

THE
Servants of India Society

(Founded on June 12, 1905)

REPORT OF WORK

(From June 1923 to May 1926)

AND

CONSTITUTION

1926

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THE LATE HON'BLE MR. G. K. GOKHALE, C.I.E.



FOUNDER OF THE SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY.

The Work OF The Servants of India Society.

(From June 1923 to May 1926.)

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"The best of the Reform Societies is the Servants of India, founded in 1905, by the late Mr. Gokhale, and inspired by him. The Society is frankly Nationalist, but seeks to serve India by the disinterested work of its members in every day concerns, and particularly those which relate to the down-trodden classes. Its membership is small because it calls for much sacrifice and renunciation, but its spirit is far spread".

—Ramsay Macdonald.

It is some years since Mr. Ramsay Macdonald wrote thus about the Society; and the accounts of its work published so far have shown how far the Society has tried to live up to the aims and ideals set up by its illustrious Founder. The first report dealt with the period from June 12, 1905, to December 31, 1916, and the second one covered a period of six years and a half upto June 1923. The present report deals with the remaining three years of the Society's career.

Conformably to the purpose of training men prepared to devote their lives to the cause of the country in a religious spirit, every member is pledged to devote all his time and energy to public work and do his utmost to promote the national interests of the Indian people by all constitutional means. Membership of the Society is for life. Every member has to be content with the provision which the Society makes for his maintenance. Such conditions demand sacrifice and high idealism on the part of those who join it. In spite of the many disturbing factors in the public life of the country and the somewhat unpopular part

the Society had to play in stemming movements like non-co-operation, we are gratified to report that we have had no defections during the period on account of differences in political views, and that more members would have come in but for the restraint the Society has had to impose on its growth on account of the precarious condition of its finances.

Messrs. R. R. Bakhale and S. P. A. Dube, M.A., L.T., were admitted as members under training in 1923 and Mr. J. B. Sen, M.A., has been a probationer from June 1924. Mr. M. S. Madhav Rao, B.A., left the Society in September 1925 in order to join the Brotherhood of Service and Mr. M. S. Ekambara Rao, B.A., L.T., had to resign his probationership on account of ill-health. The present strength of the Society consists of 18 Ordinary Members, 6 Members-under-training, 2 Permanent Assistants, 1 Attache and 1 Probationer. The work of the Society has expanded in all directions and we are not able to cope fully with the responsibilities we are forced to undertake; and we shall not be able to do so till our finances improve sufficiently to justify fresh additions to our membership.

It is regrettable that sickness has during the period under report put several members out of action. Mr. Srinivasa Sastri's health broke down in England when he was there on the Kenya Mission in 1923 and he has been forced to take rest. Soon after his return from a tour in the flood-affected areas in South Canara in 1923, Mr. Devadhar was confined to bed for some months. Mr. Kunzru had often been ill, and once alarmingly ill, during the period covered by the report. Messrs. S. G. Vaze, C. S. Deole, N. M. Joshi, V. N. Tiwary, P. Kodanda Rao, and R. Suryanarayana Rau were among those whose work was interrupted by ill-health. Unfortunately Mr. Sastri's health is still unsatisfactory; but the rest have recovered and are at work as usual.

At the beginning of this narrative, it may be helpful to remind the public of one salient feature of the policy of the Society in regard to its work. From the time of its Founder, the Society has not conducted work directly

under its own auspices, but generally through other organizations either already in existence or started as occasions arose.) For this reason the Society is at a disadvantage in dealing fully with the work of its members, being liable to be misunderstood as taking credit for work done by other organizations. (It may, however, be pointed out that our members, being in a position to devote their whole time and energy to public work, form an important part of the executive of those organizations, and the brunt of the work usually falls on them.)

The Society has its headquarters at Poona and branches at Madras, Bombay, Allahabad and Nagpur. Besides, there are six centres of work, viz., Dohad in Gujerat, Lahore in the Punjab, Lucknow in U. P., Cuttack in Bihar and Orissa. Calicut and Mangalore in Malabar.

Political Activities.

Kenya.—The most notable feature in the political work of the Society during 1923-24 was the agitation over the status of Indians in Kenya. At the commencement of the year, Mr. Sastri went to England at the head of a deputation that was sent out by the elected Indian members of the Central Legislature to represent the Indian point of view on the Kenya question to the British Cabinet and the British public. The Kenya White Paper overwhelmed India with bitter disappointment. Mr. Sastri's report of work in England was published in August 1923. Members of the Society took active part in organising All-Party demonstrations on Kenya. A special session of the Society was called in the last week of August to consider the Kenya situation. The Society resolved to carry on agitation and advocate the boycott of the British Empire Exhibition as a protest against the iniquitous decision of the Cabinet. Mr. Sastri moved a resolution in the Council of State asking for the publication of papers relating to Kenya. A selection of his Speeches and Writings on the Kenya question setting forth fully the Indian point of view was published by the Society. Mr. Kunzru strongly

supported a resolution in the U. P. Legislative Council asking for the withdrawal from the British Empire Exhibition. The *Servant of India* and the *Dnyan. Prakash* devoted considerable attention to the subject and carried on vigorous propaganda. Mr. K. P. Kaul published an Urdu pamphlet on it. Members of the Society either initiated or joined the All-Party demonstrations on Kenya in Bombay, Madras, Poona, Cuttack, Calicut and Mangalore. Messrs. Suryanarayana Rau and Siwaswamy Iyer canvassed the support of the candidates to the Madras Legislative Council and of district and taluka boards, municipalities and union panchayats in the Presidency in favour of the boycott of the Empire Exhibition. In Madras a number of leaflets were issued in English and the vernaculars and distributed broadcast. Partly as a result of this agitation the Madras Legislative Council after a heated debate passed a resolution refusing to incur further expenditure in connection with the Exhibition. Mr. Vaze, Editor of the *Servant of India*, was deputed to Kenya to study the question on the spot, and he spent three months visiting Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika. The results of his study were published in the *Servant of India* and his articles attracted considerable attention in the press.

Legislatures.—Mr. Sastri continued for part of the period under report in the Council of State; but he had to resign his seat in 1925 on account of ill-health. In the Delhi session of 1924, he moved a resolution on the Kenya question in the Council of State and took part in the debate initiated by Rao Bahadur G. A. Natesan on the Class Areas Bill in South Africa. His speech on the occasion created a sensation as he said he looked forward to the day when the Viceroy and his Cabinet would resign office if fair treatment was not accorded to Indians abroad in the British Commonwealth. He made speeches on the Budget debate and on the resolution demanding Self-Government which attracted considerable attention of the public and the press.

Mr. N. M. Joshi continued to be a nominated member of the second Legislative Assembly representing the interests of labour. He served on the Standing Finance and Public Accounts Committees, Emigration Committee, Advisory Committee of the Department of Industries and Labour and many other committees appointed in connection with several Bills introduced in the Assembly. In the Assembly, Mr. Joshi utilised every opportunity to press on the attention of the Government the question of Indianisation of Services especially on the railways, admission to all ranks of the army, recognition and encouragement of trade unions, facilities for third class passengers in Indian railways, prohibition of employment of women underground in mines, adoption of the shift system in mines, compulsory education and the nationalisation of the steel industry. He tried to uphold the rights of labour and ventilated the grievances of the subordinate employees in the railway, postal and other services. He represented the just cause of garden labour in Assam and of the millworkers of Bombay. The Hon'ble Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council for Industries and Labour, has borne testimony to the part played by Mr. Joshi in placing on the statute book the Indian Trade Unions Bill. He tried his utmost to liberalise the measure so as to secure the maximum amount of benefit to the workers. He introduced in the Assembly the Maternity Benefits Bill. Though it did not get to the Select Committee stage, its principle obtained almost universal acceptance. He supported the Weekly Payments Bill of Mr. Chaman Lall. He was mainly instrumental in getting the repeal of the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act and other provisions in the existing law which make breaches of contract of service a penal offence.

Mr. Kunzru was a member of the first reformed Legislative Council of the U. P. He moved resolutions, among others, on the separation of Executive and Judicial functions and the insertion of a conscience clause in the Educational Code. He served on the Provincial Forest Board, the Finance Committee of the U. P. Council and

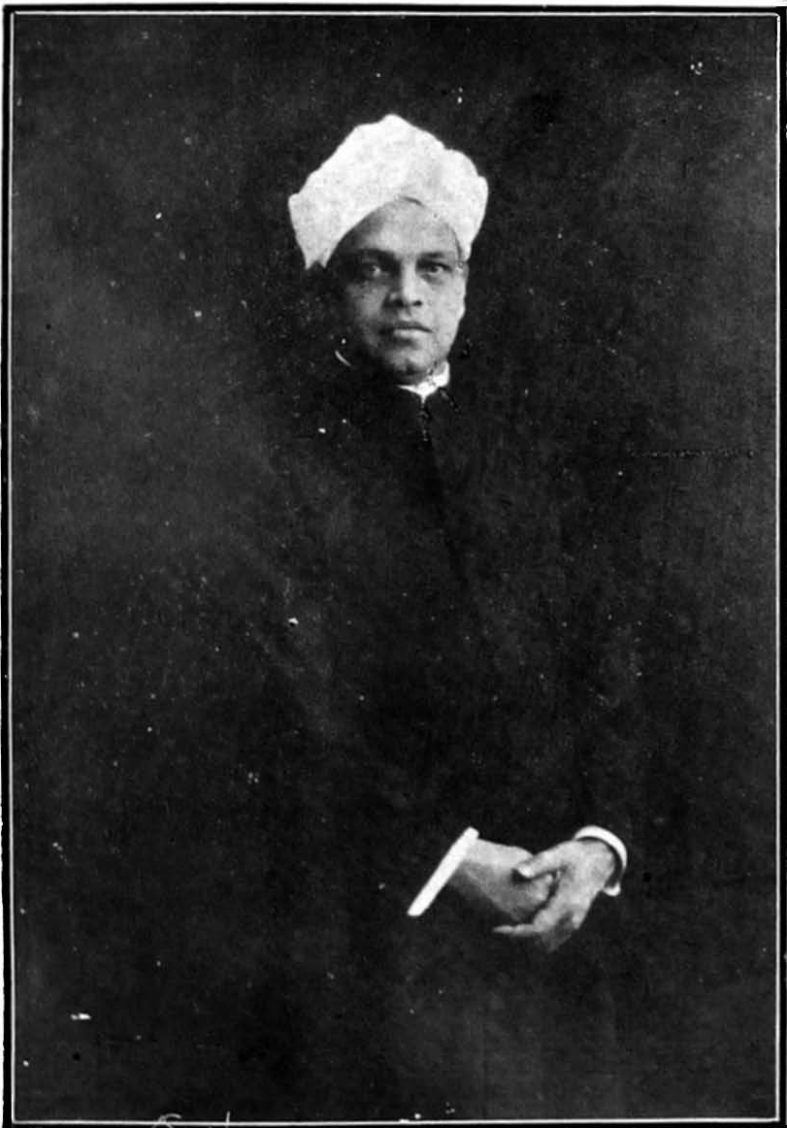
the Provincial Economic Committee. Rao Bahadur N. K. Kelkar and Mr. N. A. Dravid were members of the C. P. Legislative Council. The former was also a Minister during the life time of the first Council and in that capacity he initiated and carried out some important measures in the domain of Local Self-Government. The Nagpur University Act, the Municipalities Act, the Village Panchayats and Compulsory Education Acts were amongst the measures which were pushed through the legislature during Mr. Kelkar's term of office as Minister in C. P.

During the last general election Mr. Kunzru stood as a candidate for the Assembly and Mr. V. N. Tiwary for the U. P., and Mr. Kelkar for the C. P. Legislative Councils; but all of them failed, thanks mainly to the strong adverse current of non-co-operation which during the last election campaign carried every thing before it.

Other Statutory Bodies:—Mr. V. N. Tiwary who served in the Allahabad District Board for four years is now an elected member of that body. Mr. Dube sits on the Lucknow District Board as a nominated member. He represented the Board on the Excise Advisory Committee and served on its Taxation and Finance Committees. As Chairman of the Education Committee of the Lucknow District Board, he toured in the area, studying the needs of the locality, addressed conferences of teachers and carried on propaganda in favour of free and compulsory education. Mr. A. V. Thakkar served as an elected member of the Dohad Taluka Board and of the Excise Advisory Committee for the same taluka and as a nominated member of the Panch Mahals District School Board. Mr. L. N. Sahu served on the Public Health and Education sub-committees of the Cuttack Municipality.

Political Associations:—Consistently with the creed of the Society, the members have been associated with the work of the Liberal Party. Mr. Sastri represented the Liberal Party in England when he went there on a deputation in 1924 to plead the cause of political reform before the British public. He also attended and presided on the

Right Hon'ble V. S. Srinivas Sastri, P.C.



President of the Sorvants of India Society.

second day over the All-Parties' Conference held in Bombay.

Mr. Joshi continues to be one of the Secretaries of the Western India National Liberal Association. Mr. K. P. Kaul acted as one of the Secretaries of the U. P. Liberal Association and was also the Secretary of the Lucknow Liberal League. Mr. Dube has now taken Mr. Kaul's place in these organizations. Mr. D. V. Ambekar has been devoting his time mainly to the work of the Deccan Sabha, Poona, one of the premier Liberal organizations in the country. Mr. Deole has been the Secretary of the Indian Institute of Political and Social Science in Bombay from the date of its foundation. Mr. Bakhale has been elected a member of the Council of the Bombay Presidency Association.

When the All-India Liberal Federation was held in Poona in 1923, the brunt of the work fell on Mr. D. V. Ambekar, who was assisted by all the other members in Poona. Many members took part in the deliberations of the Federation. The Bombay Provincial Liberal Conferences held at Ahmednagar, Karad and Poona entailed much work on Messrs. Ambekar, Limaye and Patwardhan. The latter was one of the Secretaries of the Provincial Liberal Conference held in Poona. In August 1923, the U. P. Liberal Conference was held in Benares, and Messrs. Kunzru and Kaul toured all over the province to enlist support. Mr. Kaul was the General Secretary of the Reception Committee of the All-India Liberal Federation held at Lucknow in 1924 and a large portion of the work of organisation fell on him. Messrs. Kaul and Dube have every year been busy for some months before the usual annual conferences of the Liberal Party in the U. P. in touring and canvassing support. Mr. Dravid has also been doing similar propaganda work in the Central Provinces. Mr. Dube toured on behalf of the U. P. Liberal League in 1924 to strengthen the Liberal Party in the province. Mr. Kunzru presided over the U. P. Liberal Conference in April 1925 and the Berar Liberal Conference in October

1925. He and Mr. Sharma organized at Lahore the Punjab Liberal League and the latter has since been acting as its General Secretary.

The National Convention:—The Society gave its support to the Commonwealth of India Bill and Messrs. Sastri, Joshi and Kunzru were among those who participated in the session of the National Convention held at Delhi in February 1924. Mr. Sastri participated also in the session held at Allahabad to further consider the Bill. He and Mr. Vaze were appointed conveners of the committee to deal with the question of the relations between the Central and Provincial Governments. Mr. Sastri had been to England on behalf of the National Convention. Some members also organised the National Convention Clubs to promote the cause of the Commonwealth of India Bill. In the Punjab, Mr. Sharma organised a series of lectures on the Commonwealth of India Bill at many important places.

The All-Party and Unity Conferences:—Our members took part in All-Party Conferences which were held in November 1924 in Bombay and in February 1925 in Delhi. They also took part in the Unity Conference held in Delhi in September 1924.

The Indian National Party:—In the formation of the Indian National Party, members of our Society played a prominent part. Mr. Bakhale gave active help to Mr. C. Y. Chintamani in organising and making preliminary arrangements for the Conference in Bombay which brought into existence the Indian National Party. Messrs. Devadhar, Joshi, Kunzru, P. Kodand Rao, Ambekar and Bakhale attended the Conference held in Bombay and some of them took part in its deliberations.

The Reforms Enquiry Committee:—Rao Bahadur N. K. Kelkar, Mr. Joshi and Mr. Kunzru gave evidence before the Reforms Enquiry Committee. The former gave his account of the working of Dyarchy from the experience he had gained as Minister and Mr. Joshi, besides giving evidence on behalf of the Bombay Presidency Association,

appeared before the Committee on behalf of the All-India Trade Union Congress also and presented the view-point of labour urging the need for special representation of labour in all the Legislatures and widening of the franchise.

✓ **Indian States:**—The members of the Society have been taking great interest in the problems relating to the subjects of Indian States. As one of the Secretaries of the Daxini Sansthana Hitavardhak Sabha, Mr. A. V. Patwardhan is doing the work of the Sabha, organising conferences of Indian states subjects in the Deccan and agitating for administrative reforms in Indian States. He attended some of the All-Indian States subjects' conferences. He gave evidence on behalf of the Daxini Sansthana Hitavardhak Sabha before the Indian Sandhurst Committee. He had been publishing a special supplement of the *Dnyan Prakash* devoted to Indian States questions and news and has now started a separate paper called the *Sansthani Swarajya* devoted to Indian States questions.

The Bhor State had appointed a committee of officials and non-officials to settle the dispute of long standing in the State about the Hirda produce and Mr. A. V. Patwardhan was elected as the Surpanch of this committee.

Kamala Lectures:—Mr. Sastri was invited by the Calcutta University to deliver the Kamala Lectures for 1925, the subject being the Rights and Duties of the Indian Citizen. According to the terms of the foundation he had to re-deliver them in another University; and at the invitation of the Syndicate of the University of Madras, he re-delivered his lectures to a crowded and appreciative audience in Madras. The lectures will soon be published in book form. Some friends and admirers of Mr. Sastri got up an entertainment to express their appreciation of his services and presented him with a souvenir. It is also proposed to institute a lectureship in Politics in the Madras University to be associated with his name.

Other Activities:—Mr. P. Kodanda Rao who was specially deputed to Madras in 1922 to study the Malabar tenancy question, wrote a series of articles on the subject in

the *Servant of India* which have been reprinted in booklet form. When a Bill dealing with the subject was introduced, he wrote articles in the press and also a memorandum for private circulation for the use of the members of the Madras Legislative Council. The different view points involved in the complicated question were clearly put forward and his writings were helpful to members of Council in the discussions on the Bill. He also interviewed and tried to interest them in the subject.

Mr. Sharma worked for the grant of female franchise in the Punjab and enlisted support of the members of the local Legislative Council to the resolution on franchise.

Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rau gave evidence before the Taxation Enquiry Committee. Mr. Deole submitted a memorandum to the Royal Commission on Indian Currency. In July 1925, he presided over the Umbergaon Panchayets Conference in Thana District and afterwards submitted his views on the amendment of the Bombay Village Panchayets Act to a committee appointed by the Government of Bombay.

Social Service.

Believing as they do that much of the work must be directed towards building up in the country a higher type of character and capacity, the members of the Society interest themselves in and actively work for all movements calculated to achieve this object. So assisting social and educational movements, especially those for the education of women and the backward classes, forms one of the main items of our work. Not the least in importance is the work of elevating the depressed classes.

The Poona Seva Sadan Society, with the growth of which the Indian public is now sufficiently familiar, is today by common consent one of the biggest indigenous institutions of its kind in the whole of India. It has a very varied and practical programme for the education and betterment of Indian Womanhood. Mr. Devadhar has been the General Secretary of this institution ever since its

foundation. Its ever-expanding departments of activity engage a great deal of his time, energy and attention. Branches of the Poona Seva Sadan Society have been opened in different parts of the Bombay Presidency and women workers trained by it have been sent to other parts of India as nurses, health visitors, sub-assistant surgeons, sewing mistresses, &c. The central institution in Poona has made striking progress during the last three years. The Bhatia Maternity, Infant Welfare and Nursing Service in Bombay with its three Infant Welfare Centres and Antenatal Clinics, the Infant Welfare and Nursing Service and similar work in Poona, Baramati, Sholapur, Ahmednagar, Alibag and Nasik, the Public Health School in Poona which trains Health Visitors, the Balasaheb Deshpande Charitable Dispensary, Maternity and Nursing Home at Ahmednagar, Training Classes for Nurses and Midwives attached to the Hospitals in Poona, Sholapur and Nasik with a residential hostel for women under training—to mention a few of the institutions for the successful working of which Mr. Devadhar is responsible. The total budget of the expenditure of the Poona Seva Sadan Society amounts roughly to Rs. 2,50,000 a year. The Society has always to make great effort at collecting funds to make up the deficit. It is thoroughly non-sectarian in character, and charges little or no fees. Now Shrimant Sowbhagyawati Ranisaheb of Sangli is its President.

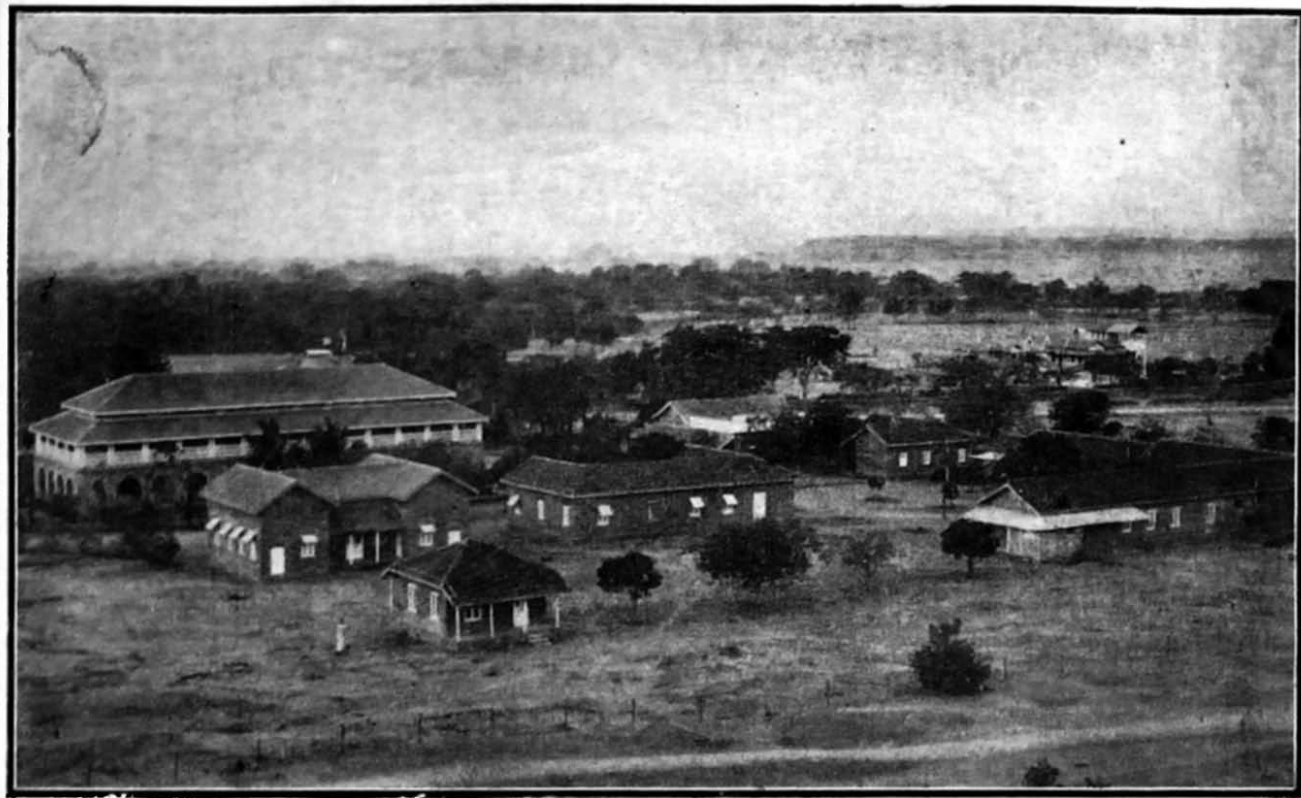
As the General Secretary of the Indian Social Conference, Mr. Devadhar organised the 35th session of the Conference at Poona. He presided over its session held at Lucknow. He also organised the Provincial Social Conferences at Ahmednagar, Karad and Poona and was the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Provincial Social Conference held in Poona in 1925. Mr. Limaye was one of the Secretaries of the Reception Committees of these conferences held at Poona and he had to work for some months to make them a success.

As the General Secretary of the Social Service League, Bombay, Mr. Joshi assisted by his colleagues in the League has been in a large measure responsible for its

varied activities during these years, such as mass education, libraries, magic lantern shows, propagation of ideas of health and sanitation, spread of the co-operative movement and general welfare work among the mill employees. The League spends as much as Rs. 80,000 on this work. A textile school for the benefit of the textile workers has been started. The League has also worked out a few family budgets of the working classes.

Mr. Joshi organised the fourth session of the All-India Social Workers' Conference held in Bombay in 1923 and the Social Work Exhibition in connection with it. He was the General Secretary and Mr. Bakhale one of the Assistant Secretaries of the Conference. Both devoted nearly four months for making preliminary arrangements for the Conference and the Exhibition with a view to make both real all-India gatherings. The Conference and the Exhibition were a great success. Mr. Bakhale afterwards published a report of the Conference of over 500 pages which now serves as reference book for social service organizations. It contains valuable papers written by competent writers on such subjects as charity organisation, training of social workers, co-ordination of social work in India, open spaces, play grounds and directed games for children, vigilance and rescue work, criminal tribes settlements, training and provision of dais and midwives, education and care of defective children and prevention and cure of Tuberculosis. Messrs. Devadhar, Thakkar, Bakhale and Sivaswamy attended the Conference and took part in its deliberations. After the Conference was over, Mr. Joshi, with the help of its Reception Committee, organised a central organisation of the representatives of the social service institutions in Bombay, called the Bombay Council of Social Workers, with the object of making it easy for social workers to meet more frequently, discuss and exchange ideas on social service. Mr. Bakhale is a joint Secretary of this Council. In January of this year the Council organised the first Bombay Presidency Social Service Conference of which Mr. Bakhale was one of the Secretaries.

The Servants of India Society.



The Society's Head-quarters with President's Bungalow and Guest House, Poona.

Mr. Joshi presided over the Madras Social Service Conference held at Coimbatore in 1925. Messrs. Sivaswamy and Suryanarayana Rau had to devote much time to make the Conference a success. Messrs. Madhava Rao and Sivaswamy contributed papers to the Conference on adult education, rural welfare work, etc.

Mr. Joshi continues to be one of the Secretaries of the Bombay Social Reform Association and an original member of the Vigilance Association, Bombay. Mr. Sharma is the honorary General Secretary of the Punjab Social Reform Association which was organised in Lahore in 1925. Its activities have attracted considerable attention and enlisted the support of influential leaders of the Punjab. Mr. Suryanarayan Rau was one of the organisers of the Madras Vigilance Association which prepared a bill for the control of prostitution and has been agitating for the passing of such a law. Mr. Venkatsubbaia has been, since Mr. Suryanarayan Rau's transfer to Calicut, one of the Secretaries of the Madras Vigilance Association. He is also one of the Secretaries of the Children's Aid Society which maintains a home for children to be tried under the Madras Children's Act.

Mr. Kunzru continues to be the General Secretary and Mr. Tiwary the Organising Secretary of the Prayag Seva Samiti which has extended its activities to many towns in the U. P. and to Lahore in the Punjab. As usual the Seva Samiti made arrangements for the safety and convenience of the large concourse of people that assembled in Allahabad during the last Kumba Mela and other festivals for giving free medical relief and for the education of the depressed classes.

Mr. Madhav Rao was Secretary of the Devadhar Malabar Reconstruction Trust which conducts night schools and peoples' clubs, where special efforts are made to bring together the Hindus and Mohammadans whose mutual relations have been strained by the Moplah rebellion. Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rau is now in charge of this work. During these three years considerable progress has

been shown in the development of rural work of the kind attempted there. The Trust has started two weavers' co-operative societies and carries on adult education work in about seven villages with the help of magic lantern shows. The Trust spends about Rs. 3,000 on this work.

Mr. D. H. Bhat has been the Secretary of the Arogya Mandal, Poona. He devoted most of his time to the sanitary inspection in the City of Poona and its neighbourhood and brought the sanitary defects to the notice of the authorities. The work done by the Arogya Mandal is considered important by the Poona Municipality which has made a grant of Rs. 200 for the purpose of propaganda. He arranged also a series of lectures on hygiene and sanitation by competent medical men. The localities where the depressed classes live receive the special attention of Mr. Bhat. He organised the sanitary procession at the end of the Baby Week and wrote frequently to the *Dnyan Prakash* on sanitary matters. Mr. Bhat has also been the Secretary of the Citizens' Association, Poona.

On behalf of the Village Improvement Society, Poona of which he is the Secretary, Mr. D. V. Ambekar assisted by Mr. Limaye investigated the needs of the villages round Poona and brought them to the notice of the authorities.

Mr. Chitalia has been the Secretary of the Bhagini Samaj. In addition to the usual activities, he arranged 12 lectures on social and educational topics specially given under the auspices of the Samaj and published them in book form.

Labour.

In dealing with the work in the legislatures mention has already been made of the work of Mr. Joshi in connection with the Trade Unions Bill, the repeal of the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act and other provisions in the existing law which make breaches of contracts of

service penal offences, the Maternity Benefits Bill and the Weekly Payments Bill; also of the interest taken by him in improving the conditions of service of the railway, postal and other employees. A cursory glance at the proceedings of the Assembly will make clear to any one the efforts made by Mr. Joshi to safeguard the interests of labour and also impress on the attention of the Government the need for the adoption of the various Conventions adopted by the International Labour Conferences.

In 1925 Mr. Joshi was for the fourth time appointed the workers' delegate from India to the International Labour Conference at Geneva. He delivered a speech there on the report of the Director of International Labour Office drawing attention to the fact that several of the "special" countries, protectorates, the mandated territories and Indian States in India had not yet ratified the Washington Conventions, to the existence of laws or regulations in those countries making breaches of contract of service a penal offence, to the prevalence of forced labour in India and the existence of poll-tax in Kenya. Mr. Joshi made two more speeches in the Conference—one protesting against the narrowing down the scope of the Workmen's Compensation Acts attempted by a Committee of the Conference and the other on the exclusion of a class of workers from the benefits of the same Act. He also succeeded in getting a resolution passed asking the International Labour Office to continue to collect information regarding labour conditions in Asiatic countries and requesting the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to undertake a documentary enquiry into the conditions of labour in those countries, more especially in China, India, Japan, Persia, Siam, and in the colonies, protectorates and mandated territories in Asia.

As a representative of the All-India Trade Union Congress, Mr. Joshi attended the British Commonwealth Labour Conference held in London in 1925. At the Conference he initiated discussion on the conditions of Indian labour in British colonies and moved a resolution to the effect that race or colour should not be a bar in any

part of British Commonwealth to employment in any city, to franchise, to membership of any legislatures, to legal rights and trade union membership and that all forms of indentured and compulsory labour should be abolished. As the South African Delegates were opposed to the resolution, it was referred to a commission of the Conference which recommended that no resolution on the subject be passed by the Conference but that its Secretary should write to the labour parties and the trade unions in South Africa and to the All-India Trade Union Congress informing them of the discussion that took place in the Conference and suggesting that the two parties might arrange a special conference between the representatives of labour in India and South Africa. Mr. Joshi entered an emphatic protest against the way in which the question was disposed of. There is now, however, a possibility of such a conference being held to consider the question. Mr. Joshi also attended the International Industrial Welfare Conference held in Holland in 1925 as a delegate from India.

The Society has also actively interested itself in the work of organization of labour which is the most important part of the labour movement and in the consolidation and co-ordination of the activities of trade unions all over the country through the All-India Trade Union Congress. Messrs. Joshi and Bakhale have been General Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively of the Trade Union Congress from 1925 and have succeeded in securing the affiliation of a large number of labour unions in the country. It is needless to say that this has really strengthened the labour movement in India. The recommendations of the All-India Trade Union Congress carry much weight and their nominations of the workers' representatives to the International Labour Conferences are generally accepted and acted upon by Government. On behalf of the Trade Union Congress a monthly bulletin called the *All-India Trade Union Bulletin* which deals with the activities of the trade unions all over the country has been started since 1924 and Mr. Bakhale has been its Editor. Mr. Joshi is one of the three members of the Editorial Committee. A Directory

of Trade Unions in India, the first of its kind, compiled and edited by Mr. Bakhale, was published last year.

In April 1925, Messrs. Joshi and Bakhale, with the help of their labour friends in Bombay, organised the Bombay Provincial Committee of the All-India Trade Union Congress. The former is one of its Vice-Presidents and the latter Joint Secretary. Under the auspices of this Committee, Mr. Bakhale organised the second session of the Bombay Provincial Trade Union Conference in January 1926.

During the period under report, there was a serious labour crisis in Bombay in connection with the reduction of wages of the textile workers. Attempts were made by Mr. Bakhale, during Mr. Joshi's absence in Europe, along with the trade union leaders in Bombay, to dissuade the Bombay Mill-owners' Association from reducing the workers' wages and thus avert the strike, by taking deputations to them and by trying to enlist the sympathy of His Excellency the Governor of Bombay and the Bombay Government in favour of labour; but their efforts were of no avail. A general strike—one of the biggest in Bombay—which lasted over two and half months was declared. A Committee of Assistance to the Textile Workers was immediately organised with Mr. Joshi as President and Mr. Bakhale as Secretary and an appeal for funds was issued to the British and the International Trade Union Movements and the general public in India to enable the strikers to fight out their just cause to the finish. The response was encouraging; the contributions to the tune of Rs. 49,000 were collected which enabled the Committee to keep the strike going on for more than two months and a half. The result was gratifying in that, with the abolition of the cotton excise duty by Government, the Millowners' Association announced the restoration of the wage cut. During this crisis the Committee waited twice on His Excellency the Governor of Bombay and twice on the Committee of the Millowners' Association to bring about an amicable settlement. Both Messrs. Joshi and Bakhale were members of the Deputation.

Immediately after the termination of the strike, efforts were made by Messrs. Joshi and Bakhale, along with their labour friends, to organise the textile workers in the City. They persuaded the nine existing small unions to amalgamate themselves into one big union which came into existence on January 1, 1926 and which is now called the Bombay Textile Labour Union. Mr. Joshi is the President and Mr. Bakhale the General Secretary of the Union. It is developing rapidly. Its present strength is about 9,000 and it has opened five centres of work in different parts of the mill locality. The position that it has been able to build up for itself during the short period of its existence, can be realised from the fact that on the recommendation made by the Union, the Collector of Bombay nominated one of its Vice-Presidents on the Excise Advisory Committee for the City and Island of Bombay.

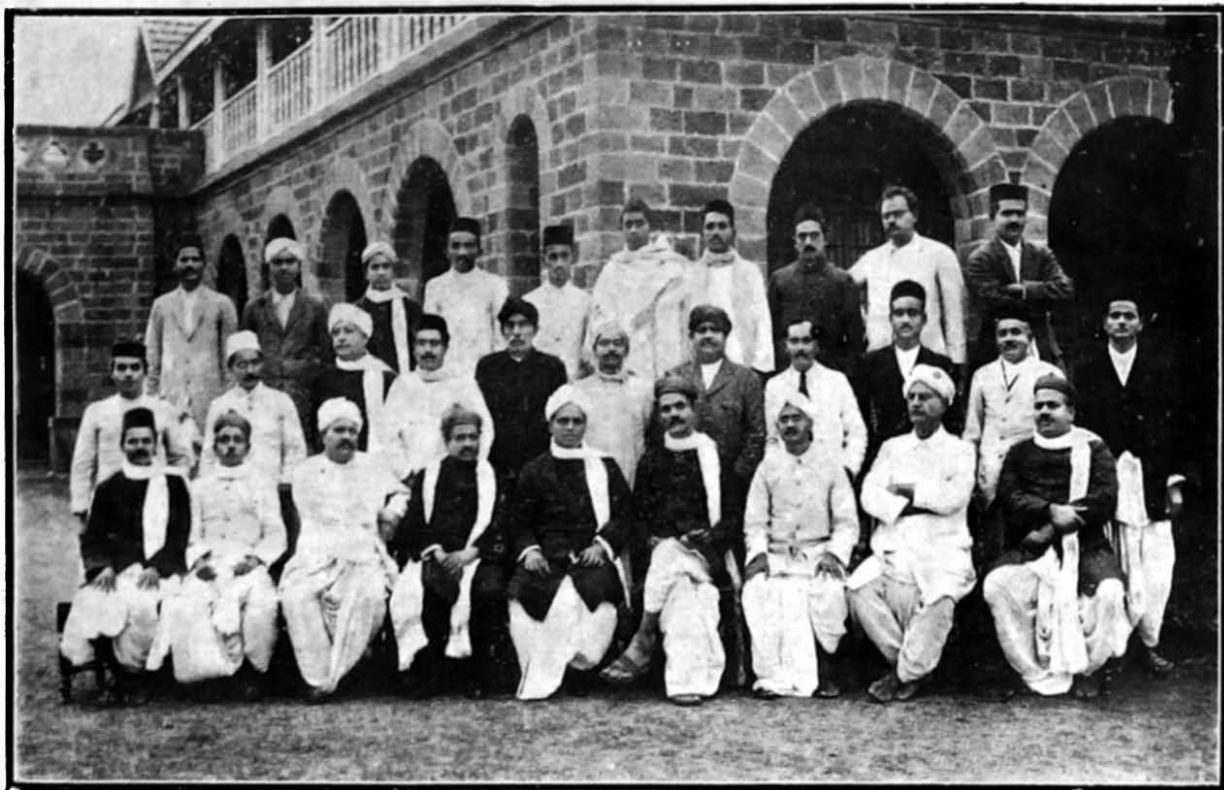
During the period under report Mr. Joshi presided over many labour conferences—the more important of them being the M. & S. M. Railway Men's Conference at Madras and the All-India Postmen's Conference at Lahore. He acted as the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the first Bombay Provincial Labour Conference. Messrs. Joshi and Bakhale visited in 1924 the tea plantations in Assam with the object of studying the labour conditions there. Mr. Joshi also visited the coal mines in Bihar and Orissa to study the conditions of workers in mines, especially of the employment of women underground.

Mr. Sharma has been studying the labour conditions in the Punjab and taking steps to organise labour unions. With the help of Mr. Joshi, he formed the Punjab Labour Organising Board of which he is one of the Secretaries. Mr. Suryanarayan Rau engaged himself in the study of emigration to Ceylon and Malaya with special reference to labour conditions prevailing in the districts from which a large number of labourers is recruited.

Co-operative Work.

Almost from the time the Society came into existence, its members have given prominent place to co-operative work in its scheme of activities.

Special Kenya Session of the Servants of India Society, August, 1923.



Mr. Devadhar's work is already known to the public. For the last six years he has been the Vice-President of the Bombay Central Co-operative Institute, one of the premier non-official co-operative organisations in the country. He has also been on the Directorate of the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank for the last ten years. In memory of the late Sir Vithaldas Thackersey, Mr. Devadhar started a fund for constructing buildings for housing the Co-operative Institute and other co-operative organisations. He enlisted the financial support of prominent men in the country and a memorial in honour of Sir Vithaldas is now an accomplished fact. He also continued to be the Secretary of the Debt Redemption Societies in Bombay. He made extensive tours in the Presidency and outside for co-operative work. He presided over the Provincial Co-operative Conference in Madras in 1923, the Sind Provincial Co-operative Conference in 1924, the Ajmer Merwara Co-operative Conference, the Bihar & Orissa Provincial Co-operative Congress at Siwan, the Maharastra Divisional Co-operative Conference and the Berar Co-operative Conference in 1925, and the United Province Provincial Co-operative Conference at Fyzabad in April 1926. After the work of the Conference was over in Hyderabad in 1924, Mr. Devadhar toured for a month in both the urban and rural areas of Sind studying the problem of the people and their needs and the growth of the co-operative movement in those areas. Similarly after the Fyzabad Conference in April 1926 he toured in several important places in the United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Central Province and Bengal in connection with various movements.

Mr. K. G. Sivaswamy was the Joint Secretary of the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union and Editor of the English and Tamial editions of the *Bulletin of Co-operation* conducted by the Union. Much of his time is taken up with organising the work of the Provincial Union and cultivating its close association with its constituent bodies with a view to interest them in the larger problem of control and regulation of the movement, their duties and responsibilities. The active sympathy of a large number of honorary workers has been enlisted by him on behalf of the

Provincial Union. Its work has been spread over the whole province and the constituent bodies have begun to recognise the value and feel the close association of a provincial federation. Mr. Sivaswamy tried to educate and organise public opinion on the vital questions affecting the future of the movement by articles in the press and lectures at different places. He toured extensively in the presidency for propaganda, met different non-official organisations engaged in the movement, attended and spoke at several district conferences, organised the Madras district and provincial conferences and convened conferences of representatives of the Central Banks. He also helped the organisation of Co-operative Training Classes where he delivered a series of lectures on rural work. Mr. Suryanarayan Rau interested himself in co-operative housing and wrote articles in the *Bulletin* on the defects of the by-laws and also spoke at the district and the provincial conferences. He delivered a series of lectures to the co-operative training class organised by the provincial conferences.

Mr. Joshi continues to promote the movement among the mill labourers, and this forms the vital part of the work of the Social Service League. Mr. Deole is the Secretary of the Bombay Hindu Co-operative Housing Society and Chairman of the Girgaon Co-operative Society and is also on the Standing Committee of the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Institute. He delivered lectures on co-operation to the training classes organised by the Institute. Mr. Thakkar was in charge of the Dohad branch of the Central Co-operative Institute and Mr. Patwardhan of the Maharashtra Branch, which publishes a Marathi Bulletin of Co-operation.

Mr. Sahu was editing the *Sahajag Samachar* and acted as the Honorary Organiser of the Co-operative Societies. Mr. Madhava Rau was elected Vice-President of the Malabar District Co-operative Union. Mr. Sharma studied the progress of the movement in the Punjab with a view to undertake organisation of co-operative societies.

Relief Work.

Floods:—Destructive floods in South Canara in July 1923 necessitated the organisation of relief operations on a comparatively large scale. Mr. Ekambara Rao was engaged in this work as the Joint Secretary of the Relief Committee in Mangalore. Messrs. Devadhar, Madhav Rao and Suryanarayan Rau visited South Canara at intervals and undertook publicity work as well as that of collection of contributions. Mr. Suryanarayan Rau acted also as one of the Secretaries of the Relief Fund started in Madras. Mr. Madhava Rao was on the Executive Committee formed to render relief to the sufferers from floods in north Malabar.

The unprecedented floods in South India in July and August 1924 demanded the services of the members of the Madras Branch. Mr. Sivaswamy made an extensive tour, collected information and suggested relief measures. The Y. M. C. A. offered to co-operate with the Society in relieving distress. Members of the Society and the Secretaries of the Y. M. C. A. were posted to different areas and relief work was at once begun. Messrs. Kodanda Rao, Ekambara Rao and Sivaswamy were engaged in this work. Mr. Madhava Rao was the Secretary of the Malabar Floods Relief Committee organised in Calicut to relieve distress caused by the floods in Malabar. The organisation and the administration of the relief was done with the help of the local people. Later on Mr. Sivaswamy was engaged in the work of reclamation of land covered with sand. Wherever possible he organised Co-operative Land Reclamation Societies. Local people were also helped with grants in instalments for the reclamation of land. Cheap grain shops were opened to keep down prices and afford relief to the poorer classes of the population. Mr. Devadhar assisted by Mr. C. S. Deole as one of the Honorary Secretaries, with the help of a few friends in Bombay and backed up enthusiastically by the press, especially the *Times of India* and the *Bombay Chronicle*, started the South Indian Flood Relief Fund. He spared no efforts to collect large sums of

money. He toured in the affected areas in September 1924 to inspect the relief work that was being carried on.

Mr. Joshi was President of the Kolaba District Flood Relief Committee formed in Bombay to relieve the distress caused by floods in Kolaba. He was also connected with the South Canara and other district relief funds formed in Bombay.

The Seva Samiti of Allahabad, helped by Mr. Tiwary, gave relief to the sufferers from the floods of 1924 in several places in U. P. and incurred considerable expenditure in this connection.

Famines :—Mr. Suryanarayan Rau visited the famine-affected areas in the Ceded Districts in December 1923 and in May 1924 and sent up a report on the conditions prevailing there and the necessary measures of relief. He also collected some money for the distribution of cloth to the sufferers. In July 1924 when the devastating floods occurred in South India, Mr. Suryanarayan Rau was in charge of relief work office in Madras. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Madras Central Flood Relief Fund and assisted the Committee in all possible ways. He also toured in the flooded areas. In May 1925 when a severe cyclone caused considerable havoc in the Northern Circars, Mr. Suryanarayan Rau was deputed to visit the affected areas and organise relief measures. He visited various places, organised local committees and set up organisations for the administration of relief. In November 1925, there was a cyclone in Malabar and Mr. Suryanarayana Rau acted as Secretary of the Cyclone-Relief Committee.

In September last there was a severe famine in Coimbatore district in the Madras Presidency. Mr. Venkatasubbaiya visited the area and found need for starting relief work. With the help and hearty co-operation of the Taluka Board, he provided work for the famine-stricken by undertaking the construction and repairs of roads. Considerable difficulty was experienced by members of the depressed classes for drinking water. Mr. Venkatasubbaiya

arranged either for the digging of new wells or repairing the old ones. The Government did not recognise the existence of famine in the area, in spite of the agitation in the press and the Legislative Council; and so, but for the timely help rendered by the Society, the people would have suffered much. Grateful acknowledgment must be made, however, of the countenance and active help of the Collector of the district, who visited the scene of relief and expressed appreciation of the services of the voluntary workers.

Work for the Depressed Classes and Aboriginal Tribes.

Mr. A. V. Thakkar has been devoting himself wholly to the work of uplift of Bhils in Gujerat. As President of the Bhil Seva Mandal which conducts eight schools, three boarding houses and two rural dispensaries and as the supporter of the Kaliparaj movement and the crusade against drink, Mr. Thakkar has been attempting a task which hitherto no indigenous institution in the country has undertaken. The Mandal spends over Rs. 20,000 on this work annually. The success that has so far attended his efforts augurs well for the future, and when we remember that there is a large aboriginal population which has not yet come within the pale of civilization, the need for similar efforts elsewhere also is apparent. Mr. Thakkar has been busy for the past six months in studying the question of the aboriginal tribes in the C. P., Assam, Chota Nagpur &c. The results of his study will, it is expected, lead to the promotion of some definite schemes for the amelioration of the aboriginal tribes in the country as a whole.

Messrs. M. S. Ekambara Rao and M. S. Madhav Rao were both in charge of the Depressed Classes Mission, Mangalore, which is now managed by the Society. There is an industrial section attached where carpentry is taught to the boys. Boarding house helped with a grant from Government is also maintained. The Mission has a few agricultural colonies in which the families of the depress-

ed classes have been settled. Recently Government have given a special grant to extend the scope of the industrial section. A scheme for adult education on the lines conducted in Malabar has been sent up to Government for sanction.

Mr. Sahu opened a school in Cuttack for the depressed classes. In 1924, Messrs. Vaze and Limaye organised an anti-untouchability campaign in Poona with the special object of encouraging the depressed classes to claim and assert their civic equality with other classes. Leaflets in English and Marathi were circulated and meetings organized in the localities where the depressed classes live. Mr. A. V. Thakkar has been supervising several schools for the depressed classes organised by the Gujrat Provincial Congress Committee. Mr. D. H. Bhat frequently visited the places occupied by the depressed classes and spoke to them on health and sanitation.

Mr. Kaul has recently organised work among the depressed classes at six centres in the Lucknow City. With the help of volunteers he visited the localities, ascertained their needs and conveniences and secured the facilities the municipality ought to afford to them. He delivered a series of lectures on all matters affecting the welfare of the community.

Educational.

Reference has already been made of the Seva Sadan Society, Poona, which carries on the work of female education at Poona, Ahmednagar, Baramati and Sholapur. Mr. Devadhar was for some time engaged in raising funds for the memorial to the late Mrs. Ramabai Ranade, the ex-President of the Seva Sadan. It is to take the form of a home for women social workers. Mr. Devadhar is now the Chairman of the Council of Management of the Aryan Education Society in Bombay with which he was connected for five or six years in its early career, working as its Principal, before he joined the Society.

THE SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY.



THE SOCIETY'S HOME IN BOMBAY.

Mr. Deole was one of the Secretaries of the School Boards' Conference held in Bombay in 1926 to consider the difficulties of the Boards in making primary education free and compulsory under the Elementary Education Act.

Mr. Kunzru and Mr. Tivary are members of the Allahabad University Court and the latter of the Executive Council. Mr. Dube was elected a member of the Lucknow University Court by the registered graduates. Mr. Dravid and Mr. Kelkar have been members of the Nagpur University Court.

Mr. K. G. Sivaswamy wrote a series of articles to various journals on adult education and also read a paper on the subject before the Rural Workers' Conference, Coimbatore, convened by the Y. M. C. A.

Mr. Sharma organised two conferences on female education under the auspices of the Punjab Social Reform Association in which a number of important resolutions were adopted.

Temperance.

Mr. R. Suryanarayan Rao was the Joint Secretary of the Madras Temperance League and on its behalf he carried on agitation for the reform of the reformed administration in Madras. He gave evidence before the Madras Excise Committee and at its request prepared a note on how to recoup the loss in excise revenue. During the debates on the excise policy in the Madras Legislative Council he helped members by supplying them with necessary information. He attended the session of the All-India Prohibition League held at Delhi in 1926 on behalf of the Madras Temperance League. He organised the Prohibition League for Malabar which carries on propaganda against drink on the west coast.

Mr. Thakkar carried on temperance propaganda among the Bhils under the auspices of the Bhil Seva Mandal. Messrs. Ekambara Rao, Madhav Rao and Suryanarayan Rau have in their turn worked for weaning the depressed classes from drink.

Scouting.

Scouting forms one of the very important activities of the U. P. Branch of the Society. Mr. Sriram Bajpai, who received special training in Scouting in England, devotes his whole time to spreading the Scout movement in Upper India. He conducted several Scout Masters' Training Camps, toured in Northern India and lectured in places like Ambala, Delhi and Agra. He published two books in Hindi on Scouting. Mr. Bajpai's troops won 1st and 2nd place in St. John Ambulance Competition. At his instance the district boards of the United Provinces have at their conferences decided to introduce the Seva Samiti Scout Movement in all their vernacular schools. Mr. Kunzru continues to be the Chief Commissioner of the Seva Samiti Scouts' Association in Allahabad.

Baby Week.

The Society has been taking keen interest in the Baby Week Movement, since its inauguration in 1924. Mr. Devadhar has been the Honorary Provincial Secretary of the National Health and Baby Week for the Bombay Presidency. He had to tour frequently to organise local committees and rouse the enthusiasm of the public. An organization for the supply of literature, slides, films, charts and models required for the Baby Week with its Depot and Officers, is located in the Servants of India Society's Home in Bombay. Magic lantern and cinema shows were given as an integral part of the Baby shows and exhibition during the Week. In Poona also Mr. Devadhar assisted by Messrs. Ambekar and Bhat took part in organising the week. Other members also are helping this movement at their respective centres of work.

Propaganda.

Besides the activities enumerated above, the members of the Society engaged themselves in doing propaganda work of a varied character both through the press and the platform. From time to time they contributed articles to the press on subjects of which they had made special study and also on many burning topics of the day. They delivered lectures at many places to which they were invited and tried to rouse the interest of the people in their subjects. In the last general elections to the Legislatures, many of our members worked for the candidates of the Liberal Party and tried to secure support for them by visiting several places in the different constituencies and delivering lectures. When Mr. C. Y. Chintamani, General Secretary of the National Liberal Federation, toured in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, Messrs. K. G. Siwaswamy Iyer and D. V. Ambekar arranged for his tour in their respective provinces and accompanied him to some important places.

For the purposes of propaganda, the Society maintains three papers: a Marathi daily, an English bi-weekly and an English weekly. The daily *Dnyan Prakash* of Poona is the oldest vernacular paper in Maharashtra of nearly 80 years' standing and, as the most important, and perhaps the only, organ of the Liberal Party in the Deccan, commands the respect of the people. Mr. K. G. Limaye and Mr. B. M. Ambekar are the Editor and Joint Editor respectively of the paper. The latter has been associated with it almost from the time it became the property of the Society. The *Servant of India*, started in 1918 on the third anniversary of the death of Mr. Gokhale, is the English organ of the Society and is issued from Poona on every Thursday. Mr. S. G. Vaze is its Editor and he was assisted in his work from time to time by Messrs. Venkatsubbaiya, D. V. Ambekar and Kodand Rao. The *Hitawad* of Nagpur was till recently a weekly; but, thanks to the generous help given by Rao Bahadur D. Laxmi Narayan of Nagpur, it has now been converted into a bi-weekly. Besides dealing with general politics and other subjects it deals more particularly with the public activities of the Central

Provinces and Berar for which it chiefly caters. During the period under report these papers did their best to propagate the principles of politics by which the Society has stood all these years. They are, it may be added, by no means a source of income to the Society; on the contrary, they involve the Society into an annual loss of a few thousands of rupees. But they have been maintained with a view to do propaganda work and try to popularise the principles for which the Society stands, viz., the principles of Ranade and Gokhale which have stood the test of time and have now begun to be recognised in their right perspective.

In addition to these papers of the Society, some of our members are conducting a few other newspapers which are not owned by the Society. Mr. Patwardhan has recently started a Marathi weekly paper, called the *Sansthani Swaraj*, devoted to the problems of the Indian States. It is conducted on the lines of the aims and objects of the Daxini Sansthana Hitwardhak Sabha. He was also editing for some years the *Sahakari Mitra*, under the branch auspices of the Bombay Central Co-operative Institute, Maharashtra, of which he was the Provincial Secretary. Mr. Sahu was editing for some time the *Sahakara*, an Uriya monthly. Reference has already been made of the *All-India Trade Union Bulletin*, an official organ of the All-India Trade Union Congress which is edited by Mr. Bakhale since it was started in July 1924.

The Members of the Society published a few pamphlets on important subjects during the period under report, such as Mr. Sastri's *Speeches and Writings on Kenya*; Mr. Kodand Rao's book on the Malabar Tenancy question; Mr. Bakhale's *Directory of Trade Unions in India*, etc. Moreover, a few valuable articles that appeared in the *Servant of India* on such subjects as the "System of Fines" prevailing in industrial concerns in India were also published by the Society in book form.

The Presses.

The Society owns three presses: the Aryabhushan and the Dnyan Prakash Press in Poona, the Bombay Vaibhav Press in Bombay and the Hitawada Press in Nagpur. The Nagpur press is a small concern meant only for printing the *Hitawada*. The Bombay Vaibhav Press is much bigger and is a source of some income to the Society. But by far the greatest press was the Aryabhushan and Dnyan Prakash Press in Poona which, as the public are already aware, was burnt down almost completely by the disastrous fire on May 25, 1926. The Aryabhushan press had been first organised by that band of public workers which started the *Kesari* and the *Mahratta*, the New English School and the Fergusson College—we mean, Messrs. Vishnu Shastri Chiplunkar, Tilak and Agarkar. After some years the Press was purchased by Mr. Gokhale with the object of facilitating the propaganda work which he was carrying on through the *Dnyan Prakash* which also he had purchased about that time. He built it up with great care, patience and foresight and desired to provide for the Society a constant source of income. Two of our members, Messrs. Patwardhan and Barve, who have been in charge of the Press, the two editors of the *Dnyan Prakash* and the *Servant of India* and two other members who help the latter in the conduct of the papers, used to be maintained by the Aryabhushan Press. Besides, it used to make up the losses of the *Servant of India* and the *Dnyan Prakash* out of its profits. In fact, the Press was the mainstay of the Society's finances. Apart from the help that it was giving to the Society, the Press was responsible for the publication of a large proportion of the Marathi works by well known writers in the Deccan. All this has now gone! The loss is tremendous in itself; but part of it is absolutely irreparable. The files of the *Dnyan Prakash* for the last 80 years, the files of the *Sudharaka* of the late Mr. Agarkar and of the *Kesari* and the *Mahratta* were all reduced to ashes and most of them can never be replaced. The material collected for the life of Mr. Gokhale and the biography itself which was nearing completion, were

wholly destroyed. It will thus be realised how disastrous the loss is to the Society by the fire which brought to ruin the Aryabhushan and the Dnyan Praksh Press. We are practically crippled; and one does not know when we shall be able to regain our former position!

Library.

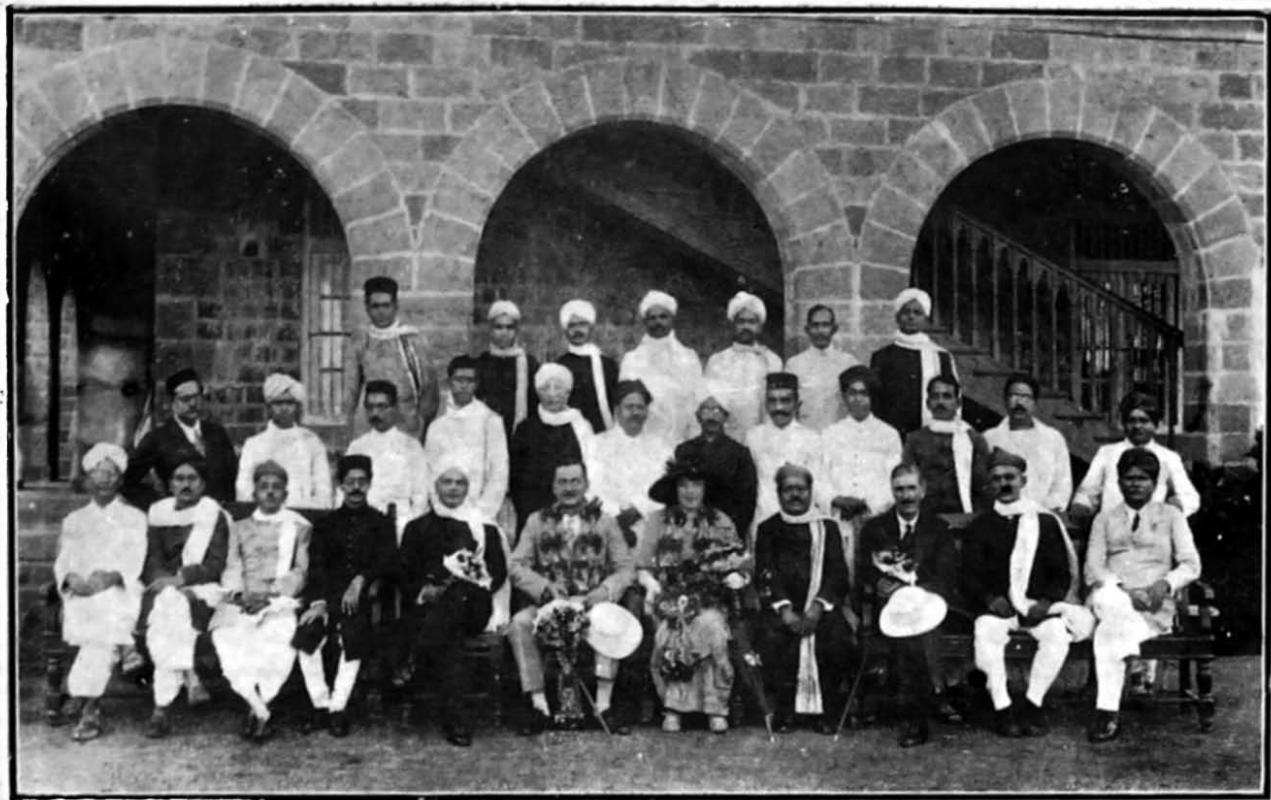
During the period under report the Library has been improved considerably. Special efforts were made to get as many up-to-date books as possible on different subjects. About 500 books dealing chiefly with Economics, Contemporary History, Politics and Sociology were added to the Library. Besides the departmental reports of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments, the Library received the census and other statistical reports from several British Colonies. Books and reports have been classified under different subject headings numbering nearly 300, and a card index of the authors has also been prepared. The subject index card enables the readers to find out at a glance the books and reports that the library has on any particular subject. Current literature on racial problems, opium, taxation and land systems in various countries has been collected. A list of books and reports dealing with the taxation systems available in the Library was printed and circulated to those engaged in the study of the question in connection with the Taxation Enquiry Committee. Books received for review by the *Servant of India* were, owing to the courtesy of the reviewers, returned to the Editor and they have all been placed in the Library. We take this opportunity to express our grateful thanks to the reviewers.

Credit is due to Mr. J. B. Sen, Assistant Librarian, for preparing the card indexes and keeping the Library in order.

The Financial Position.

The financial position of the Society, never very strong, has become infinitely worse now, on account of the complete

Twentieth Anniversary of the Servants of India Society.



H E. Sir Leslie (Governor of Bombay) and Lady Wilson's visit to the Society, June 12, 1925.

ruin of the Aryabhushan and the Dnyan Prakash Press. A comparison of the financial statements appended to the first report of the Society published in 1916, soon after Mr. Gokhale's death, with those going with this report shows that while we had a balance of Rs. 53,000-13-7 at the end of June 1916, we have now, at the end of June 1926, a very small balance on hand. In other words, we have not only exhausted our old balance but we have reduced our investments to a great extent. During this period our sphere of work has considerably increased and with it our recurring financial liabilities. But we are sorry to say that our income side has not kept pace with our growing expenditure. The public are already aware that the Society has no permanent source of income which can cover all its liabilities. It has always to depend upon public donations and contributions. We take this opportunity of expressing our grateful thanks to our donors and contributors for the help they gave us during the period under report. We recognise that this period was one of severe trade depression all round and, therefore, our friends and sympathisers could not help us to the same extent as they could have done in normal times. The Society on its part drew largely upon what could be got from the Aryabhushan and the Bombay Vaibhav Presses and conducted its activities in the hope that with better times prompt financial assistance from the public will come. Now with the destruction of the Aryabhushan Press, the Society is deprived of its main source of income, meagre as it was in comparison to its needs, on which it used to fall in lean years, and the members of the Society cannot but turn in their difficulties to their countrymen for prompt and generous help in money, which alone can put them back in their former position and enable them to resume their career of service to the public. The Society has already opened a Fire Relief Fund and, looking to the amount so far collected, we gratefully acknowledge the spontaneous expressions of good will, sympathy and help received from the public, including those who are not in habitual agreement with us in public matters. But it may be mentioned that as the collections made for the Fire Relief Fund will be mostly

utilised for reconstructing the Aryabhushan and the Dnyan Prakash Press, the Society will still be in need of money for conducting its normal activities. We, therefore, appeal to our friends, sympathisers and the general public to continue to contribute to the Society even in a larger measure than before, so as to enable its members to carry on their various public activities to which they have already put their shoulders. It seems almost impossible that a Society like ours should ever reach, financially, a stage when its members could be altogether freed from daily anxiety as regards the sinews of war for their various activities. But it is not unreasonable to expect that the generous and appreciative public will see to it that those anxieties do not reach such dimensions as would hopelessly cripple, if not crush out, all effort on the part of its members. If the uniform support we have received in the past is any index of what we may expect in the future, the members of the Society need not despair. They, in the words of their great Master, "reverently seek" but "the joy which comes of spending oneself in the service of one's country."

The Servants of
Statement of Affairs

LIABILITIES.		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Balance on 1st June 1923	...	5,94,701	12	5			
Less Deficit (as per Statement of Income and Expenditure)	...	79,474	5	9			
					5,15,227	6	8
*Gokhale Memorial Trust Fund— (Received in Securities as per contra)	...	...			1,33,000	0	0
*Liabilities for other Funds—							
Gokhale Memorial Fund	...	6,015	0	0			
Indian Distress Relief	...	6,750	7	0			
Sir W. Wedderburn Estate	...	2,151	7	8			
Women's Education Fund	...	4,511	3	0			
Indian Flood Relief	...	1,165	11	0			
					20,593	12	8
Other Credit Balances due to others—							
At Centre	...	209	12	6			
At Bombay Branch	...	4,866	12	0			
At Madras	...	2,547	0	4			
At C. P.	...	196	0	0			
					7,819	8	10

Total Rs. ... 6,76,640 12 2

The above Statement of Affairs and the annexed statement from the two previously published reports of the Society by the Secretary for the last three years ending 31st May

* Please see the notes on page 36.

Bombay, 30th June 1926.

India Society.
as on 31st May 1926.

		ASSETS.			
		Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.
Buildings and Sites— (Including Bombay, Poona, Lonavala and Madras Bungalows) ... ..		...	...	2,47,583	13 7
*Library—					
Total expenditure to date		42,293	11 10		
Less written off by way of provision		42,293	11 10		
					0 0 0
Deadstock (after allowing depreciation) ... ..		...	...	7,730	12 0
*Kibe Wada Mortgage Account ... ..		...	...	61,734	2 11
*Advances to Presses—					
Aryabhushan and Dnyan Prakash		86,260	7 5		
Bombay Vaibhav Press		56,668	4 3		
Hitawad, Nagpur		9,743	5 0		
				1,52,672	0 8
*Advances to Members and others—					
At Centre		1,534	15 6		
At Bombay Branch		1,895	15 0		
At Madras		984	7 8		
At U. P. Branch		158	0 0		
Investments—				4,573	6 2
Gokhale Memorial Trust Fund, 3½ per cent. G. P. Notes face value		1,21,000	0 0		
4 per cent. Bombay Port Trust Bonds (Face value)		12,000	0 0	1,33,000	0 0
Other Investments—					
3½ per cent. G. P. Notes face value		16,200	0 0		
4 per cent. G. P. Conversion Loan		100	0 0		
4 per cent. D. E. Society' Loan		1,000	0 0		
5 per cent. War Loan face value		13,100	0 0		
5 per cent. Bombay Municipal Debentures		10,000	0 0		
6 per cent. War bonds		1,200	0 0		
6½ per cent. Bombay Development		10,000	0 0		
(Face Value)		51,600	0 0		
				Costing Rs.	45,643 10 4
(out of these investments, securities worth Rs. 20,593-12-8 are held for the balance of other funds held as per contra).					
Bank Balances in Current and Savings Accounts—					
At Centre		14,518	1 6		
At Bombay Branch		1,577	0 8		
At Madras		1,737	9 9		
At U. P.		113	3 6		
				17,945	15 5
Aryabhushan Press Current Account ... ..		...	...	1,397	4 4
Cash Balance—					
At Centre with Home Member and Branches ... ..		...	...	4,359	10 9
Total ... ..		...	...	6,76,640	12 2

ment of Income and Expenditure Account have been drawn and from the statements and information supplied to me 1926.

(Sd.) J. K. PARULKAR,
Certified Auditor.

* Please see the notes on page 36.

Notes on some of the items in the Statement of Affairs of the Servants of India Society as on 31st May 1926.

—: 0 :—

Liabilities.

Gokhale Memorial Fund:—The amount of Rs. 1,33,000 represents the nominal value of the securities received from the Committee of the Gokhale Memorial Fund. The Society is entitled to draw interest only.

Liabilities for other Funds:—(1) **GOKHALE MEMORIAL FUND**:—The amount of Rs. 6,015 represents the contributions received from the Servants of India Society's donors in memory of the late Mr. Gokhale.

(2) **INDIAN DISTRESS RELIEF FUND**:—The amount of Rs. 6,750-7-0 represents the balance to be dealt with by the Society for relief of the distressed.

(3) **SIR W. WEDDERBURN ESTATE FUND**:—The amount of Rs. 2,151-7-8 is received from the Estate of Sir W. Wedderburn. The Society is entitled to draw interest only.

(4) **WOMEN'S EDUCATION FUND**:—The amount of Rs. 4,511-3-0 is received by Mr. Devadhar personally for being spent on female education and he has handed over this amount to the Society for disbursement.

(5) **INDIAN FLOOD RELIEF FUND**:—The amount of Rs. 1,165-11-0 represents the balance to be dealt with by the Society.

Assets.

Library:—The expenditure under this heading is a mixed one of books, Government reports, magazines, periodicals, etc. It is thought in the interest of the Society to fully provide for all the expenditure incurred to this date. All additions made in future would be written off by 20 per cent. The amount written off by way of provision does not mean that the books in the Library are valueless or non-existing but is merely a provision.

Kibe Wada Mortgage:—The amount of Rs. 61,734-2-11 is subject to adjustment as per Court's order. This account will be adjusted finally when the Court's decree will be available.

Advances to Presses:—The amount of Rs. 1,52,672-0-8 represents the advances made to the Society's presses from time to time on their capital accounts. The Society's accounts have not taken into consideration the liabilities and assets of these presses.

Advances to Members and others:—In the report (published in 1924 April) the amount shown was Rs. 20,746-5-5. All these balances with further transactions have now been finally adjusted upto 31st May 1926 and the present balance of Rs. 4,573-6-2 is recoverable.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Servants of India Society.

PREAMBLE.

For some time past the conviction has been forcing itself on many earnest and thoughtful minds that a stage has been reached in the work of nation-building in India, when, for further progress, the devoted labours of a specially trained agency, applying itself to the task in a true missionary spirit, are required. The work that has been accomplished so far has indeed been of the highest value. The growth during the last fifty years of a feeling of common nationality, based upon common traditions and ties, common hopes and aspirations, and even common disabilities, has been most striking. The fact that we are Indians first and Hindus, Mahomedans, Parsees or Christians afterwards is being realised in a steadily increasing measure, and the idea of a united and renovated India, marching onwards to a place among the nations of the world, worthy of her great past, is no longer a mere idle dream of a few imaginative minds, but is the definitely accepted creed of those who form the brain of the community—the educated classes of the country. A creditable beginning has already been made in matters of education and of local self-government; and all classes of the people are slowly but steadily coming under the influence of liberal ideas. The claims of public life are every day receiving wider recognition, and attachment to the land of our birth is growing into a strong and deeply cherished passion of the heart. The annual meetings of Congresses and Conferences, the work of public bodies and associations, the writing in the columns of the Indian Press—all bear witness to the new life that is coursing in the veins of the people. The results achieved so far are undoubtedly most gratifying; but they only mean that the jungle has been

cleared and the foundations laid. The great work of rearing the superstructure has yet to be taken in hand, and the situation demands on the part of workers devotion and sacrifices proportionate to the magnitude of the task.

"The Servants of India Society" has been established to meet in some measure these requirements of the situation. Its members frankly accept the British connection as ordained, in the inscrutable dispensation of Providence, for India's good. Self-government within the Empire for their country and a higher life generally for their countrymen is their goal. This goal, they recognise, cannot be attained without years of earnest and patient effort and sacrifices worthy of the cause. Much of the work must be directed toward building up in the country a higher type of character and capacity than is generally available at present, and the advance can only be slow. Moreover, the path is beset with great difficulties; there will be constant temptations to turn back; bitter disappointments will repeatedly try the faith of those who have put their hand to the work. But the weary toil can have but one end, if only the workers grow not faint-hearted on the way. One essential condition of success in this work is that a sufficient number of our countrymen must now come forward to devote themselves to the cause in the spirit in which religious work is undertaken. Public life must be spiritualized. Love of country must so fill the heart that all else shall appear as of little moment by its side. A fervent patriotism which rejoices at every opportunity of sacrifice for the motherland, a dauntless heart which refuses to be turned back from its object by difficulty or danger, a deep faith in the purpose of Providence which nothing can shake—equipped with these, the worker must start on his mission and reverently seek the joy which comes of spending oneself in the service of one's country.

The Servants of India Society will train men prepared to devote their lives to the cause of the country in a religious spirit, and will seek to promote, by all constitutional means, the national interest of the Indian people. Its members will direct their efforts principally towards (1) creating

among the people, by example and by precept, a deep and passionate love of the motherland, seeking its highest fulfilment in service and sacrifice ; (2) organising the work of political education and agitation, basing it on a careful study of public questions, and strengthening generally the public life of the country ; (3) promoting relations of cordial good-will and co-operation among the different communities ; (4) assisting educational movements, especially those for the education of women, the education of backward classes and industrial and scientific education ; (5) helping forward the industrial development of the country ; and (6) the elevation of the depressed classes. The head-quarters of the Society will be at Poona, where it will maintain Home for its members, and, attached to it, a Library for the study of subjects bearing on its work. The following constitution has been adopted for the Society :—

1. The Society shall be called "The Servants of India Society."

2. The objects of the Society are to train national missionaries for the service of India and to promote, by all constitutional means, the interests of the Indian people.

3. The Society will consist of (a) a First Member or President ; (b) a Vice-President ; (c) Ordinary Members and (d) Members under training.

4. The First Member or President will be the Head of the Society.

5. Every member, on admission, shall undergo a special training for a period of five years. During this period, he will be known as a 'member under training.' When a member has completed his five years' discipline, he will be styled an 'Ordinary Member' of the Society.

6. Subject to rules 12 and 13, every member of the Society shall be a member for life.

7. The First Member or President, assisted by a Council, shall manage the affairs of the Society in accordance with the bye-laws framed for the purpose. This Council shall consist of the Vice-President, the Senior members of

the Branches, and three Ordinary Members elected annually by the members of the Society, the retiring members being eligible for re-election.

8. No person will be admitted as a member of the Society, unless his admission is recommended by the Council and the recommendation accepted by the First Member or President.

9. Every member at the time of admission shall take the following seven vows:—

(i) The country shall always be the first in my thoughts and I will give to her service the best that is in me.

(ii) In serving the country I will seek no personal advantage for myself.

(iii) I will regard all Indians as brothers and work for the advancement of all, without distinction of caste or creed.

(iv) I will be content with such provision for myself **and my family*, as the Society may be able to make. I will devote no part of my energies to earning money for myself.

* These words to be omitted if there be no family.

(v) I will lead a pure personal life.

(vi) I will engage in no personal quarrel with any one.

(vii) I will always keep in view the aims of the Society and watch over its interest with the utmost zeal, doing all I can to advance its work. I will never do anything which is inconsistent with the objects of the Society.

10. Every member under training shall, during the time that he is under training, place himself under the entire guidance and control of the First Member or President and shall do such work and devote himself to such studies as the First Member or President may direct.

11. An Ordinary Member may be sent by the First Member or President and Council, to any part of India on special duty or for general work in connection with the Society. He will be bound to do the work assigned to him.

under the general direction of the First Member or President and Council, and shall obey all orders and instructions that may be received from them.

12. The Society may release a member from his vows and permit him to resign his membership on the ground of continued ill-health or for other sufficient cause, on a recommendation to that effect being made by the Council, with the concurrence of not less than three-fourths of the members of the Society, and the recommendation being accepted by the First Member or President.

13. The Society may remove the name of any member from its roll of members on a recommendation to that effect being made by the Council, with the concurrence of not less than three-fourths of the members of the Society, and the recommendation being accepted by the First Member or President. The Society will not be bound to disclose the reasons for such removal.

14. The First Member will hold office for life.

(a) It will be the duty of the First Member to recommend in writing to the Council the names of three Ordinary Members, out of whom the members of the Society shall elect a successor to him as First Member on a vacancy occurring. If no such recommendation has been received by the Council when the vacancy occurs, the members of the Society may elect any ordinary member, or in the absence of a suitable Ordinary Member, any member, to succeed as First Member.

(b) In case, however, it appears undesirable to elect a First Member, the members may elect one of their number to be President of the Society for a period of three years.

(c) The members of the Society shall elect an Ordinary member to be Vice-President of the Society for three years.

(d) The First Member or President may, notwithstanding any other Rule, delegate any of his functions to the Vice-President.

15. . When a vacancy occurs in the First Membership or Presidentship of the Society, the Council shall exercise all the powers vested by the rules in the First Member or President singly or the First Member or President and Council, until such time as a new First Member or President is duly elected ; and any act done by the Council during such time shall be deemed valid, provided that the Council takes steps with all reasonable despatch to arrange for the election of a new First Member or President under rule 14 (a) or 14 (b) as the case may be.

16. In special circumstances the First Member or President and Council may exempt, for reasons to be recorded in writing, any member of the society from the operation of any rule save rule 9.

17. An applicant for membership may be required to pass through a period of probation before admission and may, in that case, be enrolled as a Probationer on such terms and for such period as the First Member or President and Council may determine.

18. The First Member or President and Council may remove the name of any Probationer from the list of Probationers before the expiry of the period of probation. The Society will not be bound to disclose the reasons for such removal.

19. The First Member or President and Council may admit any person, who, in their opinion, is capable of being trained to assist members of the Society in their work and who is prepared to devote his life to such work, as a Permanent Assistant of the Society, on such terms as the First Member or President and Council may determine.

20. A permanent Assistant may, on grounds of special fitness and after a period of approved service of not less than three years, be admitted as member under training by the First Member or President and Council.

21. The First Member or President and Council may remove the name of any Permanent Assistant from the list of Permanent Assistants of the Society. The Society will not be bound to disclose the reasons for such removal.

22. The First Member or President and Council may admit any person who is in full sympathy with the objects of the Society and is prepared to devote himself to such work as may be assigned to him for the benefit of the Society as an Attaché of the Society on such terms and under such control as the First Member or President and Council may determine.

23. The First Member or President and Council may remove the name of any Attaché from the list of Attachés of the Society. The Society will not be bound to disclose the reasons for such removal.

24. The First Member or President and Council may enrol any person who is in full sympathy with the objects of the Society and who is prepared to devote a portion of his time and resources to the furtherance of its work, as an Associate of the Society.

25. Probationers, Permanent Assistants, Attachés, and Associates will have no voice in the management of the affairs of the Society and no interest in the Society's property or funds.

26. All property of the Society shall belong to the Society in its corporate character, and no member, in his individual capacity, nor the heirs, executors or assignees of any member, shall have any right to any portion of it.

27. The property of the Society shall be held by three Trustees, one of whom shall be the First Member or President for the time being, and the other two, such members as may be elected by the members of the Society for the purpose.

28. All contracts, entered into, for and on behalf of the Society, shall be in the name of the First Member or President. In all suits brought by or against the Society, the Society shall be represented by the First Member or President.

29. The Society shall not be dissolved by the death, secession or removal of any member.

30. The First Member or President may, with the concurrence of a majority of the Ordinary Members of the

Society, make, alter, or rescind any bye-law or bye-laws for (1) the management of the affairs of the Society and the conduct of its business; (2) the custody, disposal, and control of the funds of the Society; (3) the provision to be made for members of the Society and their families and the grant of special allowances to them in special circumstances; (4) the grant of leave to members of the Society; (5) the grant of allowances to Permanent Assistants and Attache's of the Society; and (6) the carrying out in other ways of the objects of the Society.

31. The First Member or President and Council shall have power to take whatever steps may be deemed necessary in the interest of the Society, provided that they are not inconsistent with the objects of the Society or with the provisions or spirit of any of the rules or bye-laws at the time in force.

32. No alteration shall be made in this constitution, unless it is recommended by the Council with the concurrence of not less than three-fourths of the members of the Society, and the recommendation accepted by the First Member or President.

BYE-LAWS.

The following bye-laws have been made under rule 30 :—

(1) The Society shall, as circumstances permit, establish Branches for work in different parts of the country. At the head of each Branch there shall be a Senior Member, whose appointment and removal shall vest in the First Member or President and Council. He will be an *ex officio* member of the Council. The affairs of each Branch shall be managed by a Board consisting of the Senior Member and the Ordinary Members belonging to it.

(2) (a) Every member under training will be granted an allowance of Rs. 65 a month for the first two years of his training and Rs. 75 for the next three.

(b) Every Ordinary Member will be granted an allowance of Rs. 90 a month for the first five years, Rs. 110 for the next five years and Rs. 125 afterwards.

(c) A rent allowance not exceeding Rs. 15 a month in Bombay and Rs. 10 elsewhere or the actual rent paid, if less, will be granted to members, in case there are no quarters available on the premises of the Society.

(d) An allowance, between Rs. 50 and Rs. 60 per month, will be made to Permanent Assistants.

(e) Every Probationer will be given an allowance of Rs. 50 a month during the period of his probation.

(f) Every member under training who may be deputed to work in the City of Bombay, will be paid Rs. 15 as Bombay allowance, until he becomes an Ordinary Member.

(g) In cases of serious illness members may be paid by the Branches, on the recommendation of the Senior Member, the whole or part of the medical fees and medicine charges.

- (3) (a) A member under training is entitled to two-months' leave every year, which may be granted by the First Member or President, and, if the applicant is attached to a Branch, by the Senior Member of that Branch.
- (b) Ordinary Members are entitled to a month's leave every year, which may be granted by the First Member or President, and, if the applicant is attached to a Branch, by the Senior Member of that Branch.
- (c) Ordinary Members of the Central Provinces and Berar are entitled to one month and ten days' privilege leave if they go on leave on the 1st of May.
- (d) All members are entitled to twenty days' causal leave in a year.
- (e) Both causal and privilege leave, mentioned above, will only be sanctioned, if the work of the Society permits.
- (4) (a) The life of every member will, on admission, be assured by the Society in favour of the First Member or President for the time being for a sum of Rs. 3,000 payable at death. If no Insurance Company accepts the life of any member for assurance, the First Member or President and Council may make such other arrangement as they deem fit to secure, in the case of such member, the object of this bye-law.
- (b) On the death of a member whose life has been assured the First Member or President shall pay the amount recovered on the life-policy of the deceased to such persons or persons as the deceased member may, by will or otherwise in writing, have directed. In the absence of such direction, the First Member or President and Council shall have power to determine whether

the amount recovered may be paid to any person or persons belonging to the family of the deceased, and, if so, to whom.

(5) The First Member or President and Council may grant, in special circumstances, a special allowance to a member or a Permanent Assistant suited to the requirements of his case.

(6) If a member's connection with the Society is terminated under rule 12 or rule 13, he and his family shall forfeit all claim to the benefit secured to him or them under these bye-laws.

Rules and Bye-Laws for the Enrolment of Associates.

RULES.

"24. The First Member or President and Council may enrol any person who is in full sympathy with the objects of the Society, and who is prepared to devote portion of his time and resources to the furtherance of its work, as an Associate of the Society."

"25. Probationers, Permanent Assistants, Attachés, and Associates will have no voice in the management of the affairs of the Society and no interest in the Society's property or funds."

BYE-LAWS.

(1) When the First member or President and Council resolve to enrol any one as an Associate, the fact will be communicated to the person concerned by the Secretary.

(2) In case any application for Associateship is rejected, the Society will not be bound to disclose the reasons.

(3) A Branch may, where practicable, ascertain the opinion of the Associates assigned to it, in respect of any new scheme of work contemplated by it, and in respect of any question of policy to be laid down by the Society, on occasions when momentous questions are before the country.

(4) An Associate will so conduct himself as not to compromise the position of the Society, but further its aims and interests.

(5) Associates will be kept informed by the headquarters of the Society about the progress of work from time to time; will be invited to attend the Anniversary of the foundation-day; will be allowed to use the libraries of the Society at the headquarters and at the Branches; may be invited to attend special sessions; and may be

allowed to reside, if room be available, at the headquarters or the Branches, for the purposes of study or work.

(6) The President and Council may remove the name of an Associate from the list of Associates maintained at the head-quarters, on a recommendation to that effect being received from the Branch to which the Associate is assigned. The Society will not be bound to disclose the reasons for such removal.

THE
Servants of India Society

—:~:~:~:—
*List of Members, Permanent Assistants,
Attachés and Probationers on
1st September 1926.*

—————
Founder :

The late Hon'ble Mr. G. K. GOKHALE, C. I. E .

President :

* The Rt. Hon'ble V. S. SRINIVASA
SASTRI, B.A., L.T., P.C.

Vice-President :

* Gopal Krishna Devadhar, M.A.

Ordinary Members :

1. Natesh Appaji Dravid, M.A.
2. *Anant Vinayak Patvardhan, B.A.
3. Hirday Nath Kunzru, B.A., B.Sc.
4. †Shridhar Ganesh Vaze, B.A.
5. Chintaman Sakharam Deole, B.A.
6. Kishan Prasad Kaul, B.A.
7. V. Venkatasubbaiya, B.A.
8. † Narayan Malhar Joshi, B.A., M.L.A., J.P.
9. Venkatesh Narain Tiwary, M.A.
10. Vithal Hari Barve.
11. † Amritlal Vithaldas Thakkar, L.C.E.
12. Dattatraya Vasudeo Ambekar.
13. Rao Bahadur N. K. Kelkar.
14. Laxmi Narain Sahu, M.A.

* Trustee.

† Member of the Council of the Society.

15. Rupanagudi Suryanarayana Rau, B.A.
16. Krishnaji Ganesh Limaye, M.A., LL.B.

Members Under Training :

1. K. G. Sivaswami Iyer, B.A.
2. Hardatta Sharma, B.A., LL.B.
3. P. Kodanda Rao, M.A.
4. Shri Ram Bajpai.
5. Raghunath Ramchandra Bakhale.
6. S. P. Andrews Dube, M.A., L.T.

Permanent Assistants :

1. Dattatraya Vasudev Velankar.
2. Karsondas Jagjiwandas Chitalia.

Attachés :

1. Bapuji Martand Ambekar.

Probationer :

1. J. B. Sen, M.A.
-

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