

could really be practised, he asked all the students present, with the permission of the lecturer, to write out a summary of what they had just heard. Only one of the whole number was able to reproduce correctly even a portion of the lecture; others could not put down even three lines; and in conversation they explained that they trusted to learning their text-books including problems and their solutions. (P. 401)

( 11 )

The fact that the average mark in Mathematics obtained by the whole mass of candidates, successful or unsuccessful, in the Matriculation Examination 1917 was no less than 62 per cent is not to be attributed wholly to the mathematical ability of the Bengali people, marked though that ability is. The methods of the examination contributed to produce this remarkable result. (P. 332)

### THE ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION.

The College Economics Association held its 4th Sitting on Saturday the 9th August, 1919. Professor P. Mukherjee of Presidency College was expected to preside over the meeting. But unfortunately, he could not come owing to some unforeseen circumstance.

Professor D. N. Mukherjee was then proposed to the chair by Sj. Nepal Chandra Chatterjee, and the Secretary of the Association seconded the proposal. The proceedings of the last meeting were read out by the Secretary and were duly confirmed. The President then called upon Sj. Abani Kumar Mitra to read his English paper on "*What the Co-operative movement can do in India.*" The Essayist, by way of introduction, said that the Co-operative movement first began in Germany in order to ameliorate the distressed condition of the peasant class. He then tried to show very clearly how the movement was nowhere to be more warmly welcomed than in India, where the peasantry were almost on the verge of starvation and where more than 70 P. C. of the population lived directly or indirectly upon agriculture. The writer then gave a short sketch of the introduction of the movement in India; and dwelt upon the salutary effects of the Co-operative movement in all the aspects of life, educational, moral, social and economical. He quoted the opinions of such personages as Sir Theodore Morrison and Sir P. C. Roy to corroborate his views regarding the rather insignificant welfare that the Co-operative movement had brought into the country and the immense good that was expected to come in the future. The Essayist did not also lose sight of the fact that since the

Act of 1912, the scope of the Co-operative organisation has been much widened and that vigorous signs are already visible in the establishment of several industrial organisations on Co-operative principles. The writer also expressed his satisfaction over the fact that the Co-operative principles had also been given effect to by the student community inasmuch as Co-operative stores had already been started in two of the Calcutta Colleges, viz Bangabasi and St Paul's. In conclusion the essayist emphasised upon this Co-operative movement being an important factor in the regeneration of the Indian nation; and further, he went on to remark that the movement had taken a far surer footing and a fuller appreciation in India than even in Germany, considering the very short period of its introduction in this country.

The other paper (in Bengali) was read by Mr. Kazi Abdul Khaleque. This paper too, like the former one, was written in a lucid and attractive style and carried much weight and value. He looked upon the subject from different aspects of our present needs—our lack of health and strength, our lack in education, want of capital for organising industries etc. and sought to apply the Co-operative principles to each of them individually. He placed before us, like a keen observer of things and their collateral circumstances, a true picture of the destitute Indian, especially Bengali life; and did also, like a warm, enthusiastic lover of his motherland, propose various ways and means of improving the sanitary, educational, industrial and commercial conditions of our country. The writer in some places remarked, and remarked with truth and propriety that the Bengalees were specially idle in industrial and commercial enterprises; his fervent hope, however, was that we may seize the opportunity of this Co-operative movement and try to better our present condition.

The papers having been read, the President invited criticisms from the members present, and S. J. Nepal Chandra Chatterjee spoke on the papers. As regards the paper in English, he said he could not judge of it within so short a time; and as for the Bengali one, he touched the following points—(i) That it was to some degree digressive, (ii) That the Marwaris, who, as mentioned by the Essayist, were making money on cloth business, were also our countrymen and as such, no remark should have been made upon their high profit, (iii) That both the writers spoke much on the merits of the movement but no one did mention any of its defects. With these words he resumed his seat. Then the Secretary on behalf of the Association thanked the Junior Economics students of the 3rd year class, for their having kindly joined the meeting.

Then followed the Presidential address. The President before beginning his speech on the subject, criticised the two papers. As regards the paper in English, he said that it was written rather hurriedly. The essayist should have given a more elaborate history of the introduction of the Co-operative movement in India and he should have ascertained first of all what were the requi-

sites that would count for the economic and national regeneration of our country, and then applied the principle of Co-operation to each of them individually and thus show what the movement could actually do in India with respect to every phase of our social and political existence.

Next he refuted the point of S. J. Nepal Chandra Chatterjee, viz., that the Bengali paper was rather digressive. The President pointed out that it was no digression at all; it only enquired into all the possible aspects of our country's present situation and considered them one after another. He remarked at the same time that the essayist might have written something on the progress of the Co-operative Societies.

After this, he made some valuable remarks on the Co-operative movement. He said that the movement first began in Germany in the beginning of the 19th century. Two gentlemen were the pioneers of this salutary movement, one of whom was in favour of Rural Societies and the other wished to extend the principle even to towns and thus to found what are called the Urban Societies. At first they had to confront many difficulties but within 30 or 40 years the ideas of Co-operation spread over the whole of the Continent. Malaria, Cholera and other Epidemics were soon chased away, the peasantry were placed on a far better footing and the Industrial Revolution also received a great impetus from this movement.

But we, the Indians, remarked the President certainly with an extreme bitterness of feeling, who were always in the dark as to what was going on in the outside world, had no idea of the movement until in the beginning of the 20th century. We wanted to have the system among us, but it was not before 1904 during the Viceroyalty of Lord Curzon that an Act was passed legalising the establishment of Co-operative Societies for advancing loans only to the peasants. But it was soon found that this system would not work well and the Government deemed it necessary to pass in 1912 an Act which allowed Co-operation in every effort of Society.

His next point was what the movement has done up to this day and what it can do for us in future. He remarked that up till now it had done very insignificant work and that more vigorous efforts were necessary to make it a success.

He put the present wants of our country under four broad heads—(1) Sanitation. (2) Education. (3) Agriculture and (4) Industry. The greatest troubles regarding the question of Sanitation are malaria, bad drainage and want of good drinking water. The President emphasised upon establishing Co-operative Malaria Societies like that in Panihaty and organising such other Corporations as would look after the proper drainage and excavating wells and repairing old ponds for good drinking water. Doctors should also be appointed in villages, whose remuneration should be supplied by the Co-operative funds.

Education and agriculture also should be improved on Co-operative lines for which unselfish hearts and indefatigable spirits were necessary.

On the subject of industry, the President spoke with the finest fervour and the most genuine zeal of heart. He did not wish that the industry of the land should lie any longer in the hands of the illiterate populace but hoped that we should take, even while we are Students, an active part in promoting its cause. "We should Co-operate and Co-operate heartily,"—is the precept which he taught, in collecting capital from among the student-community to organise large-scale production within the country and many would follow our track in no distant future.

With this wish and sincere hope, he resumed his seat and shortly after the meeting dispersed with the usual vote of thanks to the chair. The subject to be discussed at the next meeting is, "Communalism v.s. individualism as the basis of the industrial organisation in India."

SISIRKUMAR HAR,

*Hony Secy. to the Economics Association.*

## ভারতের বর্তমান আর্থিক অবস্থা

৬

### তাহার উন্নতিবিধান।\*

ইহা সর্ববাদিসম্মত যে ভারতবর্ষ দিন দিন দরিদ্র হইয়া পড়িতেছে, বৎসরের পর বৎসর ভারতের দৈন্য-দুর্দশা বর্দ্ধিত হইতেছে, ভারতবর্ষ আত্ম-নির্ভরশীল না হইয়া সকল বিষয়ে পরমুখশ্রেণী হইয়া পড়িতেছে।

আজ আমাদের এই অবস্থা! কিন্তু পূর্বে ভারতের ত এমন অবস্থা ছিল না। রামায়ণ-মহাভারতের প্রাগৈতিহাসিক যুগ হইতে ইষ্ট ইণ্ডিয়া কোম্পানীর শাসনের প্রারম্ভ পর্যন্ত ভারতের অবনতি এরূপ প্রকট হয় নাই। ইষ্ট ইণ্ডিয়া কোম্পানীর শাসনের প্রারম্ভ পর্যন্ত ভারত সুখলা সুফলা ছিল, ভারতের উর্বর কৃষিক্ষেত্রসমূহ শস্যশ্রামল হইয়া হাসিতে থাকিত, ভারতের বন্দরে বহুরূপ অর্থব্যয় ভারতীয় অর্থবপোত ভারতজাত পণ্য বহন করিয়া দেশ বিদেশে লইয়া গিয়া ভারতের অর্থাগম করিত। তখন ভারতের বাগান বাগিচা পত্রপুষ্প

\* একনম্বিক্স এসোসিয়েশনের দ্বিতীয় অধিবেশনে পঠিত। (৫.৩ মার্চ ১৯১০)