

The Servant of India

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Topics of the Week.

The Press Bill.

THERE is no doubt that the recent growth in violent and anarchical crime will cause serious concern to every well-wisher of the country, but the Press Bill introduced by the Government of India for the prevention of propaganda in favour of such crime will receive little support from public opinion. Incitement to violence is already an offence and can be punished by recourse to law. But the Government of India does not want to be under the necessity of going to a court of law for punishing such offences. It wishes to do so by an executive decree. Every keeper of a new press or publisher of a new periodical has, under the provisions of the new Bill, to deposit a security of from Rs. 500 to Rs. 2,000. The Magistrate must demand the deposit; if he does not, he must state reasons for such leniency! Old presses and periodicals are not left alone. The local Government may call upon their owners to deposit a security, which may go up to Rs. 5,000. No appeal lies from such an order. It is final. When the deposit is forfeited on the ground that a press or publication encourages violence, an appeal can be made to the High Court where a Special Bench may pronounce on the effect of the words complained of. Two such forfeitures, and the person concerned cannot engage any longer in the trade of a pressman. The measure is much too severe to deserve any support; but we really do not see how it is going to help the Government. The cure may well be worse than the disease. It is not any platonic eulogy of violence that is likely to lead to acts of violence, but such repressive legislation

which, though it will not be effective in putting down evil propaganda, will seriously harass respectable journals engaged in offering bona fide independent criticism of Government's action. This is really like sitting on a safety-valve.

* * *

A Mischievous Utterance.

ON the eve of his final exit from this country Mr. Jinnah made a speech which hardly enhances his reputation as a level-headed politician or a broad-minded Muslim. The occasion was a social function arranged in his honour by the Muslim Students' Union in Bombay and his speech must have greatly embarrassed his hosts and still more so the president who is a judge of the Bombay High Court. Had Mr. Justice Faiz Tyabjee the least idea that Mr. Jinnah would use that function as a platform for a political speech, he would in all likelihood have thankfully declined the honour of presiding over the function. But that is a matter between Mr. Jinnah and his hosts and the President with which we are not directly concerned. We do not doubt however that the speech was most inopportune. At a time when it should be everybody's endeavour to allay communal mistrust and suspicion, Mr. Jinnah has helped to add fuel to the fire. Referring to the need for a settlement fair and just to all communities as a condition of the harmonious working of the constitution, Mr. Jinnah branded the Hindus as "foolish, utterly foolish in the attitude that they have adopted to-day." That is a too sweeping statement. Anyway the press report of his speech does not represent him as having made any reservations in favour of some Hindus. Now, Mr. Jinnah knows that whatever attitude might have been adopted by the Hindu Sabha in this matter, the Sabha cannot be said to speak for the entire Hindu community in this country. He is too much of a seasoned politician not to know this fact. He thus owed it as much to himself as to such Hindus to exclude them from his censure. This taken with his advice to his co-religionists to organise, though he was careful to caution them against any misapprehension of his real meaning, is likely to throw them into a very undesirable frame of mind and is likely to make their relations with the Hindus even more strained. That may not be Mr. Jinnah's intention; but even if it were he could not have used more effective means for achieving it. That the speech presented itself in that light even to some Mahomedans who would naturally not be anxious to misunderstand him is clear from the statement which Mr. Chagla with exemplary frankness lost no time in issuing. He terms Mr. Jinnah's speech as "extremely unfortunate and even mischievous." Mr. Chagla faithfully voices general public opinion about the speech when he says that it contained "nothing better and nothing more ennobling than an unblushing appeal to the worst passions of his co-religionists." Such a fanatical tirade against the Hindus or against any sister com-

munity for that matter was the last thing the public expected from one whom it always counted among the more sensible and broad-minded among Muslim leaders.

Indian States Week.

In accordance with the decision of the Indian States' Subjects' Conference the Indian States Week was recently observed in several States. Attention was concentrated during the week as much on awakening public interest in the problems relating to the States as on strengthening the Conference by securing extended membership and financial support for it. When, as we hope, a report of the Week makes its appearance, we shall be in a position to know how far the organisers succeeded in gaining the second object. For the purpose of educating public opinion specially about the helpless condition of the subjects, a large number of public meetings were arranged in several States and were addressed by persons who could authoritatively speak in the matter. In the first place, the celebration has served to focus attention once again on the difficulties of arranging public meetings in the States. Speeches at public meetings organised in connection with the States Week naturally centred round the Sankey Scheme of Indian reforms. If there was one thing more than another which the speeches prominently brought out, it was the feeling of profound dissatisfaction which the States' subjects feel at the neglect which their interests suffered at the hands of the framers of that scheme. This was due very largely to the denial of representation to them at the R. T. C. The result was that their view of the constitutional proposals embodied in the Sankey scheme was never voiced at the Conference. The provision in the Scheme which encounters the stoutest opposition from the subjects of Indian States is the one under which the rulers are allowed to nominate States' representatives to the Central legislature instead of the people being allowed to return them by a system of election. The scheme is also disliked by them, as was clear from the different speeches, on the ground that it fails to provide for them something like a charter of fundamental rights and to ensure their due observance in practice by providing for an appeal to the proposed Supreme Court in cases of their breach by any State authorities. It was really a happy thought which arranged for the celebration of the Week before the commencement of the second R. T. C. so that it should be placed in full possession of the view of the States' people about the scheme hammered out at the first Conference.

Bhopal's Worthy Example.

It is common experience that retrenchment in public expenditure begins at the wrong end. When finance members find themselves unable to balance the budget almost the first departments they instinctively think of applying the axe to are the nation-building departments. In Bombay, e. g., the Government when faced with a deficit felt no qualms of conscience in cutting down their grants for primary education by 5 per cent. If posts are to be retrenched, the smaller fry is as a rule unhesitatingly sacrificed. In Bhopal, however, we are glad to find, such an inequity has been prevented by the personal intervention of the Nabob who deserves praise for it. It seems that the recommendations of the Bhopal Retrenchment Committee included some cuts in the State's expenditure on education and medical relief. But we are told by the Publicity Officer of the State that His Highness strongly disapproved of such a course of action. Not only did he not countenance any

reduction of expenditure under these heads, but he has asked for provision being made in the budget for some expansion of the activities of these departments. But this is not all. With a view to meet the deficiency that may be created by his non-acceptance of some of the Committee's recommendations he has taken the very wise course of cutting down his personal expenditure which was nearly Rs. 43¼ lakhs by as much as Rs. 3 lakhs. But what is more is that this reduction in his privy purse will hold good not merely this year but will continue as long as the financial stringency continues. In acting in this manner His Highness has set an example which other members of the princely order would do well to follow; and upon which we have no hesitation in offering him our congratulations. Will not the action of the ruler of Bhopal inspire our provincial Governors and the Viceroy to lighten the task of their respective retrenchment committees by voluntarily coming forward to reduce some of their overgrown and needless personal expenditure?

A Backward Classes Officer for Bombay.

WITH the appointment of Mr. O. H. B. Starte, who is now the Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer for this Presidency, also as the Backward Classes Officer from the 1st of this month, the depressed and other backward classes will have some official protector to whom they can turn for help in case of need. Besides safeguarding in a general way the interests of these classes, this officer is expected to act as the adviser to Government on all matters affecting these classes. He will also investigate and report on all questions relating to them that may be referred to him by Government. It will be part of his duty to enquire into their needs and grievances; in short he will act as the connecting link between these people and the Government departments with which it will rest to afford them relief in particular cases. In case of difference with the departmental officers the Officer is empowered to refer the matter to higher authorities or to Government. This is a salutary provision and should do much to facilitate the officer's work. Lest it should be thought in any quarter that the appointment of this officer relieves the different departments of their duties towards these classes, the Government have done well in cautioning their officers against such a misunderstanding. Government is doubtless entitled to a word of praise for making this appointment specially in view of the very unsatisfactory condition of their finances. But this appointment would have evoked even greater public satisfaction if simultaneously with it, the Backward Classes Board had also come into existence. The Depressed Classes and the Aboriginal Tribes Committee, one of whose recommendations has resulted in the appointment of this officer, laid special emphasis on the creation of such a Board to act in association with this officer. Indeed the Board was an integral part of its scheme for the uplift of the backward classes. Even the officer himself who was the chairman of the Committee also appears to take the same view. Else he would not have made financial provision for this Board in the budget he submitted to Government for the new office. To give effect only to a part of the scheme is really not to ensure for it a fair trial. It would have been a different matter if the cost of the Board had been found to be prohibitive. As a matter of fact, according to Mr. Starte's estimate, it would not have cost more than Rs. 1200. We refuse to believe that the Government found themselves unable to provide for this insignificant amount and had therefore to drop the idea. We hope that they will even yet reconsider their decision and associate with the officer the Board suggested by the Committee.

THE PRINCES' BLACKMAIL

HOW CAN IT BE CIRCUMVENTED?—II

IN order to determine correctly the attitude which should be taken up by British India towards the demands of the Princes, it is necessary first to take a proper measure of the constitutional advance that would become possible only by reason of the Princes being willing to enter into a federal union with British India. If it be true, as is contended on behalf of the States, that no appreciable advance can be secured except on a federal basis, then it follows that British India must accept the Princes' terms be they never so drastic. And the present tendency even of real lovers of democracy to swallow the conditions laid down by the Princes, though these are admittedly destructive of democracy, is surely attributable to their belief that large and generous reforms are unattainable unless the Princes' support is forthcoming. It becomes therefore the duty of all those who desire to see these leaders take a bold line at the R. T. C. to show by conclusive evidence that even if the federal plan is laid aside, British India can obtain as much as, or not much less than, what seems practicable on the basis of federation.

It will generally be admitted that, under the scheme of the Government of India dispatch, the Ministers, in the unreserved sphere, will be answerable to the legislature in practice, though not in theory, and that the legislature's control will, if anything, be a little more effective under this scheme than under the R. T. C. scheme. The idea that prevails in some quarters that the Government of India dispatch makes the Governor-General, as apart from the Minister concerned, the final arbiter in all cases of disagreement between the two halves of India has been shown, I trust to the satisfaction of all unbiassed observers, to be without any foundation in fact. Matters of common concern, falling in the category of subjects not specifically reserved to the British Parliament, must therefore be considered in the one scheme as in the other to be brought under the control of the legislature. The question that now remains for consideration is whether the reserved sphere in the Government of India scheme is wider than that in the R. T. C. scheme. The field of reserved subjects in the former scheme is mapped out with a fair amount of precision in para. 225 of the dispatch, and it covers the following eleven subjects: "(1) the administration of subjects entrusted to the Secretary of State; (2) the defence of India against external aggression; (3) imperial interests including foreign affairs; (4) questions arising between India and other parts of the British Empire; (5) international obligations, or any obligation arising from an arrangement within the Empire, to which India is a party, or which is otherwise binding upon India; (6) the conditions of internal security; (7) the financial stability and credit of India, and the fulfilment of existing obligations; (8) the protection of minorities; (9) the avoidance of unfair economic and commercial discrimination; (10) the rights of services

recruited by the Secretary of state; (11) the maintenance of the constitution."

In the large the area comprised within the sphere thus demarcated in the Government of India dispatch is the same as that outlined in the R. T. C. scheme. But it is maintained that, over and above this, the whole subject of finance is placed in the scheme of the dispatch in the reserved sphere and in the R. T. C. scheme in the transferred sphere. The Sankey Report recommends that the portfolio of finance should be held by a Minister responsible to the Assembly. The Minister will no doubt work under certain restrictions, but subject to these, the transfer of finance is complete. It says in para. 19, "With these limitations the Sub-Committee do not contemplate any differentiation between the position of the Finance Minister and that of any other Minister responsible to the Legislature, and in regard to taxation, fiscal policy and expenditure on objects other than those under the Governor-General's control, he would be responsible only to the Legislature." On the other than hand, the Government of India dispatch professes to do no more than to "endeavour as a first step to embark upon a period of preparation for the transfer of responsibility." And even when eventually the transfer takes place, it is to be subject to several reservations. The difference between the two recommendations, the critics say, is obvious. The Sankey scheme provides for the immediate transfer of responsibility for finance to a responsible Minister, with transitory safeguards to be ultimately removed. The Government of India scheme on the other hand provides for the retention of official control over finance for an indefinite period in the future, and lays down that even after the ultimate transfer of the subject to popular control, the Minister can handle it under several limitations, which are apparently intended to be permanent. And, seeing that finance is pervasive of the whole administration, the critics proceed to ask, what subject in the central government can be supposed to be transferred if finance is reserved? They therefore contend that the Government of India scheme really does not contemplate the introduction of responsibility at the centre at all, and they base their contention, not so much on the lack of formal and technical responsibility in the scheme, but on the reservation of the all-important subject of finance. If the only alternative to the Sankey scheme which, in spite of all its grave defects, at any rate provides for the establishment of responsible government, is the scheme of the Government of India dispatch with no real responsibility for any subject, then how can the British Indian leaders be blamed if they prefer the former even with nominated representatives of the States?

This criticism, however, can be easily answered; for the comparison between the two schemes is not fair. In substance the financial provisions in the two schemes are the same; only the form of expression is

different. The Government of India scheme emphasises certain difficulties and says until they are overcome financial responsibility cannot be transferred. The R.T.C. scheme, on the other hand, keeps the same difficulties in view, but says instead that responsibility is to be transferred subject to the difficulties being overcome. The Government of India is more outspoken and its conclusions sound harsh; the Sankey Committee is more politic in the choice of language and lays itself out to show sympathy. But the net result of the recommendation of both is identical, viz. withholding of control of over finance for a certain period. The Government of India specifies three circumstances which in its opinion render the transfer of financial responsibility not immediately practicable. The Sankey Committee adverts to only one of them, not because it makes light of the other two, but only because it does not go into so much detail. The third circumstance to which it refers is the difficulty of establishing a reserve bank in the immediate present. The establishment of a central bank with adequate reserves is considered essential by both, and both agree in thinking that in the existing circumstances such establishment is extremely difficult, if not impossible. The conclusion of both is the same, but it is put differently. The Government of India dispatch says, rather bluntly, "We are forced to the conclusion that the occasion for a transfer of financial responsibility cannot be reached apart from the fulfilment of certain conditions such as.....the inauguration and successful working for some time of a reserve bank with adequate sterling reserves." The Sankey Committee, on the other hand, "recognise that it may be difficult in existing conditions to set up a reserve bank of sufficient strength and equipped with the necessary gold and sterling reserves immediately, and that, therefore, until this has been done some special provisions will be found necessary to secure to the Governor-General adequate control over monetary policy and currency." Now, what in the name of common sense is the difference in substance between delaying the transfer of finance to popular control so long as a reserve bank is not established and retaining the Governor-General's control till this is done? So far as handing over the finance portfolio to a Minister responsible to the legislature is concerned, the Sankey report and Government of India dispatch purport to make the same recommendation.

If both contemplate an interval in which official control continues to be exercised over finance, is the responsibility, when it comes to be transferred after the expiry of this interval, intended to be wider in scope in the Sankey scheme than in the Government of India scheme? The reservations to which exercise of this responsibility is subject in the Sankey scheme are given below:—

(1) "The annual supply for their service (i. e. the service of the reserved subjects such as defence) should be treated, along with other matters to be presently specified, in a manner analogous to the consolidated fund charges in the United Kingdom" (para. 14).

(2) "The service of loans, with adequate provision for redemption, by sinking funds or otherwise, and the salaries and pensions of persons appointed on guarantees given by the Secretary of State, should be secured, along

with the supply for the reserved departments, as consolidated fund charges" (para. 18).

(3) "It would further be necessary to empower the Governor-General in the last resort to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that the funds required for the reserved subjects are forthcoming" (para. 14).

(4) "It would therefore be necessary to reserve to the Governor-General in regard to budgetary arrangements and borrowing such essential powers as would enable him to intervene if methods were being pursued which would, in his opinion, seriously prejudice the credit of India in the money markets of the world" (para. 18).

(5) "Provision should be made requiring the Governor-General's previous sanction to the introduction of a bill, to amend the Paper Currency or Coinage Acts on the lines of section 67 of the Government of India Act" (para. 18).

(6) "A statutory Railway authority should be established" (para. 19).

These are the safeguards proposed in the Sankey report; they are no less severe than those proposed in the Government of India dispatch. The latter recommends:—

"The creation of consolidated fund charges to cover such items as interest on debt, railway annuities, pensions, family pensions and provident fund payments for civil officers appointed by the Secretary of State, and army officers and expenditure on defence" (para. 180).

It will be observed that this covers (1) and (2) above. Then the dispatch says:—

"A first charge on revenue is of no value unless the necessary taxes are levied to produce sufficient revenue" (para. 173).

and proceeds to recommend that the Governor-General be given power to levy the necessary taxes, which covers (3) above. Then it recommends:—

"Some powers of supervision and control to be vested in the Governor-General for the purpose of maintaining financial stability" (para. 180).

This is no doubt an extensive power, but no more than that contained in (4) above. The Government of India dispatch also recommends in para. 194 the setting up of a statutory authority for the administration of railways as in (6) above. What other safeguard is insisted upon in the Government of India dispatch which the Sankey report does not require? If any default occurs in the payment of interest on debt, &c., there must be provision in the constitution to meet such a contingency. This is implicit in the creation of consolidated fund charges, and is not therefore separately mentioned in the Sankey report but is in the Government of India dispatch.

The above comparison will show that the Government of India dispatch is not a whit less favourable to Indian aspirations in the matter of financial responsibility than the report of the Sankey Committee, or perhaps it would be better to put it the other way, viz. that the Sankey report is not a whit more favourable than the Government of India dispatch and if the Princes' unyielding attitude on the question of elective representation of the States lays the British Indian delegates under a necessity to give up federation and fall back upon the Government of India dispatch, they stand to lose nothing in the matter of administration and control of finance.

OBSERVER.

LABOUR IN INDIA.

RESULTS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION'S ENQUIRY. —VII.*

MINES, RAILWAYS, TRANSPORT SERVICES AND PUBLIC WORKS.

THE Act of 1930 provides that railway servants whose work is continuous shall not be employed for more than 60 hours in the week on the average in any month. The majority of the Commission recommend that special efforts should be made to put into operation, as soon as possible, the regulations devised to give effect to the Washington and Geneva Conventions in the case of railway employees and that the Railway Board should reconsider the practicability of reducing the hours for intermittent workers and of giving days of absence at reasonable intervals where weekly rest days cannot be given, and that as soon as experience of the altered hours is available the case of individual branches should be examined in turn to determine to what extent the prevailing hours need reduction; action should be taken thereafter on all railways to secure the reduction necessary. This recommendation is halting and involves a lot of delay. The minority consisting of Mr. Cliff, Mr. Joshi and Diwan Chaman Lall have expressed the opinion that any consideration of the hours of railway workers must have regard to the fact that the time of beginning and finishing duty are irregular and are spread over by both day and night. The workers operating traffic services are responsible for the safety of the travelling public and it is essential that they should be both attentive and alert in the performance of their duties. The minority, therefore, recommend that the weekly hours of continuous workers be reduced to the same level as they have suggested for factory and mine workers, namely, forty-eight.

INSECURITY OF SERVICE.

Insecurity of service is one of the serious complaints of the railway workers. The existing forms of service agreements are unfair in that the administration was empowered to terminate service without assigning reasons. On occasions men are dispensed with by discharge instead of by dismissal, thereby preventing them, as discharged employees, from exercising rights of appeal generally accorded to dismissed employees. "Where large numbers of workers are employed," the Commission observe in their Report, "there must be cases in which disciplinary action has to be taken, but this makes it all the more necessary that the workers should understand that steady work, reasonable efficiency and good conduct will ensure security of tenure. They should also feel assured that, when their service or conduct falls short of the required standard, opportunities for explanation will be provided, and that their services will not be terminated without due enquiry, and, if desired, ample rights of appeal to higher authorities." The Commission, therefore, recommend that all classes of workers should enter into a simple service agreement.

* Previous articles in this series appeared in our issues of July 23 and 30, August 6, 13 and 27, and September 3.

This should provide for a probationary period of twelve months, during which the administration should have the right to dispense with the service of any worker who may be considered unsuitable. After twelve months' approved continuous service, the engagement should be confirmed and made terminable on one month's notice or on payment of one month's wages in lieu of notice. The arrangements are also to contain the declaration that an employee is liable to have his service terminated for serious misconduct, for serious neglect of duty, on reduction of establishment, etc. It is further recommended that the power of terminating an employee's service should reside solely in the district or divisional officers or officers superior to them. The Commission also recommend provision for appeals against dismissal or discharge. As regards reduction of establishments, the Commission opine that it may and in certain circumstances should be met by the working of short time, the stoppage of recruiting, the operation of normal wastage or the retirement of staff taking gratuity and provident fund. It may be possible also to arrange for the transfer of individuals to other departments or other railways on similar or even reduced rates of pay. It is a notorious fact that the opportunity afforded by the reduction of establishment is not unoften used to victimise such individuals in particular as are not in the good books of the authorities owing to their union activities or to make room for their favourites. The transfer of employees to other departments or other railways also involves the danger of wages being reduced indirectly if such transfers are not made in a *bona fide* spirit.

WORKS COMMITTEES.

The system of joint works committees which has been introduced in the railway administration has met with the approval of the Commission, and it is natural, the Commission being presided over by Mr. Whitley. The system is popularly known as Whitleyism. The committees on the railways are differently designated as shops, welfare or staff committees and there are differences of constitution and functions. "It is natural," the Commission remark, "that the unions should object to the encouragement given by the administration to the works committees which the unions look upon as rival institutions, undemocratic in constitution, and concerning the setting up of which they have not been consulted." Here the workers' unions have been unfairly treated by the Commission. It is not the spirit of rivalry that impels the unions to look with disfavour upon the works committees. The workers have reasons to suspect the motives of the railway authorities. If it is looked upon as an attempt to weaken the labour movement it is no fault of the workers. The All-India Railwaymen's Federation has rightly observed that the 'so-called welfare committees' are set up only when the unions show signs of increasing activity. It is also admitted in the Commission's Report that the two class I Railways on which there are no unions are the two on which no steps have been taken to form works committees. The establishment of works committees presupposes reason-

ableness on both sides, and when a works committee is formed it must be clearly understood by the employer that it is meant to supplant a worker's union; on the other hand the employer must accept it as a principle that the workers' representatives on the committees must be got elected through their union. When a works committee is formed over the head of the workers' union, the latter has every reason to believe that it is a device to break the workers' solidarity. Again, the policy pursued by the Railway Board and the railway officials in general has never been such as to encourage the belief among the workers that reason and argument are sure to prevail with those who have the power to redress the grievances. The latest example of how the policy of the Railway Board discourages such belief can be found in the present struggle between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation. It was only the threat of a strike on all railways that could induce the Government to appoint a Court of Enquiry. This means that the railway authorities do not understand reason and argument, but are amenable only to direct action or a threat thereof. It is futile to expect the workers to have much faith in the works committees when their experience teaches them a different lesson.

The Commission admit that the measures taken for the improvement of labour conditions on railways have been due to a large extent to the sustained pressure of trade union executives. The recognition of the trade unions is, however, tardy and the facilities given to them are not uniform. The Commission have expressed the belief that a more generous policy in respect of recognition would be to the advantage of all concerned and advocate uniformity of practice in conceding facilities such as special passes and leave, permission to use notice boards and to hold union meetings in railway institutes and on railway premises, freedom of action for enrolment of members, so long as there is no interference with the duties of the railway staff, and free access to railway officers.

SEAMEN IN BOMBAY & CALCUTTA.

Unemployment among theseamen in this country is very serious, and the uneven distribution of jobs has intensified the evil. In Bombay there is employment at one time for only one-third of the number available for employment. The Commission found in the Shipping Office a number of *serangs* and butlers who, in spite of their previous satisfactory service, had been out of employment for periods varying from one to four years. In Calcutta the position is equally unsatisfactory. Only about one-fourth of the total number seeking employment can hope to be successful. While some seamen manage to get employment continuously for a long time, the others have to remain unemployed continuously for a long time. The Indian Seamen's Union has put forward the demand that seamen should be employed by rotation in order to secure an equitable distribution of the available employment, and that no seaman should be allowed to continue in employment for a period of more than 12 months at a time. The Commission

think that a rigid system of rotation combined with the limitation of the period of continuous employment would mean that no seaman could hope to be employed for more than one year out of every three or four. They have, therefore, recommended that in maintaining the registers the Shipping Masters should be authorised to exclude from them all seamen who have not been in employment for three years, and that, to begin with, a seaman should be struck off the register automatically on the expiry of three years from his last discharge. Although it is necessary to reduce the number of seamen on the registers, the suggestion made by the Commission is sure to result in much injustice and suffering. In the first instance, it is essential that fresh recruitment should be stopped for some years. The next step is to examine the registers and strike off names of persons who are either dead or have been out of employment continuously for ten years or more. The period of three years suggested by the Commission is too short in consideration of the fact admitted by the Commission that a number of *serangs* and butlers have been, in spite of their satisfactory services in the past, out of employment for periods varying from one to four years. To debar these men from employment as seamen once for all will be the height of injustice. The Commission consider that there is no further justification for the employment of licensed brokers in the recruitment of seamen, and it behoves the Government to abolish the broker system without the least possible delay, since it is responsible in a great measure for the inequitable distribution of employment and the widespread discontent arising from it.

The conditions of labour prevailing on inland vessels have received little attention till now. The Commission received information which was insufficient to justify any definite recommendations. They have therefore, suggested that an investigation should be undertaken by the Governments of Bengal and Burma. So far as the present writer's information goes, the conditions in Bombay Presidency are in no way better and therefore it is necessary that the suggested investigation should be of an all-India character, and should, as suggested by the Commission, relate to the present system of recruitment and discharge, the possibility of direct employment and direct payment in the case of lower ratings, wages, hours, conditions on board and the arrangements made by the steamer companies for members of the crew who have been put ashore owing to sickness while away from the place of engagement.

As regards labour in docks, it is in excess of immediate requirement in all parts of the country. There is much unemployment and also much under-employment. An attempt must be seriously made to decasualise dock labour. The aim should be, it is rightly stated by the Commission, first to regulate the members of dock workers in accordance with requirements and, secondly, to ensure that the distribution of employment depends, not on the caprice of intermediaries, but on a system which, as far as possible, gives all efficient men an equal share. Safety regulations for docks are also urgently called for, in view

of the frequent accidents that take place in the docks. The hours of work are also unduly long and require to be restricted.

The contract system prevalent in public works has come in for a good deal of criticism in the Commission's Report. At Sukkur over 90% of the workers employed on the Lloyd Barrage and Canal scheme are employed by contractors, and in New Delhi the position was very similar. The Commission recommends that in all cases where contractors are employed by the Public Works Department the contract should contain definite provisions regarding the wages to be paid. It is also recommended that where large construction works are to be carried out either by the Public Works Department or through the agency of contractors, and especially where workers are to be employed for any length of time in the same area, the Medical and Public Health Departments should be consulted beforehand, and that, in addition, definite rules should be framed in all such cases regarding the supply of proper housing and sanitary arrangements for all persons employed and providing for the treatment of cases of sickness or accident, including accommodation for cases of infectious disease.

P. G. KANEKAR.

Our European Letter.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, AUG. 28.

THE CHANGE IN LONDON.

THE first reaction abroad to the announcement of the formation of a National Government in Great Britain is one of relief and admiration for the political sense and sagacity of a nation, whose spiritual home—to use an expression which the *Times* once applied to Mr. Baldwin—seems to be the last ditch. The high sense of duty of the leader of the British Conservative Party in accepting to serve under his political opponent is much remarked as also Mr. MacDonald's courage in jeopardising his political career, and if the part that the King played in the present crisis has generally passed unnoticed, it is only because the proper functions of British monarchy are not easily understood in countries with a wholly different system of Government.

In France, where from the outset it was clearly recognized that a severe shock to British finances must unfavourably affect that country, there is general satisfaction that the preliminary measures for ensuring British credit have been adopted. In Germany, the determination on the part of the British to put their financial house in order has served doubly as an example. It has strengthened the hands of those who are bent on retrenchment as the first and essential condition for improvement in the present situation and also, in more than one quarter the question has been raised whether Germany could wisely attempt to set up a Socialist administration at present when even Great Britain, with all her immense resources, has been constrained to call off the experiment.

It must, however, be stated that on second thoughts there are many who ask whether the financial crisis, serious as it was, warranted all the drama-

tic moves of the last week, reminiscent of the days of the War. The effort has undoubtedly created great confidence in the ability of the British to take the situation in hand, but it has also given rise to a suspicion that it is really perhaps much worse than what it appears to be. Moreover, the circumstances in which Mr. MacDonald set up his third Government are such as to cause a great political battle, whose effects are incalculable. Several newspapers have recalled the fact that, at the outbreak of the Great War Mr. MacDonald elected to oppose the national decision, disapproving of Great Britain's participation in the War, and Mr. Henderson entered the Coalition, while the situation is now reversed.

In Geneva, Mr. MacDonald's new Government cannot be said to have been hailed with enthusiasm. It is frankly recognized here that the League has not yet acquired sufficient power or prestige to be able to disregard the personal element in the national delegations. Much must depend upon the personalities coming to Geneva from the various capitals, particularly from London, Paris and Berlin, and the League tradition can be properly built up only if first, there is not too frequent a change in the personnel of the delegations and secondly, those who come here show enthusiasm for the League. Mr. Henderson has proved such a favourite that his absence from the forthcoming Sessions of the Council and the Assembly and his probable inability to preside over the Disarmament Conference are greatly regretted. Monsieur Briand too is still unwell and may decide to keep away from the Assembly for political as well as personal reasons, and it is well-known that the German Foreign Minister has no great influence in his country at present.

Taking a longer view, the situation does not appear any brighter. Although the National Government has been set up to deal with the present crisis only, and in England it is apparently expected to be dissolved at the end of the year, it is increasingly being felt abroad that the solution to England's troubles may prove far more difficult than is at present believed. Recovery cannot be brought about by Great Britain acting alone, and there is little prospect of early improvement in the world situation. Pressed by national preoccupations it is feared that the British Government will tend to neglect foreign affairs.

It is argued that even if the present Government is brought to an end as soon as anticipated, it will probably be followed by a Conservative regime which will at once give effect to the tariffs programme that the Party has long avowed. England's drift towards Protection seems to be thus assured and when that definitely takes place, the dream of European prosperity will also disappear. Divided by tariff barriers and political animosities, which poverty and want will further accentuate, Europe, it is feared, will fall a prey to revolutions.

Whether such pessimism be justifiable or not, the immediate effect of the change in London would probably be to encourage national action, as distinguished from international action, in the pacification of Europe. Already there are talks of a Franco-Russian pact, a Polish-Russian pact and a Franco-German pact, and without a clear lead from Great Britain the Disarmament Conference can achieve but little. That lead must be calculated to bring all Europe together, and the next few weeks will show whether Lord Reading will attempt that task or whether he will turn to the other side of the Atlantic for Britain's allies, as he may well do.

Reviews.

THE AMERICAN FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MONEY AND BANKING SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES. By JOHN PERCIVAL DAY. (Macmillan.) 1930. 120p. 20cm. 4/6.

THIS handy volume is an excellent introduction to the present-day money and banking mechanism of the United States, with special reference to the Federal Reserve System inaugurated in 1913. The predominant position occupied by the United States in world finance in the post-War period and the fact that the world today is under a Dollar standard make an adequate knowledge of the American monetary and credit system essential. This study has also a special bearing on the reconstruction of our currency and credit system. While India and U. S. A. stand as poles asunder in respect of their economic resources and our banking system is based on the English plan of branch-banking in striking contrast with independent unit banking in America, the problems of the two countries are, nevertheless, somewhat similar in some respects. In the first place, India, like U. S. A., is a continent by itself, being a country of large dimensions with considerable variations in local conditions. In the second place, what is more, the tendency of constitutional development in this country as in the U. S. A. is on federal lines. And lastly, as in America so also in India, there is a seasonal demand for currency for moving the crops to commercial centres. These factors must be allowed due weight while settling the constitution and functions of the proposed Reserve Bank for India.

In a series of chapters Dr. Day gives a very lucid exposition of the systems of metallic and paper money, the different types of banks and the centralisation of banking effected by the establishment of a dozen Federal Reserve Banks working under the supervision of the Federal Reserve Board, by the legislation of 1913. The chapter on the mechanism of credit control makes very interesting reading. In a clever diagram (page 47) the author shows that the Federal Reserve Board "can be pictured as a rider on the horse of Credit Expansion, which, carrying the fortunes of national economic welfare, is threatening to run away". The successive means adopted to control the horse are: 'Whoa'—moral suasion, pulling the rein, the raising of the discount rate, open market operations, the barrier of 40 per cent. gold reserve against the Federal Reserve and an even greater drag in the shape of the graduated tax on the excess issue. This is admirable so far as it goes. But as recent experience in America shows, the world is still reeling under the shock of the Wall Street crash, the Federal Reserve Board have not yet altogether succeeded in establishing that effective control over the operation of the credit mechanism of the country, which is usually associated with other great Central Banks of the world, particularly the Bank of England. We realise the various difficulties the Board have had to face. They were between the devil of the rising tide of American speculation on the Stock Exchange and the deep sea of weak European exchanges and unbalanced currency systems. Criticisms have also been made that the Board can control the aggregate amount of credit but not the use to which it is put, that the representation of expert banking knowledge on the Board is poor and that the presence of the *ex-officio* members—the Secretary of the Treas-

ury as the Chairman and the Controller of Currency—on the Board introduces an element which tends to entangle Federal Reserve policy with politics. In the author's opinion, however, the main defect of the Federal Reserve system is that the Board are unduly hampered in their work by their susceptibility to a public opinion which in this matter is not always intelligent, distrust of Governmental organs, opposition of the wise but wicked who prefer fishing in troubled waters, the well-meaning but distracting attention of the Congress, all detrimental to a firm and courageous leadership. Another trouble of the Board is that American opinion is suspicious of any attempts by the Board to co-operate with the Central Banks of Europe. Moreover, the Board have to work with and through a dozen Federal Reserve Banks of which the most powerful—and therefore more recalcitrant—is the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The growth of a tradition of a more loyal and willing co-operation between the Board and the member Banks will no doubt, as suggested by the author, remove some of the drawbacks of the system. But we are afraid there is little justification for this optimistic view as things stand today. The American craving for gambling on the Stock Exchange and making easy money and piling dollar upon dollar is too radical a defect for anybody to cure. And so long as the world is indebted to America and tied to the dollar it cannot attain a stable economic equilibrium, unless indeed enlightened self-interest makes the average American realise the close economic interdependence of the world.

We heartily commend this well-written book to every one desirous of obtaining a glimpse and some insight into the now-world-famous Federal Reserve System.

S. G. BERI.

LORD KITCHENER'S ACHIEVEMENTS.

KITCHENER. BY BRIG.-GENERAL C. R. BALLARD. (Faber & Faber.) 1930. 23cm. 380p. 18/-.

LORD KITCHENER is remembered in India as the masterful Commander-in-Chief of the Indian army, whose difference of opinion with Lord Curzon led the latter to resign the Viceroyalty. Egypt, South Africa, India and finally England or Europe in the last Great War were the scenes of his labours. And General Ballard has done well to divide his study into four corresponding parts. The part which Lord Kitchener played in these fields was naturally different in each case, varying, on the one hand, with his own rise as a subaltern, a surveyor in Palestine and Cyprus, the Sardar in Egypt, the Chief of Staff in South Africa, and the Commander-in-Chief in India, and on the other with the conditions peculiar to the different countries where he served. Lord Kitchener as a private person was never suitable, in a popular sense, as a subject for study. His life could only be viewed as forming part of the military and political history of the countries in which it was lived. And General Ballard, in following this same course, has described the incidents in his life as they happened faithfully and without resort to any elaborate and pedantic fashions of the so-called scientific biographers. The author is frank in his statement, liberal in his praises and open in his criticisms wherever he thinks it reasonable to offer them. He depicts Kitchener with a human sympathy and as a human being who rose from a very obscure beginning.

The very early part of his life, the eight years he spent in Palestine and Cyprus before he was entrusted with the Sudan expedition, are by far the least interesting to the reader and to Kitchener himself. And although Kitchener seems in his element when entrusted with the command of the army of Sudan,

even the best narratives of his final successes there read less romantic than the misfortunes of Gordon, for avenging which he was popularly believed to have been deputed. Lord Kitchener worked with such a thoroughness that there is nothing sudden or unexpected about his plans or their execution and a record of his achievements is valuable and useful more to a military officer than to a mere admiring layman.

We find such remarks as the following interspersed in the book from which we get a glimpse into the character of Kitchener: "Kitchener was working hard, sometimes outside the routine of army work and outside the centres of civilization" (p. 55). His curiosity was immense and his knowledge of the habits and languages of the natives in Palestine and Egypt made him the best intelligence officer. His reports, we are told, were pointed and powerful. As an officer Kitchener was respected but never loved. He very reluctantly conformed to the unwritten laws of the social centre which lightens the heaviness of the dangers incumbent upon a life of action. He carried the bad reputation of being self-opinionated among his equals and of 'He-who-must-be-obeyed' among his inferiors. But all the same he was not ashamed to shed tears over the place where Gordon met his unfortunate end in Khartoum!

Such was Lord Kitchener who conquered Sudan for the Khedive of Egypt (1898), signed and established Peace in South Africa (1902) after the Boer War and reorganised the Indian military forces with a view to increase the fighting efficiency of the army in India. The third part,—"India"—covering about 50 pages forms interesting reading, as it deals with the energetic career of that self-willed Viceroy—Lord Curzon—who insisted upon certain steps being taken in connection with the Sialkot incident and an outrage by some British regimental officers at Rangoon. Having thus formed a bad opinion of the Indian army Lord Curzon looked with great expectations to the appointment of the new Commander-in-Chief. His arrival, however, caused other troubles and the Viceroy's hopes and even good relations with the head of the Indian Army broke upon the rock of the point of principle whether a junior officer as a military member of the Viceroy's Council was to supersede the Commander-in-Chief in army matters. Lord Kitchener's dealings with the Afghan Amir Habibulla were equally effective, though more considerate and productive of far better results. The Amir created several scenes and Kitchener appears in an altogether different light in skilfully managing him—firm yet sagacious. Kitchener introduced several reforms during his regime in India, which were considered of great value and far-reaching effect.

More than a hundred and fifty pages are devoted to the two years of his work at the War office in the critical period of the Great War. The author gives a vivid description of the general trend and also of the particular history of the several theatres of war—the main objective on the French front as also of the diversions sought to be created in Gallipoli and Salonika. One reads very interesting observations on the feasibility of a democratic organisation of War. The question whether military operations should be concentrated on one single front or diversions made to secure a spectacular effect is discussed and the weight of expert opinion is thrown on the side of undivided attention to a well defined and single goal. Many interesting topics, personalities and principles are thus revealed to the reader in sketching the life-work of the great officer. A forceful plea is advanced in support of the line of action, he generally adopted, though certain of his defects are equally frankly discussed.

Lord Kitchener as Great Britain's War Secretary

was a great figure, great in his achievements and greater still in the promise of what might have been done, had he not met with sudden death that closed the glorious span of an eventful life. The interest of the book lies in the direct and forceful narrative of his life by a military man like General Ballard who understands the proper setting of the events both as a part of the career of the man he essays to describe and also as parts of the trend of events in the history of the world. General Ballard is certainly partial to Kitchener, but with good reasons.

There might be various ways in which the life of such a man may be studied and material gathered. The life by Sir George Arthur is certainly more to the taste of laymen. The studies of particular campaigns such as by Sir H. E. Colville are bound to be of very great interest to the student of the art of war. But the present attempt combining as it does both the personal and the military and political factors in Kitchener's life deserves to be more widely circulated. It has a place of its own among the important biographical studies in the English language.

D. V. KALE.

SHORT NOTICE.

REPORT: THE MILLOWNERS' ASSOCIATION BOMBAY, 1930, 1931. 33cm. 475 + xliiip.

THE Bombay textile industry being generally regarded as a national industry, it is only natural that the Indian public should wish to know how it is faring. This report will fully satisfy the public curiosity on this point. Besides giving the proceedings of its annual general meeting, the Report makes available to the reader the Association's correspondence with the Government, its different departments and other public bodies on the subjects that engaged public attention during the year. It also prints in extenso the budget speech of the Finance Member to the Government of India. The statistics and the Rules and Regulations of the Association which also find place in this somewhat bulky volume of the report add to its utility to the public. Cannot something be done to make its size more handy? The Report has a value beyond measure specially for students of Indian economics.

K. M. J.

Miscellaneous.

THE SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY.

REPORT OF WORK.

The report of the Servants of India Society for the year ended 12th June last is just published. The following extracts from the Report are reproduced here for the information of our readers:—

LABOUR.

The members of the Bombay Branch were as usual chiefly occupied with the organisation of labour and the promotion of its interests. As a representative of labour Mr. N. M. Joshi worked on the Royal Commission on Labour until its report was signed in March 1931. As has been already stated, Mr. Sastri also was a member of the Commission. Mr. Joshi was invited to speak on Indian problems at the Conference of Students of British Universities held under the auspices of the British Universities' Union at Glasgow and at a meeting convened under the auspices of the International Students' Union in Paris. He spoke on the same subject at a luncheon given to him by the International Club at Geneva.

During his stay in Europe Mr. Joshi kept himself in close touch with the English and European Trade Union organisations and strengthened their sympathy and support for the Trade Union movement in India. His nomination to the Round Table Conference as a representative of labour has already been referred to. He has been nominated to the Legislative Assembly for the fourth time to represent labour.

Mr. Bakhale continued to be Secretary of the Indian Trades Union Federation and kept himself in touch with the various affiliated Unions. With a view to secure further affiliations and to study the condition of workers in the different provinces, he undertook two tours in Southern and Northern India, which resulted in 31 unions with a total membership of over 62,000 becoming affiliated to the Federation. He was also General Secretary of the Bombay Textile Labour Union and President of the Port Trust Unions in Bombay. He has been nominated to the Bombay Legislative Council to represent labour interests and was appointed, on the recommendation of the Indian Trades Union Federation, as a workers' delegate to the 1931 session of the International Labour Conference at Geneva.

Mr. Parulekar continued to be General Secretary of the Dharavi Tannery and Leather Workers' Union, which had to fight hard during the year under report for its existence against the repeated attacks of the tannery owners. During the serious riots that took place at Dharavi between Muslims and the Hindu tannery workers, who came mostly from the Madras Presidency, he negotiated with the Muslim leaders and brought about peace. He enquired into the living conditions of the tannery workers in Bombay and wrote a series of articles on the subject in the *Servant of India*. He also made an enquiry into the conditions of life and work of the sailors in the employ of the British India Steam Navigation Co. He continued to be Assistant Secretary of the Bombay Textile Labour Union and Treasurer of the Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay. He attended the conferences of peasants which were held at Mahad, Chiplun and Indapur and took part in them. He also helped in conducting the *Record* which is the organ of the Trades Union Federation.

Mr. D. V. Ambekar continued to be Vice-President of the Poona District Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union.

Education.—Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru was a member of the Court and of the Executive Council of the Allahabad University and a member of the Court of the Benares Hindu University also. Mr. Dube was a member of the Court of the Lucknow University and also a member of the Board of Management of the Government School of Arts and Crafts. Pandit Sri Ram Bajpai was the joint Secretary of the First All-Asia Educational Conference which was held at Benares in the Christmas week of 1930. He was in charge of the reception committee office, accommodation arrangements, control of traffic in the Conference area and general watch and ward. He was also convener of the Physical Culture section of the Educational Exhibition and arranged for lectures by specialists in physical culture and for demonstrations of exercises and jujitsu by experts and school boys as well. The demonstrations were so effective that he received numerous requests for arranging similar demonstrations at various places.

SOCIAL SERVICE.

The Society has, as is well known, always given a prominent place to social service in its programme of work—the organisation of relief on occasions of widespread distress, the elevation of the depressed classes, the economic and moral uplift of the rural population, and the education and training in social

service of women. For the building up of an efficient India nation these activities are as essential as are political agitation and political organisation. The Society has sometimes been criticised as giving excessive attention to social service and less than due attention to politics. The criticism is entirely unfounded. Besides we are afraid the critics have overlooked the large place given by the founder of the Society to constructive activities other than purely political agitation and political organisation in the preamble to the constitution of the Society.

Mr. G. K. Devadhar, President of the Society, continued to give the same attention to the work of the Poona Seva Sadan Society as in previous years. For several years now it has been the best known institution of its kind in India, providing vocational and general education to many hundreds of adult women in Poona and elsewhere and enabling them not only to support themselves but render most essential social service to their sex as doctors, health visitors, nurses, midwives and teachers. The growing financial and other needs of the institution and the numerous problems connected with its administration and expansion are putting a severe strain on Mr. Devadhar's health.

The work of the Bhagini Samaj, Bombay, to which Mr. K. J. Chitalia is devoting all his time and energy, was seriously dislocated and interrupted by its prominent workers and nearly half of its ordinary members joining the Civil Disobedience movement. A scheme of adult education for the benefit of women in the poor quarters of Bombay, which was to be worked by lady volunteers under the direction of Mrs. Hansa Mehta, had to be abandoned after it had been started. Classes which were being conducted in the Fort for the last sixteen years had to be closed down for want of workers and funds. Still the ordinary work of the Samaj was kept up to a great extent. A dozen lectures and three special meetings were arranged; three small books were published, of which one was a life of Mahatma Gandhi arranged in the form of lessons for children and another gave statistical information for India and other countries regarding health, education, finance, industry, commerce, etc.; and cinema shows, dialogues and socials were arranged occasionally for the benefit of women and children. At the Bhagini Seva Mandir, the newly built house of the Samaj at Ville Parle, classes for general instruction and in carding and spinning were held throughout the year, and a National Week was celebrated in connection with Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, when a large number of lady volunteers entertained and instructed women and children by means of songs, dialogues, charts, etc. The Samaj has drawn up a scheme under the name of Bhagini Seva Sangh for enrolling life-workers very much on the lines of the SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY. There are three members of the Society among the Trustees of the Samaj. A beginning was formally made on the 19th February last, the anniversary day of Gokhale's death, and Srimati Surajben Manilal was enrolled as the first life-worker. The building where the workers will live was formally opened on the same day by Mr. Kunzru.

Mr. Haradatta Sharma reorganised and consolidated the general education and vocational classes he was conducting at Lahore by bringing them under the Lahore Seva Sadan, which was organised during the year under report. Two schools are now being conducted by the Lahore Seva Sadan, one of which has 12 classes and 130 pupils, with provision for teaching the following subjects: tailoring and cutting, embroidery, silma work, Indian music (vocal and instrumental), English (primary, middle school and matriculation courses), Hindi (up to the proficiency in

Hindi examination of the Punjab University), first-aid, domestic hygiene and domestic economy. The other school, located in the old city, imparts only primary education. It is availed of by the poor women and widows. A hostel for women students has also been started.

Mr. Sharma is also in charge of the Lahore Poor House which gets a monthly grant of Rs. 200 from the Lahore Municipality and a member of the Executive Committee of the Lahore Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society. Messrs. Dravid and Shahane helped the Nagpur Seva Sadan by taking classes in them, while similar help was rendered at Poona by Messrs. Sharangpani and S. G. Gokhale. Mr. Sharangpani generally assisted Mr. Devadhar in managing the affairs of the Poona Seva Sadan.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru continued to be General Secretary of the Allahabad Seva Samiti and to supervise and guide its activities. The Samiti has not only continued its former activities but has also extended them. The number of charitable dispensaries outside Allahabad has been increased and the Seva Samiti hospital has been reorganised in the course of the year. It is served by a number of honorary doctors and its work is divided into four sections: medicine, surgery, dentistry and gynaecology. It is perhaps the first attempt made on a large scale in the U. P. to run a hospital with an honorary agency on English lines.

Another new activity of the Samiti is the establishment of an office at the main railway station in Allahabad to deal with waifs and strays and women who have been kidnapped or who have for various reasons left their homes. Persons in distress are helped without distinction of caste, creed or religion. Muslim orphans and women are sent to Muslim orphanages and women's homes and Hindu orphans and women to Hindu institutions. The work that has so far been done and the large number of cases that have been dealt with have fully justified the new experiment.

Mr. Sri Ram Bajpai has been elected Secretary of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society of Allahabad which was organised during the year under report. This body has already made a good name for itself for efficiency. He also took part in the starting of a Deaf and Dumb school at Allahabad, of which he has been elected Vice-President.

As in the previous year, Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rau was a member of the Central Temperance Propaganda Board of Madras Presidency, which distributes grants, from a large sum of money placed at its disposal by the Local Government, to District Committees for carrying on intensive temperance propaganda. Mr. K. G. Sivaswamy, who is working in Trichinopoly district, organised intensive temperance propaganda in four different centres, partly in co-operation with the District Committee and partly with funds directly supplied to him by the Central Board. In these centres volunteer leagues have been formed, caste panchayats revived and strengthened, monthly conferences convened, frequent meetings held, and a large number of leaflets issued. The result has been quite encouraging. A number of families have abstained from drinking altogether. Several landlords have refused to let trees for tapping, auction sale amounts have gone down and the authorities have been petitioned to close down the toddy shops. At the same time toddy and arrack shops are watched and breaches of Excise rules are reported to the Collector and to the Advisory Committee.

Mr. S. R. Venkataraman delivered a number of magic-lantern lectures on health subjects under the auspices of the National Health Association of

Madras. He read a paper on the housing conditions of a group of leather workers in the City of Madras, and with Mr. Venkatasubbaiya has been moving the authorities for getting suitable buildingsites for them. He has organised a Sanitary Welfare League with Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer as President and himself as Secretary. The members of the League visit slum areas and report conditions and make suggestions to the municipal authorities in a friendly spirit through the League.

MR. G. K. DEVADHAR.

A movement is afoot in Bombay, Maharashtra and elsewhere to recognise the services of Mr. G. K. Devadhar, the President of the Servants of India Society, by some suitable presentation on his 60th birthday. Mr. Devadhar does not belong only to Western India but he belongs to the whole country. He served India in plague, famine, flood and earthquake. He devoted a considerable portion of his time and energy in the co-operative movement and is a recognised authority on this subject. As a member of the Servants of India Society, he was among the first to join the late Mr. Gokhale and has faithfully adhered to his vow of poverty and service to this day. He is today the President of the Society and it is to him his first love, for all his public work is carried on under its auspices.

Mr. Devadhar is the greatest benefactor of the female sex, for he has done imperishable service to Maharashtra by means of the Poona Seva Sadan. In this famous institution are to be found widows, maidens, matrons and girl students of various communities irrespective of caste and creed all banded together for educational and social improvement. The Seva Sadan is the centre from which radiate influences for the uplift of Indian womanhood and some Sindhi girls are also to be found in it receiving education and training in social service. Mr. Devadhar worked hard for the success of this institution whose fame has spread far and wide.

His is a life dedicated to the highest ends in the service of his country and his Creator. He had more than his own share of trials and tribulations, private and public, and these have only proved the true metal of which he is made. He stuck to his own course for nearly thirty years doing constructive work all the time and finding the Indian world in many directions better than when he placed himself as a young graduate unreservedly in the hands of Mr. Gokhale as his *chela*. His life has indeed been lived for noble ends and we hope people in Sindh will freely subscribe to the intended presentation. During floods four years ago, Mr. Devadhar made a tour of Sindh and helped the local workers considerably.

—*The Sind Observer*.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

I. L. O. STUDIES AND REPORTS.

- Colour Vision Tests. By Professor Oscar Oslath. (F. 12.) 1929. 34cm. 47p. 2/-
- Silicosis. Records of the International Conference held at Johannesburg, 13-27 August 1930, and Supplement. (F. 13.) 1930. 24cm. 692p; 24p. 16/-
- Housing Policy in Europe: Cheap Home Building. (G. 3.) 1930. 24cm. 378p. 5/-
- Annual Review, 1930, 1931. 24cm. 505p. 10/6.
- International Survey of Legal Decisions on Labour Law, 1928, 1929, 1930, 24cm. 70p; 389p; 1/6; 8/-.
- Labour Legislation in India. By Rajani Kanta Das. 1930. 24cm. 25p. -/6.
- I. L. C. 14th Session, 1930. Materials.
- I. L. C. 15th Session, 1931. Materials.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SIX-AND-A-HALF PER CENT.

TREASURY BONDS, 1935.

Repayable at par on the 15th September 1935.

May be purchased on and from the 15th September 1931 and until further notice at the Imperial Bank of India, Treasuries and at Post Offices.

The purchase price of a Treasury Bond for Rs. 100 purchased on any date from the 15th September 1931 to the 19th September 1931 is Rs. 100. Thereafter the price increases by 2 annas per cent. weekly. Each increase in the purchase price represents the amount of interest which accrues weekly on the Bond. The Bonds bear interest from the 15th September 1931. The purchaser gets a full half-year's interest on the 15th March 1932 irrespective of the date of purchase.

6 per cent. Bonds, 1931, will be accepted at their full maturity value in payment of the purchase price of 6½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1935.

Treasury Bills which have matured will be accepted at their maturity value in payment of the purchase price.

Brokerage will be paid at the rate of 1/16 per cent. to recognised bankers and brokers in respect of applications bearing their stamp.

For further particulars, see Government of India, Finance Department, Notification No. F. 3 (14)-F/31 dated the 1st September 1931, or apply to any Local Head Office or Branch of the Imperial Bank of India, or the office of the Controller of the Currency, Calcutta, Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay, and the Accountants General, Madras and Burma, or at any Government Treasury or Post Office.