

THE ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION.

The 5th meeting of the Association was held on the 6th September, with Professor D. N. Mukerjee in the chair. The proceedings of the last meeting having been confirmed, the President took up the next item of business viz. the passing of the accounts of the Association-funds to be submitted by the Treasurer; but as the Treasurer was absent, it was resolved that the Executive Committee would look into the account within the next week.

Then the English paper on "*Communalism vs. individualism as the basis of the industrial organisation in India*" was read by Sj. Sisirkumar Har.

After a general introduction as to how a new idea has grown amongst us owing to our long contact with the Westerners, and how, in consequence a new, transitional period in the industrial history of our land is fast approaching, the essayist tried to show the advantages and disadvantages of the two systems of industrial organisation. He showed how the communalistic system could not enjoy such economy of materials and of machinery as the individualistic system and also that under the former method the individual initiative and capacity are not so much taken into account. He tried to explain also that the healthy expansion of the division of labour is hampered to a considerable degree under the former mode of industry. The writer, in the same manner, held out the advantages of the individualistic system of production, and, in the major portion of the rather long paper, he discussed very fully the comparative good and evil that the two productive systems could bring to our country. The paper not only dealt in Economic facts and figures, but also embodied a social and philosophical enquiry as well. In fact the subject was so vitally connected with the social and socio-economic environments of our country that the writer was not ill-justified in introducing such socio-philosophical and ethical ideas that were intimately associated with the subject under discussion. The conclusion he drew, was that in such industries that deal with the most immediate necessities of the people, and in those that cannot be conducted through small cottage establishments, we should apply the individualistic system of production. In others the communalistic system would give us much better success.

Sj. Kamalkumar Mitra was the writer of the Bengali paper. This paper was much on the same line with the former one. The style was nice and the treatment was lucid and attractive. He also tried to show the advantages and disadvantages of the two systems and concluded with the hope that the communalistic system of production which had its first impetus in India, and which has been extant here for ages, may thrive in our land

with the fullest vigour. He emphasised upon the inequitable system of distribution under the Western mode of production and tried to show that in India the system was not so. He hinted also at the efficacy of the Co-operative Credit Societies and the training of workers upon the communalistic system and hoped for the spacious days to come.

Sj. Nepalchandra Chatterjee's criticism of the English paper deserves mention. He raised three objections against the paper, viz., (1) that the essayist condemned the side of luxury, which has really got an Economic value, although no expression in the course of the whole paper did tend to embody this ideal (2) that the definitions of communalism and individualism were not clear and (3) that the treatment was rather philosophical and ethical.

After this followed the speech from the chair. The Chairman regretted that he could not find a single 3rd Year Student in the meeting. His remarks on the subject under discussion may be summarised thus :—the East does not mean India alone, and what is Eastern, generally, does not apply wholly to India. Economic environments of each clime and region determine the system it should adopt. The establishment of individualistic form of productive organisation is of very great value for the following reasons :—(1) The evolution of the state from the social to the individual influence should determine a corresponding change in the Economic world as well.

(2) India should not neglect the broad movements of the age—and if she is at all to compete with the industries of the West, she must take to large-scale production.

(3) All socialistic movements count but for little towards the amelioration of the distresses of the poor ; for, some people owing to their idle habits and indolent disposition are sure to suffer from poverty while others possessing prudence, foresight, ability and genius, must rise into prominence and command others. So India should adopt, as the basis of her industrial organisation, the individualistic system, purging it of all its impurities ; and therein lies the salvation of the land.

The Subject for the next day's discussion was selected to be "*Ancient cottage industries in the Madras Presidency.*" Mr. Sreehari Acharyya was to read a paper in English and Mr. Jagannath Acharyya in Bengali.

The meeting now dispersed with the usual vote of thanks to the chair.

SISIRKUMAR HARJ
Secretary.

The 6th sitting of the above Association was to be held, as announced, on Saturday the 20th September but Mr. Srihari Acharyya one of the Essayists being absent, the meeting had to be postponed till Thursday the 25th September. The adjourned meeting came off on the appointed day at 2 P. M. Prof. Mookerjee being late, Sj. Nepalchandra Chatterjee, a student of the Fourth Year Class, was voted to the chair.

Mr. Srihari Acharyya still continuing absent, Mr. Jagannath Acharyya was called on to read his Bengali paper. The audience was on the tip-toe of expectation to hear a Bengali paper from the pen of a Madras student and it was a pleasure to find him expressing his thoughts in excellent Bengali, which Bengalee students might well have been proud of.

He mentioned in the course of his essay the glorious past condition of Southern India—that she once carried on International trade with Western Europe. But with the advent of British Administration in India all those industries dwindled away into insignificance; and there were still to be found reminiscences of her glorious past viz. weaving, embroidery, etc. He mentioned that engraving and embroidery were once held in high esteem and occupied a unique position in the whole of India, nay in the world and he hoped that now that there was a stir in the country for the renovation of her ancient industries, at least some of her past glories would be revived in the near future.

Then the proceedings of the last meeting were read and duly confirmed.

By this time our President Prof. Mookerjee came and took the chair. At the request of the President the essay was read once more. The paper was then thrown open to discussion. Sj. Nepalchandra Chatterjee congratulated his friend on his having produced a fine Bengali paper but he added that the essay was defective in one way, viz., it did not contain a list of the past Industries that have now died out.

Next a proposal was brought forward by Sj. Panchcowri Banerjee as to what steps should be taken for publishing a quinquennial report of the Association, containing the best essays of the last five years in a booklet. He further stated that as the connection of the Fourth Year Students with the Association was nearing its close, a Committee should be appointed consisting of 3 members from the Fourth Year Class and 2 from the Third Year Class with the President at the head to expedite matters. The Report of this Select Committee should be subject to the approval of the President. The proposal was carried unanimously. The Committee consisted of (1) Nepalchandra Chatterjee (2) Panchcowri Banerjee (3) Gaurisankar Banerjee, from the Fourth Year Class and (4) Arunkumar Chanda and (5) Saileswar Bhattacharyya, from the Third Year Class.

There came another proposal from S^r. Panchcowri Banerjee that a Social gathering should be held just on the eve of the dissolution of the Fourth Year Classes, comprising of *only the Economics Students* of the Third Year and Fourth Year Classes. This was supported by the President who promised to pay a small sum for the occasion, and warned the students against drawing upon the Association Fund for the function. This was accepted and carried amid great rejoicings.

Lastly came the Presidential address; he was glad to find a fine paper produced by a student in a foreign dialect. He remarked that of all the Colleges in Calcutta it was in the Bangabasi College that students from different Provinces, nay, from different Presidencies did mostly congregate and this afforded a good field for Co-operation. He was glad to find the students sitting together, speaking the same language intimately, and such a spectacle was nowhere to be enjoyed except in this College.

He said that S^r. Nepalchandra Chatterjee was right in calling the paper defective inasmuch as it did not contain a list of her ancient glories, how they flourished, the state of the country at that time and the causes of their gradual decay. With these facts the essay would have been perfect. He noticed one fact, he continued, while staying at Waltair, and he was pleased to find it, that the people of that Presidency high and low, gave preference to their indigenous articles, *e.g.* cloth, towels etc. This accounted for their spirit of patriotism in them and led to the development of their indigenous manufactures. Next he launched upon the question of the Social gathering. He supported the motion on the ground that it promotes Co-operation and breeds a spirit of fellow-feeling amongst the students.

Then with a vote of thanks to the Chair proposed by S^r. Gourisankar Banerjee and seconded by S^r. Sanatkumar Dutt, the meeting dispersed.

GAURISANKAR BANERJEE,
Asst. Secretary.

The following volumes have been added to the Library in this month;—

1. Workings of the Co-operative Societies in Bengal 1917—18.
2. Malaria in Bengal and its influence on Population.
3. Bengal District Administration District Committee Report 1913—14.
4. India's Difficulties and how to avert them.
5. Cottage Industries in India.

SANATKUMAR DUTTA,
Librarian.