

# Behar Herald

Editor — M. C. Samaddar

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## Bombay Plan And After

By K. N. Dalal, Managing Director, Nath Bank Ltd.

Since the Bombay Plan was sponsored by the Big Seven, there has been manifest much of speculative enthusiasm regarding the future of Indian economy. Many other suggestions have been put up from different quarters, and on their part the Central Government have also issued two instalments of the Reconstruction Committee's report. Latest on the subject is the broadcast talk from New Delhi by Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, which bears special importance, coming from a Government representative, fully in the know of official secrets.

But in this respect we must regret our disappointment. Sir Ardeshir has spoken in general terms, susceptible to any interpretation and in certain places he is rather vague. In fact, he has left us no clue to fathom the mysteries of New Delhi. In one place he emphasises the urgent need of having a National Government at the Centre and rightly observes that the restrictions, regulations and interference with national economy that any large scale planning will mean "Can only be carried out successfully by a Government which feels that it has the full support of the people behind it, because the people realise it is to their ultimate benefit". But contradicting himself in the same breath, he says again, "In politics there is no vacuum, and if a national government cannot be formed to carry on this work, it has got to be carried out by some other agency". We confess our embarrassment at this absurd self-contradiction of Sir Ardeshir. We know, the future of India will be finally decided in the Downing Street, and can well guess the unenviable position that the Hon'ble Member has let himself in. But we have one question to put to him : Does he really

believe that a bureaucratic government as the present one can hope to successfully launch any bold scheme, covering the entire country and involving huge capital expenditure, heavy taxation and unprecedented restriction and regulation? We have well-grounded doubts as to the plausibility of any such proposal and apprehend that, if accepted, it may lead to chaos and lamentable failure. He must be fully aware that the mass mind in India is deeply obsessed with a feeling of frustration, and at this stage it will be hardly possible to mobilise public initiative and enterprise into constructive channels on a scale as envisaged in the Bombay Plan, without installing at the centre a truly representative government, responsible to the people and enjoying their full confidence. Taking a realistic view of the whole situation one can concede to no compromise on this point as the Hon'ble Member evidently suggests.

Then, in regard to the scheme itself certain major points require proper elucidation. Both in the preamble of the Bombay Plan and in the Report of the Reconstruction Committee it has been generally stated that "The ultimate object of all planning must be to raise the standard of living of the people as a whole and to ensure employment for all". The Reconstruction Committee has further observed that mere improvement in living conditions and increase in purchasing power will not yield the desired results unless the plan is so adjusted as to effect more equitable distribution of national wealth. But how this most vital result can be achieved has not been indicated. It has long been proved that taxation or similar other indirect methods

as checks to profit-motive and as mechanism of adjusting national dividend can hardly be relied upon. If our object is ambitious our plan must be bold enough. It is, thus, evident that to improve the standard of living of India's teeming millions the very basis of our national economy must be rationalised; and if this is agreed to, the structural adjustments that would inevitably follow shall bring about colossal changes in the existing order of things, effacing all vested interests and long-standing privileges. In fact, as Mr. Cole has so aptly remarked, if the postwar world is to resettle in secure peace, the restrictive capitalism of today must yield space to progressive nationalisation. This and all its consequences we must face with courage and conviction. No patch-up work or half-way compromise can ensure prosperity and real peace.

Lastly, I would draw pointed attention to the problem of tariff. It is now generally accepted that any rapid industrialisation of the country would be possible only under conditions favourable for the growth of capital and enterprise, and this again would require liberal and scientific application of protective tariffs in favour of national industries. Here, it may be conceded that the policy of 'discriminating protection' as accepted and applied in British India has served well the initial phase of our industrial development. But a stage has already been reached now when the principles

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"A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO BIHAR :

With the new year begins the Savings Drive,  
which will enhance the prestige of Bihar in  
the present, and will ensure her prosperity  
in the future

TO BIHAR A HAPPY NEW YEAR !"



# Behar Herald

Patna

Tuesday, January 2, 1945

## BUILDING FROM THE ROOF DOWNWARDS

Journalists will be sorry to learn that the Government of India have decided to discontinue the TRAVEL LESS campaign as it did not achieve the objects for which it was launched. One can admire the optimism of those who could imagine that the travelling public could be dissuaded from undertaking essential railway travel by inserting advertisements in the newspapers. The majority of the people in this country never travelled for the sheer fun of it, they are too poor to do it. During the last two years, railway travel has become so painful and expensive that one undertakes it only when it is unavoidable. To such people, the exhortation to travel less is obviously meaningless. But those at New Delhi who control the destinies of 400 millions, do not go by psychology or are influenced by what is obvious. Our Salem contemporary, Free India, has told us that if you go to New Delhi and accept it as reality, the rest of India begins to look like an improbable nightmare which can be completely left out of all consideration in one's working and lunching hours. To the big and bulky Hon'bles, who

travel in palaces on wheels, the like of which Roosevelt may not have seen and which Stalin cannot imagine, a railway journey from Delhi to Trivandrum, via Calcutta and Karachi, is a pleasant experience of exhilarating and restful change. So, they cannot be blamed for imagining that curtailing the luxury of railway travel is a commendable sacrifice which one ought to make for the sake of winning the war more quickly. While they were in such a mood of severe austerity, probably a clever officer who might have badly needed the headship of a new Department, suggested that a high pressure TRAVEL LESS campaign was the very thing that was needed to make the trains run empty. The authorities were impressed by the originality and brilliance of the idea and said—"carry on". They could not imagine the hardship of a railway journey for the ordinary man, which was more than enough to deter one from undertaking frivolous travel.

The Americans have been carrying on two campaigns simultaneously, one in Europe and the other in the Pacific. Our propaganda department has been also been carrying on two synchronous campaigns,—one for reducing railway travel and the other for growing more food. Brilliantly ingenious and beautifully illustrated advertisements have appeared in the columns of newspapers telling people to grow more celery and Brussels sprouts to meet the rice shortage. There has been

food shortage both in Britain and in India due to the war. In Britain, "more food" has been grown in the conventional way,—on soil. In India, we decided to grow more food in the advertisement columns of newspapers. We have seen very few advertisements in British newspapers (and we see a lot of them) telling the people to grow more food. So as a result of the difference in strategy and tactics, the people of Britain have been able to grow more (edible) food, while, here, wheat ripened to a golden yellow; young paddy plants were transplanted making the fields emerald-green; cabbage and cauliflower were collected in heaps resembling hillocks,—but all in (inedible) pictures.

We ourselves were growing food, without anybody telling us to do so, long before the Beer Hall Putsch. To-day in spite of all the admonitions and exhortations to grow more food, we are actually growing less than what we did when old Hindenburg ruled over Germany. The explanation is quite simple. We used to buy castor oil cake fertilizer at Rs. 1/8 to Rs. 2/- a maund when the National Socialist Party had only 12 Deputies in the Reichstag, this year we could not get the oilcake even though we offered to pay Rs. 7/- for a maund. The result has been that our cabbages this year look like slightly over-grown Brussels sprouts. We used to "grow" milk by feeding our cows with linseed oil-cake. Now it is not available at all except at a fancy price in the black market. The result has been a fall in milk production. We have been trying to draw the attention of the authorities to this for the last three weeks, but to no avail. Can anyone blame us if we conclude that the "Grow More Food" and the "Don't buy from the black market" advertisements are all bunkum, humbug, claptrap and flapdoodle? Painters can grow food on paper with brush, but for growing real food, things like fertilizers and fodder are needed. For lack of these, not more, but less food is grown.

The real trouble in this country is that the Government don't have a people good enough for them. The former

is tragically handicapped that way. The most ingeniously designed propaganda, conducted by the choicest brains in this country, helped by experts from England, falls flat on a people incapable of artistic appreciation or sympathetic understanding. When New Delhi wants the people to grow more food (dig for victory, as the British people did) the unregenerate people start howling that they want fertilizers and fodder. Nothing constructive appeals to the people here, they take a perverse pleasure in not understanding really clever propaganda.

## Notes & Comments

### The Chinese Puzzle

General Patrick Hurley, American Ambassador to China, brought the famous Chinese Communist General Chou En-lai from Yen-an, the capital of Communist China, in a special plane under guarantee of American protection, to confer with Chiang Kai-Shek about presenting a united front in China to the common enemy. Chiang was at first unwilling to see Gen. Chou En-lai and kept him waiting for more than a week before granting him an interview for half an hour. In the meeting, Chiang rode the high horse and would not listen to Chou En-lai's suggestion that the Communists and other parties should share responsibility in a re-formed Chinese Cabinet and a united military high command. The Generalissimo only offered a token representation and "co-operation without responsibility" to General Chou En-lai, which of course caused a break down of the negotiations.

Madame Sun Yat Sen, the widow of the founder of the Chinese republic and sister of Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, is considered to be a Communist in Kuō Min Tang circles because she asked for the sending of medical and military supplies to the Communist armies fighting against the Japanese in northern China. Dr. Sun Fo, the son of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, is not a *persona grata* in Kuomin-tang because he believes in the formation of a national democratic government and united



A Rumour Is More Dangerous Than  
Vesuvius In Action: Living On Rumours  
Is Like Living On A Volcano: Stamp  
Out Rumours.



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military command which would include the Communists. Madame Chiang Kai-Shek has apparently left China and her husband for good.

During the last three years, the Kuomintang propaganda machine has been one of the most efficient in the world (here they score over us). The censorship of all news passing out of China has been more stringent than perhaps anywhere else in the world. Newspaper correspondents can only say what they saw in China when they come out of the country.

**A Warning To All Grumblers**

We have learnt a lesson recently which we are not likely to forget. It is that one should not grumble over any difficulty because a far greater one may be coming soon. When we complained of the disappearance of oilcake cattle fodder from the markets of Patna, we did not know that a time was coming when we ourselves would be forced to starve for lack of rice. The ration shops were closed on Wednesday for Muharram. On Thursday we were told by the authorities of our ration shop in Nawal Kishore Road that there was no rice, but we could get some on Friday. On Friday and Saturday we had pointblank refusals to sell rice because there was none. For four days we have been going without any rice just because we were foolish enough not to give an inflated number of the members of our household when the census was taken. We get our bare weekly requirements and if for four days we are not given any rice, bleak starvation is our lot.

Of course we are fools to rely on the ration shops for the supply of rice. One can buy any quantity of rice at Rs. 10/- a maund from the outskirts of Patna. We have to pay Rs. 14/- a maund at the ration shops for the same rice, and starve occasionally for lack of supply.

**Apotheosis Of Health**

Our Nutrition officer, Dr. K. Mitra, in a paper read before the Provincial Medical Conference held at Bhagalpore, rightly laid stress on the need for a complete re-orientation in the outlook of the medical profession. We agree with him that the negative aspect, disease, has monopolised the attention of

scientists to the exclusion of the positive aspect,—health. Proper maintenance is of greater value than occasional tinkering when something goes wrong. But so long as personnel is short, repair work would only be attended to and get priority over servicing.

Dr. Mitra also drew attention to a neglected sphere of the healing art,—social medicine.

**Vox Populi**

In the account, cabled by Reuter from Athens, of the Conference of Greek political parties, convened by Mr. Churchill, we read of the presence of the Mr. Maximos, the leader of the "Popular (Royalist) Party". If there be a "Popular Party" in Greece, it deserves everybody's support. No other party can have any *locus standi* when there is a POPULAR PARTY. We suppose it would be right for us to assume that Mr. Churchill is backing the POPULAR PARTY against the unpopular E. A. M. Had Reuter told us before of the existence of a POPULAR PARTY in Greece, we would not have wasted paper and ink over the E.A.M., the ELAS or the EDES. The Greek tangle is now solved for us,—we are for the people, anywhere and everywhere.

**A Topsy-Turvy World**

Reuter is suggesting to us by various inuendoes that the Nazis are helping the ELAS. THE ELAS bitterly fought against the Nazis and turned them out of Athens. The EAM is a Communist organisation and strongly opposed to Nazism. Nevertheless the Nazis are helping the Communists. In the near future we shall not be surprised to learn that Hitler is a Jewish agent of Stalin in disguise and that Stalin is the biggest capitalist of the world, owning the United States Steel Corporation and the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, that the sole object of Hitler's occupation of Paris was to secure the shares of the Suez Canal Company for Stalin.

**We Are Unconvinced**

The *Sentinel* of Ranchi thinks that there is nothing wrong in Ministers and M. L. A's deciding to have a 50% increase in their own salaries while other Government employees get only a 10% War allowance. The reason for such thinking is that

permanent government servants have their pension but the M.L. A's and Ministers have no permanent job. We admit the truth of this but may we point out that government servants cannot secure soft and well-paid jobs for all their ne'er-do-weel brothers, cousins, sons, sons-in-law, nephews and other relatives. When all the male members are well-provided with jobs, does it matter whether there is a pension for the head of the family or not? Moreover it would be absurd to assume that our Ministers and M.L.A's are so many Caesar's wives.

**Ardil**

The Imperial Chemical Industries have manufactured a soft, non-shrinkable, mothproof, cream-coloured resilient fibre which is warm to the touch and can be dyed like wool, from the vegetables protein of groundnut oilcake. They have given it the name ARDIL. Fabrics made with 50 p. c. of ardil fibre are scarcely distinguishable from pure wool.

**New Govt. Of Hungary**

Almost three-fourths of Hungary is now clear of the Germans. The Hungarian patriots have formed a Provisional Government with Colonel-General Bela Miklos de Dalmek, former Commander of the Royal Hungarian First Army, as Prime Minister. The Provincial Government has denounced ARROW CROSS—the Hungarian Nazis. Debreczen, the chief centre of education in Hungary is the seat of the new Government.

**Our Inveterate Optimism**

When the terms of the Atlantic Charter were announced, we were glad that we would have the right to choose the form of

government under which we would live. When Mr. Churchill explained that India was excluded from the scope of the Atlantic Charter, we were glad that India, of all countries in the world, was distinguished by being outside the scope of the Charter,—that while other countries were bound by the terms of the Charter, we alone were absolutely free of the restrictions imposed by it on all nations. When Mr. Roosevelt admitted that the Atlantic Charter lacked a material form that it had only a soul, no body; that it existed spiritually, not documentarily, we were also glad that there was no invidious distinction between ourselves and the European countries,—if there was no Charter, there was no question of our alone being outside its purview.

**Our Frank Admiration**

We have thrown many a brick-bat at the Government of Mr. Casey for their errors of omission and commission. To-day we are glad to read news that compels us to go out for the largest bouquet available for presentation to that Government for doing a far, far better thing than has ever been done in this country by any provincial administration.

A ghee merchant of Calcutta has been fined Rs. 20,000, in default one year's R. L. under the Anti-hoarding and Prevention of Profiteering Ordinance of 1943, on a charge of refusing to sell a tin of vegetable ghee without sufficient cause to a test purchaser, though the accused had 200 tins in stock.

We are afraid our provincial authorities are unaware of the existence of the above beneficent Ordinance. We have been telling them in the clearest

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CALCUTTA



possible language throughout the whole of last month, from these columns, that all dealers in Patna have been refusing to sell oilcake to the public, in spite of their having stock. Could not our price controllers, civil suppliers, enforcement officers, National War Fronters, the magistrate of Patna, the police, the C. I. D.,—anybody—send a test purchaser to verify our statement that oilcake can only be had to-day at Rs. 6/- a maund because the price has been "controlled" at Rs. 4/8- a maund? If a single shop-keeper were prosecuted for this offence and fined even 2 annas, we would have some reason to think that there is an administration here that looks after the people's welfare. Could not H.E. Sir Thomas Rutherford ask for the loan of some efficient officers of the Enforcement Branch from Bengal to teach our "locals" how things should be done?

He is... Always... News

A U.P. message from Karachi (Dec. 25) said that the Khoja

Muslims, the followers of the Aga Khan are making preparations for his diamond jubilee celebrations,—that on the occasion the Aga Khan will be weighed in diamonds and the entire diamond load will be presented to him.

The Aga Khan that the world knows of is the religious head, not of the Khoja Muslims, but of the Ismaili Muslims. There seems to be some difference of opinion about the year of the Aga Khan's birth. According to the Indian Year Book he was born in 1875; according to the Who's Who, he was born in 1877. In the former case he would be 70 in 1945, in the latter case 68. A diamond jubilee is the 60th anniversary of some event. We do not exactly see what incident in the Aga Khan's life the diamond jubilee celebration next year is intended to commemorate.

The present weight of the Aga Khan is 3 maunds 15 seers. By the time he celebrates his Radium Jubilee, he will have won a few more Derbys, married

and divorced a few more young girls, and added a few more stones to his weight.

#### Catholic Communist

A new newspaper VOCE D'OPERAIA (Workmen's Voice) has appeared in liberated Italy, calling itself the organ of the "Catholic Communists". Even Italian Cabinet Minister, Palmiro Togliatti, the leader of the well-organised Italian Communist Party, was unable to say who the Catholic Communists were.

The idea is current in Italy that Britain and the U.S., being rich countries, have no interest in, or understanding of a poor country like Italy, but that Russia can be Italy's friend. The quick resumption of diplomatic relations with Italy by the Soviet Government gave strong support to this view.

#### Nothing To Be Surprised

In the House of Lords, Viscount Cranbourne said (Dec. 22) that he had no reason to think that the EAM was under Nazi control.

Lord Cranbourne's mild contradiction implies that somebody made a previous statement that the EAM was helped by the Nazis. Now this is a very agreeable pronouncement to many of us. So long we have not been able to beat up much antipathy to the EAM simply because they were Communists. Now if they are proved to be both Nazis and Communists, we can see enough justification for all that Mr. Churchill has said about and done in Greece. All our hatred of the Nazis can now be directed against the Communist EAM.

Some may think it rather queer that Communists should have the support of Nazis. We don't. In our country, the Congress, which stands for a Kisan-Mazdoor State (vide Mr. Ranga's recent statement) has the financial support of the Capitalists.

#### Who Said This?

"Politics cannot be divorced from the main current of international thinking, which is toward democracy and liberalism, against which stand fascism and autocracy. The democratic world is veering to the left and we shall have to keep in step with the world. There have been internal dissensions in our Party, culminating in the movement to expel the Communists. For our initial mistake we have developed reactionary tendencies. After the expulsion of the Communists and in order to guard against outsiders we have stifled democratic institutions. If we do not go forward, the Communists will."

Our readers are wrong. The above was not spoken by a Congressman but is taken from a speech by Sun Fo, the son of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, before the Kuo-min-tang.

#### Brothers Under The Skin

For the last three years we have been told by various quarters that there is a good

deal of similarity between the conditions in China and India. We are glad to be able to reproduce the latest statement on China which shows how great the resemblance really is; "Bribery and corruption in the civil service and among Chinese officials are rampant. Thousands of Chinese officials have been dishonest, taken bribes and become corrupt... They have cared more about maintaining their own positions than the welfare of the Chinese people." The above remark has been made, not by an imperialist or biased Englishman, but by Mr. Stewart Gelder, the Special Representative of the *News Chronicle* in Chungking. We can be sure that in spite of their yellow colour, the Chinese are our own brothers to the Indians.

#### Truth Hurts


His Excellency Sir Thomas Rutherford indulged in a bit of plain speaking in the National War Front Conference. In oriental countries, any one, who is connected in any way with the Government, tries to lord it over the less fortunate section of his countrymen. There is no difference in this respect between the village chowkidar, the headmistress of a girl's school or the assistant deputy subdivisional leader of the National War Front. They, all in their own way, make the common man feel what a worm he is and are always activated by the motive to feather their own nest at the cost of the public.

Mr. C. P. N. Sinha, the provincial leader, described the National War Front as the people's organisation "to which they could turn in times of difficulty and for the redress of public grievances". This is excellent theory and if it could be realised in practice, the National War Front would not only be the people's organisation but the people's idol. Leaving out everything else, if the N. W. F. people could ease to the slightest degree the people's hardship brought about by the profiteering shopkeepers, they would earn their undying gratitude. We have seen enough examples of power, secured in the name of public service, abused to get more power and profit, and the National War Front is certainly not the only body in which this is to be found. What His Excellency said did not apply to the high-ups of the N.W.F., but there can be no doubt that the low-downs have tried to use the N.W.F. to gain privileges for themselves. It is the same old story as one reads about District Boards, Municipalities and political organisations.

#### War Boom

The gross income of the Indian Film Industry in 1943-44, was very nearly 10 crores of rupees. The net return to the producers is 32 p. c. of what a film collects at the box office. So, if a producer spends one lakh on a picture, that picture must collect 3½ lakhs at the box office to yield a profit of 10 p. c. to the producer.

THE SAFE, DEPENDABLE ANTISEPTIC



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# A Village Wakes

By J. N. Sinha

The Sun was preparing to rise. The lone late moon hung colourless in the eastern sky. The serene silent ponds were still sleeping. The gentleman who had failed to catch fish in dream was up early to catch it in waking, with his fishing rod poised at the angle of long-range mobile coastal gun and the bait dangling in air he eyed about for a fishy place, tried it, and looked about again, curseful of the ungrateful sleepy fish. Who says fishing is an idle game? In these days of roaring screeching glorified violence on one side and agonised cry of non-violence on the other, a fleeting thought comes to the mind—to which category does fishing belong? It is hard to place it but its nearest denomination appears to be diplomatic and conditional close-range violence. It also seems curiously to blend non-violence and violence and transcend them both. That yonder gentleman goes one step ahead of Christ and instead of offering merely the other half of the face when one half has been smitten he offers the whole of another morsel of free luscious food when one has been eaten. On the other hand he excels the high priest of violence with the philosophy of tooth for a tooth and eye for an eye and does not rest content until he has landed a "big" living fish for a small dead bit of bait.

The early grocer in the narrow lane was setting out his shop and counting the brown cakes of soap. I wondered how many cakes would be needed to wash 'the' blood stains of the present world. The goldsmith who serves ladies and robs gentlemen was goggling about with his eyes of greed. A passing gentleman putting the shawl around audibly complained of bitter cold although to me a shirt was enough. Houses on either side were steeply roofed with corrugated iron sheet. Some were made of bricks, some of bamboos and mud. From the former, plaster was decaying and falling in patches, speaking of transfer of love to the city. Behind the house on both sides stretched water in large or small pools separated by ridges or paths or houses. And whatever was

not water or house was coconut and palm and plantain and profusion of undergrowth, with the eager ivy raising its cheeks the envied kiss to share. Hyacinth covered the territorial waters and sprawled inwards in various shapes and degrees covering the face of the pool like the veil of village brides, bold and timid. Tall coconut trees, rising in lazy easy hurry like startled revellers, arm-round-waist, head-through-tresses, or neck-against-shoulder, sought the mirror in the clear pool. A small thatched house, half hidden in the foliage, also saw its face in the water. A maiden emerged from inside the pool and walked through water to the same ghat. Not a ripple rose. The two filled the same pitcher and went back to where they had come from, each carrying a pitcher full of water. This time ripples rose. The maiden in water shook and shivered and came near breaking. The solid bank itself rose and fell. A little child waiting, lone at his mother's bidding, fearful of losing her

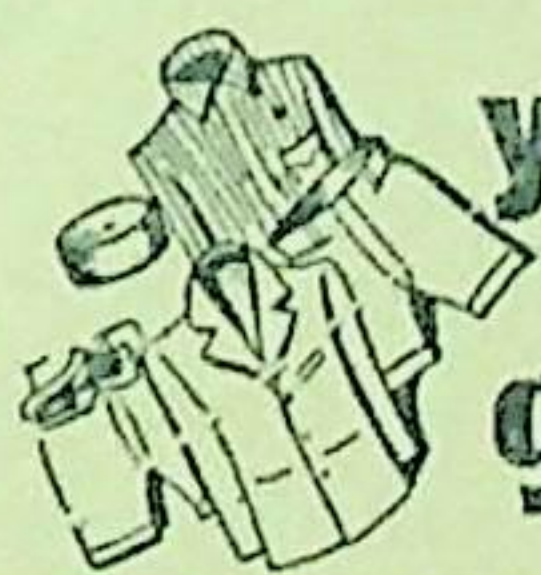
trail, was torn off his feet. Thus does illusion work in the world while the reality remains unmoved! Thus does the body shake and shiver or bend and break while the soul remains untouched! The things seen in water are mere illusions of things seen on land. The things seen on land are not what they seem.

The Sun had risen. The graceful cocoanut trees silhouetted against the eastern sky looked like delicate pencil sketch on a vast sheet of paper. Ducks swam with proud breast on the dark quiet pond. Little ripples rose, diverged in ever-widening arcs of concentric circles, faded as they went and ultimately disappeared, like life on this mysterious eternal earth. The ducks went in and out of the floating foliage as if playing hide-and-seek. People were hurrying to business. The Calcutta train was calling. In the people's faces there was nothing of the serenity of the scene around. The soft delicate curves of the cocoanut were replaced by hard crooked lines of greed. The soothing tender greenery did nothing to soften the pitiless fire of lust for gold. Two retired

gentlemen, sauntering in their morning walk, were consciously looking backwards on life. A little child with slate and pencil, head bound in red handkerchief, wending his way to school, was unconsciously looking forward to life. By the path stood a small monument to the memory of Pramatha Nath Naskar who after a life span of eighty years had died on the identical date and in the identical month of his birth. These ponds perhaps slept then as now. These cocoanut trees composed the same poetry then as now. When Naskar was born people even then went on business, but perhaps with less greed in their eyes, for the Calcutta train was not calling. Surely one day Naskar went to school like that child and unconsciously looked forward to life. Another day he had sauntered in his morning walk and consciously looked backwards on life. A man has come and gone while the things are going. Men are coming still. They too will go. Others will come.

It is hard to tell if Amta is land on sea or sea on land. On all sides are these shy sleepy ponds—to your right, to your left,

**Naked and CRAWLING now..but in 12 years**



**your child will need**

**good clothes and expensive education..**



*Assure his Future now*

**BUY National Savings Certificates**

- 1 They earn 50% increase in 12 years.
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- 3 They are encashable, with accrued interest any time after 3 years (in India or England)
- 4 You can buy them for Rs. 10, 50, 100, 500 or 1,000
- 5 If you can't afford Rs. 10 all at once you can save by buying SAVINGS STAMPS for Re. 1, As. 8 or As. 4 and exchange these for N.S.C's
- 6 You can buy N.S.C's and Savings Stamps from Authorised Agents appointed by Government, Savings Bureau or Post Offices.

*Hurry to get them — don't crawl!*



## A VILLAGE...

behind that grove, behind that house where you least suspected it. All these ponds meet in secret, somewhere in the distance, behind your eyes. Wherever you go there is water about you. Narrow tenuous lanes go precariously by or seemingly through dark pools of water half hidden under deathless hvacinth. Trees by the bank bend their back or bathe their breast. Coconut trees rise up to heaven, bent under prayers, perhaps to ask for blessings for these sleepy wards of theirs. Thick vegetation takes up whatever the water has left. Man lives here by sufferance, houses hide from fear of being drowned, roads run by mercy, and paths meander stealthily.

Amid that fulness of Nature the devotee felt strange emptiness of heart. What exactly his heart lacked he did not know. Perhaps it was that last infinitesimal turn of the violin's key that makes all the difference between music and noise. Or perhaps that last subtle whisper of colour or curve that gives painting a soul.

In a quiet corner stood the temple, serene and sacred, as if waking in the soft morning light. The Goddess was still asleep. There the devotee prayed. He prayed for what he himself did not know till the feet of the Goddess were bathed in his tears. Then a benevolent indulgent smile lit up the divine face. In a moment she opened her eyes and looked at the devotee. And instantly the devotee felt his vacancy filled. Those eyes as deep as the sky, as tender as the jasmine in full moon, as vast as eternity,—the eyes in which all the world, all that he had known real, trembled like dew drops on the lotus leaf—those eyes shone with divine love that gives meaning to creation, that drives away despair through its message of immortality.

The devotee's soul soared in regions far from his body, far far from the Earth, higher than ether, into realms eternal.

The Goddess beckoned. The devotee followed.\*

\*Amta is a Bengal village, 27 miles from Howrah, at the terminus of Howrah-Amta Light Railway.

## Trammelled

## A Tragedy In Two Parts

By Pambí

[The place is anywhere but Calcutta and time January, 1945. Needless to add that all the characters are entirely fictitious if only because, for all you know, the world may come to an end by the 7th. of January, 1945, making it impossible for all human and other beings (don't ask me in which category comes my hero) to tread this earth].

## Un-SCENE 1 :

The 7th. January, 1945

COUNCILLOR ROSE : (speaking to the telephone. Shouting in fact, so that the audience wonders why he is using the telephone at all)

What? No, no, impossible. How could you expect a Councillor to do a thing like that? .. (milder) well, I do, I do appreciate your difficulty and how much I value your patriotism: How I wish I could help you, but you know it's seven days too late now..... oh, oh, did I? That traitor Mitter took a way the lion's share! ... what...oh! a good joke this: I am roaring like a lion but to what purpose? For the good of the citizens. Isn't it? I am glad you agree with me. Listen, (milder still), if you can come down to my office in half-an-hour's time, perhaps I will have something for you. I can't guarantee... what? Your car under repairs? Go straight to the depot and reserve a tramcar entirely for yourself...Never mind about that. Just say you are coming to see me...ha! ha! dear dear, who do you think I am...so you're coming. Right.

The telephone conversation, of which—thank heaven—only one side could be heard, was over and as the Councillor returns to his business his SON enters.

SON : Daddy!

C.B. : Yes, Son?

SON : You know my school has reached the final in the football-tournament and today's that game. May I have two annas.....

C. B. : What will you do two annas with, pray?

SON : Why, one anna is the tram fare from here and the return journey takes another anna.

C. B. : Good God! What's the world coming to? Have you been paying for tram journeys the last seven days?

SON : Of course, daddy. I don't know what....

C. B. : You don't know anything. I can easily see that. Take this slip from me and if the tramcars had doors, they would be open unto you. As it is, you don't pay. Now get going, don't you waste my time now, and my money ever.

Not-so-bewildered SON exits and the curtain which never rose falls.

## SCENE 1 : The 31st January, 1945.

C. B. : Now, Mukerjee, I have apologised to you often enough for my inability to assist you in your antisocial activities which you call business. I have a few things to do now and I can hardly wait to tell you that it will be a pleasure to see you another time and elsewhere.

MUKERJEE : Perhaps, I could make it a pleasure here and now.

C. B. : Old boy, I am glad you have a thought for my pleasure. (Not so impatient).... But you know my old friend Mitter may be here any minute and....

MUKERJEE : Not a chance. He is marooned in the other corner of the city and it will take him three days to walk up here.

C. B. : What in the world do you mean? He has his special Tram, every Councillor has, and if his driver is ill he will drive it himself.

MUKERJEE : But what will he drive if there ain't no tramcar?

C. B. : Mukerjee, if me no ifs. Tell me what's what. Has Mitter given me yet another stab in the back without my knowledge even after the stabbing?

MUKERJEE : Not exactly. At a special meeting this morning his party decided....

C. B. : (A drowning man) And his is the major party!

MUKERJEE : I know. His party decided that the tramways are a luxury for a subject country and that such transport being incompatible with cottage industries they should be abolished with immediate effect....

C. B. : Enough, enough! That scum Mitter is at it again.

Come with me in your car and by my troth I shall stop it :

MUKERJEE ; (Uumoved) Not likely. It's uselesss. You cannot stop it and there's no reason why you should even try to stop it. My dear Sir, you can take it as a foregone conclusion that Tramways are dead and you must make the best of the bad job.

C. B. : (As if seeing the silver lining which soon makes itself clearer, though not exactly in silver) I am afraid I must, but..

MUKERJEE : They're going to sell the tramcars and the tramlines as scrap. I have no use for the lines but I need the tramcars. And if you can get me those at—ahem—reasonable rates, perhaps, between you and me, we would....

C. B. : (taking a large envelope that has been passed on to him by the only other person on the stage)

Mukerjee, you're my only friend. I really don't know how to thank you.

MUKERJEE : You don't have to. You'll see that my tender is accepted, won't you?

C. B. : Won't I? Ha, ha. I'll see, how Mitter...

The SON reappears

SON : Daddy, this slip is no good any more. You know the trams have ceased to operate.

C. B. : I know, I know, my boy, take this envelope and buy a Rolls Royce and ...

SON : (amazed at the large amount) The entire Rolls Royce factory, you mean?

The curtain falls in the midst of loud and happy laughter by all on the stage.

## TRANSACT

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U. P. : New Delhi, Cawnpur, Gorakhpur.

Punjab : Ludhiana, Amritsar, Rawalpindi.

Sindh : Mirpurkhash and Karachi.

K. S. Kshetry, R. N. Singh,  
Secretary Managing Director



JANUARY 2, 1945

The tour of the Bihar Press Delegation organised by the Provincial Government in collaboration with the Public Relations Directorate, is just over. We have rushed through a busy week packed with a programme of surprises, of activity and education, and perhaps of some mental headaches now and then. We have been shown round army, air, naval and feeder establishments. We have been given some idea of the things that are being done in India, by whom and how. We have learnt that our boys are doing fine in every line, only that it is not possible to give out their number. But we have felt that if more were to come in, they would be absorbed.

It is not that production figures and other details are not available—they can't be divulged for security reasons. But signs of mounting production are evident—the variety is also stimulating. But all said and done, two things have to be noted. Firstly that the working conditions in some of these establishments are even now not upto the mark though they are being improved every day. One may remark that it's war-time. Well, aren't most of these the outcome of the war? And secondly, that the establishments manned by the military personnel are most disciplined, cleaner, better productive, and well cared-for. Perhaps the profit motive is not there.

It is not easy to jot down all details, and all our reactions, in a small space. So let me give a brief resume of what we have done and seen. It is a pity that for security reasons we cannot publish the names of establishments that are doing nice work, and helping training up a band of skilled workers for the new India that is growing up. It is all the more pity that we can't openly express our admiration, once again for security reasons, for all the officers and other men who have devoted themselves heart and soul to their task of serving humanity.

On one day we visited a gun and steel factory, a Rifle factory and an ordnance factories training centre. We liked the training centre very much.

A delightful morning was spent at a Base Workshop, and it occurred to us that it all depended on the man in charge to make or mar the whole show,

## Prelude to War-Correspondentship

By M. C. S.

a fact which we were reminded of more than once during the tour. It is interesting to note here that most of the apprentices have come straight from school and are more amenable to the teaching of basic principles of engineering, e. g. cleanliness and pride in their work.

Another busy morning was with the R. I. N. Very interesting too.

A whole evening with the R.A. F. made us dream of the future, when we would all fly and avoid railway accidents.

The W. A. C. (l)'s kept us busy for a whole morning. After an inspection of their work we had to admit that the fair sex were quite full up, and therefore the next time we had a wrong number from the telephone exchange we would not flare up as we done (or, did?). But though doing a man's work, they liked the job—and in some cases their efficiency was more than that of the male species. More W. A. C. (l)'s and then men would be relieved for active service. And life would perhaps be more cheerful.

We saw a combined workshop. Also a Vehicle Assembly Unit. Did not understand much of the job but liked the officers immensely.

Among the other items mention has to be made of an Air-craft factory, A.A. Gun sites, Field Supply depots, an Indian coast defence establishment, a transit camp, canteens, services clubs, and troops' amenities and welfare centres—though we really missed a table-tennis exhibition match at the Besa Theatre, and a Services cricket match. We visited an Indian Military Hospital, one of the best in India. Also a base Signal Office, where a good percentage were W. A. C. (l)'s.

The Ack-Ack gun site proved very interesting. How scientific war has become. A pretty surprise was their honest and effective "grow more food" work.

The Field Supply Depots we visited were also doing good work in "grow more food"—it showed that the Army was really trying to do something in this line, as compared to the

paper schemes of the civilian government. They were having good sport as well—the Lieutenant Colonel in charge had introduced a wrestling competition, and he was keen on more and more athletics.

Of the Canteens we liked the one situated near about a busy railway junction where a Services' continuous news reel

cinema has been built, and another Indian Canteen recently opened.

We visited a Gurkha regiment in training. We had some experiences of jungle fighting—and a few nice hints for peace time picnics.

Efficiency, and more and more of it; hard work and ample amenities—these are the keynotes of success. And our officers and men have grasped it all right. Hats off to them.

## PRICES ARE STILL FALLING don't be caught by unwise buying

As the last year has shown, investments in goods, property, land and commodities have turned out badly. Prices have fallen and money invested in these things has visibly *SHRUNK!*

Lucky, indeed, the wise people who invested in sound securities. Their savings have grown. Their money has become more valuable. Assisted by price controls and increased manufactures, they are defeating the profiteers and hoarders. They have rendered both India and themselves a great service.

Keep on with the good work. Prices are still falling and will continue to do so as long as people spend less and save more. Now, as many people have found out, money investments are the best. Any of these is absolutely secure:—Co-operative Societies, Insurance, Savings Bank Account, Post-Office Savings Bank, Government Loans, National Savings Certificates.

# SAVE ALL YOU CAN AND INVEST ALL YOU SAVE

➔ Avoid all unnecessary expenditure on clothes, furniture, crockery, cycles, motor cars, and other things which you will be able to buy much more cheaply after the war. For the duration, do without luxuries. This is the true path to personal and National prosperity.

A NATIONAL APPEAL BY THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT



End of the war will envisage welcome prospect in the communication system of India, and with it will develop the nascent tourist industry. Growth of tourist industry in European countries was a recent phenomenon so far as it can be taken as a branch of economic activity and an important source of national wealth. It was just one of the several invisible items of the international balance of payments left entirely to some individual private enterprise.

In the twenties of the present century, many European countries, America and Japan took up this industry seriously. They have since gone a long way towards augmenting it. India has not taken the opportunity of organising the tourist industry on a national basis.

Travelling can be traced back to the dim past in the pages of history. Famous Chinese and European travellers visited India even at a period when travelling was dangerous, expensive and un-

attractive. Sea route was full of unknown fears while roads to some extent afforded a less dangerous movement. In 1817 a certain Lt.Col. John Johnson travelled by road from India to England through Persia, Georgia, Russia, Poland and Prussia. He found the journey by road pleasant. With the development of trunk and feeder roads and construction of railways, movement of tourists was augmented.

India, being a vast sub-continent, occupied a peculiar position as regards her tourist traffic in contrast to other countries. Here the definition of the tourist should also cover different provincials causing increase in the inter-provincial traffic. Likewise in Switzerland, the internal tourist traffic of the Swiss themselves visiting the different tourist districts and Cantons, is no less important. In 1934 just over three-fifths (61.1 per cent) of the total number of visitors were Swiss and the rest (38.9 per cent) foreign. In India the largest proportion of the tourist traffic is directly made up of Indians themselves travelling from one province to another or from place to place within the province. A Bengali who spends a holiday in any of the sub-Himalayan resorts in upper Bengal is to be considered as a tourist in the same way as he would be if he were to take a sojourn to Srinagar.

A tourist has been described by A. J. Norval as "one who enters a foreign country for whatsoever purpose, other than for permanent residence or regular business across the border and who spends in the country of temporary sojourn money which has been earned elsewhere." In this definition the important factor is spending by a foreigner in the country of sojourn of money which has been earned elsewhere. Two determinant factors in this respect are, a person's object of visit and the time factor in relation thereto. Under the first category we find the following (1) travelling for pleasure or for reasons of health; (2) travelling on private or official business; (3) travelling for some particular purpose, i. e., scientific, religious or social congresses; international sports and athletics, festivals, exhibitions, fairs etc. There can be no time

## A Plan For Tourist India

By J. N. Gupta

limit, set to travelling, for in India travellers will find varieties of objects, a study of which may take a long time according to one's interests.

Before taking up the above classification for examination we may make a passing observation of some special classes of foreigners whose share is also to be taken note of in assessing the total yield of tourist revenue.

The large number of salaried staff imported primarily from England including business houses, some professional classes, missionaries and defence services personnel, consular establishments etc. do not come within the category of a tourist. They, however, are important factors in the total tourist traffic when during their stay in India they move from time to time for a change or for other purposes.

Travelling for pleasure is a growing rage in India. In this respect the trend of tourism is bilateral. During the tourist season, roughly between October and April, large numbers of people rush out of congested cities to hills, seaside resorts and quiet places good for their bracing climate. The reverse movement which runs on simultaneously is generally at its peak during the Christmas. Some constant flow of the sick—physical or mental—can be found also throughout the year towards the seaside and the hills.

The frontiers of the different provinces do not hamper inter-provincial trade relations. People of all the provinces, therefore, are free to travel anywhere they like for commercial purposes. In large cities of commercial importance people of all the provinces are seen carrying on trade. In India the railway traffic is primarily congested by such commercial travellers. In this we may include the annual conferences of growing professional and trade associations.

With the development of political consciousness, socio-political congregations in different centres year to year are a marked feature while on

**It can be done—**  
*and it is being done*  
**How concerted**  
**action can**  
**smash the**



Shopkeepers who hoard, who profiteer, who deprive poor people of necessary goods by putting a high price on them, are the worst social criminals. They are the BLACK MARKETEERS, rapacious, dishonest and ruthless.

They deserve the severest punishment. But too often they go unpunished because consumers are unwilling to report.

All of us must help the Police to destroy black markets. Already we read every day of convictions. But this is not enough. Only when all of us come forward with our information will this evil disappear finally.

*Here are four important points—*

1. Understand how anti-social the black market is.
2. Understand that it is the consumers dealing with it that make it possible.
3. Understand that if everyone refuses to pay more than the controlled rates, the black market will perish.
4. Understand that Police needs only INFORMATION to smash these evil-doers.

*All together does it*  
**DOWN**  
*with the*





# For Tourist Industry India

By J. N. Gupta

the cultural side there are various conferences, like the Indian Science, Economic, Historical, Philosophical and other conferences. These are a regular cold-weather feature. The characteristic of these conferences is a change of centre from session to session.

India is a glorious land of pilgrimages and people have maintained a perennial flow towards sacred places from time immemorial. There is throughout the year a constant traffic on this account while on special occasions pilgrims in large numbers overcrowd all the railways. In early times roads alone served the pilgrims for in many cases there was no other convenient communication available towards remote places of religious sanctity. River traffic before railways came into existence played some important part but now it is comparatively insignificant. Railways have made considerable diversion from road and river traffic.

Fairs in India like the Sonapur fair which is believed to be one of the largest fairs of the world, attract people from all corners of the country. Fairs are invariably connected with some religious function. Prior to traffic control for war conditions, many special trains had to be run on occasions like Pitripuksh Mela, Churamani Yoga, solar and lunar eclipses, Ardhoday Yoga, Kumbha Mela and so on.

Sports and athletics have played a rather minor part since the crowds on such occasions generally stimulate local traffic.

In India undoubtedly there is a vast potentiality in the tourist industry as a whole. Here we have the tourist paradise Kashmir, spas, the snow-capped Himalayas, pleasant seaside and hill stations and endless number of places of religious sanctity. India can draw the whole Far East as pilgrim tourist with planned publicity in this direction.

Much more could have been done in the past in view of our having good road and railway communication. At the

end of 1940-41 the total mileage of all railways in India was 41,052 and the railways carried in that year 576 million passengers. Total number of employees of the railways at the end of 1941-42 was no less than 7,30,000. Roads show in 1940 a total mileage of 285,313.

Indian State Railways in coordination with some of the then private owned railways have in the past made appreciable efforts to stimulate traffic. Brochures depicting the beauties and scenic grandeur of numerous places were turned out and distributed gratis. Much was being done towards poster publicity and advertisement campaigns. Conducted tours and long period return journey facilities were regular features. These efforts, though primarily intended to increase the railway revenues, went some length towards creating a tourist-habit in the people. Temporary setback due to war has taken place in all forms of communication but undoubtedly there will be a tremendous development after the end of the hostilities. Railways will be the pivot of Indian tourist industry and travel facilities with arrangements for thoroughly comfortable journeys by rail will play the central part in it.

Cook's and American Express Company agencies in a few of the ports alone cater to foreign tourists. Some stray attempts in the past by some other agencies in this direction also played some minor role in the total volume of tourist traffic but the activities of these private agencies are aimed not so much at the development of the country's tourist industry as for the selling of their services.

It is time that the State should take upon itself even from now the task of exploring the possibilities of the tourist industry in India. Clubs and private enterprise may have their own good points but tourism should be a State affair.

Tourist promotion under State control will make it systematic and will be a check to the disastrous effects which may result from inevitable clash of interests of rival associations. Experience in other countries has shown that for national considerations, it should have a central

and coordinating control. National tourists promotion has, therefore, been taken over by the central State, among others of the following countries—Austria, Canada, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jugoslavia, Portugal, Rumania, Southern Rhodesia and the U. S. S. R.

The war in its wake has brought within India men of various nations and we must know that the large number of Americans that we have in our midst now in their fighting services are a great potential factor in the postwar influx of American tourists the most coveted in the world. There are signs even now of warm relations getting established between America and India and already some interchange of missions are taking place. China will also be ano-

ther important country where we can look up. Australia is also coming into the ken.

With China some other adjacent countries will be in an advantageous position and we should remember that tourist influx from places adjacent to India will be a great potentiality. In Canada which has undoubtedly the largest tourist traffic in the world, the majority of the tourists come from the States of U. S. A. This is the advantage of Canada being geographically situated adjacent to the U.S.A. In 1930 the peak year of tourist traffic in the world, Canada had on its tourist record over 20,000,000 visitors. In the same year the number of visitors to Italy was 1,290,000 and to Switzerland 2,154,109.

( To be continued )



*New year*  
**A G A I N**

Perhaps from the very dawn of civilisation people observe the first day of the New Year. Nearly all Peoples of all countries observe New Year's Day but the date varies widely. If we could travel round the globe with Aladdin's magic lamp in hand and peep at the new year celebrations in the various countries what a wonderful variety of customs we should find! The pomp and grandeur with which the new year is celebrated gives an idea that people are celebrating all their holiday for the year at once. Schools, colleges and offices are closed. Streets, shops and houses are decorated with flowers, toys and balloons. People make merry with feasts and fire works and general exchange of gifts and good wishes. The young folks meet in a party sitting round the candle—the soft and soothing candle light fills their young hearts with a new hope—hope for a better and prosperous year. On such an occasion the golden liquor of Valley View the luxury drink of the day keeps the party merry and gay.

*Valley-View* **TEA**

28-5 1/8

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### A Futile Search

"Eighteen months ago a selected group (of British troops) was dropped by parachute near Austro-Albanian border"—The Vanguard, Dec. 15.

Our search for the Austro-Albanian border in the map has not been rewarded with success.

### Division Of Labour

"The Fire Brigade authorities have agreed to open a fire station in the Conference site whereas the A. R. P. authorities are making special arrangements in case of emergency. The co-operation has provided special facilities for inoculation and vaccination"—The Vanguard, Dec. 17.

Presumably the Fire Brigade will do the inoculation and the A. R. P. authorities the vaccination.

## THIS INDIA

By Mallinatha

### Too Much To Ask

India is to stand on her own legs and the responsibility of putting our house in order on our own shoulders"—Sir Manohar Lal's Lahore speech in the Statesman, Dec. 25.

With one's house on one's own shoulders, no one can be expected to stand on his own legs.

### Taking Unnecessary Trouble

"A conference was held in Delhi under the chairmanship of Sir Francis Mudie, when it was decided to lay down qualifications for selection (of army officers for recruitment into the I. C. S. and I. P.). They are firstly, a test to evacuate native intelligence or natural gifts of

the candidates"—The Indian Nation, Dec. 26.

We can hardly see the need for the evacuation.

### Where Youth Scores Over Age

"Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya regretted to find that many students believed that a cursory glance at the morning papers and shattering knowledge of some subjects was sufficient to make them politicians"—The Indian Nation, Dec. 26.

We wonder how many of our professional politicians possess a shattering knowledge of any subject.

### A Gesture From The Unconscious

"Greek civilians were crow-

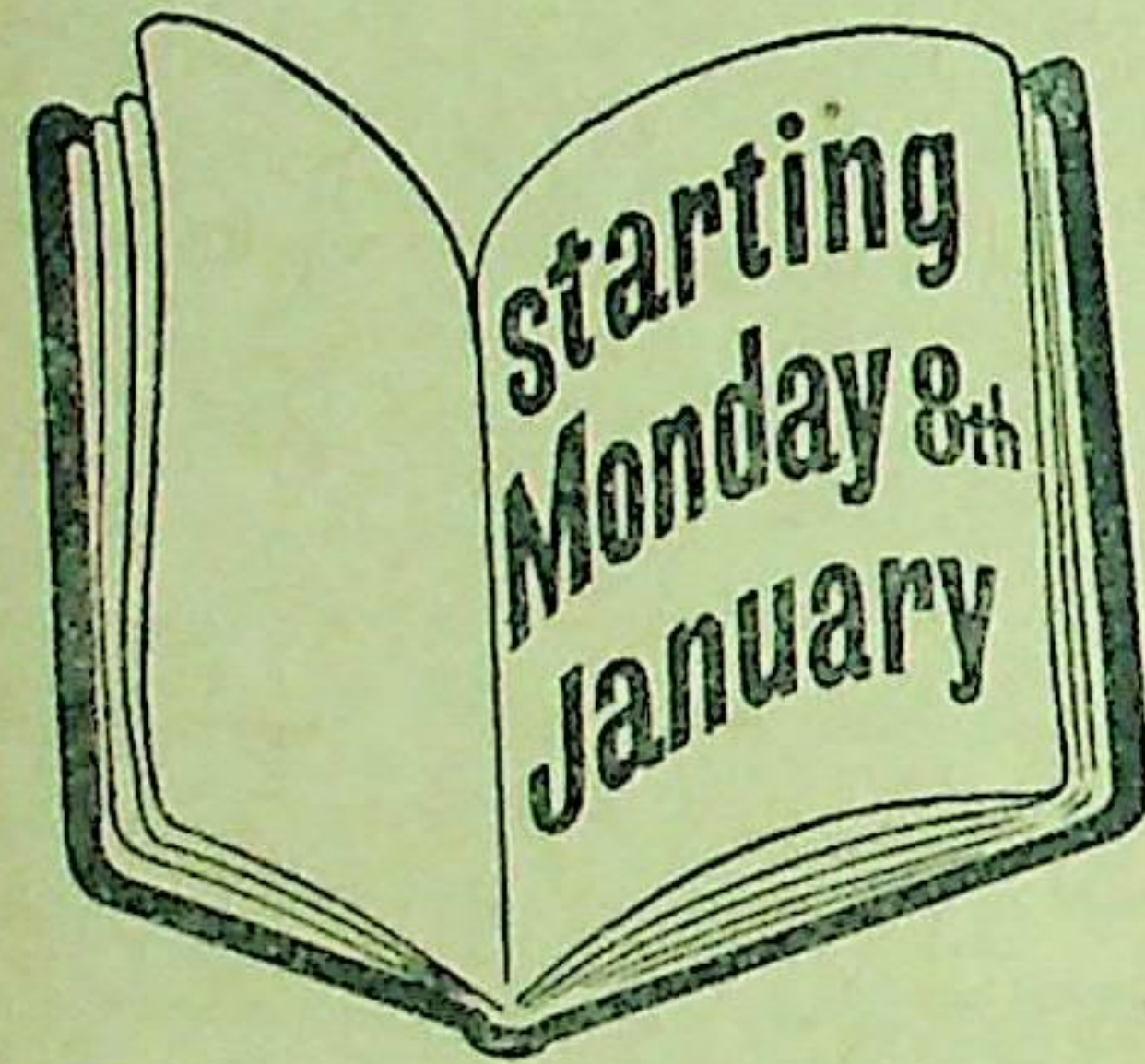
ded upon balconies of neighbouring houses and a great cheer went up as Mr. Churchill alighted. He replied by waving his walking stick"—Reuter, Athens, Dec. 27.

The big one!

### A Quicker Alternative

"The Hindu Mahasabha Conference at Bilaspur passed a resolution to appoint a committee of historians for writing the history of India from the point of view of the Hindus"—News report.

An easier method would be to take up an ordinary history of India and delete all the Muslim and Christian truths therefrom. The residue will consist of Hindu truths only.



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**B. MUKHERJEE**  
Managing Director



# Politics For All

By Amicus Curiae

Every scheme of self-government for India founders on the rocks of the minorities question which is known in India as the communal question. In most countries minorities bear the label of an intellectual allegiance but in our land the minority is not occasioned by the pride of convictions but by the accident of the religious persuasion into which one is born. The fate of U. P. shall be decided by Hindus and that of the Punjab by Muslims because they are in a majority in the respective provinces! There can be no opposition party as we have come to know it in other countries, in any Indian Parliament. There is no opposition of ideas but only of communities. Even if there is an Opposition, that of the Hindus in a Muslim-majority province or of the Muslims in a preponderantly Hindu province, the opposition is only ornamental, the results are foregone. One cannot also avoid the conviction that unless the apparent necessity in the difference of point of view between Hindus and Muslims is removed untouchables, really Hindu, will think it worthwhile, however temporarily, to remain aloof to bolster up the sophistry that it is not only religious faith but something innate in the Indian make-up of mind, that delights in self-differentiation.

Let us examine the communalist outlook. Jinnahite or Savarkarite, both really beg for a settlement. Both of them want for their communities the best of everything. That really means that they wish to remain above calculations because they have no faith in their own destinies. Their sense of freedom is purely de jure. Their invitation is to the ruling power to come to their aid with calculations, save their dignity and help them with a destiny. They really exemplify on behalf of the British the Platonic Sophistry: "justice is nothing else than the interest of the stronger".

H. E. the Viceroy at his speech the other day at the meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce stated that Pakistan was not necessary and all that the people needed was to maintain their faith in the British Government. This was telling in absolutely clear language that the present status quo was preferable to Pakistan. This was obviously a gesture for the Hindus. The chelas

of Mr. Jinnah and Veer Savarkar should now understand, how between their gurus, it has been possible for Lord Wavell to make a more tempting picture of the present than it was a short while ago.

I have read the speech delivered by Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerji at the Bilaspur session of the Hindu Mahasabha. With much of it, and with its honesty, it is possible to be in agreement. But all the lamentations about the shortcomings of the British government are nullified by the statement: "Initiative for a settlement must...come from Britain and a failure in this direction will be nothing but a breach of faith and a regrettable shirking of responsibility and duty." The fact is, a communal ticket cannot carry one far on his journey. As shown earlier it is sure to create a bulge which it is for others to smooth out. Dr. Mookerjee's readiness to wait for a lead from Britain brings us over again to the beginning of the whole problem.

Dr. Mookerjee has complained of the loaves of office passing to the Muslims. It is, I hope, not claimed to be the limit of his statesmanship to be able to give a few more jobs to Hindus. Not that the wrong by itself is not grievous enough. But the British connection is not to be construed only as an agency to give us jobs. If there is one thing that we could learn from the conduct of the British people amongst themselves and not in their Indian reactions, it is that there is such a thing as living in a state of freedom without waiting for the de jure assurance. That freedom must be fashioned out under conditions of terrible patience and hardship by Hindus and Muslims and other communities muddling along but never losing faith in their common destiny. If the Hindus fail for once, let them fail for the sake of the Muslims, and the Muslims for the sake of Hindus.

One does not know what recipe our constitution makers may offer us to satisfy us, not merely as communities, but also as a nation, but it is certain that if we agree to a haphazard and communal solution of our difficulties, we shall only be perpetuating our inexperience in the methods of self-government.

# Examination System In Secondary Schools

By Mrityoonjeeya Mukherji

It is an admitted fact that there are several defects in our educational system. The financial help for the cause of education from the public fund is meagre. But that is not the reason why our educational system should not be perfect. Education is not merely a theory or system. It is a growing movement adaptable to all changes in all progressive ages. It can never attain perfection. So our educationists and educators are always after the 'greater good' under the existing circumstances.

But there is much room for improvement in our system of examination. Defective examination system, in the secondary schools specially, causes a great deal of wastage of energy and intellect of young learners. Not only that. It also sometimes creates a bad impression in a large section of students against some of their respectable teachers for which neither the teacher nor the taught can be held responsible.

With the exception of few institutions, all the secondary schools are managed by Managing Committees. Due to their financial stringency they are compelled to appoint teachers on a very small pay. In some institutions even a member

of the menials staff gets more than an undergraduate teacher or the clerk. This signifies that the sacrifice of teachers for the cause of education, or rather nation-building, has not yet been properly recognised either by the government or by the educated public. Surprising is it to find that the Provincial Government in the Department of Education recommends 20 p. c. increase in the minimum salary of teachers when the cost of living has gone up five times. An ordinary miner in the Jharia coal fields gets much higher wages than the trained Matriculate teacher working in the institutions in that area.

War or no War—the educational institutions must run. In order to run them there must be teachers, though ill-paid. And for the maintenance of himself and his dependants the teacher should work in the school and should also undertake private tuition to meet his bare necessities of life. By undertaking private tuition the teacher is, not in the least, a gainer but a great loser. All his energy is wasted, his health breaks down long before he is old, his own children are very often neglected in exchange of a few pieces

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## EXAMINATION...

of soiled paper. Yet he must undertake private tuition for the cause of education itself. A half-starved teacher cannot teach boys properly in the school. So if the Managing Committee or the Education Department want to control private tuition of teachers. I am afraid, some educational institutions will cease to function.

But I shall not be far from truth if I state that private tuitions are to some extent, the root of unfriendly rivalry between neighbouring institutions located in the same town and also among the teachers of the same institution in some cases. Also a section of guardians of students are und-

impression that their wards cannot pass the school examination unless a private tutor, especially the school teacher in touch with the current examination system, coach their wards. Dissatisfaction is also found among the senior teachers themselves if they are not requested by the authorities (headmaster) to teach in the Matriculation or Pre-matriculation stage. Not the question of respectability but the opportunity for obtaining tuition generally arises on such occasions. But it should be borne in mind that more responsibility lies with the teacher teaching in the lower forms than in the higher. The most competent coach may be given to teach in the lower classes in

order to make the foundation solid. The teacher teaching in the lower classes may demand more remuneration for undertaking tuitions of boys of junior classes.

Whatever the impression of some boys and their guardians may be, it is quite true that the teacher never shows partiality in selecting questions and marking answer papers. Those people who have done so much sacrifice by working on a meagre salary in the school, can never adopt such unfair means for the sake of a trifling gain. The idea of improper marking and leakage of questions is quite absurd.

Boys want to have a teacher as private tutor chiefly to know the method of answering questions. Therefore the problem lies in the mode of answering and system of marking. The teacher as examiner puts marks in the answer books in the way he likes. There is no hard and fast rule for marking or direction from the educational authorities. The Headmasters also do not invite model answers from the examiners. It would have been better if the headmaster would demand model answers from the examiners when they submit their marksheets.

In some schools, a teacher teaches a particular subject in the class and another teacher examines the same. In such cases the examiner should prepare a model answer before examining answer books and consult the teacher teaching the subject. If they differ, the matter should be referred to the headmaster for final decision.

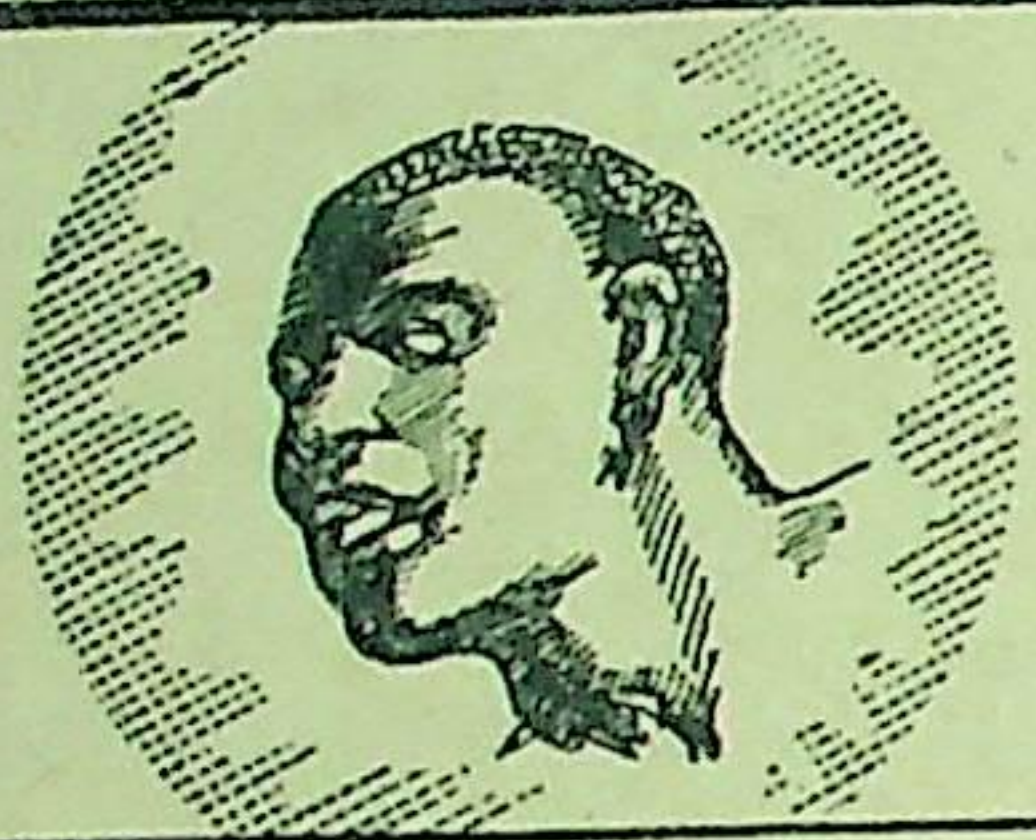
Not only after the annual examination but after terminal, weekly and periodical tests, the examiner should show the model answers to boys putting them in writing on the blackboard so that students may be careful against future omissions and commissions. A large number of students fail both in the University Examination and the school tests not because that they do not know the subject on which questions are put to them but because that they do not know how to put their answer in proper form in writing. The reason for which that particular form of answers are wanted should be explained to students otherwise they may

resort to unintelligent cramming of the 'bazar notes' most of which are trash.

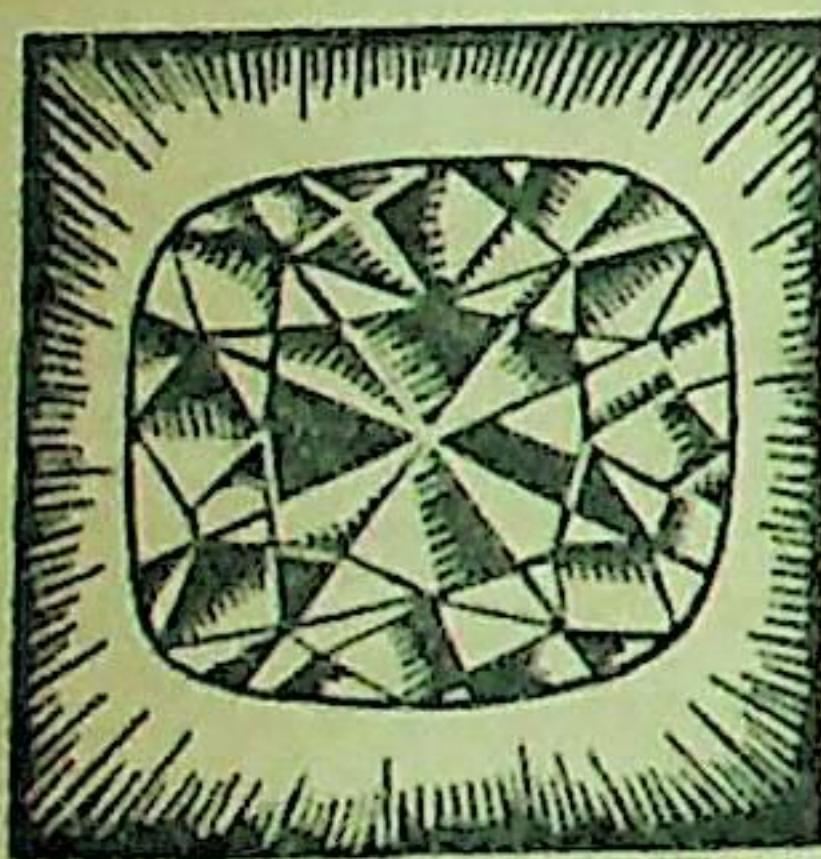
There is great difference of opinion amongst the teachers themselves as to the marking of different subjects—specially of English, Vernacular and History. Some examiners want that the answers should be explanatory while others require points only and explanations when they are wanted in the question paper. This want of uniformity of system among the examiners themselves and freedom given to mark according to their whim, may mar the career of youngsters. The sooner the defect is removed the better.

The model answers prepared by the University examiners in different subjects on their questions should be published by the University. The same may act as guidance for teachers teaching in the higher classes. The Head-examiners will be doing immense service if they suggest methods and ways of marking to the teachers of schools—all of whom are not University examiners. The University, ill-equipped though it may be in some other respects, may take the initiative in this matter and impress upon the Education Department the necessity for controlling the system of marking of answer books in school examinations.

Of course, there is much room for comment in connection with the examination system of all countries. That the same examiner marks the same answer book differently in different times has become a much-talked-of subject for the teachers of our country. But examination researches in European countries cannot go to prove that examination of written answer books in our country based on University or Departmental syllabus, cannot be uniform. The model answers as referred to before, should be the subject of criticism for teachers and educationists. The more criticism will they offer, the more perfection can be attained both in the teaching and examination system. On the whole, the solution of the problem of examination is not an impossibility but a vital necessity.



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

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Local & Provincial

NEWS OF THE WEEK

The Indian Federation of Labour held its 2nd annual session last week at Jamshedpur under the presidentship of Miss Maniben Kara. Mr. M.N. Roy addressing the Conference declared that people's politics would secure social freedom for all and that everybody unattached to upper class politics has fullest scope in the Indian Federation of Labour. Any leader, Mr. Roy added, allowing himself to be bribed by upper class interest's considerations shall have to go out. The Federation in its second day's session passed a resolution criticising the Government post-war planning which, it stated, was based on social status and benefited only a small minority at the cost of the vast majority. The Federation denounced the appointment to the Government Department of Post-war Planning of one of the authors of the Bombay Plan "which expresses Fascist ambition of Indian Big Business". It appealed to Indian workers to strengthen the Labour Movement to successfully face the menace created by "the increasing alliance between Government and native vested interests".

Mr. Srikrishna Sinha, in his inaugural speech at the Gaya District Congress Workers Conference, said: "the irony of fate was that although the British Government posed itself to be anti-Fascist and champions of democracy, it had imprisoned Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Rajendra Prasad without trial". Deploring the Governor's speech describing the Punjab Mail disaster as an act of sabotage, Mr. Sinha complained that no public enquiry was made in this matter.

A local Daily in an Editorial states that the Behar Secretariat is about to be made fool-proof. "In other words", the paper adds, "all contamination by Indian element among the Secretaries to the Government is to be carefully rooted out". "Mr. Godbole as Chief Secretary", the editorial continues, "was succeeded first by Mr.

Mansfield, and then by Mr. Houlton. Mr. Menon as Finance Secretary was succeeded by Mr. Hardman, Mr. B.C. Mukherjee, L. S. G. by Mr. Prideaux, and Mr. S. K. Das in the Judicial by Mr. Dalziel.....Mr. Davies is going to replace Mr. S. N. Majumdar as Education Secretary.....Mr. Taylor is being posted in place of Khan Bahadur S. M. Amir as Revenue Secretary.....It is reported that it is Mr. Bowstead, and not Mr. Dhar, who is senior to him and has few equals in experience and capacity as a Secretariat Official, who will officiate as Chief Secretary when Mr. Houlton goes on leave".

The Director of Publicity, Bihar writes:—Mr. L. J. Lucus, I. C. S., Deputy Secretary to Government, in the Education, Development and Employment Departments, has been appointed to act in addition to his own duties, as Director of Industries, during the absence on leave of Dr. H. K. Sen.

Mr. P. R. Das, a member of the Sapru Conciliation Committee has gone to Delhi to attend the conference of the Committee. Mr. M. Yunus, another member was unable to go due to illness. Dr. P. K. Sen, previously of Patna, is also a member of the Committee.

The All-India Yadava Mahasabha Conference opened at Hardinge Park on Dec. 29. Rao Sahib Suchet Singh, presiding over the Conference, appealed for unity among the different branches of Yadava community and for improvement of the community's lot through organisation, education, social reform, discipline and propaganda.

India's Sterling Balances

By "Villager"

Annas Six

20th Century Publications

Kadamkuan P.O., Patna

Shrimati Nanibala Ghosh in her presidential address at the All-India Yadava Mahila Conference appealed to the women to get themselves educated so that their sons and daughters may also get education easily.

Mr. B. S. Dalaya of Bombay presiding over the joint session of the All-India and Bihar Provincial Yadava Youth Conference appealed to the Yadava community that their aim should be to do good not to the community alone but to the whole of the Indian people.

The following further reductions in the maximum basic wholesale control prices of rice in the producing markets is announced in a Press Note:—rice (coarse) from Rs. 10 to Rs. 9 per maund; rice (medium) from Rs. 11 to Rs. 10 per maund. These revised prices will come into force from the 15th January 1945. The maximum local wholesale and retail control prices fixed for each district on the basis of these prices will be

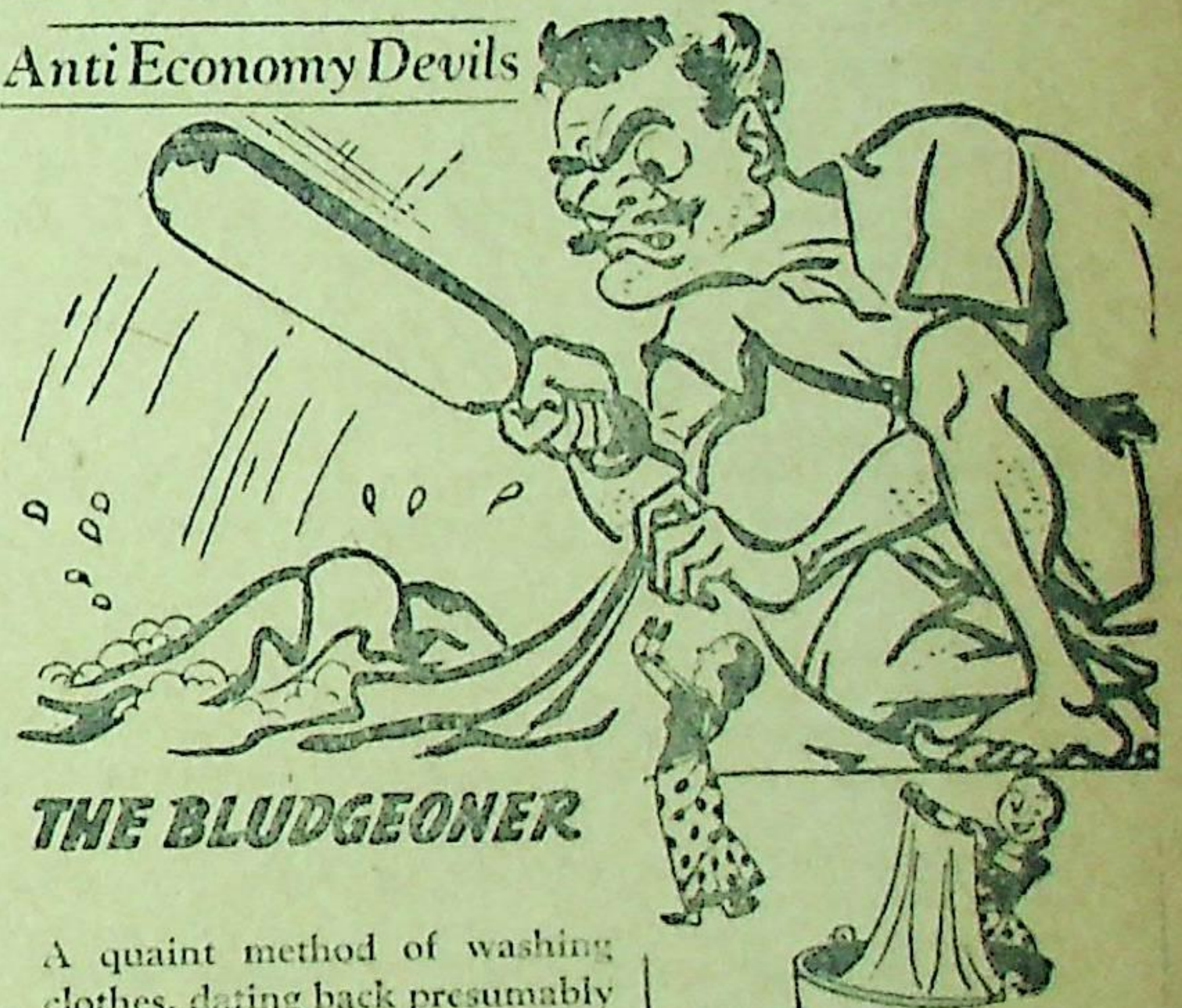
correspondingly reduced, except in the case of towns supplied from outside the province.

In the last draw for prizes in the Government of India Five year Interest Free Prize Bonds, the following were the prize winners from Bihar.

1. Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., Jamshedpur—Rs. 250; Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. Jamshedpur—Rs. 500, Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. Jamshedpur—1,250,
2. Mr. R. W. A. Ashe, 6 Bayley Road, Patna—Rs. 250,
3. Mr. Hem Chandra Chatterjee, General Superintendent's Office, Jamshedpur—Rs. 250,
4. Mr. Jayshankar Monji, Katrasgarh—Rs. 500,
5. Mr. Venkataraman, Golmuri, Rs. 250.

Friends and admirers of Mr. Spiller, ex-Principal of the Patna Training College, were "at home" to meet him on the eve of his departure from Patna, at the Coffee House

Anti Economy Devils



THE BLUDGEONER

A quaint method of washing clothes, dating back presumably to cave-man days—when the prevailing idea was that the harder you hit anything the better the result! Clothes however aren't made to stand up to such barbarous treatment. Then why shorten their precious life, when all you need do is to follow these simple hints for better and more economical washing?

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USE 501 SOAP SPARINGLY—just as much as is necessary. This will save soap and preserve your clothes.



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## Random Notes

By Nestor

Bishop Foss Westcott, the Most Rev. Metropolitan of India, is held in high esteem by educated Indians for his urbanity. That quality contrasts very favourably with that of one of his noted predecessors in office, Bishop Heber, who looked upon all non-Christians as vile heathen people. His Lordship was invited recently to deliver the University Convocation Address at Dacca. It was a magnificent performance. He availed himself of the opportunity of laying special stress on the weakness of the "moral and spiritual factor" in the present University system. He mentioned morality and spirituality (religion) as a single indivisible factor, as if they were convertible terms. As a matter of fact, the prevailing religion of the West is regarded by theologians as inseparable from ethics. It may, however, be said that the two things are distinct entities. As the Rev. W. Mackintosh has rightly observed: "By their very nature ethics are of no sect or party: in root and branch they are a common heritage of humanity. A common manual of religion is impossible." There are so many sects in all religions that a common religious text-book acceptable to all sects cannot be produced. Archbishop Whately has said: "So much depends upon the particular variety of belief held by the other man. If love of Christ unites, love

of dogma divides." I do not know if His Lordship, the Metropolitan of India, has come across "The Unrest in Religion" by Erasman, a book recently published by George Allen and Unwin, and commended by the weekly writer on religion in the *Manchester Guardian*. In this book the author has clearly stated the demand that the churches should surrender all dogmas and be content to inculcate moral conduct.

The greatest popular festival of the West is the festival of Christmas. The Pope of Rome and other religious leaders and the heads of States issued messages on the occasion recently. Here in India our own papers came out with Christmas Day articles and at least one prominent Hindu political leader has delivered a Christmas sermon. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* wrote: "Jesus Christ preached the message of love and good will and of the brotherhood of Man." Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, in her sermon at the Santiniketan Prayer Hall, said that Christ rose to challenge separateness and to re-affirm faith in the brotherhood of man, and she further stated that the Lord's Prayer was the Magna Charta of fellowship. But the Bible, in the Old Testament, states that the Jews are God's Chosen People, that God fought on the side of the Jews against non-Jews who are called Gentiles

or the Heathen. It states also that slavery was a system sanctioned by God. In this belief the Christian nations adopted the system for several centuries. In orthodox America the abolitionists met with great opposition from the orthodox Colonists of the Southern States of the U. S., and a civil war had to be fought in the sixth decade of last century to emancipate the Negro slaves. These are stubborn facts and they do not show that Christ preached the message of the brotherhood of humanity. As a matter of fact Christ never spoke a word against slavery which prevailed in Palestine in his time. It is stated in Chapter iii of St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians that all Christians are the children of God. Accordingly, Christians claim to be God's Chosen People in succession to the Jews. The Church dominates the British Public Schools and Colleges in England which produce the better classes of Britons. The Rev. Dr. Thomas Arnold, the famous Headmaster of Rugby, as a true Christian, held: "In a world made up of Christians and non-Christians the latter should have no rights." Mr. John H. Morgan has stated in "John, Viscount Morley": "The conception that aliens, at least not of the Christian faith, can have any rights at all is a purely modern one." These facts do not show that the message of the brotherhood of man ever proceeded from Christ.

## Here & There

### A Matter Of Weeks

A straw can often show the way the wind is blowing quicker than the anemometer. While the great Allied leaders are speculating hesitantly about the probable date of the end of the war—next spring, early summer, late summer—we are confident that the war is very near its end, although unlike the Tibetan lama we are unable to mention the exact date on which it will end. We have been led to this welcome conclusion from the newspaper report that the station master of Danton railway station, B.N.R., has been convicted for accepting a bribe of Rs. 20 for allotment of two wagons. It is well-known to everybody in this country that Rs. 100/- is the standardized amount that one has to pay to get a wagon. If the rate has come down to one-tenth that figure, can one doubt that the fore-lock of victory is just visible round the corner?

### George Santayana

Shortly after the fall of Rome, American newspaper correspondents made their way to the Convent of the Blue Nuns on the Celian Hill in the outskirts of the Eternal City to get first hand news of 81-year old philosopher George Santayana, no information about whom had been received since Italy joined the war.

George Santayana is a Spaniard by birth. His parents migrated from Madrid to the U. S. when he was only 11. Graduating from Harvard in Philosophy, he was the professor of philosophy in that famous American University for over a quarter of a century. Santayana's *magnum opus* is *The Life of Reason* in five volumes.

There is a peculiar fascination in Santayana's style which may partly be due to his Spanish ancestry and partly to the fact that once a devout Catholic, he became a materialist and sceptic. He retired from Harvard 32 years ago and led a roaming life. The war had apparently passed the old philosopher by—he appeared to be quite hale and hearty to the American newspapermen whose fathers or grand-fathers might have learnt philosophy under Santayana at Harvard.

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**BOMBAY PLAN...**

*From Page 189*

laid down by the Fiscal Commission in 1921-22 require to be revised and a more liberal policy of tariff protection adopted to assure confidence in the growing industrial enterprises in the country. In this respect the Hon'ble Member's recent speech offers little ground for complacency. It is now widely felt that to allay misgivings in the public mind the Government should announce their future policy in definite terms.

In the same connexion it should further be realised that modern science and industry are moving fast apace and by the process of national cartelisation and international combination, giant organisations are being set up abroad the impact of which will result in mopping up of weaker enterprises in the less developed countries like India and China. Moreover in the post-war world England shall require extensive marketing facilities within the Empire for her industrial manufactures, and America, in exchange of her all-out aid to the Allies, must be accommodated with better facilities for capital investment. All these properly reckoned with, one can hardly retain much enthusiasm about post-war reconstruction in India. We have already witnessed the growth of foreign enterprises styled as India Limited and in future the influx of foreign capital, if left uncontrolled, is likely to seriously hamper the growth of national industries. Even tariff protection will be of little avail in this respect. A very large section of the industrial community in the country as also the general public, thus anxiously feel that the Government of India should enunciate definitely their future policy in respect of the major points I have raised above, as otherwise the much vaunted postwar plannings may not evoke adequate response and willing co-operation as would be required to carry them into action successfully.

**Birth Of Indian Railways**

By Esobss

It is of interest to catch glimpses of railway enterprize in India in the turmoil of the recent disaster. The century steals away with a silent pace: the E.I.R. Co. was founded in 1845 with an initial capital of one million sterling, interest at 5 p.c. being guaranteed by the Hon. East India Co. The Ganges Canal, the first irrigation project, was undertaken by Lord Hardinge; simultaneously hundreds of projects were brought forward in England before the railway-minded people of that country, and in India we find that even in 1844 the preliminaries of railway survey precede the actual founding of the Company. Lord Dalhousie, the ex-president of the Board of Trade, had to condemn many railway schemes in England, and he proceeded cautiously in India also, opening the Ganges Canal at the same time. Even in 1843 a kutchha scheme had been drawn up for a line from Howrah to Rajmahal (which station is not seen now in the EIR Time table). Though survey and negotiations went on vigorously, the actual construction commenced in 1849 for the 202 miles of track to Rajmahal. (The Stockton and Darlington Railway was the first in England, started 1820-21). In 1851 it was proposed that there ought to be a branch connecting the Ranee-gunj coalfields. This was destined to be the Chord Line or Main Line.

Its construction began in 1852. Hundreds of engineers arrived from England. The telegraph created equal sensation. Wheatstone first set up a line in England after Prof Morse's exploit in 1831. By 1878 in India 18,209 miles of telegraph lines were laid. Before 1855 the "caravans transported their burdens across the deserts of Africa, Palestine, Persia and so on to India"—(New York Self-Instructor, 1882, p 11). Hence the activity upon the Grand Trunk and other roads.

Pending the construction of the line to Ranigunj the Supreme Govt. in 1853 put an extra spurt to their railway scheme, announcing that they would connect one province with another, every city with the nearest

port, and a trunk line from Rajmahal to Delhi estimated at £ 10,000,000, and Delhi to Lahore and Delhi to Bombay, Allahabad to Jubbulpore, Jubbulpore to Bombay and Bombay to Madras. The Court of Directors sanctioned all these forthwith.

The hill tribes contributed labour to an extent unexpected by the engineers. Earthwork commenced, and the whole of Bengal was alive with ballast, trolley lines, surface railways, huts, sheds, pucca buildings, canvas towns, brickfields, carriage works, bridges, stations. Small engines shrieked on construction work between Howrah and Ranigunj, between Burdwan and Rajmahal, and Rajmahal to Delhi up to 1862. European clubs were established on the line with facilities for sport and reading. The 121 miles of track between Howrah and Ranee-gunj was officially declared open on Feb. 3rd, 1855. The public travelled on 4th Feb. As the train arrived in Hooghly the fireman got down and it is said he palced two bricks

against the front wheels upon the rails so that the "Shannon" might not slip forward. (Before that Maunder's Scientific Treasury wrote "In England engines run at the fearful velocity of twenty miles per hour").

Lord Dalhousie was at Bangalore, and he did not see the opening ceremony. I pretend to be no treasury of dates, but I find from my worm-eaten ancient notes that it was on June 30, 1856 that Sir Frederick Halliday travelled over the E. I. R. as the first official to entrain.

Burdwan to Rajmahal was opened in 1859, the Bihar section in 1862, Mirzapore-Cawnpore section in 1858. The first engine that pulled the 'Allahabad Passenger' mixed with goods wagoons was the Fairie Queen. I saw her as a railway exhibit in the great U. P. Exhibition at Allahabad in 1909-10. She then bore a tablet signed by the late Mr. Dring, Agent, and Sir Francis Upcott, Chairman, E. I. R., and was exhibited at the Howrah station's 'southern concourse'.

The Jubbulpore section was opened in 1860, (at that time a few lions prowled near Allahabad). The Benares line was

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## BIRTH OF...

opened in 1862. The delay was due to the Mutiny. In 1874 the E. I. R. helped the rapid building of the Tirhut State Ry. by landing materials and hundreds of tons of grain to be ferried over from Barh Ghat in many hundred country boats and several steamers to relieve distress. The line was built at the rate of a mile a day from Dalsingh Sarai to Darbhanga, 50 miles. Mokameh Ghat was born in 1875 and Digha Ghat in 1886. Connection was established between Sahibgunj and Assam-Bihar in the same year.

The E. I. R. office was located in the Writers' Buildings up to 1878 when it went to Jamalpore to come back to Calcutta in 1887. My stay at Jamalpore at that time keeps the date alive in my head. Carriages and wagons were built near Howrah, Jamalpore had not leaped into prominence. Though the G.I.P.R. had reached Jubbulpore in 1855, the E. I. Ry. could connect with it only by 1866. Ambala was joined in 1867. The O. & R. R. met the E. I. R. at Moghal Sarai in 1882 according to very old travellers. The same line arrived at Allahabad in 1907 by way of Fyzabad. The Paphamau Bridge spanning the Ganges near Allahabad was opened that year,—a romantic structure, roadway above and railway beneath. The bridge site is a sort of pilgrimage and picnics were held there by us. I also saw the constructor of the B. N. W. R. bridge across the Ganges 1911-12,—this brought the Chota Line to Allahabad City which has the E. I. R. Jumna Bridge also.

From a life of conquest and enjoyment the East India Company thus rose to the sudden sobriety of transport improvement. The indispensability of the road was almost forgotten owing to the travellers' raptures at the puffing engine. Busy railway engineers and officers with the buzz of their talk proposed further lines after the E. I. Co. ceased to exist. Survey commenced between Howrah and Nagpore in 1882. In 1905 when the new Howrah station was opened the B.N.R. Bombay Mail began to run.

The 'Northern Bengal State

Ry.' (as the E. B. Ry. portion was called) made the Darjeeling route easier with all its sister parts. Long afterwards the 'Calcutta Darjeeling Grand Trunk Rd' gave place to the Darjeeling Himalayan Ry. which was at first called tramway. By 1887 all parts of the E. B. Ry. commenced working. Sir Bradford Leslie finished the Jubilee Bridge in 1887. The Viceroy opened it that year on Feb. 21. I saw the construction of the bridge while bathing in the Ganges at Chinsurah daily. We all gazed expecting that the central pillar would give way soon. It has no other pillar. The Sara Bridge was opened about 1912; but memory fails me here perhaps.

The Chord Line as already hinted was opened in 1882, and the Grand Chord sanctioned in 1901 was opened in 1905 by Lord Curzon with a golden key and silver-toned speech. The Howrah Burdwan Chord was opened in 1918. The Punjab Mail made her non-stop run to Burdwan in those days in 48 minutes (distance 67 miles) or at the rate of 47 miles per hour. The Darjeeling Mail at that period performed a nonstop run to Ranaghat from Sealdah in

73 minutes (45½ miles) or 37 m.p.h. The B N R Bombay Mail ran non-stop to Kharackpore in 117 minutes (72 miles) or at the rate of 36 mph. The double line was pushed up to Cawnpore in 1900, and then throughout. Many through carriages were inaugurated by 1890.

The standard British gauge (4'—8½") was not liked in the days of the Hon. E. I. Co. So after the last war India had 18,000 miles of broad gauge (5'—6"), and 15,000 miles of metre gauge (3'—6"), and these with the narrower gauges (2'—6" and 2 ft) made up exactly 38,000 miles of track. By 1939 it must have increased in an eminent measure. The Chief Engineer with the Railway Board in all ages often delivered encouraging speeches. The people got the idea that railways can prevent famine in any province of India quickly.

The Pundits were alarmed at the opening of the railway. Thomson says "Civilization alarmed the common people: railways and telegraphs were thought to be sinister devices for fastening a foreign tyranny upon the people". A Serampore Pundit-Astrologer then printed the E. I. R. timetable in Bengali in the body

of the Bengali Almanac! Men took to the train as fish takes to the water. On the very first day of public travel a woman got down from the 'Kaler Gharry' (mechanised gharry) at a certain station and went to the pond. The train whistled, whereupon the other women shouted "Garowan (coachman) gharry raho! Khuder Ma jalkey gachay!" The driver waited to oblige such an important fare as Khude's mother. It is human nature to kick up a row at novelties: we lost our caste by eating Pao Roti; now we cannot do without toast; we lost our caste and prestige by eating Kabab and Murghee, now we complain of high price of poultry. We complain that the Patna-Howrah bogie is run on the down Punjab Mail next to the engine. This may be the case with the Howrah-Patna bogie also, very soon, on the up journey.

We shall soon make amicable settlement with this and entrain again and sing:—

Blinding eyes and choking  
the nose  
Plunketty-plunk the 5 Up  
goes:  
The 5 Up style and 5 Up  
pose  
Are felt alone as 5-Up goes!

The railway acknowledged their defect in the October, 44 2-anna Time Table page 33 foot-note "Be tolerant of shortcomings!" They even told you at p. 22 in large type that an accident might be 'caused' by 'carelessness', but it could be 'prevented':—

"Accidents don't happen: They are caused and can be prevented. CARELESSNESS COSTS LIVES."

Alas, if the railway had pasted this valuable notice on the wall of the last halt Buxar, and had not kept it concealed in the folds of a cheap publication, passengers would have avoided the "caused" accident and detained there, and evaded the carelessness of the engine drivers or the permanent way inspector!

I have no space for the South India railway stories, or those of the Frontier Mail, the Grand Trunk Express, the Blue train, the Golden Queen, the Khyber Railway, or Martin Saheb's 2-foot Patipukur line. I acknowledge that there is a network of useful lines in India, and that there is often famine in one place and plenty in another in India, and that the railways, the proud esteemer of their own abilities, would relieve every famine by their arteries and veins. Yet last year Bengal was cast naked into the world!

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Deposits over ... Rs. 8,00,000,00

Working Funds over ... Rs. 9,00,000,00

PATNA OFFICE:—Station Road & Macharhata, Patna City.

Calcutta Offices:—4, Clive Street; 225, Cornwallis Street; 99-A,

Cornwallis Street; 139-B, Russa Road, Bhowanipur.

Other Offices:—At Important trade Centres in Bengal & Assam.

Foreign Agencies

American Agents:—Guarantee Trust Co. of New York.

London Agents:—Barclays Bank Ltd.

Australian Agents:—Bank of New South Wales, Sydney.

Managing Director:—Dr. S. B. DUTT, M. A., B. L.,

Bar-at-Law,

Ph. D. (Econ.) (LONDON)