

But it is not too early to predict that all the political parties in the East who oppose land reforms will go the way of the Wafd. Mustapha Nahas had the opportunity to do for Egypt what General Naguib has done. Mr Nahas and his Wafd chose to sit on the fence at the wrong moment, Mr Nahas would seem to have forfeited his leadership. There is a possibility that the younger and more progressive elements in the Wafd may revolutionise the structure and policy of the Wafd. Else, it is certain the Wafd will recede into the political background. Here is a lesson for Congress to learn. It is not yet too late for New Delhi to heed the danger signal hoisted in Cairo.

General Naguib's land reforms will be widely approved. His ruthless campaign for purifying Egyptian politics of graft and corruption will be equally widely appreciated. But in many newly-independent Asian countries there will be alarm that a military leader had to assume civil power to force economic reforms. General Naguib prefers to keep political appearances. He has formed a Cabinet in which he, the Prime Minister, is the only military leader. All his Cabinet colleagues are civilians. But it would be idle to pretend that the General has not established a military administration. In many other Middle Eastern countries, with the exception of Iran, politicians and political parties are under eclipse. Middle East is trying to fight Communism while witnessing an economic, revolution initiated and sponsored by military dictatorship, as in Egypt, or by personal dictatorship as in Iran.

It is a disturbing development. Mr Ali Maher tendered his resignation with the explanation that concentration of power in one hand was in the best interest of Egypt in the prevailing circumstances. It has been suggested that the social, economic and political climate in the Middle East, as in Asia, favours dictatorship. There may be something in this argument. But those who have faith in social democracy will note that General Naguib had to combine civil power with military authority because Mr Ali Maher could not agree to the Army's plans for revolutionary land reforms. The moral is clear. It is a lesson to all the political parties in the East who talk glibly of the inevitability of gradualness. What has happened to Egypt only

vindicates Pandit Nehru's repeated warning that if Governments in newly independent countries do not move ahead, something else 'will overstep them.

Middle East is following the pattern traced by Turkey under Kemal Ataturk, but with a significant variation. Kemal established a dictatorship to transform Turkey from a feudal, theocratic oligarchy, dominated by the Caliphate, to a progressive State. Neither General Naguib nor Dr Mussadiq has any pretensions to re-establish the Caliphate but in both Egypt and Iran, a fanatic religious organisation is growing popular. Dr Mussadiq stays in power because of the support of Mullah Kashani. General Naguib has similarly the support of

Muslim Brotherhood. This religious organisation has dominated Egyptian politics from behind the scenes for some time. There are lurking dangers in the growing theocratic bias in Middle-Eastern politics. It is arguable that the association between the Mullah and the military (as in Egypt) or the political (as in Iran) dictator is one of the means by which the Middle East is trying to arrest Communism. Whether any such attempt can succeed in its objective of ensuring social and economic progress is doubtful. But the Middle East's search for a different path from that travelled by Turkey under Kemal Ataturk will be anxiously watched by the outside world.

Hyderabad Agitation Against Non-Mulkis

THE recent agitation against non-mulkis in Hyderabad State should be seen in its proper perspective, more particularly as the publicity it has received is certainly out of proportion to the real extent and influence of the movement.

It deserves to be emphasised that the agitation has not touched either the Marathi or the Kanarese speaking districts of the State and even in Telangana it has affected mostly the districts of Warangal, Nalgonda, and the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Judging by slogans, the most pronounced feeling appears to be against the influx of outsiders from the Madras State—"Go back to Bezwada." and "Down with the Madrasis" are particularly common both on city walls and in street processions. Even in Telangana the most vocal and boisterous elements have been the students and the lower middle class, duly reinforced by local hoodlums and professional agitators.

The communal aspects of the agitation should not be overlooked and in fact these deserve close analysis. It is but natural that the Muslims as a community are in full sympathy with the movement. Most of them have not yet reconciled, themselves to the loss of power and prestige alter the 'police action' and are only too glad to join any group that promises to bring discredit to the present government. This explains why the Muslims as a class voted for the People's Democratic Front, quite apart from the spell of Maq-

doom Mohiuddhurs name and poetic Urdu. All this, notwithstanding the fact that the majority of them have retained their posts in government service and a number of highly placed Muslim officials with unsavoury records of association with the Razakar organisation enjoy the confidence of the powers that be. In some cases, Moghlai dishes and other appeals to the old School Tie—at least one Oxford-educated Razakar official owes his office to college friendship with a high Indian official—reinforced by bridge fours have enabled the old communalists to enjoy a new lease of life. But the younger generation of Muslims brought up on persianised Urdu and notions of the chosen ruling race are more than ever apprehensive of the future and have done their bit to provoke feeling against Hindus in the guise of anti-non-mulki agitation. In the pre-police action days the non-mulki element was even more powerful. Then it was the Aligarh-educated Muslim who lorded it over everyone, including the Osmania graduate. Muslims from all over India flocked under the Asaf Jahi banner to satisfy their historical ego and suck the juiciest plums of office. But convenient appeals to Islamic fraternity muffled the voices of the local Muslims, who, however, received crumbs in the form of clerical and menial jobs.

The anti-non-mulki agitation also stems from the growing sense of frustration among educated Hindus at having been the victims of com-

munalism in the former regime and of a competitive scramble in the present for government employment. The civil administration set up after the police action naturally meant an influx of non-Hyderabadis to replace the politically unreliable and administratively incompetent Muslim officials. A sufficient number of trained local Hindus was not available in spite of rapid promotions for the few who were already in service. Most of the others, thanks to the mediaeval educational system, had not the requisite qualifications for the professions and services. Today the majority of officers imported from outside the State have been repatriated to their home provinces as also the armed police units. Recruitment to gazetted posts is largely through the Public Service Commission which has tried to enforce the rule that other things being equal, preference will be given to mulkis defined as those who have resided in Hyderabad for not less than fifteen years consecutively.

Unfortunately, other things are not always equal, and the mulki candidate with his Osmania degree and precarious command of English is unable to stand up to the better

qualified applicant from outside. English is gradually replacing Urdu as the language of the administration, though the latter still holds an important place in the law courts and other departments. Much the most substantial of the grievances against non-mulkis are directed to a large number of them who have obtained employment through bogus domicile certificates. In some cases the influx of outsiders is a manifestation of nepotism and sectarianism rather than a deliberate policy of ousting local candidates.

Then there is the other side of the picture too. The local response to recruitment in some departments, in the security forces for instance, has been surprisingly poor in spite of reservations for mulkis and consequently the government was compelled to recruit outsiders. There is, however, a conspicuous lack of feeling against the non-Hyderabad businessman—though it should be mentioned in passing that the Local Hindu shopkeeper in private years nostalgically for the spendthrift atmosphere of the Asaf Jahi days, even though bills were never paid in time. Some of the local Hindu communities like the

Reddys and Kayasths who were in official favour in the former regime, thanks to their social graces and courtly Urdu, are anxious to safeguard their positions even if it means the retention of Urdu at the expense of regional languages. At least one 24-carat Mulki Minister has issued a directive that files sent to him should be in Urdu only!

Much of the antipathy to outsiders would have died a natural death if some of the imported officials, major and minor, had not offensively thrown their weight about and refrained from the pose of 'conquerors'. Above all, the movement is psychologically a hang-over of the olden days when Hyderabad was culturally and politically isolated from the rest of India. Even today in casual conversation the Hyderabad! refers sneeringly to the 'outsider' very much as the Southerner in the USA used to gibe at the Yankee hustler from the North. Given time, good sense on the part of mulkis and non-mulkis, and more firmness and understanding on the part of government, this hybrid agitation of Razakar communalists, unemployed local youths and professional agitators could be easily contained.

Weekly Notes

No More Mill-made Dhoties

WHEN Shri Prakasam headed the Congress Ministry in Madras, he proved the strength of his conviction and showed his adherence to the Gandhian creed by declining, on behalf of his State, the allocation that the Centre was willing to make, of textile machinery. Will Rajaji go one better by having the production of sarees and dhoties by cotton mills banned altogether and reserving them for handloom weavers? This is clearly not within the province of his State Government, and while the Commerce Minister of the Central Government has been gracious enough to leave it to Rajaji to subsidize handloom production, if the latter so desires, out of state funds, about reservation, he has said no.

Rajaji, however, is not given to idle talk and he is as well aware of the provisions of the constitution as anybody else. If he now takes up this issue seriously, it can only mean that there is a genuine feeling among a group of Congressmen, though this feeling is still

inchoate, that the place of cottage industries in the country's economy and in the industrial policy of the government should be clearly defined. This the Planning Commission signally failed to do in their first Draft Plan. It talked loosely about price margins in favour of products of cottage industries and of protecting them by subsidies. It had also examined the possibility of assisting them by means of a cess on the products of factories, but the results of the examination were not mentioned even in passing. Though the Draft Report more than once stressed the magnitude of the problem that cottage industries have to solve in absorbing the large population which has already surplus to agriculture, and whose number would swell further if agriculture were reorganised along the lines suggested by it, the Planning Commission did not make up its mind about the subject.

The problems of handloom industry is no more complex than those of other cottage industries. If anything, they are simpler, consider-

ing that handloom weaving is well established and the benefits of co-operation have been made available to more handloom weavers than to any others plying a major handicraft. The simple solution of putting a ban on mill production by promulgating an ordinance or by passing an act is too naive to merit serious consideration. But Rajaji would have done a service, if he succeeds in raising the larger issues involved, by pin-pointing attention on this specific question.

Patents Registered in India

PATENT rights granted by law prevent free utilisation of investigations and may be criticised as a tax, often a crippling one, on new techniques. On the other hand, this is the only incentive given to inventors to stimulate their activity, at least in a free economy. But, do inventions depend on the prospects of their commercial utilisation which patent rights are supposed to safeguard?

There is no organised effort, or little private encouragement either,