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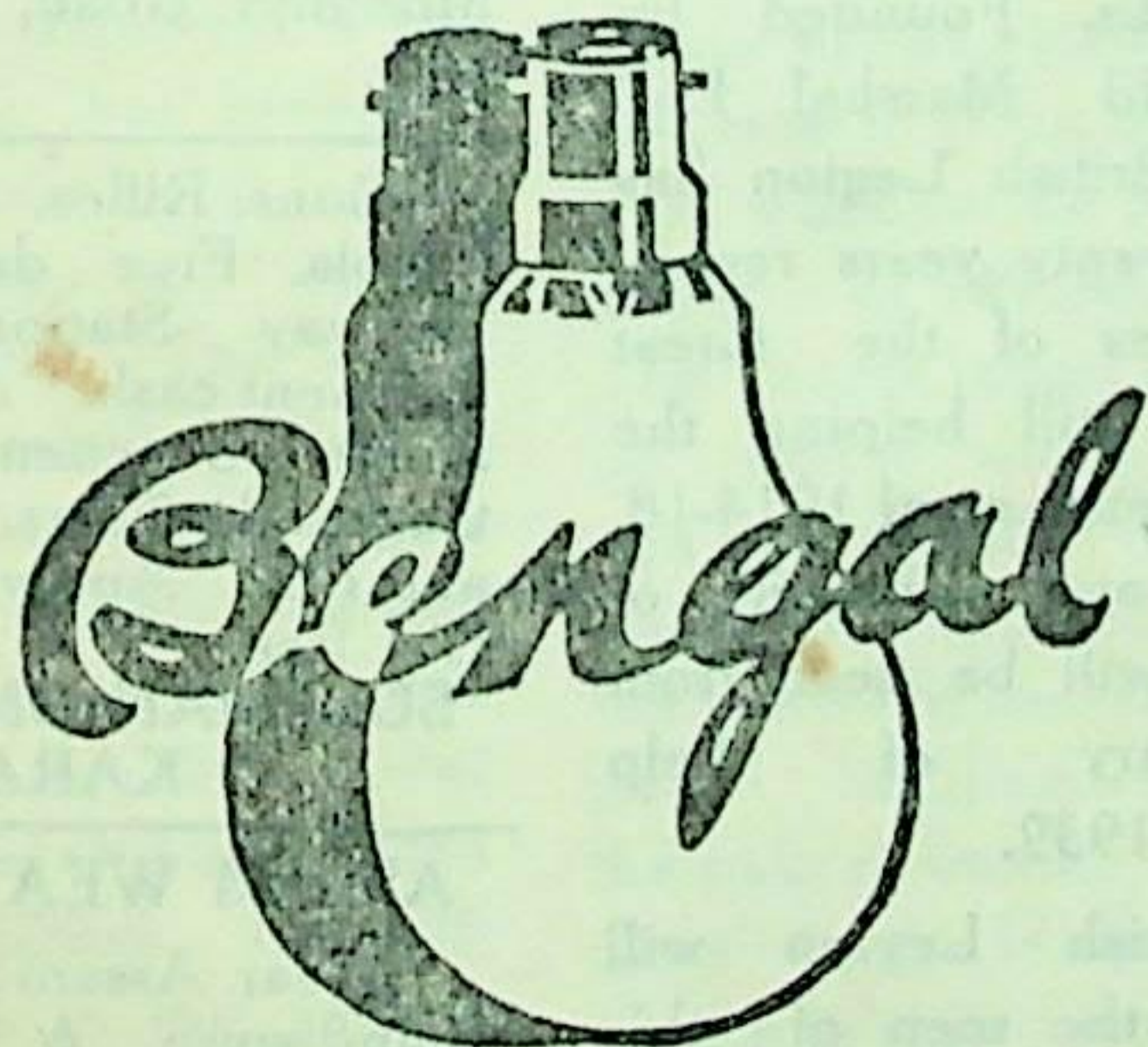


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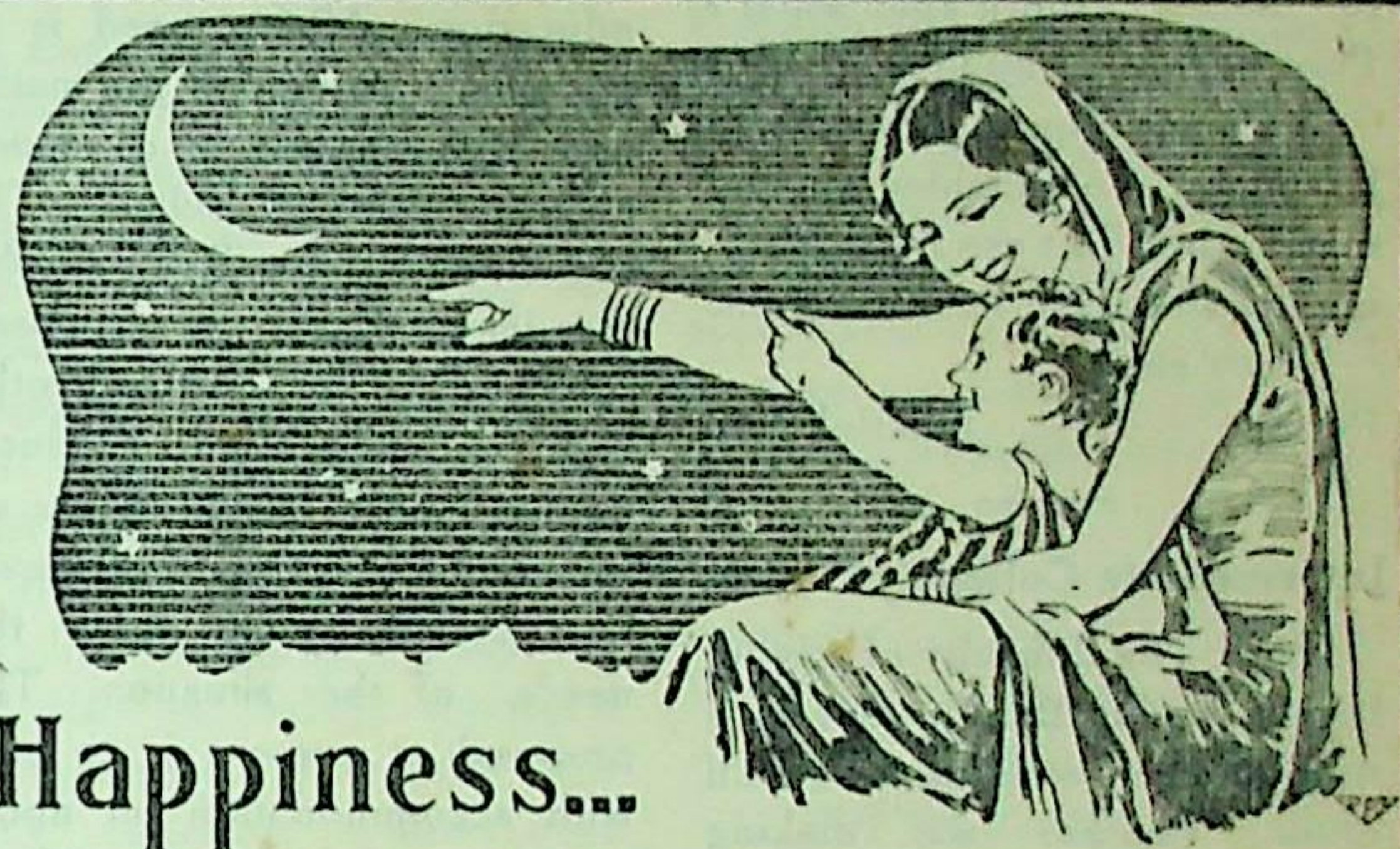
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Correspondence

Matric Mathematics

Sir,—I beg to draw your attention and through your esteemed paper, the attention of the public to Q 1 of the Additional Mathematics paper set by the Patna University this year for the Matriculation Examination.

I confess I cannot draw the figure myself as required by the Question. I referred to better teachers. They, too, failed. Is there, under the circumstances, any chance for the examinees to satisfy the Paper setter? Poor boys! I pity them.

I would request the Head Examiner to enlighten me and many others like me by publishing the answer in your columns.—Yours etc.

Purulia Jaharlal Bose

Intermediate College at Patna

Sir,—The difficulty of giving higher education to our boys now-a-days is well known to all of us. But are we making necessary efforts to meet the educational needs of our boys? Let us consider how far the present institutions meet the requirements of the situation. If we consider the case of the Bengalee boys alone, we find that nearly 800 of them passed the Matriculation Examination last year (1940); and, although the major portion of them desired to prosecute their studies further, only 150 of them could be admitted in the colleges of the province. With a view to their future prospects many of them wanted to go in for the Science course. But they had to find, to their disappointment that the seats in the colleges teaching science were very limited. There are seats for only about 200 boys in the first year science classes in all the colleges of the province put together, and the procedure followed in the colleges is to allocate the seats in proportion to the numerical strength of each class or community. It is not, however, proposed to criticise this prevailing system of admission to colleges. What is urged is that we should set ourselves in right earnest to increase the facilities for imparting the necessary

college education to those of our boys who want it. We can no longer sleep over the matter. It is surely to our great discredit that we should continue to be passive spectators of the wasting of the future of our boys who are willing and eager to go in for higher studies, and many of whose guardians are able and willing to spend a reasonable amount of money for their education. All we need is to co-operate actively in the matter and take seriously to concerted action without delay. The taking over of the T. K. Ghosh's Academy, Patna, as proposed by a body of responsible gentlemen including eminent educationists and raising it to an intermediate college will surely to a certain extent meet the needs of the situation. The proposal at present is to start with accommodation for about 64 I.Sc. and 150 I. A. students in each year. Technical and industrial classes may be added to the institution later, wherein many matriculates are expected to join readily.

Suggestions in connection with the proposal will be thankfully received by the Secretary, Bengalee Association, Patna Branch, and considered by a body of experts. In the meantime, all lovers of education in the province are earnestly requested to co-operate in the pushing forward and financing the scheme, as utmost expedition appears to be necessary in the matter.—Yours etc.

Members
Patna Bengali Association
B. M. Das Road
Bankipore.

British Legion Appeal

Sir,—The War has shewn how strong are the bonds of sympathy and friendship which bind together the English speaking peoples of the world.

Britons and friends of Britain in all quarters of the globe have opened their hearts and purses to the men who are fighting Nazi tyranny and aggression,

and our sailors, soldiers and airmen are cheered and encouraged by the wealth of sympathy offered to them by thousands of unknown friends overseas.

Gifts of all-kinds have poured into the homeland in a steady stream. There cannot be too many at this difficult time, when the resources of our great Service benevolent organisations which are dedicated to the welfare of our fighting men and their families are strained to the uttermost.

But sympathy for our fighting men should not find its only expression in the alleviation of their present needs. Their future deserves at least equal thought and equal sympathy.

To value rightly the sacrifices and hardships endured by those who serve Britain to-day, constructive thought should be given now to their comfort and well-being in the years which lie ahead, when, because of disablement, changed economic conditions or other causes beyond their control, these men may have their greatest need of the sympathy and aid of their fellow men.

It is for our men AFTER SERVICE that the British Legion works. Founded by the late Field Marshal Earl Haig, the British Legion has worked for twenty years repairing the ravages of the Great War. It is still helping the now ageing veterans of 1914-18, the extent and diversity of whose need will be seen from the summary of help given during 1939.

The British Legion will stand behind the men of this war when they join their fathers of 1914-18 in the honoured ranks of Britain's ex-Service men. Indeed, we have already helped large numbers of these young veterans invalided from the Services; helped their families too.

It is vitally important that the British Legion should build up a Fund large enough to ensure that no man who has

served his country in its greatest hour of need shall be denied a helping hand in his own hour of adversity.

Will Britons and friends of Britain overseas come to our aid? I can assure them that the need is urgent, that it is essential we should provide at once for the future of those in whom Britain now places her trust.

Donations will be most thankfully received and should be sent to Captain W. G. Wilcox, HAIG'S FUND, Cardigan House, Richmond, Surrey, England.

I shall be most grateful for your help in publishing this appeal.—Yours etc.

W. G. Wilcox
Captain, M. B. E.
Organising Secretary,
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Call to Kill Truth

There is deafening noise all around me and it is all over the census. Politicians are revelling in abuses against each other. They are calling each other names and throwing mud, each at another's face. The performance reminds me of the sight that we will all see on the forthcoming *Holi* day—man reverting to the state of nature to throw to the four winds all the decencies that civilisation has taught him. The political *Holi* which is now in progress is different from the Hindu *Holi* festival in that Hindus and Muslims have both thrown themselves in its vortex and have been indulging in mud and filth-slinging against each other. Each calls the other liar and the charge of dishonesty is flung at each other's face with a vehemence and persistence in which one does not let himself be outdone by another. It seems that all the dregs of democracy have come on the surface. An unseen hand has opened the festering sore to let it display all its revolting ugliness and emit all its nauseating odour. Without the least feeling of delicacy and the slightest qualm of conscience the gentleman has shed all his refinements and inciting people to lie, of course in the way of the master-liar whose lie is not detected. The Prime Minister has become a frank communalist and hurling veritable Philipppies at the other community. The entire population, especially in Bengal, seems to have been caught by a fit of hysteria. Their shrieks and shouts deafen the honest citizen, the spasmodic movements of their limbs frighten him into stupefaction. The call, on both sides, is to the people to kill Truth. The poor thing, I am afraid, is already dead.

A Deep Tragedy

The drama in progress is a tragic one—not merely for the tragedy already enacted of the murder of Truth. Even the comedy of the hysteria of the politicians with all their ridiculous performances strikes me as a deep tragedy for all its impli-

Through The X'Ray

By Politicus

cations. The number—the more of it the merrier:—that is the cry which rends the sky today. A whole nation is being persuaded by its trusted leaders to lie and lie scientifically. Do not tell me that each leader is insisting on no more than accuracy of record. That, of course, is what they say when they speak through the print. But ask the man in the street to whom their words are addressed and he will tell you that he has understood his leader to have advised him to inflate the number as best as he can. The atmosphere, indeed, has been thoroughly vitiated,—it is surcharged with the spirit of rivalry between the communities in the art of lying. The Census is known to be a scientific demographic survey. In civilised society its importance can hardly be exaggerated. In all civilised countries it is the basis of scientific research; it is the basis also of Governmental planning to promote the moral and material welfare of the community. Such a valuable record in India is going this year to be corrupted at the very foundation. If the earlier census reports were untrue to any extent it used to be due to error, or at best slipshod work on the part of some officer or officers somewhere. The Census report of 1941 will be untrue with a purpose. It will be a record not of the population of India but really of the untruthfulness of the whole nation deliberately seduced to the path of untruth by the politicians—by the leaders that the people in their simplicity trust. The extent of lying may differ from group to group and area to area, but that the report as a whole will be a record of the untruthfulness of our people admits of no doubt. That is a tragedy graver than any we have so far known.

This Solicitude !

All around me I hear strange voices, I witness strange per-

formances. The cry is for number and larger number. Not long ago we used to hear the lamentation that India is overpopulated. Economists would tell us that we have not food enough to feed our population. The campaign for birth-control was the order of the day. But now? The wisdom is gone, the tragedy of over-population is no longer in any one's view, the spectre of starvation no longer stares the leader. Everyone of them claims that the population has gone up and claims so with an air of pride and with a challenge to the other community. His appeal to every beggar woman is to have her starving baby recorded and also her babies unborn if that is possible. I wonder how many expectant mothers near their time have been advised by these leaders to take the Surgeon's aid to hasten delivery. And the anxiety betrayed by these leaders to include in the fold of their respective communities those who stand midway between the two. I can understand the proselytising Muslim claiming a non-descript in the matter of religion as a Muslim. But the Hindu vying with the Muslim in this respect presents a queer spectacle. Oh this solicitude for the castes who lie on the border of the two communities. These are despised people—economically destitute, educationally nowhere and culturally the most ruthlessly expropriated. They live in hills and forests and are seldom allowed to live even in the outskirts of Hindu cities and villages. Hitherto the Hindu as such has not cared even to look at these people with an eye of condescension. But today? The milk of human kindness is flowing profusely from the breast of the Hindu. It looks that Sri Chaitanya has descended afresh in every leader of the Hindu Mahasabha and these neo-Chaitanyas have been going about to take within

the arms all the Chandalas of the land. Even caste should not be allowed to be recorded and each should record him purely as Hindu. By a single fiat of the Hindu Mahasabha the castes among the Hindus are said to have gone.

This is Politics

This is politics. The hypocrisy of the performances is writ large on the face of them. It is a sordid game of political rivalry which prompts the Brahman and the Syed to claim the miserable and destitute *Bedia* as each one's very own. The deception is transparent, the selfishness is patent on the face. The campaign which is now in progress is the worst kind of exploitation—the exploiters are the politicians. Don't you understand what for is this craze for number? Why this hypocritical solicitude for all who have all along been despised, for persons whom no leader would care to give even one morsel of food even during the census operation? The number is wanted because the more the primary number of population the more is likely to be the number of jobs for the politicians in the legislatures and the local bodies. It is democracy of the communal brand introduced in this country by our shrewd masters which is responsible for all the debasement of character I have noted so far and failed to note. It is the Communal Award which gives political power to the communal majority which has forced all the dregs of our character on the surface. The Hindu is trying to strengthen his political position; so is being attempted by the Muslim. Where the margin of difference between the communities is big the controversy is less acute, where the margin is small, the controversy is proportionately keener and more acrimonious. But everywhere it is the political rivalry, a veritable war between the communities for power. As usual, truth is its first casualty and decency second. The lust for political power of the communities is the fire at which our politicians are gleefully offering as fuel the very basis of the scientific survey of all our national problems. What a tragedy!

THIS INDIA

By Mallinatha

Mr. Gandhi standing in the way of Swaraj ?

"If there were twenty Rajagopalachariars in this country, it might be said that the time was ripe for the attainment of self-government in the country."—Mr. W. K. M. Langeley, Kottayam, Feb. 13.

One Rajagopalachariar was able to turn Mr. Gandhi out of the Congress, but only for a short time; twenty would for all time.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody good

"God is with us and will remain with us till the war is finished."—Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan's Rawalpindi speech, *Tribune*, Feb. 12.

We would like the war to continue for ever for the sake of the divine companionship.

Who fought against whom

"The British have captured over 15,000 prisoners at Benghazi, who surrendered without firing a shot, after a terrific 36 hours' battle."—*Reuter*, Feb. 11.

Non-violent battles are becoming the order of the day everywhere.

The only proper resort

"Mr. Kripalani appealed to the students to carry out the constructive programme, instead of passing resolutions as to what should or should not be done by the leaders."—*News* report of Madras speech, Feb. 9.

The students might appeal to Mr. Kripalani to carry out the constructive programme instead of gadding about the country advising what should or should not be done by the students.

With an eye to the main chance

"The prisoners of to-day are the rulers of to-morrow."—*Correspondent* in *National Herald*, Feb. 13.

It is to qualify themselves for "to-morrow" that they are rushing to jail to-day.

White magic

"Mahatma Gandhi still believed that if people took to spinning there would be swaraj in a year."—*The National Herald*, Feb. 13.

But as the people don't, there is no possibility of swaraj by 1942.

The misguided ones

"Only people who were prejudiced and learnt doctrines from books talked in terms of Western ideas."—Mr. Kripalani, Madras, Feb. 9.

One must completely get rid of all thoughts and ideas to qualify oneself to be a blind follower.

I am the resurrection

"I tell you that he who is not with Gandhiji is politically dead."—Mr. Kripalani, Madras, Feb. 9.

Evidently the whole country is a huge charnel house.

Returning the compliment

"Mr. Kripalani appealed to the students to be a little more humble."—*Madras* speech, Feb. 9.

The students appealed to Mr. Kripalani to be a little more sensible.

Why should he borrow from others ?

"Gandhiji is not suffering from modern superstition."—Mr. Kripalani's speech, Feb. 9.

The old ones are useful.

Protesting too much

"They should not think that the leaders were blind followers of Gandhiji."—Mr. Kripalani, Madras, Feb. 9.

Only they have bandaged their eyes and put blinkers on as an additional protection.

Embonpoint

"Cawnpore's first woman satyagrahi comes of a family of elephantine dignity."—*National Herald*, Feb. 14.

The description is picturesque but not chivalric.

Modification of the rules of grammar

"A woman does not become

a Congresswoman by simply marrying a Congressman."—*The National Herald*, Feb. 14.

Nor do the offspring become Congresschildren.

Anticlimax

"Mr. P. L. A. offered satyagraha in a novel way. Vedic mantras were being recited when he raised anti-war slogans. He was taken to the district jail in an ekka."—*The National Herald*, Feb. 15.

A chariot would have been more suited to the atmosphere.

The hammer is now the anvil

"At a meeting held at the Servants of India Society, Madras, the Chairman stated that there could be no justification whatsoever for putting people into jail when they gave expression to their opinion and treating them as ordinary jail birds."—*The National Herald*, Feb. 15.

We hope he is not thinking of those people who were sent to jail under Mr. Rajagopalachariar's orders for their anti-Hindi agitation.

Poppycock

"The Congress did not attach much political importance to the Central Assembly elections."—Dr. Sitaramayya, Gudivada, Feb. 13.

This is quite evident from the fact that in spite of his poor health, Babu Rajendra Prasad is touring the U. P., addressing voters.

Virginibus puerisque

"Out of tenderness for the new Government (of Sind) the Congress did not start a satyagraha struggle."—*The National Herald*, Feb. 15.

If the Congress has a single fault, it is over-consideration for the feelings of others.

Pantheism

"If the Government arrest Mahatma Gandhi, they will find 350 million Gandhis in India."—Dr. Sitaramayya, Masulipatam interview.

It is expected that the new Census figures will show an addition of about 50 million Gandhis to the above figure.

Quickening the pace

"The spinning of fifty years of thread daily is insisted on by the latest instruction from Wardha."—*The National Herald*, Feb. 16.

That is to say, they have to spin as much in a day as they used to do in fifty years.

People have more sense than they are given credit for

"Even amidst large audiences there was no difficulty in effecting arrests (of satyagrahis). Perfect discipline and a non-violent atmosphere prevailed."—*The National Herald*, Feb. 16.

There is no earthly reason why a tamasa-loving mob should be "violent" and spoil the fun.

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Notice

Applications are invited for the post of a Bengali Translator in the High Court in grade V (Pay Rs 105/-). Qualifications required :

1. Must be a graduate in law or M. A. or B. A. (Honours).
2. Age not exceeding 30 years except in case of applicants already in Government service.
3. Must be native of the province of Bihar or domiciled therein.

Preference will be given to one who knows Hindi also and can work as an interpreter.

Applications should be in the handwriting of the applicants and not typed. They should reach the undersigned by the 17th March, 1941.

N. B. — The Registrar will not see any candidate who has not been asked to appear for an interview.

H. WHITTAKER,
REGISTRAR.

PATNA HIGH COURT,
The 19th February, 1941.



The Behar Herald

Patna,
Tuesday, March 4, 1941.

DIRTY WORK AT CROSSWAYS

One of the recommendations made by the Bihar Education Reorganisation Committee on Primary education is that "for important Cultural minorities in Bihar, like the Bengalis, provided sufficient numbers are available in any area, arrangements should be made for education to such children through their own mother tongue in the Basic Schools. Where the numbers of such minorities are not adequate to admit of a separate school for them, facility should be provided to take such children to the nearest place where such a school can be set up with ease and economy."

Professor Amaranatha Jha appended a note of dissent to the report recommending that Maithils be recognised as a separate cultural entity like Bengalis and Maithili be adopted as their medium of instruction in Basic Schools. We learn from his note that at a general meeting of the full committee held on March 17, 1939, in which he was present, a decision was made to allow Bengalis and Maithils to use their mother tongue as media of basic instruction. Subsequently, about a month later, on April 13, Dr. Rajendra Prasad wrote to him that public opinion was opposed

to the recognition of Maithils as a separate cultural entity like Bengalis and any attempt to do so would create resentment in the Province and "stir a hornets' nest". Dr. Prasad ended his letter by requesting Professor Jha to drop the reference to Maithili. Professor Jha in his reply to Dr. Prasad wrote on April 15 that it was not fair, after the question having been discussed at a considerable length, that the agreed report should now be sought to be amended. He questioned whether the Committee was earnest in their profession that every child has a right to be educated through his mother-tongue. If that was so, then he thought a Maithili child had a clear right to be taught in his mother-tongue, which is not Hindi and has an independent literature of its own. According to Prof. Jha, a Maithili child's demand to have his mother-tongue as his medium of instruction was not a question of antagonism or rivalry.

Prof. Jha also sent copies of his last letter to other members of the committee who were present at the meeting. On June 13, the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. K. T. Shah, wrote to him: "The remarks that the committee had made on your suggestion in regard to Maithili would remain as you had suggested, and Dr. Rajendra Prasad as well as Dr. Sinha may add a brief note at the bottom or at the end of the report".

In February, 1940, the Committee was to meet again and Professor Jha had arranged to attend the meeting, but at the last minute the date was changed to a date in March when the Professor could not attend. To his surprise the Professor learnt from a letter from the Chairman, dated March 5, 1940, that the Committee have decided to modify the report previously adopted and signed by all the members by deleting the reference to Maithili. He was further informed that the Committee had permitted him to append a minute of dissent. The above bare narrative is taken from

this note.

The tactics of politicians have always been based on the principle that all is fair in love and war. Trifling questions of common decency, courtesy, fairness or justice have never weighed with them when pursuing a particular objective. Professor Jha is amazed at the fact that a resolution adopted after prolonged deliberations and signed by all the members and subsequently ruled by the Chairman to be inviolable was quietly rescinded in an important respect behind his back. On the merits, of course Professor Jha's claim is based on a principle accepted by the Committee itself and is unanswerable. That may be the very reason why the verdict that he had secured in his favour was got round by ways the deviousness of which beats all record even in the game of political manipulation.

SUPAUL TO SAHARSA

A Press communique issued by the Government of Bihar on February 20, says that the Provincial Government have ordered the removal of the sub-divisional headquarters of the Supaul sub-division of Bhagalpur district from Supaul to Saharsa as a temporary measure. This step has been taken on the advice of Government's engineering experts. It appears from the government communique that Supaul is being ravaged by floodwaters every year since 1936 and that Government have spent considerable sums of money for counteracting this menace but have failed in their endeavours so far. The sub-divisional headquarters and other buildings belonging to the Government are situated on the south bank of the Gajna river into which the flood waters of Kosi were discharged in the year 1936. Since that year the flood water of the Gajna river has steadily increased in volume and has threatened the court area with inundation each year. Every year Government carried out different "protective

works" to save the court area from erosion. The result of all these protective works was that flood water was prevented from flowing direct into the court area and into the town from the north. "Unfortunately", the Government communique adds, "this was not the only quarter in which the town was threatened. By this time there were breaches in the District Board road and the railway line in the eastern part of the town, and during the high flood of 1940 back water of the flooded Dhimra river came into the court area and into the town through these breaches". Government, we are told, took further protective measures but in spite of such measures it was found in July 1940 that the court area and court rooms and the various buildings were submerged under flood water coming from south and west, and to it was added the accumulation of rain and the percolation of water. "The engineers apprehend that during the next season the flood level outside the embankments will be still higher than that of 1940 because of the silting which took place last year. Moreover the volume of the combined flood and rain water, and the water received through percolation inside the court area would make it impossible for the courts and offices to function unless substantial repairs are immediately carried out in all the buildings. The provincial Government consider that there is no justification for incurring the large expenditure which these repairs will involve when it is certain that in the next flood season beginning in April 1941 the courts will have to move elsewhere... Government consider that it is necessary to make the transfer now." The provincial Government think that this transfer is "demanded by the convenience of the public as well as by administrative consideration."

We have copiously quoted from the Government communique to show to the public the official version of the picture. The shifting of the court to Saharsa would mean

the addition of at least one rupee more to the expenses of each man going to the court at Saharsa, and we are informed from those affected by this transfer, that this will amount to no less than Rs. 40,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- annually. Over and above this burden of expenditure the troubles and risks of a journey across a turbulent stream and through jungles cannot be ignored. Saharsa is a very small place and there will be great difficulty for the lawyers, their clerks and small tradesmen—who need must shift to Saharsa with the shifting of the Court—for lack of accommodation. The litigants also will have to face the same difficulties. The Government officers at Saharsa will be quite out of touch with the people of the sub-division (Supaul) and their needs which require immediate attention will therefore, remain unheeded.

The Government communique admits that all attempts so far to prevent floods have failed. It is nothing but a record of incompetence showing the ignorance of the hydrographic movements and the best way of minimising their damage. Therefore to justify the removal by expert opinion does not seem to us to be quite convincing. The question of public convenience has been raised in the communique. May we ask: Who have complained of this inconvenience? Is it again the opinion of the experts only, or has there been any representation from the public for the removal? The communique is silent on the point. So far as we know representations to the contrary have been made on behalf of the people of the Supaul sub-division. Supaul is not the only flooded area in India. Large tracts—even whole districts—of Bengal and Burma are often under water during the rainy season, but neither the people nor the Government desert the districts. They rather adapt themselves to the local conditions. In such places Governmental works are carried on in structures erected over piles. The object of establishing sub-divisional head-

quarters within the sub-division is to enable the officers and the people to be in touch with one another. But if the headquarters are shifted to another subdivision (Saharsa is within the Madhipura subdivision) it amounts to including the one subdivision in the other without the advantages of an out and out amalgamation. In the present case two sets of officers and their quarters will have to be maintained, whereas in an out and out amalgamation only one set would have been necessary.

If Supaul itself was inconvenient for public access, Saharsa would be even more inaccessible to the people of the Supaul subdivision. We are now-a-days every now and then hearing the necessity of war economy. The present instance decidedly will force people to take the other view. Commonsense dictates that when Government employs experts to carry on in a given situation they ought to be asked to get out if they cannot fulfil the requirements of their task. But here it is the Government that has been asked to get out while the experts carry on.

Notes & Comments

Paying dearly for the Poona offer

The clear and unambiguous statement of Mr. Gandhi in the *Times of India* that "there can be no settlement with the Congress short of complete independence during the pendency of the war" must have dashed to the ground the fond hopes of those of his devotees who had gathered round him in large numbers in the confident expectation that the Mahatma would succeed where they had failed and secure from the British Government some declaration, some assurance, some gesture which would enable them to go back to their offices without loss of prestige. It was this hope that enabled them to undergo the rigours of jail-life which they thought would only be of a very short duration in any case. Mr.

Gandhi has let his followers down by the latest declaration and has very firmly closed the doors of negotiation and settlement. There is general sympathy for those who have voluntarily gone to jail merely for the glorification of the mystic, metaphysical doctrine of non-violence.

Miscalculation

Even among the followers of Mr. Gandhi, the number of those who prefer the cult of absolute non-violence to national independence and democracy must be microscopically small. The others, i.e., the vast majority, never relished the idea of wandering for long in the wilderness with the Mahatma. When they laid down the reins of office reluctantly, they firmly believed that they were coming back very soon. On a previous occasion too they had resigned but as the Government conceded their demands, they came back triumphant. Something akin to that was anticipated this time also, but what was possible in normal times was not possible during the pendency of a war that involved extinction or survival. So, there is bound to be a fall in the number of satyagrahis now as not many sensible people would like to go to jail and serve out the full term for the sake of freedom to preach against the war.

We are the salt of the earth

It is a polite fiction with the Congress leaders to declare their abhorrence of Nazism. In reality, the Congress has wandered far away from the path of Democracy and is getting more and more confirmed in its totalitarian outlook. The General Secretary of the Congress (the casuist of the Wardha Church) recently paid a visit to the land of Satyamurti and in a students' meeting glorified the typically Fascist doctrine of "One country, one party, one leader". He completely ignored the fact that non-Congress political parties and groups represent today a much larger portion of the Indian people than the Congress. In the fulness of his heart, Mr. Kripalani condemned the major-

ity of the Indian people,—the Muslims, the non-Brahmins, the Scheduled castes, the Sikhs and Hindu Mahasabha, to death by proclaiming that those "who are not with Gandhiji are politically dead".

Light-hearted brushing aside of facts

Thanks to Mr. Satyamurti, audiences in Madras are quite innured to all kinds of nonsense from platform speakers. Otherwise it would not have been possible for Mr. Kripalani to secure applause by saying "The nation has already chosen its leader" in complete disregard of the fact that the majority of the Indian people are to-day outside the Congress. Mr. Kripalani is also no respecter of persons. In his Madras speech he made a slighting reference to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, calling him a "rope-dancer". But he also patted Pandit Nehru on the back because the latter had the good sense of realising that he would be nowhere except as a henchman of the Mahatma. Mr. Kripalani twitted Mr. M. N. Roy for moving in the society of moneybags, oblivious of the fact that the Congress owed a great deal of its power to the moneybags of Bombay and Ahmedabad.

Totalitarianism oozing from every pore

To Mr. Kripalani it is all the same whether the political party ruling the country is autocratic or democratic so long as it is *his* party. "There could be no peace in India unless there was one political power, whether it be autocratic or democratic". Both in Germany and Italy, one political party went to office in the name of democracy, "liquidated" all other parties and then established the autocratic rule of their Fuehrer or Duce. Mr. Kripalani anticipates the repetition of a similar procedure in India too and holds out before us the example of Spain where "there was a civil war for two or three years and then there was peace". He further said that "they wanted Swaraj so that Hindus and Muslims might fight with each other and settle the matter one way or the other". Such

blood-thirsty sentiments coming from one of the leading lights of the Party that is "wedded to non-violence" leaves one aghast.

The uphill task of a peace-maker

Dr. P. Varadarajulu Naidu, General Secretary of the All-India Hindu Mahasabha who has just returned to Madras after visiting political leaders of different sections with a view to find a way out of the present political impasse has said that "Without some sort of understanding with Gandhiji it will not be possible to end the present deadlock in the country and effectively help Britain in its war efforts". The only possible "understanding" of practical value with Mr. Gandhi would be to ask him to lay down his baton of generalissimo-ship. Such a consummation, however eagerly looked for by Rajagopalacharian school in the Congress is not likely to materialise soon as it would be extremely difficult for Mr. Gandhi, at his age, to retire from leadership. It is significant that Dr. Naidu intends to see Mr. Rajagopalachariar in the Trichinopoly jail to discuss means for arriving at an "understanding with Gandhiji".

The lotos-eaters disillusioned

Mr. Mahesh Prasad Sinha, M.L.A., ex-Chairman, Muzaffarpur District Board, who has been released from Hazaribagh jail has given a horrible description of the condition of 'A' and 'B' class prisoners in the Hazaribagh jail in the course of an interview to a representative of a Patna daily! He has said that the political prisoners "are being wronged by many persons thinking that they were leading a life of luxury...An 'A' class prisoner was entitled to daily ration worth ten annas and not two or three rupees as was generally imagined...The prisoners of the 'A' and 'B' class, lived in cells which had no cross ventilation...Medical aid was absolutely inadequate inasmuch as only fever mixtures and similar other ordinary medicines were available...A tooth brush was available once

in 6 months." In a country where the average income of a man is 6 pice a day; where millions die for lack of medical aid without the fortune of getting "fever mixtures and similar other ordinary medicines"; where nearly, 90 per cent of the population have never heard the name of a "tooth-brush"; where millions live in houses without any ventilation whatsoever, Mr. Sinha complains that "this was the luxury that the 'A' and 'B' class prisoners were enjoying"! One would be interested to know the expectations of Mr. Sinha when he courted jail.

Threats & counter threats

In his address to the old members of the Nazi party at the famous Munich Beer Cellar on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the party on the 24th of February Hitler informed his audience that "numerous British warships are tied up in the Mediterranean. Numerous British planes are tied up in North Africa. Numerous British land forces are also tied up and it is only now that our sea warfare will start... We have been waiting for our new U-Boats." From the

tone of Hitler's speech it seems that he is very confident of victory in the long run. The speech is an open threat to Britons that Germany is soon going to launch an intensive submarine campaign. That a fierce chapter in the war is about to open is apparent from Hitler's speech.

So many threats have been

delivered by the belligerents since the war began that one is apt to come to the conclusion that this war is going to be won by threats only. Not that there has not been any action. But threats have also been too many. We are now eagerly awaiting for a counter-threat from Britain's Premier Mr. Winston Churchill.

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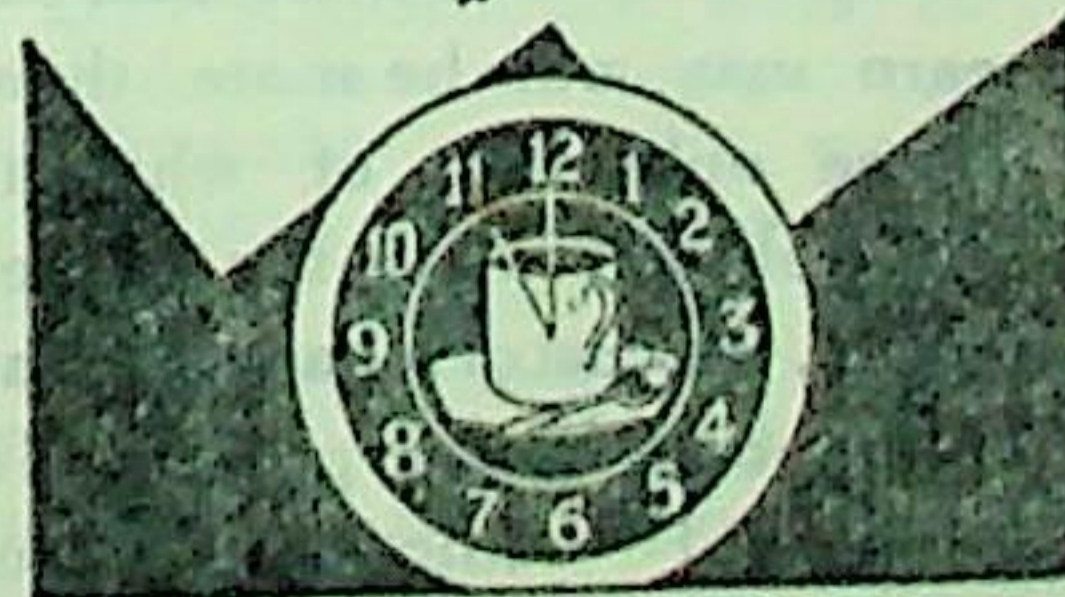
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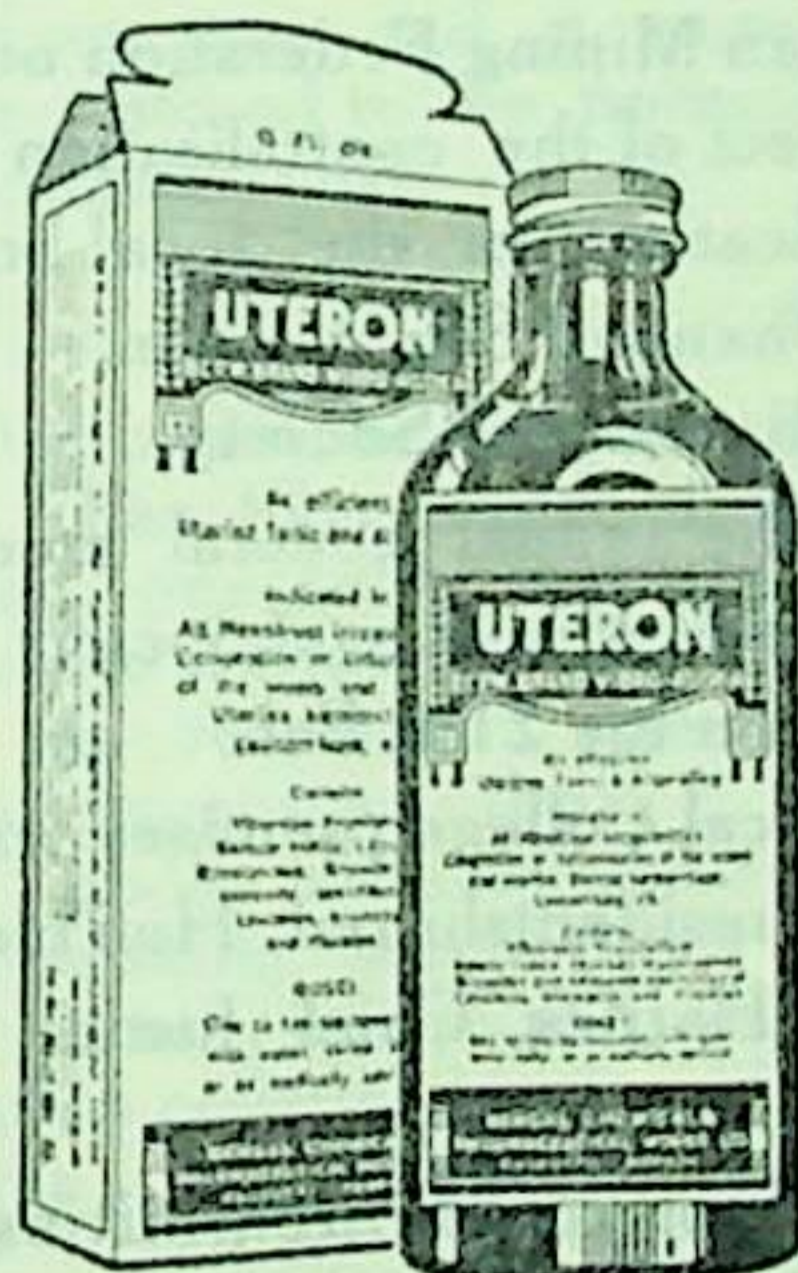
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Local & Provincial**Newsy Notes****Garden Party**

Nearly 400 ladies and gentlemen responded to the invitation of H. E. the Governor of Bihar to a garden party at Government House on Saturday the 22nd. Feb.

Bihar War efforts

At a mass meeting for war propaganda held at Panari in Gaya on the 22nd Feb. Mr. J. A. Houlton, C. I. E., I. C. S., advocated the need of an united Indian front. Defence Savings Certificates worth Rs. 500 were sold on the spot.

Bihar Muslim League

A meeting of the Provincial Muslim League Working Committee will be held on March 9 in connection with the election of delegates to the Madras session of the All-India Muslim League.

Hindu Sabha

the Bhagalpur District Hindu Sabha Conference was held at Singeshwar Asthan (Madhipura) on the 23rd and 24th Feb., under the presidentship of Mr. Dharam Chand Jain of Calcutta.

Bengali Association, Bihar

The annual general meeting of the Bhagalpur branch was held on Feb. 23 under the presidentship of Mr. Debatacharan Mukherjee. The following office-bearers were elected:—President—Rai Saheb S. N. Basu; Vice-Presidents—Messrs. Charu Chandra Choudhury and K. C. Mukherjee; Secretary—Prof. Dr. K. K. Basu, Ph. D.; Assistant Secretary—Mr. Anima Bhusan Banerjee; Treasurer—Dr. P. K. Mitter, M. B.; Members of the Committee—Rai Saheb Lal Bihari Roy Choudhury, Messrs. Debatacharan Mukherjee, N. D. Banerji, M. L. Roy Choudhury, Bagala Charan Palit, Ramapati Ghosh, Nirod Chandra Mitra, Sailesh Chandra Sinha, Dharendra Nath Sarkar and Nirmal Chandra Banerjee.

The third annual general meeting of the Bengali Association, Dinapur branch, was held on February 16, 1941, under

the Presidentship of S. P. C. Bose.

The office bearers for the current year are as follows:—President—Mr. P. C. Bose; Vice President—Mr. A. C. Sinha; Treasurer—Mr. Panchu Gopal Lahiri; Secy—Mr. Atulendu Gupta; Joint Secretaries—Messrs. N. B. Mukherjee and P. C. Roy; Asst. Secy—I. B. Das Gupta; other members—Messrs. R. M. Banerjee, S. C. Chatterji, S. K. Sen Gupta, N. C. Sen, S. C. Chakraverty (Digha), P. C. Mitra, S. C. Guha, G. C. Banerjee.

The following gentlemen have been elected office-bearers of the Monghyr Bengali Association for the year 1941. President—Rai Bahadur H. C. Basu; Vice-Presidents—(1) Mr. P. C. Goswami, (2) Mr. J. C. Majumdar, (3) Mr. Haricharan Majumdar, (4) Kaviraj N. G. Banerji; Hony. Joint General Secretaries—Dr. Jibendra Mohan Gupta and Mr. Sailendra Nath Mukherji; Members of the Executive Committee—Messrs. S. C. Mukherji, P. B. Chakravarty, M. C. Ghosh, K. K. Goswami, P. B. Mitra (Jamalpur), P. N. Das (Begusarai), H. B. Chatterji and the Secy. of the Jamui sub-branch.

Ricksaw-pullers' plight

Day by day the condition of the ricksaw-pullers is becoming worse. As the number of ricksaws is increasing the rate of hire is also decreasing, though the minimum rate of daily rent levied by the ricksaw-owners remains as usual. After a day's hard labour all that they earn may not be more than a rupee only, out of which the lion's share goes to the owners. Again, the cost of repairs etc. have to be borne by the pullers. The Municipal authorities should formulate some rules and regulations to meet their complaints.

Sports

The annual sports of the Purnendu Narayan Anglo Sans-

krit School were held in the morning of the 26th February in the Bankipur Maidan.

Old Boy's Reunion

The annual reunion function of the old boys of the Patna Medical College was held on the 25th and 26th Feb., 1941. The opening of the Scientific Exhibition was performed by Dr. Sir S. Sultan, Ahmed, Kt., D. L., and the inaugural meeting was addressed by Dr. Dwarka Nath Mitter, ex-judge, Calcutta, High Court. The function proved to be a great success.

Labour Rally

The anti-fascist Labour rally held at Patna on Feb. 23, expressed its sympathy for the workers on the continent "groaning under the iron heel of fascism". The rally resolved to send its greetings to brother workers of Britain who are putting up a valiant fight against Fascism and suggested the formation of an Indo-British Anti-Fascist Labour Front.

Dhanbad local bodies

A joint representation has been made to the Government of Bihar by the Indian Mining Association, the Indian Colliery Owners' Association and the Indian Mining Federation on the subject of the centralisation and unification of the local bodies in Dhanbad Sub-division.

Medico-Legal Society

The annual general meeting of the Medico-Legal Society was held on the 21st Feb. at the Medical College premises under the Presidentship of Hon'ble Sir T. S. Harries, Chief Justice of Bihar.

Working of Municipalities

The continued inefficient and unsatisfactory municipal administration in general is deplored in the course of a Government resolution reviewing the reports from the Commissioners of the Divisions on the working of the Municipalities in Bihar during the year 1938-39.

Cooper Memorial Medal

The Cooper Memorial Medal which is given each year to the author of the best paper published in the proceedings of the Institution of Chemists (India), will be awarded this year to

Dr. H. K. Mittra, Assistant Refractories Engineer, Tata Iron and Steel Co. He has been its recipient for 1940 as well.

Secondary School Teachers

The 11th session of the Secondary School Teachers' Conference was held at Jharia on the 23rd Feb. Dr. Sachchidanda Sinha in the course of his illuminating presidential address discussed some important problems connected with secondary education.

Subhas Day

The Subhas Day was observed throughout the province and prayers were offered in Mosques and temples for S. J. Bose's long life, health and safety.

Satyagraha in Bihar

The total number of persons arrested in the province is 242 including 52 M. L. A's, 5 members of the Central Assembly, 3 M. L. C's and 23 members of the All-India Congress Committee, reveals the report of the Bihar Provincial Congress Committee forwarded to A. I. C. C. Office on the 26th Feb. in connection with Satyagraha in Bihar. Of these so far 220 persons have been convicted. The total amount of fine is Rs. 4340.

Mass Literacy Work

The Para Thana of the Sadar Subdivision of Manbhum was selected for literacy work this year under the direct supervision of the Sub-Inspector of Schools. The Literacy Test held recently showed that 2,228 persons have become literate after three months' work. Of the total number of the students (3,856), 3,791 were reading Bengali.

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India's War Budget

It is not pleasant to write about budgets these days. Sir Jeremy Raisman told a doleful story while presenting the budget estimates. India's Defence expenditure for 1941-42 is estimated to be Rs. 84 crores 13 lakhs. Of this Rs. 39 crores represents the increase due to the war, Rs. 3 crores 55 lakhs being the effect of the rise in prices and Rs. 35 crores 40 lakhs standing for India's war measures. In spite of the imposition of additional taxation during 1940-41, expenditure for 1941-42 is to exceed revenue by Rs. 20 crores 46 lakhs. To meet the deficit partially measures of fresh taxation are proposed. The Excess Profits Tax is to be raised from 50 per cent to 66—2/3 per cent; the central surcharge on income-tax and super-tax is to be raised from 25 per cent to 33—1/3 per cent; the excise duty on matches is doubled, the duty on artificial silk yarn and thread goes up from three annas per pound to five annas per pound; a new excise duty on pneumatic tyres and tubes is to be levied at the rate of 10 per cent. These additional taxes are expected to yield Rs. 6 crores 61 lakhs. The remaining deficit will be met by borrowing.

Analysing the revised estimates for 1940-41 we find that a deficit of Rs. 8 crores 42 lakhs is disclosed. Defence expenditure has greatly exceeded the estimates prepared even as late as in November last. With Defence expenditure it is always a case of expectation falling short of results. I have no doubt in my mind that if the war goes on the Defence expenditure will be well over Rs. 100 crores if the past is any index to the future. There has been a serious worsening in revenues under Customs, Sugar Excise and Salt. Against an actual Customs revenue of Rs. 45 crores 88 lakhs for 1939-40, a budget estimate of Rs. 39 crores 16 lakhs had been made. The revised estimate is only Rs. 37 crores 75 lakhs.

An Economic Miscellany

By Economicus

The cessation of trade with enemy countries, the lack of shipping space and the prohibition by the Government of India of a number of imports for the sake of conserving exchange are responsible for the short fall in Customs. During the coming year with the threat of an unparalleled submarine warfare looming large on the horizon and the growing scarcity of the British Empire's foreign exchange facilities, not to mention the war clouds over the Pacific, it can be definitely predicted that Customs receipts will undergo a still further deterioration. The Excise on sugar showed a drop of Rs. 2 crores 10 lakhs during 1940-41 proving the wisdom of those who had appealed to the Government this time last year not to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. The imposition of additional burdens on the sugar industry was an act of the highest unwisdom and short-sightedness. And the Government of India had actually to advance the money wherewith the sugar industry paid its taxes just as the Americans did with regard to their dues from Germany. The deterioration in salt revenue was due to the laying up of stocks in the previous year and is expected to be restored to the normal in the coming year.

A crushing burden of taxation has been imposed on the Indian people. Industry is bound to relapse into a serious fit of recession due to the enhancement of the E. P. T. The stock markets which have been looking nervous for the last week or two will undergo a partial collapse and will be unable to stand the strain of new military developments in the West. The settlement arrived at between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government regarding the allocation of war expenditure should be revised so that a greater share may be borne by Britain. By Britain the increase will not be felt, so great is her war expenditure already. To India it may mean salvation. I am surprised that the initiative has not come from the side of Mr. Churchill and Mr. L. S. Amery who have such a vivid conception of the unity of the British Empire. The enhancement of the excise duty on matches has been a capital blunder. It will be a daily reminder to the poverty stricken masses of the burden imposed by the war. Perhaps the Govern-

ment of India desire that such schooling should be given to the masses as part of their political training. Certainly the sum of Rs. 1½ crores to be yielded by the additional duty on matches could also have been met out of borrowings.

There is no reason why the whole of the budget deficit could not have been met by loans. As a matter of fact the Government of India have raised Defence Loans amounting to Rs. 50 crores in eight months. These loans are quite sufficient to meet budget deficits. To relieve their ways and means position and to meet unforeseen calls on their purse for Defence, the Government can raise more money by Treasury Bills and can take greater advances from the Reserve Bank. The policy of the Government hits the tax-payer in both ways. He is not only heavily taxed in the present; he also remains under the liability to pay interest on and repay the principal of Defence Loans.

Railway Budget

In view of the huge railway surplus, it has been demanded that the freights and fares should be reduced. Had the surplus been put in a reserve fund and spent for the lasting good of the railways I would have considered the demand as short-sighted, even selfish. The Indian railways really need a substantial reserve fund as a balancing mechanism. The present situation is irrational. The moratorium will in all probability have to be extended indefinitely. But the surplus is, in my view, being frittered away. It is therefore desirable that the masses should be relieved of the additional taxation imposed on them through enhanced rates and fares.

The Communications Member has sought to justify the dismantling of railway lines on the ground that the lines in question are all non-paying. That does not certainly mean that the lines would have been dismantled sooner or later, war or no war. Some of these lines were constructed only recently. Their dismantling certainly looks strange and indefensible. The Central Assembly resents that it was not consulted before the dismantling took place. The Assembly's vote had to be taken before the lines were constructed. Even non-paying lines do some service to the countryside. A line

non-paying to-day may be paying to-morrow, who knows? The railway utilities have a knack of maturing late. The war seems to be the sole justification of the dismantling.

The war is also responsible for the postponement of the project of manufacturing broad-gauge locomotives in India. The decision to manufacture broad-gauge locomotives in India followed the submission of the Humphries-Srinivasan Report. The decision was taken after the outbreak of the war. But since the war took a bad turn, Government's plans have radically changed. The productive resources of India are being regimented for the prosecution of the war. The railways have become a war industry. The Ajmere workshop could not execute the order for the manufacture of 25 locomotives. How could it? The men, machines and machine tools of the railways are being utilised by the Government for the manufacture of war requisites under Defence Orders. As I read the debates over broad-gauge locomotives and the dismantling of railway lines I am left with the feeling that there is a great and unbridgeable gulf between the Government and the representatives of the people in their ideas as to the proper distribution of the productive resources of India over war needs and other needs.

The Anglo-Indians in the employment of the Railways get higher pay and emoluments than the Indians. This violates the principle of equal pay for equal work. The Anglo-Indians also enjoy a statutory ratio in respect of appointments to railway services. All these privileges should be ruthlessly brushed aside. The argument is sometimes heard that the Anglo-Indians have only a few strictly limited avenues of employment open to them. This is a strange defence of what is in fact a monopoly with high earnings. No such argument is heard while snatching the bread from the mouths of Bengali Hindus in Bengal and Bihar and giving it, in many cases, to far less qualified Muslims and Bihari Hindus. Yet, the Bengali Hindus only demand a fair field and no favour. If the Anglo-Indians want to live as Indians they must be co-sharers in our misfortunes. They must take their chances in the open competitive market and must be prepared for a lowering of their standard of living unless they earn their title to it through superior efficiency.

Foreign Affairs

Germany's Balkan Policy

—Crisis in the Far East

By B. G. Feb. 27, 1941.

A disheartening disquiet pervades the whole atmosphere. There is bustle in the Balkans and furore in the Far East. After much stress the Lease and Lend Bill is going to get the Congressional approval by the weekend, though the Isolationist senators have threatened to conduct a coast-to-coast campaign in an effort to dissuade the Government from being embroiled in the war. The United States' Government have placed the aluminium and machine tool producers on the mandatory priority basis under the defence programme, that is, the production of the domestic consumption units must be withheld in favour of defence orders. General Franco, the Spanish Dictator, met Signor Mussolini at Bordighera on the Italian frontier and, according to an Italian official statement, attained complete identity of views. But about what the identity was, we are not told. A Soviet-Jap non-aggression pact is imminent, another shocking wonder for the mock-lovers of the Soviets. From all this is evident that something is afoot. Dark clouds are hovering with frequent rumblings, and the storm will be unleashed before long.

War is spreading

Reports from different sources indicate that Germany is hastily planning an invasion of Britain. An intense U-Boat campaign coupled with a terrible air *blitz* will precede the landing of troops and tanks on the island. "We shall find them wherever they go and strike where our blows will be most destructive", blurted out Hitler from the famous Munich Beer Cellar. And Germany's recent moves in the Balkans and other regions lend weight to these words of Hitler which others concerned can only ignore at their own peril.

The plan of invasion is on the table of the German High Command and the Nazi milita-

rists are hammering their brains to translate it into action without delay. There is another parallel plan for making an invasion line through Salonika to the Suez Canal. This involves fleet action and the capture of Greek ports, the clipping of the Mediterranean into two at Sicily, the closing of Gibraltar through Spain for isolating the victorious Army of the Nile from the Army of Britain. A vigorous submarine warfare will be resumed in the Atlantic to null the effect of the Lease and Lend Bill. And the oriental partner of the Axis will be egged on to destroy the British and the American bases in the Far East for smoothing out the obstacles lying on the 'peaceful' way of her 'New Order'.

Let us see how Germany is working according to the plan.

Balkan policy of the Nazis

I emphasise again the importance of the Mediterranean in this battle, and I still hold the view that Germany has either to make way through Bulgaria or Yugoslavia to Aegean and Adriatic, not only to strangle the Greeks and to nip the plan of Britain for opening a new front in the Balkans, but also to snatch the offensive and to start a *blitz* over the British Mediterranean Fleet. This will open the way to Africa and save the collapsing Fascist empire. Above all, it will cut the main artery of the British Empire, split it into fragments, and the scattered, disjointed parts will be the victims of Fascist vultures.

Germany pursues a definite policy in the Balkans. The aim of this policy has always been 'totalitarianism from within'. The ruling classes of the Balkans are in no way superior to the Nazis and the Nazis have always concentrated on winning the middle class for fascism. The impoverished small nobility in Hungary, the unemployed educated class in Rumania, the professional officer class in

Bulgaria and the civil servants in Yugoslavia have always been and are still eager to take their orders from Berlin. But the Balkan middle classes are too weak to wrest power from the ruling classes, who are ready to welcome Germany for the joint exploitation of the peasantry and the masses but would not subordinate their interests to the exigencies of German autarchy. Herein lies the conflict between the ruling classes of the Balkans and the Nazis, and the degenerated middle classes or the potential fascists are helpless between the jealous ruling classes on the top and the vast, hungry peasants at the bottom. This war has almost obliterated this conflict and the Nazis are now intelligently stirring up the itches of territorial claims of each Balkan country to make their policy of 'Fascism from within' successful. In Hungary and Rumania it has already succeeded and in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia it is likely to be successful.

So, there is nothing to be surprised at if Bulgaria yields to German pressure and Yugoslavia follows suit. A group of peasant leaders in Bulgaria have been arrested, and this news of internal troubles is far more important than the reports of the building up of the bridges across the Danube for the transport of German tanks. It means that in Bulgaria, the Land of Dimitroffs, all is not well. There may be peasant risings, because the peasants alone stand against fascism. They may be crushed as they were in Rumania, but the smouldering fire will be crawling on the soil of the Balkans till it bursts out into a big fire of revolution. That is inevitable if this war continues.

The ruling classes of the Balkans have betrayed the masses. Rumania did not welcome a pact of mutual assistance with Soviet Russia and Bulgaria also stupidly refused to sign any such pact with the Soviets. Why? Because that is the crying demand of the Balkan people and the non-chalant ruling classes cannot respond to that demand. Soviet Russia, therefore, has no responsibility for maintaining peace in the Balkans, and her recently built

Danube flotilla and Red Air Force will be vigorously used for teaching good moral lesson to anyone creating nuisance or menacing her South-Western frontier.

Germany is fully conscious of this stern eventuality. Hitler is mad, but there is method in his madness. And this method may force him to turn his eyes from Turkey, Iraq and Iran to the Mediterranean and then to Africa. This is the interpretation of the Turco-Bulgarian agreement and in this sense it is a triumph of Nazi diplomacy.

In the Far East

Germany is playing this diplomatic game with Japan in the Far East. She is bringing pressure on Japan to settle disputes with Soviet Russia and to sign a non-aggression pact with her. That would be another boomerang for Britain. British politicians are now regretting the steady refusal of Soviet Russia to negotiate with Britain. There is nothing to regret in it when the honourable ministers like Mr. Herbert Morrison and Mr. Bevin are still in Mr. Churchill's cabinet. The Munich men have left with bags the shores of England but there are Morrisons and Bevins to utter uncharitable, undiplomatic and unparliamentary words against communism and the Soviet Union. This mentality was miserably exposed in a most undiplomatic speech of Mr. Morrison in the Parliament during the debate on the suppression of *Daily Worker*. For all these abominable blunders at home, Sir Stafford Cripps is rotting in his Ambassador's office at Moscow, and his Soviet sympathy is cutting very little ice. The giants of Kremlin have enough intelligence to probe into lengthy, embellished speeches on democracy and peace.

Japan will seize this opportunity of making up differences with Soviet Russia as Germany did. Soviet Russia will gladly welcome Japan if Japan approaches with a frank mind. When the fire is spreading over the Far East, Soviet Russia's policy of strict neutrality dictates that she should bar all the doors of conflict in that zone. And this pact is a necessary preliminary for Japan to put into action the concentrated troops in Formosa and Hainan, the Army of occupation in Indo-China, and the naval base at Saigon, only some 850 miles from Singapore or Manila. The 'Black Dragons' will begin their long-cherished adventures on the South Seas.

Thus the war is drifting, from localised fires to world-wide conflagration.

The Pageant of Indian Politics

By Monitor

28-2-41

The Council of the All India Muslim League met last week at Delhi and passed a number of resolutions. These show that the League has not budged an inch from the position it took up at Lahore with regard to the political future of India. The first resolution expressed strong disapproval of some of the recent utterances of Mr. Amery, the Secretary of State for India, specially the enunciation by him of the "India first" slogan and his insistence on the political and economic unity of India. While claiming that "Musalmans of India are proud to be Indians and firmly believe in India for Indians" the resolution stated that the term "Indian" covers three times a greater range of people than the term "European" does. In this view the resolution reiterated that the only solution of India's constitutional problem which would ensure peace, harmony and satisfaction among all elements, interests and inhabitants of this vast sub-continent, was that "geographically contiguous units should be demarcated into regions which should be so constituted with such territorial readjustments as might be necessary, that the areas in which the Muslims were numerically in a majority as in the north-western and eastern zones of India, should be grouped to constitute independent states in which the constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign."

Another resolution passed by the Council, characterised the Civil Disobedience movement started by the Congress as "designed to bring pressure on the British Government to resile from the position it has taken in regard to the future constitution of India relating to the Muslims and other minorities and to concede to the Congress demands which are fundamentally opposed by Muslim India as they are detrimental to their vital interest". In this view the

resolution warned the British Government that "if any concession to the Congress is made which adversely affects or militates against the Muslim demands, it will be resisted by the Muslim League with all the power it can command".

The point to note about these resolutions is that they are apparently without any immediate provocation. The points referred to in the resolution were mentioned by Mr. Amery quite a long time ago. In the immediate past he said nothing

which would bear the interpretation that the British Government were going sympathetically to consider the Congress demand for Swaraj. On the contrary, whenever Mr. Amery has said one or two beautiful words or picturesque phrases about the future of India as a self-governing unity, he has taken good care to emphasise that no new constitution would be given to India if it were not agreed to by the minorities concerned. In his latest pronouncement also he has emphasised the necessity for "an agreement between the main elements of India's national life as the indispensable condition precedent to India's

constitutional advance". It is obvious therefore that the Muslim League received no provocation from the British Government to pass such a militant resolution.

The second resolution seems even more unprovoked and unwarranted. It puts an interpretation on the Satyagraha movement which it would hardly bear. Mahatma Gandhi himself has said on several occasions that the object of the Satyagraha movement is not the independence of India but freedom of speech to preach against the war. Only the other day Gandhiji wrote to a Bombay paper saying that the movement would be withdrawn

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the moment freedom of speech was conceded and the *status quo* was restored. This indeed is the reason why many Congressmen are thoroughly dissatisfied with the present movement. But the Muslim League has held in its resolution that the movement is intended to coerce not only the British Government but also the Muslims of India. This interpretation strikes most people as fantastic. It even gives the Satyagraha movement a credit which many hold it may not deserve.

The apparent lack of justification for the resolution suggests the real reason for which it may have been passed. It is obvious that these resolutions will have two immediate effects. They will encourage the Government of India to stiffen their repressive policy as against the Satyagraha movement. They will also strengthen the case of the British Government that the Congress demand cannot be conceded because the Muslims of India as represented by the Muslim League, are strongly opposed to these demands being met. On the whole, therefore, the League resolutions will only prolong the political deadlock in India.

Suggestions have been made in certain quarters that the Congress will seize the earliest opportunity to arrive at a settlement with the British Government. This seems improbable. Mahatma Gandhi has again declared that there can be no settlement during the pendency of the war except on the basis of independence of India which the British Government have no desire whatsoever to concede. It is on this basis that Satyagraha has been going on in all provinces. Public interest in the movement has undoubtedly waned because its novelty has worn out. But on the part of Mahatmaji or his followers there has been no slackening of efforts. It cannot certainly be said that the

requisite number of Satyagrahis are not forthcoming to court arrest. But the Government policy of non-arrest except in very special cases has robbed the movement of its spectacular character and also of its publicity value to a certain extent.

A flood of light has been thrown on the character of this movement by the Gandhi-Subhas Bose correspondence that was released to the Press last week. The letters that passed between the two leaders are otherwise illuminating too. It appears that Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose

had offered, subject to his protest against the individual character of the movement and against the policy of the Congress High Command in regard to Bengal, his services and the services of the Forward Bloc to Mahatma Gandhi for the present movement. But Gandhiji declined the offer on the ground that there were fundamental differences between the two and stated that so long as one was not able to convert the other the two must sail in separate boats even though "the goal was apparently—and only apparently—the

same". Explaining the differences about the goal Gandhiji said further that independence won through violence would be essentially different from the independence won by non-violent means. The last remark has evoked the comment in Bengal that Subhas Babu was no more a believer in violence than members of the Working Committee who were responsible for the Delhi offer. On the whole, the correspondence has revealed that the present Satyagraha movement is not national to the extent its predecessors were.

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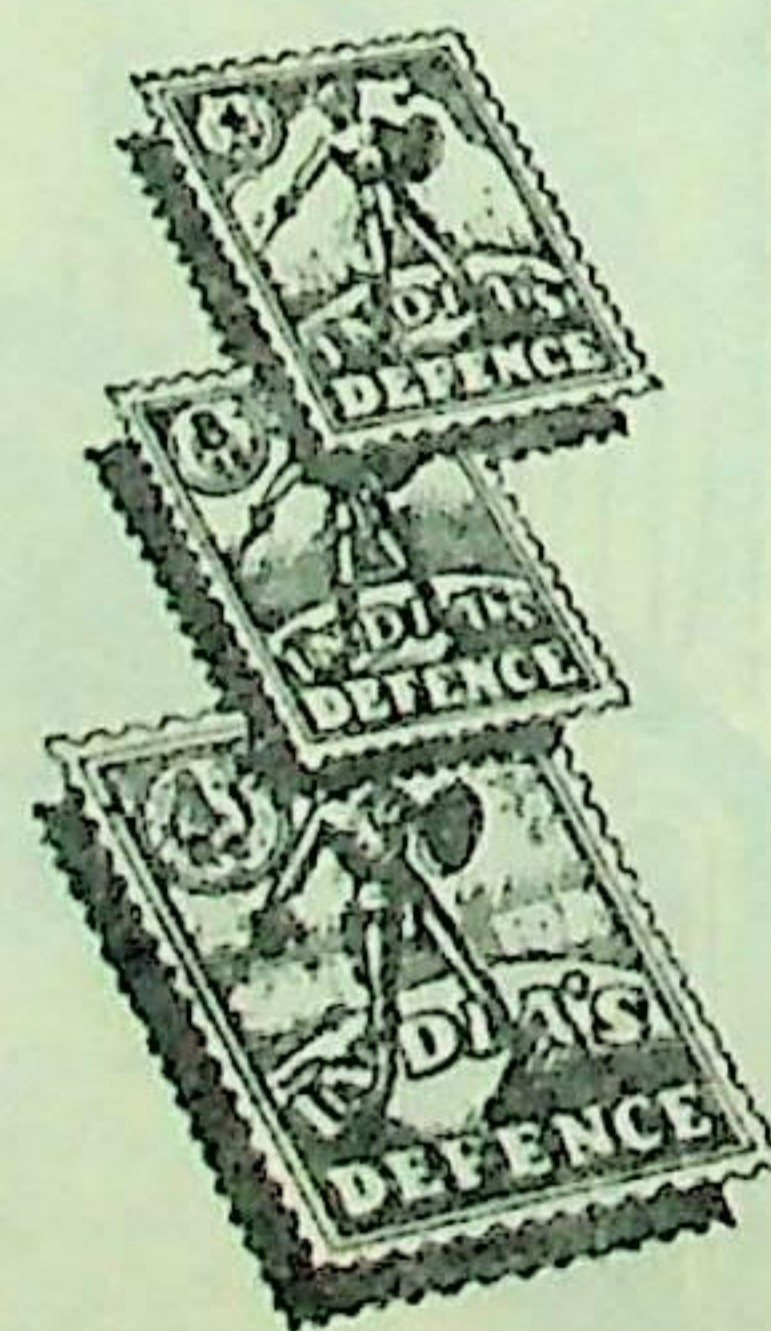
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Situate on a hill in the north-west of London, in close proximity to Parliament Hill, with Spaniards Walk on the top and little valleys and lowlands thrown in between Hampstead Heath is a really lovely spot. Centrally situated as it is Hyde Park may be sure of a visit or two by a foreigner visiting England's metropolis, but a curious dullness pervades its flat immensity. If it were not for the Serpentine and that portion of it where they cultivate those beautiful flowers, it would be a boring place to devote one's leisure to. No wonder then that Londoners call the area round about the Heath "Happy Hampstead".

Spaniards Walk draws a good crowd of enthusiastic walkers; probably because it occupies the highest point in London and the long wide pavement that it provides. On a clear day one can have a bird's eye view of London, specially the East End, spread below, with the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral in the distance, towering above all, watching as it were, the surrounding glory of God. Up on Spaniards Walk one feels like being "on top of the world" ready to survey human affairs and suggest remedies for a sorely distracted world. And well one might for looking at the prospect from that height, one is, sometimes, reminded of this great wide world of ours. How like the East End it is!

The view down South or West is different. Here on the outskirts of the West End are to be found the residential quarters of well-to-do and the very rich. And as if to emphasise the fact that wealth and beauty go together, it is the western view that furnishes those lovely sights at sunset time. It is a pleasant pastime with many visitors to the Heath to crowd round the Pond and watch Nature "painting the blue with beautiful hues". What glorious tints and how variegated? It's at least true of the Sun that he dies in a blaze of glory.

It was one such evening some time in June 1927. A glorious evening had followed

Beneath the London Sun

By Principal B. P. Sinha

one gorgeous day. It had been London's first touch of summer, and rows of families, who had been out picnicing on the Heath, were now preparing to leave. They did not wish to go, but children had to be fed and put to bed, and it was getting late. Others more fortunately lingered on.

As usual, a crowd had gathered near the Pond to witness, as some one said in fun, "the beauty pervade on the Western theatre". Among them, pensive and lonely, stood an Indian youth watching the clouds literally bathed in sunshine. Any one could see he was completely occupied with that heavenly harmony, intently listening as it were, to the strangely beautiful music emanating from the sunset sky. He was certainly enjoying it, but enjoying as one does a beautiful but melancholy piece. Evidently it had a bitter sweet quality—at least for him. There was a touch of sadness in his expression, as if it sent him longing for some far off thing or left him captive, so to say, of a restless longing for the unattainable.

A smothered sigh had just escaped him when he felt the touch of some one's hand on his left shoulder introducing the remark—"Conversing with Nature or in tune with the Infinite, which is it? I hope I am not intruding."

It was Ananda Mohan teasing his friend and class-fellow, Ajit Kumar, whom he always condemned as being an incurable romantic but whose company he nevertheless thoroughly enjoyed.

"Of course, you are not", replied Ajit Kumar, and pointing to the western horizon said: "Isn't that glorious?"

"Sure it is. I mean it's all right: but nothing to go into raptures about—not if you ask me. Come and have a walk with me, and inspect the beauties on parade on Spaniards Walk".

"It's funny how such a beautiful sight affects you so little.

You seem only too ready to exchange this for that. But even though it often makes me sad, I can't easily tear myself away from it."

"Makes you sad? You are not home sick, are you?"

"No, not quite. Of course, it does sometimes remind me of those dear people I have left behind in India, how they might be doing this same thing at more or less the same time, and how I miss them, their company and affection which were a source of such great comfort in the past. But one, sooner or later, gets over that; and I have been away a considerable time now. No, it is not that I meant, but something almost permanent and ancient. It's the feeling of restlessness and utter loneliness that comes over me at these times."

"Almost permanent and ancient? Do you mean you were like this even before you came to this country?"

"Oh yes; even while I was in India at college. Those lovely moonlit nights amidst those extensive college and hostel grounds gave me great thrills, only to make me intensely lonely the next moment."

"I say, you have not been disappointed in love?"

"Never experienced that grand feeling. It appears to be one of those things not meant for me. And yet I seem always to be on the fringe of it."

"How nice? I should love to be in this explosive state. But why should such sights make you restless and lonely?"

"Perhaps because they rouse us so, lift us so much above our surroundings that the next inevitable step is depression. Oh, I don't know. It is such a joyous experience, and yet it leaves a legacy of a pain to me."

Ajit Kumar had put so much emotion into this last sentence that he had to stop a while but began again.

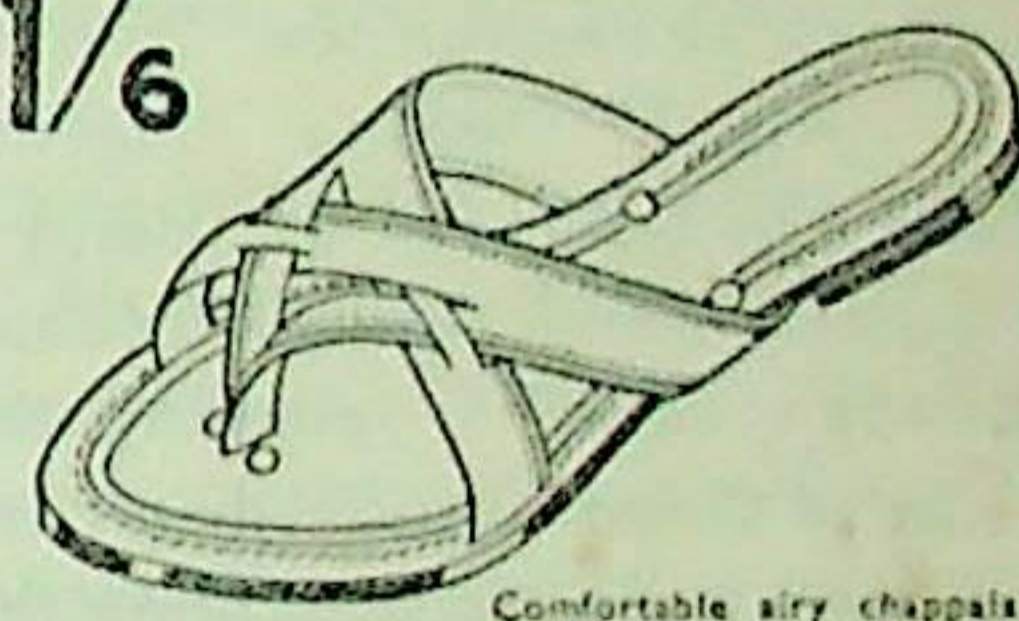
"I will try and explain. Such a contact with Nature touches

something deep in us. It thrills you through and through and leaves you bursting, as it were, with emotion. One wishes to express, to communicate the stirrings within. If only one could dance, sing, play, paint or produce poetry? But it is not given to all of us to turn our finer emotions into motion or imagination, to weave them into beautiful wordy or musical patterns, to colour the canvas with their richness and beauty. A glance, a kiss, an embrace, however, we are all capable of Love, the universal medium alone remains. But love is a game of two. It is when we lack the resources not only of art but love as well that our restlessness turns into loneliness."

"Beautiful! you have got it out at last. I have been saying that to myself all this time.

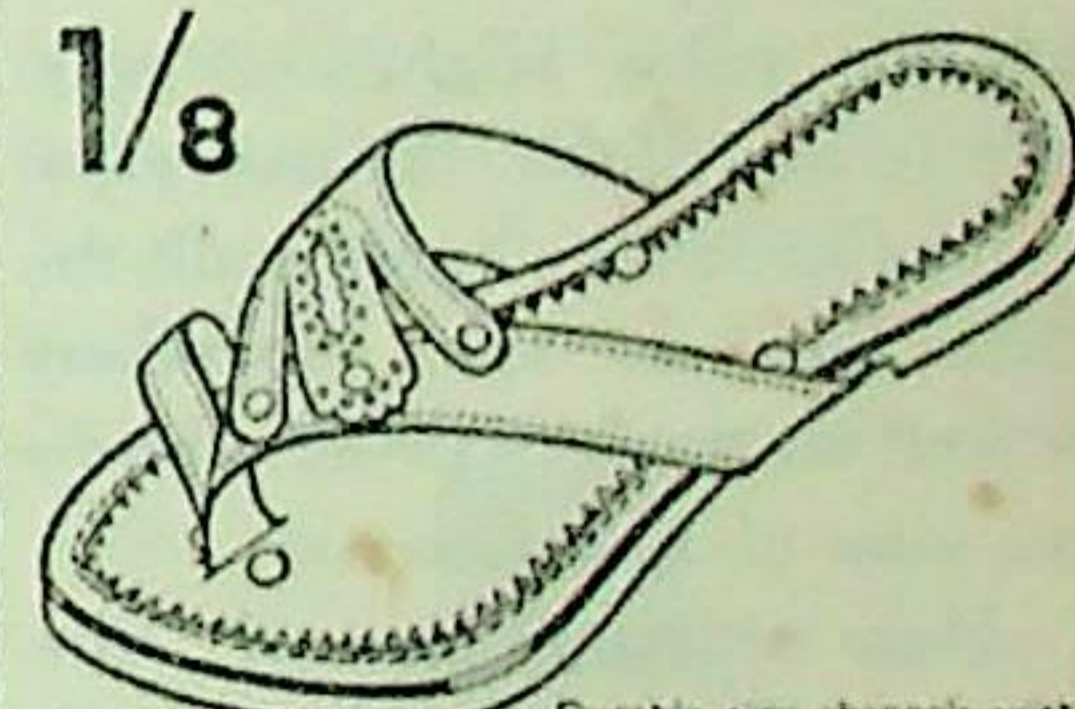
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1/6



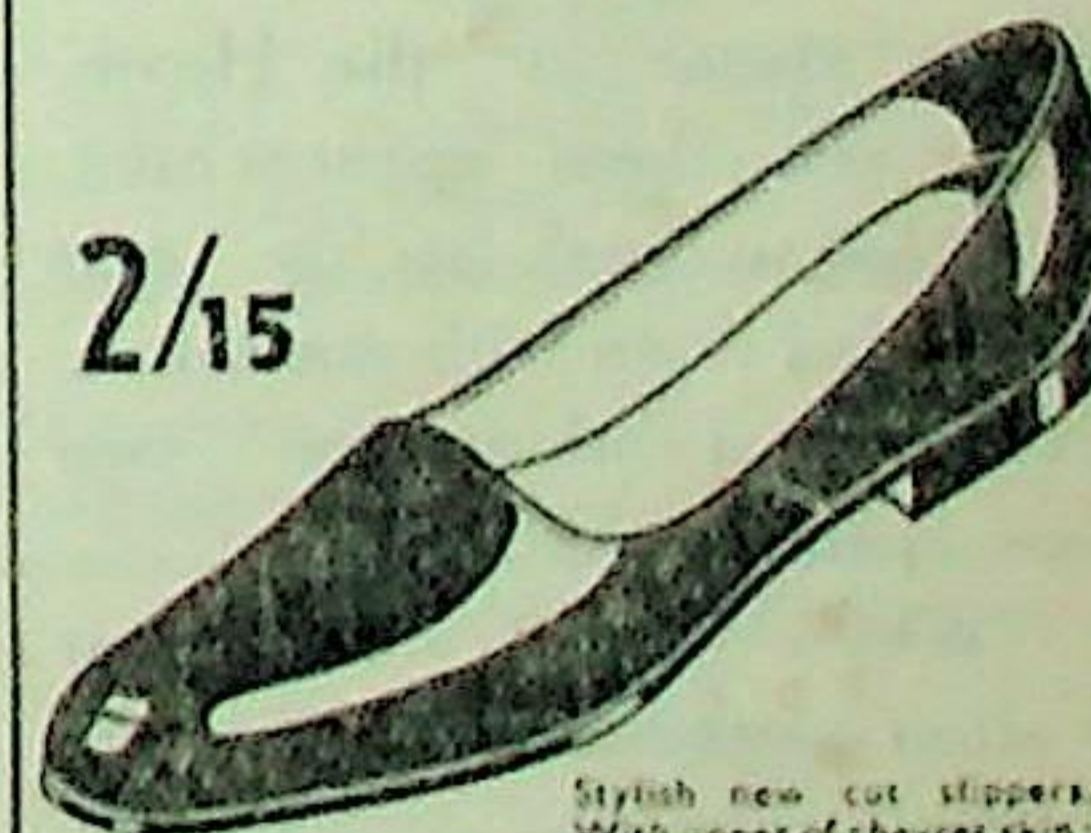
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You know—saying it inwardly; you would call it feeling, I suppose. But if I were you, I should stop gazing at the western sky *alone*."

"Nonsense. That would only aggravate the malady. The need is for more, not less, of such experiences. They satisfy a vital human need—our craving for beauty. Love of beauty is man's responsibility. And where else except to Nature can we go for a vision as well as the inspiration for this task. Man is essentially a dreamer. It is his dreaming that differentiates him from the rest of the creation. But while Man dreams, Nature acts seeking the fulfilment of his dreams he is for ever striving by such contacts to release creative energy within us—to thrill us into activity."

By this time, the sun had dipped down the horizon unnoticed, leaving behind a few dark grey clouds—these little bits of mystery suggestive of sunrise somewhere. The two friends moved on towards Spaniards Walk; Ananda Mohan to satisfy his earlier wish and Ajit Kumar to have a stroll, and perhaps, to capture the "top of the world" feeling. Having done a half-circle of the Pond—a process which Ananda Mohan always called "rounding the Cape of Good Hope"—they crossed over to the pavement on the other side of Spaniards Walk, and were now to be seen near the bus stop, going Highgate way. A little way further the pavement widens into a nice broad walk, the most favoured spot of walkers as well as those desiring a bird's eye view of East London.

Here sitting on one of the benches, was a mutual friend, Man Mohan Singh, a more regular visitor to the Heath. As he saw them approaching, Man Mohan Singh left his seat and hailed them with the words, "Hallo, what brings you two here, specially Ajit?"

"Why", said Ajit Kumar "I often come here. I like the Heath very much."

"Oh yes", put in Ananda Mohan "you ought to have seen him near the Pond glued as it were to the western sky. I assure

you I have had the greatest difficulty in dragging him hither."

And, jesting and joking, the three of them joined the crowd of walkers. A cool breeze was blowing past that portion of Spaniards Walk and it was really delightful to take strides along there; it would have been more so but for the Romeos in fuming automobiles who would not exclude even Spaniards Walk in their search for "Sports".

In the long twilight which England provides these three must have walked up and down many a time, past all kinds of people, rich and poor, young and old. They had just resumed their sixth or seventh walk when Man Mohan said rather suddenly, "I say, do you particularly want to go in this direction? If not, let us turn back".

"Tired" cried Ajit Kumar.

"Not but I want to go Hampstead Way. Didn't you see that girl?"

This last remark was meant for a young girl, who had just walked past this trio with a not very discouraging glance at Man Mohan who had tried several times during the evening to attract her attention.

"Yes, I have noticed your little game", broke in Anand Mohan.

"But you don't mean to say" demanded Ajit Kumar, "you are going after her. What could you want with a girl like that?"

"No philosophic discussions of course" came the quick retort from Man Mohan. "But she might help brighten my evenings".

"Rot" said Ajit Kumar. "She won't be able to carry on five minutes' decent conversation. Her looks are all she has. And not much of that either".

Man Mohan did not answer, but looked back to make sure that the nice young thing was not getting out of his reach. He could have excused himself and gone, but just then they all turned back, having reached this end of the pavement. He could not see that she was not

far ahead—not too near yet not so far—and so did not bother. Very soon, he would be nearer.

They were now approaching the bus stop as well as the fair walker ahead—having walked faster than her. So, the conversation stopped. They parted, Man Mohan Singh taking leave of others, went Hamstead Way, following her footsteps, while Ajit Kumar and Ananda Mohan took the North End Road to Golder's Green.

Man Mohan was more friendly with Ajit Kumar than with Ananda Mohan. In fact he was rather attached to Ajit Kumar and Ajit knew this. Hence the vehemence of his remark about Man Mohan going away under those circumstances.

Ajit Kumar was still ruminating over it, Anand Mohan walking beside him. "Poor Man Mohan" said he, breaking the silence, "so that's his solution of the dullness he feels, the emotional starvation he is undergoing in common with the rest of us. Yet I don't know whether to pity or envy him".

"How do you mean" enquired Anand Mohan. "Think for a moment. Isn't he fortunate? He will go through life much more happily than I. He demands so little and expects much less. He can be happy with a "mere" woman. So, you see, he has not far to seek. Happiness lies hidden for him round the corner".

"Clever indeed! Don't you like to hear yourself talk?"

"Don't be silly! I mean it. Sometimes, I really envy his capacity to be satisfied so easily with so little. Only the mood does not last with me. It seems such a shame to be so easily satisfied something beneath the dignity of human beings. We must justify our natural inheritance. The Creation's Crown we have got to bear".

"In other words" said Anand Mohan "it is serious dereliction of duty in a human being not to endeavour to keep his conduct at the highest human level".

"No, I shouldn't say that. I mean that in not doing our best and giving of our best, we would be missing the beauty of life—real happiness. To grasp the significance of human existence, to strive to fill a useful, a beautiful role in the scheme of things, is to fulfil ourselves and be supremely happy. Nothing else can supply that steady undercurrent of happiness beneath those surface-variations symbolic of the troubles and miseries of life".

"That steady undercurrent of happiness"! I like that ring of that phrase, as of many others gone before it. But you are not in a hurry to get my opinion about it all, are you? For I must go now. I am already late for supper. There is my bus going. Good night".

"Good night" said Ajit Kumar in response while his eyes followed Anand Mohan as he ran to the bus near the Golder's Green Monument.

Anand Mohan was soon borne towards Child's Hill on his way to West Hampstead, while Ajit Kumar made his way to his lodging in Hampstead Garden suburb.

Thus ended a real summer day for these three Indian youths in London.



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The War & the Tatas

By J. J. Ghandy

It is just over a year ago that I had the privilege of giving an address at Patna on the "Key Industries in Bihar". I said then, and I say it again to-day, that never in the past was the need for commercial and industrial museums so great as it is to-day when a nation must industrialise or perish. That such museums will play a great part in the industrial development of the country by bringing the producer into relation with the consumer, there is no question; though, the full measure of its contribution, only the passage of time will disclose.

Unfortunately, to-day, the world is passing through a crisis of the utmost gravity. We are threatened with danger not only from the West, but also from the East. I know of no organisation political or otherwise, in this country, or, in any other freedom-loving country which does not hope and pray for the victory of Britain and for the annihilation of Hitlerism. At a time like this, it may be of interest if I reviewed the activities of the Main Works of the Tata Iron & Steel Company which constitute the largest single steel producing unit in the British Empire.

The main works of the Company have witnessed numerous extensions in the past few years. It is not possible for me to make a detailed reference to these extensions now. It is enough to state that the company has spent over seven crores of rupees on its expansion programme during the last six years and has to-day further extensions in hand, which will not only be of the greatest value to the railways, but also of vital importance for the development of supplies for the army in India as well as for the Government's programme of war-time extensions. Two electric furnaces have only recently been installed for the manufacture of electric steel of

the highest quality, and a plant has been ordered for the manufacture of axles, wheels and tyres, so necessary for the manufacture of locomotives in India, and for the maintenance of transport facilities. The Company is also erecting a new steel making plant which will not only increase its production of ordinary steel, but also enable it to manufacture acid steel which, as is probably known, is required for the manufacture of locomotive wheels, tyres, axles and all machinery that necessitates the use of high quality steel.

Of the highest importance is the development work that the Company is conducting in its new control and research laboratories. Already, experiments have enabled it to produce bullet-proof armour plates of special alloy steel which have withstood the severe firing tests demanded by the British Armour Plate Specification and will enable Government to build before long armoured vehicles on Canadian chassis in the country. In addition the Company has been able to turn out special type for the armour-piercing projectiles and another special type for drawing into telegraph wires. The other special steels on which development work is being carried out include spring steels for machine guns, deep stamping steels for rifle and machine gun magazines, for anti-aircraft bullet clips, nickel steel sheets for fabrication into gun platform and carriages and alloy steel sheets for the manufacture of steel helmets of which one must have seen specimens on the screen as well as in various illustrated periodicals.

As a part of its war effort, the Company has also agreed to train 250 mechanics for the Indian Air Force and in addition 50 men for the Indian Army Ordnance Corps and Ordnance factories, these 50 men being trained in the apprentice shop

Patna Insurance Club

Insurance business is a recent growth in India and more than 300 companies have sprung up in different parts of the country. The first effective step taken by the Government for the regulation and systematisation of the business was taken in 1912. Since then there had no doubt been further legislation; but there was not still so much state control over the companies and their activities. Naturally a large number of new companies came into existence without much thought or care for the future. As a result the whole business was subjected to comprehensive enquiry by the Government of India and the Insurance Act of 1938 with all its stringency and powers of State control was passed and came into force on the 1st July, 1939. Since this enquiry there has been a lot of discussion on all aspects of this business both in the Press and the Central Legislature. Other Provinces have each got some organization or other through which public opinion was voiced on the legislative measures adopted by the Government. In Bihar there is unfortunately no organization to educate or voice public opinion on the burning questions that are engaging the attention of the Insurance world. There is no journal nor are any particular facilities offered by the local papers in this direction. There have been several attempts to set up an organiza-

tion bringing in its fold Insurance men and workers of all the companies working in this province, though there are about 30 offices in Patna itself. None of these attempts survived their first expression. A fresh attempt is being made and an *Insurance Club* has been started. Its immediate object is to provide a common meeting ground and develop a social and cultural contact amongst the Insurance men and workers associated with the offices in Patna.

The club will soon start a library of its own and arrange discussions, talks, reading of papers on different aspects of Insurance business and provide other recreation facilities. The club has already met 5 times in different offices by rotation under the chairmanship of Mr. Jnan Saha, M. A., Secretary of the Bihar United Insurance Ltd. In one meeting Messrs N. G. Samaddar, B. A., Dip. Ed. of the Scottish Union and Bhagwat Sahay of the Bombay Mutual have been elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The membership fee has been fixed at Rupee one per month for the present. Already twelve members associated with twelve different companies have joined the club and efforts are being made to extend the membership. All enquirees about the club are to be made from the Secretary, 'Pataliputra', Kadamkuan P. O. (Patna).

which the Company has constructed for the training of its "C" class Apprentices.

For the present, I shall content myself with this brief description of the war work of the Tata Iron & Steel Co., and make no reference to its other activities, particularly as the one thought foremost in every mind today is War. It may be said, and said with justification that this war will be won or lost on the steel front. I may assure all, that in this grim hour of crisis Tatas, the expanding arsenal of India, will not fail.—By courtesy of the Bihar Commercial Museum:



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