

The Servant of India

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Topics of the Week.

Mahatmism.

A VALUED friend in a private letter thus describes the Mahatma's attitude at the R.T.C.:—"Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya have thrown the States' subjects overboard. Nothing better was expected of Panditji, but Mahatma's attitude is certainly disappointing. Mahatma also does not seem to be quite keen on adult suffrage though he has paid lip homage to it. If adult suffrage is not to be adopted in the constitution, separate representation for workers, peasants and untouchables must be provided for. The Mahatma's attitude towards the depressed classes is really Mahatmic! Muslims and Sikhs who are able to take care of themselves and far more advanced in every respect than the depressed classes deserve in the Mahatma's opinion special protection as minorities. The untouchables must solely rely on the sympathy of the high caste Hindus! The Congress dare not lay claim to represent Mahomedans and Sikhs but wants to "share with Dr. Ambedkar the onus of representing the untouchables". Dr. Ambedkar and his men will naturally draw the lesson that they must make it too hot for the Congress if they do not want to be swallowed up by the latter or to be thrown on the small mercies of the orthodox Hindus. The *Sunday Chronicle* has patted Messrs. Joshi and Ambedkar on their backs, but has no courage to protest against the reactionary attitude of Panditji and Mahatma with regard to the States. Poor thing! Its idols have been found to have feet of clay, but how can it afford to disown them?"

Sec. 144.

WE cannot congratulate the Assembly on its rejection of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's bill to restrict the powers of magistrates to issue orders under Section 144 Cr. P. O. That the section has been abused in the past by overzealous officers and prostituted for purposes for which it cannot have been intended nobody who knows anything of the events of the last year need be told. To prohibit the wearing of the Gandhi cap or the use of the national flag under that section can by no stretch of imagination be regarded as its right use. Indeed the High Court, when approached in the matter, saw fit to set aside these orders, than which no better or more convincing testimony is needed in support of the non-official contention that the section has in many instances been misapplied. Anyhow there can be no difference of opinion that the section as worded at present is liable to serious misuse. Mr. Singh by his bill sought to prevent magistrates from issuing ex parte orders, as they do now, prohibiting public meetings or processions, though he did not want to restrict their discretion under the section in cases in which failure to take preventive action would lead to danger to human life or disturbance of the public peace. The only safeguard he provided was that such ex parte orders should not remain in force longer than 48 hours and not two months as at present. We do not think Mr. Singh wished to introduce any very revolutionary change by his bill. When he brought forward his bill in the Delhi session of the Assembly it was decided that it should be circulated for expression of public opinion. This done, it came up in the current session for its further stages; but the Assembly, very unreasonably, in our opinion, chose to refuse to allow it even to go to the select committee! It was officially pointed out that the opinions expressed on the bill had mostly been opposed to Mr. Singh's bill. Very probably the opinions were those of officials, who could of course not be expected to vote for any change in the *status quo*. The people who ought really to be consulted in the matter are not the officials who do not suffer by the misuse of the section but the people who do. In this case we doubt not which side non-official verdict would have gone. It would with one voice have supported Mr. Singh in his attempt to restrict the magistrates' discretion to act under the section.

Reiteration of Indian Aspirations.

DURING the last week the Assembly discussed a

resolution which has much constitutional importance. It declared that no constitution would be acceptable to India which failed to make the executive fully responsible to the legislature with the necessary corollary that the Governor-General should be shorn of his ordinance-making and other extraordinary powers. In short the future Governor-General should occupy the same position in this country which his counterparts in the self-governing dominions do and be nothing more than a constitutional Governor-General. After the Prime Minister's declaration of January 19 last in bringing the proceedings of the first R.T.C. to a close, the need for this resolution may not be very clear to many. But from the explanation given by the mover of the resolution in his speech it cannot be said that it had been brought forward quite needlessly. It is a considerable discrepancy observable in two recent utterances of the present Viceroy that has given occasion for the reiteration of India's aspirations in this behalf. In his Chelmsford Club speech made not many weeks ago, Lord Willingdon gave expression to his ambition to be the first constitutional Governor-General of this country so that in his advanced age he may not find the Viceregal charge as onerous as he does at present. In his speech to the Central Legislature made only a few days ago, however, he talked of the transference of control to Indian hands only in "local affairs." Perhaps by "local" he meant Indian as opposed to external or foreign affairs. Anyhow the use of this unfortunate expression coupled with the change of government in England with Conservative preponderance has created a misunderstanding in the public mind that the Viceroy's last speech betokens a change for the worse in the attitude of the British Government towards Indian aspirations. So long as the Prime Minister's declaration referred to above stands, one cannot say that such an impression has any foundation in fact. But it is just as well that India's aspirations are once more clearly left on record. While in 1924 Lord Reading's Government through Sir Malcolm Hailey was trying its best to make Indians believe that responsible Government was not the same thing as Dominion Status and therefore what was promised to them by the 1917 declaration of policy fell short of Dominion Status, in the debate under notice dominion status as the goal of India was once again officially confirmed. Sir George Rainy in fact said that "Indian aspirations would not be satisfied until India attained full Dominion Status and the policy of His Majesty's Government also would not have been fully carried out until then." After this nobody can say that the debate in question was mere waste of time.

* * *

Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab.

THE Punjab Government's review on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act for 1930 has some strong remarks to make about the delays that take place in the settlement of workmen's claims to compensation. Out of the total number of 730 accidents coming within the purview of the Workmen's Compensation Act, compensation was paid in 536 cases as against 549 of the previous year out of a total of 580.

This yields a percentage of 73.4 as against 84.4 of the previous year. No wonder the review should say: "The progressive deterioration in the rate at which these cases are disposed of is extremely disquieting." In regard to fatal accidents the position is even worse. For out of 20 cases of fatal accidents, compensation was paid only in 4 during the year. It is true the Act does not lay down any time limit within which such compensation must be paid; but nobody can doubt that the intention of the legislature was that it should be paid without undue delay. And the Punjab Government is convinced that "there are good grounds for believing that avoidable and undue delays are far more common than they should be"—an interesting commentary on the expedition with which public business is transacted in the land of the five rivers. While the Punjab Government's direction to its subordinate officials to expedite the settlement of compensation claims is welcome, real and lasting improvement in this state of things can only be expected when the legislature's intention about the prompt payment of compensation claims which is now implicit is made explicit by a suitable amendment of the Act. The review makes it clear that action on these lines is under their contemplation.

The Government review also strongly criticises its officers for not properly safeguarding the interests of workmen and instances the case of three persons who were burnt to death by the bursting of a boiler pipe. In this case no steps were taken to have their dependents traced and if they existed to have their claims to compensation considered. These delays which in some cases at any rate are found by the Punjab Government to have been avoidable sometimes still further delay payments of compensation to workmen owing to uncontrollable causes. In one case e.g. the company concerned went into liquidation before depositing the required compensation with the Commissioner with the result that though payment would be eventually enforced it would be greatly delayed, as those knowing anything of liquidation proceedings will have no difficulty in realising.

Then again the amount of compensation is very often inadequate, as can be seen from the payment of Rs. 252 to a minor for a permanent disablement. The statistics of average payments for accidents for the last five years given in the review show that the payments have a consistently downward tendency. The average payment in 1926 for fatal accidents was Rs. 1320 which in 1930 had come down to Rs. 825, corresponding figures for permanent and temporary disablements being respectively Rs. 722 and Rs. 370, and Rs. 23 and Rs. 14. This is attributed in the review to the workmen's refusal to stand up for their dues owing to their desire not to lose their employers' good-will and to avoid lengthy compensation proceedings. This emphasises the great need of labour organisation that exists in that province, for if labour unions in sufficient strength had been adequately active in the Punjab, the workmen would not have experienced all the difficulty they at present experience in coming into their own.

SELLING THE PASS.

THIS is the only description which anyone who tries to follow the path of truth as the Mahatma teaches us to do can give of his achievement at the R.T.C. Gandhiji has gone to London to bring back *purna swaraj* with him; what he is preparing to bring however is not *swaraj*, either *purna* or *apurna*, but just sheer oligarchy.

Under his scheme the Princes are to be given full liberty to send their own nominees to the federal legislature. They might even vote themselves into it. This is true of the lower as well as the upper chamber. The latter he seems to think must remain their close preserve; there election cannot even be suggested. In regard to the former, he might bring himself to recommend election to the Princes—not of course in respect of all the representatives (that would be far too hazardous a proceeding), but a few of them; nor by the same method of election or on the same franchise as in British India, oh! no, but by some method and on some franchise or other. This is the limit of his demand. He would appeal to the Princes to allow some of the representatives of the States in the lower house to be elected in some sort of way. How the appeal would eventually be treated is another matter.

Let no one labour under the misapprehension that because election has at any rate been talked of in the Federal Structure Committee on this occasion while it was not as much as mentioned last year, there is an advance upon the position as it then existed. For the contention of the Princes all along has been that it must be left entirely to their discretion whether the States' representatives will be elected or nominated. They did not even then rule out election they have all the time left themselves open to persuasion on that matter. But it must be persuasion, first and last; no form of coercion would be tolerated. And even those Princes who may be favourably inclined to adopt some measure of election will not bind themselves to it; they will accept no sort of statutory obligation. Mysore, let us suppose, consents next year to include one popularly elected representative among the five or six that may be allotted to it. That, however, is no guarantee that this proportion of representation will be uniformly elective in future. Mysore will reserve to itself freedom to change over from election to nomination at any time if it so chooses. This is the essence of the Princes' demand. Mahatma Gandhi does not ask for its abatement by a jot or tittle. He concedes it in full.

One further point must be noted. Even assuming that there is a constant supply from the States of, say, 10% elected representatives, for which assumption however there is no foundation, these so-called elected representatives may really be the Princes' nominees. Take Bhopal or Bikaner, the States whose rulers are making the greatest amount of stir in England now. Let us suppose that these consent to

allow their legislatures to elect one quarter or even one-half of their representatives to the federal legislature. This will not insure genuine popular election until the States' legislative assemblies themselves are predominantly if not wholly elected. Bikaner and Bhopal, however, do not boast of such assemblies. If these bodies contain an official majority, there is obviously no practical advantage in the election of the representatives of the States by them. Nomination by the Princes is no worse than such election. In fact election is worse inasmuch as it is apt to lull people into a false sense of security. Gandhiji does not even ask that the elected portion of the States' legislative assemblies shall elect representatives to the federal legislature, or make any other suggestion to guard against the so-called election being turned into a fraud and a snare.

Mahatma Gandhi's part in the R.T.C. affords one more proof of the eternal truth that no man, however eminent, is good enough to be a dictator. Gandhiji is the sole representative of the Congress, and the Congress claims to be the spokesman for the whole country. But on the question of the States it is clear as noon-day sun that the Mahatma outrageously misrepresents the country's sentiments. The real views of the people were expressed by Dr. Ambedkar, Mr. Joshi and Dr. Shafaat Ahmed Khan, who insisted upon an obligation being imposed upon the States that their representatives in both chambers shall be elected, that they shall not be accorded excessive representation, and that all central subjects shall be made federal. Mahatma Gandhi made it his business to oppose these delegates. He cannot endure the nomination of even a handful of experts to represent Crown subjects in British India, but he sees no objection to the official *bloc* of the present time being replaced by a larger nominated *bloc* from the States. How can such glaring inconsistencies be justified except on the ground that the self-government he aspires for does not connote popular government but merely getting rid of the British?

The Indian States' people looked upon Mahatma Gandhi as their protector; they hoped that when others had failed them he would remain true. They had received definite assurances from him too, and because of these assurances betrayal on his part is far more inexcusable than failure on the part of others. In the case of the latter it was only a question of political judgment; in his case it is a question of good faith. A moral issue of the deepest significance is thus involved here. Leaders in the Indian States' People's Conference who carried on negotiations with him on the subject will have a great deal to say on the point. Anyhow before Mr. Andrews writes his next book on the Mahatma making him out to be the greatest moral man that has walked the earth at any rate for the last 1930 years he will do well to look closely into all the facts concerning these negotiations.

S. G. VAZE.

"SUBSTANTIAL" INDIANISATION.

THE long looked-for report of the Indian Sandhurst Committee has at last seen the light of day. No body who reads it with any care can escape the impression that the Government is by no means even yet in earnest in handling the problem of the Indianisation of the army. It will be remembered that this Committee was set up in accordance with a resolution passed by the Defence Sub-committee of the R.T.C. which expressed itself in favour of "immediate steps" being taken "to increase substantially the rate of Indianisation" so that "with the development of the new political structure in India the defence of India must to an increasing extent be the concern of the Indian people." As if to reassure India that this time at any rate it was not going to be a case of mere expression of pious sentiments but that those in authority really meant business, the Defence Sub-Committee went out of its way to make it known to all concerned that it wanted steps taken in order "to deal effectively" with its recommendations. The task before the Indian Sandhurst Committee was thus to frame the scheme of a military college in India which would be large enough to promote the object which the Defence Sub-Committee had in view, viz. substantial Indianisation. We are afraid no dispassionate student of the Committee's recommendations can hold that they have been framed in a manner which is calculated to achieve the Defence Sub-Committee's object in the immediate or even near future.

Nor is this surprising. For the Indian Sandhurst Committee had to work under the handicap of its terms of reference being considerably narrowed down from the very start. It was told by the Commander-in-Chief at its very first meeting that it had nothing to do with substantial Indianisation but that its business was no more than to formulate a detailed scheme of the establishment of an Indian Military College with an annual intake of only 60. It was somewhat of a puzzle to many how the Commander-in-Chief could thus go against the clearly expressed wishes of the Defence Sub-Committee. Would he dare to do so on his own responsibility? The puzzle has been solved by Sir Abdur Rahim, Mr. Chhotu Ram and Mr. Mukarji who, in their dissenting minute, say that the Committee was informed by the Commander-in-Chief that the number of cadets for whom provision was to be made in the proposed Indian Sandhurst had already been fixed by the British and Indian Governments. It is surprising how, when it came to a question of translating into effect those fine sentiments about substantial Indianisation expressed in the report of the Defence Sub-Committee, the Labour Government failed to rise to the occasion—a failure all the more glaring in view of the fact that the Sub-Committee in question was presided over by one who cannot be regarded as an irresponsible Labourite. It may be they had to bow to the decision of the question by the Imperial military authorities who look upon the Indian army as a link in the chain of Imperial defence and have always refused to allow India to organise her own defence on her own lines. That is the most charitable construction one can put on the Labour Government's conduct; but there is no doubt that it must share the blame for this retrograde decision, with whomsoever may have rested the initiative in the matter.

But even with that handicap, serious though it undoubtedly was, there is no reason why the Committee's recommendations could not have been more progressive than they have actually been. The majority of the Committee consisting of officials and representatives of the enlisting classes propose that out of the 60 cadets to be admitted to the college every year, only 24 should be taken by open com-

petition, as many as 30 being selected by the Commander-in-Chief from among the ranks of the Indian army and 6 being nominated by him from among those who are qualified but who failed to stand sufficiently high in the examination. One should have thought that in accordance with modern practice the Committee would have depended almost exclusively upon competitive examination to yield suitable candidates for the proposed military college. This method of selection has admittedly the merit of securing the best men available and is a sure safeguard against partiality or nepotism. In any case the Committee should have done its best to minimise the scope for the introduction of such evils. Far from doing that, it has left as many as 36 places i. e. three-fifths of the total, to be filled by selection or nomination, which is so much patronage in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief. While we do not see why nomination should figure at all in the arrangements for admission to the proposed college the Committee would doubtless have done well in agreeing to the proportion of the yearly vacancies at the college being thrown open to competition and to selection and nomination in the proportion of 80 and 20 per cent. as suggested by Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer and Major-General Rajwade. But nothing better can be expected of those whose one idea is to keep the educated classes at arm's length. The fixing of the yearly expenses at the college at the high figure of Rs. 1500 as against Rs. 900 suggested by Dr. Moonje seems also to have been dictated by like considerations. Nor have the Committee been particularly anxious to shorten the course which will extend to three years, though the course of studies at Sandhurst does not cover more than half that period. Then, at the end of the first year in the College cadets will be passed through a serious test and those found unsuitable for military career sent away, while those who get through it successfully will be asked to bind themselves to serve the State for five years, failing which they or their parents will be called upon to pay a maximum amount of Rs. 5,000 to the Government as cost of education imparted—all this in order merely to prevent waste! What solicitude for the poor tax-payer's money! While the educated classes are thus discouraged from looking upon the army as a career, which they would hardly have done in view of the small number of vacancies at the College, every attempt is made to befriend the so-called enlisting classes by offering those selected from the ranks of the army every inducement. They will not only have free education, but will be paid Rs. 60 a month. It will thus be seen that the Committee's recommendations are designed to keep the gulf between the so-called martial and non-martial classes as wide as possible and breathe complete distrust of the Indian intelligentsia. Its failure to specify any particular educational qualification as a condition of entry into the prospective Indian Sandhurst is also designed with a view to enable preference being shown to the safer, if the less educated, candidate.

Another indication of the Government's desire to delay Indianisation as long as possible is furnished by its decision, taken in 1928 but kept secret until quite recently, to reorganise the units marked for Indianisation on what is called the British pattern. Why the Indianising units alone are singled out for this kind of treatment is not clear. Why should the British pattern of organisation not be made applicable to all units of the Indian army, whether Indianising or not? But what is this British pattern? It consists in having in a battalion all officers holding the King's Commissions and not, as in the Indian army, some holding King's Commissions and some holding Viceroy's Commissions. The King's Commissioned

officers in a British battalion number 28 while a corresponding unit of the Indian army is officered by 12 persons having the King's commissions and 18 or 19 with the Viceroy's commissions. These latter stand between the King's commissioned officers on the one hand and the rank and file on the other. They occupy such an important place in the Indian army organisation that they are officially described as the "backbone" of the Indian army. And yet, so far as the Indianising units are concerned, they seem to be doomed unless as a result of pressure of public opinion the Government is persuaded to revise its decision. We do not propose to go into the arguments for and against the retention of these officers or into how the disappearance of these officers would adversely affect recruitment for the army—all which is ably set out in the minute of dissent signed by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer and General Rajwade. Suffice it to say that the decision is designed as much to perpetuate the policy of segregation involved in the Eight Units Scheme which is now going to be extended to a whole Division as to postpone Indianisation, i. e. the substitution of Britishers by Indians. Though it is not yet stated how many of the officers that would be turned out by the proposed college would displace Britishers and how many Viceroy's commissioned officers, it does not need very deep knowledge of human nature to imagine that care will be taken to displace as few Britishers as possible. This would have been difficult to manage if, as insisted upon by Mr. Jinnah alone among the members of the Defence Sub-Committee, the rate of Indianisation had been specified by the Committee. In the absence of such a clear indication of its views, the bureaucracy can, by the use of this and similar subterfuges, do its best to postpone the evil day when the whole of the Indian army will be officered by Indians. But if the Viceroy's commissioned officers are in course of time to disappear from the Indian army, the provision for 60 cadets in the proposed military academy would seem to be not certainly as liberal as is sometimes made out in official quarters. The wastage on the basis of the non-disappearance of the officers holding the Viceroy's commissions has been given as 120. In this case the proposed college would every year provide only 53, and not 60 which does not allow for wastage, officers who would take the place of those Britishers that would retire or die. If the Viceroy's commissioned officers are however to be eliminated, the annual wastage on the same basis would be about 350 so that the yearly output of 53 of the Indian Sandhurst would be but a small part of the total requirements. We do not think Indian opinion can stand this kind of tantalising much longer.

Equally mischievous is the recommendation, couched in a fit of quixotic generosity and conceived out of a professed desire to safeguard what appear to us the false interests of the Indian Sandhurst, to give up India's claim to the 20 places that would continue to be reserved for Indian cadets at the English Sandhurst even after the Indian Sandhurst comes into being. This recommendation again, it may be well to remember, goes against the direction of the Defence Sub-Committee itself and the recommendation also of the Sken Committee. The desire to give the new college a good start, which is given as a cause for making this recommendation, is all right; but we fail to see how its development would be jeopardised by the enjoyment of the facilities for military training provided for Indians at the English Sandhurst. It is feared by those who support the idea of foregoing the places at Sandhurst reserved for Indians that those who would be trained at Sandhurst would regard themselves as more important than those turned out by that in India. It is difficult to say whether the fear is merely imaginary or has

any ground in fact. But even supposing it has, we do not think it need be taken seriously so long as those in authority do not allow their actions to be swayed by any considerations of false superiority of the products of the English Sandhurst to those of its Indian counterpart. We are glad that Sir Abdur Rahim, Dr. Moonje and Mr. Mukarji expressed their difference of opinion with the majority of the Committee on this point and surprised that more Indian members did not act likewise.

Lastly, we must express our strong disapproval of the extraordinary role of a judge in regard to the performance of some of his colleagues taken up by Sir Philip Chetwode, the Commander-in-Chief, who acted as the Chairman of this Committee. He has appended a covering note to the dissenting minutes submitted by the members of the Committee and takes it upon himself to describe much of the matter contained in them as irrelevant to the work before the Committee. It is sheer effrontery on his part to sit in judgment over the opinions expressed by people some of whom at any rate have made as deep a study of the problem of army Indianisation as he has. If his object was merely to dissociate himself from the opinions embodied in these minutes, it was certainly not necessary for that purpose to characterise them in the way he has done.

LABOUR IN INDIA.

RESULTS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION'S ENQUIRY. —VIII.*

THE INCOME OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKER.

THE Commission was directed in its terms of reference to report on the standard of living of the workers. "No part of our task", it is admitted in the Report, "has given us greater difficulty, and we must frankly state our inability to give this subject the treatment it deserves." Apart from the difficulty of attempting, within the limits of time and expenditure, "an original analysis of the standard of living of several millions of workers scattered over a sub-continent, distributed over many industries, with a great variety of occupations, and separated into many groups by climate, race, civil condition, religion, tradition, income and other factors," the Commission found that the essential material was lacking. The only investigations so far made with any claim to statistical adequacy were those conducted by the Bombay Labour Office. Even in Bengal, the leading industrial province in India, not even the construction of a cost of living index has been attempted, and a statistical analysis of earnings and expenditure is entirely lacking. The Commissioners were, however, able to glean certain facts. In the majority of provinces few unskilled labourers are able to earn more than Rs. 15 a month regularly; the majority earn less and earnings are as low as Rs. 10. In centres of Burma and the Bombay Presidency the prevailing rate for men seems to be above 12 annas while in Delhi and the Punjab it is below that figure. In Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and parts of the Central Provinces, the daily rates are roughly 8 annas for men, 6 annas for women and 4 annas for children, but in Madras, the United Provinces and some parts

* Previous articles in this series appeared in our issues of July 23 and 30, August 6, 13 and 27, and September 3 and 10.

of the Central Provinces the rates are lower and in some areas of these provinces are as low as 5 annas a day for men. Wages have a close relation to the workers' efficiency. "Poverty leads to bad conditions, bad conditions to inefficiency, and inefficiency to poverty". Thus is the vicious circle described in the Report and it is literally true. The employers who, in season and out of season, make a grievance of their workers' inefficiency and take it for granted that efficiency can be had for nothing, would do well to remember the above-mentioned dictum pronounced by the Commission as well as the following remarks :—

We must observe, however, that in looking to increased efficiency as the main source of a higher standard of living, we have in view more than an increase in the efficiency of the worker. The range of efficiency on the part of employers in India is very wide. There are enterprises that will stand comparison with any outside India; there are others whose inefficiency is obvious even to the casual observer. . . . We also found many employers unaware of the successful experiments of others in the labour field.

It is generally contended by the employers that the standard of living of the Indian worker is fixed and that increase in wages does not tend to raise it. The Commission have not, it is gratifying to note, accepted this contention and have characterised the idea as fallacious in view of the evidence of unprejudiced observers regarding improvement in the general standard of living. The Commission believe that the employers need not be deterred from raising wages by any fear that they will be injuring the workers thereby. They further say :—

As some employers have shown, better results from the business point of view can frequently be obtained by the payment of better wages, and it is impossible to expect any high standard of efficiency on the wages now paid in many branches of industry. Nor is it reasonable invariably to demand that the increase of efficiency should be a condition precedent to improved wages. In many cases if employers were to offer better payment first, they would be able to secure improved efficiency by the attraction of a better class of workers and by the increased effort of many of the present ones. (The italics are mine.)

MINIMUM WAGE LEGISLATION.

The International Labour Conference adopted in 1928 the draft convention on statutory minimum wages. The Convention contemplates the creation of wage-fixing machinery only in the case of trades or parts of trades (and in particular in home working trades) in which no arrangements exist for the effective regulation of wages by collective agreement or otherwise and wages are exceptionally low. The question as to the nature and form of the machinery and the trades to which it is to be applied is left entirely to the discretion of the States concerned. When the question of ratifying this Convention came before the Government of India, they came to the conclusion that they could neither enter into any commitment nor give any indication of possible ratification until a thorough enquiry had been held into the practicability of establishing wage boards in India. Both chambers of the Central Legislature agreed that the Convention should not be ratified, the Legislative Assembly adding the rider "pending the report of the Indian Labour

Commission". But no definite lead has been given by the Commission's report. It was impossible for them, they say, in the time at their disposal and with such wide terms of reference, to survey the trades or to say definitely in the case of particular trades whether or not minimum wages should be fixed. They recommend a detailed survey of conditions in the industries in which there is a strong presumption that the conditions warrant such detailed investigation and on the basis of that investigation it should be decided whether the fixing of a minimum wage is desirable and practicable. This recommendation is hedged round with several qualifications. In short, the Commission's recommendation in this respect is not likely to provide any useful guidance to the legislature if that question is brought before it in the near future. In the first instance, the Convention adopted by the I. L. Conference has to be interpreted more liberally than the Commission has done. The Commissioners say that they have throughout approached the consideration of questions from the point of view of the needs of India rather than the applicability of international conventions. But, it seems, in their view the needs of India are not identical with the needs of Indian labour. In many industries of this country labour is not organised, and even where it is organised it is not so fully and effectively organised as to be able to regulate wages by collective agreement. In Great Britain the minimum wage legislation is applicable to the mining industry. It is, therefore, plain that even organised industries can be governed by a minimum wage legislation. Few industries in India are so strong in labour organisation as the mining industry in Great Britain. The figures relating to the wages of industrial workers in different provinces given in the Commission's report are enough to prove the need for a minimum wage legislation in this country. This is an instance of how the Commission have at times carried the doctrine of 'gradualness' too far.

DEDUCTIONS FROM WAGES.

The Commission found that fining was a fairly general practice in perennial factories and on railways, and that there were numerous deductions of other kinds made by some employers. The latter included the compulsory deductions made for medical attendance, education, reading rooms, interest on advances of wages, charities, religious purposes selected by the employer and various other benefits or causes. Also they found that there was a common practice in the cotton textile mills of handing over to the weaver cloth from his own loom spoilt in the course of manufacture and of deducting the price of the cloth at the wholesale rate from his wages. Another practice followed in some mills was the deduction of two days' wages for one day's absence. Deductions from wages have been regulated in the industrially advanced countries by legislation, and the workers' organisations are also able to keep an effective watch over such deductions. In India both of these forms of protection are lacking. The need for legislation on the lines of the Truck Act in Great Britain was a few years ago brought to the notice

of the Government, but nothing has yet been done to regulate the deductions, through legislation. Although the Commission have come to the conclusion that such legislation is both necessary and desirable, they do not recommend the abolition of fines. The object of regulation should, in their opinion, be to prevent excessive and arbitrary fines. They recommend that the maximum amount deducted in fines should not in any month exceed half an anna in the rupee of the worker's earnings. As regards deductions for damage or loss in the form of spoiled cloth in the process of weaving, the Commission recommend that the law should provide that the deduction should in no case exceed the wholesale price of the cloth damaged. This latter recommendation practically amounts to confirming the present practice. Mr. Cliff, Mr. Joshi and Diwan Chaman Lall have dissented from the majority view on the question of deductions. Experience has shown that fining is unnecessary in a well-managed factory, and that where it has been discontinued or where it has never been resorted to, the discipline necessary to industry can be maintained and that the absence of fining leads to better relationship between the employer and the worker. The labour members also rightly contend that if an employer is to exercise the power of making deductions from the wages of workers, equity demands that he should not be the final arbiter, but that a right of appeal should lie with an impartial tribunal. Owing to lack of combination and other causes the workers in this country are unable to exercise any effective check against the abuse of the power to fine or to make other deductions from their wages.

P. G. KANEKAR.

Our European Letter.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, SEP. 11.

THE TWELFTH ASSEMBLY.

THE Twelfth Assembly of the League of Nations met on Monday, September 7th, and His Excellency Monsieur Lerroux, the Delegate of Spain and acting President of the Council, declared it open. His inaugural address was devoted to a defence of the League by citing its numerous achievements—the prospect of the Disarmament Conference chief among them—and it concluded with an appeal to the various national representatives assembled at Geneva, “acting in the spirit of the Covenant, to arrest the wave of pessimism, to ensure coordination of efforts in the financial, economic and political domain; to restore tranquility and bring about a revival of confidence.” The most significant part of the speech, in view of repeated rumours that overseas countries were deeply discontented with the concentration of the League's activities on exclusively European matters, was the emphatic affirmation, “I do not hesitate to give credit to the League as a whole for the activities—indeed, the very existence—of the Commission of Enquiry for European Union, the creation of which was authorized last year by a unanimous vote of the Assembly; I regard this as an important contribution to world peace”, followed by a long catalogue of the League's activities in the world outside Europe.

Contrary to precedent, Monsieur Titulesco, the first Delegate of Roumania, was elected President of the Assembly for a second time apparently because of his efficient direction of it last year. Circumstances have aided this decision as the notification of Monsieur Politis, the Greek representative, that he did not desire to stand for the presidency for personal reasons, restricted the choice to the two principal candidates Monsieur Titulesco and Count Apponyi, the Hungarian Delegate, and it is said that, in certain quarters it was not considered desirable to have a representative of a Power, which stands for the revision of the Versailles settlement, to preside over the Assembly, in the present political situation.

The President, who made a cautious but courageous speech on assuming his seat, said:—

The world is passing through a terrible crisis just now. This crisis, which began as a financial crisis, is now spreading and everywhere the flame of confidence is waning. It would be failing in our duty here if we did not act quickly. The sacred fire of Geneva has not disappeared, and if its flame is not sufficient to light the whole world, it is enough to guide it on its proper path, and I am perfectly certain it will do so.

The most notable event in the plenary session, following the opening, is the invitation to Mexico to join the League, proposed by the British, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish Delegations and adopted by the Assembly unanimously. Some dozen speakers supported the proposal, recalling the lineage of the Mexican people and emphasising the importance of Mexico both as part of Spanish America and as the neighbour of the United States. There can be no doubt about the warmth of welcome awaiting the Mexican representatives to Geneva. The step, as Lord Cecil, Monsieur Briand and others pointed out, is the reparation of a long-standing omission. Mexico did not figure in the list of the original members of the League on account of a too scrupulous regard on the part of President Wilson for democracy. Judged by that test, several members of the League will not be entitled to that privilege today, and the welcome proceeding is apparently not the least of the results of the Secretary-General's visit to South America.

Lord Cecil's motion to express the League's sympathy with China in the present disaster due to floods was similarly supported by a number of Delegates and passed by the Assembly as a whole. The Chinese Delegate acknowledged the kind gesture in a suitable speech, and it is to be hoped that Lord Cecil's wish that the League would take steps to help China effectively will be fulfilled. Sir B. L. Mitter, in an appropriate speech, bore testimony to India's sympathy for China. He said:—

Nowhere has China's calamity stirred deeper sympathy than in India. It is not merely that China is our neighbour and a very friendly neighbour, India and China are linked together by material ties of a common civilisation. When one of these countries is overtaken by a disaster of the magnitude which Lord Cecil has described it is only natural that the most poignant sympathy should be evoked in the other country because we are not merely stirred by ideas of humanitarianism but also by the most personal feelings of sympathy. That sympathy springs from a friendship of common culture and common ideas.

Every such expression of Asiatic unity at Geneva is to be treasured for the feeling has great potentialities although appearing only dimly as yet.

The general discussion of the work of the League for the year that is past provided as usual the necessary scope for the various Delegates to deal with questions of policy. At the time of writing that discussion is still proceeding, and of the speeches already made, those of Lord Cecil and Monsieur Grandi, the Italian

Foreign Minister, must be reckoned among the authoritative pronouncements of the Session. They were both at one in emphasising the importance of disarmament for the peace and prosperity of the world, but while Lord Cecil pointed to Franco-German *rapprochement* as the starting point of a better world, the Italian Delegate made a number of suggestions which must be accounted to be designed for other ears than those which heard him at the place he was addressing. The most significant of these was the connection which he established between disarmament and the revision of the war debts and reparations settlement. The immediate reaction to this speech was keen interest in Washington and in London, and an article in the *Times* that the idea of further limitation of armaments by common agreement between certain Powers must be fully elaborated before anything could be said of it.

Sir B. L. Mitter, who took part in the discussion, began by avowing India's loyalty to the League and faith in its work. He reviewed the various fields of activity, health organisation, intellectual co-operation and codification of laws, marking India's interest in each of them. He expressed gratification at the increasing extent of the League's cooperation with China in the reconstruction of that country and satisfaction with regard to Sir Arthur Salter's visit to India and the proposal to establish an Indian bureau of the League. It was a good thing that the League was turning its attention to the East. But much remained to be done in regard to disarmament. The problem of the world slump was also important. The Indian Delegation had recommended a study of the subject last year, and this year they would not only ask that that study should be continued, but would seek to implement the conclusions reached in view of the intensity of the economic depression. He paid a becoming tribute to the United States authorities for putting forward proposals designed to aid the world in the present crisis, and cited it as a relieving feature of the present situation. Further help from that source would be forthcoming only if it could be shown that it was deserved. He concluded with a warning against the use of the League machinery for regional agreements in the economic sphere, alluding to the activities of the European Commission. It is not economic *rapprochement* which he objected to, but its restriction to European countries, which the Asiatic countries, who also belonged to the League, must regard with some anxiety.

Reviews.

A PREJUDICED VIEW OF INDIA.

INDIA IN CRISIS. By ARTHUR DUNCAN
(Putnam, London & New York.) 1931. 20cm.
271p. 5/-

"I suppose I should add that I came to my task equipped to some extent by several years' residence in India in various educational and political capacities, and a serious study of the peoples of the land, their history and customs..." This is all that the author vouchsafes about himself in the preface. We wish he had been a little more specific in mentioning his qualifications for the task of writing about such a vast and delicate subject as India. In the absence of this information one is at a loss to know the environment in which he moved while in India and how he gleaned his information. What he tells us on the point is vague and hardly helpful from this point of view. But there is enough internal evidence in the book which shows beyond doubt that, whatever his

qualifications, they do not include a pro-Indian bias. His gibe in the preface at "friends of India" in Great Britain "who are so desperately anxious to be what they call "fair" to India that they are eminently unjust to their own country" makes it clear that he at any rate does not belong to that category. His almost vehement insistence upon the retention of the safeguards tentatively agreed to at the last session of the R. T. C., apart from whether they stand the test of being in India's interest as stipulated in the Gandhi-Irwin agreement, his characterisation of the Labour Government's Indian policy as "this feeble game of government by concession" and lastly, his call for "a firm stand" hereafter seem to point to his being a British die-hard unwilling to loosen Britain's grip on this country even in the slightest degree. This may be unfairness to Indians, but is certainly fairness with a vengeance to his own countrymen. The book is described on the cover as "a connected statement of facts, bringing the story of India down to the R. T. C. and after". But it is not merely an unbiassed narration of events. Now and again one finds it interspersed with the author's views. These show quite plainly that his information has been collected mostly from official sources. How he has even adopted the official view as his own will be clear from what he says e. g. about the Punjab happenings of 1919. These, he finds it hard to believe, were due to the public indignation against the Rowlatt legislation!

We think we have said enough already with a view to prepare our readers as to the nature of the contents of the book, which is divided into ten chapters. The first two deal with the historical background of the Indian problem and concern themselves mainly with a description of the people of this country and Britain's work in India. The third chapter is headed "Indian Nationalism and the National Congress." "Indians never have been, never will be, a politically minded people." (p. 70) That is the burden of his song and all his information is so marshalled as to support this theory. No wonder that in describing the first session of the Indian National Congress in Bombay he tries to belittle the political enthusiasm of the 72 delegates that attended it by saying that most of them "had to be paid to come." (p. 78) This is a serious accusation against those pioneers that combined to lay the foundations of the Indian nationalist movement nearly fifty years ago. We do not know where he got this information from. We have been at pains to verify his statement by independent evidence but are unable to get any corroboration for it. The relevant portion from the report of the first session of the Congress is as follows:

Delegates are expected to find their own way to and from Poona—but from the time they reach the Poona Railway Station until they again leave it, everything that they can need, carriage, accommodation, food, etc. will be provided for them gratuitously.

The cost thus involved will be defrayed from the Reception Fund, which the Poona Association most liberally offers to provide in the first instance, but to which all delegates, whose means warrant their incurring this further expense, will be at liberty to contribute any sum they please.

Eventually however owing to the outbreak of the cholera epidemic in Poona the venue had to be shifted to Bombay. We do not know whether the same arrangement held good even there. But supposing it did, even Mr. Duncan, if he is fair-minded enough, will have to admit that this is very different from what he alleges. The matter is rather important and in the interest of truth we should really like to know the source of the author's information.

No account of recent events in India can be complete without more than a passing reference to "Mr.

"Gandhi" to whom Mr. Duncan appropriately devotes a whole chapter. He cannot of course be blamed for attributing to the Mahatma faults of inconsistency in his personal conduct, in view of the opinions expressed by him some years ago about railways, medical science, machinery, parliamentary government, etc. "As a saint Mr. Gandhi is an unqualified success. As a sound thinker and wise leader he is a dismal failure. He has never displayed any interest in or ability for constructive work." (pp. 108 and 9.) We daresay Mr. Duncan does not expect Indian opinion to see eye to eye with him on this point. "The sumtotal of his political activities", proceeds the author, "is a little inedible salt, some *khaddar* or homespun, a fair amount of violent non-violence and a vast amount of turmoil and unhappiness" (p. 109). It will be seen that Mr. Duncan fails to take account of the immense political consciousness which Mahatma Gandhi has brought about in the country during his ten years' eventful association with its public life. One wonders if the author's statement quoted above can be included in "a few facts" about Mr. Gandhi, which he set out to recount in this chapter.

Dealing with the period from 1911 to 1930, the author splits it into two parts—1911 to 1926 and 1927 to 1930. Why he takes 1911 as his starting point we do not know. It is perhaps because of the undoing of the Bengal partition in that year. It is needless to follow him through his narration except to remark that justice is not done in his treatment to some events of importance, e. g. the Jallianwalla Bagh firing which is dismissed by him with a bare mention, and to note his view of the working of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms. On this point he says that "the Act functioned more by reason of the powers reserved to the Viceroy and provincial Governors, than because of the co-operation of India's politicians" (p. 144)—a euphemistic paraphrase of the general Indian feeling that dyarchy had become a failure. The events noticed in the chapter dealing with the years 1927 to 1930 are too recent to need recapitulation here. Nor need we pause to examine the chapter dealing with Indian States, because the author's treatment of that problem is most inadequate. He concerns himself with the side of the rulers to the exclusion of that of their subjects so completely that anybody knowing nothing about India and wishing to inform himself of the conditions of the problem of Indian States by a study of nothing but Mr. Duncan's book, is sure to go away with the impression that the people of the States have nothing to say on the subject. As a matter of fact, they have a good deal to say on the point and have been crying themselves hoarse to secure a hearing for their views. It is a pity the author ignores them altogether.

But we are interested especially in the concluding chapter in which the author allows himself greater latitude for the expression of his views on the Indian situation than elsewhere. By a comparison of the incidence of Indian military expenditure with that of Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand he comes to the conclusion that it is "not high." Of course he conveniently forgets to go into the figures of the per capita income of those countries and to tell us the proportion it bears to their military expenditure. He tries to discredit the demand for Army Indianisation on the usual bureaucratic plea that "the people who are agitating for the rapid Indianization of the army belong to races who do not supply a single recruit." (p. 248.)

Mr. Duncan's attempt to throw doubts on Mahatma Gandhi's honesty in carrying out the provisions of the Delhi pact is characteristic of the very prejudiced view he generally takes of the Indian situation. Mahatma Gandhi's behaviour is so faultless in this respect that even his worst enemy cannot allege this

against him, whatever other charges he may level against him. The author makes a grievance of the fact that the boycott of foreign cloth of last year was mainly directed against British cloth. A little reflection would have shown him that there was nothing surprising in this, for no secret was made of the fact that its use was as a political weapon and that it was in fact intended that its rigour should be felt by England. If, as Mr. Duncan says, this happened, the weapon must be said to have had the desired result.

There are many more points in Mr. Duncan's book we would have liked to deal with but reasons of space forbid our doing so. Nor will such a course of action serve any useful purpose. For we are confident that Mr. Duncan does not represent the better mind of England. This is far more sympathetic to Indian aspirations than the section represented by the author. It is because the ordering of Indian affairs is not in hands like Mr. Duncan's that India is yet hopeful of remaining within the British Commonwealth without dishonour to herself. Though we are unable to agree with Mr. Duncan on most points we must thank him for his interest in India. Only we would like it to be informed to a much larger extent by a spirit of understanding sympathy with India and her ambitions.

Before closing however let us draw his attention to two inaccuracies in his book that we were able to detect. The late Sir Henry Cotton did not preside over the National Congress in 1914 as Mr. Duncan states on p. 205, but ten years earlier. The author's inclusion on p. 229 of Tanjore among the Indian States also appears to be due to some misunderstanding. We need hardly point out that Tanjore is a British Indian district in the Madras Presidency.

D. V. A.

HINDU LAW.

HINDU LAW. BY J. R. GHARPURE. (The Author, Bombay 4.) 1931. 25cm. 561p. Rs. 12/—

MR. GHARPURE has issued an enlarged and revised edition of his *Hindu Law*, which deals with several branches of the subject in its various aspects. Beginning with a map of India, showing the territorial extent of various schools such as Dayabhaga, Mitakshara, Mithila and customary law, the book treats of the subjects of Hindu Code, such as the sources of Hindu law, *benami* transactions and *damduppatt*, marriage, sonship and adoption, minority and guardianship, joint family, debts, alienations, partition, maintenance, inheritance of property, wills, etc. The book has been brought up to date, with apt quotations from recent case law and one finds references to the recent Acts of the Indian Legislature such as the Child Marriage Restraint (Sarda) Act and the Gains of Learning Act. In the introductory remarks, the author has succinctly pointed to the distinctive characteristics of Hindu jurisprudence which cannot be properly appreciated without understanding the constitution and basic principles of Hindu society as envisaged in the Varnasrama system and the author refers to the growth and evolution of Hindu polity.

Each chapter bears an impress of the author's clear concept of the subject, especially his exposition of the subject of adoption and joint Hindu family being very able and lucid. If in some cases, Mr. Gharpure gives a history of the growth of a branch, in others, he takes a comparative view of different systems of jurisprudence. The speciality of the book further consists in citations from many cases of the original text or a relevant part of the Sanskrit commentary, pointing to the substratum on which the Hindu law has evolved. Though confining

himself to the statement of law, the learned author has occasionally shown his originality of view and independence of judgment, as can be seen from his comment on the celebrated Privy Council case *Yadav vs. Namdev* (p. 130), adoption of an orphan (140) and so forth.

To a student interested in the subject of research and reform of Hindu law, the note in Appendix B on the Mimamsa rules of interpretation will be found particularly useful. A careful study of the subject will help the reader to understand which aphorism is directory and which recommendatory. With us Mimamsa rules are what Broom's Maxims or Maxwell's Rules of Interpretation are with the Western lawyers. The author has thus done a distinct service to the students of Hindu law by a fairly copious reference to the Mimamsa rules. The note on the term *Sapinda* is scholarly. The work is useful both to students and practising lawyers.

N. V. BHONDE.

SHORT NOTICES.

BRITISH BANKS AND AGRICULTURE. By S. EVELYN THOMAS. (London General Press.) 1930. 21cm. 47p. 2/6.

INASMUCH as modern credit organization of India is modelled on that of England, we are naturally interested in the development of banking in that country and the book under review deals with an aspect of banking, which has, for obvious reasons, a special attraction for Indian readers. The title of the book, however, raises expectations that remain unsatisfied; while few Indian students of economics or banking or agriculture can afford to go in for a pamphlet of barely fifty pages which is merely a description of the present position of agricultural credit in England and Wales. More than half of this small pamphlet is mainly devoted to material based on reports, blue books or other available literature. There is a description of the systems of agricultural credit prevailing in three other countries—France, Denmark and the United States of America; this is followed by a chapter on British experiences in agricultural credit before 1928, and the survey is brought up to date by a summary of the Agricultural Credits Act of 1928 and a sketch of the working of the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, while in the appendix are reproduced the contents of some leaflets published by that body. The only original matter that is contributed by the author consists of three chapters. The opening one is the "Plight of the Farmer" and the "Farmer and Credit Facilities" and a closing one on "What of the Future?" Agriculture is still the largest single industry in Britain, notwithstanding its position as one of the leading manufacturing countries of the world. But agriculture continues to be preponderantly a small man's industry for of the total agricultural holdings numbering 477,600 no less than 311,168 are under 50 acres. The disabilities under which the farmer secured credit until recent times have been aggravated by the policy of banks restricting credit when there was due need for its extension, and despite the measures adopted by the state the fact remains that this vital industry is not established on a sound economic foundation in England and Wales, as is the position in several countries on the continent of Europe. It is a pity that in the last chapter the author, while attempting to sketch the future of British agriculture, can suggest no improvements in banking policy such as would strengthen the agricultural industry. If banking experts are groping in the dark so far as the organisation of agricultural credit in Britain itself is concerned, how can we expect any light from them in solving the

much more difficult problems of credit organization in our country?

V. L. MEHTA.

HOW TO WRITE GOOD ENGLISH. SOME PRINCIPLES OF STYLE. By HENRY BETT.

(Allen & Unwin, London.) 1929. 16cm. 85p. 2/-

THIS book, like its brilliant precursors by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, Mr. David Brewster, Sir Walter Raleigh, the Fowlers, and like others more workaday, seeks to answer the question put to a teacher of English every year by scores of students, ever since he began as a lean driver of fat oxen. His answer to them has been that, after they have taken the bull of bad grammar and bad spelling by the horns, they should soak their minds in the English masters (the Bible not excepted) and so acquire an ear for rhythm—neither symphonic and gorgeous like Ruskin's, nor asthmatic like Carlyle's, but wieldable in everyday use—a sense of word-values with the dictionary at their elbow, and a grasp of neat syntax from a Froude, a Hardy, a Shaw or a Galsworthy, indeed from any author who forges his sentence well without letting it hang loose like spaghetti down a ladle. Books on rhetoric and the writing of English are also helpful, though one frequently comes across persons grounded in a dozen of them, to whom the writing of a page of good English is a feat comparable only to the crossing of the Niagara on a rope. "Solvitur ambulando" is perhaps the best advice to be given to intending aviators and literary Blondins; nevertheless, a book like Mr. Bett's, written from close knowledge of literature and language and bearing witness on every page to a delicate appreciation of stylistic effects, will provide the student with a sound background of theory on which he could draw in his practice of good English.

R. SADASIVA AIYAR.

A TREATISE ON HEIGHT INCREASE. By S. N. SAPRU. (The Imperial Novelty Stores, P. O. Kasur.) 1930. 16cm. 26p.

THIS is a small pamphlet giving some exercises for increasing one's height by 3 or 4 inches within a short period of about 80 days. That one can increase one's height by certain exercises has now been an established fact and some Japanese medical men have devoted much attention to it. Mr. Sapru has not, like them, given statistical data about his method, and the reader will naturally look at his method in a somewhat sceptical spirit for want of such data. We therefore would like Mr. Sapru to publish whatever statistics he has about his method—which appears to be very easy to practise—to secure the confidence of his intelligent readers.

V. M. BHAT.

Miscellaneous.

THE SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY.

REPORT OF WORK.

The report of the Servants of India Society for the year ended 12th June last is just published. The following extracts from the Report are reproduced here for the information of our readers:—

SCOUTING.

The organisation of Seva Samiti Scouts and Seva Samiti branches continued to be a special feature of the work of the Upper India Branch. Pandit Hirday

Nath Kunzru continued to be the Chief Commissioner and Pandit Sri Ram Bajpai the Chief Organising Commissioner of the Seva Samiti Boy Scouts' Association. During the year under report Mr. S. P. Andrews Dube was appointed District Scout Commissioner for Lucknow. The Civil Disobedience movement interrupted to some extent Mr. Bajpai's work of inspection and training, though it did not cause any fall in the strength of the scouts, who in fact increased from 18,000 to 20,000 in the U. P. alone. In order to give scouting a place in the life of the ordinary man scout troops known as 'mohalla' troops have been started in various localities in several towns and appreciable success has been gained in this direction. The importance of establishing troops independently of schools is recognised by all scouters in India. Mr. Bajpai conducted at Allahabad a training class in First Aid and Ambulance work for the members of a local students' union. He also wrote six booklets in Hindi on advanced scouting and revised one of his earlier works. A number of other booklets also have been published by the Association referred to above. Mr. Dube attended several rallies, spoke at them and inspected some troops both in the city and district of Lucknow. Mr. Bajpai has edited jointly with another person a series of readers for use in primary schools. The series has been placed on the approved list by the Government of the United Provinces.

The contribution which Mr. Bajpai as Joint Secretary made with the assistance of his scouts to the success of the first All-Asia Educational Conference referred to before was so great as to be admired both by the press and the public. The demonstration of scout craft, especially of physical exercises, was greatly appreciated by the large audience that witnessed it. The headquarters of the Seva Samiti Boy Scouts' Association was overwhelmed with demands for such training from many a quarter. Accordingly a training camp which lasted about two months and a half was recently conducted at Rishikesh near Hardwar.

RELIEF WORK.

During the year there were abnormal rains in South India, with a cyclone near the City of Madras and Messrs. Venkatasubbaiya, Sivaswamy and Venkataraman were engaged in relief work for some months. The main work was the distribution of housing materials for the large number of people who lost their houses in the floods though in the City of Madras it was also found necessary to give food and clothing to many members of the depressed classes. In this work the members of the Society heartily co-operated with the other agencies in the field. In the City of Madras the different agencies that were at work, including the SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY, were merged in one organisation with the Commissioner of the Corporation as its President. Mr. Venkatasubbaiya was one of its Committee members and attended to the distribution of materials in some localities. Mr. Venkataraman's services were offered to and accepted by the Coimbatore Flood Relief Committee, and he became virtually its chief executive officer. The work is spread over four talukas on the banks of the Cauvery and the Bhavani and consists partly in the construction of new and well planned houses on sites that will not be easily affected by floods. Mr. Sivaswamy was able to obtain some funds from Calcutta in addition to those given to him by the Collector and a Madras Fund and helped the people of 20 hamlets. In all these areas the work is still going on. There were many cases, some of them due to incendiarism, of fire breaking out in the villages of Gujarat that had been vacated during the Civil Disobedience movement. Mr. Thakkar reported such cases to charitable bodies and to the Collector and obtained as much relief to the victims as he could.

PRESS AND PAPERS.

The Aryabhushan and Dnyanprakash Presses at Poona, the Bombay Vaibhav Press at Bombay and the Hitavada Press at Nagpur continued to work as in the previous years. The financial help which the Aryabhushan and Bombay Vaibhav presses were giving to the Society was somewhat curtailed owing to the economic depression through which the country is passing. The rise in the circulation of the *Dnyan Prakash* necessitated the purchase of a costly printing machine during the year. Certain improvements made in the *Dnyan Prakash* in the previous year entailed serious loss from which the paper has not yet recovered. While the *Servant of India* continued to be a heavy financial burden the *Hitavada* was not so.

GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS.

The endowment of a lakh of rupees by Rao Bahadur R. R. Kale of Satara has enabled the establishment, under the management of the SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY, of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. The opening of this Institute under the principalship of Mr. D. R. Gadgil and its location in the SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY was announced on the 12th June, 1930, that is, on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Society. The Institute is intended to promote post-graduate research work and the Bombay University has been moved to admit its students to the M. A. Degree examination. Facilities are given to approved students to stay in the premises of the Society. An inestimable advantage to the Institute is that its professors and students will have the free use of the Society's well-equipped library. To the Society it is a matter of profound satisfaction that an institution should be located in its premises for the study of subjects that were most dear to its founder. During the year, the necessary formalities for the constitution of the Trust were gone through and the Institute worked quite satisfactorily.

Visitors from abroad.—The prevalence of the Civil Disobedience movement attracted to India a large number of visitors and students of public affairs from the west and several Indian leaders, a good many of whom visited the headquarters of the Society at Poona. Among them mention may be made of Messrs. Slocomba, Brailsford and Alexander, Dr. and Mrs. DeSouza of Nairobi, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr. Jayakar.

FINANCES.

The finances of the Society, which were never very satisfactory, suffered a serious setback, during the last two years owing to the political situation and the trade depression through which the country is passing. The Society is therefore specially grateful to those who have steadily stood by it and to Sir Victor Sassoon and Rao Sahab V. R. Kelkar of Sholapur, a great friend of the late Mr. Gokhale, for their munificent donations of Rs. 5000 each during the year under report. Not less grateful is the Society to the N. M. Wadia Charities for their generous contribution, promised in connection with the Fire Relief Fund and being paid in annual instalments.

(Concluded).

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- THE ENGLISH: ARE THEY HUMAN. By G. F. RENIER. (Williams & Norgate, London.) 1931. 20cm. 288p. 7/6.
- ENGLAND, INDIA, AND AFGHANISTAN. By ANNIE BESANT. (Theosophical Publishing House, Madras.) 1931. 20cm. 123p. Re. 1/4.
- MONEY VERSUS MAN. By FREDERICK SODDY. (Elkin Mathews & Marrot, London.) 1931. 17cm. 121p. 3/6.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SIX-AND-A-HALF PER CENT.

TREASURY BONDS, 1935.

Repayable at par on the 15th September 1935.

May be purchased on and from the 15th September 1931 and until further notice at the Imperial Bank of India, Treasuries and at Post Offices.

Interest will be exempt from income-tax if Bonds are purchased through the Post Office and left in the custody of the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs.

The purchase price of a Treasury Bond for Rs. 100 purchased on any date from the 15th September 1931 to the 19th September 1931 is Rs. 100. Thereafter the price increases by 2 annas per cent. weekly. Each increase in the purchase price represents the amount of interest which accrues weekly on the Bond. The Bonds bear interest from the 15th September 1931. The purchaser gets a full half-year's interest on the 15th March 1932 irrespective of the date of purchase.

6 per cent. Bonds, 1931, will be accepted at their full maturity value in payment of the purchase price of 6½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1935.

Treasury Bills which have matured will be accepted at their maturity value in payment of the purchase price.

Brokerage will be paid at the rate of 1/16 per cent. to recognised bankers and brokers in respect of applications bearing their stamp.

For further particulars, see Government of India, Finance Department, Notification No. F. 3 (14)-F/31 dated the 1st September 1931, or apply to any Local Head Office or Branch of the Imperial Bank of India, or the office of the Controller of the Currency, Calcutta, Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay, and the Accountants General, Madras and Burma, or at any Government Treasury or Post Office.