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## "CREATE MORE WEALTH"

IN the course of his stirring message to the Nation, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister of India, has called upon his countrymen to "produce more, spend less and waste nothing". Freedom from political bondage has been won; the economic freedom which is the basis of national prosperity and political stability has still got to be achieved, if we are to consolidate ourselves as a free and independent nation. In the attainment of economic independence, the resources of science and technology have to be mobilised and harnessed. Addressing the convocation of the Benares University on the 20th of this month Mr. K. M. Munshi, our scholar-statesman, declared, "In India population is increasing; food supplies are tragically short and our command over technology remains rudimentary. Science, therefore, for us is not a matter for luxury; it is a matter of life and death." On the same day at Delhi, Pandit Nehru addressing the citizens of the Metropolis, appealed to his audience to make the country self-sufficient with regard to food. Importation

of food, he said, is a waste of national wealth.

The gravity of the economic crisis that faces us and the immensity of the task that lies ahead has been repeatedly emphasised by our leaders and industrialists. The time has come for clear cut policies and for strong and determined action. Speaking about food production Sardarji appealed for the co-operation of every citizen. "We have in hand so many schemes of irrigation. We have a huge area of cultivable waste which is waiting for the hands that can plough. Even the areas under cultivation can, with diligence and well directed efforts, be made to yield more. We have a big reclamation programme which is being financed from the money that we borrowed from abroad. In addition, we have programmes for subsidising schemes of food production. If we can concentrate on all these, I have no doubt that, in spite of the economic situation of to-day, we can produce enough to feed ourselves and reduce the heavy drain of freight and profits which we obligingly

remit to foreign growers and shippers. Just think of it. If we had at our disposal the amount which we have spent on food imports during the last three years, we would have completely rehabilitated those unfortunate brothers and sisters of ours who have had to leave their hearths and homes in Pakistan and who are still looking up to us for relief and succour. It bleeds my heart to see so many unfortunate countrymen living in conditions of filth and poverty. Let those, who pass by them, reflect for a moment how they themselves are contributing to their misery by failing in their duty to help themselves and help us in ensuring self-sufficiency in food."

Appealing to industrialists and labour, Sardar Patel said, "Government, industry and labour must all play the game in a spirit of national service. We must all have the fullest sense of national emergency; we must close our ranks as we do in the presence of a common danger; we must tighten our belts to give the nation the tribute we owe to it; we must all contribute our might to the creation of that huge reservoir of funds, both here and abroad, which we need to back our national effort for a happier and better state of living. Who flourishes if the

country sinks into economic slavery? Who sinks if the country prospers? Let that be our ruling sentiment, let that be our ruling thought. Let industrialists concentrate on getting the maximum out of their plants and machinery; let labour lend its helping hand to the industrialists to exploit their resources to the maximum national advantage. It will be government's duty, which they must discharge, to ensure that the decks are cleared for action and there are no impediments, no bottle necks and no red-tape. The wheels must move with clock-like precision and perfect smoothness and there must be no mutual fault-finding. The tradesmen have also to do their part. It is their duty to ensure that the produced articles reach the consumer with the minimum of difficulty and at the minimum of extra cost. In such an inexorable and unrelenting struggle for existence, mercenary motives must not be allowed to rule to the exclusion of patriotic duty."

In this hour of grave emergency, the scientists and technologists should play their full part and extend their active support in implementing development programmes directed towards the liberation of our motherland from economic bondage.

### INDIAN SCHOLARS IN AUSTRALIA

ONE of the practical outcomes of the Australian Goodwill Mission which visited India last year, is the grant of Fellowships to Indian students to enable them to carry out post-graduate work in Australia (*Curr. Sci.*, 1948, 17, 232).

One senior and two junior fellowships for the year 1949-50 have been granted by the Australian Government to three Indian scientists. The Government of India are proposing to reciprocate this enlightened gesture by granting similar Fellowships to Australian workers in science, for study at research centres in India. The period of study in Australia extends from six months to two years; all expenses including those of travel from the home country are met by the Commonwealth.

Dr. K. V. Krishnamurthy, who holds the senior fellowship, is carrying out investiga-

tions on the native flora and breeding in commercial crops at the Botany School of the University of Sydney. Messrs. P. K. Shukla and Tejwani are the other two. The former is studying the cytogenetics of linseed in Waites' Agricultural Institute in Adelaide, while the latter is specialising in Agricultural Chemistry at the same centre of research.

The scholars are full of praise for the excellent arrangements which have been made by the Commonwealth Government to make their stay pleasant and fruitful. We learn that during the next year five instead of three are to be invited. The selection of candidates will be made by the Education Ministry of India; the final choice will however rest with the Commonwealth Selection Board, Australia.