

CHAPTER VIII.

SOCIAL WELFARE.

Co-OPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS.

The first co-operative society in Muzaffarpur was an Amla Co-operative Society registered in 1912. The Muzaffarpur Central Bank was started in May, 1913. The annual report for 1915-16 shows that there were 69 societies with unlimited liabilities in the Sadar subdivision out of which 64 were affiliated to the Bank. One Central Bank at Sitamarhi was registered in 1920 and another at Hajipur in 1921 in order to supervise and finance the societies which were organised in those subdivisions. The movement made rapid progress during the next 10 years and by 1930 there were 190 societies in Muzaffarpur Sadar subdivision, 230 in Sitamarhi and 197 in Hajipur subdivisions. Most of them were agricultural societies with unlimited liabilities while the remaining were non-agricultural. These societies contracted big loans from the respective Banks. The economic depression that had set in from 1930 changed the position and the members began to default. The Central Banks in their turn found it difficult to meet their obligations. Government had to set up a Committee to review the condition of the Co-operative Institutions in Bihar and according to its recommendations, the All-India Act of 1912 was replaced by the Provincial Act of 1935. This Act aimed at improving the finances of the movement, putting restrictions on borrowing and grants of loans. It also provided for the supersession of committees, compulsory affiliation of registered societies to the Provincial Federation and provisions for surcharge and penalties.

But the stagnation that had set in still continued. In 1938 Government decided to rehabilitate the movement and provide *inter alia* the scaling down of the dues of the members to their repaying capacity and writing off the losses. Accordingly Muzaffarpur and Hajipur Central Banks were re-constituted and the Sitamarhi Central Bank in which the percentage of net deficit to gross liabilities was over 50 per cent was put under liquidation in 1941. The societies under it were also liquidated.

The organisation of Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies on an experimental basis was taken up in this district at Bithauli in Hajipur subdivision and Kishrawan in Sadar subdivision. The scheme envisaged economic development of the entire village by arranging supply of seeds and manures, supply of consumer goods, promotion of sanitation, adult education, development of village industries, cattle welfare and village communications. The multi-purpose co-operative societies have made some headway.

At present there are three Central Banks, one in each subdivision and various types of Co-operative Societies totalling 994.

CO-OPERATIVE HEALTH ASSOCIATION.

This association was founded in 1926. Its aim is to promote general health of the people by preventive measures and to foster and encourage sanitary habits. The Association arranges lectures on Health and Hygiene.

It started a gymnasium in Muzaffarpur in 1947. It ran the local Maternity and Child Welfare Centre for several years but as the work increased the Centre was handed over to a separate Committee. It runs village health centres for over 50 villages in Muzaffarpur district. Health workers' training camps are also arranged periodically by the Association.

THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, MUZAFFARPUR.

The Co-operative Health Association, Muzaffarpur started the College of Physical Education in 1938 to give facilities to the young men for proper physical instruction. The institution has its own building, playground and apparatus. The institution receives liberal aid from the Government. It is run by a Committee with the District Magistrate as Chairman.

SRI RAM KRISHNA VIVEKANANDA SEVASRAM.

This institution was started in 1926 and is now one of the well-known institutions of Muzaffarpur. The Ashram commenced its career of services with free homeopathic and allopathic treatments but now in addition to this work, it runs a big eye hospital, school and a centre for teaching handicrafts. The institution is liberally aided by both the State and India Governments. The Ashram has a big compound and a number of *pucca* houses which accommodate the homeopathic outdoor dispensary, allopathic outdoor dispensary, library, eye hospital, clinical research laboratory, schools, post office, *thakurbari*, etc.

THE MAHILA SHILPA KALA BHAWAN, MUZAFFARPUR.

The Mahila Shilpa Kala Bhawan, Muzaffarpur was established in 1937 to impart industrial education to women to enable them to earn their own living. It runs a half-time middle school and various crafts like tailoring, hand-knitting, machine-knitting, embroidery and needle work, weaving, spinning, carpet making, toy-making, clay modelling, dyeing and calico printing, fancy leather works, cane works, domestic science, drawing, painting and music are taught. The institution is aided by the Government. Classes for teaching girls up to Secondary School standard have been added recently.

THE DISTRICT SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND AIRMEN'S BOARD.

This Board was formed on the 9th July, 1944 with the District Magistrate as its Chairman. Its aim is to help the Government in getting recruits, keep a watch over the welfare of the Army personnel and the ex-servicemen. It serves the military personnel by settling their troubles at home and tries to help the ex-servicemen and

their relatives for better living; it helps the disabled personnel and families of the deceased personnel to get settlement of their pension or other claims. It helps the military also in administration of discipline, leave and verification of other matters.

Within a decade of its existence, it has helped Government in the recruitment of over 6,000 persons and has already dealt with over 4,000 cases of ex-servicemen. The Board has helped to get a large number of family pension and disability pension cases settled by Government of India. The Board has also actively taken up a large number of cases of settlement of accounts and also cases of alleviation of distress. The distress cases were referred to the Record Centres and higher authorities for financial help. The Board also secures grants as well for the children and dependents of ex-servicemen for their education. Certain number of immediate relief grants have also been awarded by the Board to ex-servicemen.

HOME FOR THE HOMELESS.

The institution "Home for the Homeless" at Muzaffarpur is primarily meant for giving training in handicrafts to the destitutes. One of the objectives is to stop begging and to make the beggars earn their own livelihood. Cane-work, carpentry, lathe, tailoring work are some of the items taught. This institution was declared as a Work Home under the Anti-Beggary Act in force in Muzaffarpur town since 26th January 1955.

MUZAFFARPUR CLUB.

Muzaffarpur Club was established in 1885. It is one of the oldest institutions for social amenities in Muzaffarpur. Originally this club was meant for the Europeans only and was the centre of social activities of the European planters and officials for about fifty years. The European planters were scattered all over North Bihar. Muzaffarpur was their biggest attraction for social life. In 1913 the Stewards of the "January Meet" who used to organise Polo and horse races on the Race Course in Muzaffarpur resolved to hand over the management to the Muzaffarpur Club Committee. The Muzaffarpur Club took over the assets of the Stewards and successfully organized the Polo and Race meetings for several years. In 1919 the members of Planters' Club merged with the Muzaffarpur Club.

The club has its own extensive buildings situated on an attractive site facing the Sikandarpur "Mun" (river bed) and overlooking the Sikandarpur maidan. The site of the club was a gift from the family of the Zamindar of Jaintpur in Hajipur subdivision.

Now the membership of the club is open to Government, Civil and Military Officers as well as to the general public. The club has always had a large membership. There are provisions for tennis, badminton, golf, cricket, and other outdoor games. It has a covered swimming pool. There is also provision for billiards and other indoor games. The club has a well-equipped Library. It affords residential

quarters for members who drop in from distant places or for guests of the members. There is a co-operative store attached to the club. The club is affiliated to many of the first-rate clubs in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

THE ORIENT CLUB, MUZAFFARPUR.

The Orient Club, Muzaffarpur was founded in 1904 and has been an excellent ground for social contacts since then. The club has its own building on a big plot of land. The property of the club vests in a board of trustees. The club offers facilities for both indoor and outdoor games. In the Great Earthquake of 1934 the club building was very badly damaged. The club took upon itself the humanitarian work of helping distressed persons and a large number of huts were raised on the club ground with the help of the club members for the people who had lost their houses. The club re-built its house very soon and has continued to foster social life in Muzaffarpur. The club has a good library. It organises cultural shows, theatricals and literary meetings.

There is a juvenile section of the club affiliated to All-India Hindusthan Scout Association.

THE TOWN CLUB, MUZAFFARPUR.

The Town Club, Muzaffarpur has a large membership. This club also affords facilities for tennis and other outdoor games and some other indoor games. The club stands on its own ground quite close to Muzaffarpur Club. It has a good library.

SUHRID SANGH, MUZAFFARPUR.

This is a literary institution established in 1935. It has a big library. The Sangh has been successfully working in the interest of the Hindi language and literature in various ways. The institution gets financial assistance from the Government and runs night schools and adult education centres. It has a section for the children known as the Sishu Mandal. The institution has a large membership. The club organises literary and cultural meets.

THE ROTARY CLUB.

The Rotary Club of Muzaffarpur which was formed in 1953 holds its weekly meetings in the Muzaffarpur Club. The Rotary Club has played an important role in fostering healthy social life of the citizens and businessmen of North Bihar. Well informed and educative talks are a prominent feature of the weekly meetings.

HARI SABHA.

This is a very old organisation for religious meetings and there is a middle school attached to it. Religious discourses are regularly held.

KALI BARI.

The Kali Bari where the deity of Kali is established attracts visitors and worshippers from all over the State.