

MAO ON THE RUN ??

ARMY HITS BACK IN SINKIANG.....

人民日报

REN MIN RI BAO 1948年4月15日 星期五 第52734号

BIHAR ELECTION SCENE

Now Uneasy, Often Violent

Our Special Correspondent

Patna, Feb 3 :

Never before was Bihar so cursed as it is now with so much poverty, accentuated by high prices, a famine, the like of which cannot be recalled, an inconceivably stagnant economy and woeful administration fattening on tax-payers' money.

All this after 20 years of Congress rule. Add to this the discontent of nearly two lakh Government servants, the anger of the student community, the resentment of thousands of school and college teachers, the miseries of millions of peasants hit by an unprecedented drought and the insatiable hunger of industrial workers for better wages and service conditions.

This sums up the atmosphere in which the General Election in Bihar will be held this month.

With hardly 11 days now left for Bihar to go to the polls, an air of uncertainty still hangs over the State. Although the parties in the Opposition have finally failed to arrive at any understanding or respectable agreement among themselves despite their common professed ideal of defeating the Congress, there now seems a possibility of the ruling party ceasing to dominate the political scene at least by the vast majority it has enjoyed up till now.

Whatever might be the results of the coming general elections in Bihar, one thing is almost certain and that is that there is little change of the people being immediately benefited by the results at the polls. Whoever might be victorious either in Patna West or at Jalalpur or at Nabinagar, it is taken for granted that the people of Bihar will have less food to eat and less income to spend. In many parts of the State, the food situation is already grim and prices of essential commodities are going up unchecked every day.

Even if the Congress is voted back to power, it is difficult to see how the various faction leaders will close up their ranks and work unitedly for relieving the distress of the masses. If the Congress comes to power again there is bound to be still another battle, i. e., the battle for leadership of the Congress Legislature Party. In that case the pressing needs of the people will naturally have to wait as they are waiting at present

till the elections are over. But what will happen if the Congress fails to get a majority?

The question is rightly being asked in the streets today. Will the Opposition parties, which have failed to come together even for the limited purpose of defeating the Congress, be able to form a Government efficient enough to fight the near-famine conditions prevailing in the State? What guarantee is there that the parties in Opposition will not repeat the mistakes of the past which the people have so long endured.

Lok Sabha Seats

With 36 candidates withdrawing from the contests for election to the Lok Sabha from this State, there are 314 candidates in the field for 53 seats.

The Congress, which has set up candidates for all the 53 seats, will have a straight fight with Mr. Kamla Mishra Madhukar, a C. P. I. (R) nominee, in the Kesaria constituency. The Jan Sangh has fielded 47 candidates in the State, while the P. S. P. and S. S. P. put up 33 and 32 nominees respectively. The Swatantra Party have 25 candidates while C. P. I. (R) 17 in the field. There are two C. P. I. (Marxist) also in the field. The number of Independents including the Jana Kranti Dal candidates are 105.

A dozen ladies are seeking election to Lok Sabha from Bihar. Of them five belong to Congress, one P. S. P. and one Swatantra besides five independents.

Two Union Ministers Mr. Satya Narain Sinha and Mr. Jagjivan Ram, and two Ministers of State of the Centre, Mr. Ram Subhag Singh and Mr. Baliram Bhagat, are seeking election to Lok Sabha.

The Monghyr Parliamentary constituency which

New Delhi :

"From the very start, the Cultural Revolution has been a struggle to seize power. The aim of this revolution is to arouse hundreds of millions to rise and seize power from the handful of persons within the Party, who are in authority and are taking to the capitalist road".

"People's Daily", principal mouthpiece of Mao and the ruling group of Chinese Communist Party admitted the true colour and character of the so-called "cultural Revolution" in its issue dated Jan. 22, 1967,

Mao's old and one-time trusted army Marshals, like Chu Teh (30), founding father of the Chinese Liberation Army was denounced as a revisionist sometime ago. Last week, confirmation came through various sources that Marshal Ho Lung, another veteran leader of the Liberation Army has also fallen from Mao's grace and was denounced in severe terms.

From Sinkiang, bordering Russia, Afganistan, India and Pakistan came sensational news of virtual rebellion, where the main functionary threatened to seize China's nuclear stock pile! At Kasghar, in Sinkiang, after a bloody clash between Red Guards and troops acting against Mao, truce was sought by the former, via Chou En Lai and accepted, it is apparent, as a temporary phenomena. The Sinkiang truce, close observers of the violent Chinese opera now on session insist, is indicative of Mao's growing weakness. Current hysteria against U.S.S.R. and France, these sources say, indicates that Mao is perhaps seeking external solution of his internal troubles.

93rd YEAR OF PUBLICATION : VOL. LXXXIII No. 9 FEBRUARY 4, 1967

Bihar Herald

Sundaram Will Be Here On Polling Day

* Staff Reporter *

Patna :

Mr. K. V. K. Sundaram, the Chief Election Commissioner of India will be in Patna on the day of Polling — Feb. 15 — according to the Raja of Ramgarh, who disclosed this to the Press on Friday.

NGOs UNREST IN STATES

— A REVIEW

Patna :

Reports of unrest among non-gazetted employees are pouring in from Andhra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, besides Bihar.

About six lakh non-gazetted employees in Andhra Pradesh went on a seven-day strike on January 25 in response to the call given by the Joint Council of Action of Government Employees and Unions to press their demands for 25 per cent ad hoc increase in basic pay.

According to an official spokesman over 60 per cent of the main Secretariat employees in Hyderabad had attended office as usual. The Joint Council of Action, however, claimed that not only all the Telengana employees of the Secretariat had joined the strike as decided by them, but even some of the Andhra Employees also had joined.

Most of the Government schools and colleges in Andhra Pradesh were closed as teachers had also joined the strike.

Police fired teargas shells and used lathis to disperse a 5000 strong crowd consisting of NGOs, Class IV employees and others near the Central Secretariat at Hyderabad on January 25.

When police used lathis, one person received head injuries and four others

received minor injuries. Two persons were taken into custody by the police.

In Orissa

Non-gazetted employees of the Orissa Government numbering about 1.20 lakhs had threatened to launch an agitation from January 5 if the dearness allowance rates were not equalised with those enjoyed by Central Government employees of corresponding grades. The agitation was, however, deferred on the Chief Minister's assurance that a quick decision in this regard would be taken.

On January 31, the Orissa Cabinet has decided that the State Government employees belonging to all categories will get dearness allowance at substantially increased rates with effect from January 1, 1967. This will entail an additional expenditure of nearly Rs. 5 crores.

In Uttar Pradesh

The executive committee of the Uttar Pradesh Civil Secretariat Employees' Association, at an emergency meeting at Lucknow on January 29, dissociated itself from the agreement 'unconditionally' calling of the 54-day old strike entered into by four of the eight members of the State Employees Joint Council and called upon the Secretariat Employees not to

(Contd. on last page)

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Founded by Guru Prasad Sen in 1874
New Series by M. C. Samaddar in 1938

Behar Herald

ESTD. 1874

A DELAYED ACTION BOMB

While the rest of India has been celebrating our Republic Day, "boys" of Madras threatened to observe it as a day of mourning. By this move they wanted to reiterate their opposition to what they called "imposition of Hindi". This was their method to honour those who laid down their lives during the anti-Hindi agitation in South India just two years ago when the Constitutional provision declaring Hindi as the official language of India came into force.

Perhaps the anti-Hindi agitation is as good a method of vote-catching device in the South as anti-cow slaughter agitation is in the Hindi-speaking States in the North.

It is likely that in the Hindi-speaking areas, the coming elections may lead to an accretion of strength to the over-zealous votaries of *Angreji Hatao* and *Hindi Chalao*. But their militancy is bound to produce strong repercussions elsewhere.

Two years ago, it was enough for the Congress Party to arrive at a consensus of its own and hope for its implementation through the ruling party's massive majority in Parliament. After the coming election, the Congress Party's majority there may not be so overwhelming. A national all party consensus will then become inevitable over the explosive question of language.

The so far unimplemented Congress consensus over language has a three-fold programme: (1) a law to give statutory effect to Mr. Nehru's assurance on the continuance of English as an associate official language for as long as the non-Hindi speaking people desire it, (2) a vigorous effort to popularize not only Hindi but also all other Indian languages under the 3-language formula, envisaging that every body whose mother tongue is Hindi will learn some other Indian language while all others will learn Hindi in addition to their mother tongue, and (3) the acceptance of all the 14 regional languages as media for U.P.S.C. examinations for recruitment to higher-paid Central services.

It is rather surprising that the top leaders of the Congress Party did not realize that the third ingredient of the consensus was the enemy of the first two quite wholesome provisions. The assurance on the continuance of English would have little meaning, and the effort to spread Hindi throughout the country was bound to come to naught if the Pandora's box was opened and all the 14 languages were introduced as media for recruitment for the coveted All India Services.

The source of this dangerous idea was the impatient demand of some highly-placed Congress leaders that Hindi should immediately be made a medium for the U.P.S.C. examinations, in addition to English which is currently serving as the sole medium without any harm to anybody. As was to be expected the demand brought forth the retort from the South that this would give unfair advantage to candidates with Hindi as their mother tongue, and that either all the 14 regional languages should be accepted as the media for all the U.P.S.C. examinations. Or none.

A Cabinet sub-committee, headed by Nanda, rejected the 14-language media idea as unworkable and undesirable. Mr. Shastri felt the same and Patil continued to protest against the fantastic idea. Those clamouring for Hindi cynically felt that opening the flood gates for the entry of all the 14 languages would be a sure way of banishing the "foreign language". Once that happened the Hindi enthusiasts argued hopefully, the vacuum left by English would be filled by Hindi.

In their shortsightedness the Hindi fanatics did not realize that their grand design might turn out to be a grave delusion if all the 14 languages were let loose. It is quite possible that English can be turned out, but Hindi may not take its place and the country may become a Tower of Babel where nobody understands anybody else.

The virtual impracticability of the idea of having 14 languages as media of examination in a country-wide competitive examination was ignored because those who took the decision were politically motivated and deliberately discarded practical considerations. To keep their jobs, the U.P.S.C. refrained from saying that it was impossible to ensure uniformity in marking when 14 different languages were used to answer the same question. The politicians wanted 14 examiners for each paper. The U.P.S.C. was truthful enough to say that it was not practicable. We pointed out in these columns 2 years ago that when candidates used one language only for answering questions, there was competition among them, but if 14 examiners marked the answer papers written in 14 different languages, there would be competition among the examiners to give high marks, each in his own language paper.

These are days of "planning" and it was announced some time ago that the U.P.S.C. has hatched a "plan" to solve the 14-language problem. It was to employ a battalion of translators so that the answer books in the 14 different languages would first be all translated into English and then marked by a single examiner. The U.P.S.C. is silent when asked: "Who will ensure uniformity in the standards of translation by different individuals from widely different languages?" Fortunately, the Government has refused to countenance a patently preposterous proposal.

NOTES & COMMENTS

FAILURE OF PLANNING

The country's economy is now passing through a crisis for 4 reasons: (1) bad planning, (2) bad fiscal policy, (3) bad monetary policy, (4) too much Government interference in private sector industries. Our economy will not improve until these are changed.

It is plain to everyone that the Government has failed in planning. The 3rd Five Year Plan had failed to achieve its target and it is clear that the so-called 4th Plan would not be implemented at all, as we have not the resources for it.

Our great planners want millions of people should depend on the decision of five or six supermen in the Yojana Bhavan.

Their plan had already started cracking and wise men among the Planners (Barve and Rao) have left the sinking ship. The 4th Plan project is a document of unrealistic hopes and wild, fantastic promises.

The Government is being unjustly criticized for devaluing the rupee. The rupee had lost its value long before, due to faulty planning. Now it has become necessary to devalue the rupee internally; it has long ceased to be 16 annas, it is now worth 3 annas or thereabouts.

The Government failed to take the necessary follow-up measures after devaluation. Devaluation should boost imports. But what had happened was that India's exports were cut and imports increased.

DELVING INTO FORGOTTEN PAST

One, Chandra Shekhar, was born in Beawar in a rigidly orthodox Brahmin family. He completed his Sanskrit studies in Benares. All his life he has taken part in religio-political activities. He was an active member of the Bharat Sebak Samaj and was the general secretary of Karpatri's Ram Rajya Parishad. He organised the agitation against the Hindu Bill and was jailed in 1947 for directing Satyagraha against cow slaughter launched by Dharam Saugh.

As principal of the Maharaja's Sanskrit College, Jaipur, Chandra Sekhar was found "quarrelsome and non-co-operating," and "lacking courtesy and decorum." These remarks were given in his character roll by the Director of Sanskrit Education, who wrote in 1959 that *Chandra Sekhar was yet to prove a good principal.*

There were complaints and criticisms against his practice of untouchability. Even a letter from the Government (1958) that his "outlook was not broad enough"

failed to wean him away from religious bigotry. Chandra Sekhar's patron, Karpatri started a Hindi paper, SANMARG, an organ of orthodox Hindu opinion and Chandra Sekhar became its editor.

This is the background of Jagatguru Shankaracharya of Puri who is out to prove that one can live indefinitely on spiritualized Ganges water and Kaviraji medicines of the right sort.

WILD AND FANTASTIC

People weary of hearing hollow platitudes from our great V.I.P.'s, e.g., that of Subramaniam, Union Food Minister, that "India could become a major exporter of food grains," or that "within 15 years India would be self-sufficient, in food," or, with the immediate prospect of getting no rice at all, being counselled that "rats are excellent food and can make substitute for cereals."

While American experts say that in their country, losses in foodgrains from insect pests etc. is about 20%, our highly efficient National Rodents Committee has assured the Government that rodents deprive us of no more than 2.4% of the food grains. New Delhi refuses to accept that the loss of food grains in storage in India is more than 5%.

A CUSHY JOB

Those who have occasion to travel by railway trains frequently have assured us that tickets are not checked at all on railway trains. There are ticket checkers on the pay roll but they have an easy time in independent India.

IN TRUE COLOURS

After shedding his disguise of sheep's clothing, Krishna Menon now appears in his true (red) colours. In a Bombay meeting of his partisans he blamed the Government "for selling out our self-respect" by accepting American conditions for supply of food.

Krishna Menon, like all Left Communists, would rather have the people of India die of starvation than accept the conditions of (1) no trade with North Viet Nam (there never was any) and (2) not to supply Cuba with war materials of which we have nothing to spare.

Krishna Menon apparently thinks that America should be grateful to us for our graciously accepting the PL 480 wheat and other things. Pakistan is getting wheat and maize from China. Why cannot we also do so to placate Menon?

WE ARE MYSTIFIED

Newspapers have reported that Chhatoo Ram, a Congress nominee for a Bidhan Sabha Harijan seat (Arrah

dist) was not allowed to meet the electorate in his constituency by hostile elements who shouted "Go back fifty thousand".

We have a vague recollection that this Chhatoo Ram was a P. S. P. member set up as a rival candidate to dear old Jag in the 1957 election from Sasaram Parliamentary constituency. Chhatoo Ram dramatically disappeared before the actual poll in favour of our Jagjivan Ram who was elected unopposed.

But what is this mysterious number "fifty thousand"? At that time we had heard another figure which was 40,000.

The fight between the two Rams was then described as *devasur sangram*. The *deva* won hands down, the frightened *asura* disappeared from the arena.

GO AHEAD

Mrs. Indira Gandhi said in Bangalore that "the Centre wanted to push through as big a Fourth Plan as possible."

As Bali Ram Bhagat has discovered that *India is the least taxed country in the world*, taxation can easily be increased to four times the present figure. Also a new note-printing press can be installed in Nasik. These two steps would make us undertake the biggest ever plan in the world.

AUSTERITY, BUT WITH EXCEPTIONS

A troupe of 20 Indian dancers and musicians are going on 4 month's cultural tour, visiting 14 European countries.

And of course Indira Behn cannot forget her promise of giving television to the Indian farmer.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken in hand the construction of T. V. studios in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. This is rather unfair, there is a crying need of television in Bihar to make the people forget their food shortage.

Austerity by all means, but first things should be attended to first.

IN SPITE OF TEK CHAND

Prohibition is not going to be alive issue in the coming General Elections. Popular interest in it is at a very low ebb. Most people think it a bogus programme imposed on the country by the Congress. The ever-rising volume of liquor consumption in the country shows the people's interest in non-prohibition.

The loss resulting from so called prohibition costs the exchequer about Rs. 15 crores every year and unless the rulers impose a special prohibition tax on the people it would not be possible to meet the "complete" prohibition demand of Tek Chand.

Of course liquor will play an important part in election time. Political parties (not excepting the Gandhian one) particularly in labour areas will use drink to keep their appeal to the voters afloat. Notwithstanding Morarji, the merits of prohibition will be completely forgotten at that time.

OPINION

Food Shortage: A Result of BAD DISTRIBUTION

By Dr. B. M. Bhatia

The genesis of India's food trouble is to be found in the system of controls evolved because of World War II and the Bengal famine of 1943. In spite of a lapse of nearly two and half decades and recurring crises, we have failed to think anew or take resolute action to solve the problem.

The British policy of non-interference in the grain trade and prices was indefensible in so far as it led to much loss of life and human suffering during periods of scarcity. But it had the virtue of keeping all parts of the country, including afflicted areas, supplied with food-grains even in the worst of famine years. Thus, in the famine of 1896-97, the short-fall in domestic production was about 19 million tons against the then normal yearly output of 50 million tons. Import of rice from Burma that year was only a nominal 600,000 tons.

Yet at no time during the famine did grain disappear from the market. Prices, of course, were high, not only in the drought affected areas but also in those parts of the country where crops were good and supplies normal; even in non-affected regions, high prices caused suffering to the poor. But the distress caused by drought and the failure of crops in one part of the country was thus equally shared all over India through the market mechanism.

Policy reversed

Several factors combined to bring about the reversal of this policy in 1943. Bengal had a deficit of 2.8 million tons that year due to a failure of the *aman* rice crop of 1942-43. Also the province's annual import of 1.5 million tons was cut off by the Japanese occupation of Burma. As a result of the combination of these circumstances, a scramble for rice developed in Bengal towards the end of 1942. The provincial Government sent frantic appeals to the Centre for help and turned to the neighbouring provinces of Orissa and Bihar for surplus grain. It is against this background that the system of dividing the country into food zones and placing restrictions on the inter-zonal movement of foodgrains on private account was devised.

In principle the system was all right in the peculiar circumstances of war and famine. It, of course, failed to prevent the loss of two million lives in 1943 but that was more because of the way the system was worked rather than the principle of control itself.

As *The Statesman* wrote at the time (September 23, 1943) "The fundamental error was made of stumbling half-heartedly into a policy of controlling food and other commodities, while looking yearningly backwards to free trade, without establishing beforehand the executive machinery by which the controls could be enforced. A spate of paper orders poured from Secretariats; signifying in practice little or nothing and making Government's fair name a laughing-stock". The controls did not relieve

distress in Bengal though they prevented it from spreading to other parts of the country. In fact, in Bengal, they accentuated the already critical situation and led to a shameful degree of corruption which, to quote the British Indian Association "blackened the faces of officials".

The moral of the Bengal tragedy has been completely lost in the years following independence. No doubt we have succeeded in avoiding mortality from hunger even in the worst years of drought (such as in 1966) but this has been achieved by resorting to imports on an unprecedented scale. We had a bumper crop of 88 million tons of food-grains in 1964 and yet we imported six million tons to supplement domestic supplies. In 1965 the domestic production fell to 72 millions tons and we imported nine million tons. Aggregate imports in 1966-67 may work out to be even, higher though the country's own production in the current year is predicted to be between 80 and 85 million tons.

Imports have thus been built into the whole system of India's food economy. This may not have caused serious concern in the past, but recent difficulties over food aid from America prove that we can no longer depend upon imports to feed deficit areas. At least, not in normal years. The time has come for us to think of the means by which we can become self-reliant in the supply of foodgrains. This has been necessitated not only by the current foreign exchange crisis and the depletion of grain stocks in the USA but also by the thought that future food aid may not be on the same liberal scale.

In our plans for self-sufficiency, we have always in the past laid emphasis on production and have almost completely ignored the distribution side. This is because a psychosis of shortage has been built up over the past 20 years. It can be shown statistically that given equitable distribution, even at her present level of production, India can feed herself without resort to imports. Let us briefly look at the facts of the case.

Enough at Home

By the end of the Third Plan our potential annual production of foodgrains had, according to the Planning Commission, reached 90 million tonnes. That is to say, in a year of normal rainfall we would be producing that much in the country. Allowing 10% for seeds and another 10% for wastage in fields, transport and storage, we are left with a net annual availability of 72 million tonnes. This gives an average of 14 ounces per day for a total estimated population of 500 million. If we convert

the total population into adult consumption units, we get an average availability of 20 ounces per adult unit per day from the country's own production. Even in a drought year like the present one the country can, by a little stinting on consumption, carry through with the help of domestic supplies. The problem is how to get surplus States to agree to enforce strict economy in consumption within their own borders and part with surplus production which will be calculated on the basis of the all-India average level of consumption.

The natural market mechanism preformed this function before food zones were created and price control and rationing were introduced. But with the institution of physical controls, this is no longer possible. It is the Government that must do it now.

The crux of India's food problem is the failure of the State to perform that function effectively. Given the choice between enforcing the discipline of a food budget in individual States or importing from abroad to meet State demands for supplies from the Centre, successive Central Food Ministers have opted for the latter course—with disastrous effect on the country's economy.

State & Centre

Not only do we go about the world with a begging bowl but we have also landed ourselves in serious foreign exchange difficulties on that account. Is State autonomy in a federal set-up more important than the economic health and prestige of the entire nation? Cannot the Centre be given complete authority to treat the whole country as one single food unit and enforce uniform distribution of available supplies irrespective of any State being surplus or deficit in food supply? We had had enough of inter-State squabbles over surpluses and deficits. If the Centre has to continue to be responsible to feed deficit States, it must also have the power to impose a uniform levy on producers all over the country to procure that quantity.

The zonal system should go and prices should be allowed to become uniform throughout the country. The artificial boundaries created by the zonal system are not only distorting the natural equilibrium between production and consumption—thus giving the false impression of an acute shortage of foodgrains in the country but what is worse, they constitute a danger to national unity itself. Our State boundaries have been realigned on a linguistic basis. But food and language are not the same thing and there is no reason why the administration of food cannot become exclusively a Central responsibility. Only this can save us from impending disaster.

In an abnormal year imports will always be found necessary. But there is no justification for the halting procurement policy that is being pursued at present

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★ THE ELECTION SCENE ★

Punjab Congress Candidates Weak Ex-Police I.G. Police Against Swaran Singh

Two key elections will take place in the city—in Amritsar West and Amritsar East constituencies.

Chief Minister Gurmukh Singh Musafir faces a five-cornered contest in the Amritsar City West. However the real fight is between Mr. Musafir and the CPI candidate Mr. Satya Paul Mahajan, a former President of the Communist-led Chhehrata Municipal committee.

Mr. Satya Paul Mahajan (JS), Mr. Parkash Singh and Mr. Tara Singh (both Harijan Independents) are the other candidates.

The Master group Akali Dal candidate, Mr. Darshan Singh, has withdrawn, while the Sant group and Left CP have announced their support to Mr. Dang. This is a predominantly working-class constituency.

In the Amritsar East, Mr. Baldev Parkash MLA, the Punjab Jana Sangh chief, is engaged in a direct contest with the Congress candidate Mr. Inder Nath Bhatia.

Three other candidates, including one of the Master Dal and another of the Sant group, had their nomination papers rejected. The constituency has about 12,000 Sikh votes out of a total of 47,740 and as such, the balance is with them, Mr. Baldev Parkash is certain to have a rough time.

73 Candidates

Following withdrawals, 73 candidates are left to contest 14 Assembly seats from this district, including four urban and 10 rural. Of these 33 are Independent candidates. There are only two women candidates, both belonging to the Congress—Mrs. Parkash Kaur, the State Minister, and Mrs. Ram Kaur, wife of the late Partap Singh Kairon, who is contesting from her husband's constituency, Patti, previously known as Sarhali.

Congress is contesting all the 14 seats, the Sant Akali Dal group 8, Jana Sangh 6, Master Akali Dal 5, the CPI 3, Left CP 2, and the PSP 1.

The rival Akali Dal candidates are pitched against each other in three constituencies—the Jandiala Guru reserve, the Verka reserve and Majithia.

Adjustments

Though the Sant group, CPI and the Left CP have made adjustments on many seats, in the Patti constituency no adjustment could be made between the Sant group and the CPI. Similarly, in the Attari reserve constituency, both the CPI and Left CP have put up their own candidates.

The maximum number of candidates are in the Aujala constituency, where there are 16 contestants, but the main contest is between the former Minister Ishar Singh Majil (Congress) and Mr. Dalip Singh Tappala, Left CP. The remaining eight are Independents.

A lively contest for the Jullundur parliamentary con-



stituency is between Defence Minister Swaran Singh and the Swatantra candidate, Mr. Sant Prakash Singh, a retired Inspector-General of Police, besides a Republican and three Independents, adds UNI.

Mr. Swaran Singh's difficulties are accentuated by the fact that not all the Congress nominees for the eight Assembly seats falling within his constituency are considered "strong".

This position of Mr. Goyal was obviously directed against Mr. Amarnath Vidyalkar his main rival in the contest because a large number of voters at Chandigarh are swinging towards Mr. Vidyalkar not because he is a Congress nominee but primarily because of his integrity and progressive orientation.

CAMPAIGN WITH HOROSCOPES

A candidate in Coimbatore district has resorted to an ingenious plan to get votes. He carries horoscopes of eligible boys and girls and offers help in getting suitable matches. He seeks only one reward—the votes of the parents.

With more than 20 candidates in the field in each of two Assembly constituencies—one in U.P. and another in M.P.—the Election Commission's "standard" ballot box has been found too small to contain ballot papers. The Commission has, therefore, instructed electoral officers in the two constituencies to make arrangement for special size ballot boxes.

In the land of camels—Rajasthan—the horse has outshined the camel in the allotment of election symbols to Independent candidates. Of a total of 437 Independent candidates for the Assembly, 36 preferred the horse, while the camel was pushed back to the fifth position with only 63 asking for it. The next most popular symbol was bicycle with 81 candidates going for it.

But for the Lok Sabha, the bicycle scored a march

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Drama In Real Life — XLI

THE ROMEOS OF KANPUR

★ By A. GUPTA ★

Next day there was a big protest meeting at Kanpur. Nobody could trace the arrested students' whereabouts. Repeated enquiries brought only rebuffs from the police station. They said they had no information. Had the boys vanished mysteriously leaving no clue at all?

To make matters worse, many of the relatives and guardians of the missing students met with orders of dismissal from work. They were 300 in number and had been in temporary military service. As the protest meeting was in progress, the missing students turned up tired and exhausted after a whole day's trudging. They told their tale of woe in the meeting and excitement ran high. The head of the District Magistrate was demanded on a charger; otherwise the Congress Government would be voted out of power in the next general election.

But the excitement was somewhat damped when it was noticed that some plainclothes men were making up a long list of something. If the meeting today was bigger than yesterday's, so was the list of dismissals that was being openly prepared. Thereupon all Government servants and their associates left the meeting quietly dissociating themselves from the activities of the hotheaded students. In the absence of any cohesion among the participants the meeting fizzled out and so did goondaism.

But in order to boost the sinking morale of the rowdies an influential Congressman is sympathy with the Romeos of Kanpur contacted a Minister at Lucknow on trunk telephone line. The same night the particular Minister was seen to drive posthaste to the District Magistrate's bungalow. What passed between the two nobody knew. But an eavesdropper claims to have overheard the following conversation.

"What can I do for the Hon'ble Minister?" asked Colonel Singh politely. "To what circumstances do I owe the pleasure of seeing your good self in person?"

"Can't you guess?" wailed the Minister.

"No, I can't", said the D. M. blandly. "Do you require my help in any way?"

"Don't I?" groaned the Minister. "You have turned the whole town upside down and raised a veritable hornet's nest round us. My telephone bell is constantly ringing with complaints making my life a hell".

"Don't answer the telephone and sit tight, if you will take my advice", said the D. M. "I have myself advised the steno not to disturb me if anybody rings up about these damned students".

"Oh!" exclaimed the Minister. "This explains

why I could not get you on phone and had to come all the way from Lucknow. However, please try to realise that we cannot afford to keep the students in jail with unconcern. They are connected with so many people in different strata of society possessing every kind of influence. If we keep them in jail we do so at our peril—do you understand?"

"No, I don't. Firstly, no students are in jail, as I kept them in hajat for the minimum necessary time. Secondly, I let them off cheaply if you consider the seriousness of their offence. As a District Magistrate who is supposed to be responsible for preservation of law and order, should I tolerate woman-baiters like them? Thirdly, these temporary arrests did not affect the whole student community but only some of the black sheep among them. As a responsible Minister of this State, do you advise me not to touch even the criminal section but to look on helplessly? What am I here for then?"

The Minister could not give an appropriate answer. He lectured on the advisability of tactful handling of a delicate situation. It was no good antagonising people and losing votes in the next general election.

"Votes?" thundered Colonel Singh. Your post may depend on the voting result, but mine does not. I never interfere with your vote-catching tours. Why should you interfere with my day-to-day administration? Let us keep within our respective spheres and cry quits".

The Minister hesitated before he replied. "Do not think you are quite independent of popular votes. May be you are not dependent on them directly. But remember your service depends on the Ministry which in its turn depends on the very votes you scoff at".

Colonel Singh rose from his seat in a towering rage. "May I take that as a threat to dismiss me if I do not tow your line?" thundered he. "I am a Central Government servant on loan to your State where you cannot control this chronic disorder of one kind or another with your local officers. Still you are free to complain to New Delhi against me and do your worst."

The eavesdropper alleged that the choleric magistrate's military temper was roused to white heat and the Hon'ble Minister made a precipitate retreat as there was evident risk of a kick on the seat of his pants. But this is obviously unbelievable and I do not advise my readers to give any credence to such malicious concoction.

Thanks to the strong steps taken by the District Magistrate undeterred by the strong pressure put on him by a Congress Minister, all attempts to revive goondaism in

Kanpur failed. Today the girl students there move about freely without any fear of molestation. In this they are much luckier than their sisters in Patna or Dinapore.

In conclusion I will refer to a few cases of the terror perpetrated by student goondas in Bihar. I have already described the nefarious activities of some of the Romeos who delight to tease girl students in buses plying between Patna and Dinapore (Behar Herald, April 9 & 16, 1966). There is a notorious student goonda who deserves special mention in this connection. His field of activity is Taki-Digha area and he remains undeterred in spite of several criminal cases hanging on his head.

Newspaper readers may remember how the daughter of the Governor's bodyguard was molested while going to Patna Girl's High School and how her uncle who accompanied her, was stabbed to death because he had the hardihood to protest. The student goonda involved in this case was recently sentenced to imprisonment for life. (Indian Nation 1-2-67)

The other day I read a pathetic complaint by Ram Jatan Singh, who himself occupies the important post of Public Prosecutor, Patna. His story was that his daughter appearing in Pre-University examination was harassed by boy students who used abusive language accompanied by indecent gestures. The offence was committed in an organised manner without let or hindrance from any body (Indian Nation, 27-3-66).

The following paragraphs from the well known journalist "Tatler" is revealing:

"The cases against the young delinquents of Hazaribagh were withdrawn. Shakespeare held that 'nothing emboldens sin so much as mercy'. In Hazaribagh a section of the youths had been guilty of a heinous crime inasmuch as they sought to drag young school girls from a bus and had beaten up those who protested. They also indulged in other acts of vandalism besides taking out a procession to the police station demanding the unconditional release of those arrested. I do not think that the parents of the girls concerned or those who had been manhandled, including the brave bus conductor whose arm was reportedly broken, can feel happy over the extreme leniency shown to the delinquents.

"So far as molestation of girls is concerned, Hazaribagh has a very sordid history of its own. In the present case a very limited section of the students living in a particular locality were involved. Non-student young scoundrels with political

(Contd. on page 74)

CHINA TO-DAY:

WHAT IS

MAO'S AIM ???

★ By Tibor Szamuely ★

Not since the 'thirties, possibly not since the early days of the Bolshevik Revolution, have the professional students of communist affairs been so uncertain. Many view China's 'great proletarian cultural revolution' as a more or less straightforward struggle for power, or for the succession to the aged leader. Yet it passes belief to imagine that dedicated communists of forty years' standing should suddenly, in their old age, become consumed by the lust for personal power to such a degree that they willingly risk the destruction of their own life-work for the sake of their incontinent ambitions.

MEANINGLESS

There is another school of thought which habitually seeks to explain the complex developments of our age by the stereotyped formula of left v. right. Alas, by now these traditional terms have become almost totally meaningless, and nowhere, it seems, more so than in China. *Time* magazine, for instance, has declared unequivocally that Mao's onslaught is directed against 'the more pragmatic and liberal Politburo faction headed by Chinese President Liu Shao-chi. If such a faction really exists, this has certainly remained, until last week, one of the best-kept secrets of the century. So far from being 'more pragmatic and liberal,' Liu has for twenty-five years been the hardest of the hard-liners, the most extreme of the extremists, the most fanatical of the dogmatists; purgmaster in chief, initiator of the cult of Mao, instigator of the 'great leap forward'. Much the same applies to Teng Hsiao-ping, the toughminded boss of the party machine, the man who had been visibly most active in promoting China's break with the USSR.

Nor is there any shortage or other interpretations; from a crazed Mao choosing to tear down the whole structure before he dies, and infecting the Chinese people with his madness, to the *cherchez la femme* theory, which attaches great importance to the rise of Madame Mao and the relative standing of the Mao, Liu and Chou families, and speaks meaningfully of the long tradition of dowager empresses and imperial concubines.

Paradoxically, the best explanation so far seems to be the one emanating from the most obviously biased and hostile quarter: the Soviet announcement that Mao Tse-tung is out to smash the Chinese Communist Party. This thesis certainly appears to fit the known facts. But why on earth would Mao—unless he really is insane—was to do any such thing? At this point it might be useful to take a look at communist history. Not, however, at the great Stalinist purge of the 1930s which bears little resemblance to the 'cultural revolution'. For if there was anything Stalin avoided like the plague it was involving the masses in any kind of political activity. His weapon was the political police, his

methods secrecy and stealth, the nocturnal knock on the door and the executioner's bullet in the back of the head. To say that Mao, in this as in many other respects, is very different from Stalin, is not to whitewash the Chinese dictator, but to state an essential fact: that Mao is not only the Stalin—the totalitarian builder—but also, and probably to a much greater degree, the Lenin—the revolutionary founder—of the regime. And it is possible that the last period of Lenin's life may contain an illuminating parallel to the present-day Thought of Mao Tse-tung.

DISILLUSIONED

Recent biographical studies of Lenin have shown that in the last year before he was incapacitated by a stroke the Bolshevik leader was growing increasingly disillusioned, both with the workings of his system and with his closest colleagues. He sensed that the dead hand of bureaucracy was steadily choking the life out of the party; that the party machine had become a monstrous new instrument of oppression, and its bosses transformed from revolutionaries into defenders of the new *status quo*; that his own will was being circumvented and his power limited by invisible barriers; that the party hierarchy was becoming a collection of bureaucrats, careerists and self-seekers. He could not, of course, bring himself to recognise that this development was inherent in his idea of an elite party based on 'democratic centralism' and inevitable in a ruling party invested with unlimited dictatorial powers—on the contrary he retained all his old faith in the cleansing properties of revolution and the profound revolutionary instinct of the proletarian vanguard.

So it was that, brooding ever more grimly on the alarming symptoms of 'degeneration' he apparently came to the conclusion that the party bureaucracy, the apparatus, had to be smashed. He looked around for allies; for a time he hoped he had found one in Trotsky, to whom he proposed an alliance that would 'open fire' (the exact expression used today in China) against both state and party bureaucracy. The half-hearted attempt failed. Had Lenin appealed to 'the masses' against his colleagues—as he had threatened to do on several previous occasions—he might very well have won. And then what? For once in his life Lenin was confronted by a problem to which he had no solution. The best he could think of was to draw up a testament clearly disqualifying every one of his colleagues for the succession, in the naive hope that the party congress would heed his voice from the grave. It was a sad miscalculation.

There is reason to believe that in the past few years Mao has become just as disillusioned with his own party. He remains the undisputed leader, the hallowed fount of all wisdom, but his actual powers

(Contd. on page 74)

Ashok Mehta Prevented From Addressing Meeting

Ahmedabad, January 30 : Slogan-shouting anti-cow slaughter demonstrators tonight prevented the Union Planning Minister, Mr. Asoka Mehta, from addressing a Congress election meeting near Pancha Kuva Gate in a crowded locality of the city.

Mr. Mehta was escorted to the platform by police through a restive hostile crowd. Fifteen minutes later, they escorted him back to his car amidst jeers.

Mr. Mehta as well as Mr. Brahmakumar Bhatt, Congress candidate for Khadia, which includes the Panch Kuva area, made repeated attempts to speak but their voices were drowned in the chorus of slogans. A stone hit Mr. Bhatt on the nose.

During his brief presence on the dais Mr. Mehta was "presented" with a sari and some bangles by a woman leader of the cow protection movement, Mrs. Shardaben.

A few stones and some chappals fell on the dais. A Congress volunteer held up a folded chair to protect Mr. Mehta from the missiles.

Total Confusion

Mr. Mehta, who arrived here early today, had addressed several meetings in the rural area near Ahmedabad before coming to the Panch Kuva meeting.

At 9-15 p. m., 15 minutes before the meeting was to begin, some 200 women arrived in a procession, shouting "ban cow slaughter," and joined the audience. They sang bhajans while others raised slogans, creating total confusion.

As city Congress leaders arrived one after another, the demonstrators, who formed a substantial section of the estimated crowd of 8,000,

interrupted their slogans to jeer them.

As Mr. Mehta did not arrive by the appointed time, three men took the mike and began singing patriotic songs which could hardly be heard.

With the audience largely hostile, uniformed Congress Seva Dal volunteers, assisted by workers from the INTUC, provided a protective cordon around the dais.

Mr. Asoka Mehta arrived at the meeting place at 10-10 p. m. Police officials escorted him to the dais from where he greeted the crowd only to be booed.

No Mood to Listen

Mrs. Shardaben made her way to the dais through the crowd and handed over her "presents" to Mr. Mehta. Hoping that with this, the crowd would maintain peace Mr. Mehta, and later Mr. Bhatt, attempted to speak, but the crowd was in no mood to listen.

With the demonstrators trying to push their way to the dais and Congress volunteers trying to hold them back, pandemonium prevailed. A few chappals and stones hit Mr. Bhatt.

Ten minutes later, the women demonstrators marched away, singing bhajans. The crowd now became more restive and the organisers decided to abandon the meeting.

Encouraged by their success, the demonstrators made yet another bid to break through the cordon and reach the dais. Police officials, who were standing by immediately escorted Mr. Mehta to his car. A section of the demonstrators tried to rush towards the car but were held back by the police.

Soon after Mr. Mehta left, the crowd started melting away. — UNI.

★THE ELECTION SCENE★

NEW BENGAL FORUM AGAINST CONGRESS

Our Correspondent

Calcutta :

A new organization of intellectuals, have called the West Bengal People's Forum, calling upon the people of the State to vote for honest candidates among the opposition parties irrespective of their party labels.

On behalf of the Front, Mr. Saibal Kumar Gupta, a retired Indian Civil Servant, Dr. Nihar Kumar Munshi, leading doctor and others told newsmen here on Tuesday that the test of the candidate for the coming election "should be their intellect and moral qualities,

their public reputation for integrity, incorruptibility and service to the people."

They said there were many good Congressmen also, but good Congressmen had been utterly ineffective to bring about a change and influence the course of the Congress policy. The Forum therefore, would not ask to vote for the Congress.

The Forum regretted that as a result of the failure of the Opposition leaders "an almost certain electoral defeat seem to have turned into a probability of another Congress win."

It wanted a change in the

Government and would like to set the Congress in opposition benches for the good of the country as well for the Congress Party itself.

The spokesman explained that the Forum was by no means anti-communist though none of the sponsors was linked with communism.

The spokesman said the Forum believed that at this late hour the people of the west Bengal can defeat the Congress and were hopeful that the anti-Congress parties would be able to form an alternative Government.

MADHYA PRADESH :

"Congress Will Be Routed In M. P."

Bhopal, January 30.

Maharani Vijayaraje Scindia today did not rule out the possibility of a non-Congress coalition Government in M. P.

It would consist of the Jana Sangh, Jana Congress, SSP and her supporters, as she had no doubt that Congress would be "wiped out" in the general election, she said.

Addressing a press conference today, the Rajmata indicated that she would play a more active role in the State politics, adding that she would stay in M. P. if the post-election situation demanded her presence here.

She said she was not averse to the demand for the creation of a separate Madhya Bharat State and added that she would give a serious thought to it after the elections.

Guaranteed

She defended the privy purses paid to the former

princes and said that they have been guaranteed by the Constitution and that the issue could not be reopened.

Referring to the misuse of the administrative apparatus by the Congress, the Rajmata said the superintendent of police of Guna and several other officials from her Vidhan Sabha constituency at Karera had been transferred under suspicious circumstances.

She is contesting for the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabha on the Swatantra and Jana Sangh symbols, respectively, "to avoid confusion among the voters". She said it was possible that she might join any of the political parties after the general election, but surely not the Congress.

She disclosed that she had set up her own candidates for 26 Vidhan Sabha and six Lok Sabha seats in M. P. Most of these candidates had accepted either lamp or star as their symbol.

Addressing an election meeting organized jointly by the Jana Sangh and the Jana Congress here yesterday, the Rajmata said the Congress Party had not only belittled the hopes and aspirations of the people entertained after independence but also betrayed the trust reposed on it by them.

She said a party which could not give the people the minimum requirements of food and cloth in spite of having been in power for 20 years continuously, had no right to ask for votes.

She appealed to the people to change the 20-year-old bullock "if they had any desire to see" better days in the future. "In no case should the Congress get another term of life and "I shall work for the defeat of the ruling party even if I have to sacrifice my life for that," she said.

Power struggle

The Rajmata, who is contesting for the Guna parliamentary constituency on the Swatantra Party symbol and the Karera Assembly seat in Gwalior district on the Jana Sangh symbol declared that she was compelled to quit the Congress when she found that the party leader had

thrown to the winds and ideals and principles that were so dear to the ruling party. Instead, the leadership was engaged in power struggle.

The Gwalior Rajmata was critical of the "dictatorial attitude" of Chief Minister Mishra, under whose leadership, she said, no one would expect justice if he or she was not a blind supporter of his (Mr. Mishra's) action.

Referring to the recent police firing and lathi-charges on the students in Gwalior, she said even when the Central leaders were in favour of her demand for holding judicial inquiry, Mr. Mishra "stood in the way to hide his sins."

Rajmata denied that she had ever submitted any list of her men for Congress ticket. As a Congress member of Parliament "I only wanted that right men should be nominated at least from the Gwalior area so that they could serve the people and uphold the ideals of the Congress Party."

Individuals Form Poll Front In Kerala

TRIVANDRUM, January 30: A group of individuals, mostly from central Kerala, has organised a front to "defend democracy" in the State in the general election.

In a statement, it appealed to the electorate to defend democracy by avoiding a division of democratic votes. It said that the rival appeals made by the Indian National Congress and the rebel Kerala Congress would split democratic votes and make it easier for the communists to win at the polls.

The group, therefore, suggested that "democratic votes" in each constituency should be cast in favour of candidates with the best chance of victory over the seven-party opposition front.

The group is reported to be seeking the support of Catholic bishops for Congress candidates.

In the past elections, bishops confined themselves to telling the faithful that they should not vote for "godless candidates."

"PEOPLE TO JUDGE"

—BIREN MITRA

Cuttack, Feb. 1 :

Mr. Biren Mitra, former Chief Minister of Orissa, against whom corruption charges were made by the opposition parties, has replied to the charges as a part of his election campaign. Mr. Mitra is contesting the Cuttack City Assembly seat.

In a pamphlet entitled "people to judge", addressed to his electorate, Mr. Mitra has demanded the setting up of an impartial commission to enquire into properties, declared or undeclared of all political leaders.

It should also make a comparative assesment of a leader's properties before and after he had entered public life, and if the properties showed an increase at a later stage the mode of its attainment should be investigated.

Only the report of such a commission will be able to say clearly who among the leaders are corrupt and the people will come to know the truth and specially in Orissa, the corruption-phobia will be cured by this.

In defending his own case, Mr. Mitra said the fact that

there had been for the first time a stable Government in Orissa after the 1961 mid-term elections became an eyesore to the opposition leaders and they started this corruption and character assassination campaign.

"In order to prove the allegations false and untrue I had taken proper action", Mr. Mitra said.

"In spite of all these slanders and campaign if people judge me peacefully and impartially, away from the false allegation polluted atmosphere, their judgment would be in my favour. This I can say with pride".

Mr. Mitra said that a central cabinet subcommittee had examined the allegations against him as included in a memorandum submitted to the President of India by the

Orissa I.S.I. General Secretary, Mr. Nishamani Khuntia. The sub-committee had decide that neither Mr. Mitra nor Mr. Biju Patnaik took advantage of their positions. This was conveyed by the Prime Minister on January 15, 1965, Mr. Mitra said.

In a defamation case against Mr. Nishamani Khuntia and others filed by Mr. Mitra the judgment was that the allegations were "false and baseless."

The "so-called CBI report" now being distributed on behalf of the Praja Socialist party, was being done in order to take political advantage. If a single fact in the report was true they could have proved it before a court of law by submitting evidences, he said.

Mr. Mitra said that he had urged the Prime Minister on September 12, 1964 and the Congress President on June 11, 1965 to set up an enquiry commission to

(Contd. on page 74)

LETTERS

Food Aid

Sir,—In return for U. S. food aid we have surrendered to the U. S. Government one of our elementary right — to trade with any country of our choice. In our present state this is perhaps unavoidable, but how long are we going to remain a slave of circumstances in the vital matter of food? Since independence our Government has been telling us that the solution of our food problem is just around the corner. But food has steadily become scarcer and costlier.

Any farmer will say that given adequate and timely supply of water and manure there can be considerable increase in food production even with our present outdated methods of cultivation on existing cultivable lands. When the fertilizer factory at Sindri went into operation some years ago we proclaimed we had built the biggest factory of the kind in Asia. But we obviously sat back after that. Otherwise we would not be facing the present shortage of fertilizers. As regards irrigation our progress has been only marginal. Unless irrigation and supply of fertilizers, the two primary factors in agriculture, are tackled more effectively, it is useless for Block Development Officers to preach to farmers.— Yours, etc., **S. N. Mukherjee** (Major, Retd.).
Calcutta,

Students & Election

Sir,—In ordinary circumstances students from all quarters received advice to keep themselves entirely aloof from politics. To the extent they took active interest in it, they were called bad boys. But today things have taken such a shape that it seems difficult to impart to them the same advice without some qualification. The recent events have created a condition in the State in which the students have legitimately acquired good reasons to openly fight for their cause and ample ground to make themselves heard through the coming general election.

But students as a class would do well to do a bit of thinking and not allow themselves to be swayed by the wave of emotion, as this may put them to discredit and disadvantage too. By now all

sections of people have been convinced that a great sin has been committed by the authorities who instead of taking pains and measures to solve their problems, have tried to silence them by coercive methods. The students have no longer to argue their case now. The influential and proper sections of the public have already taken up their brief and they are doing their job.

The question then is what should be their attitude in the coming election? For this I would like to refer to Mr. J. P. Narain's sane and frantic advice to students. They have every right to see the Congress defeated but they do not understand the mind of the ordinary voter. It they and their leaders have their ears to the ground, they should know that already a revulsion has started against their stone throwing and breaking up of meetings."

In recent days, here and there, students have been reported to have associated themselves with hooligans who have attempted to snatch Gandhi caps and Congress flags from persons and shown disrespect to these sacred symbols which link us to the great tradition of the national struggle. Naturally, such acts are readily entered on the debit side of the students' record of conduct. The students must also realise that such activities rather make the grounds of those whom they want to see defeated, stronger. And so participation in such activities must be avoided in their own interest.

Secondly, students as a class cannot be advised to identify or associate themselves unduly with any political party. They must remember that they have still to keep themselves away from politics in that sense. That is not their sphere. They can vote for any candidate whom they consider individually fit and competent. The party labels should not be blindly followed. If they decide to vote against and defeat the Congress by constitutional and peaceful methods, they are well within their proper limits. But the moment they make themselves tools of one or the political party, they have not only entered into politics but have taken a wrong decision and have landed themselves in troubles; and they will lose the general sympathy and moral prestige which they must try to preserve by assuring the right attitude and

also by discarding all sorts of violence and undignified activities which may be cited as anti-social and anti-national.

Shambhu Shanker Prasad,
S. R. K. Goenka College,
Sitamarhi.

Closing of Colleges

Sir.—The problems created by the student and the wanton and unprovoked firings resorted to by the State Government of Bihar have created complications throughout the State and the continued closure of the colleges has proved annoying to the guardians of wards reading in the colleges who do not know how to tide over the difficulties.

In the face of the scarcity of foodgrains and the mounting prices of all the essential commodities, it is extremely difficult for the people to make the two ends meet, and the situation created by the demand for payment of college fees for several months at a time gives a rude jolt to their precarious family budget. They have to beg, borrow or steal to pay the college fees of their wards. It is strange that the Government should close the colleges at their pleasure, disturbing the studies of the students, and then make demands for the payment of college fees for several months at a time on a short notice.

Recently the guardians paid the college fees from September to November, 1966, in one lump and now they would be required to pay it from December, 1966, to March, 1967, in one lump sum when the colleges will re-open, as it appears, after the general elections. Since the colleges were closed by the Government due to its utter failure to control the situation, cannot the guardians claim exemption from payment of the fees for the period the colleges remained closed for no fault of the students or their guardians?

If the Government failed to act firmly and promptly and shirked its responsibility by closing the colleges, does it warrant the payment of any college fee for the period for which there was no teaching? Why should both students and guardians be penalised by the closure of the colleges and demand of fees for the closure period?—

J. N. Seth & G. K. N. Giri.
Muzaffarpur, Jan. 19.

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People To Judge

(Contd. from page 73)

probe the allegations against him but without any result and the court also had declared the allegations as baseless. In spite of all these the so-called CBI report was being distributed and they were definitely being done with a political motive.

Referring to Orissa agents, with which he was alleged to be connected, Mr. Mitra said that the concern started its transaction on 1-4-59 and closed down on 5-8-63.

A special investigation circle of the Income Tax Department went into the accounts of the concern. The accounts showed that during four years and four months of its existence it had a gross income of Rs. 16,57,156.69 paise.

Deducting staff salaries, office expenses and contribution to the national defence fund (Rs. 102,962) and income tax penalties and interest of Rs. 7,70,655.02 paise, the company earned a total profit of Rs. 1,55,249,98 paise.

Out of the income tax assessment of Rs. 6,59,992.09 paise an amount of Rs. 2,92,559.59 paise has been paid and the balance is yet to be paid, he said.

He said that the allegation of amassing huge properties after the last mid-term elections by him, was nothing but an attempt to "misguide" the people.

The Romeos Of Kanpur

(Contd. from page 72)

backing had started the nefarious game in Hazaribagh, I am told, 8 or 10 years ago. So much so that the leader, a young upcountry boy, even dared to demand of a respectable citizen of Hazaribagh town to keep his doors open at night to enable him to meet his daughter. The gentleman concerned was also a prominent Congressman. He reported the matter to the D.C.C., but no action was taken. He left the Congress in disgust, I am told, and joined Opposition party.

"This young hoodlum, who became the muscleman for some Congressmen of the town, was later involved in a bank robbery case. He ultimately landed in jail and on release turned a Communist. The example he set emboldened others to follow his footsteps so far as Eve-teasing, extorting money from the timid businessmen, and coercing confectioners to feed them free of cost were concerned. There have been cases in Hazaribagh when the shops of confectioners have been looted for the temerity of demanding the price of the fare served "(Indian Nation, 2-3-64).

The trouble is that we have no Colonel Singh here who would dare to do his duty in defiance of political pulls and ministerial pressures.

(Concluded)

What Is Mao's Aim?

(Contd. from page 72)

have been successively diminished. It has been revealed, for instance, that in 1958 he was forced to relinquish the Presidency of the People's Republic in favour of Liu Shao-chi. Moreover, his anxiety is much greater than Lenin's, for in the Soviet Union he sees a horrendous example of the inequality, oppression and 'bourgeois degeneration' to which a post-revolutionary bureaucratic regime can so easily succumb. He will not let his revolution go astray!

All his life Mao has been a voluntarist, a firm believer in changing the course of history by the deliberate intervention of a human agency. He is also something of a revolutionary romantic, fired by visions of mass action, flaming enthusiasm, marching columns, victorious encounters. Much of the excitement and fun must have been sadly missing of late. And now Mao has turned for support to his own 'revolutionary vanguard': not Lenin's semi-mythical proletariat, but the fanaticised youth (though, as a prudent man, first making sure of the army). He resurrects the legendary images, the old slogans: the Paris Commune, egalitarianism, direct action. The trade unions and the Young Communist League, the party's cumbersome 'transmission belts,' have been dismantled. Now it is the turn of the party machine itself, of its top cadres, of the bureaucratic backsliders in their great provincial strongholds. They, not unnaturally, resist: the fight is on. Revolution is advancing! Bliss it must be for Mao

to be alive, and for the Red Guards—very heaven!

Mao seems to be seeking a new solution to the age-old dilemma of the revolutionary who achieves power. The options are few: he either stops being a revolutionary, and establishes a new socio-political system (like Cromwell or Stalin), or he gets killed (like Robespierre or Trotsky) or he dies unhappy (like Lenin). In China we are faced with the unique case of the victorious revolutionary who launches a new revolution to overthrow the government he has himself created. Mao will probably succeed in the short run, but the country would still have to be governed, and that can hardly be done through his juvenile supporters. Will the whole sequence be re-created once more?—*Spectator*.

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Campaign With Horoscope

(Contd. page from 71)

over the horse with 14 out of 63 Independent candidates asking for it. The horse was the choice of only seven. The camel, however, scored here as 18 candidates asked for it. The other popular symbols were the rising sun, boat, spade and stoker, lion and two leaves.

Noise is much less this year in Calcutta and elsewhere in West Bengal in comparison with the 1957 and 1962 election campaigns. The

various parties seem to have concentrated their resources almost entirely on vigorous house-to-house campaigns.

The rising cost of living has hit electioneering work in Kerala. Party agents say while in the mid-term elections in 1965, they could get a taxi cab for the whole day for Rs. 60 to Rs. 65 now anything up to Rs. 100 is demanded. Hire charges for mike-sets have gone up from Rs. 25 to Rs. 33 for three hours.

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Student Under & Government's Role

H. K. AVASTI

[From President, Lucknow University Teachers' Asst.]

One of the causes of student unrest, and for the matter of that an important one, is that teachers have lost control over their pupils.

For this loss of control again many causes adduced ranging from want of a desirable pupil-teacher ratio to the miserable economic condition of the teachers. To my mind the influence of the teacher on his students has waned because the teacher has lost his self-confidence and his idealism, the zest for his calling, the spirit of a mission. His main anxiety is his pay packet on the first day of the coming month, and he is satisfied if he is able to lecture well in his class. That is the be all and end all of his existence as a teacher. In short, he has no sense of belonging to the institution he serves. The absence of this sense of belonging is due to the fact that he has no feeling of participation in the educational administration of his institution.

Rulers' Attitude

One need not go far in search of the cause of this absence of feeling of participation. The attitude of our rulers has been solely responsible for this. Eager, as they are, to have their finger in every pie in the national life of the country they looked upon the educational institution as a great source of power and patronage. They wanted to capture and dominate these institutions. They did not make a secret of their intention either. They declared, advocated and practised the dictum "one who pays the piper calls the tune." Against this attitude all the protests of the teacher and his representative associations were ignored and brushed aside. Teacher-baiting became the favourite pastime of the rulers. The teacher was openly decried, denounced, debunked, and damned. One Education Minister in U. P. went to the extent of prescribing the flogging of the teachers to rid the educational system of all its evils. It is no wonder that frequent legislative enactments were thereafter brought about changing the acts of the U. P. Universities eight times during the short period of six years from 1953 to 1960.

Administrative Manipulations

These Acts were amended with all the administrative manipulations that came in their follow-up. These amendments were cunningly devised to reduce the status, prestige and authority of the teacher in a university set up.

The result was the Universities were reduced almost to the status of Government departments where one had to pander to the dealing clerk in the Secretariat. The autonomy of the university, which the former alien government had estab-

lished and preserved, was undermined by our national Government.

The first casualty was the authority of the Chancellor. The 1920 Act provided "The Chancellor shall be Governor of U. P." The amended act said that "the Governor of U. P. shall be the Chancellor," and thus the Chancellor who is a part and parcel of the University was time and again told that he had very limited area of activity, if any, in the University setup.

The Government took upon itself the delicate task of nominating a Vice-Chancellor. One may most humbly, without meaning any disrespect to anyone, ask, has the Government given any university a better Vice-Chancellor than those who occupied these exalted office earlier?

The various Government

NGOs Unrest In States

(Contd. from front page)

report for duty till their 'genuine demands' were conceded.

The meeting which was summoned to discuss the situation arising out of the action of the four leaders adopted a resolution describing the agreement terminating the strike as 'a mischievous act on the part of the four frustrated leaders'.

It pledged not to withdraw the present agitation till the Government gave a 'categorical assurance to withdraw all departmental and legal proceedings launched against the striking employees and concede the demand for higher dearness allowance'.

In Bihar

About one and a half lakh Government employees participated in the 'quit work' programme on January 24 and 25 in response to a call given by the All India State Government Employees Federation to press for higher dearness allowance at Central rates, need-based minimum wage, and grant of trade union rights for Government employees. The meagre increase in the dearness allowance did not satisfy the employees.

The State Government had recently increased the dearness allowance of all categories of Government employees, Gazetted and non-Gazetted, getting salaries up to Rs. 600 a month, at a flat rate of Rs. 10. The cost on the State Government revenue would be over Rs. 2.82 crores a year.

Addressing an election meeting at the Gait Public Library at Gardanibagh in Patna on January 21, the Chief Minister, Mr. K. B. Sahay, declared that the demands of non-Gazetted employees would be fully met within six months.

nominations on the Executive Councils of the universities provide the spectacle of a circus. The election of teachers to the various university bodies were abolished and instead the device of rotation was taken recourse to. The result has been obvious, the university bodies have lost their representative character. The administration of the Universities has gone more often into the hands of those teachers who have either no qualities of leadership of living in their ivory towers or are not interested in the job, because academic administration is something more than even a technical job.

On the other hand, the general mass of teachers feel they have been denied the necessary participation. As to the membership of the various university bodies, a teacher can get into the Executive Council only once in his life time for three years, while the outside member can perpetuate himself for more

ALL INDIA DIARY

(Contd. from last page)

Mr. R. K. Malaviya, former Union Deputy Minister, has been appointed All India Congress Committee's supervisor for elections in Bihar, it is learnt.

In the Mizo hills, security forces in the past few weeks, have captured several ring leaders of the lawless elements, reports from Shillong.

Feb 1 : The Govt of India today announced increased ex-factory prices for sugar, taking into account "the increase in sugarcane price allowed this year and also the shorter seasons expected in most parts of the country", it is learnt.

All India Radio has made special arrangements to speedily broadcast election results received from all over the country from Feb 21 to Feb 24, it is learnt.

The proposed high power committee on cow protection will be free to look into the

The Chief Minister said that he was fully aware of the hardship of the non-Gazetted employees in these days of scarcity and that what the Government had given to them did not meet their both ends.

He referred to the decisions made by the Cabinet regarding the setting up of a commission headed by a High Court Judge to look into the question of dearness allowance to the non-Gazetted employees.

The Bihar Cabinet at its meeting on January 31 decided to introduce a scheme — joint consultation and compulsory arbitration — in order

Food Shortage...

(Contd. from page 71)

even though parts of the country are facing famine. The West Bengal Government has put procurement of rice in a low gear to appease farmers; Punjab had excellent crops this year but has been allowed to impose a ban on the export of maize; Bihar has failed to procure surplus rice from its big farmers but free trade

in grain is still being allowed. Such contradictions in our food policy become all the more glaring in a year of drought. Procurement must become a Central subject if costly imports are to be dispensed with and the fear of famine is to be banished from the land.

—Statesman

than a generation. In fact, there are instances of continued membership for over thirty years. There is no staggering for them. I do maintain that they have created a vested interest for themselves. One would be surprised that it is true that in a board of study of his subject a teacher of more than twenty years standing may not be a member.

Demoralisation

Similar is the story about the membership of the court, the academic council and the various boards of the Faculties.

(To conclude next week)

PATNA DIARY

(Contd. from last page)

1967, with immediate effect it is officially announced.

Respectful homage was paid to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his 13th death anniversary at a public meeting held here this evening. Mr. Nageswar Prasad, a former Judge of the Patna High Court, inaugurating the meeting, deplored that the followers of Mahatma Gandhi had forgotten him so quickly and the oft-repeated slogan "Mahatma Gandhi ki jai" was no longer heard anywhere.

x x x

Jan 31 : The Bihar cabinet today approved of the Rs. 26 crores road bridge over the Ganga to be constructed near Patna.

Chief Minister Mr. K. B. Sahay has taken up with the centre the demand of the state govt. employees about dreariness allowance on par with the central govt. employees, it is learnt.

x x x

Feb 1 : 2,56,521 kutcha wells have already been constructed in the drought-stricken areas of Bihar and 36,017 more were under construction till the close of Jan 1967, it is officially learnt.

The Bihar relief committee has received Rs. fifty thousand from the Prime Minister's relief fund for distribution among the students of drought affected areas of Bihar, it is learnt.

x v x

Feb 2 : Mr. A.L. Dias, Union Food secretary, said here today that the centre had already allotted a quota of 1.75 lakh tonnes of foodgrain for Bihar for the month of Feb. 1967 in addition to 7000 tonnes of foodgrains procured from other states.

Two persons, including a woman, were burnt alive in village Kalaichak about 36 miles from Hazaribagh when a gang of dacoits numbering about ten, raided their house and set fire to it last week, it is learnt here police sources.

Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddy, Union Minister of Transport, declared open to public traffic Kursela this morning the 3364 feet long bridge over the Kosi on national highway number thirty. Built at a cost of Rs. 1.51 crores in three and a half years time, the bridge will link north Bihar with Assam and other parts of northeastern India.

to settle disputes between the Government employees and various departments.

Under this scheme the Government would set up a joint council consisting of representatives of non-Gazetted employees (excluding police and jail personnel) to be elected by recognised service associations and an official side to be nominated by the State Government.

The Government would wait for employees' association to accept the above proposals and when such approval would be forthcoming, the Government would work out the details of the scheme.

BIHAR ELECTION SCENE

(Contd. from first page)

Triangular contest

Among the Ministers, Mr. Barjar Hembrum, Minister of State for Welfare, is only one who is facing triangular contest. In the Shikaripara constituency, besides Mr. Hembrum there is one CPI and an independent candidate.

In Barhara, in Shahabad district from where Mr. Ambika Saran Singh is contesting there is a nine-angular contest. Besides, four independents the CPI, Jan Sangh, Swatantra and SSP have fielded their candidates.

Among other Ministers of State, Mr. Sahdeo Mahto is facing the SSP, PSP, Jan Sangh and an independent in Samastipur.

Mr. Girish Tewari is facing a four-cornered fight in Manjhi constituency, in Saran district.

Mr. Nawalkishore Sinha, Minister of State for General Administration, will fight one SSP, one Jan Sangh and a CPI (Left) candidate in Sahebganj constituency. Mr. Dumar Lal Baitha in Raniganj. Purnea district will face the SSP, PSP and Jan Sangh nominees.

In Katoria constituency of Bhagalpur district, Mr. Raghendra Singh is entangled in a five-cornered fight. Besides, Jan Sangh and

Swatantra candidates there are two independents.

The other two Ministers of State, Mr. Baleshwar Ram and Mr. Shiv Shanker Singh, will face six-cornered and four-cornered fight in Haya-ghat Darbhanga and Barbiga Monghyr constituency respectively.

The Education Minister, Mr. Satyendra Narayan Sinha, is locked up in a four-cornered contest in Jalalpur and eight-cornered in Nabinagar. In the former, besides the powerful Raja of Ramgarh, Mr. Kamakhya Narain Singh, there is a candidate of Jan Sangh and independent. In Nabinagar, besides a candidate each of the Jan Sangh, PSP, Swatantra and CPI there are four independents including the Raja.

In Kanti Assembly seat, in Muzaffarpur district, from where Mr. Mahesh Prasad Sinha is contesting, there are four other candidates SSP, PSP, Jan Sangh and an independent.

Ansari's contestants

The Health Minister, Mr. A.Q. Ansari, is facing a seven-cornered contest in Dehri where he is a sitting member. Here all Opposition parties except Swatantra have fielded their candidates. Besides, there are two independents.

There Co-operation Minister, Mr. Harinath Mishra, is

ALL INDIA DIARY

Jan 27 : The Asian Development Bank expects to build up its organisation at Manila by the middle of 1967 before it can take up processing of loan applications for "well-conceived" industrial or agricultural projects, said Financial Expert of Japan Mr. Takeshi Watanabe, president of the one-billion dollar bank in New Delhi today.

An auto-rickshaw driver today handed over to the police outpost at the New Delhi railway station a lady's purse containing Rs. 559 in cash and several gold ornaments weighing some nine tolas in all. There were no

entangled in a seven-cornered fight in Jhanjharpur. Here again the candidates of SSP, PSP, Jan Sangh and Swatantra party are seeking election besides two independents.

Mr. R. L. Singh Yadav, P.W.D. Minister, and the Information Minister, Mrs. Sumitra Devi, are contesting with seven and eight opponents in Patna South and Arrah constituencies respectively.

The Community Development Minister, Mr. S. K. Bage, has to face the nominees of the Swatantra and Jan Sangh and two independents in Kolebena constituency.

claimants till late this evening, the police said.

Jan 28 : What is known as an international conspiracy case involving 257 foreign exchange drafts, valued at Rs. 23,32,200, against 23 accused persons, commenced today before Mr. M. N. Das, judge, fifth additional special court, Calcutta.

Burning coal and boiling water were poured on a police party by women from the roof of a house at Gopalpur village in 24 Parganes district yesterday, when the police party had gone to the village to give protection to an Alipore court magistrate in the execution of a court order for taking possession of a building, it is reported.

The 53-day old strike by a section of U. P. Govt. employees was unconditionally called off at 10 a. m. today, according to a Govt. Press release tonight.

Jan 29 : King Zaher Shah of Afghanistan and the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi held talks at Rashtrapati Bhawan today, exchanging views on matters of common interest.

One person was killed when police opened fire to disperse an unruly crowd in Tral about 25 miles from Srinagar this afternoon.

Five West Pakistani top religious leaders were arrested today under the Defence of Pakistan Rules, reports from Karachi.

Jan 30 : Dancing girls are being engaged to boost the election campaign of former taluqdars and zamindars in U. P. reports from Lucknow. Dancing girls of Lucknow who had migrated to Bombay and Calcutta, are returning. They are being offered lucrative sums by candidates to work for them in the elections.

The Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture today announced an increase in the prices of Vanaspati with effect from Feb. next, it is learnt.

The Prime Minister today deplored the current spate of disturbances in election meeting in various parts of the country and said this tendency spelt a danger to the future of Indian democracy, when she was addressing a public meeting in the Ramlila grounds to observe the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi.

Police arrested today a house owner and his wife in south Calcutta for allegedly setting an Alsatian dog on a teen-aged boy. The boy pasted an election poster on the wall of their house and set the dog on him.

Jan 31 : Jagadguru Sri Shankasacharya of Puri broke his 73-day old fast at 3 p. m. today thus ending the current phase of the agitation through fasts demanding a total ban on slaughter of cow and its progeny, it is learnt.

PATNA DIARY

Jan. 27 : Mr. Jafar Imam Bihar Law Minister, this evening received a cut injury on his left eye-brow when his car as stoned by some anti-Congress elements, near the Patna Junction station here. The incident occurred when the Minister was returning from an election meeting which was addressed by the Congress President Mr. Kamaraj.

Two persons were killed and eight others were injured, one seriously, when a brick-laden truck skidded and turned turtle at Barhaiya near Monghyr on Tuesday last. The driver escaped unhurt.

Jan. 28 : With scrutiny and withdrawals over, 2013 candidates out of a total of 2700 are new left in the field in Bihar to contest 318 Assembly seats in the coming general elections.

Half a dozen persons were stabbed and injured, one seriously, in Bhawarpokhar locality in central Patna last evening by three drunkards who stood on the road with daggers in hand and started stabbing those who passed that way. The police managed however to overpower them with the help of the neighbours.

Jan. 29 : The search for underground sources of water by the geological survey of India in the drought-stricken Nawadah subdivision Gaya district has started showing results and one of its teams has already come across a perennial source of water at Barhia Sankh village at a depth of 135 feet, it is officially learnt. The water is being tested to find out whether it is fit for drinking purposes.

Mr. Rishi Bhattacharjee, secretary of the Communist Party of India (right) was killed and five others including Mr. Bhawani Sen secretary of the West Bengal State Council of the party were seriously injured in a car accident on Mahananda bridge in Purnea district late last night, reports from Purnea.

Jan. 30 : The final production of the 1966 katki lac crop in India is estimated at 6325 tonnes as against the preliminary estimate of 7170 tonnes, according to the report issued by the regional office lac, development, Ranchi.

Twenty-six persons died of smallpox in different parts of Champaran district between December 7, 1966 and Jan. 15, 1967, it is officially learnt. There were 79 seizures during the period.

The Bihar govt. has decided to close all offices, other than the Secretariat and its attached offices, and all revenue and magisterial courts in each district, from Feb. 15 to Feb. 21, 1967 on account of the general elections.

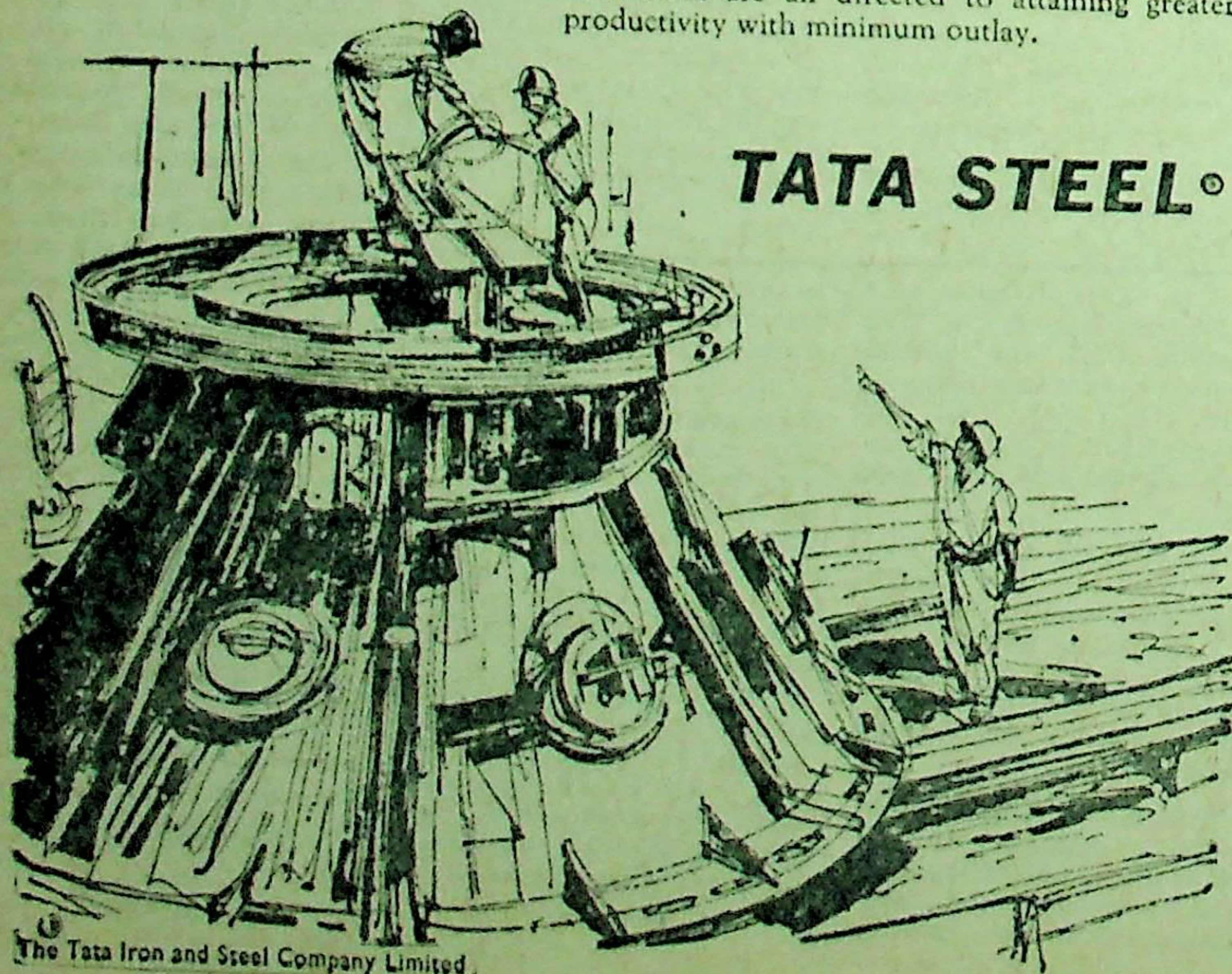
The Bihar govt. has promulgated the Bihar Essential Commodities — other than Foodgrains — Prices and Stocks (Display and Control) Order,

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