

## The Sanctity of Account Books !

THIS WEEK, as the Central Labour Advisory Committee broke up abruptly after the deadlock over the issue of profit-sharing, curtain was rung down on a farce that had gone on now for more than a year. It was largely a command performance at which the players were working at cross purposes. The employers, from the beginning, did not have their heart in it. The workers were indifferent to it. Only the labour representatives were keen on it—and so were the Government.

Some months ago, the Committee on profit-sharing adopted the report, mainly under Government's influence. At the meeting of the Labour Advisory Committee on Monday, the employers' representatives openly said that they had originally acquiesced in the scheme out of consideration for the Prime Minister who had thought it fit to obtain their consent through personal intervention. In fact, they did not want it.

The employers' thesis is that the profit-sharing scheme would cause a lot of dislocation in the existing organisation of industry without conferring substantial benefit on the workers. They have marshalled impressive facts and figures to prove that the workers would get much less under the scheme than they get at present in the form of bonus. Labour representatives do not actively refute this statement but make it a ground for urging that the employers should accept the scheme.

In reality, the employers' opposition to the scheme is based upon the theory of sanctity of account books. The plan envisages that workers will have the right to

seek impartial examination of the accounts of industrial undertakings in order to determine what profits have accrued to the employers. Since black market deals and illicit transactions are almost an integral part of the capitalist system in the country, the account books must remain inviolable!

The labour leaders, on the other hand, see in the scheme a remarkable opportunity for training the workers in the "know-how" of industrial administration. The technically equipped workers, they hope, will be potential assets of untold political significance.

It is noteworthy that on this issue, both the I.N.T.U.C. and the Hind Mazdoor Sabha have throughout acted in unison.

### Move For A Stronger Centre

A SERIES of amendments to be brought forward during the next session of the Constituent Assembly, commencing on July 30, will ensure that a Strong Centre is the main feature of the Indian Constitution. The Premiers and Finance Ministers of provinces and States, who met the Drafting Committee of the Assembly at a number of meetings over the week-end, agreed to the changes, albeit unwillingly. There was no disguising the chagrin of at least some of them at the ever increasing inroads on powers which the provincial governments had come to regard to be exclusively their own. Yet the Party Whip and the threat of tightening the Central purse-strings appear to have done the trick. It is perhaps just as well. The number of provincial governments' activities which depend, wholly or partly,

on doles from the Centre is large. It is often best that one who pays the piper also calls the tune.

This is, of course, only a part of the story. There are many influential politicians, including several provincial ministers, who swear that there is no intention on the part of the Centre to rob the provinces of the substance of autonomy. The provinces, they aver, are too strong to be by-passed. Strange as it may sound in the context of weak and unstable governments in many provinces, this is partly true.

The way Bombay and Madras are going ahead with their plans of prohibition, oblivious to all Central directives and injunctions, emanating from the highest level, proves just that. The influential protagonists of a Strong Centre are themselves conscious that the provincial governments control the administration of too large areas to be trifled with. Colour is further lent to this view by the severe exception taken in informed circles to the recent press reports that a number of subjects on the state list of the draft constitution will be transferred to the central list. These were said to have included the development of inter-state river valley projects, waterways for the purposes of flood control, regulation and development of oil and other minerals, collection of vital statistics, co-ordination and maintenance of minimum standards of higher and technical education, Benares, Aligarh and Delhi universities, social and economic planning, free trade and commerce, preservation of historical records, social insurance and social security. Actually, what will probably happen will be that many of these items will be placed in the concurrent list.

## INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN INDIA IN 1949

The following are the latest available statistics of industrial production covering the first half of the year which tell their own story. Corresponding figures of the first half of 1948 have been reproduced for comparison.

Name of Industry	Installed Capacity	Peak Production in year	First half of 1948	First half of 1949
Coal (tons) .. .. .	—	30 million (1947)	15,527,763	15,546,059
Steel (tons) .. .. .	1,264,000	1,166,000 (1943)	426,300	442,943
Cement (tons) .. .. .	2,115,000	—	750,290	957,051
Paper (tons) .. .. .	110,000	108,000	47,448	51,324
Cotton Textiles:				
Yarn (million lbs) .. .. .	—	1,663 (1943)	6,906	7,034
Cloth (million yds) .. .. .	—	4,761 (1944)	21,066	19,966
Non-ferrous Metals:				
Aluminium (long tons) .. .. .	5,000	3,362 (1948)	1,476	1,421
Antimony (tons) .. .. .	700	330 (1948)	236	37
Copper .. .. .	7,000	5,981 (1947)	2,940	2,931
Lead .. .. .	7,200	625 (1948)	240	323
Alloys .. .. .	30,000	19,658 ..	8,281	16,449
Semi-Manu- facturers .. .. .	50,000	28,165 ..	13,398	13,493
Machine tools (nos.) .. .. .	3,000	2,900 (1945)	621	1,267
Bicycles (000) .. .. .	60	—	64.7*	37.8
Sulphuric Acid (000 tons) .. .. .	100	80 (1948)	80*	42
Caustic Soda (tons) .. .. .	13,500	4,000 ..	2,046	2,796
Soda Ash (tons) .. .. .	54,000	28,000	12,062	11,411
Bleaching Powder (tons) .. .. .	6,000	2,800 (1948)	1,360	1,304
Chlorine-liquid (tons) .. .. .	2,000	1,800 (1945)	850	856
Rayon Weaving (million yds) .. .. .	—	180 (1940-41)	114*	137
Plywood:				
Tea Chests (sq. ft.) .. .. .	} 63 million (1948)	} 53.7 million (1948)	21,195,815	18,426,500
Commercial ( " ) .. .. .			3,330,525	5,339,300
Glass (tons) .. .. .	150,000	120,000 (1945)	30,000	33,907
Ceramics (tons) .. .. .	30,000 (pprox.)	25,000 (1945)	8,517	12,658
Enamelware (pieces) .. .. .	25 million	—	3,533,536	3,559,005
Salt (000 mds.) .. .. .	—	—	36,263	43,356

\* Production for the year.