

D.P.I.

On receiving this file, I thought the best thing to do was to talk over the matter with the Vice-Chancellor, as I knew he was intimate with the Editor of the 'Modern Review' and might be able to influence his son, the Assistant Editor, to whom the marked change in tone of the paper is said to be due. I told Mr. Sarkar that personally I always read the 'Modern Review' whenever I can get hold of it (the August and Sept. numbers were among the first papers I bought in Bombay when I returned from leave at the end of October) as I think Mr. Ramananda Chatterjee has done very good service in building up a monthly, which, on the whole, is the best Indian edited paper in India, and I appreciate in particular the historical papers it contains. On the other hand, as I pointed out to the Vice Chancellor, Principal Ramsbotham was fully justified in complaining of the passages referred to in his letter as likely to embitter unduly the minds of students against Government, and I asked whether Mr. Sarkar could not speak to Mr. Chatterjee so that, if possible, a more moderate tone might be adopted in future numbers. This Mr. Sarkar promised to do, and I supplied him with a list of the passages objected to.

2. Under these circumstances I have delayed sending back the file until I could see at least the February number, and this I have only recently been able to obtain. It will be seen that this number contains another chapter from the Rev. Dr. Sunderland's forthcoming book which continues to be objectionable (e.g. the remark at the top righthand corner of page 133 about the majority of foreigners being haughty and over-bearing towards Indians and unsympathetic towards India's ideals). Possibly, however, the Editor is unwilling to stop these series once he has started to



print it. In 'Soviet Russia' (pp.207-212) the Editor makes rather adverse comparisons between Russia and India about which much might be said on the other side (e-g- the refusal of the Bengal Council to do anything for Primary Education), but after all he does not say anything which a patriotic Irsihman might not have said about Ireland in pre-war days. The I.M.S. is also attacked on pp-234-5, but that is all in the days work for all Government servants nowadays. On the other hand the Editor comes out strongly on p.237 against the conversion of an American girl whom the ex-Maharaja of Indore wants to marry.

Much as we may object to various things published in the 'Modern Review', I do not think the merits of the paper should be overlooked (especially on the historical side) and it would not do the least good, but rather the reverse, if the paper were removed from the list of approved periodicals. If a Principal does not approve the tone of the 'Modern Review' he can use his influence against it being bought for his common room, but it does not seem desirable for Government to single out the 'Modern Review' for banning, for this would only tend, I believe, to make the tone of the paper still more bitter.

Sd/ H.E.Stapleton

Principal Presidency College.

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