

[6 JAN 1973

RAJAJI & THE EVIL OF TIPPLING

SIR.—Your tribute to Chakravarti Rajagopalachari in your editorial, "Mr. Rajagopalachari" (December 27-28), appears marred by your passionate support for drinking. Your view that "his passion for prohibition" was "another mistake" is wrong. Rajaji was never a passionate person, which your editorial underscores at length. A man with "a brilliant logical mind" who "valued his intellect", as your editorial describes Rajaji, is not moved by emotion or passion. Hence, your contention that Mr. Rajagopalachari had a passion for prohibition and, by implication, that his ideas on prohibition and the idea of prohibition as such are mistaken, appears to be misconceived. Moreover, Rajaji, who, according to your editorial, died "in full possession of his sharp faculties", had no reason to modify his well-founded views regarding drinking and, therefore, on prohibition.

He wrote extensively against drinking in the Indian Prohibition Manual. An excerpt from a letter (Madras, August 29, 1953) Rajaji received from a lady, apparently entreating him to use his influence in this regard, is worth quoting: "Drink has been and is the greatest evil of all times. It has been responsible for the breaking up of more homes than any other single factor. Drink has ruined the life and happiness of thousands of women all over the world whose husbands are addicted to it. It is responsible for more crimes and accidents in modern times than we think. It is a disease deep-rooted, especially in the army... It is drink that makes them want women and it is next to impossible for them to keep away from women after drinking... All this naturally leads to a criminal squandering of money". (The Hindu, August 31, 1953). Can one still say: "His passion for prohibition, another mistake, he never quite disavowed"! —Yours, etc., KSHITINDRA KUMAR NAG

Calcutta, December 31.

Sir.—The end had to come. And it did. A man of clear, though seldom non-controversial, ideas and firm determination, Rajaji, is dead. The nation has lost perhaps its best-informed man. The "Swarajya" will lose much of its charm. The "Ananda Vikatan" will no longer contain the grand old man's prolific and lucid religious writings in Tamil.—Yours, etc., T. V. PRASAD.

Bally (Howrah), December 28.

Sir.—Its first Indian Governor, Rajaji had special links with West Bengal. The State Government should instal a life-size marble statue of his at a prominent place in the vicinity of Raj Bhavan, Calcutta.—Yours, etc., DEBABRATA ROY.

Nabagram (Hooghly), December 28.

Sir.—The country has lost a remarkable leader in Rajaji. Unlike Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Nehru, Rajaji received his entire education in India. This should be an example to those who crave foreign degrees and an in-

spiration to those without any.—
Yours, etc., SATYA PAL GUPTA.
Roorkee, December 27.



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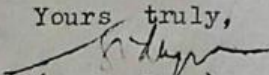
Dear Sir,

For purposes of record and particularly in connection with the forthcoming National Convention, we wish to obtain four copies each of your issue from December 20, when Rajaji was admitted to the hospital, till the 4th of January.

We shall of course be glad to pay the cost involved.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,


(S. V. Raju)

Executive Secretary

The Circulation Manager,

Bombay.
