

# Behar Herald

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Established in 1874 : : 71st year of publication

Phone Number : 363

Vol. SEVENTY ONE, No. 31

PATNA, TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1945

12 PAGES, 3 ANNAS

## Self-Cancellation

By Amicus Curiae

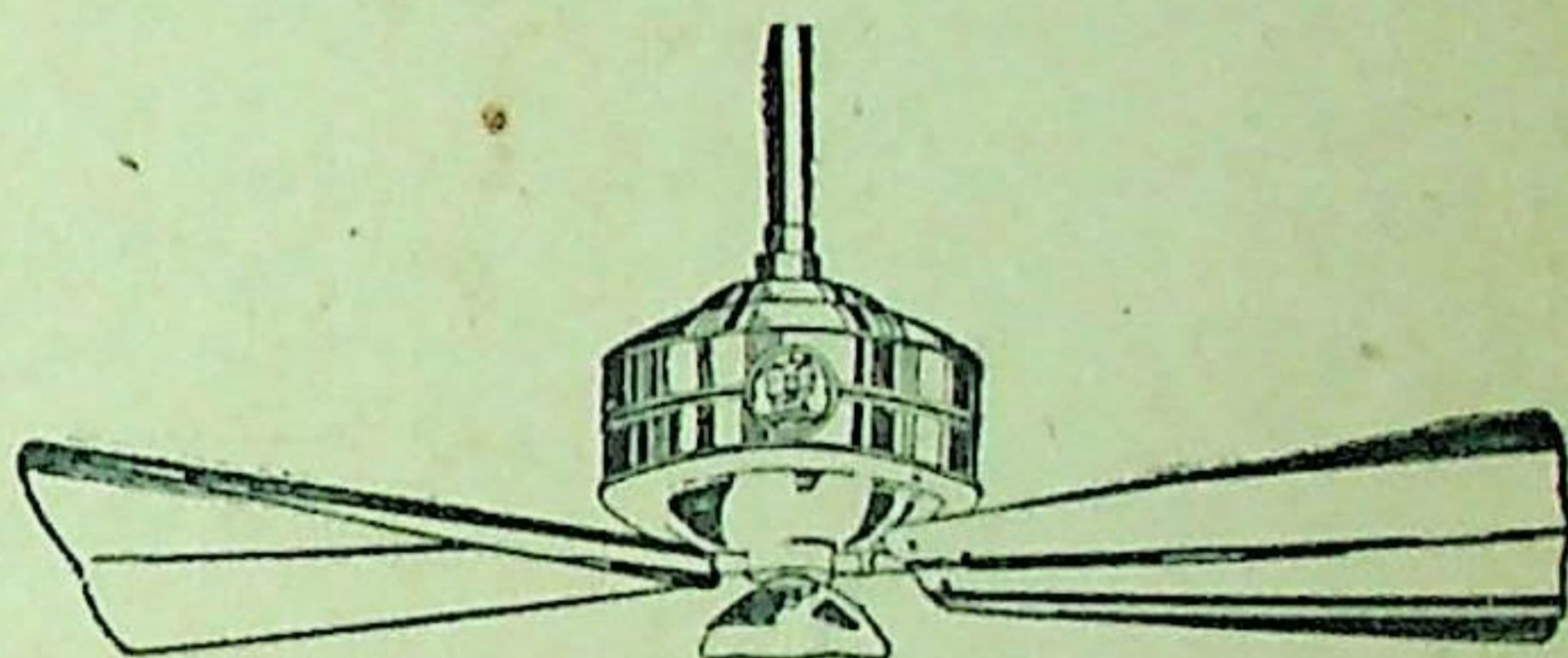
Not the least remarkable feature of Indo-British policy is its self-cancelling programme. We have known the usual three-pronged official propaganda—anti-Hindu, anti-Muslim and anti-Congress. Hindus feel comforted by the idea that the government is anti-Muslim, Muslims that it is anti-Hindu, and some of both communities that it is anti-Congress. Jobs judiciously thrown in here and there keep up this illusion. Provincial autonomy as we have known it in the past has also to a certain extent cancelled an all-India unity. And now it seems fairly obvious that Lord Wavell and Mr. Amery are going to cancel each other. We find that the Communal Award is amenable to a brand new method of exploitation. Mr. Amery desires to go on on the Jinnah stunt while Lord Wavell has something up his sleeve for Veer Savarkar. Whether there will be any change in the Statute Book is highly doubtful—the only change in fact, could be the abjuration of the Communal Award—but the two communities will now go to sleep with the contentment that both of them have great advocates.

I have been amused by Mr. Tushar Kanti Ghosh's message of greetings to the Behar Herald Annual. He is advocating water-tight properties to be observed by the provinces. Hindus and Muslims of one province are not to be tainted by the unionist tendencies of Hindus and Muslims of other provinces. The immediate and only necessity is to fight the spectre of Pakistan but only province-wise so that we can be freed from our sense of duty

for the future. The all-India idea has evidently become too tiresome and outside the orbit of opportunities which do not and cannot justify survival. Mr. Ghosh has emphasised his position by saying that even Hindus of one province need not join hands with their co-religionists in other provinces. This is supposed to be high objectivity. One has to be either anti-Hindu or anti-Muslim and that only in a given province so that it cannot be exploded. But if all-Indianess has produced Mr. Jinnah, it has also produced Mahatma Gandhi. Mr. Ghosh appears to be 'unnecessarily (or is it officially?) panic-stricken by Pakistan. Lord Wavell, it is reported, does not like the Congress because the latter is not impressed by Pakistan. Mr. Ghosh has not said that he differs from Lord Wavell.

### A TIMELY TREAT!

You say what an awful heat!  
Fit a fan above your seat,  
But surely, it must be—  
The unrivalled O. M. C.!



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# Behar Herald

Patna

Tuesday, May 1, 1945

## IN THE LAST THROES

The Germans have been turned out of 18 capital cities of Europe: Rome, Paris, Kaunas (Lithuania), Bucharest (Roumania), Brussels, Monte Carlo (Monaco), Luxembourg, Sofia (Bulgaria), Helsinki (Finland), Tallinn (Esthonia), San Marino (San Marino), Athens, Riga (Latvia), Belgrade (Jugo-Slavia), Tirana (Albania), Warsaw, Budapest, Vienna. They are on the point of losing their own capital, Berlin. They still hold 4 European capital cities,—Copenhagen, Oslo, The Hague (Holland), Prague. In the name of the German people and of course through their hands, the rulers of Germany committed abominable atrocities in their concentration camps before which humanity stands aghast. They lost the war long ago but have stubbornly refused to admit it. It is a terrible sight today to see an entire nation rushing madly to self-destruction like Gadarene swine, with its eyes wide open.

The rulers of Germany apparently decided that if they are to go to perdition, the whole country with all its resources and all its men should also suffer the same fate. Apart from such an objective, there can be no sense in Germany's prolonging the war.



Neutrality Never Won A War

What Have You Done

To Defeat The Japanese

The sensational message from San Francisco on April 28, announcing the offer of Himmler to surrender to Britain and U. S. but not to Russia is a crude attempt to drive a wedge between the eastern and the western Allies. On the same day public announcement was made of the American and Russian armies traversing Germany and joining hands at Torgau. Before he knew of Himmler's offer, Mr. Churchill said: "*We meet in true and victorious comradeship and with inflexible resolve to fulfil our purpose and our duty. Let all march forward upon the foe.*" It could not be imagined that in a few hours Mr. Churchill would go back on his words at the Himmler offer of surrender. The only possible answer, that the Allies can only accept unconditional surrender on behalf of all of them and that there can be no separate peace, has been given. The collapse of Germany is now at most a matter of weeks, not months. Even the much publicized Bavarian redoubt can not last long.

## PAKISTAN UBIQUE

Preoccupation with our own Pakistan makes us forget that there is also a movement for Pakistan (a northern one) in Britain. There is a Scottish Nationalist Party there that is only waiting for the advent of a Gaelic Jinnah to flare up into intense activity. There was a parliamentary by-election recently in Motherwell (Lanarkshire, Scotland) and the Labour candidate was defeated by

Dr. Alexander McIntyre of the Scottish Nationalist Party. (Clydeside Motherwell also sent the first Communist M. P. to Westminster, years ago).

Before a new M. P. can take his seat in the House of Commons he has to be introduced ("sponsored") by two M. P.'s. This has been the custom of centuries. Dr. McIntyre walked alone to the Clerk's table, refusing to be "sponsored" by anybody as he said that "he had pledged not to have to do anything with the London-controlled political parties". (The Lublin Poles also hold this view). If our readers are unable to visualize the look of horrified dismay on the faces of the convention-loving staid Members of the British Parliament at such unprecedented behaviour, they can look up George Cruikshank's illustration depicting the historic occasion when Oliver Twist said: "Please, Sir, I want some more". The Speaker turned very pale. He gazed in stupefied astonishment on the small rebel (Dr. McIntyre is only 30) for some seconds and then clung to his table for support. The Serjeant-at-Arms, the Clerk and the Whips were paralysed with wonder; the M. P.'s with fear. "What!" spluttered crimson Mr. Churchill at length in a faint voice.

The Scottish Nationalist Party strongly protests against the Government's general failure to remedy Scottish grievances (that Scotchmen do not get enough jobs in England is not one of them). Sir John Boyd Orr, the eminent food and nutrition expert, is among the moderate British Pakistanis. (He is their Sir Mohammad Zaffarullah). He has said: "The people of Westminster do not realize the extent to which Scotland is suffering from a sense of injustice and frustration. The people of Scotland cannot tolerate conditions under which housing is six times worse than in England. Scotland is suffering from Government bureaucracy from a distance, which is the worst form of government". His conclusion is: "Scotland requires a greater measure of self-government".

## Notes & Comments

### Clearing The Atmosphere

We are glad to notice the first diplomatic triumph of President Truman. Stalin decided to depute M. Andrai Gromyko, the Russian Ambassador in Washington, to lead the Soviet delegation to San Francisco. This was somewhat unusual as all the other important countries were sending their Foreign Ministers—Stettinius (U. S.), Anthony Eden (Britain), T. V. Soong (China). The absence of the Russian Foreign Minister (People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs) M. Vyatcheslav Mikhailovitch Molotov from the San Francisco Conference disappointed the Americans and was interpreted by American papers as an indication that Stalin did not attach much importance to the San Francisco Conference. President Truman addressed a personal communication to Stalin, saying that Molotov's presence in the Conference was desirable and that it would give him (President Truman) an opportunity of meeting Molotov. On receipt of the letter, Stalin agreed to send Molotov to America. The latter met President Truman twice in the White House before proceeding to San Francisco.

### Rocket-Propelled Bombs

To pierce through very thick layers of concrete (as in U-boat pens) a special type of rocket-propelled bombs is being used by the Allied Air forces. Ordinary bombs are simply dropped from bombing planes and their velocity is due to gravity alone. This does not give sufficient penetrating power. The rocket-propelled bombs strike their target with a speed greater than that of sound (like the V 2) and because of their momentum, they penetrate very deep and then explode. As in V2 bombs, the sound of the explosion is heard before the noise of their whistling through air is perceived.

The rocket bombs fly at a speed of over 750 miles per hour.

### Not Unexpected

The judgment of Mr. S. Sen, District and Sessions Judge of Howrah, convicting a British

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Naval Rating to 10 years r. i. is gruesome reading. It is easy enough for everybody now to express righteous indignation in strong adjectives, but we believe that this sort of thing would not have happened had the authorities not been idiotic enough to abolish all brothels in Calcutta area. The effect is punished, but the cause remains so we shall not be surprised if we hear recurrences of such distressing incidents. Naval Ratings can be punished but authorities are above punishment. It does not make sense to push a man into deep water and then punish him because he is unable to keep his head above water.

**We Eat Our Words**

Speaking of the parallelism between the food famine of 1943 and the cloth famine of 1945, we wrote in our issue of Apr. 3, "The only difference that we have been able to discover between 1943 and 1945 is that official propaganda has not taken the line "Cloth shortage is a monstrous delusion" this time.

To-day, with all humility, we retract our words. On the 23rd April, Mr. Vellodi, Textile Commissioner with the Government of India, said in Calcutta: "To describe the existing state of supply of cloth in Bengal as a famine is unwarranted by facts and is indeed a GROSS EXAGGERATION."

—The Statesman, Apr. 25)

In about July 1943, just on the eve of the great Bengal famine, the propaganda department of the Government of India took the line "Food shortage is a monstrous delusion." We do not see any difference between their MONSTROUS DELUSION and Mr. Vellodi's GROSS EXAGGERATION, except that the former is a more picturesque expression. If there was no food famine in the country in 1943 because everybody did not die, there is also no cloth famine to-day because everybody is not going about naked. The word "famine" is defined in the Oxford Dictionary as "extreme scarcity or dearth of something". Apparently it has a different meaning in the official dictionary.

**Insidious Propaganda**

Dr. Goebbels' recent broadcasts are interesting reading. They are ostensibly addressed to the German people but are really appeals to "anti-Bolsheviks" in the Allied world. On April 23, he is reported to have said: "We cannot abandon Berlin and Prague to the Bolsheviks unless the whole of Europe is to go down with us. If the Bolsheviks succeed in taking Berlin and conquer Prague, there is no longer Europe left".

After this appeal, "Europe" is expected to come over to the side of the great champions of European civilization against the "Asiatic menace". European civilization at its best has now been seen by the Allied army in its march

into the heart of the citadel of that civilization. The concentration camps in Germany have given a profound shock even to war-hardened veterans accustomed to see human misery in all its forms. Europe will not go down any lower than the depth to which it has been dragged by the Nazis. Only Germany will accompany her victims by prolonging the war. No more destruction can be wrought on occupied countries, because the Luftwaffe is powerless to do so. Any destruction from now will be destruction of German cities, German industries, German communications.

**Putting Ananias To Shame**

We are glad that Drew Pearson was not born in India; he might have been a serious rival of our fantastically fanciful Firoz. While the Americans were nowhere within 50 miles of Berlin, Drew Pearson said that *American tanks reached Potsdam (16 miles West-South-West of Berlin) but then withdrew on the Russians protesting that Berlin was their property* (actually the Russians were 20 miles east of Potsdam at that time. In all, the Russians and Americans were 54 miles apart).

But Drew Pearson has not been able to master the picturesque style of our Firoz or he would have said: "Even Eisenhower does not know that under his very nose Berlin has grown practically to be an American city without his knowing it &c &c. (Compare Noon's historic statement "Even H. M. Government do not know that under their very nose India has grown practically to Dominion Status without their knowing it.

—London, April 5).

**Carry On, Firoz**

Partly for security reasons and partly to avoid the rousing of professional jealousy in the hearts of our contemporaries, we did not give publicity to the fact that the Behar Herald is in telepathic communication with "our" representative Sir Firoz Khan Noon. Let the doubting Thomases (if any) read the following passages:

"China, with her internal dissensions and war-devastated France are Big Powers only by courtesy. We do not know who grants Big Power-ships or we would have applied for one on behalf of India"—Behar Herald, Apr. 17.

"Sir Firoze Khan Noon said that India considered herself a Big Power and certainly had a greater claim to be a Big Power than either France or China".—Reuter, London, Apr. 20.

We have asked young Firoz to bring the appointment letter of India to Big Power-ship from San Francisco. It would be nice to read in the papers—"The heads of the Big Powers.—N O O N, CHURCHILL, STALIN, TRUMAN, de Gaule and Chiang Kai-Shek met at .....to discuss the future of the world."

**Buck Up, Arcot**

Our Firoz has gone to San Francisco to bring a Big Power-ship for India. So it is necessary to supply him with some

'Talking-Points'. On what ground does India claim a Big Power ship when there are ever so many other rival claimants like Liberia or

**GOLD STAMP**

*Guess what it is !!*



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in Music or Dancing, in Sculpture or Painting, in fact, in all the fine Arts, is the expression of the creative impulse in Man. Art does not consist of making a mere replica of a work of Art. It is something more than that. An object of art has the impress of the artist's originality, his sense of the beautiful, of balance and of rhythm.

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the Lebanon?

Our "war casualties" were probably 2,000,000 deaths from starvation and another million from various diseases. In one part of our country, the people have been told that the only cloth that they will get in 12 months is 7 yards of shirting. Our Big Leaders are quite unable to come to any agreement among themselves, but are earnestly looking Britain-wards for mediation and solution of their differences. "The transportation system of India has been badly disrupted along the coasts and the rivers, and her shipping has been destroyed (New York Sun, April 21). "Our" representatives to the United Nations' Conference are housed in the lofty and luxurious Mark Hopkins Hotel, high on the crest of the main hill of San Francisco with a superb panorama of the great landlocked harbour and the

#### GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY AUCTION SALE

Under instructions from the Controller of Supplies (Disposals), 2, Fairlie Place, Calcutta Messrs. Mackenzie Lyall & Co., 5, Mission Row, Calcutta will sell by public auction at the Army Salvage sub-depot, Namkum, Ranchi, at 2 P.M. on Saturday the 5th of May 1945, a large quantity of salvaged stores comprising of woollen Rags, Cotton Rags, Tentage, Ground Sheets, Leather Scrap, Ferrous and Non-ferrous metals, Cardboard, Containers etc.

Intending purchasers may inspect the materials at site. Transport facilities will be afforded to purchasers for despatches to stations on the E.I and B.N. Rlys. in Bengal & Behar and to the Paper Mills at IN, as far as possible, but no guarantee can be given.

#### NOTICE

Heirs of Late Babu Mati Lal Das Gupta are filing a title suit for the recovery of possession and title and interest of the house "Moti Manzil with compound situated in Patna Gaya Road, Patna, bearing Holding No. 180/A/4-1, circle No. 6, in the Patna City Municipality, originally belonging to Late Mati Lal Das Gupta now alleged to be in possession of Babu Achalendra Nath Das & others, sons of Late Babu Devendra Nath Das. So anybody purchasing or in any manner dealing with the house from the said Babu Achalendra Nath Das & others will do it at his own risk.

Golden Gate Bridge spread out before them. If any country in the world can show a better record than us in these respects, we would be the first to support its claim to Big Power-ship.

We wonder why our Arcot is keeping mum all the time, leaving Firoz to do all the talking. They should both cooperate and wrest a Big Power-ship for India from unwilling hands.

#### Stabilizing The Ministry

The Sind Ministry has stabilized itself still further by increasing the pay of the Parliamentary Secretaries from Rs 500 to Rs.1000. The Ministers, whose work is of the same nature as that of the Governor, are also thinking of bringing themselves into line with the Governor in the matter of pay.

#### Yenangyaung

The capture of the most important oil field of Burma—

Yenangyaung is very good news indeed. It means that all the oil-production centres of Burma, have now been re-occupied. The town of Magwe has also been taken and Mingu is just across the Irrawaddy from Magwe. Owners of cars in India can now justifiably dream of an increase in the niggardly quarterly ration of petrol allowed to civilians.

#### Redoubt

An unfamiliar word "redoubt" has suddenly come in to the war news from Europe. We are told about the "southern redoubt" of the Germans in Bavaria and even of a "northern redoubt" in Norway.

We do not see what is wrong with the familiar word "retreat" that it should be discarded in favour of the obscure "redoubt". Etymologically speak-

king the latter word should be spelt as REDOUT, as it is the French word *redoute*, the "b" has surreptitiously crept in through the influence of "redoubtable". It simply means a place of retreat for defenders.

#### Politics In Industry

The future industrial policy of the Government of India has been announced and severely criticized in nationalist circles. We are not among those whose creed is "Governments can do no right". Planning, regionalization and State control of industries are not bad *per se*. It all depends how these are worked out in practice. We cannot forget that we are living in a country where corruption in every sphere of public life is rampant and "control" of anything by the State opens wide the flood gates of corruption for a certain section of officials who are expected to carry out the control measures. In an oriental country saturated with corruption, any measure initiated by the State even with the best intentions is liable to be abused. We believe the measures suggested will work for the good of the country, *if they are properly and impartially carried out* but it is a very big IF.

There is a passage in the end of the statement which is as follows:

To ensure the avoidance of unhealthy concentration of assets in the hands of a few persons of a special community, a judicious exercise of controls such as capital issues control and the licensing machinery for the regionalization of industry is proposed.

We have to admit regretfully that reading the above passage has left a bitter taste in our mouth. We concede that the judicious exercise of such a system of control can be productive of good in any other country, but our country is unique in many respects, and the working of such control in this country can only create irreparable mischief. A Minto deliberately injected the communal virus in our body politic; another Minto might utilize the proposed system of controls to introduce communal quotas and weightages in the industrial life of the country. We have no reason to put the worst interpretation on what may have been suggested in good faith, but past experience does not permit us to be optimistic or to welcome the proposed measure. We know what it will ultimately lead to.

## BUY A FUTURE BENEFIT

AND

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Thinkers of the world are out now to plan a better world—a world based on peace, progress and higher living standard. Evidently this cannot be achieved without Industry's taking a leading role and we all know how world is making a headway in that direction. India is also to play her part and the possibility lies in her Tea Industry which fulfills a considerable Share of the world's total demand of Three Thousands Billions cups of Tea every year.

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DEAR SIRS,

I send herewith Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ at the rate of the Rs. 2/- per share for \_\_\_\_\_ Shares of Rs. 10/- each and an admission fee of Re. 1/- in the above company and I request you to allot me the shares. I hereby agree to accept the same or any similar number of shares that may be allotted to me subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company.

Applicant's Name in full \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation or profession \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Music Hath Its Charms**

By Makhan Lal Samaddar

Who can deny that music hath charms? To a sad heart it brings relief. To a glad one, it brings more joy. A dying person loves to hear *Harinam Sankirtan*. Music for every occasion—music for every moment of the day—music for every body, from the child to the old man. And, music in everything—from the soft ripples of the lake to the rushing torrents of a waterfall. The soft breeze has its own rythm—so has the storm. Who would not like music—from nature's own productions to set music of an orchestra? Music for the marching heroes as well. And music to condole.

Popular saying has gone further than this. One who does not like music can murder people in cold blood. Perhaps true, perhaps not.

Imagine a student nervously waiting for the exam-day. In some cases occasional music may soothe his nerves. But in most cases, even good music will excite him all the more. Would you stand nerve-racking drum beating? Or, music poured forth through an amplifier? Or, the harmonium practice of a little girl when you are feeling very sleepy? Jazz for a considerable period of time? Even too much of real good music?

**Precocious Parenthood**

"Father of the Congress, Dr. Sitaramayya is also its historian"—Free India, Apr. 15.

Father Sitaramayya and son Congress are probably of the same age.

**For Abbott & Costello Fans only**

By Donald Hayne

'HERE COME THE CO-EDS', starring Bud Abbott and Lou Costello with Peggy Ryan. Screen play by Arthur T. Horman and John Grant, based on an original story by Edmund L. Hartmann. Produced by John Grant. Directed by Jean Yarbrough. Universal Pictures.

If you see this, don't take it as representative of university life in the United States! There is nowhere in this broad land a school like Bixby College! But don't let that keep you away if you like watching the antics of Abbott and Costello and the be vies of pretty young girls with which Universal crowds the screen.

The story—one almost apologizes for mentioning it—is of a mythical college saved from financial ruin by the musical and athletic activities of its girl students, aided and abetted by the two comedians who work for the college as caretakers.

Phil Spitalny and his All Girl Orchestra and chorus, a popular feature on the American wireless, were imported to Hollywood from New York to play and sing in this film as Bixby students. Imported also were seven members of the Los Angeles Tip Toppers Club, an organization limited to girls six feet tall or taller. In the picture they play on a basketball team opposing the Bixby team in a sequence made highly amusing by Costello in a girl's wig as a substitute for Bixby.

Peggy Ryan is as lively as ever as one of the college girls and Costello's first 'love interest' on the screen. Their song together, 'Let's Play House', is another of those genuinely comic songs of which Hollywood could give us more.

On the whole, this is strictly for Abbott and Costello fans.

Frances Rafferty, who has played straight dramatic roles in all of her screen appearances so far, will make her debut as a dancer in the romantic lead of 'Close Shave', starring Abbott and Costello. Once understudy to Zorina with the Los Angeles Civic Opera Company, Miss Rafferty was obliged to turn from dancing to straight acting due to a leg injury. That now completely cured, she returns to her first interest.

**COMILLA UNION BANK, LTD.**

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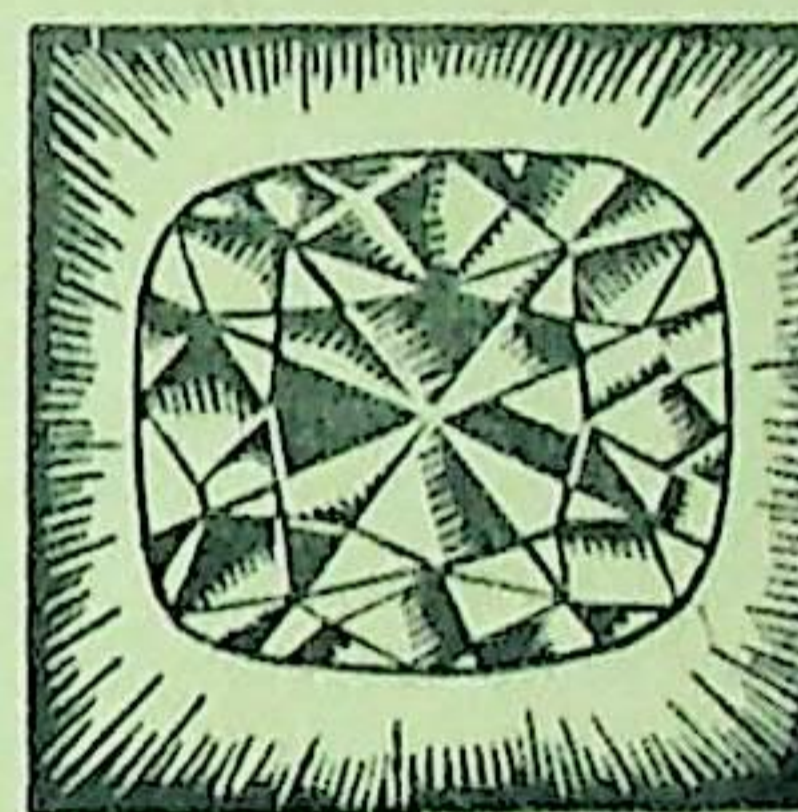
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Bar-at-Law,  
Ph. D. (Econ.) (LONDON)



HE CUT HIS FLESH TO KEEP IT SAFE...



*The Regent*

Particulars. Colour: Water white.  
Weight: 136 3/4 carats. Value:  
Rs. 80 lakhs. Now on display at  
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THIS diamond has an interesting history. It was found in 1701 by a negro slave working in a mine on the Kistna River. He hid his precious possession within a deep cut he made in his leg and escaped to the nearest seaport. There he met the wily Captain of a ship who promised him freedom in exchange for the diamond; having got possession of it, the Captain pushed the slave overboard. Thereafter it changed hands, until Thomas

Pitt—the Governor of Madras—who could never sleep in peace as long as he had had the diamond, sold it to the Regent of France. Thus it came to be known as the "Regent".

Of course you can't sleep in peace with the "Regent" in your possession, but to you, more precious than this diamond are your savings. Entrust them to the Calcutta Commercial Bank Ltd. They guarantee to keep your savings safe for you.

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It eases constipation the safe, gentle way. Odourless, tasteless and non-habit-forming. Widely recommended for acidity and indigestion. Also useful as a mouth wash and skin wash. Sold by all chemists and stores.

**BENGAL CHEMICAL CALCUTTA - BOMBAY**

Two popular favourites return to the microphone this week—Milton Rosmer on Monday as Chief Inspector French, in a new thriller series, and brilliant swing pianist, Kay Cavendish, on Wednesday.

The first of Milton Rosmer's new series is 'The Case of the Man Who Loved Mountain'. Kay Cavendish comes back in 'Kay on the Keys', which had had an unbroken run of more than two years when it ended last October.

## Highlights Of BBC Overseas Programmes

For Week beginning 29th April

To-day's Brains Trust brings together Lord Elton, R. W. Moore, Bertrand Russell, Dr. Malcolm Sargent and Lord Vansittart, with Donald McCullough as Question Master.

The tenth discussion in the Politics of Freedom series on Monday brings together Viscount Cecil of Chelwood and

Wickham Steed, who discuss 'Does National Sovereignty Imply National Security?'

'Pages from my Diary', broadcast in the Eastern Service on Tuesday, tells in a half-hour programme how Sheila Fitton set out to become a nurse in a Children's Hospital. The story is told with the help of actual scenes in the life of a big children's hospital in the North of England. The same evening listeners can hear a fifteen minute programme of Scottish Regimental Marches, recorded at Edinburgh Castle by the Army School of Piping.

Variety Bandbox, in the G. F. P. at 6. 31 p. m. this day, is introduced by Lieutenant Chairman Sansom, Canadian Women's Army Corps, and it includes excerpts from the Players' Theatre production 'Late Joys'.

On Wednesday afternoon Sergeant J. Miller conducts the R. A. F. Dance Orchestra in a half-hour programme of Dance Music and there is also a half hour military band concert by the Band of the Loyal Regiment, conducted by E. T. R. Palmer, while Scottish Half Hour, introduced by James Sloane, takes listeners on a visit to the Army School of Piping and includes a commentary by Leo Hunter on the Glasgow Police Boxing Tournament.

Sylvia Welling, soprano, with Rawicz and Landauer, at two pianos, appear with the BBC Theatre Chorus and Orchestra in Thursday Serenade 'and Home Note strikes from Scotland, where listeners can hear, among others, Renee Houston and the Mansfield Singers. The Eastern Service has a half-hour radio play adapted by Leslie Burgess, from H. G. Wells' 'The Truth About Pyecraft'.

On Friday the BBC Northern Orchestra can be heard giving a concert for Factory Workers, and Senior Commander Bridget Boland, of Britain's Auxiliary Territorial Service, gives a talk in the Eastern Service, 'Dramatising Current Affairs in the Army', which explains how her department dramatised various topics in an effort to interest in current events a generation brought up on the cinema.

Al Bollington can be heard at the Cinema organ on Saturday afternoon and Radio Newsreel that evening has been withdrawn to allow for a commentary on the Cup Final between Wales and England.

### \* MEDICAL GRADUATES \*

## the war goes on...

...bringing with it the inevitable toll of casualties who must be brought back to health. Many hundreds of Army doctors are today discovering a new interest in their profession. They have found out that in the performance of their duty to the fighting men they are gaining experience and training which could not normally come their way in general practice. There is still an urgent need for Graduates to serve in the I.A.M.C. You should apply at once.

**Qualifications.** Candidates should possess a medical qualification registrable in the United Kingdom or an Indian medical degree recognized by the Medical Council of India. Registered medical practitioners holding the qualifications of D.M. & S. (Madras), L.M. & S. (State Medical Faculty Punjab), M.C.P. & S. (Bombay), M.M.F. (Bengal), M.S.M.F. (U.P./ Punjab) or M.B.B.S. (Mysore and Osmania) or approved foreign qualifications, are also considered. Candidates must be fit for military duty and be normally below 45 years of age. Those selected will be appointed to the I.M.S. and immediately seconded to the I.A.M.C. They will retain all rights possessed by them as officers of the I.M.S.

**Pay.** From Rs. 450/- p.m. for Lieut. to Rs. 1,350/- for a Lieut. Colonel. Candidates appointed as recognized specialists are given the acting rank of Major, with pay, plus Rs. 100/- p.m. specialist pay. Graded specialists draw specialist pay of Rs. 10/- without acting rank. Charge or Command Pay from Rs. 30/- to

Rs. 240/- p.m. for specified appointments. Outfit Allowance, Rs. 733/-. Advance of Pay up to Rs. 300/- on first appointment. Allowances under existing rules. Overseas pay varies from Rs. 150/- to Rs. 400/- p.m. Travelling allowances and leave concessions are as for other officers of the Indian Army. Gratuity of Rs. 2,000/- or Rs. 1,000/- for first year of service (depending on whether an officer has obtained his basic medical qualifications before or after 1st January 1940), thereafter one month's pay for each completed year of service. Disability, Family & Widow's Pensions and Children's Educational Allowances as laid down for the Indian Medical Service.

**Advantages of Army Service.** It is generally agreed that men who have served with the I.A.M.C., working with the most up-to-date equipment and the most modern methods, will be better equipped for civil practice when the war is over.

Full details from the head of the Provincial Medical Department (Surgeon-General or Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals) or from the Director General, Indian Medical Service, New Delhi, or from Officers Commanding, Indian Military Hospitals or from the Director of Medical Services, G.H.Q., New Delhi.

**Indian  
Army  
Medical  
Corps**

Letter

The C Situ

With reference to your "Open Letter to Mr. Ansorge" which was published in your issue of the 24th April, I would like to point out certain difficulties of the retail dealers to you and shall be glad if you will be pleased to publish it in your next issue. I am a retail dealer myself hence am interested. It is a pity that by their past sins a large number of retail dealers have not only lost the public confidence but have also rendered it impossible for a few honest dealers to carry on the business smoothly. I hope rational as you are you will surely believe that there are honest dealers too. Their number is very small. Now about the difficulties of the retail cloth dealers. Not being in the trade perhaps you do not know under what strain these dealers have to work these days. You will also agree that now when the supply is very limited, business itself is also very limited which do not permit these dealers to maintain a heavy staff for clerical works at a very high cost, as unemployment is a thing which has become almost an unknown thing, thanks to Hitler and Tojo. Please do not think for a moment that I prefer that people should be unemployed. But fact is fact. Now every retail dealer has to maintain regular stock book, registers for ration cards with every detail, keep accounts for Income-tax and Sales-tax, to submit a quarterly return of all cotton goods in details etc. etc. While these dealers are overworked, customers also being tired of running from shop to shop and authorities to authorities are at the end of their patience and short tempered, hence lack of co-operation from both sides. Take it from me that most of the customers behave these days in a way as if they are talking to their servants. I trust you will agree that it is bad taste. Every one wants to be served first and wants special treatment without considering how far that is possible for the dealer. In this connexion I would like to draw your readers' attention to the editorial "Queing" that appeared in the Calcutta edition of the Statesman on the 20th April. Now about

## Situation

qualities and varieties of the cloths displayed by the retail dealers. Retail dealers these days cannot buy any cotton piece-goods without a permit from the local authorities and these supplies are popularly known as *quota*. But except these three parties, the Govt., the wholesaler and the retail dealer only another party—God—knows what these quota cloths are. 12 yds x 40" series referred to in your open letter were actually delivered to the retail dealers on the eve of rationing, perhaps Government thought that Patna has become a land of fat babies due to efficient food rationing. Please note that these days a retail dealer has no choice or one may call it Hobson's choice. Wholesalers buy in the Bombay and Ahmedabad markets anything they get regardless of their utility as they are concerned with the margin of profits only, while government takes the responsibility of thrusting these things upon the retail dealers while allotting quota; I can assure you that retailers will be only too glad to serve their customers if only they are allowed to make their choice while taking delivery of quota cloths instead of being forced to accept whatever they are given. About refusing the permits already issued, I should like to say that there either must be some technical defect or they must have been presented after the business hours, otherwise no dealer will dare to dishonour them. New notices and circulars are coming from the authorities almost every morning and evening and a dealer is bound to obey these. Lastly, fine cloths are very limited these days and I can assure you that all of them do not find place in the black market, where they go is perhaps not unknown to many. Before I conclude I would appeal to you that while trying to safeguard the interest of the consumers please also try to defend the retail dealers when their difficulties and grievances are genuine—do not cut the entire leg because one or two fingers are bad—amputate only those fingers.

Yours etc.  
A retail dealer

## "MY DAY"

Washington, April 17—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt today resumed her column "My Day" which is published daily by many newspapers throughout the United States. The column was interrupted last Thursday by the death of President Roosevelt. In the column Mrs. Roosevelt said in part:

When you've lived for a long time in close contact with the loss and grief which today pervades the world, any personal sorrow seems to be lost in the general sadness of humanity.

For a long time all hearts have been heavy for every serviceman sacrificed in the war. There is only one way in which those of us who live can repay the dead who have given their utmost for the cause of liberty and justice. They died in the hope that through their sacrifice an enduring peace would be built and a more just world would emerge for humanity.

While my husband was in Albany (as Governor of New York State) and for some years after coming to Washington his chief interest was in seeing that the average human being was given a fairer chance for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." That was what made him always interested in the problems of minority groups and of any group which was at a disadvantage.

As the war clouds gathered and the inevitable involvement of this country became more evident, his objective was always to deal with the problems of war—political and military—so that eventually an organization might be built to prevent future wars.

Any man in public life is bound, in the course of the years, to create certain enemies. But when he has gone his main objective stand out clearly, and one may hope that his spirit of unity may arouse the people and their leaders to a complete understanding of his objectives and a determination to achieve those objectives.

Perhaps, in His wisdom, the Almighty is trying to show us that a leader may chart the way, may point out the road to lasting peace but that many leaders and many peoples must do the building. It cannot be the work of one man, nor can the responsibility be laid upon his shoul-

ders. And so, when the time comes for the people to assume the burden more fully he is given rest.

God grant that we have the wisdom and courage to build a peaceful world with justice and opportunity for all peoples the world over.

And now I want to say one personal word of gratitude to the many people who have sent messages of affection and condolence during these last days. My children and I are deeply grateful.—USOWI.

watch your savings grow—  
*watch the*  
**BLACK MARKET**  
*disappear*

**C**ONTROLS have already hampered Black Marketeers in their activities. Not less useful has been the public will NOT to pay high prices. The combination of these two means a Black Marketeer either has to go out of business (or to gaol), or accept a fair profit. Keep up the good work. Check up prices. They are stamped on cloth, brass utensils and footwear. They are published for drugs and most other necessities, and every dealer must display a copy. Always take a cash memo for every purchase. If the price is too high report the dealer to the police instantly. Do not hesitate. Do not show mercy for these social enemies.

By joining this campaign against profiteers, you can bring prices down. You can watch the Black Market disappear, and your savings grow.

AAA 157

say **NO** to the  
**BLACK MARKET**  
*-and there will be no Black Market*

When in 1939 Herr Hitler, as the German Fuehrer, started on his proud career of conquest many people called him a pinchbeck Napoleon. Those people have now come to realise that as a military organiser and conqueror he has out-Napoleoned Napoleon. His final failure in the field must, in all conscience, be most humiliating to him. But many will be surprised to hear that this will

## Random Notes

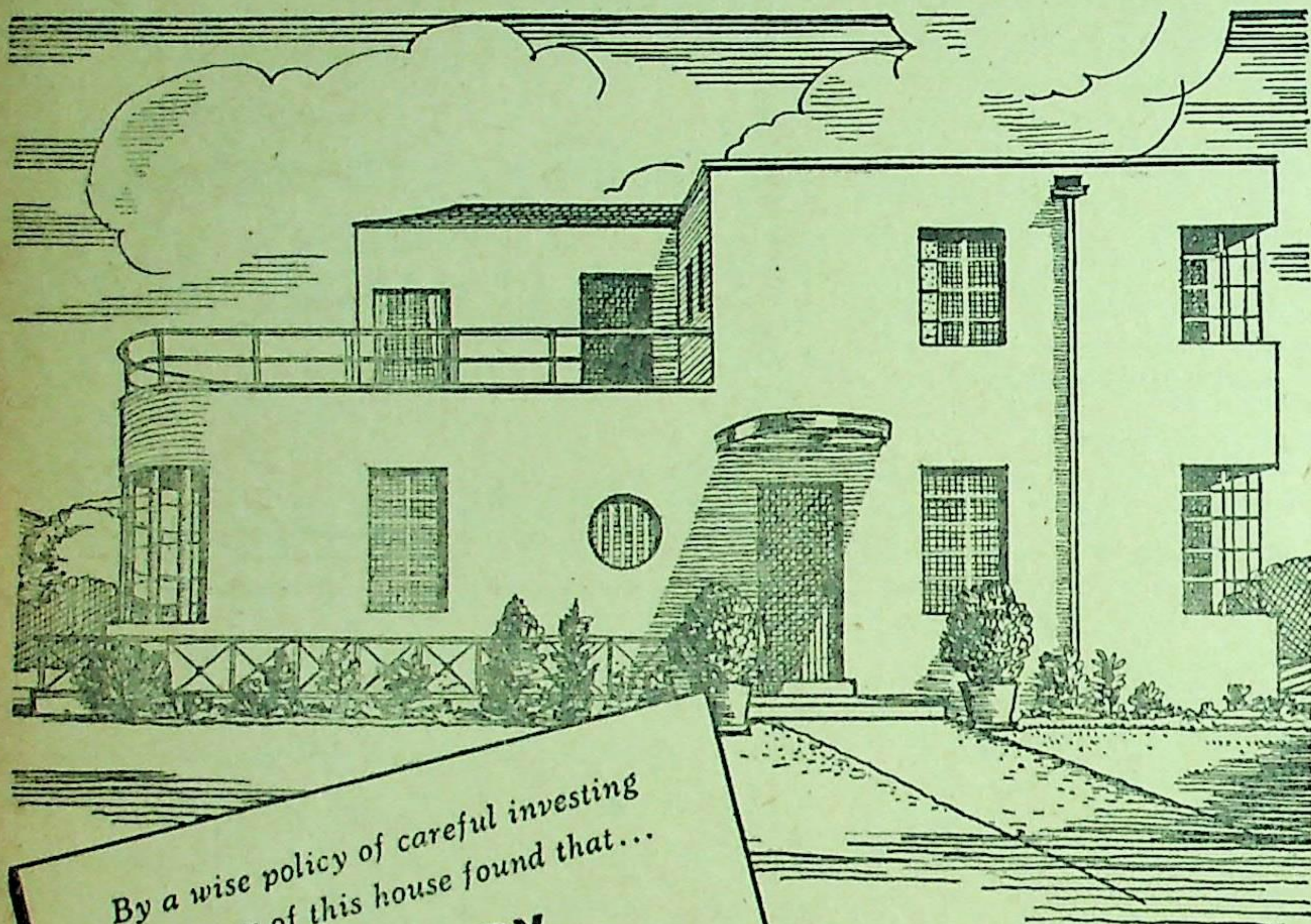
By Nestor

not be his first defeat. In the pursuit of his vaulting ambition his fixed determination was to sweep away all elements that obstructed his aims. The chief of these was Semitism. His plan was to exterminate the Jews and to crush the Christian Churches which had sprung from Judaism. His next objective was to see Nureo Pic supremacy

by stamping out Mongolian Bolshevism. The world is not big enough to hold a Roman Pontiff and the German Fuehrer—the Pope of Rome symbolizing Christianity. Hitler found it easy enough to remove from his path many thorns of a less dangerous type. But these two proved the hardest nuts to crack. In the Church he

found an enemy worthy of his steel. In this trial of strength Hitler had to admit defeat. That was his first defeat. He then jumped upon the Eastern Bolshevik. Everyone knows how he went about this self-imposed task, and the bitter consequences it has produced for him. Hitler has quietly pocketed the insult of his shameful defeat on the spiritual field. In the material field he carried on his war of ambition with noise and bluster with sound and fury, causing misery to mankind, including his own countrymen, on a scale never before witnessed in history. But as surely as there is a God over all, his design has failed ignominiously. It was foredoomed to failure!

From the west an Indian's thoughts must turn to his own unhappy country. Our own Fuehrer, the Mahatma, aims at achieving the emancipation of India through spiritual force. He disdains the western methods. He is out and out for non-violence. But he has yet to make his precise *modus operandi*, his plan of construction, clear to men who are living in the age of steam and electricity, in the age of tractors and blast furnaces, in the age of machinery which has long replaced the *Takli* and *Charkha*, to men who cannot fight, as Indian soldiers, to repel invaders from across the Himalayan snows, clad only in loin-cloth, with bare bodies. On February 25, 1940, while touring in East Bengal, the Mahatma wanted to place the structure of Swaraj on the four pillars of Hindu Moslem unity, Charkha-cum Khadi, removal of untouchability, and Prohibition. If the truth has to be told, we are yet a long way from the realisation of these nice things. More recently, he has added two more pre-requisites for Swaraj—one script (*Ek lipi*) for all India and the adoption of the system of congregational prayer. Both are very difficult problems. As to prayer, it must be admitted that in two great communities, the Christian and Islamic, that form of prayer is already known and they may, perhaps, be persuaded to join together both in church and mosque. It will be a magnificent sight to find them thus engaged. The Hindu religion, however, is individualistic. It follows the rule of—every man for himself. This is followed also at religious fairs like Kumbhamelas, where millions congregate. The Hindus are by nature conservative. They will require a lot of teaching before they can be induced to adopt the Mahatma's advice. So far, the caste Hindus have not paid serious attention to the Mahatma's repeated calls for the abolition of untouchability. Moreover, there are the Buddhists who never say prayers and only a few of whom turn prayer-wheels. The Mahatma will find out a way out of this puzzle. We need not be in a hurry.



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the owner of this house found that...

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Director-in-c



# This India by MALLINATHA

## A Maker Of Dictionary-Makers

"Pattavi Sitaramayya's habit of driving his hearers and readers to lexicography was ingrained in him"—Free India, Apr. 15.

"Lexicography" means dictionary-making. One wonders how many Annandales, Chambers, Websters and Fowlers were created by reading and hearing this might-have-been Congress president.

## A Fast Person

"Pattavi Sitaramayya's most striking quality is fastness. He walks fast, writes fast, talks fast"—Free India, Apr. 15.

In short, lives a fast life.

## No Sleep Till Morn, When Youth And Pleasure Meet

"Sir Firoz Khan Noon said that India was going to the San Francisco Conference with high hopes"—Reuter, London, Apr. 20.

Probably "India" hopes to flirt with some of the Hollywood beauties in the beautifully laid out pleasure grounds of the Golden Gate Park.

## By Analogy

"Signor Maurilo Scoccimarro is the Minister for Unliberated Italy"—Reuter, Apr. 21.

Why then can't we have Ministers for the Sec. 93 provinces?

## New Fashion In Dress

"The Government of Bengal expect to be able to give each adult a ration of 2 dhotis or 2 saris or seven yards of cloth (for

2 shirts) each year"—The Statesman, Apr. 21.

We are told that the most progressive people in Bengal have decided to go for the 2 shirts and waive the dhotis and saris.

## Ridiculously Small

"A Civil Supplies Advisory Committee with 50 members, representing different political parties, communities and interests, has been formed"—The Statesman, Apr. 21.

Surely 30 is too small a number to represent all the political parties, communities and interests. 3000 would be more fully representative.

## Difference Between India And "India"

"Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit asserted that India was taking no part in the war effort of the United Nations"—Reuter, Apr. 18.

This statement need not startle any one. India is taking part in the war effort, "India" is not.

## Teachers That "Hunt" Their Students

"As an undergraduate, Pattavi Sitaramaya had held not only fellow-students but his teachers at bay"—Free India, Apr. 15.

His teachers must have been a thoroughly reprehensible lot to persecute and goad to desperation their own student.

## "We" Patronizing The Colonials

"Sir Firoz Khan Noon said that countries like Canada and New Zealand had made a magnificent contribution to the cause of the United Nations and peace and would be vital factors at the San Francisco Conference"—Reuter, London, April 20.

We are told that Australians and New Zealanders are walking with puffed up chests and heads held high after receipt of this gratifying testimonial from our Firoz.

## Our Stubbornness

"On the inspection side in the Education Service one vacancy has gone already to a non-Beharee"—The Searchlight, Apr. 21.

We are not prepared to admit quite that. He may not be a "true", "real", "genuine", "authentic", "actual", "exact", "precise", "strict", "simon pure", "veritable", "categorical", "sterling" or *au pied de la lettre* Beharee, but surely not a NON-Beharee.

## An Escapist

"There is almost an irritating sense of self-abnegation in Dr. Pattavi Sitaramayya who deliberately preferred to bury his head in the sands at Masulipatam"—Free India, Apr. 15.

One is bound to be "irritated" with such human ostriches.

# PETROMULSION

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## PETROMULSION WITH GUICOL

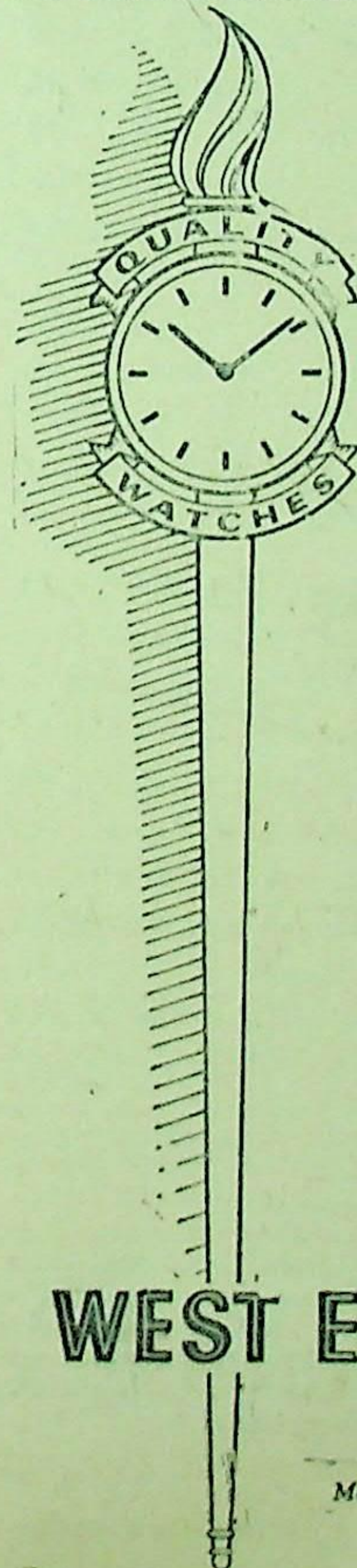
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New Watches are Scarce

Watches, like many other classes of goods, are now in short supply. Our own popular lines are still being manufactured and adequate quantities are ready at the factories waiting for the 'All Clear' from the lands through which they must pass to reach India.

The War has reached a stage where communications with the watch factories are ruptured. Contact is slowly being restored but demand here has outpaced supply and it will be sometime before there is anything like a normal flow of watches over the thousands of miles which separate India from the centres of production.

In these circumstances, we may have to disappoint some of our customers and we ask their indulgence until such time as conditions improve and we are able to execute their orders for "West End" watches.

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Mr. Radhashyam Mr. R. N. Singh  
Director-in-charge Chairman

To day is the first of May. This day will be celebrated by the workers all over the world. May day, as it is popularly known, is a day of international importance. Workers all over the world will demonstrate their international solidarity today. The slogan of the day is "Workers of the world, unite!"

Some fifty five years ago workers of Chicago paid the price in blood and death for aspiring to bring up a new and better world, a world where men will not be allowed to

## Labour Forum

## MAY DAY

S. Das Gupta

oppress and exploit men, a world where, poverty, misery and sufferings will be things unknown. This incident has added to the importance of realising the necessity of working class solidarity throughout the world. Ever since the day is being celebrated by the working class all over the world not so much to offer homage to the martyrs as to express a

strong determination to carry on the struggle that began long long ago. Once again the working class, the oppressed and exploited mass, realises the necessity of solidarity, co-operation and active collaboration with the working class of other countries. Once again the slogan is remembered and realised, "Workers of the world, unite!"

Karl Marx for the first time realised the necessity of an international organisation of the working class movement and hence the guiding spirit of the May Day is Marxism or Scientific Socialism. It has set up an ideal before the working class. That ideal is to replace the bourgeois order of Society, by building up a new and better type of world.

He analysed capitalist system and discovered some internal contradictions within the system which are bound to bring about its own destruction. Hence he was very hopeful about the future of mankind and was able to visualise a classless society where men would be able to live in complete freedom with progress and prosperity denied to none. This was not an idle dream of an idle philosopher. He prepared the blue print of the future world and inspired the builders of society to take up the task.

Working class is the most oppressed class in Society. It is also the vital part of society for without it no society can exist for long. Hence workers are destined to take up the leadership of the great revolution without which the society cannot be remodelled, the blue-prints cannot be worked. And in this great task the workers have nothing to lose except their chains of slavery but they have every thing to gain. The existing system or order of things which blocks all roads to progress and prosperity will have to be replaced by another better system where there will be no such restrictions. This will not only benefit the working class but will also be equally beneficial to all the oppressed people of the world. Thus the workers will be able to liberate mankind in general with their own liberation. Hence all the

people will follow the leadership of the proletariat.

As we all know Capitalism as a system is a world phenomena. There may be difference in degrees of development in different countries, but its *modus operandi* is same everywhere. Its destruction would, therefore, be also a world phenomena. For that reason alone workers must outgrow the narrow limitations of nationalism and seek active alliance and conscious collaboration with the workers of all other countries in the world. Hence the slogan.— "Workers of the world, unite!"

There is only one goal before the workers—a new and better order of society. There is only one set of obstacles before the workers—the obstacle created and conditioned by the vested interests. These obstacles must be removed and though the germs of its own destruction is inherent in the capitalist system itself, it is not inevitable, for nothing is inevitable in this world. But since its destruction is predetermined it would be possible to hasten the millenium by conscious and organised efforts. Hence the necessity of working class organisation and mass political consciousness.

Indian workers will also celebrate this day with a spirit of demonstration and great enthusiasm. I may be permitted to observe that the day will be lost if its significance and implications are not properly realised. Parrot like repetition of slogans and catch phrases have become the unfortunate counterpart of a number of labour leaders in our country. Taking advantage of the backwardness of the Indian labour, there are people who will like to utilise the day to sabotage its spirit. There are ways and ways of observing a day. Those who preach national unity and at the same time dream of international solidarity of the oppressed people are either hypocrits or traitors. In fact national unity is a bluff to mislead the working class. It is devised to maintain the statusquo and thus to give to the capitalists a fresh lease of life. But let this day not be utilised for abusing others. Let this day be the day of great awakening. Exploited people of India unite with the progressive forces of the world!

## Chargola Valley Tea Estates, Ltd.

Indian Tea Industry is one of the growing industries of the world. It is always paying good returns both to the shareholders and investors and is expected to pay more unexpected returns in future. So we hope investment in Tea shares will be more profitable to the investors. Chargola Valley Tea Garden is one of the best gardens at Ratanbari whose products have a good demand in the market and the tea is being sold in the whole sale market. We are sure investors if they invest in Chargola Tea shares will gain. We wish success to this national industry

# all women not in vital war work

## are asked to volunteer now for the W.A.C.(I).

This appeal is addressed to all women who are not already engaged in work which is vital to the war effort. Several thousand women are still needed for service with the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India). The work is intensely interesting and the pay is good.

**HOSTELS** General Service W.A.C.(I)s are housed in comfortable hostels which are supervised by responsible women, themselves members of the Corps.

**VICTORY** When Victory comes, those women of India who will have played their part in securing unconditional surrender from the enemy will have the strongest claim to enjoy the peace.

**POST-WAR** In commerce and industry India is progressing

rapidly and it is certain that many well-trained personnel (both men and women) will be needed for civil jobs when conditions return to normal. A W.A.C.(I) training and the experience gained while serving in the corps will equip many women with the qualifications and administrative experience necessary for a successful career in civil life.

**HOW TO JOIN** Full details of terms of service etc., may be obtained without obligation, from any of the following A.T.R.O.s/W.A.C.(I). These ladies are themselves members of the W.A.C.(I) and they will be able to tell you anything you may wish to know about life in the Corps. If you do not live near any of the towns where A.T.R.O.s/W.A.C.(I) are located, you may apply to the nearest W.A.C.(I) unit commander.

BOMBAY, A.F.I. Building, Hospital Lane, Dhobi Talao  
CALCUTTA, c/o D.T.R.O., 28, Theatre Road. LUCKNOW,  
c/o T.R.O. Eastern, Hazratganj. PATNA, c/o D.T.R.O.,  
Exhibition Road. RAWALPINDI, Gwyn Thomas Road.  
BANGALORE Cantonment, Cubbon Road. LAHORE, 22:  
Davis Road. POONA, Staunton Road. MADRAS, 3/18,  
Mount Road. Or apply to your nearest W.A.C.(I)  
Platoon Commander.



Join The Women's Auxiliary Corps  
INDIA

## A Letter from Calcutta

Having spent a good part of my life in Bihar, I am still interested in happenings in that province. From a perusal of the recent issues of the *Behar Herald*, I can see that you have some trouble in getting that second essential of life—cloth. I am referring to your note "The cloth famine" (Apr 3), "Our goodwill" (Apr 10) "Sind shows the way", "A nation of Sir Philip Sidneys", "A Journalistic bouquet and its aftermath" (Apr. 17), "The cloth (-less)

situation", and the letter from "A Bihar Publicist" (Apr. 24). All these have been capped by your "Open letter to Mr. Ansorge" in your last issue. The composite picture that I have been able to gather from reading the above is that you too have a cloth-shortage in Bihar. That your officers entrusted with cloth control are equally efficient like ours in creating a muddle. In one

respect alone you differ from us. Your journalist issued testimonials to officers controlling the sale of cloth, while the average citizen had the greatest difficulty in getting any at all. I do not think any Calcutta paper will have the moral courage to praise any of the officers here responsible for ensuring a supply of cloth to the people. You score over us there—your journalism is

more independent of public opinion and you have my congratulations for that. It appears from the letter of the "Bihar Publicist" (in your issue of Apr. 24) that the cloth-controlling authorities in Patna shared their permit-issuing power with one of your fraternity. Instead of being gratified with such signal honour (unknown anywhere else), you raise a hue and cry over the affair. If the cloth controller ( See page 448 Last Col. )

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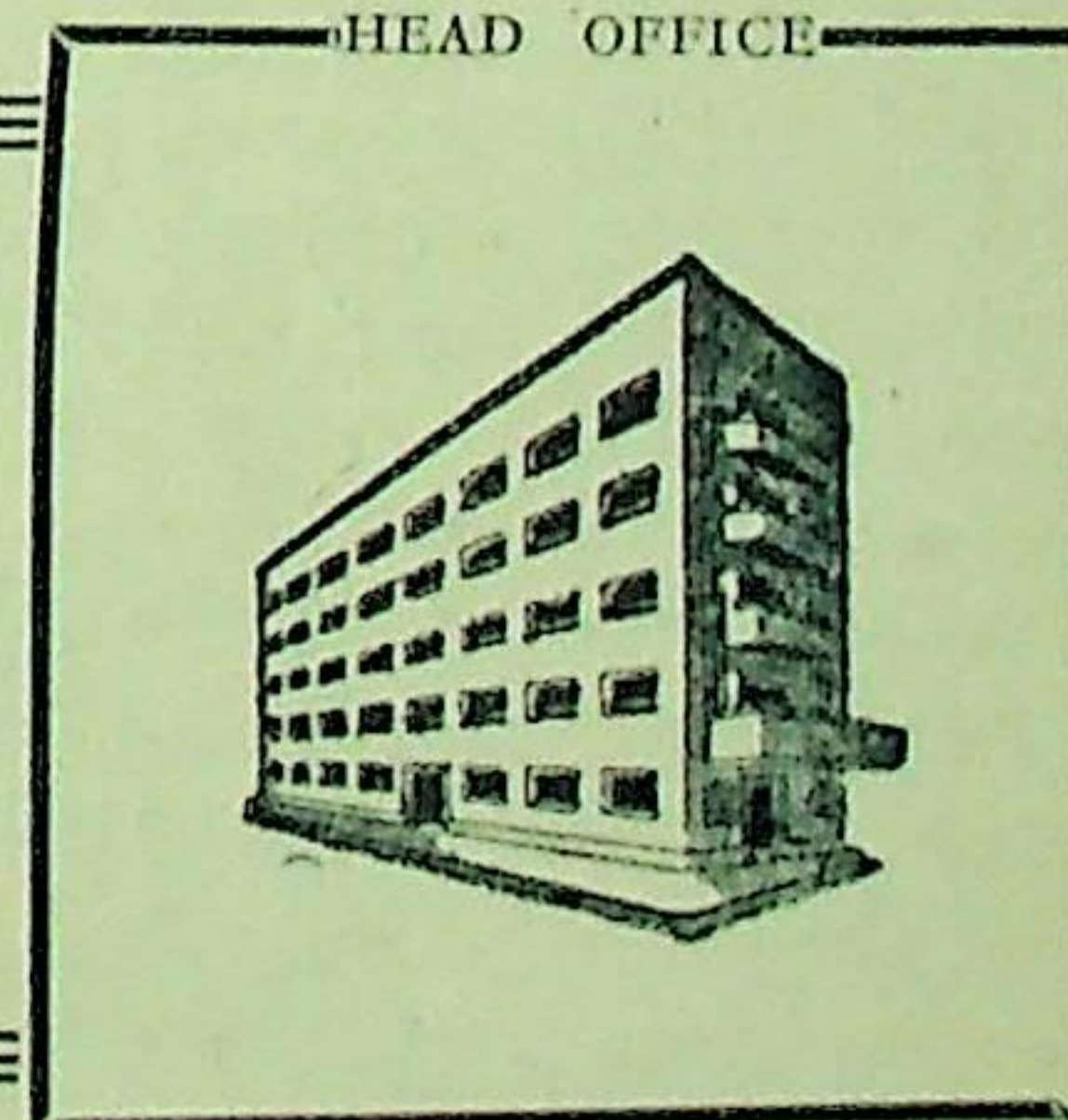
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**A FEW POINTS FOR INFORMATION**

- \* This is the biggest Joint Stock concern in India dealing in stocks & shares.
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  - (i) Rs. 30,000 as house rent from its own five-storied building at Chowringhee Square.
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## A LETTER ...

From Page 447

received a testimonial from one of you for his efficiency and if he entrusted your cloth requirements to the tender care of another journalist, surely his tenure as cloth-controller is going to last as long as there is any cloth to control. Your irate correspondent, the "Bihar Publicist", has wanted an explanation from the local authorities why "a member of the editorial staff of a local paper was considered the proper person to issue permits to the employees of newspaper presses in Patna?" The local authorities may be too busy to answer the question but your correspondent will find the answer to his query in the paragraph headed "A bit of plain speech" in your Notes and Comments in the issue of April 24. I think that to be quite a satisfying reply.

Lastly, your signed "open letter to Mr. Ansorge". Of course it is for the addressee to reply to a letter meant for him, but, frankly speaking, I am unable to see what Mr. Ansorge or anybody else can do when the whole country is saturated with 18th century oriental corruption all round. You don't expect Mr. Ansorge to personally sell dhotis and sarees to the people of Patna. All that he can do is to entrust officials with the task of controlling the sale of cloth and supervising this sale. What if every officer is corrupt and inefficient? How can a plan of distribution, conceived by the government, work if nobody can be trusted to carry it out honestly? According to your own admission, when a member of your profession was entrusted with the issuing of permits, there was muddle too. Ordinarily, governments try to ensure contentment of the people. It is only when politics get intermixed with administration that the people's welfare is completely thrown overboard. We, in Bengal, have been suffering from that malady. You are much better off in this respect than your neighbours. The head of your government is an administrator first and last, he believes in efficiency of administration, not politics. So the chances are that your troubles will be met and reme-

died, but we are doomed. May I tell you, Mr. Editor, my own views in the matter? I think you are kicking up

a tremendous row over a minor grievance. Had I, a single man, been living in Patna now, I would have been

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entitled to 6 pairs of dhoties in the year. Do you know what we get here, in Calcutta? A pair of dhoties in the year, only 1/6 of what you get there. A single man, a simple-lifer like me, requires only 4 pairs of dhoties in the year, so while you in Patna will be able to save 2 pairs of dhoties in the year, I have to compare the relative strengths of the Statesman, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Hindusthan Standard and the Nationalist (the Star of India is no use, being much too small in size) and select the most durable one for replenishing my wardrobe from the next month. Newspapers have a double value for us here,—they provide intellectual food and, what is more important, wearing apparel. Formerly we preferred newspapers with strong views, now we buy those with strong texture.

There are two things that I do not understand. My last visit to Patna was in December last. You had an exhibition in your maidan then and any one could buy any amount of dhoties, saris or standard cloth there. I purchased 5 pairs of standard cloth dhotis from a shop in New Market, could have purchased more if I had the money. What happened all of a sudden between the end of December and the beginning of February to cause a cloth famine in your city? Cloth was nicely timed to disappear from the shops just before the Holi and the marriage season, so that people were forced to buy their essential requirements in the black market. It seems to be a deliberately planned racket. The second thing that I do not understand is the kid-glove handling of dealers guilty of causing stock of cloth to disappear. The Government would go very high in public esteem if they announce that any dealer having undisclosed stocks of cloth in his possession will be sentenced to two years hard labour, plus a fine equal to ten times the value of the hidden stock and of course forfeiture of all such stock. Any person giving information about hidden stock of cloth will get a reward equal to one-fourth the value of the stock discovered. His name will not be disclosed and he will not have to give any evidence in a court of law. They have done something on these lines in Sind, the Ministry there is interested in food grains alone, they don't dabble in cloth and have no sympathy for cloth profiteers.

Yours etc.,  
Reader