

Weekly Notes

Breaking Faith with Millions

WILL the Indian people break their faith with their fellow brethren who were left behind in Pakistan at the time of partition? No Hindus worth the name are left behind in West Pakistan. So there is no problem on that front. No one allows for sure the number of Hindus who are still in East Pakistan but this number cannot be less than 80 lakhs, since the refugees from East Pakistan are not reckoned to exceed 25 lakhs. Even the latter is a staggering figure but three times as many still remain in East Pakistan.

In their agony and anxiety for their brethren who are trapped by the system of passports, people of Bengal have cried for action which the Prime Minister in his wisdom has dismissed as quack remedies. What is the scientific medicine he intends to apply? The Pakistan debate in Parliament did not even bring out the basic facts, how many Hindus are there, how they are distributed, to which occupation groups they belong. Nor did it throw any light on their problems which are nothing more nor less than the security, livelihood and honour of these lost millions. Bengal demands that a solution be sought on the political level. Recrudescence of communal passions is no solution nor is abject surrender and resignation. The rest of India is perturbed when exodus is on; it breathes a sigh of relief when the exodus slows down or stops and does not bother to enquire why the exodus waxes and wanes, preferring to wait until the next burst of refugees shakes it out of its peace. The exodus has stopped temporarily for the obvious reason that one cannot get out of Pakistan without a passport, which takes time, money and a lot of perseverance. Political solution means effective measures to ensure that these millions get security and can live with honour and earn a livelihood. If political sagacity fails to find a solution, those who profess to follow the path of the Mahatma will be guilty; of a breach of faith of which history provides no parallel. Will another eruption be necessary to shake them out of their complacency? The Mahatma went to Noakhali, to live there,

and if necessary, to lay his bones there.

Creating Employment in Community Project Areas

THEORIES for creating employment are hardy perennials, being resistant to both economic reasoning and commonsense. The Community Projects by stimulating imagination in the wrong direction has raised an unusually big crop of such theories. This will be evident from the suggestions put forward by Mr Davenport, Director of Employment Exchanges, Government of India and Adviser on Employment to the Central Committee of the Community Projects Administration.

In a lecture to the Project Executive Officers, given as a part of their training programme at Nilokheri recently, Mr. Davenport explained the technique of the Employment Service and indicated how this technique could be applied to the task of community development. Man-power was the nation's greatest wealth. It was therefore of vital importance that the Community Projects Administration should be continually conscious of the need for utilising man-power to its maximum capacity. The specific to ease unemployment and under-employment in project areas was "some degree of protection" which will ensure that the benefits arising by way of increased income, employment arising from the development of houses, roads, bridges, etc., and of advantages which will accrue from the increase of income are enjoyed by the community itself and do not go to outsiders. This demands that (a) No outside worker should be imported to Community Project areas unless there is no local person capable of doing the job; (b) All contracts should be placed as far as possible in the hands of persons resident in the project area; and (c) If workers have to be imported, they should be imported, in the first instance, from adjacent areas.

But protection once started, expands in ever-widening circles and the next step that Mr Davenport suggests is a close watch on the import of consumer goods into the area to find out which of them

could be made locally, "thereby creating part-time or full-time employment for a number of persons." What about the unemployment it this will create in the centres of manufacture of these consumer goods? This Mr Davenport does not pause to consider. "Soak the outsider" can certainly be an effective war cry for the Community Projects Administration provided the community is prepared to face the consequences. For at the same time Mr Davenport wants "the encouragement of local cottage industries with particular emphasis on the imaginative salesmanship of the article involved." This implies selling in other community project areas, or in outside territory. What if the latter retaliate, fired by the same zeal of creating more work?

After these preliminary fireworks, the employment expert cools down somewhat and concludes that at this stage it is not possible to be very specific about the potentiality of the employment market in rural areas. "As a matter of fact, it is doubtful whether anybody is in a position to assess the actual degree of employment and unemployment outside the towns. It is to be hoped that as the scheme progresses our information will become more exact and precise and that the remedies which must be applied will become more obvious."

These remedies certainly cannot be the local ones the employment expert has in mind.

Cotton Imports

THE Government of India has decided to allow the import of live-lakh bales of cotton, not less than 1-1/16 inch staple, between January 1953 and June 30, 1953. The figure covers both dollar and non-dollar cotton and is inclusive of the imports for shipment up to the end of June 1953 announced by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports on October 6,

The procedure of licensing in respect of the above will be announced shortly; meanwhile importers are fretting; to bid at the auctions which are due to be held in East Africa in the very near future.

At the same time, the outstanding licences for the import of USA cot-

ton will the extended for shipment up to June 30, 1953. These imports will not count against the five-lakh bales referred to in the first paragraph above. Such outstanding licences may also be converted into licences for equivalent quantities of cotton to be imported from areas other than the USA. No dollar exchange, however, will be allowed for the payment of any compensation if the importer exercises his option to get the shipment postponed or to get it from a country other than the USA.

Decontrol Levy in Madras

THE Madras Government has issued a Levy Procurement Order to build up a buffer stock of 2.5 lakh tons of rice for 1953. Lest they complain, the public, are reminded by the Press Note on the subject that this was "as envisaged at the time of introducing the decontrol policy in June last." The order is applicable to surplus areas in the surplus districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Tanjore. The main features of the scheme are:

- (1) Persons owning five acres and less are exempted from the levy.
- (2) Those owning above five acres have been classified into various groups for purposes of levy and the scales of levy in the case of these persons will be as shown in the table below. An initial slab of five acres in each of these groups is, however, exempted from levy.
- (3) No person who is coming under the purview of the order can sell any part of the foodgrains harvested from the land to any person other than the District Collector or an agent appointed and notified by him in the District Gazette before surrendering in full the levy demand made from him.

Table below shows classification of landowners and the rates of levy per acre of land in bags of 1 1/2 maunds of paddy per crop in Tanjore district and in bags of 2 maunds of paddy per acre per crop in other districts.

District	Above 5 acres but below 15 acres	Above 5 acres but below 25 acres	15 acres & above	25 acres & above but below 40 acres	40 acres & above
E. Godavari.....	—	5	—	6	7
W. Godavari.....	—	5	—	6	7
Krishna.....	—	4	—	6	8
Guntur-Tenali taluka....	7	—	8	—	—
Guntur-other talukas	—	6	7	—	—
Tanjore-Tiruthurai pundi and Pattukottai.....	—	4	—	5	6
Tanjore-other talukas....	—	5	—	6	7

Letters to the Editor

Coffee Marketing Anomalies

I read the article on Coffee Marketing Anomalies in your journal dated 18th October with interest.

Much thought has been put into this article, but in the absence of certain data it was not possible for the writer to draw all the correct conclusions.

When our half-yearly General Meeting is held, certain of the criticisms mentioned in this article will be ventilated,

Ivor Bull
President.
Indian Coffee Board

Pollibetta,
Goorg, S. India.
November 15, 1952.

Coffee Dealers Protest

The Committee of the Fresh-Ground Coffee Dealers' Association of Bombay at their meeting in Bombay on Tuesday, November 18, passed the following resolution and have forwarded it to the Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Committee of the Fresh-Ground Coffee Dealers' Association of Bombay views with grave concern the utter disruption of the coffee trade due to the exorbitantly high prices at which coffee has been auctioned by the Indian Coffee Board and the other methods and policies adopted by the said Board, such as allotments to the Co-operative Societies and to the "India Coffee Houses" almost at basic prices; and resolves to appeal to the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India:

- 1. To direct the Indian Coffee Board to adopt a uniform method of distribution and to discontinue the present system of allotments at low prices to Co-operative Societies and the "India Coffee Houses"

which besides being discriminatory in principle, affords ample opportunities for corruption, falsification of accounts and evasion of taxes by unscrupulous people, which has been much in evidence in Bombay.

2. To direct the Indian Coffee Board to fix ceiling prices for the different grades of coffee so that prices may not soar unreasonably high which has been the case this year.

3. To direct the Indian Coffee Board to stop forthwith their sales of coffee powder at rates below the market-price, as such sales constitute unfair and unjust competition against established roasters and powderers.

4. To direct the Indian Coffee Board to hold local auctions of coffee at Bombay so that the local roasters and retailers may not be at the mercy of wealthy bidders who seem to turn into hoarders and profiteers.

Collapse of UNO?

Your editorial "Swan-Song of Colonialism" has fully brought out the drawbacks of the UN outlook. But it seems you have overlooked a defect of this organisation—the right of veto—which has created not a little suspicion among some countries of its aims and objects. The failure of this organisation in achieving anything worthwhile is not because it is not a World Government but because it has been, and continues to be, used as a venue for the conflict of political ideologies.

The fact that France had raised a hue and cry even "before the Tunisian question came up for discussion proves clearly its unwillingness to abide by the UN Charter. The attitude of America in offering an "explanation" and that of Britain in continuing to justify its stand on this issue have rudely shocked even the most ardent optimists of the United Nations.

With the war hysteria prevalent among some major countries and the performance of this organisation in the past, one has a vague idea that the resignation of Mr Lie is a signal of the collapse of this organisation as a citadel of peace.

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November 20, 1952.