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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR C. N. VAKIL

With the sad demise of Professor C. N. Vakil in Bombay on 26th October 1979 India has lost an eminent scholar and a pioneer in developing Indian Economic thought. During his distinguished career spanning six decades, Professor Vakil made outstanding contributions in the fields of teaching, research, rearing a generation of eminent economists and shaping of economic policy in India.

Born on 22nd August 1895, Professor Vakil was educated at the University of Bombay and London School of Economics. He began his academic career in 1921 by joining the School of Economics and Sociology, University of Bombay. He was appointed its Director in 1944 and occupied this post till 1958. The Department of Economics owes its eminence in post-graduate teaching and research in Economics entirely to Professor C. N. Vakil. The Department of Economics of the Bombay University was perhaps the first to establish a Section in Agricultural Economics in 1945. He was elected President of the Indian Economic Association in 1932. He started the *Indian Economic Journal* in 1953. After his retirement from the University of Bombay, he was appointed as Vice Chancellor of the South Gujarat University, Surat. He was also Director of the UNESCO Social Science Centre in India. He was associated with several commissions and committees appointed by national and international bodies. Throughout his life, he made splendid efforts to raise the status of the economics profession.

Professor Vakil took active interest in the affairs of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics. He generously gave his time and counsel to the Society in its formative years both as its member and Vice-President. He was elected President of the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the Society and presided over its deliberations in December 1952. In recognition of his services to the economics profession in general and to the Society in particular, he was elected as Honorary Member of the Society in 1954.

He was a keen observer of the Indian economic scene and even in his advanced age did not hesitate to take up cudgels for a cause which he thought deserved public attention. He was a prolific contributor to economic literature. His writings were published in many leading economic periodicals both in India and abroad. He has written and co-authored over 30 books and monographs in Economics. His writings and speeches are known for their lucidity and power of persuasion.

The Society owes to Professor Vakil a deep debt of gratitude for the valuable services rendered to it, particularly in providing shelter to the Society when it was founded. In his death the academic community has lost a renowned Economist of national and international repute.