

# India Mulls Problem of Untouchables

By SELIG S. HARRISON  
NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister Nehru cannot decide whether a proposed new anti-discrimination law will help or hinder the cause of India's 60 million still outcast "untouchables."

Technically, they are already touchable. The Indian Constitution rules out all discrimination and lays down special guarantees of political and social equality which have been in effect since 1950.

But ancient custom is dying hard in the villages of rural India. As always, an orthodox high caste woman may throw away food handled by an untouchable. Untouchables remain apart, in segregated quarters at the village outskirts, low men socially and economically on the Hindu caste ladder.

Legislation putting teeth into the

constitutional guarantees of equality may be introduced in current session of Parliament. If the government Congress party goes ahead with the bill and wins passage over high-caste opposition, acts of discrimination would become statutory punishable offenses for the first time.

However, the Nehru government's own official charged with protecting the rights of untouchables, L. M. Srikant, opposes such a move. So far the Premier has not taken a personal stand in the behind-the-scenes controversy.

Srikant, a businessman active in social welfare organizations sponsored by Brahmins and others of high caste for the advancement of the lower castes, advocated financial help for "non official groups working for the uplift of the scheduled castes and for the

strengthening of public opinion for the removal of untouchability." He also urged greater emphasis on action by state governments, especially in compiling "a record of villages where Harijans are still suffering under social disabilities."

The late Mahatma Gandhi gave unouchables the name Harijans, which literally means "children of God."

Largely through the efforts of the Gandhian groups of high caste Hindus, most states have passed laws prohibiting interference with the use of wells and access to temples and other public places by Harijans. But Srikant reports that "very few cases have been recorded in the courts of law for breach of the provisions of these acts."

The main reason, he explains, "is that Harijans have no courage to come forward either to draw water from the common wells or to go to public places, since they are generally economically dependent upon non-Harijans."

Economic discontent among the Harijans, who make up most of India's landless agricultural labor, is beginning to find political expression. Communist success in organizing landless untouchables in some areas was mainly responsible for South Indian Red victories in the general elections.

# Officials Happy Over Stored Grain; Short '53 Crop May Cause Shortage

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government food officials are no longer fretting over a big reserve of wheat being stored under a federal price support program.

An Agriculture Department report Wednesday drew a dark picture of next year's winter wheat prospects. Because of prolonged dry weather, the outlook for this and other fall-sown grains intended for harvest next year was said to be precarious in many areas.

Thus, unless there is a quick turn in weather conditions the reserve being built up from this year's second largest wheat crop in history would be needed to help meet

food and other market demands next year.

Before the dry weather set in, some officials expressed concern lest farmers produce another big crop next year and make reserves burdensome and expensive for the government.

The department said large acreages of wheat have been planted in dust in the hope that fall rains would supply the necessary moisture for germination and growth. That moisture has not yet arrived and the time is drawing short. Furthermore, a considerable portion of the intended acreage has not been planted at all.

The department's semi-final re-

port for the 1952 crop season said production is turning out to be the second largest on record, only 2.5 per cent below the top mark set in 1948. Prospects improved nearly one per cent during October, thanks to unusually favorable harvesting weather.

This year's farm production—crops and livestock products—will set a new record because the combined output of meat, animals, poultry products, milk and wool is by far the largest in history and big enough to offset the 1948 advantage in crops.

Topping this year's crops is a corn yield of 3,303,000,000 bushels, also the second largest on record.

This is 10 per cent larger than the average corn crop and nearly 12 per cent larger than last year's crop. Helping the situation is the fact that this year's corn is of good-to-excellent quality in contrast with last year's poor quality crop. The livestock feed grain supply for the current year has been exceeded in only five seasons—1942, 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950.

# New Nebraska Governor Once Held Second Spot

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The man who as lieutenant governor said his job wasn't worth having—but who wanted some day to be governor—is governor-elect now.

He is Republican Robert B. (Bob) Crosby, 41, of North Platte.

In the early 1940s the young attorney began thinking seriously about being governor. At the time he was the youngest speaker Nebraska's one-house legislature had ever had. His legislative service was interrupted by a stretch in the Navy. When he came home he still had the governor idea.

To get his name before the voters, Crosby ran for lieutenant governor in 1946 and won. While holding that post he had a bill introduced to abolish the office, "not enough work," he said. The bill died in committee.

In 1950 he was winning campaign manager for Gov. Val Peterson. He turned aside many suggestions that he seek a congressional seat.

Crosby was thinking about being governor. Campaigning recently, he met a former assistant sergeant-at-arms of the Legislature who laughingly recalled often being kept late at his post because Crosby was still working.

Crosby warns that lights will burn late in the governor's office too when he moves in.

"I'd like to introduce some reasonable re-organization of state government," he says.

In his campaign, he used blackboard and chalk to illustrate how some functions could be shifted for more efficiency. For example, he doesn't see why, in a farming state like Nebraska, the Department of Agriculture should be burdened with inspection of hotels and rooming houses.

The new governor, son of a lawyer, attended Hastings (Neb.) Col-

lege, the University of Minnesota and Harvard Law School. He met his Canadian-born wife while both were students at Cambridge, Mass. They have two children, Robert, 16, and Susan, 12.

Hans Norland Fire Insurance, 827 Pine St.

# TV Slated For Carmen

NEW YORK (AP) — A performance of "Carmen" will be televised to theaters across the country by the Metropolitan Opera direct from its stage here on the night of Dec. 11.

The broadcast will be on a closed circuit to theaters which will pay for the show.

The telecast had been in negotiation with the Theatre Network television for several months.

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# Chiropractors In Legal Tiff

PORTLAND (AP) — The State Board of Chiropractic Examiners changed presidents Thursday, getting rid of one who opposed leniency in the abortion law.

Dr. Forrest L. Goddard, Salem, vice president, succeeded Dr. Paul B. Firth, Portland, as president. Firth later said he had been railroaded.

The action came after Firth opposed an amendment to the state law on abortions. At present only medical doctors are authorized to perform abortions, and then only when necessary to save the patient's life.

The proposed change would allow others to perform an abortion if a doctor had certified it was necessary. It also would free a chiropractor of criminal action if he reported an abortion within 24 hours and said he performed it as an emergency after being unable to get a medical doctor in for consultation.

Firth said he wrote to all chiropractors in the state: "It is my opinion that chiropractors are not properly trained in the following: Use and dispensation of drugs; practice of obstetrics and of surgery, these being entirely in the realm of other healing arts."

The Oregon Association of Chiropractic Physicians plans to offer the proposed amendment to the Legislature.

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