

type. But, nevertheless it illustrates a point.

It is conceivable, but scarcely apparent at first sight, that there is the same scope for refrigerators in the small-scale and large-scale sectors of the industry. And in the absence of convincing explanation, one is bound to be left with the impression that either the small industries department of the Government do not know what the Development Wing has been doing or that the promoters of small scale industry in the Government do not apply any rational criterion in their choice of industries which are suited for developing on a small-scale.

Up the Garden Path?

Do small industries differ in kind from the medium or large ones? Some do not. It is not that all big industries start big: they may, and do, grow from small beginnings, sometimes very small beginnings. Small industries are often the embryonic form and however high may be the rate of infant mortality among them, some of them some day will grow big: others will wither and die. If that is the view one takes, it would be difficult to find any rational policy in regard to them except that of betting on the strong. That is to say, if all of them have potential for growth but not the same chance of survival, the right course would be to pick out the ones which show the best promise and give them every possible assistance to nurture their growth. If such selective preference is not considered feasible or acceptable on other grounds, administrative or political, the fields in which such industries have a useful role to play and best chance of survival have to be clearly demarcated.

Whatever the difficulties of classification, technological factors alone should help to mark out some industries which are specially suitable for developing on a small scale. In fact, the small-scale industries departments of the Government, of which there are many, are supposed to be actually doing it. They publish from time to time a list of industries which they consider to be suitable to be developed on a small scale. By selecting such industries and inviting small entrepreneurs to take them up and sink their capital

in them the departments certainly assume a considerable measure of responsibility. If the industries thus selected and advertised cannot, be economically developed on a small scale and especially, if there are

Letter to Editor

Meaning of Aligarh

THIS has reference to your note "Meaning of Aligarh" in *The Economic Weekly* of October 14, 1961 (p 1586). Your esteemed Journal has been known for its progressive outlook on economic, social and political problems. The note on Aligarh is hardly in keeping with this reputation. It is a strange amalgam of erroneous facts and curious logic. Your assertion, for example, that ".....the Aligarh University is a communal institution with an overwhelming majority of Muslim students on its rolls" is really astounding. By this standard none of the Indian universities will escape the charge of communalism as almost all of them have an overwhelming majority of student-belonging to one particular community.

You also say that "it has not cleared itself of frequent charges of communal bias in recruiting staff and admitting students", and that ".....the last enquiry, conducted only a few months ago, was confined only to administrative matters." Both these statements are based on complete ignorance of facts. It seems you are not aware of either the terms of reference or the findings of the A M U inquiry Committee which consisted of eminent men of the country. Its terms of reference were :

- 1 To go into the charges of financial irregularities and mismanagement of public funds by the University.
- 2 To go into the problem of admission of students and appointment and promotion of the staff.
- 3 To suggest ways and means to tone up the general functioning of the University.

It is obvious from the above that the Enquiry Committee did not confine itself to administrative matter; nor did it, anywhere in its report, accuse the University of "communal bias in recruiting staff and admitting students," I am sure,

other units in the country which are engaged in producing the same product on a large and more economical scale, the small producers drawn into them are in the danger of being led up the garden path.

you would agree that such baseless statements are not conducive to the cause of national integration.

We in Aligarh share the sense of grief with the rest of the nation at the recent unfortunate happenings here and elsewhere. But we resent the way this opportunity has been seized by the reactionary forces to unleash a tirade of half-truths, false accusations and gross exaggerations against our University. Let there be a thorough probe into the recent disturbances, and we will gladly suffer the nation's wrath, should we be found guilty.

M A RAZ

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October 20.

[The composition of university students is expected to bear some relation to the proportion between the communities in the population of the country. That is why it has often been the subject of criticism that Muslims far outnumber Hindus in the Aligarh University. Again, if the Aligarh University Enquiry Committee did, in fact, exonerate the University, why did the University authorities refuse to accept the Committee's report? It was not the intention to single out the Aligarh Muslim University for criticism. The burden of the comment in the note in question was that denominational institutions are inconsistent with national integration. Editor.]

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Volume XIII

Numbers 3, 7, 9, 30, 31 and 33, dated January 21, February 18, March 4, July 29, August 5 and August 19, 1961, respectively.