

# The Servant of India

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OFFICE : SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY'S HOME, POONA 4.

VOL. XIV NO. 27. }

POONA—THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1931.

{ INDIAN SUBSN. Rs. 6.  
FOREIGN 15s.

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## Topics of the Week.

### Harmony Restored to the Princes.

MUCH concern was felt in certain quarters at what appeared to be imminent defection of the Maharaja of Patiala from the scheme of federation evolved in London, but we for our part never shared in it. Whatever else may be said of His Highness of Patiala, it cannot be said of him that he does not know where the self-interest of the princely order lies. And even if he felt any apprehensions we were certain that they would be dispelled on a careful study of the position assigned to the States in the scheme. The memorandum circulated by the Princes' Chamber to the rulers must have proved a great help to the Maharaja of Patiala in such a study, for being intended to be a confidential document it stated fully and clearly what no Prince would ever admit in public. This memorandum gave the lie direct to the sacrifices which British Indian politicians are wont to impute to their Highnesses. It said in so many terms that the federal list of subjects included no subject in regard to which the States possessed any kind of authority. By consenting to make these subjects federal therefore the States would not suffer the least diminution in their internal sovereignty. This memorandum which was never meant for the public eye was cruelly dragged into publicity by enterprising journalists, and it has deprived the Princes of a pretence which British Indian politicians helped them in keeping up. But the memorandum has anyhow restored the order of the ruling Princes to the harmony which was temporarily disturbed.

Will it not however lead to the disillusionment of the people in British India ?

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### Railway Workers' Strike ?

WITH every desire to make allowance for the difficulties of the Government we are unable to understand their inability to grant the request of the All-India Railway Workers' Federation for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation to go into the Railway Board's retrenchment proposals. The workers complain, and not without reason, that retrenchment affects with undue severity the low-paid employees in the railways, while the highly paid offices go virtually scot-free. That their contention is not altogether groundless is clear from the fact that while 35,000 workers have already been sacked on the ground of retrenchment and while 30,000 more are marked out for similar treatment, only 13 officers out of nearly 4,800 have so far been retrenched! It appears from the lengthy resolution passed by the Federation that they made certain alternative proposals intended to cause the least hardship to the low-paid employees while effecting the required saving in expenditure and were prepared to allow reasonable time for their consideration by Government, provided of course further retrenchment was immediately suspended. This was an eminently reasonable offer which the Government should have unhesitatingly accepted. Instead they merely promised early consideration of the question of suspending further retrenchment which clearly did not convey the assurance for which the Federation asked. If the Federation's proposal was categorically acceded to by Government, there would have been no need for the Federation to indulge in a talk of general strike, as they have been doing since. Nobody doubts the need for retrenchment; but care must be taken that it is carried out with the minimum possible hardship to those least able to bear it. Looked at from this point of view there is no doubt that the suggestions put forward by the Federation deserve earnest consideration at the hands of the Railway authorities before they resort to the extreme step of discharging their employees to whom discharge practically means starvation of themselves and their dependents. It is calculated that on an average 27,000 workers retire every year after completing their thirty years of service and almost about an equal number are discharged or die or resign from service. If these figures are correct and if, as suggested by Diwan Chamanlal, the retrenchment programme

is spread over two years instead of being put into effect at one bound, the necessary saving would be effected without the necessity of turning out any worker from his employment. With such satisfactory alternatives for consideration it would be most unfortunate if by any action on their part the Government force the workers to the extreme step of a strike.

#### Under-trial Prisoners' Magna Charta.

THE judgment recently passed by Justices Bhide and Tapp of the Lahore High Court on the petition of Sukhdeoraj, an accused in the Lahore conspiracy case, is sure to give a rude shock to the executive which apparently continues under the fond illusion that it can behave in any way it likes with under-trial prisoners. It will be remembered that on June 2 under the orders of the tribunal hearing the Lahore conspiracy case Sukhdeoraj was sent to the judicial lock-up where he was to live with the other accused in the case. But four days later the Government ordered his separation from his co-accused and detention in a condemned cell which, in the words of the judges, "amounts to punishment of solitary confinement under the Prisons Act, apparently for an indefinite period although he has committed no prison offence." This was followed by an application on his behalf to the tribunal to find out why Government thought it needful to contravene the explicit instructions of the Court. Apparently unconscious of its powers, however, the tribunal came to the conclusion that it could not interfere. Luckily the matter was not allowed to rest here. When it went up to the High Court, the Judges referred to above strongly criticised the action of the tribunal in dropping the matter without a proper investigation into the complaints of the accused. They pointed out that if the view of the tribunal that it had no jurisdiction in a matter like this were correct, it would mean that under-trial prisoners would be completely at the mercy of the Government and can expect no help from the Courts. But, the Judges held, the Courts were not in such a helpless condition. We are glad that the narrow view taken by the tribunal of its powers has been thus authoritatively repudiated. For if it were allowed to pass unchallenged, it would have given a virtual license to the executive to deal with under-trial prisoners in any way it chose, which would be manifestly detrimental to the interests of justice. Thus the *Hindu* does not at all overshoot the mark when it characterises this judgment of the Lahore High Court as the Magna Charta of under-trial prisoners throughout the country.

#### Condition of Indian Labourers in Ceylon.

IN a recent issue we drew attention to the hardships from which Indian labourers in Ceylon are suffering. The grievances apparently still remain unredressed with the result that the matter has become a source of uneasiness specially to people of the districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Salem from which most of the Indian labour supply to Ceylon is drawn. Their condition was recently studied on the spot by Mr. D. Xavier, Vice-chairman of the Mayavaram municipality who was deputed on that duty by the North Tanjore District Congress Committee. His report also shows that the Government have taken no steps to set right their grievances. While the Indian labourer there has every reason to feel grateful to the Government of India for getting a minimum wage fixed for him, it is beyond question that it was fixed on none too liberal a basis. And even that has since been reduced, as Mr. Xavier tells us, with the consent of the Government of India! This is very surprising and the Indian public would like to know the reasons which influenced the Government in

agreeing to the reduction. We daresay the complaints of the labourers about being forced to purchase rice from the planters at a rate, which, though agreed to between the Governments of India and Ceylon, is higher than the present market rate, have not failed to reach the ears of the Government of India. It is a question how in these circumstances they could have been a party to the lowering of the Indian labourer's wage. These complaints have been so repeatedly receiving public expression that it is time that even the Government of India, proverbially slow as it is to move, awoke to its duty in the matter. Mr. Xavier's report also comments strongly on the inadequacy of the arrangements for medical relief for Indian labourers on the estates. The arrangements for the education of the children of Indian labourers on the estates also seem to leave a good deal to be desired. We hope the Government of India will inquire into all these matters and take the Indian public into its confidence with regard to the results of their inquiries.

#### Working of Local Boards in Bombay.

THE Government resolution reviewing the working of local boards in the Bombay Presidency for 1929-30 closes, like its predecessor, with an exhortation to them to concentrate their attention upon overhauling their machinery with a view to ensure full return for the money expended by them. The advice does not lose its force because of repetition for the year in question has witnessed no extraordinary improvement in the administrative methods of these local bodies. Government auditors still complain that rules and orders governing the execution of public works by the boards are not strictly observed. It is no doubt a source of gratification that the tendency to overdraw travelling allowances on the part of members has suffered a marked diminution during the twelve months covered by the Government resolution. Nevertheless it is beyond question that there are many directions in which district and taluka boards can improve their methods of work so as to stop all kinds of improper and needless expenditure, wherever it may be discovered. With any expansion of the boards' activities made difficult for some time to come owing to the prevailing financial stringency the opportunity may well be taken to attend as closely as may be to the claims of consolidation.

Another point worthy of note in the resolution is the dissatisfaction expressed by Government with the working of village panchayats, of which there are not more than 232 in the whole Presidency. It is noteworthy that Sind cannot boast of a single village panchayat nor the Bombay Suburban District. Not only is the number of these bodies not growing, but even a large number of those that exist leave a good deal to be desired in the way they manage their affairs. This is regrettable and early steps must be taken to put a stop to this undesirable state of affairs. The resolution only mentions the intention of Government to revise the Panchayat Act but curiously enough fails to specify the directions in which its revision is contemplated.

Strangely enough the resolution does not tell us whether any new areas were brought under compulsion in regard to primary education. Does this mean that no progress was made in the matter during the year? We wish the resolution in addition to giving details about the opening of new schools had explained the position in relation to the introduction of compulsory education, as it stood at the end of the year, in areas served by the boards. This information would be welcomed by the general public and will, we hope, find room in future resolutions.

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## Articles.

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### CAWNPORE.

THE report of the Commission of Enquiry appointed by the U. P. Government into the Cawnpore riots of March last makes painful reading. But here we are concerned neither with the predisposing or immediate causes of the outbreak nor even with the course of the atrocious and ghastly events that darkened the fair name of that great city. We are at present concerned only with the action which the Governor in Council has taken on the report as embodied in their resolution issued last month.

The Commissioners bring afresh to our minds the dismal picture of that unhappy place when in the short period of four days the enormous number of over 2,000 registered crimes occurred, the Meston Road temple and the Chouk Bazaza mosque were set on fire, the inmates of a house were dragged out to the number of 13 women and children, and butchered one by one; how on March 25 there were terrible atrocities committed in Bengalee Mohala at a comparatively short distance from police head-quarters, and murders, arson and looting were rife all over the city, and on the following day Hindus and Muslims armed with spears and *lathis* assembled for a battle, and how no fewer than 60 houses of worship belonging to the two communities, and over 350 residential quarters were burnt or seriously damaged. The total loss suffered by Cawnpore in the wastage of human life and property during that time can however never be correctly told. Having drawn this perhaps an inadequate picture by random quotations from the official report of what Cawnpore looked like on the eve of the last Easter festival, we turn to see how the local Government has dealt with those whose first responsibility was to maintain peace and order in the city. "The peace of the district is the special charge of the District Magistrate" says the Keane Commission, "and his agency for maintaining public order and protecting the people in their daily lives is the police."

The District Magistrate has been held responsible by the U. P. Government for failing "to make a prompt and correct appreciation of the position" as also for failing "to realize the necessity of that active personal handling of the measures for suppressing disorders which is incumbent on a District Magistrate in emergencies of this nature," and further "he would have been better advised had he neglected all other duties, in order to take personal charge of the operations within the city itself." For this series of failures on the part of the district officer, which cost Cawnpore so dear, the manner in which the Government has been pleased to visit its displeasure on Mr. Sale is that he has been offered the option of transfer or leave. The Superintendent of Police, Mr. Rogers, according to the Government, shares no responsibility for all the carnage and pillage in Cawnpore because "he was entirely without experience of the city and the men under his orders," as if the psychology

of the rioters and of the constables in Cawnpore were quite different from that of other towns for the understanding and interpreting of which Mr. Rogers required a long time of schooling and study! The Deputy Superintendent in charge of the city Khan Bahadur Saiyad Ghulam Husain, "an officer with an excellent record in the past," seems to have been completely let off, although "the Governor in Council does not consider that he showed the leadership which was to be expected of an officer of his position and knowledge of local conditions," on the ground, "that he has lately been obliged to take leave for medical reasons." In regard to subordinate officers of the police and the constables against whom the Commissioners level the serious charges of apathy or positive dereliction of duty, the local Government resolved "to undertake a departmental enquiry in order to assess the responsibility of any individual subordinate concerned in the incidents." Possibly as a result of this enquiry a small fry or two in the lower officer grade may be fined and a constable or two may be sacked.

This is all that the "strong" Sir Malcom Hailey and his Government propose to do to vindicate the frightful orgy of bloodshed, murder, arson and plunder which Cawnpore witnessed for four days at the hands of mad rioters under the very nose of the I. C. S. our so-called "steel frame" mentors and police officers! The officers who failed most in their duty are two Europeans and the assistants to the Police Superintendent who are Indians. But the merciful Government absolves the Superintendent of Police of all responsibility! The past services of the Deputy Superintendent are so meritorious that this Cawnpore blunder on his part can be graciously condoned! And even the censure on the District Magistrate, the man who bungled hopelessly, is made mild with so many coatings of apologies, excuses and appreciations that it has lost all point and meaning. The action of the Government on the report is thus wholly disproportionate to the magnitude of failure shown by the district authorities, both civil and police, of Cawnpore.

What is the conclusion? We are forced to say that the bureaucracy which harps unceasingly on its efficient methods in administering the affairs of this country and in maintaining its peace and order at a high level stands exposed. We doubt if any instance of such grotesque mismanagement can be found even in Indian States. The claim for the transfer of all provincial departments to popular control including law and order is fully established by the events at Cawnpore of March last. Another conclusion which forces itself upon us as a result of this Government resolution is that the bureaucracy, in the true trade union spirit, will always try to stand by its agents whatever the magnitude of the mistakes committed by them.

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### BOMBAY SEAMEN'S CONDITIONS OF WORK.

THE fleet of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company consisting of 18 steamers and motor vessels and 16 steam launches runs the coastal services from Bombay to Karachi and Bombay to Mangalore. The total number of sailors employed on them is about 800. The Company also owns 118 lighters and country crafts and the number of sailors working on them in different ports comes to about 750. About 250 workers are employed in the workshops throughout the year to carry on the normal work of making repairs in addition to which during the rainy season when two-thirds of the vessels are laid up for repairs, a large number of extra hands numbering about 800 are engaged for a period of three months.

Detailed personal enquiries were made into the conditions of life and work of the sailors employed on two launches, one of which plies between Bombay and Dharamtar and the other between Dabhol and Chiplun and information collected about the conditions of life and work of sailors working on steamers. From this it appears that so far as their general economic conditions are concerned they do not vary materially, whether the workers work on launches or on steamers. Of course there are minor differences as regards the rates of payment, hours of work etc., of the sailors working on steamers and launches.

The number of sailors employed on steamers generally varies according to the size of steamers and their tonnage. The two launches are of about 90 gross tonnage with carrying capacity of 400 passengers. The number of employees on the launch which runs the transport service between Bombay and Dharamtar including the master and the driver is 16; whereas there are only 14 on the other. The number of firemen on each of these launches is three. Each has one coalman, an oilman and a driver. As regards the Deck Department there are 5 sailors in addition to one steersman and master on each launch. While there is only one cook on the launch which runs between Dharamtar and Chiplun, there are two on the other. There is a sweeper on the launch which runs between Bombay and Dharamtar, but there is none on the other. The Company does not seem to recognise that observance of cleanliness is as necessary for the comfort of the passengers in the launches which run in the mofussil as it is in Bombay.

*Recruitment* :—It is the captain of the launch who recruits sailors to work in the Deck Department. The Engineer is responsible for the recruitment of the staff which works in the Engine Department. In the case of steamers the Company obtains seamen through *serangs*. The existing methods of recruitment leave immense scope for corruption and favouritism as the captain, the engineer and the *serangs* enjoy wide power to give employment in the departments under their charge and control, to whomsoever they like. Though corruption prevails in the matter of recruitment, it is very difficult to prove it in a court of law. It is idle to expect that the sailor who succeeds in securing employment by paying a bribe will ever

confess it so long as he continues to be in service, being afraid of being driven in the streets to face starvation. The admission of those whose bids did not finally stand in the bargain are discredited on the assumption that they having failed to secure the job might have been prompted to make the allegations through malicious motives. The evidence in support of the charge of favouritism is glaring. Almost all the captains of the steamers of the Company come from Daman, about 100 miles north of Bombay. The sailors in the Deck Department of those ships which are under the charge of the captains who come from Daman are invariably and without exception also those who come from the same place. Often it is found that some of them are related to the Captain. The master, the driver and the *serangs* of the department have got absolute powers of dismissal. As the unfortunate seaman has no right of appeal to higher authorities when dismissed, the employees have not only got to see that they leave no ground for complaint so far as their work in the department is concerned but they have always to be careful to avoid incurring the displeasure of their superior officers. In short, the sailors are entirely left to the mercy and sweet will of the head of their department.

*Hours of work* :—The hours of work vary according to the route of steamers. The hours of work of the sailors in the Engine Department of a steamer do not exceed 8 per day and they do not work for more than 4 hours at a stretch. The aggregate hours of work of the sailors of the Deck Department is 12. But actually they work for more than 12 hours a day as all of them have to be on duty when the steamer touches a port.

It is a little difficult to arrive at an accurate and exact figure of the hours of work of the sailors working on the launches. The Company seems to have laid down no limit to their hours of work. The launch requires 8 hours to complete the trip between Dabhol and Chiplun. The sailor working in the Engine Department have got to be actively and busily engaged in their work an hour and a half before the launch sails. After its return to Dabhol an hour easily elapses before they stop work. Their least hours of active duty, therefore vary between 10 and 11. After the completion of the trip the sailors of both the Engine and Deck Departments have to work by turns. Assuming that the services of one individual suffice for the requirement of work in the Engine Department when the engine are not working, during the 13 hours when the launch is at Dabhol every sailor would have to be on duty for at least  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours in addition to 11 hours' active duty. The least number of hours of work of the sailor employed in the Engine Department cannot, therefore be in any case less than  $13\frac{1}{2}$  hours a day.

The total hours of work of those sailors who work in the Deck Department also vary between 11 and 14 as five sailors have to be on watch when the launch is at anchor. After the excessive toil for about 14 hours in the hot engine room the rest of 11 hours available to the sailor cannot reasonably be said to be sufficient, particularly in view of the fact

that the seaman cannot have it at a stretch. The hours of work of those sailors who are employed on the launch which runs between Bombay and Dharamtar do not vary from those on the other launch as the time required for the trip, the number of sailors employed on the launch and the amount of work are the same. It will be evident, therefore, that all that the employers seem to be intent upon is that the work on the launch should be carried out at the lowest cost. They show no concern about the evil effects of over-work on the health of the employes. The machine is better cared for than the man who works the machine as the problem before the Company is what is the best and the most profitable way of working the machine. But the Company has not got to worry about the problem in the case of the employees as even though they are worked to death the Company can pick up in the streets new and fresh ones from the large number of the unemployed without incurring additional expenditure. The machine costs money if it is to be bought anew but fresh employees can be had free.

As the hours of work of these sailors are not fixed, they receive no extra payment in case they work for more than the normal number of hours of work. Sometimes some repairs require to be made to the launch or to the engine and the sailors receive not a pie by way of extra payment even if they work for more than 16 hours continuously on such occasions. The launch at Bombay many a time has to make an extra trip and the total number of hours of work on that particular day comes to about 17 hours but the sailors are not paid any extra remuneration for the extra labour. It is needless to add that the practice of paying overtime allowance, so far as the sailors are concerned for the extra hours of work does not exist.

*Wages*.—The captain of the launch at Dabhol is paid a pittance of Rs. 56 per month. This amount includes the messing allowance as the Company does not supply rations. The amount which the master receives as his pay cannot but be characterised as absolutely meagre and inadequate in proportion to his responsibilities and particularly in view of the fact that the creek being narrow and its water shallow great skill and a thorough and intimate knowledge of the depths of the water is absolutely essential for steering the ship. The engineer of the ship is paid at the rate of Rs. 3-4-0 per day. The daily rate of pay of the steersman is Rs. 1-1-0. The sailors are paid at the rate of Re. 1 per day.

The pay of the master of the launch which runs between Bombay and Dharamtar is Rs. 75 per month. The daily rate of pay of the rest of the sailors is Rs. 1-2-0. The steersman gets Rs. 1-3-0 per day.

The sailor on the steamers is paid Rs. 37 per month. The *serangs* get Rs. 60. The pay of the tindel and the steersman is Rs. 47 and Rs. 43 respectively. The Company does not supply rations to the seamen but it pays the cooks who cook their food.

The aggregate amount of monthly earnings of a sailor working on the launch at Dabhol will, theoretically speaking, amount to Rs. 30 provided

he works without remaining absent for even a single day. But actually his maximum average earnings per month will be Rs. 22-8-0 only when calculations are made on the basis of his aggregate earnings during the whole year. When the coastal passenger traffic stops during the rainy season and the steamers and the launches are laid up for repairs for about three months the services of all the sailors with the exception of a very small number are dispensed with. The leave is compulsory and a sailor receives no pay during the period of leave. In view of this fact it will be quite evident that the average earnings of a sailor who had no occasion to remain absent either on account of sickness or unavoidable difficulties will be much less than what he earns as his pay. The practice of the Company of enforcing compulsory leave without pay for three months in a year on the poor sailors is a typical and graphic illustration of the ruthless exploitation of their helplessness. It can be better imagined than described how very wretched and miserable must be the lot of a sailor without any means of maintenance for himself and his family for three months during the rainy season particularly in view of the fact that his earnings during the nine months hardly enable him to meet the bare expenses of maintenance of himself and his family. To leave the sailors to starve or shift as best they can after exacting continuous, hard, strenuous toil from them for nine months vividly shows the callous disregard and the indifference of the Company which pays it better than an attempt to reconcile its interests with those of the employees. It will be realised that his lot is worse in this particular respect than was that of the slave in the age of serfdom. The slave-owner was bound to support the slave even when he had no work for him. The injustice and the inequitable nature of the conditions of work of the sailor will be still more glaring when we take into consideration the fact that the highly paid staff does not cease to receive pay or less remuneration during the rainy season when all steamers except those that carry cargo stop plying either because there is no work or less work.

The expenses which the sailors of launches and steamers incur for food vary respectively between Rs. 12 and Rs. 13, and Rs. 13 and Rs. 15. They lead a sort of club life. The total amount of expenditure on food is equally distributed among them at the end of the month. The food they take is of the meanest kind. It consists of rice, *dal* and a small quantity of fish or mutton. They do not use wheat as they find it very costly. In addition to the expenditure on meals, the amount which they generally spend on tea, refreshments, smoking, etc., comes to about Rs. 5 per month. An allowance of Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 has to be made for their miscellaneous expenses, shaving, washing, oil, etc. Granting that the sailor works continuously without a day's rest during the month, the amount which he can remit to his native place for the maintenance of the members of his family after deducting the amount required for his subsistence and the interests on his debts cannot exceed Rs. 10. Enquiries as regards the number

of dependents in a sailor's family show that it varies between 4 and 6. Generally the family consists of his wife, two or more children, one of the aged parents and a younger brother or sister. Practically there is nothing in the whole world which belongs to the family and by means of which it can maintain itself. The family, therefore, naturally depends upon the labour of the young half-grown boy who tries to supplement their means of subsistence by the sale of his labour in the market. No stretch of imagination is necessary to conceive that the members of the family who have to make both ends meet within Rs. 10 must be living in untold misery and on the lowest standard of subsistence. In short, in face of starvation and a vast army of capable but unemployed workers the sailor is forced to sell his labour in return for a wage which is totally insufficient to enable himself and his family to maintain themselves in reasonable health and comfort with the result that his dependents at his native place have to live in a degrading social condition.

During the rainy season the discharged sailor puts himself to the task of cultivating the land belonging to some landlord as a subsidiary source of income. The sailors working on launches and in the engine department of the steamers come from that part of the country which is popularly known as Konkan. The whole of the tract is hilly and the land is not fertile. The process of cultivating the land is very laborious and tedious. The income they get from the land is so low that it fails to afford them much financial relief. It only serves to help them to forget their miseries by keeping them engaged in work during the period which they would otherwise be spending in perpetual anxiety. It will be a little easier to have a rough idea of the sailor's earnings from the land if we take for the purpose of our calculation an acre of land as the unit. It must however be borne in mind that the land in this part of the country has been divided into such small plots that a piece of land belonging to one individual which will measure an acre can hardly be found! The preliminary process of tilling and turning the land has to be completed before the rainy season sets in. It is the aged father, the young son and the wife of the sailor who prepare the land for cultivation with the help of their neighbour. The sailor works hard in the fields with his family in heavy rains. The yield per acre of the best piece of land which is, however, very scarce in that part of the country is only a khandi and a half. In the boom period one khandi of rice fetched between Rs. 50 or 55. But now that the prices have fallen he does not get more than Rs. 35 per khandi. He has to part with nearly half the produce of the land as rent for the use of the land to the land lord. His net income in return for his hard and strenuous labour in the heat of the hot sun and the heavy rains amounts to nothing more than the paltry sum of Rs. 30 at present. It is sheer compulsion of economic circumstances that forces the sailor to work in the fields in return for an income which is just enough to keep the members of his family alive during the three months.

*Savings and Indebtedness* :—It will be clear from the

above rough analysis of his income and expenditure that it is idle to expect the seaman to save anything from his meagre earnings. There is no scope for economy, as whatever he is able to earn is hardly sufficient for maintaining and bringing up the members of his family. Even a cursory glance at his financial position will suffice to show that he always stands the chance of running into debt. The occasions for borrowing money in his case are numerous and unavoidable. Whenever he himself falls sick or remains unemployed for a long period it is only by borrowing money that he can expect to escape starvation and it needs hardly to be emphasised that such occasions in the course of his life are not rare. He can seek medical help when some member of his family suffers from sickness only with the help of borrowed money. Being a slave to social traditions he incurs debts whenever he has to celebrate the marriage ceremony of any member of his family which involves heavy expenditure. But the most tragic aspect of the situation is that once the sailor gets into debt he never succeeds in freeing himself from the clutches of the money-lender. My inquiries elicited the fact that every one of the sailors had been a debtor. The rate of interest charged by the money-lender was one anna per rupee per month which amounts to 75%. In the light of the rough knowledge of his financial condition it can be realised that he can never succeed in paying back the debts in spite of the most sincere and honest attempt on his part, as during the whole of his life he has no chance of earning an income, the surplus from which after meeting the elementary needs of his family can be utilised in liquidating his debt. The money-lender, however, never fails to recover the amount of interest every month or year. The money-lender is rather more keen and interested in the regular recovery of the amount of interest than of the amount advanced as loan. In short, the seaman many a time inherits the debt of his parents, adds to it during his life and leaves this world heavily indebted.

All the members of the staff on the launches including the master, the driver and the sailor on the steamers are treated by the Company as temporary hands. The Company can dispense with their services with a moment's notice as under the provisions of law only permanent servants are entitled to one month's notice or in lieu one month's pay before they can be discharged from service. The masters and the drivers on the launches were regarded as permanent hands before 1924. Those who know the horrid miseries of the unemployed and their pitiable condition need hardly be told that the sailor is constantly haunted by the painful thought of the insecurity of service. The following instance will serve to show that their misgivings are neither baseless nor altogether imaginary. Mr. Abdul Rabiman, the master of the launch which sails between Bombay and Dharamtar was dismissed without any reason in December 1930 in utter disregard of the fact that he had been in the Company's service for nine years. He went to his native place for

six days with the permission of the higher authorities after 21 months' continuous service during which period he had not enjoyed a single holiday. He fell sick at his native place and applied for extension of leave. When he returned after five days he was refused employment. No written order of dismissal was given to him. He received no reply from the authorities to his several representations. He was, however, once orally told that he would be engaged if a vacancy were to occur.

A great majority of seamen in the service of the Company are found to be working for a sufficiently long period on which ground they can justly claim to be treated as permanent hands and be entitled to all the benefits of a permanent employee. A few of them were found to have as much as 20 years' service without break to their credit. Those who had put in about 10 years' service were many. The Company gives intimation to the *serangs* of the resumption of the service a week before the date fixed who in their turn inform the members of the crew. It is true that generally it seldom happens that the old employees are refused employment, as those responsible for the recruitment invariably happen to be interested in them directly or indirectly. The Company generally retain the services of the master and the driver of the launch. It is, however, necessary to emphasise that neither the master nor the driver can claim as a matter of right to be re-employed. It is the same with the sailors. Being temporary hands their employment is considered to be a matter of grace.

The consciousness of the struggle for existence in the world dawns upon seamen at the tender age of boyhood. I found that many amongst them had taken to sea service as a means of their maintenance even before they had completed 16 years of age and there were some who had auctioned their labour at the age of 12 in return for a most wretched pittance. On entering life at the tender age of 14 or 15 they find that they possess no land which they may till and no machine which they may tend. They suddenly realise that to continue to remain without earning anything is a heavy burden on the slender resources of their parents who rear them up at great sacrifice of personal comfort and sometimes even of the barest necessities of life.

Not a single seaman either on the launches or the steamers was found to have been living with his family. Every one of them had left the family at his native place. The seaman cannot get leave for paying a visit to his family during the nine months he is on duty. In the case of those few sailors whose services are retained during the rainy season, the Company allows them to go to their native places if they could be conveniently spared for a month at the most after twelve months' service. I came across with a seaman who during his service of 32 years as a seaman had lived with his family only for 30 months. It is a very sorrowful spectacle. The evil effects of the disturbance of family life can better be imagined than described. Apart from the fact that the seaman has to forego all the sweet pleasures of home life in the pleasant company of his family for the greater

part of his existence in this world, the mental and physical effects of the disturbance of the family life are bound to be bad.

*Leave*.—One of the several reasons why the sailor does not visit his native place to live for a few days in the happy company of his family during the nine months of his duty is that the Company has made no provision for leave. The Company expects him to work like a machine without impulses, instincts, affections and feelings and has not, therefore, thought it necessary that the seaman should have privilege leave! The Company does not think that he need be entitled to casual leave, as it cannot imagine that in his case occasions might arise when he may be forced to remain absent from work. No provision for sick leave has been made as the Company seems to think that sailors have no business to suffer from sickness! Whenever unavoidable difficulties compel the sailor to remain absent from work, he has to give a substitute. He cannot however afford to remain absent for more than a few days as it involves the risk of losing his job in addition to the pecuniary loss he has to sustain. But even after securing a substitute it is not always too easy for him to get permission of the higher authorities to go on leave without pay. I met with sailors who were ailing but had not been able to get leave even without pay.

*Holidays*.—The sailors work incessantly without a single holiday for nine months. Those sailors whose services are not dispensed with during the rainy season work for 365 days without a day's rest. The hard manual work for 14 hours a day continuously for 270 days during the year is naturally bound to tell adversely on the health of the sailors and shorten their lives. This fact only serves to prove the callous disregard of the Company about the health and life of those who chiefly contribute to its profits. The Company does not worry about the fact that the incessant work without holidays might wear out its employees and hasten them to their grave as there is a sufficiently large number of seamen who might replace them and can be had for nothing.

Having begun to work at the early age of about 15, the seamen continue to toil till infirmity due to old age makes them unfit for work, or the strain of excessive toil wears them out. I came across a sailor whose health was failing due to the approach of old age, who had no grown-up member in his family who might support him when he retired and who was, therefore, haunted constantly by unpleasant and disturbing thoughts about his future. His pathetic utterance that he wished he were soon dead was an eloquent expression of his deep anxiety of his future which weighed upon his mind heavily. The day on which he would stop work he will probably have with him a month's pay amounting to Rs. 30 which will enable him to maintain himself for another 30 days of his life. None of the seamen are entitled to any gratuity in appreciation of their long services. It is, however, true that due to defective rules of service and recruitment, sailors with 30 or more years of service to their credit will

be very few. Nonetheless it is worth noting that the Company has failed to make provision of gratuity in the case of the poor and helpless employees who of all its other employees most deserve liberal treatment of such kind.

The sailors are not entitled to the benefits of the provident fund. Only those who are treated as permanent hands by the Company are allowed to subscribe to the provident fund. The seamen are denied this privilege on the ground that they are daily paid employees. That those sailors who have to their credit long period of service and who rightly deserve the concession to subscribe to the provident fund should not be allowed to enjoy that privilege on the technical and trivial ground that they are only temporary hands cannot but be regarded as a specimen of the injustice imposed by the Company upon its helpless employees.

The sailors do not rent rooms as they live on launches or steamers. At one end of the launch at Dabhol the cooking room is situated. At a distance of about six feet from the cooking room is the privy. Just in its vicinity there is a tap and space of about 10 sq. feet is used as bath-room. The sailors sleep on the deck. The heavy expenses involved in hiring a separate room and the inconvenience caused in attending to their onerous duties by living at a long distance from the harbour forbid them from renting separate rooms. It is a pity the Company does not realise the necessity of providing them with free quarters in the vicinity of the harbour.

S. V. PARULEKAR.

## Our European Letter.

### THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

GENEVA, JUNE 15,

#### INDIAN EMPLOYERS' WITHDRAWAL.

**L**AST week the Conference elected the members to the Governing Body. Mr. N. M. Joshi has been re-elected as a substitute-member by the workers' group and Mr. D. S. Erulkar of London by the employers' group also as a substitute-member.

The Credentials Committee presented its report to the Conference concerning the objection lodged by the Indian Employers' Delegate, Mr. Walchand Hirachand against the inclusion of Mr. Tarlton in the Indian Employers' Delegation by the Government of India. Mr. Hirachand's protest was supported by a great many of the Indian employers' organisations and formed the subject of numerous communications to the officers of the Conference. The Conference in full session accepted the recommendation of the Credentials Committee approving Mr. Tarlton's nomination, as a result of which Mr. Hirachand followed by his advisers, Messrs. Ghose and Bagla, withdrew further co-operation with this year's Conference and stepped out of it. This is not the first time that such action has been taken in the Conference nor were the Indian employers alone in doing it even during the present session for shortly after Mr. Hirachand's withdrawal the President received a communication from the entire Italian Delegation intimating their decision of

withholding further participation in the Conference in view of the perennial objection on the part of some of the workers' Delegates to the Fascist workers' representative on the ground that freedom of association for workers could not exist in the present regime in Italy. In both these cases obviously political considerations are involved and it is necessary to examine to what extent political grievances may be legitimately or usefully ventilated at Geneva in our case.

In his speech before the Conference on the findings of the Credentials Committee Mr. Hirachand said, "if law can divorce equity and commonsense to the length of accepting for the purposes of this Conference as the national of a country one, belonging to the ruling race, and enjoying by means of political domination preferential treatment, all that I can say is I have no use for such law". The Conference is not in the same fortunate position of being able to arrive at judgments unfettered by the clear and even rigid stipulations of the legal systems of the various countries. In the last resort it is a Government organisation and in Geneva where an attempt is being made to undo the evil effects of national sovereignty in the interests of nations that sovereignty has got to be scrupulously respected.

The Chairman of the Credentials Committee—Professor Mahim, was careful enough to state that the issue which Mr. Hirachand raised was a "question of constitutional law which is undoubtedly of great importance and of great difficulty", that the Committee continued to hold that according to the Peace Treaty representation of a national organization at the Conference implied representation by nationals, and the decision that the Committee came to was in regard to "the present—and only the present—state of constitutional law in India".

Nevertheless, the two principal grounds on which Mr. Hirachand based his objection to Mr. Tarlton's nomination could not be accepted. In the absence of statutory regulations in India restricting the rights and privileges of nationals to Indians Mr. Tarlton's nomination could not be invalidated for his being an alien and although a large number of Indian employers' organisations took exception to his appointment there could be no doubt that he represented employers with considerable influence in the country. On two previous occasions the Conference had to consider similar contentions and came to the same conclusion.

Notwithstanding this ruling it must be remarked that if British employers in India, whose chief offices are for the most part registered in Great Britain as Mr. Hirachand very pertinently pointed out, seek representation at the Conference on account of their investments or interests in the country, neither they nor the Government of India, which is called upon to defend them, will be in an enviable position. There must be always something apologetic and awkward in this attitude and in the Conference, which is not rooted in law alone, public opinion responds to other forces besides. Moreover, if this principle were really so important as it is made out to be, not only will a good many employers' representatives now participating in the Conference have to make way for their wealthier confreres from America and England and France but the Credentials Committee will never be able to assess the claims put forward by rival interests.

As to the other ground, the determination of Indian nationality it is admittedly a more difficult question. Whatever form the impending political changes in India may ultimately take, having regard to the nature of the constitution of the British Empire and the character of British legal traditions it is not to be supposed that the evolution of an exclusive concept



of Indian Nationalism is a matter for the immediate future, even if it is desirable, which is a debatable point in itself if one views it freed from passing passions.

The question whether India should be represented by Britishers in international gatherings is not one to be settled by any too rigid interpretation of laws or claims, but to be solved by means of conciliatory arrangement and understanding in India. Geneva is not the place for giving vent to our dissatisfaction in this regard. Ten years of persistent effort on the part of some of the workers' representatives to call attention to their distaste of the Fascist regime have not been of much avail, and our employers' claims are neither so indisputable as the contentions of those who protest against Fascism at the Conference, for the rights of Englishmen in India cannot be brought to nought in this unilateral fashion nor can our industrialists expect to have much sympathy from the Conference, as the voting on this question clearly showed. Mr. Hirachand cannot say that India's membership in the International Labour Organisation is a gratuitous burden and Indian industries would be better for being freed from the obligations resulting from such membership and yet appeal to the Conference for marked sympathy in a domestic dispute. Least of all can he expect the support of representatives of workers, even Indian workers, if his nationalism leads to the disparagement of the workers' rights or to the undermining of their strength.

It is to be hoped that the protest so dramatically given expression to—although the drama escaped the notice of almost all but the small Indian community here—does not serve to strengthen the hands of British alarmists who insist on constitutional guarantees for their rights and interests in India out of distrust of Indian administration. The worst of spectacular tactics in matters where personal contact and coolness and conciliation can be brought to bear for good purpose is that as frequently as not they harm the cause which is sought to be sustained.

GENEVA, JUNE 26.

#### HOURS OF WORK IN COAL-MINES

OF the three main questions on the Agenda of the fifteenth session of the International Labour Conference, which concluded its sittings last week, unquestionably the most important is the one about the hours of work in coal mines. The success achieved by the Conference this year in this regard is a measure of its worth and an indication of the place that the Organisation is coming to assume in the active regulation of industry. Last year a solution seemed to be within sight, but when the Draft Convention was put to the final vote it was lost for lack of a quorum. This year, although the difficulties were no less and the result seemed to be equally uncertain at one time, the issue was more fortunate. The coal industry is a key industry in the manufacturing countries of Western Europe and the disorder within it is typical of the industrial disorganisation at the present time. Not only does it lend itself to international treatment, the only obvious remedy to such industrial ills, but the results of its regulation on any wide basis will have greater implications than its re-establishment which in itself is no mean achievement.

The difficulties were numerous. The British and Continental practices of reckoning the hours of work had to be accorded; uniformity of conditions in the lignite and coal mines had to be established. The achievement of this year's Conference consists in obtaining the latter. But the spread over system is

still an obstacle to a unanimous agreement and some of the consuming countries apparently have misgivings about organised economy. The employers are recalcitrant. International life and tradition, however, are slow to move owing to the variety of interests, often conflicting and have to be built up bit by bit by a series of compromises. The passing of this Draft Convention marks a step in this direction.

The oversea countries led by South Africa objected to the universality of this measure. The problem arose out of the situation peculiar to European countries, the procedure was special, and hence the applicability of this proposal should be confined to European countries—such was their contention. But the International Labour Organisation is universal in scope and there are technical difficulties to regional agreements within its fold. India, however, did not lend its weight to this protest. Mr. Fulay, representing the Indian workers, urged the necessity for improvement in the conditions of workers in the Indian mines and Mr. Clow, speaking for the Government of India, assured the Conference of our Government's intention to bring any new legislation affecting the mines, in consequence of the Whitley Commission's recommendations, into line with the provisions of the Draft Convention.

The partial revision of the Washington Convention on the night work of women is of interest for quite another reason. It involves the principle of change and was undertaken at the instance of the Belgian Government. The change was desired so that it might be made clear that some of the women workers who, by the nature of their profession, could not be excluded from night work were not covered by it. In this connection the sharp division of opinion among women themselves about the advisability of protective legislation remains to be noted; some of them obviously fear that protective legislation will inevitably lead to limitation on their competitive power with regard to wages. But, what is more important as Mr. Rahman, the adviser to the Indian workers' Delegate pointed out, the workers resisted the demand for a change in the Convention for fear that once the principle of revision was admitted the standards of social legislation accepted in Washington would soon be brought down in these hard days when social services were coming to be regarded as an expensive hobby. When the proposal was put to vote in the Conference the two-thirds majority necessary for such a revision was not forthcoming. The workers *en bloc* voted against the revision, employers for it and the Governments were divided.

As to the third question, the admission of children to employment in non-industrial occupations this year only a first discussion took place with a view to drawing up a questionnaire to be addressed to Governments. The general principle underlying the questionnaire is that it should lead up to a Draft Convention which would bring within its scope all children not covered by the three conventions already adopted and made applicable to industrial, agricultural and maritime occupations. Mr. Chetty, the adviser to the Indian workers' Delegate, spoke on this subject.

No less than five of the Resolutions passed by the Conference were in Mr. Bakhale's name and he pressed with the usual insistence of Indian workers' representatives in these matters, for a session of the Conference devoted to Asiatic interests and for the representation of coloured or colonial Labour in the Conference. Another noteworthy Resolution on which Mr. Bakhale spoke was the one brought up by the French workers' representative, Monsieur Jouhaux, to the effect that the Organisation should take steps to bring to the notice of Governments the necessity of ratifying the Draft Conventions they had

voted for in the Conference. He also raised the question of the present position of federal countries whose constitution rendered ratifications of Conventions, strictly so called, difficult if not impossible. Mr. Bakhale emphasised the impending constitutional changes in India in which he said adequate provisions should be made for the fulfilment of international obligations and the present anomaly of the States, although forming an important part of India, being exempt from any commitments must be put an end to.

The two marked features of the fifteenth session of the Conference are the successful regulation of the coal question, undoubtedly a great achievement for Europe, and the claim which the oversea countries put in for adequate power in the Organisation. The general discussion, also remarkable, bore witness to the influence, if not the power, which the Organisation has acquired in the industrial world. From a mere association of sovereign member-States it is fast coming to be a federal organisation for framing Conventions tending to the improvement of working class conditions throughout the world.

## Reviews.

### EVILS OF PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

**SOME SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE LAND SYSTEMS OF BENGAL.**  
By NALINI MOHAN PAL. (The Book Co., Calcutta.)  
1929. 18cm. 143p.

THIS is a survey of the economic conditions of Bengal in so far as they bear on the land systems there. The booklet is divided into a number of interesting chapters which up to chapter nine seem to have a good bearing on the questions the author is at pains to discuss. The chapter on Poverty and the one on Democracy seem to be a little too wide for inclusion.

The author deals with the origin of the permanent settlement in its early days and has interesting figures to bring out the inequalities in the distribution of permanently and temporarily settled areas in the different parts of the Presidency. Mr. Pal opines that if Government directly managed the permanently settled areas the revenue would be Rs. 68,075,300. He estimates that as the Government is getting only Rs. 20,477,997 it is losing Rs. 47,597,403 every year. According to the author, the total amount of money lost by the Government of Bengal in the course of the last 135 years is nearly Rs. 400 crores. Every argument leads to the conclusion that no progressive country can afford to have a parasitical community permanently kept up, but even our last Taxation Enquiry Committee funk'd this issue and deliberately refused to give a lead.

Mr. Pal goes on in the subsequent chapters to give us an account of the system of tenure prevailing and the various ways in which land is held by the tenants. Local names apart, many of the details have their counterpart in a number of other provinces in India.

In chapter VI Mr. Pal deals with legal and illegal cesses and the material he gives makes very interesting reading. Maricha, Parbi, Mamooly, Dak karcha are only some of the many feudal relics of a barbarous age. Mr. Pal says: "The exaction of illegal cesses is almost an universal phenomenon in Bengal. The fact that the cesses are illegal is known both to the landlord and the ryot, and both seem to be perfectly content with the illegal exactions." Mr. Pal is furious but a little experience even of present day

conditions in the courts would convince him that tyranny will always remain where public opinion is not sufficiently strong.

In chapter VIII the author is out for estimating the average income of a cultivator and comes to the conclusion that the net annual income of a cultivator is a little over Rs. 146. In Mr. Pal's view the amount is not sufficient to keep the agricultural family in physical, mental or moral efficiency. Mr. Pal wants Rs. 500 as the minimum income as being necessary to keep the efficiency of the family normal. But how this minimum is to be achieved Mr. Pal fails to tell us.

In his analysis of the problem of population and poverty Mr. Pal is inclined to the view that consolidation of holdings would not be possible in Bengal and has a great deal to say against social influences and prejudices. Mr. Pal wants a humanistic ideal of property and inheritance—an idea which property-makers and holders would at any rate take a lot of time to consider and agree to.

In the last chapter Mr. Pal, evidently drinking deep of the superficiality of American life and ideals, goes into an indefensible tirade against the Hindu system of caste and social life. He even attacks the ideal of simple life as being inconsistent with a moral life. The opinion expressed by Mr. Pal that the caste and the feudal aristocracy have permanently deranged the social machinery seems to require analysis and not hard words. The author is out to make India democratic and is in a hurry to do it and has no patience with established institutions. The whole section smacks more of the propagandist than of the sound scientific thinker on social problems. The author has also introduced many Americanisms in his vocabulary—castism, dont-touchism, traditionalism, and so on.

The book has some useful information but lacks the profundity or the critical analysis associated with a thesis for the doctorate in some of the more important Indian Universities.

The book is also marred by a number of misprints, as well as by errors of grammar in a number of places. Very probably these may be due to the printers but still a responsible book should not have been brought out in such haste as to require a whole page of corrections and still many more not noted.

S. V. AYYAR.

### THE NEW SOCIALISM.

**THE NEXT TEN YEARS IN BRITISH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY.** By G. D. H. COLE. (Macmillan, London.) 1929. 22cm. 459p. 15/-.

IN this volume Mr. Cole has tried to rethink his socialism and adjust it to practical needs. He is convinced that the old academic socialism, good enough in propagandist days, would not shine with the old brightness and "the gilt is off the gingerbread". Many of his suggestions given in this attempt at reconstructing socialism are excellent and put forth in a remarkably lucid way and the volume deserves to be widely read by every one who wants to be practical and is tired of repeating old formulæ. To begin with, Mr. Cole emphasizes the changed outlook of politics due to the post-War reshaping and envisages the new politics that has taken shape. Anent the future of British trade he believes that overseas trade should receive less attention than the home market and opens out a new line of thought.

His remedy for British unemployment is the formation of a National Labour Corps which would train men for various types of work and return to ordinary

employment as industry revives—a scheme which is praiseworthy as preserving the workers' self-respect which is at present undermined by the system of doles. For industrial restoration he suggests a Board of National Investment which would help industries that are likely to succeed and provide employment by pooling all private investments for the best use of national capital; this scheme however is sure to find resistance from capitalist circles who would not tolerate such a socialization of capital.

Mr. Cole has discussed rationalisation from the labour point of view and is in favour of extending the control of the state over industries without going in for complete socialization and creating machinery which, while restraining capitalists, would gradually realise complete socialism. This is certainly a wiser course than that contemplated by doctrinaire socialists and one likely to prove more effective. Mr. Cole sets great store by family allowances for raising the standard of life of the poor sections of the community; he stipulates however that the system should follow sound economic lines by raising the money by general taxation so as to avoid raising the costs of the industry. Mr. Cole is a thorough-going exponent of the nationalisation of all banks because without this the schemes outlined by him would be frustrated. But he cautions against expecting miracles, as some socialists do, from the socialisation of banking; because, as he observes correctly, the banking system is only a subsidiary instrument of national progress.

There are a number of good suggestions in the volume for the improvement of agriculture; one of these is the nationalisation of all land, or failing it a taxation of land values. Another is the federation of agricultural co-operative bodies by the State itself by the creation of Marketing Boards and of a National Agricultural Bank. There is much in the chapter on land and agriculture which might be usefully studied by Indian publicists and political leaders interested in the prosperity of Indian agriculture. Mr. Cole does not believe in the Empire Free Trade; in the matter of foreign policy he advises Great Britain to throw her weight on the side of the smaller Powers in the League of Nations and decline to enter into secret combinations with the great Powers. Again Mr. Cole is on the side of Indian labour since he suggests that Great Britain should ratify all the conventions passed by the League.

In the sphere of education Mr. Cole suggests the abolition of the artificial division between elementary and higher education and has made out a strong case for the handing over of both types to the same authorities. He warns the State against subsidising only education which is of a propagandist kind on behalf of labour. The financial proposals of Mr. Cole are not very startling and are of the usual socialist pattern; there is little that is likely to make the flesh creep. He recommends a progressive tax on inheritance, increase of death duties, luxury taxes and a heavier taxation of larger incomes. For reduction of expenditure he is prepared "to economise drastically on the fighting services and as an aid to this to effect a radical change in diplomatic policy by abandoning the hegemony of the great States." For putting into effect all the socialist schemes he proposes, his estimate of that yearly expenditure is 250 millions and he believes that with the development of national productive resources in future the sum can be easily procured; many however would not share his optimism.

It is inevitable that a volume which covers such a wide field should raise discussions and invite criticism. But there is no denying that Mr. Cole has applied his mind assiduously to a real constructive socialism as opposed to the vague and hazy socialism

of the last three decades. He has, moreover, shown the rare honesty of admitting that his socialism was badly out of focus.

V. N. GODBOLE.

### SHORT NOTICES.

**THE BRITISH EMPIRE LTD.,** By GEORGE HERBERT. (Hodder and Stoughton, London.) 19cm. 139p. 3/6.

THIS book is a plea for the organization of the British Empire as a consolidated economic unit and for the formulation of an Empire economic policy. The means for achieving this end are to cultivate in the various members of the Empire a real live interest in the British Empire and to exploit that sentiment for the furtherance of economic policies. For putting this economic and commercial principle into practice, the author suggests the formation of a company under the title of "The British Empire Ltd." He is not blind to the fact that the formation of such a company is a "fantasy" and an impractical proposition. The Company, he suggests, should function as an advisory body only and it should invest its funds in loans for Empire development, in giving assistance to overseas settlers and in advertising Empire products.

Though the scheme of a company of the type described above may be a fantasy, what is more practical and achievable is the programme drawn up by the author for an Empire economic policy, which consists in making the Empire self-sufficing in regard to raw materials, foodstuffs and manufactured goods. There should be developed a co-ordination and co-operation between the various parts of the Empire in order to pursue a successful policy in this regard with the main idea of obtaining severally and collectively the largest possible export trade. Such a co-operation in inter-imperial trade and economic policies is a sure way of tiding over the effects of trade and economic crisis and neutralising the effects of high tariffs that are becoming so common a feature of the fiscal policies of nations nowadays.

This book is on the whole an interesting one; but it is necessary to strike a note of warning on behalf of countries like India, which feel not unreasonably, that the Empire exists only for the exploitation of backward nationalities. If the policy advocated in the book under review could be proposed to an Empire in which there is perfect equality of status as between member and member then it has greater chances of being accepted and tried than when it is proposed to an Empire in which a good deal of inequality prevails.

The book presents facts and statistics on which an Empire policy could be built up. The rest of the work is for statesmen who have to work those figures into concrete realities. No doubt each part of the Empire has got its own problems which have to be set right before it can be made to look favourably at the policy of Empire economic unity; but as Lord Riddell, who writes a preface says, "it is easy to conceive more practical plans that would increase reciprocal trade within the Empire."

C. V. HANUMANTHA RAO.

**THE SCOUT'S RED BOOK OF "GOOD TURNS".** BY AN OBSCURE SCOUT. (The India Sunday School Union, Coonoor.) 18cm. 36p. As. 4/-

IN the words of Sir Frederick Nicholson who has written a Preface to the book the author 'practises what he preaches'. Although he has done a good turn

by writing an admirable book, he has chosen to be 'obscure'. It is the real scout spirit. If you do good with the right hand, do not let the left know of it. Service of humanity is enjoined upon every member of the world-wide brotherhood of scouts and the knot in a scout's scarf is a memento which reminds him to "help other people at all times." Brave deeds have been done by scouts all over the world and no amount of danger or catastrophe unnerved them. They have 'smiled' in the face of death itself and have won for themselves the title of 'brave young knights of bare knees'. The strength to suffer and to sacrifice for a right cause is the result of the habit of doing good turns that is inculcated in scouts. Their tests and training for proficiency badges equip them with a precise knowledge which is necessary for serving others properly and sympathetically. But often a scout questions his scouter as to how he should help others: he does not find any occasions for rendering good turns or he did not know how to do them on certain occasions. The book is a guide to such persons. The author has in the course of six letters given in lucid language an exact idea of what "the Piper of Pax" meant when he formulated the theory of 'good turns' in scoutcraft. "Doing good turns", writes An Obscure Scout, "is as useful for the development of your character as breathing pure air for preserving your body". Only one has to "Be Prepared" and to walk with his "eyes open", and there will be ample scope for doing good turns.

The book will repay perusal. It will show the scout the way of doing good turns whether in uniform or in *mufti*, in his house or in a shop, in a street or in a school. He can do a good turn by "hindering hindrances" in the right discharge of their duties by public servants, municipal employees, health visitors, etc. without the expectation of even so much as a "thank you" from any body. The illustrations in the book have added to the value of the text. The book deserves a wide circulation and should be of practical use to all who feel interested in scoutcraft or in the upbringing of the future citizens.

S. R. BHARATIYA.

**A NATURALIST'S VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD IN H. M. S. 'BEAGLE'.** By CHARLES DARWIN. (The World's Classics Series.) (Oxford University Press.) 15cm. 530p. 2/-

THE book itself does not require any special review at this time of the day. It is a classic and the reading public should feel grateful to the Oxford University Press for having made this book available in a handy edition at a moderate price.

S. G. SASTRY.

## Correspondence.

### "SPLENDID ISOLATION" OF BRITISH UNIVERSITIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SERVANT OF INDIA.

SIR,—An editorial note in the *Bulletin of the National Council of Women in India* for July 1931 has again drawn my attention to a widespread misunderstanding in the minds of the educated public with respect to the opportunities open to the graduates of the Indian Women's University in foreign countries. The edit-

ors of the *Bulletin* are quite right in believing that the G. A. degree of the Indian Women's University is not recognised by any British University and if post-graduate study in the British Isle is the only goal before Indian graduates, as the editors of the *Bulletin* seem to believe, this may be a misfortune. But I may point out to them, that there are quite a number of people, who consider the Continental and American Universities superior to the British ones. One student of the Indian Women's University is at present studying in the Paris University, another got her Doctorate from the German University of Prague and a third is proceeding to America for further studies in one of the American Universities. So, the "splendid isolation" of the Women's University is really that of the British Universities in not recognising the degrees of the Women's University. The case of "at least one other graduate of the same University having had to study in Germany for the post-graduate course" is probably a misunderstanding, as I am the only Indian woman who has so far taken the doctorate of a German University and am an M. A. of the Bombay University. As regards the "having had to" I went to Germany with the full conviction of getting a better training than in Great Britain and not because I could get no recognition there. The reason why Dr. Mrs. Deshpande went to Prague was similarly the presence of Prof. Winternitz, the famous Indologist at that University and not because there was no other possibility, as the editors of the *Bulletin* suggest. It will thus be seen that post-graduate institutions in all countries except the antiquated and conservative Great Britain are open to the graduates of the Women's University and exactly on the same terms as graduates even from England. Taking collegiate education through the mother-tongue is considered to be the most natural thing in all the Universities on the Continent and in America, and the British are the only people, who do not believe in it, so far as India is concerned.

Yours, etc.

Poona, July 4.

IRAWATI KARVE.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

- BIRTH CONTROL ON TRIAL. By LELLA SECOR FLORENCE. (Allen & Unwin.) 1930. 20cm. 160p. 5/-
- THE LIFE OF VIVEKANANDA AND THE UNIVERSAL GOSPEL. By ROMAIN ROLLAND. (Advaita Ashram, Mayavati, Almora, Himalayas.) 1931. 21cm. 435p. Rs. 4-8
- THE INFLUENCE OF INDIAN THOUGHT ON THE THOUGHT OF THE WEST. By SWAMI ASHOKANANDA. (Advaita Ashram, Mayavati, Almora, Himalayas.) 1931. 21cm. 45p.
- BAD HOMBRE. By W. WENDELL FLEWELLING. (Meador Publishing Co., Boston.) 1931. 20cm. 264p. \$ 2.00.

## BAND INSTRUMENTS.

On disbandment of band 1/11th Sikh Regt., (K. G. O.), Nowshera, certain number of brass instruments of music for sale. Apply to Band President for full particulars. Greatly reduced prices.