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TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The Tariff Bill. THE Tariff Bill has made quite satisfactory progress in the Assembly. This is very much due to the good work of the Select Committee. It left the Bill practically unchanged, no doubt, but it did so after recording its emphatic opinion on two very important matters. It had agreed by a majority to insert a clause in the Bill requiring every company enjoying a measure of protection at the hands of the State to recognise associations of its employees and to submit all labour disputes to arbitration. Such a clause was not inserted in the Bill because the Select Committee have urged separate legislation regarding Trade Unions and trade disputes. Similarly the Select Committee has recorded its opinion in favour of "restricting the benefits of protection the Bill is designed to afford, to companies of firms having a certain minimum proportion of Indian capital and a definite Indian element in their management." No specific clause is introduced in the present Bill, again, because it is hoped to apply by other legislation this principle not only to steel industry but to all industries enjoying protection from the State. The debate was lively and interesting though there could have been greater economy of time. Not the least interesting feature of it was the part played by the Swarajists. We were eager to see how in the Select Committee and the open Assembly they would further the policy of non-co-operation. But their behaviour was in no way distinguishable from that of "co-operators" and independents. Only that great Ajax of the party, Mr. Patel, wanted exemption for the materials ordered by the Bombay Corporation of which he happens to be President, setting thus an illuminating example of disinterestedness in public life, which,

however, the wiser leader of the party, Pandit Motilal, disapproved. Yet the Swarajists have persuaded themselves that they are 'non-co-operating from within' the Councils and even expect others to believe so.

ASTOUNDING. THAT the Eurasians as a body should have persuaded themselves to petition Government that flogging should be administered to criminals of their community by none other than Eurasians is itself an astounding phenomenon. But that the Government should concede this most preposterous demand because of that community's threat of withdrawal from the Auxiliary force is more astounding still. When this foolish agitation was being carried on by the Eurasian leaders and when the pistol was being held at the head of the Government, it only afforded a good deal of merriment to most Indians, for no one then imagined that the Government of India would be either so weak as to entertain this demand for a moment or so dense as not to see the utterly immoral nature of the demand. But the Government has actually yielded and made a rule that Eurasians should be flogged only by men of their race, thus instituting a regular gradation in the matter of flogging: Europeans exempted altogether from this punishment, Indians subjected to flogging at the hands of all and sundry, and Eur-Indians flogged but only at the hands of Eur-Indians. To make this racial discrimination complete, the Government of India had only to go one step further, and following the good example of Kenya, enact a law that Europeans (and Eurasians) are liable to be arrested only by the police of their own race. While such outrages are still possible in India, it is futile for the Government to seek for an elimination of racial differentiation in the administration of Kenya. The Kenya Government may well ask Lord Reading's Government to put its own house in order before it preaches sermons on equity and racial equality to others.

SPYING THE CONGRESS. AT last there seems to be some chance of Indian politics getting a little "forrader". Mahatma Gandhi, while keeping the deliberations of the Congress open to men of all political persuasions, wishes to restrict the executive of that body strictly to persons who have a living faith in non-co-operation and are prepared in their own persons to observe all the inhibitions imposed by that principle, viz. boycott of schools, of law-courts, of mill-made

cloth, &c. Such a purge has been long overdue. It will put non-co-operators on their trial. So long it has been enough for them to pay a lip-homage to non-co-operation and then go about as if to all intents and purposes they believed in co-operation. Perhaps the only emblem of non-co-operation they carry is a Gandhi cap, but otherwise they do not seem to have any insuperable objection to taking a full advantage of Government institutions. Mahatma Gandhi realizes that non-co-operation has fallen into utter discredit on that account. The superior virtues which are claimed for it can never be demonstrated till non-co-operators not only talk about, but live a life of, non-co-operation. This is an advantage to "co-operators" also, for they too will have now a chance of proving that their own method is more beneficial in the interest of the country, and the only persons whom the purge will affect adversely are those who, with an inward belief in co-operation, profess on public platforms a belief in its opposite.

* * *

For their own
good.

REALLY such people should have no place in politics. But their number is by far the largest. Many of them imagine that the best way of countering non-co-operation when it has attained such unparalleled popularity is to label themselves non-co-operators, while all the time undermining the groundwork of the movement. It must be confessed that these tactics have so far succeeded most admirably. They have not incurred the odium to which open opposition of non-co-operation exposes the Liberals, while in every-day life their professed adherence to non-co-operation has imposed upon them no tangible responsibilities which could be brought home to them. They did not lack opportunities either of insidiously cutting the ground from under the feet of non-co-operators. If Mahatma Gandhi now succeeds in effectively separating the goats from the sheep, he will have done much to spiritualize politics, which have now sunk to very low depths indeed. If non-co-operators assume a definite responsibility for Congress activities, it will also compel the Swarajists to define their policy more clearly, and they will not be able hereafter to play fast and loose with obstruction as they are now doing. Excluded from positions of power and responsibility in the Congress, they need no longer be trammelled by past declarations made with a view to keeping well with non-co-operators. In any case Mahatma Gandhi's statement will serve very greatly to clear the air and to enable the country to understand who's who.

* * *

Kenya Governor's
Speech.

SIR R. CORYNDON opened the Legislative Council of Kenya Colony on May 14 with a speech in which he declared his determination not to reopen the Cabinet's decision of last July and beseeched the white members of Council similarly to keep up their determination, which shows clearly that he

does not much dread the result of the conversations that the Indian Colonies Committee are having or going to have with the Colonial Secretary. The Governor also referred to the new Draft Immigration Bill, which, like the previous one (he says), seeks faithfully to carry out the principle embodied in the White Paper. We can well imagine from this reference what the character of the new Bill is. It must be in all essentials a replica of the former Bill, which the Government of India declared went far beyond the restrictions contemplated in the White Paper. What is still worse, little relief is to be expected, to judge from the confident tone in which the Governor speaks on this question, at the hands of Mr. Thomas, who seems to have given way to the pressure of the whites, or Lord Olivier, who evidently feels unable to press the strong views to which he has given expression about the helpfulness of Indian immigrants in advancing the native Africans in the scale of civilization. This increases the responsibility of the Colonies Committee, who, we feel confident, will not surrender India's right of unrestricted emigration but on the contrary make out a strong case for excluding the white despoilers from East Africa.

* * *

Unwanted
Solicitude.

IN this speech Sir Robert also referred to a certain book by Mr. Andrews in which the Government's and whites' policy of exploitation has been strongly criticised. Which book this is we do not know, for we have not heard of any recent publication by Mr. Andrews on East Africa, unless it be the pamphlets published by the Imperial Citizenship Association. Anyway the statements made by Mr. Andrews on this subject are literally true, and he will have nothing to fear from the examination, to which Sir Robert asks the Colonial Secretary to subject the book, at the hands of the Native Trusteeship Committee, if the latter is composed, as it should be, of persons unconnected with Kenya politics and endowed with a capacity to sympathise with the sufferings of the oppressed. It is interesting in this connection to note that the Chief Native Commissioner of Kenya in answer to a question, gave the assurance that the Native Registration Ordinance is not going to be repealed. As the readers of this paper know, this law requires natives to carry identification certificates giving their industrial history on their persons day and night, and forms the key-stone of the structure of compulsory labour in force in Kenya. Of course the whites claim that this *Kipandi* system has also been devised in the native interest, the certificate being a life-long passport, the possession of which enables the native to travel about at will. But we are quite content to accept the verdict of any impartial body on this point, viz., whether the certificate is a hardship to the natives, as Mr. Andrews maintains, or a blessing as the Kenya Government maintains. If it is such a great boon, why does not the benign British Government

confer it on the native of West Africa or of Uganda and Tanganyika? Why is Government so partial to the native of Kenya? And why, indeed, does the latter loathe the *Kipandi* so cordially? Anyway, why does not the Kenya Government let him have his way, i.e. let him go without this proffered assistance, particularly when the withdrawal of this unwanted blessing, saves the treasury of this bankrupt Government some £20,000, a sum larger than what the Government can afford to spend on the education of 25 lakhs of natives? Mr. Andrews will surely be prepared to accept the challenge thrown down by Sir Robert Coryndon.

SPECIAL significance attaches to the Presidential address delivered by Sir K. V. Reddy, at the Malabar Tenants Conference held at Badagara in the last week of May. He was a Minister in the Madras Cabinet when the Malabar Rebellion drew prominent attention to the needs and grievances of Malabar. Not the least of these is the tenancy question, and Sir K. V. Reddy must have had exceptional advantages in studying it. He has come to the deliberate conclusion that economic distress, social oppression and political necessity have rendered imperative immediate tenancy legislation in Malabar. He characterises Mr. Krishnan Nair's Bill as only a "half measure" and calls for a bolder Gladstonian measure which will solve the question once for all. He advocates the granting of permanent rights of occupancy to tenants now in possession, the fixing of fair rents by a Land Commission so that "in no case should the cultivating tenant get less than one-third of the produce", permitting the sale of the tenant's interest, and awarding compensation, to the non-cultivating landlord or Kanandar. In these columns we have advocated similar proposals and we trust that Sir K. V. Reddy will throw the full weight of his own high authority and also obtain the great influence of the Party which he represents for shaping suitably the forthcoming legislation in the Madras Legislative Council.

MR. SATYAMURTI has succeeded, if that was his object, in raising quite a sensation over a private letter of Lord Olivier addressed to him. He perhaps thought to impress people in this country with a sense of his own importance by publishing it; what he has done is to demonstrate to those who did not know him before how worthy he is of the confidences of others. Anyhow he has managed to make himself the subject of a debate in Parliament, and the potter made there about this so-called affair is surprising. Cannot the Secretary of State write confidentially only to express the opinion that it would be a great advantage if Indian politics came out of the rut of communal feeling? Is this opinion after all so peculiar or so contrary to the prevailing policy of the British Government that Lord Olivier should be represented as having made an important announcement as to his policy to a private individual over the head of the Government of India? Those who put these questions in Parliament simply make themselves the laughing-stock of the world.

THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION.

WHEN the Public Services Commission presided over by Lord Lee was appointed, Indian opinion of every shade was vehemently opposed to it. The Assembly refused to vote money for its expenses and the Viceroy was obliged to have recourse to certification. This opposition was chiefly though not entirely due to the atmosphere created by the Europeans in the Imperial Services. A good many of them, particularly married officers, no doubt found it increasingly difficult to live in the style to which they had been accustomed before the war. But that difficulty was not peculiar to any particular class of persons or to any one country. As a matter of fact the subordinate services in India were very much harder hit. It was felt that when changed economic conditions in the whole world necessitated sacrifices from all classes of people, the most highly paid public servants in the world had no right to complain, especially as their emoluments had been very recently increased in pursuance of the recommendations of the Islington Commission. The service men, however, were not content with putting forward their financial grievances as they felt them. They opposed Indian aspiration for self-rule, placing their own service interests above the interests of the people whom they served; they put forth fanciful claims of compensation for loss of careers; they asked for guarantees regarding pensions &c., reflecting thereby on the honour of a future self-governing India; and thus they exasperated every section of Indian opinion. The Indians knew that this Commission would only increase the already heavy burden that had been imposed on India, and, on the other hand, did not expect any material benefit that might make the additional burden worth bearing.

That is because the war and the declaration of August 1917 have altogether changed the Indian outlook. Formerly the need for recruitment in England was not questioned. The question of importance then was an adequate and growing proportion of Indians in the superior services. Now it is no longer a question of proportions. As the declared policy of Britain towards India is the conferment of Dominion Status—and India hopes that it will be soon enough—Indian opinion demands that all further recruitment in England by the Secretary of State should be stopped and the Government of India be allowed to make its own arrangements for recruitment as the Dominion Governments are doing. Even if that be done immediately it will take more than 25 years before complete Indianisation results. The theory of India being a field of exploitation for British talent having been given up, the sole ground for retaining a proportion of British element is the admitted need for preserving the British character of the administration. But Indian opinion is clear that this character can be maintained without the continued presence of a certain fixed proportion of British personnel. It is a matter of system and

tradition rather than of personnel and the British system and tradition are now too firmly established in Indian administration to suffer by the entire substitution of Indian for British personnel. Witness, for instance, the administration of Mysore State, where the right character is maintained although almost complete Indianisation of the services has taken place. As a matter of fact, however, British personnel will continue for at least 25 years after the complete cessation of recruitment in England. Moreover, the Government of India and the Provincial Governments may be trusted to recruit Europeans on such terms as may be necessary to attract them for those posts for which they are wanted. A Royal Commission was not wanted, in the opinion of Indians, for endorsing this natural right of theirs, nor did they expect the Lee Commission to endorse it. So there was absolutely no reason for them to welcome it.

The recommendations of the Commission have generally justified this attitude of Indians. They involve an addition immediately of one crore of rupees to the burdens of the tax-payer, and in a few years it will rise to a crore and a quarter, though thereafter it will naturally decrease. But in the present financial condition of the provincial and central Governments, when retrenchment of every kind has had to be severely enforced and many an object of urgent utility has been held up for want of funds, it is out of the question for the Assembly to agree to this permanent enhancement of expenditure. The Commission claim to have given due consideration to the financial position of the different Governments in India, but their recommendations do not bear out the claim. Any reasonable proposal for giving necessary relief to the present incumbents could be favourably considered by the Assembly, if it did not entail a permanent burden on the resources of the country. If all future recruitment in England be stopped and the basic pay of future recruits be reduced so as to conform to Indian standards of life, in consideration of the savings that will thereby be effected in the future, additional expense may be incurred on the present European incumbents. The reduction of basic pay with an increase of overseas allowance, was strongly urged before the Commission by non-official Indian witnesses, but it was set aside by the representation of the Indian members of the services that they were required to keep up the same standard of living as their European colleagues and that they had in addition social and religious expenses. We do not at all sympathise with this view. The Europeans in India have an unnatural standard of life. It is neither in the interest of social life nor of public administration that Indian officers should closely imitate them. The harm already done by this snobbery is great and the Indian tax-payer should not certainly be asked to aggravate it. The emoluments offered at present for the provincial services are high enough to attract the best Indian material, and if they be re-

cruted by open competition those that now offer themselves for the I. C. S. examination at Allahabad would compete for those services. When Indians formed only a small proportion in the All-India Services there was reason in urging equal pay for them with Europeans. But when the numbers of the former are increasing and they are to form the bulk of the services, it is betrayal of the Indian tax payer to pay them a salary that was meant to attract the best candidates from a country which has the highest standard of living in Europe. The only reasonable course is—and we are sorry the Lee Commission has failed to recommend it—for the pay of the services to be fixed on an Indian scale and European incumbents being given adequate overseas allowance to attract men of the required quality.

The Commission, we admit, have carefully devised the form of relief recommended by them, though we should think the measure excessive. The privilege of remitting overseas pay at a specially favourable being recommended, we do not see how it was necessary to raise the overseas pay by Rs. 50 a month. The rise in the cost of passages may be conceded to be a ground of relief. But as due allowance was made for passages when the pay was fixed, we think the relief should be limited to the enhancement that has taken place over the pre-war rate and that free passages should not be given. The Commission have recommended that Indian officers in the I. C. S. recruited by the Secretary of State and drawing overseas pay should, in their own case and not in that of their families, enjoy the privilege of free passage. We see no ground for conferring this privilege on the Indian members. The Commission recommend that the increment of Rs. 50 to overseas pay should be given to the Indian officers who are drawing it. Giving overseas pay to any Indian is indefensible. That some Indians are enjoying it at present is a mistake, and it need not be made worse than it is.

Two important recommendations of the Commission will command the hearty approval of all Indians. One of them is that a permanent Public Service Commission should be instituted for laying down standards, conducting examinations, &c., for recruits; and also for quasi-judicial functions in connection with the conduct or grievances of public servants. Such a Commission is a necessity in every democratic country, and it is high time that one was created in India. The other recommendation is that all recruitment in England by the Secretary of State for the Transferred Departments should cease, and that the local Governments be asked to make their own arrangements, with the help of the Public Service Commission that is to be instituted, for recruitment to those departments. Sir Reginald Coadock explains this point in his supplementary note thus:

“ For the future, the terms on which new members will be recruited, the proportion of British recruits, if any, required, and the method by which they will be obtained.

will be matters for each Local Government to settle for itself, subject only to the reservation that the Public Service Commission to be established under Section 95 C of the Government of India Act, 1919, will lay down the standard for admission to the newly provincialised Services.....In the meantime, so far as Indianisation is concerned, it will be left entirely to each Local Government to decide whether the existing Provincial Services as now constituted will suffice for their requirements or whether higher-paid officers, equal in status to those entering the All-India Services now, are still wanted, and, if so, what British element, if any, should still be recruited, and how it will be obtained."

This is as it should be and our regret is that a similar recommendation has not been made in respect of the Reserved Departments also. We do not think that, in the advanced provinces at any rate, any need will be felt for instituting a service higher than the present Provincial Service. We may recall in this connection that the Indian Officers Association of Madras maintained that every post, whether in the Transferred or Reserved Departments, could be filled in Madras by officers of the Provincial Service without any loss of efficiency.

The Commission have refused to take into consideration the possibility of an early grant of full provincial autonomy and the introduction of responsibility in the Central Government. In this we are afraid, they have taken a too narrow view of their duty. For this reason mainly, their recommendations are very disappointing from the Indian point of view. In respect of the two most important Services concerned with the Reserved Departments, the I. C. S. and the Indian Police Service, they have recommended a recruitment of 40 and 50 per cent. Europeans and 60 and 53 per cent. Indians respectively. This will lead, at the end of 15 and 25 years respectively, to 50 per cent. Indianisation of those two departments. If this arrangement be acquiesced in, when is complete Indianisation to take place? Before Dominion Status appeared on the horizon the proportion recommended by the Lee Commission would no doubt have satisfied Indian opinion. But now it is like prescribing Mellin's Food for a healthy youth. By thus refusing to look ahead the Commission have deprived their labours of much of their value. The recommendations of the Islington Commission, regarding the racial composition of the Services became out of date with the advent of the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms. Similarly the recommendations of the Lee Commission in respect of the Reserved and Central Departments are bound to become out of date with the next move in the direction of Dominion Status.

OPIUM POLICY.—I.

"AND here let me warn you that it is a lifelong habit of mine not to be afraid of either of two words: 'philanthropist' is one, and 'agitator' is the other. Most of what is decently good in our curious world has been done by these two much abused

sets of folk." Thus Merley to Minto soon after the famous opium debate in the Commons in 1906. Miss Ellen N. La Motte is both. She would rid America, and in consequence the world as well, of the opium habit. Hers is no pious wish. She has travelled wide and studied the subject with great assiduity and comprehensiveness and followed up her first book "The Opium Monopoly" by another, "The Ethics of Opium", (pub. by The Century Co., New York City, 1924, price \$ 1.75) in which she has brought up to date her review of the opium problem in the world. For all of which she is entitled to the grateful thanks of all those interested in the opium question. She is not, however, without her share of the concomitant faults of such reformers. White-heat zeal outruns judgment and the unfortunate impression is produced that she has sacrificed fairness to propaganda; which tends to handicap an otherwise strong case. But perhaps the most unconvincing feature is the way in which Great Britain and India have been unfairly singled out and held up to opprobrium.

What is her thesis and her charge?

The morphia habit is growing to alarming proportions in the United States of America, whose Government has taken very drastic steps to restrict the import of raw opium and the manufacture of morphine therefrom to the medicinal needs of that country, so as to leave no surplus for export. In spite of these measures large quantities of morphia are being smuggled into that country from Europe, where the manufacture of morphine is not restricted. The system of export and import certificates, adopted, at the instance of the League of Nations, by certain countries, but not all, has not prevented illicit smuggling of morphia. Therefore, the only radical remedy is to restrict, not merely the manufacture, export and import of morphine, not only the export and import of raw opium, but the production of raw opium to the strictly scientific and medicinal needs of the world. The British-bossed Indian Government declined to cut down its production accordingly. But why? Because opium is a Government monopoly in India and in the British possessions in the Chinese waters, and monopoly means revenue. And the revenue from opium ranges from 3 to 50 per cent. of the total revenues of these Governments. This revenue is indispensable either to balance a budget, or ensure a surplus, or better, increase the dividend of the shareholders of the British North Borneo Chartered Company! Also, in some of the British East Indies, the indigenous population is too uncivilised to work for the European exploiter, while there is no end of cheap Chinese labour near at hand on the mainland, who will gladly come over, but on condition that they are provided with—"recreation": a euphemism for opium! But does the British Government avow that it is deliberately promoting an evil like opium consumption, just to raise revenue, ensure dividends or recruit labour? Oh, no: a Royal Com-

mission on Opium had declared that opium consumption in India was harmless ; rather, a beneficial household medicine for millions, who are beyond the reach of Government hospitals and dispensaries; and the Straits Settlements Opium Commission was divided in its opinion as to the deleterious nature of opium smoking there. Herein lies the positive wickedness of Great Britain ! She signed the Hague Convention; agreed that opium and its derivatives were dangerous in Great Britain—the self-governing Dominions concurred in this—and prohibited their use except under medical prescription, but held that opium eating was harmless in India and opium smoking equally so in the Chinese waters. How could this double standard be defended? Warren Hastings laid down a policy long ago and it holds good to-day: "Opium is not a necessary of life, but a pernicious article of luxury, which ought not to be permitted except for purposes of foreign commerce only and which the wisdom of the Government should carefully restrain from internal consumption." Non-Europeans in the Empire are the foreigners who are fit subjects for drugging. Self-governing peoples protect themselves from opium but impose it on their subject races ! Even France and Japan, who do not adopt a double standard, have a higher notion of morality, not to speak of the high idealism of the U. S. A. Compared to these, where does England stand ?

Before examining this indictment, let us remember what the object is that Miss La Motte aims at. Her primary concern is not to rid the world of opium habit, but to protect the Americans from the morphia habit. Since the steps to prevent *smuggling morphia* have not been successful, she now proposes that the *production of raw opium* itself, should be restricted. She is indignant that India did not fall in with the suggestion to cut down opium production in India. But why ? She herself admits (page 21) that Indian opium, being too poor in morphia content, is not normally used for the manufacture of morphia either in India or elsewhere. Most of the world's supply of morphia is manufactured in England, Germany, Japan, France, Holland, Switzerland and, until recently, America, from raw opium grown in Persia and Turkey, which is richer in morphia content. How, by the restriction of the production of raw opium in India, the smuggling of morphia prepared from Turkish and Persian opium can be stopped, is rather difficult to comprehend. One would have expected Miss La Motte to expend her moral indignation on the Turkish and Persian Governments for raising and exporting opium for the manufacture of morphia, and on the English, Dutch, Swiss and other Governments which refuse to control strictly the quantities of morphia manufactured in their countries by profiteering private merchants. One misses such all-round indignation in "The Ethics of Opium." Indeed, it is reserved only for England and India, while Japan is let off with a fervent appeal to behave better ; China with com-

mission; and Turkey, Persia and the morphia manufacturing European countries without adverse comment ; as if denunciation was being proportioned in inverse ratio to the guilt !

Miss La Motte remarks that morphia is prepared in Japan out of Indian, Persian and Turkish opium ; which morphia the Japanese delegate to the Opium Committee of the League of Nations admitted was being smuggled out of Japan. She also mentions that Indian opium is being smuggled out of Macao, a Portuguese possession near China. If *Indian* opium is used for morphia manufacture in Japan and is smuggled out of Macao, is the Indian Government or the British Government in any way responsible ? The Indian Government has readily accepted the export certificates system and now sells opium to private merchants, only on their producing certificates from their Governments that opium is wanted for legitimate use, even as a druggist dispenses medicines on the strength of the prescription given by a certified medical man. It is not the business of the druggist to question the competency of such a doctor. If a foreign Government flagrantly abuses the power to grant certificates, a more natural and proper course would be to pillory that Government and get the League of Nations to denounce the certificates issued by that Government or, better still, to work up public opinion in that country against the dishonest conduct of its Government.

There is yet another possibility. Indian raw opium may be smuggled abroad and there manufactured into morphia without the knowledge of the Government of the country concerned. While Miss La Motte speaks of Chinese opium being smuggled out of China, she does not speak of any large opium smuggling from India. Indeed she says of the Indian opium control ; "Every step relating to the control and output is carefully and systematically regulated and has been brought to the highest pitch of efficiency, a model and example to the rest of the world." It is not likely then, that much Indian opium is smuggled out. All opium produced in India is almost fully accounted for and little surplus seems to be left to be smuggled out.

Let us, however, see what would happen if the Indian production of raw opium is cut down considerably. Will there then be no surplus of opium in the world for export and manufacture of morphia ? In 1919-20 India exported 4,76,000 lbs. of opium direct to Governments and 2,76,500 lbs. to private merchants of countries outside the British Empire, together amounting to 7,52,500 lbs., while Turkey exported 7,15,009 lbs. in 1922, and Persia 3,62,885 lbs. in 1921.

China has been a bottomless pit for opium consumption ; yet some opium is smuggled out, to be returned as morphia. And will Turkey and Persia, in spite of their signing the Hague Convention, be able effectively to control the production and export of opium from their countries for some time to come ? " Turkey has been

at war for twelve years or so. The temptation to lighten the load (of debt and taxation) a little by stimulating opium production is always present, and the markets of the world are clamoring for Turkish opium." "Persia signed the Hague Convention in 1922, though she has never ratified it." Will not the further restriction of Indian production serve only to stimulate greater production in these countries? Will that serve to restrict the world supply of raw opium? There is also the real danger of an impure, adulterated and more deleterious—because of the larger morphia content—drug taking the place of the purer and less deleterious Indian opium. If people will consume opium, let them at least get it pure and in the least harmful form. The net result of reducing Indian output will be, not a reduction in the world's supply, but some loss of revenue to the Government of India and the supply of a worse drug to the consumer. Neither of these is the object, we presume, of Miss La Motte. Her object can be achieved by other and more effective means. China, (which is the largest producer of opium, not India, as stated in the opening line on p. 16), and particularly Turkey and Persia should be made to take effective steps to control opium production side by side with India. Recalcitrant countries—India is not among them—should be persuaded to co-operate internationally; and work the export and import certificate system honestly and efficiently. In all these measures India will wholeheartedly co-operate.

In the matter of the Indian opium traffic with countries outside the British Empire, the conduct of the British Indian Government to-day leaves little to be desired. Whatever its conduct in the past towards China—and it was undoubtedly a wicked one—it agreed to drop the opium trade with her and the consequent loss to Indian revenue. It signed the Hague Convention and acted up to it honestly. It heartily co-operated in restricting the export of opium by readily adopting the export and import system. It maintains a very efficient department and the chances of smuggling are very few. And the cardinal fact must be remembered that morphia is not generally manufactured out of Indian opium. If, however, the Indian Government did not set itself up as the conscience-keeper of the world, did not question the honesty and capacity of such civilized and efficient powers as Japan, France, Germany, and other European countries to control the production of morphia and the distribution of morphia and opium; and in the face of unrestricted production in inefficient China, Turkey and Persia, did not heroically embark on the futile course of cutting down her own controlled production of the pure drug, thereby helping to add to the wealth of Turkey and Persia and throwing away a part of her own revenue on the ground of its being "tainted money",—well, it may not be very high idealism, but it is very much like common-sense,—not an unworthy equipment for a Government.

P. KODANDA RAO.

SEPARATE RAILWAY FINANCE
IN PRACTICE—I.

WHEN the Budget for 1924-25 was presented to the Legislature on February 29, 1924, it was made clear by the Finance Member in his speech that the Railway portion of the Budget was framed on the assumption that the resolution which had been tabled a few days earlier on the subject of the separation of the Railway from the General Finances of the country would have been accepted by the Legislative Assembly. It is not proposed in this article to raise the question whether this anticipation of the acceptance of the resolution by the Legislative Assembly was right, any more than whether a similar anticipation was right, to which pointed attention was drawn by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, of the passing of the Finance Bill enabling Government to credit the interest on the Paper Currency Reserve to revenue. What we desire in this article to do is to turn our attention to the speech comparing the contribution from Railways to General Revenues in the year 1924-25 under the present and proposed (separation) systems.

A scrutiny of this statement shows that the large contribution of over Rs. 4 crores under either system has been arrived at by what we consider to be abnormal processes of calculation, while if normal processes had been followed the contribution under either system would not have come up to even Rs. 3 crores—a result which would have deprived Government of the chance of raising the question of a reduction in the Provincial contributions. We give below two statements comparing the results arrived at under both processes of calculation.

APPENDIX A.

Present System.

(Figures of thousands of rupees.)

Our calculation.		Government's calculation.	
97,06,92	(i) Gross traffic receipts	97,06,92
		<i>Deduct—</i>	
	68,23,04	(a) Working Expenses	68,68,04
		(b) Share of Surplus Profits paid to Indian States and Railway Companies	1,14,87
69,37,91	1,14,87		67,82,91
27,69,01		(ii) Net receipts	29,24,01
	25,92 ...	(iii) Subsidized Companies, Government share of surplus profits	25,92
27,94,93		(iv) Total net receipts	29,49,93
	19,18,05	(v) (a) Interest on capital at charge	19,18,05
		(b) Interest portion of annuities in purchase of railways	2,97,56
	2,97,56	(c) Interest on capital contributed by Indian States and Railway Companies	2,80,09
24,95,70	2,80,09		24,95,70
16,00 ...		(vi) Land and subsidy	16,00
		(vii) Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure	22,45
22,45 ...		(viii) Total (v), (vi), and (vii)	25,34,15
25,34,15 ...		(ix) Net contribution from Railways to General revenues [(viii) minus (vii)]	4,18,78
2,60,78 ...			

It will be observed that the figure for Working Expenses in Statement A is 1,55,00 less under the Government's calculation than under ours. This is due to two causes:—

(i) The Government's figure does not include the credit of Rs. 115 lakhs due to Working Expenses in strict accordance with the principles of commercial accounting.

(ii) The Government's figure includes a debit of only Rs. 30 lakhs out of the total loss of Rs. 300 lakhs on account of stores in stock.

As regards the credit of Rs. 115 lakhs, the Government's contention is that they would not be justified in following the commercial principles of allocation of expenditure on renewals unless they also followed commercial practice and started a depreciation fund, which fund in its turn goes together with the question of keeping railway accounts in a commercial form, involving among other things the whole proposals which are connected with the separation of the railway from the general finances of the country. (Pages 1555 and 1561 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume V).

STATEMENT B.

Proposed System.

(Figures in thousands of rupees.)

Our calculation.		Government's calculation.
97,06,92		(i) Gross traffic receipts ... 97,06,92
		Deduct—
68,23,04		(a) Working Expenses ... 65,23,04
		(b) Share of Surplus Profit paid to Indian States and Railway Companies 1,14,87
<u>66,37,91</u>	1,14,87	<u>66,37,91</u>
30,69,01		(ii) Net receipts ... 30,69,01
		(iii) Subsidized Companies, Government share of surplus profits... 25,92
25,92		<u>25,92</u>
<u>30,94,93</u>		(iv) Total net receipts ... 30,94,93
		(v) (a) Interest on capital at charge ... 19,18,05
19,18,05		(b) Interest portion of annuities in purchase of railways 2,97,56
		(c) Interest on capital contributed by Indian States and Railway Companies 2,80,09
24,95,70	2,80,09	<u>24,95,70</u>
16,00		(vi) Land and subsidy ... 16,00
		(vii) Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure ... 22,45
22,45		<u>22,45</u>
2,72,90		(viii) Railway reserves ... 1,33,48
		<u>1,33,48</u>
<u>28,07,05</u>		(ix) Total (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii) ... 26,67,63
		(x) Net contribution from Railways to General revenues [(iv) minus (ix)] ... 4,27,30
2,87,86		<u>4,27,30</u>

The present method of allocation of expenditure on renewals is that renewals of items of railway equipment with others of the same type are paid for entirely out of revenue funds, irrespective of whether the original cost was in defect or in excess of the present cost. The consequence is that the particular asset, after renewal, is always represented in the capital account by its ori-

ginal cost; whereas, strictly speaking, the capital account should represent the amount actually spent on the assets. It has been admitted by Government that the present method of allocation is vicious in so far as it is in complete violation of all principles of commercial book-keeping. What necessary or inevitable connection, however, there is between the adoption of a correct method of allocation of actual expenditure to final heads of account and the establishment of a depreciation fund, we simply cannot understand. Each stands on its own merits and if the adoption of a correct method of allocation is impossible, it would be highly desirable to examine, before the separation of the railway from the general finances is agreed to, the exact ingredients of the contemplated depreciation fund which makes correct allocation helpless at the feet of this fund. The establishment of a depreciation fund is a convenient device for the accumulation of monies for a specific purpose. It is primarily a mode of finding finance for renewals and automatically provides a measure of the service given by the assets, an effective check on ordinary working expenditure and a means of ascertaining whether an adequate return is being obtained on the capital outlay. 'Depreciation Fund' is not a final head of account, but only a suspense head; and there appears no valid reason why even in the absence of a depreciation fund adjustments between 'Revenue' and 'Capital' cannot be made on the new method just as easily as they are and can be made on the old. During the course of the debate which took place on this subject in the Legislative Assembly on March 12, 1924, the Financial Commissioner for Railways said:—

" We should not be justified in relieving revenue at the expense of capital—we should not be justified in following commercial practice and charging to revenue merely the original cost of the article replaced—unless we also followed commercial practice and started a depreciation fund. That is really the sole explanation of this Rs. 115 lakhs."

If this means that the commercial accounting of this particular class of expenditure is not justifiable because, under the present system of railway finance, railway accounts are at present all made out on uncommercial principles, the argument has no force at all since it is not a fact that railway accounts are kept on a wholly uncommercial basis. In the debate referred to above, Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar clinched the point and asked what would be the effect of adopting the new method of allocation even if the railway finances remained unseparated as at present. But of course no direct reply was forthcoming!

The only plausible argument we can think of is that in the opinion of Government the present uncommercial method of allocation of expenditure on renewals gives a debit to Revenue which makes up for at least a part of the contributions which it would have had to make to the depreciation fund if one were in existence, and consequently the adoption of the commercial method of allocation of such expenditure would give an unjust relief to

Revenue. According to paragraph 29 at page 76 of the report of the Indian Retrenchment Committee of 1922-23 the Committee on Depreciation estimated the normal annual depreciation at Rs. 9,19,18,000, while the amount involved in the present transaction is only Rs. 1'15 crores, and if the argument referred to above were of any validity, it should also have precluded the exclusion (to which we refer later) from the revenue account of the amount of Rs. 2'31 crores on account of sinking funds and that portion of railway annuities which represents repayment of capital.

As regards the debit to Working Expenses of only Rs. 30 lakhs instead of Rs. 300 lakhs representing losses on stores in stock, there is no question but that the whole amount of Rs. 300 lakhs must be debited to Working Expenses. That the full debit has not been made is not on grounds of principle but on grounds of expediency, the reason advanced by the Finance Member in paragraph 41 of his Budget speech being that "the contribution of the railways to general revenues during the year would be reduced almost to vanishing point." But since it is impossible to allow factors of expediency to influence a "comparison of the contribution from Railways to General Revenues in the year 1924-25 under the present and proposed (separation) systems," we have in our calculation in statement A, ante, included the whole debit of Rs. 300 lakhs under Working Expenses instead of only Rs. 30 lakhs as in Government's figure. It will thus be seen that the correct figure of net contribution from Railways to General Revenues is only Rs. 260.78 lakhs and not Rs. 415.78 as arrived at by Government.

ECONOMY.

REVIEW.

SANSKRIT LITERATURE.

CLASSICAL SANSKRIT LITERATURE. By A. BERRIEDALE KEITH. The Heritage of India Series. (Oxford University Press.) 1923. pp. 153. Prof. KEITH has crammed his valuable little book with information; he has, at the same time, chosen his material with judicious care. The bibliographical notes will be welcomed by all students of Sanskrit who have not a good library at their disposal, which, alas, is the case with too many in India; and the index and the general get-up leave nothing to be desired. The Indian reader will evidently have ample reason to thank the publishers for the very moderate price charged.

The book opens with a chapter devoted mainly to the consideration of Sanskrit as a spoken language and a language of culture and of its relations with the Prakrits. The following three chapters deal with the Epic, Kāvya naturally occupying the central place. Chapter V treats of the historical Kāvya and the next three chapters outline the prose literature: the romance and the Campū, the tale and the fable. Lyric and gnomic verse is discussed

in the ninth chapter, while the theories of poetry form a fitting conclusion to the whole. The Sanskrit drama has been excluded from the scope of this book, as it has been treated by Prof. Keith already in a separate publication and is going to have a special volume devoted to it in the Heritage series.

Prof. Keith has incorporated in his book the researches of European and Indian scholars and has added everywhere his own observations, which show originality and careful sifting of evidence; he has given an analysis of each of the most important of the literary works; he has discussed many of the problems affecting the origin and development of the different literary genres; and, what is more important still, he has acquitted himself conscientiously of the duty of a literary critic: he has stated his opinions of the Sanskrit authors and their works with a refreshing candour.

After acknowledging our debt to the author and the publishers, we have to indicate briefly in what respects the book has failed to satisfy us.

Everybody will certainly agree with Prof. Keith in his view that in the classical period, 'over these languages (the Prakrits) Sanskrit had the enormous advantage that it had a real life in the Brahmanical schools and was always in some measure employed among the upper classes in conversation, while many who could not venture to speak it understood it adequately.' No living literature could possibly arise in conditions other than these. But we doubt if these conditions continued long after the seventh century and the political chaos which followed the reign of Harsa left very few courts intact where a great poet could thrive in the wholesome environment of literary emulation. The end of the eighth century should thus have been chosen as the *terminus ad quem* of the classical period instead of 1300 A. D. The change would have led to the cancelling of about ten pages. But it would also have removed all justification for remarks like the following (p. 46): 'Indian poetics, we must admit, often mistook the tree for the wood, and by the enormous development of sub-divisions of figures (alankāras) conveyed the impression that to create poetry one must be ever striving to introduce figures of one sort or another.' Linguistic acrobatics were no doubt indulged in by the older Sanskrit poets, but the acrobatics were surely never intended to take the place of higher literary art.

Prof. Keith assures us in his preface that he has judged Sanskrit literature by the standards applicable to all literatures. He appears, however, to consider the Aristotelian, Hegelian and Mathew Arnold canons of literary criticism as the only possible canons of universal application, and it is only in a patronising tone that he expresses his approval of the *rasa* theory. 'The form given to the connection (between the factors exciting the emotions and the appreciation of the sentiment) is sometimes obscure and difficult, but the attempt to express the essential character of the pleasure of poetry is daring and by

no means ineffective' (p. 137). With the consciousness of his superior standards of judgment, he proceeds to deliver his opinions: 'We need not seek in Kālidāsa for any solution or suggested solution of the mysteries of life' (p. 45), 'To strive against destiny is thus (on account of the Indian fatalism) meaningless, and Sanskrit poetry loses thus the possibility of the beauty which is implicit in the tragedy of the struggle of man's spirit against powers, which avail to destroy him, but not to deprive him of his constancy. As the Indian drama knows no true tragedy, so Indian Poetry lacks any such motive, and it lacks also the charm which may be won from a poet's endeavour to interpret nature and human life in the light which appears only to the eye of the visionary. The possibility of the noblest poverty was thus forbidden (p. 128)'.

Now we do not know if the 'criticism of life' and 'struggle' theories of poetry are not narrow and one-sided. We might willingly have nevertheless conceded the point if there had not been evidence show that Prof. Keith has not the advantage on his side of sympathetic insight into Sanskrit poetry which would also have helped him to understand it better.

Prof. Keith, for instance, declares the Meghadūta on stylistic grounds to be earlier in date than the Kumārasambhava. While the advice of the sage to Aja in Raghuvāsa's VIII is quoted at length, the banishment of Sitā and the message to 'the king' and her plight in the forest do not appear to have made an impression on him. 'While the maiden listens with head downcast as she stands at her father's side' (p. 39), does not render the sense of the beautiful line *स्त्रीलकमल्पव्राणि गणयामस पर्वणि*. The instances chosen to illustrate the similes of Kālidāsa (p. 47) or the lyric power of Amara or the gnomic verse of Bhartrhari are far from representative. Alliteration, in Prof. Keith's opinion (p. 54), lends the verses of Kumāradāsa the softness or mellifluousness of the Vaidarbhi style; Māgha's reputation rests on the vitiated tastes of later times, the Navasāh-sāhakarita has nothing to distinguish it as a Kāvya; and good sense is the characteristic of the Śambhalimata.

Long compounds have absolutely frightened Prof. Keith out of his wits. About Bāṇ's reputed powers of suggestion he says: 'What we do find is the construction of vast sentences—extending even to six pages of print—the construction held in suspense until the end, and the whole eked out by the heaping of epithet on epithet in long compounds, diversified here and there by short sentences, like oases in a desert of words'. 'Bāṇ's Bāṇa falls little short of Bāṇa himself in his command of language and perverted ingenuity'. The Gaṇḍavārha is chiefly of interest because in the size of its compounds it is a perfect masterpiece of bad style'. We can assure Prof. Keith that young Indian students, after a little practice, understand the compounds as they read them and they can enjoy the rich music of Bāṇ's prose in his mature style without having the sensation of being in a jungle with wild beasts lurking about. So far as regards the intelligibility of long compounds. As to their being unnatural, all art manifests itself through conventions. One may not like a particular convention, but one cannot also be a *sahyodaya* without learning to look beyond it.

Kalbana and Baatti might rank as literary men, but the claim to be only historical and grammarian respectively. Structures on their works as well as on those of the *Āyudha* and *Harivamśa*, indeed the whole chapter on historical Kāvya, appear to be entirely out of place. We miss the name of Bhallata,

on the other hand, in the chapter on lyric and gnomic verse. *सप्रहेणपि काव्यजीवनेन* (p. 79) should be translated 'though not a planet he was Venus, Jupiter and Mercury (he had no morbid attachment and knew the essence of poetry)'.

V. G. P.

MISCELLANEA

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE AGENDA FOR SIXTH SESSION.

THE Session opens in Geneva on the 16th June. The four items on the Agenda are:—

- (1) The development of facilities for the utilisation of workers' leisure.
- (2) Equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regard workmen's compensation for accidents.
- (3) Weekly suspension of work for 24 hours in glass manufacturing processes where tank furnaces are used; and
- (4) Night work in bakeries.

In preparation for the Conference, the International Labour Office has issued reports embodying and analysing the replies of Governments to the questionnaires sent out early last year dealing respectively with these items. Each report includes in addition to a general survey of the question in the light of the replies of the Governments, the text of a Draft Convention or Recommendation put forward by the Office as a proposed basis for discussion by the Conference. These texts will be published in an early issue of the Official Bulletin of the Office. The reports are obtainable from the International Labour Office or its Correspondents' Offices at 1s. 3d. each.

Item 1. Workers' Leisure.

Before it was possible for the Office to consider what should be included in the proposals to be submitted to the Conference as a basis of discussion, it was necessary to ascertain whether the Governments considered the question of the utilisation of workers' leisure, which is a problem of an entirely new character, sufficiently ripe to be dealt with by a Recommendation indicating general principles and suggesting methods by which profitable utilisation of leisure might be promoted.

A large majority of the Governments have replied in the affirmative on this point. They recognise that owing to the differences of customs and tradition in the various countries the adoption of definite measures cannot be formally prescribed; but they consider that identical problems are everywhere involved, and that the discussion might therefore lead to the adoption of a Recommendation. This would at any rate, as one of the Governments points out, create some form of moral obligation for the Governments' and the employers' and workers' organisations.

The questionnaire sent out by the Office asked the opinion of the Governments on three general questions: first, the means of preserving workers' leisure; second, the methods of utilising leisure; and thirdly, the general principles to be adopted. Under the first head the opinion of Governments was asked on questions of paid work in leisure time, the improvement of means of transport, and the arrangement of the working day. Under the second, their opinion was asked on the housing of the workers, measures of social hygiene and institutions for the utilisation of leisure. In the third place, their views were requested whether any general principles might be laid down in this matter for the guidance of Governments, employers and workers.

On the basis of the replies of the Governments the International Labour Office has drawn up a Draft Recommendation to form the basis of the discussion at the Conference. This Recommendation makes the following proposals among others:

Each Member State of the Organisation should consider the means of so arranging the working day as to leave spare time as continuous as possible (alternation of shifts, shortening of mid-day breaks, adjustment of working hours to the season, etc.); further, by means of a well-conceived transport system, the time spent by the workers between their homes and their work should be shortened as much as possible.

The importance is emphasised of construction of houses on a sufficient scale at a low rental in garden cities or suburbs; the provision of public baths, and action against the misuse of alcohol.

Among the institutions which may assist individual development and contribute to the general progress of the community, the Conference recommends those which have for their object the improvement of the workers' domestic economy and family life (workers' gardens, allotments, poultry keeping, etc.); the development of physical health and strength by means of games and sports; and the encouragement of technical and general education (libraries, reading rooms, lectures, technical courses, educational courses, etc.).

Attention is also drawn to the necessity of safeguarding the individual freedom of the workers against any tendency towards obliging them to use any particular institution, the most practicable and successful institutions being those which have been started and developed by the workers themselves.

Item 2. Equality of Treatment in Workmen's Compensation for Accidents.

The Conference will not be called upon to discuss the general problem of workmen's compensation with a view to proposing uniform rules on the subject for the consideration of the States Members, but to explore the most appropriate means of securing the application by each State Member to alien workers employed in its territory of its laws and regulations on workmen's compensation on the same conditions as to its own nationals.

The possibility of arriving at an international agreement in this sense at the Conference appears to be considerably enhanced in consequence of the increasing extent to which the *regime* of equality of treatment in respect of workmen's compensation has been established during the last generation, either independently of or by means of special treaties between State and State, and of the not insignificant similarity at any rate as to fundamentals which exists between the laws on the subject in the different countries. The statements of the Governments which have been received by the International Labour Office largely confirm this impression.

The problem before the Conference, however, admits of different methods of solution.

The first method suggested, which in contradistinction to the second may be called the direct method, was that the decision of the Conference might take the form of a Draft Convention laying down the principle of equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regards workmen's compensation. This Draft Convention might take one of two forms; it might be general in its application, or might provide for the restriction of its application to the nationals of the Members which ratified it.

The second method contemplated a more indirect procedure for carrying out the principle of equality of treatment. It was suggested that the Conference might frame its decision in a Draft Convention or Recommendation, by which each Member would be called upon to recognise, by means of separate agreements with other Members, equality of treatment for the nationals of such Members, subject to reciprocity and if necessary to adaptation of the laws in the countries concerned, and which would indicate the more important methods by which such agreements might apply this principle.

A considerable majority of the Governments is in favour of the first method of solution.

Whatever form the decision of the Conference may take, a number of questions remain on which the Conference may wish to make some pronouncement. The first of these questions has in view the discrimination which is made in the laws on workmen's compensation in some countries against foreign workers or their representatives who do not reside or have ceased to reside in the country where the accident takes place.

The Governments have therefore been asked whether they consider it necessary that a clause should be added providing that no discrimination should be made against aliens or

their representatives by reason of the place of their domicile or residence.

The replies received show that there would seem to be very considerable unanimity among the Governments on the question. A clause providing for no discrimination against aliens by reason of the place of their residence or domicile is accordingly included in the proposals to be submitted to the conference.

The third question put to the Governments was intended to elicit their views as to whether the Conference should make provision for authorising a country to put certain restrictions on aliens by prescribing the fulfilment of any special conditions, e. g. as to residence in the country or employment in a particular industry for a specified period, race, religion, etc.

In the questionnaire sent out by the International Labour Office it was stated that it was very unusual to impose any special conditions of this kind. The replies of the Governments have amply confirmed this statement. All the replies are definitely or by implication in the negative.

If the Conference adopts a Convention or Recommendation providing for equality of treatment and includes a clause indicating that no discrimination should be made against foreign workers or their representatives by reason of the place of their residence or domicile, it would follow that aliens or their representatives who do not reside or cease to reside in the country where the accident occurs should have the same rights to continuation of their pensions as are accorded to nationals under similar conditions. In these circumstances the question arises whether any special procedure might be indicated for facilitating the payment of their pensions abroad to these foreign beneficiaries. The Governments were accordingly asked whether the Conference should make any provision for the possibility of transferring from the debtor country the capital funds from which the pensions due would be payable with a view to their payment to the beneficiaries in the country of their residence.

The general opinion of the Governments which are in favour of a Draft Convention is that no pronouncement on this question should be made in the Draft Convention.

Finally, an article in the proposed Draft Convention provides that the Members which ratify the Convention undertake to afford to each other mutual assistance with a view to facilitating the application of the Convention and the execution of their respective laws and regulations on workmen's compensation. This article further enumerates certain respects in which this assistance is to be afforded.

The proposed Draft Convention as framed by the International Labour Office on the basis of the replies of Governments to its questionnaire will be submitted for the consideration of the Conference.

Item 3. Weekly Suspension of Work in Glass-manufacturing processes where tank furnaces are used.

This item is not likely to be of special interest to India at the present moment, as the glass industry has not yet acquired any great importance in the country. There are only 85 glass-manufacturing establishments employing 4,361 persons of which only 10 employing 1,328 persons are factories as defined in the Indian Factories Act. These manufacture mainly bangles, and to a small extent, glass tubes. There is no manufacture of sheet or plate glass for glass bottles, and according to the reply of the Government of India on the subject there are no tank furnaces in any of these establishments.

In these circumstances, the Government of India consider that they are not in a position to give advice of any value on the several points raised in the questionnaire, and that therefore no useful purpose will be served by their attempting to reply. At the same time, the Government of India are prepared to consider hereafter any proposals on the subject which may be framed by the International Labour Conference.

Item 4. Night Work in Bakeries.

In the peculiar conditions of India, bakeries take an entirely conspicuous place. The problem of night work in bakeries is consequently of no importance in India. At the same time, the Government of India are prepared to consider hereafter any proposals on the subject which may be framed by the International Labour Conference.

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