

Behar Herald

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Chief Editor

Dr. S. SAMADDAR



SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1958

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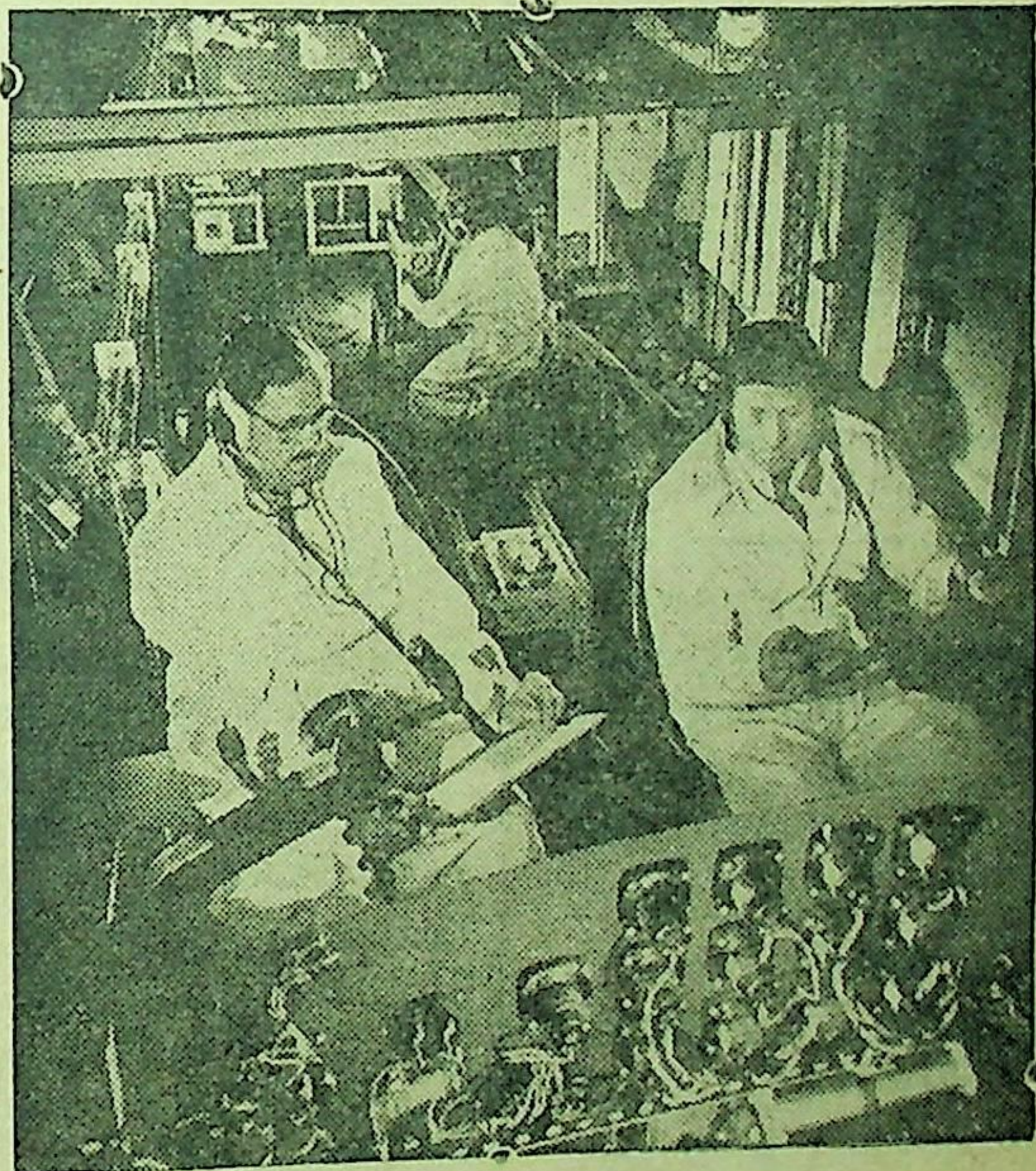
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GROUND TESTING THE FLYING CONTROLS OF THE "COMET"

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Sealed tenders on bill of quantity to be eventually drawn on P.W.D. Form No. F2 will be received up to 3 P.M. on Monday, the 20th Jan. 1958 by the Superintending Engineer, East Bihar Circle, Bhagalpore for the work of extension to the Hospital buildings at Deoghar, and will be opened in the presence of the tenderers or their authorised agents. Rates should be quoted both in words and figures and inclusive of all taxes and incidental charges. Tender may not be accepted unless accompanied with full earnest money on the tendered amount in challan and sales and income tax clearance certificates. Bill of quantity can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of Rs. 10 (not refundable) and other information also on enquiry either from office of the Superintending Engineer, East Bihar Circle, Bhagalpore or from the office of the undersigned, on any working day during office hours. The amount of estimate is about Rs. 1,90,200.

Sd. P. P. SINHA
Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Deoghar Division,
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GOOD NEWS

T.T.K. has bluntly said that the States should not expect any more financial assistance from the Centre.

He added that the efforts of the State Governments should now be directed to raising sufficient resources for the Plan by levying fresh taxation and stimulating small savings and public borrowings.

As the people are so lightly taxed to-day, there is ample room for levying additional taxation. T.T.K. has also been busy recently thinking of new Central taxation. He favours three new taxes,—one, an admission fee for becoming a member of the Sarbodayic Welfare State with a socialistic structure of society. This may be shortly called "birth tax." Then there should be another annual levy for continuing to be a member of the Welfare State with etc. This will be in effect a poll tax. Thirdly, there would be a fee to be paid when one ceases to be a member of

the Welfare State with...A marriage tax is practically a certainty, as also is a 10% tax on dowry. What worries Krishnamachari most is the fact that the subjects of the Welfare State with...are enjoying the benefits of sunlight, air and river and well water tax-free. But how to tax them baffles his ingenuity. There are still three months to think over this knotty problem and he is sure to discover some device to make people pay for what they are now getting free.

NOTES & COMMENTS

THE POOR DEARS

We welcome the proposal to institute a providend fund for the Rajyapals mooted in the meeting of the Rastrapati and all the Rajyapals held in imperial Delhi recently. The Rajyapals should also claim dearness allowance considering the current increase in the cost of living.

NOT QUITE TRUE

In the Lok Sabha debate on the accidents that marred the opening of the electric traction from Howrah to Sheoraphuli Pandit Nehru agreed entirely with Prof. Hiren Mookerjee that the Ministries "should not unnecessarily drag the Prime Minister for such functions in future as large crowds gathered and sometimes accidents took place". If the Prime Minister really thought that his presence at the function was unnecessary he could not of course have been dragged there by anybody. After all, it was not such an epochal event as the launching of a Sputnik. This is not the first time that electric traction has been introduced in this country. As the Prime Minister himself said in his inaugural speech, electric trains have been running in Madras and Bombay for several years now. Nevertheless the Railway authorities decided to make the occasion 'big' by having the Prime Minister over for the first ride in the newly electrified section in Calcutta. Even if loss to life and limb had not disfigured the function, the question arises whether the huge sums of money spent in this connection are warranted.

The fact is that Mr. Nehru revels in these spectacular functions as much as the humblest sub-deputy minister. It is said that a two day visit by Mr. Nehru costs the lucky state about 40,000 rupees.

OUR NATIONALIZED SHIPYARD

It was admitted by Government spokesman in the Lok Sabha that defects had been noticed in some of the ships constructed at the Hindustan Shipyard, Vishakhapatnam, including the 'State of Andamans' and the excise launch "Vidyut". Government had appointed a committee to investigate the circumstances leading to the defects, locate responsibility for them and recommend measures. The ships are badly listing.

PART RECOVERY

The State Bank of India has sued the British India Corporation of Kanpur (H. D. Mundhra group in which the nationalized Life Insurance Corporation has invested one-and-one-fourth crores) for Rs. 34,618,445 and 69 naye Paise. Cynics say that there is every hope of recovery of 69 naye paise, but the 3 crore, 46 lakh 18 thousand 4 hundred and 45 rupees may have to be written off as bad debt.

THE STUNT MERCHANTS

The Congress sputnik, Bharat Sevak Samaj, has discovered a method of eradicating anti-social deeds. To abolish ticketless travel in railways, the B. S. S. made school boys in north Bihar leave their classes for a week and shout "Desh ke paisa hamara paisa hai". The result was that when people realized that there was no difference between their money and Desh's money, ticketless travel increased.

Recently, the same tactics have been adopted in Patna. The B. S. S. made school children parade the streets shouting 'ghoosh lena pap hai' on Dec. 21 last. Only an inveterate optimist can believe that *ghoosh lena* will be stopped by the shouting of school children for one day. But Babu Jagat Narayan Lal (Minister) is the main pillar of the Bharat Sevak Samaj in Bihar and his name is enough guarantee that there will be no more *ghoosh lena* or *dena* in this State. There is no need for children to roam shouting in the streets.

THE LANGUAGE CONTROVERSY

The *Indian Finance* says that "Counsels are divided as to whether Hindi should speedily be ordained as the national language of this country. Understandably, the Northern States—even here, some dissident voices are to be heard—are vehement in their call for a speedy switch-over to Hindi. The rest of the country, however, and particularly West Bengal and the Southern States has, in a fundamental sense, been more dispassionate in its approach to this issue. Educationists are nearly unanimous in their minatory exhortations against any undue haste in the adoption of Hindi as the official language. The practical posers which are so clearly realised by the educationists are the least part of the deterrent to expedition in the matter. What counts far more is the danger that unheeding and relentless

pressure at forcing Hindi upon this country may deal out grievous and irreparable damage to the economic progress which we so badly need to achieve. For, as Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar pointed out the other day in a speech at Calcutta, any monkeying—it is nothing less than that, according to august and eminent men of letters of this country—with the language issue may disable a whole generation of Indian youth from performing their predestined task. This fact, the threat to the progress of India if precipitate action is taken in respect of Hindi, more than any other, is an argument for proceeding slowly—and with caution."

But then there is another aspect of this question which must be considered. In Bihar, U.P. and M.P., school, and college students, for the last ten years, have neglected their study of the alien language, the language of servility, and have been ardently and patriotically acquiring proficiency in the language of the Indian nation. If now a decision be made to retain English, our educated young men—the future rulers of India—will be seriously handicapped *vis-a-vis* their opposite numbers in the South. The decision to make our national language the sole medium of administration, legislation and education must be irrevocable, however much the Southerners may shout.

A WELFARE (OF THE RULERS) STATE

Mr. Ashwani Prasad Srivastava, First Civil Judge, Kanpur, has appointed Mr. Har Charan Khanna, a principal and senior-most officer of the State Bank of India, a receiver to manage the business and affairs of the British India Corporation (one of the concerns in Mundhra group of industries in which our nationalized Life Insurance Corporation has invested only a crore and a half of the nation's money to establish a socialistic pattern of society.)

PATHER PANCHALI

"Pather Panchali", is being shown in London again. In Oxford Street the Academy Cinema selects for screening during the year the pick of Continental, Asian and British productions; an American "high-brow" is the exception rather than the rule. For the Christmas season the Academy has chosen Satyajit Ray's gem. Although it has already been seen by specialized London audiences during the Indian festival week and at the National Film Theatre on the South Bank, this is its first purely commercial showing in Britain. At the Press showing last week critics found themselves applauding almost before the last shot faded out. A run of several weeks at the Academy is forecast for "Pather Panchali", it is to be

followed by Satyajit Ray's "Aparajito", which won the Grand Prix at Venice this year.

The Times' film critic thinks the strength of "Pather Panchali" is its director's refusal to compromise, to quicken the pace and force the material into a conventional story pattern. In his view the sequence when the children, running across the fields, see a train for the first time, is a certain choice for any anthology of film scenes. "Pather Panchali", he concludes, "is first, foremost, and all the time an Indian film which makes no concessions; to see it is less to be entertained than to take part in an experience". This is rare praise from a critic who is notoriously hard to please.

POT ABUSING THE KETTLE

Mr. Nehru the other day deprecated waste of food, such as rice and ghee, in "yagnas". While it is true that a certain amount is wasted, it is pertinent to ask whether we have cut down all other avoidable waste.

Large quantities of food are wasted at official parties and dinners. Lakhs of rupees are wasted on inauguration ceremonies. It seems that no undertaking can make a start without being "inaugurated" by a Minister, whether it be a cinema or a multipurpose project. No other country appears to waste so much money on mere opening ceremonies.

If the money thus spent is used in capital projects intended to increase food production, a thousand times more food can be grown than is wasted in religious ceremonies.

Will Ram tell us how many lakhs were spent in renovating Howrah station and giving it a "new look" on the occasion of Mr. Nehru's "inaugurating" the electric railway? Will some one calculate how many crores are spent every year on Mr. Nehru's visits to different parts of the country? A two-day visit cost poor Orissa 40,000 rupees. Richer States much be spending much more.

WISDOM OF AYYANGAR

The Congress W. C. decided that in future 10% of the salary of each member of the Congress Parliamentary Party should be given to the Congress Organization every month. On hearing this, the Speaker, Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, promptly tendered his resignation and ceased to be a member of the Congress Parliamentary Party. The Congress M.P.'s think that if the Congress Organization be in need of money, it should be got from the profiteers, black-marketers, government contractors, industrialists, and not from Congress M.P.'s who are in politics to make money, not give it away. Congressmen in general think that they have made great sacrifices to secure the freedom of the country; now is the time for them to

collect dividends for their past investments. It is extremely unfair to ask them to make sacrifices now.

INDUSTRIAL UNREST

According to the *Pioneer*, industrial unrest in India registered a new high in 1956 as compared with that in 1955, involving a total time-loss of 6,992,040 man-days.

The 'severity rate' of industrial unrest for 1956 proves that year to be the worst in regard to industrial relations since 1951.

As many as 715,130 workers were involved in strikes and lock-outs in 1,203 disputes in 1956, as against 1,166 disputes in 1955, when 527,767 workers were involved causing a time-loss of 5,697,848 man-days. The number of disputes increased only by 3.2 per cent, but the time-loss was higher by 22.7 per cent.

The largest percentage of disputes arose from the personnel cause, closely followed by the wages and allowances and bonus issues. The largest number of workers struck work on the bonus issue. However, the time-loss was fairly low on the bonus question, showing that such disputes did not last long.

Taken by results, the industrial disputes do not appear to have been very effective. For instance, while nearly 40 per cent of the disputes were unsuccessful from the point of

view of the employees, only 25 per cent, were successful and another 12 per cent, partially in the employees' favour.

A significant feature of these industrial disputes related to government intervention. Most of the disputes settled were through the intervention of the Union Labour Ministry.

Of no less significance was the number of disputes terminated by voluntary resumption of work.

By far the lowest number of disputes terminated was by mutual settlement.

A WORLD RECORD

Netherlands was the most densely populated country in the world with 9,858 inhabitants per sq. mile.

Japan was the most densely populated country in the Far East, with 642 people per sq. mile in 1955. Despite its rising birthrate, the U. S. A. has only a density of 57 persons per sq. mile.

THE L.I.C. SCANDAL

In his demand for an enquiry into the investments of the nationalized Life Insurance Corporation, Mr. Feroze Gandhi brilliantly demonstrated that the individual member still has a part to play. More effective even than the facts he marshalled was his dramatic rendering of the prosecution case. Time was limited and he had a lot to say, but, where necessary, he lingered over details for

greater effect. He separately calculated, for instance, the amounts the L.I.C. would have saved if the investments had been made on each day before June 25, until it came to June 10. Then he confessed: "My nerves gave way"

A different technique—the intentional slip—was used to drive home another point. After making the point that Rs. 1,24,44,000 was invested on a single day, Mr. Gandhi went on to remark sarcastically: "Deep thought must have been given to this investment. Prevailing prices... must have been thoroughly scrutinized. Balance-sheets must have been looked into.... I am sorry, Sir, I made a mistake. Some of these concerns have not published their balance-sheets since 1955." It only required Mr. Asoka Mehta's hints of darker malpractices to make the case for inquiry irresistible.

Those, who expected Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari to give as good as he got were disappointed. He was obviously caught between his desire not to let down the L.I.C. and the need not to involve the Government too deeply in the mess. The result was ineffectual. It gave the impression that the inquiry was being accepted reluctantly; that, had the debate not been held, the investments would have gone unnoticed.

In this he was perfectly justified. A man who deals with thousands of crores every day cannot be expected to be

bothered if a paltry crore or two is poured down the drain.

Besides, Krishnamachari can make good the loss ten times over by imposing new taxes in the next budget.

TIED HAND AND FOOT

The power-loving Welfare State has imposed paralysing restrictions on industry. Controls everywhere, in everyone's experience, involve a lot of regulations and elaborate administrative procedures. If the aim of planning is to bring about a speedy development of the country, in our experience one thing which is really defeating that aim of speedy development is the super-structure of administrative procedures which have been built up in regulating planned development.

To give an interesting illustration: A cotton mill has to file every year no less than 8,200 returns to comply with requirements of the series of regulations under different heads. If a small company has to file as many as 8,200 returns every year (the company has to employ 16 additional clerks to fill in these returns), we can well imagine the enormity of the task in the various Governmental departments where these returns are filed. Apart from the waste involved in paper and stationery, there is the employment of additional men to fill in these returns, the filing of these returns in Governmental departments requiring additional accommodation, and personnel, if not to attend to these returns, at least to file them, additional building requirements.

And all this to no purpose. Probably the returns submitted are never looked into. The Government has done a great deal to hamstringing industry and then wonders why industries do not thrive as they ought to.

THE PLAN ON THE ROCKS

Economist Professor D.R. Gadgil has said the 5-year Plan's most alarming feature was inadequate control of the balance of payments position. There was grave danger in depending on such foreign exchange credit. The first step towards rephrasing the Plan would, therefore, be to minimize the use of foreign resources.

He felt the situation was created by the present import policy and the lack of a food policy. This was the reason why the Government was unable to control the food situation. Unplanned expenditure of foreign exchange and indiscriminate issue of licences were the results of ad hoc ministry decisions.

Prof Gadgil was emphatic that the correct policy would be to utilize the country's resources and live within the available foreign exchange.

BASIC ECONOMIC TRUTH

The following comments of the Warner & Swasey Company in the United States (quoted by the Pioneer) sum up some of the basic economic truths:

"You repair shoes, he pumps gasoline, I raise chickens. We sell to each other and to the man next door—a retired school teacher on a pension.

'Somebody convinces me I can make just as much for less work, so I raise fewer chickens but increase the price of those I do raise.

'But you aren't going to repair more shoes in exchange for a chicken; he isn't going to give me more gasoline for a chicken. It's the same chicken: I haven't made it worth any more to you. So all you do is raise the price of repair work; he raises the price of gasoline, But the retired school teacher can't raise his pension; he just gives up chicken.

"So all I've done is lose one customer, and traded dollars with the others.

"If I had worked more efficiently (may be invested in a mechanical brooder) I would have had more chickens to trade for more repair work and more gasoline, and by cutting

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costs and prices a bit, got two teachers as customers instead of none."

CHASING AN OLD MAN

The Indian-born Marchioness of Winchester has won her law suit against Mrs. Evelyn Fleming, widow of a British member of Parliament, who was accused of luring away the 94-year-old Marquis and inducing him to seek annulment of their marriage.

Judge Devlin who gained fame in the murder trial of Dr. John Bodkin Adams found 74-year-old Mrs. Fleming guilty and ordered her to pay 12,000 pounds as court costs.

No damages were involved but Judge Devlin's decision opened the way for a damage suit if the Marchioness, who is a daughter of a Parsee high priest, so desires.

Mrs. Fleming announced she would appeal against the decision.

The Marchioness said after the verdict she hoped to see the Marquis home by Christmas and was ready to forgive all and even fetch him from Monte Carlo, where he reportedly lives in the same fashionable hotel as Mrs. Fleming.

The Marchioness appeared at the final hearing yesterday clad in a gold lame Indian sari whose colour, she said, brought her luck.

THE REAL RULERS

Mr. Justice A. N. Mulla has observed in a judgment that "there are two facts which emerge very clearly and

which hit the eye. Firstly, it appeared that Mr. Dal Bahadur Singh, MLA. although he is a legislator, preferred to play the role of a law-breaker and for whatever reasons it might be, he tried to attain results by advocating violence and use of force.

The second fact that was quite apparent was that the district authorities, when they were faced with a situation where a person bearing the three magic letters 'MLA' after his name came as a party before them, they lost all sense of proportion and they ceased to function in a judicial manner."

WORLD POPULATION

In 1955 the world population was estimated at 2,691 million, showing an increase of 172 million over the figure for 1951. The annual rate of population growth has risen until it stands today at an average of 1.6% each year. The United Nations Commission on Population, which issued these figures (April 1957), attributes this increase in general to the noticeable decrease in mortality. In underdeveloped regions of the world, where the increase can be put down to vast social and technical assistance programmes, the Commission considers it essential that steps be taken to ensure that the increase in the rate of production of wealth in these regions be made to advance more rapidly than that of population. The Commission also stresses the necessity of undertaking simultaneously the eco-

nomie and social studies that could contribute to the required rise of resources and productivity.

X X X

This year Tokyo became the most highly populated city in the world. With an annual increase of 200,000, the population of the Japanese capital exceeds that of London. It has about eight and a half million inhabitants.

THE TRAITORS WIN

The anti-national language-walas are having a field day—they are winning on every front, so to say.

The Government of India decided to drop the proposal to take over the Osmania University and convert it into a Hindi University in view of the strong opposition of the former Hyderabad Government and the present Andhra Pradesh Government to this proposal.

* * *

"Any legislation on the basis of recommendations of the Official Language Commission may imperil the country's integrity". This view is expressed in a letter addressed to Mr. Nehru by 117 men and women among whom are authors, professors, journalists, heads of educational, scientific and research institutions, legislators, advocates, artists and musicians.

The letter has outlined seven points as a "constructive alternative" to the Commission's recommendations. The points, relate to the recogni-

tion of the 14 major languages listed in the Constitution and of English as national languages.

It has been suggested that within each State education be conducted at all stages in the respective national language or languages from as early a date as practicable. State Governments and educational authorities should be left entirely free to determine the place of English and any other language in the curriculum. "unhampered by directives or discriminatory measures from the Centre". The respective national language or languages in a State should be used for all administrative, legislative and judicial purposes.

All-India Services examinations should be conducted in English and English alone and that this language should be retained for pan-Indian legislative and judicial purposes. English, and wherever necessary, the language of the State concerned should be used for communication between the Centre and the States without any discriminatory status for any one language.

Central official announcements and notifications and postal and railway forms should be issued in the

language of the State concerned and in English. English or any other national language or languages agreed upon by the States concerned should be recognized as the medium of communication between States.

All this treasonable talk is

just one step removed from E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker's Constitution burning. Those who are bent on disobeying the Constitution to-day will be found to be burning it morrow.

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The Elastic Bureaucracy

By C. N. PARKINSON

Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion.

General recognition of this fact is shown in the proverbial phrase, "It is the busiest man who has time to spare." Thus, an elderly lady of leisure can spend the entire day in writing and despatching a postcard to her niece at Bognor Regis. An hour will be spent in finding the post card, another in hunting for spectacles, half an hour in a search for the address, an hour and a quarter in composition, and 20 minutes in deciding whether or not to take an umbrella when going to the mail-box in the next street. The total effort that would occupy a busy man for three minutes all told may in this fashion leave another person prostrate after a day of doubt, anxiety and toil.

Granted that work (and especially paper work) is thus elastic in its demands on time, it is manifest that there need be little or no relationship between the work to be done and the size of the staff to which it may be assigned. A lack of real activity does not, of necessity, result in leisure. A lack of occupation is not necessarily revealed by a manifest idleness. The thing to be done swells in importance and complexity in direct ratio with the time to be spent.

The fact is widely recognized, but less attention has been

paid to its wider implications, more especially in the field of public administration. Politicians and tax-payers have assumed (with occasional phases of doubt) that a rising total in the number of civil servants must reflect a growing volume of work to be done. Cynics, in questioning this belief, have imagined that the multiplication of officials must have left some of them idle or all of them able to work for shorter hours. But this is a matter in which faith and doubt seem equally misplaced. The fact is that the number of the officials and the quantity of the work are not related to each other at all. The rise in the total of those employed is governed by Parkinson's Law and would be much the same whether the volume of the work were to increase, diminish or even disappear. The importance of Parkinson's Law lies in the fact that it is a law of growth based upon an analysis of the factors by which that growth is controlled.

Omitting technicalities (which are numerous), we may distinguish at the outset two motive forces. They can be represented for the present purpose by two almost axiomatic statements; (1) "An official wants so multiply subordinates, not rivals" (2) "Officials make work for each other".

To comprehend Factor 1, we must picture a civil

servant, called A, who finds himself over-worked. Whether this over-work is real or imaginary is immaterial, but we should observe, in passing, that A's sensation (or illusion) might easily result from his own middle age. For this real or imagined over-work there are, broadly speaking, three possible remedies. He may resign; he may ask to halve the work with a colleague called B; he may demand the assistance of two subordinates to be called C and D. There is probably no instance, however, in history of A's choosing any but the third alternative. By resignation he would lose his pension rights. By having B appointed, on his own level in the hierarchy, he would merely bring in a rival for promotion to A's vacancy when A (at long last) retires. So A would rather have C and D, junior men below him. They will add to his importance; and by dividing the work into two categories, as between C and D, he will have the merit of being the only man who comprehends them both.

It is essential to realize at this point that C and D are, as it were, inseparable. To appoint C alone would have been impossible. Why? Because C, by

himself, would divide the work with A and so assume almost the equal status that has been refused in the first instance to B, a status the more emphasized if C is A's only possible successor. Subordinates must thus number two or more, each being thus kept in order by fear of the other's promotion.

When C complains in turn of being over-worked (as he certainly will) then A, with the concurrence of C, will advise the appointment of two assistants to help C. But he can then avert internal friction only by advising the appointment of two more assistants to help D, whose position is much the same as C's. With this recruitment of E, F, C. and H the promotion of A is now practically certain.

Seven officials are now doing what one did before. This is where factor 2 comes into operation. For these seven make so much work for each other that all are fully occupied and A is actually working harder than ever. An in-coming document may come before each of them in turn. Official E decides that it falls within the province of F, who places a draft reply before C, who amends it drastically before consulting D,

who asks G to deal with it. But G goes on leave at this point, handing the file over to H, who drafts a memorandum that is signed by D and returned to C, who revises his draft accordingly and lays the new version before A.

What does A do? He would have every excuse for signing the thing unread, for he has many other matters on his mind. Knowing now that he is to succeed W next year, he has to decide whether C or D should succeed to his own office. He had to agree to G's going on leave even if not yet strictly entitled to it. He is worried whether H should not have gone instead, for reasons of health. He has looked pale recently partly but not solely because of his domestic troubles. Then there is the business of F's special increment of salary for the period of the conference and E's application for transfer to the Ministry of Pensions. A has heard that D is in love with a married typist and that G and F are no longer on speaking terms—no one seems to know why. So A might be tempted to sign C's draft and have done with it.

But A is a conscientious man. Beset as he with pro-

blem created by his colleagues for themselves and for him—created by the mere fact of these colleague's instance—he is not the man to shirk his duty. He reads through the draft with care, deletes the fussy paragraphs added by C and H, and restores the thing to the form preferred in the first instance by the able (if quarrelsome) F. He corrects the English—none of these young men can write grammatically—and finally produces the same reply he would have written if officials C to H had never been born.

Far more people have taken far longer to produce the same result. No one has been idle. All have done their best. And it is late in the evening before A finally quits his office and begins the return journey to home. The last of the office lights are being turned off in the gathering dusk that marks the end of another day's administrative toil.

Overseas Journal

Middle East In Ferment

To believe U.S. Press reports and comments, all is quiet in the Near and middle East. From the forum of the U.N. General Assembly U. S. representatives also try to lull the world public claiming the situation in this area has "eased." They pose as undeservedly hurt men who just could not understand why the Arabs were perturbed and why so many people were speaking about the threat to peace in the Near and Middle East.

But the thick smoke-screen of U.S. propaganda cannot hide what is really going on in this part of the world, where the situation has again gone from bad to worse in the last few days.

As you might know, some time ago U.S. diplomats and intelligence agents engineered, in line with the "Eisenhower-Dulles doctrine," a reactionary coup d'etat in Jordan. Feeling themselves the bosses, the Americans forced Jordan's rulers to pursue a policy spear-headed against the vital interests of the Arabs and of the people of Jordan itself.

In obedience to the U. S. diktat, Jordan's rulers have just made a secret deal with Israel, pledging to turn over to Israel the Arab territory of Jebel-Mukabir and start the forcible resettlement of Palestinian refugees resident in Jordan. This deal was put through behind the back of the other Arab States, for

whom the solution of these problems is a vital concern.

The clandestine intrigues making Jordan still more dependent on the USA and Israel sparked a storm of indignation in the country. There is serious unrest in several parts of Jordan. Mass demonstrations are taking place in protest against the anti-popular policy of the rulers. The authorities dispatched troops against the demonstrators, but some military units refused to shoot.

The Lebanese paper "Ahs-Shark" says Sanir El-Rifai, Jordan's Deputy Premier, drives around only in an armoured car, that the Ministers do not go out of their homes and that high officials have fled from the country.

The popular wrath in Jordan and the protest of sister Arab nations have got Jordan's rulers panicky. To escape retribution they have decided to completely sell national interests down the river. According to information that has come in from Amman the Jordanian Government has decided to join the Economic Commission of the Baghdad Pact and has announced acceptance "in principle" of the "Eisenhower-Dulles doctrine", or in other words its consent to armed U. S. interference in Jordan's domestic affairs.

It was this the U.S. State Department was after. And it has secured to the U. S. A. the possibility of openly

intervening in Jordan's home affairs.

Ships of the Sixth U. S. Fleet unexpectedly anchored in the Lebanese port of Beirut. Lebanese papers say this surprise visit of U. S. warships is closely linked with the developments in Jordan.

The aggravation of the situation in the Near East is not limited to the events in Jordan alone. In the last few days, not without the knowledge of the U.S.A., the Turks have begun to concentrate more troops on the Syrian frontier. It is reported from Beirut that 300 Turkish tanks are poised to strike at Haleb.

The Syrian-Israeli frontier was also few days ago the scene of provocative incidents. Israeli patrols made two incursions into Syrian territory under cover of darkness, but were driven back by Syrian soldiers.

As you see, the facts show that U.S. propaganda allegations, as to the "easing" of the situation in the Near and Middle East are but deliberate deceptions intended to help U.S. diplomats divert the public eye from developments in this part of the world. The U.S.A. stakes on continuing its peace-jeopardising policy in the Near and Middle East behind the screen of propaganda.

Not only the Arabs, but all peace-loving forces must be vigilant in order to expose and frustrate these designs of U.S. aggressive quarters, schemes so dangerous to the cause of peace.

Have We A Foreign Policy !

Of course we have, since we have to get on with the other countries of the world. But this question is frequently raised to boost or attack the statements made by responsible politicians, including our Prime Minister. The frequent discussions or debates on this question are a sign of our political immaturity. You do not find for instance the British House of Commons or Mr. Macmillan or even M. Khrushchev surveying mankind from China to Peru, distributing bouquets or brickbats every week-end, taking their stand on the elevated pedestal of a forbiddingly austere ethic. And yet that is what our Prime Minister has specialised in. It is not a healthy sign for a man to be frequently talking about his liver or lungs or heart. Only invalids and neurotics are obsessed with their health. We have been so long protesting our high-souled intentions that we have ceased to evoke interest, much less sympathy, from the outside world.

Naturality or non-alignment involves the inevitable corollary of suspending judgment, practising reticence and behaving like men of breeding. But by our very loquacity, we have given hostages to adverse world opinion, and find ourselves accused of having double standards. Palmerston, the famous British Foreign

Minister, evolved them with crystal clarity and exploited them with consummate grace and plausibility. For the practised repression of the worst kind at home, while he egged on the subject people of the Austrian Empire to sabotage and mutiny. But since then, the world has shed much of its innocence, and Macchiavellism is the order of the day all over. Little wonder therefore if our national leadership appears abroad as the recurrence for the *n*th time of demagogic opportunism.

The recent debate initiated in the Lok Sabha on the pronouncements of our Finance Minister abroad reveals from a new angle the ambivalence of our foreign policy. Mr. Krishna Menon attacks the democracies as if they are the reversioners of all the tyrannies of world-history. 'He gangs' with the Russian delegations on all issues that divide the world into the opposing blocs of East West. T. T. Krishnamachari goes to Wall Street and, raising the communist bogey, asks for a loan to keep us in the democratic camp. Between them, they are supposed to keep the rival blocs on tip-toe competing to deluge us with a shower of gold which is what we want for our planning. But the trick has been over done, and we have drawn a blank, not to men-

tion the slump in national prestige which may not be so easily measured or admitted, but which is undeniable.

The cleavage manifested itself in the Lok Sabha as well. Mr. Masani who is gratuitously identified with what is called the 'American lobby' praised Mr. T. T. K., and hauled Mr. Menon over the coals as our public enemy No. 1 abroad. The Communist leader redressed the balance by giving the Mephistophelian Menon a glowing chit, but demanding the head of T.T.K. on a charger. Well might Pandit Nehru say that the two cancelled each other out to leave his Foreign policy completely vindicated. But such a victory would be a barren one; for the proof of the pudding is in the eating of it.

The illness of Mr. Eisenhower, the threat of the Russian veto to save us from the Graham Mission over the Kashmir issue, the paucity of expected help from either the West or the East all cast on us the disagreeable necessity of having to rethink our plan priorities. Such re-phasing of pruning is already under way; but for tactical reasons connected with the Prime Minister's passion for 'tiger-riding,' there is to be no official acknowledgement of any cut in the plan frame. It remains to be seen how the Prime Minister will react to the communist pressure

(Continued on page 188)

' MEA CULPA '

Edward the Confessor was no answer to Ethelred the Unready. The Prime Minister has confessed that "with a little more careful planning the stress on the people of this country would have been somewhat less". Mr. Ajit Prasad Jain, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, has also confessed that there had been "serious shortcomings" in the Government's agricultural policy. In any other country, a crisis of the magnitude brought about by the Government's admitted blunders and carelessness would have led to the fall of the Government itself. But as an Englishman who knows his India well, Sir Percival Griffiths, has observed in his book entitled 'Modern India', "Parliament is indeed becoming not a place where policies are settled and Governments born or overthrown but the forum in which a virtually irremovable executive expounds its ideas and policies." Now, what are these so-called ideas and policies? The Asoka Mehta Committee roundly declares that there is no question of this country achieving the targets of food production set by the

Planners. The Committee has reeled out facts and figures by the yard to show how and why these targets are unattainable. Yet the Prime Minister is reported to have told a closed door meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party that one way of solving food problem is to give a target to each farmer. After all, he argued, the farmer was the one who actually produced and so let him be confronted with a target. If this brilliant solution had not escaped into broad daylight through the closed doors, there would have been no need to give a second thought to it. But as it is, it is difficult not to marvel at the amazing naivete of the Prime Minister and his advisers.

The vague social ideas of land for the tiller is dependent for its successful working on the pure exploitation of his own manpower by the peasant. But nowhere in the world has manpower unaccompanied by capital equipment or know-how been able to deliver the goods. The Prime Minister is reported to have written to all Chief Ministers of States emphasising the imperative need for in-

creasing foodgrain production during the Second Plan period by a minimum of 15 million tons. These same State Governments are on record before the Asoka Mehta Committee that not more than 60 per cent. or 10.3 million tons of the revised target can actually be achieved. Can loyalty to the Prime Minister alone make two ears of corn grow where only one grew before? Are not the Government deluding themselves and the people by still insisting that the impossible can be achieved? The Prime Minister was rather taken aback when his reference to the sovereign virtues of self-help provoked laughter among the honourable members of the House. But he has only himself to blame.

(Continued from page 187)

for more expropriatory measures under cover of the plan, while the capitalist interests try to pull him the other way to register a retreat. We may have to go much farther than is thought possible, but it is an open question if we would fare any better on the main issue of the Plan whether materially or mastically considered.

—Sunday Times

The Government in its enthusiasm which as usual outran discretion, first set out to do everything for the people. Now that they have failed, the appeal goes forth for self-help and not to depend on the Government which has proved itself so undependable. It is not only the food shortage which is giving nightmares to the common man who has been promised relief quota cards. There is inflation also. The Planning Minister, Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, who too has not been immune from the epidemic of confession which has seized his colleagues, says: "The major explanation is... what we have done ourselves. It is the steadily gathering momentum of the plan and something for which we were not quite prepared." The obvious retort, even if it is not very courteous, is: Was it not their business to be prepared? The Government cannot plead that they were not warned. A member of the Planning Commission, Mr. K. C. Neogy, had himself warned the Government of the danger that would overtake them if they went the way they did. He was so convinced of the rightness of

his stand that he even penned a minute of dissent to the draft of the Second Plan. And then there was Prof. Shenoy, that lone member of the Panel of Economists, who reinforced Mr. Neogy's arguments. But neither Mr. Neogy nor Prof. Shenoy prevailed against the statistician who was the presiding deity in the planning counsel of the Government and whom Acharya Kripalani pilloried in the House. To add insult to injury, the Congress Working Committee resolution on food speaks of "only a 10 per cent." deficit in the country's food. "Only 10 per cent. of what?"—was the very pertinent query raised by Mr. M.R. Masani. Ten per cent. of a total foodgrain production of 66.8 million works out to about 7 million tons. In 1951, the peak year for food imports, we could not get more than 4½ million tons from abroad. Here we are faced with a deficit of 7 million tons and self-help is the only menu that the Government chef have to offer. Mr. A. D. Gorwala, essaying the role of a gloomy Cassandra, says: "Hungry men are angry men, and when hunger is permitted to persist among large bodies of men, anger rises

to deeds that tear down the structure of mighty states." Even the vegetarianism of the people, we venture to think, may not be an all-time guarantee against such things happening.

—The Pioneer

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T. T. K. AND L. I. C.

Pandit Jawahirlal Nehru is *chacha* Nehru to all the juveniles of India. His avuncular attitude to large masses of children has somehow affected his general outlook on life and people. He seems to have become subject to his *chachaish* emotions in regard to persons other than his *bhatijas* and *bhatijis* and has got into the habit of pampering all kinds of delinquents who have no claims to the privileges that are granted to extreme youth. He exonerates them of their faults and crimes, encourages them instead of dealing out punishment and white-washes their evil deeds. This is excusable in a *chacha* but reprehensible in a Prime Minister. For if his trusted assistants act in an unreliable and irresponsible manner and get away with it; and if some of them commit crimes and go unpunished due to the affection in which *chacha* Nehru holds them, India would soon be on the rocks. Pandit Nehru, in order to justify the greatness that people attach to him, must be one of two things. He can be a true democrat and act solely according to the laws of the land and of ethics; or he can be a dictator and ruthlessly demand obedience and disciplined conduct from his followers. A slipshod way of dealing with the affairs of the state will soon isolate him from his power and greatness

and all his men and horses will not be able to re-assemble his greatness.

When India abolished the Highnesses and their Raj, when, again, India abolished landlordism and tried to build up a socialist pattern of society, Pandit Nehru's sycophants and trusted lieutenants torpedoed all his honest efforts by dishonourable conduct. All the anti-social elements remained active throughout the land and corruption reigned supreme. The ryots and the workers of India went on suffering as before in spite of the propa-

ganda carried on by the Ministry of Information. The reason for this is to be found in the personal dishonesty of persons who were lifted to eminence by the Nehru set up. These men, and they were all over the place in the central and the provincial governments, these men thought nothing of the people and exploited them shamelessly in order to achieve their own personal ends. And Pandit Nehru went on playing *chacha* to a nest of criminals, much to the sorrow of his people. That moral outlook which Mahatma Gandhi tried



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to create, began to disintegrate even before it had properly developed to any extent and Congressmen began to lose the confidence of the people. This has enabled other criminals and self-seekers to snatch power from the Congress and the general situation in India today is like being between the Devil and the deep Sea.

Rajas went and black-marketeers, profiteers and other exploiters of the people took their place. Landlords vanished, but the state officials took their place with fuller vigour and increased powers. The public suffered and paid through their nose for projects and schemes and much of the profits missed the social pocket and went into anti-social hoards. A tragedy and a farce rolled into one.

The latest outcome of this new socialism is the Life Insurance Corporation of India scandal. T.T. Krishnamachari, who has been regaling the financiers of America with his tales of War and peace, came back to India to face accusation which Pandit Nehru brushed aside by his powerful though illogical arguments, T.T.K. is now answering questions as to the investment of Public Funds into speculative shares of doubtful value. He has said he is having enquiries made. But about the loosening of the reins that made possible such squandering of Trust Funds? If the Government Nationalise Funds on the plea that private people

were mis-handling the same; then how can Government leave things in such a state that the funds could be diverted to share market deals of the most unsafe and speculative variety? Who left the doors open to such corrupt practice? If T. T. K. is answering the questions; he must have been in charge of the doors, being the all-highest in that particular branch of Government. Why has he now to make enquiries to find out how and by whose action the savings of millions of policyholders have gone down the

the drain or into private pockets? Is not the mere fact of such an incident a proof of T. T. K.'s incapacity and unfitness? Chacha Nehru will perhaps find some argument to clear the offender or offenders; but that will not bring the money back. What is needed is a general fine on all who had anything to do with it and to recover the losses thereby. We would strongly recommend that Pandit Nehru should give up one of his two jobs. He should be either a Prime Minister or a Chacha, but not both.

—Chowringhee.

Office of the Agricultural Engineer, Bihar, Patna.

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Musings Of A Common Man

By BEE CUBE

Oh : If Sheridan was reborn! He would have found a kaleidoscopic change of themes for his well known work in this land of ours. To name a few, this common man would have drowned him with subjects such as, Jeep purchase, Tubewell contract, Permits for iron and steel and for molasses, Cement distribution, Casteism and groupism in selection and election matters, Text book publication, Food production, Postal administration, Railway performances, Purblind investment and squandering of Public money e-t-c-e-t-e-r-a. The great writer's energy would have been wasted to some extent in selecting the topic for his writing just as temporary loss of visuality overcomes a *dom* (bamboo worker) in the midst of bamboo clusters while selecting to cut down the right one for his work. Very good explanations can be written by examinees while answering their questions, but the common man does not feel happy with the administration which produces plausible explanations and lame excuses for its not very few lapses. The worst part of it is the attitude of *sang froid* taken up by the rulers.

Another fruitful field for choice of subject for 'The School for Scandal' is in the working of big (in)-hospitable institutions of the country. A simple-minded common man

was contemplating to stand before the main entrance of a massive death chamber and call upon the suffering humanity through a powerful mike to enter its portals for quick deliverance from non-too-happy existence. But he desisted from doing so when his eyes caught the signs "No Horn Zone" and "Thank You". Evidently this common man is law abiding.

The common man is impressed with the praiseworthy attempt of the local authorities of the town to turn it into a beautiful garden city. They are so much engrossed in this work that they have decided not to waste energy and money in killing flies and mosquitoes and making the drains flow. A good part of time and money is being devoted over founding parks (with or without canteens) building fountains and laying out flower beds, so that the generations to come may not accuse them of dereliction of duties in beautifying the capital city which is often visited by outside V.I.P.'s. Roadside urinals and other sanitary measures can wait, but aesthetics cannot. For a thing of beauty is a joy for ever!

In pre-Independence era monied men like zemindars, merchants and industrialists happened to invest a good part of their

surplus money in the shape of charities in order to be themselves invested with titles of different ranks by the then rulers. Such investitures generally gave the recipients some social status, although persons of the then way of thinking of our present day rulers used to ridicule the holders of such title as *jo-hukums* or *jo-huzurs* which means in plain English 'your most obedient servants'. Old titles have been abolished yielding place to new ones. Our industrialists and merchants (zemindars having been liquidated) nowadays' donate large sums to funds of the party in power to escape from the pincer movement of nationalization and labour trouble or to secure licences and permits. Such donations stimulate and are so very akin to corrupt practices that several high judicial authorities have taken a serious view of the matter. But the Law of Makor Dhokar lays down that if your son kills a spider he will have to undergo *pray-aschitta* (purification) and if my son sends the creature to eternal rest he will gain in health!

All well managed and profitable establishments in the Private Sector beware! National interest will be attracted both by your stability as well as by your intrinsic value: *Gandumi rang hai. Zulfe shia fam bhi hai, Murge dil keon na*

'fanse. Dana bhi hai, dam bhi hai.
That is, if you have wheat complexion and black hair, no wonder the heart of a cock will get entangled, for, you possess both food and beauty: No matter if you are evaporated in the process!

It is common sense that more the additions to the Statute Book the more will be accretion to the rank of the law breakers, for the simple reason that there will be more laws to go against, This would be specially so when laws are made in haste to be amended at leisure on getting rebuff from the high judicial authorities. A lot of the laws are ornamental in character and cannot and will never be enforced. Overall result has been that laws are at present being taken lightly by all concerned. Can anybody wonder if respect for Law has now entirely vanished!

A big source for feeding the 'Planasura' is being allowed to go waste by the creators of this Frankenstein. All anti-social elements be banded together into an organization and licences may be issued to them to carry on business on payment of certain percentage for the upkeep, of the Plan. For this suggestion the common man deserves to be 'entitled'.

Police Firing's

"Is there to be no end to police firings? And have State Governments despaired of finding a more civilised way of dealing with angry crowds? As it is, the occasions on which the police open fire on crowds are so many that it makes one wonder if rowdy demonstrations are peculiar to this country. According to statistics collected by the Socialist party the police had opened fire on over a thousand occasions in the first nine-and-a-half years of independence. To all appearance there has been no marked fall in the incidence of firings in the last six months. Occasionally there is a judicial inquiry into a particularly flagrant case of firing and the authorities are put on the defensive. But then for every inquiry there are a score of firings where there is no inquiry. Now and then spokesmen of the ruling party seem to feel penitent, but for the most part they remain entirely self-righteous. It is time they asked themselves whether it is proper for a party which has never tired declaring its faith in the sanctity of means, to resort to violence on the least provocation.

The Rajpur incident in which the police opened fire on students killing one and wounding thirty again points

tragically to the need for a new approach to the question of dealing with violent crowds. The - widespread indiscipline among students and young men is no doubt a matter of deep concern. But this can only be fought off by reforms which seek to remove the causes of the prevailing unrest among them. The use of force by the police will incense them further. As for the wider problem of dealing with angry public demonstrations of all kinds, there is need to limit the use of firearms to the gravest emergencies. As in other countries, the use of police batons, tear gas and water hoses should suffice to disperse rowdy crowds in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred. Most Congress Governments still fight shy of establishing a convention under which there will be a judicial inquiry into every case of police firing. Is it because they know that the fear of a judicial inquiry will make the trigger-happy officials more reluctant to use firearms against demonstrating crowds?

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