

From South India**Weather and Politics Hot as Ever**

COINED by Kipling for Bombay, the late Satyamurti appropriated for his home province the saying that in Madras, for six months, it is hot and for six months, it is hotter. Of the latter, again, May is the hottest month. Even so, the city has been spared this year the rigours of a very hot summer. The temperature is still within bearable bounds and mercury has not so far gone up anywhere near its usual levels of 104° and 105°. That, no doubt, means life in the city at this time in summer is less unpleasant than it could have been. But drought and the consequent shortage of water supply have added to the sickness both of mind and of body.

Health in the city is below par. The beach remains crowded till late at night, the citizens trying to take in as much of the briny air into their lungs as possible. The situation in regard to small pox "is intriguing," states the Government's communication to the Director of Public Health and the latter has therefore been directed to examine the situation in the State in detail and report on it immediately. For the period January 1, 1951 to May 5, there have been 1,7125 cases of reported attacks, of which 306 proved fatal.

Kripalani in Madras

Ex-Congress leader Acharya Kripalani said that he chose Madras for announcing his decision to secede from the Congress because Madras pressmen are fair in their reports. Quite a nice pat on the back for my colleagues in the profession! Congress disunity, never more apparent than now, should not however lead to a break-up in its ranks. "Democracy" edited by Mr. Ratnasvami, has a few pertinent remarks to offer on party principles. "It is only when the differences between the members of the Democratic Front and the Congress Party are fundamental on matters of principle, of policy and programme that the rebels can think of seceding, it says. "If, for instance", adds the paper, "Acharya Kripalani does not believe in Prohibition or in compulsory khaddar or in further nationalization or in the centralisation policy of the Congress Party or its foreign policy of neutrality

they would be justified in leaving the Congress and forming another party. If they think the principles are all right and only the personnel is all wrong their line of action is by propaganda within the party to change the personnel. It may be that they may feel that the prospects of changing the personnel and the character and methods of administration are hopeless. This may impel some of them to leave the Congress. But unless they can adopt principles which are not the leading principles of Congress they cannot form a new political party."

On another point too this paper pertinently remarks: "That the Government of such admittedly advanced states like Mysore and Travancore-Cochin which are as advanced as the old British India States now called Part "A" states should be treated on a par with Rajasthan and Saurashtra and Vindhya Pradesh is to deny oneself discretion and judgment. Especially as there is a saying proviso to clause 371 which allows the President the right to direct that the provisions of the article shall not be applied to any State specified in the order. It is surprising that nobody suggested this way out of an impossible position, not even the representatives of Mysore and Travancore and Cochin."

Communal G.O.

One thing that is agitating the mind of the majority communities most in this southern State is the Communal G.O. This, in spite of the statement of Minister Bhakthavatsalam (tipped for Chief Minister hereafter) that the G.O. had helped not all Non-Brahmins but only the more advanced among them to get jobs. How far, emotion can colour judgment in this matter will be evident from the language used by speakers at a public meeting including the one at Gokhale Hall the other day. One of the speakers accused the Madras Government of presenting the case (for the G.O.) in an "indifferent and negligent manner." The speaker urged people to support in the elections only those who stood for the G.O. He added that the decision of the Supreme Court would "lead to chaos and undesirable consequences".

Communal Justice

Similar were the expressions used by Mr. E. P. Verghese at the 26th session of the All-Kerala Catholic Congress. The following sentiments in his presidential speech should serve to show the confused state of mind prevailing in this part of secular India.

"In a country like India the touchstone of good Government was communal justice".

"Nationalism in India was nothing but communalism. If our Catholic education is to be maintained in the present circumstances, we will have to establish a Catholic University".

"If our candidates are not acceptable to the Congress Party, and if there is no other party acceptable to us we will have to see that we form a party and fight the elections on the basis of the programme¹ of that party. This does not mean that this party is to be a communal party".

More Colleges

All the contentious arguments about the communal G.O. had their origin in the regulation of admission of students in Colleges and therefore any further provision in this regard is welcome. The University of the State has now accorded affiliation to two new first grade and four second grade colleges including a Women's College in this category. Besides, affiliation in additional subjects has been given to twenty-four of the existing institutions. These measures will go a long way in providing openings to those who knock at the College gates in July this year. About 15,600 more seats will thus be available in the Junior Intermediate classes of the colleges affiliated to the University and about 1400 in the Junior degree classes.

The University authorities point out that though in July 1950 there were available 14/214 places for the Junior Intermediate, by August of that year, after admissions were all over, there were still vacant 236 places in Science subjects and 1,138 seats in Humanities.

There has been some heart burning against the Travancore-Cochin State Government's policy in regard to denominational schools and their rules regulating Government grant. Replying to criticism, Mr. T. K. Narayana Pillai, Education Minister, stated that the proposal to abolish denominational schools in the State was in consonance with the Indian Constitution.

Catholics vis-a-vis Non-Catholics

Mr. Pillai said that there were now only a few such schools in about eight taluks of South Travancore. When compulsory primary education was introduced in those taluks during the Dewanship of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, it was thought that all primary schools there should be under the management of the Government. The Catholics decided to run their own schools. It was agreed that Catholics could run their own schools provided admission was restricted only to Catholic students.

Refusal to admit non-Catholics in Catholic-managed schools, he said, would amount to religious discrimination and it was inconsistent with the Indian Constitution. The Government therefore wanted that the restriction of admission to Catholics alone in Catholic-managed schools should be removed. The Catholics of the area agreed. These schools would, hereafter, function as non-denominational schools, admitting all students, irrespective, of their religious faith.

Development Plan

The Travancore-Cochin State is to go ahead with its 27 crore five year plan.

The Chief Minister and the Minister for Education, Mr. T. K. Narayana Pillai went to Delhi to discuss the plan with the Planning Commission. The Government of India have agreed to contribute Rs. 7 crores towards the cost of the plan. They had also promised further help.

The plan comprises important schemes for agricultural expansion. They are the Vennad reclamation scheme and the Neyyar and the Karai Schemes. The Vannaal scheme envisages the reclamation of about 1,50,000 acres of land now unfit for cultivation on account of the infiltration of saline water. The Karai scheme would bring 25,000 acres of waste land under cultivation, while the Neyyar scheme would benefit about 12,000 acres of land. When the schemes are completed, the food situation in the State is expected to improve greatly.

Drugget Industry

The Joint Drugget Industry Advisory Board of Madras and Mysore States has decided to set up a 13

lakh rupees processing centre. This will supply processed wool and yarn of the standard quality to cottage spinners and weavers. The expenditure will be shared by the two states. The Central Government has been requested to share a third of the estimated cost. As to the choice of site Mysore wants the factory to be located at Bangalore. Madras prefers Jalarpet. So a sub-committee has been constituted to select the site and set up the proposed processing centre.

The Board reviewed the progress of drugget exports to foreign countries since it last met at Salem in December. A working model of a processing plant prepared by Mr. Sitarainiah was approved. The Inter-State Drugget Board, it may be remembered; was constituted last year to improve production, regulate quality and encourage the export of druggets. The industry has a wide market in America and is a valuable dollar-earner.

Telephones The I.T.I.

India's self-sufficiency in telephone instrument and exchange in just a couple of years is possible, is the opinion of Mr. R. Natarajan, Managing Director of the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore. The I.T.I. is now a private joint stock company. The Union Government hold 75 per cent of the shares, the Mysore Government 20 per cent and the Automatic Telephone Co. of London the balance of five per cent. The capital of the Gompany is 2½ crores and except for one Director belonging to the British Company all the others are nominated by the President of India. The balance sheet has yet to be drawn up but no telephone company in this world worked at a loss, said Mr. Natarajan, who is to undertake a study tour to U.S. shortly.

The firm had so far kept upto schedule, and production was now at the rate of 500 telephones a week or 25,000 a year, and 355 out of a total of 365 parts required for an instrument are now being made at Bangalore. The factory would be able to assemble with Indian manufactured parts even upto 50,000 instruments a year. The factory employs about a thousand workers including in which are 100 women. Ceylon and Burma would be very good markets for Indian telephones but at present home demand held the priority. The saturation point might be one phone for each person

but India, with 2 phones for every 10,000, occupied the last place in the world. Raw material shortage due to the Korean War affected telephone manufacture also but India's diplomats abroad were engaged in a comb-out on her behalf.

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The Madras State Educational Conference meeting at Madurai has suggested the setting up of a Board of Education with statutory powers for the planning and organisation of education so as to ensure continuity of policy and ordered progress in education.

Indo-Pakistan Financial Conference

The Indo-Pakistan Conference to be held towards the end of this month will cover the following:

- (1) Payment for military stores.
- (2) Arrear payments by Pakistan on part of the amount received from HMG.
- (3) Payments due from Pakistan for food supplies to Armed Forces after the partition.
- (4) Overall financial settlement between East and West Punjab.
- (5) Settlement of third party claims against undivided Bengal.
- (6) Settlement of third party claims against undivided Punjab.
- (7) Position of Indian banks in Pakistan.
- (8) Remittance transactions between India and Pakistan.
- (9) Overall partition settlement between the two countries.

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