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WW's Memo Re Allahabad

May I start by recording a picayune incident of history. At an inter-collegiate Y. M. C. A. conference in 1912, Sam Higginbottom, the founder of Allahabad, almost persuaded me to become a missionary. The Indians have had to suffer many things, but from that, at least, they have been spared.

This proposal of WW is pointed to the central problem of the level of living of "backward" countries. I find it helpful to use the old fraction employed in his teaching and writing by the geographer, J. Russell Smith:

$$\frac{\text{Developed Resources}}{\text{Population}} = \text{Average Level of Living}$$

This problem of the ratio of developed resources to population is one of the basic problems in all unindustrialized countries. Moreover, India is of central strategic importance. If RF could make a real contribution toward raising the ratio, in countries such as India, between developed resources and population, it would serve its times fundamentally. I assume RF has decided not to try to encourage studies and methods which would tend to shrink the denominator of the above fraction, but, rather, to increase the denominator (in my judgment quite properly) by continuing work in public health. The shrinkage of the denominator would be left for nature "to take her course" by the century-long processes of modernization, urbanization, and education. RF policy is to bet on the ability to increase food supply faster than the Indians breed (and public health keeps them alive). RF, thus, would concentrate chiefly on increasing the numerator of the above fraction - a process which is highly important and desirable, even though, without attention to the denominator, it will in the next century or two provide the world with a lot of additional Hindus, Moslems, and Untouchables, of which we already have a fair stock of samples. I hope that some other agency will help Indians really to capitalize to the full on efforts to improve food supply by undertaking adequate scientific, educational, and practical efforts to limit population increase. Otherwise, we may run as fast as we can merely to stay where we are.

But taking the above RF policy for granted, WW asks for comments on his memo re Allahabad. He has stated excellently the questions such a mission should raise. All I hear about Mosher is excellent - his emphasis, his spirit, and his

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intelligence. And I reiterate: Efforts to help India to increase food supply - if not otherwise covered - are highly desirable.

Here are some questions I'd like to have answers to when the proposal comes up for final consideration:

1. Has the conclusion (published, I think, in 1945) of A. V. Hill's mission, sent out from London during World War II, that there is no prospect of food supply in India outrunning population in the foreseeable future, been considered and answered?
2. Does the record and achievement and dent on Indian village practice of forty years of work by Allahabad warrant the hope that would justify \$1 - 2,000 000? In short, are we recommending on a basis of hope and desire to help on our part or out of a purchasing agent's examination of the record?
3. What evidence do past record and present plans give that this venture will really lead men to work in villages rather than become bureaucrats in Government service?
4. Can this mission go quietly and avoid the fanfare and arousal of expectations which will compel it, on its return, to recommend affirmatively - or create an international incident if it doesn't.
5. How does the distinctly Christian religious motivation and teaching of Allahabad affect the future acceptance of its graduates? Does it affect the impact of Allahabad on Governmental policy?
6. Ought such a mission to go out for consideration of a "yes" or "no" on a particular proposal; or ought it to go out for a more broadly based appraisal of what RF should do in India?
7. Remembering that the Communists overran China soon after RF had voted PUMC \$10,000,000, and that Russian plans reported in "The New York Times" contemplate control over India, would it be wiser to think of term (even long-term) grants and not capital sums, part of which are to be used for endowment?

I think the mission that goes out should read GKS's and RBW's diaries about Allahabad before they go.

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