

It is apparent from these reports that the coordination between the various sections of the Government and private industry is far from satisfactory at present. But if the Second Plan has to succeed then the coordinating machinery must be improved and the earlier this takes place the better it will be for the country,

### L I C Fares Well

CONTRARY to the pre-Interim-Report practice of treating its new business statistics as somewhat confidential, the Life Insurance Corporation now appears to be eager to publicise them. At his press conference last Monday, Shri Kamat revealed that during the quarter July-September, new business introduced and completed amounted to Rs 112 crores and Rs 73 crores, respectively, against Rs 95 crores and Rs 75 crores during the first six-months of the year. This is impressive progress indeed, helped though it was by abnormally feverish activity by the field staff, whose categorisation under the proposed new pay rules hinged on business introduced before September 30. Total new business during the current year up to October is estimated at about Rs 180 crores, and the Corporation is confident that, the year would close with a figure of Rs 250 crores (as against Rs 188 crores in the whole of 1956), since November and December are traditionally prosperous months.

The achievement of this level has already been almost under-written by allowing field staff the option of claiming categorisation on the basis of their business during the thirteen-month period ending September 30 or the twelve-month period ending December 31. Whether this pace will be maintained in 1958 and thereafter depends on the working of the new pay scales and the level of over-all efficiency which the Corporation can attain.

### Needless Misunderstanding

IT is a sign of the parochial spirit stirred in this country by the linguistic agitation of recent years that so unexceptionable and indeed so welcome a proposal as paying a tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji by free India's Prime Minister through a statue dedicated to the memory of the great hero should have got mixed up with a controversy over irrelevant issues. A political motive,

so far-fetched as setting the seal on Bombay's present bilingual set-up has been read into the proposal; and on the basis of that flimsy assumption, old issues are being raked up in an effort to justify a counter-demonstration at the time of the unveiling ceremony.

To most thinking minds it would seem that if the bilingual arrangement is to stay or find fresh support, something far more basic than the unveiling of a statue in honour of Shivaji Maharaj or the occasional offer of homage to a hero, saint or sage of Maharashtra would be required. If feelings have been so deeply stirred over the bilingual formula and continue to be in that State, it would be somewhat fantastic to think that they could be assuaged by a simple unveiling ceremony. And if the Prime Minister is to perform the ceremony, it is rather difficult to see the relevance of what one of his colleagues might or might not have said about some particular act of Shivaji some time ago to the proposed function at Pratapgarh, particularly as the alleged remark, since denied, is believed to have been made when the Minister in question was not yet on the Central Cabinet. And are we really so humourless and intolerant that we cannot suffer a comment on our greatest of heroes should anyone choose to make it?

It is a question of any stick being good enough to flourish and any argument being handy to use in defence of a pre-determined course, then there can be no quarrel. But if it is a question of carrying conviction to objective observers, then the line of justification followed cannot but defeat itself.

### Debate on Diet

DIET is essentially a matter of custom and habit; depending in turn on climate, environment and the kind of foodstuff readily available. Most of us are born with our menu cut out for us, so to say, though there is nothing to prevent us from changing it to suit our particular needs or predilections. Vegetarianism that way has certainly much to commend it particularly on aesthetic and sentimental grounds if not also on the grounds of health, as modern medical science and experience would seem to indicate. Besides that, there is the homage paid to vegetarianism by saints and sages through the ages; and this

homage is not something that can be easily brushed aside, no matter whether one is inclined to share in it or not. One would think that these were points enough for vegetarianism to thrive on and make steady headway in the world. But some exponents of vegetarianism seem to disagree. Not content with the advantages that their fancied diet already enjoys, they have been trying to bring in unrelated issues and facile generalisations, based on odd observations, to strengthen their cause. If in the process, the campaign takes on a slightly ludicrous colour, the blame is certainly not on the cause as such, but rather on its all too eager protagonists.

Some of these airy arguments in favour of vegetarianism were flourished in the course of a symposium on 'Vegetarianism as a Medium for the Integration of Humanity' in Bombay last week. One of the speakers had no doubt in his mind that those who ate meat were more militant and combative than those who munched only vegetables, while another was quite sure that vegetarianism could make the greatest contribution towards the easing of international tension. What the basis for these sweeping generalisations is has not been made clear; but if a generalisation can be countered with another generalisation, meat-eaters may well be justified in pointing to Hitler as a sample of ardent vegetarianism going completely berserk; or on a higher level, they may even point a finger at Bernard Shaw or other vegetarian thinkers and sages who were by no means embodiments of meekness in the intellectual or spiritual sphere. Why, the meat-eaters, keen on argument, may come closer in time and space and refer to the very speeches that are being delivered in praise of vegetarianism these days as indications of a combative fervour which no non-vegetarian has yet chosen to manifest. As for relieving international tension, had it not been for the fact that the subject of food has ceased to be exciting or provocative, the fulminations of vegetarians in Bombay should have nearly set this island ablaze by now. The point to remember is that human combativeness need not necessarily express itself only in the arena of war, and tension is not something that is limited to the sphere of international affairs.

Since human life on its present gigantic scale cannot wait for ripe fruits or vegetables to fall by themselves into dinner plates held right under them, there is, no doubt, need for compromise. And when that first compromise has to be made, rightly or wrongly on the ground of self-preservation, it is perhaps open to each one to decide how far he should compromise and in what

way, depending on his outlook on life, ideals, habits, taste, circumstances and the environment in which he lives. There is no place for the absolute in diet as in life. And the search for the lesser evil in preference to the greater may take as many shapes as there are thinking minds in this world, and one man's meat may well be another man's poison. Live and let live' is

a favourite phrase of vegetarians; and it embodies no doubt a very laudable principle. But in living or eating as our habits, thoughts or inclinations dictate, we would perhaps do well to let others live or eat as their own habits, thoughts or inclinations may indicate, while, of course, exercising peacefully our right to win them over to our viewpoint.



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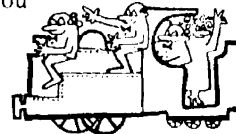
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