

Uttar Pradesh

The Economic Prosperity of the United Provinces, by Dr Shri Gopal Tiwari, M.A., D.Litt., Asia Publishing House, Bombay. 1951. Price Rs 16.

MORE than ever before, there is need for a careful study of the regional problems which confront us today. But unfortunately this need is more often fulfilled by glib talk which, instead of eliminating the conjectural aspects of the problem, perpetuates the confusion. Any objective regional study fulfils a dire need, and Dr Tiwari deserves credit for his dissertation *The Economic Prosperity of the United Provinces*, published by the Asia Publishing House.

What a study in contrasts the United Provinces are! The large tracts of Indo-Gangetic alluvium, sugarcane plantations in the east, the havocs of flood and the well-knit Jumna canals, the wheat fields of the western districts, the Hima-

layan and sub-Himalayan forests and the *terai*, the freezing cold of winter and the *loo* from the Thar desert during summer, the virile Jat farmers and the ubiquitous Bhayyas are all parts of the variegated scene. The contrasts and the almost complete absence of any systematic study of the province as a whole make it impossible to get a composite picture of the economic life of its people.

Dr Tiwari has spread over his study in a number of chapters in the interest of clarity of exposition and has succeeded in his task to a great degree. The first chapters are occupied with preliminaries, in discussing the nature and scope of the subject. These have been followed by the analytical presenta-

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tion of the large mass of statistics which he has collected and collated. These supplement the official statistics considerably.

At the end, Dr Tiwari has developed chapters on the income of the United Provinces, the land policy, industrial policy and public finance of the State on the basis of his findings. His conclusions are earthy and suggestions practical, for he has taken particular care to see that they go by the provisions of the Indian constitution.

The chapter on Income of the Domestic Servants is particularly interesting but disappointingly brief. Properly developed in greater detail, it could have thrown some light on the darker aspects of our social framework and the economic life of the domestic servant.

Notwithstanding the general quality of the work, the period of study 1921-1939, does not arouse much interest. It has its value as a piece of research on economic history good enough for the purpose of a degree. But a study of the war period would have been a definite contribution to Indian geoeconomics as it would have unravelled the effects of war on agriculture in a predominantly agricultural region. It is to be hoped that Dr Tiwari will take up the war period and study it at a later date.

It is difficult, however, to agree with Dr Tiwari that his work is an improvement on Dr V. K. R. V. Rao's inventory method, for mere modification of methodology does not necessarily constitute an improvement.

The attempt of an individual in compiling the national income of a province with the present limitations of facilities may well be compared to an attempt at writing the biography of Shakespeare. Dr Tiwari's book ought to inspire young workers in the field to undertake similar studies of Assam, Bihar, Orissa and such other darker States of the Indian Union which would help to bring out the regional problems to the forefront.

The Asia Publishing House is to be congratulated for the fine get up and the careful printing which is evident from the complete absence of printing mistakes in the text.

K.K.

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