

Constitution Making

To The Editor, "The Times of India"

Sir,—Dr. Sinha in the opening part of his presidential address to the Constituent Assembly says, "We have to look to countries other than Britain to form a correct estimate of the position of a Constituent Assembly". Then later, he expresses a wish that "the members of the Constituent Assembly should pay greater attention to the provisions of the American constitution than to those of any other."

Though Britain has no written constitution the unwritten conventions should not be shunned by a constitution-making body.

Can we not very usefully adopt the British convention that a Speaker should be returned unopposed in the next election and make it a written law? Then again, under the British Constitution the Opposition leader enjoys a status of his own and in Canada he is even paid by the then existing government. This fact is worth taking into consideration.

Many a time we find that men who are able and really the proper persons to guide the destinies of a nation do not like to undergo the troubles that an election necessarily involves. Sometimes it happens that men of character and experience who are once the elected representatives are let down by the people the next time—as happened with Lord Asquith in the "khaki" election after the first world war.

To overcome this possibility it can be put down in our new constitution that the old house at the completion of its term should elect by a single transferable vote five people—members or non-members—to the new House.

"A STUDENT".

Poona, December 12.