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THE INDUSTRIAL OUTLOOK
INDUSTRIALISING INDIA*

WE had occasion to review in our columns¹ the thoughtful contribution of Sir M. Visvesvaraya to the problem of Unemployment in India. The present publication is a continuation of the above with some definite suggestions regarding the lines of action to be taken by the Government and others interested in the industrial development of the country. In his introductory remarks the author lays stress on the fact that industrialisation will be the sole means of relieving the increasing unemployment, raising the status of the people and restoring the prosperity of the country. Although agriculture is the basic industry of the human race, yet it has always been precarious means of livelihood, so that if the country is to prosper the pressure on the land should be reduced without impairing the efficiency of agricultural production. The Government as well as the members of the public should direct their attention to the development of industries, which alone would contribute materially to the prosperity of the country.

In recent years, the Indian export of finished articles has greatly diminished while imports of similar materials from abroad has considerably increased. The small favourable trade balance, which is also steadily diminishing, is largely due to increase in the exports of raw materials, a position which, in the eyes of experienced critics, is not likely to be maintained very long. Various parts of the world, hitherto undeveloped, are now producing increasing quantities of grains and food articles, so that, before long, we may be faced with a situation in which we will be the exporters of neither raw materials nor finished articles.

After classifying the possible new industries under three main heads—large, medium and small²—the author proceeds to discuss the nature of the structure that is immediately needed for their development.

There should be (1) a general organisation composed of representatives of Government and business men who, by mutual co-operation, would maintain the atmosphere favourable to the rapid growth of industries, (2) local organisations such as councils in cities and rural areas for promoting industries suited for the particular localities, (3) adequate tariff protection for such industries as need them, (4) banking facilities, (5) provision of statistical information, and (6) proper legislation regarding the Companies Act and managing agency system so that the public may develop confidence and business will attract the necessary capital. The industrial sense of the country may be further developed by holding exhibitions and organising commercial museums and demonstration stations, encouraging industrial research, imparting technical education and arranging for easy transport facilities.

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The country owes a deep debt of gratitude to the veteran statesman who, in spite of his declining years, is still one of the foremost in the cause of public service. Sir Visvesvaraya has no doubt given much thought to the details of many of the industries that he has referred to in the course of his several public addresses and it will be highly stimulating both to those engaged in the promotion of industries and to the members of the public if he could further develop some of his themes and show precisely how certain specific industries can be safely developed in certain parts of the country. Attention may also be drawn to the fact that side by side with the development of new industries, the produce from land should also be increased. We may even venture to suggest that the new industries are more likely to succeed if they involve the utilisation to surplus agricultural produce—wherein there is yet no danger of foreign competition—and cheap labour, which is plentifully available, rather than if they require the importance of either raw materials or expensive machinery from abroad.

* *Industrialising India: Constructive Policies and Plan*, by Sri M. Visvesvaraya, K.C.I.E., LL.D. An address delivered before the Mysore Chamber of Commerce on the 10th July 1933. The Bangalore Press, Bangalore. Price Rs. 12.

¹ "Unemployment in India," *Curr. Sci.*, 1, 93, 1932.

² *Vide Curr. Sci.*, 1, 95, 1932.
