

still to be explored. Especially in Madras, the Government records are a marvellous collection dating right back to the 18th century, and we have here an immense field for fruitful research. Of course workers in this field may not have the lime-light which those who investigate current problems sometimes receive, but their names may shine more brilliantly in the eyes of posterity.

There are also other impediments to the progress of research. One is that the degree courses in the universities do not give a proper equipment to the student, with the result that the post-graduate worker needs a longer period of training than in Western countries. A training in statistical methods is essential for research in economics, but no provision is made for this subject in the economic courses of most universities. Owing to the wide disparity in this country between emoluments in the civil service and other salaried posts, the great majority of bright students prefer the civil service and are lost to research. As every one knows, this is not true of England or America, where the best students cannot be thus enticed by the civil services. The university teacher in the West has a prestige which is denied to his confrere in India; nor are Government offices so ready here as in the West to give assistance to research workers.

The British civil servants who came to India after training at Haileybury College under teachers like Robert Malthus a hundred years ago took great interest in the study of the economic problems of this country, but to-day the average civil servant in India confines himself to administrative duties, largely because the scope of such duties has greatly increased in recent times. The administrator should at least keep in touch with the studies bearing on his official duties; but one fears that there is an inclination on the part of the average administrator to take scant notice of the writings of academic workers, an inclination which is not in the best interests of the country. If it is admitted that advanced studies in Economics will throw some light on thorny questions of public policy, it stands to reason that every effort should be made by Government to encourage such studies and make them fruitful by rendering available to the advanced student all the data which are in Government's possession. Of course, the research worker too must deserve such help by making his studies objective and keeping clear of political and social prejudices. There is to-day in India a large scope for fruitful research in economics and it is hoped that such studies will make rapid strides forward in the years to come.

## FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

**A** DISPUTE has recently arisen between members of the Association of Scientific Workers and the management of a London drug and chemical manufacturing firm. Scientific employees of the firm were asked to sign an additional "Condition of Employment" contract which included the clause: "I agree that I will not, without previous consent, publish books or articles, whether such be for remuneration or otherwise." Members of this firm had arranged to supply (for payment, we trust) a regular science feature to the local newspaper and they sought clarification of the new clause as it affected this. The management stated that consent would have to be obtained before publication. Moreover the employees were informed that it would be considered obligatory for them to submit other matters such as letters to *The Times* on non-scientific subjects, to the management before publication.

The A.Sc.W. quite properly take the view that the clause referred to could be interpreted to mean that the employee gives up the right of publication of personal views and opinions upon matters quite unrelated to the business affairs of the company. In reply, the management have stated that they intend no infringement of the civil liberties of their employees unless their business interests are affected.

Important principles are involved, the main being the right of an employee, scientific or otherwise, to express his opinion on all subjects irrespective of the views and wishes of his employers. This particular liberty must be guarded by all workers and we trust that the A.Sc.W. will obtain the whole-hearted support of all professional organizations in any steps it may take to ensure the freedom of the press.

*Chemical Products*, 1942, p. 57.