

Chamber DAYS

Year 1926-51



**Bihar Chamber of Commerce & Industries
Patna**

Silver Jubilee

Souvenir

1926-51

BIHAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PATNA.

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Silver Jubilee

Souvenir

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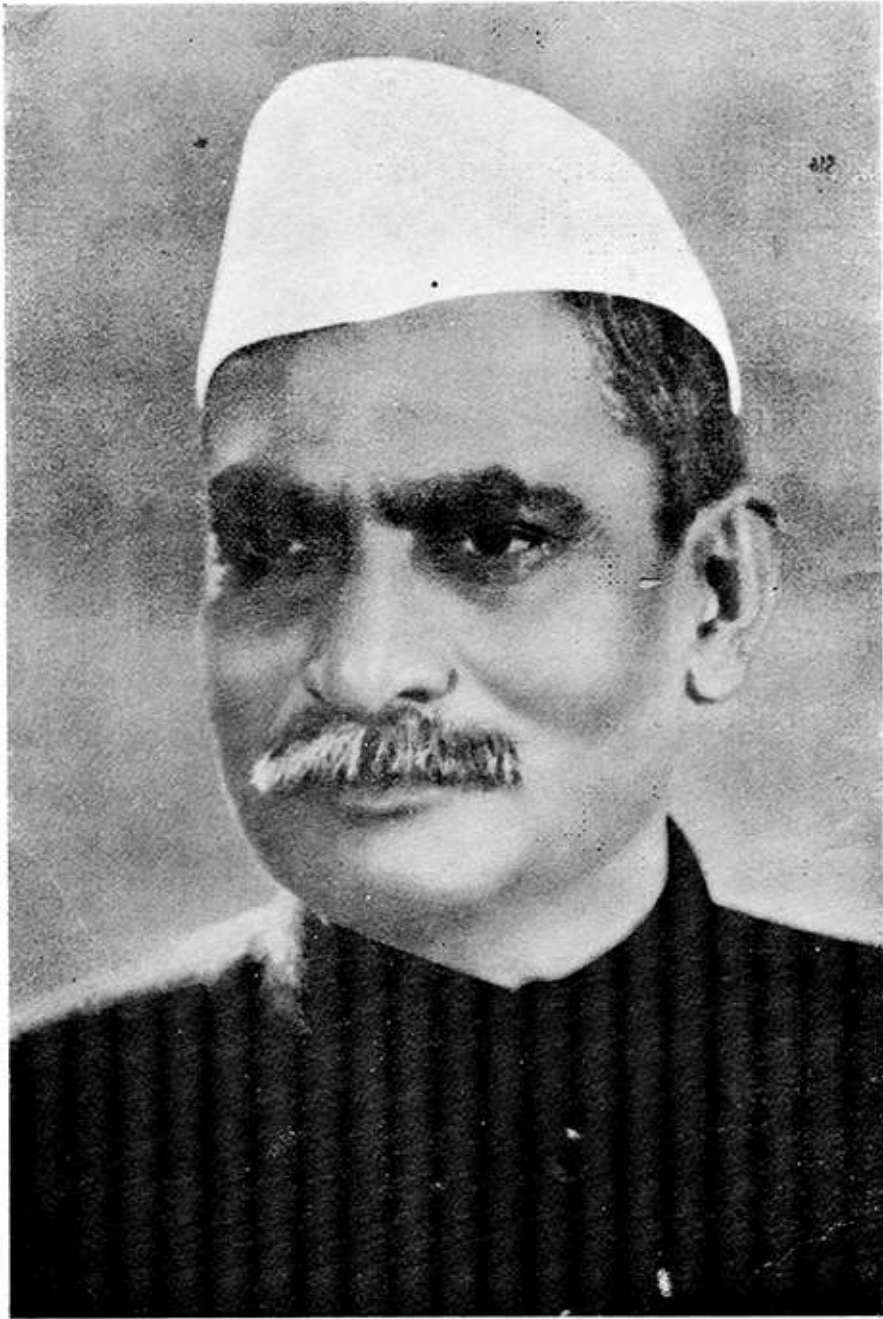
Handwritten notes:
Bihar Chamber of Commerce
Patna



**BIHAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PATNA.**

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Dr. RAJENDRA PRASAD
President of India



RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN,
NEW DELHI.

12th May 1952.

I am glad to learn that the Bihar Chamber of Commerce is celebrating its Silver Jubilee, and hope that it will continue to serve the commercial community and through it the people at large with great zeal and success in future as well. I wish it all success.

Rajendra Prasad

Secretary

Secretary



SRI M. S. ANEY
GOVERNOR OF BIHAR

MESSAGES

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
PATNA

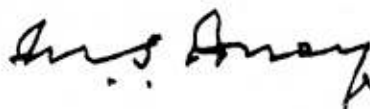
Oct. 26, 1951.

I am glad to learn that the members of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce are going to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Chamber in coming November and to publish a souvenir in connection with the same.

Trade and commerce are as essential for the economic progress of a State as the circulation of blood is for the growth and development of the human body or, for the matter of that, for the body of any creature. Trade and commerce are carriers of a nation's wealth from centres of production to centres of consumption. Both these centres can be in a healthy state only if the carriers efficiently run the service. In the modern world, conditions of trade and commerce have to be carefully watched. World conditions tremendously influence trade and commerce. It is therefore necessary that there must be bodies of business experts to watch these changing conditions and suggest measures to save national trade and commerce from their evil effect or to profit by them to improve its position.

The Bihar Chamber of Commerce has a splendid record of work, and its deliberations have been very often found helpful by those who have to lay down the policy in matters of trade and commerce. Its journal 'Prosperity' has always been found to contain very interesting and useful articles on economic subjects. It has kept up a high level and been conducted with great ability.

I join heartily with the members of the Chamber in congratulating it on its past achievements and wishing it a long and useful career in future.



GOVERNOR OF BIHAR



Dr. SRI KRISHNA SINHA,
Chief Minister of Bihar.

Chief Minister, Bihar,
PATNA,
May 27, 1952.

I have learnt with great pleasure that the Bihar Chamber of Commerce is going to celebrate its Silver Jubilee this year. The need for an organisation to look after the interests of the business community is apparent. But the time has come when the objective of such associations should be widened to include a strict vigilance over the interests of the consumers as well. The Chamber should see to it that its individual members subordinate their personal interests to the well being of the community. I have no doubt the business class will be well served thereby. I do hope and trust that the Chamber will endeavour to safeguard the interests of the people and thereby serve the business interests of Bihar in years to come.

S. K. SINHA,

Minister of Finance,
Supply & Labour, Bihar.
The 7th November, 1951.

The Bihar Chamber of Commerce is justified in its intention to celebrate its Silver Jubilee after having completed full 25 years of its existence. It is needless to dilate on the services rendered by this organisation to the State of Bihar in the matter of promoting trade and industries. This organisation shall continue to work and serve its constituents and thereby establish its utility for a long time to come. I have every sympathy with this organisation and I would like to see it grow.

ANUGRAH NARAIN SINHA.

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Minister of Development & Transport,
Bihar, Patna.
The 2nd November, 1951.

It has given me great pleasure to learn that the Silver Jubilee of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce will be celebrated this year. During the past 25 years, the Chamber has rendered valuable services in promoting trade and industry in this State and in safeguarding the interest of those who are engaged in industrial development and commercial enterprise. In independent India, the role, which such an organisation like this can play, is of paramount importance and I hope the Bihar Chamber of Commerce will continue to impress upon its members the desirability of subordinating their personal interests with a view to promote the general welfare of our people. I wish the Chamber all possible success.

SYED MAHAMUD.

Minister for Commerce & Industry,
New Delhi, Nov. 14, 1951.

I know how provinces like Assam, Bihar and Orissa, have lagged behind in matters of industry, trade and commerce. Now is the time when the Provinces which have remained backward should come up to the level of others. I am sure the Bihar Chamber of Commerce must be doing its utmost to promote not only trade and commerce but also industry in the Province. The potentiality of Bihar is very great indeed. Unfortunately, it has not yet been explored. The Bihar Chamber of Commerce will render a great service to the Province and to the country if it can take effective steps to explore the industrial possibilities of the Province. So far as trade and commerce are concerned, I am sure your Chamber must be taking keen interest in their furtherance. So far as Government of India are concerned, I assure you that the case of Bihar will receive due attention in the planning of industry, trade and commerce.

H. K. MAHTAB.

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Minister for Labour,
New Delhi, Oct. 30, 1951.

It has given me great pleasure to learn that the Bihar Chamber of Commerce is celebrating its Silver Jubilee in November 1951 and is bringing out a Souvenir on that occasion. The Chamber has tried in its own way for promoting and safeguarding the interest of the commercial classes in the Province. The State has, no doubt, some important industrial units situated within its boundary but there is still much to be accomplished to exploit and utilise the natural resources of the State. The Chamber will be rendering a great service not only to the business community but to the general public if it devotes its attention more and more not only for gaining some facilities in respect of trade and commerce but for encouraging its members and others to establish industries in the Province. I wish the Chamber every success in the achievement of the aims it stands for.

JAGJIWANRAM.

Minister for
Natural Resources and
Scientific Research,
New Delhi,
Oct. 25, 1951.

I am glad to learn that the Bihar Chamber of Commerce which has completed twenty-five years of its existence is proposing to celebrate its Silver Jubilee. I send my good wishes to the Chamber on the occasion.

The commercial and industrial community has a very heavy responsibility upon it by the circumstances of today. It is in charge of the morals of the race; and by the standards that it follows, shall the whole nation be judged. It has the great duty of enhancing the prosperity of the country and in this process, making wealth in a just and proper manner and utilising the same in various avenues of public utility and social betterment.

I pray that your Chamber may play its fitting part in the building of the future of the great and historic State of Bihar, so full of natural resources and so rich in possibilities of expansion in every way.

SRI PRAKASA.

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Minister for
Works, Production & Supply,
New Delhi,
Oct. 15, 1951.

I congratulate your Chamber on its completion of 25 years of useful service.. I wish the function every success.

N. V. GADGIL.

Governor of Uttar Pradesh,
January, 16, 1952.

I send the Bihar Chamber of Commerce my best wishes on the occasion of the celebration of its Silver Jubilee. Associations of businessmen and industrialists have an important role to play in the economy of the country. They will be judged not merely by the success with which they safeguard the interests committed to their care, but by the efforts they make to promote standards of efficiency and fair-dealing amongst their members. More than ever, service to the public must motivate the activities of such bodies and I hope the Bihar Chamber has before it a career of increasing usefulness and importance.

H. P. MODY.

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Bombay,
Oct. 19, 1951.

I wish to send the Bihar Chamber of Commerce my good wishes and greetings on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee. The Chamber has reason to be proud of the work it has accomplished so far and I have no doubt that considering the potentialities of Bihar and the new political conditions in the country, there is scope for further and more effective work for the Chamber. Both personally and as a representative of a business house with important connections with the State of Bihar, I wish the Chamber continued success and prosperity.

DR. JOHN MATTHAI.

Chief Minister,
Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow,
March, 1, 1952.

I send my greetings to the Bihar Chamber of Commerce, which is going to celebrate its Silver Jubilee. I am sure the occasion will be utilized by it not only for stock-taking but also for shaping its future programme of activity. There is a great scope in India's development plan for the cooperation as well as collaboration from the Indian businessmen and industrialists. The utmost need today is one of increased production. The existing factories in Bihar may be—as they are in our State—capable of producing a great deal more than they are turning out today. The maximum utilisation of the installed capacity would be the easiest method and the industrialists can take the necessary steps towards that end. It should be possible to achieve this maximization by husbanding the existing resources, prudent use of the working capital, greater cooperation between the employers and the employed and greater reliance on scientific and rational methods. What is needed is that organizations of industrialists and businessmen should shape their future programmes with the objective of maximising production for the ultimate good of the people. I am glad to know from the Secretary of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce that the Chamber has been urging from time to time upon its constituents the extreme desirability of subordinating self-interests for the maximum good of the people and wish the Chamber success in its future career.

GOVIND BALLABH PANT.

My very best wishes to the Bihar Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of their Silver Jubilee. If they can say to themselves that they have worked always in the larger interests of the people as a whole, they may celebrate the Jubilee with doublefold enthusiasm.

C. RAJAGOPALACHARI.

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Chief Minister,
West Bengal, Calcutta,
Nov. 29, 1951.

The Bihar Chamber of Commerce has completed its 25th year of service to the place of my birth. I congratulate the Chamber for its successful work and wish it prosperity and increased activity in future.

B. C. ROY.

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All India Congress Committee
New Delhi,
Oct. 28, 1951.

I am glad to learn that your Chamber has completed 25 years of existence and you are going to celebrate the Silver Jubilee. Free India demands the co-operation and goodwill of all sections of the people. It is only by hard, honest and persistent effort that we can regenerate the nation. It is hoped that your Chamber will continue to serve the cause of trade and industry in the Province of Bihar. Please accept my good wishes on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of your Chamber of Commerce.

LAL BAHADUR.

8, Royal Exchange Place,
Calcutta,
Feb. 5, 1952.

I wish your Chamber, on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee Celebration, all prosperity and hope it will continue to advance from strength to strength.

G. D. BIRLA.

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Dalmia House,
New Delhi,
Oct. 27, 1951.

I wish success and prosperity for the Bihar Chamber of Commerce and my advice and request to the merchant community is that they should follow a really uniform policy for the well-being of the country. These days the merchant community have forgotten their inner strength and they should have courageous outlook and not yield unreasonably to authorities.”

RAM KRISHNA DALMIA.

Jamshedpur,
Feb. 12, 1952.

I am happy to have this opportunity of offering my sincere congratulations to the Bihar Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee Celebration.

True to its Memorandum of Association, the Bihar Chamber has during the last quarter of a century striven to promote and protect the cause of trade, commerce and industry in the State. With this end in view, it has on occasions urged or opposed legislation and collected and circulated statistics and other information to its members. Now that we are in control of our destiny, the responsibilities of the Chamber are all the greater. Not only have trade and industry to be developed, but in the present day circumstances of India, when realism dictates no other choice than happily mixed economy, private trade and industry have to be secured a fair deal at the hands of our relatively young Administration and just and equitable principles established in the conduct of trade, commerce and industry. In these tasks, the various Chambers of Commerce and industry scattered all over the country have a vital role to play. They must make their voice heard in the shaping of the economic and trade policies of the country and, at the same time, give a correct lead to their constituents in economic and allied matters. It is on the effective discharge of these responsibilities that their future progress and prosperity will largely depend.

It gives me especial pleasure to recall that the Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited has been member of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce for well over a decade. I have watched the activities of this Chamber with interest and appreciation and feel sure that it will gain strength and stature as the years roll by and by its wise counsel and example, command the confidence of the public and government in like measure.

JEHANGIR GHANDY.

Government of India,
Finance Commission,
New Delhi,
Feb. 1, 1952.

It gives me great pleasure to learn that the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce is going to take place soon. Nature has endowed Bihar with immense potentialities for industrial development. The Bihar Chamber of Commerce has been performing a very useful role in the promotion of industrial and commercial interests of Bihar and I send my best wishes to the Chamber for a continued career of ever-increasing usefulness.

K. C. NEOGY.

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MADRAS
Oct. 26, 1951.

It has given me great pleasure to learn that the Bihar Chamber of Commerce has completed 25 years of useful service. On the occasion of its Silver Jubilee Celebrations I send my warm greetings on behalf of the parent body, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, of which I have the honour to be the President this year. In India where mortality of men and institutions is high, it indeed speaks highly of the sponsors and of those successively associated with the Bihar Chamber of Commerce that the institution has engaged itself in useful service for a quarter of a century. May your Chamber grow from strength to strength and increasingly serve the cause of private enterprise in the larger and permanent interests of the country.

C. M. KOTHARI,

Calcutta,
May 7, 1952.

It gives me great pleasure to convey my hearty congratulations to the Bihar Chamber of Commerce on the completion of 25 years of its useful existence as the mouth piece of the industry and trade in Bihar. I have been closely associated with its working for about four years as its President. The Chamber has been doing important work and has rendered good service to the industrial and commercial interests in the State of Bihar. From small beginning it has steadily grown and the organisation is today in a position to make itself more and more useful to the industrial and business community. The one factor that has struck me is the enthusiasm of the members in the working of the Chamber and the interest and earnestness that they have shown towards the organisation. Such an organisation in a State which is rich in mineral resources and which affords great prospects of industrial development is bound to have growing importance and increasing opportunity for serving the industry and trade. I have no doubt that the Bihar Chamber of Commerce with the spontaneous and encouraging support of its members will rise to further heights in the service of Bihar's industry and commerce. I wish the Chamber growing strength and prosperity.

S. P. JAIN.

Muzaffarpur
Dec. 5, 1951.

I am very happy to know that the Chamber is celebrating its Silver Jubilee on the completion of a quarter of a century of useful service to the country and the community. Nothing could be better than to bring out a souvenir on this occasion giving the history of the Chamber's useful activities and containing the good wishes of the well wishers of the Chamber. I have been associated with your Chamber for a long time and have had the privilege of serving it as its President and I have no hesitation in saying that the Chamber has played its role remarkably well in the rather difficult days of this country during the last two or three decades. The commercial community and the industrial section have both profited as a result of the endeavours of the Chamber and the Chamber has not failed to lend its weight on the right side even on burning and controversial political questions. The Chamber, therefore, deserves well of the country and the community and I wish it a continued existence of progressively increasing useful activities.

With all good wishes for the future of the Chamber,

SHYAMNANDAN SAHAY.

Arrah,
Oct. 26, 1951.

It is a great pleasure for us who have been associated with the Bihar Chamber of Commerce since its inception to see the Chamber completing the 25th year of its very helpful services not only to the commercial community but also to the Province of Bihar. It has stood solidly with the National Congress all along and I remember with pride that during the 1942 'Quit India' movement, when all our Congress leaders were in jails, the Chamber decided not to invite to its annual function the Governor of the Province, the then head of the British Bureaucracy in the Province, as a protest against the then Government's attitude towards the Congress organisation. The Chamber has throughout stood for honest Industrial and Business activities and has always urged upon its members the desirability of subordinating their self-interest for the good of the people in general.

I wish the Bihar Chamber of Commerce a long and useful career in the service of the people and the Industry and Commerce of the Province.

CHAKRESHWAR KUMAR JAIN.

Jharia,
Nov. 1, 1951.

As one of the past Presidents of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce it gives me a special delight to offer my best wishes and felicitations to the Chamber on the eve of its Silver Jubilee Celebration.

The Bihar Chamber of Commerce which was ushered into existence about a quarter of a century ago, has played an important and distinctive role in the development of the industrial and commercial life of the Province. At a period when the economic policy of the country was being moulded and guided by an alien Bureaucracy in the interests of foreign capitalists and traders the Chamber stood and fought for advancement of the economic interests of the children of the soil. Now that India has attained political independence, she has got to work out her economic salvation, as political independence is incompatible with economic subservience.

We have, therefore, to look forward to a new era of development in the field of industry, trade and commerce. For that is needed a clear vision and an ideological clarity in the country's economic programme. At the present juncture State and private enterprise must both go hand in hand, neither the one nor the other can be wholly placed at a discount.

Our Province which is endowed with a vast resource of mineral wealth and other raw materials and also natural resources looms large in the industrial map of India and it should be our special endeavour to dedicate all our energy for the economic uplift of the teeming

millions of India and for eradication of the chronic poverty, hunger and disease of the masses.

May this lofty ideal of service inspire the Chamber in all its future activities and help it in bringing about an economic millennium, for otherwise our independence will be meaningless.

D. D. THACKER.

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COIMBATORE

Dec. 7, 1951.

I am glad to know that the Bihar Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee very shortly. On this happy occasion I send my cordial good wishes and greetings to all those associated in the work of the Chamber. In the present set up in our country there is need for vigilance on the part of the mercantile community. I have no doubt that the Bihar Chamber of Commerce will be of real help to the mercantile community. I wish all success to the Chamber in the years to come.

R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY.



SRI B. P. AGARWALLA
President.

Foreword

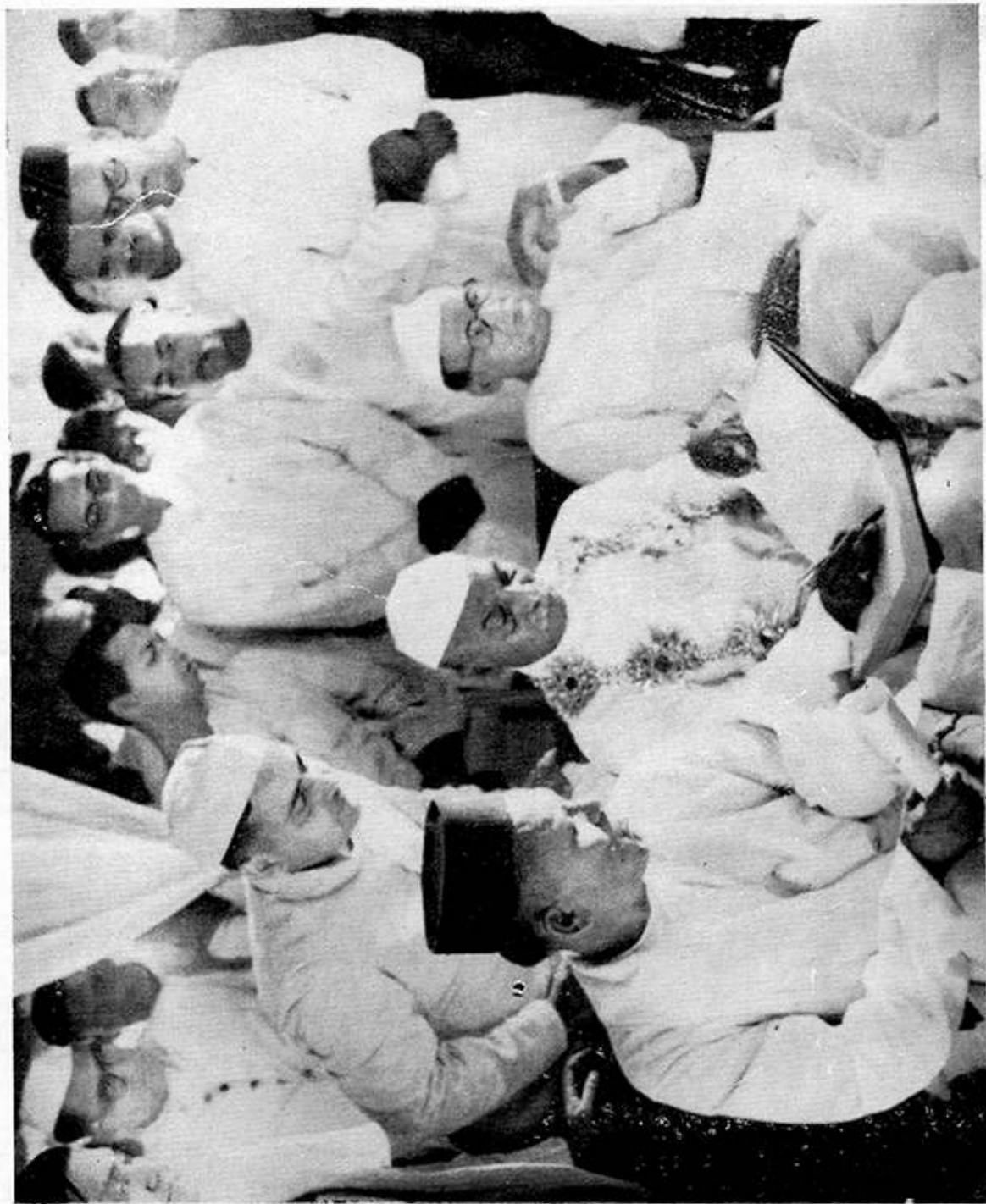
After 25 years of fruitful existence, the Bihar Chamber of Commerce is celebrating its Silver Jubilee. By a fortunate coincidence, I happen to be the President of the Chamber just this memorable year of the Jubilee celebration—a year which will be remembered with pride as a distinctive land-mark in the Chamber's life. On this occasion, it is my privilege to present to the public this humble souvenir which is an enlightened review of our past activities during the last quarter of a century. In these hectic times of rapid progress, speedy movements and revolutionary thoughts and ideas, a quarter of a century is a long significant period in national unfoldment in a dynamic international set-up. In this period, human progress has made long strides, human thoughts have advanced remarkably and science has made revolutionary changes in humanity's outlook and ways of life. During this period, the Bihar Chamber has played its due role in a magnificent way in keeping with the spirit of the time, the urgent needs of this State and the country, proceeding from success to success till it has grown into the great edifice which it is today. This souvenir volume compiled for the purpose of a commemoration gift contains a detailed account of how the Chamber has functioned in the economic and industrial life of this our dear province, of what its contributions have been and of the manner in which it has influenced the trend of commerce and industry of the whole country in general and of Bihar in particular. The compilers seek no other reward than that it fulfils the purpose for which it has been brought out as a tribute to the present memorable occasion.

The impact of events during both the pre-independence and the post-independence eras has left its mark on the activities of the Chamber. The Chamber was born when the Gandhian era had been firmly established in the politico-economic life of the nation. Every major development in the economic and industrial sphere had to be tested in the crucible of national interest pitted against a ruthless colonial exploitation. How far the Chamber succeeded in serving national interest and in maintaining the progressive outlook of the province as a keen zealous guard will ultimately be left to the verdict

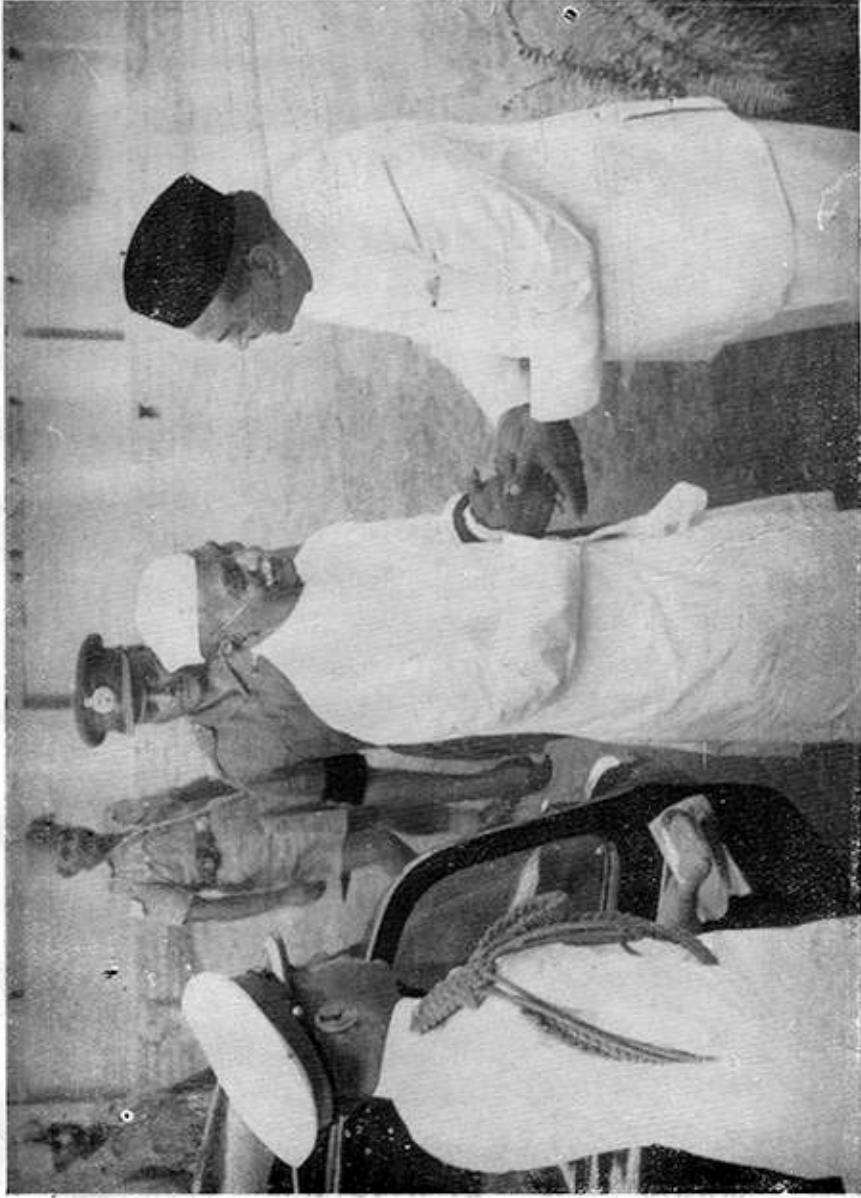
of history. But I am sure there are enough materials in this Souvenir volume to impress the public with the remarkable part the Chamber has played in furthering the commercial interests of Bihar and in upholding the province's aspirations to shape its destiny worthily in the nation's whole sphere of commerce and industry. While doing this, the Chamber, it will be noted, did by no means neglect to lend its weight to the political movement for Independence and to translate the nation's ever-unfolding aspirations into economic terms. In the same way, the Chamber has played its magnificent role in the post-Independence era on the basis of a new immeasurable responsibility which devolved on it with the emergence of political freedom in 1947. Freedom meant nothing until the supreme problem of finding food, cloth and shelter was solved and until the standard of living of the millions and millions of our people living a life of abject poverty and squalor was raised on the pattern of that of other advanced countries and of our own national aspirations. It is well that our national Government, immediately on achievement of independence, announced its unflinching faith in private enterprise and in the ability of such enterprise to tackle those basic national problems successfully. I am glad to say that if private enterprise has proved equal to this supremely responsible task, the Chamber also has not lagged behind in the matter of infusing new strength and new fervour among the entrepreneurs in all sectors of the province's private enterprise. If Bihar is gifted with ample natural resources, the Chamber is also enough resourceful in talents and experience to assist in the great task of exploiting those resources of the province. How far the Chamber succeeded in utilising those talents and experiences in the service of the province's commerce and industrial interests and for the general welfare of its people is evidenced by details in this souvenir volume which I am happy to be able to place in the hands of our members, patrons, constituents and the general public.

Pranwala

President.



Dr. Rajendra Prasad signs the Distinguished Visitors' Book on the occasion of his Reception in the Chamber on the 18th May, 1952.



Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of India, being received by Sri B. P. Agarwalla during his visit to the Chamber on the 18th May, 1952.

The Beginnings

ON the 2nd of June this year the Chamber commemorates its Silver Jubilee. Since its inception in 1926 as the Bihar and Orissa Chamber of Commerce with a membership of 19 only, it has steadily grown in strength and status. Today it has on its roll 405 Ordinary members and 6 Associate members comprising leading business houses in the State as well as from the outside. It has ten commercial organisations affiliated to it, some of which are themselves large organisations with membership running into hundreds. For instance, the Coal Merchants' Association of Dhanbad has 208 members on its roll not only from Bihar but also from different States in the country. The Indian Colliery Owners' Association of Dhanbad, representing almost all the Indian colliery owners of Bihar, is in itself a big organisation. The Kodarma Mica Mining Association of Jhumritelaiya (Hazaribagh) affiliated to the Chamber has on its roll most of the firms engaged in Mica mining in Bihar. Thus the Chamber, through its constituents covers almost the whole of the organised industry and trade of this State. As such, its status as the only Chamber of Commerce representing the commercial and industrial interests of the State of Bihar has come to be recognised both by the public and Government.

The growth of the Chamber from its humble beginning in 1926 would be in itself a fascinating story. Although the Chamber was formed only in 1926, the idea of having a Chamber of Commerce in Bihar cropped up early in 1925. The proposed appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire and report on the problem of Indian currency and exchange stirred the business community throughout the country. The rupee-sterling ratio became a topic of heated controversies. It was then that some business magnates of Bihar and Orissa felt the need of an institution which could give organised

expression to the views of the mercantile community on matters affecting the commercial and industrial development of the country generally and the province in particular. The matter, however, took a definite shape only when the Board of Industries passed a resolution on the 1st of May, 1925, appointing a Sub-Committee consisting of Sri S. M. Dass (Cuttack), Dewan Bahadur R. K. Jalan (then Rai Bahadur), Sri Bansidhar Dhandhanian, Sri B. F. Madan, Sri Radha Krishna and Sri R. C. Pandit, to sound business opinion and to find out ways and means for the organisation of a Chamber of Commerce. The Memorandum and Articles of Association were prepared by the Sub-Committee and permission was sought of the Bihar Government for registration of the Bihar and Orissa Chamber of Commerce under the Indian Companies Act of 1913 without the word "Limited". The permission was received on the 19th January 1926. Thereafter, a provisional Committee was formed with Sri R. C. Pandit as Honorary Secretary. The Committee framed the constitution and the Bihar and Orissa Chamber of Commerce was registered on the 23rd of March, 1926. The formal inauguration of the Chamber was, however, delayed till the 9th September 1926, when new members were admitted and accounts of income and expenditure approved and adopted. An Executive Committee with Dewan Bahadur R. K. Jalan as President and Sri R. C. Pandit as Honorary Secretary was elected. Messrs. B. A. Collins, I. C. S., C. I. E., and D. C. Gupta were admitted as Honorary Members.

Although twentyfive years is too short a period in the life of an institution, yet it has been filled with a record of glorious achievements. This Souvenir Volume, therefore, traces in detail the growth of this Chamber from 1926 upto this eventful year and the record of work done by it since its inception. It would be enough to mention here that in the course of twenty-five years of its existence, the Chamber has developed into an integral part of the economic set-up of this State.

The Chamber's membership during the period has increased manifold and the resources at its command have also grown proportionately. The total income by way of annual subscriptions was a

meagre sum of Rs. 651 in 1926. As against that in the last accounting year, the annual subscriptions from its members amounted to Rs. 31,650/-. In the first few years, the Chamber's Secretariat was a small affair and used to migrate from the office of one Hony. Secretary to that of the other until it was housed in the "Retreat" located on the Exhibition Road. But the need for a building of its own, spacious enough not only for the accommodation of the Office but also of a big hall to serve as a meeting place for any large gathering of business community was keenly felt. Representations were made to the Government for a suitable piece of land. The Government leased the land on which the present building is situated in 1945. Steps were immediately taken to raise a suitable fund for the building. However, pending the construction of the main building, a few rooms were constructed in a corner of the plot and the office of the Chamber was shifted to that building in December 1946. Sometime later, the two blocks of the main building comprising of the two office rooms in one block and a Committee Room with a bath room attached to it in the other block were constructed gradually out of the funds donated by the members from time to time. The Office was shifted from the out house to the main building early in 1950.

The main hall, however, still remains to be built and the present Office rooms have proved too small for the expanding activities of the Chamber. Efforts are being made to get a contiguous piece of land west of the present site as well and to complete the main building, which, when completed, would be an impressive architecture.

In the following pages, the history of the Chamber's activities as also its notable achievements from year to year have been given in important details. On perusal of the same, it will be apparent that its achievements have been by no means small. From small beginnings it has grown into a formidable organisation enjoying the confidence and co-operation of almost all the leading industrial and commercial firms in this State. Among others mention may be made of a few such as The Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., The Indian Steel & Wire Products Ltd., The Rohtas Industries Ltd., The Metal Corporation of India

Ltd., The Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd., The Associated Cement Co. of India Ltd., The Imperial Tobacco Co. of India Ltd., The Kumardhubhi Engineering Works, Ltd., The Bata Shoe Co. Ltd., The Arthur Butler & Co. (Muz.) Ltd., etc.

The Chamber has also steadily come to enjoy the confidence of the Government through persistent efforts interpreting the needs and grievances of the trade and industry to them. It has scrupulously kept the larger interests of the people of the State and the country at large in view and has subordinated the sectarian and limited interest for the sake of the larger interests.

The Story of the Chamber

The First year (1926)

IN 1926, the first year of its existence, a good deal of preliminary work was done under the able guidance of the President, Sri R. K.



Sri R. K. Jalan

Jalan, and the Hon'y. Secretary, Sri R. C. Pandit. The Office of the Chamber was then located at the premises of the Bank of Behar, Patna. Even with its limited resources, the Committee vigorously pursued the question of Chamber's representation on public bodies, received an invitation to attend the Indian Industrial Conference and submitted its constructive suggestions on Wages Payment Bill, Finance Bill, Taxation Enquiry Committee Report, Reserve Bank and the Economic Enquiry Committee Report, and agitated for facilities for transshipment of goods at Mokameh and Semariaghat. The Com-

mittee also framed Rules of Arbitration for speedy disposal of disputes and differences arising among merchants.

* * *

The President, Rai Bahadur Radha Krishana Jalan, in his address expressed gratification at the wide measure of support which the Chamber had received even in the first year of its existence from the various trading interests of the province. He pleaded that the Provincial Government should spend more freely on the development of the industries, trade and commerce of the province & regretted the inordinate delay in the sanction of loans to industries from the Board of Industries. Referring to the crisis in the coal industry, he suggested that as a measure of relief, long distance coal freight be reduced and railways should be restricted from opening new coal mines. He expressed gratification at the progress of steel industry under protective duties and referred to the exchange ratio controversy and abolition of Stamp duties on cheques and demand drafts. In the end, he appealed for full co-operation from all those interested in the commercial development of the province.

The First Annual General Meeting was held on the 22nd May, 1927 at the premises of the Bank of Behar, Patna.

Rai Bahadur Bansidhar Dhandhania was elected President and Sri R. C. Pandit, Hony. Secretary, for the next year.

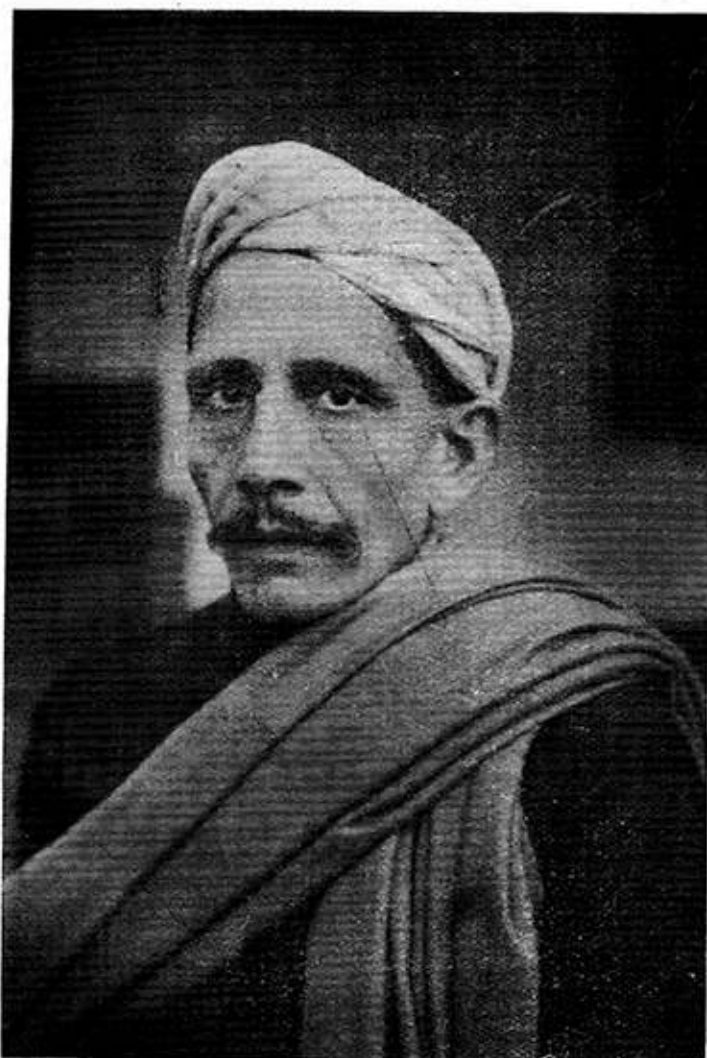
The Second year (1927)

This year witnessed a considerable increase in the activities of of the Chamber. Besides submitting a Memorandum to the Roads Development Committee, the Committee considered and submitted its opinions on Export Duties on raw hides; the Bihar and Orissa Mica Bill; the Reserve Bank Bill; the Land Requisition Bill of Mr. Kelkar; Amendment to Bihar and Orissa Excise Bill; Indian Mines (Amendment) Bill; Amendments to Law of Evidence; Vernacular Development Committee and Rules under Indian Ports Act. In July, 1927, representatives of the Chamber met Mr. Tottenham of the Central Board of Revenue, Government of India, and discussed matters relating to Income-tax affairs. On the 13th December, 1927, a deputation on behalf of the Chamber presented to Sir Hugh Stephenson, the then Governor, an address of welcome which was received at the Government House, Patna. The income of the Chamber increased

from Rs. 651/- in 1926 to Rs. 1157/8/- in 1927. The Chamber had urged representation on B. N. Rly. Advisory Committee at Cuttack, B. & N. W. Rly. Advisory Committee at Muzaffarpur and had demanded an E. I. R. Advisory Committee for Bihar on the ground that it had a larger mileage of E. I. R. line than Bengal, but none of their representations succeeded.

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The Second Annual General Meeting was held on the 18th March, 1928 at the Behar Bank's premises. Besides other addresses,



Sri Bansidhar Dhandhanic

Mr. A. L. Ojha delivered a speech at the General Meeting in which he stressed the potential mineral wealth of the Province and opined that there was a great future both for coal and sugar industries in the Province if only industrialists combined and worked together. Mr. Ojha expressed his gratification over the success of the Committee in securing two seats on the Board of Industries. In the address presented to the Governor, the Chamber requested the Provincial Government to recommend to the

Government of India the reduction of railway freight on coal and

Coke for long distance traffic, and steps for popularisation of the use of soft coke. It also prayed for the enlargement of the powers of the Board of Industry and for making the State Aid to Industry Act really operative by placing adequate sums at the disposal of the Board. It further urged special provision for commercial education and expressed its alarm over the report of the Vernacular Development Committee which had recommended compulsory teaching of both Hindi and Urdu languages to High School students.

The Governor's reply, inter alia, covered the following useful suggestions: "There is no magic in the name Chamber of Commerce. Your strength must consist in formulating carefully with a full sense of your responsibility, the sound and considered opinion of the body of those engaged in commercial and industrial pursuits. . . . No one can withhold from you the influence which the weight of those opinions entitle you but the opinions you represent must transcend the narrow bounds of personal or trade interests; they must take the long view of the general prosperity of the province for the prosperity of commerce and industry is wrapped up in that and is conditioned by it". The Governor announced that the Government had approved in principle a University course in commerce but its introduction was to wait in view of other urgent claims on the exiguous finances of the University.

Rai Bahadur Bansidhar Dhandhanian was elected President and Sri R. C. Pandit was re-elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Third year (1928)

The year 1928 saw the addition of two more members, to the 29 ordinary and two honorary members on the roll. The Railway Board had turned down the Committee's request for the constitution of an Advisory Board for the E. I. R. in Bihar. The Committee's efforts for other representations had not also proved successful. The Committee, however, continued its efforts towards securing representations on public bodies.

The Committee voiced their opposition to the formation of Trusts and Combines and held that support to Indian Industries through

subsidies or tariffs should not benefit a selected few at the cost of the development of the particular industry, which would be the inevitable result of giving protection to a cartelised industry. The Committee commended Mr. K. C. Neogi's Amendment Bill of Merchandise Marks Act and Mr. Haji's Bill for the Reservation of Coastal Traffic to Indian Vessels. Replying to the Age of Consent Committee's questionnaire the Committee demanded penalisation for early marriage. The Committee opposed the Extension of the Chota-Nagpur Encumbered Estate Act to Bihar proper; generally welcomed the provision of the Hindu Religious Endowment Bill and the Mahomedan Waqf Bill. The Committee also expressed its opinion on the Trades Disputes Bill, the Accountancy Bill, the Workmen's Compensation Bill and the Indian Patents and Designs Bill. The Bengal and North Western Railway informed the Committee that they would consider the Chamber's claim for a seat on the Advisory Committee at Muzaffarpur. The Committee opposed the grant of protection to the oil industry in the interest of the consumer. The Committee sent a delegation of 8 members to the Meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce held in Calcutta on the 28th and 29th of December, 1928.

At about that time the Committee received its second representation when it was asked to elect a Fellow to the Senate of the Patna University. The Chamber fought a memorable battle on the grant of license for the Cuttack Electrification Scheme. Competitive offers by the Bank of Bihar were turned down by the Government in favour of Messrs Octavious Steel & Co. Ltd. Mr. K.C. De's Memorandum to the Central Committee for Road's Development at Delhi was another useful pamphlet published by the Chamber.

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The Third Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 22nd March, 1929. The President, Rai Bahadur Bansidhar Dhandhania, remarked:- "In a modern State, Commerce and Industry can hardly be divorced and separated from Politics. In the West, Commerce dominates Politics. In India it is Politics which dominates everything else." He made a stirring appeal to Biharis to take

the lead in the industrial development of the Province. Mr. A. L. Ojha who addressed the Chamber's meeting for the second time struck a similar note. He stated that it was hardly necessary to emphasise the interdependence of Commerce and Government. Just as Trade and Commerce depended on Government to maintain conditions of stability and security, so was Government dependent for the finance of schemes and even for its solvency on the prosperity of the industrial and mercantile world, and he made an exhortation for the establishment of such industries as Cutlery, Tanning, Knitting, Hand-Spinning and Weaving both Cotton and Wool, Newar and Tape Weaving and Rope Making, Copper and Ball Metal Works etc.,—industries which could be easily established.

Rai Bahadur Radha Krishna Jalan was elected President and Sri R. C. Pandit was re-elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The fourth year (1929)

The membership of the Chamber had increased to 38. The Committee was given one seat on the B. & N. W. Railway Advisory Committee for Bihar. It agitated unsuccessfully for representation on the Railway Rates Advisory Committee, the E. I. R. Advisory Committee and other public bodies. A detailed Memorandum on Labour was submitted to the Royal Commission on Labour, and so was a memorandum submitted to the Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee. Enhancement of the import duty on sugar and textiles was opposed. An enquiry by the Tariff Board on Salt Industry was supported; the need for commercial education was stressed; the institution of a Court of Enquiry in the Tinplate Strike was advised and various enquiries were attended to.

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The Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 21st March 1930, in which Messrs. D. C. Gupta, Director of Industries, Sri K. P. Jayaswal and Dr. P. P. Pillai attended by special invitation. Those were the days when there was acute monetary stringency and the bank rate was at the high level of 7% as compared

to 4^o/_o in England. In this context the President rightly opposed the proposed enhancement of the rate of Income Tax. He welcomed the Board of Industries' suggestion for appointment of Boiler Inspectors, and stressed the need for a Commercial College, more facilities for technical education, and the constitution of a Provincial Stores Purchase Department.

Rai Bahadur Ram Ran Vijay Sinha, M. L. C., was elected President and Mr. R. C. Pandit was re-elected Hon'y. Secretary for the next year.

The Fifth year (1930)

The Bills considered by the Committee during the year, 1930, were: The Arya Marriage Validation Bill, The Hindu Widow's Right of Inheritance Bill, Amendment to Income Tax Act, Draft Indian Partnership Bill, Amendment of the Sea Customs Act 1878 and The Bihar and Orissa Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill.

The Committee vigorously protested against the attitude of the Government of India towards Indian industries evidenced in their rushing through some legislations and in pigeonholing others indefinitely thus practically scotching them. A special meeting of the members held on the 8th June 1930, modified the Articles of Association of the Chamber. Other matters considered by the Chamber were: Government of India Budget, Election of Native States' subject to Employers' Delegation at Geneva, Import Duty on wheat, Registration of Trade Marks, forced labour and Hours of Employment for salaried employees and Qualification of Income Tax Agent. Names for the Panel of Referees for the Province under the Income Tax Act were submitted. The names of Babu Mahendra Prasad, elder brother of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who had been a member of the Committee and Mr. B. Gupta were submitted for the Indian Accountancy Board. Following representation to Government, a deputation consisting of Rai Bahadur Ram Ran Vijay Sinha, Rai Bahadur R. K. Jalan, Mr. Sri Narain Arora and Mr. R. C. Pandit waited on the Chief Secretary to press the claim of the Chamber for

a seat on the Council. Though the Chamber was not given the right to elect a representative on the Council, the then President of the Chamber, Rai Bahadur Ram Ran Vijay Sinha was nominated to represent the commercial interests.

The Chamber was at the time represented on the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Board of Industries, the Patna University Senate, the B & N. W. Ry. Advisory Committee, Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Referees under the Income Tax Act. The Chamber's notes on the Report of the Hide Cess Enquiry Committee, Coastal Trades and Railway Advisory Committee were very informative.

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The Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 19th April 1931. The President, Rai Bahadur Ram Ran Vijay Sinha, dwelt on the recommendations of the Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee; made out a strong case for termination of the B & N. W. Railway's lease; dwelt on Central Finances; deepening of the general trade depression and slump in prices; the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, the inauguration of the Annual Meeting of the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce by Mahatma Gandhi; the F. I. C. I. delegation to the second R. T. C. consisting of Sir Purushottamdas Thakurdas, Mr. G. D. Birla and the Hon'ble Mr. Jamal Muhammad; the causes of the economic depression and the Hindu-Muslim dissension.

Raja Devaki Nandan Prasad Singh was elected President and Sri R. C. Pandit was re-elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Sixth year (1931)

The Committee dealt with the following:—Publication of crop forecasts; The Indian Partnership Bill; Draft Rules regarding Auditor's Certificates; Exemption from operation of Factories Act; Prevention of Industrial Accidents; Income Tax; Board of Referees;

Export of Castor oil; Section 59 of the Provincial Insolvency Act; Wagons for Hide Traffic; Increase of Duty on Import of Hosiery; Amendements to sec 144 of Cr. P.C.; Renewal of Lease of B. N. W. Rly.; Retrenchment in Indian Stores Department; Indians in Burma; Acceptance of Higher Tenders by Stores Department; closing of old Dighaghat Station for Goods Booking; Removal of Post Master General's Office; B. & O. Provincial Industrial Conference; Fire Brigade at Patna; Burma Disturbances and the Taxation Proposals.

The Railway Board sanctioned the election of a representative of the Chamber to the E. I. R. Advisory Committee. Opining on the Karachi Congress Fundamental Rights, the Committee disapproved of adult suffrage, recommending its limitation by educational qualifications; urged freedom of labourers from conditions bordering on serfdom if it existed anywhere, and supported Progressive income tax on agricultural incomes.

The Burma disturbances and the consequent loss of life and property of Biharis were taken up by the Committee which insisted that provisions for affording adequate protection to Indian property and life must be made by the Government.

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The Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 5th April, 1932.

In his Presidential Address, Raja Devaki Nandan Pd. Singh expressed hopes of success of the second R. T. C.; gratification at the comparative prosperity of the sugar industry in North Bihar and the need for power alcohol industry for utilisation of molasses. He voiced his protest over the recommendation of the Provincial Franchise Committee in allotting only one seat to Commerce on the Council, and against the attitude of Income Tax Officials; dwelt on Provincial and Central Finance, Railway Transport, and opposed the Government proposal to amalgamate the post of Director of Industry and Agriculture into one. He suggested generation of electricity with coal and distribution of electrical energy within a radius of 300 miles of power Stations. An important feature of the Annual

Meeting was the very learned speech by Mr. D. C. Gupta, the then Director of Industries, explaining the causes of trade depression.

Raja Devaki Nandan Pd. Singh, M. L. C., was re-elected President and Sri R. C. Pandit was re-elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Seventh Year (1932)

The Committee dealt with the following:—

Extension of Sec. 58 of the Transfer of Property Act; Employer's liability to workmen; Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill; rates for fresh fruits in wagon loads; reservation of Stamp Duty; Revision of the Indian Factories Act; B & O Electrical Certificate of Competency Rules; Income Tax amendment; prompt settlement of claims to Insurance Offices; adoption of universal standard for Indian cotton; railway receipts as negotiable instruments; attachment of workmen's wages; Indian Khaddar (Name Protection) Act 1933, besides participating in the election of its own representatives on the various bodies.

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At the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Chamber, held on the 4th June 1933 Rai Sahib Sri Narain Arora, Vice-President, was voted to the Chair, in the absence of Raja Devaki Nandan Prasad Singh, M. L. C. and he delivered the Presidential address. The President referred to the growing volume of un-employment and the deepening of the depression; the World Economic Conference; the work of the Soft Coke Cess Committee; the need of skilful propaganda for larger domestic use of soft coke; the need for electrical development in Bihar; the rapid development of the sugar industry in Bihar due to protective tariffs; the failure of a large number of rural Co-operative Societies and of the Gaya Central Co-operative Bank, which he he opined, was due to the fact that they were not run on commercial lines besides being in the hands of people who were not well-equipped for the task and the absence of any moral justification for the Co-operative Societies enjoying immunity from Income Tax. In his address

Rai Bahadur Ramran Vijay Sinha referred to the organisation of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce and said that if the spirit of communalism were introduced into the organism of trade and Commerce, it would act like a virus and could not, therefore, be conducive to the betterment either of the mercantile community or of the society as a whole. He vehemently criticised the manner in which the Upper House in Bihar had been constituted. Mr. K. C. De made a speech holding that till the leaders of the nation were in prison and instability prevailed, trade and commerce could not prosper. Rai Bahadur Thacker made an appeal for the abolition of the surcharge freight on coal and the invidious distinction made between C. P. and Bihar coal in the matter of railway freight.

Raja Devakinandan Prasad Singh, M. L. C., was re-elected President and Sri R. C. Pandit was re-elected Honorary Secretary for the next year.

The Eighth Year (1933)

The Committee expressed its views on the following:—

Attachment of workers' wages; duty on copra and oil; Burma and Federal Government; periods of wage payment and the Indian State Protection Bill. The committee suggested to the Patna Electric Supply Co., to dim lights for some seconds at 9 p. m. to provide a time signal to the City—a suggestion which was not carried out by the Electric Company. The Committee decided to take the work of registration of trade marks for the Province and the draft rules for the same were approved. The Committee protested against any modification of the law for amnesty and imprisonment for debts.

The Committee did not favour the creation of a final tribunal for hearing and deciding Income Tax appeals. Relating to Trade Disputes Act, the Committee were of the view that although the enquiries made in the year 1920 with the object of finding out if it was possible to provide some statutory machinery for the prevention and settlement of trade disputes was premature, the enquiries which

were again held in 1924-25 warranted the necessity of such a legislation as a result of which Act VII of 1929 was passed. The Committee proposed a number of changes in the Act.

The Committee also submitted a long memorandum regarding protection to Steel Industry.

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The Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber which was held on the 20th March, 1934, at the Sinha Library Hall, was marked by a fairly good attendance of high officials and the Hon'ble Mr. Syed Abdul Aziz, Minister of Education and Development, Bihar.

Rai Saheb Sri Narain Arora, who in the absence of the President, delivered the presidential address, dwelt on the terrible earthquake that had visited Bihar on the 14th January, 1934. He voiced the opposition of the business community to the excise duty on sugar and matches and the surcharge on railway freight for coal. The Meeting was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Mr. Syed Abdul Aziz. Resolutions relating to grant of long term loans to businessmen in view of the earthquake, the removal of surcharge on coal freight, conditions to be fulfilled before protection could be granted to the Steel Industry, and the unjustified competition of Postal Assurance with the work of Insurance companies, were adopted.

Sri Nirmal Kumar Jain was elected President and Sri R. C. Pandit, was re-elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Ninth Year (1934).

The Committee urged upon the Provincial Government to provide facilities of road and rail transport to the sugar industry, utilisation of bye-products, and to abolish the excise duty to enable the sugar industry to stabilise itself. The Committee also desired that the scope of the B & O Natural Calamities Loan Bill be widened so as to enable private financiers to take up the work of rehabilitation of the devastated province but Government did not agree to the view. Babu Mahendra Prasad, who had been a member of the Committee and

Chamber's representative on the Provincial Board of Industries, died during the year. The Committee had an informal meeting with the Chief Commercial Manager, E. I. Ry., and stressed that Government should have a uniform standard for mustard oil both of Bihar and Bengal instead of having two different standards.

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The Ninth Annual General Meeting elected Rao Bahadur D. D. Thacker M. I. M. E. F., R. S. A. (London) as President and Mr. H. B. Chandra as Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Tenth Year (1935).

The ordinary membership of the Chamber increased from 47 to 70. As a result of the Chamber's representation, the office of the Commissioner of Income Tax was removed from Ranchi to Patna and a fresh distribution of income-tax circles and several minor-improvements in the submission of accounts and issue of notices were made. The Chamber's representative tendered evidence before the Income Delineation Committee in connection with the grant of a seat to the Chamber in the reformed Bihar Legislative Assembly. The Chamber opposed the B & O Cess(Amendment) Bill, 1935, for levy of cess on coal. It submitted a Memorandum to Sir Otto Niemeyer, G. B. S., K. C. B., on the question of allocation of certain resources between the Central and Provincial Governments under the new Constitution. A Memorandum was also submitted before the Board of Inland Revenue Experts Advisory Committee on the reform of Income-tax Law in India. The representatives of the Chamber appeared before the Committee and tendered their evidence. The informal quarterly meetings with the Chief Commercial Manager, the Divisional Superintendent, and other Superintendents of the E. I. R. Rly. were held. These meetings, even if they did not result in immediate material relief, tended to bring about smoother working and a better appreciation of mutual needs and difficulties. There were two social functions in the year, one to meet Lala (now Sir) Padampat Singhania and the other to meet Messrs. C. V. Ayer

and S. P. Chamber, Members of the Board of Inland Revenue Experts Advisory Committee.

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The Tenth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held in the grounds of the Great Asoka Assurance Company. For the first time in the history of the Chamber the Governor of the province, His Excellency Sir James David Sifton, K.C.S. I., K. C. I. E., I. C. S., performed the opening ceremony of the session.

In his Presidential address Rao Bahadur (Later Dewan Bahadur) D.D. Thacker referred to the world wide depression which started with the year 1929 and said that Bihar, which depended mainly on agricultural prices for its prosperity, had suffered very greatly due to the disastrous fall in these prices which seriously affected the purchasing capacity of the agriculturists thus limiting expansion of industrial growth as well. He suggested an intensive programme of economic planning over a series of years as a remedial measure. The sugar industry in the province had become second in point of importance in the production of sugar in India and the President, therefore, suggested provision of facilities for its consolidation by abolition of the Excise Duty, by comprehensive research work in sugarcane cultivation, by providing facilities for supply of water, by supplying good seeds and by the establishment of model farms. Referring to coal, he regretted that the Central Government had not seen their way to accept the industry's demands for restricting the output of coal in order that production might not outstep demand. He urged total abolition of the surcharge on railway freight on coal, increase in duty on import of foreign coal, protective measures to counter fires in Jharia coal field area and for preservation of better quality coal suitable for metallurgical purposes. He referred to the useful activities of the Indian Government Coke Cess Committee, established under the Indian Government Coke Cess Act, 1929, due to which there had been considerable expansion of the soft coke trade. But that was not enough. Reduced special rate for coke was a great necessity. He referred to the prosperous condition of the Mica industry which had exported 1,05,000 cwts of Mica worth Rs. 69 lacs. in the year 1934-35. The Income-tax

reform enquiries were welcomed and he further commended the suggestions of the Chamber contained in the Hon. Secretary's Memorandum in respect of carrying forward of losses, suitable allowances for depreciation on machinery and wasting assets like coal-mines and the formation of an independent I.T. Appellate Authority on question of fact. He referred to Sir Otto Niemeyers's Enquiry and the aforesaid Memorandum pointing out the disabilities under which Bihar suffered and suggested remedies. In the end, he referred to the bad management of the B. & N. W. Rly. and advocated the Railway's transference to Indian hands and concluded with an appeal for grant of a plot of land for the Chamber's building.

The Governor Sir James David Sifton began by a reference to the economic depression, its serious impact on a Province like Bihar and the new India Budget which indicated that the worst had been weathered. Touching upon comprehensive economic planning referred to by the President, he said, that though the idea was attractive, neither the results achieved by the first Five Year Plan of the U.S.S.R. which brought about shortage of farm products, nor the Planning of the Roosevelt Government in America which brought about large devaluation of the currency and the piling up of an enormous national debt, justified adoption of such measures especially for an agricultural province like Bihar. He made a plea for financial orthodoxy and for improvements in farming, husbandry and marketing. The excise duty on sugar, he proceeded, was, on a long-range view, justified, as the measure of protection remaining after the imposition of sugar excise was sufficient to allow reasonably well organised factories, a fair margin of profit. This was testified to by Sugar Technologist who held that the duty was a wholesome check on excessive expansion and because a part of the excise receipts which was assigned to the province was devoted to improvement of seed, maintenance of an inspectorate in organising cooperative societies for helping the cultivators to market their cane successfully, it was not all bad.

The enormous increase in the bulk of sugar produce per acre which had gone up to 400 mds. from 20 mds, raised the problem of road communication. Since it was beyond the capacity of the roads,

which would excessively deteriorate involving danger to the health of the countryside, it was desirable that the possibility of having aerial ropeways be explored. He expressed the hope that the Railway Board would be able to reduce still further if not abolish, the surcharge on coal freights. In the end the Governor made an appeal for making the Chamber more representative and strong. Even if the leaders of big industries belonged to other Associations in Calcutta or Bombay, they could be persuaded to join the Association in Bihar also.

This Annual Meeting was also remarkable from the fact that many important industrialists who have since then contributed a good deal towards shaping the Chamber, Mr. R. Dalmia, Mr. S. P. Jain, Rai-Bahadur Shymnandan Sahay, Messrs. Horil Ram Chattu Ram, Messrs Burmah Shell etc., were admitted to the Chamber.

Rai Sahib (the late Rai Bahadur) Sri Narain Arora was elected President and Sri H. B. Chandra was re-elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Eleventh Year (1936).

The membership of the Chamber increased to 93 and the membership funds went up to just above Rs. 3000 as against Rs. 1870/- in the previous year. The Articles of Association were further amended to obviate some of the difficulties relating to quorum at General Meetings and the name of the Chamber was changed to Bihar Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber elected Mr. Chakreshwar Kumar Jain, B. A., B. L., to the Bihar Legislative Assembly.

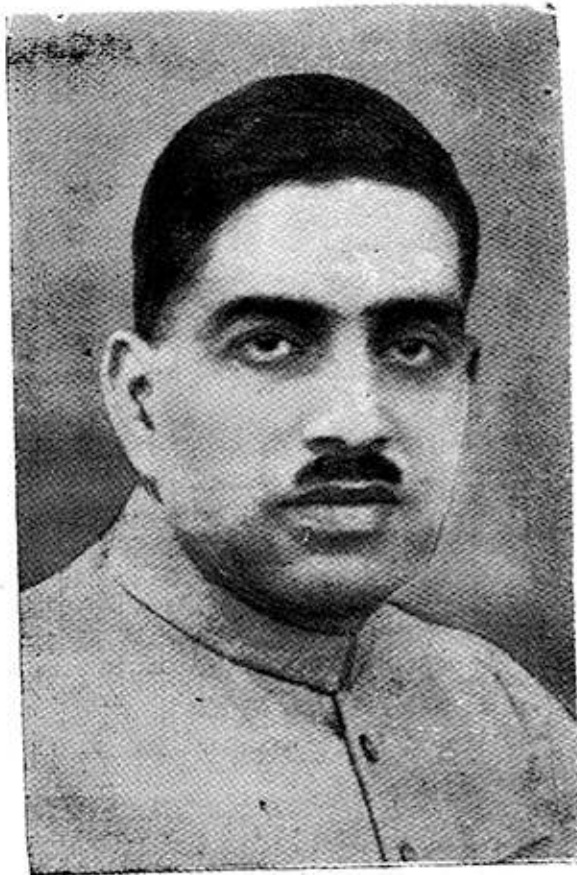
In submitting their opinion on the Bihar Agriculturist's Relief Bill, the Committee suggested the registration of "Money-lenders" and "Pawn-brokers" and the need of properly defining the terms. Dealing with the Indian Companies Act Amendment Bill, 1936, the Committee held that the limitation of the period of Managing Agency to 20 years would operate to the disadvantage of industrial expansion and made further useful suggestions. The Committee also dealt with the Indian Railways Amendment Bill, Indian Motor Vehicles Amendment

Bill, proposed amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, Civil Disabilities Removal Bill, revision of coastal traffic, increase in Railway freight, trade with Afghanistan, Ottawa Trade Agreement, Report of the special Tariff Board, Terminal Changes on the E. I. R. and B. N. Railway, Sugar Protection Rules, Indo-British Trade Agreement, improvement in E. I. Railway timings and the constitution of the Railway Finance Enquiry Committee.

The Committee recommended the name of Mr. Debes Chandra Ghose for the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board.

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The Eleventh Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 7th April 1937. Rai Sahib Sri Narain Arora referred in his



Sri Narain Arora

Presidential Address to the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy, the sad demise of Rai Bahadur Ramran Vijay Sinha, the general disappointment at the refusal of the Congress to form ministries, the India Budget which was a story of disappointments, the increase in the Excise duty on sugar and in the import duty on silver even when gold was exported without checks for the temporary maintenance of the exchange, the amendment in the Companies Act of 1913, the proposed revision of the Insurance Act, the Law relating to the incidence and administration of the Income Tax in India, the serious

diminution in the value and quality of International Trade since 1929 due largely to the policy

adopted by almost all importing countries of restricting imports, controlling foreign exchange, depreciating the currency for the purpose of protecting national markets, the unmistakable trends towards economic self-sufficiency in each country which led predominantly agricultural countries to adopt a policy of industrialisation through protection and led industrial countries to pursue a policy of agricultural development by the grant of subsidies, restriction of imports by quotas, and the regulation of the home market by Marketing boards. "Due to these causes and the changes which they have brought about, the export trade of India, in sympathy with international trade, has dwindled. Our favourable balance has proved insufficient to pay for invisible imports with the result that this country had to draw heavily on her reserves of gold amounting to about 300 crores during the past five and a half years by way of supplementing our merchandise deficit".

He stressed that even Ottawa was a closed chapter. India must be on her guard in negotiations for a fresh trade agreement with Britain and the terms of such an agreement must leave enough scope for bilateral trade agreements with other chief foreign customers of India. Referring to the Report of the Wedgewood Railway Enquiry Committee, he said that though after the separation of the Railway Budget, the gross earnings had doubled since 1930, the working expenses had increased to $2\frac{1}{2}$ times. He referred to the defective railway rates policy, the trade discrimination against native industries and Commerce and the heavy expenses on publicity in foreign countries as outstanding defects; and the need for rapid Indianisation of railway services; an independent Rates Tribunal, a revision of the Risk Notes, coordination of transport services and more business like methods as the minimum demands of the mercantile community. He made a plea for the Indianisation of the ownership of the B. & N. W. Ry. which would combine cheapness with efficiency and against the increase in Sugar excise duty simultaneously with the reduction in the import duty on it. He held that the proposed taxation of agricultural incomes was justified by all canons of Public Finance. He concluded by making reference to the depression in the coal and mica industry, the rise in the

membership of the Chamber and the need for suitable plot of land for the Chamber's building.

The Governor, Sir Maurice Garnier Hallet, in his inaugural address said that the President's speech should have contained some indication of constructive proposals of the Chamber; of the action which the individual members of the Chamber were taking to develop the industries and commerce of the province. He felt that some of the criticisms, though not put forward with any political motive, tended to be one sided and he proceeded to offer an apologia for the Government's action in appointing the Wedgewood Committee quoting extensively from the speeches of Hon'ble Sir Zafrullah Khan in the Central Legislative Assembly, and from a speech of the Financial Commissioner of Railways. He assured that specific complaints of the Chamber with regard to the working of the Railways would be attended to. He referred to the reduction in the cane price and reduction in freight and hoped that it would help the sugar industry considerably. He assured that the problem of finding gainful employment for women who were prohibited from working under ground in the collieries would engage his personal attention. The increase in freight in relation to mica and other difficulties facing the industry would, he assured, be gone into. He referred to the article on the minerals of Singhbhum by Dr. Dunn of the Geological Survey of India which held "Singhbhum as providing a happy hunting ground for prospectors". He urged the Chamber to do all they could not only to create forms of employment of minerals and new industries but to secure employment to *Biharees in the industries of the province*. He agreed that the lack of a building was a hindrance to the Chamber's activities and assured that if the matter was represented to the Government they would be ready to help in the matter.

Lala Gurusharan Lal was elected President and Sri R. N. Agarwal was elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

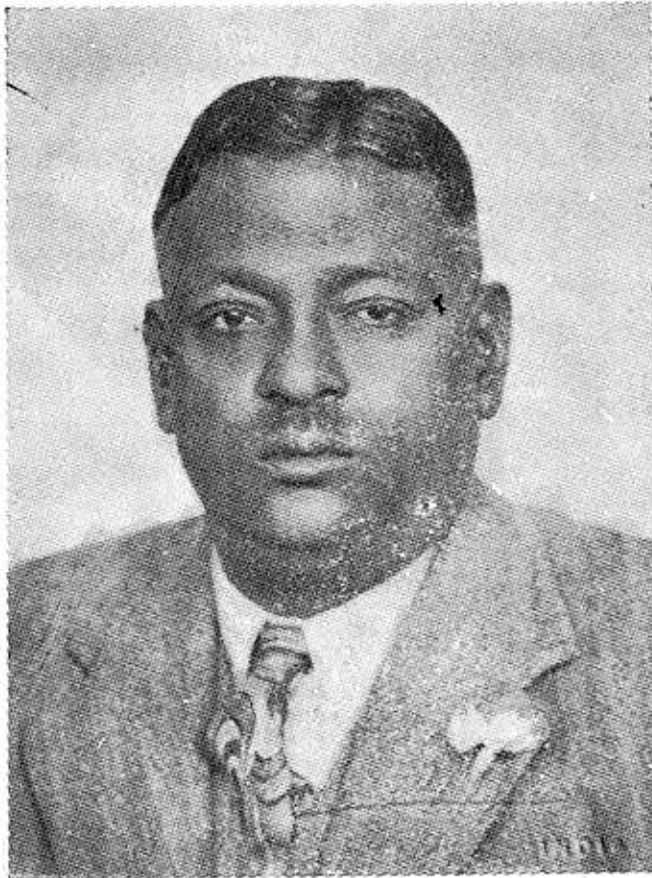
The Twelfth Year (1937).

The Committee submitted a Memorandum to the Hon'ble Mr. J. L. Seehy I.C. S., Member, Central Board of Revenue, on the Report of the Income Tax Enquiry Committee and the Administration of Income Tax in Bihar. The Memorandum recommended that the entire agricultural income should be taxed under the Income Tax Act; that the entire revenue derived from the tax should go to the province; that incomes from usufructuary mortgages should not be made taxable; that incomes from foreign countries of a resident of British India should be taxed on accrual basis and not on the basis of its actual receipt; that incomes of non-residents from business situated in British India should also be taxed; that in deciding the question of the principal place of business of a company, the place where the factory was situated should be so considered for assessment purposes that the practice of assessing incomes as arising from centres where the Head Offices were situated—the registered Head Offices of many Bihar firms were situated outside the Province—was justified to ascertain the actual share of income from taxation which should rightly belong to Bihar; that the proposal to add all incomes derived by different members of a family in order to arrive at the figure of taxable income would operate towards the disruption of the undivided Hindu family which had already been considerably shaken; that the slab system could be adopted with suitable modifications; that business houses should be permitted to carry forward their losses from year to year; that a revenue district should be the unit for purposes of administration of Income-tax etc. The Committee were of opinion that the Tea Restriction Scheme had benefitted the Tea Industry and hence a further extension in the period of control was necessary as also a legislation to implement the Agreement. The necessity of legislation for the registration of Trade Marks was stressed. The Committee also dealt with the need for revision of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, Annual Holidays with Pay, Medical Preparations and Restriction on inter-Provincial imports and exports, customs policy of the Kashmir State, Bill for the Indian Government Coke Cess (Reconstitution of the Committee) Act 1937, Ratification of the International Sugar

Agreement, Increased production of sugar in Java, statistics of unemployment of educated persons, appointment of an Indian to the post of Actuary to the Government of India, Import of Drugs Bill 1937, Indianisation of the post of Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust, employment of children in workshops, overbridge at railway crossing at Mithapore, Bihar Moneylender's Bill, 1937 and the re-imposition of stamp Duty on cheques.

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The Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 12th April, 1938 at the Radhika Sinha Institute. In



Lala Gurusharan Lall

his Presidential Address Lala Gurusharan Lall referred to the admirable prudence and moderation of the popular regime, the appreciable improvement in the value and volume of trade, internal as well as external, the temporary set-back originating in America and reaching India via England, the usual India Budget which never gave any relief to the tax-payer, the deterioration in India's export trade particularly of cotton and oil seeds as evidenced by a fall of seventeen crores in a period of nine months in 1937-38, the

Provincial Budget which was an honest attempt to economise

expenditure within possible limits, the recommendations of the Chamber with regard to the amendment of the Income Tax Act, the need for a legislation to deal effectively with problems connected with the rapid growth of the sugar industry in Bihar, the need for implementation of the recommendation of the Power Alcohol Committee, the need for pushing ahead the electrification scheme, the establishment of the cement and paper factories at Dalmianagar and the cotton mill at Gaya, the proposal to start aluminium manufacture in the province, need for encouraging the establishment of a Broadcasting Station and the non-representation of the Chamber on the B. N. W. R. Advisory Committee and the Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee.

His Excellency Sir Maurice Garnier Hallet inaugurating, for the second time, the Annual Session of the Chamber began with an optimistic note welcoming the new industrial ventures and assured the session that his Government were doing all they could to expedite the Electrification Scheme, provision for tube-wells, possibilities of manufacture of aluminium and glass in Bihar. He referred to the legislations passed by the Government of U. P. and Bihar to control the production of sugarcane, the Labour Enquiry Committee and the necessity of genuine Trade Unions.

Seth Ram Krishna Dalmia was elected President and Sri V.-M. Thakore was elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Thirteenth Year (1938).

The Committee addressed the Government regarding the necessity of a reciprocal trade pact with Afghanistan failing which the need for fiscal measures for ensuring a fair treatment for Indian nationals and produce in that country. Two of the members of the Committee, Mr. M.P. Gandhi and Mr. H.B. Chandra, were included in the Labour Enquiry Committee, Bihar. The Committee disapproved of the Governments' order disqualifying British subjects domiciled in Burma from appearing at competitive examinations for certain

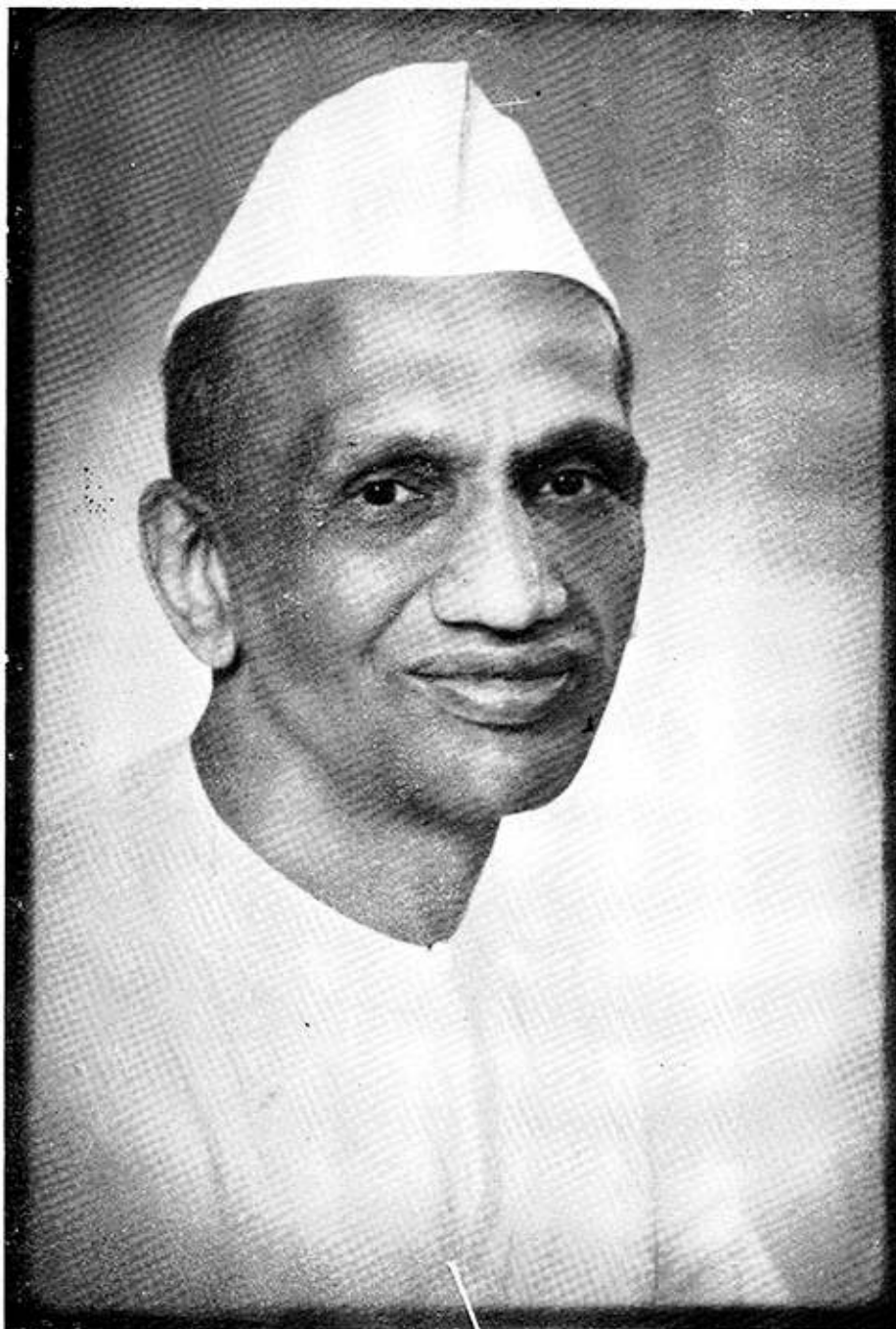
services in India. The Committee stressed the need for further reduction in postal rates between India and Burma, the need for representation of Indian tea growers on the International Tea Committee which fixed the quantum of exports for each year, the need of an enquiry for protection of minor industries in India from unfair competition from Japan due to which trade balance in favour of India was converted into an unfavourable balance to the extent of Rs. 682 crores, the need for the reservation of the entire coastal traffic to Indian shipping vis-a-vis Control of Coastal Traffic on India Bill, the need for reciprocal arrangement between the Government of India and Burma to secure for Insurance companies of either country working in the other the exemption from deposits under the Life Insurance Act, the need for protection to sericulture industry. The Committee submitted its views on the Draft Bill for Registration of Trade Marks, Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Motor Vehicles, the scheme for the introduction of elective principle for appointments to the Indian Accountancy Board, the scheme for the Indian Empire Air Mail Service, the Amendment of Trade Disputes Act 1929, the Indian Railway (Amendment) Bill, the Indian Tea Control Rules 1938. The Committee also dealt with the classification of sugar candy, sugar cubes, the proposed alteration in the system of Government recruitment, the appointment of Deputy Chief Engineer of the Karachi Port Trust, the enhancement of railway freight on soap, the Bhagalpore silk industry, shifting of the Patna Junction goodshed, Expert Committee on the Defence of India, revival of handmade paper industry in Bihar, licence for the supply of electricity in coal fields of Bihar, facilities to Indian apprentices for practical training, Indianisation of Imperial Bank Services, need for an improvement Trust at Patna, frequent changes in books of schools, depreciation of railway sidings of sugar mills for Income Tax purposes, stamp duty on Inland Bills, import duty on wheat, adulteration of pure ghee; rate cutting for pilgrim traffic, provision for more satisfactory arrangements for treatment of patients in Medical College Hospital, segregation of lepers besides answering a number of Trade Enquiries.

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The Thirteenth Annual General Meeting was held on the 26th February, 1939 at the Radhika Sinha Institute. The President, Seth



Seth Ramkrishna Dalmia

Ram Krishna Dalmia referred to the electrification scheme and its

partial execution in the Dehri area, Dr. Mahmud's commendable measures to rationalise the sugar industry, the need for improving the cane crop so as to increase the acreage yield, thereby making cane available at cheaper rates without putting the agriculturist to loss, the progress made in the direction of utilisation of molasses, the Joint Bihar and C. P. Lac Committee, the Coal Mines (Stowing) Bill which was bound to prove irksome and which was unjustified, the need of preventing monopolistic trends in the cement industry getting institutionalised, the possibilities of further development of industries like glass, pottery, manufacture for mechanical and electrical machineries, heavy chemical and manures. The possibilities of the development of rayon and pulp, paint and leather tanning industries due to the presence of cheap and soft wood and jungle products.

Seth Ram Krishna Dalmia voiced the opinion of the entire province when he went on to state: "Bihar does not possess even one trade capital or emporium. Steel, coal and a major portion of the sugar industry are being controlled from offices located outside the province. In the interest of Bihar, it is desirable that industrialists should locate their offices at a central place in the province, so that the inhabitants may feel the influence of their magnetic personality and take part in the growth and expansion of industries". Need for better roads and for better cooperation between industry and railway and for a more humane appreciation of the workers' needs by the employers were some other points stressed by him.

Inaugurating the session for the third time Sir Maurice Garnier Hallet referred to the close cooperation between the United Provinces and Bihar in relation to the sugar industry and power alcohol, and expressed the hope that at the end of 20 years Jamshedpur would be producing every type of article that could be produced from steel from the railway engine or a motor car, down to a pin.

Rai Bahadur Lokenath Prasad Dhandhanian was elected President

and Sri V. M. Thakore was re-elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Fourteenth Year (1939).

The Committee of the Chamber submitted its view on Income Tax Bill-Rates of depreciation, Bihar Prevention of Unequal Marriages Bill, Bill on compulsory Stowing of sand in coal Mines, Bill Markets & Dealers Bill etc. The Committee suggested measures to improve the working of the Patna-Medical College Hospital. It considered the recommendations of the Indian Tariff Board on Sugar and Paper etc, and protested against the uneconomic competition from foreign Starch manufacture with the local Starch manufacturers and demanded protection for local manufacturers. It also supported the appointment of an Indian Trade Agent in Burma. It supported the suggestion for protection to wrapping and packing industry. The Chamber strongly protested against rebate in freight on cement and machineries booked to Afganistan and against the appointment of Mr. George Campbell as Shipping Controller of India.

The Chamber was allowed a representation on Bihar Central Forest Utilisation Board and it nominated Lala Gurusharan Lal to represent the Chamber. The Chamber introduced Provident Fund Scheme for its staff and adopted Rules for the same.

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The Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 26th February 1939 with Rai Bahadur Lokenath Prasad Dhandhanian in the chair. After a few speeches in addition to the presidential address, a number of resolutions were adopted. By a resolution the meeting urged the Provincial Government to support the local industries as against the goods of the foreign manufactures in the matters of their stores purchase policy. It urged the Government to direct the heads of the department to give effect to the policy. By another resolution it urged the Government to declare the

1st July as holiday to enable the Banks to adjust their half-yearly accounts.

Rai Bahadur Lokenath Prasad Dhandhanian was elected President and Sri V. M. Thakore was elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Fifteenth Year (1940).

As the Rai Bahadur Lokenath Prasad Dhandhanian resigned, Sri C. K. Jain was elected President for the rest of the term.

The Committee of the Chamber submitted its view protesting against the Excess Profit Tax Bill, and the increase in trunk call rates. The Chamber sent its reply on the questionnaire prepared by the Communication Service Sub Committee of the National Planning Committee. The Chamber strongly protested against the increase in Railway Rates and Freights on Passengers and Goods. Representations were made against increase in freight of oil cake manures on the E. I. Railway, increase in freight of coal, coke and patent fuel. It also protested against the war risk insurance of commodities on land on the ground that as India was far away from theatre of war especially this province, it was not necessary here or, at last, there was no justification for uniform rates of premium throughout the country.

Vehement protests were made against non-inclusion of any Indian in Meek-Gregory Mission of America. Protests were also made against the increase in the rates of postal charge and income tax. The Federation's views on Fiscal Policy of the Government of India were supported by the Chamber. The protection to salt industry was also supported.

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The Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber held on the 4th April, 1940 was presided by Sri Chakreshwar Kumar Jain. The meeting in a resolution stated that question of excess profit arose only after the outbreak of the War and no assessment could be made

on this account for the period before the outbreak. Another resolution extremely regretted the gradual withdrawal of support to the



Chakreshwar Kumar Jain

local products in preference to the goods of foreign manufacture. It requested the Government to instruct the various heads of the departments to support especially the goods of the local manufacture.

Sri Chakreshwar Kumar Jain was elected President and Sri V. M. Thakore was re-elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Sixteenth Year (1941).

The work of the Chamber having increased enormously, Mr. Vishwanath Verma was appointed Under-Secretary.

To keep the commercial community in touch with the needs

of the Supply Department and to provide a channel for the ventilation of grievances, the Committee arranged a number of meetings with the Controller of Supplies. The Committee submitted their views with regard to recruitment of retrenched hands, restrictions put in the way of news print import licences, need for standardisation of industrial products, handloom industry in Bihar, freight policy of the Railways, the need for an Ad-Hoc Industrial Committee in Bihar to advise Government on matters relating to commerce and industry, need for a Store Purchase Board for Bihar, unjustified restrictions on import of American goods, the Indo-Burma Immigration Agreement, the Reconstruction Committees set up by the Government of India, Insurance Business carried on by Trade Unions, Holidays with pay, colourisation of Vegetable Ghee, Burma Rice Control Scheme, Joint Report of the Indo-Ceylonese Delegation, the International Sugar Agreement, some practices of the Income Tax Department, shortage in supply of caustic soda, Amendment of the Bihar Payment of Wages Rules, 1932, manufacture of power alcohol, Supply Department and Bihar, delivery of goods for despatch per Railways, Punjab Sales Tax controversy, transfer of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal from Finance Department to Law Department, export of sugar to Near-East countries, Amendment to Indian Electricity Act, scorched earth policy, ineligibility of Rangoon Port Trust Securities, issue of Declaratory Policies under War Risks Insurance, establishment of sericulture research station at Bhagalpur, stabilisation of lac prices, besides making representations relating to grievances of individual members.

A very useful suggestion made by the Chamber related to the necessity of a Well-Planned Health Education Campaign to disseminate knowledge among the people about nutritive value of the different edibles and preservation of health on an organised basis. It was stated therein that the negative quality of absence of illness was taken as a sign of health and the medical profession as well as the public health organisations limited their activities to the cure or prevention of specific diseases. Not less vital was the dissemination of knowledge about how to build up a state of physical and intellectual efficiency by judicious choice of food within money incomes available to ensure

maximum of benefit. Thirty three new members were admitted to the Chamber during the year.

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The Sixteenth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 26th June 1942. Lala Bal Krishna Das Khandelwal referred to



Lala Bal Krishna Das Khandelwal

the condition of uncertainty prevailing in the country and pleaded for a "gesture that would touch India's heart and bring about the miracle of filling her with enthusiasm for the war". He expressed the hope that industries built or developed on the basis of the recommendations of the American Technical Mission would be Indian owned and Indian managed and the industrial development due to war would help in building up an industrialised Post War India. He referred to the prosperous state of the iron and mica industries; the handicaps of the coal industry due to shortage of wagons; the upward trend in the shellac industry; the establishment of glass factories at Ambona, Laikdih and Ranchi; the products of the Hindustan Bicycle Company; the need for fixing regional quota of supply and the location of an office of the Supply Department at Patna; the need for a more comprehensive policy with regard to Price Control; the need for the constitution of a Provincial Board of Transport and the need for ensuring Bihar her due share in the manufacture of Power Alcohol. He vehemently criticised the sugar policy of the Government, of restriction of output

and acreage which had resulted in the destruction of the uncrushed standing cane crop. He suggested the constitution of a marketing organisation for purchase of stick lac and seed lac and the fixation of a minimum price. Other points dealt with were in relation to Indians in enemy occupied countries, scorched earth policy, relation between Capital and Labour and the administration of Income Tax Law.

In his Inaugural Address, His Excellency Sir Thomas Alexander Stewart, K.C.S. I., K. C. I. E., I. C. S., remarked that in describing India "as a sullen spectator of the world situation at so grave a crisis in the history of nations, the President was doing less than justice to the commerce and industry of India". After alluding to the Central Government measures which had led to the growth of the iron and steel and sugar industries, he said that he found it difficult to accept the proposition that irrespective of quality or price Bihar should get a quota of Supply Department's orders. Referring to the Price Control, he said that the principle of replacement cost stressed by the President had been adhered to but it had to be remembered that in regard to staples, Bihar was, on balance, an importing area and prices therefore had to be related to conditions in primary markets elsewhere.

He assured that the Government were in the process of building up food stocks in vulnerable areas though it was a policy which called for caution. The delivery programme by areas, he went on to say, would relieve the wagon shortage. He was not sure whether the proposed Provincial Transport Board would be able to tackle the highly technical subject of economic utilisation of wagons. He disagreed with the President's prognosis of the situation in the sugar industry and detailing the position during the years 1939-41 maintained that though it was easy to take up an I-told-you-so attitude and be wise after the event, in the circumstances then obtaining, no better policies could have been followed. Disagreeing again with the President's observation relating to the shellac industry he justified the maximum price fixation, though he agreed with the need of devising a machinery which could ensure a fair share of the market price of shellac to the cultivator. He informed that an Act permitting manufacture of Power-Alcohol was almost ready. He also

announced a reduction of 50 p. c. in the rent of the plot of land leased to the Chamber.

The resolutions moved related to the imperative need for the formulation of a national economic plan for a comprehensive and well balanced industrial development, the need for a more realistic Price Control Policy and the need for a Transport Board. There was a lively debate when Mr. Jnan Saha proposed deletion of that part of Mr. P. H. Kutar's resolution which urged importation from America of machinery and equipment, in which, besides the mover, Mr. H. B. Chandra, Mr. Jalil, Rai Saheb Sri Narain Arora, Rai Bahadur Padmanabh Prasad and Rai Bahadur Shyamnandan Sahay participated.

Seth Shanti Prasad Jain was elected President and Sri V. M. Thakore was re-elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Seventeenth Year (1942).

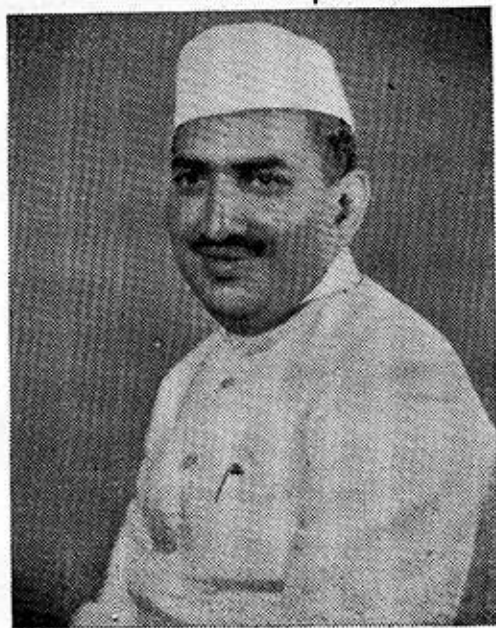
The Committee urged that shellac be purchased direct from the manufacturers by the Government, a suggestion which was noted. Meetings of the Committee were disorganised for a considerable time due to the August Revolution. The Committee opposed the Government's circular under which collieries were called upon to bear collective responsibility for the safety of railway lines passing through colliery areas. A deputation headed by Rai Bahadur Shyamnandan Sahay waited on the Governor of Bihar on the 6th July, 1946 and submitted a comprehensive memorandum stressing the need for the formation of an armed guard for the defence and protection of industrial establishments. Since Government were prepared to give only musketry training and were not prepared to allow industrialists sufficient scope in the selection of the personnel or its control, the Committee dropped the matter. Other subjects dealt with by the Committee related to the submission of informations under Rule 20 of the Factories Act, instalments of War Risks (Factories) Insurance premiums, exclusion of circular instructions from Income Tax Manual, control of supplies of caustic soda, utilisation of mineral resources of India, the American Technical Mission, United Kingdom Commercial Corporation, Trade Agreement between

U.K. and U. S. A., Mica Mission, investigation into the affairs of the Ganga Devi Sugar Mills Ltd., the Grow More Food Campaign vis-a-vis sugarcane crops, Scorched Earth Policy, representation on Joint Labour Conference, visit of the Finance Member and Economic Adviser to England, booking of parcels, holidays with pay, export of rice to Ceylon, formation of a National Economic Plan, delivery of coal, Sericulture Research Station, sugarcane price and transport of sugarcane, Amendment of Trade Disputes Act 1929, distribution of sugar in Bihar, sale of Indian silver to His Majesty's Government, sugar, sugarcane and gur prices, standard cloth, collective fines, paper famine, food shortage, loss of booked consignment in the August disturbances, restoration of the normal functions of the mofussil post offices, ghcc prices and quinine for industrial purposes, etc.,

The mercantile community had its fullest sympathies with the 1942 Revolution. The Committee, which was in session on the 9th August, adjourned its proceedings when it learnt of the arrest of the national leaders at the instance of Mr. S.P. Jain who was in the Chair.

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The Seventeenth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 11th December, 1943 in the Radhika Sinha Institute.



Seth S. P. Jain

Referring to the food crisis, the President, Mr. S. P. Jain, stressed the need of prohibiting all exports, of more import of grains, restriction of Government purchases to paddy only, and of putting the Grow More Food Campaign on a more realistic basis. He pleaded for the extension of rationing to the rural areas and the strictest restrictions on cattle slaughter. He assured the Government of the fullest cooperation of the Rohtas Industries Ltd., in their scheme of irrigation in certain parts of South Bihar, offered the coope-

ration of industrialists in the shape of the necessary capital for setting up factories for manufacture of synthetic manures if only Government could secure plant, pressed for the location of such plants in Bihar and stressed the need for production of super-phosphates. He expressed regrets at the fact that even though active support from industrialists was forthcoming Government had dispensed with the services of the Special Engineer employed under the Electrification Scheme, which had been shelved, and opined that in view of the importance of the scheme not only for expansion of industries but for improvement of agriculture even a 200,000 kw to 300,000 kw Power Plant would not be too big for the province. He appealed for raising the price of sugarcane in the agricultural and industrial interests of the province and held that the fixation of the low rate of annas twelve a maund "was one of the most indiscreet acts done during the year." Dealing with the difficulties of the sugar industry in Bihar generally and the sugar mills of South Bihar particularly, he held that it was incumbent on the Government to see to it that the industry, which was strictly controlled, had a margin of fair profits. He pleaded for the establishment of a tribunal to investigate into the conditions of the mica industry. Regarding trade unions, he held, that piecemeal legislation should not be undertaken. It was necessary, when conditions got stabilised, to have a comprehensive labour legislation dealing with various aspects of the problem. He welcomed Prohibition as one of the most beneficial measures taken by the Congress Ministry. He held that in any scheme of post-war reconstruction not only social uplift, education and public health figured as prominently as agriculture and industries but the regional necessities of, say, a province like Bihar requiring special attention to the geological survey, must be accommodated. In a trenchant criticism of the taxation policy of the Government, he held, that the policy was formulated without any regard to the then conditions obtaining in India whose economic margins were small and whose taxation system had already reached the saturation point. Though the Excess Profit Tax was being funded to enable industry to re-equip itself after the war, the incentive to produce optimum results was being taken away.

According to moderate estimates, the President went on, the annual requirements of India were not less than 5,000 planes which made the establishment of an aircraft industry in India not only desirable but necessary. With regard to railway freights, Bihar, whose industries were far away from ports, needed special consideration by the Railway Rates Advisory Committee and the Indian Railway Conference Association. It was a matter of regret that the industrial interests of Bihar suffered from inadequate representation on committees dealing with questions of countrywide importance. Stressing the need of an industrial capital in Bihar, the President observed that the political capital suffered from the disadvantage of very poor communications. "The industries situated in Bihar are governed from outside the Province. This is one reason why Bihar is being so much neglected. To claim our rightful place we must take the first step of making this Chamber a very strong body."

Announcing Government decision to form an Economic Advisory Board, H. E. the Governor of Bihar, Mr. R.F. Mudie, said that people debated with heat, whether or not, Government should work through trade, as if some fundamental principle, economic or political, were involved. His philosophy in the matter was completely pragmatic, whatever worked best was best. Justifying Government entrance into the arena of grain trade he disagreed with the President's suggestions to introduce rationing in the rural areas as he saw no point in buying grain from the cultivators in a village and then selling it back to them, a procedure which might create shortage and involved the maintenance of a huge staff entailing as it did the responsibility of feeding 400 millions of people. He assured the President that orders would be issued that no milk or draft cattle of certain categories were to be slaughtered for food. Banning of oil cake export, a system of distribution of important manures, improvement in seeds, arrangements for setting up a factory for the manufacture of ammonium sulphate, scheme for small scale irrigation and provision for electrically driven tube wells, were some of the measures taken to improve the food position. He did not agree with the President that prohibition was one of the most beneficial measures taken by the Government

or that the country was overtaxed. The problem of transport was really a problem worth more and serious consideration. He made towards the end of his speech, brief references to the proposed Post War Reconstruction Board, the electric grid scheme and the questionnaires dated 29th October, 1943 and 20th November, 1943 issued by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies respectively relating to the estimate of requirements of machinery in post-war years and industrial planning.

Rai Bahadur Shyamnandan Sahay, C.I.E., M. L. C., was elected President and Sri V. M. Thakore was re-elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Eighteenth Year (1943-44).

The printed monthly bulletins of the Chamber were continued. The annual membership subscription was raised from Rs. 30/- to Rs. 50/- per year from 1943. The membership increased from 125 to 190. Mr. Vishwanath Verma, the then Under Secretary, resigned on private grounds. While accepting his resignation the Committee put on record appreciation of his services. Mr. K. D. Narayan, M. A., B. L., was appointed Under Secretary in his place. The Committee dealt with the following subjects; banking legislation, food situation, Excess Profits Tax Ordinance, 1943, and Defence of India Rules (Rule 94A) relating to control of capital issues, depreciation allowance on machinery and plant, charge for electric energy, position of Indians in Burma, cattle slaughter, distribution of world's textile supplies, booking of oilcakes, capitalisation of sterling pensions and provident fund, Cotton Cloth and Yarn (control) Order, 1943, Indian exporters, requisitioning of properties under D. I. Act and Rules, price of Sugar-cane, tax on dearness allowance, advertisement of vegetable ghee through films, export of rice from India, advance against commodities, price of molasses, the Textile Control Board and the Textile Panel, D. I. Rule 94 A, departmental committee, Gulzarbagh Telephone Exchange and inland postal parcels traffic etc.,

During the years 1944 the topics dealt with by the Committee were increased passenger traffic on railways with all its ramifications,

supply coal to Bihar industries, fertiliser industry, sugar industry, import of machinery, distribution of woollen goods, import policy of India Government, Paper Control (Economy) Order, sabai grass industry, representation on mica Enquiry Committee, contract for sale of molasses, Central Technical Power Board, International Monetary Fund, the Bihar oil industry, restriction on immigration into East Africa, proposed Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between India and U. S. A., appointment of non-Indians in food Department, Bihar Sales Tax Bill, 1944, policy with regard to price-fixation and distribution of coal besides numerous representations regarding grievances of individual members.

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The Eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 25th January, 1945, in the Radhika Sinha Institute Hall.



Sri Shyamnandan Sahay

Rai Bahadur Shyamnandan Sahay, C.I.E., M.L.C., made a masterly review of the political situation in India against the background of the world situation. Welcoming the appointment of Sir Ardeshir Dalal as Planning and Development Member, he said, that although a National Government was necessary for planning, the work of bettering the lot of Indians under the circumstances that obtained in a planned manner could not wait. Commending the Bombay Plan he held that the first plank in Planning was to have a trade agreement with England relating to machinery and exports, finished goods which India would take

and in which she would offer no competition, export and import etc.; the second plank was the stabilisation of existing industries which would include enlargement of size and securing up-to-date machinery; the third plank of the planning programme was carrying out survey and prospecting of the vast mineral resources alongside research work on a large scale. He held that the issue of private enterprise versus state ownership was not a live issue for, in India, for several decades private enterprise could not be removed from the industrial arena. Fiscal autonomy, he hoped, would be real. If, as announced by the British Chancellor of Exchequer, relief was to be given to British industries out of taxation, protection and state aid in India were more than amply justified. He welcomed the establishment of the Technological Institute by the Government of India.

Referring to the controversial issue of Sterling Balances, which represented not only the balances of trade with England or the Sterling area but balances of trade with America as well, he held that he did not agree with the impractical suggestion that Britain should pay the entire accumulation in dollars or foreign exchanges in the immediate future; nor did he agree with the suggestion that all foreign investments should be liquidated out of the reserves, as barring investments in Railways, Telephones or other Public Utility Enterprises, other investments would be over-valued to the extent of almost 5 times; nor did he favour England using the reserves for payment of consumer goods imported in India. His suggestion, therefore, was for utilisation of the reserves for purchase of machinery for industrial and agricultural development and in buying out public utility concerns even if India had to pay to the British manufacturers a small percentage over the price of other similar foreign products.

Referring to transport, he observed that the omission of Patna from the National and International air routes was an unjustified omission and stressed the need of a special committee to study the problem of transport of goods by river. He demanded clarification of the Government policy with regard to disposal of factories put up at Government cost and opined that unless there was planning for the future of coal,

sugar, mica, steel etc. the loss to the Province would be great. Regarding coal, he suggested substitution of the 10 million ton metallurgical coal used by the Railways by soft coke which could give 30 million gallons of petrol, 120 million gallons of diesel oil, 32 million gallons of phenolics and 72 thousands tons of ammonium sulphate; priority in replacement of machinery, grant of non-taxable bonus to collieries for higher production, higher depreciation allowance, etc., and expressed the disappointment of the commercial community at the Chamber not getting a seat on the Central Advisory Committee set up under the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund. Regarding sugar industry, he held, that the linking of Bihar with United Provinces worked adversely to the interests of the former and expressed the view that it would be more beneficial if Bihar could take decision of its own in the matter. With regard to the mica industry, he suggested modification of the terms of reference of the Mica Enquiry Committee so as to avoid any infringements on the rights of the Province by the Centre and the constitution of a Mica Syndicate. He expressed gratification over the location of the ammonium sulphate plant in Bihar. Regarding steel he referred to the 'Tatas' eminent position and felt that an industry like that would at all times need protection and urged production of long strips. Referring to another pioneer industry, Cycle-industry in Bihar, he emphasised that the new enterprise, though it was making good heading, would need support and protection for some time. Referring to the Electrification Scheme, he observed that there was general disappointment at the fact that the project had not taken a fraction of the shape which it was designed for and urged its completion. He made a reference also to the aluminium industry at Asansol which needed plant and machinery and to its importance in view of shipbuilding, locomotive and aeroplane building industries to be started in India. He concluded with a reference to the proposed Industrialists Mission to U. K. and U. S. A. and regretted that none from Bihar was included in it. He paid high tributes to the Governor, Mr. S. M. Dhar, Mr. Ansorge and Mr. Y. A. Godbole for their Services to the province.

In his address, His Excellency Sir Thomas George Rutherford,

K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., referred to the wide field covered by Rai Bahadur Shyamanandan Sahay in his most interesting speech and said that he would, however, confine his observations to political conditions, planning and savings drive. He announced that Government had decided to locate the fertiliser plant at Sindri. While a national plan must await a National Government, Bihar was going ahead, the Governor observed, with her Electric Grid Scheme, with her plans for utilisation of poor quality coal for coke and bye-products etc. He ended with an appeal for greater co-operation in the National Savings Drive.

Rai Bahadur Shyamnandan Sahay, C. I. E., M. L. C., was re-elected President and Sri G. L. Gupta was elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Nineteenth Year (1945).

The Committee held an informal meeting with Sir A. Dalal, Planning and Development Member, Government of India. On the question of the present state of Indian industries and the public anxieties about the future industrialisation of the country, Sir A. Dalal said that it was the policy of the Government to industrialise the country at a rapid pace as also to give the Indian industries as much protection as may be possible. The Hon'ble Member said that private enterprise had a large part to play in industrial development but the profit motive must be harnessed to the country's good. With regard to import and manufacture of machinery, Sir Dalal said that it was the policy of the Government to foster the manufacture of machinery as far as possible in the country itself. Regarding Planning, the Hon'ble Member said that planning for a sub-continent like India was not a short term job and that it would require a long time and great patience. The Committee also met Mr. M. K. Vellodi, C. I. E., I.C.S., Textile Commissioner on the 21st February, 1945 and discussed with him the cloth position in the country as well as in the province.

The Committee also discussed the question of Export, Handloom. Industry, Supply of Yarn, Distribution of Provincial quota, Transport, Margin of profit and movement of handloom cloth. The Committee, in its meeting with Rai Sahib Sadashiva Prasad, Deputy Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Bihar, discussed the question of exempting raw materials required for the manufacture of sugar from the levy of Sales tax, adverse effects of Sales tax on coal industry, abolition of Sales tax on gold and silver. etc.

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The Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 21st February, 1946, in which the Committee presented their report for the year 1944. The gap was due to the fact that the seventeenth Annual General Meeting could not be held as usual in February or March but had to be deferred to the 11th December 1943. Rai Bahadur Shyamnandan Sahay, C. I. E., M. L. C., in his presidential address covered most of the ground embraced by his previous Presidential address with shifts in emphasis necessitated by new contexts. He dwelt upon the Demonetising Ordinance and the Sales Tax, and observed that while the one could hardly bring about the desired result, the other had lost whatever justification it had for its continuance.

He referred to the donation towards the Building Fund by the Tatas, Mr. R. K. Dalmia, Mr. S. P. Jain, Mr. G. S. Lall, Mr. Radha Shyam and the Sraikela Glass Works and at his request His Excellency Sir George Thomas Rutherford laid the foundation stone of the Chamber's building.

Seth Shanti Prasad Jain was elected President and Sri Indraj Bahadur was elected Hony. Secretary of the Chamber for the next year.

The Twentieth Year (1946).

The formation of the Interim Government and the constitution of the Constituent Assembly in India were the major events of the year. The Chamber, in a letter to the Government of India on the 16th May, 1947, expressed the hope that a popular Government responsible to the people and strong enough to maintain peace would be formed soon without which industry and trade could not thrive. It expressed itself in favour of the establishment at the Centre of a strong constitutional Government fully representative of the people and tackling the question of currency, customs, tariffs and industrialisation as well in addition to Foreign Affairs, Defence and Communication. On the 20th June, 1946 the Chamber welcomed the announcement of the formation of the Interim Government of India but regretted the complete exclusion of the commercial community and industrialists from the personnel of the cabinet. The Chamber felt that only a person associated with the industry or commerce of the country could tackle such important problems facing the country as the starting of new industries, the regulation of tariff and development of cottage industries on national lines. In a letter dated the 28th June 1946 addressed to Dr. Rajendra Prasad it urged that the Chamber be permitted to put up a representative for election to the Constituent Assembly which was about to be formed.

The Committee held informal meetings twice this year, one with the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Member incharge of Food and Agriculture and the other with the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, the Labour Member of the Interim Government. In an address presented to Dr. Rajendra Prasad during his visit to the Chamber on the 28th September, 1946, it referred to the growing dissatisfaction of the public with the food policy of the Provincial Government particularly to the rationing arrangement which covered only two to three per cent of the population. The Government were not anxious about the market price or black market prices, as long as they could get hold of enough stocks to run their ration shops and some additional stock for use in emergency. It was urged that the Government must do their

best to maintain certain ceiling price levels in non-rationed areas and adopt other remedies to meet the situation.

The Hon'ble Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, Labour Member, visited the Chamber of the 30th September 1946. In the address presented to him it was stressed that labour forms a very important plank in the commercial and industrial development of a country like India where labour has not been replaced by mechanism as in some of the advanced countries of the West. He was assured that the commercial community had no desire to withhold from labour its due, but it was urged that labour also must fulfil its obligation by not resorting to unnecessary strikes which only reacted against the national interests. During the discussions which followed, the Labour Member, while agreeing that unnecessary strikes that interfered with production of consumer goods were to be deprecated, declared that Labour must be assured of living wage and reasonable conditions of service and housing, medical aid and other amenities. Trade Unionism had to be encouraged and, if necessary, pressure must be exerted in order to compel recalcitrant industries to recognise trade unions.

Mr. B. P. Singh was appointed as the Under Secretary of the Chamber with effect from 18-7-1946. After the resignation of Rai-Sahib A. B. N. Sinha, the Secretary, he was put in charge of the office.

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The Twentieth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 22nd February, 1947. The President, Mr. Shanti Pd. Jain, at the outset, referred to the untimely demise of Rai Bahadur Shree Narian Arora who had been the Vice President of the Chamber and its President in the year 1936. In his Presidential address, he regretted that the atmosphere in the country was vitiated by communal strife and political and economic uncertainties. The internal upheavals and uncertainties, he said, had disastrous consequences on the economic and industrial development of the country at this crucial period when several post-war schemes for rehabilitation and expansion have had to be put into execution. The lack of security and confi-

dence made the implementation of the expansion and development schemes impossible with the result that the country's development and improvement of the material well-being of the people had been very adversely affected. In the larger interests of the country and the future happiness of the people, it was essential, he said, that the political deadlock should be resolved. A grand and epoch making period in the history of this country was written when the Constituent Assembly began its session. Unfortunately, things were not progressing as desired by every patriotic Indian. Making a Survey of the political condition of the country, he urged that Government should urgently tackle the vital problems affecting the people. As regards food situation, he expressed confidence that with Dr. Rajendra Prasad at the head of the Food Ministry, the country could easily stave off the crisis. But he urged that a permanent solution of the chronic food problem must be found out. The production of cloth was insufficient to meet requirements. He, therefore, urged that the distribution of available supplies should be made more satisfactory. He advocated the most deterrent punishments to black marketeers and assured in its task, the fullest cooperation of the Chamber to the Government. He further dwelt upon the labour policy of the Government, housing scheme for industrial labour, the question of nationalisation of motor transport services in the province, implementation of the recommendations of the Indian Coal fields Committee and the problems of the sugar industry. He welcomed the Patna University Bill and suggested the establishment of a Patna Improvement Trust. Towards the end he mentioned the publication of the Chamber's Journal "Prosperity" under the able editorship of Mr. Vishwanath Verma and hoped that the Government would give all possible cooperation to it.

His Excellency Sir Hugh Dow in his speech, remarked that it was "not enough to condemn the anti-social elements in general terms, but Government must be able to count on your active cooperation to bring those miscreants to punishment". He further gave suitable replies to all the points raised in the Presidential address and assured that the Government would carefully consider them. Resolutions on Provincial Economic Policy, Sugar, Coal, Ganges Bridge, Repre-

sentation on local Bodies and Railway Rates Advisory Committee, location of Heavy Industrial Plants in Bihar, Distribution of Iron and Steel in the Province, Sales Tax Bill and Oil Seeds Committee were adopted.

Seth Shanti Prasad Jain was re-elected President and Sri Indraj-Bahadur was re-elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Twenty-first Year (1947).

The Hon'ble Mr. Shri Krishna Sinha, Prime Minister of Bihar, visited the Chamber on the 27th March, 1947, in connection with the inauguration of the publication of the Chamber's journal "Prosperity". The President of the Chamber, Mr. S. P. Jain, was also present. Replying to the suggestions made by the President, the Prime Minister assured that the Chamber would be given seats on local bodies particularly on the Patna District Board; that adequate help would be provided to enable the Chamber to open and run a Commercial Statistics Section and that the Chamber would get the two plots of land contiguous to the plot already granted to it. On the 13th August 1947, the Chamber met the Chief of Bihar Congress, Shri Mahamaya Prasad Sinha. Replying to the welcome address of Mr. Indraj Bahadur, the Hony. Secretary, the Congress President assured that the Congress was fully alive to its responsibility towards industries and commerce. On 15th August '47 the Chamber gave an Independence day lunch to the Hon'ble Shri A. N. Sinha, the Minister for Finance and Supply who had been appointed as the Leader of the Indian Delegation to the F.A.O. Conference. The flag hoisting ceremony on the Chamber's Building was performed on the same day by Shri Mahamaya Prasad Sinha at 12 noon. The Hon'ble Shri A. N. Sinha again visited the Chamber on the 25th November. In reply to the memorandum presented to him, the Finance Minister assured reconsideration of the levy of Sales Tax on Bullion and Oilseeds and also assured that he would be always consulting the Chamber on all important matters relating to industries and commerce.

The Hon'ble Dr. Syed Mahmud, Minister for Development visited the Chamber on the 8th December. In his reply to the address, the Hon'ble Minister assured speedy consideration of the Chamber's scheme for a Commercial Statistics Section submitted to the Government; that the oilcake control would be reviewed; that the Provincial Development Board which was going to be constituted would see to it that there was as far a development of industries in Bihar as possible and that the Board's advice on questions of policy would be accepted by the Government; that a representative of the Chamber would be taken on the Provincial Transport Authority and that a representative of the Chamber would be co-opted on the Development Board.

The Chamber secured one seat on the B. & O. Local Advisory Committee of the B. N. Railway to which Mr. G. L. Modi was elected. The Chamber started the publication of Prosperity—its Journal from March 1947. As the organ of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce, the paper has, besides its reputation, an unique advertisement value. The Chamber submitted a note to the Government on Commercial Statistics and urged the Government to provide adequate assistance to enable the Chamber to open a Commercial Statistics Section. It addressed a memorandum on the par value of the rupee to the Government of India and dealt with the following topics: Advance payment of Income Tax under Section 18 A, shifting of the Office of Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax from Purulia to Cuttack, Sales Tax on electric bulbs, mustard seeds and oil. The Chamber had not been officially nominated on the Provincial Transport Authority, on the Central Labour Advisory Board and the Provincial Development Board though a number of important industrialists who were associated with the Chamber had been taken on those Bodies. The Chamber continued its demand for representation as an organisation.

The activities of the Chamber increased very much both in volume and importance. The number of letters addressed during the year was 16,363 as compared with 1463 in 1941.

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The Twenty-first Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held in a tastefully decorated shamiana put up on the Chamber's grounds on the 27th April, 1948, with Seth S. P. Jain in the Chair. In his presidential address, Seth S. P. Jain remarked that a new era of Independence, hope and strength for the country was ushered on the 15th August, 1947, but the joy of this freedom was marred by the partition of the country and the massacre of men, women and children. The country sustained a deeper wound in the tragic loss of the precious life of Mahatma Gandhi who was the architect of our freedom. He also expressed sorrow at the sad demise of Sri R. C. Pandit who was the founder of the Chamber and had been its Hony. Secretary for several years. He referred to what Pandit Nehru stated in his inaugural address at the Annual General Meeting of the Federation on the spread of provincialism in the country and appealed that in the larger interests of the country, provincial considerations and discrimination should not find any place in our land. The President referred to the delay in the recovery of the economy of the countries in the post war years because of the scarcity of essential items. The scarcity was attributed to some extent to the controls and he welcomed decontrol in this context. He regretted that the Government had not yet invited the representative of the Chamber on the Bihar Development Board. Dealing with the discussions in the meeting of the Board, he recalled the criticism of undue delay occurring in the secretariat which impeded quick decisions so essential for industrial development. He dealt with the question of state ownership and private enterprise, the importance of ensuring industrial peace and the efforts of the Labour Minister, the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, in this connection, the need of giving proper attention to the condition of agricultural labour as well along with that of the industrial labour, the need to develop cottage industries simultaneously with that of the major industries. He especially referred to the case of Sugar industry which was in sad plight in this province due to the apathy of the Government towards the development of cane, its linking up with the industry in the United Provinces and due to the decision of the Government to raise cess from 1 anna to 2 annas a maund. As regards Sales Tax, he regretted that sugar and coal were not exempted and even despatches outside

the province were taxed. Referring to the provisions in the State Acquisition of Zamindari Bill regarding lease of mines and minerals, he stressed that existing leases should not be disturbed in any way. His Excellency Sri M.S. Aney, in his reply, expressed satisfaction that the policy of progressive decontrol initiated by the Government was proving successful. As regards formulation of correct industrial policy, he held that it was not a matter of easy decision, but agreed that sufficient attention had not been paid. As regards administrative inefficiency, he held, that it was not much surprising in view of the tremendous increase in governmental activities. Referring to the view that state enterprise should work under competitive conditions with private enterprise, he said that in the interests of national economy it was essential that state enterprise should be as efficient as possible but the question of competitive profit margin would not necessarily arise as the sole test in State undertakings. In the end he congratulated the President and remarked that proper understanding between all sections of the people was essential in the national interests.

Lala Gurusharan Lal, C.I.E., was elected President and Sri Indraj Bahadur was re-elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Twenty-second Year (1948).

The Committee of the Chamber met the Hon'ble Sri Jagjiwan Ram on the 10th April, 1948, in which a large number of prominent men including the ministers of the province and the chief of the Provincial Congress were present. In his welcome address, Sri Indraj Bahadur supported the suggestions made by Shri G. D. Birla for precisely defining the rewards and obligations of labour and capital so as to leave as little scope for friction as possible and penalise whosoever did not work according to the agreement. "Give them profit sharing. Give them all reasonable facilities in addition to all that they have got but let there be real truce for the coming ten years and the industry will deliver the goods." The Hon'ble Sri Jagjiwan Ram, replying to the address, said that labour had to be accepted as a partner, as a co-

producer of wealth and the entire outlook of the employers had to be adjusted to the changed conditions. He invited the cooperation of the capitalists.

In his welcome address to the Hon'ble Sri K. B. Sahay, the Revenue Minister, during his visit to the Chamber on the 26th April, 1948, Seth Shanti Prasad Jain assured full cooperation of the commercial community in the Government's efforts to step up production and in the implementation of the post Zamindari abolition schemes of developing agriculture. The Revenue Minister, in his reply, dwelt upon the useful role that the commercial community could play in increasing production by carrying to the farmer what he needed for increasing production. The Hon'ble Supply Minister, Dr. A. N. Sinha, visited the Chamber on the 26th August, 1948, when a memorandum concerning cloth trade was presented to him. Replying, the Hon'ble Minister said that personally he was never a votary of control but stated that control had to be re-imposed according to the decision taken in the Ministers' Conference at Delhi.

Shri K. C. Bakhle, the Chief Commissioner of Indian Railways, while replying to the memorandum submitted to him by the Chamber on the 11th September, 1948, said that criticism of the Railway administration was based on inadequate appreciation of the difficulties and the handicaps under which the Indian Railways were placed due to partition and subsequent economic dislocation. He quoted figures in support of his contention that the situation was improving. Regarding the suggestion that railways should be made legally liable for thefts in running trains as also the suggestion to eradicate corruption, Sri Bakhle said that the question of theft in running trains was primarily a question of law and order. The Chamber also met Sri T. P. Barat, the Textile Commissioner, on the 29th January, 1949 and discussed with him the difficulties of the cloth trade of the province.

The Committee submitted its considered opinion on the Factories Bill, Banking Companies Bill, Indian Tea Cess Act and on the proposed nationalisation of the Reserve Bank etc. The Chamber secured a seat on the Regional Trade Advisory Board, Gorakhpur. An important

achievement during the year was the opening of the Cloth and the Food Sections. Mr. B. L. Kotriwala of Bhagalpur was elected to the Regional Trade Advisory Board, Gorakhpur.

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The Twenty-second Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 2nd July, 1949 with Lala Gurusharan Lal, C. I. E., in the Chair. In his welcome address, the President expressed satisfaction at the political and territorial integration of the country, a fundamental pre-requisite for industrial progress and economic prosperity. After Kashmir problem and Asian Conference on Indonesia, he referred to the growth of communism in the Asian countries, and appealed to the labour leaders and the business community to join hands with the Government in augmenting national wealth and thus raising the standard of living of the people, as communism flourished only in poverty and misery. The fundamental problem, he said, was to increase food production in the country and he expressed satisfaction at the decision of the Government to make the country self-sufficient in food by the end of the year 1951. Coming to mineral and industrial production, he regretted that whereas wages had increased everywhere, the output per capita steadily declined, putting heavy burden on consumers in the shape of higher prices. Moreover, the level of direct taxation was still high retarding the tempo of capital formation. Narrating the difficulties of the various industries of the province, such as coal and sugar, he appealed for adequate assistance from the Government. He regretted that none of the new industries planned in the post war years had as yet been started. He regretted the lack of uniformity in the administration of Sales tax laws in the country and appealed to the Central Government to evolve an All-India policy in this respect.

The Premier, Dr. S. K. Sinha, who inaugurated the conference replied in reassuring terms on most of the points. If all that had been planned—a resume of which was given by the Premier in his inaugural address—were carried out, the province would soon find itself well set on the road to economic prosperity. The Premier assured that he would not permit any section of the population to preach lawlessness or to take to lawless methods. He pledged his word that communism

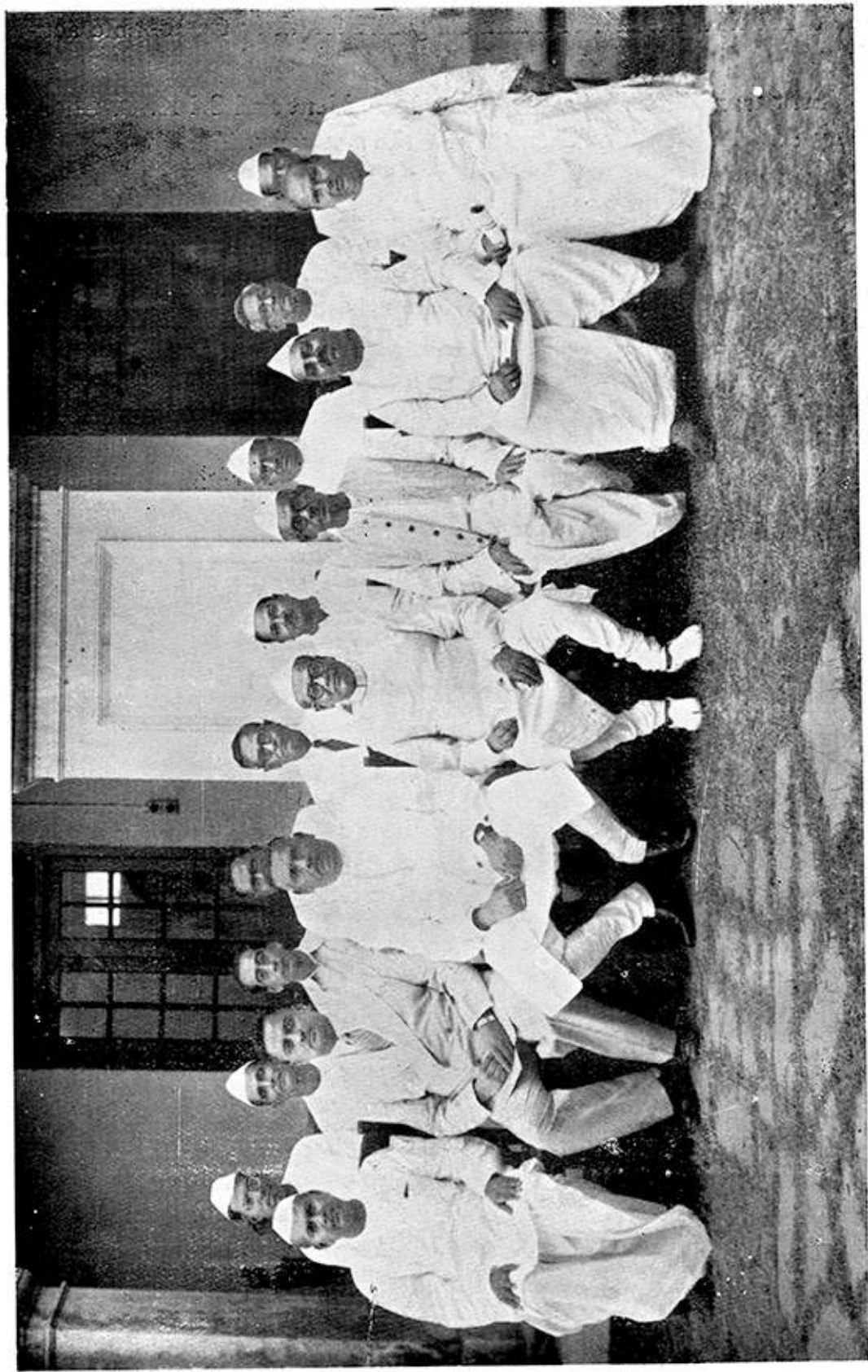
would not find the soil of Bihar congenial for their treasonable activities.

Sri Sārangdhar Sinha was elected President and Sri K. C. Choudhary was elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Twenty-third Year (1949).

The Committee met the Hon'ble Sri R. A. Kidwai, Minister for Communication, Government of India, on the 18th July, 1949, when a memorandum containing the difficulties of the business community with regard to the services provided by the Post & Telegraph Department was submitted. The Communication Minister assured the members that he was alive to the difficulties contained in the Chamber's memorandum and was trying his best to improve the efficiency of the Services. He further assured that the Indian Cabinet was alive to the importance of developing civil aviation in post-war India and something would be done soon to increase the air-traffic. The members of the Chamber also met Sri K. C. Bakhle, the Chief Commissioner and Sri A. K. Chanda, the Financial Commissioner of the Indian Railways, the Postmaster General, Bihar Circle, the Director of Telegraph, Shri B. D. Pandey, I. C. S., the Supply Secretary and Sri T. P. Barat, I. C. S., the Textile Commissioner. The Chamber also held a lunch meeting on the 3rd March 1950 with Sir J. J. Ghandy. After the lunch, he discussed the plan for the Chamber's building and very kindly agreed to consider the Chamber's request to build the main hall.

The Cloth Section of the Chamber took up, from time to time, questions regarding procurement of cloth, its distribution and other allied matters. A notable achievement of the section, through the good offices of Sri K. C. Choudhary, was the exclusion of Bombay Sales tax from the dealers' margin of profit, which would otherwise have hit them badly. Due to the efforts of the Section, administrative charge levied on released goods and quota cloths from Bombay and Ahmedabad was abolished. A Food Section was also formed with a view to organise the food industry and trade of Bihar and to safeguard their legitimate interests.



Office-Bearers and Members of the Committee for the year 1949—50.

The Chamber submitted its views on the Workers Provident Fund Bill, Draft Bihar Factories Rules, Draft Indian Mineral Concession Rules, Industries (Development and Control) Bill 1948, The Indian Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 1949 and submitted a memorandum on the Indian Company Law. The Chamber urged that the Patna Junction be renamed as Patliputra and the Railways accepted the suggestion. The Provincial Government, however, rejected the suggestion without giving reasons. The Chamber secured four seats to be filled by its own nominees in the Labour & Social welfare class of the Patna University. The President was requested by the Government of Bihar to nominate a representative of the Bihar commercial interests on the Provincial Transport Authority and Sri Badri Narain B. Sc. was nominated to fill the same.

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The Twenty-third Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 7th May, 1950, with Sri Sarangdhar Sinha in the Chair. While reviewing the general political situation in the country, the President expressed concern at the occasional flare up of communal frenzy in Pakistan which had its repercussions in this country as well. Referring to the problems of Bihar which had remained predominantly an agricultural province in spite of its having rich mineral resources, he pleaded for a planned economic development of the province. Welcoming the appointment of the Planning Commission at the Centre, Sri Sarangdhar Sinha urged for the setting up of a Planning Secretariat in the province which should be in close touch with industry, employers and labour to harmonise their relation and achieve quicker results. He was of the opinion that Indian economy of the future must be a mixed economy in which proper weightage must be given to agriculture, large scale industries and to cottage industries.

Speaking of the New Order which advocated equality between individuals and between classes, he declared that unless more wealth was created there would not be enough to go round and wisdom consisted in drawing up a plan which would not only ensure addition to

the wealth of the country but also its distribution on the widest basis possible. Speaking of the budgetary policy, which had so far been con-



Lt. Col. Sarangdhar Sinha

sidered from the narrow view point of the need to present a balanced budget without correlating it with the economy of the country, he held that it had become necessary to present our budgets on the 'Double Budget' lines in order to place before the Nation a correct picture of

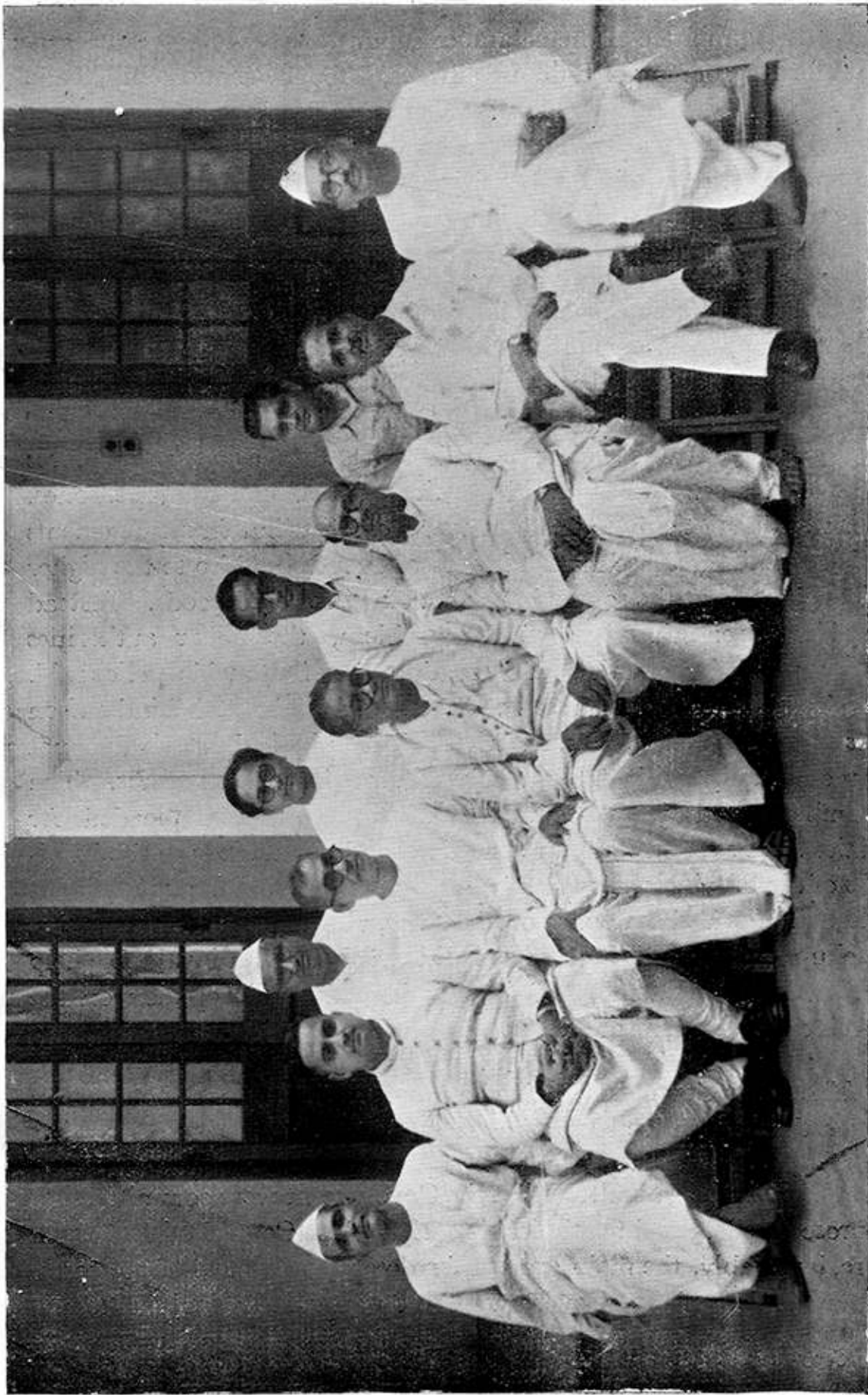
the trading activities of the Central and the State Governments. Coming to the Bihar budget, he regretted that the Sales tax on food grains still continued. He then referred to the need for census of production, balance of payments position of the country, devaluation of the rupee and India's trade with Pakistan. In the end, he pointed out the failure of the Control policy of the Government in the sense that it failed to achieve the purpose of control viz., ensuring the adequacy of supplies to meet the rationed demand and easy availability of rationed supplies.

In his inaugural address, the Premier Dr. S. K. Sinha, replying to the points raised in the presidential speech remarked that a Secretariat Planning Committee under the Chairmanship of the Food Production and Development Commissioner had already been set up at the instance of the Planning Commission. He agreed that the country should have mixed economy in which agriculture, large scale industries and cottage industries would have their due place. Commending the emphasis which the Chamber had laid on the need of increasing food production and expansion and improvement of agriculture, Dr. Sinha remarked that stoppage of import of goodgrains after 1951 was the accepted policy of the Government of India and Bihar would do its best to wipe put its own deficit by 1951. Speaking on the evils associated with control, he said that the abolition of control in 1948 had proved a costly experiment. He felt that more than any other step, it was by concentrating on the eradication of black marketing and profiteering that the business community would be hastening the end of controls. Before concluding his speech, he assured that the Chamber's specific demands and grievances would receive his special attention.

Sri Sarangdhar Sinha was re-elected President and Sri K. C. Choudhary was re-elected Hony. Secretary of the Chamber for the next year.

The Twenty-fourth Year (1950).

During the year, the Committee held informal discussions with several ministers of the Central and Provincial Governments and with high officials of the Railways and Post and Telegraph Departments, and discussed subjects affecting the interests of the business community. On the 22nd July, 1950, Sri K. C. Bakhle, Chief Commissioner of Indian Railways, paid his third visit to the Chamber. In the course of discussion of the points raised in the memorandum of the Chamber, Mr. Bakhle said that he would submit the proposal for restoration of Parsarma-Supaul railway line to the Central Board of Transport. Regarding reduction in wharfage charge and extension of free time allowed, he declined to meet the demand. On other points, he spoke in reassuring terms. A deputation on behalf of the Chamber waited upon Sri K. M. Munshi during his visit to Patna on the 20th July, 1950 and requested him to be more generous in regard to allotment of food to Bihar and urged the setting up of a strong Central Food Reserve to meet emergencies as also to counter undue rise in prices. On the 13th May, 1950, Dr. A. N. Sinha, the Supply Minister, was invited to address a meeting of the cloth Importers of the State. Replying to the points raised in the memorandum, he said that he would examine the question of abolition of administrative charge on cloth and that he had no objection in releasing 1/3 quota cloth, if the different sections of the trade agreed to the same. He expressed his inability to increase the total margin of profit of the trade as it was beyond his powers. During his visit to the Chamber on the 28th May, 1950, it was urged before the Hon'ble Pandit B. N. Jha that it was necessary to revise the B. & O. Municipal Act of 1922 on the lines of the Calcutta Act for reasonable assessment of tax on houses. He gave assurance on both the points. The Committee of the Chamber met Shri S. N. Sinha, the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Bihar, on the 29th June, 1950 and discussed the difficulties of registered dealers in matters relating to the operation of the Bihar Sales Tax Act of 1947 and rules made thereunder. The Committee of the Chamber had the privilege of meeting also the Deputy Minister of Communications, Shri Khurshed Lal on the 23rd December, 1950 and Sri Krishna Prasad, Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, India.



Office-Bearers and Members of the Committee for 1950-51

The Committee of the Chamber submitted its views on the proposal for Regrouping of Indian Railways, Labour Relations Bill, Trade Union Bill, Draft Bihar Factories Welfare Officer's Rules, and Bihar Factories Rules, 1950. The Chamber also submitted a memorandum urging the removal of Sales tax from raw materials consumed by the industries and the Government subsequently exempted Food, Mustard oil, Shellac and Handloom cloth industries from the said levy.

The most glorious achievement of the Chamber during the year, in fact in the whole course of its history, was its indefatigable fight put up against the overzealous actions of the Bihar Government officials during the police raid on the 4th October, 1950. The Provincial Government, it was said, received reports that at several places released cloths were being sold at prices higher than stamped ones. This was due not only to freedom over local distributoin arrangements which permitted a free market in released goods but also to the higher prices charged at the source in respect of the released goods. Instead of taking a realistic view of the problem, the Bihar authorities were swayed by emotion and conducted a State-wide police raid. Hundreds of innocent persons were arrested and put behind prison bars for the simple reason that their physical stock did not correctly tally with the stocks shown in the register. The Chamber raised its voice against these actions and pleaded for caution. It sent several representations and deputations to the Ministers of the Provincial Government as well as to the Congress President at Delhi. The Federation, at our instance, also issued a comprehensive brochure on the subject of Bihar Raid which was an invaluable help in focussing the attention of the enlightened public opinion on the genuineness of our protest.

The Bihar Govt. also detained a number of cloth and food dealers under the Preventive Detention Act of 1950.

The Chamber submitted that the Government were committed not to prosecute dealers for technical breaches of the Control Order, which were, invariably, the main ground for detention in most of the cases. The attention of the Government was particularly invited to the

written assurance given to the trade that in calculating balances, an allowance of 2 per cent would be given to retailers to cover leakage, short measurement of pieces etc. The Office collected a large number of cases in which these facts were disregarded and urged re-examination of cases to ensure proper justice. Several cases were later on withdrawn. Yet, many cases remained undecided. The Home Ministry of the Government of India also advised the Provincial Government not to encourage barbarous tendencies on the part of the police.

The Cloth Section of the Chamber did valuable work in discouraging anti-social activities of the members of the trade. The Food Section and the Transport Section of the Chamber continued to function efficiently and render useful services to the members.

On representations of the Chamber, a seat was allotted on the newly constituted Advisory Committee of the Assam Railway, to which Shri H. M. Periwal was elected. During the year, the Chamber was invited to send a representative to the Committee to examine rates of Fare and Freight of Motor Vehicles set up by the Government of Bihar on which Shri B. P. Agarwalla was nominated.

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The Twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 21st May, 1951 which was inaugurated by Dr. A. N. Sinha, the Finance and Food Minister, Bihar. Sri Sarangdhar Sinha, in his presidential address, touched upon quite a number of problems facing the State and the country. He mentioned about the alarming food situation in the State of Bihar along with other matters affecting the country. He gave the food and the population problem top most priority. He also dwelt, at great length, on the problems of production and controls, the budgetary policy of both Bihar and the Union Governments, the allocation of revenues as between the Centre and the States, the taxation structure in the country and its very necessary reforms and a host of other problems and questions affecting

the lives of not merely trade and industry but as much of the common man and women.

In the end, he laid very great stress on the need of thorough re-examination of the burden and incidence of taxation on various classes of income. In his inaugural address Dr. A. N. Sinha made a feeling reference to the determined way in which his department had been handling the very serious question of food famine in the State. The famine, he said, had been averted not only as a result of supplementary quota from the centre but also because of the Railway's co-operation. He also stressed the need for long term planning to augment food supply of the State. Dr. Sinha made a passing reference to the structure of the Sales tax in the State and stated that although imposition of a tax on food directly may not be considered very legitimate in a crisis, but it could not be helped. The resolutions passed in the Annual Meeting related to the Economic Policy, Food, Sales Tax and Control.

Sri B. P. Agarwalla was elected President and Sri Badri Narain was elected Hony. Secretary for the next year.

The Twenty-fifth Year (1951).

The Twenty-fifth year of the Chamber has been filled with many memorable events. There was considerable increase in the membership of the Chamber during the year, which went up from 351 in the previous year to 405.

On the 22nd August 1951, Mr. T.N. Airey, Director of Inspection, Central Board of Revenue, visited the Chamber in connection with the drive for disclosure of hidden income. The Chamber, while assuring him of its full co-operation in the drive, regretted that the Income Tax Laws were not being administered by the Department with adequate sympathy. The difficulties of the assessee arising out of the application of flat rate, rejection of accounts on flimsy grounds, absence of understanding on the part of the authorities, harassment of the assessee,

delay in disposal of appeals were pointed out and a request for early assessment was made.

Mr. T. N. Airey in his reply said: "We want you to trust us and accept our sincerity; we admit our weaknesses and are trying to remedy them but we want your co-operation." While agreeing that too much of sledge hammer was being used instead of full measure of courtesy and respect, he assured that the Department would do all in its power to improve the relations. He laid down that in dealing with small categories of cases which form 80% of the total assesseees, the I.T. O.'s attitude should be 90% human and 10% law. Mr. Airey said that an assessee who was making disclosure was coming forward to redeem his honour and he was worthy of every respect. He, therefore, appealed to the trading community to make full and complete disclosure.

The Commissioner of Income Tax, Bihar, also visited the Chamber on the 5th December, 1951, when a memorandum detailing the hardships caused to the assesseees by application of flat rate etc. was presented. Replying to the points, the Commissioner, Mr. B. M. Sen Gupta, said that he was trying to promote mutual understanding and co-operation to the best of his ability and urged that the impression that the I. T. O.'s were intentionally unjust must be removed. Dealing with other points raised in the memorandum, he said that the Department would consider them very sympathetically. On the 31st August, 1951, Mr. H. L. Jerath, the Director General of Post and Telegraphs, India, visited the Chamber when complaints about late delivery of letters and telegrams, non-delivery of express letters on Sundays and deterioration in the telephone services were made. Mr. Jerath, in his reply, assured that the Department was doing its best to remove the cause for complaints and assured that all complaints would receive prompt attention of the Department. In the course of discussions that followed, Mr. Jerath assured that every thing would be done to improve the postal facilities in North Bihar which had so far not received full attention.

The Hon'ble Shri Sri Prakasa, Minister for Natural Resources

and Scientific Research, visited the Chamber on the 14th June 1951, when a memorandum on the Kosi Project was presented to him. The memorandum contained the details of devastations caused to an area which was once the granary of Bihar. It was urged that the implementation of the Kosi Project would not only wipe out the entire food deficit of Bihar but would change the entire face of the area and make substantial increase in the standard of living of the people of Bihar practicable. As regards the enormous fund involved in the execution of the Plan, it was urged that in view of the immense advantages that it would confer upon 20 lacs of people every year, the question of finance alone should not stand in the way. The Hon'ble Shri Sri Prakasa in reply agreed that Kosi's devastations called for some definite steps but he regretted that the huge amount to the tune of Rs. 177 crores which the scheme involved was not readily available. He assured, however, that he would press the case of Kosi before the Centre.

Towards the close of 1951, there was a strong rumour that the Patna Bench of the Income Tax Tribunal was going to be shifted to Calcutta. The Chamber raised strong objections to it as on previous occasions. The Government of India before taking any decision on the matter, deputed Mr. K. V. K. Sundaram, I.C.S., the Secretary of the Ministry of Law, to examine the question on the spot. On his visit to Patna, the Chamber submitted a comprehensive memorandum describing the hardships that would be caused by the transfer of the Tribunal to Calcutta and strongly urged its retention at Patna especially when a large number of cases were still pending before the Tribunal. The Government of India subsequently decided to retain the Bench at Patna.

A deputation on behalf of the Chamber met the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Bihar, on the 27th August, 1947 and discussed with him the points raised in the memorandum submitted earlier. The deputationists urged the need for liberal interpretation of Art. 286(1)(a) of the Constitution of India, pointed out the need of precise definition of the generic business terms and placed before the Commissioner the hardships caused to the business community due to lack of

human approach and lack of adequate appreciation of the fact that the Sales Tax assesseees were mere agents of Government for the collection of the revenue. The Committee of the Chamber also considered a number of bills and submitted their views thereon. The Committee, while strongly protesting against the hasty manner in which the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1951, was being rushed through without inviting the opinion of the public and commercial community, urged that it should not be passed unless a High Commission had thoroughly examined the entire tax structure of the country. It also objected to the various penal provisions incorporated in the Bill. As regards the Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1951, the Committee felt that the Government should not have rushed through the Bill especially when the Company Law Expert Committee was making a comprehensive review of the Company Law. However, the Committee commended in general terms the provisions regarding the regulation of the managing agency system but held that the sponsors of the Bill had gone too far in their zeal to restrict the power of the managing agents. In regard to Essential Goods (Declaration & Regulation of Tax on Sale or Purchase) Bill, 1951, the Committee regretted that the Bill left the existing Sales Tax Acts of the States, which pathetically lacked uniformity, untouched. The Committee also submitted a note to the Finance Minister of Bihar for suitable provisions in the Finance Act of 1952 to permit exemption of raw materials from the levy of sales tax, composition of tax on fare and freight of motor vehicles, exemption of foodgrains and medicines from the levy of the tax and a liberal interpretation of Articles 286 (1) (a) of the Constitution of India.

An important achievement of the Chamber during the year was the setting up of the Patna Goods Advisory Committee of the North Eastern Railway and the Patna Area Advisory Committee of the Eastern Railway to deal with the local problems of the mercantile community. These bodies were set up mainly as a result of the Chamber's efforts. The former Committee has been in existence for about a year now and has helped in expeditious solution of a large number of complaints. The working of the Maroofganj Out Agency, the

opening of a City Booking Office at a suitable place and liberal facilities for parcel booking and Steamer services from Digha Ghat and Mahendru ghat engaged the special attention of the Committee. The Patna Area Advisory Committee was formed in February last. The meetings of both the Committees are held at the premises of the Chamber.

The increase in the membership of the Chamber made apparent the need for constituting more Sections of trades represented on the Chamber so that the interests of particular sections could be more effectively protected and promoted. Thus two more Sections—Iron & Steel Section and Yarn Section—were constituted during the year. The Iron & Steel Section with Shri P. L. Khandelwal as President and Shri S. R. Datta as Secretary did very useful work. It initiated negotiation for financial agreement with the Tatas so that the need of individual advances to the Company against orders placed, could be dispensed with. Unfortunately, the scheme could not materialise due to legal difficulties. It also tackled the various difficulties of the iron trade. The Yarn section, during its short period of existence, has rendered useful services to the Yarn importers of the State. The other Sections continued to function effectively.

The two other notable activities of the Chamber were in respect of the Ganga Bridge Project and the scheme for regrouping of the Eastern, North Eastern and Northern Railways. The Chamber has been in the forefront of the agitation for a bridge over the river Ganga in Bihar from the very beginning. It placed very forcefully the need for a bridge on the Ganges in Bihar before Sir M. Visvesvaraya, when he visited Patna to select a site for location of a bridge from amongst a number of sites referred to him by the Government of India. The Chamber, while making it clear that it did not oppose construction of a bridge anywhere else, stressed that Bihar needed a bridge desperately for its own economic prosperity. We are glad that as a result of the agitation, in which Chamber played no mean part, the question of a bridge on the river Ganga in Bihar is expected to be decided favourably at an early date.

On the publication of the draft scheme for the regrouping of the last three railway zones, the Chamber submitted long and detailed representations to the Railway Board demanding the location of the headquarters of the North Eastern Railway somewhere on the Railway System itself and the retention of a portion of the Loop Section of the E. I. Railway with the proposed Eastern Railway. As a result of further agitations, a Conference was held at New Delhi in this connection on the 19th April'52 in which the Chamber was also represented. The Allahabad Division was finally retained with the Northern Rly. and the Sealdah Division was merged with the Eastern Railway. We expect to have a regional office of the N. E. Railway in Bihar in due course.

The Chamber, thus, celebrates its Silver Jubilee on the 2nd June, 1952, with a long and glorious past filled with notable achievements on which it can look back with pride and a future full of hope and ambition of playing useful role in the building up of the country in which the State of Bihar is destined to play an important role. On this memorable occasion, the Chamber is extremely proud of the fact that Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first elected President of the Union of India, very kindly graced the occasion by his visit on the 18th May, 1952.

Presidents

- 1926 Rai Bahadur Radha Krishna Jalan.
- 1927 Rai Bahadur Banshidhar Dhandhania.
- 1928 Rai Bahadur Banshidhar Dhandhania.
- 1929 Rai Bahadur Radha Krishna Jalan.
- 1930 Rai Bahadur Ram Ran Vijaya Sinha.
- 1931 The Hon'ble Raja Devaki Nandan Pd. Singh.
- 1932 The Hon'ble Raja Devaki Nandan Pd. Singh.
- 1933 The Hon'ble Raja Devaki Nandan Pd. Singh.
- 1934 Mr. Nirmal Kumar Jain.
- 1935 Dewan Bahadur D. D. Thacker.
- 1936 Rai Saheb Shri Narain Arora.
- 1937 Lala Gurusharan Lal.
- 1938 Seth Ram Krishna Dalmia.
- 1939 Shri Chakreshwar Kumar Jain.
- 1940 Shri Chakreshwar Kumar Jain.
- 1941 Lala Bal Krishna Das Khandelwal.
- 1942 Seth Shanti Prasad Jain.
- 1943 Seth Shanti Prasad Jain.
- 1944 Rai Bahadur Shyamnandan Sahaya, C. I. E.
- 1945 Rai Bahadur Shyamnandan Sahaya, C. I. E.
- 1946 Seth Shanti Prasad Jain.
- 1947 Seth Shanti Prasad Jain.
- 1948 Lala Gurusharan Lal, C. I. E.
- 1949 Lt. Col. Sarangdhar Sinha, M. A., B. L., M. L. A.
- 1950 Lt. Col. Sarangdhar Sinha, M. A., B. L., M. L. A.,
- 1951 Shri Bhagwati Prasad Agarwalla.



Sri R. C. PANDIT
Vice-President (1937 & 38)
Hony. Secretary (1926 to 34)



Sri P. H. KUTAR
Vice-President (1941 to 46)



Sri R. LAKHOTIA
Vice-President (1944 & 45)



Sri B. L. BIDASARIA
Vice-President (1946 & 47)



Sri B. L. KOTRIWALA
Vice-President (1949 & 50)

Vice-Presidents.

- 1926 Rai Bahadur Banshidhar Dhandhania.
- 1927 Rai Bahadur Ramran Vijaya Sinha.
Lala Bal Krishna Das Khandelwal.
- 1928 Rai Bahadur Ramran Vijaya Sinha.
Rai Bahadur Radha Krishna.
- 1929 Rai Bahadur Ramran Vijaya Sinha.
Shri Nirmal Kumar Jain.
- 1930 Raja Devakinandan Pd. Sinha.
The Hon'ble Shri Nirmal Kumar Jain.
- 1931 Shri Sri Narain Arora.
Shri Amirchandra.
- 1932 Shri Sri Narain Arora.
Rai Bahadur D. D. Thacker.
- 1933 Shri Sri Narain Arora.
Shri Kedarnath Goenka.
- 1934 Shri Jairamdas Sah.
Lala Gurusharan Lal.
- 1935 Rai Saheb Sri Narain Arora.
Rai Bahadur Lokenath Pd. Dhandhania.
- 1936 Lala Gurusharan Lal.
Lala Balkrishna Das Khandelwal.
- 1937 Shri R. C. Pandit.
Shri I. B. Datta.
- 1938 Shri R. C. Pandit.
Shri I. B. Datta.



Sri A. BHOLANATH
Vice-President (1951)



Sri K. C. CHOUDHARY
Vice-President (1951)
Hony. Secretary (1949 & 50)

- 1939 Shri C. K. Jain.
Shri I. B. Datta.
- 1940 Shri I. B. Datta.
Rai Bahadur S. N. Sahaya.
- 1941 Shri I. B. Datta.
Shri P. H. Kutar.
- 1942 Shri I. B. Datta.
Shri P. H. Kutar.
- 1943 Shri P. H. Kutar.
Shri Vishundeo Narayan.
- 1944 Shri P. H. Kutar.
Shri R. Lakhotia.
- 1945 Shri P. H. Kutar.
Shri R. Lakhotia.
- 1946 Shri P. H. Kutar.
Rai Saheb Sri Narain Arora (Shri B. L. Bidasaria was
elected after the death of Rai Saheb S. N. Arora).
- 1947 Shri Kanhaiyaji, M. A., B. L.,
Shri B. L. Bidasaria.
- 1948 Shri Kanhaiyaji, M. A., B. L.,
Shri N. D. Gandhi.
- 1949 Shri H. B. Chandra, M. L. C.
Shri B. L. Kotriwala.
- 1950 Shri H. B. Chandra, M. L. C.
Shri B. L. Kotriwala.
- 1951 Shri A. Bholanath.
Shri K. C. Choudhary.

Sri V. M. THAKORE
Hony. Secretary
1937 to 40 & 1942 to 43



Sri INDRAJ BAHADUR
Hony. Secretary (1946 to 48)

Hony. Secretaries

- 1926 Shri R. C. Pandit.
1927 Shri R. C. Pandit.
1928 Shri R. C. Pandit.
1929 Shri R. C. Pandit.
1930 Shri R. C. Pandit.
1931 Shri R. C. Pandit.
1932 Shri R. C. Pandit.
1933 Shri R. C. Pandit.
1934 Shri R. C. Pandit.
1935 Shri H. B. Chandra.
1936 Shri H. B. Chandra.
1937 Shri R. N. Agrawal (upto 11. 11. '37)
1937 V. M. Thakore (from 12 Nov.)
1938 Shri V. M. Thakore.
1939 Shri V. M. Thakore.
1940 Shri V. M. Thakore.
1941 Shri S. B. L. Varma.
1942 Shri V. M. Thakore.
1943 Shri V. M. Thakore.
1244 Shri G. L. Gupta.
1945 Shri G. L. Gupta.
1946 Shri I. Bahadur.
1947 Shri I. Bahadur.
1948 Shri I. Bahadur
1949 Shri K. C. Choudhary.
1950 Shri K. C. Choudhary.
1951 Shri Badri Narain, B. Sc.
-

Hony. Treasurers

- 1939 Shri N. R. Sinha.
1940 Shri N. R. Sinha.
1941 Shri N. R. Sinha.
1942 Shri G. L. Gupta.
1943 Shri M. L. Jhunjunwala.
1944 Shri D. P. Bubna.
1945 Shri D. P. Bubna
1946 Shri N. D. Gandhi.
1947 Shri N. D. Gandhi.
1948 Shri K. C. Choudhary.
1949 Shri Badri Narain, B. Sc.
1950 Shri Badri Narain, B. Sc.
1951 Shri V. S. Akshauri.
-

List of Committee Members

Name	Period of Service (years).
Agarwal, Arjun	1
R. N.	1
Ramgopal	3
Rawatmal	3
Sitaram	1
Bansidhar	1
Agarwalla, B. P.	3
Arora, Sri Narain	15
Arora, L. N.	1
Acharya, Upendra	1
Akshauri, V. S.	1
Bidasaria, Barjang Lal,	12
Biswas, D. C.	5
Bubna, D. P.	3
Bishnoi, H. D.	4
Bahadur, Indraj.	4
Bhadani, Jhari Ram	4
Bux, Khoda.	1
Bholanath, A.	4
Chandra, Amir	1
H. B.	17
Choudhuri, B.	2
Choudhary, K. C.	6
Charan, Shyama	1
Chakravorty, S. N.	1
Dhandhanian, R. B. Banshidhar	13
K. L.	3
Lokenath Pd.	4

Name	Period of Service (years).
Dalmia, Gopiram	3
Gaurishankar	6
Seth Ramkrishna	1
Datta, I. B.	15
S. R.	1
De, K. C.	5
Dogra, K. P.	1
Das, Lala Balkrishna	2
Gupta, B.	3
Ganeshilal	19
Rama Prasad	4
Gutgutia, B. L.	5
Ganguly, D. N.	1
Geonka, Kedarnath	2
S. B.	5
Gandhy, M. P.	1
N. D.	5
Golwara, Rameshwar Pd.	2
Iyer, P. V. S.	3
R. G.	2
Jayaswal, Bhagwat Prasad	12
Murli Manohar	6
Jain, Chakreshwar Kumar	6
Harakh Chand	2
Nirmal Kumar	7
Seth Shanti Pd.	10
Jhunjhunwala, Madan Lal	4
B. P.	1
Jalan, R. B. Radha Krishna	12
Jalil, S. M.	4
Khandelwal, Balkrishna Das	3
Kotriwala, Banarsi Lal	9
Kanhaiyaji	8
Kutar, P. H.	7

Name	Period of Service (years)
Krishna, Radha	4
Krishna, Bal	1
Kejriwal, Ranglal,	3
Khan, S. M. Sarfaraz Ahsan	1
Kataruka, B. N.	1
Lal, Lala Guru Sharan	13
Uma Charan	2
Lakhotia, R.	4
Mazumdar, B. S.	1
Manning, J. L. F.	1
Narain, Badri, B. Sc.	5
Vishundeo	3
Nandi, K. K.	1
Ojha, A. L.	2
Ojherin, G. C.	4
Prasad, Anand,	1
Durga	2
Jogeshwar, M. Sc.	3
Mahendra	4
Nageshwar, M. A., B. L.	2
Umashanker	2
R. B. Padmanabh	1
Periwal, H. M.	2
Painter, G. S.	1
Pandit, R. C.	17
Rahman, M.	1
Sharma, A.	1
Rajendra,	3
Sahay, R. B. Shyamnandan	14
Singh, Devadhari	3
Guru Prasad	1
Harihar Prasad	1
Raghubar Narayan	3
Ram Nath	1

Name	Period of Service (year).
Ram Binod	1
Rampal	3
Sahu, Debi Lal	2
Saha, Jnan, M. A.	5
Sinha, R. B. Ramran Vijaya,	11
Raja Devakinandan Pd,	4
N. R.	6
S. K. P.	1
Sarangdhar	2
Sharan, Harihar	2
Sharaf, Hiralal,	5
Shah, Jairam Das	2
Shrivastava, R. C.	1
Shyam, Radha	9
Sabihuddin, M. M.	3
Stainthorpe, T. F.	1
Sen, P. K.	1
Thacker, D. D.	6
Thakore, V. M.	7
Tulshiyar, R. L.	1
Verma, Shyam Behari Lal	2
C. S. P., M. A., B. L.,	1
Walford, H. B.	2

Acknowledgment

The Twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Chamber held on the 21st May, 1951, appointed a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. B. P. Agarwalla, A. Bholanath, K.C. Choudhary, K.P. Kataruka, B. L. Kotriwala, T. N. Kar, S. R. Dutta, G. S. Dalmia, M. L. A., H. M. Periwala, M. Rahman, B. Choudhuri, M. M. Jayaswal, Khwaja Gulam Ahmad, M. L. A., K. C. Bhargava, B. L. Bidasaria, Bishwanath Kataruka, H. D. Vishnoi and Badri Narain, to arrange for the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Chamber. Sri C. S. P. Verma was subsequently co-opted to the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee held several meetings and drew up a comprehensive programme. The programme had to be curtailed due to paucity of funds and the Sub-Committee, with the approval of the Committee, decided to bring out a Souvenir and to give Reception to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the President of India. We extend our sincere thanks to the members of the Silver Jubilee Sub-Committee who have worked untiringly for the success of the function.

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