"We must break through the provincial crust if we are to reach the core of all-India Nationalism."

MAHATMA GANDHI

### THE

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PATNA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1940

TWO ANNAS

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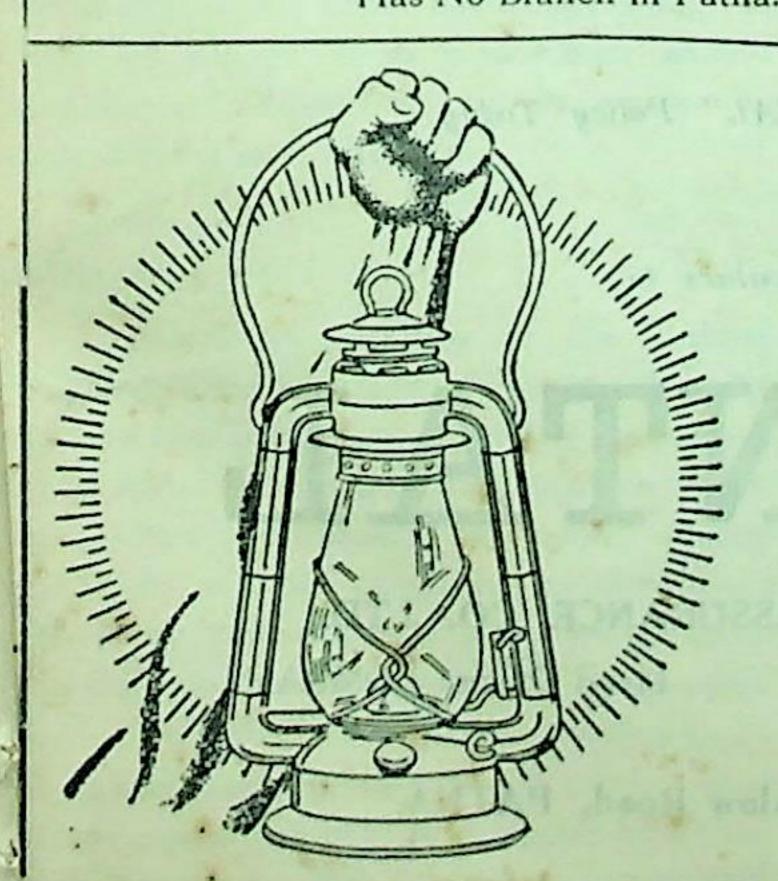
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#### Review

মুক্তির পথে ডারত (India on her road to Freedom) by Jogesh Chandra Bagal, with an Introduction by Sir P. C. Ray, Calcutta, S. K. Mitra & Sons, Pp—484; Rs. 2/8.

Nations, as well as individuals, have their moods of introspection, and the large number of books that have during recent years appeared on the genesis and progress of India's struggle for political freedom probably points to the fact that we have reached a stage when, before the next step is taken, a review of the past becomes very necessary, even imperative. The non-cooperation movement and its achievements during the last twenty years naturally loom so large in contemporary estimates that the efforts of the century preceding recede into the distance, and are in danger of being overlooked if not entirely forgotten. We therefore welcome the Bengali book which presents, in an eminently readable and concise form, the growth of national sentiment in India and its ultimate development as expressed in the demand for independence.

Mr. Bagal divides his book into two main sections, the pre-Congress age, (pp. 1-162) and the Congress age (pp. 163-484). Superficially considered, Mr. Bagal might appear to have paid greater attention to the Congress and its achievements, but to us, the earlier section is the more interesting one, as it seeks to explain the cultural background of the political movement or, to be more precise, the various forces which, from the beginning of the East India Company's rule, played on the Indian mind and created the urge for national self-expression. The introduction of English education, the impact of western ideas, and its natural rebound to a deeper study of Sanskrit, the Reform movements of Raja Ram Mohan Roy and their corollaries, the revivalist movements of Brahminic orthodoxy,-all these formed a ferment out of which, in course of time, were evolved the political aspirations of Educated India. Mr. Bagal's analysis of these is clear and convincing and shows an original and unpedantic mind, with a shrewd insight into the realities which lie behind historical phenomena.

The second section of the book begins with the founding of the Indian national Congress in 1885, which gathered, as into a focus, almost all the activities of the preceding 85 years. A generous, but just, tribute is paid to the pious memory of A. O. Hume, and to the patriarchs of the Congress; the gradual expansion of the Congress, and the change in its policy and methods are traced with clearness, knowledge and sympathy. How a movement which orginated with a handful of educated Indians and sympathetic Englishmen, gradually broadened till now it claims to be based on the people's will and how a polite request for more equality of representation in the public services and for a few crumbs of political liberty, came to swell into a full throated roar for 'complete Independence, as an assertion of a people's

"will to be free",—is a fascinating story, and Mr. Bagal tells it in an equally fascinating manner. His treatment of contemporary events, from the inception of the Non-Cooperation movement to the present, might, however, give occasion for honest difference of opinion, but he might well plead that the time is not yet for a dispassionate pers-

pective.

Mr. Bagal wields a facile pen and his language has a smooth unpretentious flow which heightens the charm of his book, and we can recommend it to our readers as a thought provoking and informative book, which is much more than a mere resume of events.

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## Through The X'Ray

By Politicus

#### Is India at war?

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which was debated for days in the Central capita income. But here in India there are Legislative Assembly. I wonder why there should have been so much of flutter over this question. Is'nt the fact patent enough? Hitler in person may yet be thousands of active service and also prospective. These miles away from the shores of India, but roll in wealth at one end of the pole at can there be any doubt that in spirit he has the other end of which lie steeped in poverty been brought here before everyone of us as a the millions of the poorest people of this menace to civilisation and to our own life country. Not always do these moneyed and property in this country? Thanks to men find the field of sound investment open Reuter, Indian newspapers have practically to them-investment that might fetch return ceased to be Indian and they tell you of in kind if not in cash. Not even all the nothing else than monstrous exploits of this ingenuity of Congress lawyers can disprove most monstrous of men. As you read the the fact that the surplus wealth of these the messages you almost hear the explosion people is rolling into the war fund. The of one of the Nazi bombers by your side. poor men, on the other hand, with their The Royal Bengal Tiger on the one side and traditional habit of worshipping the gods the giant general of the traditional defenders cannot help even now worshipping the of India on the other with the whole host of innumerable Godlings of the official world. the official army behind them, have been The Congressmen should not grudge if a going about telling people in even the part of these habitual offerings have also remotest village that the Nazi hordes are rolled into the same fund. Prudent busialready on their track to that particular nessmen who are wiser than Dr. Katju's wife, village against whom they should rise to a have also made their bargain to their man with every trinket at their disposal. advantage. It was foolish of Congressmen Unluckily for these invading hordes, our to have attempted to disprove all these facts villages as a rule are in perpetual black-out, on the credit side of India's war efforts. but the cities are being made dark periodi- After all, they possess no magic wand the cally to give us a foretaste of the impending very waving of which would blow into invasion. Not a voice can rise to say that nothing the barracks already filled with the India is not at war without being stifled that hungry youths of India out to accept any very moment. Every day the war fund jobs they could get. They went to disprove swells in volume with voluntary contribu- facts with arguments and votes and it tions, for any demonstration of the lack of necessarily turned into a wild goose chase. patriotism in this regard might bring in the fate that visited an U. P. ex-Minister's wife. The Defence of India Act is in operation every moment of the day marching off to prison the unbelievers who dare doubt the proposition of India being at war. I wonder why those tell-tale facts notwithstanding, so much of energy of so many men should have been allowed to run to waste to argue if India is at war or not.

#### Futile attempt

Assembly were demonstrably at great pains tion what they have been claiming to be dictum that the war draws out the best in intelligence. Really, it is an absurd task best in many of our men is coming out like friends would say to convince the jury.

they put themselves to. India is a poor Is India at war?-That is the question country-may be if you work out the per also the Princes, the Zamindars, the captains of industry and Government servants of three categories-retired, on They proved their proposition democratically! May be, but they forgot what Mr. Jinnah said on the floor of the Assemblydemocracy is dead! A TOTAL WITH THE WALL OF

#### Our spiritual resuscitation

Personally, I have not the least doubt that we are at war and in it, and this notwithstanding the vote in the Central Assembly. The march of Civic Guards, the crowds at the recruitment stations, the periodical black-outs, letters of officials The Congress members of the Central with an appeal straight to the heart provoking spontaneous contributions to the war to prove that India is not a willing belligerent fund—these have contributed the least to my in this war. After months of absence all of conviction that we are at war. I have been them from all parts of India rushed impressed most by the release which the war to Delhi at great personal inconvenience has effected of the tremendous amount of and there put their lungs to severe strain spiritual press in this country. Hitler and with this one end of proving to demonstra- Mussolini have familiarised us with the the truth in their resolutions. I admire their man. I have been convinced of India being enthusiasm but can't think highly of their right in the war because I find that the

torrents. Think of the speeches that were made in the Assembly in support of the Finance Member's motion. I do not think of the performances of the 'proud Imperialists" like Mr. Griffiths whose torrential eloquence boosted up the utterly unselfish stand of Britain in this war. I think of others-our Sir Homi Modys and Sir Cowasji Jahangirs who made such bitter attacks on the thoroughly unreasonable Congressmen. They said we should not bargain, we should not complain of our political servitude, we should not ask Britain question about her war aim but should rush out with all that we possess to prevent the defeat of Britain in this war. They asked all of us to be Sancho Panzas behind the knight taking it all for granted that the latter has rushed out to help the damsel in distress. Can any sentiment beat this in nobility? It is the passion completely to forget ourselves and make a sacrifice of ourselves in order that others may survive against barbarous Nazi hordes and this passion, mind you, has been awakened in our hearts-at least the hearts of the saner amongst us who hate to be duped by Congressmen. Could any other fact except our being at war effect this remarkable resuscitation of our spiritual self? Well, well, -let Congressmen say what they will. I am not prepared to admit that India is not at war.

#### Proved to the hilt

Even intellectual awakening in India has been the greatest in this year of the Lord, nineteen hundred and forty, and this too must be attributed to our being at war. Think of the remarkable contribution to the store of world's knowledge which Sir Ramaswani Mudaliar made in course of his speech in the Assembly on the Supplementary Finance Bill. Once upon a time he had studied law and practised at the bar. One should have thought that his preoccupation during the last few years with matters of trade, commerce and industry in his capacity as Commerce Member of Government of India had rusted his knowledge of law. But lo and behold! standing on the floor of the Legislative Assembly he said like one possessed that "when His Majesty's Government declared war all the Dominions were virtually bound by it." He was challenged, heckled and jeered at, but like a brave man that he is, he stuck to his point-so glowing was the conviction in his heart. Constitutional lawyers may have held that the British Dominions are free to decide their own · foreign policy : Canada, Australia and South Africa may have decided the question of participation in the war by votes in their respective Paliaments; the Dominion of Ireland might still have remained out of war, but Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar's thesis on constitutional law stands. What does it matter if it does not fit in with facts? Do not all truths clash with facts in the beginning? The thesis that the Dominions are bound by the decisions of His Majesty's Government is Sir Ramaswami's contribution—it is India's contribution-to the store of humanity's knowledge. The stimulation of intellect necessary for the realisation of such t uth could be effected by nothing else than our being at war. These are objective facts which even the whirlwind of individual civil disobedience cannot blow up. I am afraid that Congress leaders are out to establish an impossible proposition in terms of their pet resolution. India is certainly at war. The votes in the Assembly notwithstanding, the facts prove it to the hilt as my lawyer

## THIS INDIAON S. SA

By Mallinatha

#### Mr. Satyamurti rubs it in

Addressing the students of Lady Irwin College for women, Mr. Satyamurti said that no law can abolish the god-made difference between man and woman. - News report, Nov. 20.

Mankind has always been duly grateful to the creator for the difference.

#### Such is fame

"There are Hindi poets of repute in Bihar and the C. P. also, but they are generally ignored"-R. N. Khare, The Leader, Nov. 20.

Is is a sad fate to acquire reputation and yet remain unknown.

#### Saying an earful

"The world to-day is tired of violence and hatred"-Pandit G. B. Pant, Agra.

The first great War made it so tired that another one had to be begun soon.

#### Consolation for the Boses, Roy, Nariman and Khare

"Restraint and discipline will keep us united and strong and in the fulness of time will form the foundation of the freedom not only of this country but of the whole world" -Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, Chaupatti, Nov. 2.

The longer the list of people against whom disciplinary action is taken, the quicker will be the foundation of the freedom of the whole world laid.

#### New lamps for old

0

"Mahatma Gandhi is a Messiah"-Pandit G. B. Pant, Agra speech.

In the rising tide of Semitism, we must The realists prefer the Hebrew Messiah to the good old Hindu Avatara.

#### A house without walls

The Viceroy's address was frequently cheered by the House which was full, although among absentees were members of the Congress party and Mr. Jinnah.-News report, Nov. 19.

No House can ever be full in any sense without the Congress party and Mr. Jinnah.

#### Is zat so ?

. "We would love to be able to help in a struggle for British liberty"-Mr. Rajagolachariar, Madras, Nov. 21.

And the most effective way of rendering this help is to shout anti-war slogans.

#### Truth, the first casualty in war

"The only way of maintaining peace is

the way of the Congress"-The National Herald, Nov. 23.

As was shown recently in Malabar.

#### Teachers are thankful, even for small mercies

"Students of Lucknow observed a twominute silence in their class rooms at 1 P. M. on Monday, Nov. 25"-The National Herald, Nov. 26.

Must have been a pleasant surprise to the professors.

#### The sincerest form of flattery

"The present administration is unmistakably introducing political considerations in rural development"-Pandit Pant.

They are following in the good steps of their predecessors.

#### Every rule has its exceptions.

"Gandhi thinks all the twenty-four hours of the British people and how best to help them"-Mr. Mahadeva Desai at the All-India Editors' Conference.

"Nothing delighted me recently more than the report that Hitler's bombs had partialy destroyed the Law Courts of London."-Writer in the National Herald Nov. 26.

#### Setting up a high standard of chastity

"Bhave, Mahatmaji orginally wrote, was an astonishingly pure virgin who had never touched women"-Writer in the National Herald Nov. 26.

It is particularly meritorious for a virgin never to have touched a woman!

"The individual satyragraha launched by Mahatma Gandhi was characterised as unreal in a resolution adopted in the Punjab Students' Conference"-News report.

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We are not told what the Conference advised Mr. Gandhi to do.

#### Somewhat out of date

"We shall attain our freedom and rights through truth, non-violence, devotice and self-sacrifices preached by Mahatr Gandhi"-Srimati Subhadra Debi, Ujiai National Women's Conference.

The latest method of attaining freedon and rights is to shout slogans.

#### But there were others too

"Membership of the Congress Work ing Committee came to Pandit G. B. Pan as a tribute to his work as prime minister". The National Herald, Nov. 27.

Not really; it came as a reward for helping to turn Subhas Bose out of the Congress.

#### Where intellect is a handicap

"A man like B. G. Kher is worth ten battalions compared to all your so-called intellectuals in the world put together"--Th National Herald, Nov. 27.

To some, the strongest possible abus is to call one intellectual.

#### Not to be expected

"I am not delivering an anti-war speed -Jamnalal Bajaj.

How can he when the war is proving to be a veritable gold mine for his communit



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Behar Herald

Patna. Tuesday, December 3, 1940.

#### SOMEONE HAS BLUNDERED

The official answer to the demand for a national government at the centre had so far been a stereotyped formula. The country was disunited and so a national government was not possible, - that was the burden of the song. Mr. Amery however in his last speech in the Parliament struck new ground. "I must remind the House", said he, "that the resolution passed at Delhi on July 7, for which Congress representatives were responsible, not only asked for an unequivocal declaration of complete independence for India, but, as an immediate step, for a provisional national government at the centre which would be such as would command the confidence of all elected elements in the Central Legislature and in closest co-operation with responsible governments in the provinces. That means a ministry in fact under the same Congress executive that called out the ministers from the administration of the provinces which they would have been quite content to go on administering to this day."

It would be difficult to pick out from the speeches of any responsible politician a passage containing so many non-sequiturs as the concluding portion of the above extract from Mr. Amery's reply to the Parliamentary debate. The Central Legislature consists of two Houses, the Council of State and the Assembly. As constituted in 1921, the Upper House had sixty members, thirty-four of whom were elected. The Assembly had 143 members of whom 103 were elected. The separation of Burma has led to a small reduction of three or four members in each House. But since the Swaraj Party started contesting elections in 1924, the Congress as such has never had an absolute majority even of the elected seats in the Assembly not to speak of the Council o State where , the opposition has never been able to muster more than a dozen men. During the last fiftee.. years Government has been defeated in the Central Assembly several times, but such defeats were mostly on non-

official bills. In all these cases the defeats were possible, because the different parties in the Assembly did unite for the occasion. So far as our memory goes there have been only two or three occasions, when an important official measure or the Finance Bill was wholly thrown out. As constituted to-day forty-five out of the hundred elected members in the Central Assembly are Euro-Parsis: Muhammadans peans, members, not less of the remaining than fifteen are big Zemindars or represent commercial or other special interests. The Congress Party of course is the largest single party in the House, but its total number is less than forty. On these facts it was possible only for a politician to say that a national government responsible to the elected members would mean a Congress Ministry.

But supposing that a majority of the elected members did side with the Congress as they did on the voting of the supplementary Finance Bill-be it noted that the success of the opposition was due to the Muslim Leaguers' keeping neutral---where would be the harm? Deep harm, says Mr. Amery, seeing that it was the Congress party which called out the ministries from the provinces. Why did they call out the ministries? Simply because they felt that in the present danger there could be no national policy unless the entire administralines. If this demand were conceded, there would have ben no occasion for the Congress Ministries to go out of office.

Supposing again that on certain questions a national government differed with His Majesty's Government and did then go out of office, would the situation have been worse than it is to day? If His Majesty's Government can face the deadlock to-day with equanimity, they could have done so even then. But what a tremendous difference it would have made in moral values! His Majesty's Government then could convince everyone that they did their level best to bring National India into the line. On the other hand, as the experience of provincial governors who presided over the administration of provinces by Congress ministries testifies, the chances are that the bogey of a future deadlock may not have materialised at all, and in office a national government would have shown the same sense of responsibility, the same appreciation of realities and the same willingness for cooperation with officials as was evinced by the Congress ministries in the provinces.

#### GOING OFF THE RAILS

There is a heterogeneous and ill-defined group in the country labelled as "students". The nomenclature is naturally vague as little official resolutions or minor amendments to boys in primary schools, budding lawyers

and students of human nature can all lay claim to belong to this group. Many a battle oral has raged in the past in front of the cinema booking offices when it was customary to allow half rates to students. This valued privilege has now been withdrawn and the status of student does not carry with it any special privilege to-day. Our political leaders merely tickle the vanity of the "students" by calling them "the future hopes of the country", or if they are in an expansive mood they would not hesitate to call them leven "the future rulers of the country". But when these prospective "hopes" and "rulers" try to think for themselves or do anything that does not quite fit in with the programme of the politicians, the "students" are roundly damned both by the politicians and their organs for having overstepped their normal privilege of shouting somebody-or-other-ki-jai meetings, processions or railway platforms. Like women, the "students" are regarded as angels of light so long as they are subservient but as soon as they try to go beyond the roped enclosure set apart for them, they are labelled as fiends incarnate.

Naturally all this is very confusing to the "students" and one need not be surprised if they occasionally resented this "hot and cold" attitude of the "leaders". The latter would instigate the students to tion from top to bottom were run on national violate rules of discipline in educational institutions (golam khanas), pat them on the back when there is a strike against the authorities (calling it a satyagraha) but hold up their hands in holy horror when they find themselves in the position of Frankenstein. They lend an all-too-willing ear to the grievances of the students so long as these are against duly constituted authorities but find no stick good enough to teach them a lesson when the supposed grievances spring from their own infallibility.

> Emotional conflict is not good for the mental health of any one and it is most harmful for an immature and emotional group like the students- Adults are easily reconciled to kaleidoscopic changes as their loyalty is often to the office or the chair, not to the individual. When a beloved Prince sinks down to the level of an ordinary man overnight, few mature persons go into hysterics and fewer do reverence to a man who sacrifices a throne for a principle. It is only adult politicians who can take the elected President of a National Congress in a procession of fifty-two elephants to a pandal where he is politely told that he is no longer wanted, and when he resigns, men of discretion shake their heads and drop him like a hot potato. The authorities of educational institutions, staid and sober people all, may one day put on their best khaddar and ask their boys to muster all their enthusiasm to give a rousing recep-

of which effect be must their them balance. throw world who have to do so in their affairs may wax indignant over the outbursts of youth when subjected to acute emotional conflicts of this kind; they may think of drastic measures of correction, but a little thought will convince anyone that the impetuous reactions of youth to the contrary forces pulling them are perfectly natural and that the malady of which these reactions are symptoms cannot be cured with a club.

### Notes & Comments

Philosopher's stone cum elixir of life

Inaugurating the Adult Education Conference at Lahore on Nov. 16, Khan Bahadur Mian Afzal Hussain, Vice-Chancellor of the Punjab University said (The Tribune, Nov. 21): "Adult education would not only release the people from the iron bonds of ignorance, superstition and prejumost of our ills, social, economic and political".

It is a pity that the magic possibilities of adult education should be discovered so late, after so much money and time have been spent on systems of primary, secondary and University education. In spite of the provision of these latter for so many decades, the people continue to be in the grip of superstition and prejudice; social, economic and political ills show no tendency to disappear. In view of the recent discovery of the great potentialities of adult education in remoulding human nature, it is a matter for serious consideration if it would not be desirable to close all educational institutions in the country, to let the children grow up to adulthood in illiteracy and then subject them to a short course of adult education.

#### An awkward situation

The prospects for the coming annual session of the Congress in the Punjab seem minorities and officials who are all agog for to be poor. No choice has yet been made co-operating with one another but whose of a suitable site. It appears that the Punjab Congress Committee took upon itself a heavy responsibility when at Ramgarh it invited

day, all in plush, they expect the same boys to with domestic dissensions, lately accen- points out, if Congress contributed to the regard the idol of the day before as an outcast tuated by a sharp division of opinion on the deadlock, an "equally large, if not larger scarcely fit to be touched with a pair of issue of non-violence in so far as it militated contribution has been rendered by the tongs. All this, as we have said, is against recruitment to the army, there is Muslim League". On this aspect of the possible for men ripe in worldly wisdom, very little enthuasism in the Punjab Congress question Mr. Amery naturally maintained a but all this puts the loyalty of youth to a ranks about the annual show. It is not discreet silence in his speeches in the last severe strain. Adolescent human nature surprising that donors of contributions too Parliamentary debate on India. thrives on idols; to ask adolescents to have disappeared in the wake of the Con- The answer

#### Defence of University regulation

Events bring forth men and measures: incidents bring forth instruments and expedients. A grouse from a disgruntled graduate almost sent out grave and reverend Senators into warring camps and a distinguished Congressman who still continues to be the Advocate Ceneral was commissioned by the Syndicate to request the Senate to permit him to forge fetters, fresh and new, to keep the colts between the shafts. (The hashed metaphors merely illustrate the reality). The eternally vigilant, who paid a price for liberty, were discreetly silent, probably because of the people who are more eternally vigilant, and it appeared as if the University Vulcans would really chain Prometheus to the rock and the eagle was also wheeling aloft in the offing. Out of one thing however cometh something else, and our sedate Senators showed sound commonsense in agreeing to entrust the question to a committee which, as it concerned students, dice, but would also be the remedy for could not possibly have a decent proportion of their 'natural enemies'—the teachers. Anyway, we are glad that it has been thus smoothed over, but we cannot help thinking of a wise saying of Bacon's: "It is a strange desire which men have, to seek powers and lose liberty".

#### What about Pakistan?

Sir Nripendra Nath Sarkar is one of those very few Indian leaders who realized the mischief inherent in the Communal Decision the day it was announced. His brave attempts to have it reconsidered met with failure because neither Congress India nor the so-called Liberal party backed him. It is no wonder therefore that he is the first Indian to point out the disingenuity of Mr. Amery's speech in the House of Commons in which all the blame for the deadlock in India was laid on the Congress. The picture that Mr. Amery presented to his audience was that of a happy family of efforts are being frustrated by the common enemy, namely, the Congress. As everybody in India knows, such a picture is a

tion to a Prime Minister, and yet the next the Congress to meet in their province. Torn travesty of the truth. As Sir Nripendra Nath

change their idols with every moon is to gress withdrawa! from office. One can sym- But Mr. Amery made ample amends them to violent swerves the pathise with Mian Iftikhar-ud-din, the chief for his omission to put before the Parliament to of the Punjab Congress, who finds to his the reasonableness or otherwise of the dismay that the press and the public are not Muslim League's demands. At a luncheon The loyalty of youth revolts against co-operating with him in honouring the of the English-speaking Union held at the idea of crying 'Hosannah' one day and invitation to the Congress to hold its next London soon after, Mr. Amery fairly let shouting 'Crucify' the very next. Men of the annual session in the Punjab. himself go. "We naturally ask", said Mr Amery, "what is wrong with the constitution so carefully devised during all the discussions preceding the Act of 1935." And he went on to suggest the possible ways in which the defects of the Act may be remedied. "May be," said he, "the fears of the Muslims might be largely met by a further increase in the powers of the provinces, possibly re-arranged and re-grouped, subject only to a minimum central control necessary to secure some measure of unity on foreign, defensive, and economic policy. A change in that direction would no doubt also largely meet the hesitations of the Princes. It would still of course involve some Central Executive, some Central Legislature empowered to vote and levy the necessary expense. May be some other form of representation, for example, functional representation such as has already been tentatively established in some Indian States, might greatly help to get over the communal difficulty."

Here you have the whole Pakistan idea and the Osmania scheme of representation cut and dry. Sir Nripendra Sirkar seems to think that what Mr. Amery suggests must go against Mr. Jinnah's dream of Muslims being a law unto themselves and lording it over the rest. For our part the whole idea seems to carry communal and functional differences to the nth degree and to jettison national democracy once for all.

#### Laissez faire in religion

Needs must, when the Devil drives, so runs a homely old English proverb. The Englishman has never made a fetish of religion unless there is a solid political reason for doing so. England threw off the yoke of the Popes more for temporal than for spiritual necessity. So long as there was any danger from countries following different religious denominations, abandonment of the English Church for such denominations was apostasy and punishable as an offence. Public worship other than in conformity with the established Church was proscribed. It was only after the fall of Napoleon when England's supremacy was secure that the voice of liberalism was

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raised, ultimately leading to the Catholic Emancipation Bill of 1829. The heresy laws still remain on the Statute Book though they have become obsolete. In London today there are places of worship for all denominations, built by their followers. The Roman Catholics in England today number over two millions. There are more Jews in London than there are in Palestine and more Scots than there are in Aberdeen. All these communities have their own places of worship. But the State has contributed not a farthing either to their establishment or their maintenance.

#### Protection when necessary

The Muslim community in London has been growing in number not only because of the increase of visitors, students or businessmen from overseas, but also of the conversion to Islam of a number of Englishmen. It has now a mosque at Woking, one of the suburbs of London. The recent announcement that His Majesty's Government are going to contribute £100,000 for the mosque need not have surprised the member of Parliament who asked whether there was a precedent for such a grant. The diplomacy of English politicians has failed to secure for them the friendship of most of the Christian countries of Europe. Their hopes are now pinned on the Muslim States of the near East and in Pakistan. In India, Islam is now the only religion recognised by Government, for the adherents of which certain jobs and offices must be reserved. English politicians have always been realists and were such a step necessary to save the Empire, there would be many to support the idea of the head of the State being given the Caliphate in addition to his being the Defender of the Faith. Italy has started the same game in Syria, and we daresay in her turn would not hesitate to establish a Caliphate at Rome were such a measure calculated in the her paramountcy Mediterranean and the Islamic States beyond.

#### A Correction

The correct title of the book reviewed (India in quest of Freedom).

## The Pageant of Indian Politics

By Monitor

Individual Civil Disobedience has been in full swing during the last one week. Many prominent Congress leaders have been arrested and more are on their way to jail. Those already arrested include Sardar Vallabbhai Patel, Mr. Brijlal Biyani, President Vidharbha P.C.C., Dr. T.S.S. Rajan, ex-Minister Madras, Mr. Morarji Desai, ex-Minister Bombay, Mr. B.G. Kher, ex-Premier, Bombay, Pandit Ravishanker Shukla, ex-Premier, C. P., Pandit Dwarka Prasad Mishra, ex-Minister, C. P., Mr. S. V. Gokhale, ex-Minister, C. P., Mr. C. J. Bharukha, ex-Minister, C. P., Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipati, Deputy Speaker, Madras Assembly, Mr. L. M. Patil, ex-Minister, Bombay, Miss Maniben Patel, Pandit G. B. Pant, ex-Premier, U. P., Mr. T. Prakasam, ex-Minister, Madras, Dr. K. N. Katju, ex-Minister, U. P., Mrs. Purnima Banerjee, Mr. Srikrishna Sinha, ex-Premier, Bihar, Mr. G. V. Marlankar, Speaker Bombay Assembly and Mr. B. Gopal Reddy, ex-Minister, Bombay. Some of them have been detained without trial but the majority of them have been tried and convicted under the Defence of India Rules.

Mahatma Gandhi who is personally conducting the movement, has issued no statement himself explaining the scope of the present movement. But from reports some of which seem to contradict each other, it appears that while many more Congressmen will court arrest, the individual character of the movement will be strictly maintained. Mr. Surendra Mohan Ghosh, President of the official Bengal Provincial Congress Committee who had an interview with Mahatma Gandhi, has explained in a statement that "it is not Mahatmaji's idea on p. 2 of this issue is মুক্তির সন্ধানে ভারত this time to fill up the jail" but that "Gan- performance and even offensive. For one

movement." The view that the movement will gather momentum as it proceeds, is supported by a statement issued by Dr. Rajendra Prasad who has given the hint that the next Congress session may not be held at all and that "the history of 1930 may be repeated." A broad hint has fallen also from the lips of Mahatma Gandhi who has warned those who expect a "speedy settlement" not to go to jail. The view is further supported by the statement made by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad who characterised the next session of the Congress as a "minor issue" compared to the movement that is now on. On the basis of the available data it seems reasonable to anticipate that whether the movement assumes mass character or not it will go on for some time to the embarrassment of the Government as well as to the detriment of the normal life in . the country. The commercial interests seem already perturbed and the Indian Merchants Chamber of Bombay is reported to have decided to make an appeal to the Viceroy requesting His Excellency to emphasise on His Majesty's Government the urgent necessity of coming to an amicable settlement with nationalist India, Perplexity is visible in the political circles also. Sir Jagadish Prasad, an ex-member of the Governor-General's Executive Council has publicly appealed both to Government and the Congress to explore fresh avenues of of settlement.

For the moment, however, the British Government appear to be in no mood to compromise. Mr. Amery's latest speech in interpreted in Parliament has been political circles in India as a reactionary dhiji sees vast possibilities in the present thing, he has made insulting remarks on

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Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and other Congress leaders who, Mr. Amery has said, will find "ample leisure in jail to study and carry on correspondence". For another, he has, as is held in this country, misrepresented the case of the Congress by attributing to it the attitude of "all or nothing" and also chafging it with irresponsibility and the desire to dominate all other communities and parties in India. Finally, Mr. Amery, in another speech, has thrown out the suggestion that democracy might be made workable in India by conceding more powers to the provinces which might be rearranged and regrouped for this purpose. This, it is interpreted, is intended further to placate Mr. Jinnah and amounts to conceding substantially the League demand for Pakistan. On the whole, Mr. Amery's speech has created a bad impression in this country and even Sir Jagadish Prasad has been constrained to observe that "the Secretary of States' recent utterances have done little to ease the situation".

While the old insistence on agreement among the communities as condition precedent to the constitutional advance of India has been repeated by the Secretary of State, Mr. Jinnah on his part, has been repeating his demand for Pakistan. In his speech on the Finance Bill in the Assembly he said that Muslims would stop short at nothing less than Pakistan. An even more

Challenging speech was made by him at a Muslim Students' Conference at Delhi at which he repeated all the old charges against the Congress and, in addition, held out the threat that if the Hindus even now did not concede one-third of India to the Muslims in terms of the League demand for Pakistan, they might not get even the rest after some time more. Coming close upon Mr. Amery's speech in Parliament, Mr. Jinnah's speech at Delhi is viewed as a symptom of the encouragement he has received from the latest attitude of the British Government.

On the whole, political India presents a puzzling picture. The Vicerory as well as the Secretary of State supported by Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan and a host of others have been claiming on on the basis of figures of collection for the war fund and recruitment in the army, that India has been actively co-operating with the war efforts of the Government. On the other hand, ex-Ministers of provinces supported by Congressmen representing large constituencies are being put in prison for their anti-war activities. Whatever other purpose the arrests which have recently been made may or may not have served, these have conveyed the impression to the outside world that persons representing at least seven provinces of India -seven provincial governments as they have been described in some quarters-are not with the British Government in the war. The rejection of the Finance Bill by the Assembly has lent additional strength to this interpretation.

In one respect the Congress policy presents a curious self-contradiction. The Congress it is well-known, has brought about the suspension of the constitution in seven provinces. The Congress members have

have boycotted the Central Assembly. In the League-governed provinces, too, Congress members of the Legislature have been asked to come out to join the Satyagraha move. ment. The idea is not to detract the attention of the country from the Satyagraha move. ment by parliamentary activities. But in Sind the Congress has adopted an altogether different policy. The Ministry of Sind had been in a dangerously unstable state because of the prevailing state of lawlessness in that province. The Congress President paid a visit to that province and instead of asking Congress members of the Assembly to turn the Ministry out of office and invite suspension of the Constitution, he took the initiative in ushering in, with the support of Congress members, a sort of new Ministry in Sind largely free from the League influence. In order that the reshuffiled Ministry may be stable and work smoothly, Maulana Azad has asked Congress members of Sind Assembly not to come out nor join the individual Satyagraha movement. This is defended on the ground that the situation in Sind demands differential treatment.

In Bengal the Hindu Mahasabha, however, has demanded the suspension of the
Constitution on the ground of alleged failure
of the Bengal Ministry to protect the Hindus
of that province. The B. P. Hindu Mahasabha has undertaken to bring out a chargesheet against the Bengal Ministry on the
line of the Pirpur report of the Muslim
League against the Congress Ministries.

The latest political sensation has been provided in Bengal by the hunger strike of some detenus and political prisoners in the Presidency Jail, Calcutta, including, it is believed Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose who are said to have taken recourse to this step to secure better treatment for political prisoners in Bengal.

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## An Economic Miscellany

By Economicus

#### War and the Indian Railways

The war is putting a great strain on the Indian railways. Capital expenditure on the railways has been seriously curtailed since the war broke out. The railway plant is undergoing no expansion. The freightcarrying equipment is fast becoming inadequate. Some lines have been dismantled. Demands for railway transport are increasing. There is the growing necessity of carrying increasing amounts of munitions, war materials and soldiers. As the war has stimulated industrial expansion, railway traffic is bound to grow for this reason only. The ever-present danger of the interruption of Coastal shipping may also throw additional burdens on the railways. Mr. C. A. Muirhead, General Manager of the South Indian Railway, placed on record at the Indian Railways Conference a word of caution against too parsimonious a policy in the matter of capital expenditure. A rigid

enforcement of the restriction on capital expenditure, he observed, "would seriously handicap the railways in their efforts to keep abreast of the industrial development of the country. Conversely, I would say, the industrial expansion of the country will be impeded if adequate railway facilities are not provided for it is a well-known fact that industries have followed transport facilities. It would be nothing short of a catastrophe if the railways were found unprepared and therefore unable to deal with the situation."

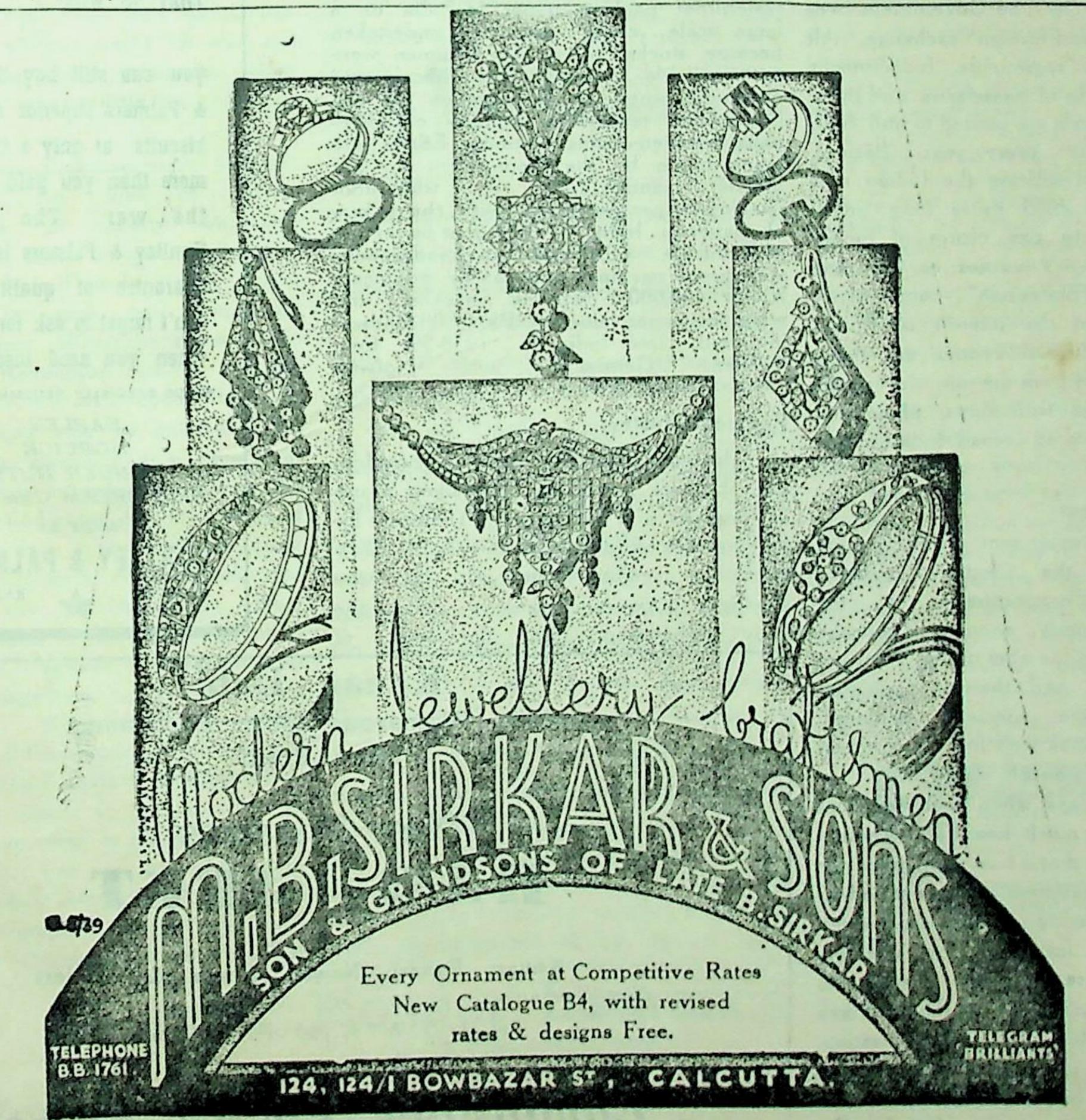
Depletion of staff is another handicap on the railways. A large personnel have been released for military service. Not only have many railwaymen joined the colours but the services of many skilled railway employees have been requisitioned for war purposes. Railway workshops are largely working to supply war needs. While the railways are justly proud of their war effort,

the danger of keeping the railways understaffed, underequipped and out of repair should not be ignored by the Government.

A good deal of expectations were formed in the country on the publication of the Humphries - Srinivasan Report on the manufacture of broad-gauge locomotives in India. The work begun on the scheme has come to a stop owing to the imperious necessities of the war. Only the manufacture of metre-gauge locomotives is being persevered with at Ajmere. The present situation is this. The demand for locomotives is accumulating and will grow ever more urgent as time passes. At the end of the war, this demand will be so pressing and voluminous that it may serve as a good reason for ordering locomotives abroad. Something like this took place during the Great War and may happen again. This is the apprehension in the Indian public mind.

#### Gas To Drive Motor Cars

Owing to the rise in the price of petrol and motor vehicles, motor transport is becoming a costlier business. In South India, many road motor vehicles are being fitted with producer-gas plant to avoid the use of



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The working costs are low compared with public criticism half-way by appointing a petrol-driven vehicles. The gas plant is a joint standing committee of the Central separate fitting and in case of failure, the Legislature to watch the working of the vehicle can still be run on petrol. The Department of Supply. But the real South is to be congratulated on its resource- remedy, the organic association of the fulness in such an important matter as the Indian Chambers of Commerce with the economy of petrol fuel.

Cold Douche on Ship-Building Industry

The Scindia Steam Navigation Company under the inspiring leadership of Mr. Walchand Hirachand recently prepared a scheme for starting a ship-building industry at Vizagapatam. Timber fit for ship-building is found in abundance in forests along the Bengal and Madras coasts. The Scindia Company asked the British Government to supply it with ship-building machinery and in return promised to hand over the control of the projected ship-building yard entirely to the Government during the duration of the war. But the British Government have notified the Scindia Company that they are unable to supply ship-building machinery to the Company. It is doubtful how far the Company is in a position to order shipbuilding plant from America in view of the control exercised by the Government over the import trade and foreign exchange. All this is extremely regrettable. India needs ships. Thirty lakhs of passengers and thirty million tons of goods are carried to and from the Indian shores every year. Besides, there is the duty of policing the Indian seas and guarding the 4000 miles long coastline. India has to pay crores of rupees every year to foreign countries as shipping charges. As the "Statesman" courageously points out, it is to the interest of Britain that when her industrial centres are being constantly attacked from the air, the plants for supplying her with ships, planes and tanks should be located abroad. India is one such place.

#### Supply Department

under the fire of the Central Legislative are in Assembly. The Europeanisation of the electrical goods industries Department (curiously enough, it is in the army department. Not the least charge of an Indian member of the Viceroy's Executive Council) and the fancy salaries paid to its staff were specially deplored. Surely it does not look well for Government servants to draw princely sums from the Treasury in these days when war sacrifices are being so much heard of. Another charge against it is that it has supplanted the Indian Stores Department and reversed its policy of encouraging Indian industries. One noticeable feature of the Assembly debate was a sincere expression of sympathy by Mr. J. H. S. Richardson of the European Group with the demand for Indianisation. It appears that in respect of appointing Europeans, the Indian Members of the Aiceroy's Council are more royalist than the

petrol. The fuel used is ordinary charcoal. King. The Government have tried to meet Department, is still lacking.

#### Defence Loans

Subscriptions to the 3 per cent. Defence Bonds for the week ending October 26, 1940, amounted to Rs. 62,44,000. The total amount subscribed to Interest Free Defence Ponds up to October 26,1940, was Rs. 2,16,87,000; to the 3 per cent. Defence Bonds Rs. 27,06.54,000 (Rs. 13,61,88,000) in cash and Rs. 13,44.66,000 in conversions); and to the Post Office Ten-year Defence Savings Certificates, Rs. 1,23,49,000. The grand total of subscriptions to all Indian Defence Loans up to October 26,1940, is Rs. 30,46,90,000.

#### Manufacture of Packing Paper

About 3,400,000 yards of waterproof packing paper is now being manufactured in India by several firms of Madras. and Calcutta. Samples of waterproof packing paper submitted by several other firms have also been approved by the Department of Supply. On the outbreak of war, the manufacture of waterproof packing paper in India on a large scale could not be undertaken because stocks of suitable bitumen were not available in India. The difficulty was overcome when an investigation by the Department resulted in supplies of indigenous bitumen being found. Efforts are being made by the Department to put manufacturers of waterproof packing paper in touch with the makers of paper in India, in order that by the use of suitable substitutes an indegenous waterproof packing paper can be produced. About 400,000 cwt. of packing and wrapping paper valued at Rs. 67.00,000 was imported into India in 1938-39 from Germany and Norway (Indian Information).

#### Enamel Industry

The enamel industry has great possibilities. Enamel goods are extensively in use in hospitals and post-offices. Their use for The Supply Department recently came the purposes of publicity is universal. They demand great

its uses is in the manufacture of household utensils. Ninety per cent. of Indian enamelware is produced in Bengal. There are also factories in Bombay, Madras, Delhi and Gwalior. The raw materials for the industry are quartz, felspar, borax, soda, potash of nitrate, sodium nitrate, caolin, cryolite, tin, cobalt etc. Power may be supplied by either coal or electricity. Coal is as eleap in Bihar as in Bengal and the chemicals and other ingredients are available in the former province at not much greater cost. The local market in Bihar for enamelware is quite large. A small-sized factory is estimated to require a capital of Rs. 7 lakhs.

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## Raja Ram Mohan Roy

By Satya Bhushan Sen

lower animals when he rose above his instinct of self preservation and care for the progeny and began to look farther afield. He started with a feeling of sociability and a sense of aesthetics and also a sense of ethics. The sense of sociability culminated in the modern internationalism; his sense of ethics led him on to formulate systems of philosophy and religious and scriptural instructions; and his sense of aesthetics resulted in the various systems of art and art treasures of the world. The measured by the standard of development along these lines. As in the case of collective humanity so also in the case of an individual his personality may be appraised in the light of these, standards. Considered from all these, Raja Ram Mohan Roy was indéed a man amongst men.

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Ram Mohan Roy was born in Bengal, lived in India, went to England and died in Bristol; and as if in unison with the course of his life in the physical world he was out and out a cosmopolitan at an age when cosmopolitanism was so little thought of or understood.

Another essential characteristic inherent love of liberty his was liberty was also of and this love tinged with his sense of cosmopolitanism. He earnestly desired liberty to be served and restored to each and everybody without distinction. When the news of the latest French Revolution reached Calcutta Ram Mohan Roy, it is said, could think or talk of nothing else-so great was his enthusiasm; he viewed it as a triumph of liberty and rejoiced accordingly. When the intelligence reached India that the people of Naples after extorting a constitution from their despotic king, were crushed back into servitude by the Austrian troops, Ram Mohan Roy felt it so keenly that owing to his feeling of despair he cancelled an for the day, important engagement August 11, 1821. When the news of the establishment of Constitutional Government in Spain reached India Ram Mohan Roy gave a public dinner at the Town Hall of Calcutta to give vent to his feelings of joy and enthusiasm. Let not these be considered as attempts at internationalism on the part of Ram Mohan Roy. No, it was not a pose or gesture; his broad heart throbbed

Man differentiated himself from the with sympathy for all mankind and he gave vent to his feelings and enthusiasm because he could not contain himself.

We find a sense of internationalism already developed in him when he started his life's career as a religious reformer. His sincere bias for religious truth and his earnest attempt to identify his feeling of kingship with every religious belief led him to the study of and acquiring knowledge in Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Hebrew and Greek progress of human civilisation may be with a view to get enlightenment at first hand from the religious scriptures of the Hindus, the Muhammadans and the Christians. Out of his comparative studies he evolved a religion of his own which was that of pure theism and above all he believed in the organic unity of all faiths. His sincerety in this belief impelled him and he actually launched upon a campaign of controversies with the representative leaders and thinkers of the different religions; his idea was to purge out the dross and scum from the religious beliefs and religious practices of the Hindus, the Muhammadans and the Christians alike. It is therefore truly said that Ram Mohan Roy was above all and beneath all a religious personality; and this is also why so much is made of the driving power of his intense theistic passion.

> But the loving heart of this great cosmopolitan and his passion for religion could not envelope his mighty mind or cloud his vision. His whole life was a series of active engagements in campaigns against numerous and influential odds for the social, educational, political and economic uplift of the people. Ram Mohan Roy espoused the cause of women in India at an age when even in the West a woman was no more than a mere woman and long before Tennyson declared:

> "A woman's cause is man's; they rise or sink together-dwarfed or god-like, bound or free." He attempted to secure political rights for the people of his country when

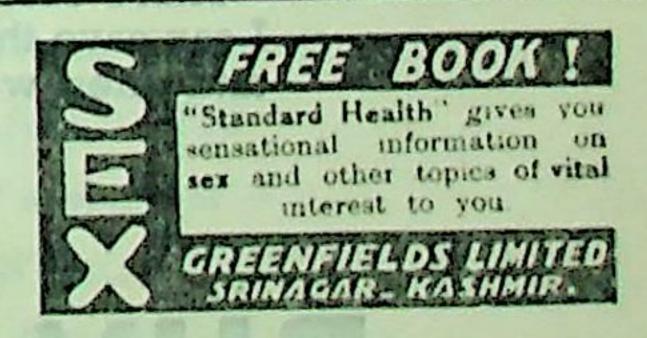
political consciousness was a think unknown in India and certainly long before the Indian National Congress was even thought of. The history of his sustained efforts for social educational and religious reform would be a long list to recount. In short the efforts of Raja Ram Mohan Roy for the good of the people embraced such a wide range of subjects that no social, educational or political problems from the view point of the Indian nation have yet appeared which were not touched by the mighty intellect and the great soul of this singular man of a century

Ram Mohan Roy was a cosmopolitan in the sense that he exerted the force of his genius in all the different spheres of human activity and he was a cosmopolitan in the stricter sense that he exerted his influence for the interest of all nations. He came and lived at a time when the idea of internationalism had not fully developed when an intermingling between the East and the West had just begun. It was the genius of Ram Mohan Roy who bore the brunt of it all when the impact from the West reached India and it was he again who was India's first ambassador to the West carrying to them the best fruits of India's cultural heritage.

Ram Mohan Roy is very well known as the first great originator of the comparative study of religion. It might also be said with equal truth that it was he more than anybody else who assimilated the idea of man as an organic and a synthetic whole and gave expression to it in his life. If any one man were needed to represent all mankind there was hardly anybody in the world at that age who could outrival Ram Mohan Roy.

We cannot give a better synthetic estimate of the personality of this great man than by quoting in conclusion from Miss Collet, one of his best biographers.

"Ram Mohan Roy stands in history as the living bridge over which India marches from her unmeasured past to her incalculable future. He was the arch which spanned the gulf that yawned between ancient custom and modern humanity, between superstition and science, between despotism and democracy, between immobile custom and a conservative progress, between a bewildering Polytheism and a pure, if vague, Theism. He was the mediator of his



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people, harmonising in his own person, often by means of his own solitary sufferings, the conflicting tendencies of immemorial tradition and of inevitable enlightenment.

"He embodies the new spirit which arises from the compulsory mixture of races and faiths and civilisations-he embodies its freedom of enquiry, its thirst for science, its large human sympathy, .ts pure and sifted ethics, along with its reverent but not uncritical regard for the past, and prudent,

even timid, disinclination towards revolt.

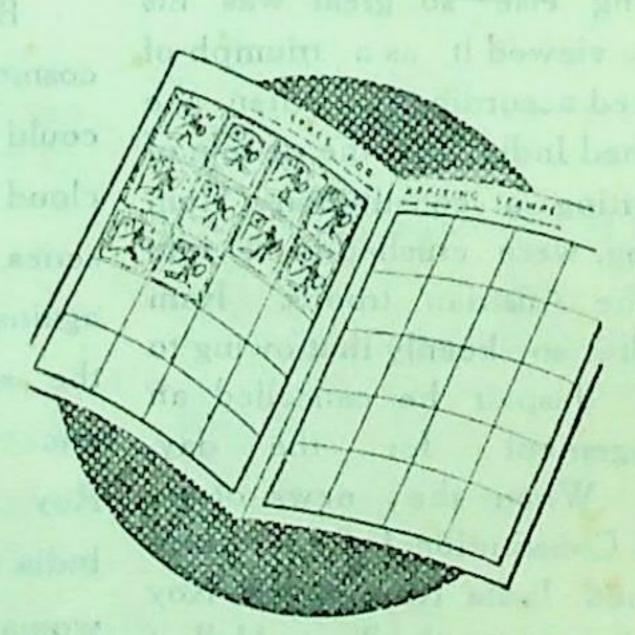
"If we follow the right line of his development we shall find that he leads the way from the Orientalism of the past, not to, but through Western culture, towards a civilisation which is neither Western nor Eastern, but something vastly larger than both.

"There can be little doubt that whatever future the destinies may have in store for India, that future will be largely shaped by the life and work of Ram Mohan Roy. And

not the future of India alone. We stand on the eve of an unprecedented intermingling of East and West. The European and Asiatic streams of human development which have often tinged each other before are now approaching a confluence which bids fair to form the one ocean-river of the collective progress of mankind. The maring dawn of these unmeasured possibilities only throws into clearer prominence the figure of the man whose life story we have told."



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Advertising in Bihar - 3

## The Potentiality of Bihar Market

By Prof. K. S. Samanta, M. A.

Dr. Bowley and Mr. Robertson regretted the paucity of statistical information regarding different aspects of Indian life. Statistics, here being the byproduct of administrative activity, are neither systematic nor arranged in an accessible form. Hence great difficulty has to be faced in portraying the true picture of our province. Moreover the importance of this province is to a great extent overshadowed by the presence of the commercial capital of India near her and also the mother province from whom she had been separated. Owing to these and also due to unusual modesty of our province in not blowing her trumpet she has not been able to attract the attention, which is due to her. Recently it seems that we have been alive to this and a systematic attempt has begun.

Bihar of 1940 is different from the Bihar of 1901 or 1911. The statistics of traffic at the Patna Junction give a clear evidence on this point. Traffic results by 1911 had improved to the extent of an additional 164000 passengers and 8500 tons of goods over the traffic handled in 1901. The figures of 1938-39 as compared with the year of 1911 show another large increase in business to the extent of over 674000 passengers and about 76500 tons of goods. The volume of traffic handled in 1911 afforded a daily average of 3000 passengers and 60 tons of goods; to-day the averages have grown to 5000 passengers and 290 tons of goods per diem. Rate of growth is really amazing. This supplies an index of the development of the economic activity of our province.

The fairs or melas, though they are held in connection with religious festivals and on religious sites, are a living monument to the practical wisdom of Indians. Such a grand synthesis of religion and economics is found nowhere in the world. These fairs also serve as index to the rural economy of Bihar. 87 fairs are held annually in different districts of Bihar in each of which more than 10,000 persons attend; besides these there are a large number of smaller fairs. People from different parts of the country flock to these melas and as such they are very important from the standpoint of rural publicity; they are also ideal spots for the advertisers to display, to display their hoardings, to distribute handbills, because exceptionally large crowds can be reached at comparative cheap costs and labour. As regards the fairs attracting over 50,000 people each time during the year Bihar occupies the first place.

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The attendance in the melas has also increased as compared with that of 1907. From the Bengal District Gazetteers, Patna, by L.S.S. O' Mally Esq. I. C. S. we find the following figures.

Name	Place	Attendance	
		1907	Now
Rajgir fair	Rajgir	50,000	100,000
Chath	Ongari	30,000	30,000
Pind	Punpun	13,000	25,000
Chiraga	Bihar	10,000	15,000
Sheoratri	Barkantpur	10,000	15,000.
As regar	ds the numb	er of melas	attract-

ing over 100,000 Bihar occupies the second place having 6 only, U. P. tops the list with 10, while Bengal has only 3 such melas.

Even then, Bihar can boast of the Sonepur Fairs, the biggest in India, and one of the biggest in the World.

From a study of low government expenditure, we arrive at a hasty conclusion that her position regarding income is not favourable. Thereby we under-estimate the amount of income accruing in this province. From the examination of the statistics of income assessed in Bihar we find that Bihar's position is not so very bad. She is distinctly better than C. P. Assam, N.W.F.P., Sind and Orissa and slightly below Delhi. Arranging the figures in different grades of income Bihar's position is not uncomfortable.

G	rades of Income	Bihar	Position
Rs.	1000 - 1499	1358	6th
	1500- 1999	837	6th
	2000 - 2499	3084	7th
	2500- 2999	1563	7th
	3000- 3499	1276	7th
	3500- 4999	2194	7th
	5000- 7499	1581	7th
	7500 - 9999	728	7th
	10,000 - 12499	347	7th
	12,500 - over	852	7th
	Unclassified	3561	2nd
	Total	17381	7th
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Provinces considered are Madras, Bengal, Bombay, U. P., Punjab, C. P. and Berar, Assam, Sind, N.W.F.P., Orissa and Delhi.

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অঙ্গারপর্ণী
(ব্যঙ্গ কবিতা) ১॥০
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Number 10

In Switzerland, hotel keeping and catering for the tourists, and health seekers occupy an important place in her national economy. The plateau of Chotanagpur, with its towns Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Giridih, Jamtara, Daltongunj attracts a large number of changers from different parts of Bengal, Assam and Orissa. This plateau with its dry and hilly climate provides a very good place for change. Large number of people are settling down there permanently in their old age, every year. At present accurate figures of the tourists and changers are not available, but this number is considerably high.

The importance of so many holy places within the province, specially, Gaya and Bodh-Gaya, and Baidyanath-Deoghar, cannot be left out of count, so far as the tourist trade is concerned.

Bihar may be called the centre of cigarette industry of India. More than 30 kinds of cigarettes are produced within this province. Some varieties are consumed within this province and some are exported to others part of India. Bihar has also got one Toffee factory; Swastika Brand Toffee is the product of this province. Over 90 p. c. of world's total production of lac, which is about 30,000 tons, comes mainly from Bihar. Bihar's climate is suitable for the growth of a kind of insect called "Lucifer lacca" which thrives on 'Palas' trees. The prices of lac went down but again it is showing a rise.

Bihar is a land of permanent settlement and as such zemindars play a very important part in our economy; they influence the course of production, the nature of industries and may greatly affect the distribution of income. In 1938-39 there were 116697 estates, corresponding figures for 1937-38 being 116,379. Now the owners of these estates, must be persons of considerable wealth and they may be persuaded to take an active part in the industry and commerce of our province.

Within the capital in Bankipur area we have got more than 10 joint stock banks and offices, out of them about 5 being scheduled. There are more than 20 insurance companies with their offices; they are all working fairly well. The presence of a large number of banks and insurance companies is an index to the development of, commerce, industry and a growing and wealthy middle class. In Patna-Bankipur alone, there are 5 big firms of motor cars of different companies. This also indicates the presence of a rich middle class and the growth of a habit of using motor cars.

In Bihar there were 369 factories in 1938 coming under the operation of the Payment of Wages Act 1936. 90,619 workers were affected and they received Rs. 2,77,27,952—12 as. 9 ps. throughout the year. This purchasing power enhanced the buying power of this province.

From the above mentioned facts and figures one cannot but be convinced about the great potential capacity of Bihar as a market. Now-a-days the chief problem of an industry is not that of physical production, but it is a question of marketing. Bihar is a young province, and its market requires now a delicate and careful handling by the industrialists of our province as well-as those of other parts of India. Capturing her vast market is worth attempting through her numerous Weeklies and Dailies. \*

\* (Provincial distribution figures for Fairs and Income Tax have been taken from the "Key Notes", a very useful bulletin issued by M/s D. J. Keymer & Co.)

প্রগতিশীল লেখক
বিশ্ব বিশ্বাসের

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## The Metropolitan's Progress

We have pleasure in presenting herewith the salient facts & figures in the Audited Accounts and Balance Sheet of the Metropolitan Insurance Co. Ltd. for the Ninth year of its working.

During the period under report, new business amounting to Rs 61,40,625/- was placed with the Company, out of which proposals to the value of Rs. 50,26,250/- resulted into policies and the rest were either rejected or postponed or were awaiting completion. Proportionately considered, this indicates a progress over last year's business.

The expense ratio of the period under review has been 34.9% against 44.7% of the previous year, indicating a fall by 9.8%. This is highly satisfactory.

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The lapse ratio has been 12.3% as against 12.8% of the previous year, showing a decrease by .5%.

During the period under report claims to the extent of Rs. 1,09,682/3/9 arose out of death and Rs. 950/- out of Permanent Disablement benefit. Outstanding claims as at 31st March, 1939 amount to Rs. 1,44,072/2-. Of the total claims of Rs. 2,54,704/5/9 claims of the value of Rs. 92,704/15/9 were paid within the period under review. Out of the balance the sum of Rs. 91,261/9/- has since been paid leaving on date a net balance of Rs. 70,737/13/- which could not be paid as complete claim papers had not been received.

Life Assurance Fund. The Life Assurance Fund at 31st December, 1939, has risen to Rs. 17,81,050/14/1 as against Rs. 14,01, 638/3/- of the previous year, showing a rise by over 27%.

Even in this hard market and inspite of the purchase of the land and construction of the building intended for Company's Head Office during the period under review, the Company, by judicious investments has been able to earn an average interest of 4.8% which is considered very good.

## A New Air Service

British Overseas Airways Corporation will, as and from Friday, the 22nd November, operate a twice-weekly service between Karachi and Delhi via Jodhpur. The service will be operated by Atlanta aircraft and vill carry passengers, mail, and freight.

The service is scheduled to leave Karachi at 9 a. m. (local S. T.) on Friday next, arriving Delhi at 5. 15 p. m. (local S. T.) the same day. Thereafter the services will operate every Tuesday and Friday in an

eastbound direction. The first service in a westbound direction is scheduled to leave Delhi on Monday, the 25th November and thereafter will run every Thursday and Monday.

All services afford a connexion with the Empire Route flying-boats at Karachi.

## The Indian Steel Industry

The first attempt to establish an iron and steel industry in India on modern lines was made in 1824 by a retired Civilian, Josiah Heath. The next attempt at the establishment of an iron works was made at Barakar near Asansol in 1875. After passing through vicissitudes, this company came under the control of the Bengal Iron Company in 1899. The Barakar Works made pig iron, castings of iron pipes and other iron castings.

It is to the genius, perseverence and foresight of Jamshedji Tata, the great Parsi pioneer of Indian industry, that India owes the successful establishment of a modern steel industry. Although the Tata Iron and Streel Co. was not registered until three years after his death, he is the undoubted founder of the Tata Iron and Steel Co. and Founder's Day which commemorates his name is celebrated every year at Jamshedpur on March 3, his birthday.—The Statesman.

## A Happy Record

Established near about a quarter of a century, Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceutical Works Ld. has, from comparatively small beginnings, gradually developed into the largest chemical manufacturing concern in the East.

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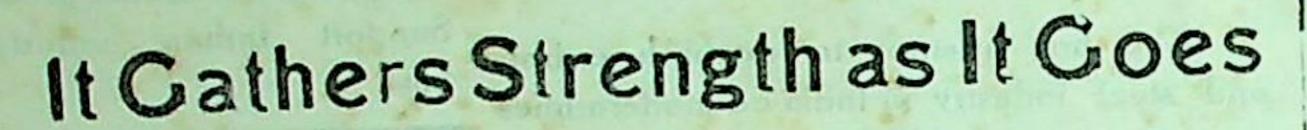
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