

Behar Herald

Editor : J. N. GHOSH

Vol. LXXVIII]

PATNA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 1951

[No. 3

U.N. Is Six Years Old



UNITED
NATIONS
DAY

October 24

On this date, six years ago, the Charter of the United Nations came into force. On this date U.N. reaffirms the aims of the organization, recalls its achievements and pledges to continue all efforts to realize its purposes : Collective measures against aggression, promotion of peaceful settlement of disputes, international action for economic and social progress, aid to peoples on the road to independence. These are the main avenues along which U.N. advances into its seventh year of existence. Throughout the world, in every field of human endeavor, U.N. affiliated agencies continue action towards the achievement of these goals of the Charter.

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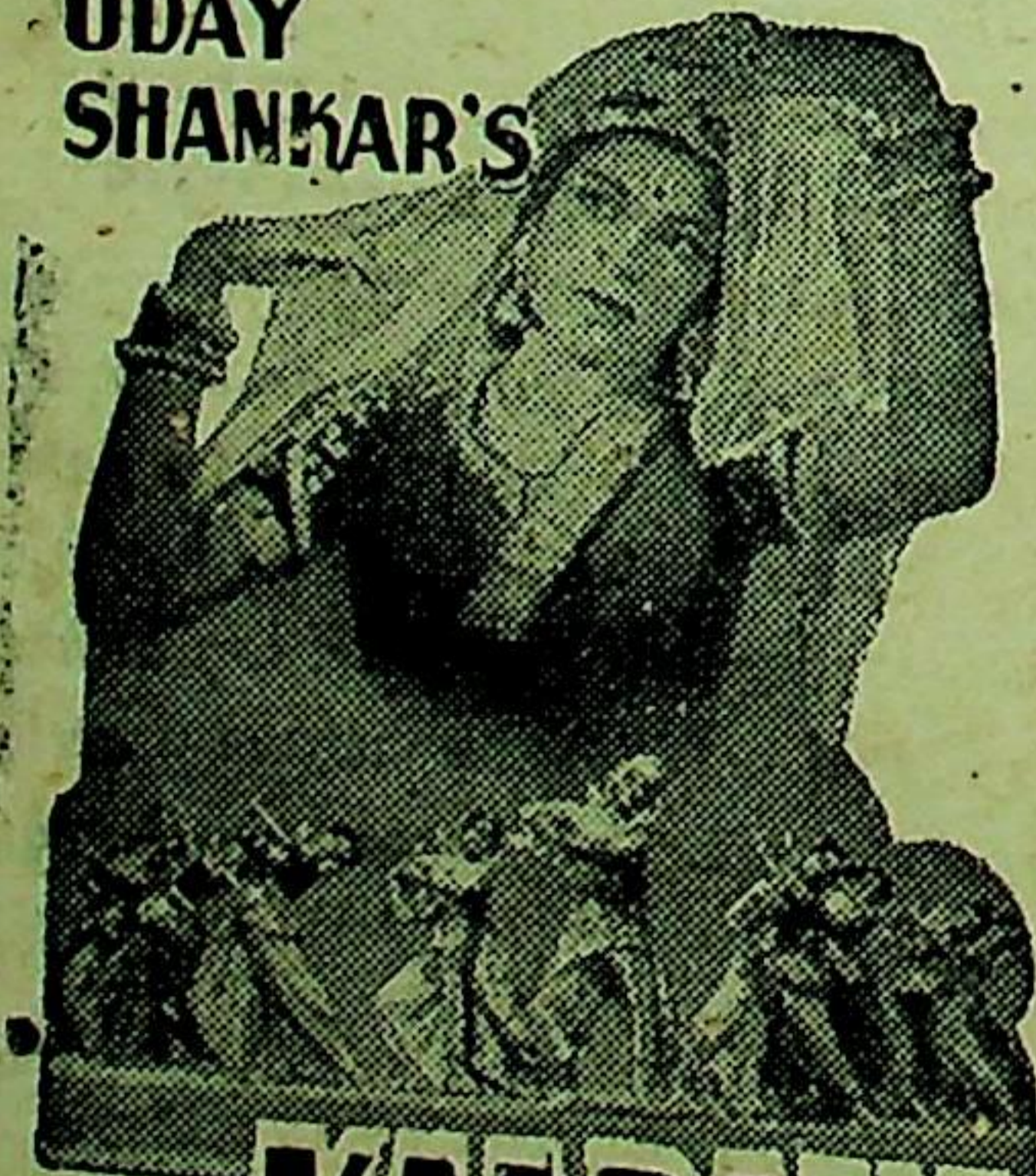
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Vol. LXXVIII]

PATNA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 1951

[No. 3

PAUL ROBESON

The famous American Negro actor and singer was born in 1898. He graduated with honours at Rutgers College, the majority of whose students are white and became famous in the football and baseball teams. He was the first Negro to play for the all America football team. He won the coveted distinction of being elected to the Phi Beta Kappa, the famous college fraternity. He graduated in law from the Columbia University but did not practise, entering upon a stage career. He appeared on the American stage in *Emperor Jones* and several other plays of the Nobel laureate Eugene O'Neill and then embarked upon a successful career as a concert singer. He went to London in 1928, appearing in the title roles of *Emperor Jones* and *Othello* and gave a superb performance in the musical

play, *Showboat*. He played several of his most successful roles in screen productions. In 1942—1945 Robeson appeared in a new production of *Othello* in the United States, which was considered by many to be the finest performance of his career.

A man of such versatility and world-wide reputation is now in indigent circumstances.

Paul Robeson's dazzling artistic career has ended in tragedy because of his communist leanings. Never has a stage star risen so high to fall, in a few years, so low.

A man almost adored by millions is facing grim poverty. No one in America will dare engage him. Except from one or two obscure Negro organisations, he has not had an engagement since a year ago last spring.

No one will let him sing in case the concert is broken up by anti-Communists in the Land of the Free.

Paul could earn money in Great Britain; but the State Department will not grant him a passport. So he has been forced to sell his house in Hartford, Connecticut, and stay with a friend.

It seems almost incredible, but not long since he recorded "The Song of Freedom"—an inspiring chant exaggerating the idea that America was made up of all races living together in liberty, which was used as a boost for Roosevelt's re-election.

Now, because he became mixed up with the Communist Party, he has lost his own freedom. Once acclaimed as an all-America football player, as actor and as singer, he is now an outcast.

He refused to act in any more films because "they always make the black man an inferior".

It seems that intolerance of freedom of thought is not a monopoly of the bad Russians.

A COMMUNALLY-MINDED SECULAR STATE

The Press and the people of the country have been unable to understand Mr. Nehru's repeated reference to the bogey of communalism. Personally we do not see any signs of communalism in Bihar but plenty of caste-ism, cliquism and linguism. We can presume that the situation is not much worse elsewhere.

Why then is Mr. Nehru unable to open his mouth without making a great fuss about what he imagines to be enemy number one—communalism? The only explanation that we have been able to think of this queer behaviour is that it is an election stunt. He wants to capture the 40 million Muslim vote for the Congress. He wants to give the impression to the Muslims in the Indian Union that the Congress Party alone is their saviour and defender from the 300 million Hindu Communalists. The Premier of the Indian Union has only one worry to-day, how to save the Indian Muslims from the fury of the Indian communalists. So, out of gratitude, all Muslims should unhesitatingly vote for Congress candidates in the general election.

It may be good election propaganda but there is a snag in it: We shout all the time that India is a secular State, but our Premier misses no opportunity of denouncing communalism. If the pro-

paganda department of Pakistan were to collect all Mr. Nehru's exhortations to fight communalism, any foreigner could be convinced that the lives of Indian Muslims are in peril and that only the Premier of the Indian Union stands between them and Hindu communal frenzy.

NOTES & COMMENTS

CHURCHILL COMES BACK

Women decided the result of the last British election, as in every constituency there were more women voters than men. Women are conservative by nature and they have returned the Conservative party to power. Just as women have always been the last word, so in the last elections in Britain, they had the casting vote. The modern woman in Britain does not ask her father or husband whom he is voting for and then submissively puts a cross in the same place herself. She is now a political force in the country. No party underestimated the importance of women's votes in the election and all parties assiduously wooed Eve. Attractive literature was issued to allure her.

Under Labour rule, women of Britain have been grumbling. Housing was grouse No. 1! with many grouse No. 2. Wages were not keeping pace with prices. Children's clothes were grouse No. 3. Food was the grouse in many families.

While woman to-day has become important in the elections, only 40 years ago she had no vote. The fight for vote was not easy. Women chained themselves to the railings of 10, Downing Street,

to draw attention to the injustice that was being done to them by denial of vote. They underwent prison sentences, went on hunger-strike before the 'Suffragist' movement succeeded.

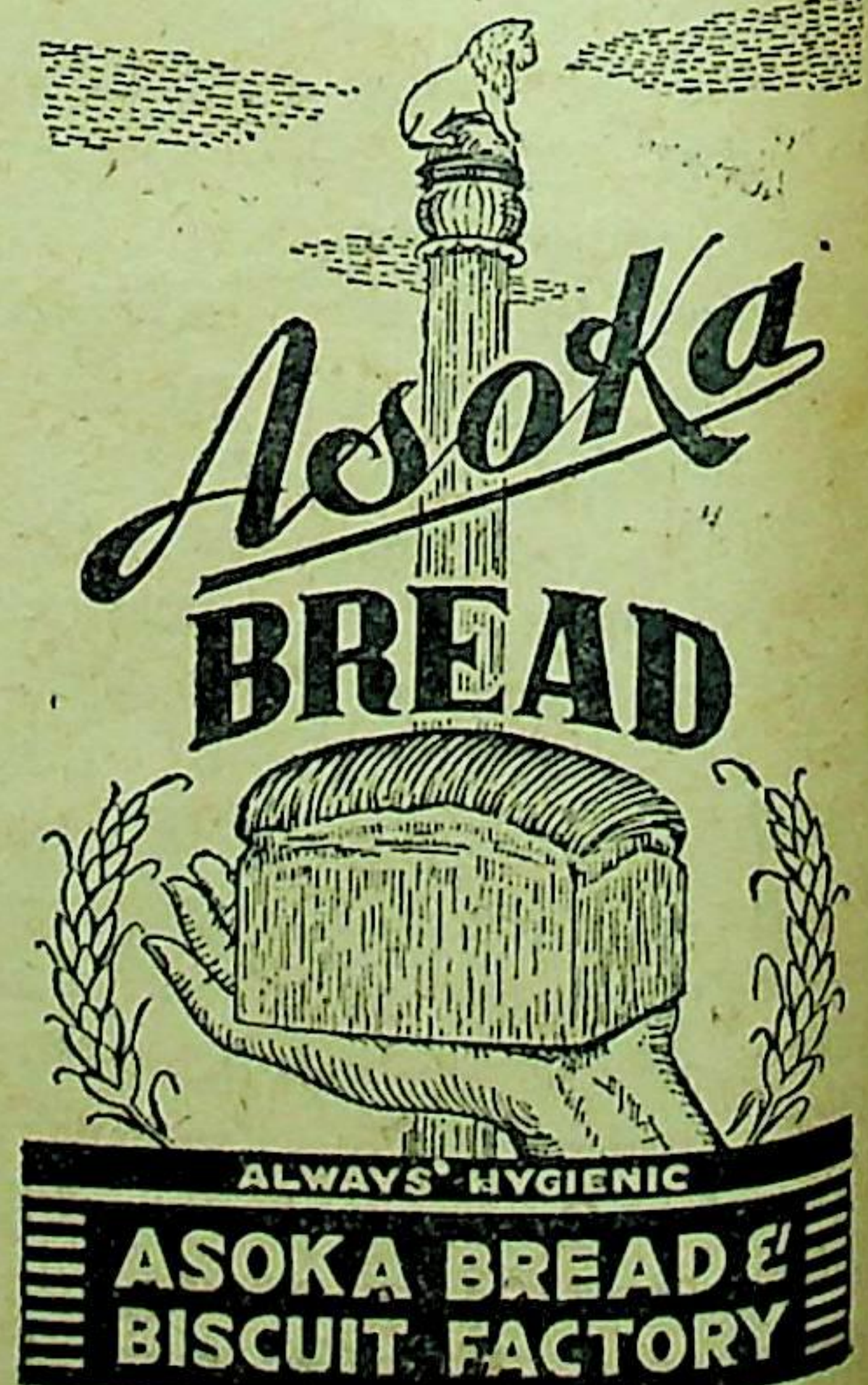
Nobody expects the Conservatives to perform a miracle. But the general feeling was: "We have seen what Labour can do, now let us give the Tories a chance and see if they are any better."

EXTRAVAGANCE OF POOR COUNTRIES

Dr. John Matthai has drawn pointed attention to the very heavy military expenditure incurred by India because of the Kashmir imbroglio.

"Unless we find a solution to the Kashmir problem we are going to be subjected to a grave economic position within the next two years—more grave

Use, Always



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than that which the people can endure", he added.

He said that on Kashmir alone India was spending about Rs. 35 to Rs. 40 crores a year. Before partition it was decided that the post-war expenditure for the whole sub-continent might be fixed at Rs 110 crores, but the Defence Budget of India alone now costs Rs. 180 crores. Pakistan was spending about Rs. 70 to Rs. 75 crores.

Dr. Matthai's warning has received support from Mr. Norris Dodd, the Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. He has said:

"There is a real danger that in the formulation of huge military programmes, urgent agricultural requirements may be overlooked and expanding rearmament needs may slow down even the current modest plans for economic development in many under-developed countries."

MEN OF INTEGRITY

Mr. Nehru issued an appeal to the Pradesh Congress Committees 'to rise above personal consideration and prejudice and try to select the best people... men of integrity'.

His advice has been implicitly followed by all the Pradesh Congress Committees. The list from Bihar contains the names of 95 per cent of sitting members—all men of integrity. The 5% that have been excluded includes those who are too decrepit or have made their pile in the last five years.

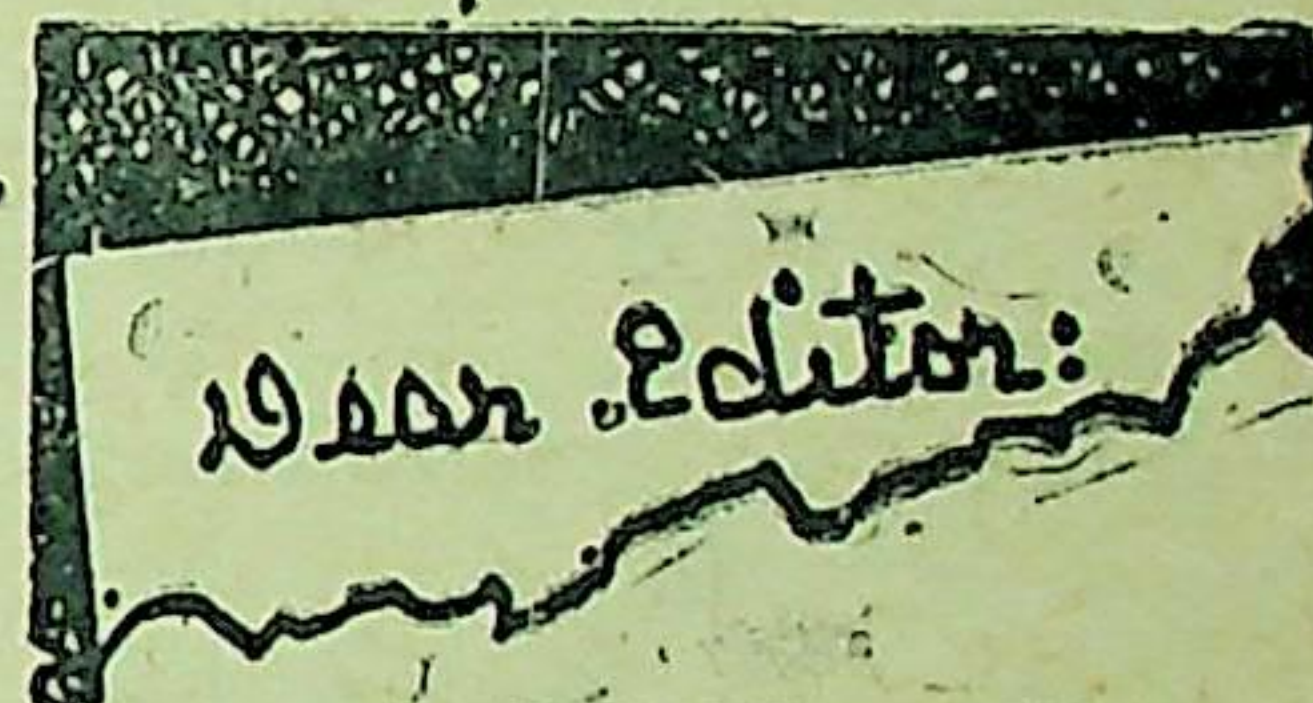
A scrutiny of the list of names recommended to the Central Congress Election Board by the West Bengal Congress shows that practically every sitting parliamentary Congress

member has been recommended. Only the few who did not apply for candidature, such as Mr. N. R. Sarkar whose illness continues, are missing from the list. One would have thought that with all the talk of a moral clean-up within the new Congress, resultant from that party's obvious disintegration, one would find quite a number of names of the old gang omitted from the list of accepted candidates. What we are apparently going to witness again is the same old M. L. A. wines in new Assembly bottles.

There is nothing to be surprised at in this. The moment Mr. Nehru administered his shock treatment, all Congressmen at once became "men of integrity." But whatever effect the "shock treatment" produced (or did not produce) on Congressmen, it has shocked the Kisan, Mazdoor Parja Party almost to extinction.

Acharya Kripalani reiterated during his Calcutta visit that whatever Mr. Kidwai does, it does not mean that the K.M.P. party will break up, but his anxiety to prevent large scale desertions is obvious from his recent circular to all State and district committees of the party, stressing that the party is bound by the Madras resolution. In East Punjab, all the Congress dissidents who joined the K.M.P. Party have *en bloc* gone back to Congress. It is in the Uttar Pradesh, the home State of Mr. Kidwai, where the latter wields considerable influence, that cause for anxiety exists. Already the Paliwal group have come out with a statement that as a result of Pandit Nehru's reorganization of the Congress there is nothing to

justify their remaining outside the Congress party. In West Bengal, where Mr. Kidwai had no following, his decision has had no effect. The enigma of Dr. P. C. Ghosh, however, remains. He has said nothing either way, an unusual course for statement-issuing politicians in such circumstances.



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APATHETIC ELECTORATE

The growing apathy of the voters in India to go to the polling booth to cast their votes, as has been observed in certain recent elections, is disconcerting. What they wrongly assume is that it matters little if some of the electors abstain from voting. But it should be borne in mind that taken collectively, their votes represent a powerful force. If the voters are careless to exercise their franchise right and take no interest in the working of the Government, democracy is reduced to mockery and election becomes a farce. In view of the impending General Election the State and the Press should impress upon the electors the importance of elections in their national life. Frustration, despair and lack of faith are the hindrances in the way of development of a democratic spirit. It must be made clear to the people that the ballot box is no magic wand with which to better their condition over-night, but their individual votes are not unimportant.

NOTHING TO MAKE A SONG ABOUT

What happened to the gold, silver and precious stones which belonged to the Japanese Government and which were entrusted to the United States for safe keeping? Here is the answer to the question as given by *New Times*: "In the winter of 1945, after Japan's surrender, U. S. occupation headquarters impounded and took under its safekeeping gold, platinum, silver and precious stones belonging to the Japanese

Government, valued at upwards of 300 million U. S. dollars.

Washington recently decided to restore these valuables to the Japanese Government. But, it was found on examination, that a considerable part of them, valued at 110 million dollars, had "vanished." We learn from the same sources that nobody in Washington and Tokyo doubts that their disappearance is largely to be laid at the door of former Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. occupation forces in Japan, General MacArthur.

Some light on these depredations was shed as far back as February 1947, at the time of the sensation caused by the detention of a certain Colonel Murray when he arrived in San Francisco for a period of leave in the United States. The United Press at the time discreetly referred to Murray as an officer serving with the occupation forces in Japan. But it soon turned out that he was not only serving with MacArthur's forces but that he was in charge of the American unit which guarded the impounded valuables in the vaults of the Bank of Japan.

When Murray's baggage was examined, it was found that his rich collection of "souvenirs" included gems to the value of \$210,000. This part of the "collection" seemed suspicious even to the American customs officials, who had handled no small number of "souvenirs" sent or brought into the United States by high ranking officers of the American occupation

forces in Japan. Murray declared that the valuables were his 'lawful booty,' but they were confiscated all the same.

The Murray scandal had unpleasant reverberations for the American authorities; indignation in Japan was widespread. But the scandal was quickly hushed up.

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SHORT WAVE

INCOME DISCLOSURES

The campaign launched by Tyagi for eliciting voluntary disclosures of incomes so far hidden from the tax authorities has come to a conclusion. The Rs. 32 crores of the concealed wealth that has come to the surface—of which about Rs. 8 crores will be realisable as tax—is only a very small fraction of the vast amounts of black money accumulated by our patriotic capitalists. Vast sums due as taxes have till now been kept back from the Government, and trade and industry have periodically proclaimed their lack of confidence in the Government's economic policies as the main justification. Ram's rash and impracticable threats of speedy nationalization did not help to smoothen the relations between the Government and the top-ranking capitalists. As a result, tax-gathering as well as economic planning and effective price control were made very difficult.

Many of our great capitalists have been merely the promoters of inflation and its beneficiaries. Disclosure of their hidden incomes is merely in expectation of future favours to be received from the Congress in the form of nominations for elections.

MEN OF INTEGRITY

When Jawaharlal Nehru announced that the Congress would encourage the candidature of men of integrity and proven merit, irrespective of party labels and affiliations, the country thought it to be the first sign that the Congress President was in earnest. Here was hope that at long last we were reaching the beginning of

the end of the era of corruption and rottenness in public life. Unfortunately, Jawahar proposes and the Pradesh Congress disposes. His inspiring statement has been completely nullified. Not only has the Congress not picked men and women, commensurate with the new standards set up by its own President, but the so-called premier political organisation has shown a singular lack of grace and courtesy towards independent Indians whose right to be in the next Parliament has been well and truly earned.

The *Indian Social Reformer* has pointed out the case of Dr. John Matthai in this connection. Would he not be an asset in the House of the People? Is his long parliamentary experience no longer valuable to our infant and struggling democracy? Apart from his abilities, is he not a man of honour and integrity? Has he not proved himself a lover of his country? Why, then, must his energies be wasted in electioneering when he has so many other useful things to do?

The Congress has encouraged Deshmukh to stand as an independent because it needs him. But the Congress will fight another independent, Dr. Matthai, thereby showing its hand. For whereas Deshmukh will be absorbed in the next government and, therefore, will not be a Congress critic in the next Parliament, Dr. Matthai may oppose and expose the Congress and the Congress government when they go wrong. And the Congress dislikes criticism, especially when it is likely to

emanate from a man who has studied the facts. And Jawaharlal the former democrat, the former Socialist, the former 'man of the people' also dislikes criticism, like poison. Hence we see today a one-man rule, weak, authoritarian and disruptive. India's greatest son is a noble ruin. That ruin he has, to a large extent, brought on himself. Can we blame American papers when they say that India is ruled by a self-perpetuating oligarchy?

ANSWER TO A QUERY

"Patna police authorities have circulated notices requesting all concerned not to park their motor vehicles on roads in front of shops or residences"

On reading the above announcement in the Patna dailies, many motorists were worried about this new 'DON'T'. If no car can be parked in front of shops or residences, where are they to be left when their owners get down! The answer is simple—on house tops or underground. If a convenient tree is available, the police authorities of Patna will not object to cars being parked on its branches.

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Tuberculosis

By
Dr. WILLIAM HART

Treatment of tuberculosis began with Hippocrates, the father of medicine, who described the disease four centuries before Christ. He recommended tar as a remedy. Twenty-four hundred years later that treatment is still used. Creosote, a tar derivative, is the basic ingredient in a syrup sometimes prescribed for the tuberculosis patient.

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For more than 2000 years, little was added to man's knowledge of tuberculosis. The disease was rampant. In every part of the world, the toll was terrifying. Wherever men lived together in towns and villages, the infection was almost universal. Infant mortality was appalling. Few lived through the white plague to reach old age.

By the end of the eighteenth century, fairly accurate methods of diagnosis had been developed, but it remained for Koch to make modern research possible by isolating the tubercle bacillus.

Once the infectious nature of TB was established, scientists at last were able to plan means to prevent its spread. But the idea that TB is a highly contagious disease was difficult for most people to believe. Even physicians accepted it in principle but not in practice.

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Fortunately for mankind, nature has been the most important ally in the long fight to control tuberculosis. Though the disease persisted, there was a steady fall in the TB death rate from the early nineteenth

century onward. Since mortality began to decline before modern treatment methods were perfected, scientists could only assume that some natural processes were at work. One theory holds that those most susceptible to the infection died off during the protracted epidemic periods, leaving the more resistant to survive. Others believe that city life brought natural immunization. People seemed to acquire resistance from mild and repeated infections.

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The steady drop in tuberculosis mortality, undoubtedly caused in part by increasing natural resistance, has been abetted by a number of man-made factors.

Sanatorium care was a major step forward in treatment of the disease. Even more important, it stemmed the spread of the virulent infection by isolating TB patients from society.

The rise in the general standard of living also played its part. The deadly microbe thrives where there are damp, crowded living quarters, poor food and malnutrition, poverty, sedentary living and alcoholism. Adequate housing and food have done much to stop TB.

One of the most successful tuberculosis control measures was to eradicate the disease in cattle. As far back as 1898, it had been established that many cases of tuberculosis, particularly in children, were the result of contaminated milk. But it wasn't until 1917 that the fight to eliminate the

disease in animals got started in the U. S. The job took 30 years: more than 286 million cattle were tested, nearly four million infected animals were slaughtered. Another safeguard was the pasteurization of milk to destroy the bovine tubercle bacillus. Today, infection from cows has been virtually eliminated. The terrible mark of bovine TB in children—the hunch back—is almost gone from America.

The treatment of tuberculosis is based on the ability of the human body to develop sufficient natural resistance to fight infection. Sanatorium care offers a favourable environment for the body to build up resistive powers to overcome the infection. The basic treatment to-day, as half a century ago, is rest, fresh air and good food. As yet, there is no medical cure. Only nature can do that. Drugs and surgery simply aid nature in its work.

The control of TB—as of any disease—involves three separate and distinct processes: diagnosis, cure and prevention. So far, the greatest success has been achieved in diagnostic techniques. With modern laboratory facilities and x-ray examinations, diagnosis of T. B. even in its earliest stages, is a simple matter.

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Today's treatment calls for drugs that help stop the spread of infection, and surgical procedures that aid the natural healing processes. But the body does the work.

Streptomycin has proved the most successful of the drugs. But it has serious disadvantages. It exerts only a temporary, though powerful, suppressive effect, and resistance to it develops quickly. Almost as serious is the likelihood of relapse following streptomycin. At least a third, possibly more than half, of the patients treated with streptomycin and rest later suffer a relapse.

For that reason, TB specialists feel that in most cases streptomycin should be used with other traditional treatment procedures. If a patient is temporarily bolstered with streptomycin, he is usually able to undergo surgery that he might not otherwise be strong enough to face. By the time resistance to the drug has developed, the beneficial effects of the surgery help insure steady recovery.

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When streptomycin was first used, it was often accompanied by serious after-effects. Today, more knowledge of desirable dosage has virtually eliminated that problem. Physicians hope that improved dosage routines and the use of streptomycin in combination with other drugs may lessen the emergence of resistance.

One of the most effective combinations so far developed is streptomycin and a distant cousin of aspirin—para-amino salicylic acid. Early results indicate that the two together may be used over a longer period without resistance developing.

In the last several years, many compounds have failed to show any great value. Two recent drugs that showed

promise in early laboratory tests have already been discounted. One of them, neomycin, was introduced by Dr. Selman A. Waksman, who developed streptomycin. Tests indicate that ordinarily it is too dangerous for human beings in doses effective against TB.

The other, aureomycin, in a scant few months has become one of the most valuable of all antibiotics—even more amazing than penicillin. Unfortunately, it has virtually no effect on the tubercle bacillus.

The future of the latest discovery, amithiozone, is still in doubt. In early clinical tests its toxic effects on the liver were pronounced—enough to discourage widespread use at the moment.

Until a more effective drug is discovered, specialists believe that surgery will continue to play a major role in the control of tuberculosis. For many years, the most common surgical technique has been pneumothorax—collapse or partial collapse

of the lung—to promote healing by allowing the lung to rest.

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Another method of bringing rest to a diseased lung is a minor nerve operation—the phrenic crush. The operation relaxes the diaphragm on one side, partly collapsing the lung above it. The nerve grows back in about six months, resuming its normal functions.

A variation of pneumothorax coming into increasing use today is pneumoperitoneum. Air is injected into the abdominal cavity below the diaphragm. The pressure forces the diaphragm up into the chest cavity, collapsing the lung above it.

In dangerously advanced cases of lung infection, permanent collapse of one lung may be necessary. This is accomplished by an operation known as thoracoplasty. The ribs over the diseased lung are removed so that the chest may be compressed into the lung to bring about its collapse and complete rest.

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In the last few years, surgeons have developed techniques to remove all or part of a diseased lung. Such operations are successful in many cases that do not respond to other procedures.

For various reasons, one non-surgical method of providing almost complete rest for the lungs is not yet widely used. The patient is placed in a chamber where the pressure inside and outside the lungs is equal. Oxygen is given automatically as needed. The lungs rest and still carry on their job. The patient is comfortable and suffers no unpleasant feelings.

Collapse therapy of any type is ordinarily resorted to only in advanced cases where cavities have developed. Collapse limits the spread of the infection, closing and healing a cavity when rest has failed to accomplish it.

Since the cure of TB is still largely a matter of natural processes, time is usually the best medication. Until a drug can destroy the bacillus, controlled rest in bed will remain the principal treatment.

How long does it take? That varies in each case, of course. Generally, at least six months of complete rest in bed is required, with sanatorium care for another year. In advanced cases, total rest in bed for a year or more may be necessary, followed by convalescence of two years or more. The time for convalescence, as well as rest in bed depends on the case.

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Great progress has been made in the prevention of TB, but much remains to be done. The most effective means of stemming the spread of the infection is systematic isolation of patients. Vaccination of children, to prevent tuberculosis is still of questionable value. A vaccine, known as B. C. G. after the scientists who developed it, was announced many years ago in France.

Results in France are controversial, although more than a million children have been vaccinated. Experiments elsewhere indicate that its principal value is for the protection of

those particularly susceptible to TB because of family history, environment or occupation.

Although there is still no specific cure for tuberculosis, there is good reason to believe that the next few years may see a new antibiotic that will effectively destroy the bacillus and bring about a "quick cure." Meanwhile, though treatment is long, the disease continues to decline. Today, each existing case gives rise to less than one new case. So if the balance can be maintained and the sources of infection further reduced, the control of TB is in sight.

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An Analysis of "Tale of Two Cities"

I Missed A Stitch

By
BHAGIRATH MEHTA, Bombay

While several persons of aristocratic birth and those related to them are guillotined, a witch like lady who delights in seeing the end of the aristocrats and those associated with them only misses a stitch. That woman considers missing of a stitch of greater significance than the death of an aristocrat. This was during the French Revolution. Reasons for such a heartless feeling of this old witch are as follows..

- (a) Aristocrats engendered enmity of the people by suppressing, with soldiers and more soldiers, the demand of the people for bread.
- (b) Aristocrats fed dogs but brought cavalry aid crushed under the hoofs of the horses the innocent people, most innocent and poor people who were snatching pieces of meat from dogs.
- (c) When a poor man's child was dead under the carriage of an Aristocrat, the Aristocrat was only worried about the injury that might have been caused to his horses and told that the common people should learn to take care of their own children. And so now was the time for common people to kill, kill and kill aristocrats, innocent or guilty because the aristocrats killed innocent or guilty common people.

Now was the time for common people to take revenge and consider missing of a stitch of greater significance than the

death of an Aristocrat on the guillotine.

Let us find out what happened in two cities, city of aristocrats and the city of the common people.

* * *

Charles leaves France because of his quarrel with his relation who is an Aristocrat. Charles has advanced views concerning equality. So the Aristocrat, while Charles is trying to leave the shores of France and pack off to England gets Charles arrested and a mock treason trial proceeds. Carlton the lawyer tries to prove against Charles the charges of treason but the wife of Charles persuades Carlton and hence when the question is asked to the witness whether it was Charles whom he had seen commit treason or it could be Carlton; the witness as a result of the promptings of Carlton says he is not sure and thus Charles is acquitted by the jury during the tyranny of Aristocrats.

But when the rebellion turns into a revolution, soldiers instead of being on the side of the Aristocrats turn to the side of the people, Bastille is taken, the mob rule starts and Aristocrats and those related to Aristocrats are guillotined.

Servant in the House of the Aristocrat relative of Charles is in grave danger for the only reason that he happened to be an Aristocrat's servant.

The mob asks this servant to write Charles to come and rescue him but instead of so doing they only shout: "Good

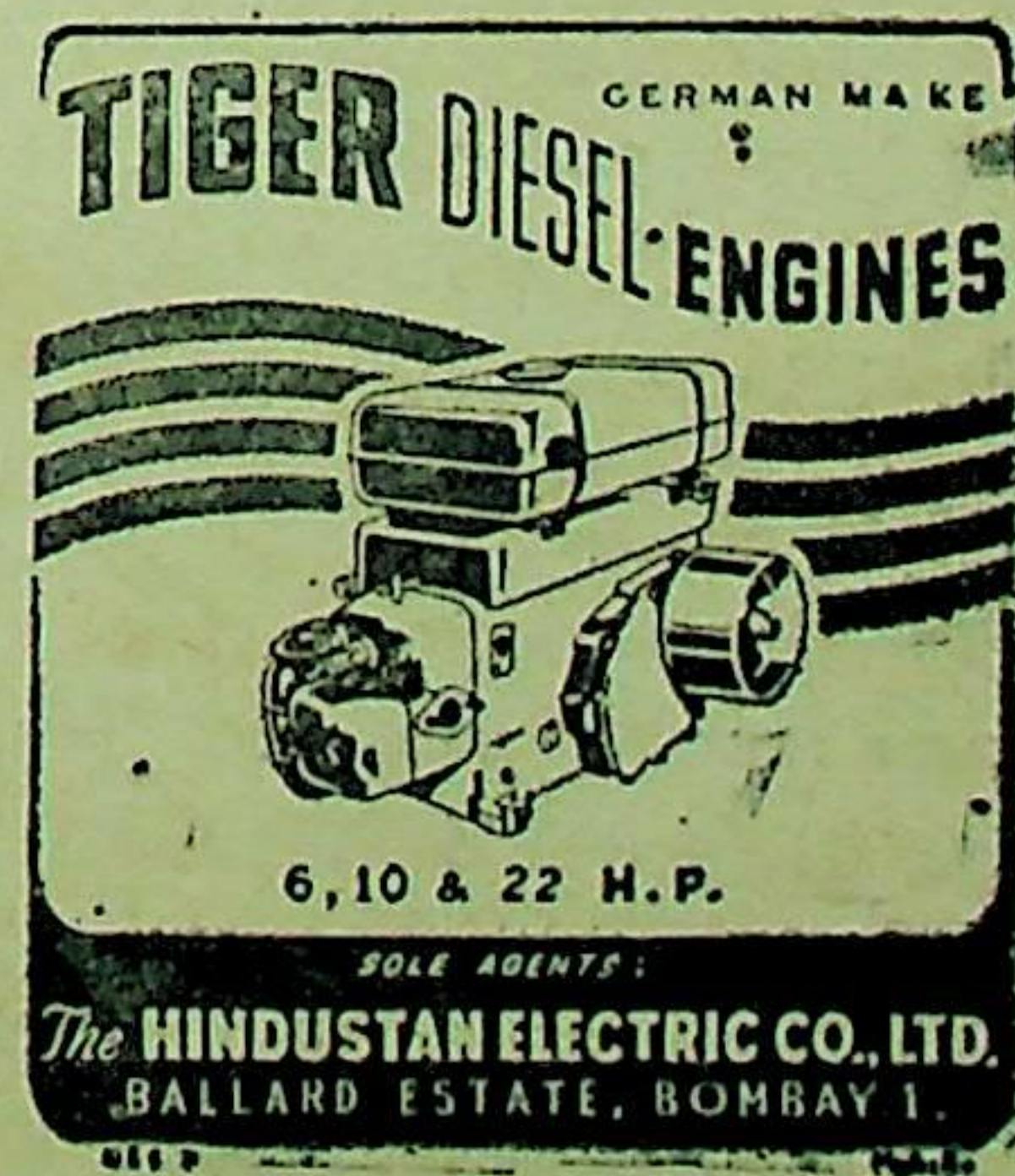
faithful servant. You have given us Charles, another Aristocrat, to be butchered."

Charles rushes to France to save the servant. He comes from England. Mr. Mannet, the wife of Charles and their young daughter follow Charles fearing grave danger.

And at the trial of Charles new laws prove Charles guilty and when Mr. Mannet tries to defend Charles, he is successful but that success is futile when it is found out that Mr. Mannet who suffered in the Bastille for eighteen years hated Aristocrats but wrote in prison in his blood that he had not hated Aristocrats.

Mr. Mannet goes insane. Charles is imprisoned. The wife of Charles and their baby wave from a distance to Charles, who is in the prison. Charles waves too. But Charles will be guillotined....something must be done.

Mr. Carlton comes to the rescue. Before the execution of Charles he suggests all the family to leave for England because of danger for them.



At night thru the help of a friend, Carlton is in the prison and Charles escapes, the place of Charles is taken up by Carlton.


To Mr. Carlton approaches a girl who is also to die because she happened to have an Aristocrat friend. This girl met Charles at Trial time. Now she finds out that instead of Charles there is another—gentleman....Carlton. "But, why should you die for another?" "That is the only thing I shall be able to do in this life. something for which I shall have great peace and love which I never had". Says Carlton. "Will you hold my hand? I am afraid to die". Asks the girl.

"With pleasure and till the last". Carlton replies believing that he will be able to do good to others while about to die,

* * *
Aristocrats realised not the lightening before their eyes

* * *
Lightening of revolution the lightening of unrest. The lightening of the cry of the people for slices of bread and meat. How could one ignore this?

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Discipline in our National Life

By Justice B. P. SINHA

What are the most important characteristics of a disciplined life ?

(1) Setting a high value on time, which is another name for punctuality ;

(2) Respect for others' rights as much as for one's own, that is to say, justice to yourself as to others in the matter of the distribution of things of common use to the community ;

(3) Organisation of one's life as distinguished from a humdrum way of living ;

(4) Respect for law and lawfully constituted authority, that is to say, co-operation with public authorities in maintaining law and order and in resisting the forces of disorder in the community ; and

(5) Due realisation of the importance of the individual vote in elections to public bodies like the State Legislatures and the Central Parliament.

NATIONAL WASTE

Unless we value our own time, we shall not attach any value to the time of others. "Indian punctuality" is naturally a term of reproach for us Indians. Whenever a meeting or a public function is not commenced at the notified time, the remark has been heard that after all it is Indian punctuality. It is now high time that we realised the shame attaching to such a confession, because after all it is a confession of our alleged national weakness in not observing strictly the prescribed time-table. It is not always recognised that if we keep a large number of people waiting sometimes for quite a good half hour or even more, simply because some more people are

expected at the meeting or the function, we are really wasting national time because the sum total of the time of individuals present at the meeting at the prescribed hour who may be kept waiting for a long time will be considerable indeed; and thus wasted is really a national waste.

OUR WATCHWORD

It is also not usually realised that in not observing time at public and private meetings we really dislocate the business of so many people who may have timed their different engagements according to calculations based upon a punctual observance of those different engagements. We have yet fully to realise that unless we do the right things at the right hours, we shall have to leave some things undone which should have been done, and to that extent we prove ourselves less efficient than what we are expected to be. Efficiency must be the national watchword, and efficiency must depend to a large extent upon a punctilious observance of scheduled time-table.

ROAD SENSE

An organised life is another essential condition for the development of a proper sense of discipline in civil life. Have we not seen at railway booking offices or at other public places so many persons dashing one another and trying to elbow their way up without realising that if they organised themselves into a queue, each one would be served in the due turn without inconvenience to any one and without inflicting any injury upon others ?

In this connection, the development of proper road sense is necessary while passing crowded public thoroughfares. If we observe the rule of the road many accidents which daily occur can be avoided. If a pedestrian could keep to the flanks of the road, he would not only ensure his own safety but would also ensure an unobstructed passage to wheeled traffic.

OBEYING LAWS

The State has enacted laws and rules for the guidance of its citizens with a view to ensuring individual

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liberty and security of the community. It should therefore be the common endeavour of officials of the State and of private citizens to see to it that those laws are observed in letter and in spirit.

It may be that some laws may not be liked by some or even a large proportion of the citizens of this State, but that cannot be a justification for not observing those laws and rules. The proper and the constitutional way of undoing those laws and rules is to agitate for the repeal or the modification of those laws and rules through constitutional channels; but so long as those laws and rules are on the statute book, we, as citizens, have got scrupulously to observe them.

SENSE OF DUTY

We cannot justify an attitude of passive indifference to the breaking of the law before our own eyes by simply saying that it is for the guardians of law and order to apprehend the breakers of the law and to get them punished. It should be the endeavour of every citizen of the State to see to it that the law is not broken with impunity before the very eyes of the law-abiding citizens of the State. Hence it is the duty of a citizen not only to observe the law but to see that others also respect and observe

the law; that is to say, we cannot be a disciplined nation unless we develop the sense of offering full co-operation to the public authorities in detecting crime and bringing criminals to justice.

VALUE OF VOTE

The proper way of getting rid of an obnoxious law is to get it repealed through the properly constituted Legislature. In order to do that, it is necessary that every citizen of the State realises the great importance of his individual vote. It will not do to think and act on the supposition that one person's individual vote, even if not exercised, will not very much matter, because if that were the attitude of many, the minority who exercise their votes would impose their will on the majority who do not exercise their franchise. That will be a negation of true democracy. This aspect of the question has assumed great importance in view of the fact that we shall very shortly be facing the General Elections for the State and the Central Legislatures. In order to ensure the enactment of judicious legislation and the repeal of obnoxious laws, each one of us has to play his or her part in choosing the right sort of legislators according to our individual lights and leanings;

and the complexion of our new legislatures to come into existence early next year will much depend upon how wisely and truly we exercise our adult universal suffrage—A.I.R.

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THE LIVING SOIL

By U. PADMANABHAN

It is the soil that makes the existence of man, animal and plant possible. But each in its turn is dependent upon the other. Ultimately it is the soil which sustains the rest. Just as there is life in man, animal and plant there is also life in the soil. One never sees the millions of micro-organisms that are ceaselessly working in the soil and are part of it.

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Man in his quest for his food and the animal, which helps him to get it, often forget that, the living soil has also to be fed if it is to live. The plant derives its life from the soil. But how can the soil give the plant its life if it is not itself living? How then does the soil live?

A living soil has to have humus to make it live; else it will be dead.

Humus is the product of decomposition of animal and vegetable wastes through the action of bacteria. Whatever is thrown away by man and animal should be returned to the earth. That does not mean that we should just throw all refuse somehow on the soil. The soil should receive it in a cooked or digestible form. It should be in the shape of humus. Therefore it is imperative that all animal and vegetable wastes are converted into humus before given to the soil.

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How can we do this? Often humus is understood to mean organic wastes or farm-yard manure. These are only the raw materials from which humus is manufactured. They become humus only when they have been acted upon by the soil-

fungi and bacteria or when they have been metabolised by soil organisms.

The humus is derived from the final decomposition of the plant and animal residue through the agency of the micro-organisms. Several organic complexes mainly consisting of lignins and lignin derivatives and proteins are contained in it. Largely the chemical nature of the wastes forming the raw material, the process of decomposition and its extent. The carbon nitrogen ratio of humus is about 10 to 1, while the raw materials of vegetable and animal waste have a carbon : nitrogen ratio of about 33 to 1. Large volumes of carbon dioxide, CO₂ is evolved during the action of the fungi and bacteria. Naturally, therefore, a good deal of atmospheric oxygen is required for this.

Air is the pre-requisite for the manufacture of humus. So when we are trying to compost things we should never forget that the manure pit should have ample circulation of air. This is obtained by building up a pit with layers of loosely spread out vegetable wastes. Never should a layer be trampled while building up. Another method which helps aeration, is the building up of pits in sections of not more than three feet breadth.

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Bacteria thrive well in a moist atmosphere and so any pit must have enough moisture if composting is to go on well. The amount of water needed depends on the climate of the locality. It must be of the nature of a squeezed out

sponge. It must neither be dry nor be sodden. Anybody can learn this after a little experience and practice. To maintain the moisture of the pit a roof is necessary. Too much water is harmful and so the roof will protect the pit from rain. Besides, the roof prevents the heat of the sun from directly striking on the pit and upsetting its temperature violently. For effective decomposition, temperature is most important factor.

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The process itself consists of two stages, the first stage passing on for the first 3 or 4 weeks. The whole mass will be found to be covered by a greyish white mycelium. The action is mainly aerobic depending upon air for its life. It may be called the fungus stage distinguished by the greyish white colour of the mass. The fungi responsible for the decomposition thrives between 95 degrees F. and 130 degrees F. But always fermentation in newly formed heap follows a rapid rise in temperature shooting up at times to 165 degrees F. This precisely is why there should be an undisturbed and ample supply of air. The air helps to bring down the rising temperature to that optimum level which is best suited for the fungi.

x x x

The second stage, the bacterial stage, is quite different. The action now becomes more anaerobic. The bacteria are capable of living in an atmosphere with less of oxygen. They thrive best between the tempera-

tures of 150 degrees F and 180 F, In this stage, one can visibly see the heap crumbling down and closing the air spaces and preventing any lowering of temperature. The heap assumes a dark black colour now.

To avoid any excessive acidity, earth, wood-ash, or a mixture of these should be used.

So for the manufacture of humus we need vegetable wastes, animal wastes and a base. How can we mix these and in what proportion? It is calculated that ordinarily one

pound of nitrogen is needed to every hundred pounds of dry vegetable wastes. In actual practice it would be in the ratio of 3 parts of farmyard manure.

x x x

To combine all these we should just spread out the vegetable waste in a layer 6 inches thick. Over this we spread out another layer two inches thick of farmyard manure, then sprinkle some earth. Thus we pile up layer on layer. The vegetable waste sandwiched between that of the base and the farmyard manure would

keep the moisture and the air circulation continuous. For easy piling up we can take a section of three or four feet, and build up to a height of 5 feet and then take to the next section. This would also facilitate an ample supply and prevent trampling while building up. To prevent formation of a silage it is best to see that the green materials do not exceed more than half of the water. All wastes should be thoroughly mixed and long branches etc. cut into little bits.

—Gram Udyog Patrika.

Press Act

The All-India Civil Liberties Council adopted the following resolution on the Press Act at its meeting on 21st October.

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 19 (2)

1. It must be emphasized at the outset that the Amendment recently made in clause (2) of Article 19 of the Constitution, by reason of the too comprehensive and vague restrictions which it allows the legislatures to impose upon the fundamental right to Freedom of Expression, eliminates practically all constitutional limitations in respect of the protection of that right and makes the right a purely statutory one capable of being abridged by the legislatures at their will. Even if the restrictions embodied in the Press Act

now passed were all entirely unexceptionable, the right to Freedom of Expression would still have lost the protection of the Constitution; but as it is, the right does not enjoy even a temporary protection which a statute could have given, inasmuch as Government have failed to carry out the promise which they had made at the time the Constitutional Amendment was adopted, viz., that the scope of the new restrictions introduced by the Amendment would be narrowed in the legislation to be passed for the purpose of giving effect to the Amendment. For the Press Act has not given any closer and more precise definition to the restrictions than the Amendment does. They remain equally comprehensive and

vague, no clear and definite standard of illegality having been established in the Act as all criminal laws must do.

SPECIAL PRESS LAW

2. Government have framed the Act on the theory that whatever writing may be considered undesirable and likely to cause trouble requires to be prohibited and penalised in a special Press law, ignoring the healthy tradition which British rule handed down to India. In the United Kingdom liberty of the Press does not enjoy any constitutional protection beyond that which a statute and the common law may give. Liberty of the Press does not imply in that country any special privilege peculiar to the Press. As the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council declared in *Arnold v.*

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the King Emperor of India (1914): "The freedom of the journalist is an ordinary part of the freedom subject, and to whatever lengths the subject in general may go, so also may the journalist; but apart from statute law his privilege is no other and no higher....No privilege attaches to his position." But if the Press is in the enjoyment of no special privilege it is not subjected to any special disability either. It is governed by the ordinary criminal law of the country, no separate restrictions on the exercise by the Press of the freedom of expression allowed to every individual being considered necessary or tolerable except in a period of grave national emergency.

ACTS OF 1931 AND 1932

3. The present Act of the Indian Government constitutes a deliberate and flagrant departure from this tradition. If under the British regime special Press legislation was passed in this country, it was at least under the plea that such legislation, drastic as it was, was required by emergency conditions with which India was faced at the time, and in defence it was urged that the special powers taken by the legislation were necessitated by the critically dangerous situation that had then arisen. In 1931; for instance, the special power taken to curb the Press was limited in application to publications inciting to murder and other violent crime, because of the prevalence of the terrorist movement, and some other

powers that were then contemplated to deal with some manifestations of the civil disobedience movement were not assumed because the movement had by that time been suspended. When, however, the movement was revived, the Government of the day, by its legislation of 1932, additional powers to deal with such manifestations of the movement as defiance of the authority of the Government, non-payment of taxes, intimidation, etc. And while the legislation that was passed on either of these occasions was certainly not justified, it will have to be conceded that the situation was abnormal, and the Government could at least plead that the powers taken were called for by the peculiar circumstances then prevailing. It was avowedly emergency legislation, though even the emergency did not lend justification to the measures.

NO EMERGENCY URGED

4. Now, however, no emergency has even been alleged by Government to exist. Still in perfectly normal times they have passed a Draconian law giving powers of a sweeping character for the control of the Press. Government in fact assert that there will hardly be any occasion to apply the law and that it will for the most part remain a dead letter, acting merely as a scarecrow to warn off the less reputable species of journalists from indulging in objectionable writing. Government produced no evidence, though repeatedly asked to do so both in the Select Committee

and on the floor of Parliament, to prove that such writing was widely prevalent and could not be sufficiently checked by the ordinary law of the country. Yet a statute which will not be applicable generally to all citizens but is to be made applicable to owners of presses and publishers of newspapers has been enacted for the purpose of effecting a purgation and purification of the Press so that the unintelligent section of the people who are in a vast majority might be saved from the evil influence of a mischievous Press. The general ignorance that prevails in the country and facility with which the mass of the population can be misled by the printed word are made by Government the sole reason for this Act. "The circumstances of our country demand a vigilant care over the minds of the people;" declared the Home Minister in justifying it. It is the contention of the All-India Civil Liberties Council that there can be no justification whatever for enacting a special Press law for the purpose, as the Home Minister put it, of developing a sound Press ethic in the country.

PRESS LAW OF OTHER COUNTRIES

5. Nor does this special Press law resemble the Press laws that obtain in some democratic countries of Europe. Those laws are in every case of a purely punitive nature; they are not preventive in character. Further, they only reduplicate various sections of the provisions in the criminal law obtaining in those countries; they do not provide for any special

offences not provided for by the general penal law. And, lastly, they do not provide for any special punishment for the Press. Thus, provisions like those in the Indian law for taking a security from the Press and forfeiting it or for confiscating the Press are entirely absent from all such laws. The Press Laws Enquiry Committee of 1948 brought this fact prominently to the attention of Government and made a unanimous recommendation that these provisions should be struck off from the emergency legislation that was then on the statute book. In all these respects the Indian law now enacted differs radically from the Press laws of European countries like Sweden. It is of a preventive character, the ordinary method of dealing with offenders by prosecution being held insufficient to restrain the evil resulting from the dissemination of undesirable publications. It constitutes special offences for the Press over and above those provided for in the ordinary criminal law of the land. And it provides special punishment for Press offences like the deposit of a security and its forfeiture both from the publishers of newspapers and keepers of printing presses and forfeiture of the press itself. The Indian Press law in thus not only a special Press law of a kind that is unknown in England, but is also a law the like of which does not obtain in any other civilized country in the world. It is a special Press law which is special to India alone.

PRESS (EMERGENCY POWERS) ACT RENEWED

6. While professing to repeal the Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931, as amplified in 1932, Government have but renewed the Act, only in a more rigorous form in some respects. If certain categories of printed matter prohibited by the former Act have been omitted in this Act, certain others have been added, e. g., scurrilous writings and writings likely to interfere with essential supplies and services. But the main features of the former legislation remain intact, viz., that the legislation is of an exceptional character, and the excuse of a critical situation being now unavailable as formerly, it is wholly gratuitous; that it is more preventive than punitive; that it provides for penalties unknown to Press law anywhere else, and that it imposes penalties on printers as well as on writers for the same matter. Government claim to have made by this Act a "fundamental and all-comprehensive" advance over the 1931 Act. It consists in this, that whereas under the old Act the executive was empowered as a preliminary step to require the deposit or to order forfeiture of security from an offending publisher or printer though such an order was liable to be set aside later by the High Court on a review of all the facts, under the Present law a like order can issue from a judicial authority alone. This is an improvement, but only of a procedural nature; for even in the old Act executive action was ultimately subjected to

judicial tests. Government also claim much credit for the provision of a jury of pressmen, to assist in the trial of offences under the Act. Apart from the fact that a jury of such special composition is inherently objectionable, it must be noted that the jury's verdict is not final, as is the case in every country where a jury is provided. In England, for instance it is the jury which finally decides whether an offence has been committed or not, and this is illustrated by Lord Kenyon's remark in *Rex v. Cuthell* (1799) that "a man may publish anything which twelve of his countrymen think is not blamable." To take the example of a country which has a separate Press law, it is provided in Sweden that the criminal nature of printed matter shall be tried by a jury of nine members and that "the matter shall be considered criminal if at least six jurors concur in that opinion." The introduction of this feature in the Act is thus only a face-saving device intended to give a progressive-looking appearance to what is a thoroughly reactionary and oppressive measure.

VICARIOUS PUNISHMENT

7. The Act makes both the publisher and printer of a newspaper liable to penalties in the form of having to deposit a security and to forfeit it; and in addition it makes the printer liable to the penalty of forfeiture of the press. Such penalties are nowhere to be found. But in countries which have separate Press laws regulations are in force which clearly define the

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responsibility of individuals for printed matter, though for offences in connection with it only ordinary penalties of fine and imprisonment are imposed. The Swedish regulations, for instance, lay down that in the case of a periodical the editor alone shall be liable and only in his absence the owner; that the printer shall become liable only when the identity of the owner cannot be determined and that when the identity of the printer cannot be determined, the liability shall fall upon the distributor. In the case of a non-periodical it is provided that liability shall lie primarily on the author and subsequently, if he is not found, on the editor, the publisher, the printer and the distributor in the same circumstances. Similar provisions are made in the Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark and Belgium. In the last-mentioned country indeed the Constitution itself provides that "in case the writer is known and is a resident of Belgium, the publisher, printer or distributor cannot be prosecuted," and this provision is thus judicially interpreted: "There is no complicity in Press offences; the law is based on the principle of the successive and exclusive responsibility of the author, publisher, printer and distributor." The underlying principle is that when the real offender is available for receiving punishment, all the rest of a long series of persons concerned in such a conjoint affair need not be touched.

The Government of India is, however, intent on punishing as many as could be got, hold of, and their Act fastens the responsibility on all of the persons involved in the business and is particularly hard on the printer whom it punishes even after punishing the author, because the main intention of the measure is, in the words of the Home Minister, "to deal with those who use the printing machine for criminal purposes."

INTENT TO BE IGNORED

8. The Act specifically provides that in judging of Press offences only the effect of the words used shall be taken into consideration and not the intent of the writer or the printer. This provision is directly contrary to the principles of criminal jurisprudence of every civilized country. In such countries every criminal law requires as an essential element of the crime proof of the criminal intent of those who are charged with the violation of law. When for instance, the British Government passed the Incitement to Disaffection Act in 1934 for the purpose of putting a stop to the dissemination of seditious pamphlets among the troops that was current in England at the time the Act provided that "if any person, with intent to commit" the offence of incitement does certain things, he shall be guilty of the offence. Similarly, the Smith Act of the United States, under which the Communist leaders were recently convicted of advocating forcible

overthrow of the Government, requires the existence of a specific intent to be proved, the words in the Act being "with the intent to cause the overthrow" of the Government. The Indian Act not only does not mention intent as an ingredient of the offence but expressly forbids its consideration as something irrelevant to the determination of whether a crime has been committed.

ON TOP OF ORDINARY LAW

9. It has to be remembered that the provisions of the special Press law now enacted are to come into operation on top of the provisions, both preventive and punitive, that already exist in the ordinary criminal law of the country. For it should be remembered that Sec. 33 of the Press Act, though it has the caption of "Bar of Double Penalty," does not in fact impose a barrier upon Government from proceeding against a newspaper under this Act and at the same time proceeding against it under the provisions of the ordinary criminal law. It can, for instance, resort to Sec. 131 of the Indian Penal Code which provides for the offence of attempting to seduce officers and men in the Army and Navy, a matter dealt with under Sec. 3(iv) of the special Act. The question in regard to every kind of "objectionable matter" specified in the Act is not so much whether the offence should not be punished as whether it should be punished in the special way laid down in the Act, viz., by the taking and

forfeiting of a security and confiscation of the Press. Sec. 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code empowers the taking of security from the printer or publisher of a newspaper to be of good behaviour. A further preventive remedy is often resorted to by Government in the application of sec. 144 of the Code for prohibiting publication of specific matter in a newspaper. This is bitterly resented by the Press and the Press Laws Enquiry Committee recorded their opinion that "it was not the intention of the framers of the Code that this section should be applied to the Press." Accordingly, they made a unanimous recommendation that "instructions should be issued by Government to magistrates that orders in respect of newspapers should not be passed under this section. Yet prohibitory orders will continue to be made on the strength of this section. The Home Minister declared, "Sec. 144 has served more than anything else in this country to preserve order. Government would be most difficult in this country without that section. If we decided to go without sec. 144, we would only be paving the way for Fascists, or for chaos, and for domination by rowdy sections in every area, who will carve out authority for themselves." India must be a very peculiar country if chaos cannot be prevented except by the use of a weapon which does not exist in the armoury of any other country. But this is not all; in addition to employing such measures, Government must bring into use in normal times a special Press law of unheard-of severity.

SEDITION LAW

10. The Press Laws Enquiry Committee recommended that the law of sedition contained in sec. 124-A of the Indian Penal Code be brought into line with the English law on the subject and said that they understood that there was a proposal before

Government to this effect. It was announced in course of the debate on the present Act that an amending measure would be introduced at a later date. What this measure will be remains to be seen, but the thing to note at this stage is that while Government are so quick in clamping down extraordinarily harsh restrictions on the Press, they are so tardy in amending an admittedly bad law, with the result that law, which was declared unconstitutional by judicial authority but which has been revived by the Constitution Amendment Act, remains in full operation.

DURATION OF THE ACT

11. That Government purport to limit the life the Act to two years will not relieve to any considerable extent the grave apprehensions felt about the measure. If the law had been enacted in view of any special circumstances of an evil nature that are expected to last for a short time, this concession could have been appreciated. But the conditions which have led Government to pass it, like general prevalence of illiteracy and introduction of a universal franchise when masses can be easily misled, are not conditions likely to pass away for a very long period, and if the Act can at all be justified with reference to such conditions it can be justified almost as a permanent law, as indeed Government at first intended it to be. The All-India Civil Liberties Council, has therefore very little hope that the present Government, if it continues in power, will not renew the Act after the expiry of two years. But the Council has a fundamental objection to the very principles of the Act which cannot be removed if even in fact the law is brought into force only for this period.

A STIGMA ON THE PRESS

12. It may be, as Government hold out the hope, that the Press Act will rarely be brought into operation. But

that will not alter the fact that the existence of the Act on the statute book is by itself a badge of bondage that can in no circumstances be tolerated. The measure has been opposed by the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference, the Federation of Working Journalists and almost every newspaper in the country. That is surely because the Act casts an undeserved slur on the Press. But newspaper opinion is supported with equal fervour by all independent-minded politicians in the country because they realise that Freedom of the Press alone with Freedom of Speech is the life-breath of Democracy, and that without such freedom democracy cannot survive. Upon the right freedom of expression a unique value is set in every democratic country and the freedom is secured by various constitutional and statutory provisions. In our country, too, the Government of the day places a unique emphasis upon Freedom of the Press, but the emphasis is laid in a different direction. Instead of protecting this freedom as an essential requisite of free government it rivets on the Press all the fetters to which a foreign bureaucracy subjected it under the plea of compelling exigencies of the time and even forges for it some new fetters when no exigency remotely resembling the former ones could be alleged or even has been alleged to exist, solely because Government sees in the Press a powerful moulder of public opinion and therefore, in the present state of illiteracy and ignorance of the common people, an engine capable of infinite mischief which can be checked only by abridging Freedom of the Press. The way to such a repressive Act had already been cleared by the adoption of an amendment to clause (2) of Article 19 of the Constitution which in effect abolishes all constitutional limitation in behalf of freedom of expression. That

Cleopatra : an exhumation

By NEMESIS

The staging of "Cleopatra" by *The Footlights* recently seems to have attracted the interested attention of many here. In our last issue we published a review by *Osiris*, a pseudonym for our efficient art-critic. The review while giving the production all its dues (the show was a big success on the whole—except perhaps financially), nevertheless was an excellent criticism of some of the lapses on the part of the actors, the audience as well as the critics who profess to know so much and connect so little. Working under such limited means as available in Patna, Producer Kalyan Mazumdar with the valuable aid of Mr. S.P. Kaushal (Direction), Prof. Debidas Chatterji (Musical Effects), Mrs. A.T. Sen & Mrs. U.N. Sinha (costumes) and Mr. Sinha (stage setting) made an excellent job of the the whole thing. The success of "Cleopatra" (consisting of scenes from Shaw's *Caesar and Cleopatra* and Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* linked up by a chorus) was an eye-opener to many producer here who so far has been nurtured on conventionalities and has a few mediocre orthodox stage-productions to their credit.

The present article attempts another dispassionate review of the successful production.

A burial of the dead is a catastrophic emergency attempt—worthy only of a conscienceless modern deity like T. S. Eliot: the myriad-year-old genius of *Osiris*, belonging as it does to distant B. C.—I almost said D. C. meaning, of course, Decades before Christ—has done but a panoramic job of autopsy on the *Footlights'* presentation of a month ago. The post-mortem results published last week were that of a wayward scalpel whetting its edge on the numerous funny-bones; it is left to *Nemesis* to pursue and exhume the essential spirit.

First the story. Synthesis is at all times a hazardous process; the attempt made by the script-craftsmen of "Cleopatra" must be a hazard unparalleled in the history of drama. Only the most original genius could have been prompted to set off Shakespeare against Shaw on the same stage on the same night. The advance progressively backwards thus made would have won the heart of Mr. Eliot. And they got away with it, for the end was achieved: Connected by narration that tended to purple in patches and seek a sandwich-existence amid the greatest dramatic literature in English, a complete

and coherent story was conveyed to the least intelligent as well as to the least expensive of the audience. But the means to this end were not above disputation.

It would be futile to enter upon a discussion of the exact merits and demerits of prose drama and poetic drama, but to an audience primed rightaway to the racy prose of Shaw, the abrupt transference into the swirls of Shakespearean verse called for rapid mental readjustments that need not have been compelled upon them. The prosaic world of today is infinitely slower in its reactions to poetry than the Elizabethans were. Poetry at best is a thing of reflection. How many of the audience went home with Shakespeare haunting their minds?—to a man they had relished the delectable bits from Shaw and wished there had been more of it. Unwilling to effort as human nature always is, some allowance should have been made for this unfortunate margin of response that would have contributed considerably to the enjoyment of the drama.

Then, too, since the story depended for its sweep entirely upon the transitions, a lamentable oversight was committed

halfway through the play that made the whole thing appear a little feeble in the middle. The first three scenes were admirably chosen: the last three admitted of appropriate working up—but where the essential tension was lost was in the two messenger-scenes. If the aim had been to depict Cleopatra in two distinct moods, it was successful; but in the context of the whole thing, these two depictions admitted of no progress, no development. What was worse, they offered disadvantageous contrast to Shaw—which is an unforgivable offence against Shakespeare. When Cleopatra sets upon the messenger with a whip, inevitably we were reminded of her doing the same thing with her slave earlier in Shaw's sphere; when she is hacking the description of Octavia to bits with her wit, she seems like the vixen Shaw had made of her, not the womanish Queen Shakespeare had intended. Such juxtapositions marred the conception of Cleopatra in both dramatists and rather blurred the outline of the singular character she was meant to be portrayed as in this play.

Furthermore, it put an intolerable strain upon the actress

playing Cleopatra, for she has to live through high life in every minute on the stage. Which from the practical point of view was another grave mistake. She was offered no relief between scenes, nor was there any relaxation in the scenes for her. A belated attempt was made to rest her through the Antony-Eros scene but that was not enough. It is not humanly possible to be at the highest pitch of emotion throughout the whole play and yet have the semblance of control over oneself. With both physical and emotional respite denied her, Cleopatra was always too tense, too much in abandon, so that the slightest miscarriage of rhythm on her part made the defect unfairly accentuated. That she did maintain uniformity is a miracle. The Messenger had his palling influence upon her, but she rose to magnificence again and again. The first scene with Caesar, the love scene with Antony and the second Dolabella scene—these were fragrant histrionic flowers that memory shall inhale for days to come.

If the portrayal of Cleopatra was stretched to bursting point, that of the two other major roles had to be compacted to a concentration in the briefest space of a scene or two, calling again upon the utmost resources of the two actors. Shakespeare may have had the ability to drop a handkerchief to freeze our blood, but Laurence Olivier himself will not convey to us a Hamlet with one lifting of his eyebrow. Working under this

handicap, Julius Caesar remained a rather vague and benign presence, without ever being the hard-boiled Roman or even the material genius we associate with that name always tending to dissemble into magniloquence and ineffectual magnitude. Mark Antony erred on the other side, by being too obtrusive and spasmodic, exploding into love-making, self-analysis and suicide with equal and unnecessary vehemence. Neither of the two could match the personality of Cleopatra, and their loss was her loss also, for not being able to offer her sufficient background.

And the minor characters fared even worse. Charmain and Iras had nothing significant to do except die gracefully, and though they did that with success, they seemed to have been waiting all the time to do only this and justify their presence on the stage—they had very little else to do. Rufio could have been more rugged

Contd. from page 58

while now legislatively suppressing Freedom of the Press, Government felt no compunction in forcing the measure on to the statute book by resorting to closure at every stage of the debate only shows that no kind of democratic freedom can be expected from the present Government.

PLEDGE FOR RESTORATION OF THE FREEDOM

13. But the All-India Civil Liberties Council believes that freedom of the Press which has all but been extinguished by

and brusque and less philosophic. Appolodorus was overlooked even by Cleopatra herself. The Messenger remained an ambiguous figure. Mardian was seen by all but heard by very few. Eros aroused spontaneous laughter the moment he stepped on the stage—he made amends by falling as if the entire Roman Empire had collapsed. Dollabella struck a note of servility that was not met in one of Caesar's gentlemen. The only exceptions perhaps were Ftateeta, who was not afraid to assert herself; the Clown, (enacted by Bishu De) who etched a miniature masterpiece in two lines of speech; and the Nubian, whose appearance was picturesquely dramatic.

On the whole it was a magnificent experiment, entirely worth the attempt. If the stage-management was at fault, that can easily be remedied at the next venture. The music maintained an elevated standard that sometimes contrasted badly the acting shortcomings. The next Footlights production is to be eagerly looked forward to—they have shown enterprise which is the hall-mark of success.

the Act will soon come to be restored in its integrity when public opinion which is keen on preserving this freedom asserts itself. However, the repeal of the present Act can only be the immediate objective of people who have a genuine concern for civil liberty. They must not rest, as the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference exhorted the journalists, till the amendment made in the Constitution which paved the way for the Act is itself repealed.

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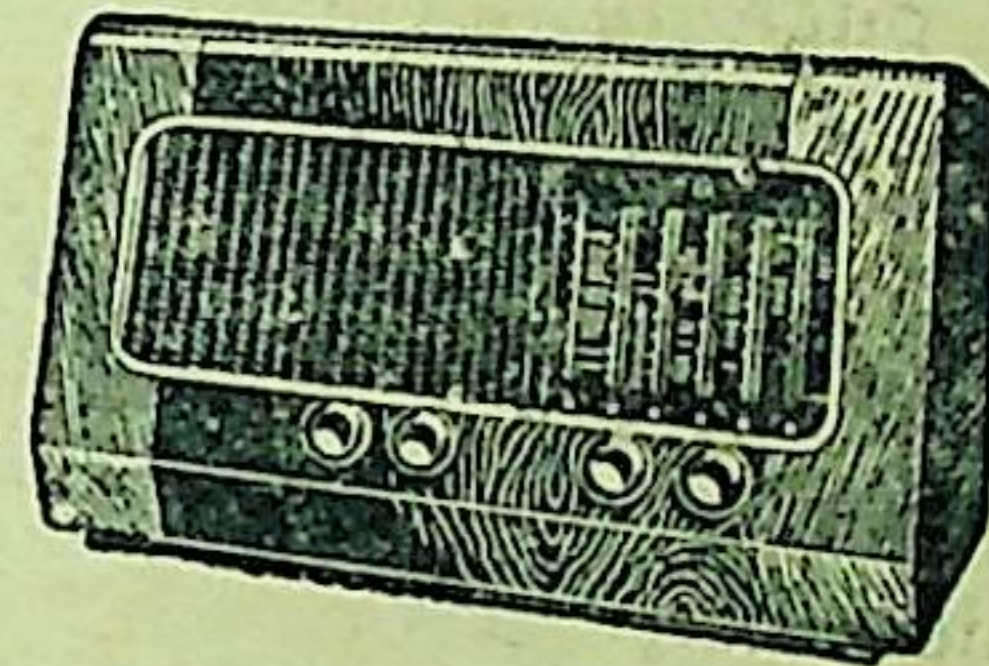
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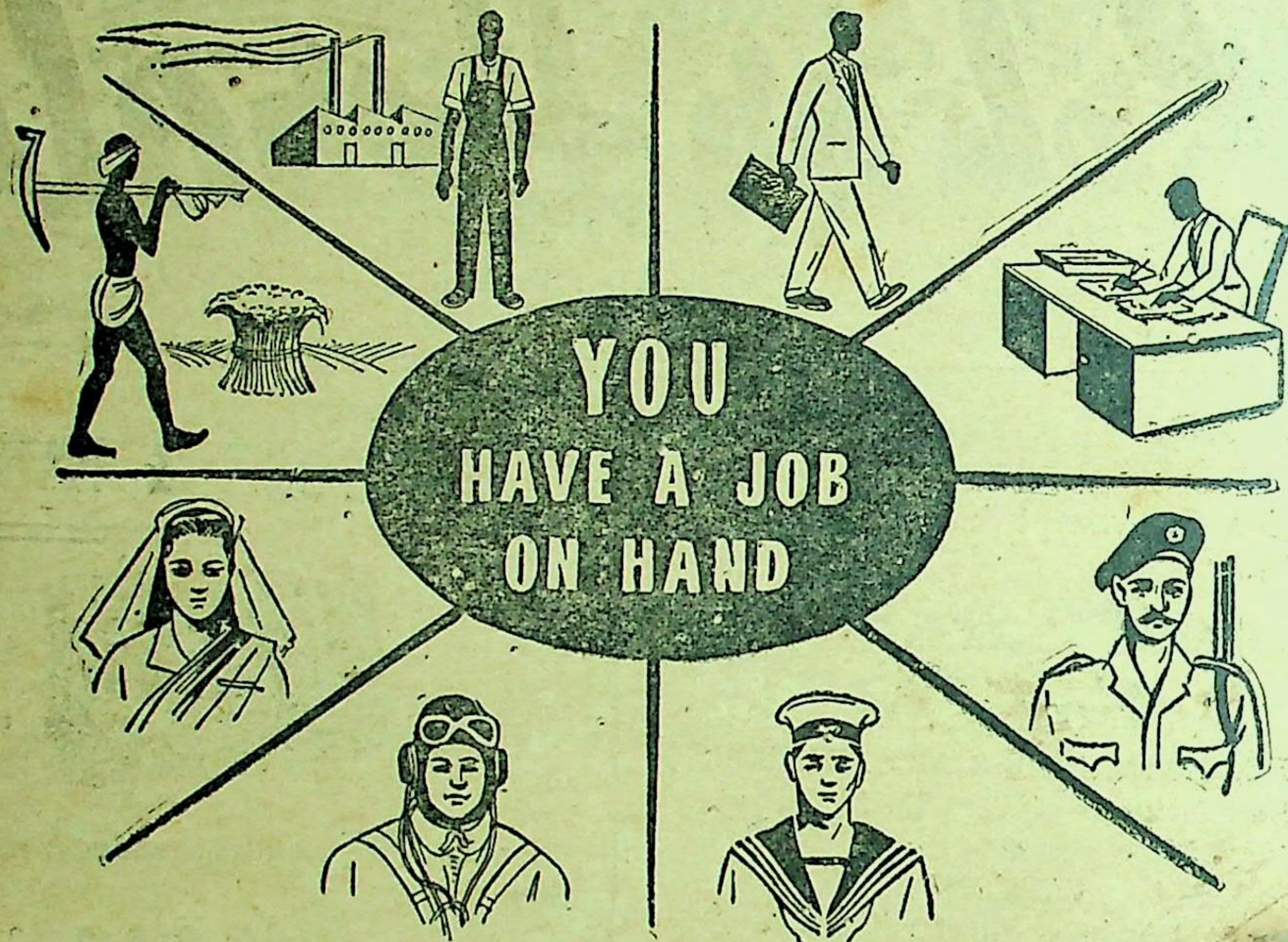
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