

Journal

of the

Association of Engineers

Vol. No. XXVI

APRIL—JUNE, 1950

No. 2

Editorial Notes

Exploitation of Patriotism

The patriotic feeling that induces one to buy the produce of one's own countrymen in preference to that of foreign goods is being sadly exploited in this country in two ways:

- (i) by raising prices abnormally high for profiteering;
- (ii) by total indifference and complete lack of effort to improve the quality of goods produced for use in this country.

This increases the bad reputation from which Indian made goods are already suffering and if this continues much longer it will "kill goose that lays the golden eggs" and the benefits of patriotism will have to be removed from those who take advantage of the "accident of birth" in this country for mere private gain and do not return similar benefits to their own countrymen.

Technical Education and Apprenticeship

The combination of Technical Education in Technical institutions with apprenticeship in Industrial firms is a development of modern times that has been found necessary in all Industrially advanced countries of the world and should have the appreciation of all Industrial firms in India. Recently it has been noticed that a few

Engineering works which have been taken over by Indian businessmen from foreign owners on the advent of "Independence" have ceased to send apprentices to Technical schools and even in some cases to take in apprentices into the workshop itself!

It has long been the practice for apprentices to obtain technical education at Technical schools in evening classes after the days work in the workshops. Later, arrangements were made for afternoon classes for one or two days in the week. Some colleges, notably, the Glasgow University College, adopted a "Sandwich" system whereby six months at a stretch could be spent alternately in college and workshop. A new experiment is now being carried out at the Calcutta technical school where a "sandwich" system of one week of day classes at school and two weeks at workshops is being tried out. The results will be watched with interest.

Hill Roads.

The recent disasters at Darjeeling due to heavy landslides have aroused attention to the problem of providing suitable communication to Hill stations and we are therefore happy to have for publication in this issue an article on Hill Road by one of our members, Mr. Parimal Biswas submitted, somewhat prophetically, considerably before the sad events took place.
