

# Behar Herald

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PATNA, SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1954

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## *Just Like 'Milk'!*



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Vol. LXXX ]

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[ No. 22

## RULING BY ORDINANCE

In the House of the People during the budget session, some members of Parliament raised a debate on the way in which the Government of India had exercised, during the interval between the last two legislative sessions, the ordinance-making power which the Constitution has conferred on the executive when the legislature is not sitting. During this interval of but six weeks, seven ordinances were issued, a very high record: two of the ordinances imposed taxation, and a third not only extended the life of the Press Act by two years but made important changes in its provisions. Naturally enough, this alarmed the House and strong and cogent criticism was levelled against the Government for what appeared like a too facile use of legislative

functions by the executive. From the statement made by the Finance Minister it would seem that the cause of the ordinances concerning taxation was due to administrative delays in getting legislative measures prepared in time for the consideration of the House which has the power of purse. But the ordinance—concerning the Press Act—a very much more serious matter—appeared to lack all justification. The Home Minister tried to defend himself by the plea that he had already given notice to the House that because there would be no time for a bill to be passed, an ordinance would have to be issued. But while making this plea he was countered by the Speaker who brought it to the notice of the Home Minister that whatever bill the latter had contemplated had not even been recommended for priority

to the Business Advisory Committee. Deprived of this defense, the Home Minister frankly declared that he was unable to understand what all this pother was about, avowing himself to be unrepentant—"absolutely unrepentant"—and said, "the heavens have not fallen" because of the press ordinance. The light-hearted manner in which he spoke about the executive's power of making laws during recesses shows that he is unaware of even the elementary principle that the power was meant to be exercised only when circumstances arising suddenly between sessions plainly made it necessary to take immediate action which could not possibly have been anticipated while the legislature was sitting. If the ordinances were merely due to bad legislative planning, even that would give rise to much disquiet.

But here, at least in one case, the use of this extraordinary power was due to sheer lack of knowledge that legislation by ordinance could be justifiably resorted to only in emergencies and that such a power must not be invoked, as was forcibly put by a Congress member, Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava, "for routine work."

Rajagopalachari as G. G. first abused the ordinance-making power by making his own salary income tax free by passing an ordinance only a week before the meeting of the Central Assembly. Now that it is becoming quite common, people may well turn their thoughts on the necessity or propriety of conferring this power on the executive at all. The Civil Liberties Bulletin points out in this connection, that such a power is non-existent in any of the Constitutions of the self-governing members of the Commonwealth: Canada, Australia or the Union of South Africa. What happens in these countries, when an emergent situation arises necessitating legislation after the legislature has adjourned, is that their legislature is called together at once for the necessary sanction of those measures; the executive does not arrogate to itself legislative functions which do not belong to it. Our Republican Constitution, however, provides for this, contrary to the traditions followed in democracies.

### DRESS REGULATIONS

After having consigned the male employees of the Government of India to a "short coat

buttoned at the neck" style, the Home Department of that Government has now laid down rules according to which its female employees are expected to be clad. The slogan is "no more glamour girls in the Secretariat". Austerity and primness are to be the keynotes the women employees' habilitation. The saris are to be "sober coloured, of plain material". The border is to be "simple". One can foresee that difference of opinion will arise regarding the interpretation of the words "sober", "plain" and "simple," between the official regulators of fashion and the wearers. The direction that "sari should be of adequate length" is rather intriguing. Our knowledge is confined to non-official feminine circles and in the latter the demand is always for saris that are 11 cubits in length. As most mill-made saris of to-day are only 10 cubits long, many a husband is put to a great deal of trouble to provide saris of greater length. Have women officials in the Central Secretariat been sporting "short" saris in imitation of short skirts? The official directive should have been more precise and explained what is meant by "adequate length" of the sari.

Much else has also been left unsaid by the Home Ministry which may come out later in an official "supplementary demand." For example: How long should the sleeves of the blouses be? Of the three leaders of fashion in New Delhi feminine officialdom—Princess Amrit Kaur,

Srimati Vijayalakshmi and Miss Padmaja Naidu—the second has the largest following. One hopes that Katju will not mind if the fashion in blouses started by Mrs. Pandit is widely copied by the employees of the Government of India. Then again, the officially issued instructions are silent about the officially permitted height of contour lines; these are important and should be specified. A Government that is so solicitous about the moral uplift of the people is expected not to come down with a heavy hand on physical uplift. Assurance should be forthcoming about this essential item of feminine attire,

Then again, what about footwear? The drabness of the saris may be over-compensated by fancy slippers, gorgeously coloured, and sheer diaphanous stockings. Is nylon banned? Complete silence regarding the use of rouge, lipstick and mascara makes for ambiguous interpretation. Are these included in the approved or the condemned list? The very important subject of ornaments is not even referred to indirectly; how many *churis* are permitted in each fair wrist? If necklaces are allowed, can the neckline plunge down to show the full length of the necklace, including the pendant?

We are afraid that the Home Department dress regulation will raise many more problems than it sets out to solve. A completely satisfactory solution of the difficulties would be to compel all women officers of the Central Secretariat to

hide their physical and sartorial charms in a black burqa when they come to office.

## NOTES & COMMENTS

### SLANDERING THE PEOPLE

Defending the expenditure on regal pomp and ceremonials connected with the President and the Governor, Rajagopalachariar said in the Madras Assembly on 10th March that such pomp and ceremony were special characteristics of the nature of the Indian.

'Foxy' can say anything. In 1948 he declared that where-as emergency had arisen there-fore it was necessary to make his own salary as Governor General income tax free.

### ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE

It is said that Rajyapal Munshi has appointed a Bihari gentleman to be the astrologer royal in Lucknow Rajbhavan to foretell Munshi's political future when his term of Rajyapalship expires. He is also to predict when Munshi's son-in-law, Jai Chandra Seth, is going to get the second big contract (without calling for tenders, of course) from Morarji Desai.

### A POLITICAL COMIC OPERA

Recent events in Cairo would seem to possess all the elements of a light comedy. With a dramatic suddenness General Neiguib resigned his post as President and Prime Minister of Egypt and soon afterwards found himself surrounded by armed guards in virtual detention, later only to be reinstated in full glory as President of the country. That

all this should have happened within a meagre three days is a measure of the tempo of action on the political stage of Egypt.

General Neiguib has now claimed that all this was a 'family quarrel' and has been amicably settled. Superficially indeed it appears to have been so. But to any careful observer, this was a distressing revelation of deep-seated malady in Egypt's national life. What was precisely the cause of all these breath-taking events remains anybody's guess. Foreign commentators have sought an explanation in alleged differences between the Revolutionary Junta and the General sometimes as regards foreign policy and sometimes on domestic policy. It was according to one estimate, the General's indiscretion in his speech to the Indonesian Club which brought about the showdown with Colonel Nasser, the *de facto* leader of the ruling group known as the Revolutionary Council. In that speech General Neiguib had openly criticized Pakistan for its acceptance of military aid from the United States. If this was correct, then Colonel Nasser would appear to be friendlier to the Western countries than the Egyptian President. But is well known that Colonel Nasser had been as much opposed to continuation of British control over the Suez Canal as anybody else in Egypt. In fact many think that Col. Nasser is more anti-British than Neguib.

### PATting ONE'S OWN BACK

In the President's speech at the opening of the Indian

Parliament, undeserved praise was heaped on the Indian railways (presumably put therein by the Minister in charge of Communications). Really the Indian railways deserve censure, not bouquets for inefficiency, bungling and waste of public money.

Railway accidents have now-a-days become more frequent than in the past, involving great loss of life and property. The recent regrouping of the various systems must have something to do with it.

Railway fares for all classes were increased in 1951. Speaking in Parliament in support of it, the then Railway Minister told the public that the slight rise would not appreciably affect the passenger's pocket. But the fact is that in some cases the increases have been as high as 100 per cent. In many cases short distance travelling has been penalized by doubling the fare.

Trains are overcrowded inside and out and vast numbers travel on footboards at great risk to their lives. The Railway authorities appear to be doing nothing about it.

In calculating fares Government, in most cases, charges a complete anna for even small fractions thereof, like one pie. This seems an ingenious way of augmenting revenue.

Government has failed to revive the travelling facilities in vogue during the British regime, such as ordinary return tickets, special return tickets, week-end return tickets, travel-as-you-like tickets, etc. The present Railway Budget proposes to pro-

vide concessions which can benefit only the rich and the well-to-do. Not many poor people can afford to travel 1,500 miles at a stretch in order to avail themselves of the concession offered. Not many poor people can afford to make a pleasure trip to the hills.

Losses by theft of and damage to goods entrusted to the railways run to several crores every year. This is no credit to the railway administration. Total loss and damage to packages is much greater now than ever before and is apparently increasing every year.

#### AN EFFICIENT POLICE STATE

The "Welfare State" of U. P. spends nearly Rs. 8 crores on Police—a figure twice as large as that for Bihar. But even then it is only an inefficient police state. Things must be pretty rotten there when 5 Congress members of the U.P. Legislature had to criticize the police administration in the Assembly meeting on March 4.

Mr. R. Prasad said he was prepared to take the consequences for his speech and added that he could no longer remain silent in deference to party discipline. It was his considered opinion that the Police force in the State was today *more corrupt and tyrannical than even under British rule*. There was no justice and complaints against the police were investigated by the accused parties themselves.

Mr. Prasad's views were supported by other Congress members notably Mr.

Brijbhari Merhotra, who said that in his district the police not only encouraged but even participated in criminal acts. Prohibition had provided them with new avenues of bribery and corruption, he added. Mrs. Lakshmi Devi (Congress) said the instances she had in her possession were shocking.

Mr. Nazim Ali (Congress) said the present police force was a disgrace to a free country and should be wholly scrapped and new men brought in. Mr. Sri Chand (Congress) said the U. P. police force was the worst in the world.

It is a hopeful sign that some Congressmen feel that things have been brought to such a pass that it is their duty to defy the whip and make unpleasant remarks in public.

#### A NEGLIGIBLE LOSS

Audit report has revealed there was a small loss amounting only to Rs. 3,18,00,000 (3 crores and 18 lakhs) in our Defence Services during 1951. The loss was due to theft, fraud, neglect etc. and has been written off. A small additional taxation on some everyday necessity will easily bring in more than 3 crores.

#### THE DIFFERENCE

American and Pakistani propaganda agents tell us that there is no difference between military and economic aid. The American journal, *Manas* discussing under "Mutual Aid" says:—

"As to funds for other countries, there may be a tremendous difference in the purposes for which such funds are dispensed. A distinction should

be made, we think, between money appropriated to arm another country against some potential enemy whom we should to see 'encircled', and money supplied to help that country to achieve a balanced, self-sustaining economy.

"Again there is a difference between money or food sent abroad as some kind of 'bribe'

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**SHORT WAVE**

April, 1954

to win 'good will' for one side in the 'cold war', and the ideal of 1949, the Point-Four Programme, which is to send experts to teach particular skills to other peoples, so that they may learn to help themselves.

"These distinctions, it seems to us, are vitally important."

The vital importance of the distinction is apparent if we see the drain on world's resources in preparation for war. The writer of the *Manas* continuing his arguments says :

"Concerning the drain on American resources in preparation for war, it is fair to remark that if only a fraction of this tremendous financial subsidy to Mars were diverted to simple, no-strings-attached sort of aid to countries where hunger is a major problem we might soon discover that the need for extensive military preparations no longer seems so urgent. There is nothing new about this idea; scores of thoughtful people have been repeating it during the past 3 or 4 years."

#### YELLOW JOURNALISM IN BRITAIN

The Recorder, a new Fleet Street daily, has 'uncovered' a "monstrous plot to rule the world", planned by Emperor Nehru". Nehru— which incidentally, is the caption of the article in which it presents this 'scoop'. "East territories", according to this article, "are ripe for a new order and for a new way of life —perhaps even for a new leader and Pandit Nehru dreams of taking his place among the

mighty builders of empires. He would like to become another Julius Caesar. He would like to become Emperor Nehru. It is possible. Nehru's actions since he took over the bloodstained mantle of Gandhi in 1948 have all pointed to a grand plan. First, leadership of the Asian peoples. Then a gradual awakening of Indians all over the world to their common destiny. And then setting up of an Indian empire...."

#### NOTHING MUCH

Somebody somewhere has "donated" all the land to Mahatma Bhawe. Mahatmaji said: "It is easy to part with a few acres out of thousands of acres in one's possession, but to give away one's entire possession is a rare gift."

We do not see what is there to make a song about bhudani-zing all the land in one's possession. Hundreds of people have given to the great yagna many more acres than they ever possessed.

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# Examination And Assessment

By K. M. Poddar

Headmaster, Ram Mohun Roy Seminary

Before taking up the question of assessment, I should like to consider the present system of the examination which has been attacked from various quarters. Eminent educationists have conducted studies and pointed out the defects of the present system. In their opinion it leads to unintelligent cramming and dishonesty. It puts a great strain and pressure on the pupil. It is inimical to original thinking. It is no real test of the achievements of pupils. Pupils do not pay sufficient attention to their studies throughout the year but exert their utmost just before the examination. They reproduce in the examination what they memorize and remember little after the examination. Thus there is no real assimilation and learning does not become a permanent possession.

Attention has also been drawn to the subjectivity or unreliability of examinations. Studies conducted in this connection have revealed that marks allotted by different examiners to the same answer books differ widely. The mood and attitude of the examiner, the handwriting, general neatness, spelling, style of language, grammar, length of answer, organisation of the subject on the part of the examinee and various other factors influence marking making it subjective and unreliable.

Examination also influences

our method of teaching. There is a tendency to anticipate important questions and teach only those portions from which questions can suitably be set. Thus the whole course is not properly taught. Students depend upon note-books and short cuts and not on text books. Only a few questions requiring long answers are set and as such they can not cover a wide field of the subject matter.

Again we test only the academic attainments of the pupil, i.e., the amount of knowledge acquired by him. This also is not properly done. It is memory which is mainly tested. The capacity to apply knowledge to the practical needs of life is not tested. A person may be a science graduate, but he cannot do without a mechanic when electric current fails because a cut out is fused or there is some defect in a machine. Once there was a renowned scholar who did not know whether 18 yds of cloth would be sufficient for a coat. A scholar who boasted of his learning and looked down upon a boatman for his ignorance was overtaken by a storm and drowned in the river as he did not know how to swim whereas the boatman safely swam ashore. Mere book learning and that also of a limited nature is not of much value in life. Success in life does not depend merely on academic attainments. Personality, traits and ability to

get on well with others are of great importance in life.

The present system of examination does not test the whole personality of a boy. It seeks to evaluate only his intellectual side. It does not test the social, emotional, moral and physical development of a child. Attempts should, therefore, be made to evaluate the whole child as an individual and also a member of society, i.e. his basic skills and ability, understanding and information, intellectual, social and emotional traits, industry, steadiness, interests, attitudes, ideals etc.

It is on account of various defects that many educationists have advocated the abolition of the external examination. In America and in English public schools no public examination is held at the end of the Secondary school stage. Certificates are given by the Heads of the institutions on the strength of the school records. Conditions in our country are not yet ripe for the total abolition of the external examination. But the defects should be brought down to the minimum. Due regard should be paid to the day-to-day work of the pupil in and outside the school.

It has been a wise move on the part of the Education Department to introduce assessment as a part of secondary schools examination. Assessment encourages regularity



3rd April, 1954

of work. It gives the teachers greater control over the pupils and promotes discipline. It establishes closer contact between the teachers and the pupils. It counteracts the vagaries of the external examination and is a surer test of the achievements of the pupils. Assessment should, therefore, play a vital part in our examination system. To make it effective, conditions for its satisfactory working should be created and difficulties removed.

In Bihar secondary school examination, 20 marks have been set apart for assessment in every paper. So far as a particular paper is concerned class work, class notes, home assignment, regularity of work and neatness should be given due consideration. Suitable tests should be framed to check the genuineness of home work. Monthly tests has also been suggested in this connection. Assessment has been designed primarily to encourage regularity of work and to counteract the evils of formal examination. Experience has shown that some teachers have lost sight of the main objective of assessment which has been made on the basis of monthly tests only, thus defeating the very purpose of assessment. This danger should be guarded against. It may be considered whether monthly tests are at all necessary. Monthly tests, if retained should be of an 'character. There should be no previous notice. Different parts of work should be assessed together and not separately.

Sometimes different parts of a subject are taught by different teachers. This can not always be avoided. In such a case assessment in the subject as a whole becomes a bit difficult. But the Headmaster should carefully study the assessment made by different teachers and make his own final assessment in the paper as a whole.

Out of 20 marks in each paper, 5 marks have been set apart for ingenuity shown by the pupil in the application of any of the principles learnt to his every day life or his craft work or in the solution of a problem confronting him or (in the case of language subjects) for the proficiency shown by him in debates, in writing articles in magazines, in the right use of the school or class library etc.

Further guidance in awarding marks for ingenuity is essential. A pupil may have ingenuity in a particular subject and he may be awarded high marks for ingenuity in that subject. He may not have any ingenuity in other subjects. In the secondary school examination we have practically ten subjects including classics. A pupil who has ingenuity only in one subject loses 45 marks in 9 other subjects. In actual practice ingenuity has been differently interpreted by different Headmasters. If the object be to find out the special aptitude and interests of a pupil, there is no reason why he should be made to lose marks in

other subjects. Again there should be detailed and specific instructions regarding the kind of ingenuity expected from the pupils in every subject. In literature, we may take into consideration debate, writing articles etc. But if a student be proficient in debate, should we give him mark in Paper I or Paper II ?

Another point to be considered in connection with assessment is the absence of a teacher for a long period. A teacher may be on long leave on medical ground and a suitable substitute may not be available. It is also possible that one teacher leaves the school and another teacher has not yet been available. For sufficient reasons such as strike, flood, absence of a teacher etc, assessment for a particular period in a particular subject has got to be condoned. Students should not suffer for no fault of theirs. Attempts should, however, be made to make the students do some work during this period.

Apart from assessing the intellectual attainments of a pupil, 100 or 200 marks may be set apart for assessing the different aspects of a pupil's personality. We should give a pupil scope for a variety of activities which may be organised by the students, school authorities or outside agencies. The school may be made a centre of community activities. Occasionally students may be taken

outside to acquire richer experience. To arrange for different kinds of activities, greater financial resources should be placed at the disposal of school authorities.

There should be proper records of all the activities of pupils. Records of physical, social, moral and emotional achievements through different activities such as games, sports, physical exercises, school panchayat, student's council, class room activities, monitorship, agriculture, gardening, assemblies, school lunch, scouting, N. C. C., camping, outings, debates, magazines, drama, music etc. should be maintained in proper forms. Forms of cumulative records recommended by the Secondary Education Commission may be adopted with necessary modifications. To give the pupil proper guidance and individual assistance, it is necessary for us to know him as thoroughly as possible—his home environment, social and economic conditions, health; his inhibitions, interests, aptitudes, ambitions etc. The different qualities, displayed by him such as, co-operativeness, friendliness, integrity, leadership, responsibility, dependability, original thinking, initiative, persistence, self-confidence, emotional control etc. should be carefully observed and noted. Reports should be issued to the guardians from time to time and their co-operation secured for the betterment of the pupils.

To bring about uniformity in standard in different schools, there should be clear and definite instructions. In assessment reliance is placed on

teachers and headmasters. No one can examine better than the teachers who know the pupils. In the beginning there may be lapses here and there. Guardians' influence, unfair means etc. may affect reliability to a certain extent. But trust begets trust. In course of time a reasonable degree of reliability will be attained. Suitable checks should, however, be devised. In case of serious over marking, marks should be modified after suitable scrutiny. Members of assessment committees should have clear ideas and perspective. They should be free from local jealousy. They should enjoy the confidence of the schools visited by them. In the selection of the member, due regard should be paid to qualification, experience, ability and integrity. Steps should be taken to bring about greater co-ordination among the mem-

bers of the different assessment committees.

Maintaining record of all the achievements of the pupils entails a heavy burden on the teachers. Already the number of teachers in a school is insufficient. Introduction of assessment has added to the difficulty. To make assessment real and effective, steps should be taken to increase the number of teachers in each school.

The success of any scheme, however good it may be depends upon the teachers who will have to work it. No good work can be expected from half-starved teachers. It is, therefore, essential to give the teachers a living wage. Moreover, without adequate salary the teaching profession will fail to attract qualified and sincere teachers upon whom the success of assessment depends.

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# A Hindi Manufacturing Factory

By H. V. KAMATH

A couple of years ago, a visitor from Delhi went round and round the corridors of the Nagpur Secretariat, urgently wanting to telephone to someone. No signboard with the word "Telephone" caught his eye anywhere: unfortunately he was not aware that that hateful English word had been obliterated, giving place to the lovely Hindi word "Doorbbash"

Thoroughly fagged out, he at last made bold to ask a loitering chaprasi "Where is the telephone?" "Right over your head", drawled the sleepy peon. Looking up, the visitor read the magic word "Doorbbash", was speechless for a moment, and then broke into a loud guffaw. He went in, telephoned, and came home happy that Madhya Pradesh was leading India towards the millennium of a linguistic revolution! On inquiry, he learnt that Raghuvira, the well-known philologist had already been appointed as the high priest of Madhya Pradesh Government headed by the Septuagenarian, Ravishankar Shukla. Also about the time, the official synonym for "bicycle" was "dwichakra". Besides the fact that a cycle is not only the two-wheeled vehicle, it was discovered that even an illiterate rustic preferred the word "Siakij" to "dwichakra".

Raghuvira's moving finger however, wrote, and having writ, moved on; he was determined to destroy all traces of English, ignorance (can it be?) of the fact that English has

never hesitated to borrow, and even assimilate, words from all languages, including Hindi, without hatred or prejudice towards any. But, Shukla and Raghuvira are made of sterner stuff; and the coinage of "ersatz" Hindi continued, and still continues, to be mined in the Academy at Nagpur.

The learned doctor's mission is to make India safe from English, but he does not yet regard Japanese and Indonesian as dangerous, and would gladly teach them to willing pupils! Apparently English is the only foreign language that is taboo; and with this dictum Shukla heartily concurs.

At the recent inauguration ceremony in the Nagpur Secretariat, the switch over to Hindi and Marathi for practically all official purposes in Madhya Pradesh except the proceedings of the High Court, the Board of Revenue, and the correspondence between Madhya Pradesh and other States and the Centre, was formally announced by Chief Minister Shukla; addressing the officers high and low, assembled on that occasion, he perorated "Today English is dead. Hindi and Marathi are born. Let us bury English deep"—a fatuous declamation. Earlier Raghuvira had prophesied "English will go just as the English had gone", and even suggested a ban on English newspapers in India, while before him the Chief Secretary putting on a brave face, had

somewhat prosaically stated that despite lack of stenographers, of typewriters, of lexicon copies etc. they should all try their very best to make the change-over a success. Listeners, however, caught a note of pessimism and despair in his voice.

The result of the new dispensation in Madhya Pradesh will be that files emanating from the Secretariat as well as the records of subordinate courts will be a trilingual hotch-potch,—in view of the officially admitted lack of terminology, vocabulary, of stenographers and typewriters. This is bound to lead to further deterioration in efficiency, and signs of it are already in evidence: I have heard it said that in a Secretariat Section where twenty files used to be disposed of in one day, it has touched a new low of five! But of course this is regarded as an inevitable concomitant of a transition period! Raghuvira's lexicon, it is further reported, has not failed to raise a laugh or more a day. Synonyms, such as "gomootrakari" for "zig-zag", "Vajrnchaorna" for "cement", "ankani" for "pencil", "masichoosh" for "blotter", "Kanthalangot" for "necktie", "asandi" for "chair" have rolled off his fertile brain in a profusion that passeth understanding.

For manufacturing 100 Hindi synonyms for technical terms used in the Police Department, the doctor appears to have been paid a paltry sum of

Rs. 12,000, a bare 120 rupees per synonym ! That Dr. Raghuvira's Hindi (facetiously known as Raghuviri in Madhya Pradesh) has not yet been accepted as the standard by the Centre or other States does not worry the doctor or his boss, Shukla imagine the enormous waste and the terrific upset that would ensue from the subsequent nonapproval of even a part of the doctor's vocabulary !

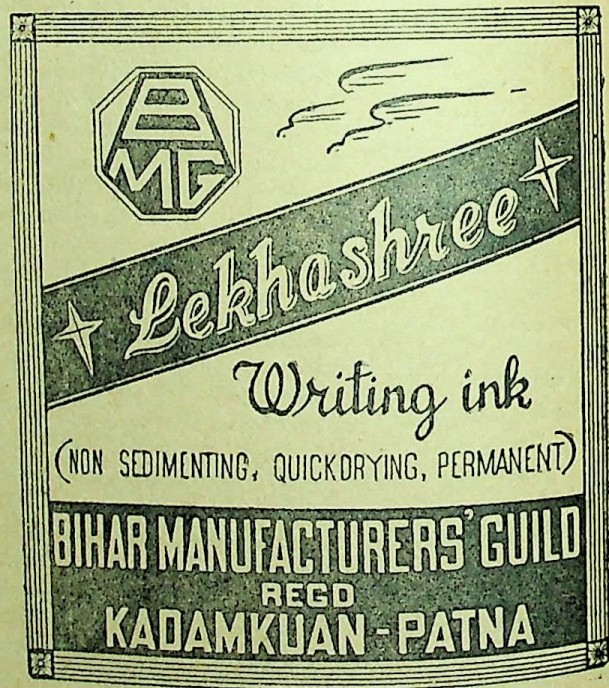
I wish that the Madhya Pradesh Government had hastened slowly in the matter and that there had been a concerted and well-coordinated India-wide policy. The spirit of the Constitution—Articles 848 to 851—envisages a smooth and even transition, and not by jerks and jolts. The growth of a language cannot be artificially forced, and the Constitution has therefore widely provided that even after the stipulated period of fifteen years, commencing from January 26, 1950 for the replacement of English by Hindi, Parliament may be by law provide for the use of the English language for such purposes as may be specified in the law.

When serious economic and social problems are clamouring for attention, the Madhya Pradesh Government decree betrays a curious inversion of priorities. While wishing God-speed to the progress of Hindi and other Indian languages, I am constrained to say that who hates a language hates knowledge ; such a person can be stupid or senile, possibly both. Who buries a language deep buries himself deep in ignorance.

I know it for a fact that Indians enjoy a world wide reputation for being among the best linguists in the world. Let us learn to distinguish between foreign rule and a foreign language; let us not be like the frog in the well. Let us look at the world with open eyes, and we will see that English is taught and fostered in

many non-English-speaking countries that are free and independent, and the same applies to French or Russian or German. The Indian people are crying for food, clothing and housing. Raghuvira can wait, but these problems cannot. Let us put first things first.

—The Current



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# South Korea's Dictator : Singhman Rhee

When he was in Japan in October 1946, Mark Gayn, an American journalist, took a trip to South Korea, where he called upon Syngman Rhee. In his "Japan Diary", published later, Mark Gayn wrote that as he was listening to Rhee, it occurred to him that Rhee was a sinister and dangerous personality, an anachronism who, having survived till our era, was using the stamps and machinery of democracy to gain his brazen, anti-democratic ends.

In South Korea mark Gayn saw the machinery of that "democracy" which Syngman Rhee, a stooge of the Americans, was manipulating under their supervision. With the blessings of the Americans, he dealt ruthlessly with all progressive elements. The elections to South Korea's "National Assembly", which Gayn witnessed, were conducted by Syngman Rhee's police forces. Gayn also talked to the electors, who, as it turned out, did not even suspect that there had been elections in the country, in which they had supposedly participated.

Syngman Rhee's regime has plunged South Korea into terrible disaster. The population is in the grip of famine, poverty, disease and unemployment. Syngman Rhee, the Americanized Korean who spent 35 years outside of Korea and who, according to Gayn, has even a poor command of the Korean language,

is selling wholesale the country's vast resources to his American masters. The ex-commander of the 8th army Eichelberger, has taken possession of the tungsten mines in Naesong. All the other tungsten mines in South Korea are likewise owned by American firms.

For the tungsten, Syngman Rhee got 60,000 million von. The Koreans were told that Syngman Rhee would use the money to buy food, but the population saw none of the tungsten, or of the "purchased" food supplies. It lives in dreadful misery. Suicides account for one-third of the deaths in South Korea, Paul Mousset, a French journalist who recently visited South Korea and made every effort to picture the situation there in soft tones, had this to say: "Korea is not only a country in which there is not enough to eat; for the Koreans it is also a land of fear—fear of still greater famine, fear of cold, and above all, fear of the bureaucrats and spies, and especially the police. If a person thinks not in line with the official doctrine, or is suspected of heterodoxy, that person and his family are likely to get into big trouble."

According to the American magazine "Life", a million civilians perished in South Korea as a result of the war.

The Americans worked out a so-called "rehabilitation programme" for Korea, about which the same "Life" maga-

zine said that it would have a favourable effect on American business, because Korea has a great deal to offer. The economic agreement between the United States and the Syngman Rhee clique, that was signed in December last year, was fully in line with the expectations of American business, which regards South Korea as its colony and reckons on getting a "great deal" out of it. Under that shackling agreement, the Americans will bring to South Korea not equipment for its damaged enterprises, but various goods at extremely low tariff rates. As for America's rehabilitation "aid" Syngman Rhee is using the dollars allocated to South Korea, to build a luxury hotel. It is Syngman Rhee's notion that hotel, with its bar rooms, cocktail halls and jazz bands, should finally convince every one who still doubts the grandeur of the "free world". A short while ago, the Seoul correspondent of the "New York Times", Alden, reported ruefully that actually the "rehabilitation programme" in South Korea has not yet been launched at the fault of Syngman Rhee. He then added with misgiving that, meanwhile, North Korea was getting plentiful aid and that rehabilitation has been started there on grand scale.

A peculiar trait of the Syngman Rhee clique is its burning-hatred for the Korean people, who respond with

equal hatred. To remain eye to eye with his people, is what Syngman Rhee feared most of all. That is why a "mutual security" pact between the United States and Syngman Rhee was concluded on the next day after the signing of the armistice in Korea.

Statements by American leaders appeared recently in the Press to the effect that two U. S. Divisions were slated for withdrawal from South Korea. The papers reported that those two Division are to be transferred to Indo-China where Bao Dai, another of the "free world" representatives, repudiated by his people, is in a grievous predicament. The news about the possible withdrawal of two American divisions frightfully alarmed the Syngman Rhee clique. According to the France Press News Agency South Korea's "Defence Minister" Son Von Ir declared that "the withdrawal of the American divisions would increase the danger of a serious demoralization of the South Korean population". Is there any need for more conclusive proof that the South Korean population is held in obedience with the aid of American bayonets? The very thought that even a fraction of the U. S. forces might be recalled from South Korea, throws Syngman Rhee and his henchmen into a shudder. The vibration of

their trembling knees was so strong as to be felt in Washington, where it was hastily stated that the withdrawal of two Divisions will be "compensated" by the U. S. Command.

Another peculiar trait of the Syngman Rhee clique is its mania for war.

Owing to the efforts of the Korean-Chinese side and the peace-loving forces of the world, agreement was reached in June last year on all points of the armistice in Korea. Egged by a burning desire to thwart the armistice at all cost, Syngman Rhee resorted to provocation; he broke the agreement that had already been reached on the repatriation of prisoners of war, and removed about 30,000 Korean war-prisoners from the POW camps. The aggressive circles in the United States sought to prove that they had nothing to do with the matter, and that Syngman Rhee had acted without their knowledge. In that connection, one of the British newspapers asked: Since when is it, that not the dog wags the tail, but the tail wags the dog?

Syngman Rhee's downright provocation caused serious anxiety among all the allies of the United States. In British Parliament, one of the Labour Party leaders, Herbert Morrison, declared outspokenly that Syngman Rhee aims to precipitate a world catas-

trophe. Commenting on the situation, the Australian news paper "Sun" said: It serves us right for leading support to Syngman Rhee, whose regime is reactionary and undemocratic. It's simply ridiculous that we recognize him, and Generalissimo Franco, and Chiang Kai-shek, but refuse to recognize the real head of China's Government, Mao Tse-tung.

Since the signing of the truce, Syngman Rhee has never stopped talking about how many more days he is going to "tolerate" the armistice. Only a short while ago, Syngman Rhee's "Defence Minister", the aforementioned Son Von Ir, urged the United States to drop atom bombs on North Korea and China.

Like Chiang Kaishek, Syngman Rhee is an integral element of the current "cold-war" policy pursued by the aggressive circles of the United States. He personifies that "free world", to which American propaganda give so much publicity.

All the schemes of the Syngman Rhee clique are designed to stir up war. And no matter how often Syngman Rhee's masters profess that they stand for peace, their connection with Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek is one of the many substantial proofs that expose their ambition to heighten the world tension.

# Education In The United States

By Earl J. McGrath

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, says that "every child has a right to education." The measure of education of a people is therefore, a measure of the success of a democratic government, as well as measure of its potentialities for the future.

One in every five persons in the United States is attending full time day school. In 1951-52, out of an estimated population of about 156,000,000 people, elementary and secondary schools enrolled 30,500,000 pupils. Colleges and universities, commercial and nurse training schools enrolled about 25,000,000 students. Many others were studying in private trade and vocational full-time day schools, or enrolled in part-time education in evening and summer school classes and in correspondence schools at all levels. Last year more than nine out of ten young people of the age to do so graduated from the elementary school, completing eight years of training. More than half the young people of age to do so graduated from high school marking completion of 12 years of schooling.

The government exists to serve the people. Provision of opportunity for education is one way the government serves the people.

The Federal Government exercises sovereign powers by a Constitution adopted in 1781. Because education was not listed

among the powers delegated in the Constitution, no directive from a central office tells how things shall proceed. Local self-government is the outstanding characteristic of American education. Each of the forty-eight States has a department of education which exercises powers corresponding to those of ministries of education in other countries.

In the Federal Government structure is an Office of Education primarily for exchange of information and experience among the States. It gathers statistics on all phases of school work and distributes them so that people in the several States can compare their educational programmes with those of other States. Upon request from State authorities, it brings nation-wide experience and expert counsel to the solution of State problems. It facilitates exchange of students and administers exchange scholarships. In certain areas of particular national interest, the Office of Education administers Federal funds.

Since each of the forty-eight States has the authority and responsibility to organize its educational system as it may deem appropriate, educational practices and policies differ among the States. Yet common ideals do prevail, unifying the school system to the point that a child may move easily in one State to a school in another State.

One result of the Federal structure is that improve-

ments in education can be initiated in any State, community, or school. Any State can serve as a laboratory or testing ground for an experiment, and all State can benefit from the experience.

Schools developed in separate and isolated communities out of local concern and initiative. The people in a community elected representatives, to employ the teachers, arrange a course of study, erect buildings, and set tax rates to cover the planned expenditures. Schools today are largely based upon that pattern. In 1949-50, it is

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estimated, there were 83,237 local school boards in which some 281,000 men and women gave public service, for the most part without salary, in the management of the schools.

#### Education of the average child

"John" the average boy in the United States, starts to school at six years of age. (Many children in the cities go to nursery school and kindergarten before this age; in some States the child may start as late as eight years of age.) John will enroll in Grade One of the public elementary school. During eight years in the elementary school, John learns to read and write; he gains skill in handling numbers. He learns to communicate his thoughts. He studies geography, the

history of the world and of his own nation, and elementary science. He has daily physical education activities, periodic physical examinations, and instruction on the care of his body. John engages in some musical, artistic, and other creative activities. In the elementary school he learns things useful to people of all occupations.

John attends school 178 days a year, five days a week, Mondays to Friday, beginning at 8-45 in the morning and ending at 3-30 in the afternoon.

At the age of 14 years, John completes the elementary school, along with nine out of ten of his fellows who began the first grade.

Entering the public high school, John finds choices in courses. He may prepare for college. He may take a

commercial course, gaining skills in typing and book-keeping which will open the door for him in the business world. He may take a vocational course, learning to use tools of a trade to become a farmer, or a homemaker. He may take a general course, making as good use as possible of four years in common learnings and cultural activities.

The system just noted is an important feature of the American educational system. The early life together in the school for all the people is counted an important part of the training for the later life together. America honours hand skills as it does intellectual skills; American industry rewards the skilled labour as richly as it does many of its professional workers.

## Preventing Tooth Decay

By GEORGE MANN

Your teeth bothering you a little these days? Perhaps one of them aches a bit or another has a spot which means decay. And even if you haven't a toothache, that's no guarantee that everything is going well with your teeth.

If it's any comfort, there are plenty of others in the same

According to one authority, by the time the age of 70 is reached eight women out of 10, and seven men out of 10, have lost all their teeth. And chances are that your teeth are twice as bad if you live in the east rather than in the west. Nobody knows, why exactly, but it may be due to the presence or absence of flourine in the drinking water, which seems to

ward off tooth decay. Or it may depend on other chemicals. A good deal of this tooth trouble can be chalked up to sheer poverty. Almost 30,000,000 people in the U. S. alone may be classed as dental paupers. And a great many of those who could go, do'nt. About one person in four gets around to seeing his dentist once a year, let alone twice.



3rd April, 1954

Why is it necessary for us to see the dentist? In short why do tooth decay?

For 8,000 years men have been arguing about that question. And it has become a great deal more important today. The more our civilization progresses the more man's teeth decay.

The obvious clue to the causes of tooth decay when we compare primitive teeth, free from decay and our rapidly decaying teeth lay in checking upon the difference in food. Certain types of food seem to be responsible for increased tooth decay. Doctors have found that when rats are allowed to drink popular soft drinks their teeth seem to decay more rapidly. Gingerale, grape juice and cranberry juice also harm rats' teeth. All such fluids contain acids. And when sugar is added to them, they cause the teeth to decay even more rapidly.

The theory as to sugar causing tooth decay is simple. Sugar serves as a food for the bacteria, and the more decay. Some dentists believe that avoiding all sugary and starchy foods for a couple of weeks in a row will starve out the bacteria, and ward off tooth decay, at least for a while. Refined sugar seems to be the food the bacteria love on. Natural sugars in fruits are safer for the teeth. And hand in hand with the apparent increase in tooth decay is the fact that the consumption of sugar is about

10 times greater than it was 100 years ago, to offset the effect of the sugar, some dentists believe that eating an apple after every meal will clean up the starches and sugars that may remain in the mouth.

Scientists believe tooth decay can result from acids formed in the mouth 20 minutes after starches and sugars are eaten. Fresh fruits and vegetables have the general result of making the saliva more alkaline, and thus cut down on the production of these acids. Further, if the teeth are brushed immediately after a meal, the acids that help cause decay may not form, and thus the chances of decay are less.

Another aspect of the problem is being tackled by the researchers at the University of Illinois. They believe that the acid-producing bacteria in the saliva are killed off by the presence of ammonia compounds—just as they may be fed by sugar. In fact, the deadly effect on the ammonia is lost if a person eats too much sugar and starches, thus disrupts the natural chemical balance of saliva. The remedy is to add ammonia compounds to the saliva. This can be done by means of mouthwash or a toothpaste. So far, the results from such tests are hopeful.

Food also affects our teeth because of the soil on which it grows. If the soil lacks essential food elements, such as calcium, the plants that grow on the soil

will also lack essential food element. And the people who eat the plants will not get the right foods to make healthy teeth. The soil may also give off certain chemicals into drinking water which prevent decay. Drinking water that contains much fluorine may cause the teeth to become mottled, but it also helps protect the teeth against decay, as many surveys have shown.

And there is definite indication that our emotions may hasten tooth decay. Some doctors and dentists believe that the emotional stress of modern society is partly responsible for increased tooth decay. We know that anger and fear can change the chemical nature of the blood, and there is a good chance that they can likewise change the chemical content of the saliva, which other research has shown to be important in causing decay.

In spite of all the progress in research, all the hope that the new methods promise, teeth still decay. One of the soundest methods of treating tooth decay is still to provide thorough and consistent dental treatment for all school children. Catching the cavities early will save their teeth. Wherever such a programme has been tried it has succeeded remarkably in cutting down the amount of decay in adult mouths. True, the costs are high, but there is little question that the results in terms of dental health are worth it.

# Case of Nagendranath Bhattacharya

To  
Comrade Jagannath Sarkar,  
General Secretary, Bihar  
Trade Union Congress,  
Langertoli, Patna 4, Behar,  
India,

Dear Comrade Sarkar,

I have read with attention your letter and the letter of Shri Nagendranath Bhattacharya, and should like to express my very warm support of the fight that you are conducting against victimisation and for elementary trade union rights.

Yours faithfully,  
Sd. Harry Pollitt  
General Secretary

(This message relates to new famous industrial case of Sri-Nagendra Nath Bhattacharya, victimised for Trade Union activities by the New India Assee, Coy. Patna Office.)

When I say I want justice, I necessarily mean that some wrong has been done to me. I was an Insurance employee. And when the alleged wrong was done to me, there was an Insurance Act to regulate the Insurance Industry. There was also a department of Insurance in the Government of India to supervise the working of the Insurance Companies. Yet mine was a case, that did not fall within the purview of these authorities. As a result I have been shouting and shouting for justice for a half a decade since 1949 when I was thrown out of employment. I was a typist-clerk in the Patna Branch of New India Coy. Office of an Insurance institution which claims to be the second largest

of Indian Insurers. I tried to form a Trade Union of the employees in Patna office. My initiative in that regard cost me my services. This in nutshell is my story. But through these pages I will tell the readers a strange story of how I am being put to inhuman hardships simply because of the complacent attitude of the Govt. of India. I am a family man with 10 dependents. I am going without employment since April 1949. How I am managing to keep alive is another story of extreme pathos, which I will not inflict on the readers, I will narrate only that part of my story which will be of general interest for all those who are workers under this industry.

Under the Industrial Disputes Act 1947, a machinery has been set up to look into the grievances of both the EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES. Not only that it is also a task of this machinery to harmonise the relationship between the employers and employees. Naturally therefore I referred my case to the Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India, for justice. It was in 1949. My file began to move in Govt. Departments, like a shuttle cock. Ultimately in 1951, Govt. of India referred my case to an Industrial Tribunal for examination and award. Strangely enough they cancelled their own order of reference, for reasons best known to them. They made a second reference in later part of the same year.

The Tribunal could not work, the Coy. moved the Patna High Court and the Government had

to withdraw their order in 1950. The Govt. of India's jurisdiction was challenged. And the Hon'ble Patna High Court gave judgment in Company's favour. Well, the Govt. of India, inspite of repeated requests, did not propose to go to Supreme Court of India.

This shows that the Coy. is deliberate in not allowing my case to be examined, and the Govt. of India lacks in seriousness. But I was not only to count my days. I exerted all my efforts to raise a hue and cry. The central Trade Union Organizations of India such as A. I. T. U. C., AINTUC, UIUC, and Hind Mazdoor Sabha also pleaded and have been pleading to Govt. for me. The U. S. S. R. in their official publication "New Times" occasionally plead on my behalf. My case is also under active consideration of the International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. But uptil now nothing tangible has been done by the Govt. of India.

All I want is Justice. I am confident that if ever the facts of my case are examined in a Court of Law, it will be established that a grievous wrong has been done to me. It is this confidence alone that has kept me alive. But after all I am a human being and shall physically perish some day. I may die unheard, but let the Insurance employees and the Underwriters know that I have chosen to die only in defence of the fundamental right to form association.

Nagendra N. Bhattacharya  
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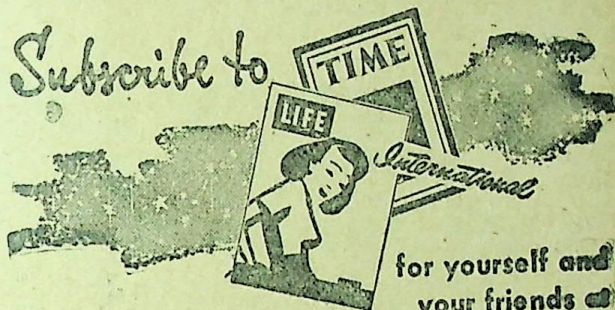
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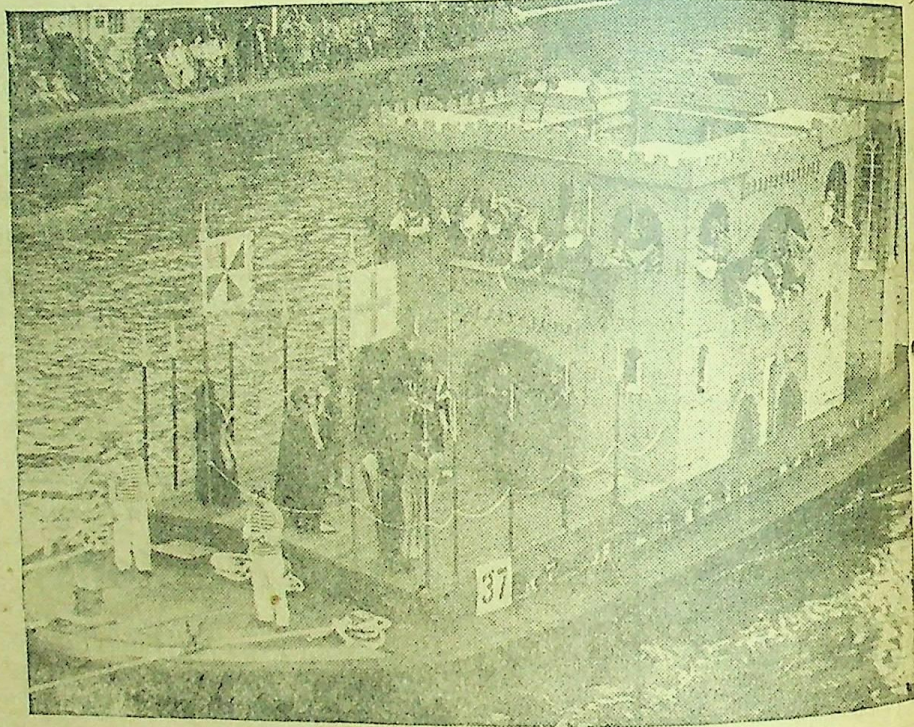
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### PAGEANTRY ON THE THAMES

Over 200 rivercraft, 10 bands on floating stands, 5,000 participants on vessels of all kinds and many thousands of spectators on the river front and on four Thames bridges from the Tower to Waterloo, saluted H.M. Queen Elizabeth II and H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh in the biggest river pageant for four centuries. The Queen and the Duke watched the spectacular scene from a dais on the Festival Hall Pier, Westminster. Young city actors and actresses took part in tableaux in gaily decked processional barges depicting nearly 1,000 years of English history. Royal Marines, Cadets of the Girls' Nautical Training Corps, a mixed flotilla of river-tugs, barges, yachts, cabin-cruisers, canal boats, launches, little ships that sailed from the Thames to Dunkirk, new mine-watching vessels and some of the Royal Navy's latest and fastest patrol boats—all these went to make the long pageant headed by the Lord Mayor of London members of the City Corporation and the Mayors of 26 riverside Boroughs from Gravesend to Twickenham. One of the tableaux showing the Lord Mayor of London in 1357 welcoming the Black Prince and John of France at the foot of London Bridge.