

# The Economic Weekly

**A Journal of Current Economic and Political Affairs**

SIXTEENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

July 4, 1964

Volume XVI No. 27

Price 50 Paise

**EDITORIALS**

The Great Educationist 1075  
 Development Bank 1076  
 Commonwheeling 1077

## The Great Educationist

**WEEKLY NOTES**

Punjab: Not the End— *Brief Candle* — Irrigation: Too Many Projects — Not by Profits Alone — PL 480 Trust 1078

**CAPITAL VIEW**

*Growing Up with Shastri* Romesh Thapar 1081

**LETTER FROM PUNJAB**

*The Battle Unroyal* — Narindar Singh 1083

**LETTER FROM SOUTH**

*The Vijayawada Blaze* 1084

**FROM THE LONDON END**

East-West Trade: Business or Politics? 1085

**SPECIAL ARTICLES**

The Racial Politics of British Guiana — From A Correspondent 1087

Sterilisation as a Pop Ration Control Device: Its Economics — S N Agarwala 1091

Generalists vs Specials in Indian Administration—II — Asoke Mohan Rey 1095

**FROM THE CHAIR**

The Metal Box Company 1099  
 The Elphinstone Spg & Wvg Co 1103  
 The Oriental Fire & General Insurance Co 1105  
 Shree Digvijay Cement Co 1106

**BUSINESS NOTES**

1108

**AROUND BOMBAY MARKETS**

1109

**CURRENT STATISTICS**

1112

SIR ASUTOSH—that is how he was known in Bengal in his time and is remembered even today was a great educationist, who devoted his life and energies to raise the Calcutta University, from what it was when he took it up. to the ideal of what a University should be, as he conceived it. And since the British Government of the day had also very definite ideas about what they wanted it to be—the shades of Macaulay's Minutes still lay heavy on the intellectual scene of those times—he fought valiantly and all the time with the Government to free the University from its stranglehold and to establish the principle of academic independence. He fought against heavy odds. The University Acts were made by the Government and it is the Government which made the grants.

When Asutosh Mookerjee came on the scene, Lord Curzon had clamped on the Indian universities the Act of 1904 which Indian opinion then thought, had put them in a strait jacket. Asutosh had just that year been elevated to the Bench the Knighthood came later. But while only a Senator, he had already prepared himself for his life's vocation by studying all its minutes since Calcutta University came into being way back in 1857 and directed his trained and powerful mind to the statutes which circumscribed the powers and functions, of the Senate and the Syndicate. He jumped into the fight and came out triumphant. That was only the beginning of his Vice Chancellorship of the Calcutta University. Many years later, towards the end of his life, he served another term as Vice-Chancellor. But whether he held any office or not, so long as Sir Asutosh was alive, he was the Calcutta University.

Towards the end of his long and glorious service to the University, Sir Asutosh came into headlong collision with Lord Lytton. the then Governor of Bengal and came out triumphant again, but this time as a national figure. The reason for the fight was that the Government, unable to curb or control the University by other means, fell back upon its power over the purse and Lytton tried to use the annual grants to the University as a lever to force Sir Asutosh to comply. There were hot exchanges of letters between him and Lytton and Sir Asutosh turned down with contumely the offer of aid tied up with advice, non-compliance with which,,, would mean no aid.

That is the politics of it. A distinguished mathematician and jurist, profoundly learned in Sanskrit and Pali, for which he had been given the titles Saraswati—the moustached Saraswati was the appellation lovingly conferred by his countrymen and Sambuddhagama Chakravarti, Sir Asutosh had always looked upon the University as the door to the liberation of the mind from its many bondages. And of the latter, the one that impinged most at the time was the intellectual domination of Western culture in general and that of the English language in particular. He established the Indian languages as a fit, subject of study at the post graduate level so that one could achieve the highest academic distinction and gain the highest degrees by the study of one or more of them. It was an unheard of thing and an unbelievable act of bravado to institute M A and Ph D degrees in Bengali, Hindi, Oriya or other Indian languages. The University started courses in many of them. How bold was the step at the time and how

**THE ECONOMIC WEEKLY**  
 Co-operative Insurance Building,  
 Sir P M Road, Bombay-1.  
 Grams: ECONWEEK  
 Telephone : 253406  
 Annual Subscription; Rs 24