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# INDIAN CO-OPERATIVE STUDIES.

EDITED BY

R. B. EW BANK, I.C.S.,

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

HENRY W. WOLFF,

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India," etc.*

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" We want pioneers of civilization to go out into our country districts with a divine passion in them, the desire of the God-implanted spirit, to make the world about them into some likeness of the Kingdom of Light. There are no barriers in our way except ourselves and our own supineness. The men in any rural district, united together, could make the land they live in as lovely to look on as the fabled gardens in the valley of Damascus. They could have fruit trees along the hedgerows, and make the country roads beautiful with colour in spring. This has been done in many a rural commune on the continent, and there is no reason why it should not be done here. Only let us get our men together, get them organised, and one improvement will rapidly follow another. For all great deeds by races, all civilizations, were built up by the voluntary efforts of men united together. Sometimes one feels as if there were some higher mind in humanity which could not act through individuals, but only through brotherhoods and groups of men. Anyhow, the civilization which is based on individualism is mean, and the civilization based upon great guilds, fraternities, communes and associations is of a higher order. If we are to have any rural civilization in Ireland, it must spring out of Co-operation. "

—*Co-operation and Nationality*, by George W. Russell.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Preface.

Introduction.

### INDIAN CO-OPERATIVE STUDIES.

1. The Problem of Rural Organisation in India. . . . . 21  
B. A. COLLINS, Esq., I.C.S., Financial Secretary to the Government of Bihar and Orissa; late Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bihar and Orissa.
2. Prevailing Types of Rural Credit Societies. . . . . 33  
H. CALVERT, Esq., I.C.S., Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Punjab.
3. Guaranteeing Unions. . . . . 48  
R. B. EW BANK, Esq., I.C.S., Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bombay Presidency; late Secretary, Committee on Co-operation in India.
4. Co-operation among Factory Workers. . . . . 63  
G. K. DEV DHAR, Esq., M.A., Debt Redemption Committee, Bombay, and N. M. JOSHI, Esq., M.A., Indian Delegate to the International Labour Conference at Washington; both of the Servants of India Society.
5. Urban Banks. . . . . 89  
J. C. COYAJEE, Esq., Professor of Economics, Presidency College, Calcutta.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

✓	6.	Co-operative Finance and the Money Market. B. A. COLLINS, Esq., I.C.S.	123
✓	7.	Training and Propaganda. VAIKUNTH L. MEHTA, Esq., M.A., Manager, Bombay Central Co-operative Bank, Bombay.	133
✓	8.	The Problems of Audit. LT.-COL. H. R. CROSTHWAITE, C.I.E., C. B. E., Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Central Provinces.	156
✓	9.	The Position of the Registrar. H. CLAYTON, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Commissioner of Settlements, Burma; late Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Burma.	169
	10.	Co-operation and the Housing Problem. RAO BAHADUR S. S. TALMAKI, Honorary Secretary, Central Co-operative Institute, Bombay.	191
✓	11.	Agricultural Trading Societies. F. NOYCE, Esq., C. B. E., I.C.S., Controller of Cotton Cloth; late Secretary of the Indian Cotton Committee, and Vice-President of the Indian Sugar Committee.	213
	12.	Co-operative Stores in India. G. SLATER, Esq., Professor of Indian Economics, University of Madras.	227
✓	13.	A Policy of Development. SIR DANIEL HAMILTON, of Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co., President, Bengal Co-operative Organisation Committee, Calcutta.	253

## PREFACE.

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WHATEVER else the impending Reforms in the political system may do for India, they at least cannot fail to arouse a far wider interest than at present in the problems of Government and to bring many new brains and fresh points of view to help in their solution. Those departments in particular, of which the ultimate control is to be wholly transferred to the popular representatives, are bound to become the objects of special interest. In the case of the Co-operative Department such a change will be very welcome. The problems involved are very complex and various, the field for work is unbounded, and *a priori* solutions which ignore the sentiments and habits of the people concerned are worthless. The more the movement is studied, discussed, and criticized, whether by experts or the general public or by practical co-operators themselves, the more healthy will be its growth and the more securely will its foundations be laid.

The present series of studies by a group of writers, who have had special opportunities of investigating the subjects on which they write, is a humble attempt to help towards this end. It is not easy for the public to pick out from the mass of published official literature relating to co-operation the main issues involved or to grasp the methods by which they are now being dealt with. The writers have made it their chief aim to bring the larger problems of the co-operative movement in India at its present stage before the general public, avoiding statistics and technicalities, and to indicate the lines on which solutions are being sought. Their studies will have attained their object if they in any way assist the future voters and legislators of India to form sound and independent opinions upon such co-operative questions as come before them.

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Although the papers contained in this book are written from a common standpoint by authors who, to a large extent, share each other's views, each contributor accepts sole responsibility for all opinions expressed in his paper.

If any profits are realized from the sale of this book, they will be devoted to the foundation of some prize or scholarship for the encouragement of co-operative studies in India.