

# Servant of India

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## Topics of the Week.

### The B. N. R. Strike.

THE strike of the men on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway has been in progress for nearly ten days and is spreading all over the line. Already nearly 40,000 men are affected and the number will be increasing daily. In these hard times a strike of this magnitude with all the risks involved in it will not be launched upon by the workers unless it was forced on them as an unavoidable necessity. In this case though the preparations for the strike have been going on for several weeks, it was resorted to only as a last resource when all other means of securing redress had been exhausted. Though the date of stopping work was fixed beforehand and duly notified to the proper authorities, the commencement of the strike was actually delayed by a few days to enable the authorities of the labour union to make a last-minute effort to avert it by means of an agreed settlement. But the spirit of compromise shown by the men failed to evoke a corresponding response on the part of the Railway administration who unfortunately chose to take up a stiff attitude. The unbiassed public will thus hold the railway administration responsible for the present crisis on the B. N. R.

THE whole trouble arose out of the Agent's desire to effect retrenchment. His policy was to cut down expenditure without retrenching the staff. As he himself explained, he intended to effect all possible economies in deadstock so that the “live stock” may be hit to the minimum extent possible.

And, even so late as November last, an authoritative contradiction of the rumour about the reduction in the staff was officially issued. The irony of the situation is that the Agent so keen on retaining the staff should have seen fit to refuse to explore, in consultation with the representatives of the men, all avenues of a settlement by mutual consent.

His retrenchment policy began to manifest itself in the form of reverse promotions. The men singled out for this process are officially described as being surplus to requirements. Were any steps taken to convince the men's representatives that this decision was not arbitrary? Would it not have been better from this point of view to have taken the union officials into confidence? It is true that the process was accompanied by a promise of promotion as vacancies occur. One wonders, however, whether much value can be attached to this promise when the reduced men can be counted not in tens but hundreds. The insecurity of grade involved in reduction was what was resented most by the men. Granting for a moment that reductions were a necessary corollary of the Agent's policy, one fails to see how the increase in the working hours from eight to twelve which took place at certain places could be justified. Longer hours presuppose additional work for which extra hands were really required. How then could the present strength of the workers be said to be in excess of actual needs? The actual working out of the Agent's policy thus led to the infliction of a double injustice on the men: reduced salaries but increased work. The good attendance bonus which used to supplement their meagre earnings was also stopped and the facilities enjoyed by the shed workers for religious festivities suddenly withdrawn. How could the men be expected to submit to all this provocation meekly and docilely? Let us hope wiser counsels will even yet prevail so as to avoid prolongation of the strike.

### Official Interference in Jamkhandi.

IF official interference in elections deserves condemnation and is unjustifiable in British India it is not less so if practised in an Indian state. Yet we hear very little of official meddlesomeness in elections to representative bodies, such as they are, in Indian States. This is not to say that instances of official interference with elections are non-existent or even extremely rare in Indian India. What it means is that such cases fail to receive publicity, thanks to the weak and unorganised state of public opinion in Indian States in general.

A MOST recent instance of official attempts to influence the results of the election is reported from Jamkhandi, a small state in the Southern Mahratta Country. There elections to the toy legislature of the

State were recently held, in which official influence was openly cast against popular representatives who in the outgoing legislature did their best to safeguard public interests without minding official frowns. The reward for their loyalty to the public cause was, it is said, a regular vendetta against them at the election on the part of persons in the State service. It is reported that this was conducted so openly as to assume the character of a public scandal.

#### Scandalous.

A GLIMPSE of the persecution to which Bengalee detenus interned for what look like interminable periods are subjected is afforded by a recent case reported from Mymensingh. Two detenus had apparently refrained from attending the police station. Whether such attendance was a part of the restrictions imposed on them and whether their rigidity allows for non-compliance for good and sound reasons we have no means of knowing. All that is pertinent to our present purpose is to note that this grave offence of not going to the police station earned for the detenus the severe sentence of two years' rigorous imprisonment at the hands of the magistrate.

THAT the case was not quite a bona fide one was clear from the evidence led on their behalf. It seems they had dared to complain against the officer who was told off to look after them. This greatly enraged him. And these false cases were instituted by him, it was stated in Court, by way of wreaking vengeance against them. It is amazing that in face of this plea the magistrate should have seen fit to meet what after all was no more than a technical offence with such a heavy punishment,

LUCKILY for the unfortunate young men, when the case went up in appeal to the Sessions Judge he looked at the matter in the right perspective. He strongly criticised the general tendency of magistrates to award "abnormally heavy sentences on detenus for what are palpably technical offences." Coming to the present case, he blamed the magistrate for throwing all sense of proportion to the winds in pronouncing his sentence. The ends of justice would have been amply met if the detenus concerned had been let off with a warning. As a matter of fact the Sessions Judge showed his preference for such a course of conduct by magistrates when it is a case of a first violation of the internment order. In this case no warning had been given. Where, in his opinion, a mere warning would have sufficed, the unconscionably heavy sentence of two years' rigorous imprisonment was pronounced! This is how love for the justice-loving British administration is sought to be inculcated in the impressionable minds of the younger generation in Bengal! And for one case in which an appeal was preferred and the Sessions Judge happened to be merciful and just enough to reduce the punishment to a fine of Rs. 30 there must be scores in which the detenus have no alternative but to submit to the heavy penalties in silence and without complaint. All which goes to strengthen the public demand for an open inquiry into the detenu problem.

#### Another Colliery Disaster.

ANOTHER catastrophic explosion is reported from a coal mine near Asansol. On December 18, a serious explosion took place in Poidih colliery in which more than 200 persons including the European manager are reported to have lost their lives. The accident has occurred at a time when a committee is grappling with the very problem of the prevention of such

accidents. It provides the committee with an opportunity to satisfy itself by personal inquiries on the spot as to how far such accidents are unavoidable and whether the resulting loss of life could not be minimised by the enforcement of life-saving precautions. We have every hope that the committee will lose no time in visiting the scene of accident as much with a view to ascertain to what extent the present accident could have been prevented as with that of devising measures for making such explosions and accidents impossible in the future. The accident proves the desirability of great expedition on the committee's part in the discharge of the task entrusted to it so as to make it possible for its recommendations to be considered in the next session of the Indian Legislature.

#### Termination of Singapore Strike.

ACCORDING to Malay papers to hand by last mail, the Indian strike in Singapore which commenced from the beginning of this month was to come to a conclusion on the 13th inst. as a result of an agreed settlement. The strikers who are in the service of the Singapore Municipality are stated to have numbered more than 13,000. And most of them being engaged in the essential services of the Municipality, a great deal of inconvenience was naturally caused to the citizens of Singapore as a result of the strike. Public streets became filthy owing to the collection of garbage, and the sudden break-down of the conservancy arrangements led to the accumulation of dirt and filth, all which constituted a serious menace to public health. It is worthy of note that during the currency of the strike the streets were cleaned by European civilians with the assistance of Boy Scouts and others.

THE difficulties of the situation seem to have been added to by the unwise and unbending attitude adopted by the municipal authorities in regard to some items of the settlement. While agreement was reached on most other points, they declared their firm resolve not to take back as many as 800 strikers. Lest the action might be thought to savour of vindictiveness, the explanation was obligingly vouchsafed that the step was in pursuance of the retrenchment policy decided upon by the municipality. While nothing can be said against the municipality's desire to cut down needless expenditure, everything has to be said against its choice of the time for giving effect to its retrenchment measures.

THE gratuity clause is also stated to have presented considerable difficulty. The municipality wanted to treat the men's participation in the strike as a black mark in their records and consequently to make them liable to a 10 per cent. reduction in the gratuity earned by them by reason of their meritorious services. The uncompromising attitude adopted by the municipality on this point threatened for a time to endanger the whole settlement. But wiser counsels prevailed in the end and the municipality decided to give in even on that point. The Singapore public has reason to feel thankful to all those who helped in bringing the strike to an early termination.

#### Demand for Compulsion in Hyderabad.

THE proceedings of the Conference of the Andhra subjects of the Nizam provide eloquent testimony as to their keenness in the matter of compulsory primary education. The resolution on this subject that was brought before the Conference supported the principle of compulsion underlying the two bills pending con-

sideration by the Hyderabad State Legislative Council and asked for their early enactment into law. So far as we can see from press reports, the resolution also favoured a ten year programme for the attainment of the goal of universal compulsion. But we are really concerned more with the discussion on the resolution in the Conference than with the resolution itself.

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AFTER two forceful speeches recommending the acceptance of the resolution, an amendment was proposed. This in no way sought to nullify the effect of the resolution. On the contrary it was intended to make compulsory education a reality in the Nizam's dominions. The amendment wanted to fix the responsibility for the introduction of compulsion on the Nizam's Government rather than on local bodies, as is usually the case. The sponsors of the amendment made no attempt to conceal their misgiving that if local bodies with their meagre resources and their conservative and reactionary personnel were made responsible for putting compulsion into effect, it would be considerably delayed. The experiment had not proved a success in British India and was, it was stated, not likely to fare better in Hyderabad. The opinion was also strongly expressed that the Government was the right authority to shoulder the burden and must not be behindhand in recognising its responsibility. The strong advocacy, with which the amendment was supported, had the effect of winning a majority in the Conference on its side.

#### Indian and Fijian Education in Fiji.

DESCRIBING the Indian situation in Fiji, Mr. C. F. Andrews says that the primary requirement of the Indian community is better and more widespread education. Educationally speaking, the Indians are left far behind even by the Fijians. During the last half a century the Fijians have progressed so rapidly in the educational field that, according to Mr. Andrews, 90 per cent. of

their children can now read and write, so that their level of literacy is second only to that of the European community. According to the education report of Fiji for 1935, very nearly 15 per cent. of Fijian males and 10.68 per cent. of Fijian females were in school as against 15.41 and 15.89 of the European community. This record of educational progress is doubtless very flattering to the native community.

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BUT so far as our countrymen go, nearly 8 per cent. of Indian boys and nearly 3½ per cent. of Indian girls, according to the Fiji education report, were in school in 1935. This is very unsatisfactory and Mr. Andrews rightly stresses the need of well thought out measures to quicken the educational pace of the Indian community so as to reduce the gulf in the level of literacy between the Fijians and Indians. He hits the nail on the head when he says that the claims of the education of Indian girls demand attention even more urgently than of boys. All that can be done by us in this country is to urge the educational authorities of Fiji to devote closer attention to the needs of Indian female education and to express the hope that they would do so.

#### A Correction.

IN our issue of the 3rd inst. appears a combined review by Mr. R. V. Oturkar of two essays dealing with communism. These pamphlets are therein described as having been published by the Director of Public Information, New Delhi. The Deputy Director informs us that this is not a fact and that the Director had nothing to do with their publication. Proceeding, the Deputy Director adds: "Even I, as Secretary of the (Prize Essays) Committee serve in my personal and individual capacity and not in my official capacity. The Director has, in fact, already resigned from the Committee. Sir George Anderson was, some time ago, the President, but since he left, a new President will be elected at the next Committee meeting."

## "BRITISH BLOCKADE OF SPANISH DEMOCRACY."

RUMOURS are afloat that a Christmas truce is being arranged in Northern Spain, which may eventually lead to an end of the terrific civil war and to perpetual peace. Whether these hopes will be realised or not is doubtful, but if they do not materialise it is certain that the military stalemate established in Madrid will continue for a long time. Before the winter set in the rebel forces were expected to capture Madrid in one fell swoop, but it has shown unsuspected power of resistance, and it is now certain that it will hold out for a long time even if it is destined to fall finally to the army of the Moors and legionaries. This strengthening of the loyalists' position is due to three factors: the strong support from Catalonians, the heroic stand taken by the International Column and the large reinforcements that have apparently come from Russia. The International Column is composed of some 5,000 men belonging to 13 nationalities and is commanded by General Emil Kleber. It has become the shock troops of Spanish democracy and has extorted praise from everyone who has seen the gallant work done by this "Brigade of the People's Front of Europe," to use Nicoletti's words. For instance, Wing-Commander James, who on the invitation of the Labour Party

spent about a fortnight in Spain watching events there, paid a glowing tribute to its heroism in the debate in the House of Commons on 1st December. He said: "Madrid was saved by the intervention, at the eleventh hour, of this International Column, a magnificent body of fighting men drawn from almost every country in Europe, who, for their principles, without any hope of reward, and with every prospect of an extremely unpleasant time, have rallied to the support of the Spanish Government." Similarly the Duchess of Atholl spoke in appreciative terms of the "valuable work" this unconquerable international force was doing for the Spanish Government in the last few weeks. The eulogy given by these persons is the more significant because it comes from Conservatives. It shows that all Conservatives are not united in wishing for victory to General Franco; some of them wish for his defeat. The general attitude of the Conservative section of the British public was clearly expressed in the debate by Mr. Wise, who said: "Many of us on this side of the House, although we desire to preserve the most complete neutrality, and not to assist either side, would naturally think it less embarrassing if General Franco should win the war than if the Communist Govern-

ment did—not because we particularly desire to see another Fascist State on the Mediterranean, which indeed we do not, but because the international complications of the Government's victory are likely to be far worse than the international complications of a Fascist victory. And as our interests are to remain at peace we naturally prefer to see the less embarrassing side successful." Not so, however, all the Conservatives. The Duchess of Atholl, who, like Mr. Churchill, is following a programme of what may be called Liberal Imperialism, sees great danger in the victory of the Fascists. She remarked: "Although there may be dangers to be feared on both sides, if the Spanish Government win we might have a not very orderly Spain, the dangers that that would involve to this country are very much less than those with which we might be faced if the insurgents won. Obviously, they have had the most valuable assistance from Fascist Powers which could not well be repaid in money, and would therefore have to be repaid by some transfer of territory or the lease of ports, air bases and so on." A section of the Conservative Party at any rate is thus alive to the grave threat which a Fascist victory holds out to the British Empire.

The British Government, however, is taking every possible step to prevent assistance from reaching the forces of the Spanish Government, either volunteers or war material. It has now passed an Act preventing arms and ammunition from being taken in United Kingdom vessels from foreign ports to any ports in Spain. As a party to the so-called Non-intervention Agreement it has already put an embargo on the carriage of war supplies from Great Britain itself to the scene of war. Now this embargo is extended to the transportation of such supplies from any foreign port to any Spanish port. If the farce of neutrality on the part of European Powers is to continue it is obvious that all these Powers must prohibit the unloading of munitions in the ports of Spain from their ships, whether the ships carry the goods from their own ports or from foreign ports. But Great Britain is the first to adopt such legislation, and France alone has showed an inclination to follow. The Fascist countries—Germany, Italy and Portugal—have no intention to impose any such prohibition upon their merchantmen. The logical consequence of it will be that while supplies of arms to the Spanish Government, carried, let us say, from Russian ports in British bottoms will be cut off, those carried in German and Italian ships from foreign ports will continue. The difficulties confronting the Spanish Government will thus be increased. Col. Wedgwood put it very clearly in the Commons. In opposing the Bill for the Carriage of Munitions to Spain, he said: "If it passes it will be more difficult to get arms from Russia into Spain. . . . Probably the only way in which supplies can reach Barcelona or Valencia is in bottoms which the Italian Government or the Italian volunteers will not dare to sink, so that I regret this Bill because it wipes out, as a possible source of succour to that oppressed people, the English mercantile fleet from the picture and leaves them to rely upon other countries." The rebels are getting plenti-

ful help from the Fascist countries both in men and equipment. Only on the day the debate was held 5,000 or 6,000 Germans were reported to have landed in Seville with arms, and if the Spanish Government's opportunities of getting arms from outside were carefully taken away from them, "the inevitable end must be," as Col. Wedgwood observed, "the victory of Franco and the defeat of the Government." The only important source of supply for the Spanish Government is at present Russia, but Russia is not well placed geographically to bring munitions to Spain. "If Russia wants to supply arms to Spain," said Miss Rathbone, "she is very much more likely to need the help of British ships, or those of some other foreign Power, than is Italy or probably Germany. Inevitably, therefore, we are inclined to think this, like the non-intervention pacts in the case of Abyssinia, is likely, because of the way it has been operated, to be almost entirely to the disadvantage of the legitimate Government of Spain."

Another reason why this new Act is to be deprecated is because under it it is perfectly legal for British shipowners to transport arms to a Portuguese port, even if the cargoes are known to be intended ultimately to reach Spain, and, as Mr. Dalton said, "it is notorious that Portugal has become simply a conduit pipe through which munitions of war have poured in" into Spain for the use of the rebels. Mr. Eden denied this, but evidence in favour of Mr. Dalton's statement is overwhelming. Mr. Noel-Baker quoted in support an extract from the *Sunday Times*, "which is not a paper favourable to the Government of Madrid." A correspondent, writing from Hendaye, "a place where he was not likely to hear things against the rebels," wrote to say on 28th November that the Spanish Government's attack on Talavera was very serious for General Franco, because Talavera was on his "main line of communication with Portugal, through which he obtains large supplies." Even assuming, as Mr. Eden asserts, that Portugal has a perfectly clean record, and that arms are not in fact passing through Portuguese ports to the rebels, they will in future. If Spanish ports are closed, the traffic in arms will be diverted to Lisbon and other ports in Portugal, which is known to be sympathetic to the rebels and to the Fascist dictators. If thus an embargo is to be levied, it must cover shipments to Portuguese ports, in order that it will operate evenly both for the loyalist and insurgent forces. But to put on an embargo of 100 per cent. efficiency on shipments to the Government and to leave Lisbon open for the carriage of arms to the rebels is in fact, in Miss Wilkinson's words, to set up "a British blockade of democracy in Spain." Sir Archibald Sinclair gave his powerful support to this plea. The British Government is trying, he said, desperately to patch up the Non-intervention Agreement as a shield against war, but he added: "To put all the patches on the holes through which the constitutional Government of Spain is getting supplies, and to leave open all the holes through which the rebels are drawing supplies, would insure the defeat of the Spanish Government. . . . The ship from Odessa to Barcelona will be stopped, but the ship from Hamburg to Lisbon will

not be stopped. Therefore, the ship which is carrying supplies to the Spanish Government will be stopped, but the ship which is carrying supplies to a port from which those supplies can very well reach the rebel forces will not be stopped. . . . I am not criticising Portugal particularly, but it is well known that a certain quantity of supplies did reach the rebel forces from Portugal, and, if we pass this Bill, it is quite obvious that we shall tend to divert the whole of the Spanish arms trade through Portuguese ports, for they will be the only ports through which the market can be reached." Sir Archibald made another point. Why should Britain alone take action when none of the Fascist countries who are parties to the Non-intervention Agreement have done so? It was said in the Abyssinian war that the British Government could not take individual action until they were quite sure of the co-operation of all the members of the League. Why are the Government first to take action now which will cripple the loyalist forces but will leave the rebels free to commit aggression? Sir Archibald, who has uniformly supported the Non-intervention Agreement, offered to support the Bill on condition that it would not be brought into force until other Governments who had subscribed to the Agreement took effective steps which would prevent arms going to General Franco as much as to the Spanish Government. Mr. Eden refused to stop the Portuguese hole in the Agreement and also to make the operation of the Act dependent upon similar action being taken by other Powers, and therefore the Liberal Party as well as the Labour Party opposed the Bill.

In fact it was wrong for the British Government to prohibit the export of arms even from British ports to Spain until all the signatory Powers had agreed to do so. If collective action was justifiable in any case, it was justifiable in this. The British Government, however, without waiting to know what other Governments would do, refused licences for the export of arms some time before the beginning of August. When did the Fascist Governments come into the Non-intervention Agreement? The German Government on 24th August, the Portuguese Government on 27th August and the Italian Government on 28th August. After coming into the Agreement they continued exporting arms, but leaving that aside, the lead which they had over the British Government enabled them so to weight the rebel side that it was almost immaterial whether they could send any further help. They used this interval, as Mr. Noel-Baker said, "to pour in arms in quantities which they thought were sufficient to win the war." Miss Rathbone endorsed this remark. If the Fascist countries had observed the Agreement perfectly, it would not have made much difference, she said, "because they had simply saturated Franco's troops with arms before that." "Why then," she asked, "was not more care taken that the Non-intervention Pact was not brought into actual operation until those who were supplying arms to the rebels had given evidence of their intention to stop doing so?" It is remarkable that the Duchess of Atholl takes the same view. She said :

Then one has to admit that a mistake was made in putting on our embargo against the export of arms before we were assured that other Governments were going to pursue the same policy. I can never forget that quite early in August we had convincing proof that Italian aeroplanes were being sent to the insurgents, nor that, on 13th August, I read in the *Daily Telegraph* that Sir Percival Phillips had wired from Gibraltar that he had hired not only Italian, but German aeroplanes, and that not only converted commercial aeroplanes, but bombers and fighters, were going to the insurgents. That was some five days after an assurance had been given by the German Government that they had not sent any armaments to Spain. It seems strange that, notwithstanding the evidence that existed on the 19th August that Italian and German fighting aeroplanes had been sent to the insurgents, the Government should put on an embargo. I think it would have been wiser to have waited until they were satisfied anyhow that other Governments which have taken this action were not going to take further action of the kind. Therefore, owing to the way in which the policy was introduced, and to the fact that, as we know, it was not being fully adhered to, it has further inured to the disadvantage of the Spanish Government.

It would appear strange that British imperialists are so partial in this conflict to Franco although they ought to realise in what a great danger his victory would involve the Empire. Col. Wedgwood once again brought the gravity of the danger to the notice of the House of Commons in his forceful way. The rebel victory, he said :

means more than the enslavement of a great people. It means that we are providing for Franco all along the coast of Spain and Portugal places innumerable not merely for submarines, but for aeroplanes. The situation would be such that we could not get food ships to this country. It would not be necessary for Spain or Portugal to concede a single yard of territory. We remember how in the War the submarines used the bases in Spain and Greece and how we had to close the Mediterranean in consequence. The submarine is as nothing compared with the aeroplane; the range of the aeroplane makes it infinitely more dangerous. If Franco wins, it will not only enslave the Spanish people, but it will establish another Fascist State in a world divided between Fascist peoples and free peoples. That State will be established on our flank where our commerce can be destroyed, where our communications can be cut, where our fleet can be destroyed. We are doing this with our eyes shut, selfishly thinking that we in our time may save our lives. But our children will perish.

British imperialists choose to ignore this danger to the Empire for two reasons: first, they think that Franco's victory would prevent a Communist Government from coming into power in Spain; and second, they think that the Fascist Powers are too powerful to come into clash with. Both these reasons are fallacious. In the first place, the fear of the Communists getting the upper hand in Spain is wholly groundless. The Duchess of Atholl's testimony in this matter based on information received by her from a representative on the insurgent side can be readily believed. She said: "The fear that, if the existing Spanish Government won, we should be faced with a State which might be subject to the dictation of Soviet Russia seems to me to be a very remote contingency. I probably should not like the form of Government that might emerge, but I do not believe that it would be a Government that would be subservient to Russia." In the second place, every person with commonsense would say with Sir Archibald

Sinclair: "When I see two dangers, I have more respect for the one which is solid and apparent and substantial (the Fascist danger) than I have for a bogey like a Communist Government, which may come into being, but which in fact does not exist, and which may never come into being. The second reason is obviously untenable. The more you are afraid of Fascist dictators the more aggressive they become, and there must be some limit to the aggression that you will tolerate, otherwise it involves you in a policy of perpetual surrender. If to-day you sacrifice Spain, tomorrow you will have to sacrifice Czechoslovakia, and this will go on *ad infinitum*." Miss

Rathbone put the point well. "The result of it all is that through this talk of taking no part in the war and keeping safe ourselves, what we are doing is to throw one by one of the surviving democracies of Europe into the arms of either Fascism or Communism. What can these weaker countries think when they find democratic States huddled into the corner of the fold, hoping that the wolf will feed on smaller lambs than themselves, and so will leave them alone, whereas the dictatorships protect their own? But after the smaller lambs get into the inside of the wolf, the turn will come of the bigger lamb.

## THE PALESTINE COMMISSION.

THE Royal Commission on Palestine began its sittings on 12th November. Originally it was intended to inquire into one question only, viz. the constitutional question. The High Commissioner had made certain proposals for the establishment of a Legislative Council, which were accepted by the British Government. But they were rejected out of hand by the Jews, and thus a fresh inquiry had become necessary. In fact, when the High Commissioner submitted proposals, he had envisaged the possibility of the Government of Palestine having to meet with non-co-operation on the part of either or both of the two communities, Jews and Arabs, in Palestine, and he had recommended that if any community would not accept the offer of election that was made to it, the scheme of the Legislative Council should still go forward, the places allotted to the community on the Council being filled by nomination. It was never intended that the institution of a Legislature, held up for many years, should again be allowed to be deferred on account of the obstructive attitude of any section of the Palestine population. But Jews are a very influential and powerful community, and their refusal even to look at the proposals made by the High Commissioner compelled the British Government to consider the question afresh. If the Royal Commission had confined its investigations to this one issue, there is no doubt that it would have had to encounter non-co-operation on the part of the Jews as it has had to encounter now, with its wider terms of reference, non-co-operation on the part of the Arabs. Now the Commission is to consider whether the mandatory Power is carrying out the terms of the mandate in their integrity and how the complaints made by the Jews and the Arabs against the Palestine Government's policy can be removed. The inquiry will necessarily be made within the framework of the mandate, and the Arabs are totally opposed to the mandate itself and the Jewish National Home for which it provides. But this is not the reason why the Arabs have declined to recognise the Commission or to give it any help in arriving at a conclusion. They had asked that while the Commission was making an inquiry all Jewish immigration should be suspended. Their contention is that, even according to the tests applied by the Palestine Government, no more Jews

ought to be allowed to come in, and they feel that it would gravely prejudice the issue against them if, before they were given an opportunity to make good their case, they had a large number of Jewish settlers thrust upon them.

The British Government, on the other hand, thought that the present policy followed in Palestine must continue until, after the Commission had reviewed it, they came to the conclusion that it called for a change, and that, therefore, the normal inflow of Jews could not be interfered with. A temporary suspension of immigration, asked for by the Arabs in order to leave the Commission unhampered in its work of investigation, was itself declared by the Government as a factor that might be held to prejudice the Commission's inquiries. All that the Government felt able to do with a view to meeting the wishes of the Arabs was to instruct the High Commissioner, in permitting the immigration of Jewish labourers, "to take a conservative view of the economic absorptive capacity of the country." The High Commissioner thereupon fixed the Labour Schedule at 1,800 certificates for the next six months. Besides those who go out to Palestine as labourers under the Labour Schedule, there are other classes who enter Palestine and settle in it, for example, those who are in possession of not less than £1,000 capital, and to these no quota is applied. Their immigration is entirely unrestricted, and Mr. Ormsby-Gore stated in the House of Commons, that the total number of immigrants for the next six months would be substantially below that for the last six months. This statement, however, is not likely to assuage the feelings of the Arabs, for Jewish immigration has reached such heights recently (last year it was nearly 62,000) that it is quite possible that even if it be substantially less this year it may prove to be too much, considering the capacity of Palestine to provide for more settlers. It is a pity that the Commission has to start upon its work with the serious handicap of not merely the aloofness but the hostility of the Arabs.

The amount of justifiable immigration in the light of the country's economic development is not easy to determine. The criteria for the solution of this difficult question have been laid down, but as yet no adequate steps have been taken by the Palestine Government to establish the necessary machinery

Sir John Hope-Simpson in his report made the following recommendation in this regard :

The principle that the preparation of the Labour Schedule shall depend on the total unemployment in Palestine demands that the existence of that unemployment shall be accurately determined. As has been shown above, no machinery exists at the present time which permits of an accurate estimate of Arab unemployment. Such machinery must be devised. In the towns this result could be obtained by the creation of Government Employment Exchanges, with which the existing Jewish exchanges might be amalgamated. Arrangements to facilitate the employment of the unemployed is the function of a Government rather than that of one section of the population. The existence of Employment Exchanges would permit of a comparatively accurate estimation of the number of Palestinian unemployed, whether Arab, Jew or other, at any moment.

The whole question of Arab unemployment should form the subject of study and steps should be taken to create a machinery for the registration of Arab unemployment. Government Employment Exchanges should be created, without which determination of the number of Arab unemployed is not possible... If there are Arab workmen unemployed it is not right that Jewish workmen from foreign countries should be imported to fill existing vacant posts.

The White Paper of Lord Passfield has the following upon the subject :

This examination has revealed certain weaknesses in the existing system. It has been shown that under it there have been many cases of persons being admitted, who, if all the facts had been known, should not have received visas. No effective Government control exists in regard to the selection of immigrants from abroad, with the result that there are no adequate safeguards against irregularities in connection with the issue of immigration certificates, and also against the immigration of undesirables.

As regards the relation of immigration to unemployment great difficulties at present exist owing to the absence of efficient machinery for estimating the degree of unemployment existing at any time. This is especially true as regards the Arab section of the community. While no reliable statistics are available, sufficient evidence has been adduced to lead to the conclusion that there is at present a serious degree of Arab unemployment, and that Jewish unemployment likewise exists to an extent which constitutes a definitely unsatisfactory feature. It may be regarded as clearly established that the preparation of the Labour Schedule must depend upon the ascertainment of the total of unemployed in Palestine. It follows that the extent of that unemployment must be accurately determined, and His Majesty's Government will give serious consideration to devising machinery for this purpose. The economic capacity of the country to absorb new immigrants must therefore be judged with reference to the position of Palestine as a whole in regard to unemployment, and care must also be exercised, in ascertaining that economic capacity, to make allowances for any demand for labour, which, owing to increased circulation of money connected with expenditure on development or for other causes, may be regarded as of a temporary character.

Mr. Mills, Director of the Department of Migration, had to admit how crude were the tests that were applied in determining the economic capacity of the country to absorb fresh settlers. He said: "If, for example, the Jewish Agency stated that there was a factory in Tel-Aviv that required twenty workers, he might estimate that they required only twelve, and, after deducting four 'availables,' they could get only eight instead of the twenty that were requested"! This is sheer higgling. Is it not time that a more

scientific method was adopted? But before it could be done the machinery necessary for it must be brought into existence, and the Palestine Government is long in taking this preliminary step. In any case it cannot surely be argued that the sudden rise in Jewish immigration in the last two years has any relation whatever to the rise in the economic absorptive capacity of Palestine. It would appear, to use Mr. Mills's phrase, that the power of Palestine's suction pump has remained stationary, but the force pump of Eastern and Central Europe has become more powerful. Arabs must certainly receive some guarantee that Hitler will not determine what influx of Jews shall be provided for in a country which at any rate at present belongs to Arabs.

The question of illicit immigration of Jews has also to be tackled. On this point the Jewish Agency did not fare well in the evidence of Mr. Shertok, as the following questions and answers will show :

*Mr. Shertok*: The presence of illegal immigrants is one of my proofs that the schedules granted were underestimated, because in those years a fairly considerable number of Jews were able to remain in the country without the permission of the Government and be absorbed in work without creating unemployment.

The Jewish Agency never approved of this practice, but openly condemned it and did what they could from time to time to dissuade people from resorting to it. We are very anxious that our people should be educated in the spirit of observing the law, but it was not for the pleasure of breaking the law that those Jews got into Palestine nor is it the case that the Jews are indifferent to what the law is. The position was that letters were coming to every Polish township about the shortage of labour in Palestine and plentiful employment. Our people there are in a very difficult condition, and when they saw that if they could only get across they could at once work and that it would take a very long time for a certificate. Considering the rate at which certificates were being issued, they took the law into their own hands and said: We shall come to Palestine, find work and then apply for registration.

*Sir Laurie Hammond*: You say you have done your best to dissuade these people from coming. I gather that your activity with regard to illegal immigrants did not extend to giving the police any information regarding them.

*Mr. Shertok*: It did not.

*Lord Peel*: The authorities received no support whatever from the public in trying to deal with these immigrants?

*Mr. Shertok*: It would be humanly quite inconceivable for Jews to give information against fellow-Jews to Government in order that these Jews should be deported from Palestine and sent back where they came from.

*Lord Peel*: Do you suggest then that it is not much good for the Government to limit these schedules because the result is that they get an illicit immigration who have the sympathy of the Jewish population?

*Mr. Shertok*: We regard the whole thing as a misfortune. Illicit immigration did not take place in order to get larger schedules. It was the result of small schedules. These illegal immigrants very often became prey to unscrupulous speculators who promised to get them into Palestine in a proper manner. It was most unfortunate from every point of view; it is the result of a clash between the law and economic realities.

*Lord Peel*: In that case, if there is not a clash, you get no assistance from the Jewish population in enforcing the law. That is a very serious charge indeed.

## Reviews.

### AMERICAN FINANCE.

**RULERS OF AMERICA.** By ANNA ROCHESTER.  
(International Publishers, New York.) 1936.  
24cm. 366p. \$3.50.

THIS is a very interesting and thought-provoking book. This authoress has tried to indicate by reference to facts of American economic life that capitalistic industry has followed, with minor variations, certain basic lines of growth. The writer in the foreword draws attention to the fact that every selection and analysis of facts reflects the writer's understanding of economic theory and her sympathies in the clash between capitalism and socialism. "The present book," says the writer, "is based on the economic and the political teachings of Marx as developed for the imperialistic era by Lenin." With such prepossessions it is difficult always to be a scientific student except within the bounds of one's own choice, but a study of certain economic tendencies does not become any the less useful because information is gathered with a definite purpose in view.

The book is divided into three main sections. Part one deals with the principal financial groups and outlines the principal ways in which they exercise control and the effect of the development of finance capital on the distribution of finances or income in the United States; part two gives some details of their grip on minor industries with reference to the interplay of monopoly and competition; and part three studies the problem of American foreign investment, colonies and spheres of influence and analyzes the economic crisis depression against the background of capitalism.

On page 31 the authoress quotes from Lenin in his "Imperialism—the Highest Stage of Capitalism," about the essential features of capitalism :

1. The concentration of production and capital developed to such a high stage that it has created monopolies which play a decisive role in economic life.
2. The merging of bank capital with industrial capital and the creation, on the basis of this finance capital, of a financial oligarchy.
3. The export of capital as distinguished from the export of commodities becomes of particular importance.
4. International monopoly combines of capitalists are formed which divide up the world.
5. The territorial division of the world by the greatest capitalist powers of the world.

This analysis of the trend of events is on the whole broadly true and even such a scientific thinker as Dr. Marshall in his "Industry and Trade" has had to admit the inevitability of certain tendencies towards monopolies.

Writing about how financial interests control the political structure, the authoress says on page 122:

The structure of government in the U. S. A. has always been shaped to prevent control of the masses. For several

years after the founding of the republic, State constitutions limited the suffrage to male citizens having some property. Slaves were never reckoned as citizens, and throughout the South technicalities are still in force to keep Negroes away from the polls. Barriers block the road to citizenship to foreign born workers and stiff requirements about length of residence in a given district rule out masses of jobless workers. The representatives and officials elected by the 'people' are mere cogs in party machines controlled by groups of the capitalist class.

The authoress goes on to quote details of the connection of business executives with high politics (pp. 127-128) and concludes by saying that the "administration of N. R. A. codes was in most industries notoriously in the hands of the trade associations of the country."

There is also an interesting analysis of how the average man and woman are kept away from thinking about bigger problems. Says the authoress on page 135:

The substance of capitalist propaganda is of wide variety. At one end is the Hearst press which carries on a demagogic drive on behalf of finance capital against the labour movement. At the other end are 'liberal' studies and government reports which uncover some important facts, but carefully avoid any questioning of the capitalist basis of the society. To distract attention from broad social and economic trends and to keep the workers and petty bourgeoisie from fruitful pondering on the causes of their sufferings and on the true significance of government policies, the movies, the talkies, the radio, magazines, tabloids and novels focus their thoughts on sex and on petty bourgeoisie rivalries and aspirations.

The reference to the distribution of income in America is interesting. The Report of the Federal Trade Commission on National Wealth and Income (1926) showed that "the richest 1% of the population owned at least 59% of the wealth, petty capitalists, 12% of the population, owned about 33% of the wealth, and the great mass of the workers and others, 87% of the population, owned 8% of the wealth." "The best study of income distribution in the U. S. A. was published by the Brookings Institution," says the writer, and appeals to the year 1929:

6 million families, or 21% of the total had incomes less than \$1000,

12 million families, or 42%, had incomes less than \$1500,  
20 million families, or 71%, had less than \$2500,

Only 2 million families or 8% had incomes more than \$5000, and 600,000 families or 2.3% had incomes in excess of \$10,000,

1% of the families at the top received practically as much as 42% of the families at the bottom of the scale.

It would appear that "we are actually building up a society with one-fifth of the population as a submerged class living more and more apart as the unrelated at all with the others."

The author's remarks on tariffs are worth notice:

A tariff on imports is primarily a measure for limiting competition in the home market. As monopoly has gained over free competition in the U. S. the tariff has helped to bolster monopoly prices in the home market and American products have been sold at lower prices in the world market.

These monopolies, when they cut across national boundaries, cannot eliminate conflicts and an unstable economic



political balancing is the inevitable result. Instead of opening the way to an organized capitalism with peaceful orderly planning of production and markets, the most extensive monopolies really sharpen conflicts which are inherent in capitalist society. (p. 254.)

In the concluding sections the author tries to show that President Roosevelt's N.R.A. did not help the working classes sufficiently and that the fight against monopoly must be organised both from within and without. He says on p. 305:

The final struggle for the overthrowing of the financial rulers and the capitalistic system which has created them cannot be carried through until capitalist power is also weakened from within. It is equally true that their power will not collapse from economic decay apart from strong political action against them. A revolution is impossible without a revolutionary situation. This involves three factors:

1. it should become impossible for the ruling classes to maintain power unchanged.
2. the wants and sufferings of the oppressed classes must become exceptionally acute.
3. the masses must no longer be willing to be robbed without protest.

"Present trends" says the writer "foreshadow a revolutionary crisis at some future date." When that day comes the outcome will be decisive for the future of world history.

While the reviewer is unable to agree with the writer in her Marxian ideology yet there is no denying the fact that she has done good service in trying to educate the people in the facts of economic life and endeavour. The appendices at the end of the volume are a useful addition. Students of contemporary movements both in the economic and the political world would find much of interest in the book under review, though how the authoress hopes to bring about the millennium is not quite clear.

S. V. AYYAR.

## COTTON PRODUCTION AND PLANNING.

**COTTON AND THE AAA.** By HENRY I. RICHARDS. (The Brookings Institution, Washington.) 1936. 21cm. 389p. \$2.50.

THIS is the last of the series of six volumes published by the Brookings Institution, Washington, U.S.A. as a result of their study of the operation of AAA. for a period of two years. The object was mainly to observe and describe objectively the Agricultural Adjustment Act in operation without any effort to weigh the merit of the plan. Accordingly, the study is a non-critical description of the experiment of production control as conceived and carried out by the Agricultural Adjustment Act.

The author opens the book with the legislative foundations and describes the developments of cotton programmes pointing out at length the powers conferred on the Secretary. He has drawn attention to divergent opinions of the people in connection with such powers and control. Summarising the cotton situation as it existed in the spring of 1933 in respect of production, demand, carry-over, income

and price, he embarks on detailing the cotton programme, the organisational set up designed for it, the promotional activities, the contract signing up and checking compliance.

In the chapter on the "Bankhead Act and Operations", the author explains as to how the then existing voluntary devices of control proved inadequate and how recourse had to be taken to compulsory ones. It is interesting indeed to note that compulsion and Government intervention are sometimes necessary for the general good of the community. In subsequent chapters on "Government Cotton and Cotton Loans and Financing the Programme", the latter point is stressed and visualised by facts and figures. In so doing the author explains the development of commodity marketing movement which began in 1922, drawing attention particularly to the principle of equalisation of market supplies by holding operations by producers financed by Government through co-operative organisation. "Orderly Marketing" was the chief force behind the Intermediate Credit Act of 1923 and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1929. It was this latter Act that was designed to promote national co-operative organisations. Ultimately he surveys 8-10-12 cent cotton loans and expenses incurred which amounted to 386.4 million dollars with a deficit of 53 million dollars. The main item of receipt was the processing tax which is fixed by a certain formulae being the difference between average farm price and fair exchange value of "parity" price of cotton.

The effort of the author to point out tendencies and to arrive at certain conclusions in chapters headed "The Landlord-Tenant Problem", "Effect on Foreign Market", "Effect on Income", "Potential Gains and Losses" and "Feasibility of Continued Control" have made them very interesting and instructive. Besides they provide one with "methods" of arriving at effects of the programme. The author's opinion that the tenant-farmer was protected is questionable because cropper farmer does not receive full justice in any programme. The other debatable point is the effect of the control programme on cotton prices. The author has not evaluated the effect of monetary policy though he agrees that a considerable part of the rise in prices may be due to devaluation of the dollar. Besides he seems to be of the opinion that the "goal of re-establishment of 'parity prices' by the A.A.A. is not a very satisfactory guide for the operation of control." He has based his viewpoint in relation to both long and short views of the situation.

The author is very plain. He states that "the cotton programme has been modified in important respects by political influence exerted in the interest of particular group" and that the "Government loan policy was a serious mistake." He appears to be pessimistic about the future usefulness of the control devices. He feels that American farmers will lose on account of expansion in *foreign* production and decreased *foreign consumption* of American cotton. Ultimately he emphatically puts down that "the A.A.A. has not been able to solve the basic problems

involved in Government control over the production of cotton determining where cotton should be grown and how much should be produced."

The volume should undoubtedly prove of very great use to agricultural economists, to those who are concerned with cotton production and its planning and who trade in it.

M. B. GHATGE.

## INDIAN FINANCE.

**INDIAN FINANCE YEAR BOOK, 1936.** Ed. By P. R. SRINIVAS. (Editor, 20, British Indian Street, Calcutta.) 1936. 26cm. 428p. Rs. 5.

THIS year-book as usual portrays the economic life of India in its manifold aspects and thus forms an excellent resume of the happenings of the financial world, using the epithet 'financial' in a wide sense. It begins with an account of the Indian economy during 1935-36; what it reveals is full of hope, because the world as a whole is leaving depression behind much faster than many of us imagined, the outturn of agricultural crops is steady, industries are improving and there are indications of an improvement in general well-being.

The salient fact about exchanges has been the shaky position of the Gold Standard. Mr. Paul Einzig prophesied that the franc would join the sterling group; that has been amply fulfilled and France this year has abandoned the Gold Standard. Very likely sterling would be made to depreciate in terms of gold, and there might be a short period of currency chaos. Very valuable information is contained in the article on "London Capital issue Market." From this we learn that British industries have nearly £322 millions, placed at their disposal during the last year. London still holds the place of pride as the place where loans could be raised with the greatest ease. The provincial finances are as bad as ever except for the fact that in some provinces the deficits have been replaced by a slight surplus. A good resumé has been given of the attempts of the various provinces to tackle the problem of agricultural indebtedness. 1935-36 has been a good year in currency and monetary affairs. India has been free from the turmoils of Europe due to the Belgian crisis. There has been cheap money and the first year of the operations of the Reserve Bank has been a complete success.

The year's exports have exceeded those of 1932 but the Editors think that it will be nearly a decade before our exports rise to the level of 1928-29. Jute and rice exports show an increase but tea shows a decline. Britain is still our best buyer, buying nearly Rs. 50 crores worth of goods, the next best being Japan taking Rs. 22 crores worth of goods. Of the total imports, 40 p. c. are from the United Kingdom, only 16 p. c. falling to the share of Japan.

The agricultural section is as usual full of detailed analysis of the several crops. We have no space to quote important figures but the following

are to be noted. The total acreage under jute is nearly 2 million; India produces nearly  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the cotton in the world; of the world-production, India's share of cane sugar is nearly 24 p. c.; Out of the 900 million pounds of tea exported in the world 380 million pounds fall to our share.

No new work of any importance has been done by the Tariff Board except with regard to some varieties of paper and envelopes which will receive a slight protection. The Industrial Section covers the field of the main industries. The coal industry is badly hit by the depression and the competition of South African coal. The jute industry shows a large reduction of profits, the dividends being reduced by 10 p. c. and in some cases even by 18 p. c.; the low level of prices also causes serious concern. The cotton textile industry also reports a reduction of profits except in South India. The tea industry has fared better, some companies having given a dividend of 50 p. c. and 60 p. c. In spite of doing away with the protection afforded so far to the steel industry, the Tata Company has shown good progress by reducing costs. It is to be noted that the demand for steel products is increasing in India since in spite of Indian production, imports have risen to the figure of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs of tons. In sugar production India has made rapid progress, producing nearly  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the total sugar in the world. The average dividend given by sugar companies works at 17 p. c. which is not a bad business.

Most of the features of the Railway Budget continue to be the same: the deficit is there, there has been no contribution to general revenues; nothing is paid into the Reserve Fund, and there is an increase in working expenses. The question of State versus company management has been ably dealt with; the result is a decided verdict in favour of the latter so far as economic management is concerned.

A review of the balance sheets of the important banks is a useful feature of this Annual and gives all the information a student is likely to ask for. The percentage of cash to deposits in the case of the Imperial Bank is 24.8 i.e. less than 25 p. c. which is the orthodox till money regarded as safe for banks. This requires some explanation. The Insurance Section is as usual a mine of information, giving statistics of all sorts. India is still behind other countries with regard to insurance. The per capita insurance in India is only Rs.  $5\frac{1}{2}$  as against Rs. 2300 in United States. The table of the annual birth-rate per mile is very instructive. It shows that India had the largest birth-rate in the world being double that of France and England. The only country coming up to its level is Japan. Unfortunately, however, the death-rate in India is also the highest, even Japan having a lower death-rate, the two figures being 24.8 and 19 per mile. On the whole we have found the Annual to be a very handy encyclopædia on Trade, Currency and Finance.

V. N. GODBOLE.

## INDICTMENT OF NAZI GERMANY.

**I WAS HITLER'S PRISONER.** By STEFAN LORANT. TRS. from the German by JAMES CLEUGHL. (Gollancz.) 1936. 21cm. 318p. 5/-.

**THE YELLOW SPOT: THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS IN GERMANY.** (Gollancz.) 1936. 22cm. 287p. 5/-.

THE main sign of progress in the world in the past generation was a growth of respect for the reasonable rights of the individual, but of the attitude of the German state towards the individual to-day it is needless to say that all that is vocal in the nation has been horrified into silence. With all Socialist papers extinguished and the rest of the Press rigorously censored and the Government in command of the radio, the individual is not free so much as to think except as the Government dictates. He cannot form political judgements if he would, for the data are denied him. A terrible indictment of Nazi Germany's attitude towards the rights of the individual is given in "I was Hitler's Prisoner". Stefan Lorant, formerly editor of a non-political illustrated paper, *Munchner Illustrierte Presse*, was placed in one of Hitler's numerous prisons as he was regarded as a suspect by some of Hitler's agents. He spent 6½ months in prison during which he was able to smuggle bits of paper in which he had noted his experiences of prison life. His wife too was imprisoned, but only for 6½ weeks. In the book under review the author gives his experiences of prison life and as such it is an interesting testimony of Nazi Germany's brutal methods by one of its victims. The book since its first publication in April 1935 has run into four editions.

Another side—and that equally sordid—of Hitler's Germany is described in 'The Yellow Spot'. Persecution of the Jews is one of the planks on the Nazi platform and what the Nazis have done to exterminate the Jews is described at great length in this documented and therefore authoritative publication. The book shows clearly that the brand of nationalism now rampant in Germany is a mere gospel of hate. The perverted mentality of the average Nazi seems to make it impossible for him to conceive of such a thing as love of his country which is not fortified and stimulated by a hatred of the Jews. The Bishop of Durham who writes an excellent introduction to this book appeals to the civilised world to protest against this hysterical nationalism.

The books under review are indispensable to those who wish to obtain reliable information about certain aspects of Nazi domestic policy.

M. V. SUBRAHMANYAM.

## TIMUR, THE GREAT AMIR.

**TAMERLANE OR TIMUR THE GREAT AMIR.** Trs. by J. H. SANDERS from the Arabic Life by AHMED IBN ARABSHAH. (Luzac.) 1936. 22cm. 341p. 12/6.

AHMED IBN ARABSHAH'S Arabic work is one of the chief authorities for the career of Tamerlane or

Timur and the period from his death to the accession of his youngest son Shah Rukh, written soon after the events described. Its English translation is a welcome addition to the sources of history of the Middle East in mediaeval ages.

Tamerlane who lived from 1336 to 1405 generally does not attract much attention of a student of history. He was nothing more than a scourge to humanity and he had no greatness except his military genius. He was once a terror in the Middle East ranging from the Levant in the west to the borders of China in the east and from parts of Siberia in the north to the plains of Northern India in the south. He is one of the world's greatest conquerors like his predecessor Jenghizkhan. I would not like to class him with Alexander and Napoleon, as Mr. Sanders has done in the introduction, for the latter two combined constructive ability with military genius.

The book is written in a style that enables the reader to visualise the career of the great conqueror before him. From the birth of Tamerlane to the accession of his son, the successive scenes pass before the reader in a panoramic manner. One hundred and fifty-four small chapters into which the book is divided read like a novel. In chapter 96 of Vol. II are described the gifts of Tamerlane's temper:

Timur did not love jest and falsehood; wit and sport pleased him not; truth though troublesome to him pleased him; he was not sad in adversity or joyful in prosperity. ... He did not allow in his company any obscene talk. (p. 295.)

Further, on page 299, he is described as possessing "rare temper and depth so deep that in the sea of his plans the bottom could not be touched, nor could one reach the high peak of his government by a smooth or rough path." The book is so full of wise generalisations and remarks of human interest that not a few of them will linger in the mind of the reader long after the details are forgotten. Describing the rise of Timur from an humble origin, he remarks: "Truly the reed which you see rising high grows and swells joint by joint" (p. 2). Explaining the rise of a despot, the writer says: "The apex of a height will not be safe from injury unless its sides are drenched in blood." The following antithesis is beautiful. "But Timur revolted and fell safely to the abyss of rebellion, nay, in this way climbed higher" (p. 5). On page 7 Timur's army is thus compared to the flooded river: "And Timur and his company reached the Oxus which then, like them, was swelling beyond its bounds".

Such passages abound. The description of women in the army of Timur and that of the incident of how one of them gave birth to a child on the way and the next moment rode the horse and joined the army, is vivid and women of today would certainly envy their hardihood if not their hardships. There is no doubt that this literary biography would make Tamerlane more widely known and better understood, so tempting is the charm of the style in which the book has been written.

R. V. OTURKAR.

## PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.

**FARM ACCOUNTS IN THE PUNJAB, 1933-1934.** By SARDAR KARTAR SINGH and SARDAR ARJAN SINGH. (Board of Economic Inquiry, Punjab, Lahore.) 1936. 24cm. 287p. Re. 1-8-0.

THIS is the tenth volume of the series containing all the useful statistics which help a clear understanding of agricultural economics of the province. The introduction gives in a nut-shell the results of the different chapters. The first section contains twelve parts which give the income, expenditure and the net income of different farms in different districts. Canal irrigated, well-irrigated and rain-fed cultivations are separately treated and their results compared. The shares of the landlords, the tenant and the labourer are separately worked out. Economics of the Persian wheel, the electric pump and the bore-well irrigation are given and compared. Even now bullock power for drawing water is cheaper than the other contrivances. For the first time the income and expenditure of the irrigated and unirrigated portions of the same farm are given separately.

The prices of agricultural commodities this year have gone down lower than last year. This has considerably lowered the net income of the landlords and the tenants. Though the number of farms which sustained loss is not as great as in 1930-31 there are two farms which have sustained a loss in this year of study. In the case of some farms the share of the tenants is considerably lower than that of the landlords; and in some the landlords have gone out with their shares while the tenants have sustained loss for all their labour and capital. The labour charts for the individual farms reveal the fact that the tenants do not even get the wages of the casual labourers. The tenants are not mere labourers for they invest capital and take risks and carry with them all the worries of farming. However accurate the labour chart, it might have omitted to calculate the many details which eat away the time of the tenants. The fact that human labour is cheaper and that it is rewarded less than bullock labour is being again clearly revealed by the figures for the maintenance of cattle. If only the tenant gets what he spends on his cattle he should be much better than what he is. Details of the cost of management of the Government Risalwala farm are given. The cost of management in the case of some holdings is more than what the tenant gets net for himself. It should be really surprising to know that the work of management is as hard as the work of actual cultivation, for the cost of management comes to Rs. 4,582 while the net income of the tenants is only Rs. 7,481. This is a useful statistical study for any student of agricultural economics.

N. S. S.

### SHORT NOTICE.

**RURAL RECONSTRUCTION.** By N. G. APTE. (Rajaguru & Co's Press, Poona, 2.) 1936. 21cm. 91p. Re. 1-8-0.

THIS is a collection of various papers written on many occasions. The first essay on the Rural Problem

sets forth the problem analytically. Mr. Apte has correctly spotted the trouble to be an economic one. The growing poverty of the villagers, illiteracy and ignorance are the root causes and out of these have sprung up the other ills of rural areas. He strikes the right note of caution when he asks the rural reconstruction workers to reach the villagers not with a patronising attitude, but to understand them correctly. The second paper is an attempt at an economic survey of a village. In his third paper on Planning he stresses the need for comprehensive planning and condemns the introduction of innovations which simply aggravate the existing unemployment and poverty. He is for introducing Bhajans, magic lanterns and other attractive devices for spreading adult education. In his paper on H. E. The Bombay Governor's note on Rural Reconstruction he tries to point out the defects of organisations under official auspices and rightly condemns the attitude of some retired Government servants and others who only seek advertisement for themselves. Mr. Apte rightly points out that the village panchayat should be the only organisation of the village which should guide all its activities. As regards funds he hopes the panchayat will be able to finance itself out of the profits of co-operative marketing. He bewails the gradual disappearance of the many handicrafts in Maharashtra and the forced unemployment created by the introduction of flour mills, oil presses and motor buses. His paper on the Economics of Bullocks is a correct appreciation of the agricultural problem. His experiences with the production of fruit juices are really helpful for those with similar schemes.

The author has rightly understood the rural problem, but he is not equally bold in suggesting remedies. The ineffective primary education scheme has almost inflamed him against literacy and makes him lose sight of its great potency for human advancement. He hopes to set right the rural ills with a few initial grants and with a tenth share of the land revenue collected in the villages. Probably he has not compared the land revenue and local taxation systems of our country with those of other countries. The book is worth perusal and close study by all those interested in the Rural Problem.

N. S. S.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

- ECONOMICS AND TECHNOLOGY.** By FERDYNAND ZWEIG (King.) 1936. 22cm. 252p. 10/-
- AUSTRIAN THEORIES OF CAPITAL, INTEREST, AND THE TRADE-CYCLE.** By FRANZ WIEN-CHAUDI. (Stanley Nott.) 1936. 22cm. 176p. 6/-
- EARLY LAND REVENUE SYSTEM IN BENGAL AND BIHAR, Vol. I—1765-1772.** By D. N. BANERJEE. (Longmans, Bombay.) 1936. 22cm. 228p. Rs. 5.
- LEAVES FROM THE JUNGLE.** By VERRIER ELWIN. (Murray.) 1936. 22cm. 243p. 9/-.
- YES AND ALBERT THOMAS.** By E. J. PHELAN. (The Cressett Press.) 1936. 22cm. 270p. 10/6.
- MEXICO: A REVOLUTION BY EDUCATION.** By GEORGE I. SANCHEZ. (The Viking Press, New York.) 1936. 22cm. 211p. \$2.75.
- MEXICO TODAY.** By IRVING SPEED WALLACE. (Meador Publishing Co., Boston.) 1936. 22cm. 364p. \$2.00.
- CONCERNING PROGRESSIVE REVELATION.** By VIVIAN PHELIPS. (Watts.) 1936. 20cm. 118p. 1/-.