Letters to the Editor

Japanese Method of Rice Cultivation

I HAVE read with great interest in your issue of December 5 last Hannan Ezekiel's review of the report of the Bombay Government delegation which toured Japan two years ago. Let me convey to you my sincere appreciation of your interest in the work of that delegation, which has received a comprehensive notice in your Weekly.

I take this opportunity, however, to correct an error that has crept into the review. It is stated: "The Japanese system of rice cultivation is described in detail in an appendix to the Second Volume of the report and one wonders whether this delegation's report initiated that interest in this system, which ultimately led to its introduction in India."

The fact is that experiments in this system were being carried on in the Kora Kendra by the Bombay Suburban Gramodyog Sangh from as early as 1949. The success of these experiments created public interest in the system. The delegation, after elaborate observations, found several useful things in Japanese agriculture and cottage scale, small-scale industries, which could, with advantage, be introduced in the development of such industries in our country.

I again thank you for the interest your Weekly shows in such activities and I hope that this Board will have your co-operation in the tasks it has undertaken.

Pralal at S Kapadia.
Member-Secetary
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December 30, 1953.

As Vivek Sees It

THE gentle fellow-travelling reviewer of Vivek's "India Without Illusions" in your issue of December 19, 1953, seems to have quite forgotten that even in colonialism the palm is carried away by the USSR. Perhaps he is one of those innocents who hold that colonialism only comes in when the sea separates the colonial country from the colony and not when the two arc joined together by land.

As to his other point about communism being no danger to those who have a low standard of living, the case put below seems convincing to me:

"It is sometimes urged that in view of the deplorably low economic condition of our poorest classes, the establishment of a Communist regime is a thing TO be encouraged for it cannot lead to any worsening and may lead to a betterment. Those, who argue in this fashion neglect the realities of the change. It is indeed wrong, something to be corrected with the greatest speed possible, that the least-privileged amongst us do not get enough to eat. But at any rate, we have no labour camps, where, citizens turned into slaves are forcibly put to work for the benefit of the State, fed badly and treated harshly until worn-out, they grow prematurely old and collapse.

"The law is not with us an instrument for carrying out the wishes of the Government or the riding party, nor are our judges weapons in the hands of the Government for imposing the punishments it desires. Our administrators and policemen have no power to detain persons at will or make them just disappear. A strike by labourers or workmen is among us not treason, nor is the trade union, the organisation for the protection of the lights of the workers, compelled to be an apparatus of the Government, a 'transmission-belf to carry out Government's behests upon the workers.

"Apart from the exploitation of natural resources, the warlike strength of the Soviet regime has been built on the hardship it has imposed on the bulk of its people including the poorest. Tremendous effort has been insisted on while the standard of living has been kept low. Our poor, it is said, have nothing to lose but their hunger. Would it be to their advantage, if, so far from losing it, they found themselves in addition with heavy chains on their feet and hands?"

M Gopal Rao
9, Laxmi Baug,
Old Parbadevi Road,
Dadar, Bombay 28,
December 23, 1953.

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