

loss of individuality, and despair and discontent taking the place of the sense of pride in ownership and possession. The key problem is the problem of small holdings and peasant agriculture.

Crop-planning is not likely to be helpful in counteracting the evils of small holdings. In the first place there is the tendency towards self-sufficiency in Provinces and States. In the second place there are likely to be difficulties in carrying out the planning. It will be difficult owing to the inherent inability of small farmers to adapt their production to the changing conditions in the economic situation and to secure a certain unity of control in production and marketing. In the case of industries and trades this can be achieved by the elimination of small producers. But in agriculture the majority of producers are small farmers and they cannot be eliminated.

The reorientation and the co-ordination of agricultural and industrial policies, which appear to have satisfactory results in Belgium seem entitled to careful consideration. As Mr. M. L. Borremans pointed out, Belgium which is one of the most highly industrialised countries, is rarely thought of as an agricultural country. Belgium, however, is a country of small holdings and according to the census of 1930, nearly three-fourths of the total

agricultural holdings were less than two and a half acres in size. These small holdings which are scattered all over the country and amongst which industries and factories are located, operate as part-time holdings. According to Mr. Borremans, the part-time holdings are a special feature of social conditions in rural Belgium constituting a semi-agricultural and semi-industrial unit in which agricultural and industrial life are intermixed. The real characteristic of part-time holdings is that the family in a village is split up between agriculture and industry, and not that it is working at certain times on the farm and at other times in industry.

The farmer is becoming more and more self-conscious. His thinking has undergone a new orientation. He needs more income and more buying power. The masses of people expect and demand to be fed, clothed and housed better than before. An awakened peasant population and masses cannot be expected always to think cogently and act wisely. Nor can they be expected to have the patience to wait long if not indefinitely. Small holdings and peasant agriculture are the key problems and further progress is possible in proportion as solutions are found to the key problems. They have to be thought out and planned in advance if results are to be attained peacefully and successfully.

B. VISWANATH.

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SIR JNANCHANDRA GHOSH, Kt.,  
D.Sc., F.N.I.

AMONGST the men of science in India included in the New Year Honours List *Current Science* notices with great pride and pleasure the name of Dr. Jnanchandra Ghosh, who has been knighted.

It is not easy for this *Journal* to give either formal or adequate expression of congratulations and good wishes to the distinguished recipient of the honour because, Sir J. C. Ghosh is an integral part of *Current Science* itself—being the President of the Current Science Association which runs this periodical. Both in this capacity and otherwise, Sir J. C. Ghosh's counsel, support and influence have nourished and sustained *Current Science* which, like any other young and growing institution in its early years, has not been without its teething troubles.

Nor is this the occasion to take stock of Sir J. C. Ghosh's scientific achievements and his service to Indian industry. Reticence which is imposed and inevitable during the war must necessarily preclude a full picture being drawn of his great contribution to the gearing of scientific research to industry during the last three years. Happily, Sir J. C. Ghosh is young enough to look forward to many more years of scientific endeavour which, all those who know him have no doubt, will be rich in achievement.

Sir J. C. Ghosh's contacts with Indian science and industry have been unusually many and varied. As a teacher of science and a mentor of schools of research, as the director of the foremost Indian institution devoted to science, as one of the earliest members of the Indian Science Congress which has honoured him by electing him to the highest offices in its gift and as a

member of a very large number of academic bodies, committees and organisations which initiate, organise and finance Indian scientific research, publish the results thereof and shape policy in correlating the results of research to the needs of agriculture and industry, Sir J. C. Ghosh has played a leading part during the last two decades. And in every one of these many diverse fields, his personal qualities and quiet charm of manner have won for him the loyalty, esteem and friendship of a host of admirers.



It is characteristic of Sir J. C. Ghosh's innate modesty that at the first public meeting he took part after being knighted (as President of a meeting of the South Indian Science Association on January 11, 1943), he said that he preferred to consider the honour not as a personal distinction but as a tribute to all those who shared in the scientific endeavour centred at Bangalore. *Current Science* can think of no more appropriate wish on this happy occasion than to say: May scientific endeavour in Bangalore continue to be honoured thus for many, many more years to come!

### RAO BAHADUR B. VISWANATH, F.I.C., C.I.E.

THE happy news that Rao Bahadur Viswanath, Offg. Director, Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, has received the distinction of C.I.E. will be read with immense satisfaction by his numerous friends and colleagues in the scientific world. Rao Bahadur Viswanath is a pioneer in agricultural research and has been responsible for building up a



strong and enthusiastic school of agricultural science both at Coimbatore and now at Delhi. His work on the effect of farm-yard manure in raising the vitaminic potency of the crops raised on it, remains one of the classical pieces of work carried out by him.

During the post-war period of the last World War, Rao Bahadur Viswanath played a prominent part in helping the agriculturists to grow more food by the application of phosphatic manures, and by the adoption of scientific methods of agriculture. To-day he is at the helm of the Imperial Agricultural Institute, and with the unbounded energy