

# THE Servant of India

Editor : V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI.

VOL. I, No. 33.]

POONA—THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1918.

[ ANNUAL SUBSN. : RS. 4

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
TOPICS OF THE WEEK ... ..	285
ARTICLES :—	
A People's War ... ..	387
The Bombay Council ... ..	388
SPECIAL ARTICLES :—	
A Small Holdings Bill. By Prof. Keshavlal L. Oza, M. A. ... ..	389
Local Self-Government Resolution of May 1918.—II. By G. K. S. ... ..	390
A LETTER FROM LONDON ... ..	392
LETTERS FROM THE PROVINCES:—	
Madras ... ..	394
SELECTION :—	
Consolidation of Holdings ... ..	395

*The daily death-rate of Poona has now reached the appalling figure of 200, twenty times the usual death-rate, on account of the prevalence of the influenza epidemic. It has in consequence disorganised the whole business of the town, and the local post office along with the rest. The postal staff has been reduced to less than one-third, and they are utterly unable to cope with the work. Consequently, although we post copies of our paper on Wednesday night as usual, they are sometimes not cleared till Friday. That is why the paper is being delivered so late to our subscribers.*

## TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

FROM the straits of Dover to the gulf of Persia the same joyous cry is raised—the hallelujah of victory. The counter-strokes of the Allies have been effective, their success sudden, their advance continuous on all the fronts. Whether one looks to Mesopotamia or Belgium, to Palestine or the plains of Champagne, to Macedonia or the Verdun region, it is one uniform scene of the discomfiture of the enemy. To a large extent the success of the Allies at this stage had been unexpected and unforeseen. That their arms would win in the end, few doubted. The coming of the Americans again was sure to give a favourable term to the course of affairs. But this change, almost dramatic in its suddenness, was a great and a most agreeable surprise. That the success is neither casual nor temporary is clearly demonstrated by the frantic efforts made by Bulgaria to secure peace. Whether she will succeed is another question. For the moment the real point of interest is the new stage on which the war has entered since it began more than four years ago.

THE Control of Cloth Act has been passed by the Supreme Legislative Council, and a machinery

has been set up, which will work with a view to bring down the prices of cloth consumed by the poorer classes. Opinion appears to be divided on the possible efficacy and wisdom of the measures to be taken to keep the prices of cloth at a reasonably low level. It is believed, on one side, that Government control of cloth and of raw cotton will bring about the necessary decline in prices and, on the other, an attempt is being made to deprecate such optimism and to discourage a resort to interference with trade in cotton. Last week, the *Times of India* had a thoughtful leader on this question, and the writer uttered a warning against the adoption of devices intended to cheapen cloth for the poor, but calculated, in the long run, to do more harm than good by stopping the flow of wealth to this country without having any appreciable effect upon cloth prices. The article ought to give ample food for reflection to thoughtful people, and we are confident that Government will take no precipitate action in prohibiting or taxing the export of cotton in order to reduce the price of the raw material for our mills. There are a few points in the article, however, on which it is necessary to offer criticism. The *Times of India* professes to be painfully surprised at the touching faith which nearly all classes, and particularly the literary classes, have in the power of legislation to control natural forces and thinks that the method of teaching economics in our schools and colleges is responsible for this intellectual attitude. This is the first time we hear of economics being taught in our schools and of a diffusion of a knowledge of that subject in the country to such an extent as to mould popular thought in an undesirable manner. The *Times* perhaps wanted to deplore the absence of economics from the curricula of our schools and colleges and to recommend a wide-spread study of that subject.

THE dearness of cloth appears to the *Times* and to others to be purely a provincial question affecting Bengal. But this is a mistake. Even in our own Presidency great hardship is being caused to the middle and poor classes by the high prices of cloth. The prices of dhoties and sarees have gone up so high that families of ordinary means feel the pinch very sorely. The Bengal rayat, we are told has to accept a low price for his jute and rice and pay a high price for his cloth, and his position is improving owing to a rise in the prices of his staples. In Bombay, with

the failure of the monsoon, the rayat will have no crops to sell and must buy his cloth at extraordinarily high prices, while the condition of the labouring and middle classes generally is deplorable as they have to spend more for all necessaries of life. We do not ourselves favour the prohibition and regulation of cotton exports unless as a last resort, but we do not know how the hardships of the poor can be minimised by the granting of relief in the form of famine relief, as is suggested by the *Times*. What is required is a general lowering of the prices of cloth normally used by the middle and lower classes. You cannot separate the needy people and isolate them in relief camps as you do in the case of famine relief. If Government were to sell cloth below cost price to the poor, the expenditure will even then fall on the country as a whole, and one does not know what proportions it will reach. You will try to bring wealth into the country by leaving cotton exports unrestricted, but will have to levy taxes upon the people for finding the cost of the proposed relief.

\* \* \*

THE Home Member's speech on the Hon'ble Mr. Patel's resolution urging Government to permit the Congress and Muslim League deputations to proceed to England is highly unsatisfactory. He must be presumed to have spoken on behalf of His Majesty's Government in England, for it cannot be believed that the Government of India, which gave passports to the Home Rule League deputation at a time when the war had assumed a threatening aspect, have changed their mind now. The circumstances have since undergone such a change—for the better—that none of the reasons advanced by the War Cabinet in its singularly unconvincing communication of April last in justification of the cancellation of the passports, holds good. The Government have, therefore, had to change their front, and to plead that the dispatch of deputation before next year is not a matter of 'national importance.' According to them, the duty of Indians lies in India, while the committees on the franchise system and the allocation of subjects are sitting. While it cannot be doubted that the services of leaders are more urgently required in India at the present moment, it does not obviate the necessity of a subsidiary deputation going to England to counter the hostile activities of Lord Sydenham and his group, which are having the entire field to themselves. Anyhow, it is not for Government to dictate when an unofficial delegation shall or shall not go; and we cannot let this claim, which they have arrogated to themselves, pass unchallenged.

\* \* \*

SIR WILLIAM VINCENT no doubt promised on behalf of Government to give all possible facilities "to properly accredited representatives of all shades of opinion in limited numbers to proceed to the United Kingdom, provided the course of the war did not develop in some untoward or unexpect-

ed manner;" but this promise is hedged round with so many limitations and provisos that it will fail to reassure those who are eager to plead India's cause before the British statesmen and democracy—before it is too late. Of course, it cannot be argued for a moment that the deputation to England will have the remotest effect on the course of the war, and any such plea on the part of the British Government is ludicrous beyond description.—In passing, we must strongly protest against the insinuation made by Sir Valentine Chirol in the *Edinburgh Review* that the embargo placed on the Home Rule League deputation had the moral support of any section of people in this country. Sir Valentine evidently infers this from the vote of the All-India Congress Committee against the immediate despatch of a deputation to England last February, but how utterly unfounded the inference is, will be made clear from the fact that the resolution was thrown out by the casting vote of Mrs. Besant herself. Whatever one's view of the most suitable season for sending the main Indian deputation may be, no one can support, or has supported, Government's unjustifiable interference with individual freedom in preventing anyone who chose to go to England from carrying out his purpose.

\* \* \*

IT now turns out that the first step taken in fulfilment of the Government's decision, announced in August of last year, that "the bar which has precluded the admission of Indians to commissioned rank in His Majesty's Army should be removed" has only resulted in practice in a degradation of the nine officers, belonging to the Native Indian Land Forces, who were then raised to this honour. For it appears from the information that has reached us that the date of substantive rank of Captain or Lieutenant for these officers is held to be 25th August 1917, when technically they were appointed to the Indian Army, with the effect that the service put in by them in their present rank before this date is virtually lost to them, as it does not count towards promotion. According to the rules in force for the Native Indian Land Forces, an imperial cadet rises to the rank of Major fifteen years after his appointment, and some of the officers, if they had continued in these Forces, would attain Majority within the next two or three years. But being selected for the high privilege conferred upon Indians last year, all those who had reached Captaincy then or some years before, will have to serve for 11 years from that date to be promoted Majors. The net result, therefore, for these officers, of 'the general throwing open of commissioned ranks to Indians' is that they have been put back from 500 to 700 places in the list.

#### Rate of Subscription.

The annual subscription to *THE SERVANT OF INDIA* (post free) is Rs. 4 for India and 7 shillings for Great Britain. Single copy two Annas. Subscription payable in advance.

### A PEOPLE'S WAR.

DR. WILSON stands head and shoulders above the statesmen of the world at the present moment. He occupies a unique position. It is not to disparage the leaders of other allied nations to say that he brings a clearer vision, a more independent mind and a robust faith to bear upon the discussion of the problems relating to the war aims than they can command. It is superfluous to say that the war was forced upon the Allies by an ambitious and unscrupulous enemy, and the terrible sacrifices they are undergoing in the present struggle, will have their proper reward only when all the possibilities of the recurrence of a similar world calamity in the future are finally and decisively removed. A permanent and a just peace is, what men like Messrs. Asquith and Lloyd George have sought, and they have repeatedly made it clear that the Allies will have nothing short of it. All the cunning offers of peace and all the dexterously devised proposals for the opening of negotiations, which have proceeded from enemy quarters, have been promptly and unceremoniously rejected by allied statesmen, because they did not contain even the least promise of a future, the dawn of which is being dimly, nevertheless definitely, discerned by all right-thinking men who believe in a higher destiny for human civilization. Representing a people who entered into the war entirely for the defence of liberty, for the vindication of the rights of independent nationalities, for the establishment of a permanent peace, and with a history behind them that could lend the least ground for suspicion of selfish political aims, Dr. Wilson is a rare combination of a clear-headed philosopher and an active statesman actuated by lofty motives, and when he speaks about the war aims of the United States and of the Allies generally, he touches a sympathetic chord in the heart of every one who hopes to see the birth of a new era in the history of mankind as the direct outcome of the present world struggle.

Dr. Wilson's speech delivered the other day at New York, on the eve of the opening of the United States Fourth Liberty loan, is the most remarkable utterance that he has ever delivered in relation to the war. It is remarkable for the grasp of principles it evidences, for the correctness with which they are laid down, and for the freshness and outspokenness with which they are expressed. We have had several expositions of allied war aims from such experienced men as Messrs. Asquith, Lloyd George and Balfour, but the recent speech of President Wilson will remain unsurpassed and even unequalled. He is not a man to mince matters, and he swept away all cobwebs which have been woven round the question of peace terms. Like a stern judge, he raised a number of positive issues to which he demanded unequivocal and categorical answers. No quibbling, no camouflage, no compromise would he admit. He started with the proposition that this is a people's war,

and howsoever it may have originated, it has thrown up certain well-defined issues involving the testing of the whole of mankind, which the peoples of the world alone can settle. Questions of peace and liberty with which we are confronted to-day, can no longer be dealt with and disposed of by individual diplomatists or by national assemblies. National purposes, observed Dr. Wilson, have fallen more and more into the background and the common purpose of enlightened mankind has taken their place. The speech is calculated to deal a death blow to the ambitious hopes Germany has been cherishing, and the President has placed the enemy nations out of court, because every body out of Central Europe is thoroughly convinced that they are 'without honour and do not intend justice.'

The speech of the American President is also calculated to provide ample food for reflection to several thinkers in allied countries who have been planning national leagues, preferential tariffs and economic boycotts. He has no doubt, that the leaders of the allied nations are of the same mind and entertain the same purpose as he; and he hopes that they will speak as plainly as he has spoken. That his expectations were not unjustified is shown by the fact that while Dr. Wilson was giving his exposition of war aims, Mr. Asquith was engaged at Manchester in combating schemes of economic boycott. To use economic boycott as a method of continuing guerilla operations after the war, he observed, would be wholly inconsistent with a clean peace. President Wilson wants even-handed and impartial justice to be extended to all peoples, and there are to be no leagues or alliances, or special covenants and understandings within the general family of the League of Nations which is to be the potent instrument with which to attain the war aims of the Allies. The league must be formed forthwith, and the work of forging the instrument cannot be left to the future, if permanent peace and harmony are to be established in the world. The remarkable speech of Dr. Wilson is calculated to cause a searching of hearts among a large number of politicians in England and other countries. Tories, reactionaries, tariff reformers and imperialists, whose schemes of economic boycotts and territorial aggrandisement will topple like a castle of cards before the breath of his refreshing and outspoken utterance. Greed of political domination and vain pride of race will have no room in the new world that is to be created after the war, and nations and peoples are to receive a charter of freedom to evolve their destinies in peace and without external interference. We have, however, no doubt that the better mind of the allied nations is with Dr. Wilson, that their leaders feel as he feels, and that they will endorse all that he has said. Their hands will be strengthened by his exposition of the common aims of the Allies, and we are certain, they will take their earliest opportunity to range themselves by his side. Dr. Wilson's service lies in the fact that he has spoken out what is passing in the minds of all far-sighted and right thinking people

and he has done it with a force, prestige and authority which are all his own. He has made it clear that unity of purpose and counsel are as imperatively necessary in this war as is the unity of command in the battlefield. His pronouncement will give the allied nations a stimulus to prosecute the war with greater vigour and to make heavier sacrifices in order to attain the noble goal that lies before them. It will throw the whole world with redoubled energy against the Central Powers which stand for autocracy and domination, and nations will breathe in peace only when Prussian militarism is crushed.

#### THE BOMBAY COUNCIL.

THE meeting of the Bombay Legislative Council, held at Poona last week, under circumstances of grave, if subdued, anxiety at the agricultural outlook, served the eminent purpose of lifting up the veil over the measures which are being adopted by the Government of Bombay to relieve the present unprecedented economic position, which unfortunately has been further aggravated by the recent complication caused by the 'influenza' epidemic sweeping over the Presidency. The number of interpellations on this subject unmistakably showed the strong desire on the part of non-official members to draw out Government, if possible, into an official statement, and we are glad the Bombay Government, fully forestalling criticism, availed themselves of the opportunity to make a detailed statement, inviting, at the same time, non-official opinion as regards the remedial measures.

While the Hon'ble Mr. Carmichael's statement made it abundantly clear that the Government of Bombay were themselves fully alive to the gravity of the situation, it was obvious the Hon'ble Mr. Purshotamdas's resolution and the lengthy debate, which followed, were for the edification of the Government of India, who, it appears, are not yet sufficiently impressed with the grave conditions staring Bombay in the face. The general position regarding food-stuffs seems to be that stocks of *Jwari* and *Bajri* are inadequate throughout India; consequently we have to fall back upon imported rice from Burma, Madras, Central Provinces, etc. Some of these provinces, since about three months, have in their own interest cut off free supplies to outsiders and placed restrictions on the export of grain beyond their territory. It is this embargo which has hit Bombay Presidency the hardest, and it is in this regard where the prompt intervention of the Government of India is needed with a view to supply the deficiency of one province out of the sufficiency or superfluity of the other.

The system of controlling prices through a Controlling Office has been in operation in this Presidency for some time, to its resulting benefit in the matter of certain commodities; but while the Controller can regulate internal supplies between district and district, the greatest drawback of the control system, as the Hon'ble Mr. Cadell himself pointed out, is that the Bombay Government has

no effective control over the sources of supply, so that imports are inevitably intermittent and prices never really under the stringent control of the Controller. Neither has the system of Priority Certificates been in our opinion anything like a success. The system is evidently designed to prevent undue hoarding of stocks by speculative dealers; but partly owing to genuine difficulties of railway traffic and partly to the ingenuity of greedy railway subordinates, certificated traffic has failed to obtain a real priority, with the result that stocks in many districts have reached a low level of a hand-to-mouth supply.

The question, therefore, is one, as we briefly indicated last week, of a prompt organisation on the part of the Government of India, firstly, to ascertain, as accurately as possible, surplus food-stuffs in each province beyond its own normal requirements and to distribute the surplus on an equitable basis to provinces which, owing to unforeseen calamities, may be in perilous condition; and, secondly, to have a firm and thorough grip over the railways in regard to preference for certificated grain traffic for the civil population, subject only to limitations required by really urgent military traffic. Bombay, we legitimately feel, has a special claim to such fair and equitable treatment, inasmuch as, being the base for military supplies and the main port of sending away troops, Bombay has to bear an exceptionally heavy strain in regard to exports in the interests of the war, and it has, we believe, a right on that account alone to all reasonable help from other provinces which happen to be away from the base. We trust that the resolution passed by the Bombay Council, as well as the recommendation of the Nagpur Conference would induce the Government of India to take prompt action in removing the embargo on exports laid by certain provincial Governments and also to secure transport facilities for the supplies so released. We are glad in this connection to observe that the Bombay Government has already made arrangements to purchase large quantities of Rangoon rice on Government account and has also secured shipping to maintain a continuous supply. We also observe with gratification the subsidiary measures adopted, such as the offer of financial help to municipalities to start cheap grain shops, and of *tagavi* to cultivators for repairing or deepening their wells. We sincerely hope that there will be a prompt and a ready response in this matter and that the tension will be soon relieved by the advent of Rangoon 'Halva' on the scene.—Among the legislative measures passed was the Rent Bill for Small Premises. The Bill, as it emerged from the Select Committee, was virtually a redraft, the powers of the Controller being curtailed in a drastic manner. The power of taking over possession of vacant premises on behalf of Government, the penalty for demanding excessive rent, the liability of landlords to a sentence of imprisonment—all these have been done away with in the Act in its final shape.

The Council agenda, so far as non-official resolutions were concerned was this time a brief one, consisting of twelve motions including some 'overnight' resolutions from the July sitting. We sympathise with the Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur Godbole on his second attempt to move Government in the matter of the minute sub-division of holdings, being as severely repulsed on this occasion as in 1916. The nervousness of an alien Government to touch the Hindu law of inheritance, though natural, is, we venture to think, a little overstrung in this particular case, where the fragmentation of lands is so disastrously affecting the national wealth. It was also obvious on the present occasion that Government were wedded to the Hon'ble Mr. Keatinge's permissive Bill. We strongly wish the Hon'ble Mr. Godbole would proceed to frame a Bill of his own, so that both the official and non-official Bills could be placed on the anvil and public opinion tested in relation to definite parallel provisions for checking sub-divisions.

But the the most absorbing item on the agenda to which the public looked forward with eager expectancy was the last one in the list, *viz.*, the discussion of 'transferred' and 'reserved' subjects under the Reform Scheme. On the Governor calling for a discussion, the proceedings however came to an abrupt close, in an atmosphere of solemn silence, except for a formal motion from the Hon'ble Mr. Belvi, proposing that all the non-official members form themselves into a Committee to make a report to the Governor-in-Council on the Illustrative Lists in Mr. Montagu's Report. We gather this procedure was adopted mainly on the ground that this time a large number of prominent people were absent amongst the non-officials. Apart from this, the balance of opinion seemed to be that for a well-reasoned criticism of the lists a Committee report would be a better method on the whole. The Committee meets shortly in Bombay under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. Gokuldas, and we trust its report will take due note of the go-ahead character of Bombay and will ask for the transfer of all subjects, except those immediately connected with law and order.

#### A SMALL HOLDINGS BILL.

The time is ripe, and rotten-ripe for change;  
Then let it come: I have no dread of what  
Is called for by the instinct of mankind;  
Nor think I that God's world will fall apart  
Because we tear a parchment more or less.

THE question of excessive sub-division and dispersion of landed property has been usually held to be bristling with so many difficulties that the Government of India have come to regard it with little more than a Platonic affection. To undo the work of a century and a half by a single stroke of the pen requires greater courage and iconoclasm than is possessed by a Government pledged to a policy of benevolent neutrality in social and religious matters. Experience shows how human Govern-

ments continually conjure up bugbears in the distance which a closer scrutiny reveals to be the merest conceptions of the brain. How much groundless alarm and unnecessary anxiety could be spared if our own Government were to try a gentle insinuation of serviceable truths, cultivate friendly intercourse with the leaders of Indian thought, instil sound opinions and bring about great reforms to mitigate wide-spread evils! Fortunately, we have in Lord Willingdon a Governor with sound judgment and practical experience of agriculture on approved lines, in the Hon'ble Mr. G. F. Keatinge, a Director of Agriculture with the requisite knowledge and insight for new experiments and fresh departures, and in Dr. Harold H. Mann of the Poona Agricultural College, a *savant* whose broad human sympathies, extraordinary energy, boundless enthusiasm and uncompromising honesty leave him absolutely without a peer among his Western *confreres* in India. It is not, therefore, too much to hope for the amelioration of our inarticulate peasantry at present sunk in hopeless poverty through increase in population, sub-division and fragmentation of holdings in geometrical progression, obsolete methods of cultivation, deficient organisation of production and distribution, inadequate transport facilities, discrepancy between the productive and purchasing power and through the disappearance of handicrafts and domestic industries hastened by the desolating hand of the foreign rivals endowed with superior skill, greater organisation, larger capital and gifted withal with what Carlyle tersely described as "vulpine knowingness."

To visualize the evils wrought by the excessive subdivision and dispersion of landed property one must turn to Dr. Harold H. Mann's latest volume entitled, "Land and Labour in a Deccan Village," where they are written in characters so large and legible that Dogberry himself might read them as he ran. Nor has the author sought to exaggerate or darken the picture by throwing too much bitumen into his survey of Pimpla Soudagar with a view to ascertaining its exact economic condition at the present time, its previous history and the social, economic and agricultural causes at work during the last sixty or seventy years. To illustrate. Whereas in 1770-71 the number of actual landholders in the village was nineteen only, and the smallest individual holding consisted of seven acres, the total number of holdings went up in 1914-15 to 156, eighty-one per cent. of which are under ten acres in size, while no less than sixty per cent. are less than five acres in extent. More than this. These one hundred and fifty-six owners of land have between them no less than 718 separate plots, only twenty-eight land-holders having their lands in a single survey number and in a single piece, with the result that out of 103 families investigated, more than 65 per cent. scrape together wherewithals barely sufficient to keep the body and soul together.

The difficulty is a modern one and has grown up under the British rule. No attempt has been

made until very recently to deal with the situation, the gravity of which did not appeal to the Government of India, because they were prone, like Isaak Walton's milkmaid, to load their minds with fear of many things that would never be. While they allowed the grass to grow under their feet, suffering the crying scandal to pass muster as though it was the dispensation of Providence, other countries including Japan, France, Germany, and even some Swiss cantons adopted a definite process of consolidation, whenever the majority of holders in a village area agreed to it, and this reform was carried out partly at the expense of the State. If the Government of India do likewise and prohibit the sub-division of each individual piece of land in future, the worst of the evil would be over. Such a consummation could be reached by a comparatively simple piece of legislation—if there was a real wish on the part of the authorities to put a period to the present impossible situation. As it is, the growingly progressive pulverization of holdings prevents technical improvement in agriculture, stops the investment of capital and yet, once the evil is realised, it seems to be comparatively easily capable of treatment, and it may be said without fear of contradiction that if the Government were popular, the remedial measures would be undertaken very early.

M. Gide points out how the ideally perfect measure would be to make the *bien de famille* not only not liable to distraint but inalienable. To put small property under such a civil disqualification is, however, calculated to set the small farmers against it and thus defeat the very object in view. What is wanted is to carry out restripping of small and scattered holdings on the principle of original ownership, care being taken that the parties to such a voluntary consolidation are given complete security against eviction or annoyance in future and that the formalities and costs of exchange are reduced to a minimum—if possible, by the introduction of the Torrens system, which consists in applying to land the same system of registration as is applied to persons. To obviate the evil effects of the excessive subdivision of holdings, the only remedy is to fix a minimum limit below which all division should be strictly forbidden, it being understood that this "atom" of landed property is a function of many variables, depending upon the physical and chemical properties of the soil, the nature of local farming, accessibility from a good road, proximity to market and the like.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. F. Keatinge, C. I. E., Director of Agriculture in the Bombay Presidency, expressed what Goethe calls the *Zeitgeist* or spirit of the age in his illuminating book entitled, "Rural Economy in the Bombay Deccan" in 1911, passing in rapid review the measures taken in Sweden, Austria and Italy to enforce a rational reconstitution of land, waiving the application of this principle to India until a suitable opportunity offered itself. The present war opened the eyes

of the authorities to the wisdom of a forward policy in agriculture, and a full-dress Small Holdings bill will be on the legislative anvil ere long. The objects and reasons of the bill drafted by Mr. Keatinge are published for general information. It is impossible to withhold admiration for the unerring grip of facts exhibited by the gifted author, although there is one provision in it which requires to be modified to ensure the safe passage of the bill through the Bombay Legislative Council—the provision which says: "Where there are two or more heirs in equal degree, the eldest only succeeds." This provision runs counter to what Matthew Arnold terms the "stream of tendency," as it aims at the resuscitation of the Law of Primogeniture, so persistently discredited in Europe. Another weak point lies in its tendency to make a distinction between real and personal property, which would press heavily on the younger children in a poor country like India where the estate consists mainly or wholly of real property. A more excellent way is to leave the disposal of real estate to be settled by the heirs among themselves, who may be trusted to safeguard the best interests of the family *qua* family. An elastic reservation should be made in favour of revision to assess the effects of the redistribution of holdings in the course of a generation, for the acreage of land required for a compact economic holding will depend on the capability of the occupier, the amount of his capital, the system of farming to be adopted and the position of the holding with respect to market, common rights, climate and assistance from outside work. In proportion as all these factors are taken into account in the rearrangement of holdings, so will the success of the Small Holdings Act be assured. Attempts should be unremittingly made, whatever the cost, to raise the general level of intelligence among the farmers by making primary education free and compulsory without further delay, for as Mr. James Long observes in "The Practical Side of Small Holdings:"

"The prospects of success upon a small holding depend chiefly upon the occupier; although soil is essential, and although good seed, liberality in manuring, and climate all play a prominent part in the process of production, it is brains that tell in the end. Thus without knowledge and the power to apply it we cannot honestly say that a small holder has much prospect of success."

KESHAVLAL L. OZA.

## LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION OF MAY 1918.

### II.\*

FOR the administration of great cities at least it is absolutely necessary to secure capable and experienced men on the corporations. As population increases and as science advances our knowledge of sanitary matters and conditions, the problems of local self-government become more com-

\* The first article on this subject appeared in the issue of August 22.

licated day by day and require to be dealt with by trained intelligence. We are asked to take up big schemes of water supply, drainage, town-planning &c. which require an intelligent handling. These considerations impel me to advocate differentiation between the qualifications of voters and candidates. The necessity for this differentiation will be more acutely felt with the broadening of the franchise. This is not, I believe, without precedent of other countries. A higher standard of education and a higher payment of taxes should be prescribed for candidates.

Another small point which, if well attended to, will largely contribute to the efficient administration of local bodies, is one of services. No municipality except the Corporation of Bombay has any pension provisions. Very few municipalities have started provident funds. These two drawbacks and the want of stability of service afford no inducement for good and capable men to enter into the service of local bodies. The formation of a provincial service of executive officers and engineers is the only remedy for it. This is not the place to dilate upon details of this scheme. A provision of pension or provident fund and good salaries with prospects of promotion for lower subordinates is sure to make lower municipal service attractive.

The Government of India refer in paragraph 8 of their recent resolution to the Bombay model of a municipal commissioner and seem to recommend it for the mofussil large cities. There is a body of intelligent opinion against this institution, and experience of Ahmedabad has not unfortunately been a happy one. It can not be gainsaid, however, that a full-fledged officer is required to carry out effectively the executive administration. Committee government is unsuited for large cities. The local body should be deliberative and lay down rules and bye-laws for the guidance of the executive officers. Many local bodies are found to be chary of delegating more powers to the executive and the administration, therefore, at times suffers. The legislature must invest those officers with adequate powers.

Another important subject in respect of local self-government is the consideration as to the degree of control to be retained by Government over local bodies and the manner in which that control should be exercised. The basic principle that was enunciated by Lord Ripon's Government was that this control should be exercised from without rather than from within. This question of control was put into shade in this presidency, because local boards (like other Government departments) were practically controlled by collectors and other revenue officers, and municipalities were presided over upto 1909 by collectors and their assistants. The chapter of control in the two Acts was practically non-existent and the question of outside control never presented itself prominently for public criticism. The dissociation of officers from local bodies has rendered the con-

sideration of this question imperative. The present method is unsound in principle and tends to create irritation between local bodies and local officers of Government. The control in very important matters does technically exist in Government. But the collectors and commissioners act as intermediaries. Instances can be quoted in numbers where collectors interfere with and harass municipalities even in small matters. Definite instances can be cited where such interference became intolerable and created bad blood. They adopt a dictatorial attitude. This plant of local self-government requires for its growth tender handling and proper nourishment. Local officers exhibit towards these institutions a step-motherly affection. Besides, local self-government work constitutes only one of the many branches of the work done by collectors and commissioners. It is, therefore, not properly attended to. The present system makes it obligatory on a municipality to approach Government even in a most technical matter through collectors and commissioners who are not experts. This results in excessive delays. A separate local self-government department should be created with experts to advise in technical matters. The Government of India have recommended the creation of local Self-Government Board. It has a parallel also in England. There one member of the cabinet forms practically such a board. The conditions obtaining in England materially differ from those in India. This makes it necessary to have popular representatives on this board in addition to the member in charge. Whether such representatives should be selected from amongst the elected members of the legislative council, or whether they should be returned directly by the local bodies is a matter of detail. An objection to this is raised on the score of expenditure that the increase of the experts and other staff will cost more. The obvious reply to this is that the the present machinery of Government can be utilised by the Local Self-Government Board. Such a Board will give a healthy tone to the administration in local matters. The collectors and commissioners may act as advisors of such a Board. They should have no power of independent action except in cases of gravest character.

The Government of India has in the recent resolution (end of para 16) suggested a remedy of dissolving the body before the expiration of its term if it is found to be remiss or perverse. This will be a very effective remedy. The existing councillors will have to convince their electorate that what they did was in their interest and that Government were wrong in advocating a particular measure. The electorate will act as an arbiter between the councillors and the Government and will in the fresh election return men in whose judgment they can trust. This will avoid odium to government which is a result of any drastic action on their part.

However liberal a constitution you may provide for local bodies they will not show substantial

improvement unless their present resources are increased and fresh items of revenue are devised. The late Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale moved on the 13th of March 1912 a resolution in the Imperial Council on the inadequacy of the resources of local bodies. He then made out a very strong case for a demand of additional revenues. The then finance member gave an assurance to consider this question at the time of passing final orders on the report of the decentralization commission. The inquiry of the commission on this head was very perfunctory. The resolution of 1915 and the present one do not suggest any line of action in the direction of increasing revenues. One is conscious of the fact that local bodies ought to exert to realise more money from direct local taxation. The Government helps these bodies by giving recurring and non-recurring grants. They are insufficient and are merely given as "doles." In addition to these grants an assignment of certain provincial revenues is the only just and proper method of helping these bodies. This is by no means a new principle and is accepted in England. In India so early as 1882, the officers of the Government of Bombay recommended the following items for being handed over to local bodies:—

(1) All ground rent now credited to Government, the sale proceeds of land sold for non-agricultural purposes and all fines and penalties paid for converting land to such purposes.

(2) Local fund cess on abkari contracts.

(3) Larger proportion of the increase of land assessment derived from revised Survey Settlements.

These proposals were not then accepted by Government and matters were allowed to drift in an unsatisfactory manner. Thirty-five years have since then passed; new ideas are dawning upon us, responsibilities of administration are increasing and expenditure is fast out-running the revenues. Under these changed circumstances may we not expect that Government should be prepared to reconsider this question with a liberal and sympathetic attitude? Government is as much interested in the development of urban areas as the municipalities are. If cities and towns develop, as they are showing a decided sign of developing, it means additional revenue to Government in the form of abkari revenue, income tax, stamps, court fees, &c. It is, therefore, legitimate that Government should come forward to give some definite proportion of these revenues collected within the jurisdiction of each local body. At present the municipalities do not get any ground-rent, on land situate within their areas, while on the other hand they are required to spend heavy amounts to make roads, lay pipes and make all conservancy arrangements in such newly developed areas.

An honourable member of the local council moved in 1916 a resolution on this subject, which however was unfortunately lost.

The Committee appointed by Government

in the case of local boards in 1915 unanimously recommended that district boards be granted a share in certain expanding revenues, preferably in excise and land revenue. This is a recommendation made by a body which had amongst its members revenue commissioners of the three divisions, and we may hope that Government will give proper weight to this recommendation of the Committee. So far as the Municipalities are concerned their case does not in any way differ from that of local boards. The proportion of Abkari revenue will be greater in urban areas than in rural areas, though in the case of land revenue the position will be the reverse. One need not attempt to support the demand for a share in the income tax, as the Government of India was prepared to give, so early as 1881, a share of license tax which was replaced by the more comprehensive income tax. It is a matter of regret that since then Government, imperial or provincial, has not been able to translate this principle into action.

G. K. S.

### A LETTER FROM LONDON.

( From Our Own Correspondent. )

LONDON, AUGUST 22.

#### A CLEAVAGE IN THE NATIONALIST CAMP.

TWO items of news this week, apparently totally unconnected, but pointing in the same direction, provide food for much serious reflexion. The first is that there is a great likelihood of a split in the Nationalist camp in India. The cables inform us that the Moderate wing had decided to take no part in the special Congress that is sitting about the present time in Bombay, but intended to hold a separate Conference at Calcutta. It will be generally felt here that a split at this moment, when so much is in the balance, is a misfortune, and, if continued, it may prove a menace to the success of constitutional reform in India. It will be felt that both parties have been lacking in political perspicacity, in that spirit of compromise that is of the essence of public life here, that has, in fact, especially distinguished the British people at the most critical periods of their existence. Whatever domestic disputes they have, they know, ordinarily, how to close up their ranks in the face of a common enemy. That, on the whole, India has, during the last generation, learnt something of this lesson is undeniable. But if the lesson be forgotten to-day, the loss will be enormous. It is, therefore, to be devoutly hoped that the split, if it comes about at all, is only for the moment and will soon be repaired. Even a temporary abstention seems to us somewhat strange, for, according to report, both sides are now agreed on the spirit and main principles of the Scheme. But we cannot accurately measure at this distance the amount of unanimity on the essentials and the extent of differences which divide the two sections. Disunion in Nationalist India, if it should make concerted action impossible hereafter, will enable our British Prussians, lip-loyal



only to the 1917 declaration of policy, but unforgiving and remorseless opponents, at heart, of vital change in India, to break down the barrier of national unity. What India needs, more than anything else to-day, is an atmosphere purified of suspicion and mutual recrimination, and the development of a noble patriotism and a unifying statesmanship. Advantage will be taken, undoubtedly, of the present unhappy estrangement, to push forward propaganda in favour of general communal representation. It is whispered that at least one prominent member of the War Cabinet has threatened to resign unless it is adopted. I have not heard that another has threatened to resign if it be.

#### THE FUTURE OF THE BRITISH COMMITTEE.

One of the side-issues of the present controversy is the status and future of the British Committee here. Never was there so great a need of a strong permanent, representative body in London. During the next few months, when the Reforms are being translated into legislative action, such a body, co-operating with a well-chosen, representative, and solid deputation from India, would be invaluable. But Sir William Wedderburn's death removed its principal and most influential member, and, ignorant as to how things political were really shaping themselves in India, and in the face of the grave disputes that have long threatened to bring about disruption in the National Party, it is useless to expect that men of ability, position, and responsibility will be prepared to join a body that may be rejected or treated with contumely, because it would, with its knowledge of affairs here and experience of the requirements and possibilities of public life in this country, refuse to be dragged at the heels of extravagance and inexperience. The Committee, even as at present constituted, has been ignored and humiliated on more than one occasion, during the last year, by one of the parties on your side. The British auxiliary of the Home Rule League is, in its way, doing very useful work; but it is largely ignorant of Indian conditions, and its appeal is almost entirely confined to the Labour Party, whereas Indian affairs, during the next few years, at any rate, will fall to be dealt with, though in a diminishing degree, in the main by those sections of the public that have hitherto controlled the large issues of Imperial policy. During those years, too, with the setting up of a permanent Select Committee of the House of Commons, it will be all the more necessary to have some body, like the British Committee, capable of putting Indian matters in an authoritative way, and representative of progressive thought in India, before all parties here. But a divided Congress cannot command the co-operation of the best elements in English public life or appeal to the good-will and commonsense of the British people, who are standing aloof, to-day, in mingled disgust and dismay at the spectacle of the lack of imaginative statesmanship shown by British political leaders, in the treatment of the Irish question, and

the futile incompetency of the Irish political leaders to take advantage of the finest opportunity of controlling the affairs of their own country since the Act of Union.

#### A HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

The other item of news relates to the decision to achieve continuity of purpose and intimacy of relationship in regard to the work of the Imperial War Cabinet. Although the Dominions Prime Minister will be unable to remain here indefinitely, it is now announced that the Dominions are to be represented at the sessions of the War Cabinet by a resident or visiting Minister, with advisory powers, and in constant communication with his Government. India is also to be represented, though probably by the Secretary of State. Already Australia has approved of the new proposals, so far as she is concerned, but the feeling seems general that there is no need to have both a resident Minister and a High Commissioner in London. The latter would, indeed, be an expensive superfluity, and it is now suggested that, in future, the High Commissioner should be an honorary Minister.

Just before his death, Sir William Wedderburn was engaged in considering the possibility of developing the British Committee, so that it might possibly become the nucleus of an Indian High Commissioner's Department. In order to place some material at his disposal, I had a conversation with one of the High Commissioners, in the course of which he prognosticated some such development of the High Commissionership as is now suggested. He pointed out that all the High Commissioners had held Cabinet rank in their respective Dominions, that it was very unlikely, in the future, that anyone would be appointed who had not had ministerial experience and responsibility, and that such experience was practically essential to the proper conduct of Dominion affairs.

If, therefore, steps should be taken, as is now proposed, to shift by degrees the burden of responsibility for Indian affairs from the India Office to responsible Indian Ministers, some kind of demi-official agency, merging eventually into a wholly official one, acting here on behalf of India, as the High Commissioner's offices act for the Dominions, will be more than ever needed. The British Committee is a long-established body, with a fine tradition and a useful record of work done, and with the potentialities of more to come. It could be made just such a nucleus as Sir William had in mind, if it could be broadened and strengthened by the addition of Englishmen and Indians of substance and standing. But so long as there is irresponsibility on the part of one section of the Congress Party, and invertebracy on the part of the other, so long as personal animosities are allowed to prevent common action in moments of great emergency, so long as Indian unofficial representation here is not substantial and truly representative, it will be impossible to have an energetic, educative body of people carrying on propaganda in this

country such as will, in the coming years, be increasingly necessary in order to carry forward, as speedily as possible, the work of developing free, autonomous, and democratic institutions in India.

## LETTERS FROM THE PROVINCES.

### MADRAS.

Madras, September 28

#### THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

A LULL has succeeded the storm that raged here round the Chelmsford-Montagu scheme of reforms, according to that highly beneficent law of Nature that a calm should succeed a storm. Everything is quiet, at any rate—seems to be so,—in the political theatre, so much so that some of us who, so to speak, live and move and have their being in political excitement, find life rather dull now that the alarms and excursions and thunder and lightning have ceased on the popular stage, and would give anything to have a repetition of those brilliant declamations and splendid denunciations against the scheme which we all heard and enjoyed so much a month or two ago. But opinion has gradually subsided—in fact, it has become quite sober, strange as it may sound to outsiders. Even the *Hindu* now evinces a keen anxiety that the authorities in England should proceed forthwith and immediately to give effect to the reform scheme, though less than a month ago the same *Hindu* protested—rather too much, as some of us thought at that time—that Parliament had no business to push on with the scheme before the Congress-League deputation had reached England and placed their views before the British public. Such a course, said the *Hindu* then, would be a flagrant treachery towards India. But the same *Hindu* has now said in one of its latest issues that any delay in pushing on with the scheme would constitute “a great breach of promise.” Never mind the inconsistency; all’s well that ends well, as old Shakespeare says.

#### BRAVO, LONDON CORRESPONDENTS!

The one thing that has contributed to this climb-down more than anything else is the London Correspondence that appears so regularly and frequently in the columns of the *Hindu* and *New India* from “*Our Own Correspondents*.” How cruel of their “*Own Correspondents*” to *inquire* their respective papers with letter after letter urging sobriety and moderation and those other hated vices for which they (the papers) had been taking a whole party to task, ever since the beginning of this unfortunate episode! These “*London Letters*” I am glad to say, are diametrically and directly opposed to the policy of their papers, so far as the reforms question is concerned. As one who runs may read, they have urged argument after argument, point after point, circumstance after circumstance, in favour of a general acceptance of the proposals, in view of the great difficulty that confronts any Indian reform in England at the place from which all reform has to come. Needless to say, they are exactly the same points, the same circumstances, the same arguments which the cursed “*Moderates*” have been urging from the very first and for which some “*patriots*” have covered them with the vilest abuse that any political controversy has given rise to in recent times. But let that pass. Considerations of space forbid my giving long extracts from these letters, but I may quote just one sentence from the London Correspondent of the *Hindu* dated 8-8-18 as a sample of their general tenor and a very good sample it is: “*Curiously enough he (Lord Sydenham) quoted from Mr. Tilak in proof of his contention that the political leaders of India were vehemently protesting against the proposals. That is what I meant when I said in my previous letters that for Indian nationalists to take the line of indiscriminate condemnation would be to play into the hands of the enemy.*” That is the unkindest

cut—it cuts like the very truth. But is this not what the “*Moderates*” were saying all along, one should like to ask.

#### THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH.

Perhaps some people may take exception to the foregoing statement and say “*who was guilty of indiscriminate condemnation?*”—of course, not they. They merely *observed* that the scheme was undiscussible, untouchable, etc. When Dr. Subramania Iyer said “*this scheme violates the principle of self-determination: I would not touch it,*” it was only a joke. When Mrs. Besant declared that it was unworthy of being offered or accepted and unfurled the flag of opposition and called upon all who would follow her to follow her to death or victory, of course it was all said in fun. When *even now* she says that even with all the modifications she urges the scheme would still remain unacceptable to her and her party, of course one should not take it seriously. Nor should any one have taken it seriously when Mr. C. Vijayaraghavachariar, Mr. Kasturiranga Iyengar and some other luminaries of political thought issued a certain famous joint manifesto proclaiming to all the world their deliberate conviction that “*the scheme of reforms was so radically wrong alike in principles and details that it would be impossible to modify or improve it.*” Of course, all that was *not* indiscriminate condemnation—bless your heart—it was only innocent fun? At any rate it is so easy to say so now after having moulded that mighty thing called public opinion to one’s heart’s content, and after having done all the mischief possible. But let that pass again. One would not, nay, should not, rake up the ashes of all those burnt-out fires at this time of day, but for the fact that some of our leaders now pose as injured innocents and ask “*Who was guilty of indiscriminate condemnation?*” Who, indeed! What a far cry from their former, to their present attitude!! Let us be thankful to them, all the same, for this great mercy. And if the process of the cooling of heads should continue to go on at this marvellous rate (marvellous for Madras) there is still some hope that by the time the next Congress meets in Delhi, all differences between extremists and moderates would have vanished and the unfortunate split in the Congress ranks would have been healed in six months. The whole story of the climb-down—I mean, climb-up—of our friends is very interesting and very instructive. The position of the moderates has been fully, splendidly vindicated; reason has prevailed against passion and unreason once again; and once more the Truth has triumphed in spite of misunderstandings and misrepresentations, calumnies and hatred.

#### THE ECONOMIC SITUATION.

The economic situation is as serious as—perhaps more serious than—anything else in Madras just now. People all over the province are still suffering from food and cloth scarcity. The food riots in Madras are happily over—though now and then wild rumours of looting continue to frighten us—but they are almost of daily occurrence in various villages and towns in each and every district. Not a day passes, but it brings some such news from some place or other. The whole province is suffering. After all, two members of Government have deigned to descend into the midst of humble mortals from the Olympian heights of Ootacamund, and so far, they have only received a deputation—nobody knows what else they have done, but everybody knows how this policy of “*drift*” will end. The “*Bombay Chronicle*” has made a most funny mistake in reporting a riot in one of the southern districts of this presidency. The riot took place in Ramnad district; the rioters were *Maravars*. The “*Chronicle*” converted Ramnad into “*Manmad*” and “*Maravars*” into “*Marwaris*”! This rather reminds one of the comments of a certain London journal on “*Hat-looting in Bengal.*”

#### Notice to Contributors.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected MSS. or any other contributions sent to him.

## SELECTIONS.

## CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS.

## THE EXAMPLE OF JAPAN.

Dr. L. C. Coleman, in the course of a paper read to the Mysore Economic Conference, thus related the experience of Japan in the matter of the restripping of land :—

Japan is pre-eminently the country of small holdings. Seventy per cent of the Japanese farmers possess holdings of an area less than 2½ acres, while only 3 per cent possess lands more than 7½ acres extent. Moreover, almost 70½ of the cultivated area in Japan is in holdings of less than 2½ acres. The agricultural holdings in Japan are also for the most part subdivided into small and irregular plots with an insufficient and sometimes irrational system of roads and often imperfectly and unsuitably irrigated and drained.

The seriousness of this state of affairs from the standpoint of agricultural production has not escaped the attention of the Japanese and so long ago as 1899 steps were set on foot to remedy the evils attending sub-division. The first Law for the re-adjustment of land was passed in 1899 and came into operation on the 1st of January, 1900. The Japanese Government estimated that through the consolidation of holdings an increase of 3 per cent in the productive area could be brought about by the utilisation of boundary areas between adjacent plots while by their reclamation of land which also formed a part of the scheme, a further considerable increase would be obtained. They estimated that the re-adjustment would lead to a total increase in the yield of the land of at least 15 per cent. As a matter of fact in the first 50 farms which came under the operation of this act actual increase in production of 38 per cent was obtained.

The operations connected with this work were not confined to consolidation and restripping of the land. Thus to the cost of surveying which is itself considerable where plots are small and numerous, had to be added the large sums spent on canalization, irrigation and drainage.

Under this law, the work of re-adjustment, restripping and the making of dikes, roads, etc., was entrusted to associations of landlords formed for the purpose. It also gave the right to carry out this work to individual landlords who furnished sufficient guarantees of ability to meet their engagements. With the object of facilitating such undertakings, the law exempted contracts from registration fees, made free grants out of crown lands so as to facilitate the restripping and gave to competent authorities the right to fix, in each individual case, the indemnities compensating proprietors for losses suffered through the application of the law. Dikes, roads and embankments belonging to the State which became useless were handed over free of cost but no compensation was paid for lands utilised for new ones.

Between 1900 and 1902 applications had been received under the law for the re-adjustment of over 8,000 farms with a total area of 3,50,000 acres.

Certain technical and administrative defects in this law came to light during its working with the result that in 1909 it was replaced by a new one. While the earlier law concerned itself principally with the utilization of boundary lands and the improvement of irrigation, drainage, dyke and roads, the new law, while making provision for these, contemplated the reclamation of uncultivated land and the adoption of that kind of farming most suited to increase the yield and best adapted to the character of the soil.

The new law assigned the task of carrying out the work, chiefly to syndicates formed among the land-holders concerned and recognised as incorporated bodies. In order to obtain authorization to form such a syndicate, it is necessary to obtain the consent of at least half the land-owners within the area in which the syndicate intends to work on the further condition that such land-owners represent at least two-thirds of the area of value or the land to be readjusted. Special reductions are also allowed as a further inducement while money is supplied to syndicates at low rates of interest by the Japanese Mortgage Bank and certain other Banking institutions.

Under this new law, within less than two years, applications had been received for the re-adjustment of 2,614 farms with an area of 3,90,000 acres against 2129 farms with an area of 3,50,000 for the eight odd years during which the previous law was operative. This indicates pretty clearly that the new law is meeting the needs of the Japanese agriculturists to a very remarkable extent.

As a result of the operation of these two laws, the cultivated area in villages where they have been in operation has increased by 10 per cent while the rice area has increased by 40 per cent.

With regard to the expenses involved in the work of readjustment they have been, as already indicated, pretty high.

For the first 490 estates under the first Act the cost worked out at about Rs. 80 per acre. Estimates for the readjustment of 1,532 estates for which schemes were approved between the 30th June, 1910, and the 31st August, 1911, worked out at the rate of Rs. 110 per acre. The Japanese Government foreseeing the difficulties arising from this large outlay have granted special facilities in arranging loans, remitting taxes and granting large subventions which are administered by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. From this it is clear that while the expenses are high, the benefits to be derived are such as to warrant them; otherwise it is clear that the Japanese Government would not show such marked interest in the furtherance of the scheme.

The question of the readjustment of the holdings has received much attention in many countries of Europe, also notably in Russia, Austria and Switzerland. The procedure in each country has been very similar to that described for Japan. In Austria, the Government has been particularly generous, bearing in most cases about three-fourths of the expenses involved and the results in this country have been even more striking than in Japan. It is stated that in Austria the expenditure incurred has been entirely recovered in two years' time by the increased annual yield. The expenses per acre in that country have been very much less than those given for Japan, varying from Rs. 3 to Rs. 7-8-0 per acre, while the increase in value of the land averaged over Rs. 100 per acre.

In Austria, readjustment takes place on the decision of half the landholders of a commune who must, however, own two-thirds of the land to be readjusted. For the initiation of the work involved in preparing estimates, etc., it is enough if the application is made by one-third of those concerned provided they enjoy one-third of the net revenue.

With regard to the difficulties which will result from the working of the Hindu Law of inheritance I do not feel competent to speak. I leave that to other members of the Conference. I wish only to point out that our conditions are not unique in this regard. Both Japan and Austria had to face much the same difficulties. Mr. Keatinge has suggested as a way out of this difficulty that a law should be passed enabling owners to register their holdings as economic ones, such holdings thereafter to be impartible. The Mysore Government have also seen fit in connection with the large landed estates scheme to ensure the impartibility of such estates. It is quite clear that unless some regulation is passed which ensures the impartibility of a holding which has once been consolidated, very little permanent benefit is likely to result. I personally feel that impartibility should be one of the essential conditions to be laid down before a scheme of consolidation and restripping is undertaken or at least that a minimum area should be fixed below which no further sub-division should take place. Where a division of property among heirs does take place regulations should be framed to ensure that the resulting subdivisions are in compact blocks.

It has been proposed to have in each District a model taluk. In each model taluk I would pick out a fairly prosperous and typical village for enquiry. I would then have a survey of the village made showing the holdings, types of soil, irrigation facilities and any other factors likely to influence the consolidation. From the data thus collected it should be possible to draw up an estimate of the cost of restripping and consolidation. Should the restripping prove feasible from a financial standpoint and should 50 per cent. of the land-owners owning two-thirds of the land be agreeable, it might then be undertaken. I believe that in such experimental villages all the expenses connected with the work of surveying and consolidation should be borne by Government and I feel certain that it would be money well invested.

## 'THE NEW STATESMAN'

PRONOUNCES

## THE SERVANT OF INDIA

QUITE EXCELLENT

and says that it is

*The Best Thing that Indian Journalism has yet Produced.*

## WANTED

Agents to sell copies of this paper at different places in India. For terms, write to :—  
THE MANAGER,

The Servant of India, Poona City.

## ARYAN CINEMA.

Opp. Reay Market.

Wednesday 25th to Saturday 28th September.

Three shows at 6, 8 and 10 P. M.

Rates: Re. 1, As. 1½, 8, 6, 4 and 2.

1. Luce's Lost Lamb. 2. Father's Brilliant Idea and

### The Double Image

Star Drama in four Reels

featuring Mlle. Napier Kowska.

Saturday 28th Sept to Tuesday 1st October.

Three shows at 6, 8 and 10 P. M.

Rates: Rs. 2, 1½, 1, As. 12, 8, 6 and 3.

Concession of five coupons price Re. 1½, 1, As. 12, 8, 6, 4 and 2 per coupon.

First two Episodes of

The First Swadeshi Serial.

## The Exile of SHRI RAMA.

IN 20 REELS.

5 INSTALMENTS.

Produced under the able Directorship of Mr. PATANKAR. Valmiki the First Poet of the world has sung the exploits of Rama in his immortal Song, the Ramayan. With the skill of Mr. Patankar it has now become possible to see these exploits on the screen. They are beautifully photographed and acted.

## THE GOVERNANCE OF INDIA

A HAND-BOOK OF PROGRESSIVE POLITICS

BY BABU GOVINDA DAS

Babu Govinda Das's book on the "Governance of India" offers a constructive scheme of reforms in the Indian constitution. The book is full of original and fruitful observations. The result of the author's continuous study and reflection on the subject for years.

Crown 8 vo. Cloth Bound.

Price Rs. 3. To Subscribers of "I. R.," Rs. 2-8.

## INDIAN NATIONAL EVOLUTION

A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS AND THE GROWTH OF INDIAN NATIONALISM.

BY

HON. AMVIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR.

*New India.*—A volume of 25 chapters and 460 pages, from cover to cover it is useful, suggestive, breathing inspiration and hope.

Second edition. Price Rs. 3. To Subscribers of "I. R.," Rs. 2-8.

## THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

FULL TEXT OF ALL THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES AND THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED UP-TO-DATE.

Second Edition: Crown 8vo., 1,526 Pages.

Bound in Cloth and well Indexed.

PRICE RS. FOUR. To Subscribers of the "I. R.," Rs. THREE.

G. A. Natesan & Co., Madras.



HAVE YOU EVER HEARD or used the renowned Durbare Soap? Durbare Soap means Depilatory Soap. It has the power of removing superfluous hairs from any part of the body without any stain; nor does it leave any burning sensation. Highly praised by gentries. A trial is solicited. Price per box of 3 cakes Re. 1 only. Postage extra.

Sole Agents:—The AMARAVATHY AGENCY, 13 Krishnappa Naick's Agraharam, MADRAS.

**K**ASHMIR refined Silajit, well-known tonic and specific for diabetes, Spermatorrhea @ As. 8, pure saffron @ Re. 1/8, Genuine Musk @ Rs. 35 tola. Best Hing @ Rs. 2/4 lb. THE KASHMIR STORES, SRINAGAR, No. 99.

## ज्ञानमण्डल काशी

द्वारा

प्रकाशित तथा प्रचारित पुस्तकें।

प्रकाशित:—“अब्राहाम लिङ्गन” मूल्य ॥) “भारतीय शासनप्रबन्ध-सम्बन्धी सुधारोंका आवेदनपत्र” जिल्द १ मूल्य ॥२)

छप रही हैं:—“जापान का राजनैतिक विकास” “इटली के विधायक महात्मागण” “भारतवर्ष का प्राचीन इतिहास” “भारतीय शासनप्रबन्धसम्बन्धी सुधारोंका आवेदनपत्र” जिल्द २ और ३।

प्रचारित:—स्वर्गवासी अध्यापक लक्ष्मीचंद्रजी कृत। १ “रोशानाई बनाने की पुस्तक” ॥) २ “सुगन्ध साधन बनाने की पुस्तक” १) ३ “तेल की पुस्तक” १) ४ “हिन्दी कमेन्ट्री” १) ५ “सरल रसायन” २) ६ “बार्निश और मेण्ट” १) श्री मुकुन्दलाल कृत “मानस-मुक्ततावली” मूल्य १-)

उक्त मूल्य में डाक व्यय सम्मिलित नहीं है। जो सज्जन १) भेज कर स्थायी माहकों में नाम लिया लेंगे। उन्हें मण्डल द्वारा प्रकाशित पुस्तकें पौन मूल्य पर मिलेंगी। रुपया नीचे लिखे पते से पत्रव्यवहार कीजिये।

शिवप्रसाद गुप्त

संचालक

ज्ञानमण्डल कार्यालय काशी।

## BEST SOAP MADE IN INDIA.

This soap has an excellent perfume and can very well compete with any best article of the kind imported from foreign countries and besides it is very cheap. A specimen of it will be sent to those forwarding seven annas postal stamps. A box containing three pieces will cost a rupee, exclusive of postal charges. One anna commission will be charged on every Rupee for sending any article available in Poona. One-fourth price at least should accompany order. For further particulars send an half anna postal stamp.

V. C. & Brothers,

564, Balaashive Peth, Poona City.

## JUST A WORD

or two to remind you to send your order To-Day for our famous

COSSI SILK SUIT PIECES

Worth the price, and a piece guaranteed for one suit complete.

Price Rs. 8 per piece.

Order from:—GOOD LUCK COMPANY, BOMBAY. No. 2

## EVER SINCE INVENTED.

'Leucoderma Specific' is the only cure for leprosy. (Any kind of spots on the body, either rockbla white red, even from venereal diseases, vanish within a short time.) Numerous testimonials from all parts of India.

B. N. Dixit and Co., Poona City.

## LATEST BOOKS.

THE CONSOLIDATION OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

By Prof. H. Stanley Jevons, F. S. S. (Bulletin of the Economics Department of the University of Allahabad.) Re. 1-2.

1013. The Holy Symbols. By Jemsctji Dadabhoy Shroff. With Introduction by Swamin Govind Acharya. Cloth. Rs. 2. The Times of India say:—“In Mr. Shroff's book the reader gets a glimpse into the mind of the devout Zoroastrian. The best part of it consists of meditations on the sacred fire, which should be edifying to the pious Parsi as they are certainly interesting to the outsider.”

991. An Epitome of Jainism. Being a critical study of its Metaphysics, Ethics and History etc., in relation to Modern Thought by P. C. Nahar, M. A. B. L. and Ghosh. Rs. 6.

G. A. Vaidya Raman & Co.,

(S). Kouli Chetty St. Madras.