

INDIAN UNREST

By T. S. Opie, B.A., Dip.Ed.

During the last few years a wave of unrest has swept over India, affecting not only the poorer classes, but also the students, professional men and merchants. Great Britain has realised the seriousness of the position, if she has not obtained an adequate solution to the problem, which bristles with administration and economic difficulties.

Industrialism of India

India, before its economic transformation, was a nation of agriculturists, living under a system based on social equality and justice. In contra-distinction to the Western industrial ideal of grab and get-rich-quick, the ideal of the East was, and perhaps is, that of self-denial.

Believing as they do in the values of a joint family life and respecting the social idea as embodied in caste, it is evident that the adoption of the methods of Western industrialism must have led to unrest among the Indian peoples. Why? Simply because our modern factory system involves the disintegration of caste and family.

Whenever economic activities are carried on beyond the limits of the social environment, disorganisation is sure to result. Industrial or social evolution cannot be forced. It just comes when all the conditions are favorable.

When the mills were erected in India somewhat similar conditions were created as existed in England during the Industrial Revolution, insofar as it meant a transformation of a section of rural workers into an industrial proletariat. But as the mills attracted workers seeking employment and large groups congregated in their vicinity, one important cause of industrial unrest was thereby created. That was unemployment. Employment attracts the crowd and provides it with the grudge.

Trade unionism is only in its infancy in India, and the vast crowds of workers have no scientific organisation. Hence the trouble does not lie in any common and direct demands from the workers as a whole. Discontent has been cumulative, but to the majority the exact causes are vague. Consequently the rather windy talk of Gandhi has had its effect in the absence of clearly defined constructive demands.

Poverty and squalor, debilitated crafts, wasted lands, broken homesteads, bankrupt zamindars, greater criminality—do they tell the story of the deserted village and the vampire city? Is India suffering from the effects of a too rapidly imposed industrialism which should have followed the development of agriculture and the education of the people?

Rural Cultivators

Although the mill-hands form a high percentage of the Indian proletariat, the rural workers still constitute by far the larger proportion of the so-called masses. It has been usual to speak of members of this class as contentedly pursuing the even tenor of their lives on their little farms, unmoved by the voice of the agitator or the stirrings of the instinct of pugnacity. But nowadays even this class has become discontented, not through the promptings of Messrs. Gandhi and company, but owing to the greater influence of rising prices and increasing taxation.

British engineers erected huge irrigation works, and Indian cultivators profited by the distribution of water. They paid tribute in respectful admiration to the genius of modern science and British engineers in particular. But when they had to pay tribute in money, and a steadily increasing rate, too, to the company owning the irrigation works, their admiration changed to dissatisfaction in proportion as the water rate rose.

A severe crisis in the raw cotton bazaar toward the end of 1922 did not tend to make things better, and the state of Indian finances especially added to the general unsettledness. Montagu depicted the position clearly and concisely when he stated that the "keystone of Indian politics is finance."

Finance

In June 1922, a deputation of Indian merchants and business men implored the Viceroy to reduce the expenditure to the level of the country's estimated revenue. The Budget of that year had revealed a heavy deficit, and bankruptcy threatened the provinces.

An attempt was made to meet the deficit by imposing fresh taxation of a kind which hit the poor in nearly all instances. For instance the duty on salt, hateful to the Indian peoples, was doubled. This duty has been the cause of much trouble, and again in 1923 the Legislative Assembly protested against its imposition in a long duel with the Government.

But although reflective individuals naturally admit the necessity of taxation, the Indian Legislature, which is asked to sanction it, is deprived of control over the greater part of the expenditure. This means that the right hand receives the money and the left hand pays it out, the right having no control over what the left hand does.

Military expenditure is the cause of the deficit, and also of the unrest due to financial causes. India as a whole concurs in advocating the reduction of military charges as an imperative duty. The Government, however is decidedly unwilling to reduce these charges as it still believes that India is held by the sword—against the external enemy.

Financial unsettledness in India was not relieved by the half-hearted advocacy of Protection put forward in the report of the Indian Fiscal Commission. It served merely to bewilder further the already confused commercial community.

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CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT.

OPENING OF 1924 SEASON.

As is only right, the Elder Conservatorium is taking more and more its place in the musical life of the State. The 1924 session should see a still more marked advance, and it is to be hoped that the public will do their part by recognising that in the concerts there is to be found not only a valuable opportunity of hearing really good performances of the works of masters of all schools and all times, but also a chance of giving added impetus to the students by lively and sustained support and interest. The syllabus for the year embraces an extensive field of music, and each succeeding term should prove of increasing value. There are to be four recitals by members of the staff and two chamber music recitals by the Elder Conservatorium String Quartet under the leadership of Mr. Charles Schilsky (the newly appointed teacher of the violin), as well as the usual number of choral, orchestral, and student concerts. The choral class will attain its twenty-fifth anniversary under the leadership of Mr. Frederick Bevan, an event which will be marked by the performance of Handel's oratorio "Judas Maccabeus," under his conductorship.

There was a large attendance in the Elder Hall on Monday evening, including the Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray) and Miss Murray and the Lord Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. C. J. Glover). It was not only the success of individual students, but the friendly enthusiasm of those in the audience which went to mark the value of the concerts. The ability of students to master nervousness and to forget self and the power of putting the something more than mere correctness of note into their work is particularly well worth having, and is only to be gained by the actual facing of audiences. The Director of the Conservatorium (Professor Harold Davies, Mus. Doc.) is full of enthusiasm, and he hopes for much advance in every way. His feeling for the underlying depth of meaning in music as something far greater than any mere technical skill, though that is essential, should prove an incentive to students to work wholeheartedly.

Dr. Davies took the opportunity of expressing the pleasure of the Conservatorium in the presence of Mr. Charles Schilsky, the new teacher of the violin. He would not dwell upon his qualifications, although they were many. Mr. Schilsky would be giving a recital before long, when they would have an opportunity of hearing his playing. As a member of the teaching staff he was certain that he would advance the high ideals of his predecessor (Mr. Gerald Walenn). He was not coming among them as a stranger, for as an examiner from overseas he had already learned to understand and love Australia and Australian children. He had much pleasure in welcoming Mr. Schilsky, and he hoped that he would long remain among them to help in the advancement of music. (Applause.) Mr. Davies concluded his remarks by expressing a hope that the Conservatorium concerts for the 1924 session would be well attended, as they were emphatically community concerts.

Particularly popular among the instrumental numbers was the violin solo, "Romance in F" (Beethoven) by Mr. Eric McLaughlin (Alderman Scholar). Mr. Frederick Gibbons, in his cello solo the quaint old-world "Londonderry air" (arranged by Trowell) evinced a command of tone and expression. Mr. Gilbert Grey rendered a group of flute solos with nice feeling, expression, and good tone. "Andelouse" (Pessard) was charming, and there was interest as well as appeal about the two numbers on the bass flute—"Traumerci" (Schumann) and "Wiegeliende" (Shubert). Piano numbers included many schools of music. Miss Joan Mellowship won deserved applause for her playing of Chopin's lovely "Fantasie impromptu," and Mr. Alexander Burnard was also successful in his rendering of Brahms' "Rhapsodie in G minor." Strongly in contrast was a group of more modern writings—"The hour glass," by Frank Bridge, admirably performed by Mr. Harold Foale, and "Dusk," "The duo fairy," and "The midnight tide," each in its own way descriptive, the distinctive qualities being well brought out. Mr. Jack Williams (Elder Scholar) evinced feeling for nuances of expression and a pleasing command of tone in his presentation of the "Nocturne in F sharp" (Chopin) and the "Prelude in G minor" (Rachmaninoff). Miss Adele Wiebusch was distinctly happy in her rendering of "Rhapsodie, No. 8" (Liszt). Of the vocalists, Miss Beryl Counter sang "Printemps qui commence," from "Samson and Delilah" (Saint-Saens) most pleasingly. Mr. Arnold Matters, who possesses a good voice, was heard to advantage in "Vittoria, Vittoria!" (Carissimi), and Miss Elsie Woolley was well received in "To-morrow" (Strauss) and "The answer" (Roger Quilter). Miss Muriel Cresswell sang charmingly the recit, "Armida dispieta" and air "Lascia chiu pianga," from "Rinaldo" (Handel). The concert closed with Beethoven's "Trio for piano, violin, and violoncello, Op. 70, No. 1" (first movement), which was admirably rendered by Miss Jean Finlay, Mrs. T. Wyles, and Mr. Harold Parsons Mus. Bac. Miss Alice Meegan, A.M.U.A., and Miss Muriel Prince, A.M.U.A., proved most able and sympathetic accompanists.

The next concert—a recital for violin, piano, and flute—will be given on Monday, May 5, by Miss Sylvia Whittington, A.M.U.A., Mr. George Pearce, and Mr. Stanley Baines.

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WORKERS' EDUCATION

Session Opens Favorably

University tutorial classes in connection with the Workers' Educational Association have begun the session of 1924 favorably.

Numbers vary in each of the nine classes from between 40 and 50 to between 70 and 80. One gratifying feature of the enrolments this year is the number of young men and women, particularly the former, that have joined the classes.

It is a tribute to the movement that so many students have induced friends to come in. Some students have been instrumental in getting three and four others to join.

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LAW AND EXAMINATION

Before the Chief Justice (Sir Geo. Murray) and Mr. Justice Poole in the Supreme Court on Tuesday Mr. G. C. Ligertwood moved on behalf of Mr. L. B. Matthews that he be deemed to be entitled to be admitted as a practitioner of the Supreme Court, notwithstanding the fact that he had not served the full term of five years. He stated that Mr. Matthews had served three years and eight months as judges' associate and also had two years war service. There were certain examinations he had not yet passed but in view of war service and educational attainments he submitted that the application for exemption might fairly be favorably considered.

The Chief Justice—I should think Mr. Matthews could pass the remaining examinations.

Mr. Ligertwood—I don't think there is any doubt about that. He desires to obtain experience in a solicitor's office as an admitted practitioner.

Mr. G. S. Reed for the Council of Law Society said he was instructed to oppose the application.

The hearing was adjourned to a day to be fixed.

Miss Margaret Darnley Naylor, who will shortly leave Adelaide to take up work in connection with the starving children of Europe, received a presentation from her fellow-members of the executive of the League of Nations Union on Monday evening. In handing to Miss Naylor a handsome travelling case, the Chairman of the executive (Mr. J. H. Vaughan) referred to the remarkable progress made by the union during the two years Miss Naylor had acted as hon. secretary. The membership had increased from a few hundred to more than 2,000, and her organizing ability, tact, and self-sacrifice had contributed substantially to the success achieved. Her place would be hard to fill in South Australia, but none could regret that the opportunity had come to her for service in a wider field, where her character, experience, and capacity would prove of still greater value to the cause of peace and humanity. The members of the union wished her every success in the great task she was about to undertake.

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Some details of the death of Mr. T. Hackett, B.A., at Luxor, reached Adelaide by private correspondence in the last mail. The party with whom the deceased gentleman and Mrs. Hackett were travelling, and which included Professor Sayce, had set out for Bagdad, but greatly to the disappointment of the Australians Mr. Hackett was too unwell to go with them. His indisposition, which was at first an attack of influenza, developed so threateningly, that the doctor, at the request of Mrs. Hackett, called in a specialist from Cairo, but without avail, and after some five days of acute illness heart failure supervened. Mrs. Hackett did not return to England, but took passage by the Narkunda for Melbourne, and is now well on the way hither, the vessel being timed to arrive in Adelaide on April 20. She is accompanied by a niece of Mr. Hackett. The body has been embalmed, and will be interred in Victoria.

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WONDERS OF ASTRONOMY.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR CHAPMAN.

The latest developments of astronomy, particularly as exemplified in photography, were dealt with in an informal address delivered by Professor R. W. Chapman, under the auspices of the Astronomical Society, at the Institute Building, North-terrace, on Wednesday evening. A number of beautiful photographs of astronomical subjects were shown on the screen, and the lecturer explained and commented upon each.

Professor Chapman prefaced his address by pointing out that the opening meeting of the society for 1924 afforded an excellent opportunity for them to glance back at what had been accomplished while looking forward to the discoveries which were yet to come. (Applause.) The presence of sun spots had been discovered by the Chinese long before Galileo had noted the same phenomena. The diameter of the sun was approximately 1,000,000 miles, and many bodies the size of the earth could be engulfed in one sunspot. The sun rotated on its axis as if it were a mass of viscous liquid rather than a solid body. The fact that the sunspots changed in form with such marvellous rapidity gave some idea of the stormy conditions existing in the solar atmosphere. The patient, daily research of a Dutch astronomer with regard to these spots had led to the discovery that they waxed and waned with periodical regularity. Later, it had been established that they exerted a good deal of influence on the magnetic activity of the earth. For instance, when the spots were at their maximum the earth usually enjoyed a good rainfall, and similarly drought conditions were likely to prevail when they were at their minimum. The great drought of 1914 was thought by many scientists to be a result of this solar minimum, and at any rate it occurred during such a period. Most of the elements known to mankind existed on the sun in a state of vapor, and the development of modern photography had enabled scientists to photograph the vapors of certain elements separately, and to show the varying pressure exerted on them in the sun. The presence of great masses