was engaged for the best part of three months in organising the U. P. Swadeshi Exhibition under the auspices of the Lucknow Swadeshi League, of which he was the General Secretary. Mr. Bajpai took a prominent part in the management of this Exhibition. Mr. Dube was a member of the Lucknow Swadeshi League and took an active part in organising two Swadeshi exhibitions held in Lucknow during the year. Mr. Bajpai took the numerous opportunities afforded to him during his extensive tour to speak about Swadeshi.

Mr. Suryanarayana Rao was one of the Secretaries of the Malabar "Buy Indian League" which issued a number of leaflets and carried on a vigorous propaganda. Mr. Thakkar helped to start a Swadeshi League in Dohad and accompanied Mr. Devadhar during his tour in Gujarat for Swadeshi propaganda. Messrs. Devadhar and Kunzru opened the Swadeshi campaign at Sholapur on 24th June last. Mr. Limaye helped the organisers of the Buy Indian Leagues in various places and was a member of the publicity advisory committee of the Poona Industrial Exhibition. Mr. Venkataraman promoted the Swadeshi Sabha organised in Madras on the last Deepavali day.

(To be continued.)