

# Behar Herald

Editor: M. C. Samaddar

Established in 1874

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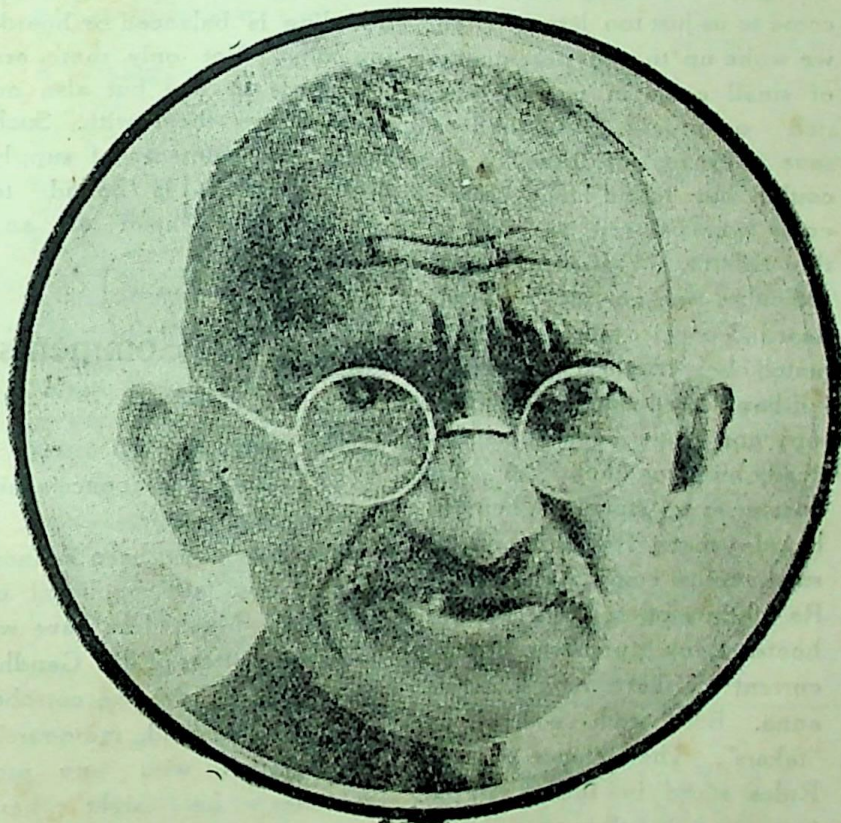
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12 PAGES, TWO ANNAS



Mr. Gandhi has begun a 21 day fast



# Behar Herald

Patna

Tuesday, February 16, 1943

## BAD BUSINESS

We are sorry that we are unable to appreciate the business acumen of those who are engaged in building up vast hoards of small coins. After all there is just as much sense in merely hoarding small coins as in the burying of bones by a dog. If the hoarders imagine that scarcity alone would send up the value of small coins so high that ultimately people would offer handfuls of rupees for one copper pice, they are sadly mistaken. The price of copper is not likely to go so high as to make it dearer than gold even if the war continues upto 1993. The current belief that Rs. 70 worth of small coins can be sold by weight for Rs. 100 is also without any foundation. We tried to follow the prevailing fashion and turn small-coin-hoarders, but as it has always been with us throughout a long life, ideas come to us just too late. When we woke up to the potentiality of small coins in making one rich over-night, we tried to save as many of these as we could, but found that small coins were as rare as snow in the Sahara. With the greatest difficulty, we got up a small hoard (3 copper pice, in empty match box, farthest corner of left-hand drawer, third from top) and have been metaphorically hugging them to our bosom ever since. When we heard that Rs. 70 worth of small coins could be sold for Rs. 100, we offered our modest hoard to any purchaser at their current market rate, viz. one anna. But there have been no "takers". The Defence of India Rules stand in the way of our inserting advertisements in the Behar Herald—"Pice for sale". It seems to us that it is futile to try to get rich by selling copper coins.

Even assuming that Rs. 70 worth of small coins can be sold for Rs. 100, (a fact vehemently denied by the Government of India) what return does it bring for one's investment? A paltry 43% profit that no self-respecting businessman would look at to-day. One can hoard any one out of a long list of things and make profits of 100 to 500%. A pros-

pective hoarder might hoard shoe-cream and make a profit of 300%. He might lay by a stock of any of the following,—fountain pens, fountain pen ink, tooth-brushes, any toilet article, safety razor blades, phenyle, methylated spirit, lubricating oil, motor accessories, spectacle frames, any tinned provision, in fact anything he can think of and of which a supply is still available and his profits will never be less than 100%. Why should the harum-scarum Haradhans of the world take it into their silly heads that small coins should be hoarded for profit? Hoard for profit by all means but do not select for hoarding a thing that brings the smallest return.

We do not know if there is any truth in the theory that intending profiteers have planned a scientific system of hoarding. They are hoarding both goods and coins in the same proportion. The shortage of things brought about by hoarding is balanced by hoarding coins. Not only there are no goods to buy but also no coins to buy them with. Such delicate adjustment of supply and demand is bound to gladden the heart of any economist.

## Notes & Comments

### White Man's Burden

Mr. Gandhi has once again begun a fast.

We have never been supporters of any fasts,—political or otherwise. Much less have we been supporters of Mr. Gandhi; very seldom have we corroborated what he said, more rarely collaborated with any programmes he might have chalked.

But we have never disbelieved Mr. Gandhi's sincerity. Neither do we disbelieve in the Indian's inherent aspirations for freedom.

Political ideologies would naturally differ; if not, the world would be a rational one. If so, the means to such achievements—the political "weapons"—would also differ.

Mr. Gandhi and Lord Linlithgow can never see eye to eye; their political visions are distinct. No good can come out of an attempt to apportion

responsibilities—the question of prestige on the Imperial side and the natural sentiments of the other would weigh unevenly.

But one thing is certain. Mr. Gandhi sought for an interview with the Viceroy before he would launch on any movement; he wanted to see the Viceroy once again before he would undertake the fast. And he was refused. And refused on assumptions only. And a presumption too—that no Indian, not even Mr. Gandhi, can talk terms about his motherland.

### Error Of Judgment

It was a tactical blunder on the part of Mr. Fazlul Huq to tell the Turkish Press Delegation at Calcutta that "Turkey has shown what an oriental nation can do under proper auspices". The Turks never consider themselves to be orientals any more than they regard themselves to be pious Muslims.

Our publicmen do not take the trouble of studying the ideologies prevailing in other countries. They rely too much on intuition and think very little study to be necessary for a man to become a professional politician. Slogans and fixed notions dominate our politics. If the Muslim League leaders have been discomfited by some of the unambiguous pronouncements of Mr. Atay, it is entirely due to the unbounding faith of the former in their own ideas and opinions. The fundamental principle of the new Turkish regime is the relegation of religion as a matter of individual conscience without any claim on the social and political life of the nation. As a matter of fact, it is the same as the attitude of Soviet Russia. The official policy in both countries is to promote by every means the spirit of science in the people. It needs no argument to prove that the spirit of science is the exact antithesis of religion. Science is based on reason and religion on faith, and no amount of sophistry can make the twain meet.

### A New Japanese Threat

The Japanese-controlled Bangkok radio (all radios are somebody-or-other-controlled to-day) is said to have broadcast the following:—

"Wishing Thailand to be a fully civilised country, the Ministry of Interior have given strict instructions with



regard to the chewing of betel-nut. The people are warned that chewing of betel-nut must stop."

"Betel-nut" does not mean *supari* or areca nut as it should. It means *pan*, i. e., betel (leaf) + areca nut.

We know that the use of *pan* is confined only to the tropical monsoon lands of Asia. India, Ceylon, Burma, French Indo-China, Siam, Malaya and the Islands of the East Indies represent the region where *pan* is chewed. Presumably this is the area in which the betel vine grows. As the "fully civilised" Japanese do not chew *pan*, for the sake of co-prosperity, the Thais are urged to give up the habit of centuries.

#### A Problem Solved

One of the main worries of those who organise the annual meetings of College Unions, Hostel anniversaries, Mothers' Days in nursery schools, Founder's Days of high schools, annual celebrations of debating societies etc, is to get a man of sufficient eminence to deliver a speech on these occasions. We are glad to notice that Mr. Rajagopalachariar has decided to preside over any or all of these functions wherever they may be held and explain the superiority of division over unity. Distance is no deterrent for him. It is all the same to him whether it be Delhi, Cuttack or Trivandrum. He is prepared to prove to his own entire satisfaction that (1) a 'dhoti' cut up into two or more pieces is better than one that is worn out in the middle, (2) a bundle of sticks is too heavy to be of use to any one, but the separate sticks can be very efficiently employed to break heads with (poor Aesop!), (3) that it is better to have hydrogen and oxygen gases than water molecules in which the atoms of hydrogen and oxygen are at loggerheads.

#### Munim Khan

The Government of India have announced the issue of two-rupee notes from this month. We think this innovation to be an entire superfluity. During the last war, two-and-a-half rupee notes were issued but these were never popular and their circulation was stopped after a short time. If new notes are to be printed, we would much rather have 8 anna and 4 anna notes for

which there is a crying need. Luxuries come after necessities and the issue of two-rupee notes in the country when people are in great distress for want of enough 8-anna and 4-anna bits is like arranging for cake-making when bread is not available.

#### A Scale Model

Ever since Mr. Jinnah raised the slogan of Pakistan, many people have wondered what Pakistan would be like. Mr. Jinnah has never taken the trouble to oblige the curious, but recently a section of students of the Dacca University have given a realistic foretaste of what things would be like in Pakistan. As far as we could gather from the newspapers, it is several broken heads and one life for singing a song on the glories of the motherland. After such ocular demonstration, all doubts and speculations should be at rest.

When Mr. Rajagopalachariar officiates at the inauguration of Pakistan, he should also see to it that a sufficient number of heads are available to be broken by ironbars and hockey sticks.

#### A Dialogue

The following poem was written a few days after the death of Caryl Capek, the famous Czech writer, by his wife, Olga Scheinpflugova.

How vain in its fever is my heart,  
how weak my distracted mind,

Wherein through the dreamless night  
no comfort can I find,  
As a hundred times to my question:  
Are you here?

Softly the darkness answers:  
"No, my dear!

I am somewhere far away from you,  
where you may not follow me,

Where bright desires have no place,  
nor fear, nor bravery,  
Where nothing is left of love or hate,  
and no lies are,

But only an empty mystery that passes  
from star to star.

I am somewhere far away from you,  
and you follow me all in vain

In an endless world that with each death  
seems larger again and again;

I am lost and you may not touch me—  
you who are lost to me—

Oh, it is hard to live, my dear,  
but to die, simplicity.

I am somewhere far away from you,  
and I know not what to do

To melt the pain that binds your heart,  
the grief that tortures you.

But perhaps God once will grant my prayers,  
and some-time I shall appear

In the moonbeams that fall across your desk,  
beside your hands, my dear."

## Is It True

.....That a few cane-growers were recently shot dead by the *men* of a sugar mill situated within Bihar?

.....That Governmental advertisements are distributed to papers as a patronage, or as a reward for flattery, and not as a necessity for publicity?

.....That blood donated for immediate use of private patients by their friends are "usurped" for blood banks?

.....That the recent abrogation of domicile rules in Bihar is only a ruse to make room for some Burma evacuees?

.....That monopolies have been granted for the sale of essential commodities in the town of Patna?

.....That there was a ban on the hoisting of "National Flags" on the "Independence Day"?

.....That the "Grow More Food" Campaign is nothing but a camouflage to divert popular attention from the real problems, just as the National War Front was an attempt to bolster up the average man's antipathy to war efforts?

.....That pencils made in Germany are still available in Bombay?

.....That "Standard Cloth" is really a "happy man's shirt"?

.....That teachers in Bihar cannot now be members of War Committees as such committees savour of politics?

.....That there would be a conscription of doctors, though many a willing candidate has not been called up as yet?

.....That there cannot be any conscription in a dependent country?

.....That armed forces were scattered all over the country even during the Saraswati Pujah?

## NATIONAL WAR FRONT

It is our promise to extend  
such brotherhood throughout  
the earth which gives hope  
all over the world

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT,

January 5



## Sports Topics

THE Bihar Lawn Tennis Championship concluded with Khasu Sen as the winner of the men's singles. Last year's finalists viz. Dilip Bose and K. Sen met this time as well, only the results were reversed. Sen had not been playing quite in accordance with his reputation this season and his performances in the earlier stages of this tournament as well had not aroused much hope that he would be able to beat Bose. As the tournament developed he improved very considerably. The final revealed how well he understands the game as Bose was very frequently out-manouvered. Sen always takes more time to settle and to take control over the game than others. On this occasion also he lost the first set and took three consecutive sets, result being 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 and 6-2. There is some real good tennis in Khasu Sen but it is a pity that the best that is in him has not come out yet. It shall most decidedly reveal itself if Sen takes proper care. We are expecting that from him. This is Sen's second win in this tournament and he has figured in the finals more than any other player.

The men's doubles had not been of so much interest as Dilip Bose and K. Sen were too strong for any other pair. They had not much difficulty in beating H. P. Verma and N. Sen. Verma is a good doubles player and gave a very good account of himself. N. Sen with an injured finger did not try his skill in the singles.

Mr. Rowe figured as the winner of all the three ladies events being partnered with Mrs. Shearer in the ladies doubles and Dilip Bose in mixed doubles. Miss B. Sen should be congratulated for being the finalist in ladies singles and, partnered with Mrs. Roy Chowdhury, in the ladies doubles. We expect Miss Sen would improve further in another year.

A. K. Mitter won the handicap singles and S. Ghosal B. L. T. A. Plate.

Generally speaking the standard of tennis witnessed in the earlier stages was not befitting a provincial Championship but the matter could hardly be

helped with reputed players unable to participate as the Council could not meet their expenses for coming.

A share of the profits would be paid to the Red Cross Fund as was announced by the President, Mr. Justice Rowland.

**WANTED** applicants for temporary appointment as propagandists of the National War Front in the mofassil. There are 52 posts and the candidates appointed will be posted to each Subdivision to work under the District and Sub-Divisional Leaders of the National War Front. The posts will be on a pay of Rs. 80 a month each with Rs. 40 a month as fixed T. A.

Candidates must be educationally well-qualified preferably graduates with Hindi, Urdu or Bengali as a principal subject; should have ability to address public meetings in two at least of the vernacular languages Hindi, Urdu or Bengali or in one of these languages and in one aboriginal language or dialect viz. Mundari, Santali or Ganwari; should also have organizing ability and good physique. Applications should reach the undersigned not later than 1st March 1943. For full particulars see the next issue of the Bihar Gazette.

Secretary,  
National War Front, Bihar,  
11.2.43 PATNA

### NOTICE

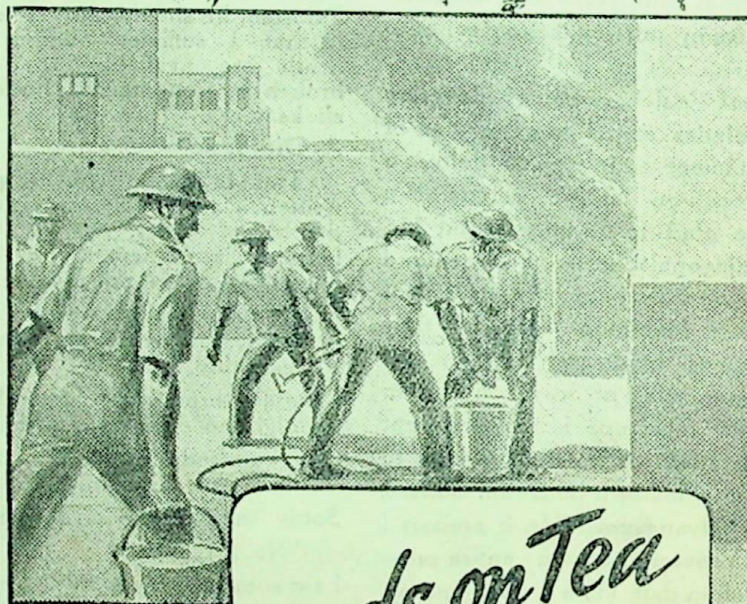
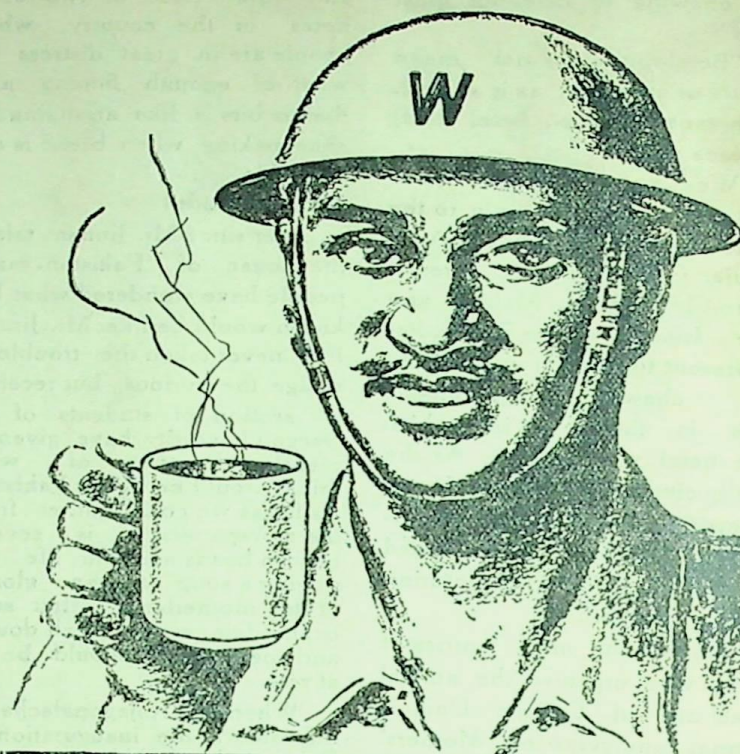
Sealed tenders in the prescribed form are invited for the supply of articles of Diet and other things to the Patna Medical College Hospital for the year 1943-44, on or before the 7th March, 1943. For full particulars consult Bihar Gazette of February, 1943.

R. P. Ghosh,  
Superintendent,  
Patna Medical College  
10th Feb. 1943. Hospital.

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IN TIMES OF STRESS

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**Indian Tea**

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IK 184



# An Acute Problem Of To-day

By Sisir Kumar Mukherjee

A few weeks past, a distressing manifestation of economic dislocation was the looting of grain and cloth shops by large groups of people including women at Nasik. In connection with the incident, 50 people including women appear to have been arrested by the police. The Magistrate too was reported to have issued a drastic order. The forces of law and order thus set in operation at Nasik in a prompt and effective manner to prevent the looting of shops and to maintain tranquility in the affected area. But would such penal measures prove adequate to deal with the root malady of which the incident at Nasik is only an outward symptom? It should be observed that the unfortunate occurrence at Nasik is not an isolated and exceptional one but forms an item in a series of similar incidents in other parts of the country, though perhaps on a smaller and more moderate scale. The adoption of similar measures of punishment ensure no radical remedy to the fundamental cause of such disturbances. They can at best hide the symptom without curing the disease. That disease is the hardship of the masses arising from shortage and very high prices of various essential commodities—in particular of food-stuffs—which can be best termed as the acute problem of to-day.

Before considering the acuteness of the food problem itself, I want to concentrate my attention on its high price level. In the Fourth Price Control Conference the Finance Member tried to throw some light upon the fundamentals of the price situation. But his efforts in this direction were not very successful. He said that the rising prices could not be attributed to the pursuit of the policy of inflation by the Government. The Government, he maintained, can claim to have a clean record in this respect. But inflationary tendencies, he said, have come into operation in another fashion. A great deal of purchasing power has come into the hands of the people due

to increased exports, but since the goods available in the country are much less in proportion to the increased purchasing power the consequence has been that the prices have mounted up. The Finance Member therefore advised that people should now save in the form of defence loans or provident fund and build up thereby a reserve of purchasing power. The question arises however how far is the rise in prices due to the cause mentioned by the Finance Member? That improved favourable trade balance has brought some additional purchasing power into the hands of the people is no doubt true. But as the Finance Member suggested, the rectification of the consequent tendency to higher prices is easily found if foreign exchange obtained for exports can be converted into goods purchased from abroad. Why could not this be done in our country? The export surplus led to the accumulation of sterling balances in the hands of the Reserve Bank. These have been utilised for the purpose of the repatriation of sterling debt. But could not these be used for the purchase of plants and industrial equipment from abroad as eminent businessmen in this country have asked?

But in any case it would be grotesque to suggest that the whole and sole cause of present rising prices is the acquisition of additional purchasing power by the people. Additional purchasing power does not lead to any considerable increase in the demand and therefore prices of elementary necessities of life. The demand for them is proverbially inelastic. But even the prices of essential food-stuffs and necessities has shown a sharply up-ward trend. Diminished expenditure on them may well lead to acute starvation and suffering. Speculation, profiteering and cornering by dealers have all been at work in forcing up prices.

It is true that under conditions of War the sources of supply of goods for civilian needs tend to dry up and become restricted, but it is again in the very interest of war itself

## COMMON AILMENTS NO. 4



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B R O N C H I T I S  
W H O O P I N G  
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A S T H M A T I C  
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Any change of weather makes you liable to catch a cold cough or flu and carelessness in the initial stages of a slight chill can easily turn any of these into bronchitis.

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It stops a developing cold and catarrh of the respiratory passage, bronchitis; allays and soothes the irritable cough in pulmonary tuberculosis, pneumonia, pleurisy; the dry cough children suffer after measles; and the dry hacking night-cough typical in old age. Riosol is a household remedy which every family should buy.

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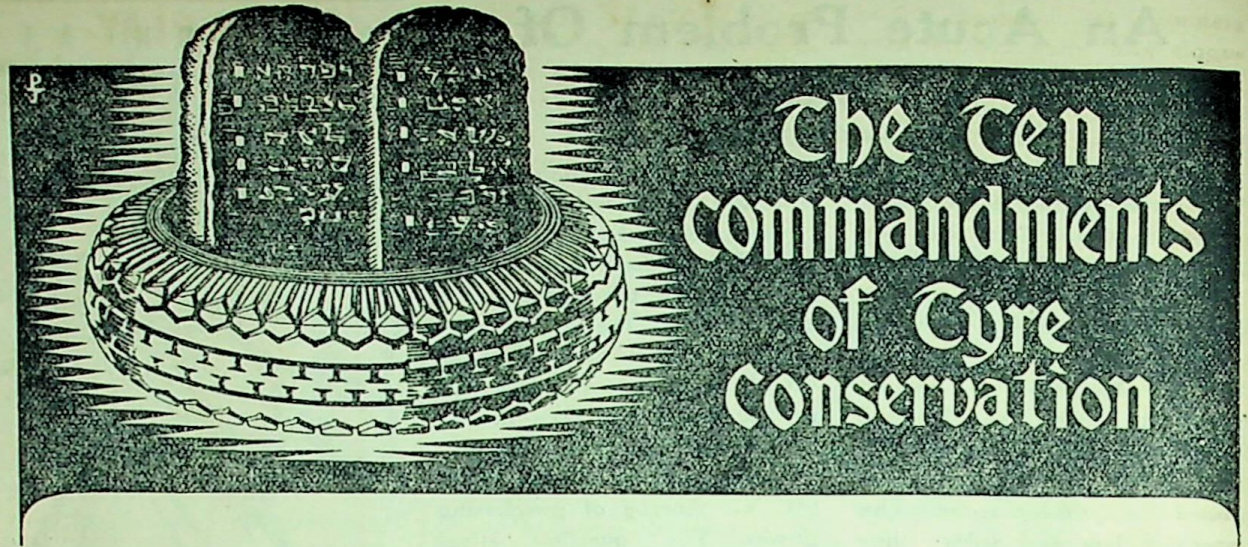
Branches : Ranchi, Dhanbad, Purulia, Giridih, Daltonganj, And at KODARMA.

THE ONLY BANK OF 58 YEARS' STANDING OF BEHAR DOING ALL SORTS OF BANKING BUSINESS including advancing against GOLD ORNAMENTS, LIFE POLICIES and other approved securities and on hypothecation of goods. UNDERTAKES PURCHASE AND SALE OF GOVT. PAPERS and other securities and REMITTANCES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES. Accepts fixed, savings and current deposits—rates of interest 1½ to 4½% P. A. withdrawable by cheques. THERE ARE HOUSE PROPERTIES FOR SALE AT BANK'S DISPOSAL WHERE IT HAS ITS BRANCHES—ALL THESE PLACES BEING NOTED FOR THEIR SCENIC BEAUTY AND AS SANATORIUM.

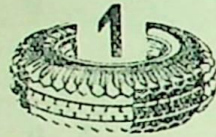


that this process cannot be allowed to proceed too far. If the war front is to remain strong and stable, the home front also needs to be properly fortified by assuring fair conditions of living to the civilian population. This factor lends special urgency to the food problem and allied problems. The food-situation has become a question of urgency not only in this province but particularly in Bengal and in other provinces too. It is indeed an all-India problem embracing in its scope far-flung areas of this vast sub-continent and any adequate and effective approach to this problem must be from an all-India standpoint. The failure to tackle this problem on the basis of proper co-ordination of the demands and supplies of different provinces has been responsible for a considerable amount of economic friction and mal-adjustment with consequent hardship to the people.

The wider background of the problem not only in this province but also in India as a whole has to be taken into account. Indeed, many of the local problems have their roots in conditions obtaining at far-off places in this vast sub-continent. Above all, the special urgency of the problem in Bengal and particularly in Calcutta is too patent to need any special emphasis. It was therefore in the fitness of things that at a conference at the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce representatives of a number of Chambers of Commerce met the Commerce Member of the Government of India, Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar and apprised him of the different aspects of the difficult food problem not only in Bengal but in India. At the Conference at the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Sarkar gave the assurance that the Central Government are trying to remove the deficiencies in their schemes of price and supply control with a view to remedy the hardship and inconvenience now being experienced by the people. There are, however, certain difficulties of the situation, Mr. Sarkar pointed out, under which the Government labour. There is no appreciable chance of importing food from abroad to supplement the supply available within the



## The Ten Commandments of Tyre Conservation



### 1. MAINTAIN YOUR TYRES AT THE CORRECT AIR PRESSURES AT ALL TIMES:

Underinflation produces excessive flexion of the cover walls causing early fatigue to the tyre casing and ultimately break-up of the cotton cords. It also increases the rate of tread wear considerably.

Inflation pressures should be checked with a tyre pressure gauge and corrected not less than once weekly.



### 2. AVOID OVERLOADING YOUR TYRES:

The load a tyre can carry is determined by its size; the maximum load for each tyre size is shown in our price list. Do not exceed that load or the life of your tyre will be considerably shortened.



### 3. INSPECT YOUR TYRES AT REGULAR INTERVALS:

During their use, even on good roads, tyres pick up small stones and other penetrating objects. Tyres should be inspected at regular intervals and these objects removed so that they will not work their way through and cause punctures.



### 4. DO NOT SPEED:

The effect of fast driving on tread wear is well known. The average life of a tyre in relation to speed varies as follows:—

100%	Tread Life at 30 miles per hour.
80%	- do - 40 - do -
55%	- do - 50 - do -

Moderation in the use of speed on all surfaces means long tyre life.

# INDIA TYRES

17-15

country. Other countries have no doubt some surpluses to spare but fundamental difficulty lay in the lack of shipping facilities. While *there is no scope for increasing internal supply* there is the additional difficulty of co-ordinating distribution in an effective and organised way in a country of India's size with its special and peculiar conditions. The food growers themselves are heavy consumers of food-grains and it is only the surpluses left over after their consumption that are available for distribution to the rest of the community. But, of course, in spite of all these difficulties, a workable

and as far as possible, a satisfactory solution of the food problem of the country has to be found. The shortage of food supply in the country is not very serious as the Commerce Member had himself assured on a former occasion, while the difficulties of distribution, serious as they are in a country like India, cannot but yield to a vigorous and determined approach to them. Mr. Sarkar laid stress upon the two-fold solution of the problem through an effective drive for growing more food and through a systematic endeavour to distribute the available supply equitably. That the Central Go-

vernment have already decided to go far towards assuming direct and wide responsibility for regulating the flow of food grains in the country as a whole was emphasised by Mr. Sarkar. Government, he said, were buying off the available surpluses in particular areas and distributing them among the deficit areas with due regards to their respective needs. The detailed task of distribution within a province devolves upon the provincial authorities.

But as the saying goes, fine words butter no parsnips. What is needed in fact is practical results and judged by results the Government's policy and pro-



programme for cheaper food supply and price control have been sorry failures. The trends and developments that have been manifest in national economic life of which the incident at Nasik and similar occurrences may be regarded as samples, should awaken the Government to an acute appreciation of the present situation.

The High Command in London knows, I must confess, very little of the real food situation of India. Recently in one of his speeches Mr. Amery without any hesitation spoke out that if the stocked commodities are brought out in the markets and arrangements are made for proper distribution then there is little chance of arising any problem at all. Famine has not broken out in India and there is no critical food-problem at all—though in some towns food is not always available. The Commerce Member has informed him that the India Government have made a resolution that after the month of March food-stuffs are not to be exported from India and it is arranged that in order to import commodities from outside food-stuffs will be allowed to go out till March. The quantity of these exports is too little. Answering the question of Mr. Sorensen whether the middlemen are storing the food stuffs for higher profits, the Secretary of State said that those questions were under consideration of the Government!

Mr. Amery did not go unheard, he has been truly replied by Prof. N. Ganguli who is now in England. Answering 'Reynolds News', Prof. Ganguli said that only a national government consisting of representatives of the people can solve the food-problem of India because only the national government can command full confidence of the masses. Even the British Indian Association denounced the laissez faire policy of the Government of India as regards the food-problem of the country.

A few days back when Major General Wood and Mr. P. A. Dan, the Food Controller, were in Lahore, they made a plan of distributing the Punjab wheat to all the provinces where wheat-production is deficient. The following is the real condition of food-problem of various pro-

vinces of India according to Dan-Wood Report:—That Punjab, Sind, U. P. and C. P. are self-sufficient as regards their productions of wheat and rice. No internal import of rice is needed in Assam and if production of Ausdhan be favourable then Assam can export rice. The condition of Orissa is similar to Assam. Madras will have to export rice to Ceylon for another two months; the March-instalment being given, all contracts with Ceylon will cease. Sind though unable to export wheat, is exporting rice to Bombay. Bombay is in need of wheat, rice, maize and jowar. For Bombay if the Punjab-wheat be not available Australian wheat may better the situation.

If we read this recommendation between the lines, it is evident that nothing has been mentioned about Bengal where the food-problem is most acute of all provinces.

In 1928 the Royal Agricultural Commission made recommendations both to Central and Provincial Governments to increase their rates of production of food materials but this has not been done satisfactorily as yet. The commission more over recommended to open an Agricultural Research Institute but this has gone unheeded by the Government of India and even at present the Government have hardly thought it necessary to constitute a body like Ministry of Food in Great Britain to cope with the difficult food-problems of to-day.

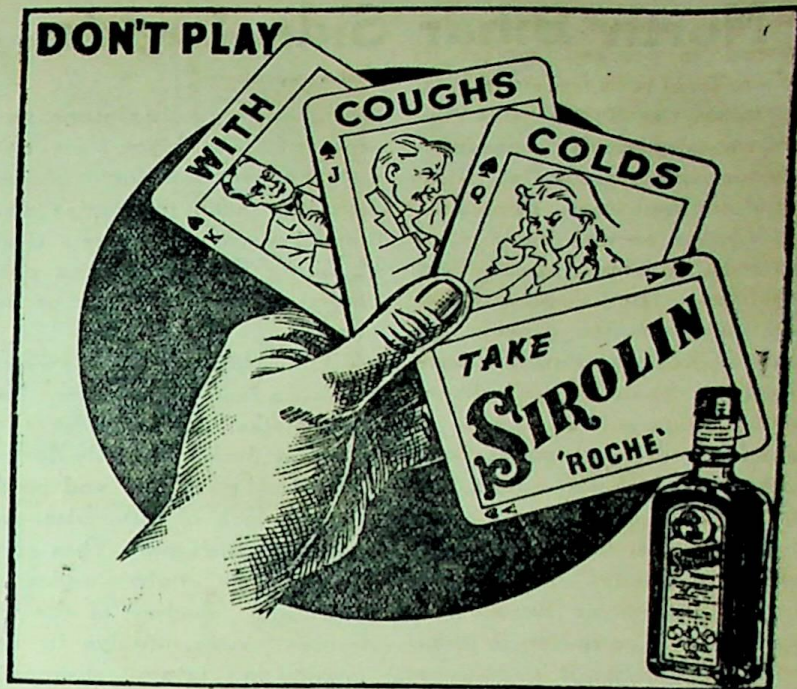
I need not dilate upon the various measures of control and regulation that may be adopted to ease the food-situation. There has been enough discussion and to spare regarding remedial measures and the Government themselves have contributed a fair quota to such discussions. But it is action—swift, positive and decisive—rather than vague and interminable talk that is suited to the present situation. I do not think that given the grit, determination and the will to act on the part of the authorities the present situation cannot be substantially improved. The Government must in fact rouse themselves to a tremendous effort to stabilise economic conditions.

## Pintu Hotel

Chouhatta, Bankipur.  
Patna's PREMIER HOTEL  
Where Quality, Comfort,  
Courtesy and Service

ARE SUPREME.

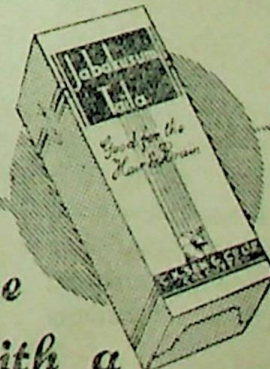
Branch at Macheratta  
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many people are  
buying the BIG  
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We are glad that our suggestion to buy the Big Size Jabakusum has met with an immediate immense response. Hundreds of bottles daily are going out of our laboratory to meet the demand.

We congratulate the buyers on their wisdom. They are not only buying Rs. 5/- worth of Jabakusum for Rs. 4/8/- and thereby saving -/8/-, they are also helping us to save important packing material. By helping us they are actually helping themselves. They are making sure of getting a steady future supply of their favourite hair oil.



*The Big Size  
has met with a  
Big Reception*

C. K. SEN & CO. LTD. JABAKUSUM HOUSE, CALCUTTA



# North Bihar Side Lights

I — Bengalees

Severe economic depression is entirely responsible for making the social life of the Bengalees in North Bihar duller day by day. They do not think it worthwhile to organise social functions like Purnima Sammelan, music or dance festivals or literary conferences. Their energy is diverted to the quest for food. It seems they are now out of tune and they have also forgotten what is called Art and Literature. If you happen to meet any Bengalee at Chapra, Katihar, Bettiah or Purnea or any other town in North Bihar he would surely tell you at first about the much-vexed problems of Kerosine oil, cloth, wheat, paper and other essential commodities. Things are there but out of their control and power to purchase.

You will be glad to learn that almost all the Bengalees, who were out of work, are now employed in newly-started departments or have taken to business. Clerkship is, however, the main profession that has been adopted by a large section of the Bengalees in North Bihar. Then comes business, legal, medical and teaching of course, there are a good number of East Bengal men who live on private tuition only. There are also a few solvent zamindars but idle men as they generally are, they do not like to take to business or industries in spite of their resources to do so.

Petty clerks there are many in Government offices and commercial firms and a few in Courts. They are generally looked down by the so-called aristocrats. They are under-fed, over-worked and over-encumbered with more liabilities and less assets. You may find Kabuliwallas at the doors of many of them. It is better imagined than described how they pass their days. One thing, it pained me to notice, they hold fast to is 'Inferiority Complex'.

Businessmen are comparatively happier people. Some of them have turned to be true banias. They know nothing else but money-making. But recent Price-control, licensing system and

restrictions regarding import and export of many things from one district to another have placed them into much difficulties and they have now become tired of oiling the authorities concerned for a Permit or the like.

The fate of the lawyers, barring a few is no better than petty clerks. Their practice has certainly declined, partly due to communal questions and partly due to lack of enterprise and labour on their part. They go to Courts, sit tight under the charming shadow of the big banian trees, indulge in idle gossips and return disappointed very often.

Doctors, specially those who have got their own clinics or dispensaries, are having good times. Diseases are increasing due to low vitality of the people. You can not give fair justice to patients for you can not get all the medicines you require urgently at the controlled price. That is why when there is a life and death question, middle-class people are compelled to beg borrow or steal and satisfy the chemists and druggists.

The condition of the schoolmasters and professors, although there are not many except at Muzaffarpur, is contrary to each other. Schoolmasters are considered as "Outcastes" while professors think themselves to be the makers of the society. Schoolmasters can not provide their families with what they get as salary. You will find very few schoolmasters who are not engaged in private tuition both in the morning and evening. Professors with fat salaries do not generally like to poke their nose into middle-class people's affairs and they do not mix, except a few, with other people barring some gazetted officers.

A few words about Bengalee students. You will be surprised to know that the habit of smoking is prevalent among some school students, what to speak of collegians. Sometimes they do not respect even grey hair. Perhaps you will pause a little to believe when I say that a 'Smoking Club' has been started recently by some modern girls including some girl-students

in the 'progressive' town of Muzaffarpur. The Smoking Club hold 'Secret Sessions'. However, I have great regards for elderly women who have adjusted themselves in the present circumstances and cut down their household expenses to the minimum. This is a great consolation to a family man.

The club spirit is lacking among the Bengalees of this side. There are more than one club in all the important towns but if you pay surprise visit to any one of these clubs, you may be disappointed to find that only a few youngmen attend it. Elderly men do not generally come out of their homes lest they catch cold. At other places, you will come back with a heavy heart when you will know that the club remains closed for six days in a week. You may find more boys in tea-stalls than in clubs. Drama sections come into existence, say a fortnight before the Durga Puja, when you can enjoy, if you happen to be a member of club, a fight for the main role but however, dramas are steady on the occasion of the Puja. A few months back while I was enjoying a dramatic performance somewhere in Tirhut, I

was taken a back when I was told that in the Drunkard's Scene, which formed a part of the play, the actor actually had a country-made drink.

I think it won't be out of place to write a few lines about district branches of the Bengalee Association, Bihar. There is absolutely no activity of these associations. Members are very few. Meetings are not held and even executive bodies do not meet. Bengalees have, it seems, lost all their faith in the Bengalee Association.

However, it is gratifying to inform you that there has been recently a move at Muzaffarpur to form a Union with a view to co-ordinate the activities of different Bengalee organisations. The Bengalee society is disintegrating into component bodies with the result that we are getting weaker day by day. The Union, if properly organised, will help to cultivate brotherly feeling among the general Bengalee public and save us from the depressing condition if we can stand unitedly against our realities. It is hoped that other towns will follow Muzaffarpur and form such Unions which may establish healthy and cordial relations among the Bengalees in different districts of North Bihar.

Pecici

**WE HAVE SUCH SCENES AT TEATIME—MY HUSBAND COMPLAINS I CAN'T BREW TEA PROPERLY—BUT IT'S NOT MY FAULT REALLY—HE BUYS SUCH INFERIOR TEA**

**MRS. SEN COMES TO THE RESCUE! TELL YOUR HUSBAND TO BUY LIPTON'S HIMALAYAN BLEND—IT'S A FIRST CLASS TEA AT A MOST ECONOMICAL PRICE**

**THIS TASTES GOOD! MRS. SEN GAVE US A GOOD TIP—& THE PRICE SUITS MY POCKET TOO**

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**Lipton's HIMALAYAN BLEND PURE DARJEELING tea**

Flowerly Orange Pekoe

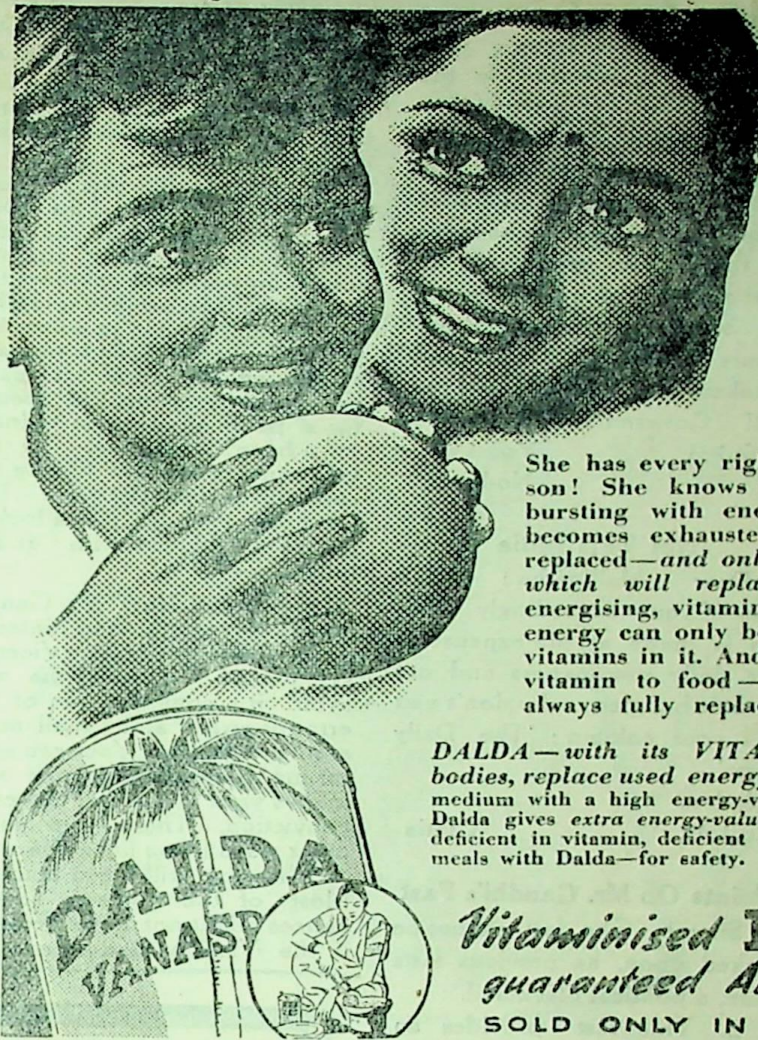
LTK41



## Reviews

### Art In Industry

The spirit of beauty is inherent in man, and for direct appeal to the emotions and feelings of the mass art is the best medium. But commercial art is still its infancy in India as also her industries, and with the progressive industrialisation of India, art is sure to take an important role. The need of conveying messages through artistic and impressive posters and advertisements was never so great as at this time of unrest and hubbub. An admirable and a very valuable step to bring about a closer collaboration of art and industry has been taken by a group of artists, industrialists and advertising agencies at this high time. An annual Art in Industry exhibition has been organised by them which is held either in Calcutta or in Bombay with a view to serve as a link between artists and industry and also to find out new art talents in the country. This will also go far in raising the standard of commercial art in India. A book abounding with interesting and illuminating articles and art reproductions of prize winning pictures (*Art In Industry Annual, 1942*) has also been brought out by the organisers. The articles by E. Royce Brown on the Art of Lettering, S. J. Browne on The Technique of Layout, P. de Peterson on The Writing in Advertising, Nilima Devi on Hoardings, and Henry Born, A.R.P.S., on The Poster are very instructive and would serve as a guide both to the industrialists and to any one interested in Commercial art and in the art of advertising. The prize winning pictures of the year have been reproduced in colour which tells of the high standard reached by the artists within such a short period. The painting by Bhagwandas Ganguli in the Propaganda Section is a striking example of propaganda through art and is highly expressive of its possibilities. The book has been ably edited by Henry Born, A. R. P. S., and beautifully designed and produced by Messrs D. J. Keymer and Co., Ltd., Calcutta. The get up and printing are decidedly above par but the design of the cover breathes more of industry than



HVM. 19-352

*"Don't you wish you had HIS energy?"*

She has every right to boast about her fine, strong son! She knows it's due to her that he's always bursting with energy. For a child's strength easily becomes exhausted unless used energy is quickly replaced—and only Mother can see that he gets food which will replace used energy. This is where energising, vitaminised Dalda is such a boon. Used energy can only be replaced by nourishing food with vitamins in it. And Dalda adds extra nourishment and vitamin to food—thus making sure that energy is always fully replaced, and giving more energy too.

**DALDA**—with its **VITAMIN** content—helps build strong bodies, replace used energy... Vitaminised Dalda is a pure cooking medium with a high energy-value. When meals are prepared with it, Dalda gives extra energy-value to all the food. As so many foods are deficient in vitamin, deficient in energy-value, it is wise to prepare all meals with Dalda—for safety.

**Vitaminised DALDA**  
guaranteed ALL vegetable  
SOLD ONLY IN SEALED TINS



THE HINDUSTAN VANASPATHI MANUFACTURING CO., LTD. BOMBAY

of fine art, the figure reproduced lacking in its softness. The price of the book i.e. Rs. 2/8/- has been kept below its cost which is about Rs. 3/- and it has been made specially accessible to the students of recognised art schools to whom the book is given at a nominal price of annas eight.

It is hoped that this year also the exhibition, which is being held in Bombay will be a success and will show a marked rise in the—standard of commercial art in India.

VIVEK

### Bengalee Association

The adjourned annual general meeting of the Bengalee Association, Bihar, Patna Branch, will be held at the Suhrid Parishad Hall, Langartoli, on Sunday, the 21st February, 1943 at 5 p. m.

Members are earnestly requested to attend.

INSIST ON

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The PATNA BRANCH of the Premier Indian Bank of the Eastern Provinces of 20 years' standing has been opened on the 3rd February, 1943 at the Aryan Mills premises, Station Road to link BIHAR with important trade centres of Bengal and Assam

Authorised Capital	...	...	...	Rs. 50,00,000
Issued and Subscribed Capital	...	...	...	Rs. 30,00,000
Paid-up Capital (with advance calls)	...	...	...	Rs. 18,00,000
Reserve Funds	...	...	...	Rs. 8,14,000
Deposits over	...	...	...	Rs. 3,50,00,000
Working Funds over	...	...	...	Rs. 4,00,00,000

(As at close of November, 1942)

Mg. Director : Dr. S. B. DUTT, M.A., B.L. (Cal), Ph. D. (Econ) (Lond),  
Barrister-at-Law



## Correspondence

### Hoarding Of Small Coins

Sir,—You appear to be too stiff with the hoarders of small coins. It is a question of "chastising the daughter to teach the daughter-in-law"?

Who would give me the answers to the following questions?

(a) Has the increase in the number and value of small coins been in proportion to the increased note-circulation?

(b) What arrangements have been made to meet the increased demands on small coinage to cope with higher price-levels?—Yours etc.

A Hoarder

### Domicile Rules

Sir,—It is rather strange that you have not as yet commented on the much boosted circular abrogating the domicile rules in Bihar. Is it because you think that it is no use? Perhaps you are convinced that it is just a ruse to get in some European and Anglo Indian evacuees from Burma in the Bihar Services. Could it be thought that you have come to a conclusion that the position is still the same as before? Are you of the opinion that the percentage system in college education remains even if this circular is put into effect? Will this new circular make any difference so far contracts and contractors are concerned? Or, do you possibly consider this circular to be the newest attempt of our masters for a divide and rule policy, specially at this juncture when everybody had become politically conscious and would not bother much about a service or two?—

Yours etc.

A Pronounced Bengalee

### Position Of Temporary Sub-Deputy Collectors

Sir,—A large number of temporary Sub-Deputy Collectors have been appointed by the Government in connection with the War. They can stand as candidates for permanent appointments. It may so happen that some of them may be selected as probationers in the permanent cadre after 2/3 years' service as temporary sub-deputy collectors. Those who will be appointed as such may claim their temporary service for the

purpose of seniority in the gradation list. The question arises whether their services should be counted. If the temporary service is counted it would be a great hardship to the direct recruits as the latter after 2/3 years service will be below the temporary sub-deputy collectors who may be taken as probationers later. Will Government clarify the point?—

Yours etc.  
No-body

### Not This India

Dear Mallinatha: Since most of your exceedingly good fun is made at the expense of our daily newspapers and out of their bungalows, why don't you call your column: 'The Daily Mess'.

Madras  
28.1.43

Gratia

### Points On Mr. Gandhi's Fast

Sir,—1. The fast cannot be looked upon, as previous fasts were, a political blackmail.

2. This fast provides an excellent opportunity for re-opening of discussions on wartime national administration and measures which will ensure a full-hearted and effective co-operation of Indians in the war effort.

3. In fact Mr. Gandhi has a far-fetched justification for this fast in as much as Mr. Rajagopalachari and others who have sought to find a way out of the present stalemate were not even permitted interviews with Mr. Gandhi and other Congress leaders. It is the declared policy of the Government not to permit contacts with these leaders on political issues even if it were to reclaim the Congress from the wastes of post-August 9. At the same time both in India and outside British statesmen have repeatedly said that the initiative for the solution of the deadlock must come from the Congress. How? Without release—without contacts? In the context of the British policy of perpetuating the deadlock the fast has the superficial semblance of the only logical step on the part of generally illogical Mr. Gandhi to ensure a re-examination of the politics of this country. It is a counsel of despair and as such can only

be treated as a second-rate political move, but probably to people of Mr. Gandhi's way of thinking—and there are quite many such people in this country—there is much even in this desperate effort.

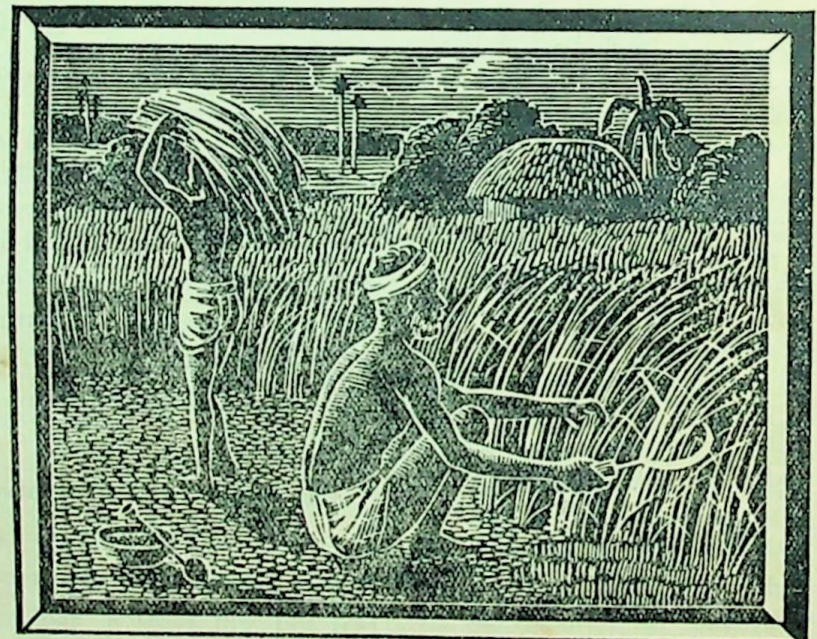
4. Many in this country have never believed in non-co-operation or the other tactics of the Gandhian school and as such deplore the fast. Even then more deplorable is the policy of non-co-operation that Government have pursued since August 9. Attempts made by non-Congress political groups for a political advance in India have been dismissed by the Government as not having the support of the Congress. The Congress itself has been locked up and contacts with it forbidden.

5. Even before Mr. Gandhi started this fast he had hinted at negotiations with the Viceroy. He wrote: "This is the way avoid it; convince me of my error or errors and I shall make ample amends. You can send for me or send some one who knows your mind and can carry conviction. There are many other ways if you have the will." Has the will been lacking? Most of the autumn disturbances might not have occurred if the Viceroy had acceded to

Mr. Gandhi's request for an interview. Once again the Viceroy failed, to take a hand extended for cooperation. Statesmanship cannot be bungled to mean merely imperial prestige. There is a large section of the population in this country who have been grieved at the unrest that has been going on at a critical period in this war; this section has suffered at the result of the disturbances, and is really pained when events that hinder war effort happen, and it is this population which demands a revision of British policy—a swing from futile non-co-operation to productive cooperation.

It is not yet too late for the Viceroy to use the fast as an excellent means to achieve the internal unity (by which is meant unity between the Government and the people in the pursuance of the war) that is needed most today. The disturbances of 1942 have quietened down and the present phase of optimism in the field of international politics should be able to prompt starting of negotiations for immediate constitutional advance in India and the return of the country to a mood saner and more productive of good results.

Yours etc.  
DEAD-KEY



## The Scythe . . .

The day of the greatest rejoicing in the peasant's life comes when he finds his crops ready to be reaped. On that day he takes his Scythe in his hand and gathers the fruits of his months' labour. It is STEEL which provides the sharp cutting edge of his Scythe.

# TATA

ISSUED BY THE TATA IRON & STEEL CO., LTD. HEAD SALES OFFICE: 102A, CLIVE ST., CAL.



(Continued from page 12)

the alertness of a startled panther. Of course he did not wait there to see what the man was going to do. He took shelter behind the bushes and went to a distance where the very devil will not go to search after him; firstly, for the reason that the place was infested with venomous reptiles, and secondly, the bushes were thorny which extended to miles, where at any moment one might come across a wild charging boar. He knew that there would be some investigation for the crime that had been committed. Why not then in the mean time seize the opportunity that had offered itself? He left the corpse to find out who the woman was and in what form the cremation would take place. Shrewd as he was it took no time to collect the desired information from the outskirts of the village. He was quite happy to know that the woman was doomed to her grave. He waited the whole of the day in some place of security. The history of the corpse had been told. Now let us see what the cripple was doing with the exhumed body. It was there lying practically bare. The cloth that was used to cover her modesty had been removed. The man was looking at the woman with a piercing sight. The sight had the quality of touch, which provoked intense feeling of lust within. What was he enjoying? Just a ghastly expression of fright, which was recorded on the face at the time she received the death blow at her back. The lower jaw had dropped down, the lips were apart, swollen and protruded. The separated lips disclosed a row of well-setteeth, which once looked like pearls but now they resembled the edge of a sharp shining saw. The eyes were wide open, they could not see; yet the fixed gaze would scare away the boldest man on earth. But the cripple knew not what fear was like. Suddenly he bent on her. While he was at this position his partially exposed chest came in contact with the summits of the breast. He shivered. Why? Because the warmth of the soft breast had now become cold like ice. It gave him a shock

for which he was not prepared. However, he did not leave the woman. He remained there for some time to make the touch of the dead flesh bearable by applying his own body heat.

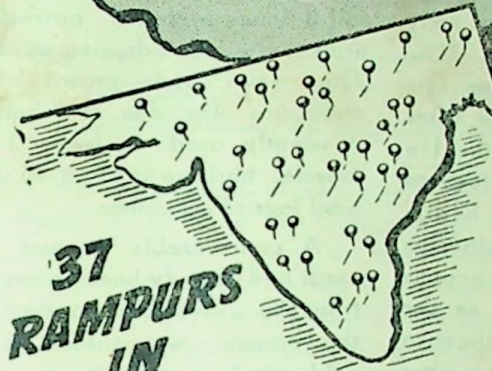
At this moment the howls of the hyenas were heard quite near by; they had spotted him and they came in a pack. The cripple took no notice of them. He had no time to think of any danger, which as a matter of fact followed him all his life as his own shadow. He embraced the woman with a crush-

ing hold which made the stiffened joints crack. He did not know what he was doing, he did not know how the time rolled on. He acted under the command of lust which ever craved for satisfaction. In another moment he was surrounded by the ferocious beasts. The death messengers stood near him for a while to witness the acts of romance.....

With the approach of the

dawn the mist gradually vanished. The veil being removed the light of the day revealed two complete human skeletons, one of the woman, the other of the cripple. They had the flesh still attached to the bones which in most places were hanging like old soots. Thus the romance of the cripple was celebrated by the hyenas for whom he provided a grand feast on his own flesh.

# TRUE TEA TALKS



**37 RAMPURS IN INDIA**

THERE ARE 37 PLACES NAMED RAMPUR IN INDIA. EVERY ONE OF THEM IS VISITED REGULARLY BY A BROOKE BOND SALESMAN TO ENSURE THAT THE SHOPS HAVE SUPPLIES OF FRESH TEA.

**26,384 CALLS IN ONE DAY**

IN THE COURSE OF ONE DAY THROUGHOUT INDIA THE SALES FORCE OF BROOKE BOND MAKES 26,384 CALLS ON SHOPS AND GROCERS' STORES.

**3 TIMES ROUND THE WORLD IN ONE WEEK**



ALL THE BROOKE BOND SALESMEN IN INDIA BETWEEN THEM COVER OVER 84,000 MILES A WEEK, CALLING ON SHOPS AND RETAILERS. THIS REPRESENTS MORE THAN THREE TIMES THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE WORLD, AND ENSURES THAT TEA IS SERVED FRESH THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY



## THE BLIND TEA MAKER

OUR SALESMAN WHO VISITS D-IN TRAVANCORE REPORTS THAT ONE OF THE LEADING MERCHANTS IN THE TOWN MAINTAINS

A BLIND SERVANT SOLELY BECAUSE HE MAKES PERFECT TEA.

HIS SENSE OF TASTE IS HIGHLY DEVELOPED AND HE ALWAYS INSISTS ON A FRESH TEA WHICH HE KNOWS HE CAN GET FROM THE BROOKE BOND SALESMAN.



# Brooke Bond



IT was the land of the Dead—a burial ground. The architecture of the tombs were vaguely silhouetted against the faint light of the moon, which was veiled by dense fog. The tombs were mostly in ruins and some levelled to the ground due to the constant ravages of time. Around the tombs grew tall trees here and there being stripped of their leaves. Naked they stood with their monstrous skeletons as silent sentinels of the gloomy environment.

The season was winter and the time was dead of night. With the hissing sound of the chilly wind, howls of hyaenas could be heard at a far off distance. Besides hyaenas a man was also there, which was confirmed by long dragging coughs at intervals. The sound seemed to be identical with those of a tubercular patient.

Who on earth would come here alone and at this hour to disturb the mysterious silence of the dead? A sudden flash of will-o-the-wisp lit the place for a moment. Yes there was a man. He was digging a grave in a crawling position. The posture was not adopted for the sake of convenience but it was natural. The man was a cripple, he walked on his fours. The deformity had a history—once he walked upright when he was a notorious burgler. His disappearance from the scene of theft ever remained a mystery. He managed to scale the tallest buildings and climb down with perfect ease by some means or other. But once his confidence betrayed him. He was caught when he tried to jump from a two storied house. He miscalculated the height and fell on debris of bricks with the result he fractured both the knees. He was sent to a hospital to be cured to serve a long term of penal servitude in some jail. He loved his freedom more than anything else. So he could not submit to the reformer's ambition. He reduced the long term himself by escaping from the jail again.

Burglary as a matter of fact was forced upon him because no body would give him any work nor alms even if he took to begging. He was barred from any honest livelihood for the simple reason that he wore a hideous face. It was rather

Strange But True

## The Land Of The Dead

By D. P. Roy Chowdhury, M. B. E.

*Principal, Govt. School of Arts & Crafts, Madras*

his misfortune than a fault. He was born with it. So hideous it was as children would run away with fright at the very sight of him; and the elderly people would chase him if he were seen anywhere near their houses. Misfortune never comes alone. His fate was worse than ever after he came out of the jail. He used to get something atleast to eat there but outside he hardly had enough to maintain his existence. He could not expose himself in day light as the hounds of the intelligence department were always after him and to dodge them he was obliged to live under the cover of darkness of night. Soon he managed to overcome the difficulty by a new occupation. It was by selling ornaments he removed from the dead bodies exhumed from graves. The task seemed to be much easier than before as the dead never protested when deprived of their possessions nor did they tell tales of the objects lost however sentimental their association might have been. He knew where to sell these reminiscences of sentiment. There were dealers who in exchange of the valuables gave him their rejected food. The bargain was quite fair, because all that he wanted was food and nothing more than that. He never complained of the taste nor the flavour. He had no time to waste over these minor points of delicacy. He believed only in loading the empty stomach which ached for want of nutrition. The tiresome part of the job was to get the food, which he had to manage by travelling from one village to another, the distance often covered miles at a stretch. This caution had to be taken. He could not possibly sell the ornaments in the same village from where they had been stolen, because it involved risk of an easy identification.

Let us now see how far he had succeeded in his toil. He was still occupied in digging occasionally taking rest for breath and also to look round if any hyaena had come too near him.

Singly the beast seldom attacks a man but in packs they are the most ferocious animals one can imagine. However, the man too was well equipped. The weapons he used for his self defence were his powerful arms and a grave digging spade. The arms had grown into enormous size due to being constantly used as legs. The muscle had the strength of the hind legs of a panther.

A considerable amount of earth had already been removed from the grave but no trace of the corpse was there. The cold wind was biting to the marrow of his bones. He increased the speed of digging more to warm himself up than to find the treasure. While he was thus engaged his spade was inflicting deep wounds on the flesh of the dead body. It was the leg of the woman. He was not aware of the fact that his spade had already come in contact with the flesh until his penetrating sight discovered small pieces of shining metal on the end of the foot. His small eyes from the deep sockets glinned. The night roamer was satisfied to find that the metal was really silver. Immediately he tried to snatch them out but the task was not as easy as he took it to be. The flesh of the dead had stiffened and it would not give way for the rings to come out. When his attempts in this manner failed, he took the help of the spade and severed all the tiny limbs from the body. This is what he often did for a quick result. He collected them together and kept them in his coat pocket. He had no fear of blood stain because blood never oozes out of the dead.

The cripple was not quite pleased with what he got. He wanted more. He directed all his energy to unearth the whole of the body. What was he after? More ornaments? No. The search was for food to satisfy his hunger. Was he then going to eat the flesh of a human being just like beasts of prey? No. The hunger was

of an unheard character—it was the hunger of the sex, which was starved all his life. The repression had persuaded him to revolt against all sentiments and moral codes; besides the corpse had a special appeal. This is the woman whom he murdered this morning. He could not touch her while she was alive; that is why he wanted to feel what the touch of the dead youth was like.

The incident happened this morning on the steps of the village tank. He was then hiding behind a thick bush. From behind the cover he saw this woman coming toward the tank to take water. At a desirable distance she presented herself like a fairy who seemed to have been wrapped in flames of youth. Portions of her saree were wet, transparency of which revealed the shapely contours of her heavy breasts. He could not resist the temptation to see the gentle and rythmetic swing of the most attractive form produced by each and every step. The broad planes on the surface received flatside light of the morning sun. They resembled plateaus at a great distance where festivals of colours had been arranged by nature. He was completely overpowered by the domination of elementary instinct which never was satisfied. He fell a victim of the uncontrollable feverish passion. The passion was to touch the woman; but he dared not plunge into a direct advance. He knew what the result would be. Naturally he had to wait for an opportune moment and the opportunity came in no time. After refilling the vessel the lady stood on the top of the steps to rearrange her saree turning her back towards the cripple. The space between them was only a few yards which he covered by crawling without any noise; and as soon as she was within the reach of his arms he thrust the spade on her back with a terrific force. One blow was enough to throw her down unconscious on the ground. Unlucky as he was he saw at this moment a man was approaching at a distance. He had to be on his guard. So he left the place with

(Continued on page 11)