

amongst those who saw clearly that more than the mere future of the Iron Works was at stake and the acceptance of failure meant that the very industrial policy of the State would be challenged and all industrial enterprise stifled for many years to come. It is not easy now to appreciate the hurdles that had to be cleared in the first years; technical difficulties, the normal concomitant of any big and new enterprise especially as the experiment of running a blast furnace on charcoal was unique in this part of the world; others again, like the economic collapse the world over, following the last War which hit all industries and all countries alike and over which Mysore had, naturally, no control; and, finally, and perhaps the most difficult to bear, was the criticism, sometimes very strong and often ill-informed, which was levelled at the Works by public opinion in the State which as yet had no experience of the running of heavy basic industries. When the early years did not bring the financial results that were almost taken for granted, impatient criticism gave place to almost a clamour for closing down the Works and in those dark days, Mr. Venkatanaranappa ranged himself on the side of those who with vision, robust optimism and uncommon courage, insisted on carrying through the enterprise in the larger interests of the State. Mr. Venkatanaranappa happily lived to see this confidence justified.

Although Mr. Venkatanaranappa had no formal training in science at his University, he was a votary of science, who believed and practised in scientific method and research. He was a voracious reader and this wide reading coupled with the knowledge he gained in the hard school of experience gave him an intimate knowledge of the many industries he was connected with. Moreover, he believed, long before it was the fashion to do so, in industrialisation and in the capacity of his fellow-countrymen to organise and run industrial enterprises. Many were the schemes of research he initiated at Bhadravati and many were the young men of science whom he started on useful careers. He actually showed what could be done even under the undoubted handicaps of which he was only too well aware of. All these traits won for him the confidence not only of Government but of

Indian industry, several of whose leaders all over the country were his personal friends. And no one could wish for a kinder, more generous or more loyal friend; sensitive, witty and brilliant in conversation he also had a rare sense of humour. Indeed, no one laughed more merrily than he when the facetious made obvious jokes at this gentleman of generous proportions being connected with the Development Department and the heavy industries.

Mr. Venkatanaranappa died in harness. His untimely death terminated a career which with the solid achievements behind it, held promise of even greater usefulness to the State. A large number of friends and admirers mourn the loss of a gentleman whose name is woven into the warp and woof of the pattern that is and that will be for some years to come of Mysore's industrial enterprise.

#### MR. M. SESHA IYENGAR, M.A.

IT is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. M. Sesha Iyengar on the 30th of May 1942 at Bangalore. Mr. Sesha Iyengar was born in 1891 and after graduating from the Central College, joined the teaching staff of the Chemistry Department of the College in 1914. His remarkable administrative capacity was duly recognized when in 1928, with the starting of the Intermediate Colleges, he was appointed the Superintendent of the College at Bangalore—an institution of over a thousand students. He held this post, which carried with it the status of a Professor, till his death.

Mr. Sesha Iyengar was prominently associated with the teaching of chemistry at the Central College and was recognized to be a very capable teacher. Though his administrative duties took up most of his time, he was keenly interested in research—his main contribution being a Study of Substitution in Resorcinol Derivatives.

Mr. Sesha Iyengar was always enthusiastic about sports. As an undergraduate he played football. Later, he was keen about tennis, in which he won several trophies—the last, barely three months before his death.

By his death, the Mysore University has lost a capable teacher and a very efficient administrator.

B. S.