

# Behar Herald

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Chief Editor

Dr. S. SAMADDAR



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EDITORIAL

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The Core and the Crux

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Born—!



**BRITAIN'S ZETA—CONTROLLING THE FUSION REACTION AT HARWELL**  
Scientists at Britain's Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell have made important advances in the harnessing of power from the fusion (or joining) of atoms. The apparatus used is known as ZETA (Zero Energy Thermonuclear Assembly). The picture shows a part view of Zeta; the vacuum exhaust tubes can be seen in the foreground; a scientist is seen adjusting a vacuum valve.



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ESTD. 1874

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## A BITTER TASTE IN THE MOUTH

Discussions on the Chagla report have not had the expected clearing the atmosphere effect. It did not remove the mass of suspicion and half truths that have gathered round the Krishnamachari-Mundhra-Patel deal. The exciting, melodramatic, Lok Sabha debate gave little relief.

It was a respected member of the Rajya Sabha who gave expression, in precise terms, to the apprehension that something had been left unclear, in fact had been obscured in the smoke of the noisy but confused encounter in the Lower House. The question asked by Pandit H. N. Kunzru was: Did the Government accept the Commission's verdict on the former Finance Minister's acquiescence in and, therefore, more than formal responsibility for, the transaction? It was open to the Prime Minister to differ, but not without giving any reason.

Mr. Nehru was not at his best in his reply. He, as usual, lost his self-control and started by picking on a part of an argument used by Pandit Kunzru to call him "little-minded" for objecting to the retiring Finance Minister being given an I.A.F. plane to take him to Madras. He went on to lose his temper, charged Pandit Kunzru with trying to "trip up" Mr. Krishnamachari, insist that there was no finding against him and walk out of the House without answering the question.

Against Pandit Kunzru, one of the few remaining representatives of the liberal, non-party tradition, Mr. Nehru's charge was extremely unfair. The ineffectiveness of the Prime Minister's argument can be judged from the fact that soon after he had spoken, a nominated member, Prof. A. R. Wadia, repeated Pandit Kunzru's criticism.

Pandit Pant did slightly better than the Prime Minister.

He read extracts from the Nehru-Krishnamachari correspondence to show that the former Finance Minister's constitutional responsibility had been accepted. This was necessary in view of Mr. Krishnamachari's subsequent rejection of both factual and constitutional responsibility. But the Home Minister, too, did not answer Pandit Kunzru's original question.

It is evident from the "summit" replies that the great rulers have been obliged to accept the Chagla report as they could not do otherwise, but mentally and emotionally they have rejected it. The appointment of a disciplinary Committee to go into the cases of Patel and Kamath and appointing Velodi to be the inquiry officer shows that Government wants their blue-eyed boys to be exonerated. The members of the I.C.S. belong to a monolithic freemasonry.

## NOTES & COMMENTS

### AS DESIRED

In 1956, A. P. Jain was told to increase food production as the result of the successful working of the first five year plan. He dutifully did so—on secretariat files. This year he has been asked to bring down prices of food grains and he has manfully done so. We are told (Feb 7) "Food price levels have been showing a downward trend during the past few weeks"

The "trend" is not a thing that can be seen, felt or make any impression on one's domestic budget. It is an abstraction in the files of the Food Department.



### A NON-VIOLENT CLASH

Six persons were injured in Hyderabad city on Feb 7 in a non-violent clash between two rival groups of the Hyderabad branch of the I.N.T.U.C. in Gandhi Bhavan which houses the offices of the Congress, I.N.T.U.C. and other Gandhian organizations.

### DISCIPLES ALL

Dr. Ho Chi Minh, the president of the Republic of North Viet Nam, said in Delhi on Feb. 7 that he regarded himself as a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi.

Earlier, Mr. Mundhra had declared himself to be a faithful follower of Mr. Nehru.

It is evident that all the great men of the world have taken either Mahatma Gandhi or his politico-spiritual successor to be their ideals.

### A DESERVING CASE FOR STATE SUPPORT

Mr. B. P. Roy Registrar of Joint Stock Companies in 1951 suspected the balance sheet of Osler company for the year ended March 30, 1950. Mr. A.N. Ray of Messrs Ray and Ray, Chartered accountants, Calcutta, was then appointed as Government Inspector of Companies. He inspected and submitted a report in May 1955, regarding the affairs of Osler company, a Mundhra concern whose shares were largely purchased in 1957 by the Life Insurance Corporation to give "support" to the steadily falling prices of this shady concern.

5,900 shares of Brahma-

putra Tea Co. Ltd. at £24 each (face value being £ 5 per share) were purchased by Osler company for about Rs. 19 lakhs which was debited in the account books of the company on March 31, 1952, but the shares did not stand in the company's name and the directors could not produce the shares before the Government Inspector when called upon to do so.

### ANTICIPATING TTK'S ADVICE

According to a P.T.I. message from New Delhi, on Feb. 6 Mr. T.T. Krishnamachari, Union Finance Minister, suggested to the universities to undertake studies of our own history, social systems and social tensions.

It would gladden Mr. Krishnamachari's heart to know that even before he offered the timely advice, students and teachers in our universities have been assiduously studying the HISTORY of the purchase of shares in Mundhra concerns by the Life Insurance Corporation. Not only that, they have also been studying and commenting on the SOCIAL SYSTEM that made it possible for less than half-a-dozen men to play ducks and drakes with crores of trust money. As for SOCIAL TENSIONS, the students and university staff have been amazed by the display of SOCIAL TENSIONS among members of the I.C.S. who have been trying to avoid personal responsibility by putting the blame on others,

### SO, THAT IS THAT

Addressing a press-conference soon after concluding his evidence before the Life Insurance Corporation Enquiry Commission Mr. Mundhra said that he whole-heartedly believed in the socialistic pattern of Society.

We have so long been firm believers in the "socialistic, pattern of society", but on reading Mr. Mundhra's confession our faith has been rudely shaken.

### A BRILLIANT BIHARI

The following is the order of merit of the candidates who have obtained the first 15 places in the result of the examination for the Indian Administrative Service, held by the Union Public Service Commission in September-October 1957.

Kant Kishore Bhargava, Syed, Shahbuddin, Tehmtam Andhyarnjina, Zafar Saifullah, Kambyyanatham, Parthaharathy Geethakrishnan, Subramanyam Venkataraman, Miss Manorama Kochhar, Raj Kumar Das, Sushanta Kumar Das, Sushanta Kumar Palit, Virendra Dayal -Gajanam Kasbekar, Hardev Bhalla, Parandur Bhashyam Krishna-sawamy, Tiruchendurai Vaidyanatha Venkataraman, Srinivasa Santhanam Miss Mira Seth.

The candidate who has stood second in order of merit was a student of Patna Science College.

### EXIT IN A BLAZE OF GLORY

The 'Manchester Guardian'



has made a flattering reference to T.T.K. whom it describes as the first Finance Minister in history to follow Micawberian economics with success. Mr. Wilkin Micawber—great speaker, letter-writer and projector of bubble schemes—ultimately hit the jack pot, but then he was his own finance minister, principal finance secretary and investment committee, says the Pioneer.

#### RULERS ARE ABOVE LAW

A Calcutta contemporary reports that on his way to the Congress session at the place near Gauhati, Uchchingra got rattled that the train was not moving from the platform. The rest of the story goes as follows:—

“Dhebar inquired about the delay and came to know from the station master of Golakganj that the Congress delegates travelling with him in that special train did not purchase any ticket. On hearing this Rastrapati Dhebar flew into a rage and told the local Congress President that he did not expect such behaviour from Congress delegates. The local Congress President then approached a local merchant and collected some money from him for the fares of the delegates. On realising the full amount, the station master gave the necessary orders for starting the train.”

It seems that Uchchingra is ignorant of the fact that many Congressmen never buy tickets for their travels by the national railways and the

nationalized bus services. They think that their Gandhi cap is enough to secure immunity for them everywhere. We are afraid the foolish station master of Golakganj is going to lose his job soon for not showing due consideration to his masters.

#### MORE SACRIFICE

Newspapers have been announcing now and then in bold headlines: “A (a V.I.P.) has given up taking rice” or “B (another V.I.P.) has given up taking cereals,” or “No cereals are now served on the table of C” (a third V.I.P.)

The purpose of these announcements of austere living on the part of our great leaders is laudable. It is to make us follow in their footsteps, but for the attainment of that objective, the newspapers give us only half the facts. We are not told what the august personages, A, B and C are taking in lieu of cereals. Are they living on pistachio *burfi* or almond *halwa* or a goodly number of khoa *laddus*? We cannot follow the V.I.P.’s great abnegation until we know the second half of the news about which there is a conspiracy of silence on the part of our journalists.

#### SPUTNIKS AND EXPLORER

Comparisons between the two Soviet artificial satellites and that of the United States launched recently are as follows:

Sputnik I—weight 83,600 kgs. form spherical, diameter 0.58 metres; load, scientific

instruments, date of launching October 4, 1957. Speed eight kilometres a second, rotation frequency 95 minutes, angle of orbit in revolution to equator 65 degrees. apogee 900 kms., frequency 20,005 megacycles radio 40,002 megacycles.

Sputnik II—weight 508,300 kgs., form conical, length 4.95 metres, load—scientific instruments and dog “Laika”, launching date—November 3, 1957, speed 8 kms. a second, rotation—102 minutes; orbit angle 85 degrees, apogee 1,700 kms., frequencies 20,005, radio 40,002.

The American satellite ‘Explorer’, launched on Friday night, continues to turn in its orbit around the earth providing information which is being picked up by the American services, Dr. Von B, Braun said this morning.

Dr. Werner von Braun, Director of the Army’s ballistic services and one of the creators of the ‘Jupiter-CT’ rocket which launched the satellite into its orbit, was a German V-2 rocket specialist during the war.

The satellite’s orbit takes it to a maximum distance from the earth of 2,720 kilometres (1,700 miles) and a minimum distance of 320 kilometres (200 miles).

‘Explorer’ continues to take between 113 and 114 minutes to complete its orbit, said Dr. von Braun.



## WHAT'S IN A NAME

Referring to the revivalist tendency in the Congress the *Chowringhee* says that since our independence we have got into the habit of reviving names and ideas that have no life and little reality about them. Pragjyotispur, we are told, dates back to the mythical days of Krishna and Arjuna. That is, about the second or third millennium B.C. and the unreality of the idea of living, even for a few days, in an atmosphere which has not been real for forty centuries is fantastic. Pragjyotispur probably means a city that is old than astronomy and astrology, and that is going back quite a distance in history and pre-history. But then our civilisation is going to be the very essence of thesis—anti-thesis—higher synthesis. Charkha and highly-mechanised industries, community centres and great metropolitan beehives, utter poverty and great centralization of wealth in single hands and so on and so forth will blend harmoniously and easily under the rulership of men who also display a wide range of ignorance and learning, inefficiency and ability, immorality and great ethical intensity of outlook. Pandit Nehru is like a king of the middle ages in whose realm cows and tigers drink out of the same trough. Only there are too many cows and some are in the garb of tigers. Real tigers are few and such of them as there are in India are all hunters who roam the countryside in the hope of

picking up a living at the cost of the sheep and goats which abound every where. Pragjyotispur has been famous in India for its Temple where, they say, men are easily converted to sheep by magic. Would that the local goddess could change some of Pandit Nehru's sheep into men! But, alas, the days of miracles are long past and Pandit Nehru will remain a good shepherd and not a commander of an army of real men. There is now a "ginger group" in the Congress. They possibly feared to offend the vegetarian leaders of the Congress and named themselves after a root which, when taken with tea, drives away colds, coughs and all that. Greater things than that the poor ginger cannot achieve and we hope the Congressmen will at least get over that cold and sinking feeling which suffuses their outlook at the present moment. All glory to Congress and its annual *Ramlila* which it celebrates with such pomp and eclat!

## THROUGH AMERICAN EYES

Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, the "Lion of Kashmir," is a liberal Moslem who fought alongside Gandhi and Nehru for India's independence. He is popular among Kashmir's predominantly Moslem population because he campaigned for the overthrow of the Hindu Maharajah who once ruled the Himalayan state. He was also popular among the Hindu minority because he favored Kashmir's union with India after the subcontinent was

divided in 1948 into India and Pakistan. The Sheikh contended that social and economic reforms would come more quickly in a secular state like India than in an Islamic theocracy like Pakistan.

In 1948, while India and Pakistan struggled for control of Kashmir, the Sheikh became premier in the Indian-held part of the state. Later, however, the feeling grew in New Delhi that the Sheikh had changed his mind and was planning for a free Kashmir, independent of both India and Pakistan. Four years ago the Sheikh was dismissed from the premiership and arrested on the ground that his cabinet disagreed with his views on the state's future. Although New Delhi disclaimed a hand in his removal, it was generally agreed that India must have given its consent. Kashmir has since been formally absorbed into India.

The Sheikh's detention without trial has caused New Delhi increasing embarrassment in United Nations debates over the Kashmir issue. In recent months there have been indications that Indian Prime Minister Nehru was anxious to let the lion loose. Some days ago he remarked, "I hope he gets out soon." Later the Kashmiri government freed the Sheikh. On Friday he roared. He accused India of "betraying" the Kashmir people and made clear that he would campaign for a plebiscite to decide its future—a move which India opposes on the ground that Kashmir's future is settled.

—New York Times



# ZETA

(Zero Energy Thermo-nuclear Assembly)

The future possibility of limitless power from the sea, and of creating on earth temperatures far exceeding that at the centre of the sun was held up to newsmen from many countries when they visited Harwell on January 23 to get their first glimpse of ZETA.

ZETA has helped to bring this dream a step nearer to reality by reaching a measured temperature of 5,000,000 degrees Centigrade, thus opening up the immense prospect of turning the H-bomb to peaceful purposes.

The starting-point was the study made by Cockcroft and Walton at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, in 1932 into nuclear reactions between light elements.

It was found that nuclei of heavy hydrogen, speeded up by high voltages, could join (or fuse together) with other nuclei of heavy hydrogen to form helium, producing neutrons and energy in the process.

Now, a quarter-of-a-century later, the same Cockcroft—now Sir John Cockcroft, head of Harwell—was able to review the spectacular progress that has been made since then.

“We know that processes of this kind provide the energy and heat of the stars”, he said. “Our sun has a central temperature of about 15,000,000 degrees Centigrade, and at this temperature the nuclei of light elements can move

about so fast that fusion reactions can occur”.

It has long been the ambition of scientists to emulate the stars, and to produce in the laboratory temperatures so high that useful energy could be produced from fuel reactors.

“I consider that to have achieved temperatures which are a third of those at the centre of the sun, and to hold them for so long, is a remarkable scientific achievement and I have no doubt that within a year ZETA, with some modifications, will far surpass the sun's central temperature”, said Sir John. At the present time, energy produced in the fusion reaction was only about one millionth of a millionth of the energy input.

“We intend to increase the current circulating in ZETA by the provision of more condensers; temperatures should then rise substantially” Sir John said. But even when a temperature of 25,000,000 degrees Centigrade was reached the amount of energy produced in ZETA would be small compared with energy input.

Sir John said that in order to break even, they would have to produce temperatures of at least 100,000,000 degrees Centigrade in deuterium gas and about 40,000,000 degrees Centigrade in a mixture of deuterium and tritium. “So while we are experimenting with ZETA, improving it and studying its performance,

we will be designing and building its successor, which will aim at achieving the break-even point”.

Many problems have to be faced in this second stage. New methods might have to be devised to heat gas to higher temperatures, and new techniques would be required to measure temperatures. Even if all went well, there would still be the further engineering problem of designing and constructing the proto-type of a practical and economic thermonuclear power station. The further stage—commercial application—might take 20 years or more.

Sir John revealed that Harwell had the help and co-operation of a group at the AEI laboratory, Aldermaston. “This work began at the Imperial College on rather different lines from Dr. Thonemann's but has recently culminated in a device which looks like a baby edition of ZETA.”

“We were delighted to learn three weeks ago that they have achieved temperatures of about 4,000,000 degrees Centigrade and have also observed neutrons. They will now go ahead to see how far temperatures can be increased with smaller and less expansive systems.

We have also for the last two years, had very close and friendly co-operation with United States scientists working with the same objective, but on three or four separate lines of work”. Work in the United States, together with the results obtained by AEI and ZETA, enabled them



for the first time to see the effects of the size of the apparatus on performance. This was one of the ways in which collaborative effort helped.

In shape ZETA is rather like a large American doughnut. Technically, it is a torus, a hollow ring-shaped tube, with a bore of one metre, a diameter of three metres and a circumference of 11 metres.

#### Temperature Problems

The early development problems were formidable, chief among them being to keep the fantastic temperatures away from the walls of the tube. To do this, the well-known "pinch" effect was used, in which current passed along two parallel wires will cause the wires to draw together. A similar effect occurs when current is passed through hot gas. This makes the gas contract into a thin filament along the centre of the tube.

The advantage of using deuterium as fuel could not be more attractive economically. Five gallons of water will yield one gramme of deuterium. This costs only 2s. to produce, and contains energy equivalent to that of 10 tons of coal. It has been estimated that the world's resources of coal and oil will last for 100 years, of uranium and thorium for about 200 to 800 years, and of deuterium from sea water for 1,000 million years.

#### Principle Of Operation

The principle adopted in ZETA is to pass a large electric current through deuterium gas.

This current sets up an electric discharge in the gas (analogous to the discharge in a neon sign) which heats it and also produces an intense magnetic field around the column of hot gas. This magnetic field causes the discharge to become constricted, and hence heated still more.

Since it also causes the discharge to wriggle about, this field by itself, it is not enough to keep the discharge away from the walls. The wriggling has been suppressed by applying an additional steady magnetic field parallel to the axis of the tube.

While temperatures in the region of 2,000,000 degrees to 5,000,000 degrees are needed to explain the observed rate of neutron production on the basis of a thermonuclear process, electric fields in the gas arising from instabilities can also accelerate deuterium ions and lead to nuclear reactions. Therefore, it is not altogether certain

that the observed neutrons come from a thermonuclear reaction. Experiments are continuing to study details of neutron-producing processes.

In order to obtain a net gain in energy from the reaction, it would be necessary to heat deuterium gas to temperatures in the region of 100,000,000 degrees, and to maintain it at this temperature long enough for the nuclear energy released to exceed the energy needed to heat the fuel and lost by radiation. Lower temperatures would suffice for a deuterium-tritium mixture.

The high temperatures achieved in ZETA and the relatively long duration for which the hot gas has been isolated from the tube walls are the most important experimental results obtained so far. There are, however, many major problems still to be solved.



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# The Sword of Damocles

By RAJAGOPALACHARI

I do not despair of convincing my friends and fellow workers in upper India, that I am not a disruptionist. I am urged by a desire to maintain the very unity of India which is the slogan of the Hindi protagonists. I hope it will be permitted to an old servant of the nation to protest and shout when he feels convinced that a change that is impending, is detrimental to unity and contrary to the principles of justice.

The Congress resolution adopted at Gauhati has not changed anything substantially. The date-line remains. The reference to English beyond 1965, and what the resolution, recommends to the Congress party in that connection, do not mean anything beyond bare toleration. Of course, it is greatly appreciated that in the resolution the spirit of conciliation is emphasised and impatience is deprecated. The resolution indicates a better appreciation of the difficulties under which more than 150 millions of people labour in the non-Hindi area of India in the East, South and West. But mere sympathy is no solution.

What we plead for, is the removal of the sword of Damocles. The deletion of Part XVII of the Constitution is the only way to achieve this. It is not an essential part of the Constitution. The *status quo* should continue without any interference as it has been until now. Part XVII

need not have been enacted at all, but as it has been done, it should now be formally suspended. Such a decision would at once be a great and noble re-assuring gesture that will do really more for unity than what any kind of imposition of an artificially boosted official language can ever achieve. Often do men fanatically take measures with a certain object in view but, alas, those measures result in the frustration of that very object.

All the arguments advanced for Hindi are hundred percent correct so far as changing the official language in the Hindi States from English to Hindi goes. The language of Government and the language of the masses will be the same if the Hindi areas change over to Hindi in the administration of the State. But the position is not the same once we go out of the Hindi area and apply the doctrine to the Union official language. The people of the South do not speak Hindi and the democratic argument that is so loudly shouted—of identity of language between people and government—completely breaks down as regards those areas. Not only is Hindi not spoken or understood by them but even their educated classes who are equally ignorant of Hindi cannot deputise for the masses. What advantage is it to the masses in the non-

Hindi area if the Union Government runs its affairs in Hindi instead of in English?

Xenophobia is an out-moded form of patriotism. It is a sign of immaturity to feel shame in using a world language in our high affairs. Over and over again, the inescapable injustice of imposing Hindi is sought to be covered by a cry against the foreign character of English. English is no more foreign than our legal or parliamentary or administrative procedure, all of which have been firmly adopted and confirmed for future use also. And language is just a medium while all these are the very substance of affairs.

The Communists have a reason for wishing English to go. Their policy is to isolate India from the West. Communists whether in power or without "turn like the sunflower to the sun", to the policies of their greatest State, viz., U.S.S.R. (I am quoting from Djilas). English is a bond between India and the west and they hope that the replacement of it in official life by Hindi, will remove one of the important strands that tie us to the West.

Neither the argument of the foreign character of English nor that of democratic identity with the people's tongue is anything more than a specious plea



that is far outweighed in substance by all the unfairness involved in the enthronement of Hindi in the place of English. The Gauhati resolution only means that more energetic steps must be taken from now onwards so that the complete change-over may be effected as soon as possible after 1965. Nothing can be achieved on a date, whenever it may be, unless several steps are taken from now on; and all these steps will breed ill-will and opposition in the non-Hindi areas. It is not the critic of this Hindi programme that is disruptionist. It is the other way about. The Hindi programme is a disruptionist programme. He who warns ought not to be looked upon as unfriendly. It is a bad day for us all if criticism such as mine is put down to want of patriotism.

Let not the injury proposed be aggravated by an insult by proposing that jobs may be reserved for non-Hindi areas. Apart from the misinterpretation of motive which this proposal involves the idea itself is repugnant to a policy of adherence to merit and efficiency in the recruitment of the public services. No reservations in the Central administration and its departments should be based on territorial, communal or other grounds irrelevant to efficiency. Such reservations cannot make up for the injustice pointed out.

All the modern knowledge that we have imbibed and

have still to imbibe is associated with the English language. If the process of modernisation is to go on without deteriorating into shoddy imitation, it is necessary to maintain intimate contact with the progressive West and for this purpose it is necessary to maintain unimpaired the study of English language and literature. No one with a sense of realism would deny the intimate connection between educational incentive and the opportunities offered in the public services. The position that the study of English occupies at present in India is responsible in the most direct sense for such all round progress as we have made. If this position is adversely affected as a result of any policy that we adopt, the result will be a distinct deterioration in national progress. Some are unwilling to see it, and yield to the pull of an emotion which can be roughly described as national pride. Is not just and fair dealing by all the geographically distributed people of this great country as important at least as national pride? Justice is at the root of successful democracy and it is perilous to ignore it. The installation of Hindi as the Union and inter-State all-India language—the honour that now belongs to English by reason of the history of the last one hundred and fifty years—will result in inequality and injustice.

When and if Hindi becomes the Union official

language in anticipation of its acquiring the character of a *de-facto* national language, the disparity between the burden on students in the Hindi-speaking areas and those in the non-Hindi areas will assume very big proportions. Higher education is no longer an incident in the lives of a small caste. All over India it is linked to the most elementary forms of schooling. For good or ill, education such as would fit boys and girls for the public service is the ambition of the entire school-going population of India. They may drop off on the wayside, but that makes no difference. All are at it. With English as the official language, the Southern people had no special advantage and the Hindi people no particular handicap. If Hindi becomes the All-India State language, those whose mother-tongue is a dialect of Hindi will have the clock set in their favour, and for the South it will be a setting back of the clock by a hundred years. The centenary celebrations of the Universities of India indicate the time-measure of the impending injustice. If English must continue to be an essential part of schooling in order that we may not rule out modern knowledge even though it may be dethroned from its official status, the burden on the Southern boy would be three languages—English, his own language—Tamil or other, and Hindi which is to be Union language. The burden on the Hindi boy



would be much less than that imposed on the Southern boy, for in his case English would be the only addition to his own mother tongue. The study of Sanskrit or other classic would be an optional addition to both of them. Remembering the standard that should be reached for answering examinations in the higher grades, this difference is bound to become a very heavy handicap.

There is a notion that Hindi is a related language to the languages of the South, and that Hindi will serve as a link that will bind all the dozen languages of India together. This may be true between Gujarati and Marathi, between Punjabi and the languages of Banaras. But it is wholly wrong to imagine that Hindi can link Tamil to Kannada or Telugu or tie any of these to Rajasthani or Bengali. It is unfortunately the fact that whatever may be the racial composition of the people of India, the language of India are divided between two distinct stocks and Hindi is no link or bridge.

There is no need for assuring the people that harm will not come to the other languages of India by the adoption of Hindi as the Union official language. Tamil and Bengali will flourish all right and cannot be affected by the introduction of Hindi. But the people speaking Tamil and Bengali will suffer—this is the grievance.

There is an argument couched in proletarian jargon,

that the objectors to Hindi are the intellectual and educated caste, who have isolated themselves from the masses and that the Hindi protagonists are the friends of the poor and the unprivileged classes. This and many other like arguments are sound only if the question were that Hindi should replace English in a Hindi area as the State official language. The argument is reduced to a cruel joke and an unreality in the non-Hindi areas where the masses are as ignorant of Hindi as the educated classes. There are a few people understanding English in any Tamil village but none who could interpret a Hindi notice or order or a Hindi Money Order form or Life Insurance prospectus. When the Hindi protagonists are speaking of the masses they are obviously thinking of the masses of the Hindi area only; they ignore the masses in non-Hindi India who are no less in number.

Love of oneself may easily masquerade as love of language, and love of language as love of country. Let us not deceive ourselves or others with chauvinistic slogans. The plea of the South is a plea for justice and efficiency and it should not be put down as parochialism or disruption. We are told that Hindi is to be accepted for the sake of unity as if there were no unity now. If greater unity is the paramount need of the hour, is the adoption of Hindi despite of the difficulties of the Southerners calculated to bring about that unity? By no

means, I say, with all the earnestness that I can command, I have no axe to grind. I find no pleasure in quarrelling with my best friends. I want unity as much as any one else. I want emotional integration based on good-will and a sense of justice done and not an illusory paper unity based on an official language enforced by enactment.

(Courtesy to Swarajya).

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## The Core and the Crux

What Prime Minister Nehru says today, his cabinet colleagues repeat tomorrow. There may be merit in repetition but repetition is a mighty poor substitute for thinking. There was not much evidence of cerebration in what Mr. A.P. Jain, Union Food Minister, said while presiding over the crop competition function held in Lucknow. It was not very original of him to have reached the conclusion that food was the biggest problem facing this country or that despite our country being an agricultural one where more than three-fourths of the population were engaged in agriculture, our production was much too short to meet our requirements. It was also platitudinous to add that it was a great pity we had to depend on supplies from foreign countries to tide over our food crisis. Paraphrasing or plagiarising Nehru's speeches and exhortations might be politically expedient but that would not help in making two ears of corn grow where one grew before. Planless planning and thoughtless speeches are primarily responsible for the sorry state of our economic situation. That a country which is in the process of an enormous development programme should experience hardships and privations is nothing unexpected, but that after ten years of independence with unfettered freedom to our Government to shape its policies the country should experience continued shortage of foodgrains is, to quote the apt remarks of Mr.

A. D. Shroff, "significantly symptomatic of something wrong in the State of Denmark."

On the food front Government's stand varies from day to day. When shortages, caused as much by administrative bungling as by vagaries of nature, make Government the common target of attack, official spokesmen seem both apologetic and contrite. Freakish weather, drought and floods are trotted out as excuses for the "temporary shortage experienced by the people. When the food situation becomes slightly better because of some wheat agreement reached with a foreign Government or by an unexpectedly good harvest, Government spokesmen assume an air of cockeyed confidence. All past statistics and cautionary reports which predict shortages for years to come are scattered contemptuously to the four winds. Prime Minister Nehru, who is no 'Pundit' where economics is concerned, laughs at the Foodgrains Committee's Report which does not envisage self-sufficiency till 1961 and says with a Napoleonic air: 'Monsoon or no monsoon, we must raise our food yield by 50 per cent.' Immediately his lieutenants and colleagues—by courtesy—take up the cry. The Union Food Minister, all whose estimates about the food output have proved to be wrong, chimes in with the facile assurance that food production could be appreciably raised if we went about the business properly. How this

should be done is, however, never explained with any degree of precision. All that is forthcoming is an array of statistics aimed at establishing that irrigational facilities have not been fully availed of and that better supervision and intensive cultivation could work miracles.

The attitude is one of an expert observer who knows all the answers but is not prepared to soil his dainty fingers by getting down to the root of the problem. The only concrete contribution from official quarters to the solution of the cereal problem has been the announcement that such and such cabinet ministers have given up rice, or periodic exhortations to a cereal-hungry people with a per capita income of Rs. 250 per year to change their food habits. Milk, plenty of fresh fruit, fish and vegetables have been commended as part of 'balanced diet' to an ignorant people who simply would not take what is good for them. Not for a moment do they admit that the food problem has been accentuated by their frittering away of the foreign exchange resources of this country these last few years. Food output cannot be doubled by mere exhortations. Mr. Shroff presented the unvarnished truth when he said recently in Bangalore: "It is not generally realised that when Ministers talk glibly of increasing the food production of this country, this objective cannot be attained quickly without importing large



quantities of expensive fertilisers from abroad. The process, therefore, of augmenting our food resources in the coming years will involve substantial expenditure of foreign exchange in the purchase of fertilisers. That Government are seriously thinking of giving up or at least postponing one or two of the fertiliser projects in the immediate future is a tragic reminder of the vicious circle in which the country has been caught by the ill-considered policies which are pursued in the economic field." And what is true about the food situation is no less applicable to several other sectors covered in the Second Five-Year Plan. As the targets keep receding under inflationary pressure and general incompetence, both in the policy-making and administrative reaches, the cry is raised that the Plan must be implemented. When the unheeding targets remain as unattainable as ever the cry is amended: "We must save the core of the plan." Nobody yet knows what this core is. Whatever the core, the crux of the matter is the education of our planners who seem to hug the dangerous illusion that through mere audacity, pep talk and exhortations they can muddle along to their goal.

As a Welfare State, India is committed to a policy of full employment for all. That she has been woefully lagging behind in the fulfilment of this promise is also well known. All the more honour to those who can, therefore, make two

jobs grow where only one existed before or where, in fact, none—need exist. The Bombay Corporation, according to a City Father, has an enviable record in this connection which ought to be better known and appreciated. There are 21 persons working in the Dog Licensing Department and each one of them issues one licence per day. Considering how hard this dog-licensing work can be, the benevolent Corporation also gives them a special pay. The wage bill of this department is Rs. 34,095 and the special pay accounts for Rs. 5,815. The total income from the dog department at the rate of one licence per day is not known from the evidence tendered by the City Father who, however, commends for public admiration the exploits of the Dog Destruction Department. The Department, he says, "has 31½ men" who catch, on an average, 32 dogs per day. The wage bill of this department is Rs. 77,705, nearly double that of the licensing department. No special pay is given to this staff, despite the obvious risks involved in dog catching. But it would appear from the Corporation's point of view that destruction is more costly than licensing. More hard-working than the men in the dog licensing and destruction departments are the employees of the Rat Destruction Department who are responsible for the destruction of 9,81,000 rats per year, or roughly 400 rats per day per person. This is

no mean achievement, and can certainly stand comparison with the feat of the Pied Piper of Hamelin who played a rather dirty trick on the rats by taking them for a walk and then quietly drowning them. Another remarkable department maintained by the Corporation is the Bullock Department which has 72 bullocks used for drawing refuse carts. To drive 72 bullocks the Corporation employs 293 drivers which works out to 4 drivers to one bullock. The 63 elephants used in the Congress procession at Gauhati required the services of only 2 persons per elephant—the mahout himself and another to swat the flies from the elephant. But Bombay's bullocks, like Bombay's rats and dogs, are no ordinary bullocks. To quote the City Father, "they have every reason to be proud" and they will not be bullied into parting with even a single driver.

—The Pioneer.



# Babies Eat Before They're Born--I

All young things, plants, animals and children need special care in their early days. Just as the young plant needs a soil containing a mixture of different substances in certain proportions, and protection from various hazards, so the child depends for its survival and growth on the quality and quantity of food it receives from the first moment of life, and on its protection from harm during its tender years.

Nutritionally a child is at least nine months old when it is born, and we have to begin thinking about its nourishment and the prevention of malnutrition long before its birth.

The unborn child draws its nourishment from the mother's body, which has the ability to convert the food the mother eats into food suitable for the baby. Moreover, during the last months of its life inside the mother's body the child builds up a store of specially valuable substances in its own body to see it through the first few months of infancy.

In many parts of the world the infant continues to depend almost entirely on the mother's body for its nourishment for several months after birth. Its survival and healthy growth depend on the quantity and quality of the breast milk which the mother can provide, and this in turn depends largely on the quantity and quality of the food the mother eats.

If the mother does not get enough of certain kinds of food—the protein foods—her breast milk tends to diminish

in quantity, though the quality may remain good.

Where it is easy to buy or to get animal milk such as cow's milk, and easy to prepare and give it safely to the baby, the inability of the mother to provide entirely for the baby's needs presents no great problem.

But in many countries animal milk is difficult to get, too expensive to buy, or not traditionally used. Often there is no suitable way to store it, and the lack of cooking utensils and clean water makes it difficult to prepare milk which can safely be given to the young baby. In these conditions an insufficient quantity of breast milk can be a tragedy.

In some parts of the world, the tragedy may spring from changes in the quality of the breast milk, due to the kind of food the mother eats during her pregnancy and lactation.

In rice-eating countries there is frequently a preference for highly milled rice. This rice keeps better than the undermilled variety, but during the milling process it loses a valuable food factor—vitamin B1.

Where the people eat large quantities of highly-polished rice, and little else except perhaps a little dried fish and vegetables, the deficiency disease, beri-beri, occurs frequently.

The disease sometimes shows itself only in vague feelings of ill-health which give no hint of the real danger. But then, suddenly, an apparently healthy infant being-nursed by

an apparently healthy mother may become gravely ill with infantile beri-beri, due to changes in the breast milk caused by the mother's vitamin-deficient diet.

Similarly, when the diet of the pregnant or nursing mother does not contain enough of the foods which provide, either directly or indirectly, another vitamin (vitamin A) for the body's use, the baby may be born with an insufficient store and then be fed on breast milk deficient in this necessary vitamin.

This deprivation affects the child's eyes and, if severe and prolonged, may result in blindness. It is thought that about six cases in ten of the blindness found in Ceylon and South India are due to this cause.

The prevention of a certain kind of anaemia ("suckling anaemia") also depends largely on the quality of the mother's diet.

Breast milk normally contains little of the iron which is necessary to prevent this type of anaemia, so it is particularly important that the child should be able to build up an adequate store before birth, and this it cannot do if the mother is poorly nourished.

It seems obvious then that any effort to ensure that the infant and young child will be well fed, and therefore capable of healthy growth must be directed first to establishing and maintaining the nutritional health of the mother.

There are two main reasons



why mothers, and people in general, suffer from malnutrition.

In several regions there is an absolute lack of the necessary food-stuffs—due to climatic, or economic and social conditions. In some parts of the world, however, valuable foods are at hand but are not eaten for various reasons.

These foods may be avoided because of beliefs handed down from generation that they are harmful in certain circumstances or responsible for causing disease. (Many, for example, are rejected because it is believed that they affect sexual potency.)

It may be considered that certain foods are suitable only for certain groups of people—old men, children, priests, soldiers, or pregnant women—or for certain occasions; that they cannot be combined, or taken in sequence, with other foods. They may have a special significance in relation to the prevailing religion, or they may be considered, for no explicit reason, as merely disgusting.

Whatever the reason for this avoidance it is always part and parcel of the whole fabric of beliefs and everyday life of the people concerned, and gives rise to habits which will therefore not be lightly relinquished or changed in isolation from other aspects of living.

Unfortunately, a great many of these beliefs affect the pregnant or nursing mother, to whom many espe-

cially valuable foods are expressly forbidden.

The task of improving the nutritional health of the mother by encouraging her to make more use of the foods at her door is, therefore, not an easy one. Success will depend not only on the mother's willingness to try out unaccustomed foods and new ways, but also on the willingness of the neighbours and friends whose approval she values to replace traditional by scientific knowledge.

One striking example of the difficulties to be overcome is the resistance found in western countries against the use of the knowledge available about the control of the most prevalent disease of childhood there—dental decay.

It is well known that a decrease in the consumption of the sweet and starchy foods is always accompanied by a decrease in the incidence of decay.

But to improve their children's health in this way the people of these western regions would have to change many of their cultural customs; their habits of child feeding, their tokens of affection, reward and prestige, their feast and anniversary foods.

The economy of these countries, for instance, would be gravely disturbed if sweets, cakes, white bread and refined sugar were no longer in demand, while this change might also have repercussions on the economic situation in some remote areas where sugar-

growing provides a livelihood for many.

Here also where a high standard of public health is valued and maintained, improvements involving changes in traditional tastes and habits that are part of the whole way of life of the people, are not easily achieved.

In spite of the tenacity with which most people cling to their beliefs and habits regarding food, changes for the better are being made. Already, for example, cow's milk is becoming a valued food for children in countries where twenty years ago it was never used.

—To be concluded

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# Preserving Our Freedom--I

It is time to reassert the principles of our freedom. We need to stop thinking of it as a political condition achieved once, and for ever ours. Freedom can be kept only by vigilance, use and practice.

Democratic freedom has failed in some countries because their people slept. It is commonplace for people who were fighting against us in recent wars to excuse themselves on two grounds: they didn't realize what was happening to their government, and there was nothing they could do but obey orders. Tyranny degrades both those who exercise it and those who allow it.

Perhaps we have already lost some of our freedom. We may have taken it for granted, turning it into a negative thing, we may have been silent in the face of some injustice, thus denying our free men's responsibility, we may have fallen in love with security, which is the opposite of freedom.

These are the beginnings of the loss of freedom, and they come upon a nation secretly. The danger of their coming gives point to the maxim that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. We must restate our belief in every generation if freedom is not to rust away or be stealthily stolen from us or bombed into wreckage.

To say that it can't happen here is to talk in fool's paradise. All we need do is look around the world to see nations that fought for their freedom

even more vehemently than we did who have lost it by decay theft or violence.

*What is freedom?*

The question: "What is freedom?" is an awkward question because it compels us to think about something we accept so casually that we have no clear conception of it. The issues were clear to those who were fighting for them at risk of life and property. Liberty was not an abstract thing, but something substantial, vital and mind-filling.

"Freedom" is by itself an incomplete term. The questions to ask are: "What are we free from? what are free to do?" Are we free from persecution and regimentation? Can we apply ourselves in peace and with satisfaction to work so as to gain a decent standard of living according to our ability? Are we free to share equally with others the responsibilities of the human community? Are we free to worship in whatever manner we desire? Have we liberty to think, speak and act as we see fit, within the laws we ourselves have made to preserve human health, safety and justice?

And if we have these liberties, are we developing them? Do we treasure them as things just as essential to us as breathing? It is not enough to make speeches and write articles praising freedom as something good, great and noble. Freedom is more than a poetic word; it is vital to our life as human beings.

*We are free together*

We need to have a lively sense of the co-operative nature of freedom. It is not enough for any of us to say "I am"; we must also be able to say "I am part of."

Men are easily deceived by a counterfeit sort liberty, and mistake something for their private inheritance - which is only their right as working members of society. Our civilization is so complex that it can exist only if there is a continual compromise between the liberty of the individual and the liberty of society. The beauty of our sort of freedom is that we remain ourselves even when we join with our neighbours to attain something that is good for all of us.

We have set up a certain balance in democratic countries. Our political liberty is of the kind that curtails certain personal freedoms with our consent so that the wider freedom available to us as members of society may be protected.

We are truly free if we live in an independent state in which we have the right and means to choose, criticize and change our government; in a society where the laws are equal for all people, and the restrictions on our personal freedom are at a minimum; in an economic system which gives us the opportunity to secure a livelihood according to our ability, desire and energy; and in an environment where we are free to



display our merit and to express ourselves.

*Government is needed*

That sort of state cannot be built on anarchy. It needs government, and democratic government is the hardest sort of government. It is not merely majority rule. In addition, it must recognize the right of every group to be heard, to present its case, and to receive thoughtful attention. The duty to listen is an important ingredient in our system of freedom.

But having set up a democratic government does not mean that we can shuffle off further responsibility. The government is nothing more than a group of persons selected to manage the country's affairs. Like shareholders in any business, we need to exercise control over those to whom we delegate management jobs.

What we have in democracy today is Government of the people by themselves, through which they try to settle everything for the greatest good of the greatest number by the common sense of the majority after the consultation of all.

Government by the majority may be unpleasant, oppressive and frustrating, but it can never be unendurable so long as every member of a minority has the free opportunity to convert the majority by changing their views.

Responsible Government in a democracy lives always in the shadow of coming defeat, and

this makes it eager to satisfy those it serves and in whose hands its destiny lies. Here, once again, we find the demand for active use of personal freedom: those who refuse to take part in the Government, directly or through the franchise, may be punished by living under a Government of worse men than themselves.

*What tyranny offers*

Statism—the form of government that makes the state supreme and the person only a tool—rarely presents itself to the people of a country as a policy they may choose from among others. It is a growth that attaches itself to the political body by encroachment. A demagogue or a party leader appears on the hustings with promises to cure all ills. He appeals to fear, greed or hate. He pledges easy security along whatever line the crowd wants at the moment. He moves from stage to stage with subtlety, until the people find that they are denied the right of criticism, freedom of action, freedom of thought, and the right of appeal either through the franchise or through independent courts of law. Legis-

lative and judicial power are in the hands of the dictator.

The choice then is between conformity and martyrdom: no room is left for freedom. As the German law of July 14, 1933, told the story in fifteen words: "The only political party in Germany is to be the National Socialist German Workers' Party."

Dictators have found it expedient in most countries they command today to keep or to set up some democratic forms, but the result is nothing better than a caricature of democracy. Lip allegiance is given to principles, but there is not heart or honesty in the horribly wrong and cruel and mind-destroying form of Government.

It is not an easy business to protect the freedom of the individual in a society that demands for preservation of its very life the existence within its government of large measures of power, organization, and authority.

*(To be Concluded)*



# Popular Science

## How Life Began

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? That was the essence of the international conference on the origin of life in Moscow recently. It had been arranged by the international Union of Biochemistry and included speakers from many countries. Some exciting revelations came from the Russians.

A multitude of hypotheses have been put forward about the way life started on earth. Until recently many people thought the germs of life were carried to earth by meteors or meteoric dust from other worlds.

Careful experiments showed that meteors were sterile and could not have carried life. But the idea that primitive organisms could have been blown through space in dust form by the pressure exerted by sunlight has had many adherents.

It was shown to be theoretical by possible, and dust quite likely reaches us from other planets in this way. But it would be a very long journey for the life "germs," some thousands of years, during which they would have to withstand temperatures below that at which air liquifies, and they would be subject to intense ultra-violet rays.

It now seems certain that no living matter could survive such conditions. Most of those attending the conference therefore accept the fact that life started here on earth.

The problem is: How did the elaborate clusters of atoms necessary for life, such as proteins, come into being in a sterile world consisting largely of rocks?

A young American, Stanley Miller showed a few years ago that, if the Northern Lights—or Aurora Borealis—had existed in those days, then quite large quantities of atoms from certain gases would link together to form amino acids, the complicated substances essential to life.

Early this year it was found that beta rays, given off by radioactive substances in the earth, could have produced the same effect. Only four weeks ago a similar claim was made for gamma rays—another form of radiation.

Two new possibilities are thereby opened. The earth we know was more radio active millions of years ago. That radio activity could have been the start of life, or the cosmic rays which bombard us continually from outer space might have been responsible.

## Quarrel Over Space

The international lawyers are already beginning to worry about space litigation. Who, for instance, owns outer space?

Luckily, Mr. Andrew Haley, a florid, satellite shaped American lawyer, has already given it thought. He is among other things, counsel to the American Rocket Society. He is, preparing a

formidable work on inter-planetary law, which will consider such tricky problems as traffic regulations for orbiting satellites territorial claims on other planets, and fumigation for inward and outward bound space crews.

A more immediate problem is how far out into space national sovereignty extends. At present, countries control air space above them, but no one has decided whether their jurisdiction continues outwards beyond where the air stops. Mr. Haley doesn't think that the Russian satellite is violating American territorial rights sixteen times a day, because the satellite projects are legalised by "consent and usage." A Russian legal expert has now claimed that anyway the legal trouble doesn't arise, because the satellite doesn't move over America. America moves under it.

Still more tricky are the laws which should govern our relations with any extra-terrestrial intelligent beings we may meet. Here, something which Mr. Haley calls "Metalow" must prevail. It is no good, says Mr. Haley, treating them as you would have them treat you. This is far too "anthropocentric" and could lead to all kinds of misunderstandings. The thing will be to "do unto others what they would have you do unto them."



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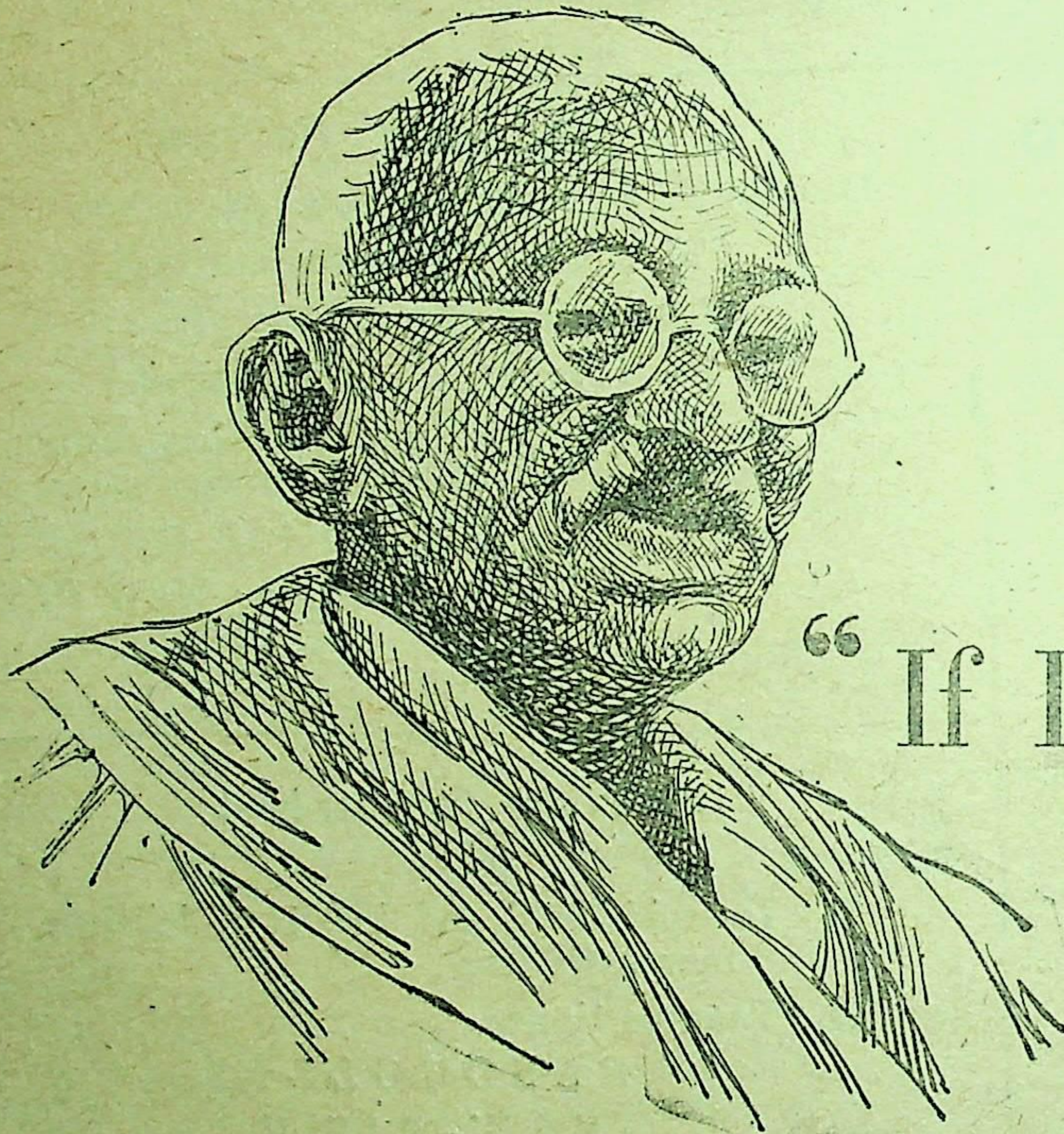
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