

Indian Constitution On American Model

SIR B. N. RAU SUGGESTS AMENDMENTS

From Our Special Representative

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THE new Indian constitution, when it emerges from the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly of India, will bear a strong impress of the American and Irish constitutions. Meticulous care, however, is being taken to avoid the de-

fects which have revealed themselves during the practical operation of those provisions of the two constitutions which India proposes to adopt.

Sir B. N. Rau, Constitutional Adviser to the Government of India, who has recently returned from a study tour of the United States and Ireland told newspaper correspondents, today that in the light of his discussions with high judicial and constitutional authorities in the two countries he had suggested a list of amendments to the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constituent Assembly in order that the shortcomings of the American and Irish constitutions may not be repeated in the new Indian constitution. Some of his recommendations, he added have already been accepted by the Drafting Committee.

In Ireland he was told that a four-year term for the legislature

was far too short, because in a Parliamentary system, Ministers have usually to spend the first year of office in learning the details of the administration and the last year is inevitably occupied with preparing for the next general election, so that the Ministers have only two years for effective work—a period which is obviously too short for any kind of planned administration.

I have, therefore," Sir B. N. Rau said, "made suitable recommendations to the Drafting Committee to avoid this shortcoming."

From the American constitution, India has borrowed parts of its Bill of Rights and the idea of the Supreme Court to enforce fundamental rights, from the Irish constitution, the country has borrowed the presidential "cum" parliamentary system of Government and the idea of justifiable and fundamental rights and now justifiable directive principles of State policy.