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Topics of the Week.

S. I. Society's Finances.

THE proceedings of the session of the Servants of India Society which closed on the 27th June were overcast by financial deficits. Last year's deficit amounted to about Rs. 14,000 and the current year's deficit was estimated at nearly Rs. 20,000. In order to reduce the deficit to some extent, the members agreed to reduce their allowances by ten per cent. on the average. No new probationers could be taken, though one probationer who had completed his probation was admitted to membership. Even with the reduction in allowances, the deficit was estimated at some Rs. 15,000. The members propose to make special and strenuous efforts to seek public support in order to wipe out the threatening deficit and hope for a generous response.

An Unwarranted Ban.

POLITICAL meetings and processions are forbidden in Bangalore for a period of six months. To our mind this appears to be the practical result of the latest order of the City Magistrate of Bangalore on the subject. The order does not, it is true, ban political assemblies by name but imposes the condition of a previous permission by the Magistrate in the case of all public gatherings. The application for such permission has to be made at least three days in advance, presumably in order to enable the Magistrate to make inquiries about the character of the proposed meeting or procession. Is it difficult to foresee the working of this extraordinary procedure? While permission would be readily available in the case of

gatherings of an innocuous nature, it would be mercilessly withheld in that of meetings of a political nature. And of course all meetings not licensed by the City Magistrate would be officially treated as unlawful assemblies with the corollary of their dispersal by the use of force, if need be.

WHO can doubt that the order constitutes an unwarranted invasion on the civil rights of the inhabitants of Bangalore? We have yet to know that the security of Bangalore could not have been safeguarded by any other means and are clearly unable to approve of the order. Even so, if the application for permission had been nothing better than a formality, perhaps not much objection could be raised against it. But the working of similar procedure elsewhere does not warrant such a belief. The effect of official insistence on previous permission in Hyderabad, e. g., is to be seen in the absence of any political gatherings in the State. How can it be supposed that the result would be different in Mysore? The issue of the order illustrates how completely public liberties are at the mercy of the authorities even in an enlightened and progressive State like Mysore.

Dufferin Cadets.

THE public outcry against inadequate opportunities of employment for cadets who were nautically trained on the Dufferin is apparently acting as a discouragement to young lads to take to that course. This has necessitated the Government issuing a special press communique so as to reassure parents and guardians on the point. Since its establishment ten years ago the Dufferin sent out 74 cadets with their competency certificates. 65 of these are reported to have secured appointments as officers in the mercantile marine, the Bengal Pilot Service and with Port Trusts. 55 of them are at present in service, while 9 have, after obtaining employment in the mercantile marine, been temporarily discharged, so as to enable them to secure higher qualifications, without which employment in the higher grades of the mercantile marine is not ensured, and one sent in his resignation.

OF the balance of 9, one holds a commission in the Royal Air Force and another is employed as a Navigation Instructor in one of the Flying Clubs in India. The whereabouts of 2 are not known while the remaining 5 are without employment. It may be contended that the number of unemployed ex-Dufferin cadets is after all not very large. But the point is not whether it is large or small. The point is why with such a small output as 74 in ten years there should at all be any unemployment among the products of the Dufferin. The fact, as has been repeatedly pointed out, is that the Government have failed to use

their good offices as effectively as they might have in behalf of ex-Dufferin cadets with powerful shipping companies like the P. & O. enjoying vast Government patronage. The communique conveys an assurance that they would continue to do their best to help lads trained on the Dufferin to secure employment. Unless the assurance foreshadows more energetic action in this direction, which we trust is the case, public opinion can hardly attach much value to it.

The Second Orissa States' People's Conference.

FROM the newspaper reports received from Orissa, the Orissa States' People's Conference seems to have been an unqualified success. It could not have been otherwise when Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya was the president of the Conference. In his characteristic and lucid manner Dr. Pattabhi dealt with the subject of the Indian States with special reference to the conditions in Orissa. He strongly protested against the great wrong done to the States' people by the new constitution which denies them even the rights of franchise. The Indian States form in area one-third of India and their population is one-fourth of the whole continent. Under the circumstances, India can never attain the full stature of freedom, if the States' people suffer under disadvantages which paralyse them at present.

THE great opponent of federation that he is, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya describes graphically the evil effects of the present federation. Under this scheme of federation, the fine sons of the soil in the Indian States will have no voice at all in the administration of the federal government. Nay, the whole federal government cannot raise its little finger against the internal administration of the Indian States. While the federal government would be so utterly impotent to prevent misrule in the Indian States, the nominees of the Princes will have a powerful voice in the administration of the British Indian Provinces. For there are certain taxes such as terminal taxes which are assigned to the Provinces, but legislation regarding which is to be provided by the federal government. In this and similar other matters, the nominees of the Princes will raise their odious voice against the interests of the Provinces. Thus the Federal scheme will be utilised by the British Government in India to resist advance in the Provinces with the help of the Princes.

NOR would the Princes be very safe either. Once they enter federation, they will be tied down to it for ever. Their independence in this matter will completely disappear. Thus, in the words of Dr. Pattabhi, "The federation is calculated to benefit neither the Princes, nor their people, nor the people of the Provinces, but only the fourth party—the British Government." Dr. Pattabhi implores the States not to run into the trap so ingeniously set for them by the British Government. But if in spite of all advice to the contrary the Princes commit the fatal mistake, he exhorts the States' people to gird up their loins for the assertion of their rights in the States. He admits that to attain the position of their contemporaries in British India and to achieve, further, full responsible government, the States' people must pass through a course of suffering and sacrifice. But that need not deter them from pursuing their high goal. It is only when they assert themselves that the outside agencies will come to their assistance. Otherwise not only will they remain crippled and disabled themselves but would disable their compatriots in the Provinces also. We hope that the clarion

call of Dr. Pattabhi would find a sympathetic response from the peoples of the Indian States. They should fight for their rights irrespective of consequences with a stout heart and unbounded enthusiasm.

Unjustifiable.

BY their refusal to lift the ban on the entry into the Punjab of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, the Government of the province have lost a valuable opportunity of righting a wrong. The Punjab ministry was recently asked to say whether they would withdraw existing restrictions in respect of the Frontier Gandhi's entry into the Punjab. To this question a negative reply was given by the Premier, Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan. This means that the present popular Government fully shares the view of its bureaucratic predecessor about Mr. Khan being a menace to the peace of the Punjab. In the opinion of all right-thinking people, this is a view for which no justification exists in fact. Mr. Khan's unrestricted movements in other parts of India have so far not led to any untoward consequences anywhere. And we do not believe that if his admission to the Punjab had been facilitated it would have been attended with results which the Punjab ministry would have had cause to regret.

EQUALLY deserving of censure was the action of the Magistrate of Calicut in forbidding Mr. Meher Ali to address any public meetings in Calicut. That the Magistrate in invoking section 144 Cr. P. C. for the purpose was guilty of a wrong appraisal of the situation is shown by the fact that though Mr. Meher Ali did address a public meeting in violation of the order no breach of the peace has occurred. The Calicut authorities behaved in a wantonly provocative manner in taking him in custody while he was in the midst of his speech. If the situation had really been pregnant with dangerous possibilities, as the Magistrate feared it was, Mr. Meher Ali's arrest in such an ostentatious fashion would have acted as a spark in a powder magazine. The continued calm that is since reigning in Calicut is an eloquent testimony to the fact that the Magistrate wholly misjudged the situation and was instrumental in unjustifiably restricting civil liberty.

Wages in Malaya.

IT is well that the 20% cut in the wages of Indian labourers working on rubber estates in Malaya has now been restored, and that the wages have been put back to the level of rates fixed in 1928, viz. 50 cents a day for men and 40 cents for women. This does not remove, however, the grievance of the Indian workers in whole. For the standard rates were fixed in 1928 with reference to the then ruling price of rubber, which was 25 cents per lb. The cut was made because the price of rubber fell by about 9 cents. though one does not see how the fall in the price could justify a lowering of what was evidently intended to be a minimum scale of wages. If wage rates are to go down with a drop in the price of rubber, what is the use of fixing a minimum wage rate? Anyhow it is but proper that the minimum wage should be raised in proportion to the rise in the price of rubber, which now is 37 cents. The standard rates of wages should thus be improved 50 per cent. They should be 75 cents for males and 60 cents for females. The sliding scale principle is, one is glad to note, accepted by the Government of India, who we hope will press strongly for a rise in the minimum wages. Attention was drawn to this matter by Mr. Paling in the debate on the Colonial Office Supply on 2nd June. The rise in the price of rubber is due to the International Rubber

Restriction Scheme, put into force on 1st June, 1934. The average price of rubber in 1933 was 3¼d. per lb., in 1934 6¼d., in 1935 6d. and in 1936 7¾d. Mr. Paling said in the debate: "If they (the planters) are going to have the protection of the State in that matter when they are doing decently well, the State should see that the workers who work for them should also be protected and should have decent wages". No one can dispute this proposition.

Central Health Board and Quinine.

THE Central Health Board which met at Simla last week accepted the principle that India should be self-sufficient in respect of her quinine requirements. The first step in the direction of the implementation of this decision will be an inquiry with a view to finding out further areas suitable for cinchona cultivation. It is satisfactory to find that the self-sufficiency of India in regard to quinine production is regarded by experts assembled at Simla for the meetings of the Health Board not as an impossible dream but as a practical proposition. Indeed they believe that it would be possible to achieve the consummation of self-sufficiency in about ten to fifteen years. In the meanwhile attempts will be made to reduce the price of quinine so that no profit is made from it. If any profits accrue, it was suggested that they should be spent only on the promotion of public health. The suggestion, though reasonable, was not found acceptable by the representative of one of the two quinine-producing provinces—an illustration of the commercial spirit which at present dominates the problem of quinine production and distribution.

THE necessity of a vigorous public health policy is pretty obvious. As Sir Jagadish Prasad pointed out, half the district boards and two-thirds of the

municipalities are without qualified health officers. The infant mortality in India is fearfully high, over a million and a quarter of children having died in 1935 within a year of their birth. This is not a phenomenon peculiar only to the rural parts in which facilities for infant welfare are conspicuous by their absence, but even in big cities like Bombay and Calcutta. It is known that even there one child out of every four dies before completing the first year. The extent of malaria can be gauged from the fact that over eleven million people were treated in hospitals for it in 1935.

AS can be easily seen, the problem of cheapening quinine in this country is closely related to the wider problem of the world production of the drug. This at present is said to be about 1,344,000 lbs. The potential supply is, however, believed to be much in excess of this figure, for Java could readily increase its quinine production to 3,136,000 lbs. or 1,400 tons. The present selling price in India is Rs. 18 per lb. which places the drug beyond the reach of the poor. It is conservatively estimated that the number of malaria-sufferers in this country is 100,000,000 every year. The minimum effective dose is 45 grains. At this rate India's total annual quinine requirements would be 600,000 lbs. This figure would go up to 700,000 lbs. if the calculations are made on the basis of per capita consumption which may be taken, as in Italy, at 15 grains. Of this only less than a third or 200,000 lbs. is consumed in India at present and only, about 90,000 lbs. produced indigenously! If India is to be self-dependent in the matter of quinine, it follows that steps need to be devised so as to increase this production sevenfold. It is to be hoped that the proposed inquiry will result in the submission of a satisfactory scheme.

RAILWAY FINANCE.

LAST winter three Foreign Railway Officials—two English and one South African—visited India for a short space of time. The English officials were in India for less than three months, of which nearly half the time they spent in New Delhi. The South African reached India more than three weeks after the arrival of his English colleagues, and all the three left these shores together to write their report in London. This truly Gilbertian spectacle of foreigners from thousands of miles away inspecting the complex and varied conditions of a whole continent within a period of six weeks and writing a report on each aspect of its railway conditions in another country could come to life only in India! And we suppose that we shall be expected to treat the report of this so-called Indian Railway Enquiry Committee in all solemnity as authoritative! The absurdity of it all is in no measure lessened if we look into the technical qualifications of the members of this Committee or the procedure they adopted. The members' designations in their respective railway systems are: (i) Chief General Manager, (ii) Chief Traffic Manager and (iii) Chief Mechanical Engineer. And they have reported not only on the conduct of the general departmental and commercial side of Indian railway business, but also on such difficult questions as the coordination of rail and road transport and the constitution of the Federal

Railway Authority. The almost exclusive source of information of this Committee was the officials of Indian railways. They issued no public invitation for tendering evidence or giving information and the only non-officials they met were the representatives of chambers of commerce in important cities. Even to these chambers of commerce no questionnaire had been previously issued because "the Committee felt it was better to allow the organisations to express their views freely on the problems included in the terms of reference." We hope all commissions and committees in future will take note of this original view regarding the cramping effect of a questionnaire.

It was in the circumstances not to be expected that the report of this Committee would be either a searching or even an informative document. The report, which has been made available this week, does not disappoint the expectations so formed. It tries to cover an immense field within a short compass and in hardly any instance where we were able to judge does it succeed in going beyond the obvious. In many an instance it does not take account of all the information available; in no case does it adduce any new data or detail. We are not in a position to say how far certain of the technical recommendations made by the Committee in such chapters as that on Departmental Economies are original or useful; but even in these

chapters there are many signs of a point of view to which exception may be taken. There is, for example, the question of the efficient operation of railway workshops. The sovereign remedy for improving efficiency is, in the opinion of the Committee, increasing the numbers of the European supervisory staff. The Committee talks in this connection of the lack of experience of the Indian supervisory staff and their unwillingness to take their coats off when necessary. But the Committee does not confine itself to such recommendations which may be regarded as of a temporary nature; it goes on to recommend as essential an at least 25 p. c. minimum permanent recruitment of young men of European domicile and make such obviously inspired detailed recommendations as that it is desirable that the Principal of the Jamalpur school should continue to be a European of experience. While the Committee finds time to enter into such details, it is remarkable how it passes by important problems with inadequate comment. An outstanding example of this is the treatment of the problem of higher class traffic. The Committee admits that upper class travel in India yields "a very small profit, if any." It quotes figures to show that earnings from upper class travel have fallen very considerably in recent years; it seems to realise that there has been at least some disproportion in the capital expenditure incurred for securing the comforts of upper class passengers in recent years; and it is convinced that upper class travel in India is not responsive to increased facilities. Even so it is most reluctant to make any definite recommendations regarding this "prickly subject." The utmost that it can bring itself to suggest is the investigation of the problem of the excessive provision of upper class accommodation and the abolition of first class on branch lines. Yet at the same time it expresses itself in favour of the plans now in hand to provide an increasing number of two-berth coupe compartments to first class travellers which will definitely involve an increase of initial cost and deadweight per passenger berth and whose benefits, other than increased amenities to first class travellers, are of an extremely doubtful nature. The Committee might well have thought itself competent to discuss the question of the Indian railway rates structure, but what value can be attached to its opinion on the question of salaries in India? We find in the report, however, the following extremely enlightening observation in connection with proposals to reduce higher rank salaries. "Where comparison can be made with salaries paid for similar posts in Great Britain, we do not consider that the salaries of gazetted officers on the Indian railways are fairly open to criticism." This is at the end of chap. IV. When in chap. V, however, the Committee come to discuss the new scales of pay they begin to find them positively inadequate especially for the European recruit of the "right type". The new scales may, in their opinion, have to be revised "when the recruitment of Europeans is reinstated in normal volume."

One of the problems specifically referred to the Committee for consideration was the co-ordination

between road and rail transport. The Committee was, of course, unable to conduct any special investigation or even to acquaint itself thoroughly with Indian conditions. It met nobody who could be supposed to represent Indian road interests, and what it has written on this question is solely in the light of the experience of English and South African conditions. Fortunately the principles regarding co-ordination and regulation established in these countries are in the main applicable to India. Hence the Committee's recommendations which are only of a general nature are on correct lines, though the reasoning by which they are supported is a number of times faulty. The Committee rightly recommends that the system of route licensing be applied to passenger transport; it, however, feels that this system would not suit goods road transport. We think that in the latter case the Committee has erred through ignorance of Indian conditions. Even goods transport in India is at least at present at a stage where it could be appropriately regulated by grant of route licenses. The amount of regulation the Committee proposes for private lorries not working for hire is unnecessarily severe and not even justified by experience in other countries. Again, the general principle that the Committee enunciates for rail-road co-ordination arrangements is open to ambiguous interpretation. In the Committee's opinion, while the administration of regulation should be vested in the hands of Provincial Governments, it should be prescribed and carried out in accordance with uniform principles enacted at the centre. If the central enactment is chiefly an enabling act on the lines of the 1914 act no objection need be taken to this principle. But if it means that the centre would try to dictate to the provinces the details of the regulatory regime as in the recent Road Fund resolution in the Assembly, then it should certainly prove unacceptable.

In respect of the rates and fares systems and levels, the Committee finds that they do not call for any considerable change. The Committee points out the necessity of making the rates on various commodities a little more uniform as between the different railway systems and its main recommendation is to raise generally the rate on coal and reduce substantially the export rebate on that article. Except for special reductions for competing with road transport the Committee does not countenance any fare reductions. The Committee lays commendable stress on the need for conciliating the third class passenger and for the railways to cultivate cordial relations with the public, rich and poor. It is, however, difficult to understand in this connection why the Committee holds that it is only the lower staff of the railways that is in need of lectures on civility.

The foregoing comment on the report of the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee may perhaps be thought to be a little unfair. For, we have not taken count of many points in the report with which we would find ourselves in agreement. It was not our intention, however, to indicate in any detail the points of our difference or agreement. We want to emphasize only the one outstanding fact about this Committee

and its report. It is that because of its composition, its procedure and the field it has sought to cover, in no respect has the Committee's report been able to make a distinct contribution to any aspect of the railway question. Neither in respect of future financial arrangements nor of rail-road co-ordination does it render further enquiry unnecessary. And the only result

that we calculate to flow from it is to increase the numbers of European supervisors, higher administrative staff and first class coupe berths, to create some highly paid new jobs of commercial managers and civility lecturers and to give further support to the creation of a Federal Railway authority utterly removed from public control.

CHILD SLAVERY.

THE system of child slavery which goes by the name of mui tsai came under review in the House of Commons on 2nd June. A Commission consisting of Sir Wilfrid Woods as chairman and Mr. C. A. Willis and Miss Edith Picton-Tubervill as members was appointed last year to inquire into "the whole question of mui tsai in Honkong and Malaya." The Commission presented its report on 1st March last. The majority report, which is signed by the two men members of the Commission, is characterised by a spirit of complacency towards the advance made so far in correcting the abuses of the system and recommends only minor administrative changes; but Miss Picton-Tubervill, in her minority report, declares herself to be "less satisfied than her colleagues with the existing state of affairs", stands out boldly for the eradication of the evil, root and branch, at as early a date as possible and recommends the immediate adoption of radical measures for the emancipation of girl slaves.

The system of mui tsai is virtually a system of child slavery, though in official documents this description is invariably challenged. It is an ancient Chinese custom, under which girls are bought on payment of money and become the property of the purchaser. The pretence is often made that the girls are adopted as daughters by the purchaser who then assumes full responsibility for their welfare and generally discharges it satisfactorily. But it is well known that this adoption is a fake transaction and that the girls actually pass into a state of domestic servitude. In a memorandum submitted by the Chinese Government to the League of Nations in 1934, the system of mui tsai was thus described:

When poor families cannot afford to bring up their female children, they give them to other families as adopted children or place them in rich families in return for their keep as girl slaves to act as personal maids to their mistresses and to do the light work of the household, but their status as a free person is maintained. When a mui tsai comes of age the mistress is under obligation to arrange her marriage and to endow her with a dowry, and where good feeling exists between the mistress and the mui tsai they are henceforth looked upon as relations. The nature of the mui tsai system is, therefore, totally different from that of the slaves. Although the keeping of mui tsai is in practice distinct from slavery, it is recognised to be an anomaly in the social structure.

The Woods Commission itself defines mui tsai as follows:

In its restricted sense the term "mui tsai" would be generally understood to refer to the girl who has been transferred from her own family, either directly or through a third party, to another family with the intention that she shall be used as a domestic servant not in receipt of regular wages and not at liberty to leave her employer's

family. . . . Chinese custom has always regarded a mui tsai as a member of the family, which a paid domestic servant is not. . . . and it was always implied that when she reached marriageable age, i.e., about eighteen years of age, she should be married to a suitable husband.

If a girl does not receive remuneration for her labour as an ordinary domestic servant does and is not at liberty to leave her employer, she is, if not a slave, at least a serf. In fact, Mr. Lunn, who was Under Secretary of State for the Colonies in a former Labour Government, claimed in the speech made by him in the debate referred to above, that mui tsai come within the definition of slavery in the League's Slavery Convention of 1926, which says: "Slavery is the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attached to the right of ownership are exercised." It is true that the Hongkong Ordinance of 1923, the Female Domestic Service Ordinance, declared that no rights of property in a female child could be conferred on a third person by payment to the parents or guardians of the child; and it also provided that the child so taken over must be paid wages and that if any mui tsai wished to leave an employer she would be free to do so. It may be admitted, therefore, that, so far as law is concerned, the status of slavery has been abolished in Hongkong, but it is one thing to abolish it in law and quite another to abolish it in fact. The system as it is in force certainly contains ingredients of servitude and slavery.

Hongkong has been a British Colony since 1841, and it is surprising that during all the intervening hundred years this system of placing young female children as domestic servants in the houses of employers who had subjected them to bills of sale and had paid money for them to their parents or guardians should have been allowed to continue in force. Some faint efforts were made before to mitigate the evil effects of the system and to arrest its progress. Mr. Churchill no doubt desired to take vigorous measures to stamp out the curse altogether and, in the instructions that as Colonial Secretary he gave to the Governor in his dispatch in 1922, expressed a hope that it would be put down in the course of a year. It was as a result of his initiative that the Female Domestic Service Ordinance was passed in Hongkong in February 1923. It provided that no person should take any new mui tsai into his employment, and that no transfer of existing mui tsai from one employer to another should take place. The object of the measure was to secure that, by preventing the creation of new mui tsai, the system would naturally come to an end by mere efflux of time when the present mui tsai population had by marriage or death

or in other ways ceased to be held as mui tsai. Mr. Churchill also provided in another part of the Ordinance for the registration, inspection and control of mui tsai. This part of the Ordinance, however, remained a dead letter till the Labour Party came into office, and as no registers of existing mui tsai were maintained, no control of any kind could be exercised and the system continued as before, without receiving any check.

The new Colonial Secretary in the Labour Government, Lord Passfield, however, gave the matter his serious attention. In his dispatch to the Governor in 1929, he wrote :

After making all allowances for the difficulties in bringing this system to an end, which are described at length in your dispatches, it is my duty to inform you that public opinion in this country and in the House of Commons will not, accept such a result with equanimity, and I feel myself quite unable to defend a policy of *laissez faire* in this serious matter.

He directed the Governor of Hongkong to bring the registration part of the 1923 Ordinance into operation forthwith. He also instructed the Governor that the Ordinance should be amended so as to make certain that no mui tsai should be brought into the Colony. By this Ordinance it is illegal for anyone to take a mui tsai into his employment or to transfer a mui tsai from one employer to another. To make evasion of the law impossible the Offences against the Person Ordinance was also amended, by which even entering into such a contract or taking part in any such transaction was in itself made a criminal act. It was thus hoped that every possible loophole for the evasion of the mui tsai regulations was closed and that within a few years the system would be wholly abolished. The number of mui tsai that was registered in Hongkong in 1930 was 4,368. The register was then closed, and further registration or employment of unregistered mui tsai was prohibited. Of the children then registered, only 1,723 now remain on the register, the rest having been struck off through marriage, death, leaving the Colony, etc. Only about 900 of these can now be identified or traced. It does not mean, however, that there are no more mui tsai than those whose names find a place on the register. It is believed that there are some 10,000 others who, though mui tsai, are not registered and who pass off as adopted daughters, etc. In Malaya registration was carried out several years later and was, as the Commission itself says, "seriously incomplete." In Hongkong the prohibition against the acquisition or employment of fresh mui tsai has been fairly strict, but in Malaya it "has not been strictly enforced", as admitted by the Commission. The number of mui tsai who are on the register in Malaya and can be traced are about 2,000, and no estimate can be made of those who are unregistered. There is a consensus of opinion that an overwhelming majority of mui tsai are still unregistered. How are they to be dealt with ?

The Majority Report makes certain recommendations in this behalf, but they are entirely inadequate. It is proposed that the custodian of a girl who is in danger of being treated as a mui tsai should give security for her proper treatment; that the employ-

ment of a female under twelve years of age as a domestic servant should be prohibited; that every registered mui tsai under fourteen should be visited at least thrice every half year, and above fourteen at least twice; and that a registered mui tsai should be taken off the register at the age of eighteen. This last recommendation becomes necessary because even adult women are held as mui tsai in Hongkong. The Minority Report, however, makes more far-reaching recommendations. Miss Picton-Tubervill says that, if the evils associated with the mui tsai system are to be satisfactorily met, "we must abandon the attempt to define and legislate separately for the mui tsai and instead apply the machinery of protection, i. e. notification and where necessary inspection, to all transferred girls under twelve years of age." As at present defined, mui tsai children are those who have been transferred from the homes of their parents or guardians to the homes of strangers for a money consideration. Payment of money is a necessary factor in the transaction if the children, who pass into other households, are to receive the protection which is now given to those who are registered mui tsai. But, as Miss Rathbone said in the debate on 2nd June, "when the employment of fresh mui tsai is prohibited by law, if parents want to do a deal with a purchaser they are not likely to make it publicly known that there has been a money consideration. It can perfectly well be concealed and made a secret transaction and the transfer of the child can be represented as a question of adoption." It may be impossible to prove that money has passed although in fact it may have passed. In order, therefore, to put a stop to such evasion, Miss Picton-Tubervill recommends a wider law, "a law which embraces all children in the home of a stranger, children who have been transferred, whether with or without money consideration, below the age of twelve to a home which is not that of their parents nor of a near relation." The proposal is that, "in respect of a child under the age of twelve transferred to a home which is not that of a near relation, the fact shall be required to be notified when the transaction takes place, so that it can be kept on the register and inspected." If it is proved, however, at the time of notification, after careful inquiry, that it is a case of genuine adoption, the child would not be subject to inspection. The system of compulsory notification suggested here is condemned in the Majority Report as "administratively impracticable and politically objectionable." But it is clear that if this urgent moral reform is to be carried out, nothing less than this notification of all transferred girls will serve the purpose. Miss Picton-Tubervill says, "My conclusion is that all girls transferred at an early age from their homes to strangers should be supervised. To me it is obvious that some kind of protective supervision should be provided for the mass of young children away from their own homes and who have been purchased (generally) by strangers." In England no one may take a young child under nine years of age for gain without notification. "Would anyone in

this country," asked Miss Rathbone, "nowadays sanction the boarding out by public assistance of children without providing some means of registration and inspection? How much more, in a country where the Chinese tradition prevails, is it necessary that there should be some method of protection for these children?" The Commission's report has been forwarded to the Governors of Hongkong and the Straits Settlements for opinion, and it is to be hoped that the recommendations of Miss Picton-Tubervill will be implemented.

INDIANS IN FIJI.

THOUGH the proposals of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the reconstruction of the Fiji Legislative Council were announced some time ago, the Letters Patent embodying them has just been issued. It is seen that the final orders contain terms identical with those referred to in the Despatch and such representations as have been made for their modification seem to have had no effect. Such sharp division of opinion as obtained on various points has been brushed aside and the ultimate decision taken is not calculated to restore that political peace in Fiji for which the Secretary of State for the Colonies showed great solicitude.

The Letters Patent announces that the reconstituted Legislative Council shall consist of the Governor as President, three *ex-officio* members—the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Treasurer, thirteen official members, five European members, of whom three shall be elected and two nominated, five native members, and five Indian members, of whom three shall be elected and two nominated. Though the strength of the Council is raised from 25 to 32, this increase is intended neither to reduce the nominated element nor increase popular representation. While the Secretary of State for the Colonies deserves congratulations for rejecting the suggestion to substitute wholesale nomination for election assiduously put forward in certain interested quarters, the provision for increased representation of Indians by nomination is bound to create disappointment. According to the latest figures available, the population of Indians and Europeans was 82,389 and 4,763 respectively. So in spite of the reduction in the number of seats allotted to Europeans, they still continue to enjoy representation greatly in excess of that to which they are entitled on population basis. Moreover, the official majority is retained and as the Superior Services are not thrown open to Indians, all the thirteen official members will be Europeans. The colony will thus be completely under European rule carried on in their interests. If experience in India and elsewhere can afford some guidance, it is quite possible, nay probable, that the power of nomination of non-official members will be so exercised as to strengthen the position of Europeans on the pretext of holding the balance even between different communities. The result is the interests of Indians are bound to suffer though they are far more numerous than Europeans.

It is regrettable that the demand for a common electoral roll to which the Indian community attached great importance has been rejected. The Despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies offers no valid explanation for its rejection. The existence of separate electoral rolls for Europeans and Indians in Kenya, in regard to which the Indian community in Kenya was greatly exercised, cannot be accepted, as alleged by the Governor some time ago, as a justification for the retention of that system. Taking advantage of the situation created by the amendment of the constitution, the Secretary of State for the Colonies could have assuaged the feelings of the Indian community by accepting the common electoral roll and thereby promoted cordial relations between the two important communities ensuring the future prosperity of the colony. But the readiness with which the Colonial Office always yields to the clamour of those imbued with a spirit of racial arrogance is unfortunately there and the Government of India, with all their good intentions, are not always successful in influencing the decisions of the Colonial Office.

The inadequacy of funds spent on Indian education compared with those spent on European education has been a matter of grave concern. While the Europeans form only 2.41 per cent, the Indians form 42.18 per cent. of the total population. But the percentage of educational expenditure is 15.5 and 29.8 per cent. respectively. Then there is the question of admission of Indians to the Superior Services. The Government of India ought to urge also for the appointment of an Indian to the Executive Council where really the business of Government is conducted, the Legislative Council with its preponderating nominated element being merely an advisory body. There is also the problem of obtaining land on lease by Indians. Indians have a legitimate grievance in this matter.

These and other matters need careful study and proper guidance. Unless the Government of India seriously consider the desirability of sending out a Deputation to Fiji to examine all the questions on the spot and suggest measures calculated to improve the lot of Indians, there is no possibility of understanding the exact situation in that far-off Colony. It should be a kind of cultural mission as well to bring Indians in Fiji into contact with the culture of their Motherland. The Government of India may be too late in recording protests when measures calculated to affect the interests of Indians are promoted by the Fijian Government. The question of appointing an Agent to watch and safeguard the interests of Indians in Fiji also requires serious consideration. Mere profession of sympathy for the Indians in the Colonies is not enough. It should take some concrete shape and any expenditure incurred in that regard is worth while. Will the Government of India move quickly instead of following the policy of 'wait and see'?

R. S. R.

CANADIAN FARM LOAN BOARD.

THE report of the Canadian Farm Loan Board for the year ended 31st March 1936, published recently, gives an account of revitalised activity on the part of the Board as a result of the amendments made in 1934 and 1935 to the Canadian Farm Loan Act of 1927. It is apparent from the schedules appended to the report that the original Act had practically ceased to achieve the object of ensuring the necessary relief to the farmers. The number of applications for loans fell from over 6,800 amounting to more than 18 million dollars in 1929-30 i. e. since the inception of the Farm Loan Board to nearly 1200 applications amounting to 2 million dollars in 1933-34 i. e. before the amendments were carried out to the original Act. The effect of these amendments was visible in the increased number of applications for loans which rose to 2,456 amounting to 5 million dollars and in 1935-36 to 21,698 amounting to 50 million dollars in 1934-35. This large volume of applications for loans, the report says, "was attributable to the increased loan facilities made possible as a result of the 1934 and 1935 amendments to the Act which made provision for supplementary short term advances secured by the second mortgage and mortgages on personal property, to the reduction in the Board's current loaning rate on the first mortgage loan to 5 per cent. per annum, to the initiation of the Board's operations in the three additional provinces of Ontario, Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island and to the increased publicity given to the Board's operations following the 1934 and 1935 amendments to the Act." Under the original Act the Board was empowered to initiate loaning operations only in such provinces as had by the enactment of provincial enabling legislation signified their intention of participating in the farm loan scheme administered by the Board. In each province in which the prescribed provincial enabling legislation was passed the Board conducted its operations through the agency of a provincial Board of three persons appointed by the Board from a panel of nominees submitted by the provincial governments and one of the three persons so selected was appointed by the Board as the Executive Officer of the Board in that province. Moreover each such province was financially interested in the Board's operations to the extent that the province required and undertook to subscribe to the share capital of the Board to the extent of 5 per cent. of the principal amount of all loans from time to time made by the Board in that province and outstanding. Each borrower was required to subscribe to share capital to the extent of 5 per cent. of the amount of the loan granted to him, and continued as a shareholder for so long as his loan was outstanding at which time the face amount of his share subscription plus such accumulated dividends as had been declared were credited as a final payment on his loan. The Dominion Government subscribed to the share capital to the extent of 5 per cent. of all loans made in all provinces. Thus as share-holders the province, the borrower and the Dominion Government were entitled to participate in such dividends as the Board was in a position to declare out of earnings.

But all this elaborate procedure both in the manner of the constitution of the Central Board and the provincial Boards, and for financing the operations of the Central Board has undergone complete change. The central Board consists of not less than three members and not more than five, one of whom is appointed chairman called the Farm Loan Commissioner. Thus the Board becomes less unwieldy which is necessary for the vigorous management of its operations. The powers of the Board have been largely increased. In the provinces, however, the Board appoints a Chief Executive Officer with an advisory Council and carries on the Board's operations in the province as a delegated authority. It may be noted that the financing of the Board's loaning operations has been facilitated by the capital advance of 5 million dollars made by the Dominion Government free of any interest for three years after which interest is payable at a rate fixed by the Governor-in-Council. This has to be liquidated from the earnings of the Board. In addition the Dominion Government subscribes to the capital stock in the Board to the extent of 5 per cent. of the principal amount of all loans outstanding. The Board is also permitted to issue and sell Farm Loan Bonds in amounts not exceeding the principal amount of mortgages held by the Board as security for loans. The Minister of Finance is empowered to purchase and hold Farm Loan Bonds to an amount not exceeding 50 million dollars at any time and the Governor-in-Council may authorise the guarantee of principal and interest of Farm Loan Bonds to the amount of 40 million dollars. The amendments of 1934 and 1935 to the original Act seem to connote a centralised drive in the effort of giving relief to farmers and to relieve both the provinces and the borrowers of the obligation to subscribe to the share capital which, from the latest figures in the report, will drive one to the conclusion that this obligation was a snag in the genuine effort in the interest of the farmers.

By the amendment of 1935 the Board was authorised to initiate loaning operations in all provinces without the authority of the provincial enabling legislation. The effect of this seems to have been the starting of operations in the three provinces of Saskatchewan, Ontario and Prince Edward Island which did not seem to have passed the enabling legislation and for want of which no loaning operations could be started. The result, therefore, has been that out of the 5,109 applications for loans approved no less than 39 per cent. have been granted in these three provinces. No figures are available to show as to how many applications were actually received from these provinces out of the total of 21,689. It may, therefore, be concluded that the permission to the Board to start operations in all provinces, the removal of obligation to subscribe to the share capital both on the part of the province and the borrower and the reduction in the rate of interest on the loans and the facilities for short term loans on second mortgages have increased the activities of the Board. Loans on first mortgages are granted for a period not exceeding 25 years at 5 per cent. and not more than

50 per cent of the actual value of the farm held as security or not exceeding in any case 5000 dollars and on second mortgages for a period not exceeding six years at 6 per cent. on the aggregate amount of the first and second mortgage loans which may not exceed two-thirds of the appraised value of farm lands, the maximum allowable being 6000 dollars. The report says: "Approximately 80 per cent. of the loans made during the year were approved for the purpose of refinancing the outstanding liabilities of borrowers. In a large number of instances the loan from the board not only enabled the borrower to refinance his existing obligations at a more favourable rate of interest and upon easier terms of repayment but also permitted the farmer to effect a substantial reduction in the amount of his capital indebtedness as a result of voluntary concessions offered by creditors in return for cash settlements of their claims."

R. S. GUPTA.

Reviews.

AUSTRIAN ECONOMICS.

AUSTRIAN THEORIES OF CAPITAL INTEREST, AND THE TRADE-CYCLE. BY FRANZ WIEN-CLAUDI. (Stanley Nott.) 1936. 22cm. 176p. 6/-

ATTENTION to the teachings of the Austrian school was recently drawn by Hayek in his examination of the trade-cycle. Although the earlier Austrian writers neglected to a great extent the influence of monetary phenomena, attempts were later made to co-ordinate the economic-cum-monetary factors into a successful theory of the trade-cycle. Dr. Wien-Claudi makes a careful study of these attempts in his book and shows how far they have been successful.

The book is divided into two parts. Part I deals with the upward movement in a trade-cycle and the theories of credit and capital by which this movement has been analysed. The author starts from the terminological confusion which prevailed for some time in the Austrian school—a confusion which precluded the formulation of an adequate theory of capital and credit. "Goods of higher order", says Menger, "are holders of future productivity and the amount of these goods that a person possesses controls his future prosperity and are therefore capital". Bohm-Bawerk elaborated the time factor involved in capital and developed a theory of the formation and function of capital. This was the basis of all further investigations by Wicksell, Mises, Hayek and Engländer. The next chapter refers to the attempts of Menger, Wieser, Mises and Schumpeter "to fuse monetary and economic phenomena into an explanation of the trade-cycle." The final chapter treats Austrian theories of credit, especially those of Komorzynski and Schumpeter.

Part II is split up into three chapters. The first chapter is devoted to an examination of Bohm-Bawerk's theory of interest. The author describes this as the non-monetary theory of the trade-cycle for, although Bohm-Bawerk explains the existence of interest, he does not solve the problem of the payment of interest. Capital increases physical productivity and Bohm-Bawerk attempts rather unsuccessfully to explain the correlation between physical productivity and value productivity or, what we will term to-day, between investment and profitability.

The discrepancy between the two manifests itself in the trade-cycle and Bohm-Bawerk, as the author clearly establishes, has been unable to solve it because of his neglect of monetary phenomena.

In the second chapter the author examines Schumpeter's theory of interest which is a re-statement of Bohm-Bawerk's theory in a monetary form. The third chapter treats of Mises's, Hayek's and Engländer's theories of the trade-cycle which combine monetary changes with changes in the structure of production.

In his preface to the book the author remarks that "with the exception of the published translations of the works of Bohm-Bawerk and Wieser, the theories of the Austrian school of Economics are not well-known in England". For a proper understanding of the contributions of the Austrian school, the economic ideas of Menger, Mises and Schumpeter are essential. The author's valuable service lies in the elucidation of these ideas in respect of the problems of capital, interest and the trade-cycle. We can ill afford to ignore contemporary continental researches in the domain of economic doctrines and the book may be heartily recommended to readers, not familiar with the German language, as a supplement to the existing translations of the Austrian writers.

G. B. JATHAR.

INDIAN PHILOSOPHY.

CONTEMPORARY INDIAN PHILOSOPHY. BY Various Authors. ED. BY S. RADHAKRISHNAN and J. H. MUIRHEAD. (George Allen & Unwin.) 1936. 22cm. 375p. 16/-

PROF. MUIRHEAD tells us, in his brief but illuminating foreword, of its occasion, the scope and general character of its contents. Speaking on behalf of the thoughtful mind of Europe, he explains the value of the present publication in the field of technical philosophy but especially in the wider field of a philosophy of life after which all of us are hankering in these days of universal unrest.

We in India have now long passed the stage when one-sided, exaggerated and fabulous notions of the cultural and practical endowment of the West satisfied us. A similar thing has happened in the West. The contact between the two hemispheres has now become real and concrete. The unity of the world is no more a 'mere ideal' but has become from every point of view a 'practical necessity'. Every single nation and culture must bring its characteristic contribution to the common cause, if human progress is to be kept up. World affairs have become too complicated to be tackled successfully in any sphere without international co-operation. Genuine co-operation presumes complete mutual understanding and say what the scoffers will, to know a nation's philosophy is still the surest method of knowing the nation. Such being the case, there is no doubt that by the present publication Prof. Muirhead has given invaluable assistance to all who are engaged in the great and urgent work of building up a community of nations on the basis of mutual understanding.

In several respects, again, the present volume is the first of its kind. It is a sign of the times that creative effort in philosophy should now take the form of brief personal statement in place of the elaborate, impersonal dissertations of old. The warm reception which the volumes on British and American philosophy in the series of which the one on Indian Philosophy is a part received all over the world proves that the reading public has discovered in them what it long wanted. Like all real creative effort, they give us the substance of philosophy without making

us wade through the technical rigmarole of formal or real logic.

While such collection of personal statements is not very old, yet even in Europe there has been no previous attempt of this kind in regard to contemporary Indian philosophy or any other branch of present-day Indian thought. It appears to us that apart from the actual contribution to philosophical speculation made by the contents of the present volume as the pioneer work of its kind, it has a unique significance for the growth of living Indian thought. It is the first constructive recognition on our part that our heritage in philosophy can only be ours if we are philosophically active today. It is to our minds the first sign of healthy life shown by the philosophical thought of the nation and as such has a promise and a message of hope to all who have the interest of the subject at heart.

It is only to be expected that there will be difference of opinion as to the philosophical positions taken up by the various contributors. We are also aware that there will be some earnest students of the subject who feel that the creative output of this volume is not as great as it might have been. Both these aspects of the matter are necessarily controversial and can only be appropriately dealt with in a technical journal devoted to the subject. Any decision of the critics on these points however leaves untouched the unique place of the work as an incentive to creative effort in Indian philosophy. In the next place the most pessimistic and hostile critic of the volume cannot help admitting that the statements included in it come from some of the most brilliant and earnest students of philosophy in the country and that the writers are seen almost at their best in their contributions to this volume.

P. R. DAMLE.

THE SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY. ACTIVITIES DURING 1936-37.

Indians Abroad.

The position of Indians abroad engaged the attention of the Society more than once during the year under report. The decrees promulgated by the Zanzibar Government with regard to the export trade in cloves and to the realisation of debts and the purchase of land from Africans and Arabs, which very seriously affected the interests of the Zanzibar Indian community, and the anti-Asiatic legislation proposed in the South African legislature, brought the question of Indians in these two territories into particular prominence. Mr. Kunzru drew the attention of the Government of India to the Zanzibar crisis by moving a resolution on the subject in the Council of State. The anti-Asiatic decrees and bills referred to above were submitted to a thorough scrutiny by the *Servant of India* whose interest in Indians abroad is well-known.

In October 1936 Mr. Srinivasa Sastri was deputed by the Government of India to investigate the condition of Indian labour in Malaya and after a month's tour in Malaya he submitted a report suggesting a number of measures for improving their condition. The report has been accepted by the Governments of India and Malaya to a very great extent. Mr. N. M. Joshi continued to be a member of the Standing Emigration Committee of the Indian Legislative Assembly. Mr. Suryanarayana Rao was Joint Secretary of the Overseas Indians Association of Madras and as such prepared and submitted memoranda on Indians in Ceylon, Zanzibar, Kenya and other places,

SHORT NOTICES.

INTERNATIONAL LAW. BY K. R. R. SASTRY.
(Kitabistan, Allahabad.) 1937. 22cm. 472 p. Rs. 5.

STANDARD books on International law are very costly, and often difficult of access in the mofussil. Professor Sastry must be congratulated on his presenting the reading public of India with a very compact volume on International Law at a moderate price. International law is not one of the subjects of study in our university for the LL. B. degree. It is, however, a subject prescribed for LL. M. students taking the first Branch. Professor Sastry's book will certainly be very useful for such students. The special feature of this book is that the author has, at appropriate places, referred the reader to provisions of International law in ancient India. The book, will, in general, be welcomed by the Bar, particularly because of the establishment of the Federal Court in India.

Appendices giving the League of Nations' Covenant and the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice, among others, have greatly enhanced the book's appeal to the lay reader.

S. G. PATWARDHAN.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDIAN CENTRAL COTTON COMMITTEE, BOMBAY, 1936.

(Secretary, I. C. Cotton Committee, Bombay.)
1937. 24cm. 234p. Rs. 2.

THIS valuable report has recently been published and bears testimony to extensive usefulness of the activities of the Committee. In the field of research, development and regulation the Central Cotton Committee has now come to play an indispensable part. Besides the record of work and cotton trade statistics, the report contains several appendices, which are bound to be eminently useful to all interested in the Indian cotton trade.

D. G. K.

and contributed articles to the press on the problem of Indians abroad. Mr. Kodanda Rao attempted a study of the condition of Indians in all the countries that he visited. He interviewed both officials and non-officials and made representations to the authorities when desired.

Indian States' Peoples.

Messrs. Patwardhan and Vaze continued to give their attention to the Indian States' people's problems. Both of them continued to be on the Working Committee of the Indian States' People's Conference and attended the session of the Indian National Congress in Lucknow in April 1936 to interest the A.I.C.C. in the States people's grievances. Mr. Patwardhan moved a resolution in the Bombay Provincial Liberal Conference regarding the Indian States. He continued to be a member of the legislative councils of Aunth, Phaltan and Miraj States. Mr. Vaze was a nominated member of the Aunth State Council till the end of last year. Mr. Patwardhan continued to edit the *Samsthani Swarajya*, a Marathi weekly, conducted under the auspices of the Dakhshini Sansthan Hitwardhak Sabha and dealing with the problems of the States' people, particularly in the Deccan. The *Servant of India* provided as usual an outlet for the views of the States' peoples on internal as well as on federal matters.

Civil Liberties Union.

Mr. Joshi is one of the Vice-Presidents of the Bombay Branch of the Civil Liberties Union and Mr.

Bakhale and Mr. Parulekar are two of its five Secretaries. Mr. Phadke is in charge of its office which is located in the Society's home in Bombay. He is also the Assistant Secretary of the Central Union since February 1937. Statements were issued by him as occasions arose on behalf of the Union.

Local Self-Government.

Mr. Haradatta Sharma continued to be the Secretary of the Ratepayers' Association, Lahore. Messrs. Shahane and Mani interested themselves in the Nagpur Improvement Trust Bill and the amendment of the C. P. Municipalities Act and wrote a number of articles in the *Hitavada* which were widely appreciated. Mr. Mani took an active part in organising a protest against the local Government's attempt to curtail the powers of local bodies by amending the Municipalities and the Local Self-Government Acts. He submitted a memorandum to the Government on behalf of the Nagpur Ratepayers' Association on the C. P. Municipalities Bill and did much to influence opinion in the Legislative Council. Eventually both these Bills were dropped by the Ministry as a consequence of the pressure of public opinion.

Labour.

Labour interests have been for years the special concern of the Bombay Branch under the guidance of Mr. N. M. Joshi. He has been a member of the Indian Legislative Assembly continuously since the inception of the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms and his work there has received general recognition. During the year under report several important questions touching labour interests were brought before the Legislative Assembly, and Mr. Joshi naturally took part in the discussions regarding them.

The Indian Companies Act Amendment Bill was considered and passed at the Simla session of the Assembly. During the discussion of the Bill Mr. Joshi pointed out that while provision was made in it for the protection of the interests of the investors, those of the employees and the public in general were hardly safeguarded. In connection with the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill he supported the regulating of hours of work for motor drivers and insurance against third party risks. In the case of the Bill amending the Civil Procedure Code he moved an amendment for raising the maximum limit for the prohibition of attachment of wages and salaries from Rs. 60 to Rs. 100, which was accepted by the Government of India. In connection with the Trades Disputes Act Amending Bill Mr. Joshi pointed out that the Provincial Governments had not made use of this Act but had had recourse to section 144, Cr. P.C., and other repressive measures to put down strikes. The grievances of the third class passengers and of the lower subordinate staff in Government departments were also voiced by him.

Mr. Joshi took an active part along with other labour leaders in the settlement of the B. N. Railway strike, which was one of the biggest railway strikes in India. He toured over a large part of the railway line and, in collaboration with others, carried on negotiations with the B.N.R. Agent and the Commerce Member of the Government of India for an honourable settlement of the strike.

As a member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation, Mr. Joshi visited Geneva in the middle of October last to attend one of its meetings. At this meeting he urged the revision of some of the Conventions in which special clauses were inserted for some of the Asiatic countries on the ground of their less advanced industrialization. He referred in this connection to the need for reducing the maximum hours of work and raising the minimum age for the industrial employment of children above 12. He also drew attention to the failure of the Government of India to implement the

ratification of the Convention regarding the collection of statistics on unemployment and the establishment of free public employment exchanges.

Mr. Bakhale continued to be the General Secretary of the National Trades Union Federation and the President of the Bombay Port Trust Railway Employees' Union and the Bombay Suburban Taxi Drivers' Union. He also continued to be the General Secretary of the B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Union and the Vice-President of the Bombay Government Central Press Employees' Union. He was chosen by the Government of India to represent Indian Labour at the tripartite Textile Conference to be held in Washington in April 1937. He left for the U. S. A. in March last. He has been also chosen to represent India at the Asiatic Labour Conference in Tokyo, of which he is General Secretary and Mr. Joshi one of the Vice-Presidents.

Mr. Parulekar was re-elected General Secretary of the Ambernath Match Factory Workers' Union, which kept him busy for about six months. A dispute regarding wages arose in May 1936 between the labourers and the employers to which Mr. Parulekar had to devote a good deal of his time. Unfortunately the attitude of the employers and the officials was extremely unsympathetic and the efforts to bring about conciliation were regarded with disfavour. The temper of the employers will be evident from the fact that an interview was denied to Mr. Joshi who wished to see the Agent of the Mills. Attempts to interest the Government in the dispute made by Messrs. Joshi and Bakhale proved fruitless. Mr. Parulekar was served with many prohibitory orders and arrested at different times on different charges. He was marched through Kalyan with handcuffs on and compelled to spend a night in a filthy police lock-up. All the orders except one were withdrawn later. When Mr. Parulekar was not allowed to go to Kalyan and Ambernath, Mr. Phadke and Mr. Desai had to take his place.

Both Mr. Bakhale and Mr. Parulekar sought election to the Bombay Legislative Assembly, the former from the Sholapur labour constituency and the latter from the Ratnagiri South general constituency. Mr. Bakhale was defeated, but Mr. Parulekar was returned in spite of the combined opposition of the landed interests on the one hand and the Congress on the other. Besides these activities, he organised with the help of some friends a Workers' Defence League, of whose Executive Committee he is a member. Mr. Joshi has been elected President, Mr. Bakhale Vice-President and Mr. Phadke one of the Joint Secretaries of this new organisation.

Both Mr. Phadke and Mr. Desai were engaged in labour activities during the year. Mr. Phadke had to shoulder the burden of acting as a substitute for Mr. Parulekar in the Match Factory Workers' strike. Mr. Desai was elected Joint Secretary of the New G. I. P. Railway Staff Union, whose membership went up from 3,000 to 5,000 during the year. He was able to establish thirteen branches of the Union at important Railway Stations. He was Secretary of the Bombay Suburban Taxi Drivers' Union, Joint Secretary of the Ambernath Match Factory Workers' Union and also Secretary of the Ambernath Strike Relief Committee. He has been largely responsible for the collection of funds for the relief of the strikers both at Ambernath and at Gokak in Belgaum District. The Gokak Workers' Union, of which Mr. Joshi is President and Mr. Bakhale Secretary, came to be regarded with disfavour by the mill management, and as both Mr. Joshi and Mr. Bakhale were busy elsewhere the task of helping the labourers fell entirely on Mr. Desai. The affairs of this Union and of the strike engaged him for nearly four months, during which time he

did extensive touring in the Karnatak to collect funds for the relief of the workers. Besides these activities he saw to the editing of the *Trade Union Record* for some time and wrote a small brochure in the Kanarese language on the "Worker of the World," which has been published under the auspices of the Indian Branch of the International Labour Office. A considerable part of the routine work of the Trades Union Federation was looked after by Mr. Phadke who helped the Federation in submitting a memorandum to the Government of India on the Trades Disputes Act (Amendment) Bill. He also prepared a memorandum on behalf of the Workers' Defence League for submission to the Government of Bombay on certain necessary changes in the existing labour legislation in the presidency. He organised the Bombay Leather Workers' Union and was elected its General Secretary. Mr. Dube was elected President for the sixth consecutive year of the Lucknow Postal Union. Mr. Nayanar continued to be the President of the two Tile Workers Unions at Feroke.

Rural Uplift.

Quite a large number of the Society's members were engaged in those social activities which may be said to form the foundation of national uplift. As in previous years, considerable attention was given to rural development. In the Central Provinces, Mr. Dravid's pioneering work at Shendurjana in the Amraoti District made appreciable progress. Mr. Raghavendra Rao, as Acting Governor of the C. P., paid a visit to the Centre to lay the foundation stone of a building for a Child Welfare Centre, conducted under the auspices of the Red Cross Society, in which were also to be located the Servants of India Maternity Home and Dispensary. This building, for which a grant was sanctioned by the Red Cross Society last year, has been now completed. The Child Welfare Centre and the Maternity Home and Dispensary are proving a boon to the villagers. Nearly 25,000 patients have so far availed themselves of the dispensary, while the Maternity Home is taken advantage of by the women of both the so-called touchable and untouchable classes.

The annual report of the C. P. and Berar Branch of the Red Cross Society for 1936 makes the following reference to this work:

"The most gratifying feature of the year under review is the development of the Rural Welfare Centre at Shendurjana which is run by the Servants of India Society, with the co-operation of the Indian Red Cross Society, District Branch, Amraoti, and managed by Mr. Dravid, its Senior Member. Thanks to the energy, enthusiasm and tact of Mr. Dravid, this Centre which was started two years ago is already established on a sound basis and is becoming increasingly popular in the group of villages that it serves. . . . The difficulties which beset welfare work in rural areas are far greater than in urban areas. Conditions differ and welfare service has to be organised to meet those conditions. The experience gained at Shendurjana will be invaluable for the purpose of organising rural welfare work and Shendurjana will be a model for the rural districts of the province. It is hoped that in future the students under training at the health school will spend a short time at Shendurjana and work under the direction of the local health worker. This will give them a practical acquaintance with the character and organisation of rural welfare work."

Mr. Gupte was associated with Mr. Dravid in his rural work in the Amraoti District. He was

elected Secretary of the Shendurjana Child Welfare Centre and supervised the Cattle Breeding Centre and the demonstration farm attached to the Servindia Rural Centre. The Cattle Breeding Centre was inaugurated on the occasion of Mr. Rao's visit, referred to above, when three pedigree bulls were presented to the Centre for breeding purposes.

The Rural Reconstruction Centre at Chowdwar near Cuttack, looked after by Mr. Sahu, was visited by His Excellency the Governor of Orissa and several other high officials and non-officials. The leprosy clinic attached to the Centre continued to be popular as in the previous five years. During the year under report the Scout movement of the Seva Samiti organisation was introduced among the boys of the Chowdwar English Middle School. They gave a very good account of themselves as Scouts before the Education Minister during his visit to the Centre. The cultivation of wheat, introduced last year by the Centre in the Chowdwar farm, has given promising results and several cultivators are growing it this year. The library located in the building, gifted recently by Sri Vikrama Deva, Maharajah of Jeypur, was well used by the villagers and school students. An Education Week, held recently at the Centre, was attended by 2,000 to 3,000 people every day. The Arbitration Board continued to do useful work in settling disputes. A night school, the reading of religious books and the organisation of *bhajans* and foot-ball matches were among the other activities of the Centre.

Mr. Sivaswamy is responsible for the Servindia Rural Centre at Mayanur in the Trichinopoly District, whose activities absorb all his energies. This Centre is conducted with a view to creating rural leadership and provides instruction in agriculture, co-operation, civics, hygiene, scouting, &c., besides literary instruction up to the higher elementary stage. A free hostel is attached to the Centre mainly for the benefit of the students of the agricultural school. It also conducts an adult education campaign in a number of villages round Mayanur. Mr. Sivaswamy went to the Hyderabad State in July and August last year to collect funds for this Centre. Dr. Ackroyd acknowledged the "painstaking and enthusiastic co-operation" of its staff and pupils in his enquiry into the diets of different classes of people near Mayanur. Both the Rural Centre and the schools at Mayanur have won the high opinion of the Education and Industries Departments of Madras.

Mr. Suryanarayana Rao continued to be the General Secretary of the National Health Association of Southern India, while Mr. Dube was Joint Secretary of the Lucknow Rural Development Board.

Mr. Nayanar, as Secretary of the Devadhar Malabar Reconstruction Trust, looked after its work as in the previous year. It conducts six day schools, six night schools, a child welfare centre, a weavers' co-operative society with a depot for the sale of the cloth made by its members, a labourers' co-operative store and two labour unions. Three of the day schools are of the Higher Elementary grade. At Gopalapuram, where one of them is located, there is a free hostel for boys of the depressed classes and agricultural farm and a colony for depressed classes families. At Tanur, where another of the schools is located, weaving, gardening and poultry-keeping are taught as subjects for manual training. A high proportion of the students of this school are girls, several of whom belong to the depressed classes.

(To be continued.)