

EAMON DE VALERA

ONLY A FEW in history have gained the halo of 'Father of the Nation' and De Valera, who died at the ripe age of 92, is one of them. His was a hero's career, full of suffering and sacrifice, trials and tribulations, and finally of success and achievement. A New Yorker by birth, Edward De Valera, on the demise of his father, was taken to Ireland by his uncle where he graduated from the Royal College, Dublin and became a teacher. So intense was his national feeling that he changed his name from Edward to Eamon. He participated in the Easter Rising of 1916 and was sentenced to death. His penalty was, however, commuted into one of life imprisonment. He was released after a year during the general amnesty but De Valera very soon was sent to prison for his opposition to conscription. After the war, the Irish Free State was formed but De Valera declined to accept it, as it provided for an oath of allegiance to the British Crown. In the civil war between those who accepted the oath and those who opposed it, De Valera was defeated and this time he was imprisoned by his own colleagues and comrades. De Valera then formed the Fianna Fail (Soldiers of Ireland) Party and became the leader of the Opposition and in 1932 President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State. In 1937, he submitted a new Constitution for Eire which was endorsed by a plebiscite, abolishing the office of the Governor-General, the oath of allegiance, etc. Eire remained neutral during World War II. Between 1948 and 1959, De Valera was either a Prime Minister or a Leader of the Opposition and from 1959 to 1973, the President of Ireland. He had great sympathy for the Indian struggle for freedom and had many Indian friends, including Mr V. V. Giri, our former President, who was associated with De Valera's movement during his student days. A man of great courage and determination, selfless service and suffering in the cause of Irish freedom, De Valera

**On Men
&
Matters**
—R. V.

will be remembered as one of the heroes of modern history.

EGYPT-ISRAEL AGREEMENT

THE DEEPENING crisis in the Middle-East has been eased by the welcome interim settlement between Egypt and Israel regarding the occupied territory of Sinai. Though the Egyptians and Arabs have been insisting on a total Israeli withdrawal from the territory occupied by Israel in 1967 and the Israelis have been insisting on a political settlement of the whole issue, it is gratifying to note that the parties have been able to reach an interim settlement which will ensure peace in the area for at least some time. Under this agreement, the Israelis will withdraw from the oil fields of Abu Rudels in the south, the Mitla and Gidi passes in the east and the Baluza in the north. The withdrawal from Abu Rudels will deprive Israel of oil supplies and the withdrawal from Mitla and Gidi passes of strategic positions in the area.

The United States, which has played a notable role in bringing together Egypt and Israel, appears to have guaranteed shipments of oil in the event of a fuel boycott, thereby assuring Israel of continuous oil supplies. The United States has also agreed to position a number of civilian technicians in the early warning stations to guard against any surprise attack.

Thus, Israel has been amply protected against any serious loss or danger arising from the withdrawal. At the same time, Egypt has agreed to allow Israel to ship and receive non-military cargo through the Suez Canal. This concession is of great political signifi-

cance, since Egypt, which has refused to recognize Israel for the last 27 years, has, for the first time, agreed to allow Israeli ships to pass through the Suez Canal. Both sides have also agreed not to resort to threat or use of force or military blockade against each other, which is again a very encouraging sign of peace. Though to Egypt and the Arabs, the agreement falls short of their claim for total unconditional withdrawal from the occupied areas of Sinai, to the world at large, it is a significant step towards the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is to be hoped that both the parties will work out the agreement according to the spirit and lay the foundation for a peaceable settlement of the issue.

TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY

THE TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT and, more particularly, the new Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, Dr Malcolm Adiseshiah, deserve to be congratulated on the decision to have a separate Technological University by transferring four engineering units to the new University and thereby satisfying the conditions imposed by the University Grants Commission for its approval. The idea of having a separate Technological University was conceived by the Madras Government in 1962-63 and the then Director of Technical Education, Mr Muthian, worked hard to get the scheme through. As the University was reluctant to decolonize its vast empire, it has been hanging fire for nearly 12 years. From time to time, one used to hear of a Technological University at Madras but nothing happened. The need for a separate Technological University is now beyond argument.

Specialization and keeping abreast of technological progress are urgently needed in a fast changing world. Utilization of modern techniques and tools, adaptation of technology to local conditions, innovative work on borrowed technology, constant and continuous research on import substitution, are all areas that

require close cooperation between industry and technical institutions. An academic body of scientific workers, industrialists and technologists will be able to give better direction to technological education than a body of generalists. In this connection, the idea of forming a liaison body between the

University and industry and trade deserves every encouragement and support. It is not unusual for industries in Western countries, which can boast of a well-equipped R. & D. Department of their own, to refer their problems to the universities for research and bear the cost. The dichotomy between in-

dustry and the technical institutions that has unfortunately developed in this country should be and closer collaboration established between them in the joint interests of both. Let us hope the Technological University will be the first step in the march towards that goal.

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

(Continued from page 4)

example of orthodox Vijayanagar art, which lavished itself on mandapas and other auxiliaries. There are some sculptures at the base of the only *gopura* of this temple (now badly damaged and not in use), but these are quite eclipsed by the *mukhamandapa*. Vijayanagar mandapas have attained the rank of major art in the Sri Varadaraja temple at Kanchi and at the Jalakantesvara temple at Vellore, not to mention that at Vrinchipuram. Here, in the Andhra region, is another masterpiece. There is also a stone chariot, as at Hampi.

UNUSUAL THEMES

This mandapa is a perfectly modelled structure borne on a number of artistically conceived pillars. Every pillar carries sculpture. Those looking out into the courtyard contain appealing maidens. A few others are carved with unusual themes like the

Lord's incarnation as the primeval fish. Looking at the mandapa from a distance, one feels as if one were looking at a roseate tank full of gently flowing water.

The *sanctum* contains, on its outer walls, representations from the *Ramayana* and the *Bhagavatam*. All these are labelled in Telugu. One of the carvings is an unusual one. It depicts Lord Narasimha wrestling with the demon foot to foot.

There are paintings on the ceiling of the mandapa and its two porches. It is possible to say with one eye shut that they are in the Lepakshi style. Or, rather, they are a herald of the Lepakshi mode. The art, the mannerisms, the details are all pre-figured here.

Fergusson was right when he said that the best example of Vijayanagar art is to be found not so much at the capital as at Tadpatri. These two temples deserve to be better known.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION UNEXPECTEDLY HIGH

Atmospheric concentrations of harmful substances are higher than has been assumed. Some 1,600 million tons of carbon monoxide are produced annually all over the world, for instance. This total is roughly four times what had been assumed. Roughly half is Man's responsibility, being produced by industry, domestic heating and vehicle exhausts. The remainder is the result of photo-chemical processes in the atmosphere and microbiological activity in the seven seas.

This new assessment of world-wide atmospheric pollution is the result of an international survey conducted by three scientists from West Germany. They spent six weeks travelling about 50,000 kilometres a year ago. Their mission was to compile the first non-stop airborne measurements of atmospheric pollution over parts

of Europe, the Atlantic and North and South America.

According to Dr Wolfgang Seiler of the Max Planck Chemistry Institute, Mainz, the scientific director of the expedition, unprecedentedly sensitive measurements were taken at altitudes ranging between 200 metres and thirteen kilometres. More than 50,000 readings of carbon monoxide, hydrogen, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxides, methane, mercury and ozone counts in the atmosphere were taken.

Comparison between the northern and southern hemispheres proving possible, the project scientists were surprised to note that carbon monoxide count is three times higher in the northern hemisphere. The explanation hazarded is that industrial output is higher in the northern hemi-

sphere. This is certainly true of the carbon monoxide count attributable to motor vehicles, nearly 90 per cent of which are located in the northern hemisphere.

The German readings certainly run counter to US assumptions that the carbon monoxide count is due almost entirely to natural, photo-chemical processes.

Dr Seiler is quick to point out that despite the higher level of pollution carbon monoxide by no means represents an acute threat to the survival of Mankind. Fifty parts per million is the danger level, and this is more than 300 times the current level of 0.15 parts. The danger level can be reached under certain atmospheric conditions in underground car parks.

As yet, however, biological processes are sufficient to cope with carbon monoxide, according to Dr Seiler.—(The German Tribune)