

From South India

Madras—Whose Property ?

THE amputation of Pakistan has had some unfortunate consequences. One of these is the growth of linguistic provincialism which has become a disease and a curse, particularly, in this part of the country. Many leading personalities both within and without the Congress fold are now putting forth demands to the effect that the existing unwieldy province of Madras should be cut up into slices integrated on a linguistic basis.

The Andhras have been most vocal. In this clamour for the linguistic division of the province. Mr. T. Prakasam announced as early as July last year that an Andhra Province would be constituted by an order, issued by the Governor-General under Section 290 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional) Constitution Order, 1947. The Union Government has already accepted the principle of an Andhra Province. The Telugu-speaking people have also of late Intensified their activities in the direction of carving out a province for themselves.

One noteworthy feature of the agitation of the Andhras which has made itself felt during the last few months has been a sharp cleavage of opinion among some of the Andhra leaders themselves with regard to the inclusion of Madras City within the Province. While Pattabhi Sitaramayya, the Congress President, has urged the immediate formation of the province *without* Madras City, Mr. Ananthasayanam Iyengar, Deputy Speaker of the Indian

Parliament, stands fast for its inclusion. Last week he put in an emphatic plea for the creation of two Provinces in South India, *Uttar Madras* and *Dakshin Madras* (North Madras and South Madras, respectively) with the *Cooum* river as the boundary line between them. South Madras, in his view, should include Mangalore and Malabar, while North Madras would comprise the Telugu areas of the Province. Referring to the Three-Man Committee's decision that the Telugus must give up Madras City, he said it was "*prima facie* wrong" since Madras was not in the heart of either Andhra or Tamil Nad, but was in the middle of both—the southern end of Andhra-desa and the northern end of Tamil Nad, and as such neither exclusively Tamil nor Telugu. This sharing of the City between the two warring communities will not, in his opinion, go against the Dar Commission Report and is the only workable formula.

In the forthcoming session of the Constituent Assembly, Mr. Iyengar, I understand, will be giving notice of an amendment with regard to the division of the Madras City. Needless to add, the claim of the Andhras for Madras City has long been hotly contested by the Tamil-speaking elements of the population.

The tragedy of the situation is that there is no sort of agreement between the two contending communities with regard to the geographical limits of the proposed provinces. The Tamils accuse the Andhras of 'invading' Tamil

land and make bold to claim even Telugu-speaking territories such as, Nellore and Chittoor Districts as parts of Tamil land on philological and historical grounds, while a section among the Tamils still contend that Tirupati should be the northern-most limit of Tamil land and that the southern-most limit should be Kanya Kumari!

The above is a -bare- statement of facts. It will, however, be interesting to watch the further developments of this-rather ticklish question on the solution of which the future administrative structure of the province depends. At present, the Andhras have eleven districts with an area of 67,000 square miles with a population of 187 lakhs, while the Tamil districts have an area of 49,000 square miles with a population of 24 lakhs. The fact must also not be ignored that at present the City is a common factor of four linguistic areas, the Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu and Canarese. While considering the question of the division of the province it should always be borne in mind that its sole purpose is that parliamentary business should be carried on in the language of each region in order that all could participate in the most democratic manner possible in the work of administration.

THE ECONOMIC WEEKLY

Subscribers are requested to quote index numbers (see wrapper) when making enquiries regarding supplies.

Outstation cheques towards subscriptions and renewals should include banking commission.