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Martin Lawrence

33 Great James Street,
London, W.C.1

LEFT REVIEW

February, 1936

Mussolini and 5

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Bezzyemski: Poem

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Reviews Farleigh

ILLUSTRATED

Manifesto of the Indian Progressive Writers' Association, London

21. changes are taking place in society. Fixed ideas and old beliefs, and political institutions are being eroded. Out of the present turmoil and a new society is arising. The spirit on, however, though moribund and to ultimate decay, is still operative making desperate efforts to prolong the duty of Indian writers to give to the changes taking place in India and to assist the spirit of progress in the country.

Literature, since the breakdown of culture, has had the fatal tendency to be divorced from reality in spiritual idealism. The result has been that it has produced a rigid formalism and a banal sterile ideology. Witness the devotional obsession of our literature and sentimental attitude and its emotional exhibitionism and total lack of rationality. Such was produced particularly during the two centuries, one of the most fertile periods of our history, a period of rising feudalism and of acute misery and degradation for the Indian people as a result of our association to repress and decadent classes in whose hands literature had degenerated so long; to give it the closest touch with the life and to make them the vital organs of the nation. The writers of the past register the actualities of life, as we do us to the future. Claiming to be the inheritors of the traditions of Indian civilization, we shall ruthlessly, in all its political, economic and cultural aspects, the spirit of

Songs

are a number of composers who have material from which they can draw for the working class movement. For conductors, class movement of workers' choirs is also being London in which part of the time devoted to composition of such songs. Revue who have sent us poems have not been able to use might submit these again for this purpose. We are glad to receive new lyrics of a character. It is even possible to be sung in unison. These consist of verses in a simple metre unchanged throughout the song and a repeated chorus. They need be marching songs, as we have to also the workers' choirs that are

reaction in our country; and we shall foster through interpretative and creative work (with both native and foreign resources) everything that will lead our country to the new life for which it is striving. We believe that the new literature of India must deal with the basic problems of our existence to-day—the problems of hunger and poverty, social backwardness and political subjection, so that it may help us to understand these problems, and through such understanding help us to act.

- With the above aims in view, the following resolutions have been adopted:—
- (1) The establishment of organizations of writers to correspond to the various linguistic zones of India; the co-ordinations of these organizations by holding conferences, publishing of magazines, pamphlets, etc.
 - (2) To co-operate with those literary organizations whose aims do not conflict with the basic aims of the Association.
 - (3) To produce and to translate literature of a progressive nature and of a high technical standard, to fight cultural reaction; and, in this way, to further the cause of Indian freedom and social regeneration.
 - (4) To strive for the acceptance of a common language (Hindustani) for India.
 - (5) To protect the interests of authors; to help authors who require and deserve assistance for the publication of their works.
 - (6) To fight for the right of free expression of thought and opinion.

(This manifesto has been signed by Dr. Maulik Raj Anand, Dr. K. S. Bhat, Dr. J. C. Ghose, Dr. S. Sinha, M. D. Taseer, S. S. Zacher.)

All communications to be addressed to: Dr. M. R. Anand, 32 Russell Square, London, W.C.1.

Material suitable for part singing would also be welcome. This can include what our German friends call "theoretical" material; the setting of some general socialist ideas in words that carry some emotional content. Or they can have the character of a description of an incident or of a person and need not have the same definite rhythm as is necessary in a song written for singing in unison.

It is also necessary that we should have songs for concert singing by one or two voices. It is even possible here to take a form that has hitherto been mainly bourgeois, such as a lullaby, and remake it into something suitable for our side of the barricades.

Lyrics written on one side of the paper, with the author's name and address on the other, should be addressed to "Songs", c/o Left Review, 7 John Street, Theobald's

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