

# The Servant of India

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Office : SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY, POONA.

VOL. XIX, No. 16. }

POONA—THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1936.

{ INDIAN Rs. 6.  
FOREIGN SUBSN. 15s.

## CONTENTS.

	Page
TOPICS OF THE WEEK	181
ARTICLE :—	
Federal Grants.	183
REVIEWS :—	
History of Indo-Europeans.—By Prof. A. S. Altekar.	185
The Great Shivaji.—By D. V. Apte, B. A.	186
Punjab Rural Conditions.—By N. S. S.	186
Sex Knowledge.—By Prof. R. D. Karve, M. A.	187
Defence of Liberalism.—By Prof. B. H. Kelkar, M. A.	188
SHORT NOTICES.	188
MISCELLANEA :—	
Congress Resolutions.	189
Muslim League Resolutions.	189
House-Sites for Depressed Classes.—By R. Suryanarayana Rao.	190
BOOKS RECEIVED.	191

## Topics of the Week.

### Lord Willingdon's Address.

IN his farewell address to the Indian Legislature Lord Willingdon was at pains to convince his hearers that his regime was a success. The only criterion he would himself apply and would have others do so is whether India is quieter than when he took charge of the Viceroyalty five years ago. The peace observable in the land at present may be the result of the most widespread use of repressive methods. But that is neither here nor there. What really matters to him is whether there is greater peace in the land at the end of his lustrum than at its beginning. That is how the Viceroy in effect argued his case before the Legislature. His Excellency thus looks upon peace and quiet as the *summum bonum* of a successful administrator. Public opinion however has a different touchstone for application in such cases. It is whether he has helped to promote public contentment or at any rate to diminish public discontent. Weighed in this balance we have little doubt that Lord Willingdon's regime will be generally regarded as a failure.

BUT, we forget, there is also another test that can be requisitioned in this connection and one too set by the examinee himself. In his earlier utterances as Viceroy Lord Willingdon used to be in the habit of giving expression to his ambition to become the first constitutional Governor-General of the Indian Domi-

nion. Latterly he has been, it is true, more cautious in the use of his words, probably because of the ban on the use of the fateful words "Dominion Status" in connection with India imposed by higher authorities. Be that as it may, can his ambition be said to have been fulfilled? When he gave free vent to his desires, he must have fondly imagined that the Hoare reforms would result in making a dominion of India. All credit to him for entertaining that dream. But the point is whether the dream still remains a mere dream or it is any nearer realisation. For an answer one must point to the view taken by Indians of the new Reforms. Indian opinion in general, as His Excellency cannot be unaware, looks upon the constitutional scheme with such strong abhorrence that its preference for the status quo is unmistakably obvious. In these circumstances it is making a heavy demand on Indian credulity to expect it to believe that Lord Willingdon's regime has been a conspicuous success.

### Arrest of Mr. Subhas Bose.

THE arrest of Mr. Subhas Bose on his return to India was a foregone conclusion. The country had in fact been prepared for it by statements made by Government spokesmen in the Assembly, which left little room for doubt that Mr. Bose would not be allowed to be a free man in his own country. How strongly public opinion reprobates the action of the Government in depriving Mr. Bose of his liberty is clear from the severe censure inflicted on them by the Assembly a few days ago. That in spite of this unmistakable verdict of the Assembly the Government should have persisted in their most unjustified and ill-advised course of action is an indication of the low estimation in which they hold public opinion.

IN their eyes Mr. Bose is such a dangerous person that he cannot be allowed to remain at large in India. He is no source of trouble when out of India. But the moment he sets foot on Indian soil his liberty of movement and action must be restricted. Else the safety of the State would be in jeopardy! The Government may be honestly holding that view, but it is not enough that they look at him in that light. What is necessary is that their view of him must be endorsed by a judicial court after the necessary trial. So long as this straightforward course is studiously avoided and Mr. Bose is deprived of his liberty merely by an executive fiat, public opinion will continue to regard him as absolutely guiltless. It was only last week suggested to the Government by means of an interpellation in Parliament that instead of taking action against Mr. Bose under an obsolete and antiquated law he should be put on his trial. In spite of repeated challenges to this effect Government have

consistently fought shy of a judicial trial in his case. This fact clearly warrants the inference that if the Government have any evidence calculated to prove Mr. Bose's complicity in terrorist activity, it is extremely flimsy and cannot stand a moment's scrutiny.

#### Muslim Method of "Working" the Reforms.

THE resolution on the new Reforms passed by the Muslim League which is printed elsewhere in this issue was moved by its permanent President Mr. Jinnah. He first made it clear to all concerned that the constitution was a fraud which was imposed on this country against the wishes of its people. Though the League has decided upon working the reforms Mr. Jinnah's speech provides an indication of the spirit in which they will be handled by the Muslims. Mr. Jinnah's utter dislike of the Hoare reforms as a totally inadequate measure of political advance is well known. In his speech on the resolution he reiterated it by remarking that the reforms give only 2 per cent. of responsibility and 98 per cent. safeguards. In regard to the vital department of defence no power, he pointed out, was transferred to the people and the whole legislative machinery with a bi-cameral legislature and the Governor-General's final veto was, in his view, so devised as to impede rather than promote progressive measures. The powers vested in the Governor-General were, he rightly remarked, such "as nobody in the world had ever possessed."

THE Muslim attitude towards the India Act was likened by him to that of the Germans to the Versailles Treaty. He thus elucidated the point:

If I have to submit to it, I shall submit to it under protest. I shall see what use I can make of it. The German nation, when it was forced to sign the Treaty of Versailles, signed it. If I have to deal with this constitution as the Germans dealt with the Versailles Treaty, I shall begin by tearing off as many pages as the Government of India Act has and we shall not rest content until that constitution is replaced by a constitution which is acceptable to us.

#### Release of Political Prisoners.

OF the rejection by the Assembly of the resolution asking for the release of political prisoners much capital is being made in official quarters. We do not think the Assembly's vote can be interpreted by the Government, if they have any sense of decency or fairness, as in any way an endorsement of its policy of detaining hundreds of young men without trial. That the vote does not represent the considered judgment of the popular House on this question admits of little doubt, specially because of the circumstances in which the resolution happened to come up before that body for its final decision. It was moved and partly discussed by the Assembly nearly two months ago. The debate was last week resumed in a depleted House—depleted because several Congress M. L. A. s had to absent themselves from the Assembly owing to preoccupations connected with the Congress session in U. P.

EVEN so the resolution is said to have stood a fair chance of securing the support of the majority if the Congress party had not played into the hands of Government by refusing to participate in the proceedings. This was by way of protest against the failure of the President to give an opportunity to the Congress party to reply to the aspersions on the public character of Congressmen thrown by the Home Member. The President should in fairness have allowed

the members of the Congress party to rebut the charges made against them by Sir Henry Craik, who could if necessary, have been given one more chance to make a final reply to the debate. But the President seems to have been under the mistaken notion that the Home Member's speech in whose midst Sir Abdur Rahim resumed charge of the conduct of the proceedings was the second one which only a Government member enjoys the right of making under the rules. This misunderstanding on his part is greatly to be deplored. But because the President was guilty of one mistake, the Congress party was not justified in perpetrating another. They might have taken another opportunity to clear their character but should in no case have lost this chance of registering public feeling on this important subject in an authoritative manner on the floor of the House.

COMING to the resolution itself, the demand made in it can by no means be said to be extravagant or unreasonable. The resolution did not ask for the release of all political prisoners, as Sir Henry Craik seemed erroneously to imagine. The demand was confined only to those who were detained without trial. It is no reply to it to say, as was said by the Home Member, that the number of detenus was progressively declining. The question is not whether the number is big or small, or whether it is increasing or decreasing. If there are any people deprived of their liberty without a trial,—their number is as large as 1400; the resolution was fully justified. Either place a man on his trial or set him at liberty. You cannot put him under restraint for years together merely on suspicion and without framing a regular charge against him and giving him an opportunity to disprove it. This was the implication of the resolution. The reasoning is unassailable. But reason and logic do not weigh with an irresponsible government such as the Indian Government is.

#### Mr. Singhanian on Federal Finance.

IN his presidential address to the last session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Lala Padampat Singhanian devoted some space to an examination of the problem of federal finance. His conclusion was that the sources of federal revenue were not capable of much expansion and that the Government must therefore fall back upon retrenchment and economy in public expenditure. He had the following observations to make on the subject:

As there is practically no scope for raising revenue by way of taxation, the only course left open is to reduce the military expenditure to the pre-war level or to secure a contribution from the revenues of the United Kingdom towards meeting the excess of expenditure over that level, as all the military maintained in India is not entirely in the interest of India but to safeguard trade routes of the United Kingdom. I would, therefore, suggest to Sir Otto Niemeyer to consider this question while submitting his recommendations to the Secretary of State for India, and secondly, to revise the scales of remuneration of the Imperial and Provincial services. In no country does the military expenditure constitute 60 per cent. of the revenues and both the Finance Member and the Commander-in-Chief, instead of holding hopes of reasonable reduction in the military expenditure, stated possibilities of greater expenditure on that account. With the military expenditure and the debt and pension service charges constituting more than 80 per cent. of the revenues of the future Federal Government, I do not visualise any prospect of the successful working of the Federal constitution.

**Hindu Widows' Home Association.**

THE report of the Hindu Widows' Home Association for 1935 which is recently published discloses a record of steady progress and solid achievement in the educational field. The year, as our readers are aware, was an important one in the annals of the Association in that it witnessed the settlement of the dispute which raged for three years previously between the Indian Women's University and the executors of the will of the late Sir Vitthaladas Thackersey. This has no doubt secured the University in the permanent enjoyment of the annual income of Rs. 52,500 representing the interest on Sir Vitthaladas's princely benefaction of Rs. 15 lakhs but, cannot, contrary to public belief, be said to have placed the University above want. The report makes it clear that such a belief lacks foundation. As a matter of fact the settlement has added to the responsibilities of the University with the result that it will be unable to help its affiliated institutions for some years to come.

It is disquieting to learn from the report of a marked tendency on the part of "those who were directly responsible for the conduct of the University" to revolt at the close association which has so long subsisted between the University and the Association. This desire to throw off the yoke, if the use of such an expression is permissible in this connection, of the parent institution which at great sacrifice helped the University in its critical days is greatly to be deplored. Except for the fact that some of the Association's life-workers are working in the University on a contract basis for definite periods, the Association has now no responsibility for the conduct of the affairs of the University. As the report points out, both the institutions are independent bodies, having no organic connection one with the other.

THESE facts are prominently brought out in the report with a view to acquainting the sympathisers with the real situation. They must now make up their mind which institution—whether the Association or the University—they wish to support; it will not do for them vaguely to wish to help "Prof. Karve's institution." We may hope that the sympathisers will not be slow to profit by this warning in the report. It is a matter for satisfaction that the work both of the Association and its offshoot the University is rapidly expanding. The financial position of the Association with which we are concerned here however is anything but satisfactory. It has a deficit budget for 1936, the difference between the income and expenditure amounting roughly to Rs. 6,000. Last year too there was a deficit of about Rs. 2,200, which, we are told, was met from the Reserve Fund. But a growing institution like the Association cannot long continue to live on its own fat without being forced some day or other to restrict the scope of its highly beneficent work. This would obviously be a public calamity. It is therefore up to those who value its work to come to its rescue by offering

contributions so as to make this era of deficits a thing of the past.

**Programme of Rural Uplift.**

AS president of the Rural Workers' Conference recently held at Mayanur, Mr. Santanam, Editor, *Indian Express*, Madras, outlined a programme of rural uplift activity which, we hope, will receive from all concerned the careful attention that its importance deserves. For the present poverty of the rural parts and their ignorant, illiterate and insanitary condition Mr. Santanam holds the classes and the masses equally responsible with the Government. But the root cause of the trouble seems to him as to many others the excessive increase in population, which it is impossible to maintain in comfort with the available cultivated land. Whereas it has been calculated that for a satisfactory minimum standard of life 2500 acres are necessary for every 1000 of the population, in India the proportion is only 840 acres for every 1000 souls. Arable land being at any time a limited quantity, the only way of tackling the problem is of course by limiting births. Needless to add Mr. Santanam favours vigorous birth-control propaganda among the villagers so as to impress on them the fact that it is a sin to have more than three or four children.

IN common with all rural uplift workers Mr. Santanam looks upon the iniquitous land revenue system as being the main cause of the present poverty of the villagers. But his quarrel is not so much with its incidence as with the manner of its expenditure. He takes strong exception to a large part of it being drained out of the villages for the support of urban institutions. His suggestion therefore is that at least half of it should be retained in the village itself for being spent upon the satisfaction of local needs. If this is done, he is hopeful that every village will be able to maintain a primary school, a dispensary, a park and its roads, tanks and wells in good condition, without outside help. Two further changes in the land revenue system are advocated by Mr. Santanam. The system, he urges, should be sharply graded in favour of the cultivating owner and absentee landlordism should be severely dealt with by giving tenants the right to buy them out.

BUT Mr. Santanam would not rest content with stopping only this economic drain. He would also take steps to end the intellectual drain involved in the rural artisans and village youths deserting their native villages for the cities. To this end he would revive and extend the old institution of remunerating and rewarding labour in the village by grant of land. Educated young men should, he pleads, be induced to go back to the villages by making it worth their while to do so. It is impossible within the limits of space at our disposal to make even a brief reference to all the items in Mr. Santanam's programme. We can only wish that its possibilities are carefully examined by those in a position to give practical effect to it.

**FEDERAL GRANTS.**

THE whole administrative machinery of a federation is complicated, as compared with that of a unitary state. Financial relations between the Federal and State governments are no exception to this general experience. The complication in the matter of finance arises from two special features of a federation. A comparatively clear-cut division of

resources and functions between the two Governments is inherent in a federation. This demarkation is not only very irksome in the domain of financial resources, but at several points the attempt at establishing mutually exclusive administrative jurisdictions leads either to waste, as when duplication of machineries is provided, or to inadequacy and mal-

distribution as when financial considerations are subordinated to purely administrative convenience. A very prominent case in point is that of India under the Meston Award.

Another influence making for financial complications under a federal constitution is more fundamental and deserves very careful consideration at the hands of those who are interested in Indian Finance at the present moment. The main political urge towards the federalisation of an essentially centralised state in India came from pressing considerations of administrative efficiency. The whole trend of administrative and financial reorganisation, since the days of Mayo and Ripon, has been in the direction of increasing the scope of independent action on the part of provincial governments. By the time the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms were thought of, the administrative independence of provinces had reached a stage at which any further progress necessitated the recognition of semi-independent units of administration. India slipped into federalism by the inexorable logic of administrative necessities, before any federal feeling on the part of the people had taken birth.

With the exception of the support given to the idea by some, though not all, of the members of the Round Table Conferences, it might be said that the establishment of a federation in India is a "command" performance. It is in line with other administrative arrangements that have preceded it. Whatever the chance origin of the idea may be, its development has been brought about by the controllers of the political destiny of India for working out the schemes that they have in view. People in the country are mostly lookers-on in the game. Even those who have made such politics as exists in the country their special concern are busy in devising ways to promote their personal or sectional interests under the new dispensation. This explains the paradox of an inactive population and an active Government at a time when supposedly epoch-making changes are being staged in the constitutional sphere. The people have no heart, one way or another, in what is happening. Government are taking steps to safeguard themselves against all contingencies.

This complete listlessness on the part of the politically-minded and this patent artificiality of the whole process is unique in the history of federations. At the initiation of all other federations the public mind had been tremendously agitated over the issue of the establishment of new and the terminating of the old political ties. Such a stirring of the political consciousness of the people is necessary to induce a desirable frame of mind for the solution of many complicated constitutional issues. As mentioned earlier, the necessities of administrative separateness rarely coincide with the needs of financial adequacy. Moreover, the whole trend of modern economic development is in the direction of greater integration of the nation's industrial life. This trend in economic relations of the constituent units of a federation is in sharp contrast with the political insistence on separateness, particularly in a federation

like India, which is the outcome of a process of decentralisation.

The difficulties of Provincial Finance are to some extent due to the shrinkage in income brought about by the great fall in prices. In a measure they are also due to the inherent inequality of the so-called Meston Award. But even after the present depression has lifted, and even when the Provinces are admitted to a share in the proceeds of the taxation of non-agricultural incomes, which is at present denied to them under purely administrative grounds, the troubles of the Provincial Chancellories will not be over. Land Revenue and Liquor Exeise, the two props of Provincial Finance, are bound to totter in the new regime, in which rural interests will be predominantly represented. It is the common experience of all countries that in the course of political and economic progress the traditional sources of taxation like agricultural land fail to yield the necessary sustenance for the public powers.

New avenues of taxation have to be explored. Direct taxes such as income, inheritance and turnover taxes, and indirect taxes such as customs and excises come into prominence. All these, however, are in their very nature more suitable for centralised administration and collection than for provincial exploitation. Thus is created a very complicated political and economic situation. Economic unification of the nation conflicts with political self-consciousness of provinces, and while the provinces which are saddled with ever expanding expenditure on beneficent services have only contracting or stationary revenue, the national government which has to cater for a strictly limited number of departments have their income increased with every natural betterment of the economic situation in the country. The surpluses that Sir James Grigg has had the good fortune recently to announce in the Legislative Assembly bid fair to be a normal phenomenon.

The explanation of this apparent state of central prosperity must be sought in the nature of a federal state. Exceptionally high levels of taxation continued much beyond their proper time are no doubt one of the main reasons for the recent surpluses. But at any level of taxation, so long as the distribution of revenues and functions between the Provincial and Federal Governments continues to be what it is, these central surpluses are bound to recur. They will not in more healthy times contrast with bankrupt Railway Budgets, but they certainly will go together with straitened provincial revenues. This incongruity is unavoidable in a Federation, and the only way to counteract its evil effects on national and provincial economies is to develop a well organised system of Federal grants.

Till recently there used to be considerable prejudice against any system of federal grants. It was argued that the dissociation of taxing from spending responsibility was politically unsound. This objection is still entertained in some quarters. Yet by developing such representative inter-state organisations as Loan Councils and Premiers' Conferences the association of the spending units with the process

of raising the funds is being expanded. In a fully conscious Federation such as the United States and Switzerland the citizen body itself and the political parties are capable of a co-ordinated effort in the provincial and national spheres.

Recent steps on the part of the Government of India give ground for the belief that they are not inherently opposed to the introduction of the system of Federal grants in India. The danger, however, is that their administration might be too fitful and too far removed from the counsels and needs of Provincial Governments. As recommended by Sir Walter Layton in his Financial memorandum submitted to the Simon Commission, an Inter-Provincial Council which will administer a Provincial Fund raised by Federal legislation is a pressing constitutional and financial necessity. Besides the unexpected windfalls that are at present being utilised for distribution among the provinces, that Fund should receive a definite share out of the several excises, including the Salt Tax. Recent defeats of the Central Government on several financial issues give reason for the belief that the majority of the Legislature in India is not favourably inclined towards the continuation of the present level of taxation in the central sphere. The time is ripe to cultivate a well-planned scheme by which the surplus proceeds of central taxations are systematically directed towards the provinces.

One very great drawback in the Indian situation is the complete lack of co-ordination between the Provincial and Central legislatures. Even the executive parts of the administration are showing unmistakable tendencies towards lesser contacts except on the subjects of law and order and political reform. But among the legislatures of the several provinces and the central legislature there is a complete lack of co-ordination. Even the Congress Party has no machinery whereby the work of its members in the Provincial Legislatures can be correlated to that in the Central Legislature. The need of such co-ordination is nowhere so great as in Finance under a Federation.

The problem of Federal Finance, after the initial distribution of resources has once been settled, really centres round the process of redistribution of governmental income. What the Federal Government collects on account of the Provinces as a whole has to be redistributed among them on some basis, either that of population, or some other. The technique of Federal Grants is thus the only outlet from an impossible situation created by provincial deficits and central surpluses. It is to be hoped that in the near future the best elements among Government and non-official circles will come together to frame a workable scheme of federal grants in India. It is doubtful whether Sir Otto Niemeyer will be able to devise any satisfactory distribution of whole sources or proportions of revenues. It is by means of Federal Grants that progress towards adequacy and equality in provincial finance can be made.

The system of grants plays an important part in periods of crisis. To take an example from a Federa-

tion within the British Empire itself. It will be seen that in Canada since the onset of the depression the Dominion Government has liberally helped the provinces. As in India, the provinces in Canada are not only of unequal economic strength, but the characteristics of their economy vary considerably. Among economically differing units federation forges a common tie, and unless the common government is alert to help the units, whenever their difficulties get beyond the measure of their own capacities, the economic strength of the nation as a whole may be seriously endangered. By paying compensation to provinces for their just claims neglected in the past, by making general grants, by guaranteeing their loans, by handing over to them the exploitation of state lands, and by opening Dominion public works to help to relieve unemployment the Dominion Government in Canada has helped the provinces to strengthen their finances in a critical time of economic depression. With the exception of the few grants inaugurated in India since last year, and the sharing of the export duty on jute with the Eastern provinces, no systematic action along these lines has been planned in India. In any case the non-official element in the legislatures is completely in the dark about any such scheme. Though the experience of the problems of a Federation is new both to the people and the Governments in this country it is to be desired that a well-planned system not only of the sharing of revenues, but also of the administration of centrally created funds for the benefit of the provinces, is introduced along with the establishment of provincial autonomy.

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## Reviews.

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### HISTORY OF INDO-EUROPEANS.

THE ORIGIN OF THE INDO-EUROPEAN RACES AND PEOPLES. VOL. I. By V CHOCKALINGAM PILLAI (Palamecottah Printing Press, Palamecottah.) 1935. 24cm. 936p. Rs. 25.

THIS volume is the first of a series of five volumes which the author has planned on the origin and history of the Indo-Europeans. According to the author, the home of the Indo-Europeans was a portion of the now dismembered Gondwana continent, lying submerged on either side of the Equator. It consisted of two islands, separated by a narrow channel. The northern island was occupied by the Velans, a dolichocephalic people speaking an inflectional language; and the southern one by the Surans, a brachiocephalic people speaking an isolating tongue. For more than 30,000 years these two peoples were at perpetual war with each other. Their dispersal was due to the action of the ocean and the volcano, resulting in the submergence of their homeland. This event took place as late as 5500 B. C. (p. 126). The southern island, the home of the Surans, was the first to be engulfed. This compelled the Surans to cross over to India. They, however, did not occupy it, but proceeded to and settled down in the southern portion of European Russia via Baluchistan and Herat (pp. 127-132). The island home of the Velans was submerged about 5800 B. C. They also crossed over to India, but unlike the Surans, left a portion of their



stock in this country, which soon occupied the whole of it (p. 128). The Tamil-speaking Velans are their descendants, but these are to be distinguished from the Dravidians (p. 151). The main body of the Velans, however, followed the route of the Surans and reached Southern Russia in C. 4500 B. C. Here the old struggle between the two peoples started again and lasted down to about 2000 B. C. (p. 171). Eventually the Surans were worsted and driven to the south. They divided themselves in four groups and occupied Italy, Greece, Iran and India (p. 547). The Velans of Europe divided themselves into the Celts, Teutons, Vends and Letts. The Indian section of the Surans, known now as the Vedic Aryans, entered India by about 1500 B. C.

Since the author intends to devote five volumes to the exposition of the interesting theory briefly outlined above, it would be unfair to pass a final opinion about it when only one of his volumes has come out. It must, however, be observed that the evidence so far adduced is not only far from convincing, but shows that the author is building on hypotheses unsupported by modern science. The considered opinion of geology is that the splitting up of the Gondwana continent took place by the end of the Pliocene period, i. e. about ten million years ago. The author is fully aware of this but boldly declares that geologists have come to their conclusion with imperfect data and misled the ethnologists by refusing to countenance the view that there were some islands surviving on either side of the Equator as late as 6000 B. C. (p. 41). Our author holds that science has done the greatest harm to the cause of truth and regrets that her unsound teachings should have gained the credence of the world and led it astray with reference to the problem of the Indo-European home (p. 41). A theory of Indo-European home near the Equator, which goes against the unanimous testimony of geologists, has little chance of being seriously considered in the modern scientific age.

The author summarily brushes aside the evidence of geology on the strength of the data of the Indo-European epos or mythology. The latter is, however, far from convincing. The author admits that the Gaelic epos is unaware of the torpedoing of the original home by volcanic action or of migration from the cradle to Europe (pp. 366-7). He relies upon the name *Tir fa toun* (meaning the land beneath the sea) given by the Gaelic race to their home, which is further described by them as the land of perpetual sun. The evidence of the Teutonic epos pointing to an Equatorial home is still less convincing.

The main feature of the book is a study of the data supplied by the Celtic, Teutonic and Vend mythology, bearing upon the problem of the Indo-European home. The book will be useful as a source of information in this connection.

A. S. ALTEKAR.

### THE GREAT SHIVAJI.

**SHIVAJI, THE MARATHA.** By E. F. MALCOLM-SMITH. (V. Sundra Iyer, Trichur.) 1935. 20cm. 162p. Re. 1.

THIS biographical sketch, depicting the inspiring life-course of Shivaji, is intended to be used in Indian schools. The division of the subject-matter into a few well defined chapters, the sense of proportion shown in the selection and the treatment of episodes in which minor events like the sack of Surat are not allowed to have excessive prominence, the easy style in which the story is narrated from beginning to end,

these and such other features are admirably suited to make the work interesting and instructive to the class of readers for whom it is intended. The author depends mainly on the works of Kincaid, Rawlinson and Jadunath Sarkar not only for historical information but even for opinion and criticism. As a matter of fact the author simply confines his attention to reading, no doubt carefully, the works of these three authors only and is perfectly unaware of the fact that the literature on the subject is rapidly growing. The idea, therefore, of consulting recent works on the subject does not seem to have troubled the learned author at any stage. This phenomenon, however, has an explanation. The roots of this undesirable tendency can be traced to the publication of "Shivaji and His Times." Positive assertions by Sir Jadunath like "So far as the extant materials go, the present edition is definitive" or "I have considered it necessary in the interests of historical truth to give every fact, however small, about Shivaji that has been ascertained on unimpeachable evidence" have induced many English readers and authors quickly to assume that the third edition of "Shivaji and His Times" represents the final word on the subject and that the matter, not included in this edition, is "impeachable." Such sidetrusts in condemnation of Marathi evidence on Shivaji by a scholar of Sir Jadunath's standing and reputation have created a strong prejudice against "historical discoveries in Maharashtra" which are conveniently ignored on the assumption that they are either forgeries or that they are unimportant or at least not unimpeachable. It is necessary to remind the reader that the author of this theory viz. Sir Jadunath is wholly ignorant of old Marathi calligraphy. He cannot read a single Marathi document of the Shivaji period which is written in Modi script. But all the same he feels no hesitation in passing summary judgments on intricate points like the genuineness or otherwise of old Marathi documents. No wonder, therefore, that "Shivaji, the Maratha" and some recent publications on Shivaji, fail to take account of the valuable material in Marathi regarding Shabaji and the early career of Shivaji. Mr. Malcolm-Smith consequently propounds theories that are out of date and exploded and that need revision at several places. By way of suggestion we wish to recommend for his perusal the volumes published by Dr. Balkrishna ("Shivaji, the Great"), by Prof. R. P. Patwardhan ("The Sources of Maratha History"), and by the Shivacharitra Karyalaya ("English Records on Shivaji"). In spite of defects, however, which can be remedied in the second edition, "Shivaji, the Maratha" is the only book suited to instill a commendable spirit of idealism in the impressionable minds of young Indian students.

D. V. APTE.

### PUNJAB RURAL CONDITIONS.

**AN ECONOMIC SURVEY OF GAJJU CHAK.**

By ANCHAL DASS. (The Board of Economic Inquiry, Punjab.) 1934. 24cm. 270p. Rs. 3.

THIS is the economic survey of a small village in the canal area of Gujranwala district, populated by Muslim Jats. The people of the village are ignorant, illiterate, conservative and religiously-minded. Of the 43 families 21 are wholly dependent on agriculture, 17 are partly dependant on it and 5 are independent of it. Five are non-cultivating owners, 19 are tenants and 15 labourers. Two families of carpenters, two families of Mochis, and one family of barbers are the village artizans. The sweepers have been converted to Christianity. The washerman, the bard, the Brahmin and the Mullah all get their customary

wages. It is surprising to note that in the most communal-minded of Provinces viz. the Punjab, the rural people exhibit no communal animosity. The Brahmin renders his services and gets his customary wages in this village largely populated by Muslims.

The canal irrigation has not proved to be the boon that it was supposed it would be. The introduction of canals has caused a rise in the level of the subsoil water and this has seriously hampered cultivation. The Government too, realising the intensity of the problem, have since 1925 been encouraging well irrigation by lowering well and land taxes. The people also are more for barani and chahi cultivation.

The cropping and cultivation are the same as in the neighbourhood, and not much of scientific advancement is to be noted. No modern implements are in use. Fragmentation of land here is as serious as elsewhere, and people try to mitigate its effects by taking contiguous pieces of land on lease. The percentage of matured to the sown area is not encouraging.

This small village of 473 acres is indebted to the extent of Rs. 16,482. One big item of borrowing is for the purchase of wives and marriages. Two co-operative societies are working in the village. Though the village is estimated to be one below average, there is a gradual enhancement of Government dues. This village is not connected to market centres by metalled roads and all the exports are carried on pack mules. The pedlar gets to the village the sundries needed for the villagers.

An intensive study of three holdings is given with many details as to the cost of cultivation, working hours, labour charges, cost of maintenance of cattle, etc. These details reveal the fact that a pair of bullock costs more per year to the cultivator than he himself and his family.

The special features of this inquiry are to be noted. Being a small village, many details are available, which go to give us a more realistic view of the conditions. Rural wealth and income as revealed in this inquiry even in 1926-27 year of high prices, is none too encouraging, and the economic condition of Gajju Chak should be worse now during a period of low prices. The maps, charts and tables add to the usefulness of the book.

N. S. S.

### SEX KNOWLEDGE

**SEX KNOWLEDGE.** By NORAH MARCH. (W. Foulsham & Co., London.) 20cm. 62p. 9d.

THE first five chapters of this book give an account of the growth of the sex instinct from childhood to puberty on the physical and mental planes. The remaining three chapters treat of Birth Control, Sex Education and the Ethics of Sex.

The author considers birth control knowledge as "part of that knowledge by which the individual may be fitted to meet all the eventualities of life nobly and efficiently and of which he may or may not make use, according as his own ideas of moral responsibility should direct." In considering the national point of view, however, she makes the unguarded statement that "whatever the pros and cons of increase, the population should not be allowed to decrease in numbers." One is inclined to ask why, since it is perfectly obvious that many countries in the world are overpopulated at present and that a decrease of population would certainly be an improvement.

Her views on sex education are mixed with ethics, to which she also devotes a separate chapter. There is no need to do this. The adulteration of impersonal scientific knowledge with ethical views, which are necessarily subjective, is bound to be unsatisfactory. The author seems to think that any child can be trained to self-discipline, so that it can later submit itself with pleasure to "the social code imposed upon sex—that code which expects continence till marriage and fidelity afterwards..." Considering the late age at which marriage is possible at present, sexologists of repute are agreed that the consequence of abstinence to this late age is very often loss of potency. Indeed the very process of practising self-restraint in this matter being to suppress desire or its natural consequences whenever it arises, this becomes a confirmed habit and the process is gone through automatically even when not desired.

In the chapter on Ethics of Sex, the author explains how social restrictions came to be imposed in sex matters. She brings forward the bogey of venereal diseases as a reason for abstinence before marriage and fidelity afterwards. The fact is that protection from disease is not ensured by one's own continence or fidelity, but is dependent on the fidelity of both husband and wife, as well as their ancestors for a few generations! Why then pretend that fidelity is enough? Of course it can be argued that if everybody observed the rule for a few generations and those who are already affected were cured, venereal diseases would disappear. But is there any chance of this? A modern writer on sex ought to know that venereal diseases can be prevented. The author does not seem to know it.

Except as regards birth control, the author seems to be wedded to current morality. She says that unmarried motherhood brings sorrow and suffering for the mother and the child, without seeing that this sorrow and suffering is entirely caused by unnecessary persecution on the part of society.

According to her, self-control voluntarily exercised leads to increased mental power. If exercised under compulsion, it may cause mental trouble, though not physical, and is even then worth while. This is not endorsed by sexologists. Abstinence usually leads to both mental and physical ill-health, and many people, at least in modern society, will not care to practise it. There is no reason why they should. She does not even see the injustice of compelling a large percentage of women to remain unmarried under the monogamic system which is theoretically enforced in Europe and America, but which is never observed, at least by men. To assume that a certain moral code imposed by one's own society is socially necessary and argue that everybody must do his or her best to conform to it in spite of suffering, is hardly logical in face of the fact that there are so many different codes prevailing even in advanced societies. It only argues utter incapacity for objective thought on the part of the author.

There is a misstatement of facts in the chapter on "How Sex Affects the Body" which serves as a prop to orthodox morals demanding abstinence except in marriage. According to the author (p. 39), "The seminal fluid accumulates in two seminal reservoirs, and appears to be gradually partly absorbed into the body. Any excess is discharged from the body in the form of a seminal emission....." This is sheer nonsense. It is utterly ridiculous to suppose that there is no emission unless there is "an excess" of seminal fluid produced. The fact is that the testes produce two kinds of secretion: internal and external, of which the latter is thrown out of

the body and the former is absorbed. It is preposterous to assert that spermatozoa are absorbed into the body. Such a thing is only possible for orthodox apologists who must pretend that no harm is done by continence for any length of time. A system of morals which calls for this kind of juggling with physiology can hardly stand examination.

R. D. KARVE.

### DEFENCE OF LIBERALISM.

**WAS EUROPE A SUCCESS ?** By JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH. (METHUEN.) 1935. 20cm. 116p. 3/6.

THIS is an attempt by Mr. Krutch to defend the tenets of Liberalism from the attacks levelled against them by the Fascists and the Communists. He starts from the well-known fact that European civilization has its foundation in the spirit of inquiry and the love of freedom so characteristically combined by the Greeks with their democracy.

Most of the Fascists and the Communists and particularly the latter often started their careers as critics of the parties of the Right and as such placed a high value upon freedom of opinion and expression and yet both, when in actual control of the administrative machinery are in a curious agreement upon the necessity of suppressing all opinions different from their own; and even in their own case they surrender their opinions to the judgment of their leaders. All this is very reminiscent of the psychology of a new convert, who is often more intolerant than the old adherent of the faith.

With that zeal their hopes are centred upon only material comforts like food, shelter and amusements. But the promises of their leaders go mostly unfulfilled, the goal getting more and more remote as years roll by. Not only, however, are they not dissatisfied, but they also choose to assail those that point out these failures. If they see better results achieved by methods other than their own, they are ready to turn savagely upon their opponents as if these were the men that kept them away from their vision. They even welcome sufferings and set-backs to their schemes almost in the fashion of the anchorites of the early Christian centuries. Misery in other lands is to them one more means of securing more converts to their creed.

Turning to the communistic attitude towards Art, Mr. Krutch declares that "the artist is concerned essentially with making the best that can be made of a bad situation". To the Communist as to the Puritan, art and literature made life endurable and as such are temptations that undermine faith, and hence they are to be taboo in so far as they are not frankly propagandist.

While condemning all wars as imperialistic in their outlook and capitalistic in their origin and destructive of so much human happiness and wealth, the Communists are yet in favour of a class-war. These jingoes of the class-war conveniently forget that class-wars are civil wars and that all civil wars have been far more destructive than other kinds of conflict. That is a perversity which Mr. Krutch simply cannot understand. He has no faith in the inexorable logic of Karl Marx and points out the fact that conflict of interest between capital and labour is not necessarily class-war, and that less heroic measures may achieve a less spectacular but more solid and more durable results. Any Marxist who does not say "Eat, drink and be merry, for to-morrow the revolution arrives any way by virtue of the inexorable dialectic process" believes to some extent in the power of his will and must know that "inevitable" is a rhetorical term.

If the "inevitable" comes about and brings with it years of misery, friends and comrades slain, and the inevitable disillusionment that follows all extravagant hopes, he is ready to escape his responsibility by saying "Not I, but the dialectical process brought these events about." But if he is honest there will be moments when he will be compelled to admit that he asserted the inevitability and that by that assertion he helped to bring them about. He will be lucky if he is not compelled to say also—like so many who remember with shame what they proclaimed from 1914 on—"I was a Jingo."

With cold logic and clear expression the author combines a subtle mordancy that is more effective for its purpose than caricature and violent abuse that we often meet with when we are asked to examine these new dictatorships and their work.

R. H. KELKAR.

### SHORT NOTICES.

**BOMBAY IN THE DAYS OF GEORGE IV. MEMOIRS OF SIR EDWARD WEST.** ED. by F. DAWTREY DREWILT. (2nd. Edn.) [Longmans, London.] 1935. 22cm. 342p. 10/6.

THE first edition of this book was published in 1907 and the second edition has but lately reached us. It has been revised and enlarged with the help of hitherto unpublished letters and documents. It is a solid piece of work from beginning to end. It deals with the now almost forgotten struggle for supremacy between the Crown and the East India Company which was only ended after the Sepoy Mutiny when the Crown took over the entire administration of India. There were some heroic figures in that period of struggle and among those careers none is more interesting than that of Chief Justice Sir Edward West, a judge who upheld on behalf of the Crown and Parliament British honour and fair play against the greed and injustice of the Company's servants.

Unfortunately, the greatness of such a fearless and independent judge was not recognised at the time. We read of Sir Edward West in the Dictionary of National Biography as a political economist and not as an eminent Indian Judge. The biographies of Mount Stuart Elphinstone and Sir John Malcolm contain some brief notices about the Chief Justice, but as they betray bias on the side of the Company we do not get a true account of Sir Edward West's work in Bombay. The book before us supplies a long felt need. We have in this book a true account of Sir Edward West's achievements in Bombay. The author is a descendant of Sir Edward and Lady West and is therefore in possession of all materials such as letters, diaries, and memoranda of the Wests. He has made excellent use of these valuable documents and the result is an admirable biography of a straightforward, fearless and truth-loving Judge.

The book besides being an admirable biography of Sir Edward West throws much light on the official and social life of Bombay from 1825 to 1832. Some of the letters published in the book are amusing to read and make the book even more interesting than a novel. We congratulate the author on producing such an arresting historical and human document. We have no hesitation in saying that he has done full justice to Sir Edward West.

M. V. SUBRAHMANYAM.



**SWADESHI DIRECTORY, 1935.** [The Board of Trustees, Lord Reay Industrial Museum, Poona.] 21cm. 346 p. Rs. 2.

THIS is a publication containing some 400 pages with copious illustrations and 23 coloured plates. It contains three directories; (i) Swadeshi directory in relation to Poona Industries; (ii) Museum directory; and (iii) Directory of periodicals and journals the Museum receives from the library.

The Directory also contains an illuminating article on "A preliminary Survey of Some Handi-

crafts in Poona City." The list of the advertisers in the publication is quite large and for those who reside outside Poona it will be a very helpful guide to get in touch with the Poona manufacturers.

It can be confidently said that the work that the museum is doing is properly reflected in this publication. The information given seems to be accurate and should be helpful to prospective participants in the Museum and the exhibition. The book clearly depicts and illustrates the aims and objects of the well-established and recognized Poona Exhibitions.

L. V. G.

## REJECTION OF THE REFORMS.

### THE CONGRESS AND THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

*The National Congress has passed the following resolution with regard to the new Reforms :*

**W**HEREAS the Government of India Act of 1935 which is based on the White Paper and the Joint Parliamentary Committee's report, and which is in many respects even worse than the proposals contained in them, in no way represents the will of the nation, is designed to facilitate and perpetuate the domination and the exploitation of the people of India and is imposed on the country to the accompaniment of wide-spread repression and suppression of civil liberties, the Congress reiterates its rejection of the new constitution in its entirety. The Congress as representing the will of the Indian people for national freedom and democratic state, declares that no constitution imposed by an outside authority and no constitution which curtails the sovereignty of the people of India and does not recognise their right to shape and control fully their political and economic future, can be accepted. In the opinion of the Congress, such a constitution must be based on the independence of India as a nation and it can only be framed by a Constituent Assembly elected on adult franchise or a franchise which approximates to it as nearly as possible. The Congress, therefore, reiterates and stresses its demand for a Constituent Assembly in the name of the Indian people and calls upon its representatives and members in the Legislatures and outside to work for the fulfilment of this demand.

#### CONGRESS OBJECTIVE.

In view of the fact that elections for provincial Legislatures under the new Act may, according to official statement, take place before the next session of the Congress, this Congress resolves that in such an event candidates should be put forward on its behalf to contest seats in accordance with the mandate of the Congress and in pursuance of its declared policy. Such candidates must be chosen from those who fully support the Congress objective of Indian independence and pledge themselves to carry out its policy in regard to the Legislatures.

#### CONGRESS MANIFESTO.

The A.I.C.C. shall place before the country, prior to the election, a manifesto explaining the political and economic policy and the programme of the Congress in conformity with the resolutions passed by it from time to time. The Provincial Congress Committees may further supplement the manifesto by adding thereto specific items which have special application to their respective provinces. All the provincial manifestoes must be approved of by the Working Committee of the A.I.C.C.

#### PARLIAMENTARY BOARD.

It is resolved further that the functions of the Parliamentary Board be discharged in future by the Working Committee of the A.I.C.C. The Working Committee is authorised to appoint such Boards or Committees as may be necessary to organize elections to the legislatures as well as guide, co-ordinate and control the activities of the Congress members in the legislatures. Accordingly the Parliamentary Board need not be reconstituted hereafter. The question of acceptance of office by Congress members elected to the legislatures under the constitution having been agitated in the country, the Congress in view of the uncertainties of the situation as it may develop, considers it inadvisable to commit itself to any decision at this stage on the question and leaves it to be decided at the proper time by the A.I.C.C. after consulting the Provincial Congress Committees.

#### INDIAN STATES.

This Congress, while reaffirming the resolution regarding the Indian States passed in the Calcutta session of 1928 and expressing its approval of the policy laid down in the statement issued by the A. I. C. C. at Madras in October 1935, desires to make it clear that in its opinion the people of the States should have the same right of self-determination as those of the rest of India and that the Congress stands for the same political and civil liberties for every part of India. The Congress, however, desires to point out that the struggle for liberty within the States has in the very nature of things to be carried on by the people of the States themselves.

### MUSLIMS AND THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

*The All-India Muslim League which met in Bombay during the last week-end has passed the following resolution about the new constitution :*

**T**HE All-India Muslim League enters its emphatic protest against forcing the constitution, as embodied in the Government of India Act of 1935, upon the people of India, against their will and in spite of their repeated disapproval and dissent expressed by various parties and bodies in the country.

The League considers that having regard to the conditions prevailing at present in the country, the Provincial scheme of the constitution be utilised for what it is worth in spite of the most objectionable features contained therein, which render the real control and responsibility of the ministry and the

Legislature over the entire field of government and the administration nugatory.

The League is clearly of the opinion that the All-India Federal Scheme of the Central Government, embodied in the Government of India Act of 1935 is fundamentally bad; it is most reactionary, retrograde, injurious and fatal to the vital interests of British India *vis-a-vis* the Indian States, and it is calculated to thwart and delay indefinitely the realisation of India's most cherished goal of complete responsible government and is totally unacceptable.

The League considers that the British Parliament should still take the earliest opportunity to review the whole situation afresh regarding the Central scheme before it is inaugurated; or else the League feels convinced that the present scheme will not bring peace and contentment to the people, but on the contrary it will lead to disaster if forced upon and persisted in as it is entirely unworkable in the interests of India and her people.

#### CENTRAL ELECTION BOARD.

Whereas the parliamentary system of Government which is being introduced in this country with the inauguration of the new constitution presupposes the formation of parties with a well-defined policy and programme which facilitate the education of the electorate and co-operation between groups with approximate aims and ideals and ensures the working of the constitution to the best advantage; and whereas in order to strengthen the solidarity of the Muslim community and to secure for the Muslims their proper and effective share in the provincial governments it is essential that the Muslims should organise themselves as one party, with an advanced and progressive programme, it is hereby resolved that the All-India Muslim League do take steps to contest the approaching provincial elections, and for this purpose appoints Mr. Jinnah to form a central election board under his presidentship, consisting of not less than 35 members, with powers to constitute and affiliate provincial election boards in various provinces, having regard to the condition of each province, and devise ways and means for carrying out the aforesaid objects.

#### HOUSE-SITES FOR DEPRESSED CLASSES.

BY MR. R. SURYANARAYANA RAO

TO those familiar with the conditions under which the depressed classes live especially in rural areas, the fact that they have to depend on other classes not only for their maintenance but also for the land on which they build their houses and live, has often proved a great stumbling block for the success of any scheme of social or economic uplift undertaken for their benefit. This entire dependence on other classes has had a great demoralising effect. But their economic position is so bad that they are not able to acquire the house-sites even if they wish to and in some places no land is available except that on which they are already settled, which invariably belongs to landlords for whom they toil. When the Labour Department was organised in this (Madras) presidency under the able direction of the late Sir George Paddison, one of the important items of work laid down in his scheme of ameliorative work was the provision of house-sites. He rightly realised that in order to infuse a sense of self-respect and to create in them a desire for social and economic uplift, they should at least be enabled to possess house-sites where they could build and live without being subjected to the whims and caprices of their landlords. Sir George Paddison also found that in all places Government

waste or poramboke land was not available for assignment, and that if the depressed classes were to be helped to possess house-sites of their own, the lands on which they were already settled but which belonged to landlords had to be compulsorily acquired and parcelled out to them in convenient plots. This decision on the part of Government to acquire lands for house-sites for the depressed classes was stoutly resisted by the landlords and there was litigation on that account. Thanks to the decisions of the Courts the doubt whether acquisition of land for house-sites for the depressed classes is a public purpose has been set at rest. In regard to lands acquired, Government could not give away the house-sites free of cost. For the purpose of helping the members of the depressed classes who required house-sites but who could pay the cost only in instalments, in some districts co-operative societies were started while in others assignment was made directly by Government, in both cases the cost being recovered by instalments. So the two methods which have been followed for the purpose of providing house-sites are :

(1) Assignment of waste or poramboke lands free of cost under alienation rules, requiring the guarantee to build the house within a particular period, assessment or ground-rent, as the case may be, being charged only after a lapse of a period of years, generally seven.

(2) Acquisition of private lands, especially lands on which they are already living, and allotment of convenient plots for the construction of houses.

It may be interesting to know that under the scheme of assignment of Government waste or poramboke land up to the end of the year 1934-35 the total number of house-sites provided was 35,169, of which during 1934-35 alone the number provided was 1,465. The following are the figures according to districts :

East Godavari	...	...	9,908
West Godavari	...	...	630
Kistna	...	...	817
Guntur	...	...	3,543
Nellore	...	...	3,126
Anantapur	...	...	834
Bellary	...	...	4,736
South Arcot	...	...	2,808
North Arcot	...	...	382
Trichinopoly	...	...	1,220
Tanjore	...	...	150
South Kanara	...	...	6,126
Salem	...	...	351
Madras	...	...	478
Total ...			35,169

It will be seen from the above figures, taking into account the population of the depressed classes in each district that the number of house-sites provided is comparatively very small. But it is gratifying that a step in the right direction has been taken and those who have occasion to visit the homes of the depressed classes can observe with what pride the possession of land and house which they can call their own the members of the depressed classes refer to. Still large extents of land reserved for their use remain unassigned. The fact is that most of the land left unassigned consists of tracts which are either quite unfit for cultivation or even habitation or a large amount of money is required to bring it under cultivation.

Undeterred by the opposition of the vested interests, the Government have pursued the policy of acquisition of private lands for house-sites. In-

regard to the lands acquired the policy of Government has been to recover the cost of acquisition in convenient instalments spread over a number of years and the assignment is made either direct to the applicants or through co-operative societies formed among the proposed assignees. The Government have also paid out of public funds the cost of land for streets and other public purposes, the assignees being required to pay only the cost of the plots assigned to them. For the past two years the Government could not allot any amount for purposes of acquisition of land for house-sites, and such acquisition as has been made during this period has been in regard to cases wherein the applicants paid the entire cost of land required for their house-sites. It is unfortunate that owing to financial stringency the Government were forced to abandon this method of making provision of house-sites; but it is hoped this abandonment is only for a time. The Commissioner of Labour states in his report for 1934-35 that there is great necessity for the extension of eberis. Under the method described above particulars of house-sites provided in each district are as follows:

East Godavari	...	...	11,128
West Godavari	...	...	1,737
Kistna	...	...	3,640
Guntur	...	...	4,099
Nellore	...	...	208
Anantapur	...	...	422
Bellary	...	...	384
Chingleput	...	...	1,064
South Arcot	...	...	3,033
North Arcot	...	...	1,401
Trishinopoly	...	...	1,005
Tanjore	...	...	7,308
Kurnool	...	...	85
Cuddapah	...	...	26
Total ...			35,540

The depressed classes in rural areas are generally agricultural labourers who receive their wages mostly in kind and the low prices the grain fetches owing to unprecedented economic depression in recent years, have rendered them financially incapable of repaying the cost of house-sites even in instalments. Moreover, as the Commissioner of Labour points out, in most cases lands were acquired at a time when the market value was abnormally high and owing to the fall in the present value of land, the assignees are anxious to vacate their sites rather than continue to pay the comparatively high value. Coercive processes for the realisation of instalments due have been of no avail as in most cases the amounts realised by auction sales are comparatively low. Eviction proceedings have done more harm than good for in most cases it is not the unwillingness to pay but want of ability to repay that has been the cause of accumulated arrears which are very large. In deserving cases Government have been pleased to write off interest due and to extend the period of repayment of the principal. But even these concessions seem to have had no effect. The problem how best to meet the situation and whether the Government should entirely abandon the policy of acquisition of land for house-sites has for some time engaged the attention of Government. This subject also formed part of the agenda of the Collectors' Conference. It is encouraging to learn that the Conference was in favour of giving certain concessions to the depressed classes. In reviewing the report of the Commissioner of Labour for 1934-35, the Government have announced their decision which may as well be quoted here:

After very careful consideration the Government have decided on a scheme by which they will bear half the cost of acquisition, subject to a maximum of Rs. 125 per acre for dry land and Rs. 250 per acre for wet. Of the balance the applicant is to deposit 50 per cent. before acquisition and pay the remaining 50 per cent. in a limited number of instalments, not exceeding ten, by way of equated payments covering principal and interest.

There is no denying the fact that the policy enunciated by Government marks a notable departure from the orthodox line of action and it is a great step taken to indicate that the Government are keenly alive to their duty towards the depressed classes and are prepared even to forego large amounts to promote the economic condition of the depressed classes. But there are some points arising out of the decision of Government which need further elucidation. It is not clear whether the change of policy will be applicable also to cases of acquisition in the past in regard to which considerable difficulty is experienced in realising the dues. As the change of policy arises out of the present situation, it is hoped the decision will be applicable to past cases also. If that is so, it is just possible that in some cases at least the assignees would have by now managed to pay off 50 per cent. of the cost and they can therefore hope to become owners of their plots immediately. The maximum of the liability of Government fixed seems to be somewhat inadequate. It may be sufficient in areas where land, whether dry or wet, is not costly. But in delta areas where the cost of wet land is bound to be high in spite of the economic depression, the maximum provided is insufficient. It is earnestly hoped that in deserving and really hard cases the Government would be pleased to raise the maximum. Then the Government demand that one-fourth of the cost of acquisition should be paid before acquisition and the remaining one-fourth could be paid in instalments. It may be pointed out that this insistence on advance payment of one-fourth of the cost all at once requires reconsideration. In most cases they may not be able to find the amount. The Government may be pleased to consider the question of arranging the repayment of half the cost of land in twenty equated instalments.

The Commissioner of Labour, Mr. Rutherford, who has so ably presented the facts of the case to Government and has influenced Government in giving these concessions, has placed everyone under a debt of gratitude. It is hoped he will also consider the points raised in this article and will do his best to get these concessions also, so that in a few years the economic improvement of the depressed classes may be assured.—*Madras Journal of Co-operation.*

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

### I. L. O. STUDIES AND REPORTS.

- Social and Economic Reconstruction in the United States. (B. 20.) 1935. 24cm. 40p. 10/6.
- Opium and Labour. (B. 22.) 1932. 24cm. 67p. 2/-
- Three Sources of Unemployment. By Wladimir Woytinsky. (C. 20.) 1935. 24cm. 166p. 5/-
- Recreation and Education. (G. 4.) 1933. 24cm. 151p. 4/-
- Children and Young persons Under Labour Law. (I. 3.) 1935. 24cm. 343p. 10/6
- Problems of Vocational Guidance. (J. 4.) 1935. 24cm. 183p. 5/-
- The International Labour Organisation and Social Insurance. (M. 12.) 1936. 24cm. 219p. 5/6.

ESTABLISHED 1911.

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