

INDIA IS ON THRESHOLD OF INDUSTRIAL ERA

Measures to Secure Substantial Progress Demanded by People of the Country.

Silma, India, Dec. 10. — (Correspondence of the Associated Press). — India is on the threshold of a new industrial era, according to the opinion expressed generally by Indian and British business men and officials. This country, with its vast natural resources, is now in a comparatively undeveloped state industrially, but a great wave of sentiment in favor of instituting measures to insure immediate and substantial progress along this line appears to be sweeping the nation.

A concrete indication of the recognition of this feeling may be seen in the recent appointment by the government of an Indian industrial commission, made up of prominent British and Indian experts, who are about to start out from Silma on a country-wide tour for the purpose of investigating industrial possibilities and making a report upon which the government can inaugurate measures that will enable India to meet trade

conditions after the war. In appointing this commission the government announced that it believed the time had come to take up in a more comprehensive manner the question of the development of Indian industries and manufactures, and expressed with the eager desire of a large number of the people for advancement.

Several reasons are assigned for the seemingly sudden arousal of India from the lethargy which has acted as a damper to progress industrially thus far. The principal causes named are these:

India today is more prosperous than ever before in its history, and money is plentiful. This is due largely to the fact that the last four monsoon seasons, upon which the all important crops depend, have been good.

The war also has played an important part in this change of feeling. For one thing it has taught the people of India the importance of the world outside their own country. The vast bulk of the population is illiterate, and many for the first time are beginning to get an idea of geography, to learn that India is not the hub of the universe and that the world is filled with great nations which depend upon industry and trade for their power. They also have seen that many of the necessities and luxuries which they were wont to get from other countries, and which might have been produced at home, have been cut off by the war.

Finally, industrial education, which has been increasing slowly but steadily, has had its effect. Years of labor in the various industrial schools appear now to be bearing considerable fruit.

The efforts of the government in the past to build up new industries have disclosed the existence of many difficulties. Indian capital has been unenterprising and timid, skilled labor has been lacking, and there has been a want of practical information regarding the commercial possibilities of India's raw products. As a result there are only two manufacturing industries of any magnitude. They are jute and cotton.

Outside these two businesses the country has depended almost entirely on foreign nations or other parts of the British empire for its manufactured goods. Huge quantities of raw materials of almost every description have been exported annually and many of them have reappeared on the Indian markets in the manufactured form. The same ships which have brought in leather, oils, paper, iron and steel goods, dyes and various other products, have reloaded with the raw materials from which these very things were made.

Industrial experts say that the Indian consumer probably has bought his goods as cheaply in most cases

NEW MOTOR TRACTOR USED BY FRENCH BUILDS TRENCHES AND CONSTRUCTS BREASTWORKS AS IT MOVES ALONG



Rear view of the French trench-making machine in action.

The French have devised and now have in use a powerful motor tractor which builds trenches and constructs breastworks as it travels along. The photo shows the tractor in action with French soldiers operating the machine.

This tractor is built on a larger scale than any seen in common use in this country and is somewhat similar in construction to those used in this country for building foundation work. It also suggests the giant farm tractors to dig ditches and render other valuable services.

The new French tractor starts over a field and with motor throbbing it rumbles ahead, leaving behind in its wake a deep, clean-cut trench. The earth and the rocks removed by the huge scoops is thrown up on the sides of the excavation, making admirable breastworks.

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as he could if they had been manufactured at home, but that India has sacrificed the financial gain and other advantages accruing to the country which has its own factories. For one thing, the producer of raw materials, having no alternative market, has been forced to accept the prices quoted him from abroad, and many times the figures have been excessively low. It is held that the establishment of a home market would protect him

against such losses. The Indian working man, too, has suffered in that the higher wages which might have been coming to him have been going into the pockets of foreign artisans. Outside the actual monetary question, great stress is being laid on the national stability derived by the nation which has its working classes profitably employed.

There are numerous industrial enterprises which many feel may be barked upon profitably in the near future. Among these is the leather industry. India exports great quantities of hides. Heretofore most of these have been sent to America and Germany to be tanned, and it is said that there is no reason why some

of this work should not be done at home. The other leading possibilities named include the expressing of oil from oil seeds, the manufacture of paper pulp, the making of glass, the production of dyes from the plentiful raw materials at hand, and the extraction of perfumes, essential oils and drugs. There is also room for great expansion in the iron and steel industries, which are still in their infancy, as well as in the smelting of aluminum, tin, zinc and copper ores.

One of the important questions to be solved by the commission is that of what form government aid to new industries shall take. It is generally predicted that the government will be prepared to render technical assistance, possibly through the establishment of central research laboratories, and will also give financial aid in some form, either direct or indirect. That government backing will be necessary to create confidence and draw out capital is generally conceded by most students of the problem.

Half Million Gold Pieces Turned in at Summer Races

Berlin, Dec. 11.—With the close of the racing season nearly everywhere in Germany it has been found that the gold pieces which were turned in at the "gates" during the summer, in return for reduced prices of admission, total about half a million marks. Whereas the majority of the press at first greeted this news as "altogether satisfactory," a portion of the papers, after thinking it over, have decided that it is "altogether disgraceful" to discover that so large a number of people obviously had un-patriotically abstained from turning in their gold until induced to do so in order to buy amusement a little more cheaply.

Part of the press is thoroughly indignant that in these days of appeals from all sources to turn in gold, in these days of collecting bureaus for old gold and ornaments, there should still be so many persons in the empire "who will not be moved by any lessons to help bring out financial system into consonance with the enormous demands made upon it." This portion of the press questions whether the Reichsbank is right in the policy of trying to collect all the gold in the empire by voluntary surrender.

Not only shop early, but do your mailing early. The mails cannot handle all of the Christmas business if delayed until the last two or three days.

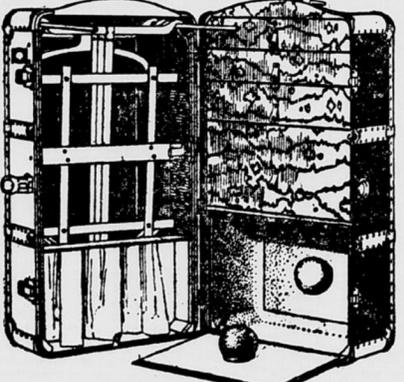
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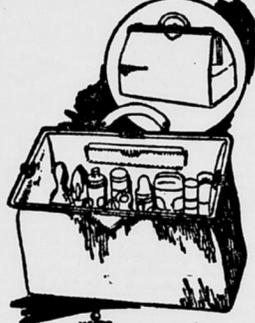
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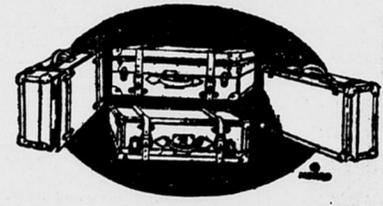
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